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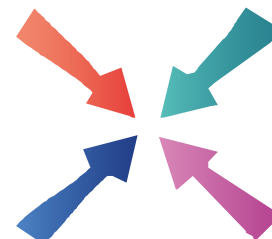
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Volume 50, Number 3, December 2025

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

From the Editor

This month's magazine has, inevitably, a strong festive focus. It opens with details of the local, live, Advent Calendar. This has been a feature for several years now and it is one that I look forward to very much. The windows make a lovely display as you walk or drive round the dark villages of Olveston, Tockington and Old Down.

The robin – much in evidence during the run up to Christmas on cards and in our gardens – is the focus of our wildlife article this month. Olveston allotments have also provided a seasonal item. We have details of two lots of community carols – one indoor and one outdoor. You can choose or go to both.

Finally, we have included a page showing Christmas and New Year opening times for local businesses. We hope you will find it useful.

Marelin

Cover illustration by the late John Crosley

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

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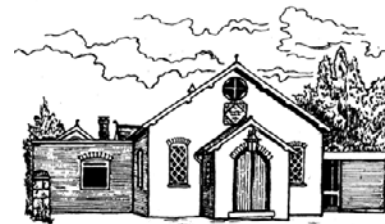
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Advent Windows



Look out for our local living Advent Calendar. Each day in December a new window will be lit up and stay lit until Christmas Day. A huge thank you to those who have designed a window. We hope you enjoy them! Here is where they are:

1. Waypoint, New Road, Olveston
2. 19 The Green, Olveston
3. The White Hart, Olveston
4. 7 Laxton Close, Olveston
5. The Wesley Rooms, Tockington
6. Foxleaze, Haw Lane, Olveston
7. Travalan, New Road, Olveston
8. 30 Orchard Rise, Olveston
9. 14 The Crescent, Old Down
10. Alma House, Tockington Green, Tockington
11. Old Pasture, Haw Lane, Olveston
12. 55 Laxton Close, Olveston
13. Holly Cottage, New Road, Olveston
14. Great Gable, Tockington Green, Tockington
15. Corner Cottage, Elberton Road, Olveston
16. Long Leaze, Haw Lane, Olveston
17. 13 Orchard Rise, Olveston
18. Churchill House, Vicarage Lane, Olveston
19. Sedgeley, The Street, Olveston
20. 38 Orchard Rise, Olveston
21. The Cottage, New Road, Olveston
22. Little Barn, The Green, Olveston
23. The White Hart, Olveston
24. St Mary's Church Olveston - created by residents of Beech House. Thornbury



Parish Hall News

Just in case you hadn't noticed, the Parish Hall now has a new front door! It is handmade from special timber. It has had a specialist wood treatment which comes with a fifty-year guarantee.

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Olveston Parish Council

Community Grants

Did you know that we are able to award grants to Parish based community groups and projects? In the past we have supported various projects such as helping towards funding a gazebo for the Brownies, equipment for Forest School and the STEM room at Olveston Primary school and various projects for Olveston Football Club and Old Down Cricket Club.

If you are part of an organisation or club in the Parish and you would like to apply for a grant to support a project, please apply using the online form on our website, a direct link can be found below. The cutoff date for applications is 31st March 2026. So what are you waiting for? Apply today.

<https://www.olvostonparishcouncil.gov.uk/council-initiatives/>

New Parish Councillor

Last month Mrs Leanne Edwards joined Olveston Parish Council. Leanne moved to Bristol 26 years ago and has been living in Lower Hazel since 2009. She has two children and is a director of a private medical practice. Alongside her job, she manages a very busy smallholding of mainly chickens, sheep and pigs. Leanne is passionate about the area we live in and looks forward to being able to represent the community and help support members of the parish. We welcome you Cllr Edwards!



On behalf of Olveston Parish Council, may we wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Pamela MacLeod
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December's Movie

A wonderful, nostalgic, start to the Christmas season. A film* to be enjoyed by all the family. The everlasting allure of Audrey Hepburn shows itself in student houses throughout the land where, even in the 2020s, on many bedroom walls are timeless posters of perhaps the greatest and most lovely female star of them all. This month's film from 1961 is truly one of the great Hollywood classics.

Hepburn plays the part of Holly Golightly, a New York socialite searching for an older man to marry. George Peppard is a struggling writer who moves into her apartment block, and the (eventual) fortunate man of her choice. Today, some might question the moral of the story, but in our view the film must be viewed in the context of its era. The film is directed by Blake Edwards and taken from Truman Capote's bestselling novel. One of the highlights of the film is Henry Mancini's beautiful song Moon River sung by Hepburn herself.

Everybody is welcome to attend and there is no entry fee, although donations are always welcome. The venue is St Mary's Church, Olveston. Doors open at 7pm and the film starts at 7.30pm. Tea and coffee are available as well as a licensed bar.

