

Meeting Point

Volume 35, Number 3, December 2010

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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**God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today.
Have you used one to say "Thank you?" ~William
A. Ward**

From the Editor

Christmas is a time of giving and St Mary's Church, Olveston is once again having a Christmas collection for the Crisis Centre in Bristol. The box will be in church at weekends only, starting Sunday 28th November. However, there will also be a box in the village store during the week where you can place your gifts. For further information ring Lesley Clarke on 01454 613804.

We wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Our cover this month is by Edward Gallon
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.olvestonandaust.com.

Village People - Tom and Rose (née Ford) Brown

The January closing of Tomorosa Boarding Kennels is a good time to profile Tom and Rose, both having lived locally all their lives. Rose lived with her parents and brothers Walter and Ashley and sister Margaret at Home Farm, Washingpool Lane, Tockington, until they had to move when the farm was sold. The family then bought Redhill Farm, Elberton, where Walter and his son Adam still farm today (see MP May 2009) and Rose worked on the farm until she married Tom when she was twenty two.

Tom was born at Redham House, Redham Lane, his family moving to Pilning Garage before taking on the tenancy of the White Hart in Olveston. Tom's father (also Tom) died when Tom was twenty one and his mother Betty (known as Bett) continued running the White Hart for thirty seven years.

Tom and Rose were married in 1965 and they bought the farm that is now the kennels, with four acres of land that were left after the M48 split the previous farm in half. Rose ran cattle on it and their children Eileen and Mervyn were born. Unfortunately Tom was made redundant when Mervyn was eighteen months old, so he became a self employed welder and fabricator. One day he was working on a welding job and his client asked if Rose would whelp their dog – she did, five puppies arrived, she sold them for him and then the new owners asked if she would look after them when they went on holiday. Requests grew, but this remained a hobby while the children were at school and Rose had time to do Meals on Wheels with Mrs Pearce from Port Farm. They did it for seventeen years, round Patchway and Lower Almondsbury.

When Eileen left school she wanted to work from home, so the kennels were formally opened. In 1989 Tom had a stroke, and the kennels needed to be extended until they could accommodate 120 dogs, nowadays only 85. Village children have walked the dogs after school all these years and Rose has kept an exact record, which stands up till now at 232, with ten still working today. They started selling pet food which is Tom's province and, after two years, Eileen decided to train as a dog groomer. She started her own separate business on the site, that has been running for over twenty years, and she is still very busy.

With working so hard, there was little time for other activities but one New Year's Day Tom was walking near Mead Wood, close to the kennels, when he came across the Countryside Group enjoying mulled wine and mince pies! He and Rose promptly joined the group which was started by Ted Addis and Betty Daldry over twenty years ago. The group meet twice a month at Tomorosa and they still celebrate New Year's Day with mulled wine and mince pies in Old Down quarry, which they help to maintain. They both still play skittles at the White Hart each week, playing for the Happy Wanderers in the Severnside League, but don't ask how well they are doing!

Now it is time to hang up the dog leads, but Eileen will continue dog grooming on the site. Tom and Rose want to take this opportunity to thank their family, staff and child dog walkers for all their support over the years. Walter and Ashley helped lay the concrete initially and Eileen and Mervyn have helped them build everything themselves. After January, they will decide how they can re-use the buildings, but I very much doubt they will be sitting with their feet up in the near future.

St Peters Hospice Severnside Support Group 25th Anniversary Christmas Tree Festival



To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group and by kind permission of Thornbury Methodist Church, we will be holding a Christmas Tree Festival at the Church between the 10th and 12th of December. The Church will be open on Friday and Saturday from 9.00am until 6.00pm for viewing, and on Sunday from 1.00pm until 5.00pm. Light refreshments will be available in the Hall.

11th December - Christmas Market at 10.00am

11th December - Concert of Seasonal Music at 7.30pm – with Thornbury Brass Band – tickets available from Town Hall at £5.00, to include refreshments.

12th December - Service at 6.00pm – Guest Speaker – Rev. Canon Roger Royle

Christmas Cards and Calendars available. Children's Treasure Hunt.

Please support this special occasion and by doing so help St Peter's, your local Hospice. Thank you.

A Christmas Memory - Never Forgotten

This article was written for Meeting Point about 25 years ago by Reginald Crouch who was then living at Moat House in Church Hill, Olveston. Reg and all his comrades from the Great War have now passed into history but it is interesting and moving to read again of life and death in that very different world.

On Christmas Day 1916, our Infantry Company, part of the 18th Division, was stationed in a small French village on the edge of the Forest of Cr cy - of historic importance. We had been there for several days – resting prior to returning once again to the front line trenches.



