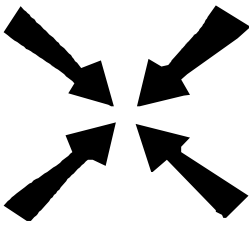


Meeting Point



March 2014



Meeting Point

Volume 38, Number 6, March 2014

The community magazine for the villages of Olveston,
Tockington, Old Down, Lower Hazel, Awkley, Ingst, Aust, Elberton and Littleton upon Severn

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From the Editor

As we say goodbye to the wettest winter on record may I optimistically point you towards spring. Get your bike put in order by Gary Harris (profile on page 3), on page 9 there are some positive thoughts about spring and on page 25 the Olveston & Tockington Tennis Club swings into action. Learn about the 'villans, bordars and slaves' who once lived in our neighbourhood on page 17.

The churches' Lent programme is outlined on page 21 and details of services are on pages 43, 45 and 47. The clocks go forward for the start of British Summer Time on March 30th.

The cover: daffodils on Lower Tockington Road
photographed by Peter Haworth

Meeting Point Founded in 1976 by the Anglican and
Methodist churches in Olveston, near Bristol

**Meeting Point magazine and Meeting Point Directory are online at the
Community Website: www.olvestonandaust.com**

'If we can't do it, it can't be done'

Pat Thirkettle

'If we can't do it, it can't be done' is the motto of the new business in Olveston. Gary Harris has opened a bike shop in the barn previously an upholstery workshop.

He is Bristol and bike minded born and bred. At the age of eight he cobbled two wrecked bikes together to make one functioning bike. He is a member of AUDAX – the initials stand for a long distance cycling club, and I mean long distance. Each ride is between 200 and 600k; the latter equals a spin to Anglesey and back.

Gary left school at sixteen after a one week placement at a bike shop and frame builders in his last term. Through what was then the Youth Training Scheme, he became apprenticed to the same shop, where he worked for five years. Through no fault of his own he had to leave, but within a week he was a delivery driver for Comet and also worked part time for Bakers Cycles. By now he was married with one daughter and a keen member of Bristol Cycling Tourist Club.

His next job was delivery driver for Park Furnishers, which later became a life saving decision. In 1999 some employees were taking part in a Bristol to London bike ride in aid of Action Medical Research and asked him for mechanical back up. The next year, two days before the ride, the official firm supplying mechanical back up dropped out and Gary took over. He has done it ever since and also for about another thirty events.

In 2006 he began to feel very unwell. Six months of visiting his GP with headaches and nausea produced nothing, but when his colleagues at Park Furnishers clubbed together for a CT scan, events moved extremely quickly. Within a week he had a tumour the size of a fist removed from the cerebellum in his brain. The operating surgeon told him he had only a week to live without the operation and an eighty per cent chance of impairment with it. His full recovery was thanks to his fitness from the neck down, due to cycling.

After rehabilitation he took redundancy and became a school caretaker at several successive schools. By now he was divorced and remarried with another daughter. Last year he decided to work full time on bikes from his home in Bedminster. One day visiting a contact in Olveston, he was buying his lunch from the Crusty Loaf when he saw that the barn opposite was available for rent and the rest, as they say, is history and he moved in December.

He has a contract with NHS/Sustainable Travel Solutions. He maintains electric bikes for NHS staff who have replaced their own cars and buses for transport to home visits. Staff sick leave and missed appointments have gone down significantly since the introduction of these bikes. The shop offers: sales, repairs (while you wait if wished), and DIY cycle maintenance programmes. He would like redundant old bikes for his apprentice to practise on, or for cannibalisation of parts for those on a tight budget. He has recently completed the Campagnolo pro shop mechanic course and offers bike maintenance to gold standard.

Gary hopes the business will spread by word of mouth and recommendation. As well as being on the Avon Cycle Way, it is also on the Land's End to John of Groats route which might be lucrative in the future. There is a comfortable sitting area for those waiting for repairs or briefly resting on a ride. He intends to offer coffee and tea, the proceeds of which will be donated to the charity Hammer Out which supports sufferers of brain tumours and their families. After his operation he went to some of their meetings, and is very aware that he is a fortunate survivor of the condition. Gary has already found that Olveston is a good place to be. He is particularly grateful to the three or four couples who helped him look for his daughter's escaped Jack Russell terrier last month. We wish him well in this new venture.

Charity Dinner & Jazz Evening at the Parish Hall on Saturday 1 March

A canapé reception and two course dinner with coffee followed by music from a 1920's style Dixieland Jazz Quartet. 1920'S dressing up/dancing optional but encouraged! The theme is The Great Gatsby.

Tickets £25 each, Cash Bar & Raffle, Arrival 7 for 7.30 pm, carriages 11 pm.

Please RSVP by 20 February 2014 to Miss Holly Doyle:
either by post to Apartment G, Taylors Bank, 41 Broad Street, Bristol, BS1 2ER, or by e-mail to holly_doyle@hotmail.co.uk or by telephone on 07540 260707. Tickets must be paid for in advance, either by cheque (made payable to Miss Holly Doyle) or by bank transfer (bank details supplied on request).

All proceeds to Monmouth Aid (Registered charity no 518025)
Please check out the work of this wonderful charity at:
<http://monmouthaid.co.uk>

Flights of Fancy: Finches

Trevor Cook

One of our comonest birds is the chaffinch, the male with its pink breast and grey head and its more sombre mate who is dressed in brown. The first sign that they are around is their sharp “spink” note as they perch. To recognise them is also easy due to the white bars on their wings and on the outer edges of their tail which flash as they fly off.

