

Meeting Point



August 2020



Meeting Point

Volume 44, Number 11, August 2020

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

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From the Editor

Meeting Point would not drop through the letterbox of every house in each of the villages listed above, without our team of dedicated and reliable deliverers. Many of the volunteers have been doing deliveries for quite a considerable number of years. We are incredibly grateful that they were so willing to return to delivery 'duty' once lockdown measures were relaxed. A big 'Thank You' from us to all of them.

This month's cover, by Lisa Helyar, is the courtyard of the White Hart, Olveston. Hopefully the sun will shine throughout August and, now that pubs have reopened, customers can go back there – or one of the many other local hostelrys - to enjoy a drink.

Last month's cover was of a gateway, not often open, into Tockington Manor. Well done if you recognised it.

Marelin

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

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

100th Birthday Greetings to Dr Brandon Lush

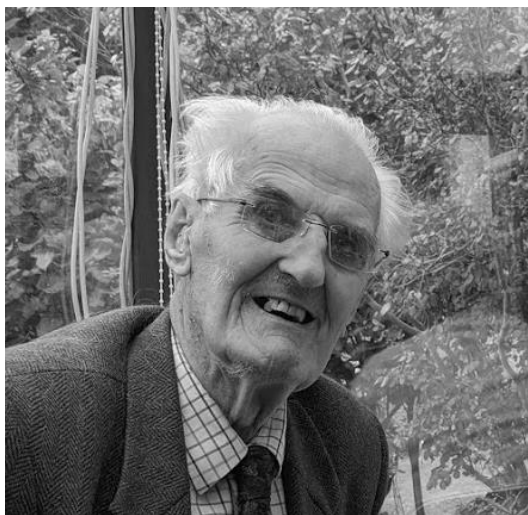
Biddy Rowland

Dad was born on 31st July 1920 and has led a very eventful life. He spent his early years in South West London and was academically precocious, passing exams earlier than his peers. At the age of 17 he entered Kings College London to study medicine.

After the outbreak of World War II, at the age of 19, he spent six months as an Assistant Casualty Officer at Croydon General Hospital before qualifying (MCRS LRCP) in 1941 at the age of 21 and was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine.

He had various general practice and hospital jobs before joining the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1942 and was posted to the 50th Royal Tank Regiment as Regimental Medical Officer, participating in the invasion of Sicily. He was seriously wounded by an air attack in December 1943, from which his peers evacuated him from the edge of a bomb crater. After four months' recovery in hospital, he joined the North Irish Horse as Regimental Medical Officer and served in Italy, India, and Egypt, then demobilised in France during 1945.

After various medical posts, in 1947, while working at Kings College Hospital



he met and married Mum. Their early married life was spent in New Malden and then Wimbledon. In 1951, dad joined the Medical Research Council to advise in tropical medicine and travelled extensively over the world for the next 20 years.

In 1972 he moved to Almondsbury and retrained in Geriatrics, becoming a consultant at Frenchay and Manor Park hospitals and founding the Department for the Care of the Elderly. He retired in 1985. In retirement, he helped found the charity BRACE

(Alzheimer's research*) and has led an active life at his present home in Lower Hazel.

**For information about an online fund-raising event being run by BRACE, please see the article further on in the magazine)*



Olveston Parish Council

Pat Savage

Virtual Meetings

Whilst the Council has been unable to hold live meetings, we have held virtual meetings via Zoom. We are pleased to report that the attendance was 100%! At present we are governed by the Corona Virus Act 2020 which will extend to May 2021 thereby prohibiting live meetings. Should members of the public wish to attend via Zoom the details are to be found on the Council's website.

Local Community Grants

Due to the present lockdown in communications, the application deadline has been extended to September. Please do submit your applications to: clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov

Parish Footpath Warden

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Dan Lewis-Leaver to the post of Footpath Warden. Dan is a family man who lives in the village and his children attend Olveston School. He is a keen walker, enjoying the many walks which the Parish and surrounding areas have to offer. Rod Williams has offered his support as Dan settles in.

Tockington Telephone Box

This has now become fully operational as a book swap. To date we have not received any alternative suggestions for its future use. Amanda Williams has taken on the role of librarian/guardian. We extend our thanks to her for undertaking this role.