In the morning we were free to wander around, so my friend Cpl “Dicky” Bird and I went for a stroll in the famous woodland. We had penetrated its depth for some distance – just chatting when suddenly we were confronted by the ugliest beast I had ever seen. It was a wild boar. We heard afterwards that these creatures were hunted in peacetime by gentry on ponies. We stood still, petrified. After what seemed an eternity the beast snorted loudly and ambled away. We moved pretty promptly in the opposite direction.

Back in the village we assembled in the local schoolroom for a short service conducted by our Army Chaplain and then enjoyed a Christmas Dinner provided by the “Daily News”.

At 3pm we once again paraded in the village centre where a fleet of old London buses with open tops had arrived. They were all painted black with windows boarded up. In these we travelled some thirty miles to within a couple of miles from the front line trenches. The rest of the journey was made on foot in complete silence and we relieved another regiment.

It was cold and frosty but fortunately dry. All was quiet. No firing on either side. A sort of unrehearsed truce. Round about 8 o'clock we suddenly heard singing. The Germans opposite us were singing “Holy Night”. It was weird, but pleasant.

Boxing Day morning however spoiled things. Cpl Bird first stood up to take a machine gun down from the parapet when a German sniper shot him and he fell down dead beside me. Later I was able to send his widowed mother his pocket book. Eventually I received a letter from her, thanking me and enclosing a 5/- postal order. It was never cashed.

Brownies Sleepover at @ Bristol

We had a fantastic time on our sleepover to celebrate 100 years of Girl Guiding and achieved the challenge of sleeping in an unusual place!

On the 26th September, some of the Brownies from our pack went for a sleepover at @Bristol. We all met at Severn Beach train station and got on the train to take us to Bristol Temple meads. After getting off the train, we walked to @Bristol which took about half an hour.

We arrived at about 8pm, and after dumping our stuff, we went to the second floor for a sing-song, followed by a science show. Then we had time to explore the ground floor and play with the displays. Our next activity was a trail, where we had to find five things with circle tags on them and afterwards we had a snack.

Next, we went to the Planetarium where we saw some cool things, like another galaxy and heard the story of Princess Andromeda. After this we blew up our beds, got into our pyjamas before going upstairs for one last song; then back to level one to get into our sleeping bags. Finally, at midnight all the lights went off.

In the morning, no one wanted to wake up, but eventually we were up, dressed and upstairs having our breakfast - a bun, orange juice, yogurt and fruit. We then went to the creative workshop where we made paper and hovercrafts. The paper punge felt horrid on my fingers, but the rest was fun! The hovercrafts were made from bottle tops, dvd's, balloons and plasticine, however mine kept coming unstuck. Lastly, we went for a final play on the first floor where it was fun to do whatever we wanted.

After that, we collected our things and walked back to the train station, although after a problem over buying the tickets we ended up catching a bus. As we were hungry, we had a picnic on the bus and soon we arrived at the Mall where our parents were waiting.

By Eleanor Maddocks and Niamh Sullivan

Looking for ideas?

Jenny Newley

If you'd like something local and distinctive to give as Christmas presents, especially something with a historical angle, why not do some of your Christmas shopping at **Thornbury and District Museum**? It's a good cause! The Museum Trust is a Charity, the people who work at the museum are all volunteers and all proceeds help to fund the operation of the museum.

For instance, you can find books on:

- the history of Thornbury's pubs (including some no longer there)
- W.G.Grace's cricket matches in Alveston
- the 1960 Severn Railway Bridge disaster
- Thornbury Through Time (then and now photos)
- Alveston Through Time (then and now photos)
- the Quakers of Olveston (by our own Eric Garrett)
- the people from Olveston and Aust parishes who died in wars of the twentieth century and who are commemorated in our four local churches (in The War Memorial Book, by our own Bill Morgan)
- local people who worked in the aerospace industry (in 'I Worked There', compiled & edited by our own Les Harper))
- the history of opposition to slavery in South Gloucestershire
- Thornbury Castle and our local Town Heritage Trail
- and school life in Thornbury in past times.

The museum shop not only sells books but a good range of **inexpensive and fun items for children**. Lots of possibilities for Christmas presents for all ages!

Last shopping day: 23rd Dec. **Free entry** to museum, shop and exhibitions.

Open: Tuesday – Friday, 1 - 4pm and Saturday, 10am - 4pm.
Chapel St, Thornbury. Tel: 01454 857774

www.thornburymuseum.org.uk



Olveston Parish Historical Society

Wednesday, 1st December 2010, 7.30pm, Olveston Methodist Hall

Paul Driscoll is our local Community Archaeology Officer. Come along to his illustrated talk on **“The Archaeology of South Gloucestershire from Paleolithic to Modern Times”**. Discover what's been found in our area. Find out how *you* can become a community archaeologist. Everyone very welcome. £2 payable at the door or £5 for the whole season, which includes 4 more talks, on a range of subjects, after this).

