



Meeting Point

Volume 34, Number 7, April 2010

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

EDITOR:

Sharon Lapworth

4 Manor Park
Tockington
Bristol BS32 4NS
Tel: 01454 613502
*meetingpointeditor@
gmail.com*

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Angela Williams
Ashlea
Haw Lane
Olveston
Bristol BS35 4EG
Tel 01454 612850
*meetingpointmagazine@
gmail.com*

ADVERTISING:

Nigel Dawes

Cromwell House
The Street,
Olveston
Bristol BS35 4DR
Tel: 01454 201558
Julie.dawes@tiscali.co.uk

Publication date

1st of each month

Material for May 2010

**to Editor or Deputy Editor by
8th April 2010**

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. - Anne Frank

From the Editor

Spring has finally arrived with the daffodils finally appearing and the lambs playing in the fields.

In this month's Meeting Point you will find a voucher for a free HOT drink and details of free Wifi facilities within the community.

As always our community is busy organising fundraising events from the popular Olveston School Quiz Night to the relaxing Tea On the Green in celebration of St. George's Day.

Our cover this month is by Kate Hickman
Meeting Point Founded in 1976 by the Anglican and
Methodist churches in Olveston, near Bristol

**Meeting Point magazine and Meeting Point Directory is online on the
Community Website: www.olvostonandaust.com.**

Village Person:

Shirley Ann – hairdresser

For those who don't know, Shirley Ann's hairdressing salon is in Tockington. The house is called Two Ways because it is at the point where the road into Tockington Green divides, one side past the pub, the other past 'Smiley Kenny'!

Shirley Ann was born in Almondsbury Hospital and the family lived in Patchway. She was obliged to leave school at fifteen, but would really have liked to go into the police force (but was not tall enough at 5ft 1ins), or into nursing, which required staying on in the sixth form. So she decided to do hairdressing and became the first apprentice at Sylvia's, whose business was then at Two Ways. Sylvia and her family lived in the house and the salon was very small and catered for ladies only. Shirley Ann stayed with Sylvia on and off while bringing up three children, until the business closed. She and Sylvia continued as mobile hairdressers.

Shirley Ann had no intention of doing anything other than mobile hairdressing until an estate agent she knew well, told her of the salon on the A38 opposite Almondsbury Hospital. Shirley Ann wasn't interested but he sent the details anyway. The premises were very old fashioned but in the end she was tempted into taking a twelve year full repairing lease. The emphasis was on the full. It needed a new roof and many other renovations and most of the profits went into maintaining the property. However she built up a large clientele and employed four assistants at one time.

Meanwhile her younger son Sam had left Marlwood School and after two years on a foundation course, decided that his interest in fashion could be applied to hairdressing and enrolled at Clifton Academy, a hairdressing college. After eighteen months he went to work in an independent salon in Bristol for five years. He then joined his mum at the A38 salon nine years ago.

When the twelve year lease was coming to an end, Two Ways had been on the market for some time. Shirley Ann was still in touch with Sylvia's son and she approached him to ask if he would have any objections to her reopening the salon, and he was delighted. So, having a good idea that the premises would receive planning permission, but with time being the essence, they went ahead at breakneck speed. Two Ways required substantial renovation, but the A38 salon closed at the end of the lease and one week later Two Ways opened. They and their builders worked 24 hours a day, during the week they received planning permission and the new salon opened on time, in June 2007.

Naturally all their clients moved with them and were hardly inconvenienced. Many have been faithful for many years, and come from a wide radius; one has been coming fourteen years even though now living in Malmesbury. They cater for all age groups and both sexes and clients have said how they like the warm, friendly, family atmosphere. It is so popular that they have a waiting list for cancelled appointments. It is appointment only, but they are always ready to welcome new clients.

1st Olveston Scout Group

A very big **Thank-you** to Audrey Knapp for raising an amazing £450 from the proceeds of Webb Ivory sales of cards, wrap and gifts during the run up to Christmas last year.

For the last 28 years she's clocked up a remarkable £22,897 for charities her children have been part of over the years.

Thanks Mum!

Lynda Spratt

Scout Leader 1st Olveston Scouts



Olveston School Quiz Night

Friends of Olveston School have been busy raising money, in the hope that by the summer they will be able to provide the school with an outdoor learning facility; this will provide a classroom, a stage for small productions and also provide shade and a meeting area for the children during breaks. We are well on our way to our target of £10,000 and with everyone's support hope to be there in time for the summer break.

To help us reach the goal we are holding our annual **Quiz Night on Friday 21st May, 2010**. The questions this year are kindly being set by last year's winning team. As before, we are looking for teams of 4-6 people to come along and test their general knowledge.

The cost is **£2.50** per person, **B.Y.O** refreshments and snacks. There is a prize for the winning team and your team name will be recorded on the winners' shield. Please email marie@customwrap.co.uk or telephone Marie King on 01454 419330 for more information or to book your team's table.

Local Government Goes Rural

A consultation has begun this month to discuss the development of local government which would give greater emphasis and responsibility (powers of action) to Parish Councils in rural areas, bringing them more in line with Town Councils.

