

Meeting Point

Volume 34, Number 3, December 2009

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

"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace."

-Agnes M. Pharo.

We are fortunate to live in such an active and caring community where people give up their time for the benefit of others. Thornbury Rotary Club is holding a Community Awards 2010 scheme, if you would like to nominate someone.

This year, MP came 6th in the National Parish Magazine Awards out of 410 entries, which is a wonderful achievement.

From the Meeting Point Committee, we wish you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Our cover this month is by John Crossley
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: Steve Manley

Roly Bain

If you wander into The White Hart, attracted by the smell of home-made cooking wafting outside, and turn left into the bar with its roaring hearth, you might find a big Welsh fella, six foot two and broad shouldered, behind the bar with a wonderful welcoming smile on his face – and that's Steve Manley. He's only been here five minutes but he plans to stay here for at least the five year tenancy he's signed up for – and Punch, the owners, want him to take a twenty year lease. He might well do so ... Even if he's not there, he won't be far away.

After all the recent trials and tribulations the pub has been through and the very real threat that we might end up with no pub at all, the White Hart seems to be in very safe hands – as befits a rugby fan who played second row and number eight for Cardiff schoolboys! There's not been a bad pint yet since he took over. He's been in the pub trade since 2000 so he knows what he's doing. He and his partner Julie had 25 pubs at one time, but now it's down to 15 – and it's down to Julie! Julie runs the business from Cardiff but comes here every weekend. Steve and his business partner Tony Stone, who is his uncle; have bought into this pub and another pub in Cardiff in a separate venture. The Cardiff pub is run by Selma (who ran the White Hart superbly for six weeks) and Sophie, his 21 year old daughter, but Steve's focus is very much here in Olveston. He lives here and is here to stay.

After a first visit when he and Tony were fairly appalled by what they saw, they returned for a second visit, fell in love with the place and with the village and haven't looked back since. Steve's the public face behind the bar but Tony turns up and does all the practical jobs behind the scenes, like the repairs and the plumbing. Steve thinks it's a beautiful village and finds the people great. He feels welcome and settled already – especially with a pint of Guinness in his hand!

Steve was brought up in Roath in Cardiff, with two brothers and a sister. He left school at 16 and got a job as a car valet. From there he worked in a hotel in Guernsey for 18 months, but ended up working in security in New York for two guys, Jimmy Jacobs and Bill Clayton, who managed Mike Tyson before Don King got hold of him, so he used to see him twice a week. Mind you, he wasn't Mike Tyson's security guard – he just looked after the building! Four years working for MFI were followed by ten years as a manager for Carpetright, and then the pub game called him. He really does enjoy it. He loves meeting people and knows it's more than just a job – it's a way of life, and he's happy to embroil himself in it. As he says, you either love it or hate it – and if you don't enjoy it and can't commit yourself to it, there's no point in staying in it. He loves it! He loves the social side, just meeting people. And he can do all the other stuff too. His mother and stepfather are regular visitors and help out as required. They all

came to Gill Olewicz's concert in the church in October. We're hoping he'll do the Innkeeper reading at the Village Carol Service but, with typical modesty, he thinks Tony should! No chance!

Steve loves deep sea fishing and used to have annual trips down to Mevagissey, fishing off the wrecks. His biggest catch was a 41 pound conger! Now he can't go as much as he'd like to, but he's thinking of organising some trips from the pub so that he can. The pub's open all day every day and good reasonably priced home cooked food is always served. There's a Christmas menu all December – till Christmas! New Year's Eve will be by free ticket with first choice given to the regulars – there's a limit on numbers as to what is comfortable for everyone. He'd love to see you, he'll make you feel very welcome – he really is a smashing bloke, blessed with humility and humour and a twinkle in his eye. Not just safe but exciting hands – do go and see for yourselves. He deserves all the support we can give him – and he will be genuinely glad not just to see you but to meet you.

Mother Goose Pantomime

Olveston Preschool is hosting a pantomime production of Mother Goose on Sunday 6th December at 5.00pm-6.30pm in Olveston Parish Hall. This fantastic, professional performance is suitable for 3-11 year old children (accompanied by their parents!) and is a great way of marking the Christmas season. There will be a short interval with refreshments available. Tickets priced £5.50 for children and £6.00 for adults available from Natasha Harrod 613642, natashaharrod@hotmail.com

The Christmas Box

Rowena Winkler

St. Mary's Olveston Christmas Collection for the Crisis Centre, helps run the Wild Goose Cafe in St. Paul's is on again this year! The box will be in the church at weekends only, starting **November 29th**, but there will also be a box in the village store, with a list of items needed. Your generosity is a heart-warming reward for these vulnerable people who often think that 'nobody cares'. Thank you. For information please ring Rowena on 202511 or 07789309938

Something historical for Christmas?

Jenny Newley

Looking for something local and distinctive to give people living near at hand or far away? **Thornbury and District Museum** has a small but thriving shop, selling books and lots of other items with a local or historical angle, including a good range of **inexpensive and fun items for children**. Lots of possibilities for Christmas presents for all ages! All proceeds help to fund the operation of the museum.



