

Meeting Point



February 2019



Meeting Point

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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

I'm looking forward to February 3rd as it is the day I can start visiting local gardens that are opening as part of the National Gardens Scheme. Rock House, Elberton, is one of the first gardens in the area to open for visitors to view their wonderful snowdrop displays and other spring flowers. If you love gardens and gardening, as I do, supporting the NGS is a great opportunity to see some very interesting gardens and, by doing so, help raise money for very deserving health charities.

There are three education related items in this edition – Olveston School has put out a call for volunteers to help at the school and there is an account of a fascinating learning experience for Year 6, who have been in communication with Antarctica! We have also got a very uplifting article about Marlwood School and the different ways in which Friends of Marlwood School are rallying parents, and others, to help.

Marelin

The cover is by Lisa Helyar

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

News from St Mary's

Debbie Harries



Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 6th March. It's a period of preparation for Easter, both for those who have 'L Plates' as church members *and* for those whose initiation was a long time ago. It can lead to Baptism or Renewal of Baptismal Vows at Easter. In all of the churches of North Severnside, each Sunday during Lent will focus on one of the six questions which a candidate for Adult Baptism has to answer. On Sunday 10th March we start by examining the question "Do you turn to Christ?".

All are always welcome, but this series offers a gentle introduction to what Christians believe and so is particularly suitable for those who otherwise may be hesitant to come to a church service. These questions will also be explored in the Lent Study Groups, which begin in the week of Monday 11th March. The Lent Leaflet will be available shortly.

Quiz Night

Our next quiz is on Saturday February 16th 7.30pm. Tickets £5. A maximum of 6 per team.

Please contact Debbie to book a team, email oboe-debbie@live.co.uk

Fauré's Requiem

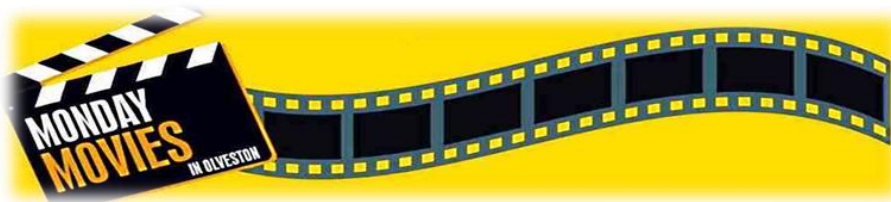
Please come and sing Fauré's Requiem with us in March. Practices will be 4pm – 5.30pm on 3rd, 10th 17th March at St. Mary's Olveston. The concert will be on 24th March at 7.30 pm (venue to be arranged) with a rehearsal beforehand at 5pm.

If this is the first time you have ever sung in a choir, we would love to help and support you. The only thing you need to do is buy the music, which is £5 from Amazon.

From the Registers of St Mary's, Olveston

10th January

Service of Thanksgiving for the Life and Love of David Anthony Lowe.



FEBRUARY PROGRAMME

Trevor Anderson

Our winter programme continues and our two February films are described below. Leaflets giving further details of these plus those for March have been emailed to all Movie Club members and paper copies are available to pick up from just inside the church door. Everybody is welcome (you don't need to be a Movie Club member), admission is free and there is no need to book.

MONDAY MOVIES *(7.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month)*

Mon 4 Feb: On the eve of her retirement, a middle class judgemental 'lady' discovers her husband of 40 years has been having an affair with her best friend. She seeks refuge with her estranged older sister who lives on an impoverished inner-city council estate. As a fish out of water, she is at odds with her sister's free-spirited lifestyle until she is persuaded to join a community dance class. In this hilarious and heart-warming modern comedy, she soon discovers that retirement is only the beginning, and that divorce might just give her a whole new lease of life - and love! *(2017, 1h 51m, Cert 12)*

Mon 18 Feb: In this warm-hearted portrait of a French harbour city, fate throws a young African refugee into the path of a kindly old man who works as a shoe shiner. With innate optimism and the unwavering support of his community, the old man stands up to officials doggedly pursuing the boy for deportation. The film is a political fairy tale which champions the downtrodden and celebrates the smaller things that make life worth living and is a charming, deadpan delight. *French with English subtitles. (2011, 1h 33m, Cert PG)*

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 in the mornings.



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

The Hills are Alive!



Olveston Parish Players' 2019 musical production of 'The Sound of Music' opens on Wednesday 20th February.

The 60th anniversary of this well-loved Broadway show will be marked with four lively and colourful performances, once again filling the Parish Hall with light and joy. The production features all the uplifting, memorable songs from Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1959 score.