- A new country-wide consultation forum will be created for Parish Councils meeting weekly.
- Direct access will be made for Parish Councils to:-
 - a) Highways Department to monitor street care issues
 - b) Community policing groups highlighting trouble hotspots and maintaining law in the countryside (also providing a consulting room for “Surgeries” etc).
 - c) Community action project groups through action consultations in the local centre.
 - d) Community care groups who will achieve greater local consultation through outreach but also through consultation in a specially created centre.
 - e) Health care, though only through outreach initially at established surgeries.
- Parish Councils will become paid, part-time, for increased time and responsibility, with funding being found from a small increase in the local Council Tax precept and also supported partly by income from the proposed new Car Clamping Scheme, to be run by Norty Securities, set up to deal with the increase in illegal parking in rural areas.
- Parish councillors will be expected to attend regular additional meetings in connection with the above, as well as regular training modules to bring their skills to the required level but, importantly, they will raise their consultation profile with Parishioners. They will also have a greater say in local health and safety issues as well as more influence on local planning.

Some of the suggested provisions will of course depend on the creation of a local centre, the sighting of which being yet to be fully agreed.

In view of a recent proposal to locate an overspill young offenders (trainee) hostel in Olveston, it was thought that the project could work in partnership with the Parish Council's development. It is thought unlikely that, at this stage, a purpose-built centre could be introduced, especially as a Greenfield site may be required for it. It is more likely that an existing building could be identified for purchase (possibly compulsorily). Three of the types of the possible buildings could be as follows:-

- Olveston Parish Hall (with a new purpose-built wing).

- Queen Alexandra Pavilion Old Down (altered to incorporate accommodation and consultation areas).
- White Hart Olveston (very little major alteration needed and Punch Taverns, the holding company, keen to reduce its owner assets).

Each option has pluses and minuses and is worthy of consideration. It is intended that the youth facilities incorporated in the hostel might also provide integrated activities for local youngsters, providing a valuable local amenity in a superbly central location.

While these proposals may take up to a year to be thoroughly investigated, a conclusion should be reached and published by 01/04/11. For further information please refer to www.parishdevelopments.com

Avril Legge-Powel

A Concert at St. Mary's

Pahukama, the Zimbabwean choir, who performed so memorably at St Mary's last year are making a return visit to do a concert on April 24th at 7.30pm and to sing at our African Eucharist the next morning at 10am. Don't miss it this time! Tickets are only £5. If anyone can offer accommodation for the Saturday night, please ring Roly Bain on 616593, to whom enquiries may also be made.

Creativity with Flowers

Would you like to see different ways of arranging your bunch of flowers rather than just putting them into a vase? Severn Vale Flower Club are delighted to welcome Tom Hodge from Southport. Tom is one of the best National Demonstrators in the Country and the title of his demonstration is "Creative Design". This will be held in the Armstrong Hall on Monday evening the 19th April. Doors open at 6.30pm for 7.30pm. There will be the usual Raffle Sales and Charity Tables. Our charity is the Meningitis Research Foundation, so please come and support us. Tickets are £9.00 and can be reserved by calling 01454 885213 or 412087.

Thank you from Mary Griffith

Please accept my sincere gratitude for the overwhelming kindness shown to me concerning my recent accident. The beautiful cards, gifts, flowers, visits and offers of help have meant so much and I know they have helped me to progress so quickly. I could not find a more loving community anywhere. God bless you all.

PNG – part 2

Continuing Ben Williams' account of life in Papua New Guinea (PNG) with VSO.

VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) sends skilled professionals to live and work as volunteers in the heart of local communities in over 40 developing countries. It has been working in PNG since 1960 with currently 40 volunteers from a variety of backgrounds including education, health, governance and business.

John F Kennedy once said that a child poorly educated is a child lost. He could have been talking about PNG. Unlike the UK, a student's grade does not necessarily reflect their age. The average age of 'children' in grade 8 – the final year of primary education – is seventeen, although it is common to see students in their early 20s still at primary school. (Many students in the more remote areas don't know how old they are ("*mi no save*"). Education is not compulsory in PNG and parents must pay school fees. The fees increase as children progress through the education system and a typical primary school will charge around £50 per year – a very significant sum particularly in rural areas. Consequently, many children simply do not attend school or drop in and out, depending on whether their family has funds available - hence the age discrepancies.

Head teachers in PNG fall broadly into two categories: those that never go into their office and those that never come out of their office. Leadership and management from heads can sometimes leave a little to be desired, but it certainly isn't an easy job. Many spend much of their time chasing unpaid school fees and there is little money for books and other resources. There is no functioning system of teacher appraisal and managing absenteeism and under-performing staff is a huge problem. The turnover of staff in schools is absurdly high because there is no security of tenure, disrupting continuity and long-term planning. However, there are many outstanding teachers in PNG who do an excellent job despite the system.

Arranging meetings and training courses can be frustrating as things rarely begin on time. It is not unusual for people to arrive for a meeting two hours later than scheduled. However, it is imperative that meetings finish no later than 4.06 pm *precisely*, which marks the end of the official working day. No one is able to explain the origin of this finishing time. One morning, a training course for teachers on the volcanic island of Karkar was interrupted by a tsunami warning, resulting in a stampede for the lower slopes of the (active) volcano. Fortunately it was a false alarm and training was able to continue but several of the participants weren't seen again that day. VSO members are in strong demand as guest speakers at graduation ceremonies, which have been known to last an entire weekend. At one, events were marred by fierce fighting when one tribal group objected to the award of a mathematics prize to a student from a rival tribe.

The PNG government has made a commitment to Universal Basic Education - a UN Development Goal. Currently about 700 000 school-aged children are not in full time education. The government has pledged to abolish fees for elementary schools in 2010 therefore school enrolment (and the pressure on them) is certain to increase. Hopefully, PNG's education system is about to turn the corner.