The Museum has no paid staff and is entirely run by volunteers who are very proud that the Museum has recently been awarded accredited status by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), the first museum in South Gloucestershire to achieve this. This means that it has achieved national standards relating to the way it is governed and the way it looks after its collections and also to its visitor facilities and user services.



It's a friendly and welcoming place to visit and there's lots to look at. There's a permanent display about Romans in the Thornbury area, with pride of place given to part of the Coin Hoard found a few years ago during the digging of a pond in a Thornbury garden. There are also displays about Thornbury people, shops and trades. The current temporary exhibition, which closes on 22nd December, is about the nine hundred year history of Thornbury Markets.

Opening times are **Tuesday-Friday 1-4pm and Saturday 10am-4pm**. The Museum is in Chapel St, between the Armstrong Hall and the Wheatsheaf, with parking available in nearby car parks in St. Mary St. and Rock St. **Tel: 01454 857774**, if you need more information.



Take the stress out of Christmas shopping – check out your local museum shop and browse the displays at the same time!

Severn Vale Forum

Peter Floyd

Grants are an important source of funds for all voluntary organizations and St Mary's Church, Olveston (SMO) had requested a grant from South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) for an accessible lavatory, as a part of its reordering project. Our application was heard during the regular quarterly public meeting of the Severn Vale Forum at 7.00pm. The Council Chamber was quite full for what turned out to be a long evening finishing at 10.00pm, but it was most rewarding to those who came.

The agenda started with matters raised by the public, followed by reports by the Streetcare Manager, the Police and from the Health Service on Thornbury Hospital improvements and the design of the new Southmead Hospital. This is a most valuable forum to hear of public concerns on any subject and Cllr Matthew Riddle said to me afterwards "it is surprising that more questions are not asked", but perhaps not enough of us know of the Forum's existence! I had come on behalf of SMO to listen to the debate on Capital Grants. There were 20 applications with requests totalling £75,275.55, but with a budget of only £20,785.00. The Chairman opened by saying that this would be tricky and that some would be disappointed. I was surprised to find that several of the applications were for halls and for accessible lavatories and that Tockington Village Hall was one of them, represented by Richard Lloyd and Jeff Chappell and we eyed each other apprehensively across the room.

Having received their officers' written reports, the Councillors were effectively on their own, with the applicants sitting looking at them. They were most efficient, deciding after a brief debate to allocate each project an A,B or C depending on their priority from SGC's point of view and then debated each case carefully on its merits. There was some quite sharp questioning, sometimes based upon a prior look at accounts and details on the internet. One claimant who was not there to answer very relevant questions, did not get a grant.

So the next challenge was to set the level of grant each priority should be offered. They declared SMO an A and started A's at £4,000, but almost at once realized that this would mean that few applicants, even at A, would get a grant, so the offer was reduced to £2,500. With lower grants for B's and C's, the total worked out, first time, at about £350 less the total available and the balance was distributed amongst the smaller grants. It may have been luck, but I was most impressed.

Thus Tockington Village Hall was offered £2,500, as was St Mary's, Olveston and honour was satisfied – it could well have been otherwise!

Keeping Bees at the End of Your Garden

Jules Moore

The traditional white tiered hive, set in a garden full of flowers and herbs is a quintessentially English country garden vision.

People who attend our beekeeping courses are surprised to learn that you can keep bees equally well in a small back garden or on a city rooftop, as there are plenty of small gardens filled with flowers and all in close proximity.

Keeping bees is a relaxing and rewarding hobby. There are lots of reasons to keep bees: they perform a vital role in the pollination of fruit, vegetables and flowers and produce royal jelly and invaluable beeswax, as well as delicious pots of honey.

You don't need any specific skills to keep bees, but it is not a hobby for those in a hurry! One of the attractions is how peaceful it is and you require patience and attention to detail in order to get it right. At its smallest scale, it will not take up more than an hour or two a week in the summer and bees need to be left in peace through the cold winter months. If the weather is too inclement to tempt you out, the bees will feel the same! Cold, wet days are best put aside for honey extraction and making candles and beeswax hand cream.

If you are interested in keeping bees, it is important that you know what you are doing. Even a starter colony (or nucleus) will have thousands of bees in it and they must be handled correctly and with care. Going on a course gives you the opportunity to look at someone else's bees, learn what is involved and ask lots of questions.

Beekeeping can be participated in by all the family and provides an endless source of fascination in return for a small amount of your time. For more details of beekeeping and other courses visit: www.mumbleysfarmhouse.co.uk
Jules Moore 01454 415296

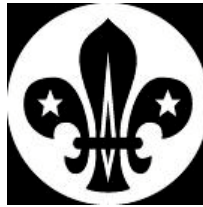
The Mary and Joseph Roadshow

Come to St Mary's church, Olveston on **January 7th, 8th or 9th** to enjoy a wonderful local musical show. This is a modern version of the story of the Nativity, written and performed entirely by local people. It is a fun show which everyone of ALL ages will enjoy with some toe-tapping songs!

Tickets cost only **£5** and children three years and under are free! The show starts at **7.30pm** and will finish by about **8.45pm** so it will suit adults and children of all ages! Tickets are available from Olveston Stores or Rod and Angela Williams (01454 612850).