Parish Councillors

We continue to be three Councillors short as we go to press. The role of a Councillor is not a totally arduous task. Full Council Meetings are held monthly on the fourth Tuesday. The duration is usually no more than two hours. A Councillor generally sits on one other Committee such as Recreation and Leisure, Planning or Finance. This really is an opportunity to get involved in the running and management of the Parish. If you are interested please contact the Clerk on: clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

LED Lighting

During the month of June, the off-street lighting throughout the village was replaced by South Gloucestershire Council. This is all part of the Council's drive towards a greener environment.

Parish Website

We would like to remind all our Parishioners that any updated Parish news can be found on the website: www.olvostonandaust.com

The Chairman and his Council wish all Parishioners well, as we slowly emerge from lockdown.



News from St. Mary's

Debbie Harries

We hope you are all well and are able to get out to see family and friends as the lockdown eases. It is good to hear so many of you have enjoyed, and taken comfort from, our online services during this time. We are continuing to create an online

service each week for those who prefer to stay at home.

We are, however, having regular services at St Mary's now. Every Sunday and Wednesday there will be a service with Holy Communion at 10am. These will be said services as we are unable to sing at present. You will, however, be able to hear David Shaw playing the organ again on Sundays!

We hope you will join us, and we look forward to welcoming you back!

Thank You

Barbara Mackenzie wishes to express her sincere thanks for all the cards, good wishes and help extended to her by Olveston and its surroundings, following her accident in May. This is deeply appreciated.

Now, having returned to the village, she hopes to resume a normal life eventually and to be out and about as before.

Joe and Jo Styles

Pat Thirkettle

Joe and Jo met through the Climbing Club at landlocked Leicester De Montfort University, but their story is more nautical. Joe grew up on the Isle of Man, dinghy sailing, where he took part in the Interceltic Watersports Festival from Scotland to Ireland to Brittany. Jo grew up in a boating family in Devon, sailing and teaching dinghy sailing.

Jo took a gap year in Australia before going to University. This trip was before the era of mobile phones, when parents gave you a reverse charges phone card to keep in contact. Jo's degree in Product Design was a four-year course which included an industrial placement year with BMW in Munich. Joe started his four-year degree course later, in Media Technology, and his industrial placement took him to Paris, Oslo, Rome, India and Japan where he was involved in setting up conferences.

Jo graduated in 2004, initially working with her father who did commercial signage. She helped on an interesting project; the restoration of an enormous wooden figure head called King Billy from the 1833 battleship HMS Royal William. It is now exhibited at The Box in Plymouth and a fibreglass replica stands in Devonport Dockyard. She also taught sailing in the Isles of Scilly before starting a job with a company making medical devices in Taunton.

When Joe finished his degree he took temporary jobs, including shadowing the editing for Dr Who and editing at the Natural History Unit in Bristol, before starting with a firm in Cardiff that did graphics for elections and game shows. Meanwhile, Jo had moved to Cardiff Metropolitan University to start her PhD in Human Centred Design.

In 2007 houses were expensive, and the dollar exchange rate was excellent, so they went to Florida to buy a boat. They looked at fifteen before buying a 50ft ketch called Chula, (which means pretty in Spanish), a Vagabond 47. It was in a distressed condition, so they had her crated and transported via container ship to Cardiff Bay. They lived there, in an ex BT van, for nine months as they restored Chula and then lived on her for several years, also sailing the Welsh and Cornish coasts. Jo and Joe married in 2010 and their daughter Lowenna lived with them on the boat, but when their son Rowan was born, for various reasons, they moved ashore to a house in Llandough.

During this time Joe's company was taken over by Microsoft and he was offered a very lucrative job in London. However, they decided it was not for them and he was offered the chance to build on existing contracts and formed his own company in 2013. Meanwhile, Jo felt like a change and became Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader in Product Design at the University of

the West of England. All of this meant a move to accommodate both jobs and a pin on the map came up with Olveston, of which they knew nothing. However, one look at the village, along with excellent tours of Olveston School and Pre School, was enough for them to move here in 2016 to a warm welcome.