Olveston Stores & Post Office

As of the 01/03/10 Olveston Stores are pleased to offer a **Wifi** service in the coffee shop. **Wifi** is **free** and available between 07.30 – 18.00 to all age groups whether business or social.

The coffee shop is now open daily from 09.00 – 16.00 for fresh baguettes, Ploughman's & cream teas. Tea & Coffee, bacon baguettes are available from 07.30 along with croissants, cakes etc.

Buffets can also be catered for with a wide range of sandwiches etc. on offer. We are also offering a sandwich delivery service.

If you have problems doing your shopping and would like to sign up for our home delivery service, please call 01454 612269 or email olvestonstores@btconnect.com to discuss what your requirements are.

Did You Know?

In the time of George Washington, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint).



The Thornbury Carnival 2009 was a huge success, showcasing community spirit and bringing together traders, performers and spectators from across the South West to create a memorable rebirth of an exciting social event.

This success has enabled the Thornbury Carnival Committee to support local groups and charities. On Saturday 27th February, several applicants gathered to receive charitable donations. The Alveston Forum, Gloss FM and Thornbury Town Amateur Football Club all collected cheques on the day.

The TCA has now made donations into the local community of approximately £3500, but there are still some funds available and applications are still welcome. For further details of the Committee's Charitable Giving and to find out how to apply for funds, please visit the 'Charitable Giving' section of the new Carnival website www.thornburycarnival.wordpress.com

This year's carnival will take place on Saturday 3rd July 2010 and amidst fierce competition from other events around the country, TCA chairman David Goldring has, so far, secured no less than eleven musical groups to entertain the crowds on both the parade route and Carnival Field. These include one of the country's leading military bands, the Central Band of the RAF; Thornbury's full Orchestra, conducted by Chris Hill; a Caribbean Melody Steel Band from Birmingham; Irish folk group 'Mo, Mac 'n' Me'; the Concorde Saxophone Quartet and City of Bristol Pipes and Drums.

There is still scope for buskers and small groups of entertainers to perform in the Town before the Parade passes through and submissions are invited from any party who may be suitable. For further information please contact David Goldring (thegoldrings@hotmail.com).

A Grand Day Out!

A fun day for all at the **EcoFair** is being planned for **Saturday 22nd May 2010**.

From 10.30 am to 4pm at the Chantry in the heart of Thornbury, everyone will be able to find out about the positive ways we can move towards enjoying a low carbon future. With bags of fun activities for children and adults, live performances throughout the day and plenty of stalls and information, there will be lots to interest everyone. You can find out about planet-friendly DIY, energy saving, solar panels, compost making and wood turning as well as enjoying some excellent locally produced food - including coffee from a solar- and wind-powered coffee stand! You will be able to listen to stories, see willow weaving, learn how to keep hens and bees in the garden and get a free bike maintenance check if you bring your bike along to see Dr Bike.

Sustainable Thornbury promises it will be an exciting and enjoyable day so book the date! To start the fun, we have two competitions for you to enter, one for everyone and one for primary children:

EcoFair Competitions

Recycled Greeting Card

Make a greeting card using at least 3 recycled items and enter our great **EcoFair** competition held in association with *Cardmaking and Papercraft* Magazine. Open to all ages from under 6's to adult, there will be 6 individual prizes (supplied by RUCraft) in age groups and all winners will feature in a future edition of the national magazine. Entry forms can be collected from Thornbury Town Hall & library or downloaded from Mythornbury website or www.sustainablethornbury.org. Entries can be left in the collection box in Thornbury Town Hall from 15 April or sent to Card Competition, Vine Cottage, Kington Lane, Thornbury, BS35 1NA. **Closing Date 14 May 2010**. Winners will be announced at the EcoFair and cards displayed around Thornbury after the event – go on, show what you can do!

Children's 'Junk' Orchestra

At the EcoFair, children will be able to make musical instruments out of household junk. At 11.30am and 2.30pm there will be performances by our orchestras of a well known piece of music. Children who make and bring along their own junk instrument to the EcoFair will be able to get their parents into the Fair for free, as well as join in the fun performances. Open to all primary age children. So get your thinking caps on and see what you can produce

Women's Institute.

Visitors are always welcome at our monthly meetings in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

Tues. April 13th. Mr. B. Amesby on "The Fun and Frustration of Family History".

Tues. May 11th. Mr. Don Streatfield on "Bees, bees, bees".

Tues. June 8th. R.S.P.C.A.

Tues. July 13th. Mr. Phil Savage on "Hike for Hope".

A Charity Bridge Drive

In aid of Action Medical Research

will be held at the Almondsbury Old School Hall on Thursday 8th April 2010, starting at 7.30 p.m. prompt.

£7.50 including refreshments.

Contact Richard Harrop (01454) 416927

Hazel House, Old Down, Tockington, Bristol BS32 4PL

e-mail exall@thedown99.freereserve.co.uk

Music in the Church at Aust

Stevie Wishart, dynamic composer, improviser and experimenter, returns to her mediaeval roots in the opening concert at Aust church for the 2010 season **Saturday 10th April, 8pm**. She brings her groundbreaking group **Sinfonye**, with vocalists Vivien Ellis and Jocelyn West, in the line up that first played at Aust in our very first concert season over ten years ago.



But don't be expecting a mature and elderly performance. Here is what The Times said about a recent Sinfonye concert: "On the medieval super-highway, this is something strange and new ... we could be looking at a prototype for the concert of the future."