Proceeds from the show will go to the church reordering appeal, but there will also be a retiring collection for National Children's Home (NCH)
Please do come and support this production – you are bound to know most of the people in the cast!

1st Olveston Scouts- Sodbury Challenge.



Saturday 10th October 2009

15 brave scouts put their names down for this year's Sodbury Challenge, 5 hours of walking, in the dark, without an adult, in unfamiliar surroundings- (and they're only 11 & 12 years old). Three teams were entered from Olveston, overall there were 21 teams in the junior section; the prep was done, they'd packed their bags correctly, well one had a deodorant taken off them (another team had a novel taken off them, quite when they were going to read that even baffled the organisers!) Olveston Leaders tearfully waved goodbye to Olveston 'A' 'B' & 'C' teams, as they were shuttled off by mini bus to their starting checkpoint, then we scuffled off to the nearest watering hole. Don't worry they were constantly monitored the organisers had a fleet of observers driving around making sure all the kids were okay.

Here's a report from Matthew Stephens, a veteran - he did it last year too:

"To prepare for the Sodbury Challenge we had to plan a route including the compulsory checkpoint. We had to think about how we could get back to the scout hut for 12pm.

We had to carry various things including:

A drink, a snack, a torch, spare batteries, waterproofs, an extra layer of warm clothes, map, a compass and the leader carried a phone.

The Sodbury Challenge is organised by the 1st Chipping Sodbury Scout Group and we have to leave from their hut. The challenge, for our group, gave us 5 hours to get as many checkpoints as possible including the compulsory one. Otherwise we would be disqualified.

My team consisted of Heather, Sara, Ben R, Louis and myself.

It was quite an adventure because everywhere we went there was always more to see, even if it was dark. Last year at least one group got very excited that Voldemort might show up. But this time there was no fear of him and we were just fine (I think).

Five hours after we set out we arrived back at about 12:30 am for some food and to go home. Unfortunately my team was not as successful as in 2008 when we completed the challenge with time to spare. We seemed to spend forever looking for the checkpoints with only a bit of success. Then we missed the compulsory checkpoint and were disqualified. We were not the only team that happened to but it was a disappointment. But even so it was great fun and I would advise other scouts to do it as it also helped teamwork."

Lynda Spratt SL 1st Olveston Scouts 01454 632484

Oveston School Christmas Fayre



Saturday 5th December 2009
10am to 12 noon – The Main Hall

You are invited to join Oveston School for their Annual Christmas Fayre. As always there will be plenty of games and prizes to be won, a craft room and a secret gift room. Bacon butties for a mid morning snack and of course a visit from Father Christmas with a chance to meet him in his magical grotto. All are welcome to join the festive fun! Hope to see you there!

Friends of Oveston School

Tag Rugby Tournament

On Sunday 4th October, we went to a tag rugby tournament. We won three matches and lost one. One of the games was a friendly so that didn't count. I thought Will, Josh and Joseph did some amazing tries. Dylan was a very fast runner and he tried really hard.

We went against Charfield, St. Mary's, Manorbrook and Oldbury. We won against Manorbrook, Charfield and Oldbury. We tried our hardest against St. Mary's but we lost.

On our last match we went against St. Helen's. It was a friendly as I said earlier. It was a draw. But it didn't count! I will tell you who was in the team: George M, Oscar, Oliver F, Josh R, Joseph, Will, Sam, Georgia B, me (Rosie) and Anna.

George scored a try and so did Josh, Joe, Will, Sam, Dylan, Anna, Oliver F and Oscar. We were on pitch 1. All of the teams did well. At the end the man on the balcony said we could go up on the balcony! Everyone could see us then.

I thought it was a lovely day and I'd like to say a special thank you to Miss Plews for doing tag rugby and Mr Biggin for coaching us.

Written by Rosie O. - Year 3

Christmas craft event

on **Saturday 12th December** at **Oveston Methodist Hall** from **10am-12noon**.

There will be crafts for children to make, cake & craft stalls, seasonal refreshments, Father Christmas, & more.

Our Parish Matters

Andy Clarke

While darkening days grow shorter, the work of the Parish Council goes quietly on with their oversight of planning, footpaths, open spaces and the like. A group of volunteer Councillors has recently planted daffodil bulbs in key areas around Old Down, Olveston and Tockington and we hope to enjoy the evidence of it in the spring. We have also just surveyed some of our more dilapidated signposts and earmarked some for renovation to improve their shabby appearance. While Old Down has already received its new Parish notice board Olveston and Tockington will hopefully have theirs installed by the end of November to further brighten our lives.

South Gloucestershire Council has recently asked us if we have any volunteers who help keep the Parish tidy. Their aim is to support such groups in practical ways. Rod Williams that well-known man about the Parish, has offered to lead any group of volunteers which we hope this appeal will encourage. So if you'd like to do your bit for the area occasionally please ring Rod to volunteer on 01454 612850.

There is so much positive action taking place in our area from sporting organisations, church activities, and Parish Players to walking groups, coffee mornings, toddlers groups, scouts, guides and others.

