

Meeting Point

Volume 32, Number 11, August 2008

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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Publication date

1st of each month

**Material for Septembert 2008
to Editor or Deputy Editor by
14th August**

From the Editor

August is supposed to be a quiet month from the point of view of material for this magazine but in fact it has been really difficult to include all the items sent in. So much so that the Village Person article on Arthur Witherbed has been postponed to next month. Instead we have the lovely garden at Quakers, Lower Hazel featured with illustrations by Peter Floyd.

Many thanks to all our contributors, whether writing about events which have already happened or publicising future activities; it all makes interesting reading. Without you Meeting Point would not exist.

Again there is no weather report this month. It has been decided to publish three monthly reports possibly in a different format. Marcus Bean tells us that this used to be the case some time in the past.

Enjoy this month with a break from normal routines, perhaps before beginning new interests in September. Square Dancing and Photography are two of the suggestions in these pages.

Our cover is by John Crossley.

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



Choir Trip to English Bicknor on June 15th

Dave Stone, member of St Mary's Choir

The plan was to leave Olveston just after the 10am service and indeed Mike's Travel coach turned up at 11.30am and we left soon after. It's years since I had been on a coach and gosh, was I excited!

Over the Severn Bridge and through Chepstow towards Symonds Yat we went. As we approached Symonds Yat, the heavens opened and we had to eat our picnic lunch on the coach. The Rev Brian Carne and his lovely wife, Jill, found us sitting forlornly on the coach but within minutes the rain stopped and miraculously the sun started to shine.

It turned out so nice that my wife and I went for a walk up the hill to the View Point. Unfortunately we didn't see any peregrine falcons, but on our return we did see a bottle of Chardonnay and a Merlot which must have come all the way from France. Once we were all fed and watered, we got back into the coach and, with Rev Brian Carne as navigator, we left Symonds Yat for the short trip to English Bicknor.

Imagine my surprise as we drove through the pretty village of English Bicknor to see a few of (what looked like) the basses from the Choir standing in different gardens with one arm raised! Unusually they weren't moving towards the bar, which made me realise that they were actually motionless scarecrows advertising the local church fete – quite a novel idea.

The coach parked near the Church and we had to wend our way past four or five cockerels down the path which led through the C of E Primary School to the church. The small Norman church of St Mary is a very beautiful building, with internal masonry and sculpture dating from the 12th century. We had arrived about 2.15pm for a quick rehearsal of what we would be singing for the 3pm evensong (afternoonsong?!). During the service our own Rev David Bone was the cantor, with readings from Mrs Jenny Bone and Rev Brian Carne. Singing in the Choir in a small church with a low ceiling and close to each other was great. The acoustics were superb – what a singing experience! The locals in the congregation were full of compliments and all said how much they had enjoyed the service.

The Choir then went into the Churchyard for a team photograph. It was a still photo, so the basses were OK! Then back on the coach for the short ride to the Rev Brian Carne's cottage. Normally I would say – what a pad - but I must look for another description – after all this is Meeting Point! It was like the picture on the front of a chocolate box – your perfect country cottage and this was it – wow!

Brian and Jill Carne had laid on the most sumptuous spread, savoury food, salads and excellent puddings, strawberries and cream all washed down with wine or beer or, as in my case, both. We spilled into the garden which was bathed in sunshine -

what a glorious afternoon! Still not finished, we all went back into the lounge, our director of music, Dr David Shaw, sat at the piano and we all, Choir, friends and locals, had a super sing-song.

Eventually it was time to say our goodbyes, board the coach and make our way home. We arrived back at St Mary's, Olveston about 8.30pm after what we had all agreed was a great day out. This was my first such trip and I thank everyone involved in organising the day.

This month's top tip: if you hear that this day out is planned for 2009, make sure you book a seat on the coach – you will love it.



Judy Jones

Before the trip described above, three young people from the choir received their Royal College of Church Music medals at the 10am service in St Mary's. They are, from left to right, Claudia Carne, Jonathan Carne and Maydene Turley-Green. They have now been in the church choir for approximately one year and are growing in ability and confidence weekly.

Workaid - can you help?

Workaid tackles poverty in a practical way by providing disadvantaged people with the tools they need to earn a living and build better lives for themselves and their families. Each year volunteers collect around 60 tonnes of unwanted items from all over the UK (saving unnecessary disposal in landfill sites) and refurbish them at the workshop in Amersham. The tools are then shipped to vocational training projects in East Africa, where they are used to teach skilled trades such as tailoring, carpentry, cobbling and car mechanics and to set up successful trainees in their own business. It is a Christian based organisation, which helps people of all faiths and none.



Workaid would welcome any of the following: hand operated Singer (or similar) sewing machines, typewriters (the older, heavier the better, and if portable, not less than fifteen inches), duplicators, knitting machines, hand tools for carpentry, masonry, metal work, leatherwork and car maintenance, reels of cotton, zips, bindings, buttons, lace trimmings and fabric.

Should you have any of these and be willing to donate, please contact either Derek Glew, 613433, or Pat Thirkettle, 612084, and we will collect.

Quiet Day

Johanna Baxter

When did you last stop, be still and be quiet? St Mary's Olveston invite you to a 'Quiet Day' on the 16th August . This year the theme is the meaning and purpose of Worship but perhaps you would just like to come along and be mindful and quiet. Life in the 21st Century is getting faster and findings from scientific research indicate that meditation may have a measurable impact on the brain. Some people report that meditating regularly makes them feel happier and has had positive effects on their health. How often do we do something whilst our minds are thinking about something else, a bit scary if you are cutting the vegetables for tea! Mindfulness is all about doing something but concentrating fully on it, so that it's not a chore but something done with care and attention. But if that's not your thing don't worry, just come along on **Saturday 16th August** and spend time with yourself, bring that book you've been meaning to read, or that knitting project you stopped doing when things got too busy or just be still and enjoy doing nothing..... Quietness starts at 10am in the church, drinks and light refreshments are available all day. We hope you can join us for as long or as short a time as you can.