Also common is the greenfinch, which as you may guess, is green; olive green to my eyes and with a bright yellow edge to its wings. The male is quite distinctive although his mate is less brightly coloured. They will chew away at

sunflower seeds as long as they feel safe. As March progresses we will hear the male “churring” from the top of a tree or a high place; look in the highest places. The prolonged repetition of the song is very distinctive and, dare I say it, a little irritating after a while.

However, the most beautiful visitor is the goldfinch which will visit, especially if you provide Niger seed. They usually approach in a group or “charm”, constantly chattering to one another. It is a very distinctive bird with its red face and buff colouring and with the bright yellow wing bar that gives it its name.



Bullfinch
©Simon Carlsson

Less frequently one might glimpse a bullfinch; the beautiful rose pink breast of the male being distinctive, and he is often accompanied by his somewhat duller mate. If you only catch them flying away then look out for their bright white rump.

If you want to go further afield, try to see if the twite return to Aust Wharf where they spent several weeks last year. The name gives away its call. Although visually you may be disappointed by this small, little brown finch, it's an exciting find.

For colour photographs and a sound recoding see the RSPB website on bird identification. <http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name>



Twite
© Mike Pennington

Spring

Angela Daymond

March, and spring will be officially declared, although our weather often blatantly enjoys ignoring red tape. Chill winds and frosts often still bite. Even so the gradual increase in daylight hours encourages the undeniable urge for nature to stir. The first splashes of colour are starting to show, primroses, violets and celandines painting the hedgerows and woods that have been muddy brown for so long. Birds are answering the call to migrate. Swans and geese, honking their farewells, head to Russian tundra. Using our rich shores as a refuelling depot, turnstone and knot head North, having started their epic journeys in Africa.

Now is a great time to catch the birds of the dawn chorus. Before the leaves on trees fully unfurl you may spot them too. Listen for the new arrivals joining our residents. The chiffchaffs and many warblers will be adding to the morning crescendo as territories are established and mates are called.

Check ponds for gooey clumps of frogspawn. One of those cold snaps may seem disastrous but frogspawn under the ice is usually fine. Our native snakes might even pop out to warm themselves on a sunny stone. Grass snakes (which should really be called water snakes) might even enjoy a meal of the frogspawn, often retiring to the warmth of your compost heap when things get chilly.

Mammals are coming out of hibernation: hedgehogs looking for the slugs and snails that have also emerged; bats twitching their wings, then finally flying off looking for the myriad of insects arriving on our shores with the migrating birds, or waking from their own winter's sleep.

So now is the time for us to stir also. Pop on your coat and wellies to seek the signs of spring arriving all around us.

Thornbury Horticultural Society

Annual Spring Flower Show

Saturday March 22nd 1.30 – 4 pm at the Armstrong Hall-

A full show schedule can be found at T&J Owen on the Plain, The Garden Shop in the Court Yard, High Street, Town Hall and Library and also at Website: <http://www.thornburyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk>

All visitors are welcome to the oldest flower show in the area

Aust Parish Council Matters: a Parish Plan

Tim Pyper

austparishcouncil@googlemail.com

Aust Parish Council wishes to consult residents on whether there is a need for a parish plan, and if so, what it should contain.

A parish plan should set out what we, the residents, like about our parish, what, if any, development we should like, and what improvements to environment or services we should like. The parish of Aust consists of three separate communities (with others living in between) and we expect that there may be some things that residents of all three villages would like, and other things that would affect each village differently.

South Gloucestershire Council is in the process of establishing its planning policies to cover the next 10 to 15 years, and this would be a good moment for us to decide what we want. Our plan would have persuasive force with the Council in its own deliberations.

Your Parish Council proposes to set up an overall working group, consisting of some Parish Councillors with two non-councillor residents of each village. It would be the task of this group to lead the process for the whole parish, first of all to establish whether there is any need or desire for a plan, and, if there is, to write a plan that reflects the wishes of all three villages, together and separately. Our current thinking is that this group would establish a sub-group in each village to work on the aspects of the plan that would apply in the respective villages.

The first steps for the main group would be to establish the groups in each village, and to compile and distribute a questionnaire to every household; and to analyse the results.

There will be some cost in this process, mainly in printing and distribution. We hope that a contribution may be obtained from South Gloucestershire Council towards this, although some cost will fall on the Parish Council.

The three Councillors who will start the process are:

In Aust: Andrew Learmonth tel: 07710 163525

In Elberton: Mike Hawkins tel: 01454 418249

In Littleton-upon-Severn: Philip Jenkins tel: 07887 656041

If you would be interested in taking part, either on the main group or on a village group, please let the Clerk or one of these Councillors know.

Olveston Parish Council Matters

Richard Rogers (olvestonpc@gmail.com)

The Parish Council is relieved to learn that this years **Severn Bridge Road race** due to be held on Sunday March 2nd has now been relocated to a course around Malmesbury. Meeting Point readers may recall the tragedy during this cycle event last year, and we wish the organisers, local residents, participants and especially their families an enjoyable and safe race.

The **Annual Parish Assembly** has now been confirmed for Tuesday 29th April from 7:30 at the Parish Hall in Tockington, and everyone is invited. There will be opportunities to meet Councillors, and most importantly give parishioners a chance to present their observations and opinions.

Olveston Parish Council will present its Accounts for 2013/14, and 2014/15 Budget. A **Precept** of £36,000 has been set for next year, representing a 0% increase despite a number of 'optional' costs passed down by South Glos Council (which will also be discussed). It is also possible that, due to further changes defined by central government, the actual charge per resident may fall this year.

