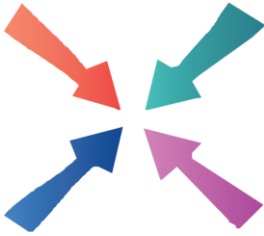


Meeting Point



December 2019



Meeting Point

Volume 44, Number 3, December 2019

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

This December edition contains, as usual, details of the opening hours of a range of local businesses and services over the festive season and we hope that readers will find this useful. (I remember using it to check timings for an emergency dash to the butchers on Christmas Eve last year.) My favourite part of the centrefold, however, is the collage of past covers. It is good to look back over the year and to see the seasons represented by the different images that have been used. We are very grateful to the local photographers who send in some beautiful offerings for us to choose from.

As you will see from the magazine, there is a lot going on locally this month, and particularly over the Christmas period, to suit all ages and interests. I'm going to book one of the pantomimes for my family!

So, as 2019 draws to a close, all of us at Meeting Point wish our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Marelin

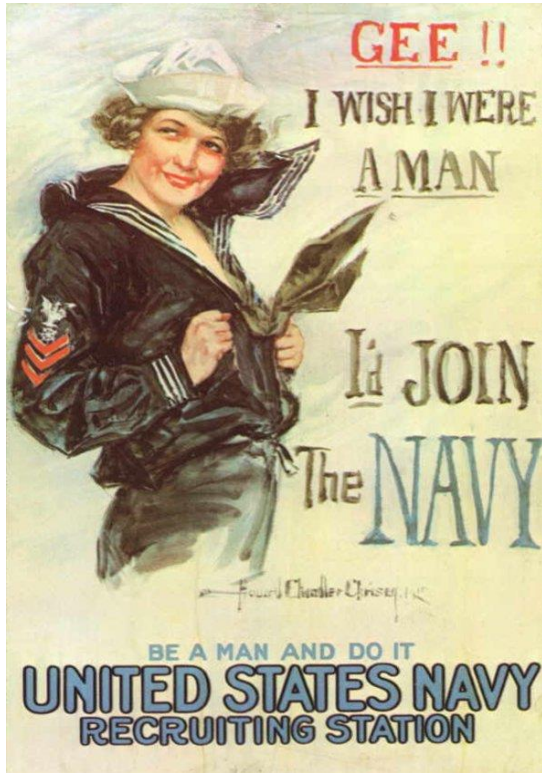
The cover is by Les Harper

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

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

Recruiting Now!

The Olveston Parish Players have started work on their 2020 musical production, the ever-popular 'South Pacific'. Rodgers and Hammerstein's



famous tale of wartime romance will take us to the warm and balmy climes of French Polynesia. Audiences will enjoy a whole range of emotions, from comedy and love, to tragedy and loss. When first produced in 1949 the musical courted controversy for its candid portrayal of racial prejudice.

It's not too late to get involved – we are particularly looking for a few extra men or teenage boys to join our chorus of American GIs. You'd get to sing some great songs, including well-known favourites such as 'There is Nothin' like a Dame', 'Bloody Mary' and 'Honey Bun'. We can guarantee you will meet some like-minded people and have a lot of fun!

We'd also welcome anyone who'd like to get involved backstage or in preparing for the production or would like to help front of house on show nights.

Performances will take place in February half term 2020 (from Wednesday 19th to Saturday 22nd February), every evening at 7.30pm at Olveston Parish Hall. Tickets will go on sale in January (details will be in the next issue of Meeting Point).

Email secretaryparishplayers@gmail.com if you are interested in getting involved. Rehearsals are on Mondays and Thursdays at 7.30pm in Olveston Parish Hall.

Hot Homemade Soup

Volunteers from St Mary's Church will be serving hot homemade soup and Crusty Loaf bread at the Coffee Shop in Olveston Stores during the winter, on alternate Tuesdays, generally.

We started in November and we will be there on December 10th, January 7th and 21st and February 11th and 25th, from 12 noon until 1.30pm. All are welcome, please bring a friend or neighbour.

St. Mary's Advent Windows

Advent windows in Olveston will start being lit from December 1st.



1. Holly Cottage, New Road, Olveston
2. Daldry Gardens, Vicarage Lane, Olveston
3. 30 Russet Close, Olveston
4. 19 The Green, Olveston
5. Alma House, Tockington Green, Tockington
6. Lavender Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Olveston
7. Sedgeley, The Street, Olveston
8. 30 Orchard Rise, Olveston
9. Mustay, Tockington Green, Tockington
10. Churchill Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Olveston
11. Green Lane Garage, New Road, Olveston
12. The Cottage, New Road, Olveston
13. 53 Laxton Close, Olveston
14. The Cottage, Elberton Road, Olveston
15. Travalan, New Road, Olveston
16. Cromwell House, The Street, Olveston



17. 13 Manor Park, Tockington
18. 19 Orchard Rise, Olveston
19. The Wesley Rooms, Tockington
20. 3 Green Court, Olveston
21. 2 Manor Park
22. Holly Cottage, Church Hill, Olveston
23. 2 Orchard Rise, Olveston
24. St Mary's Church, Olveston

We hope you enjoy them as we prepare for Christmas!

The Royal British Legion Women's Section, Olveston Branch

On October 26th, members from the branch attended the County Conference at Stonehouse. We collected the County Quiz 'Runners' Up Plate' which we won after coming a very close second at the County Quiz in June. This was a slight disappointment after being winners in 2018 - but we took consolation in the fact that a plate is easier to polish and keep clean than an ornate cup!

In November we concentrated our efforts on working for the National Poppy Appeal. This involves members of the branch, and our volunteers, who resolutely sell the British Legion poppies and memorabilia door to door, at the Severn Bridge Services and at local outlets.