One of the agencies that support people in the community is Four Towns and Vale Link Community Transport. This provides travel arrangements locally for the elderly or infirm as well as for youngsters connected with youth service. They too are looking for volunteers to become involved in their organisation, initially as part of their ideas forum. If you would like to offer them feedback or ideas or perhaps to become involved in their committee work please phone the clerk to Olveston Parish Council, Mrs Valerie Tutin on 01454 613730 for more information.

Still on the topic of transport it is worth noting that the bus service through the Parish has recently made a minor adjustment to its' timings and if this affects you it would be a good idea to check the details on the new schedule.

As seasonal expectations gather momentum we can, hopefully, all look forward to our Christmas celebrations. We, on the Parish Council, would like to offer you all our very best wishes for a very happy Christmas and to remind you that we always welcome your comments, queries and points of interest on Parish matters, which you may make known to us through the usual channels.

Thanks but No Thanks

David

Shaw

On page 13 of November Meeting Point you will have seen that Simon Shaw thanked family & friends for their best wishes for David's 70th Birthday. I have to say that this announcement was not only premature but inaccurate. David celebrated his 67th (repeat 67th) Birthday on Oct 29th. The party will be in 3yrs time but, of course, Simon has been disinherited and eliminated from the guest list.

Thornbury Orchestra Concert - 'Christmas in Thornbury'

Date	Saturday 12th December 7.30pm
Location	Thornbury Baptist Church, Gillingstool, Thornbury, BS35 2EG
Description	Thornbury Orchestra presents a popular programme of classical music, featuring Sibelius' Karelia Suite, extracts from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker and other festive music, including 'Christmas in Thornbury' arranged by Nigel Nash. Come and enjoy this seasonal concert in aid of the Meningitis Research Foundation.
Tickets	Adults: £7 Children 16 & under: Free entry (Sponsored by John Lewis) Concessions: £5 Available in person from 'Ronnies', Thornbury where concert goers will also be able to book a pre-concert meal. Alternatively reserve by calling 01454 413260.
Contact	www.thornburyorchestra.org.uk 01454 413260

Cricket News

150 Club Winners November

£50 Nigel Dando

£15 Ian Watkins

£5 Richard Watkins

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners

17th October Malcolm Grosvenor

24th October Malcolm Grosvenor

Internet Shopping

You can help us raise funds by doing your internet shopping via our website. Log on to www.olddowncricketclub.co.uk & follow the 'easyfundraising' link. You can access most of the normal internet shopping sites eg amazon in the normal way after a simple registration process. The club benefits from each sale at no cost to yourself.

Any queries, please contact me, Tony Gardner 07889 727729

Carols around the Christmas tree



ARTS & COMMUNITY IN THORNBURY

Christmas is coming ... and there's nothing like a good sing of carols to get you in the festive mood and this delightful event has now become something of a fixture in the Thornbury calendar, as it arrives for the third year running!

ACT (Arts and Community in Thornbury) invite you join them in St. Mary's Centre on Saturday December 12 from 10 o'clock to 12 noon. Schools and local choirs from Thornbury and many of the surrounding villages will be singing as well, so come and join in and bring your friends for a jolly good sing and get in the mood for Christmas!

Stop Press! It's not too late to purchase one of **ACT's** colourful calendars, featuring location shots, snatches of rehearsals and, of course, photographs of the actual performances of the hugely successful community play: ***The Wigan Girls***. Call into Thornbury Town Hall and for just £7.50 one of these collector's items can be yours (or perhaps several could solve that Christmas gift dilemma), or by post to Jackie Jackson, Bay Tree Cottage, Crossways Lane, Thornbury, BS35 3UE. Cheques payable to **ACT** and please add £1 for post and packing.

To find out more about **ACT's** aims to build a theatre-based community complex in the heart of Thornbury, its activities and how to become a **FACT** (friend of **ACT**), please visit www.ACTthornbury.org.uk or email ACT.Thornbury@yahoo.co.uk and we'd be delighted to hear from you.

The Severnside Ramblers' and the Festival of Winter Walks

The Severnside Ramblers' group is your local branch of the Ramblers' Association. We meet at Aldi car park, Bradley Stoke, BS32 9DA and share lifts to the start of a walk.

Non-members are always very welcome to join us on our free walks. This is especially so for the annual Festival of Winter Walks which runs from 26 December to 3 January. We encourage everyone to come and try us out. Walk off that Christmas excess!

The Festival Walks, and all of our walks for December and January can be found at www.severnside-ramblers.org.uk or by picking up our Walks Programme at a local library.

St.Peter's Hospice

Sporting Dinner

St Peters Hospice Severnside Support Group would be delighted to welcome you to their Sporting Dinner to be held on Friday 27th November at 7.30pm at Thornbury Golf Centre.

Tickets are priced at £25.00 to include a three course dinner and coffee. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Russell Osman, ex professional footballer and manager.

For further info or to reserve tickets please ring 01454 417543.



Thornbury Christmas Food and Gift Fair

Saturday 5th December 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Following the success of last year's event and the continuing popularity of the quarterly Food Fairs, Saturday 5th December sees Thornbury playing host to over 70 stalls, with a wide range of gifts including handmade jewellery, painting, toiletries, glassware and many more present ideas, as well as an extended number of food stalls. Along with cakes, doughnuts, cheeses, fish, specialist meat providers including organic beef, Old Sodbury lamb and Gloucester Old Spot pork, there are beer and wine stalls, preserves and pickles, ice creams, chocolates and of course, all sorts of foodie gift ideas. And don't forget, Thornbury has a great range of shops with gift ideas running from clothes and luxury toiletries, kitchen and glassware, children's toys and books and vouchers for pre and post Christmas pampering!