The key theme at this year's Assembly will be the **local services**. There have recently been significant changes to Policing, the Fire Brigade and also the 'Street Care' from South Glos Council, and the presentations will go a long way towards clarifying what these services are and how residents can utilise them.

The Parish (through generous donations and grants from a number of clubs, societies and organisations) is in the process of procuring three **defibrillators**, and the meeting will close with a presentation and hopefully instruction on how these devices can be used. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Great War remembered

The Commemoration of WW1 on October 17th & 18th 2014 - in St Mary's Church with contributions from the Parish in the form of letters, some interesting presentations, music, drama, poetry and prose - is evolving well. Anyone who feels they would like to be involved is invited to a coffee morning in the church at 11am on March 22nd. It is hoped that this venture will be well supported, we look forward to seeing you to discuss the programme.

Linda Evans & David Shaw.

The BRI and the Health of the Working Poor in 18th & 19th Century Bristol & Gloucestershire

Olveston Parish Historical Society: Wednesday 5 March 2014, 7.30pm
Methodist Church, The Street, Olveston BS35 4DR



In the last 40 years, various building developments in Bristol have resulted in the clearing of the graveyard which used to serve Bristol Royal Infirmary until 1854.

Drawing on her examination of 18th and 19th century bones from this graveyard and her research into old BRI inpatient logbooks, **Dr. Annsophie Witkin** will give us an historical and archaeological insight into the health of the working poor in Bristol and Gloucestershire from 1757 to 1854.

The portrait shown here, from the Wellcome Collection in London, was painted in 1824 by John Hazlitt and shows

Richard Smith, who became a surgeon to the Bristol Royal Infirmary in 1796 at the age of 24 and remained so until the year of his death 47 years later, in 1843. Some of the bones which Annsophie has examined must have been from patients on his operating table.

Everyone welcome - £2 on the door for non-members.

Website: <http://www.olvoston.com/historical-society>

Evening Talks from our local museum

On Thurs. 6 March, Meg Wise will tell the intriguing story of **The Thornbury Pump**.

On Thurs. 3 April, in **Look Up, Look Down!**, Jane Marks and Pauline Montgomery will reveal some of the hidden gems around Thornbury which can be seen when you look both upwards and downwards.

Obtain advance tickets in person at the museum or reserve them by ringing 857774 or emailing: enquiries@thornburymuseum.org.uk We hope you will be inspired to come along and hear more about the history of our town!

Each talk will be at 7.30pm: United Reformed Church, Chapel Street, next to St. Mary's Car Park. Cost: £5 (incl. interval tea/coffee/biscuits).

The 'villans, bordars and slaves of Tockington'

Nick Fear

The mention of Tockington Village conjures many images for residents or people who travel through it. It has a long history and one of the first records of it strikes a modern cord, but also reveals how different it once was. In 1085 William the Conqueror commissioned a survey of his lands largely for tax purposes. Every human, animal, facility and piece of land was to be recorded, the reckoning was likened to the Day of Judgement mentioned in the Bible. That appraisal would be used by God in the Last Judgement, or Doomsday, the name given to the volumes eventually compiled by William's officials.

The entries from the assessors were brief, but revealing, written in old English one entry read;

In Langley Hundred Wulfgar, a thegn of King Edward, held Tockington. There were 8 hides, and 5 ploughs in demesne; and 20 villans and 12 bordars and 10 slaves and 20 ploughs. This manor did not render farm Tre, but the person who owned it lived off it. Earl William held it in demesne and the reeve added 1 plough, and a mill rendering 8d. Now it renders 241 blanch money at 20[d] to the ora.

A hundred was a division of the English country, often managed by a nobleman who served the king. Wulfgar has served a predecessor of William, King Edward, rendering nothing to the crown and simply living off his farmed land, Tre, meaning in that time. A hide was a taxable measurement of land which equated to about 120 acres, to work this Wulfgar owned 5 ploughs, indicating a team of oxen as well as the implement. Living alongside him were 20 villans, men who were ranked as a higher class of peasant and 12 bordars who were unfree peasants obligated to their lord. Perhaps the most surprising mention is of 10 slaves, men whose bond was as it would be today. They collectively used 20 ploughs on the land they worked. Women and children also lived alongside the men of the village, but did not feature in the survey. A missed taxable opportunity perhaps, recognised in later generations.

For Doomsday time, Earl William held the manor, in demesne, meaning for his exclusive use. He appointed a Reeve, a manor official, sometimes elected by local peasants, to manage his land. This man apparently did well as he added 1 plough and a built a mill which would have served the whole village. More importantly for King William the facility rendered 8d in revenue. The 'd' referring to a denarius, we know better as an English penny, the only silver

coin in existence at the time. The final line of the tally comes to the point of the exercise, giving the unchallengeable revenue which would be paid annually to King William, 241 blanch money at 20d to the ora. Norman accounting methods were complex, but blanch, white, money is usually recognised as meaning silver, ora was an accounting device equating to the twenty pence.

The Domesday reckoning, written in Latin, was never finally completed, but the books give a fascinating view of early life. It is fortunate for us that Tockington featured in this.

Thornbury Library

Thornbury Library offers you more than library services. The Thornbury One Stop Shop is now based within the library answering your council enquiries: council tax, housing, streetcare and much more.....We look forward to your next visit.

New - Police contact point

A dedicated computer is now available providing easy access to information from Avon and Somerset Police. A freephone service to the 101 Police Non-emergency number is also available.