Parish Players

After some compelling auditions, rehearsals are now under way for Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'Carousel' to be presented at the Olveston Village Hall from April 12th - 16th.

The large cast headed by Lynn Shelley as Julie and Mike Jones as the doomed Billy Bigelow are exploring a dramatic storyline, together with immortal songs such as 'If I loved you' and 'My boy Bill'. Heather Collins and Phil Savage provide the comedy element as Julie's friends, Carrie Pipperidge and Enoch Snow, with their well loved duets 'When the children are asleep' and 'When I marry Mr Snow'. Lesley Clarke has the role of Mrs Mullin, the unscrupulous owner of the Carousel. Playing Julie's daughter, Louise, is talented Maedene Webb in her first leading part. Newcomer Jacob Warn, already appreciated by local audiences for his outstanding recorder playing, is cast as Enoch Snow Junior. Linda Chapel plays the warm hearted Nettie Fowler and has the challenge of singing 'You'll never walk alone', also widely known by Liverpool fans. Andy Black, the Company's invaluable set designer, is cast as 'The Starkeeper' for the heavenly scenes, together with John Jones as Joshua. Mark Collins joins the Company in the role of the baddie Jigger Craig.

Cameo roles are taken by various members of the cast including David Stone, Brian Brown, Tad Olewicz and Richard Newley.

The Parish Players are very pleased to welcome several new young members and Chloe Allsop Jones as Musical Director together with Gill Harris as Choreographer are enjoying developing their talents.

A few children between the ages of 8 -12 years are needed as Enoch Snow's family. Details from Director Linda Evans 01454 413887.

The Company look forward to working as a team to create an exciting Spring Production.

Thank You

Many thanks for your kind words, prayers, best wishes, messages and cards as well as practical offers of assistance following my recent fall and stay in hospital. I am now resting at home well on the way to a full recovery and hope to see many of you out and about very soon.

Love and best wishes Mrs Elizabeth Screen, Rudgeway

Carols around the Christmas Tree

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



ARTS & COMMUNITY
IN THORNBURY

ACT (Arts and Community in Thornbury) invite you join them in St. Mary's Centre on Saturday December 11 from 10 o'clock to 12 noon. Schools and local choirs from Thornbury and many of the surrounding villages will be singing as well, plus there will be recorders playing and the wonderful Thornbury Castle Band, so come and join in and bring your friends for a jolly good sing and get in the mood for Christmas!

Stop Press! We have plenty to sing about, as we are now working alongside the Armstrong Hall Trust to see if we can bring state of the art facilities to this area! 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.

Start Christmas with Mumping night!

Like Christmas, **ACT's** exciting resurrection of the seasonal entertainment: Mumping Night, in the town of Thornbury is almost here! Late news is that Thornbury Castle Band will be accompanying all those who join in the carol singing torchlight procession from St Mary Centre to the High Street Christmas tree, down to the Plain and finally to the Chantry, where a warm wassail welcome awaits before choosing the first of the numerous entertainments on offer throughout the evening of 18 December.

There will be a plentiful bar open, plus homemade soup and hotdogs, to sustain folk throughout the evening, which will be overseen by David Wrench, as the Lord of Misrule. **ACT** promises magic, music and Mummings, plus hand bells, a harp and history, interspersed with singing and stories; not forgetting drama and dynamic entertainment!

How can you resist? Tickets (£8/£4 Children) are limited to 200 and are selling fast, so call at Thornbury Garden Centre or tel: 01454 884154 for information and start Christmas with **ACT** ~ the Charity aiming to build a theatre-based community complex for the whole area. Check out www.ACTthornbury.org.uk.

Our Parish Matters

After 12 years of unstinting service as clerk to Olveston Parish Council, Valerie Tutin has announced that she is to retire from her post. Hers is an unsung but important role in the lower echelons of local Government that has been engrossing and rewarding to this most modest of ladies. Whilst she will undoubtedly be missed by councillors and parishioners alike, her job must go on.

Consequently the Council is looking to find someone who, like Valerie, has good local connections with a good knowledge and understanding of our area. They should be computer literate, able to deal with basic book-keeping, minute taking, letter writing and have a good telephone manner. The job entails a commitment to 30-35 hours per calendar month. This includes around four monthly meetings, usually in the evening, though the remainder is flexible working. Own transport is an advantage. Further details may be obtained on local notice boards or from the clerk herself who can also outline pay details. Candidates need to write a letter of application giving information about personal qualities, background and experience. The closing date for application is December 10th. Mrs Tutin has very generously agreed to induct her replacement.

Well, back to the nitty, and perhaps very gritty, matter of daily life. Everyone should by now have started to appreciate the changes to our recycling collections. While this may seem a little more labour-intensive, we will all soon get used to it and it will surely answer frequent requests to improve the service especially regarding plastics. Further information is posted on notice boards if you do not have posters of your own.