Chula meanwhile has been sailing the Welsh and Cornish coasts in summer and comes up channel in the winter. The children were introduced to sailing gradually, by messing about in the dinghy tender, and now they join them on longer voyages.



Although they are both very busy with work and children, Jo has served on the Pre School committee and is an assistant Beaver leader. I have the feeling that in the years to come they will become more and more involved in the village community that they love.



Oveston School Year 6 Leavers

At this time of year, our Year 6 pupils would have enjoyed: performing in a Year 6 production, a week at school camp, their final school music prom, a Year 6 party and all the other things that make the final term at

Primary School so memorable and special. This was cruelly taken away from them this year and the class of 2020 will have experienced a very different end to their seven years with us. Fortunately, most of them have been back in school since June 15th and have, at least, had the chance of spending precious time with each other, reflecting on the special times that they have spent together.

The children in the Year 6 Pink Bubble were asked to write a sentence or two about what they thought was the best thing about Oveston CEVC Primary School – here are some of their responses:

'The best thing about Oveston is that everyone is lovely and welcoming which always makes me feel included and the teachers are always there to help or guide me if I am stuck or need help.' Holly

'The best thing about Oveston School is how kind everyone in it is. If you fall, somebody will help you. If you are upset, somebody will ask if you are alright and if you sit alone, someone will ask if you want to play.' Emily G

'I love Oveston School because we have the giant field with the willow and tyres on. The field is especially good in the summer because there are more things to do. I also like the support that the teachers give to all the students.' Will

'I love Oveston School because of the support the teachers give us. If we feel sad or upset, they will always help us. If we find anything too difficult or not difficult enough, they will find something that works for you.' Marta

'I love Oveston School because even if you are different nobody there will judge you or be mean to you. Instead they will be your friend and help you. Everyone there is kind.' Millie

They were then asked to choose one word to sum up the school and their time spent with us. Among the words we got were: SAFE, CARING, ENCOURAGING, UNIQUE, SPECIAL, COLOURFUL, FAMILY, LOVING.

Thank you, Year 6. We wish you a bright and happy future. It is time to move onto a new adventure with the 'roots of responsibility and the wings of independence'. We will miss you!

Local Memories of VJ Day and the end of World War Two

The expression 'VJ Day' refers to Victory over Japan Day, which marked the end of World War Two. After the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima on August 6th 1945 and Nagasaki on the 9th, Japan surrendered on the 15th. This date, August 15th, is always remembered as VJ Day in the UK and this year is the 75th Anniversary. The official instrument of Japan's surrender took place in Tokyo Bay on September the 2nd 1945 and it is this date that the USA remembers as the end of the war. It is known by Americans as 'VP Day', for Victory in the Pacific. In Japan the same date is remembered as, 'the day for mourning of war dead and praying for peace'.



War memorials list the names of war dead and in Olveston there are four Second World War names directly connected to the village on a memorial plaque: Harold Blaker, John Easonsmith, Tom White and Philip Willis. One man missing from this is George Joyce Matthews, who lived in Olveston and had married Peggy Doble, the local butcher's daughter. On August 17th, 1941, he was a pilot officer in the RAF and tragically lost his life in Wales on a training flight. A Rutland man by birth, he is buried and commemorated there.

In all, twelve service personnel from the local parishes had lost their lives at the war's end. Two were 20 years of age, the oldest 51. Some have graves as far

afield as the Greek Islands, Italy, and Holland, while others lie at peace closer to home. An equal number have no known grave and are recorded on memorials. Two share space on the Rangoon Memorial in Burma, now known as Myanmar. Three lost their lives at sea so appear on naval memorials and one airman - who may also have had the sea as a last resting place - has his name on the Runnymede Air Force Memorial.

Locally, VJ Day and the end of the Second World War passed with little celebration. An overriding feeling at the time was one of relief that it was all finally over. In all, 139 men from the Aust and Olveston parishes had returned

home. Many had lost good friends in battle and other friends, from all over the world, when they dispersed on demobilization. Some had been wounded and



John Easonsmith of Olveston and his grave on the island of Leros in Greece

others developed mental torments from what they had experienced. Psychiatrists identified a new cerebral condition defined as 'pathological after-effects' later called 'survivors' guilt' and more recently 'post-traumatic stress disorder'. Many men never did fully recover.