There was further fund raising at our monthly meeting, when all monies made from the bingo and raffle were donated to the national fund. We would like to thank everyone involved for all their hard work and dedication and everyone who generously supports the annual appeal.

St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group Christmas Bazaar

The annual bazaar for St Peter's Hospice will take place in the Thornbury Methodist Church Hall on December 7th between 10.00am and 12noon.

There will be a variety of stalls including cards, gifts, crafts, homemade preserves, cakes, books, plus many more. There will be a raffle and teas. Entry by donation.

Thank you for supporting St. Peter's, your local hospice.

Thank You

Robert Slade and family would like to thank all those who kindly sent cards, letters and emails of sympathy following Siân's death. Also, thanks to all who attended St. Mary's, Olveston, for the funeral on October 18th.

Brownie Pack Holiday

In October, 1st Olveston Brownies went to Foxlease in the New Forest for a pack holiday weekend. Foxlease is a Girl Guiding centre that offers different outdoor activities including, tunnelling, zip wiring, tree climbing, geocaching and pond dipping. Our theme for the holiday was 'Toy Story' and the following are excerpts from the girls' pack holiday diaries.....

Friday - On Friday we travelled to Foxlease on a coach. We ate our tea on the coach and after two whole hours we finally arrived in the dark. When we got there, we sorted out who we were sleeping next to, then we got our stuff out and set up our bunk beds. We sang songs around a campfire, then went to bed.

Saturday - Today has been AMAZING!! First, we woke up and then seconds after that everyone was running around like a bunch of wild monkeys! After our delicious breakfast we went outside to do activities. First, we went to the Zip Wire, it was 1000% good. When it was my go I went really fast and when I went past the other Brownies they had to cheer as loud as they could. There was a chalk board to write our names on and a stopwatch to time how quickly we went down. We then went tunnelling, the tunnels were dark and filled with muddy water.

After we had lunch – mini pizzas - we went geocaching, trying to find parts of Mr Potato Head. The hardest part was number 12 but I found it! We then went to the campfire to hollow out some oranges and fill them with chocolate cake mixture, once they were cooked we were supposed to peel them to get to the cake! We had a wonderful sing song round the campfire and then went to bed.

Sunday - Today we went tree climbing and I reached the top, 2 in a row. After that we went to an indoor climbing place, here you had to get around the course while you were timed. My quickest time was 34 seconds. Then we went pond dipping – I didn't know what it was until we got to the pond (I thought that we might be thrown in the pond but then I realised we didn't have our swimming costumes, and the Brownie Leaders would never do that to us!). I caught a funny little freshwater shrimp – I liked him. After that we had lunch and got ready to go home on the coach. I love camp.

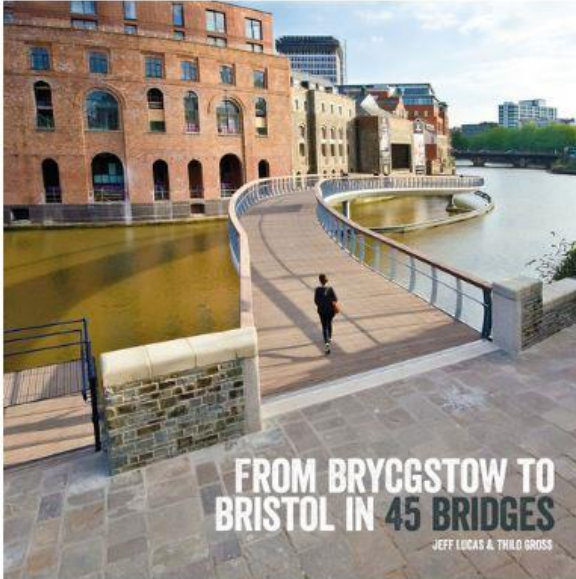
Diary extracts from Lily, Amelia, Matilda, Nancy, Darcy and Lyra



Picture by Emily

The History of Bristol in 45 Bridges

Wed. 4th December at 7.30pm. Methodist Church, The Street, Olveston.



The importance of bridges to the City of Bristol is shown by its name. The first written reference to the city, in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of 1051, calls it Brycgstow, 'place by the bridge'.

In this December talk for OPHS, Jeff Lucas tells the story of some of the 45 bridges, old and new, which span the main waterways of Bristol, and of the dramatic events which have swirled around and, often, on them: for

instance, the Bristol Bridge massacre of 1793, the Bathurst Basin naphtha explosion of 1888, and the mass gas workers' strike of 1889.

The 45 bridges can all be crossed on foot and can be linked into a 45km circular walk that takes you from the nooks and crannies of the inner city to the open vistas of the Severn Estuary and back again. This walk is also the solution to an intriguing mathematical puzzle called 'The Königsberg Bridge Problem': how to walk around a given set of bridges, crossing each one, once only. The problem was solved for Bristol by a young University of Bristol mathematician called Thilo Gross and, in this talk, Jeff will show the solution. Copies of the book on which the talk is based will be available - signed on request!

Olveston Parish Historical Society www.olvestonandaust.com/historical-society All are welcome; visitors pay £2.



Olveston Parish Council

Pat Savage

Old Down Telephone Box



The telephone box has now been replaced and suggestions from parishioners of possible ways for all to enjoy and benefit from the replacement will be welcome.

A photograph recently appeared on the BBC website showing a phone box in use as a Polling Station! Your comments and suggestions please to:
clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Local Community Grants

The Council was very pleased with the applications for the first awards. Details of the successful applicants will be published in the January Meeting Point.