**Under the terms of our licensing agreement we are not permitted to name the film.*

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the November draw, held on 6th November 2025 were:

Amount	Number	Name
£150	223	Mr & Mrs R Panes, Olveston
£75	619	Ms E Vetterlein, Olveston
£50	150	Mr G Williams, Olveston
£25	639	Ms C Waites, Olveston
£25	717	Mr & Mrs J Clark, Olveston
£25	469	Mrs J Dawes, Olveston
£20	479	Mrs S Farr, Olveston
£20	438	Ms K Chick, Olveston
£20	294	Mr J Mason, Tockington
£20	616	Mrs S Fairhead, Oldbury-on-Severn

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The Robin

Paul Godwin



As Christmas approaches many of us will begin to receive greetings cards, and some will include a picture of a robin. Why is this? The reason goes back to Victorian times. Postmen wore red uniforms and were nicknamed 'The Robins'. Initially it was the postmen who featured on Christmas

greetings cards, but over time they were replaced by a picture of the bird itself delivering the card.

In addition, the robin features a lot in winter folklore and is a symbol of hope. This being due to its visibility during the winter months, with a cheerful song and of course providing - with its red breast - some colour on cold and bleak days. Within Christian legends one story says that the robin fluffed its feathers to protect baby Jesus's fire and got scorched in the process. Resulting in its red breast. There are several variations of this tale.

In the UK and some other northern European countries such as Finland and Germany where households feed garden birds, there is an association between humans and the robin. We often see one close by as we dig in the garden, because we expose food for it as we go about our business. In the wild, robins will follow animals such as pig or wild boar, this is because they chum up the ground when hunting for food - doing the same thing as ourselves when we garden. So, whilst we may like to think it is trying to be our best friend in the garden, it is just following its learnt behaviour in the wild. That being said, I have had many conversations with robins on the allotment whilst I am digging up food for them! Perhaps the lovely song they sing is just telling me to get on with it.

The robin is a remarkable bird and probably to many people our most recognisable. It belongs to the Old-World flycatcher family Muscicapidae. Whilst it is associated with winter, it can suffer in cold spells if it cannot access shelter and food and many will die. In their first year robins suffer very high mortality rates with over two thirds not surviving due to cold weather and high predation, especially from household cats and other birds such as sparrowhawks. The average life expectancy is low due to this, less than two years. However, if one survives its first year then things really look up, with a

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small number reaching around six years and one was even recorded at 18 years (an exception).

Both the male and female have red breasts, which for the male grows larger and brighter as it gets older, in part determined by the amount of food it has found to eat therefore staying in good condition. This makes its chances of mating successfully grow greater, as the female will consider this male successful as it has not been predated and has been able to access food and shelter. The male and female are both very territorial and the red breast is also used as a visible sign of strength. In winter many of you will have seen robins protecting their territory in the garden. They do not like to share.

In the UK it is a resident bird with most staying within the UK. Some may migrate from the north further southwest. Those breeding in northern and eastern Europe, where winters are harsher, are migratory and many migrate to the UK. This is when we may see the numbers increase in our gardens as the migrant birds search for food sources to survive winter. One January a couple of years ago we were sailing across the North Sea to Norway. Whilst looking over the side of the ship I could see a small bird flying against the wind



towards us, it was really working hard to reach us, and it landed on the bow. It was a single robin right in the middle of the North Sea, on a very grey and windy day. I felt so relieved that it made it to the ship and was expecting it to stay. But of course, we were heading north, and it was going west probably originating from Germany or Finland. It had a quick breather

and off it flew. I hope it made it.

It is very easy to think when you are out and about, or looking at the birds in your garden, 'it's just a robin', but they really are fascinating birds and for such a small bird there is so much to say.

Cancer Research UK

The Thornbury and District Cancer Research UK Committee would like to give a huge thank you to all those who supported us at our annual Autumn Fayre in Alveston on 11th October, raising funds for Cancer Research UK.

We raised £2602.93 in total, and we thank you sincerely for your valued support and generosity.

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Christmas at St Mary's



Saturday 6th December 5pm - 6pm
Salvation Army Christmas Concert

We are delighted to welcome back the band from Easton for a concert of Christmas music. Come along and enjoy. We will be grateful for donations of new toys for underprivileged children in Bristol which the Salvation Army will distribute for Christmas. Thank you for your support for the amazing work carried out by the Salvation Army.

Sunday 14th December 6pm
Village Carol Service

A service of seven lessons and carols with St Mary's choir and handbells

Friday 19th December 8.30pm
Community Carol singing at The White Hart Olveston
Led by St Mary's Choir. Come and join us for a sing-along

Wednesday 24th December 4pm
Family Crib Service

A special service for children (and adults) to celebrate the Christmas Story. Bring along a small toy animal to put by the crib during the service.

Wednesday 24th December 11pm
Midnight Mass with choir.

Thursday 25th December 10am
Family Christmas morning service

From the Registers of St Mary's Olveston

Saturday 18th October The marriage of Charlotte Massey and Richard Jones

Friday 24th October The funeral of Elizabeth Mary Screen

Friday 31st October A service to celebrate the life of Richard John Lloyd

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Olveston and Tockington WI



We hope everyone appreciated this cascade of poppies in Tockington last month to commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the ending of the Second World War. WI members and friends knitted and crocheted for weeks to make them, to honour all those from the Parish who gave their lives in war.