Again, the ladies are leading the way in the search for healthy living. A small but eager group met organiser, Mark Johnson, for a workout "al fresco" in the Vicarage Lane Park at Olveston for its first ever session on Tuesday November 2nd. The cost is £4 for one hour's workout from 9.30-10.30am. So if you would like to brave the elements for a taste of healthy exercise, just turn up or contact Mark on his mobile 07974 375267.

Finally, if you want more information on any issue in this article or elsewhere, please contact any councillor or the Parish Clerk, Mrs Valerie Tutin, on 01454 613730

By Andy Clarke for Olveston Parish Council

Poppy Appeal

OLVESTON and District Royal British Legion, which now includes the Pilning and Severn Beach area, would like to thank everyone for their support in raising much needed funds during the recent Poppy Appeal.



A final statement has now arrived for 2009/2010 up to 30th September, and a total of £4,559.21 was banked throughout that appeal year. A big thank you to all concerned. This money will be gratefully received by the charity. Without your help, they would be unable to continue their vital benevolent work.

Save that chair - Get stuffing!

We are looking for 8 keen students to attend a proposed evening class in traditional upholstery. Classes will be held locally and we envisage 1 evening a week for 8 weeks, initially commencing in January.



Basic skills required will be covered in the first project which will be a footstool. You will learn how to use basic hand tools and to build shapes and embellish with your chosen fabric.

All hand tools and some initial materials will be supplied and are inclusive in the course fee. No experience is necessary, just a passion to learn what can be a very useful craft.

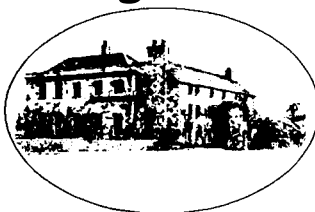
For more information, please ring Gerald Rushton on 01454 616216.

Carol Service

The Inner Wheel of Thornbury will be holding a Carol Service at St Mary's, Olveston, on **Wednesday 8th December at 7pm**. A collection for 'Hammerout' will be held and the service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies. All are welcome.

Tockington Manor Swimming Pool

Membership packages are still available for this fantastic facility; they represent great 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 Aqua fit on a Tuesday evening for only £4. Come along enjoy the fun and get fit at the same time. Why not come along and visit the complex to see our wonderful 25 metre, four-lane, heated pool and have a taster swim too, before you join! Contact John Dengel on 01454 613229 or by e mail on swim@tockington.bristol.sch.uk

The Pavilion at Tockington

A unique and exclusive venue for business meetings and social gatherings. 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 ideal for children's parties, meetings or just a social get together. If you would like to receive further details, contact John Dengel on 01454 613229 or by email on info@tockingtonmanorpavilion.co.uk

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in this month's draw, held on 11th November 2010 at the Friends' Committee Meeting, were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	374	Mr. P. E. Savage, Thornbury
£75	308	Mrs. P. Oakhill, Olveston
£25	546	Mr. K. L. Richards, Tockington
£25	254	Mrs. S. Roos, Olveston
£25	459	Mrs. F. M. Riley, Bitton
£20	178	Mrs. V. Brazell, Olveston
£10	414	Mr. R. J. Lloyd, Tockington
£10	513	Mrs. M. Bailey, Lower Hazel

Totally-Locally

at the heart of the community

www.totally-locally.org

Well the weather is getting colder and we were lucky to miss the rain...yet again we had a lovely morning and although we had more vegetables that were picked on Wednesday and sold on Saturday - we still did not have enough!! But it's ok, we can get some more...but remember it is very Seasonal..

Planning forward, if anyone has some land free or happy to talk to us about supplying the market please let me know, as we are having an interesting and creative time with 6 students from Marlwood School investigating more innovative ideas which will help to get them involved with the Community.

The next market day will be **Saturday 11th December 9.30 - 12.00** and the stalls will include:-

Fresh Seasonal Vegetables, Fresh Bread, Homemade Cakes, Jams and Chutneys, oils, deli products, Curry sauces and dips, plus new Christmas products specifically packaged as gifts.

We will also have fresh swags and table decorations to buy or to order to decorate your home, together with our Totally Locally hampers.



Meeting Point Quiz

All answers are two words commencing M.... P....

1.	With one of these, nothing should go wrong.	
2.	Nice variety for chips.	
3.	Area down Gloucester Road.	
4.	One of Gail's exes.	
5.	Ex MP and cabinet minister.	
6.	Capital law and order.	
7.	More than one use.	
8.	Inca attraction.	
9.	1966 Englishman.	
10.	Pretty silent star.	
11.	Lisa - - .	
12.	Explored the East.	
13.	On the Mile Straight.	
14.	High road.	
15.	Doyenne of Agony Aunts.	
16.	You'll be eating these soon.	
17.	'Over to Wimbledon where it's - -.'	
18.	Where goods are taken to be bought and sold.	
19.	Not Steve Redgrave.	
20.	Looked after the Banks children.	