Tickets are £10 full and £9 concessions, available from Peter or Gina Dobbins on 01454 632306 or directly from the Boar's Head, Aust, or Olveston Stores.

"The Gondoliers"

Barbie Davies

The Parish Players The Parish Hall, Tockington March 2nd – 6th 2010

If you want a production that has equal amounts of fun and glorious music for chorus, principals and audience alike, Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Gondoliers" is one of the best on offer. Director Linda Evans' choice was therefore perfect for a celebration of ten years of excellent entertainment produced by the Parish Players. The pace, flavour and mischievous sense of fun she created were first-class. The cast were expertly supported by Musical Director Chloe Allsop-Jones' family trio of two pianos and percussion. Their accompaniment was crisp, spirited and sensitive. No wonder the cast flourished and exuded infectious enjoyment!

The luxurious costumes were a feast for the eyes and, what a set! Canaletto eat your heart out! How Andy Black could create sumptuous Venetian scenery and perform so professionally as the Duke of Plazatoro is humbling.

The two lead Gondoliers played by Phil Savage and Mike Jones worked extremely well together creating lyrical and laughing "lads about town". Their two wives (Lynn Shelley and Linda Chappell) bubbled beautifully around them and the chorus, though necessarily small, sang with real gusto. Jill Harris gave dances

such as the “Cachucha” real *joie de vivre* despite the little more than intimate space.

The Royal Family (including Judy Jones, Gillian Olewicz and Mike Belsten) provided some delightful ensemble singing as well as humour. The Grand Inquisitor (Mike Speake) was played and sung with real panache. No-one, however, will forget the sheer fun and spectacle of a gondola gliding up the aisle steered by comic helmsman, Arthur Robbins. The whole production put everyone in a holiday mood. Thank-you Parish Players!

Note from the Editor: If you'd like to see photos of the Parish Players production of The Gondoliers, go to the Photo Galleries page of the community website:

www.olveston.com/photo-galleries/olveston-parish-gallery

Great News

Olveston Parish Hall and Olveston Preschool are benefitting from nearly £300,000 awarded to the preschool for renovation and extension of the hall. The money will be used to remodel the back part of the building to create additional space for the preschool, upgraded facilities for all hall users and also re-site the existing kitchen. This follows extensive public consultation and feedback from many different users of the Parish Hall and members of the community. Many thanks to all who came along to the consultation mornings and gave comments.

The final designs are currently progressing through planning approval; the work is expected to start in October and finish in March 2011 and we thank all the hall users in advance for their patience with the inevitable disruption while the work takes place.

Olveston Preschool would like to thank the Parish Hall Chair, Geoff Chappell, Val Hudspeth from the Parish Council and Roger Smart for their help in applying for the funding.

Litter Pickers - session 2

Rod Williams

Twenty-two people turned out in March for a very satisfying couple of hours litter-picking, collecting a vast quantity of rubbish that was defacing grass verges in the parish. We're meeting again on **Saturday 10 April** at 1.45pm at the Parish Hall car park. If you'd like to join the fight back, please contact me at rodangelawill@btinternet.com or on 612850 anytime.

Beaver Scouts welcome their pony

Thanks to a generous donation of £200 from the Meeting Point committee, 1st Olveston Beavers have been able to buy a pony. Named 'April' by the children, she is a miniature pony from the centre in Devon. She is brown with a black mane and tail (bay) and very sweet natured. She is quite a tough little thing and coming from a Dartmoor stables is used to being outside eating grass in the summer months.

As part of their work towards their 'Animal Friend' badge, the children will take it in turns to look after the pony at home during the school holidays and half-term breaks. They will be able to take her home and be completely responsible for her care and exercise, whilst keeping a 'pony diary' before they are awarded their badge.

"We are very grateful to Meeting Point for giving us this opportunity and the children are very excited about April's arrival and are already fighting over who will be the 1st." says Beaver leader Nikki Clarke. Over the coming months we will be selling bags of well-rotted 'pony poo' to help cover the cost of her feed bills.

Police Report

The priorities raised at the last SSCG meeting on Wednesday 10th February 2010 were

1. HGV's exceeding the weight limit on B4461 Elberton
2. Parking outside Olveston School
3. Potholes.

The recent crimes appear to be theft from outbuildings with special attention towards quad bikes and sit-on lawn mowers. One of two quad bikes stolen from the Littleton area was later found abandoned in The Mundy Playing Fields in Thornbury. These crimes appear to happening in the early hours of the morning around 4am.

At the same time that these thefts have taken place, we have had reports of people prowling in and around properties in Littleton. However, we were not made aware of these incidents until the following morning. We would ask that people phone 999 if they see or hear anyone in and around properties in the early hours of the morning.

Please can you ensure that valuable items, especially quad bikes, are secured. I would recommend that they are chained to a ground anchor within a locked shed. Please ensure that they are security marked.

We have recently recovered numerous valuable items such as generators and high value mountain bikes but have been unable to trace the owners as none of these items have been security marked.

Marking your property with your postcode deters thieves because it helps police to prove the property has been stolen.

Mark your property and register it for free at www.immobilise.com, the property database checked by police across the country.

Our next beat Surgery is Thursday 29th April at Olveston Stores between 10.30 and 11.30am.

For police assistance and to report crimes please dial 0845 456 7000.

If you have any information which could help police investigate crime, you can call the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org. They never ask for your name or trace your call.