Council Vacancies

There are still two vacancies on the Council at the time of this publication. Whilst we all lead very busy lives, just a few hours each month to partake and indeed shape the future of the Parish can be worthwhile and rewarding. If you are interested please contact clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

And finally, Christmas Greetings from your Councillors and Clerk for a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New (Leap) Year!



News from St. Mary's

Debbie Harries

Advent Service

Advent is the time when the church begins its preparations for Christmas and is the start of the church year. This year, all five churches of the North Severnside Benefice have decided to celebrate the start of the season by worshipping together. We hope you will come along and join us at St Helen's, Alveston, at 6pm on December 1st. Christmas should be a time of togetherness and what better way than to share an hour with friends and family; say a little prayer, sing some carols and rejoice together at the gift of Christmas. There will be a mixture of modern and traditional aspects in the service and a non-obligatory colour theme for the service is to come dressed in a show of purple.

Toy Service

On Sunday December 8th at 10am we are having a Toy Service, and you are invited to bring presents for children and teenagers who wouldn't otherwise receive any Christmas presents. Please don't wrap them. They will be distributed by the Salvation Army.

Salvation Army Service

In the evening, at 7pm on Sunday December 8th, we will be welcoming the Easton Salvation Army Brass Band. This is always a wonderful evening, and all are welcome. Donations towards the Salvation Army's special and important work will be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Tree Festival

There will be a Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's from Thursday December 12th. It was brilliant to see a variety of decorated trees in the church last year and we would love some more this year! If you would like to sponsor a tree, please contact Debbie on 01454 613273 for more information.

Christmas Market

On Saturday December 14th we are having a Christmas Market between 2pm - 4pm. Pop in for those last-minute presents and decorations. Tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies are being served too.

Carols Galore!

Our Village Carol Service is on Sunday December 22nd at 6pm. All welcome. Our Christmas Singalong with the choir at the White Hart, Olveston, is on Friday December 20th at 9pm. Come along and have a sing!

Sow and Grow Appeal Update

The final total for the sponsored walk held at the end of August was £5,859. A truly magnificent amount. In October the Jazz Concert was a well-supported fun evening and it raised £612. The total now stands at £12,065 with less than £3000 to go.

From the Registers of St. Mary's, Olveston.

18th October	Funeral of Sarah Anne Slade (Siân), followed by burial in the Churchyard.
23rd October	Funeral of Joy Cecily Garrett.
29th October	Funeral of Ingrid Cynthia Jeckells.

Tea and Chat

If you find it difficult to get out and socialise, why not come to Tea and Chat? Meeting once a month, Tea and Chat is made up of people just like you and it's a great way to meet up with old friends and make some new ones at the same time.

The December Tea and Chat will be at the home of Pat Savage, Westmead, on Friday December 13th at 12.30. Instead of tea and cake there's going to be a hot Christmas lunch. Do come along.

Transport is provided and it's all free. To find out details and to request transport if necessary, please telephone Lynn 01454 612201 or Lesley 01454 613804.



Olveston
Parish Council

Our Villages Need Your Help.

The members of the Traffic and Parking Sub-Committee of Olveston Parish Council would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to everyone who wrote to the Clerk to the Council following the article in the October edition of Meeting Point. The response has been truly fantastic and all the information in your emails and letters has been collated into a report, which was discussed by the Parish Council at the November meeting. A site meeting will be arranged with representatives of South Gloucestershire Council to discuss the issues raised and plan the way forward.

The main issues arising from your responses can be summarised as follows:

- Speed, volume and weight of vehicles travelling throughout the Parish.
- Parking problems in several areas, resulting in poor access and visibility.

The report has noted all the suggestions you have made to improve the current, often dangerous, situation and with the support of the Parish Council we shall be doing our best to make some real changes which will benefit all residents. Thank you all again and watch this space.

Thornbury Camera Club Beginners' Course

Have you ever looked at an image and thought wow!?! More to the point, have you ever wondered how you could improve your photos to get that 'wow factor'? You can. Easily.

Early in 2020, Thornbury Camera Club will hold a beginners' course in photography. You will learn:

- how to use your camera;
- composition and how to look critically at an image;
- how to be creative.

The course will run for six evenings from Thursday 6th February to Thursday 12th March at Turnberries Community Centre. The price will be £75.00 per person. This not only includes the course, but membership of the club for the remainder of the season, to August 2020.

If you are interested, please contact Mike Ashfield at: course.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com. Why not give a place on the course as a Christmas Present? Even better, you could give it to yourself.

Oveston Young Farmers Club

Pat Thirkettle

Oveston Young Farmers covers a wide area beyond the Parish and is thriving. It is open to people from ten to twenty-six in three sections, Junior, Intermediate and Senior. They meet weekly at Rockhampton Village Hall on Mondays from September to July. Often it is a talk on topics such as farm safety or the police; recently a video entitled 'funky farmer' about them can be seen on You Tube. Sometimes it is stock judging practices at local farms or a fun evening like ice skating or pumpkin carving; however, everything is serious practice for the annual County Young Farmers Rally.

The Rally takes place on a day in July, and the Oveston Club competes against the other clubs at everything from baking and dancing to stock judging, football and netball. This year Oveston was placed third in Intermediate and Senior sections and fourth overall, one of their best results.

With around fifty members OYF is the third largest club in the County and has a reputation for fun and friendliness. They won a cup for recruiting the most new members in 2018/19. This is partly due to extensive use of social media like Facebook, and partly due to a new members night held at the White Hart Oveston that resulted in fifty-six potential new members attending, of which twelve signed up.