The world had been changed forever by the Second World War. The casualty figures for war dead were beyond distressing and estimated at between 70 to 80 million people. The aftereffects of the two atomic bombs, suppressed at first, became known and horrified many. Russia had experienced the highest number of war casualties and political ideologies clashed in post war talks. In 1945 the expression, the 'Iron Curtain', was first heard to describe Europe splitting in two, caused by the Soviet Union seeking to isolate itself and its satellites from western influences. The Cold War had set in, which needed resources and attention until it ended in 1990. The economies of many nations - including the United Kingdom - were under unprecedented stress. Many

countries, including Germany and Japan, ruined by the war, had to be rebuilt and resourced.

For men returning to our area there was familiarity, and most importantly of all a home, for them to settle back into. It would take a generation, perhaps two, to pass before a real normality returned. The cessation of hostilities did not stop rationing and, in some cases, it was increased. Poor weather conditions reduced crops yields which did not assist matters. At various times wheat for bread making and potatoes were in short supply. Petrol was an issue and Government legislation was passed to check its distribution. One continuing problem was caused by a thriving black market for all goods and the widespread forging of ration coupons. It was not until 1948 that bread came off ration and 1949 for clothing. In 1953 confectionary and sugar freedom followed. It was not until 4th July 1954 that meat and all other rationing ended, ironically the date of another freedom, American Independence Day. This was almost nine years after the actual end of the war.

We can never undo the past and should always remember it to inform future generations. In looking at Olveston War Memorial there are questions which may be asked, the answers to which cannot be taught. It is perhaps for the individual to realise both the questions and answers themselves. Lest we forget.

Below left: William Francis O'Neill from Elberton. His grave at Zundert in Holland.



Above: Reginald B Watkins. His grave in St. John's, Aust

Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner
7889 727729

150 Club Winners July 2020:

£50 Simon Gould
£15 Martin Walker
£5 Diane Grosvenor

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

20/06/20 John Welsher
04/07/20 John Welsher

We are hoping to stage weekly fixtures at The Park, commencing Saturday 25th July. Unfortunately we are not sure of opponents at this stage, but please come along to check. We will be complying with Government regulations, so please be patient with us!!

Up the Down!!

Tockington Manor School



Many of you will have seen our sign for VE Day, but for us, as for many of you, that phrase meant so much more this year. Having closed our doors for most of our children just before the Easter holidays, it has been a strange time for us at school.

During the COVID lockdown we have been open for key worker children and all other children have received a busy timetable of distance learning. This has included live zoom lessons with the entire class, recorded lessons, Google classroom and emailed work. Our teachers have been available to answer questions from parents and pupils on email. They have also provided regular feedback to parents and children on the work they have

submitted. We have ensured that they continue to get the specialist lessons as well as the core curriculum, so lessons have been delivered for French, Music, Art, Latin and Spanish by our subject specialist teachers. Our PE department have even recorded PE lessons for the different school years to complete as well as some fun PE challenges. Our Year 8 pupils completed their Common Entrance exams during remote learning and achieved excellent results, demonstrating the hard work and effort they have continued to put in.

In early June we welcomed back Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to school whilst the other years continued distance learning. We then welcomed back Year 8 and for the final two weeks of term all the remaining Year groups have come in for activity days. It has been wonderful to have the sound of children, friendships, laughter and play echoing around the school grounds again.

Sadly, we missed our wonderful annual Fun Day event, where we welcome families from the school and from our local community. It is a treasured part of our calendar and we are really looking forward to welcoming you all back next year. We know many people had to make decisions about schooling during lockdown without being able to visit a school and speak to teachers. We have been offering one-to-one video calls with our Headteacher. Parents can have a look around the school and ask the Headteacher questions all from the comfort and safety of their own home. We will continue to offer these as well as private tours of the school during the summer holidays

We have had wonderful news this week that recreational cricket can return. We have been home for Thornbury 4th team and some of the county age group matches and will be delighted if we see cricket return to the village this summer.

From everyone at Tockington Manor, we wish you all a wonderful summer.

Thank You

Bridget Gwyther

It is now one year since my husband, Ron Gwyther, died on 6th Aug 2019. Ron was born in Littleton and spent his entire life farming here.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank family and friends for all the help and support I have received this year. Thank you all.