Celebrate St. George's Day with Tea on the Green

Everyone is invited to enjoy home-made cakes and treats with a cup of tea or coffee on Tockington Green, weather permitting, or Tockington Methodist Church, if not. Friday 23rd April 2010, 2.30pm-5.00pm.

Watching the TV from your PC

Richard Churchill

There are few things more irritating than missing your favourite programme, especially if it is part of a series. Currently, if the programme is one of the 5 analogue TV channels, you can set your old video recorder but by the summer this will stop working unless you have a freeview box. Virgin Media or Sky will supply you with a hard drive recorder which automatically records programmes for you; you can buy units that will do this for freeview as well.

If you have BT Broadband you have another option, BT vision. This pay-for service provides you with a box that links to your BT broadband line and lets you choose from a wide variety of movies & tv box sets, as well as giving you access to freeview and with all the tv recording features I have just mentioned

All these options still leave you trapped in the lounge. You can watch a programme on your pc even if you forgot to record it, using a technology called "On Demand Video". All the major channels provide on demand services, they are: iPlayer (BBC), itvPlayer (ITV), 4oD (Channel 4), demand Five (Channel Five), and Sky player (sky). Each works in a slightly different way and has its own issues. Demand Five doesn't seem to supply subtitles, but iPlayer does. The 4oD can be very demanding on older computers, and Sky you have to pay for. Try each service and see how you get on. I'll include links in the online version of this article.

So far this doesn't sound like the dynamic, user-built internet. However, if you're brave you can have some fun and explore. There are many sites like You Tube on the internet, where anyone can put their videos for the world to see. These can be anything from aspiring film producers to established rock bands, to videos of drunken stag nights. For those who are brave there is a whole world of weird, wonderful and sometimes fabulous videos out there for you to see; you just need to look.

Go on explore, have fun and see how you can view what you want, when you want.

I welcome any ideas or questions you may have.

You can call 01454 616365 (ask for Richard)

or email articles@yourpcguru.co.uk.

Visit <http://yourpcguru.co.uk/articles/> for past articles and more information.

Italian film, food and wine: Cinema Paradiso

If you love movies, it is impossible not to love *Cinema Paradiso* PG (with subtitles). If you love cinema and Italian food and wine, you will really enjoy a fund-raising evening, organised by Thornbury Picture House, which includes all three of these elements. It is being held in aid of the Armstrong Hall Dressing Rooms Refurbishment Appeal.

Giuseppe Tornatore's classic Academy Award-winner is a heart-warming, nostalgic celebration of youth, friendship and the everlasting magic of movies, which follows the love affair of a young, fatherless boy in a post-war, small Sicilian town where the local cinema, *Cinema Paradiso*, becomes his home and the movies his parents. In time, he is taken under the wing of the projectionist and their relationship sets him on his life's journey to become a successful director.

Join us for this wonderful film, followed by Italian food prepared to recipes by gourmet Laura Geraci of *Pomodoro Mediterranean Catering*, accompanied by a free glass of Italian wine - all for the sum of £10. Tickets are available for this fund-raising event from the Town Hall and at Thornbury Picture House.

7.15pm on Friday 9th April at the Armstrong Hall in Thornbury.

Email: films@thornburypicturehouse.org or telephone:01454 412272.

✂.....CUT.....HERE.....



Forthcoming Events

Fri 2nd, Sat 3rd & Sun 4th April - Easter Egg Hunt at the park and colouring competition for children

Sat 1st - Sun 9th May - we have 5 artists from the **Severn Vale**

Art Trail exhibiting at the park

Sun 30th May - Victorian Fair at the park

Sun 20th June - Austin Seven Rally at the park - 150 classic cars on display

There is no charge for entry to the Cafe.

A FREE Coffee, Cappuccino or Latte is available, if this advert is cut out and handed in. Expiry date 31.5.2010. One voucher per person, no minimum spend.

Perfect Poetry

The Rainy Day

Grey clouds filled the sky of blue,
It was going to rain, everyone knew.

Out came the first drop, as clear as can be,
One was soon followed by one hundred and three.

The landscape was stolen, turned grey,
Whatever happened to that lovely day?

Windscreen wipers swished side to side,
In their coats, people tried to hide.

Inside a café a boy looked warm and smug,
With his red hand wrapped around a hot chocolate mug.

Finally the sun broke through the cloud,
People pointed and shouted aloud.

Curved above the town they saw,
A rainbow of seven colours or more.

Written by Naomi. C—Year 6 Olveston School

Year 2 Transportation Trip

On Thursday 4th February Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful trip as part of their transport topic. Here is a piece of writing from Issac. J-Year 2 Olveston School

When we got on the school bus I sat next to Minna. First we had a little tour of the outside of the boat, then we went to the museum. I enjoyed it. Then we went under the boat. I was a bit scared. Then we went up and up the stairs. We then went to the S.S Great Britain. We saw a fake model of Isombard Kingdom Brunel. He was very hairy! Then we saw the cabins. There was a sick room too. Then we saw the kitchen and the engine. Then we went to lunch. Then we saw the dining room and the stables. It was smelly. Then we went to the shop. I bought a little bag and then we went to the coach. I went next to Lucas on the way back and I enjoyed it a lot.

April Walks with the Severnside Ramblers

Your local Ramblers group has arranged a varied programme of walks for April.

Non-members are very welcome. We are a very friendly group.