The group has weekend socials at the White Hart, Oveston or the Huntsman at Falfield and county wide dances which provide a veritable marketplace for marriage. (This is the third generation I have interviewed, so I know it is a fact!) Fifty per cent of members are from farming families but the other half are those interested in countryside matters. The annual holiday is taken at the Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells, when the two senior sections camp there for a week.

Fund raising is important; they run a strawberries and cream stall at the Berkeley Show, an annual Whist Drive at Falfield and the Annual Harvest Supper. The latter sold ninety tickets this year; they all donated food, cooked and served a supper of hot soup, ploughman's platter, apple crumble and

cheese. It raised £1,500, of which £1,000 was for club funds and £500 was donated to the DPJ Foundation that helps men in rural communities with mental health issues.

All this takes a lot of organising by the committee of five. There is also a committee of parent/grandparents who meet once a year, are always available for advice and are eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting. This year's chairman Jess Vizard is a good example of the fifty per cent with no farming background. She joined because of her school friend Beccy Lyons, who is third generation at Valley Farm Ingst. Jess is now working on a farm and is in her third year studying agriculture at Hartpury College. She explains that the Club is a group of people who are like minded with the same interests and hobbies, who lead very busy lives and have little time for other pursuits. It is a big family with a weekly opportunity to meet to discuss problems, questions and socialise. Anyone interested in this lively club only need to come along on Mondays at 7.30pm at Rockhampton Village Hall and will receive a warm welcome.



Some members of Olveston Young Farmers pictured at the 'Carcass Judge of the Year' competition in Gloucester. They won many prize cards as a club, ranging from individual sheep, beef or pig, to overall placings.



News from Pilning Station Group

Olga Taylor

We are hugely disappointed in GWR and Network Rail for their lack of action in making their new Class 800 trains compatible for stopping at our station. It appears that Pilning was not added to the trains' onboard computer system, meaning that we lose a well-used service here.

The very same service (the 15:00 Cardiff to Taunton) that stops at Pilning now will still run, making the same calls as it does now, bar the Pilning one. We feel disenfranchised by GWR, as they are denying us access even to the remnants of the service that they should be providing. But most importantly, we see this lack of action as their attempt to close Pilning railway station by stealth.

What happens when all the trains go over to electric operation – will Pilning station close altogether? This decision is inexcusable and unnecessary and is a disgraceful way to treat passengers. We have raised the issue with Ministers and the Rail Ombudsman and have demanded a rethink.

For more about Pilning Station and the fight to keep it open, visit the campaign website: www.pilningstation.uk

Olveston and Tockington W.I.

Vicki Townsend

In October we had an interesting talk on Genealogy by Norman Taylor, who gave us an insight into the methods of researching family history. Norman had followed the line of his maternal grandmother, with its twists and turns, which tests one's detective instincts. Armed with the information for the investigating of census and parish records and websites such as Ancestry.co.uk, we now have the framework to start our search for our roots. Just time is needed now, for what Norman explained can be an intriguing, but time consuming, pastime.

A hardy group of members visited Gloucester on a cold and damp Tuesday. We enjoyed coffee and cake before an interesting and informative tour of the city centre with a Civic Trust guide. Originally a medieval city, many changes have been made through the centuries. We were shown down closed

passages to see the sides of Elizabethan buildings which have frontages refurbished to more recent designs. It was interesting to hear the history of many of the houses, including some of the recent inhabitants. Following a warming lunch, we had a conducted tour of the amazing cathedral, steeped in history yet still used for such things as Harry Potter filming. Wonderful architecture, beautiful stained glass and interesting tombs. The time we had available was not long enough, I am sure that some of us will return.

Our next meeting is our AGM, members only. We are happy to welcome new members, please contact Jane Haworth on haworth@talktalk.net or Vicki Townsend on townsendv@btinternet.com.

Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

150 Club Winners November 2019:

£50 Bill Finch
£15 Marilyn Green
£5 Peggy James

Latest Bonus Ball Winners:

19/10/19 John Welsher
02/11/19 Tracey Jarvis

Up the Down!

A 'RockPipes' Burns' Night

Come and enjoy a Burns' Night with a difference at the Armstrong Hall on Saturday 18th January 2020 with entertainment provided by RockPipes, a 7-piece Celtic Rock Band.

The traditional piping in and address to the haggis will be followed by a two-course meal and there will even be time for some Scottish dancing! So, dust off your sporrans and get your dancing shoes on for what promises to be a lively and fun-filled party to celebrate Scotland's most celebrated bard.

Tickets cost £32 and include the two-course meal, a welcoming whisky dram, music, dancing, fun and games. Plus, the bar's always open!

Tickets are limited so book early! Available from Thornbury Town Hall or online at www.rockpipes.co.uk or contact Andy Warn on: 07916 253267

To find out more about RockPipes, check out: www.facebook.com/rockpipes

December Movie

Programme

Trevor Anderson



Christmas Greetings to all readers from the Movie Club Team at St Mary's Olveston. Details of our December films are given below. Everyone is welcome (you don't need to be a Movie Club member), admission is free and there is no need to book.

Mon 2 Dec at 7.30pm: Jack is a struggling singer-songwriter in a tiny English seaside town whose dreams of fame are rapidly fading, despite the fierce devotion and support of his childhood best friend. Then, after a freak bus accident, Jack wakes up to discover that the creators of the most famous pop music in the world never existed... and he finds himself with a very complicated problem indeed. The film is both a toe-tapping pleasure to watch and an occasionally scathing look at how we get things wrong. (2019, 1h 56m, Cert 12A)

Mon 16 Dec at 7.30pm: Set in America in 1962, the film tells the heart-warming true story of a working-class Italian-American bouncer who takes on a job as a chauffeur for a world-class black pianist. The mismatched pair embark on a two-month tour of concert venues in the racially charged Deep South and discover they're on the road to a meaningful and unique friendship. They learn from each other, change each other for the better and discover that (guess what?) they're not so different after all. (2018, 2h 10m, Cert 12).