Barn Dance and Hog Roast *Parish Hall Committee*

What a fantastic evening it turned out to be at the Parish Hall on 14th June. On behalf of the organising committee, I would like to thank everyone for their support and for taking the time to attend this event. It was a pleasure to see so many people of all ages enjoying themselves – village life at its best! As a result we have raised £430 which will be used towards proposed refurbishment projects. We now look forward to further successes with future events.

Dates for Your Diary

4 th October	Village Harvest Supper
7 th November	Family Quiz Night
6 th December	Christmas Sing Along
21 st January	Classic Graffiti - String Quartet

Watch this space! For more details contact Geoff Chappell on 01454 615806

Christian Aid collection

Pat Thirkettle

My grateful thanks to all those involved in this year's collection - the collectors, some of whom have done it for many years, and the counters. We reckon it was Peggy James' 38th year! My thanks also to the Methodist Church for giving the proceeds of Songs of Praise and the Coffee Morning, which came to £282.50. The house to house collection raised a magnificent £1937.26, making a grand total of £2219.76, which will be directed into worldwide projects for people to be able to support themselves.

Police Reports

May

The Police priorities from The Safer Stronger Community Group remain speeding and HGVs using B4461 Elberton.

There was a sharp rise in the number of reported crimes for the Severn ward for May, with 16 crimes. Tockington seems to have been particularly hard hit with 6 thefts from vehicles. 2 were at the start of the month, where a vehicle was stolen and later found in Severn Beach and another vehicle had the number plates stolen. At the end of the month, four more vehicles were broken into overnight and items stolen. Another vehicle had its number plates stolen while it was parked in Aust.

In Rockhampton an outbuilding was forced open and a lawnmower and petrol cans stolen. An insecure unit at the rear of a house in Oldbury Naite was entered and foodstuff taken from a freezer. Two trailers were stolen. one from a farm in Reedham Lane and the other from contractors working at Olveston school.

An assault was reported in Hazel Lane which seems to be a dispute between two groups of teenagers.



Four cast iron communication junction box covers were stolen from Fern Hill and this seems to be an increasing trend of theft of metal for scrap as the price goes up.

A group of teenage males damaged the parish notice board on the bus stop at The Crescent, Old Down. They smashed the glass and damaged the wooden frame probably beyond repair. It occurred at about 12.15am on 24/5/08 and about 5 were involved; they walked off towards Olveston. One of them used the name "Pullin" or similar when speaking to another member of the group.

Two people drove off without paying for fuel at Aust services.

Recently a red Toyota Land Cruiser and a white minibus were seen taking photographs of horses. The suspicion is that they may return to steal the horses to order after circulating the pictures. Information was published via horse watch.

June

There were 48 calls to the police from the Severn Ward and there were 13 reported crimes which is about average. An elderly person in Olveston had some bogus workmen turn up and begin to tarmac her drive; they also appear to have entered her house. Please can I reinforce the advice that you only use recognised tradesmen and not people who "cold call" door to door and preferably tradesmen who have been personally recommended. You have the right to a cooling-off period after written quotes have been obtained. Tradesmen should have recognised

headed paper with their company details and contact numbers on. The unscrupulous prey on the elderly to trick them out of money. Please keep an eye on your neighbours.

Around the same time as the tarmac work was being carried out, an outbuilding at a neighbouring house was broken into.

Two vehicles were broken into in Olveston overnight. Both vehicles were entered by having their windows smashed. Someone attempted to break into a Landrover in Aust by cutting the rubber seal around window; however the offender was disturbed and fled on foot.

A vehicle was stolen with the keys from an isolated farmhouse in Shepperdine. The vehicle was later recovered in Badminton. With the improvement in vehicle manufacturers' security, offenders now break into houses to steal the keys for the car, so please don't leave keys near to house doors. (An example would be on a handy rack of hooks next to the back door.)

Two people reported receiving malicious telephone calls and there were two "drive off" type offences from Severn View Services.

The priorities from the Safer Stronger Community Group remain speeding vehicles/HGVs on the B4461 Elberton and parking issues outside Olveston School and youth issues in and around Olveston.

Recently we've received a couple of complaints about youths behaving anti-socially in the play area in Olveston. It appears to go on to the early hours, with bad language, damage and littering, especially broken glass being left behind. This also appears to be happening in and around the Parish Hall on Tockington Road.

The next beat surgery is on **21 August between 1030 and 1200** at Olveston Stores.

Roger Hopes PC 3404, Neighbourhood Beat Manager

DC 125 Severnvale Phone: 0117 945 5959 Mobile: 07919628625

Square Dancing

Andy Phillips

Square dancing is not like most dancing that you may have tried before. It's not ballroom dancing or line dancing – it's much more fun than that. It is similar to Barn dancing but you dance in groups of eight. You and your partner and three other pairs are the 'square' and the caller calls a series of moves that link together to form the dance. This way no two dances are the same. Sounds complicated? It isn't. Sounds interesting? It is! So why don't you give it a try? You'll have great fun learning. The first three taster evenings are free – to see if it is for you. *Centre Squares* are taking in new members on Tuesday 2nd September at 8.00pm at the Winterbourne and District Community Association Hall (WADCA) at Watley's End Road, Winterbourne. (The usual cost is just £2 person per night). If you need more information, give me, Andy, a ring on 01454 614890 or ring John on 01454 881941. See you in a Square soon.

The 65th Almondsbury Gymkhana and Pony Show, Tockington

Carol Norman-Vincenot

Sunday 6th July dawned and, after heavy rains threatened to ruin the proceedings, a miracle happened; blue skies arrived from Avonmouth, setting the scene for another fabulous Charity Show organised by the Almondsbury Show Committee, chaired by Mr David Smith..

This year the numbers were up in all four rings, with classes for just about everyone from Children's Gymkhana and Clear Round Jumping and In-Hand Classes to Ridden Showing and Dressage. The Dog Show was very well attended too.