And then after you've shopped and chatted to all those people you haven't seen for ages, drop into one of our many and varied cafes, pubs and/or restaurants, to round off a great day in Thornbury and enter the Christmas spirit.

Dickens 'A Christmas Carol'

On Dec 5th in St. Mary' at 6pm

It's a one-man show by Richard Posner and comes very well recommended. Tickets are £5, £3 for under-11s, from June Robbins, the primary school, or the Stores.

Friends Of St. Mary's

The prize winners in this month's draw, held on 17th August 2009 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	Name
£150	156	Mr. B. Brown, Olveston
£75	234	Mrs. G.A.M. Bowen, Awkley
£25	462	Mrs. M. Morey, Olveston
£25	255	Mrs. F.M. Riley, Bitton
£20	336	Mrs. J. Harper, Olveston
£20	260	Mrs. P.R. Kerrison, Olveston
£10	328	Mr. & Mrs. A. Goodbrook, Olveston

The prize winners in this month's draw, held on 30th September 2009 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	Name
£150	213	Mr. T. Watkins, Alveston
£75	189	Mrs. J. Williams, Greenditch Street
£25	205	Mrs. G. Olewicz, Olveston
£25	446	Mr. B. Amos, Olveston
£20	395	Mr. J. Crossley, Tockington
£20	487	Mrs. C. Phillipott, Tockington
£10	358	Mrs. S. Toft, Olveston

The prize winners in this month's draw, held on 14th October 2009 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	Name
£150	435	Mrs. M. Scarborough, Almondsbury
£75	153	Mr. A. Heming, Olveston
£25	248	Mrs. C.K. Hickman, Olveston
£25	496	Mrs. J. Williams, Greenditch Street
£20	267	Mr. I. Hughes, Olveston
£20	217	Mrs. J.M.H. Hahn, Olveston
£10	165	Mrs. P.A. Kemp, Stoke Lodge

Tockington Manor Swimming Pool

Membership packages are still available for this fantastic facility; they represent fantastic value at £375 for a family of two adults plus children, adult membership is from £300. All membership packages are for 12 months and are valid all year round with unlimited visits. (There are swimming sessions most days of the week and Aquafit on a Tuesday evening too!). If you would like to receive further details please contact John Dengel on 01454 613229 or by e mail on swim@tockington.bristol.sch.uk

Tockington Manor Pavilion

A unique and exclusive venue for business meetings and social events. Set within the beautiful landscaped grounds of Tockington Manor, The Pavilion offers a light, airy and tranquil setting with stunning views across the cricket square. Enhance your visit to The Pavilion with our delicious homemade cooking. Locally sourced and organic where possible, all items are prepared in our own kitchens to the highest of standards. The Pavilion is available for all sorts of functions. If you would like to received further details contact John Dengel on 01454 613229 or by email on info@tockingtonmanorpavilion.co.uk

Safer Stronger Community Group (SSCG) meeting for 2009 was held on October 15.

We (the police) and our partners are pleased to see that the attendance from local residents has grown over the past six months. SSCG meetings have been set up as part of neighbourhood policing and South Gloucestershire Council's Community Engagement Initiative.

These meetings give local people an opportunity to express concerns and discuss issues giving you a greater voice and influence over local decisions and priorities in your area. Local transport, street lighting, litter, speeding and anti-social behaviour are just some examples. The three priorities that came out of the last meeting are:

1. Anti Social Behaviour in Vicarage Lane Park, Olveston.
2. Street Lighting in Olveston.
3. Rural Youth Event

Anti-Social Behaviour

This will be a multi-agency response involving police and the Anti-Social Behaviour Team. We are planning a leaflet drop to target houses in the vicinity, and have already put an ASB sign in the location along with police patrols in the area. You can really help by reporting any incidents that you witness.

Street Lighting to be dealt with by South Glos Council and Councillor Matthew Riddle.

Rural Youth Event to be organised by local youths with assistance from youth worker, Reehana, Police and SGC.

The next SSCG meeting is on **Wednesday 13th January 2010** at a venue to be confirmed.

With Christmas fast approaching, please remember to keep all presents and gifts out of sight. Also please crush or tear up boxes and packaging and bag it: when you put them out for the refuse collection you're advertising your new possessions to thieves!

Just a reminder that the last Beat Surgery for this year is on **Thursday December 17 2009** at **Olveston Coffee Shop** between **10.30am** and midday.

To find out about crime figures for the Severn beat please log onto www.avonandsomerset.co.uk and type your post code into the 'in your area search box'. This will take you to your beat page, and you can click on the 'crime mapping' link under the heading 'more information'.

May I remind people to mark any high value items that you may have in your possession (including jewellery, bikes, garden equipment, computers etc). This gives the police a much greater chance of returning it if it is stolen, and of prosecuting the thief.