All the films are shown in St Mary's Church, Olveston and doors open 30 minutes before the start. Refreshments are available at all the



shows, plus licensed bar in the evenings and popcorn and soft drinks at any morning films.

We make no charge for entry, but we do value and appreciate a small donation towards church running costs if you have enjoyed the show.

For copyright reasons we can't name the films here, but if you join the Movie Club we'll send you titles and full details by email. It costs nothing to join – just email me at trevoranderson@btinternet.com.

Polecat

Trevor Cook



We weren't lost, it was just that the footpath, clearly shown behind the chicken farm in Oldbury Naite, couldn't be found. And that is why we ended up wandering along the Power Station Road seeking another route to get back to Oldbury village.

As we strolled along the wide verge, very sadly, we stumbled upon a dead creature lying in the grass. Now, I am not an expert and I confess that I have never seen one before, but I am convinced that it was a Polecat. The reason for my doubt about the identification was that I thought Polecats were limited to the wilder places of the United Kingdom such as Scotland and Wales. I never imagined I might find one by the side of a road in South Gloucestershire.



So, I went to Google to find out what I could and the description I found on the Wildlife Trust's site fitted perfectly. It said that the Polecat has a two-tone coat: having dark brown guard hairs covering a buff-coloured underfur; and further that it has a distinct bandit-like appearance, with white stripes across its dark face. It has a short, dark tail and rounded ears. Exactly what we had seen.

The website also added that the Polecat has been undergoing a recovery recently and can be found in rural Wales and *parts of England*. Is it possible that polecats are living in wildest Oldbury? It seems they might be. Perhaps they are already skulking around our local fields and hedgerows.

Olveston School Christmas Fayre



Friday 6th December.

3.30pm to 5pm.

Christmas trees will be available to buy.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Adventure in Pantoland

A magical journey through the world of Pantomime by Alan P Frayn.

A group of four standard pantomime characters - the Dame, the Principal Boy, the Principal Girl and the helpful but inept Simpleton, are tricked out of their home in The Land of Make Believe by the evil Witch, losing their memories in the process. They then must assume the lead roles in a succession of traditional pantomimes in order to re-establish their identities. They work their way through various different pantomimes before recovering their memories and their true identities.

Pilning Village Hall

Wednesday 4th to Saturday 7th December

Weekdays at 7.30pm Saturday 1.30pm and 6.00pm

Tickets Adults £6.50 children £4.50 (One seat in ten – free!)

Under 3s free on the knee at the matinee.

Booking office 01454 633786/632813 or villageplayerspilning@gmail.com

Alveston Gardens Association



'A Westonbirt Spring'
with Dr. George Hargreaves

7.30pm in Alveston Jubilee Hall
Monday 2nd December

All welcome – Visitors (£3)
Full programme on www.alveston.org

Kate Milner Evans and Nicki Barnes

The Armstrong Arts Group presents an afternoon of delicious vocal treats from Puccini to Sondheim, guaranteed to make you laugh and cry! The highly entertaining and very versatile singer Kate Milner Evans will perform a selection including excerpts from Carmen, Tosca, Sweeny Todd and Sunset Boulevard with Nicki Barnes (Woodward) at the piano.

The musical event takes place at the Cossham Hall Thornbury on January 12th at 3.00pm followed by tea and cakes. Tickets @ £10 from Thornbury Town Hall or ring 01454 412272.

Alveston Singers Christmas Concerts

Handel's Messiah is always a favourite at Christmas, so the Alveston Singers invite you to join them for their Christmas Celebration.

The programme will include well-known and loved choruses and recitatives from Part One of the Messiah along with Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols. Carols and songs follow, with opportunities for you to join in and feel the Christmas spirit as you sing with us.

Saturday December 14th St. Mary's Church Thornbury 7.30pm

Tuesday December 17th Alveston Methodist Church 7.30pm

Conductor	James Davies
Accompanist	Sue Phillipson-Masters
Soloist	Lowrie Bufton

There will be retiring collections for Brain Tumour Support and Made a Mark



Finding Buttons

Octopus Drama Group has a policy of always putting on original pantomimes, written in the main by members or friends of the group. This year is no exception.

Written by Caroline Wookey, 'Finding Buttons' is a pantomime sequel to Cinderella.

Time has gone by and we find Queen Ella, happily married to her Prince Charming, living a very different life in her palace. Unfortunately, the whole family seems to have moved in with her. Her wicked stepmother (still wicked), her ugly sisters (still ugly) and her father (still long suffering) are all there to add to the hilarity. Many new characters have been written into the story and there are lots of questions to be answered. Will the Fairy Godmother find her magic? Who are the Pinkly Blinders? What secrets are held by the strange

painting on the wall? But, most important of all, what happened to Buttons, her long-time friend and admirer?

To find out the answers to these questions and enjoy a fun filled evening come along to:

Christ the King Church Hall, Thornbury

Wednesday January 8th – Friday January 10th at 7.30

Saturday January 11th at 11am and 2.30pm

Tickets on sale from Chappell and Matthews, Thornbury High St from Monday 2nd December. Or call Karen on 01454 413783

Ticket price: £7 adults, £5 children under 18

Thornbury Carers

The Thornbury Carers Support Group is a friendly group held at the Chantry in Thornbury on the 1st Friday of the month, between 1pm and 3 pm.