Almondsbury Pony Show has a very interesting history in that it was started 65 years ago when Almondsbury Hospital was a private affair. David Smith's father, one of the Trustees at the time, was approached by the matron to say that there would be enough money to pay the butcher that particular month but not enough to pay the baker and so it was concluded that a fund-raising event would be an ideal way to boost funds for the hospital. Thus the idea of an annual charity Horse Show was born. When eventually the NHS took over some years later, the hospital no longer needed extra funding and therefore the money raised was then given to elderly people in the village and other local charities.



When the Show was initially started all those years ago, everyone used to chip in to enable the event to take place; these days it has very generous sponsors and advertisers and many volunteers without which the show could not continue. Overheads really are an immense burden, even at a show of this size, and strict health and safety guidelines (first aid + paramedics, sound systems, disabled toilets etc.) can mean that costs can quite easily spiral out of control.

Every year the Show Committee is very proud to be able to donate in the region of £2,000 to two charities, the main one being St. Peter's Hospice, close to many people's hearts locally. The second charity changes each year and this time Paul's Place (www.paulsplace.org.uk) was chosen, a charity dedicated to enhancing life for physically disabled adults. In fact, two girls who have benefited in the past from this charity were running one of the stalls. As it turned out, the girls were desperately keen on horses and at one point someone kindly offered them a ride on a pony, after which one of them said 'Today is the *bestest day of my life!*' This really is the sort of comment that makes the show such a worth-while event for all concerned. So a huge thank you to all those involved in making this happen. I know we will be returning next year for another great family day out, come rain or shine. I hope you will join us!

Olveston-Tockington Parish Hall

Roger Smart

You will no doubt have noticed that there have been some recent improvements to the Olveston Parish Hall: repairs to the roof and a new garden area at the back.

Welcome though these are, it has been agreed that a longer term plan is needed to upgrade the Hall in order to make sure it fully caters for current, but also potential future, needs. In order to do this a small group has been set up to consult widely, not only with existing users but also across the whole community.

The Parish Hall is an important facility for us all and should aim to be the centre of a vibrant and active local community. It is a facility which we all have a vested interest in maintaining and developing. Your views are therefore needed to help formulate plans for its future. We need to know how the Hall can more effectively meet current needs but also what other needs it should seek to cater for that are not currently met.

As a result of this consultation exercise, it will be possible to compare the current facilities with the needs, wishes and expectations of our community in order to clearly identify the changes and improvements that are needed. This will provide the basis for a long term plan for the Hall and a focus for fund-raising and obtaining grants.

We need imaginative, even wacky, ideas. Ask yourselves, what are we missing locally and what do we need to make the local villages better places for all of us, both young and old?

Please contact Geoff Chappell, Chairman of Olveston Parish Hall Committee, in any one of the following ways:

- By letter: 12, Denys Court, Olveston, South Gloucestershire, BS35 4DW
- By telephone: 01454-615806
- By email: geoffrchappell@aol.com

Friends' Walking Group.

Dan Evans, Leader Friends' Walking Group

A series of canal walks is planned from September to November:

Sept 2nd: Meet at the Tudor Arms at Shepherd's Patch (just outside Slimbridge).

October 7th: Meet at the Horseshoe Inn, Frampton-On-Severn.

October 16th: Slimbridge and the bird sanctuary. Details later.

November 4th: as October 7th but using different paths.

December 2nd: Chipping Sodbury area.

Some walks are mornings only and some have afternoon options.

Start time is 10.00am, with a Pub lunch later.

Cricket Club News

150 Club Winners July:

£50 Tony Williams £15 Bill Finch £ 5 Sybil Banwell

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

14th June Barbara Binns
21st June Tony Williams
28th June Barry Reeves
5th July Ian Maunder

August Fixtures at The Park:

SATURDAY	2 Aug	2ND XI vs PUCKLECHURCH	2.00pm
SATURDAY	9 Aug	1ST XI vs BISHOPSTON	2.00pm
SATURDAY	16 Aug	2ND XI vs THORNBURY	2.00pm
SUNDAY	17 Aug	SUNDAY XI vs WINTERBOURNE	2.30pm
SATURDAY	23 Aug	1ST XI vs BRISTOL PAKISTANIS	1.30pm
SUNDAY	24 Aug	SUNDAY XI vs STAPLE HILL	2.00pm
SATURDAY	30 Aug	2ND XI vs CHEW MAGNA	1.30pm

Spectators are always welcome at all matches, so we look forward to seeing you!!

Thornbury Camera Club News and Tips 1

Peter Haworth

During a brief chat with the Editor outside Olveston Stores, it was considered most families have a camera at home and therefore regular news and photography tips could be of interest.

Firstly a short introduction. In recent years, photography has become an exciting hobby for me. Having started on a beginner's course, I decided the challenge of gaining one of the Royal Photographic Society distinction awards could be fun. There are three awards. I first gained the Licentiate and last year the Associateship. The Fellowship may well be a step too far! You have to be very focused!

Currently I am a member of Thornbury Camera Club and Bath Photographic Society.

As the summer holiday season approaches, the August edition seems appropriate to start with the following tips:

Travel Photography tips:

1. CAPTURE THE CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT. Look for subjects that are unusual back home. Show people playing, relaxing and working; their behaviour might be different in foreign countries – or even in different parts of the UK.

2. **MOVE IN CLOSE.** You might be tempted to shoot vistas, but close-up details provide a lot of interest and add the intimacy of a strange land and its people.
3. **MIX IT UP.** Shoot both horizontal and vertical photos of people, buildings and landscapes; try kneeling and lying down, or get above the subject; try moving from side to side find the best viewpoint.
4. **THE HORIZON.** Try not to get the horizon in the middle of your frame, keep it nearer a third from top or bottom and keep your camera level, especially when at the seaside.

Thornbury Camera Club meet most Monday evenings at The Old Bakery Annex from 1930 – 2200 hrs, starting in September through until July. Membership is around 40 people ranging from beginners to experienced photographers.

September's programme of lectures and events:

1st Sept "He's at it again – Monochrome" by Terrick Meakin.

8th Sept "Looking at photography, an approach to Judging" by John Tilsey

15th Sept A club evening to select photos for the "Ace of Clubs" competition.

22nd Sept "Mrs Cooper, the camera and the Taxman" by Peter Johnson.