Making Space for Wildlife in Lockdown at Olveston School

Melinda Evans



During lockdown, the children of key workers at Olveston School have been spending time outdoors, creating new places for pupils and wildlife alike to enjoy.



First, three new wildflower beds have been created on the playing field. This was very hard work! The children then sowed lots of wildflower seeds that had been donated to Olveston Parish Council's 'Making Space for Wildlife' project by a local resident. The children have been watering them every morning and, as you can see in the photo below, some are beginning to show buds and flowers are appearing on some.



One of the new wildflower beds, before and after!



The next project was to make a small allotment out of some old tyres that were already in the playground.

The tyres were filled with compost and then carrots and peas were planted, which are now looking almost ready to eat. Yum!

The new 'old tyre' allotment

The third wildlife inspired space to be created at the school is a mini wooded area.

Here, lots more young trees have been planted to create a Forest School area.

In the photo you can see that the grass has also been left to grow, to try and attract more insects and other animals to the field.



The beginnings of the new wooded area

A huge well done to the Olveston School pupils who have helped create new areas for all pupils to enjoy and make space for wildlife.

Thornbury Library

Now COVID-19 lockdown restrictions have eased, our libraries have introduced pre-bookable services to borrow books, DVDs and audiobooks and access a computer and use the Wi-Fi. This is so you can access them in a safe and controlled way.

You can order up to 6 items to collect at a pre-booked time of your choice. Complete a Click and Collect webform for the library you will collect from online at sglibraries.eventbrite.com or call 01454 865022 Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm; Saturday 9:30am – 12pm and speak to a member of library staff. To book for 1-hour free use of a computer, or our Wi-Fi using your own device, call 01454 868006 Monday to Thursday 8:45am – 5:00pm; Fridays 8:45am – 4:30pm

Our free online library is still open 24/7. eBooks, eAudiobooks, eComics, digital magazines and newspapers continue to be available for library members to download anytime - www.southglos.gov.uk/eresources has all the details. It now also includes *Who Else Writes Like?* and for children, *Who Next?* where you can find authors who write in a similar way to those you have already enjoyed reading. Simply log in with your library card number and select South Gloucestershire.

Find the latest information on our website:
www.southglos.gov.uk/librarychanges

Thornbury High Street

On Friday 3 July, South Glos. Council introduced some changes to Thornbury High Street. A statement from the Council (www.southglos.gov.uk/making-public-places-safer) says that these changes aim to continue to provide a safe environment for people to keep to social distancing rules. The changes are also intended to support the reopening of pubs and hospitality and encourage people back to the High Street:

- Additional disabled parking spaces are being introduced
- The signs and welfare facilities will be replaced with barriers, including flowers and shrubs
- The two-way access for delivery vehicles through the closure will be changed to one-way
- The closure will be extended to Chapel Street so traffic entering the top of the High Street is directed down Chapel Street
- The section of road between Chapel Street and The Close will be for residents and blue badge holders only to reduce cars turning in the area and make it safer for children exiting the playing fields.

A full consultation about the scheme will start in August, where they will also be asking for views on the future of the High Street. Meeting Point will report on the results of this consultation as and when they are available.

Brain Tumour Support



Brain Tumour Support, a charity that has been headquartered in Thornbury for the last 17 years, has today launched an urgent appeal to ensure its survival.

The charity, which supports thousands of brain tumour patients and their families across the country, including many in the local area, has had to furlough the majority of its staff and suspend much of its service across the country. Brain Tumour Support now faces the prospect of leaving hundreds of vulnerable people without support if vital funds are not raised in the next two months.

Brain Tumour Support has adapted its services to try and help as many people as possible, but many vital aspects of its work have had to be put on hold. It

now offers a limited number of video chats instead of support groups and has managed to keep its telephone support line and on-line support forum open for the time being. But, in order to survive and bring back its support services to the level they were before the COVID-19 pandemic, it urgently needs donations from individuals, organisations and companies.