New – popular magazines – free to download

We now offer popular digital magazines you can read on any internet-enabled device (e.g. iPad, PC, tablet). All you need is your library card number and PIN to create your free account and start downloading your favourites every month to read at your leisure. There are 25 titles to choose from including Homes & Garden, Amateur Photographer, Kitchen Garden, Marie Claire UK, Cycling plus, Rolling Stone, National Geographic Interactive & Auto Express. For full details visit www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries and select "Library e-resources" from the left-hand menu, or visit us in person to speak to a member of library staff.

Regular activities

Bookstart Bear Club

StoryTime and RhymeTime

Bring your little ones to StoryTime every Monday afternoon 2.15pm- 2.45pm and RhymeTime every Friday morning 11am – 11.30am.

TERM-TIME ONLY Suitable for babies and pre-schoolers.

Breast-feeding welcome. Nappy changing facilities available.

Lent in Severnside 2014

Roly Bain

Lent films and lunches

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Mar 5th, and for the five weeks of Lent St Mary's Church is having a series of 'Lent Films' each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm, addressing a number of issues - leaflets giving the details are available in the church. On the Fridays we're having Hunger Lunches, serving soup, bread roll and water, and that's from 12.30 till 2pm. There's no charge for either, but any donations will be given to the Tearfund Appeal for Syria.

Discussion Groups will be meeting across Severnside. Some will engage with the new York Course "Build on the Rock – Faith, doubt and Jesus" (www.yorkcourses.co.uk). There will be several groups in this parish, lasting five weeks each. A *Pilgrim* group 'Turning to Christ' for those who are just beginning the journey, or who want a refresher course on the basics of faith (www.pilgrimcourse.org) will start on Wed, Mar 12th at 7.30pm led by me. This, unlike the others, lasts for six weeks. Sorry!

Ash Wednesday, 5 March marks the start of the Christian's annual journey to Good Friday and Easter Day, 20th April. There will be a 9am service in church with The Imposition of Ashes. But it is also a good time to travel "better together" in deepening our faith.

Footnote: Just in case you've wondered why Easter moves in such mysterious ways, The Calendar (New Style) Act 1750 states that "Easter Day is always the first Sunday after the Full Moon, which happens upon, or next after the 21st March. And if the Full Moon happens upon a Sunday, Easter Day is the Sunday after."

Anita Thorne returns

It is now 20 years since women were finally allowed to become priests in the Church of England and Anita Thorne was one of the first group of women to be so in Bristol Cathedral. In celebration of that event Anita will be both preaching and presiding at the Communion Service at St Mary's on March 16th at 10am - it will be good to welcome her back!

Owing to popular demand, we're repeating the evening of **Memories of Arthur** on March 1st in church at 7.30pm. It features an interview made with Peter Floyd a couple of years ago, and finishes with 18-20 minutes of highlights of June and Arthur's performances in Parish Players, courtesy of Nigel Dawes. There will be a licensed bar available as well as tea and coffee. No charge for the evening but donations are welcome, as always!

Windy Strings return to St Mary's Church, Olveston

On Saturday 22nd March at 7.30 pm, renowned local recorder and guitar duo 'Windy Strings' return to St Mary's with an exciting programme entitled '*The Carnival and other Animals*'. Complete with their usual wit and special surprises, this concert is suitable for the whole family!

It promises to be a fun evening with an eclectic mix of music presented by the father and son duo, Andy and Jacob Warn. More information can be found on their website: www.windystrings.co.uk

Tickets are £8/£6 concessions available from Roly Bain, June Robbins, Olveston stores or Andy Warn on 07916 253267. There will also be a licensed bar.

Mothering Sunday Afternoon Teas

Tockington Church on the Green 3.30 – 5.30 p.m. Sunday March 30th

Please come along for an afternoon of delicious home-made cakes and cream teas! 1st Olveston Brownies are celebrating 100 years of Brownies and need to fund raise in order to join in with many special events being held nationally. We would like to invite you all along to tea and cake, - a chance to treat all the Mums, Grandmothers and Aunties! Everyone welcome. Please support the Brownies!

Olveston & Tockington W.I.

This month's talk at W.I. is about fostering, particularly of children with difficult backgrounds.

Our speaker on 11th March will be Rosalyn Thornton from "Five Rivers Child Care". This is an independent agency dedicated to meeting the psychological and emotional well-being of children and young people who have complex behavioural needs as a result of their experiences.

Visitors would be very welcome to join us at 7.30 on 11th March in the Parish Hall. As usual there will be refreshments, a raffle and a sales table which this month will be for plants (either bring some, or buy some).

OTTC: Our Tennis Club

For over 30 years Tockington and Olveston Tennis Club (OTTC) has welcomed aspiring and experienced tennis players our club, located behind the Parish Hall in Tockington. Many of us have made good friends through tennis and found it an excellent way to kept fit.

We are now looking to take a further step in developing our facilities. We have plans to replace our rather tatty garden shed that has been our Club House for more than 15 years, with something more permanent. We are looking to the local community to support our plans and help us develop our club. We will be holding an open event in the Parish Hall on **Saturday 22nd March (2-4pm)** to explain our plans. Please come along.

We are always looking for new members. We often hear that people think they are not good enough, but the only way to get better is to play. Our members are all standards, (including beginners). We have an informal Monday evening coaching session for ladies; it is a very enjoyable way to exercise. Thursday evening is club night when anyone can enjoy playing for a few sessions before joining.

For those who think they are confident we have six teams (five men's and one ladies') in the summer league, and for the first time this year we are entering into the veterans league (one men's and one ladies' teams). Having this number of teams for a club our size is excellent. But that is not the best thing – how many clubs are play to the gentle mooing of cattle?