Refreshments are free, and the Hanover room is on the ground floor. This is a chance to get information and support from Sian who leads the group and the other carers.

It is possible to get there on the 622 bus route from the villages of Almondsbury, Old Down, Olveston & Alveston to Thornbury, although timings not perfect. There is also the Four Towns & Vale Link, who may be able to help.

The contact number has recently changed and is now Sian 07875 400301

December at Thornbury Library

As well as the usual huge range of different activities at Thornbury Library, there will be:

Christmas Carols and Songs

A good old-fashioned singalong with carols, songs and refreshments

Thursday 5th December at 2pm

For more information on this, or to find out more about what is happening in the Library during December you can:

Ring us on 01454 868006,

Email thornbury.library@southglos.gov.uk.

Visit our website: www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries.

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the November draw, held on 7th November 2019 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	412	Mr R J Lloyd, Tockington
£75	342	Mr & Mrs B Arkell, Olveston
£25	580	Mr P Haworth, Olveston
£25	231	Mr & Mrs A Gardner, Olveston
£25	417	Mr & Mrs J Graham, Olveston
£20	256	Mrs C Healey, Olveston
£20	591	Mrs P Kerrison, Olveston
£20	554	Mrs B Kingscott, Almondsbury
£10	583	Mrs P Kerrison, Olveston
£10	264	Mr & Mrs I Hughes, Olveston
£10	473	Mrs M Setter, Olveston
£10	271	Mr G J Williams, Olveston
£10	278	Mrs B Kingscott, Almondsbury

If you are not yet a member and wish to join the lottery, please telephone Andy Phillips on *01454 614890*.

Brain Tumour Support

Edward Gillespie OBE, the Queen's Lord Lieutenant for Gloucestershire recently came to Thornbury to formally present local charity Brain Tumour Support with its Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The charity, which was set up by Tina Mitchell Skinner 16 years ago after losing her husband to a brain tumour, supports thousands of brain tumour patients and their families locally and across the UK.

Would you like to volunteer for this award-winning local charity? Brain Tumour Support is looking for volunteers for a range of different tasks, including office admin, helping at support groups, fundraising, distributing donation tins and more. Find out about the different volunteering opportunities available, come to the charity's Head Office at 29a High Street (between Costa and WH Smith), Thornbury, from 3pm on December 5th, for an informal chat. If you can't attend the event but would like to know more, please contact Jane Jones on *01454 414355* or email jane.jones@braintumoursupport.co.uk

Brain Tumour Support is now selling a selection of Christmas cards to help raise funds to sustain its support services. The cards, which are £4 per pack of

10, are available from the charity's website: (<https://www.braintumoursupport.co.uk/online-shop>) or from its Head Office (see above).

News from Marlwood School

Marlwood once again has sports equipment to be proud of, courtesy of the Tesco 'Bags of Help' grant scheme. Tesco services the local community and this initiative is designed to give back to the same community. Friends of Marlwood School (FOMS) were able to secure the grant for the school to purchase much needed sports equipment valued at £4,000. The PE department received a beam, asymmetric bars, air track, vaulting boxes and a trampette.



Dan Phillips, assistant manager of Thornbury Tesco, and Nick Quinlivan, chair of Friends of Marlwood, were in attendance for the unveiling of the new equipment. PE teacher Mrs Morris said that the children want to spend more time doing gymnastics in lunchtimes and outside of school hours. She envisions an increase of children wanting to include PE

as part of their GCSE certifications.

Mr Quinlivan singled out Melinda Evans, a parent and member of Friends of Marlwood School, as the person who created this opportunity and took ownership of the task. FOMS is built upon dedicated parents, teachers and students. To be a part of FOMS please email info@foms.co.uk.

Yours Faithfully

Roger Howell, Society of Friends

Love is eternal. In life it begins with a mother's love for her child, the child soon begins to return that love and to extend it to its father and siblings. As the child grows, its love reaches out to encompass its friends and the community in which it finds itself. As an adult, it may have learned to reach out in love to all human beings, whatever their condition, even - if the Christian teaching has been heeded - as far as any enemies.

Love is the yeast that leavens human society, but it goes beyond that to include all animals and plants, the land and ocean and the very planet we all live on. Love does not end with death, since it is passed from one generation to the next. Love is eternal. Love is God.



Christmas Staffed Hours

Thornbury Library



Tuesday 24 December	Closed
Wednesday 25 December	No staffed hours
Thursday 26 December	No staffed hours
Friday 27 December	No staffed hours
Saturday 28 December	9.30am – 12.30pm
Sunday 29 December	No staffed hours
Monday 30 December	9.30am-5.30pm
Tuesday 31 December	Closed
Wednesday 1 January	No staffed hours
Thursday 2 January	Return to normal hours

To find our **unstaffed** Open Access hours visit the website www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries



Borrow 24/7! Download free eBooks, eAudio books and Digital magazines from www.southglos.gov.uk/eresources



Loans can be renewed online*
www.librarieswest.org.uk

*You will need your borrower number & PIN.
Don't know your PIN? Use the 'forgot my PIN' option on the log in screen
(as long as you have provided us with a valid email address)

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Information correct at time of going to press.