To find out how you can get involved or to make a donation to the **Together We Are Stronger Appeal** please go to the charity's website:
www.braintumoursupport.co.uk/appeal

Update from the Armstrong Hall

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, the Armstrong Hall had to temporarily close for use in March 2020. As the Trust is a Charity, they immediately began to review their current financial position and that for the next 12 months. Despite a significant grant from Thornbury Town Council and a Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant from South Gloucestershire Council, there has been a severe negative financial impact on the bookings income and there is a lack of further options for external funding.

Even if allowed to operate again this year, some users had already advised the Hall that they did not plan to return for the foreseeable future due to vulnerable users, or social distancing making their usual bookings impossible to take place. The Trust has also been advised that some of the redevelopment funding that was part of their plans has now closed and consequently costly and disruptive maintenance works will now need to be undertaken to the existing buildings. As such the Trust cannot anticipate a short-term option where it can afford to run the business without incurring a significant deficit in funds.

The Trust has therefore concluded that, regretfully, they cannot afford to reopen the Hall for the foreseeable future, and they cannot continue to employ the staff. Sadly, this has led to five redundancies, three of which are part time, with one job saved due to redeployment to the Town Council.

The Trust is currently contacting all affected hirers. The Trust has also formed a working group which is taking professional advice on its options for the way forward.

Pebbles Mystery

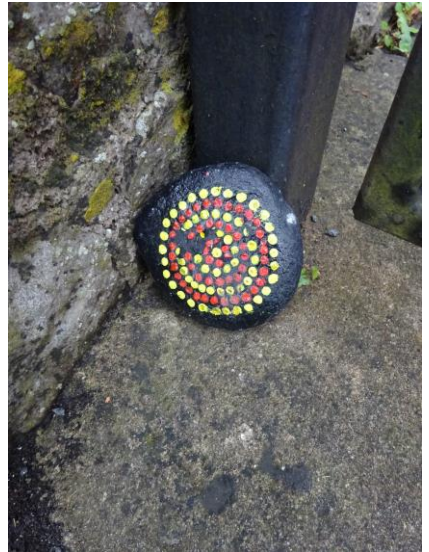


Anybody who walks regularly around the Meeting Point area will have spotted these mysterious painted pebbles. They are tucked away on walls, by paths, in trees, in fact in all sorts of slightly hidden places. We suspect some of our younger readers will know a lot more about them than we do!

So, here is a request: Please can you write to Meeting Point and tell us about these painted pebbles? We would love to hear where the idea came from? Who paints the pebbles? Who can get involved? Did you go on 'pebble hunts' during lockdown?

Anything you can tell us would be wonderful.

Details of how to send in your story are on page one.



These pictures show some painted pebbles that were spotted recently in the Tockington area.

Photographs by Nick Fear

Historic Painting returns to Tockington

Alison Dix

This article first appeared in our May 2020 online only edition of Meeting Point. It is repeated this month for readers who may not have been able to access the online edition – and because it is such a fascinating story.



This painting was given to Miss Daisy Venn in 1920 by her Aunt and Uncle, Percy and Lucy Frost, who at the time ran the Tockington Post Office and Sweet Shop from Trenance Cottage, now known as Apple Tree Cottage, near Tockington Green. It was painted by Mr F Crang, who later married Lucy Frost after Percy died.

Daisy lived in Alma Vale Road, Bristol and regularly used to visit and stay with her Aunt and Uncle. It was on one of these visits that Daisy met her future husband, Frank Garrett from Olveston at a function held at Olveston Parish Hall. Frank had not long returned from active service in the First World War where he fought in The Middle East with the Old Down Troop, part of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars.

Frank's parents had both died whilst he and his two brothers fought in the war, so in late 1919 Frank emigrated to New Zealand. In November 1920, Daisy boarded SS Pakeha Cargo Ship to join Frank. The painting went with Daisy as a cherished memento of Tockington and an early wedding present. Frank met Daisy in Wellington on 15th January 1921 and two days later they were married by the Archdeacon of St Paul's Cathedral, Wellington. The painting took prominent place in their home for many years

Frank sadly died in 1954 aged 70 and before Daisy died at the age of 102, in 1994, she gave the cherished painting to one of their five children, Sylvia ,who lives in North Island. In October 2018, Sylvia came to the UK to attend her granddaughter's wedding in London, she carefully bubble wrapped the painting and put it in her case. After the wedding Sylvia stayed in Olveston to visit all the family and to my surprise kindly gave me the treasured painting. It has returned to Tockington after 100 years in perfect condition, having travelled many miles to remain in the family!!