Number puzzle:

Add up the numbers from 1 to 100 and note the neat answer.
(Clue: $1+100=101$)

Answers to both puzzles will be in the January issue of Meeting Point.

1st OLVESTON SCOUTS District Water Polo Competition



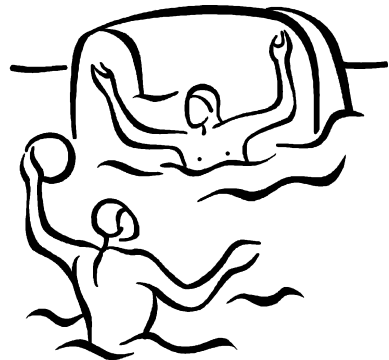
Greg Spratt: PL Lion Patrol

On Saturday 23rd Oct Olveston entered a team in the Cotswold Edge District Water Polo competition, it's the first time we've ever entered a water polo competition (and the first time I'd ever played), but it was at Badminton Girls School so us boys thought we'd like to go. Unfortunately it was half term ☹️. We had an impressive line up. Dean and Tristan had the advantage of height, but Stuart and Edward had played before, Matt, Jacques and myself are all strong swimmers, we also had a sub. Louis, a younger brother who came along (shh he's still a cub) but another team was short and Louis offered to play for them.

We had our briefing, the rules were simple, one handed throwing and catching, and no submerging the ball. Once we had our colour coded headgear on, we were in, we played 2 minutes each way as the pool was on a slope and one end was much easier to score from.

We won against Pucklechurch 3-0 then beat Frampton Cotterell 1-0, Severn Beach we showed no mercy 3-0 and then for the play offs against Frampton, conceded our first goal but scored 2 in return. Winning the overall competition for 1st Olveston 😊😊

Lynda Spratt: SL 01454 632484



100 Years of Guiding!

The Year 2009-2010 has been a year of fun and celebrating for girl guides all over the country because this is the centenary anniversary of girl guiding.

1st Olveston Guides celebrated in many ways.

We started the year with a launch party at the Wise College in Filton. This included circus skills, Music & Story workshop and handling reptiles! In October 2009 Pilning Guides joined us on a trip to London for the Centenary Big Gig at Wembley Arena. A chance for thousands of screaming girls, wearing pink-flashing bunny ears to see many pop-stars such as JLS, X Factor winner Alexandra Burke, Pixie Lott and many more. This day was great fun, everyone enjoyed themselves.

For Thinking Day, February 2010, we joined Guides, Brownies and Rainbows from the area for a special celebration at the Peter Wike Hall. We had Fancy-dress depicting the last 100 years, a disco and a magician! We were ABBA style 70's!

Spring saw us an overnight sleepover in Tytherington Hall: girly fun in our pyjamas and a scary bedtime story! During the school summer holidays, we and 400 other Guides spent 4 days camping at Dyrham Park. We all made new friends and despite a day of torrential rain (!) we eventually dried out and cheered ourselves up with our own version of the X Factor! We all got the chance to take part in 'It's a Knock Out', a giant obstacle course with a huge water fight! Entertainment included a disco on the first night and a live band on the last.

The year culminated with Guides, Brownies and Rainbows all over the U.K renewing their promise at 20:10 on the 20th of October 2010 (20:10, 20.10, 2010!) We all gathered at Old Down Country Park to share our vision for Girls in the next 100 years.

The money Meeting Point donated to us has bought some new camping equipment. Thank you.

Maedene Webb

Monday Morning Movies

We've started the Monday Movies at St Mary's on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm. On Dec 6th we're having Toy Story 3, which is a brilliant film both for adults and for children. Due to popular demand, and because 7.30pm in term time is a bit late for lots of children, we're going to show it again on the Monday after Christmas at 10am, as one of a series of three films for children in the school holidays.

At time of going to press, we're looking into the legislation about whether children can come on their own, and what provision is possible if they do, but the easy rule of thumb is that children, certainly younger ones, should be accompanied by an adult. So Toy Story 3 on the 6th for older children and adults, and on the 27th for kids and adults of all ages!

No charge for admission but donations are welcome, if only to offset the costs of the equipment, as well as cover ongoing expenses.