But this month it's time for a more festive atmosphere, and so at WI we'll be having our Christmas party. As well as eating and drinking, we'll be reminiscing about what life was like when we were younger, prompted by our speaker, Reg King. He'll be reminding us what the latest fashions were at the time and how much - or how little - a loaf cost. No doubt we shall enjoy humming along to the pop songs of the day as he plays them for us! It should be a lovely, jolly evening.

Thornbury Choral Society

Rehearsals for the new season begin again after the Christmas break on Monday, January 5th, 2026. As usual the rehearsals take place at the United Reform Church, Thornbury at 8.00pm. At our next concert on May 16th, we will be performing Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle. On Saturday, February 28th, our annual Come and Sing workshop will take place at Alveston Methodist Church (BS35 3RA) when we shall be studying Verdi's Requiem. Further information can be found on: www.thornburychoralsociety.org.uk

St Peter's Hospice Christmas Coffee Morning

A Christmas coffee morning will be held on Saturday 20th December from 10am to 11.30am at the Methodist Church Hall in Thornbury. Tea/coffee and cake and a raffle. Entry, to include refreshments, is £3.00 per person.

This is our thank you to everyone for supporting us at Sevenside over the last 40 years, and for your amazing support of St Peters - your local Hospice.

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*Christmas is coming,
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A ha'penny will do,
And if you haven't got a
ha'penny
God Bless You!*

A Christmas Message from the Allotments

Graham Clark

Christmas is conventionally the time when we look at our Christmas cards, with images of ice and snow, skating on frozen ponds, Father Christmas in his sleigh drawn across the sky by reindeer and 'Good King Wenceslas' looking out on the 'Feast of Stephen'. But the lucky allotmenters, members of Olveston's OPAGA gang, what else are they looking forward to this coming December 25th? Answer: this is the date on which I will discover whether my September bet will pay off, and I can harvest fresh potatoes straight out of the ground in December.

Yes, a long time ago I had stumbled across mentions of 'Christmas Potatoes', and not being a 'horny handed son of the soil', had dismissed the thought into nursery rhyme territory. Harvest fresh potatoes in the depths of winter. Nah, pull the other one. However, my pal Roger the Paint corrected me, advising that if you get your 'beans in a row' at the right time, 'wiv a little bit of luck' (Stanley Holloway), you can indeed have fresh potatoes with your Christmas Day lunch. A nice novelty, or what?

Now, I like spuds, especially if they are a variety with a taste I enjoy. So, the number one task in August or early September is to locate half a dozen suitable samples of that variety, and two or three plastic buckets. You can get the spuds from the supermarket for very little money; there is no need to go to a seed merchant or specialist supplier. Then at the end of August or beginning of September, instead of eating them, place in a dry location where the little

'eyes' at one end of the spud are exposed to some gentle daylight. After a week or two, these little 'eyes' will start to sprout.



Now you need your buckets – because who wants to traipse down to the Elberton Road allotment gate on Christmas Morning? Drill the base of your plastic buckets with three or four quarter inch holes and then put a

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couple of spades of earth into the bucket. If you haven't got earth handy, soil from a tomato grow bag will do handsomely. Then place your three candidate spuds on the soil with the sprouting ('chits') growing from the eyes on top. Then lightly cover the three spuds with soil. Within a week or three, green leaves will appear above the sprouting spuds, and it is time to 'earth up', nearly covering the foliage with more soil. This stops the growing spuds from being exposed to daylight, which would turn them green, indicating a poisonous condition and ruins the flavour.

Place your spud grow bucket(s) outside in a sheltered daylight location where frost cannot get them, because that will ruin the fun come harvest time. Give the contents of your buckets an occasional splash of water to keep them fingertip moist and enjoy the anticipation of the feast to come. Spuds R Us!

Friday Community Café & Future Community Events

Thank you to all who have supported the Friday Community Café at Tockington Chapel this year. Usually held on first Friday of the month, 10am-midday, it's an opportunity for local people to meet neighbours and friends, whilst enjoying a cuppa and some home-made cakes in our beautiful Tockington chapel. Any funds from this regular event helps to support the ongoing running costs of the chapel and other Methodist Church Buildings in our villages.



Please also note this extra event if you receive this edition in time!

Community Café and Toy Sale Saturday 29th November 2 - 4pm

Come along and peruse a selection of pre-loved toys and games which should save a penny or two before Christmas! Enjoy our regular tea, coffee and cakes in the chapel too, even if you aren't there for the toy sale.

Carols on the Green Wednesday 17th December – 6.30pm

This popular Christmas sing-along on Tockington Green always brings the community together. Bring your singing voice, a torch, a mug, and some cash for donations towards some mulled wine and mince pies. Cont/.....

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Next Community Cafés

Friday 5th December

Friday 9th January

Cash only please.