Our members come from Meeting Point area and further afield, so if you don't live in Olveston or Tockington villages, don't let that put you off. Look at our website: www.ottctennis.co.uk or contact Steve Parrett for membership details (07979-884987)

Over the coming year we will be organising a series of fundraising events for our new club house. Please support us.

Our **AGM is 8pm on Wednesday 23rd April** in the Parish Hall. We always hold a members' ballot for Wimbledon tickets. Come along, signup, enjoy a glass of wine and maybe you will be enjoying live tennis at Wimbledon between 23rd June and 6th July.

Claire Hawkins, OTTC Treasurer.

Movies at St Mary's: March Trevor Anderson



St Mary's Movie Club in Olveston is now well into its fourth year. We show films for the 'grown-ups' on the first and third Monday evenings of each month and for 'children of all ages' every Monday morning during school holidays.

You can pick up our latest Movie Club programme from just inside the church door. If you are already a member, you'll have received your copy by email.

There will be two Movie Club films in March:

MONDAY MOVIES (*Recent releases and popular classics*)

Mon 3rd March at 7.30pm: A riveting, emotionally complex and hugely intelligent dramatisation of the real-life hijacking of a US cargo ship by Somali pirates in 2009. (*2013, Cert 12*)

MONDAY MOVIES EXTRA (*Quality 'non-mainstream' films*)

Mon 17th March at 7.30pm: If only they made them like this today! Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant star in what is arguably the best Hollywood madcap caper ever made. (*1938, Cert 15*)

Licensed bar and soft drinks available at all these shows. Admission is free although a **donation** at the end towards expenses is always appreciated.

LENT FILMS. In addition, we'll be showing a film every Tuesday evening during Lent (five in all) starting **Tuesday March 11th**. Again, admission is free and all are welcome. More information elsewhere in Meeting Point.

For copyright reasons we can't name the films here, but if you **join the Movie Club** we'll send you titles and full details by email. It costs nothing to join – just email me at trevoranderson@btinternet.com.

Old Down Cricket Club

150 Club Winners February:

£50 Simon Gould

£15 Bill Finch

£5 Graham Clare

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

18th January Reg Purchase

25th January Mike Rowen

Senior Players' Registration Evening:

Wednesday 5th March 7.30 Olveston Sports & Social Club.

Up the Down!!

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

Police Report January 2014

As some of you may be aware there have been some changes within Avon and Somerset. One of those changes has been the Severn Beat amalgamating with the Severnside Beat which incorporates Almondsbury, Easter Compton, Hallen, Pilning, Redwick, Severn Beach and Northwick. I am pleased to announce that a new Beat Manager for the area has been in post since 6th January 2014. He is PC 4262 Art Wieczorkowski. As the beat is quite a large area the Police reports will remain separate as will the Beat Surgeries and SSCG meetings.

For the month of January there have been 12 reported crimes of which:- theft of wooden gates from Moor Lane, Tockington; theft of diesel from a temporary compound near to Severn View Services, Aust; outbuildings broken into, Hill lane, Shepperdine, untidy search no items stolen.

The next Beat Surgery will be held on Wednesday 26th March 2014 at Olveston Stores between 10:30 – 11:30am

The next SSCG meeting will be held on Thursday 24th April 2014 at 19:30pm Aust Village Hall, Aust.

Contact us on

Emergencies 999

Report a crime/incident 101

To speak to PC Art Wieczorkowski or PCSO Kelly Dimery 101 or 07917 586645

St Peter's Hospice Annual Quiz

Friday March 7th, 7.15 at the Armstrong Hall

St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group would be delighted to welcome you to the Annual Quiz on Friday 7th March at the Armstrong Hall commencing at 7.15pm. The quiz team should be made up of four people, an excellent supper is served and a very good raffle takes place. The cost is £28.00 per table of four. For further information and to reserve your table please telephone Mary on 01454 412567.

Please come along and support St Peters, your local Hospice.

Thornbury Food Fairs 2014

As those of you who came along to the Christmas Fair at the beginning of December will know, the Thornbury Fairs seem to go from strength to strength with people coming from far and wide to sample the produce from our ever expanding number and type of stalls.

With a great range of local produce, fresh fish, cakes, pies, tarts, ciders and beers, there is something for everyone and then a wander round Thornbury, lunch in one of our many eateries - what better way to spend a Saturday morning? And, as the first fair this year is the day before Mothers Day, why not treat her to something a little bit different and individual?

So add the dates to your diaries, laptops, phones etc and come and enjoy the best of the best.

The dates this year are:

Sat 29 March, Sat 21 June, Sat 13 Sept, Sat 6 Dec

All run from 10am - 2pm in Castle St

Thornbury Picture House screens - 'Chasing Ice'

Friday 21st March 7.30 pm Cossham Hall

Travelling across three continents, using revolutionary time-lapse cameras, National Geographic photographer James Balog captures the disappearance of the world's glaciers. This hauntingly beautiful and poignant documentary films the ancient mountains of ice in motion and shows how they are disappearing at an alarming rate. As a photographer, James Balog risked everything to gather evidence of the effects of global warming and bring hope to our carbon-powered planet. (£5 on the door for non-members)

Thornbury Picture House - Bollywood Evening

7.00 pm Friday 14th March Armstrong Hall

Enjoy a freshly prepared Indian supper (vegetarian option available), followed by the popular Bollywood film 'Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi' (12), with its highly acclaimed musical soundtrack.