Monday 6 th Dec	7.30pm	Toy Story 3
Monday 20th Dec	10am	Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang
Monday 27th Dec	10am	Toy Story 3
Monday 3 rd Jan	10am	Mr Magorium's Wonderful Emporium
Monday 3 rd Jan	7.30pm	Shawshank Redemption (cert 15)
Monday 7 th Feb	7.30pm	Alice in Wonderland (PG)

Enquiries to Roly Bain on 616593/roly@rolybain.co.uk

The Advent Talks

Following Chris Harris's appearance on Nov 23rd, the Advent Talks continue till Christmas. They're all at 7.30pm, and speakers really just tell their story in their own ways, apart from our finale when John Crossley focuses on the Nativity.

Talks are around 45 mins long, followed by questions and refreshments. No charge for admission but again, donations welcome to cover expenses.

Wed, 1 st Dec	'Where Heaven and Earth Meet': Dr Anne Stennett, former Dep Director, Bath Spa University
Tues 7 th Dec	'Self Portrait as the Apostle Paul': David Cobley, award-winning painter (and ex-moonie!)
Wed 15 th Dec	'Still Looking for a Job I can Do Well': The Rt Revd Michael Perham, Bishop of Gloucester
Tues 21 st Dec	'Nativity': John Crossley, Senior Obstetrician, Southmead Hosp (Retd)

Enquiries to Roly Bain, 616593 roly@rolybain.co.uk

Net-Work

Net-work is the name of the project that St Mary's are launching (if you're reading this before then!) on Nov 27th at 6pm. We're trying to raise £10,000 to buy 2250 mosquito nets. Every penny goes to the cost of the nets, which will be distributed by Mercy Ships, a long-established Christian charity, on their February voyage to Sierra Leone. Malaria kills up to three million people a year, and it is avoidable. Come to the launch if you can. If you missed it, look out for events, both at the school and in the church. If you'd like to donate, you can do it online at www.justgiving.com/net-work, or drop a cheque through the Vicarage door, payable to St Mary's Church, Olveston. If you need a gift aid form, we've got those too! I hope you can help ...

Enquiries to Roly Bain on 616593/roly@rolybain.co.uk

World Challenge 2010 - Himalayas and Rajasthan

Annie Phelps

On 17th July, 59 students and 7 teachers set off from Marlwood School as part of a world challenge expedition in four teams. Each team spent a month in India; one week of charity work, one week of R&R and one week of trekking. Some of the treks conducted by the teams were really challenging, reaching altitudes of 3662m and camping on a glacier.

Following the treks, most teams conducted charity work. Three of the teams did this with a charity called IBEX and my team was given work at a school by Mr U P Singh. During this work we helped to build a boundary wall and donated money for play equipment. We also spent time in the classroom with the children. It was really difficult but still challenging and rewarding work. After all this hard work, the teams had some R&R, we saw the red fort in Jaipur and rode elephants, then went to Agra and saw the Taj Mahal at sunrise.

Marlwood School Christmas Fayre

Thursday 16th December, 3.00pm to 6.00pm
at Marlwood School, Vattingstone Lane, Alveston



Come along and browse the various stalls. Food and drink available (including bacon butties, tea and cakes!).

Thornbury Library

Christmas opening hours

Friday 24 December	Open till 1.00pm
Sat 25 Dec- Wed 29 Dec	Closed
Thursday 30 December	Open till 5.00pm
Friday 31 December	Open till 5.00pm
Sat 1 Jan - Mon 3 Jan	Closed
Tuesday 4 January	Normal hours

1. Christmas activities for children

Santa's workshop

Monday 20th December 2.15 – 3.15pm Christmas craft activity suitable for 5 – 10 years. Free ticket in advance from the library.

Stories around the Christmas tree

Wednesday 23rd December. Stories for ALL the family. 6 – 6.30pm. Drop in.

2. Services new and old - including Wills, Ancestry and Computers

Advice on making a will

Georgina Tankard, Estate Planning Associate with Collective Legal Solutions will be available to answer your queries on the first Monday morning of each month. The topics covered include Wills, Power of Attorney and Probate. Please ask for details.

Ancestry

Like to research your family tree but don't know where to start? Lynn is available to give you a helping hand. Please ask for details.

Computers

Our friendly Age Concern South Gloucestershire tutors are available to give you help on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please ask for details

3. Illustrated talk from Astrid Molyneux

Wednesday 1 December 7.30- 9.00pm (doors open for refreshments at 7.05pm)

Two years ago, Astrid Domingo Molyneux waved her family and friends goodbye. Nearly 20,000 miles later she's back, having pedaled around the world! Tickets available in advance. £2.50 members/£5.00 non members

For more information on any of the above items please give the library a ring on 01454 868 006 or visit our web-site on www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries.

Thursday Late Night Opening Until Christmas

GREAT NEWS!!! Thornbury Chamber of Commerce recently did a quick shopping survey and the response was brilliant. Thank you to those who took part.