If you'd like to become involved, help with cake or other donations, or find out more about Tockington Community events, please chat to Jane, Cath, Anne, Delia and Maggie at the coffee mornings or contact tocs.friends@gmail.com

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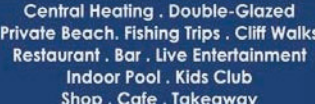
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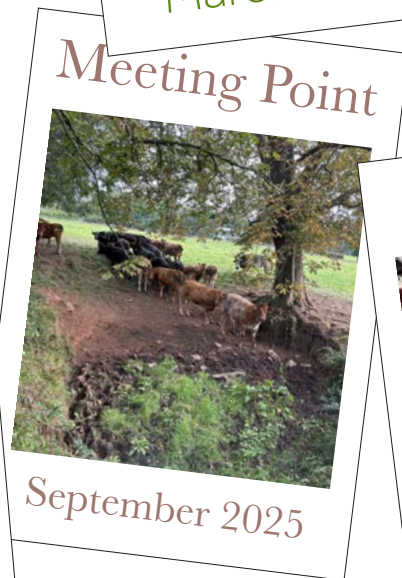
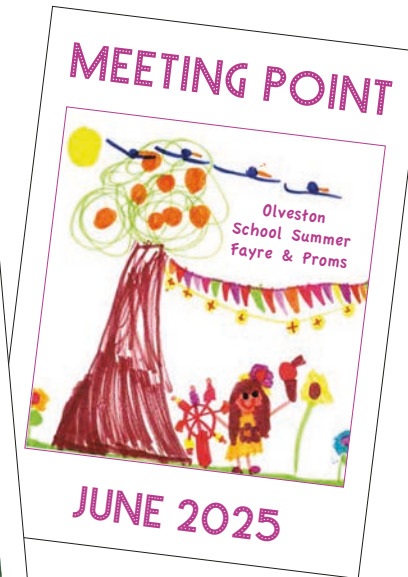
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	Premier general store, Alveston	Open: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day - 10am to 2pm each day
	Perry's (Butcher), Alveston	Open: 22, 23 Dec, 7-5; 24 Dec 6-12; Closed: 25-29 Dec; Open: 30, 31 Dec 8-4; Closed: 1 Jan; Open: 2 Jan 7-5; 3 Jan 7am-1pm; Closed: 4 Jan; Open: 5th Jan 8-1; 6th Jan 8-1 & 2-5.
Pharmacy	Pharmacy, Alveston	Closed: Xmas Day, Boxing Day, N.Y's Day
Garage	Green Lane Garage	Closed: 23 Dec until 4 Jan. Re-open 5 Jan
Pubs	White Hart, Olveston	Open Xmas Day 11am. Open 12am as normal all other days.
	Boar's Head, Aust	Open: Xmas Day 12-3; Xmas Eve, Boxing Day, Sun 28 Dec, New Yr's Eve & New Yr's Day: 12-6. Kitchen closes earlier than closing times. Other days as usual.
	White Hart, Littleton	Xmas Eve normal; Xmas Day: open 12 noon (tbc) for 2 hours - no food; Boxing Day normal; N.Y's Day: plse check with pub.
	The Fox, Old Down	Open (drinks, no food): Xmas Eve, 12pm-11pm; Xmas Day, 11.30 am-1.30pm; Boxing Day, 11.30-8; 27th-30th, normal hours; New Year's Eve, 12-9pm; N.Y's Day, 12-5.
	The Swan, Tockington	Xmas Day 12-5: Open for drinks & pre-booked meals.
Medical	GPs' Surgeries	Closed: Xmas Day, Boxing Day, N.Y's Day
	NHS 111 and 999	Can be rung at any time, any day or night
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Tockington's Hidden History

Martin Gibson and Tony Turnbull

Tockington is blessed with lots of history, but sadly, many interesting features are now lost, or at best, hidden from view.

How many people remember the infant school at the top of Old Down Hill, by the Scout Hut? Mrs Ashby was the last teacher there. In the 1800s pupils used to walk from as far afield as Ridgeway (now Rudgeway) to be educated in Victorian times and well into the 20th century.

In Washingpool Hill Road, opposite the driveway up to Sheepcombe House, is a sheep wash which was last used in 1944. It was probably constructed in the early 1800s and used by farmers to counter sheep scab.

Further up the valley, heading towards Lower Hazel, is a three-sided cart wash, now largely overgrown. Carts with wooden wheels and metal rims were driven in to the water (which was much higher and more reliably present than today) to allow the wood to expand back up against the rim.