You can register items free on the national property database for free at www.immobilise.com, and police across the country check the site. 'Report my loss.com' is another website which enables people to register any items that you may have lost. This website is used by Avon and Somerset Police so anyone wanting to report a lost item(s) can report these direct onto the website as the police no longer have a separate system for this. Anyone who doesn't have internet access can call into Thornbury Police Station between 10am and 2pm and we will record the items on your behalf. I would encourage people to look at both the above named sites.

To contact the police please see the numbers below :

For an emergency or incident that requires immediate response, dial **999**.

To report all crimes and for non urgent incidents, dial **0845 456 7000**

To discuss any community issues with PC Roger Hopes or PCSO Kelly Dimery, dial **0117 945 5959** or **07919 628625** or **07917 586645**

Thornbury Rotary Club

Community Awards 2010

The Rotary Club of Thornbury, in collaboration with Rotary International, launched their Annual Community Awards. Bob Slade, President of Thornbury Rotary announced the invitation to people living in the Thornbury and District Area to enter nominations to this Award Scheme. Selection and judging will take place during April 2010 and the winners will be announced at an Award Ceremony in the Summer.

Whilst the nominees will no doubt come from different walks of life they will have something in common. They would never think a word like hero or champion could be used to describe themselves. They are selfless, those who always put others first. Their achievements will be apparent to others, even if they are not to themselves. Readers of The Gazette are asked to send in nominations for the four categories of award that reflect the diverse way people enhance their communities and the lives of those within them.

Perhaps you know someone eligible for the **Young Community Award** which honours the achievements of individuals under the age of 18 years who have made, or continue to make, a positive commitment and contribution to their local community life. This could be a work project or a domestic circumstance that they are involved with, something they do on a voluntary basis. This contribution may benefit a group of people or maybe just one person. It may be a project that would benefit the whole community on an environmental basis, rather than a personal basis.

The **Community Award** category acknowledges the voluntary work and commitment of the unsung hero in our community. This award is designed to honour the achievements of an individual over the age of 18 years who has or continues to make a positive commitment and contribution to the Thornbury and District Communities.

The **Charity Award** will recognise an individual or a group who each year undertake tireless work and fundraising for charities. Nominations will be required to set out how they make a difference to their charities.

The fourth category – the **Courage Award** - will be presented to a young person who has shown enormous courage by overcoming hurdles in their day to day life. They will be an inspiration to us all and provide an outstanding model for others when faced with life's difficulties and challenges.

Thornbury Rotary are actively seeking nominations for these awards. As Chris Fairhead says, 'We need to recognise and celebrate the achievements of those in our community who continue to provide essential support through these challenging times.' Chris asks our readers to, 'Take fifteen minutes out of your day to complete a nomination form and help us help the community of Thornbury recognise our unsung heroes.'

Entry forms can be downloaded from www.thornburyrotary.org/awards or are available from members of Thornbury Rotary. Email chris@fairhead.me.uk for further information. Closing date **March 31st 2010**

Thornbury Camera Club

Peter Haworth

NEWS

There is a shortened programme for the month of December, our first meeting is on the 7th and brings a return to the club of Bernard Tapp a local Thornbury speaker. The subject of his talk is titled "Tapps Travels" and features Timbukto, City of mysteries; this will be a slide presentation.

On the 14th the judging of Internal Competition No3 takes place and is a set subject "Portraits".

TIPS

Using Flash in photography; while most budget and mid range cameras incorporate a pop-up flashgun these are generally underpowered and lack the features you need to produce well lit images.

Because the built in pop-up flash is so close to the lens it tends to exacerbate red-eye problems, and in addition direct flash can be quite harsh in a portrait, so consider using a hotshoe mounted flashgun on your camera.

One of the most important differences between the pop-up flash in your camera and most hotshoe mounted units is the latter will allow you to alter the direction of the light by tilting and swivelling the flash head.

Moving the flash head allows you to bounce the light off walls, ceilings and nearby objects, the light should appear much softer in a bounced image as the light is spread out. In addition the background will appear lighter, and red eye could also be eliminated.

Flash light decreases faster than you might imagine, an object two metres away from the camera receives only a quarter of the light of an object one metre away. So if your subject is too far away the flash will not help to lighten your image.

Flash can also be useful outside as a "Fill in Light" to fill in shadows and produce a more evenly illuminated image, try it even on a bright day if you see shadows across your subject.

New members are welcome at the club ,contact me Peter Haworth on 01454 612441 for more information.

Computer Essentials Classes

The Adult Computer Essentials Course held in Olveston Primary School on Monday and Tuesday evenings has successfully completed its second Term. Thus far 14 local residents have participated with more interested in joining the classes when they recommence in January. The stimulus for offering this learning facility to the community commenced when the School installed an up-to-date Computer Suite and Interactive Whiteboard in April 2009.

Participants have expressed gratitude for the “back-to-basics” approach giving them a solid foundation on which to build new skills and knowledge. Lessons have taken on a “club” atmosphere with a vibrant babble of conversation filling the classroom during the mid-session coffee break. The Tutor finds this reminiscent of teaching an excitable horde of Year 9 Secondary School pupils without, of course, any misbehaviour.