TCC welcome new members of any ability. Please contact me, Peter Haworth, on 01454 612441.

Facilities Improvement Scheme is Supported by Bristol Diocese

After years of development and acres of consultations the improvement plans for St Mary's have finally received the stamp of approval from the 'powers that be' in the Bristol Diocese.

Yes, it's the end of the beginning for plans for a multi-use space at the East end of the church and new kitchen, toilets, vestries, audio-visual and storage facilities inside the building, mostly at the West end.

Now the really hard work starts on designing the detail to ensure it all works well and looks good. Plus raising the funds to make it all happen.

But we now have a very clear view of the transformation that is needed inside our beloved ancient building, to make it more accessible and more useful for the many thousands of village people who use it each year.

User groups will be formed and consulted about the detailed design of the new additions and Meeting Point will be kept updated about progress.

For further information phone Mike Wright on 616312



St Mary's, Olveston



**ARTS & COMMUNITY
IN THORNBURY**

Summer Swing at the Chantry!

To celebrate the end of Summer, ACT (Arts and Community in Thornbury) is delighted to issue an invitation to a delightful Sunday afternoon of 'swing' music in the company of the **Standing Stones Saxophone Ensemble**. The event will be in the garden of the Chantry in Thornbury on Sunday 7 September and folk are invited to bring a picnic and enjoy the varied music of this well established local group.

ACT's project to build a performance venue in Thornbury is rapidly gathering momentum and what better way to celebrate the arts than to listen to melodies which range from the works of George Gershwin, through the delights of Disney to the theme from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*!

Tickets (to include family rates) will be available at Thornbury's Garden Shop in the High Street and further details will be published in the September issue of the magazine, so make this a date for your diary! For more information on ACT, please visit our website: www.ACTthornbury.org.uk .

WEA Courses

About 2 years ago a group of local residents formed a Branch of WEA so as to be able to arrange courses, through the national organisation, which local people wanted.

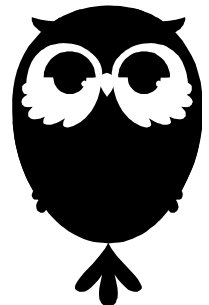
Our AGM is to be held on Sept 24th at 7,30pm at Lion House, 9, Castle Street, Thornbury, BS35 1HA. Everyone is welcome and the meeting provides a chance to tell us what courses you would like to have and where you would like them to take place. We are very interested in putting on courses in a variety of locations to suit local people. For more information contact the chair, Ann Hincliffe at 01454 415177 or the secretary, Phyllida Parsloe at phyllida.parsloe@tiscali.co.uk

We have two Autumn courses;

1. **Severn Valley Bird Watching**. 2 meetings on Sept 4th and 11th at The Chantry, Castle Street, Thornbury from 7.30pm to 9pm and two field visits to Oldbury on 6th and 20th Sept.

Tutor Donald Cullen.

Come and learn about birds and bird watching. Identify birds by size, colour, flight calls and song plus background to birds' lives and migrations.



2. Unusual Aspects of South Gloucestershire's History. 5 meetings on Thursdays from October 2nd and one field visit. To be held at the Chantry from 7.30 to 9.30pm

Tutors: Linda Hall, Andrea Burton and Jackie Ashton. Together they will provide a fascinating journey back in time looking at vernacular architecture, non-conformism, a 19th Century celebrity (Handel Cossham), and World War 11 from an evacuee and factory worker's perspective.

Fees are £51 with special arrangements for those on benefits or low waged. 16 to 18 years old come free.

To book, contact Ann or Phyllida as above.

C K Garden Design

Laura Hall

Finding flexible work as a mother can be tricky but Christina Thorpe has managed to combine a career she loves that allows her to work around her daughter's Olveston school commitments.

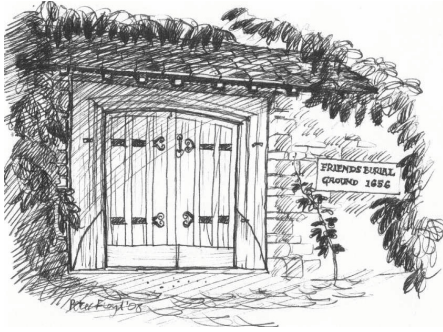
What started as a gardening hobby in 2000 has gradually morphed into a fully-fledged business when Christina launched CK Garden Design in November 2007. She provides garden design and regular garden maintenance for clients, mainly within the Bristol area.

While taking the RHS General Exam in 2002, Christina started working at Wyevale Garden Centre. Christina had her daughter and then continued her studies, passing the RHS Advanced Certificate from Cannington College in Bridgwater and then a City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Gardening. There she specialised in organic gardening, focusing on fruit and vegetables, so she likes to try and encourage clients to grow edible produce.

Christina started helping out friends and family and now has a portfolio of clients and projects, from one-off planting schemes and designs to weekly, fortnightly and monthly garden maintenance. She is happy to take on the challenge of total garden makeovers and particularly likes working closely with the client to get as much input and feedback as possible. Seeing a garden develop and transform into something spectacular is very satisfying. It's also thrilling to witness the client's reaction to her work.

"A garden is like another room, another aspect to your home," she says. "People love spending time in their garden. It becomes part of their lifestyle."

*To contact Christina, call: 01454 633824 or 07976 889360
or email: ckt1002003@yahoo.co.uk*



Quakers, Lower Hazel

Mary Bailey

The Quaker Burial Ground has been in Lower Hazel since 1656 but the house adjoining was built almost three hundred years later, on what was described on the

local map as a potato field. Mr John Eason-Smith built the original house in 1935, hoping to extend it when funds allowed. Sadly, however, he was killed in World War II and his widow remarried and sold the house to Miss Marion Fleming.

Mr George Brown, a Bristol architect, was the owner when we bought the property in 1960. In the decade that followed, the house was enlarged and the small piece of land on the west side of the Burial Ground was bought from Mr Cyril Wonnacott. This became the "new paddock", and first a donkey and then two ponies took up residence and, for the next twenty years, the garden was more or less given up to children's activities.