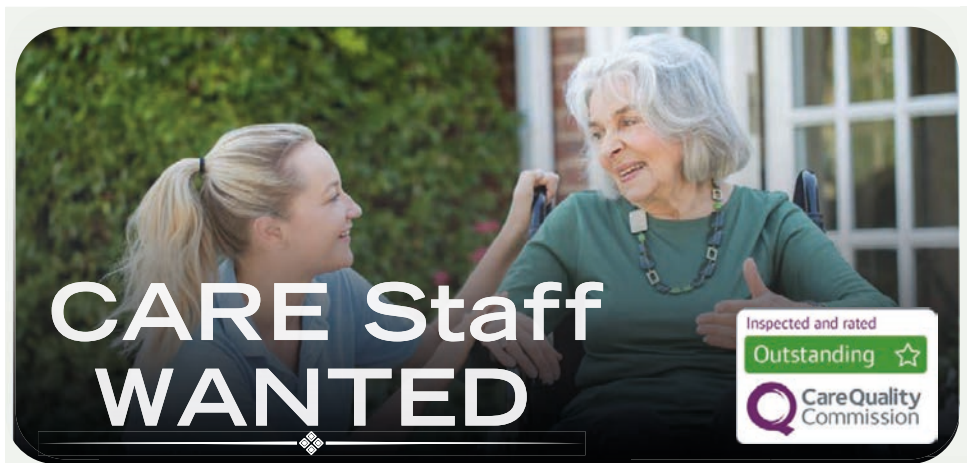
If you then walk at 90 degrees up into the ancient woodland called Sheepcombe Brake, you might be able to find the old foundations of a stone cottage which was pulled down in 1947. The Stanley family lived there with no utilities whatsoever - no water, no electricity and definitely no gas or mains drainage. The family relocated to Mill Lane.

On the Lower Tockington Road, alongside Ivywell, is an ancient well currently known as Rams Well but originally it was called the Roman Well. Why? We don't know, but certainly there were Roman families living in the general area 1,800 years ago. Today it is totally overgrown.

Between Brook Farm, Little Brobury Farm and Lower Farm there used to be a ford. There are two verbal accounts collected in 1971 of local people recalling seeing boats tied up on the ford. This would probably have been as late as the end of the 1800s, but to date, no documentary evidence to back up these memories has been found.

Tockington Mill Rhine starts at this point on Lower Tockington Road. It is initially fed by water from an aquifer in Sheepcombe Brake and then from drains in the hills either side of the valley. The Rhine meanders all the way to Chestle Pill on the River Severn. Another article devoted entirely to the Rhine is planned for a future edition.

Cont/.....



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Tockington Green is of great importance but also of great mystery. Village fairs and markets were held on The Green from before the 12th century and as late as 1896. The Landlord of The Swan Inn, Mr Wilkins, recalled seeing a tethered bear on one occasion. And what about the stone circle, more properly called Tockington Cross? Did it have religious significance, perhaps connected to a lost chapel, or was it a 'butter market' display area? Where did the stones come from? Many are not of local origin so the circle must have had some serious significance.

Moving on, to Upper Tockington Road on the bend at the top of the hill (western side) are the remains of another well. Originally called the Eye Well, its waters were said to be a cure for many eye conditions. Then in the first years of the 20th century it was used to supply water for the massive steam powered traction machines used for road building and mending. By this time it was known as St Michael's Well.

It may be possible, with the agreement and support of local councils and landowners, to carry out conservation or restoration of these local historical sites. If you share our interest, do please contact us.

(For an article about Tockington Stone Cross see Meeting Point June 2024 and for an article about the Eye Well see Meeting Point July 2017. Both items by Nick Fear. Visit <https://www.olvoston.com/index.php/community-magazine>)

Green Force



Ponds are familiar features of many field corners, village greens and gardens. They are generally small in size, not connected to each other or to streams and rivers and fed only by rainwater or groundwater. Village ponds were often created for washing down working horses.

One of the best ways of bringing more wildlife into an area, ponds can be very diverse, supporting many more aquatic plants and invertebrates than rivers and lakes. The best ponds for wildlife have shallow margins with a fringe of vegetation as cover for amphibians and insects. Half a million ponds have been lost over the last 100 years and one in five remaining ponds are in poor condition. Initiatives are underway to restore lost ponds. They need care as they become silted up with soil and debris. If you are by a pond on spring watch out for frog spawn and in summer for dragon flies hovering amongst much wildlife.

May the New Year be full of interest in nature - and all it has to offer us.

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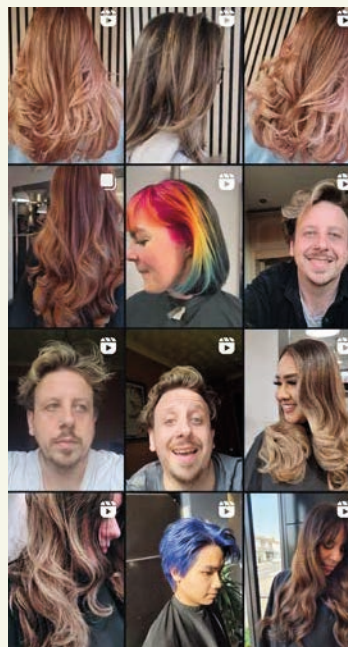
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My Fair Lady (save the date!)

Caroline Brewser

Rehearsals are underway for The Parish Players' 2026 production of 'My Fair Lady'. One of the most well known and loved of all musicals, it will bring fun and laughter to your evenings next February half term. It will take place at Olveston and Tockington Parish Hall (Upper Tockington Road BS32 4LQ) at 7.30pm every evening from Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st February 2026.

New for 2026: we are also excited to be staging a matinee performance at 2.00pm on Saturday 21st February.