Word Search

All the months of the year are hidden in this puzzle – apart from one! See how many you can find.....Words go left to right, right to left, up and down, and diagonally in both directions. Some letters are used more than once.

R	A	P	R	I	L	R	F
D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R
T	M	B	A	S	B	B	H
J	S	J	M	R	B	O	C
U	Y	U	U	E	M	T	R
L	T	A	G	N	V	C	A
Y	R	M	M	U	E	O	M
Y	R	A	U	N	A	J	N

BRACE – Online Rosé Wine Masterclass

Sommelier, Deniz Bayram will talk us through the intriguing world of pink wines. Join us for this 'Zoom social get together' at 6.30pm on 5th August. French, Spanish or Italian? What makes it pink? When is the right time to drink it? How many different varieties are there? How to choose the best rosé for you?

At the end of his presentation, Deniz will answer all your burning questions about your favourite summer wine. Deniz is a trained chef and restaurateur and sommelier. He is also a wine consultant that runs educational wine tastings and experiences. Deniz is kindly donating his time free for this event but asks that you give a £5.00 donation to support dementia research.

All you need is wine! Either order a bottle from the wide selection of rosés, at Novel Wines, with nationwide delivery (novelwines.co.uk) or grab your favourite rosé wine from your local wine shop, or supermarket, and join us to learn so much more about pink wines.

For more information visit the BRACE website: alzheimers-brace.org or contact enquiries@alzheimers-brace.org

Literate Allsorts

Chris Bolton

This article first appeared in the June, online only, edition of Meeting Point.

As readers know, this year's Thornbury Arts Festival was another casualty of the pandemic. It was to have been the launch pad for a project by a rather special group from the local U3A (University of the Third Age), called Thornbury U3A Writers. This Group has produced a book of some of their recent short stories and poems, entitled *Literate Allsorts*.

Seven talented writers have contributed 27 items to the compilation, some prose, some poetry. Actually, though, as so often happens, some of the more poetic writing is contained in the prose, evoking some wonderful images and emotional responses.

The stories range through the humorous – some particularly funny ones from Doug Easthope, and Mariann Dale (notably a dark tale of an old lady in a retirement home confessing gaily to a pair of past murders) – to the fanciful (Tony Demaille's amusing notion of the U3A spiritualist group springs to mind,

and Kate Taylor's concept of an International Bank Holiday in 100 years time to celebrate humanity's attainment of a sort of nirvana).

The writers address several themes, such as: light and dark (a fine poem by Christine Deahl, and both a poem and a brief prose piece by Jane Tucker); solitariness (two poignant poems by Sue Rowley); and ageing (as befits the U3A, and illustrated by several prose pieces and poems, including a splendid couple by Christine Deahl).

The theme of loneliness is of course at the heart of the Beatles song Eleanor Rigby, and Tony Domaille brings off a rather beautiful exploration of the backstories of Eleanor and Father Mackenzie, fictionalising the gaps in the story with more detail, and giving us a conclusion to think about that is certainly not in the song.

I felt that this book, of a little over 100 pages, was a very enjoyable and entertaining read, perhaps even ideal for diverting the mind from other matters during the pandemic. Copies are available from Amazon, at £4. To order it you can use the ISBN 9798627705149. Any profits will go to the Bristol Children's Hospital.



Green Force

The North Severnside Benefice is endeavouring to support the Ecochurch. In Alveston we have the Environment Group, and in Olveston we have Green Force.

As a Church community we are taking a lead in protecting God's World, our planet Earth. Lockdown over the past few months has given us.....time. Time to listen,

time to look, time to absorb, and time to reflect.

There has been less traffic on the roads and less pollution, we have heard the birds singing, we have been able to cycle and walk more safely, especially as families, and we've been able to help each other. We have had time because we have stopped..... stopped being busy, stopped watching the clock and stopped hurrying. So perhaps God brought us to a halt before we got too far in destroying His planet earth.

So what do we do now?