After my husband died and my daughters were married, gardening took over. I was asked to look after the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) in what was then the Avon area, so I had to set to work on mine! The new paddock was transformed into a pond area and with the kind help of horticulturist Mary Payne, it gradually took shape and in 1996 we joined the group of garden openers.

The main feature of the garden is a magnolia tree, on the lawn at the front of the house - a wedding present to the original owners. There was also a *Prunus x subhirtella* "Autumnalis" and an ornamental flowering cherry tree on the bottom strip of lawn, but unfortunately these were both killed by honey fungus ten years ago, so we have been restricted as to what can be planted here.

We are extremely fortunate in having a backdrop of natural woodland. The soil here is a clay/loam mixture, overlying rock on a slope, and so dries out quickly - hard to believe as I write this on a pouring wet Bank Holiday Monday at the end of May

The garden has been planted for year-round interest, with shrubs, herbaceous plants, vegetables, fruit and climbers on the house and garage. I am indebted to Stephen Clark for his regular help and, during the last year, to Fran Webster for her occasional morning.

The "pond area" is looking more like a miniature Slimbridge as two pairs of mallards have flown in and have hatched two ducklings, so far escaping the ever-present threat of crows and magpies. There are also two families of moorhens, my own pair of call ducks and ten hens. To survive the fox we have had to encircle the area with an electric fence.

I feel extremely lucky to have been part of the N.G.S. and am grateful for all that I have learnt from other garden owners. In 2003, after ten years as organiser for the NGS, I felt it was time for someone else with fresh ideas to take over and I also wanted to make several alterations in my own garden. These are now established.



The garden will be open for the NGS and St. Mary's Church in Olveston on **Sunday, August 31st from 2.00 -5.30pm.**

Please do come - hopefully the sun will shine. There will be a Plant Stall and Teas will be available, courtesy of the Church Ladies; the proceeds from both will be donated to the two charities named above.

Visit to Highgrove House, May 16th

Dan Evans, Friends Walking Group Leader, planned the trip and took a full coach of 50 people. The weather was chilly but it only started to rain as the tour finished at 12 noon. Highgrove has been Prince Charles' home since 1980 and the garden and farm reflect his commitment to organic principles. The land is managed in harmony with nature and results in a diverse range of wildlife.

The Prince has created a stumpery using huge oak and chestnut stumps that have been imported and inverted to form weird shapes. Some are twenty years old and weigh over a ton. There is a huge Hosta collection amongst the woodland walks, as well as walled formal gardens and walks and a large kitchen garden. Near the house is the sundial garden planted with a black and white theme.

The garden is fascinating at any time of year. In spring there are massed tulips (five shades of purple) and hundreds of daffodils to be seen. In the Woodland Garden and Cottage Garden are wild flowers: oxeye daises, yellow rattle, scabious, knapweed and many others. In a secluded spot in the garden is the Prince's own private retreat.

Various charity events are hosted at Highgrove - recently a Prince's Foundation Dinner.

The Prince has created something special at Highgrove, innovative yet also traditional, and it is certainly worth a visit.

Tockington Harvest Fayre

Garry Phillips

The Fayre will be held, as usual, on the Green on **Saturday September 13th** starting at 2 pm. Following the tradition of previous years, we will be having lots of stalls and amusements and, of course, delicious cream teas. During the afternoon, there will be displays of dancing, our resident folk band will provide the music, and the Brownies will be entertaining us. There will be 2 competitions for children and adults:-

1. "Time for tea": a flower arrangement using tea-time utensils e.g. a tea pot, cup and saucer, empty tea bag box etc.

2. A model animal created from vegetables.

Finally, a children's painting competition – "An Olympic collage" (A3 max size).

This year's fancy dress parade will be "Olympics in China 2008".

We would be very grateful for any contributions for our stalls in terms of white elephant (please no jumble), vegetables, cakes, books, etc. and particularly bottles and toiletries for the tombola. If you have any, then please bring them along to the Chapel before 12 noon on the 13th, or contact Garry Phillips tel. 613241, Maggie Spooner tel. 610053, or Jane Sawyer tel. 618885.

This year we are also looking for any additional help on the stalls and in the preparations and clearing up, particularly moving the heavy pews and tables - if anyone can help, then please contact the numbers above or turn up at 9am on the Saturday.

Come and enjoy an afternoon on the Village Green.

Olveston & Tockington WI 90th Birthday Celebrations

Joyce Davies

On Tuesday 24th June, Olveston and Tockington WI held a Garden Party at Mrs Carmen Pitts' garden to celebrate 90 years of WI life in the two villages. Guests included Avon Chairwoman, Carole King, and Vice President, Daphne Vise, also Presidents and members from Lower and Upper Almondsbury, Pilning and Severn Beach and a much younger Bradley Stoke. Mrs Audrey Shepherd welcomed everyone and expressed her delight at the success and enjoyment of the afternoon.



Olveston and Tockington WI

July meeting

Anne Boulton

Few of us can imagine life without glass. We take it for granted, but speaker Bill Jackman's information-packed talk and collection of antiques gave a new insight into this very common material. The English wineglass from 1650-1850 was the basis of Mr Jackman's presentation. Fragile glass imported from Venice, and only for the rich, often arrived in a sorry state and so a home industry was founded. The English made a more robust ware and craftsmen, and women, still demonstrate their skills at Stourbridge. The industry became so successful and lucrative that inevitably the taxman caught up with it. As a result wineglasses became smaller and lighter. The tax was lifted in Victorian times and, with the manufacture of cheap pressed ware, glass items became commonplace. Mr Jackman delighted his audience by passing round samples from his collection such as a green German-style rummer and a perfume bottle, perhaps once the pride of a wealthy Roman lady.

Olveston and Tockington WI was founded on the third of September 1918 and to mark 90 years our September meeting will be one with a difference. Of course there will be a cake, home-made in WI tradition, and President Audrey Shepherd has asked members show their skills by making a fun piece of jewellery (we shall party in style), and bringing any item they have created in the past to put on display.