Dec 1	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion North Severnside Advent Service at St Helen's, Alveston	Rev Helen Webb Revs S. Oram & A. Lloyd All Ministers and Congregations
Dec 8	10am 7pm	No 8am Holy Communion Holy Communion with Choir. Preacher: The Archdeacon of Bristol SALVATION ARMY CONCERT Please bring unwrapped new toys any time today for the SA to distribute at Christmas. NB No evening service	Rev Steve Oram & Trevor Cook
Dec 15	10am 6pm	No 8am Holy Communion Methodist Carol Service in Olveston Chapel Holy Communion	No service at St Mary's Rev Steve Oram
Dec 22	10am 6pm	Fourth Sunday Worship Village Carol Service	Janet McBride Rev Steve Oram
Dec 24	4pm 11.15	Christingle Service Midnight Eucharist	Rev Steve Oram Revs A Lloyd & S Oram
Dec 25	10am	Christmas Day Family Service	Rev David Bone
Dec 29	10am --6pm-	Morning Prayer with Choir Said Holy Communion, BCP	Trevor Cook Rev Ann Lloyd

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

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Dec 8	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev Ann Parker
Dec 22	4pm	Carol Service	Rev Ann Parker
Dec 24	11.30pm	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Parker

Focal Minister: Rev Ann Parker, 01454 632329

e-mail annatdibley@btinternet.com

Church Wardens: Jon Burnett 633835 & Jenn Dickens 632035

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Dec 8	3pm	Christingle Service Mince pies, mulled wine & cider afterwards at The White Hart	Mrs Tracey Black
Dec 22		No service.	
Dec 25	9am	Christmas Day Communion	Mrs Tracey Black

Contact: Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

Note: From 1st January 2020, all regular services will be at 9am.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Dec 10	8pm	Carol Service at Rock House	Judith Heybyrne
Dec 25	9am	Holy Communion	Judith Heybyrne

Contact: Mrs Judith Heybyrne 01454 616725

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Dec 1	10.30	Alv Meth Ch	A United Section Service led by the Rev Simon Edwards
	6pm	Tock Ch	Advent Carol Service with St Andrew's Ch Filton joining us, led by Rev Simon Edwards
Dec 8	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Ms Christine Jones
Dec 15	10am	Olv Ch	A United Carol Service led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle & Mr Glyn Varney
Dec 22	6pm	St Mary's Ch	The Village Carol Service
Dec 25	10.15	Tock Ch	A short Christmas Celebration Service led by Mr Peter Jones
Dec 29	10am	Olv Ch	Annual Covenant service led by the Rev Simon Edwards

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: Christmas Lunch, Wednesday 11 December at 12.30pm. To book your lunch, please ring 416528.

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP will not meet in December.

The next lunch will be on 16 January.

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

PRAYER MEETINGS: Tuesdays 9.00-10.00 in Olveston Methodist Church

CONTACT: Rev Simon Edwards Tel 01454 418176,

email: simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

THE VINE House of Prayer

Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL

We meet on Sundays at 10.30am and Mondays and Wednesdays at 7.30pm We also visit other Churches and events so please check our Notice Board or contact.

Mike and Barbara Matthews, tel. 07512 917229 or email:

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Dec 1	6.30pm	Munir Din
Dec 8	6.30pm	James Gulliford
Dec 15	6.30pm	Neil Mobbs
Dec 22	6.30pm	Carol Service. Mike Dorgan
Dec 29	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies

Each Thurs at 6.30pm Prayer & Praise Time

Contacts Jenny Parfitt jennyparfitt@ymail.com

Sue Tett stett56@hotmail.co.uk

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Family Worship 11.00am

For more details contact Danny Bamfield 01454 419324.

e-mail danny@thebamfields.co.uk

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Evening Worship every Sunday at 6pm for details tel. 413247

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury -

Sun 8.30am Mass 11.00 Family Mass

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday Mass at 10am

Tel 01454 412223, www.ctlk-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.

Local contact: Brian Hawkins, hawkinsb863@gmail.com 01454 854867

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

Diary Dates for December 2019

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

1 st Sun			
2 nd Mon	Monday Movie Severn Vale Flower Club; Open meeting	7.30 6.30	StM AH
3 rd Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning Tea/Coffee & Biscuits 50p Monthly Raffle Macular & Low Vision Support Group British Legion Women: Nibbles Night	10.30-12 10.30 7.30	DGCL TMH DGCL
4 th Wed	Holy Communion followed by tea & cake Table Tennis every Wednesday OPHS: Bristol's Forty-Five Bridges	2.30 7-8.30 7.30	DGCL PH OMC
5 th Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop	9-1.30 9-12	Ost
6 th Fri	Haven Memory Café Thornbury Carers' Support Group	10.15-11.45 1-3pm	URC Chy
7 th Sat	Coffee Morning Litter Pick	10.30-12 1pm	MH PH
8 th Sun	Salvation Army Band Concert	7pm	StM
10 th Tues	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning Thornbury Memory Café WI. Christmas meeting	10.30-1 10.15-11.45 7.30	DGCL TMH TMH
11 th Wed	Table Tennis	7-8.30	PH
12 th Thurs	Coffee Shop	9-12	Ost
14 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning Olveston Parish Council surgery Christmas Market Alveston Singers concert	10.30-12 10.30-12 10.30-12 2-4pm 7.30	AVH MH MH StM StMT

16 th Mon	Monday Movie	7.30	S+M
17 th Tues	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning 'Sew Almondsbury'. Jo, 07511 807 586 Alveston Singers concert	10.30-12 7-9 7.30	DGCL OSH AMC
18 th Wed	Jazz at The White Hart Olveston	8-10.30	
19 th Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop	9-1.30 9-12	OS+ OS+
20 th Fri	Haven Memory Café	10.15-11.45	URC
21 st Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12	MH
25 th Wed	CHRISTMAS DAY		
28 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12	MH
31 st Tues	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning	10.30-12	DGCL

Looking ahead to January 2020

8 th Weds	(until Sat. 11 th) Finding Buttons Panto	Various	CTK
18 th Sat	Rock Pipes Burns' Night	7pm	AH