One of the many things that came out of it, was that local people really want to support the businesses in the town, but some said that when they had finished work, the shops were closed! We are listening to what you all say and have had several meetings with traders to try improving on this situation and most have agreed for a trial period to open later on one night a week until Christmas. This will commence on THURSDAY 25th NOVEMBER and Shops will be open until 7.30 p.m.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE - if it is a success it may well carry on in the New Year.

We have other ideas being planned for the New Year - so keep an eye out!!!!

ALSO please don't forget to vote for your favourite CHRISTMAS WINDOW – the competition will run from 3rd December to 20th December. All the votes will be counted and then your name will be put into a draw and last year three local residents won over £200.00 of Thornbury pounds to spend in the participating shops.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

Rowena Moncrieffe
Chair Thornbury Chamber of Commerce

From the Registers at St. Mary's

Baptism on 7th November of Daisy Jane Alice Lewis,
daughter of Jamie Lewis & Nicola Love

From the Registers at St. John the Evangelist, Elberton

Baptism on 10th October of Ashleigh Amber Ford,
daughter of Mark and Lisa Ford

Severnside Ramblers and the Festival of Winter Walks



Non-members are always very welcome to join any of our walks. This is especially so for the annual Festival of Winter Walks (FWW) which runs from 26 December to 2 January.

You don't have to be a member of the Ramblers to take part in a Festival walk, but anyone who attends a walk and wants to join will receive a 20 per cent discount off membership.

For more information about walks in December, log on to www.severnside-ramblers.org.uk , or pick up a programme at your local library.

A contact name and telephone number is given for each walk. We meet at Aldi car park, Bradley Stoke, BS32 9DA at the times shown below and share lifts to the start of the walk.

Sun 5 Dec 8.30am	North Wye Valley Moderate climbs	12 miles	Janet & Mike 01179 650661
Sun 12 Dec 9.00am	Usk Valley Hilly but rewarding walk	10 miles	Don 01179 391685
Sun 19 Dec 11.00am	Flax Bourton Lanes, woods and fields	6.6 miles	David 07763925810
Sun 19 Dec 9.00am	Haresfield Beacon Alternative longer walk with views.	10 miles	Steve 01454 633001
Sun 26 Dec 10.00am	Tockington and Littleton <i>FWW</i> traditional boxing day walk	8 miles	Steve 01454 633001
Mon 27 Dec 10.00am	Four Sodburys. Four churches. <i>FWW</i> lovely flat walk	5.5 miles	Joy 01179 334998
Tues 28 Dec 10.00am	North Bristol <i>FWW</i> secret paths from the Downs	8 miles	Heather 01454 632134
Sun 2 Jan 10.00am	Littleton on Severn <i>FWW</i> perfect starter walk	4.5 miles	Jill 01173 739712

Yours faithfully

I am indebted to a brother's e-mail for the gist of what follows.

"In Washington, DC, at a Metro Station, on a cold January morning in 2007, a man with a violin played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, approximately 2,000 people went through the station, most of them on their way to work...

The musician played continuously. Only 6 people stopped and listened for a short while. About 20 gave money but continued to walk at their normal pace. The man collected a total of \$32.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the greatest musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth \$3.5 million dollars. Two days before, Joshua Bell sold-out a theatre in Boston where the seats averaged \$200 each to sit and listen to him play the same music. ...

This is a true story. Joshua Bell, playing incognito in the D.C. Metro Station, was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and people's priorities."

Now that made me think of a baby born in an outhouse 2,000 years ago. In a common-place environment, at an inappropriate hour, do we perceive beauty? Or truth? If so, do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize talent in an unexpected context?

If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world, playing some of the finest music ever written, with one of the most beautiful instruments ever made...How many other things are we missing as we rush through life? Especially in the hurly-burly of Christmas preparations, and their immediate after-math, are we in danger of throwing out the baby with the discarded Christmas wrappings? Always assuming that we noticed the baby was in there, somewhere!

Have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

David Bone

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Dec 5	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Breakfast Club Evensong with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe Rev Philip Rowe Breakfast Club Team Rev R Crew & Rev D Bone
Dec 12	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship with Choir Breakfast Club United Carol Service	Canon David Sansum Mrs Ann Lloyd Breakfast Club Team Olv Meth Church
Dec 19	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion with Choir Breakfast Club Carol Service with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe Rev Philip Rowe Breakfast Club Team Mr Denis Jones
Dec 24	4pm 11.15pm	Christingle Holy Communion with Choir	Rev P Rowe & Rev H Webb Rev Philip Rowe
Dec 25	8am 10am	Holy Communion Family Service	Rev David Bone Mrs Janet McBride
Dec 26	8am 10am	Holy Communion(BCP) Holy Communion	Canon David Sansum) Rev Roly Bain

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Contact:

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

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

Verger: Mrs. June Robbins, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 2.45pm in the Church