Thank You

Mary Hoad

Simon and Tim and I would like to thank everyone for their sympathy, love and support that we have received. There are so many people I would like to thank, in particular Janet, Sylvia and Jean. This is indeed a special community that I am privileged to live in.

Parish Players Summer Soiree

Saturday 6th September at 5.30pm

Phil Savage, Chairman

Andy and Sue Black have very kindly offered their home and garden as the venue for an American Supper followed by a showing of the DVD of our performance of My Fair Lady. This is an opportunity to meet socially before Oklahoma gets going and also, we hope, an opportunity for us to meet potential new members of the Players. Please encourage friends to come along if you are already a Player, in the hope that they will join us. If you read this and would like to come along and meet us – please don't be shy.

The Blacks live at Hallen Lodge, Hallen, BS10 7RH. This is virtually impossible to find without a map or a satnav! We can supply maps.

Andy's phone number is 01179 506078 and email is amclarenblack@mac.com. My number is 01454 413009 and email is pesavage@btinternet.com

Happy Listening

Rosemary Boere

If you are like me you may find yourself turning the "off" switch on your radio more and more because of the drip, drip of negative news, plus language you would rather not have in your own home. There is an alternative; you can find information on the following Christian based radio stations at:-

UCB: www.ucb.co.uk - also found on DAB (Digital radio)

Premier Radio: www.premierradio.org.uk or Freeview 725. Enjoy listening again.

YOUTH SPEAKS competition

Nigel Dawes

The annual Youth Speaks competition, which is run by Thornbury Rotary Club, was held at the Parish Hall, Tockington on Monday 7th July. All the primary schools in the area entered six children and one from each school was chosen to be in the final. The judges considered that the standard this year was very high, the subjects ranging from Walt Disney and Russia to the Sydney Opera House.

The winner was Rebecca Gatling from Manorbrook School who spoke about Girl Guides. In second place was Thomas Bailey from St Helen's, Alveston who spoke about Flying and third was Chloe Dawes from Olveston School who spoke about Sarcoids and My Pony.

The event was very well supported and a great success.

Olveston Parish Matters

Andy Clarke

So it appears that Public Telephone boxes are set to disappear all across the land as mobile telephones become owned by so many and landlines abound in every home. But what about those vulnerable people who need a public lifeline or a phone call beyond prying ears and eyes? The iconic red phone boxes may well have become antiquities of our time. If you want to retain the presence of one in this parish, you should let the council know before they all go.

Communications are still available in ancient and modern styles however. There are notice boards in Olveston, Tockington and Old Down and we wonder how well used they are, so we would welcome your feedback on their relevance to you. Perhaps you are someone who prefers computer technology and will log on to the local website at www.olvoston.com where you can now find published minutes of Parish Council meetings plus other useful information and much more yet to come, as the Parish Council's share of the local website develops.

While our youngsters may spend hours (too many perhaps?) in front of computer screens, we still need to find positive, worthwhile activities to interest them locally. Do you know what is on their wish-list? Please tell us if you do – or get them to tell

us. We thought that focus-groups might be introduced, set up by keen, local volunteers like you. Can you offer a young drama group, a 6-a-side cricket league, a seven-a-side soccer league or an art group for teenagers from the villages? Without volunteers we have nothing to offer and good ideas for us to develop are also crucial, so do get in touch.

You only have to look in your own garden to realise that our odd English weather conditions have encouraged unusual growth-spruts in the wide outdoors. We note that many of our footpaths in the area are becoming overgrown. Whilst these were never intended to be like tarmacked, manicured routes, they do need to be kept open and usable. We have identified a small number of key paths which must be maintained in order to keep them in an appropriate condition. We are currently in touch with the South Glos footpath warden, Lindsey Saunders, regarding these, though the best way to keep footpaths open is to use them – so some of it is up to you too! If you wish to talk further about issues raised here, please contact any councillor (all identified in May's Meeting Point) or the Parish Clerk, Valerie Tutin on 01454 613730.

Naughty but very Nice!

Johanna Baxter

For those of you not going away this August but looking for something to do on a Thursday morning, please come down to Olveston Stores for 'Coffee and Cake'.

Run by volunteers from St Mary's church, it's fast becoming the place to be between 10am and 12pm on Thursdays and what's more a cup of coffee or tea and a delicious slice of cake is only £1! Come and meet new friends, all ages welcome.

Midsummer Music at Aust

Janet Ford

This evening was the launch event for the "**Re-ordering**" (putting in a loo and a kitchen) of St John's church at Aust and what an evening it was.

We had asked for fine weather and we got it.

We asked lots of people to come, and they did.

We did lots of asking of all sorts of people and what a success we had. Including **THE CITY OF BRISTOL BRASS BAND** and the members of **FASCINATING RHYTHM**, there were over 200 people in the garden at Brandon House. The music and singing was fantastic – everyone joined together in the renditions of the traditional "Last Night of the Proms" songs and ardently waved their Union flags. What fun it all was **BUT** the best thing was knowing that all those who attended had helped to make the evening a resounding success and that the fund now has an additional £650.

A huge thank you to all who came and to those who worked so hard to make the evening special. Everyone left with smiles and asking: "*Are you going to do it again next year ?*" Watch this space!

Future Events in Thornbury

(This is a synopsis of information sent to all the village magazines by Dave Goldring and the Thornbury Chamber of Commerce. Ed)

Plans are afoot to enlarge the current Christmas celebrations in Thornbury to include two Saturdays, **6th and 20th December 2008**, each carrying a full programme of events.

In addition there are plans to restore the Thornbury Carnival which used to run very successfully some years ago. The date proposed for this event is **July 4th 2009**.

Dave Goldring writes: "At this early stage of planning, we ask that all groups consider that any event they would normally be involved with on this date be rescheduled, to enable them to contribute to what we hope will be a major event for Thornbury. Or even draft your event into the carnival and get a much bigger audience!

It is not intended there be any central charitable beneficiary from the function - rather, that each contributing organisation raises funds for its own purposes.

At this stage, we ask that you/your organisation considers what its role might be.