Proceeds to the Armstrong Hall Backstage Improvement Appeal.

Tickets £13 per person (available from Thornbury Town Hall or tel. 01454-412272).

Severnside Ramblers

Spring is on its way! why not join Severnside Ramblers for some fresh air and exercise, you will also enjoy some great views and hopefully see some wild life.



Join Severnside Ramblers on a ramble. Non-members are always very welcome. For more information about walks in March 2014, log on to www.severnside-ramblers.org.uk, or pick up a programme at your local library. A contact name and telephone number is given for each walk. We meet at Aldi car park, Bradley Stoke, BS32 9DA at the times shown below and share lifts to the start of the walk. Please bring packed lunch and plenty of fluids. If you want to go directly to the start of the walk, phone the contact person.

Sunday 2 March 2014

Mendips. 13 miles. Field paths, drove roads, Mendip Ridge & section of Strawberry Line. Meet 8.30 Aldi Car Park. Contact Janet & Mike 01179 650661

Saturday 8 March 2014

Geocache around Frenchay. A short walk around Frenchay, where Helen hopes to uncover up to 5 hidden caches. Meet 9.30 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact Helen 07815 463259 for further details.

Sunday 9 March

Winterbourne Without. 7 miles. 4 Nature Reserves, Impressive architecture. Frome Valley. Meet 10.00 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact Heather 01454 632134.

Friday 14 March 2014

Friday Amble (2 hours). Hawkesbury Upton. Paths, tracks, lanes in woods & fields. One short climb at end. Meet 9.30 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact Allan 0779 1083113.

Saturday 15 March 2014

Map Reading Course – for beginners or those wishing to boost map reading skills. Bring drink and snack. Pre-booking required by 8th March. Contact Janet 01179 650661 for details on booking a place.

Sunday 16 March

Leigh Woods and Nightingale Valley. 8 miles. One steep climb at end. Meet 9.30 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact Tony 01454 201042.

Sunday 23 March

Alton Barnes to Pewsey Downs. 8 miles. Prehistoric pathways, white horse, chalk downland and canal in quieter part of Wiltshire. Meet 9.00 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact Jenny & John 01454 777963

Continued overleaf

Friday 28 March

Friday Amble. Old Down.(2 hours). Woodland and field paths with some good views. 1 or 2 easy hills. Meet 9.30 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact Andy & Chris 01454 416321.

Sunday 30 March

Ebbor Gorge – Wells. 12 miles. A walk taking in Wells, Wookey Hole and Ebbor Gorge. Some steep climbs. Meet 8.30 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact Ken 01179 315108

Free Oil Scheme Membership for Over 70s

Local charity the West of England Rural Network is giving away 100 free memberships (normally £20) of a community oil buying scheme. The offer is open to anyone living in the West of England who is over 70 and relies on oil for their heating and hot water.

Most members of the scheme save around £120/year on their oil bills, with some local people saving hundreds of pounds. Mrs Tucker from Severn Beach said “We were paying £250 a month for our oil before we joined the scheme. Now we’re members of the community oil buying scheme it works out at more like £150/month; that was the best phone call I ever made.” In January members paid just 52.9 p per litre of oil (plus VAT).

The community oil buying scheme aims to reduce the cost of heating and hot water for people in the West of England who depend on oil. The scheme works by placing a single large order once a month, and negotiating with the all the local suppliers to get the best price. The free memberships are funded by a ‘surviving winter’ grant awarded by Quartet Community Foundation. If you are interested in joining the scheme, visit www.wern.org.uk/oil or call Jill Baker on 01275 333701.

Olveston Sports & Social Club

Free Pool Wednesday evenings at Olveston Sports & Social Club. Everyone is welcome from 8pm onwards. Hope to see you there.
Barbara Lansdown, Secretary

From the registers of St Mary's Olveston

2nd February	Baptism of Joseph Christopher son of James and Abigail Bennington
6th February	Thanksgiving Service followed by cremation at Canford of Albert (Bert) Hunt

Friends of St Mary's

The prize winners in the February draw, held on 6th February 2014 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	508	Mr P Floyd, Old Down
£75	158	Mr D J Talbot, Olveston
£25	200	Dr D Shaw, Tockington
£25	203	Mrs J Davis, Olveston
£25	349	Mrs L A Thomas, Tockington
£20	413	Mr R J Lloyd, Tockington
£20	295	Mrs B Binns, Alveston
£20	246	Mrs C K Hickman, Olveston
£10	213	Mr T W Watkins, Alveston
£10	179	Mrs J Davis, Olveston
£10	567	Mrs M Shurmer, Olveston
£10	274	Mr J Croome, Exmouth

Dursley Male Voice Choir

and Voices Xtreme, with Almondsbury Village Children's Choir

SHARE THE SINGING

Saturday 8th March 2014

St Mary's Church, Almondsbury

7.30pm

Tickets £5 (under 18s free) in aid of St Mary's fabric fund

Looking ahead

Theatre Nights

A concert featuring an evening of stage and music theatre by **Three Mens Company** at **All Saints Church, Compton Greenfield** In aid of church funds **Saturday 5th April 2014 at 7.00 pm. Tickets £8.00** (to include interval wine/juice and light refreshments) available from:

Denise Jones	01454 632797	
Ann Lloyd	01454 613302	
Janet Hiscocks	01454 632218	
Alison Carmody	01454 633039	(Tickets limited to 80 so book early!)