For more information about walks in April pick up a programme at your local library, or log on to

www.severnside-ramblers.org.uk.

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.

Sun 4 April 9.45am	Hanham and Conham Easter Sunday level walk and visit to Beeses Tea Garden	7 miles	Joy 01179 334998
Fri 9 April 9.30am	Codrington and Kingrove Friday amble	2 hours	Chris 01454 618853
Sat 10 April 9.00am	Brockweir and Wye Valley Field paths, quiet lanes, and good views	5.5 miles	Chris 01594 845423
Sun 11 April 9.30am	Devauden Pastures, woodland, views	12 miles	Steve 01454 633001
Sat 17 April 9.30am	Sharpness. Countryside and canal boats. Optional pub at end.	6.5 miles	Helen 07980661984
Sun 18 April 9.30am	Bathampton and Brown's Folly Aqueduct, folly and views!	8 miles	Bill 01179 870111
Fri 23 April 9.30am	Milbury Heath/Tytherington Country walk with some stiles	2 hours	Jean 01454 419274
Sun 25 April	Shearwater and Heavens Gate Varied walk. Moderately hilly	11 miles	Ken 01179 315108

"Keeping Hens in the Garden"

Saturday 10 April 2010 11am – 1pm

A Talk given by Charlotte Popescu at

WINTERBOURNE MEDIEVAL BARN, Church Lane, Winterbourne.

Charlotte will have some of her hens with her.

£3 per adult at the Gate – Children welcome. Refreshments Available

Old Down Cricket Club

150 Club Winners - March

£50 Richard Watkins

£15 Malcolm Grosvenor

£5 Tony Cudmore

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners

13th February Greg Welsher

6th March Tony Gardner

Diary Dates:

March 6th - April 17th (Excl Easter Sat) Colts Indoor Nets
at Bradley Stoke Community School

3.00 - 4.30 U9s to U13s

4.30 - 5.30 U15s

March 15th - April 26th (Excl Easter Mon) Senior Indoor Nets
at Castle School 8.30pm

April 10th - Pre-season 'Fancy Dress' Party at the Bristol Cider House
Theme: Sports Stars. Cost £10.00 includes Return Coach Travel & Buffet.
Please contact me for Info & Tickets: *Tony Gardner 07889 727729*

Big Tea Party Success

Thanks to the overwhelming success of our Big Afternoon Tea Party and the generosity of the people in the parish, **1st Olveston Beaver Scouts** were able to reach their target of £490 and still have £40 left over (which they donated to the Methodist Church).

The Beaver Scouts, (6-8 year olds) worked so hard at the tea party, showing people to their tables, taking orders for tea and coffee, serving drinks, sandwiches and cakes and tidying up at the end of the event.

A big thank you goes to all the Mums who kindly donated the beautiful cakes and biscuits that were served and all the people who helped on the day.

'We are very proud of the Beaver Scouts, they worked tirelessly all afternoon' said leaders Ian, Mark and Nikki. 'We know that the children served at least 130 adults during the two hours of the party, plus many, many children. They really deserved their 'well done' badges and certificates.'

The Shelterbox is now on its way to help the people of the earthquake and as soon as we are able to track its progress 'on line' we will let you know where it's been sent. Thank you again...
1st Olveston Beaver Scouts

Scuba Diving

Jasmine Stephens-Parr 07.02.10



We went to Kingswood Leisure Centre and had a Scuba Diving lesson with Aquaventure Scuba Diving Club. There were 8 instructors who started off the session explaining the different equipment that we would be using.

The equipment is a tank, fins, snorkel and mask. The tank has two regulators which are a mouth piece enabling you to breath the compressed air. You have two regulators one for you and the other for back-up in case someone else gets into problems.

We were then shown hand signals to show height and if you have a problem. It was also explained that it is important to look out for your partner.

We were given our equipment, and split into three groups and went into the pool where each group took their turns in scuba diving, snorkelling and swimming.

It was very exciting you felt safe being in a swimming pool rather than the sea and having instructor watch over you. I found I could swim a lot faster with the fins and had to weave in and out of the scouts swimming which looked quite funny from underwater.

The pool was very deep at one end about 4 metres; we tried to reach the bottom but failed miserably.

Everyone enjoyed themselves it was an experience to remember I would recommend it to anyone and I personally left feeling that I would like to do it again ☺



Computer Courses

Olveston Primary School is offering local people professionally led computer courses from £15-per-module.

Come along and use our high speed Internet links. Enjoy learning through practical demonstrations, lively group participation, and one-to-one direction.

The practical teaching techniques quickly dispel any initial apprehension you have about computers, as they are designed to encourage confidence.

We will start by teaching "Safe Computer Use" because we believe it is vital information for all who use computers. It will include material from the much publicised Zip It, Block It, Flag It initiative that Tanya Byron developed for children and their guardians. This is a message we regularly reinforce during ICT lessons. Tanya's report proposes that children of 5 years will receive E-Safety lessons. So this is an opportunity for parents and guardians alike to know what their children are learning.

Safe Computer Use - Because we believe this module is vital for all computer users, we are pleased to provide it for £15. It will cover recognition of Security issues and what action to take. You will learn the practicalities of Backing-up important documents, and how to protect against Anti-virus Software Vulnerabilities. As use of Email increases, so do the Phishing Attacks. Identity fraud is explained and how you can to protect yourself against Cyber-criminals. This module reinforces the E-safety lessons the School gives its pupils, enabling responsible adults to provide children with a safe environment for Internet and Computer Gaming use.