KEY: **AC** Aust Church; **AH** – Armstrong Hall; **AMC** – Alv Meth. Ch.; **AMH**- Alv Meth. Hall; **AP** – Alexandra Pavilion; **AVH** – Aust Village Hall; ; **CH** – Cossham Hall; **Chy** – Chantry ;**CS** Castle Sch.**CTK** Christ the King **DGCL** – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; **EVH** – Elberton Village Hall; **LVH** Littleton Village Hall **MH** – Olv.Meth.Hall;**OMC** Olv Meth Ch **OS** – Olv. School; **OS+** – Olv. Stores; **OSH** Old Sch. Hall Alm; **PH** – Olv Parish Hall; **StM** St Mary's Church, Olv.; **StMA** Almondsbury Church **StMT Mary's Thorn** **TCh** Tock Chapel; **TBCh** - Thornbury Baptist Church; **TMH** – Thorn. Methodist Hall; ; **TMS** Tock Manor Sch. **URC** United Reform Ch, Th.

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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2019/2020 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

DECEMBER

JANUARY

LOCAL SHOPS

	<u>MON 23RD</u>	<u>TUE 24TH</u>	<u>WED 25TH</u>	<u>THUR 26TH</u>	<u>FRI 27TH</u>	<u>SAT 28TH</u>	<u>SUN 29TH</u>	<u>MON 30TH</u>	<u>TUE 31ST</u>	<u>WED 1ST</u>	<u>THUR 2ND</u>	<u>FRI 3RD</u>
Oveston Stores	06.30 - 19.30	06.30 - 19.30	Closed	Closed	06.30 - 19.30	06.30 - 19.30	07.30 - 18.30	06.30 - 19.30	06.30 - 19.30	06.30 - (?)	06.30 - 19.30	06.30 - 19.30
Post Office (lunch from 1 to 2pm)	09.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 12.30	Closed	Closed	09.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 12.30	Closed	09.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 12.30	Closed	09.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 17.30
The Crusty Loaf	07.00 - 16.30	06.00 - 13.00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	07.00 - 16.30	07.00 - 16.30
Origins Butcher	08.00 - 13.00	08.00 - 13.00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	08.00 - 13.00	08.00 - 13.00
Willow + Bear	09.00 - 12.00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Old Down Country Park	10.00 - 16.00	10.00 - 16.00	Closed	Closed	10.00 - 16.00	10.00 - 16.00	10.00 - 16.00	10.00 - 16.00	10.00 - 16.00	Closed	10.00 - 16.00	10.00 - 16.00
Old Down Ice Rink	11.00 - 20.00	11.00 - 17.00	Closed	Closed	11.00 - 20.00	11.00 - 20.00	11.00 - 20.00	11.00 - 20.00	11.00 - 20.00	Closed	11.00 - 20.00	11.00 - 20.00

ALVESTON SHOPS

Perry and Son Butchers, Alveston	08.00 - 17.30	06.00 - 12.00	Closed	Closed	08.00 - 13.00	07.00 - 13.00	Closed	Closed	08.00 - 16.00	Closed	08.00 - 17.30	08.00 - 17.30
Alveston Pharmacy	09.00 - 18.00	09.00 - 18.00	Closed	Closed	09.00 - 18.00	09.00 - 13.00	Closed	09.00 - 18.00	09.00 - 18.00	Closed	09.00 - 18.00	09.00 - 18.00

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

The Retreat	09.00 - 17.00	Apts. only	Closed	Closed	Apts. only	Apts. only	Apts. only	10.00 - 16.00	10.00 - 16.00	Closed	Closed till 7th Jan	
Vicarage Farm	09.00 - 18.00	09.00 - 12.30	Closed	Closed	Apts. only	Apts. only	Closed	Apts. only	Apts. only	Closed	09.00 - 18.00	09.00 - 18.00

GARAGES

Green Lane Garage (for emergencies call 07885 432278)	07.30 - 18.00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	07.30 - 18.00	07.30 - 18.00
First Auto Care Techs (Elberton Garage)	08.30 - 16.30	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	08.30 - 17.00	06.00 - 15.00

COUNCIL SERVICES

Thornbury Leisure Centre	06.15 - 22.00	Closed	Closed	Closed	08.00 - 16.00	08.00 - 16.00	08.00 - 16.00	08.00 - 16.00	08.00 - 16.00	Closed	06.15 - 22.00	06.15 - 22.00
Thornbury Library (staffed hours)	09.30 - 17.30	No staff	No staff	No staff	No staff	09.30 - 12.30	No staff	09.30 - 17.30	No staff	No staff	09.30 - 17.30	09.30 - 17.30
Thornbury Library (unstaffed hours)	08.00 - 19.30	08.00 - 19.30	Closed	08.00 - 18.00	08.00 - 19.30	08.00 - 19.30	08.00 - 19.30	08.00 - 19.30	08.00 - 19.30	08.00 - 18.00	08.00 - 19.30	08.00 - 19.30
All 'Sort It' Centres	08.30 - 16.30	08.30 - 16.30	Closed	Closed	08.30 to 16.30	08.30 to 16.30	08.30 to 16.30	08.30 to 16.30	08.30 to 16.30	Closed	08.30 to 16.30	08.30 to 16.30

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

999 POLICE FIRE AMBULANCE
 112 EMERGENCY NUMBER (FROM A MOBILE)
 NON- EMERGENCY NUMBER FOR THE POLICE 101 (15P PER CALL)
 NATIONAL NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL NUMBER 111



**SUPPORT YOUR
LOCAL TRADERS**

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