You, too, can follow the Von Trapp family's adventures, based on a true love story, culminating in their fearless attempt to escape from the Nazi regime in wartime Austria.

If you haven't got your tickets already, seats *may* still be

available for the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Tockington. Standard tickets are £10 for adults, £7 for children, while premium tickets are £12.

Please phone Richard or Jenny at the Box Office on *01454 202011* for information, to check availability and to purchase your tickets.

Correction

In the profile of Peter James in the December edition of Meeting Point there was an error which we are happy to correct.

The article stated that Journeyman Theatre Productions was an offshoot of the Thornbury Amateur Dramatic Society. This is not the case as it is a completely separate organisation. Our apologies to Journeyman Theatre Productions.



Olveston Parish Council Matters

Pat Savage

Council Clerk

The Council is very pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Malcolm Evans as the new Council Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. Malcolm has already taken up his post under the guidance of our Locum Clerk Andrea Durn, who has held the post since July. Whilst welcoming Malcolm we express our sincere thanks to Andrea and wish her well in the future. A profile of Malcolm will appear in next month's publication.

Parish Precept

The Council is now in the process of finalising the Budgets to determine the precept for 2019/20. This amount will have been agreed at the January meeting. As always members of the public are welcome to attend meetings.

Grant Awarding Policy

As mentioned in previous editions of Meeting Point, grants are available for either a project or group which will benefit the community. Forms can be found on our website: www.olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cycling Road Race

This is an advanced warning of a Cycling Road Race which will be held on 3rd March. It will last for three hours commencing at 11.am. Further details can be found on our website: www.olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tea and Chat

If you find it difficult to get out and socialise, why not come to 'Tea and Chat' to make new friends and meet up with old ones? Transport is provided and it's all free.

The February 'Tea and Chat' is at Home Farm, Rudgeway, on Friday 8th February at 2.30pm.

For further details or to request transport if necessary, please telephone Lynn 01454 612201 or Lesley 01454 613804.

Melinda Evans

Pat Thirkettle

Melinda was born in Sydney, Australia, but when she was four years old the family moved to Maclean in northern New South Wales as her father had grown up in the bush and wanted to get back to the country. Her British mother had emigrated with her parents, who took the assisted passage for £10 offered by the Australian Government after the Second World War, otherwise known as £10 poms.



Maclean is a small town near the coast 700k north of Sydney. It is a fishing and sugar cane growing community on the Clarence River where they fish for prawns and the Pacific for ocean fish. It was an outdoor childhood, often barefoot, either in the pool or at the beach, with the annual Sugar Cane Festival a highlight when the roads were closed. Winter temperatures go down to 15C in the day and summer sometimes over 40C and I couldn't resist asking how they celebrated Christmas. As Melinda's Mum is British, they had roast turkey and all the trimmings, even if it was 40C, with a fake Christmas tree and plenty of fake snow scattered around, after which they would go to the beach! The conflicting imagery between an

Australian summer Christmas against robins and snow on English Christmas cards intrigued her and she always intended to come here sometime.

There being no university near Maclean, Melinda moved to Sydney to do a four-year degree course in Environmental Engineering. This was the first of its kind in Australia and 65% of the students were women; they lived on campus in New College which was modelled on New College Oxford only seven hundred years later! She loved the course, made many friends with whom she is still in touch and gained an insight into the unsustainability of present management of our planet and how important it is to care for it correctly, now even more important to her as a mother herself.

Melinda worked in environmental engineering in Sydney for several years, finally working for Shell Australia where she met her husband George, a geologist, in the same company. George is from Gloucestershire and they eventually married and moved to the UK and Bristol in 2002. The first two years were hectic; George set up his own company, they bought a house and

their daughter Laura was born. Melinda worked part time and their second daughter Sophie arrived in 2007.

However, both being from country stock, they wanted to move out of Bristol. They loved Olveston and bought their house in Orchard Rise in 2008 and their daughter Matilda was born soon afterwards. The next few years were focussed on caring for three young children and getting through the recession. Melinda continued to work part time, completed an MSc from Brunel University in Toxicology and Risk Assessment and George continued to build up his business Soilifix Ltd, based in Avonmouth, offering remediation of contaminated land.

In 2018 Olveston Parish Council's Biodiversity project called 'Making Space for Wildlife' was officially launched by Mike Dilger in Olveston Methodist Hall. The core people behind this were Adrian Baxter and Cathy Offer who initiated it, alongside Richard Lloyd and Melinda. The idea is to make a difference locally, however small, to improve habitats for flora and fauna, and promote biodiversity in our community. So far trees have been planted and verges, which are publicly owned and accessible, planted with plugs of wild flowers.