We need personnel to co-ordinate groups with similar interests, and represent them on a planning committee. E.g. someone to represent the Sports clubs, another for Service organisations, Churches, PTAs, Floral groups, and so on. We will need someone to co-ordinate stage/arena events, another to plan a procession if there is to be one. These need not be tasks for just a single person. It might be that a club takes on this role, or that a social working group convenes for the purpose of taking a given part of the organisation forward."



St Mary's, Olveston

St Mary's Church Summer Fete 2008

Mike Wright

The weather was threatening but spirits were undaunted. More village people turned out than ever before to celebrate and enjoy the atmosphere at St Mary's Church Fete on June 21st, held again at Church Farm, by kind permission of Mr John Cryer, and in St Mary's Church.

Attending crowds were treated to talented song and dance numbers from the children of Olveston CEVC Primary School and an imaginative display from Olveston Brownies.

There were many exciting attractions put on by community groups, in addition to all the traditional favourite stalls and displays in the church. Thanks to the vigorous efforts of a very large band of helpers, our fete attenders went home very pleased

with their afternoon. £2,237 was raised towards church funds and many community groups benefitted.

Thanks to all and see you next year.

THORNBURY LIBRARY

Summer Holiday Reading Challenge for youngsters

The 2008 Summer Reading Challenge takes a sporting theme to encourage children to get active and get reading. The emphasis this year is on *games* rather than craft activities, to tie in with the sports theme.

All events listed below are free BUT please ask for a ticket in advance.

Games Galore	Wed 30 July, 10.30 -12.00
Ready steady go	Wed 6 August, 10.30 -12.00
Keep your eye on the ball	Wed 13 August, 10.30 -12.00
Going for gold	Wed 20 August, 10.30 -12.00

Late news: We have just arranged the following event which is the ONLY event you need to BUY a ticket for. Places will be limited so please buy your ticket well in advance, price £2.50. The event is suitable for young people aged 8-12 years - please wear loose clothing and trainers.

Street Dance workshop Friday 1 August, 11.00-12.30

In addition we are running our usual **Reading Challenge**:

Read 6 books over the summer holidays to get a certificate and medal and lots more prizes!

The Challenge starts on Saturday 19 July, but you can join any time after this.

From the Registers at St Mary's

Baptism on 15th June of Esme Elizabeth Jane, daughter of William and Jacqueline Floyd.

Marriage on 28th June of Richard Lacey and Rachel Hyslop.

Marriage Blessing and Dedication Service on 5th July of Dylan Bowen and Nikki Biesheuvel.

Funeral Service at Westerleigh Crematorium on 20th June, followed by Thanksgiving Service and Burial of Ashes in the Churchyard of Gordon Victor Hoad.

Funeral Service on 23rd June, followed by burial in the Churchyard, of Prunella Barton Simpson.

Yours faithfully: True Happiness

Singa Vunipola

Greetings to you all. It is always a challenge to find something interesting to share with you. However, I do believe that if ever there is one thing that everyone yearns for, it has to be true happiness – the everlasting joy.

Once upon a time, a wealthy young man who found life rather boring set out searching for true happiness. With his money, he bought a big house, thinking, “If I live in a spacious house I would be happy.” After a while he got bored and became downhearted. Then he decided to buy a boat. He thought at least he could travel around every river and enjoy the world around him. Sadly, it did not last long, he became once again despondent. He said to himself: “ Well I will be better off buying an aeroplane. It is not only faster but I can fly high above the sky. I could also travel further abroad, far and wide.” Again, the plane was only short-lived. He said to himself as he usually does, “a rocket to go into aerospace would be ideal. It is faster than the plane.” Again, he could not find true happiness. All these things above gave him a temporary happiness.

He decided to head home, only to run into his friend. Then he asked him; “What can I do to have true happiness – the long lasting joy. I have spent all my wealth in buying all the things that I thought would give me that happiness but it never lasted.” The friend answered, showing him a crucifix and said; “On this cross a man named Jesus paid for you to have true happiness. It does not cost you anything. It is from the cross that he promises paradise. It is from the cross that we experience mercy and grace. Mercy withholds from us what we deserve and Grace gives us what we do not deserve.”

If you are like this young rich man, longing for true happiness, the answer is the cross of Jesus. It does not cost any money, it only costs your time and for you to open your heart and invite Jesus in, then you will be amazed at the joy of dwelling in his throne. God is waiting and willing to embrace you with all your needs but you must give Him access. If you have done that, continue to live faithfully, and if you have not, I urge you, my friend, now is the time, be careful that you don't miss it. As we are living in a rapidly changing world with all its challenges, it is all the more reason to search for that true happiness. May God bless you all and have a blessed and joyous summer.

Church News: ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Aug 3 rd	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong - Choir	Rev. Roly Bain Rev. Roly Bain Mrs Janet McBride
Aug 10 th	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Matins with Choir Evensong	Canon David Sansum Rev. David Bone TBA
Aug 17 th	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion - Choir Evensong	Rev. Philip Rowe Rev. Philip Rowe Mrs Janet McBride
Aug 24 th	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) 4 th Sunday Evensong(BCP) with Choir	Canon David Sansum Mrs Janet McBride Rev. Philip Rowe
Aug 31 st	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP) with Choir	Canon David Sansum Rev David Bone Rev Philip Rowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

CONTACT PERSONS:

The Rev. Philip Rowe, (01454 613223); email: office@stmaryssevernside.org

Please contact Philip about Baptisms, marriages, funerals or other matters at any time, but please try to avoid Thursdays except in an emergency.