We now have a real opportunity as a community. It is time to take a lead and respond by protecting his world before it is too late.

So how do we do it?

We respond to our environment by continuing to:

- cut down on traffic,
- support local businesses,
- recycle as much as possible,
- cut down on waste,
- plant trees,
- make boxes for hedgehogs,
- grow flowers for the bees,
- feed the birds,
- connect with nature.

In a nutshell, with God's help, we will reconnect with our environment and support God's planet Earth.

Sunday 5th July 2020..... What should have been The **77th** Almondsbury Horse Show, Gymkhana and Dog Show

BUT WE'LL BE BACK!

✿ Bigger and better than ever on July 4th 2021
Until then, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Sponsors, Advertisers, Volunteers, Competitors, Judges, the Landowner, Committee Members and everyone else that helps to make the Almondsbury Show the hugely popular event that it is.

The Almondsbury Show are proud sponsors of:



Great Western
Air Ambulance Charity



St Peter's Hospice
For Patients, Families and Bristol

100% of our profits go to help support these amazing local charities.

Photos from Almondsbury shows 2015-2019 are available to view and order at: www.summersphotos.co.uk

Remembering back to May - a few more VE Day photos...



Yours Faithfully

Danny Bamfield

Severnside Evangelical Churches

Slowly the country is trying to get back to normal after coronavirus. Little by little things are reopening warily, with restrictions. It may be a long journey with setbacks, but it must be travelled. For some it may feel really difficult to restart, unsure of how it's going to go. This may require a hard, mental push.

In the bible God rescues the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the next problem is motivating them to move on from the desert where they have assembled and rested. "As soon as the sacred tent was set up a thick cloud appeared and covered it. The cloud was there each day and during the night a fire could be seen in it. The Lord used this cloud to tell the Israelites when to move their camp and where to set it up again. As long as the cloud covered the tent, the Israelites did not break camp. But when the cloud moved they followed it, and wherever it stopped they camped and stayed there, whether it was only one night, a few days, a month or even a year. As long as the cloud remained over the tent, the Israelites stayed where they were. But when the cloud moved, so did the Israelites. They obeyed the Lord's commands and went wherever he directed Moses." Numbers 9v15-23 CEV Bible

Life moves on and we must learn the hard, mental lesson, to move with it, to press through even when we don't feel like it. At times, the Israelites must have not felt like moving on, especially after a short break, but they needed to. Rest and catch up were provided at the right times, and then it was time to continue the journey of life. The same applies to us. May God help you, if you are feeling this mental pressure to move on and bless and reward you when you do.

(Anyone interested can watch our services at
www.severnside.churches.co.uk.)

Church News

The details given below are accurate as we go to the printers. Please use contact details provided for more information.

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Services:

Each Sunday: 10am Holy Communion

Each Wednesday: 10am Holy Communion

Contact: Rev Steve Oram, 07830 151622; email: steve.oram@blueyonder.co.uk

Rev David Moss, 01454 415190; email: mossds@gmail.com

Verger: Mrs June Robbins, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Aug 9	10am	Morning Prayer	Trevor Cook
Aug 23	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Parker

Contact: Trevor Cook, 01454 618442 or

Rev Ann Parker 01291 329569

Church Wardens: Jon Burnett 633835 & Jenn Dickens 632035

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Aug 9	9am	Morning Prayer	Tracey Black
Aug 23	9am	Holy Communion	Tracey Black

Contact: Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Aug 9	9am	Morning Prayer	Judith Heybyrne
Aug 23	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

Contact: Mrs Judith Heybyrne 01454 616725

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services:

We hope to resume services in August but cannot confirm details as Meeting Point goes to press.

Contact: Rev Simon Edwards tel 01454 418176 or email:

simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

THE VINE House of Prayer, Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL

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

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Services:

Each Sunday at 6.30pm. Speakers to be arranged

Contacts: Jenny Parfitt jennyparfitt@ymail.com

Sue Tett stett56@hotmail.co.uk

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Contact: Danny Bamfield 01454 419324 e-mail danny@thebamfields.co.uk

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Contact: 413247

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury

Contact: Tel 01454 412223, www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Contact: Brian Hawkins, hawkinsb863@gmail.com 01454 854867

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

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