Other initiatives underway include the 'Blue Heart' campaign which encourages people to leave ten percent of their lawns unmown to encourage different plants and insects, to resist tidying our gardens too much as this is better for wildlife and avoiding pesticides wherever possible. Future plans could include a community orchard, mapping and recording local flora and fauna and wildlife surveys. There are already twenty plus enthusiastic volunteers and Melinda would like to hear from you if you could help in any way.

The Royal British Legion Women's Section, Olveston Branch

February Report

We celebrated our December meeting with a beetle drive. There was a lot of merriment and laughter, especially at the beetles that were being drawn. Some were worthy of being shown in the Tate Modern.

We finished the evening with a Secret Santa and a delicious buffet.

We take a break in January and February, and our next meeting will be on the 5th March.

Back to the land - or finding your roots...

Are you interested in growing your own fruit and vegetables, but short of space?

The Olveston allotment association (OPAGA) has a small number of plots available (of various sizes) and this is the perfect time of year to begin! The allotments are in Elberton Road, opposite the school. Growing your own is a sociable and satisfying hobby as well as being a wonderful outdoor way of getting some exercise. There's plenty of advice available from other friendly allotmenters.

If you would like to know more, please contact the Chair of OPAGA, Marlene Baker, by emailing opaga.chairman@gmail.com

Antarctica Calling.....



The children of year six at Olveston CEVC Primary School started their new topic with a 'Wow' on 7th January with a phone call from Antarctica!

The class, whose new topic is entitled 'Crazy Climates', were fortunate enough to speak to Richard Warren – station manager at the Halley VI research station in Antarctica – about life in a frozen environment. Having prepared individual questions in the morning, every member of the class had the opportunity to ask something about Antarctica and Richard provided in-depth answers in a call that lasted 40 minutes.

Some of the questions and answers included the following:

Q: What has been Halley's most impressive discovery?

A: Halley's research led to the discovery of hole in the O-Zone layer. We've learned so much about human impact on climate change.

Q: What's the lowest temperature you've experienced there?

A: The lowest I've experienced is -50 degrees Celsius but with wind chill, it can feel as low as -80 degrees. Even in the summer months, it rarely gets

above 0 degrees; the warmest temperature recorded here has been 2 degrees.

Q: Which animals have you seen in Antarctica?

A: There's a nearby colony of penguins who we see all the time – they're the most common creatures here. Otherwise, the conditions are too harsh for most animals and plants.

Q: Do you miss England?

A: Sometimes – in the winter months there is 24-hour darkness and that can be really tough. This year I'm only here for summer (October to February). I love the work and the people here though.

And even, "Can you get takeaways delivered?" The answer? "I wish! But we do eat normal food – last night we had lasagne."

Halley VI is an internationally important research station for global earth, atmospheric and space weather observation in a climate sensitive zone; it sits on the 130-metre thick, floating Brunt Ice Shelf on the Weddell Sea. The website includes a 360-degree tour of the station, which stimulated discussion from the pupils and is well worth a look!

It was a phenomenal opportunity for the children of year six to speak to someone who lives in such a different environment. Being able to ask questions has enthused them no end and they are looking forward to learning more about their topic this term. For more information about Halley, visit the British Antarctic Survey website at www.bas.ac.uk/polar-operations/sites-and-facilities/facility/halley/



Photo credit: British Antarctic Survey

Olveston Parish Hall Fish and Quiz

The Annual Fish and Quiz will be held on Friday 1 March 2019. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm prompt start.

Teams of 4. Tickets are £8.50 to include a fish and chip supper and there will be a cash bar. To obtain tickets please contact Pat Savage: 610388 or email pat@savageassociates.co.uk

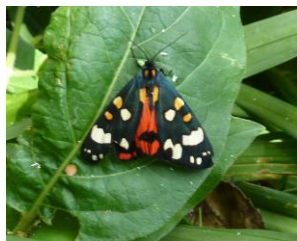
Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the January draw, held on 3rd January 2019 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were: -

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	303	Mrs B Morgan, Tockington
£75	235	Mr M E Scott, Rudgeway
£25	164	Mrs P A Kemp, Stoke Lodge
£25	471	Mrs J Panes, Olveston
£25	440	Mrs C Black, Thornbury
£20	306	Mrs B Morgan, Tockington
£20	307	Mrs B Morgan, Tockington
£20	593	Mr B Brown, Olveston
£10	387	Mrs M Baker, Olveston
£10	483	Miss E Garrett, Olveston
£10	327	Mrs M James, Olveston
£10	463	Mr S Panes, Chepstow