Students laughed as they watched videos of summary justice being metering out on a recalcitrant PC. They empathised while watching a 15th Century scholar struggling with the new concept of a bound book. However, it has not been all play, with serious work being done as local historians honed their Word Processing skills and business people produced professional documents through the SSL (Supported Self-Learning) method. Emailing, which once was a mystery, has become an everyday tool to communicate with family and friends near and far.

The staff and governors of Olveston School want to provide a service to the community and warmly welcome you to join us in January to use our excellent computer facilities. Book a place by ringing (01454) 614120 or Email abilenett@aim.com for application form.

St. Mary's Appeal

Roly Bain

The Appeal target has shot up to £235,000, largely due to a mixture of unforeseen circumstances and a few extra add-ons. We've got £231,000 so still fundraising. £119,000 of that was in the Fabric Reserve Fund and came largely in the form of legacies that were restricted to building works. We're borrowing money from the Diocese after all, to alleviate the cash flow. next year we shall concentrate on raising money for ordinary funds, which have, not surprisingly, dipped rather alarmingly. It costs £1200 a week before we even open the doors. Don't forget the Bishop's coming on Jan 31st to dedicate it all at the 10am service.

The Inner Wheel Club Of Thornbury

invite you to celebrate Christmas with carols and readings

Thursday 17th December, St. Mary's Church, Olveston at **7pm**.

In support of 'The Princess Royal Trust for Carers'. The aim of the project is to give help to carers living in South Gloucestershire.

Learn Something Different In The New Year!

The WEA, the UK's largest voluntary provider of adult education has a Thornbury branch run by local volunteers which will be offering an exciting Spring programme of courses. We aim to offer support to all learners so that individuals with very different backgrounds, levels of general education and learning skills can learn together successfully because of shared interests.

From 13th January the popular "**Calligraphy for All**" course will continue to run for 7 weekly evening meetings in the Chantry. Beginners welcome.

From 14th January "**Getting More From Your Computer**" will run for 7 weeks at Turnberries on Thursday evenings.

"**Did the Irish Save Civilization?**" will run as a Saturday Day School in the Chantry on **27th February**.

We also hope to be offering a short practical course on "**Health in the Home**". (Venue and date to be decided later).

For further information, please pick up a WEA brochure in Thornbury library, or ring Simon on 01454 610071 or e-mail s.cannell@hefce.ac.uk

Tuition is free to learners on some benefits or on low incomes – please ask for further information.

The Scout Ball

Ian Knowles

On Saturday 17th of October we held our Scout Ball at Tortworth Court. Over 200 people attended the event and a good time was had by all. I am happy to announce that £3850 was raised and a big thanks goes to all those who attended this special event. A special mention also goes to Lesley Garrett and Amanda Powell for organising the event and also to all the 1st Olveston Scout leaders and assistants for all they do for the children locally.

A Double Ceremony of Carols

In 1942, whilst sailing from America to England, Benjamin Britten set 11 poems to music, to form his "A Ceremony of Carols". This will be performed by Alveston Singers in their concerts on Friday 11th December at Alveston Methodist Church and on Tuesday 15^h at Thornbury United Reformed Church. The piece will be complemented by different settings of the same poems to form a double ceremony. And, of course, there will be a few "old favourites" in which you can sing your heart out to welcome in Christmas.

The concerts start at 7:30pm and, as is customary with the Alveston Singers' concerts, there is no charge, but a collection will be made, all proceeds from which will go to Great Western Air Ambulance and the Alzheimer Society. The Singers have already donated over £20,000 to various charities since the turn of the millennium.

Thornbury Library

Christmas opening hours

Wednesday 23 December 9.30am-7.00pm

Then closed until

Wednesday 30 December 9.30am-7.00pm

Then closed until

Saturday 2 January 9.30am-5.00pm

From the Registers at St. Mary's

Funeral Service on 12th October at St. John's Elberton followed by burial at St. Mary's of Muriel Dix.

Burial of Ashes on 30th October at St. Mary's of Margery Haskins.

Funeral Service on 9th November at St. John's Elberton, followed by cremation at Canford of Hannah Bastian. Burial of Ashes at St. Mary's Olveston on 10th November.

Burial of Ashes on 10th November of Kenneth Clifford.

From the Registers at St. John's

Funeral Service and Burial in the Churchyard on 21st October of Phyllis Mary Betty.

Yours faithfully

Philip Rowe

The Signs of Jesus' birth – The inn, cloth and manger

A sign is something which conveys information beyond itself. So, for example, someone might buy a particular car to say something about themselves. These words of the angels to the shepherds refer to the birth of Jesus Christ, the arrival of God in human form on earth.

'This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn'. (Luke 2:13).

What do these three signs teach us about God?

The fact that there was no room in the inn shows us that God was not pulling rank – he was not using his power for his own benefit. Furthermore being wrapped in bands of cloth was just normal treatment. So God was identifying with us in that he was just as physically vulnerable and had the same material needs as we have. Also not having a dedicated cot for the baby was a sign of poverty, pointing to the lifestyle Jesus was to follow. *'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head'. (Luke 9:58).*

So these are signs of God's condescension and sacrifice. They reveal the depth of God's practical love for us. They point to God's purpose as he came down from heaven to earth to lift us from earth to heaven.