My Fair Lady tells the story of a poor Edwardian flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, who dreams of working in a flower shop rather than selling bunches of violets in the

street. By chance, she meets Henry Higgins, a pompous and egotistical professor of phonetics, who derides her for her strong Cockney accent, and makes a bet that he can teach her to talk like a duchess. Eliza goes along with the idea, as a way of getting the job that she longs for. But both Higgins and Eliza have a lot to learn!

Based on the play Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw, My Fair Lady was first performed on Broadway in 1956, starring Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews. It won six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and was followed by a hit London production. The musical was the creation of Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe, a partnership also responsible for shows such as Brigadoon and



Paint Your Wagon. The 1964 film version of the musical starred Audrey Hepburn and Rex Harrison and won the Academy Award for Best Picture.

The many famous songs from the show include 'Why Can't the English?', 'Wouldn't It Be Lovely?', 'With a Little Bit of Luck', 'Just You Wait', 'The Rain in Spain', 'I Could Have Danced All Night', 'On the Street Where You Live', 'You Did It' and 'Get Me to the Church on Time'. Cont/.....

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My Fair Lady is likely to sell out quickly, like other previous shows by The Parish Players, so save the dates in your diary now and be ready to buy tickets when they go on sale on Saturday 10th January.

The Parish Players is Olveston's local theatre group, and we stage a musical at the Parish Hall every February. If you'd like to help backstage or front of house, it's not too late to get involved this year. We always welcome new members to help with the scenery, costumes or make up, or to be part of the stage crew, refreshment team or programme sales.

You can contact us via secretaryparishplayers@gmail.com or, alternatively, via our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OlvestonParishPlayers. After 10th January, you can contact the Box Office on 01454-202011.

Aust Parish Council

National Highways plans to re-open M48 Severn Bridge to HGVs

We know that many residents are concerned about the plans by National Highways to re-open the M48 Severn Bridge to heavy good vehicles. National Highways plan to introduce a filtering system to limit the number of HGVs on the bridge at one time; this will involve all HGVs approaching along the motorway being required to leave the M48 at Aust roundabout. Traffic from the roundabout (including vehicles from the A403, Elberton and the services) back onto the bridge approach will be controlled by traffic lights, with all vehicles being held back if there are already more than the safe number of HGVs on the bridge.

Parish councillors met with National Highways representatives recently to express concerns about these plans. Aust residents are already familiar with gridlock on the roundabout if queuing traffic blocks the 'yellow box' marked areas. Queueing traffic also brings higher levels of air pollution and noise.

The National Highways team acknowledged residents' concerns and assured us that they were using predictive methods including mathematical modelling to try and reduce the impacts as much as possible and that changes would be made if their modelling raised issues. However, recent press releases suggest that their plans are more firmly in place than we were led to believe.

The parish council will continue to liaise with National Highways and South Glos. Council to make sure residents' voices are heard and to try to minimise the impacts for local residents as much as possible.

New Council Website and Email Addresses

Aust PC now has its own website: www.austparishcouncil.gov.uk. It's a work in progress just now but we hope it will soon be a useful resource for those

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who want to learn more about what the council does, how we operate and how residents can get involved.

Alongside this, we have new email addresses. The main point of contact is the Clerk, Emma Pattullo (clerk@austparishcouncil.gov.uk) but you can also find contact details for individual councillors on the website.

The council would like to express our grateful thanks to the community website olvestonandaust.com for hosting our web presence for many years. And I (Emma) would like to say a particularly large thank you to Jenny, the wonderful webmaster, for all her help – including letting me know, on more than one occasion, when I'd done something stupid!

Next Parish Council Meeting

The parish council does not meet in December. Our next regular meeting will be on **13th January 2026** in Elberton village hall, starting at 7:30pm.

Agendas for council meetings are posted on the village noticeboards at least five days before the date of the meeting and are also available on the council website (www.austparishcouncil.gov.uk). Residents are very welcome to attend. There is an open forum slot near the start of each meeting when residents can raise any matters they would like the council to consider, or you can contact your local council members – details on the website – who can raise issues on your behalf.



Emma Pattullo,

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Octopus Presents Cinderella

From 7th to 10th January 2026 Octopus Drama Group will be performing their very own take on everyone's favourite fairytale, Cinderella, written and directed by Abi Baskerville. There will be many new faces on stage, and this pantomime is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

After Cinderella's father remarries, his new wife (the elegant but jealous Baroness) and her two intriguing looking daughters move in. Life changes dramatically when the Baron dies, leaving Cinderella at the mercy of her stepmother and stepsisters, who force her into a whirlwind of chores day and night. Cinderella is loved by everyone, even the mice, and gets by each day with the friendship of her fellow house staff and the ever-cheerful Buttons. Meanwhile Prince Charming and his trusted bestie Dandini are avoiding the King and Queen's demands for the Prince to marry. In a final attempt to find love for himself the Prince agrees to host a Ball inviting every eligible lady in the kingdom to try and win his heart, but not before some dance lessons from a very special guest! As the story unfolds, Cinderella's fortunes change thanks to her Fairy Godmother and the support of her friends. She attends the royal ball, captures the heart of Prince Charming, and, after the famous glass slipper test, is finally freed from her life of drudgery. Oh yes she is!