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

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Dec 5	10am	Family Worship	Rev David Bone
Dec 12	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Dec 20	6pm	Village Carol Service	Rev David Bone
Dec 24	11.30p m	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Dec 25	10.30	Family Service	Rev David Bone

Assistant Curate: Rev David Bone, 01454 614601

Church Wardens: Janet Ford, 01454 633300 Terry McLeavy 633680

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Dec 5	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole
Dec 12	3pm	Carol Service-then mince pies & mulled wine at the White Hart	
Dec 19	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield
Dec 25	9am	Crib Service	

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Dec 12	9am	Matins	Mr D Streatfield
Dec 20	8pm	Carol Service at Rock House	Rev D Pole
Dec 25	9am	Holy Communion	Rev D Pole
Dec 26		No Service	

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Dec 5	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle Advent Carols led by Mr J Trebble & Mr G Varney with St Andrews Choir, Filton
	6pm	Tock Ch	
Dec 12	10am	Olv. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Rev Sandy Williams Breakfast Club will join us later. United Carol Service led by Rev Sandy Williams
	6pm	Olv Ch.	
Dec 19	10am	Tock. Ch.	Christmas All Age Family Worship led by Rev Sandy Williams Village Carol Service
	6pm	St Mary's	
Dec 25	10 15	Tock. Ch	Christmas Family Celebration led by Mr Glyn Varney
Dec 26	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Mr Kevin McNally No Service
	6pm		

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: Christmas Lunch at 12.30pm on Wednesday 8th Dec. To book your lunch please ring 416528

Tockington Luncheon Group no meeting in Dec.

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

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

Rev Sandy Williams tel 07841 752941/sandy.williams48@btinternet.com

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

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

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

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLDOWN

Dec 5	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies
Dec 12	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Dec 19	6.30pm	Rev Colin Lewis (Carol Service)
Dec 25	10.00am	Paul Ashford Short Service
Dec 26	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies

Prayer Time every Thurs 7.30 for 8pm.

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

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

BRISTOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP -Our Sunday morning meetings are held at The Grange School in Warmley at 11 am,
Contact 01454 613305 www.bcfnet.com

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury

Sat Vigil Mass 18.00 Sun 8.30am Mass 11.00 Family Mass
Tel 01454 412223 www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Meeting for Worship Sundays 10.30-11.30: The Hanover Room, The Chantry, Castle St. Wheelchair accessible. Children welcome with prior notice.
National: www.quaker.org.uk Bristol area: www.bristolquakers.org.uk

Diary Dates for December 2010

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

1 st Wed	Royal British Legion Women Christmas Meal Ship Hotel Alveston O.P.H.S talk: The Archaeology of S Glos Advent talk by Dr Anne Stennett	1.00pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	MH StM
2 nd Thu	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group Th. & District Flower Club Open-Demo.	9.00-1.30 10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30 7.30pm	OS+ MH AH
3 rd Fri			
4 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
6 th Mon	Toy Story 3	7.30pm	StM
7 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Royal British Legion Women-Bingo & American Supper Advent Talk by David Cobley	9.30-11.30 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR DGCL StM
8 th Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club-Christmas Lunch & Demo "Christmas at Home" Royal British Legion Men	12.00 7.30pm	AH DGCL
9 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group.	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OS+ MH
10 th Fri	Christmas Tree Festival & 11 th & 12 th	9.00-6.00	TMC & TMH
11 th Sat	Coffee Morning Totally Locally	10.30-12.00 9.30-12.00	MH To.Gr
13 th Mon	Craft Group tel 07747 562264 for venue		
14 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Women's Institute Christmas Party Fibromyalgia Support Group Christmas mtg Olveston Parish Council Meeting	9.30 - 11.30 7.30 7.00-9.00pm 7.30pm	WR PH AMH AP
15 th Wed	Jazz at the White Hart Olveston Advent Talk by Bishop of Gloucester	8.30pm 7.30pm	StM
16 th Thu	Thornbury Farmers Market Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	9.00-1.30 10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OS+ MH

	Th. & District Flower Club Practice class	7.30pm	TMH
17 th Fri	Christmas Singalong at the White Hart	9.00pm	
18 th Sat	Coffee Morning Music in the Church at Aust-Fleur de Lys	10.30-12.00 8pm	MH AC
19 th Sun			
20 th Mon	Open Mic at White Hart Olveston	8.30pm	
21 st Tue	Tockington Toddlers Advent Talk by John Crossley	9.30-11.30 7.30pm	WR StM
22 nd Wed			
23 rd Thu	Coffee Shop Police Beat Surgery	10.00-12.00 10.30-11.30	OS+ OS+
24 th Fri			
25 th Sat			

Looking ahead to January

3 rd	Shawshank Redemption	7.30pm	StM
22 nd	Burns Night	7.30pm	OV

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

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

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