So the shepherds having learnt about God and his purpose *'returned, glorying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them'* (Luke 2:20)

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Dec 6	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong with Choir	Mr Denis Jones
Dec 13	8am	Holy Communion(BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Morning Worship with Choir	Mrs Janet McBride
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Rev Philip Rowe
Dec 20	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Carol Service with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe
Dec 24	4pm	Christingle	Rev P Rowe & Rev H Webb
	11.15	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev Roly Bain
Dec 25	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Family Service	Rev Philip Rowe
Dec 27	8am	Holy Communion(BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Feast of Fools	Rev Roly Bain
	6pm	Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev David Bone

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Contact:

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

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

Verger: Mrs. June Robbins, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

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

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

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Dec 6	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Dec 13	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Dec 20	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Dec 21	6.30	Carol Service	
Dec 24	11.30	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Dec 25	10.30	Short Family Service	Rev David bone

Dec 27	10am	Christmas Readings & Carols	Rev David Bone
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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

Dec 6	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole
Dec 13	3pm	Carol Service followed by Mulled Wine at the White Hart	
Dec 25	9am	Family Crib Service	

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Dec 13	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield
Dec 14	8pm	Carol Service at Rock House	Rev David Pole
Dec 25	9am	Family Holy Communion	Rev. David. Pole
Dec 27		No Service	

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Dec 6	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. Olveston Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle Evening Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Sandy Williams
Dec 13	10am 6.30	Olveston Ch. Olveston Ch.	All Age Worship led by Rev Sandy Williams . The Breakfast Club will join us later. Carol Service led by Rev. Sandy Williams Items by St Andrew's Ch Choir Filton
Dec 20	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. St Mary's Ch	Christmas Family Service -Mr Glyn Varney Village Carol Service
Dec 25	10.15	Tock Ch.	Christmas Celebration Service led by Rev Sandy Williams
Dec 27	10am 6pm	Tock Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney No Service

LIGHT LUNCHES: Thursday 3rd Dec at 12.15 in the Tockington Wesley Rooms.
To book your lunch please ring 612112 or 613241

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: Christmas Lunch at 12.30pm on Wed 9th Dec.
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.
Except Dec 26th Coffee provided by Explorer Scouts on Dec 12th

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. We also visit other churches and events, please check our Notice Board or contact us. Prayer requests can be posted through the letter box at The Vine or sent to us by post or email. Please add a name or initial to identify your request.

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

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLDOWN

Dec 6	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies
Dec 13	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Dec 20	6.30pm	Carol Service
Dec 25	10am	Paul Ashford
Dec 27	6.30pm	Paul Ashford

Prayer Time every Thurs 7.30pm. ex 24th & 31st Dec

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

Dec 24th 11.30pm Carol service followed by Midnight Mass

Dec 25th 8.30am Mass 9.30am 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 December 2009

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

1 st Tue	Tockington Toddlers Royal British Legion Women- American Supper & Flower Arrangements with Sally Taylor Advent Talk Sr Frances Dominica	10.00-12.00 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR DGCL StM
2 nd Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club Christmas Lunch Olv. Par. Hist. Soc: The Changing Face of Thornbury High St-Tony Cherry Body Tone Exercise Class	12.00 7.30pm 7-30-8.30	AH MH PH
3 rd Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30	OS+ MH
5 th Sat	Coffee Morning Christmas Fair at Olveston School Dickens' Christmas Carol (One man show)	10.30-12.00 10.00-12.00 6pm	MH StM
6 th Sun	Mother Goose	5.00-6.30pm	PH
7 th Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club -Practice "Christmas Greetings" Olveston Craft Group	1.30pm 7.30-9.30	AH MH
8 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Women's Institute American Supper	10.00-12.00 7.30pm	WR PH
9 th Wed	Royal British Legion - Men Body Tone Exercise Class Advent Talk Rev Roger Ducker	7.30pm 7.30-8.30 7.30pm	DGCL PH StM
10 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30	OS+ MH
12 th Sat	Coffee Morning-Explorer Scouts Christmas Party Music in the Church at Aust-The Mellstock Band	10.30-12.00 8pm	MH PH AC
15 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Fibromyalgia Support Group-Christmas Party Olveston Parish Council meeting	10.00-12.00 7.00-9.00 7.30pm	WR AMH AP
16 th Wed	Advent Talk Alan Johnston-Journalist	7.30pm	StM
17 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 10.30-12.00	OS+ MH

	Th. & Dist. Flower Club-Practice "Pantomimes"	7.30pm	TMH
18 th Fri			
19 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
20 th Sun			
22 nd Tue	Advent Talk Sally Challoner	7.30pm	StM
Looking ahead to January			
7 th -9 th	Mary & Joseph Roadshow	7.30pm	StM
9 th	Music in the Church at Aust		AC
22 nd	Goodbye Mrs Chips		PH
23 rd	Burns Night Party	7.30pm	OV
30 th	Burns Supper		AVH

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; **OS** – Olveston School; **OSt** – Olveston Stores; **OV** – Olveston Vicarage; **PH** – Olveston Parish Hall; **StM** – St Mary's Church, Oliv.; **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

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