There will be five performances: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 7.30pm and Saturday at 11am and 2.30pm at Christ the King Hall in Castle Street, Thornbury.

Tickets go on general sale at 9am on Saturday 6th December at Rosie & Rex gift shop, 32 High Street, Thornbury. Tickets costing £8 for adults and £6 for children under 18 can be purchased Monday to Friday from 9 am – 4.30 pm and from 9 am – 4 pm on Saturdays. Get your tickets soon to avoid disappointment.

Christ the King Hall has plenty of parking nearby and refreshments will be available during the interval. For those who want a programme it would help if you brought cash with you.

Christingle Service

Tockington Methodist Chapel Tuesday 23rd December at 5.30pm

Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World, at our family friendly Christingle service, led by our minister Simon Edwards. All are welcome.

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The Impossible Bomb

Olveston Parish Historical Society

Wed 3rd December 7.30pm Olveston Methodist Church

Jenny Newley



We're glad to welcome back Gareth Williams, local resident and retired Dean of the Medical Faculty at the University of Bristol, to tell us about his latest book, rated 5 stars by the Daily Telegraph who describe it as 'superb'.

Having previously told us about the fights to combat polio and smallpox, he's recently been researching a different kind of battle, the race to build an atomic bomb.

His story starts in the 1930s, when the destructive potential of splitting the atom is dawning on international scientists. For those opposed to Nazi Germany, the possibility that Hitler had scientists working on an atomic bomb was a huge concern.

A recent film implied that the Americans under Oppenheimer at Los Alamos were uniquely responsible for creating the first atomic bomb.

Gareth's book offers a corrective, pointing out the significant part played by British scientists and Jewish refugee scientists in the top-secret British atomic programme, codenamed Tube Alloys.

For those growing up in the post-war years in Britain, as Gareth did, the threat of nuclear warfare was a looming presence, and he admits fearing the sight of a mushroom cloud boiling up into the sky above the rooftops. More recently, he was spurred into writing the book after coming across some de-classified government papers concerning a secret Maud Committee. He concluded the part played by non-Americans in developing atomic bomb science had been seriously under-reported.

To redress this, he tells a nuanced story, carefully researched and full of incident and endeavour. For our December meeting, he'll explain the science behind the project in a way that non-scientists can understand and he'll bring to life the human stories and the political difficulties involved. He is always a lively and engaging speaker, and we look forward to welcoming him back.

Cont/.....

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If you're not a member, you can pay £3 for this one meeting. Or pay £10 (the annual sub) and get entry to this and all the monthly meetings up to & incl. April 2026.

Pay on the door (by cash, or cheque to OPHS - no cards, please).

Copies of the book will be available to buy, if you wish. Gareth is discounting it to £22.50 for us and will be able to take payments by card.

www.olveston.com/historical-society

Yours Faithfully

Revd. Neil Mobbs

Oasis Church, Old Down

I always think that this time of the year highlights remembrance.

"Remember, remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot. I see no reason why gunpowder treason should ever be forgot" Relating to Bonfire Night, of course.

Then there is All Saints Day, November 1st. All Souls Day, November 2nd in the Church Calendar, when we remember those who have passed into the presence of the Lord.

Remembrance Sunday this year, November 9th, and Armistice Day on 11th November when we remember those who have given their lives in war. I had the privilege of leading, with my colleague, the Remembrance Service by the War Memorial on the village green at Stoke Gifford. This year more people than ever attended. Several hundreds of children, young people (in uniform) and adults. I remember when there were just a few faithful people present. (I have led this service for 59 years). I spoke on the words *"When you go home tell them of us, that for their tomorrow, we gave our today"*.

How wonderful that Jesus Christ came to live on earth and died on the Cross for our sins and their punishment. He gave His 'today' for our 'tomorrow' - to be with Him in Heaven.

"God so loved the world that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life".

It will soon be the season of Advent and Christmas when we remember the coming of Jesus. May we be full of gratitude to Him for coming into our world! God bless you!



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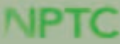
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Church News

ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Dec 7th	10am 6pm	Holy Communion Evening Song - Choir	Rev David Lloyd Rev David Lloyd
Dec 14th	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer - Choir Village Carol Service	Rev Ann Lloyd Rev David Lloyd
Dec 21st	10am	Morning Prayer - Choir	Janet McBride
Dec 24 th	4pm 10.45pm	Crib Service Midnight Xmas Communion	Rev David Lloyd Rev David Lloyd
Dec 25 th	10am	Xmas Day Family Service	Paul Harrod
Dec 28th	10am	Holy Communion - Choir	Rev Ann Lloyd

First Sunday of the month during term time, **Messy Church** 9am.
 Every Saturday (term time) **'REFRESH'**, 4.30-5.30 - Fun, relaxed church.
 Every Wednesday, Holy Communion, 10am.
 NB Clergy may change.