Anything Goes: presented by the Northavon School of Drama

The voyage of a lifetime awaits all those taking up an invitation from fifty Students of the Northavon School of Drama, performing as the Northavon Youth Theatre Company, to join them on board the S S American, sailing from New York to London, in Cole Porter's musical extravaganza: *Anything Goes!* The liner leaves the stage of the **Armstrong Hall, Thornbury from 16 to 19 April** at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings, with a 3.00 pm sailing on Good Friday and anchors aweigh at 2.30 pm on Saturday. With sumptuous costumes, exciting lighting, creative sets and a hilarious script, plus terrific tap, beautiful ballroom and cheeky Charleston routines, the bonus is the wonderful music of Cole Porter. Brought to life by a nine-piece Band, such memorable tunes as *You're the Top, It's Delovely, Blow, Gabriel, Blow, Friendship* and the show-stopping title number: *Anything Goes* are too good to miss!

Having received yet another nomination in the Rose Bowl Awards for *MISS SAIGON*, enthusiasm reigns supreme and we can promise you won't be disappointed if you join us for the launch of this uplifting musical. To reserve your berth, ring our new Box Office number: 07980543691, send a postal booking with SAE to BONDS of Thornbury, 14 The Plain, Thornbury, BS352BD, or call into Wildings, in Thornbury High Street from 31 March. Bring your friends and get a discount for ten or more seats and Family Tickets are available for Friday and Saturday Matinees!

Yours faithfully

Michael Matthews

*The Vine House of Prayer,
Pilning Street, Awkley*

I wonder how many of you can recall the words of the song 'He's got the whole world in His hands'? It has been sung and presented in many ways and has been described as an American Spiritual and a Children's song.

This seemingly simple title statement, along with words in the other verses, actually present profound truths that can have considerable impact on your life depending on whether or not you believe them.

Similarly, and yet even more profoundly, there are numerous verses in the Bible that speak of the love and faithfulness of God and the measure of confidence you have in Him depends on your perspective and understanding. The larger the perspective and understanding the greater the confidence and vice versa.

If space allowed I would include verses 1-18 from John's Gospel chapter 1 (but perhaps you can look them up and read them for yourself) but in verse 18 we read that no-one has ever seen God but Jesus, the Son of God, has made Him known.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews, addressing those who had become believers in the Lord Jesus from a Jewish background and were going through a time of suffering and persecution and who were being drawn back to the traditions of their previous religion, continually emphasises the superiority of the Lord Jesus and commences his letter by stating that 'in these last days he (God) has spoken to us by His Son' [Hebrews 1:2] and identifies Him as the one through whom the universe was created.

The Christian life is meant to be one of spiritual growth and understanding; a developing intimacy of relationship that manifests itself here on earth through the increasing confidence in the One in whom we believe.

It has been my prayer for some time and will continue to be so that 'the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give **YOU** the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better [Ephesians 1:17]

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Mar 2	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong with Choir	Rev Roly Bain
Mar 5	9 am	Holy Communion with Ashing	Rev Roly Bain
Mar 9	8am	Holy Communion(BCP)	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Morning Worship with Choir	Mr D Jones & Rev R Bain
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Holy Communion	Rev. Philip Rowe
Mar 16	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev P Rowe & Rev Anita Thorne
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Rev. Ann Lloyd
Mar23	8am	Holy Communion(BCP)	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Fourth Sunday	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev P Rowe & Rev Brazier
Mar30	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
	10am	Family Service with Choir	Rev H Webb & J McBride
	6pm	Holy Communion(BCP)with Choir	Rev R Bain & Rev P Rowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Rev Philip Rowe, 01454 613223; email: office@stmaryssevernside.org.uk

Rev Roly Bain for Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals 01454 616593.

Verger: **Mrs. June Robbins**, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 2.45pm in the Church

WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION: At 9.00am led by the **Rev. Roly Bain**
except 4th Wed when it is at Olveston Methodist Church

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Mar 9	10am	Holy Communion.	Rev David Bone
Mar23	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev David Bone

Hon. Curate: **Rev David Bone**, 01454 614601

Church Wardens: Terry McLeavy 633680 Janet Ford 633300

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Mar2	9am	Matins	Mrs Tracey Black
Mar 16	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

Contact: Rev. David Pole 01454 414810; www.sthelensalveston.org

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Mar 9	9am	Matins	Sandra Edgerton
Mar23	9am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole

Contact: Rev. David Pole 01454 414810; www.sthelensalveston.org

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Mar 2	10am 6pm	Olv. Ch. Tock. Ch.	Services to celebrate the 10 th Anniversary of Olveston & Tockington Chapels joining together. Both led by former Minister Rev. Rosemary Clews
Mar 7	10.15	Olv Ch.	Women's World Day of Prayer
Mar 9	10am	Olv. Ch.	All Age Worship led by Mrs Deb Brazier. The Breakfast Club will join us later
Mar16	10am 3.30	Tock. Ch. St Andrews	Morning Worship led by Mr Joe Withington Circuit Service
Mar23	10am 6pm	Olv. Ch. StMarys	All Age Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Pete Brazier Evensong with Rev P. Brazier Preaching
Mar30	10am	St Mary,s	Mothering Sunday Service

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 12th March. To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP meets at 12.15 in the Swan Tockington on Thurs 20th March. To book please ring 613241,or 612112

COFFEE MORNINGS: Sats 10.30 - 12 noon in the Olveston Methodist Hall.

PRAYER MEETINGS Tuesdays 9.00-12.00 in Olv. Methodist Church.

HOUSE GROUPS One on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10.30am at 7 The Green Olveston.led by Mr Glyn Varney or Mrs Rosalie Doyle Another on the 26th March at 10.30 led by Rev Sandy Williams Ring 416528 for details of venue.