Mrs. June Robbins, Verger 01454 617491

Internet: www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 3.00pm in the Church (except third Monday)

WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION: At 9.00am led by the Rev. Roly Bain

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Aug 10 th	10am	Morning Prayer	Miss Margaret Roberts
Aug 17 th	8am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Bone
Aug 24 th	10am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Bone
Aug 31 st	8am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Bone

Assistant Curate: **Rev. David Bone** (01454 614601)

Church Wardens: **Jo Jenkins** (01454) 632838 and **Janet Ford**

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Aug 3 rd	9am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole
Aug 17 th	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield

Contact person: **Rev. David Pole** (01454 414810); www.sthelensalveston.org

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Aug 10th	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield
Aug 24 th	9am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole

Contact person: **Rev. David Pole** (01454 414810); www.sthelensalveston.org

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Aug 3 rd	10am	Tockington Ch.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Iesinga Vunipola
	6pm	St Andrews Ch.	Evening Worship led by Rev. Peter Mortlock
Aug 10 th	10am	Olveston Ch.	All Age Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney
	6pm	Tockington Ch	Evening worship led by Rev. Peter Mortlock
Aug 17 th	10am	Tockington Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr John Trebble
	6 pm	Daldry Gardens	Evening Worship led by Rev. Peter Mortlock
Aug 24 th	10am	Tockington Ch	Morning Worship led by Mr Malcolm Read
	6pm		NO SERVICE
Aug 31 st	10am	Tockington Ch	Morning worship led by Mr Glyn Varney
	6pm	Olveston Ch	Evening worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Iesinga Vunipola

LIGHT LUNCHESES: None in August. Next lunch is on 4th September at 12.15.

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 20th August. To book your lunch please ring 416528.

PRAYER MEETINGS: Thursdays at 2.15pm in the Olveston Vestry.

COFFEE MORNINGS: Saturdays 10.30am – 12 noon in the Olveston Methodist Hall

DISCUSSION GROUP: The Discussion Group will not meet in August.

CONTACT PERSON: Rev. Iesinga Vunipola. 01454 412269; Iesinga@hotmail.com

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

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

Mike and Barbara Matthews, tel. 07512 917229 or email thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLDOWN

Aug 3 rd	6.30pm	Lyall Drewett
Aug 10 th	6.30pm	Martin Taylor
Aug 17 th	6.30pm	Royston Pick

For further information, please contact **Olwen Wonnacott** (412141) or **Paul Ashford** (07774 110814) email: Paul@CalebGroup.net

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH offers a warm welcome to Family Worship at 11.00am and to Evening Worship at 6.30pm. For more details, please phone 613134 or 632564. 'Happy are the people whose God is the Lord'.

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury - each Sunday
8.30am - Mass 11.00am - Family Mass 6.30pm – Mass

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury
Meeting for Worship: Sundays 10.30am. The Tudor Room, The Chantry, Castle Street
Tel. **Elizabeth Sidwell** 412975

Diary Dates for August 2008

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

1st Fri			
2nd Sat	Olveston Methodist Hall Coffee Morning Cricket at the Park	10.30-12.00 2.00pm	
3rd Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club (Medium Walk) Tel 416321 or 07799 576970	9.00am	
4th Mon			
5th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Royal British Legion Women	10.00-12.00 7.30	WR DGCL
6th Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club - Coffee Morning: Hawkfield, Haw Lane, Olveston	10.30	
7th Thu	Olveston Baby & Toddlers Coffee Shop-Olveston Stores Thornbury Rambling Club Tel 415675	2.30-4.30pm 10.00-12.00 7.00pm	MH
8th Fri			
9th Sat	Olveston Methodist Hall Coffee Morning Cricket at the Park	10.30-12.00 2.00	
10th Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club (Med.) Tel 772323	9.00am	
11th Mon			
12th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	10.00-12.00	WR
13th Wed	Royal British Legion Men	7.30pm	DGCL
14th Thu	Coffee Shop –Olveston Stores Olveston Baby & Toddlers Thornbury Rambling Club - Sharpness (Short - meet at Sharpness picnic area) Tel. 01453 511931	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30 10.00am	MH
15th Fri			
16th Sat	Quiet Day Olveston Methodist Hall Coffee Morning Cricket at the Park	From 10am 10.30-12.00 2.00	StM
17th Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club (Long) Seven Springs Tel. 633270 Cricket at the Park	9.00am 2.30pm	
18th Mon			
19th Tues	Tockington Toddlers	10.00-12.00	WR
20th Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club	2.00pm	AH
21st Thu	Coffee Shop- Olveston Stores Olveston Baby & Toddlers	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30	MH
22nd Fri			
23rd Sat	Olveston Methodist Hall Coffee Morning Cricket at the Park	10.30-12.00 1.30pm	

24 th Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club 1.Chawrel-y-Fan (Long) Tel 0117 962 4221 2. Marshfield & Cold Ashton (Med) Tel 853902	1 9.00am 2 9.00am	
24 th Sun	Cricket at the Park	2.00pm	
26 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Parish Council Meeting	10.00-12.00 7.30	WR AP
27 th Wed			
28 th Thu	Coffee Shop-Olveston Stores Olveston Baby & Toddlers	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30	MH
29 th Fri			
30 th Sat	Olveston Methodist Hall Coffee Morning Cricket at the Park	10.30-12.00 1.30pm	
31 st Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club Uphill & Loxton (Long) Tel: 0117 9518913 Marlwood School Car Boot Sale Open Garden & Cream Teas, Lower Hazel	9.00am 9.30am 2.00-5.30pm	
Looking Ahead to September			
2 nd Tue	Friends Walking Group – Canal walk	10.00am	
6 th Sat	Parish Players Summer Soiree, in Hallen	5.30pm	
13 th Sat	Tockington Harvest Fair Music in the Church at Aust	2.00pm onwards 8.00pm	

Key: **ACR** – Almondsbury Church Rooms; **AH** – Armstrong Hall, **AMC** – Alveston Methodist Church; **AMH**- Alveston Methodist Hall; **AP** – Alexandra Pavilion, **AVH** – Aust Village Hall; **CCCP** – Castle Court Car Park; **CH** – Cossham Hall; **Chy** – Chantry; **DGCL** – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; **EVH** – Elberton Village Hall; **MH** – Olveston Methodist Hall; **OS** – Olveston School; **PH** – Olveston Parish Hall; **StM** – St Mary’s Church, Oliv.; **StMA** Almondsbury Church; **TBCh** - Thornbury Baptist Church; **TMH** – Thorn. Methodist Hall; **URC** Thorn United Reform Church; **WR** – Wesley Rooms; **AC** - Aust Church

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