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

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Dec 14th	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss
Dec 21st	5pm 6pm	Holy Communion Village Carol Service	Rev David Moss Trevor Cook

Contact: Trevor Cook, 01454 618442

Church Wardens: Jenn Dickens 632312 and Jon Burnett 633835

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Dec 14th	3pm	Christingle	Judith Heybyrne
Dec 16th	7.30pm	Festive Carols	Judith Heybyrne
Dec 25 th	9am	Family Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

Contacts: Judith Heybyrne 616725 **Church Wardens:** Catharine Gunnery 413225 and Cheryl Meredith 411065

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ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Dec 14 th	3pm	Carol Service	
Dec 28 th	3pm	Christmas Communion	Rev David Moss

Contacts: Tracey Black 417660 and Tim Pyper 416422 /07802 419451

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Dec 7 th	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Samuel Uwimana
Dec 14 th	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Terry Palmer
Dec 21 st	10.30am	Tock Ch	Carol Service led by Rev Simon Edwards
Dec 23 rd	5.30pm	Tock Ch	Christingle Service led by Rev Simon Edwards
Dec 28 th	10.30am	Olv Ch	Local Arrangement

Contact: Rev Dr Simon Edwards 418176
simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

THE VINE House of Prayer, Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL
Meeting at 11am every Sunday and on the 1st and 3rd Weds at 2.30pm.

Contact: 01454 612084, thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Services at 6.30pm every Sunday. All are welcome.

Contact: Neil Mobbs, cnmobbs@hotmail.com

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Service 11am every Sunday

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH Service 5.30pm every Sunday

Contact: esther@thebamfields.co.uk

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury

Mass on Sundays at 9.00 and 10.30am

Contact: 01454 412223, https://ctkandholycross.org.uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Contact: Chris Willmore, chriswillmore@blueyonder.co.uk

THORNBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Services are every Sunday at 10.45am

Diary Dates for December

Information believed to be correct at going to press.

1 Mon	Monday Movies Alveston Garden Association talk	7pm 7.30pm	StM JHA
2 Tues	Citizen's advice every Tues Thornbury Art Club painting studio, for 1 st Tues only this month WRBL	10-12pm 1.30- 4.30pm 7.30pm	TTH SMCH DGCL
3 Weds	Table Tennis every Weds Olveston Parish Historical Society	7pm 7.30pm	OPH OMC
4 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers Market Coffee shop, every Thurs Good afternoon Choir Carol Concert Thornbury Art Club painting studio, until 18 th Dec	9am 9.30-12pm 1.30pm 1.30- 4.30pm	StM URC SMCH
5 Fri	Tockington Community Café Haven Memory Café, every 1 st and 3 rd Friday	10-12pm 10.15- 11.45am	TMC URC
6 Sat	Park run every Sat Aust Christmas Coffee morning	9am 10.30-12pm	MPF AVH
7 Sun	Litter picking Thornbury young musicians' concert	10am 3pm	OPH URC
8 Mon	Severn Vale Flower club demo	1.30pm	SMCH
9 Tues	Thornbury Memory Café every 2 nd & 4 th Tues Olveston & Tockington WI	10.15- 11.45am 7.30pm	TMH OPH
13 Sat	Coffee morning	10-12pm	OMC
17 Wed	Carols on the Green AAG: Johnny Coppin Concert	6.30pm 7.30pm	Tock OPH
18 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers Market	9am	
19 Fri	Carols in The White Hart Olveston	8.30pm	
20 Sat	St Peter's Hospice Xmas coffee	10am	TMH

Looking forward to January:

Weds 7th - Sat 10th Cinderella at Christ the King Hall

Thurs 22nd - Sat 24th Aladdin at Olveston Parish hall



Olveston in the Snow by Ingrid Jeckells

KEY: **AMC** - Alveston Methodist Church, **AMH** - Alveston Methodist Hall, **AOSH** - Almondsbury Old School Hall, **AVH** - Aust Village Hall **CS** - Castle School, **CTK** - Christ the King, **DGCL** - Daldry Gardens Community Lounge, **ECVH** - Easter Compton Village Hall, **EVH** - Elberton Village Hall, **FVH** - Falfield village Hall, **JHA** - Jubilee Hall, Alveston **LVH** - Littleton Village Hall **MSch** - Marwood School **MPF** - Mundy playing fields **OC** - Oasis Church, Old Down, **ODE** - Old Down Estate **OMC** - Olveston Methodist Church, **OMH** - Olveston Methodist Hall, **OPH** - Olveston Parish Hall, **OTF** - Olympus Theatre Filton **OPS** - Olveston Primary School **QAMP** - Queen Alexandra Memorial Pavilion, Old Down **RHVH** - Rockhampton village hall. **StH** - St Helen's Church, Alveston. **StHSc** - St Helen's School **StM** - St Mary's Church, **StMB** - St Mary's Berkely **StMT** - Thornbury St Mary's Ch, **SMCH** - St Mary's Church Hall Thornbury, **TGC** - Thornbury Golf Club, **TCC** - Turnberries, **TMC** - Tockington Methodist Church, **TMH** - Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, **TTH** - Thornbury Town Hall, **URC** - United Reform Church **LVH** - Littleton Village Hall

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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