Computer Beginners - £45 – If you are a real beginner this is for you as it commences with Starting-up and Closing down the PC Safely and goes on to Recognising PC Components, Awareness of Health & Safety Issues and Personalising the Windows Desktop. You will learn how to easily retrieve documents and photographs.

We are planning the following Modules for the Winter Term at reasonable prices.

Creative and Practical Word Processing – Supported Self-Learning

Communications, Advanced Word-processing and Internet Use

Basic Web Page Creation

Financial Planning Using Excel Spreadsheets

All sessions include a refreshment interval when coffee/tea and biscuits are served. Please ring 614120 or Email abilenett@aim.com for more information and application form.

Yellow or Pink?

While we at St Mary's are very pleased for the Macaskills that they have been allowed to remove the rendering from Churchill House, it has unearthed a can of worms, because research by South Gloucestershire Council has suggested that St Mary's was once rendered in similar fashion, and they would like us to return it to its former glory. We have a choice of yellow or pink. If you can sign a petition against this absurd suggestion, please do so by April 1st. Remember we 'render unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God'.

The Inner Wheel Club of Thornbury

Invite you to A Coffee Morning, 10am until 12 noon
Wednesday 5th May 2010, Thornbury Cricket Club, Alveston

Lots to buy and see:

Cake stall, Plants, Jewellery, Books, Bric-a-Brac, Raffle, Cards and lots more.
COME AND JOIN US.

In support of Hammer Out

The aim of this charity is to give help and support to people with brain tumours and their carers: raising awareness and funding research.

Yours faithfully

Sandy Williams

By the time you read this, I hope that the cold, dank winter with snow, ice, sleet and sludge will be a fast-fading memory. Other memories will not fade so quickly. Across the world, this winter has brought disasters of cataclysmic proportions: the earthquake in Haiti, the flooding in Madeira and the personal tragedies that mean that life will never be the same for untold numbers of people.

As trees bud and pale green shoots push up, hope springs to life again with all the possibility of new beginnings. In this Easter season, both Christians and non-Christians find that, as the days lengthen, so despair can lift. Rebuilding following earthquake and flood requires perseverance and patience, and financial and practical support and help. The rebuilding of shattered lives is more difficult but, with medical expertise and the loving kindness of friends and neighbours, it is possible for many to continue on life's journey, even though they travel a different path.

The Christian story reminds us all that we need companions – especially in times of suffering and distress. Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane, was in a state of turmoil and terror and he longed for his companions to ‘stay awake’ and accompany him in his darkest hour. Gethsemane, ‘Gat – Shemen’, means the garden of the olive press and Jesus was being pressed like the olives and sweat ran down his face like the olive oil into the collecting vat. There is no doubt that Jesus understood human suffering: physical and mental. He knew what it was like to be abandoned by friends and abused by enemies. Christians believe that God’s love is seen in the immensity of his love for you and for me, for the people of Haiti and Madeira and for all those whose lives are filled with despair. Even so, if that had been the end of the story, Christianity would not have become a great world faith. After Easter, the very friends who had deserted Jesus found that his presence remained a reality in their lives and, in the records of their encounters with the risen Jesus, they recognized him because his hands and feet bore the marks of the nails.

Faith is not a mental exercise as we try to believe something that ‘beggars belief’! Rather it is a way of life. Those whose hearts go out to others and try to do something about it set their feet firmly on the same path that Jesus walked and in this is the beginning of resurrection life – of new beginnings and new possibilities. Sometimes it is only when we are on the journey that we recognize and get to know the one who walks with us.

Do you remember the Christian Aid slogan: ‘We believe in life before death’? Resurrection is not only about what happens to us when we die but is about the transformation of all that is hurtful and harmful into that which is helpful and hopeful.

As the dark winter days are transformed into the light and warmth of summer evenings, remember that lives can be renewed and hope restored. Easter is a time for celebration, with chocolate eggs and festive meals. Have a great time and, when the feasting has ended, continue on life’s journey with hope in your heart for yourselves and for others.

God bless you all this Eastertide.

From the registers at St. Mary's

Baptism on 21st February 2010 of Megan Fern Snow, daughter of Nicholas and Samantha Snow.

Burial of Ashes on 26th February 2010 of Betty Frances Daldry.

Burial of Ashes on 1st March 2010 of Roger Henry Makins.

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Apr 1	7.30	Agape (Maundy Thursday)	Rev T Fooks & Rev D Bone
Apr 2	2pm	Last Hour (with Choir)	Rev Philip Rowe
Apr 4	6.30 8am 10am 10am 6pm	Dawn Eucharist Holy Communion(BCP) Holy Communion with Choir Breakfast Club Evensong	Rev Roly Bain Rev Roly Bain Rev.Philip Rowe Breakfast Club Team Mrs Janet McBride
Apr 11	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship with Choir Breakfast Club Evensong	Canon David Sansum Mrs Ann Lloyd Breakfast Club Team Rev David Bone
Apr 18	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion with Choir (Giving) Breakfast Club Evensong	Rev Philip Rowe Rev Philip Rowe Breakfast Club Team Mr Denis Jones
Apr 25	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) 4 th Sunday Breakfast Club Evensong (BCP)with Choir	Canon David Sansum Rev Roly Bain Breakfast Club Team Rev Philip Rowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Contact:

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

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

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**

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Apr 4	8am 10am	Holy Communion Family Worship	Rev David Bone Rev David Bone
Apr 11	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Apr 18		No Service	
Apr 25	10am	Morning Prayer	Mrs Ann LLoyd

Assistant Curate: Rev David Bone, 01454 614601

Church Wardens: Jo Jenkins, 01454 632838 and Janet Ford, 01454 633300

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Apr 4	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole
Apr 18	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Apr 4	8am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole
Apr 11	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield
Apr 25	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Apr 2	2pm	StM	Good Friday Service followed by Hot Cross Buns in the Methodist Hall
Apr 4	8am 10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. Tock Ch Olv. Ch	Easter Sun. Breakfast Service -Mr G. Varney Easter Sun Morning Worship-Mr G. Varney Evening Service with Holy Communion led by Rev. Sandy Williams
Apr 11	10am 6pm	Olv. Ch. Tock. Ch.	All Age Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney Evening Worship led by Rev Peter Grimwood
Apr 18	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. Daldry Gdns	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Sandy Williams Worship led by Rev. Sandy Williams
Apr 25	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. Olv. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle Evening Worship led by Rev Olouyemisi Jaiyesimi

LIGHT LUNCHES: Thursday 1st Apr at 12.15 in the Tockington Wesley Rooms. To book your lunch please ring 612112 or 613241.

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 14th Apr. To book your lunch please ring 416528

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

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

CREAM TEAS Easter Monday 3-5pm in Tockington Ch & on the Green

CONTACT: Rev Sandy Williams tel 07841 752 941,

Sandy.williams48@btinternet.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 our Notice Board or contact .

Mike and Barbara Matthews, tel. 07840 793772 or email:

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLDOWN

Apr 2	10.00am	Good Friday Ceri Morgan- Davies
Apr 4	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Apr 11	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies
Apr 18	6.30pm	Mike Hawkins
Apr 25	6.30pm	Paul Ashford

Apr 24th 3pm Concert by The Voller String Quartet in aid of Victory Outreach
Prayer Time every Thurs 8pm.

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

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Family Worship 11.00am Evening Worship 6.30pm. For more details, please phone 632564.

BRISTOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP - Our Sunday morning meetings are held at The Grange School in Warmley at 11 am.

Contact 01454 613305 **www.bcfnet.com**

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

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: Elizabeth Sidwell, 412975

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

Diary Dates for April 2010

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

1 st Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OSt MH
3 rd Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
6 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Royal British Legion (Women) - Mackie Tacky Band	9.30-11.30 7.30pm	WR DGCL
7 th Wed	Fibromyalgia Support Group - Coffee morning Body Tone Exercise Class OPHS "The Somerset Tsunami"	7.30-8.30pm 7.30pm	AMH PH MH
8 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OSt MH
10 th Sat	Coffee Morning Litter Pick Music in the Church at Aust	10.30-12.00 1.45pm 8pm	MH PH AC
12 th Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club - Practice Craft Group	1.30pm 7.30-9.30pm	AH MH
13 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Women's Institute -Fun & Frustration of Family History Aust Parish Council Annual Assembly	9.30-11.30 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR PH EVH
14 th Wed	Body Tone Exercise Class Royal British Legion - Men	7.30-8.30 7.30pm	PH DGCL
15 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OSt MH
17 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
19 th Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club: Open Evening with National Demonstrator - "Creative Design"	6.30for 7.30	AH
20 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers ACT Charity Golf Day Royal British Legion (Women) - Bingo	9.30-11.30 7.30pm	WR DGCL
21 st Wed	Body Tone Exercise Class Severnvale Smallholders Association- Vegetables without Tears	7.30-8.30 7.30pm	PH Chy
22 nd Thu	Coffee Shop	10.00-12.00	OSt

	Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	2.00-4.30	MH
23 rd Fri	Tea on the Green -Tockington	2.30pm	
24 th Sat	Seedling exchange -Tockington Green Coffee Morning Voller String Quartet(free admission) Pahukama Concert	9.00-11.00 10.30-12.00 3pm 7.30pm	MH Oasis StM
25 th Sun	Car Boot Sale Marlwood School	9.30-1.00pm	
26 th Mon	Old Down Neighbourhood Watch AGM at the Scout Hut	7.30pm	
27 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Olv. Parish Council meeting	9.30-11.30 7.30pm	WR AP
28 th Wed	'Body Tone' Exercise Class Alveston History Society - Life on a Severn Barge - Chris Witts	7.30-8.30pm 7.30pm	PH AMC
29 th Thu	Coffee Shop Beat Surgery Olveston Baby & Toddler Group Olveston Annual Parish Assembly	10.00-12.00 10.30-12.00 2.00-4.30 7.30pm	Ost Ost MH PH
30 th Fri	Twinning Visit to Bréhan		
Looking ahead to May			
1 st - 9 th	Severnvaile Art Trail		
22 nd May	Aust Pilgrimage	4.00pm	AC

KEY: **AC** Aust Church; **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; 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; **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.olvestonandaust.com. If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com

Advertisements Neither Meeting Point, its editor, nor management committee accept any responsibility or give any guarantee in case of any dispute or claim as to quality, condition or delivery of commodities or services advertised in this magazine. It is not to be taken that publication implies recommendation. It is always advisable to check prices when ordering goods or services.

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the editor or Meeting Point magazine.

Copyright Meeting Point 2010. Copyright remains with the author(s) and Meeting Point. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without the prior permission of the copyright owners. Meeting Point is printed by **Bristol Business Centre**.