THE OLVESTON INTERNET CAFÉ Olveston Methodist Hall

Monday 2-4pm Wednesday 10-12 Friday 7-9pm

Ring 07833354672 or 07957433091 for further information.

CREAM TEAS Served by the Brownies on Mothering Sunday <Mar 30th from 3.30-5.30 in Tockington Chapel/The Green

CONTACT: Rev Pete Brazier Tel 01454 418176,

e-mail pete@thebigfishcafe.co.uk

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

We meet in a relaxed, informal manner for worship, prayer & conversational Bible studies incorporating Communion, on Sundays at 10.30am and Mondays and Wednesdays at 7.30pm We also visit other Churches and events so please check our Notice Board or contact .

Mike and Barbara Matthews, tel. 07512 917229 or email:

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Mar 2	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Mar 9	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan- Davies
Mar 16	6.30pm	Martin Taylor
Mar 23	6.30pm	Alan Tarling

Each Thurs at 7.00pm Bible Study & Prayer Time

For further information please contact **Ceri Morgan-Davies** 413043

Paul Ashford, 07774 110 814 or email: Paul@CalebGroup.net

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH

 Family Worship 11.00am

'The Door' for young people on the last Sunday at 7pm

www.THEDOORYOUTH.CO.UK or tel 07837234949

For more details, please phone 632564.

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Evening Worship every Sunday at 6pm for details tel. 413247

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury -

Sat Vigil Mass 18.00 Sun 8.30am Mass 11.00 Family Mass

Tel 01454 412223 www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Meeting for Worship Sundays 10.30-11.30: The Hanover Room, The Chantry, Castle St. Wheelchair accessible. Children welcome with prior notice.

Local contact: Ben & Candia Barman 01454 412603

National: www.quaker.org.uk Bristol area: www.bristolquakers.org.uk

Diary Dates for March 2014

The information given below is believed to be correct as we go to press.

1 st Sat	Coffee Morning Charity Quiz at Sports & Social Club Memories of Arthur (repeat showing) Charity Dinner & Jazz Evening	10.30-12.00 8.15pm 7.30pm	MH AP StM PH
2 nd Sun	Bingo every Sun at Sports & Social club	8.15pm	AP
3 rd Mon	Monday Movie	7.30pm	StM
4 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning R.B.L.-Women's Section Quiz with Mike	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 7.30pm	WR DGCL DGCL
5 th Wed	Every Wed & Fri Vic Hallett Library open O.P.H.S Blood, Guts & Gore	7.30pm	OMC
6 th Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Open Mic. At White Hart	9.00-1.30 9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 8.30pm	OS+ MH
7 th Fri	Women's World Day of Prayer St.Peter's Hospice Annual Quiz	10.15 7.15pm	OMC AH
8 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00	AVH MH
10 th Mon			
11 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Women's Institute Aust Parish Council	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 10.15 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR DGCL TMH PH EVH
13 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Th. & District Flower Club Demonstration	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 7.30pm	OS+ MH TMH
14 th Fri	Th. Picture Ho. Bollywood Eve.	7pm	AH
15 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
17 th Mon	Monday Movie Extra	7.30pm	StM
18 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning R.B.L.-Womens Section Bingo	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 7.30pm	WR DGCL DGCL
19 th Wed	Bosom Buddies @ 32 Oakleaze Rd, Th. Severn Vale Flower Club Demo. Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	7.30pm 2-00pm 8.30pm	AH

20 th Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-1.30 9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15	OST MH
21 st Fri	Th. Picture House 'Chasing Ice'	7.30pm	CH
22 nd Sat	Coffee Morning Th. Horticultural Soc. Spring Flower Show Windy Strings Concert OTTC open event	10.30-12.00 1.30-4pm 7.30pm 2pm-4pm	MH AH StM PH
25 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Olveston Parish Council	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 10.15 7.30pm	WR DGCL TMH AP
26 th Wed	Beat Surgery	10.30-11.30	OST
27 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Th. & district Flower Club. Practice Class	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 7.30pm	OST MH TMH
29 th Sat	Coffee Morning Th. Food Fair Castle St.	10.30-12.00 10.00-2.00	MH
30 th Sun	Mothering Sunday Brownies Teas	3.30-5.30	TCh
31 st Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club Practice	1.30pm	AH

Looking ahead to April

11th	OPTA Wine Challenge		PH
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KEY: **AC** Aust Church; **AH** – Armstrong Hall; **AMC** – Alveston Methodist Church; **AMH**- Alveston Methodist Hall; **AP** – Alexandra Pavilion; **AVH** – Aust Village Hall; ; **CH** – Cossham Hall; **Chy** – Chantry ;**CS** Castle Sch. **DGCL** – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; **EVH** – Elberton Village Hall; **LVH** Littleton Village Hall **MH** – Olveston Methodist Hall;**OMC** Olv Meth Ch **OS** – Olveston School; **OST** – Olveston Stores; **OV** – Olveston Vicarage; **PH** – Olveston Parish Hall; **StM** St Mary's Church, Olv.; **StMA** Almondsbury Church **SMH** St Mary,s Ch. Hall Thornbury;**TCh** Tockington Chapel **TBCh** - Thornbury Baptist Church; **TMH** – Thorn. Methodist Hall; **URC** - Thornbury United Reform Church; **WR** – Wesley Rooms.

Contact details for any clubs or organisations in the Meeting Point area can be found in the Meeting Point Directory on the community website: www.olvostonandaust.com. If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvostonandaust.com

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