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

Alveston Gardens Association



A Presentation on The Wildlife of Gloucestershire

7.30pm Alveston Jubilee Hall, Monday 4th
February. All welcome – Visitors (£3)

Full programme on www.alveston.org

Aust Parish Council Matters *Kath Godden*

New Clerk – Kath Godden

I am very pleased to have taken over as the Clerk to the Aust Parish Council, following Tim Pyper's retirement. I live locally with my family in Almondsbury and am a keen dog walker and nature enthusiast. I am very much looking forward to working with and serving the Councillors and members of the Aust Parish. My contact details will remain as *austparishcouncil@googlemail.com*. On behalf of the Parish, I would like to thank Tim for all his hard work over the past nine years and to wish him a very happy retirement.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is due to be held at Elberton Village Hall on Tuesday 9th April 2019. All will be welcome.

Severn Defence Flood Scheme

As you will be aware there is a planning application being considered for the proposed Avonmouth Severnside Enterprise Area (ASEA) ecological mitigation and flood defence scheme, which covers a significant part of the Aust coastline.

In December members of South Gloucestershire Council carried out a site visit at Aust, close to the junction of New Passage and the A403. Three Aust Parish Councillors attended and listened to an outline of the proposals and asked questions concerning various issues, such as the anticipated felling of trees and the type of replacement trees, how construction traffic would be dealt with and the impact on local residents. It is not anticipated that any decision will be reached quickly, but your Council will continue to update you with any further information that becomes available.

Sunday Concerts at St. Mary's Thornbury

24th February 4pm – 5pm with refreshments and tea.

A most welcome return of the Castle School Steel Band.
This time it will be 'Steel Storm' from year 11.

There is no charge. However, donations for the music fund are welcome.
Everybody is welcome

New Year, New Challenge?

Jan Winter



Do you have any spare time? I know the answer is 'No!' for many people, but if you are one of the area's lucky retired your answer may be 'Well, perhaps'.

If you do, have you thought about offering some time to Oveston School? Many people help out, perhaps with hearing children read, perhaps with cooking or gardening occasionally, perhaps even supporting in some lessons. If you have skills or interests that you'd like to share Oveston School would love to hear from you as we're always keen to involve more people and

create even closer links with the local community.

You may not want to offer a regular commitment but just an occasional hour or two. That would be really valuable – and you would probably really enjoy it! Just phone the school office on 01454 613299 or email olvestonschool@sgmail.org.uk if you'd like to know more.

OLVESTON PARISH TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Wine Challenge

Friday 22nd March 7.30pm Olveston Parish Hall.

Please make a note in your diaries and join us for OPTA's annual Great Olveston Wine Challenge. If you have been to one of these before, you will need no further encouragement. If not, let us say, simply, that it involves a convivial evening tasting wines and trying to match them with their descriptions. There is absolutely no need for any wine 'expertise' at all; in fact, sometimes we have had the best results from people who claim to know very little!

Plenty of delicious bread and a variety of cheeses accompany the tasting to complete the experience. The noise levels always rise as the evening goes on and great fun is had by all. Prizes (bottles of wine naturally) go to those who match most wines – you may be surprised how difficult it is!

Tickets will be on sale from Friday 22nd February. To get your tickets please contact Emma Gerrard by text: 07812719948 or email. emmaneal369@btinternet.com

Tickets cost £15 or £13 for OPTA members.
Why not get a group together for a really good night out?

This is always a very popular evening and so we encourage you to contact Emma as soon as possible after 22nd February to book your tickets. All tickets must be paid for at the time of booking to guarantee your place.

'Come - Everything is Ready' World Day of Prayer

On the 1st March the annual World Day of Prayer (Formerly Women's World Day of Prayer) service will be held at Olveston Methodist Church at 10:15am. It is an ecumenical service, very much open to all, and just one of the many services which make up a great wave of prayer encircling the globe on this day.

Slovenia has created the service entitled 'Come - Everything is Ready' and at its heart is an invitation to come to God's table. If you would like to be involved, please come along to the rehearsal which is the week before at Olveston Methodist Church or contact Jo Baxter 07773 709155. We look forward to seeing you on the 1st March!

Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

150 Club Winners January 2019:

£50 Bill Finch
£15 Dave Gardner
£5 Richard Panes

Latest Bonus Ball Winners:

29/12/18 Barry Reeves
05/01/19 Alex Grosvenor

News from the Friends of Marlwood School



Many readers of Meeting Point will have seen the BBC 2 'School' series, which depicted problems faced in education. However, Marlwood School's PTA, the Friends of Marlwood School, are keen to share the positive stories too. Since 'School' was filmed, changes have been made which are having a positive impact. These include improved attendance

(Marlwood now has the highest attendance across all the Castle School Education Trust (CSET) schools) and continued development of teaching and learning. Marlwood has also welcomed a large number of new staff who, alongside long-standing colleagues, have demonstrated a long-term commitment to Marlwood, despite the difficulties, and are working tirelessly to improve students' learning and general school experience. Since September 2018, Marlwood has been under new management. The energetic Head, Del Planter, has lifted staff and student morale by encouraging everyone to be more open with each other and to treat problems as challenges to overcome.

Parents in the area remain committed to the school, as shown by the resurgent PTA group, the Friends of Marlwood School. FOMS has achieved a great deal since it was re-formed in early 2018, including:

- through events and donations from parents and local businesses, we have raised over £5600 and have purchased a 3-D printer, microscopes, science equipment, calculators, dictionaries, software and amplifiers for the music department, and a trophy cabinet for the main foyer.
- we have met some of the needs of school by upcycling – collecting what is no longer needed in the community. This is positive for our environment and helps people pass on items they no longer need. So far we have acquired a grand piano, an upright piano, a dishwasher, a microwave, three table tennis tables, knitting needles and wool, computer equipment and guitars, music equipment, and hundreds of books for the school library.
- we have held four gardening days to improve the upkeep of the Marlwood grounds. These events proved to be really good fun and an excellent way to get to know other parents.
- FOMS have worked hard to help raise staff morale during a difficult time. We provided a decorated Christmas tree (thanks Almondsbury

Garden Centre), baked cakes and given personalised mugs for all staff, and provided refreshments at school events.

- a new Facebook group #WeAreMarlwood was established. Over 1600 former pupils are now members, and many have shared their experiences of Marlwood and offered support and inspiration for current students and staff. #WeAreMarlwood also set up the Marlwood School Amazon Wish list through which parents, relatives and former pupils bought an amazing array of pens, clocks and art materials. The wish list is still open on Amazon Smile.

Our projects for 2019 include: Fundraising for PE equipment, where we are off to a great start thanks to donations from organisations including Olveston Parish Council (thank you!). We will organise more fundraising events, culminating in a large party for current parents and alumni over the summer. There will be more gardening and upcycling, and we plan to hold some painting days. These will be during evenings and Saturdays and we would appreciate any support.

2018 really was a fantastic year for FOMS. We are the PTA, but are called The Friends, because anyone who wishes to support the school in any way is welcome to join. We have monthly meetings in the library at Marlwood. We are a registered charity, and appreciate all offers of help, however big or small. We are proud of the supportive community at Marlwood and look forward to working together in 2019. You can follow our news on our Facebook page or by signing up to our mailing list or Whatsapp group. Our contact email is info@foms.co.uk.

January Puzzle Answers

Last month's puzzle was a list of six anagrams of words or short phrases that we associate with the month of January. Here are the answers.....

<i>Seaway Nerdy</i>	New Year's Day
<i>Flew Tight Nth</i>	Twelfth Night
<i>Erroneously Wins Seat</i>	New Year's Resolutions
<i>A Poem Mints</i>	Pantomimes
<i>Nasal Jay Rues</i>	January Sales
<i>Bright Nuns</i>	Burns' Night

A Monstrous Commotion: The Mysteries of Loch Ness

Wed. 6th February. 7.30 pm. Olveston Methodist Church, The Street.



Back by popular demand, Professor Gareth Williams will be regaling us with his immaculately researched study of Loch Ness monster hunters, naysayers and advocates (including well-known figures). There's also a local Thornbury connection...

His researches have been carried out in Cambridge and a range of Scottish archives. As always with Gareth Williams you can expect a lively and humorous talk, alongside good science. He'll bring along copies of his book as well, full of fun and excitement - and a ripping read!

All welcome...just turn up. Visitors: £2.

Olveston Parish Historical Society www.olvoston.com/historical-society

Back to Hockey



Calling all hockey players, beginners and returning players, young and not-so-young. If you are looking for a new challenge this year, why not give hockey a go? Our local women's hockey club, Thornbury Hockey Club, is holding 'Back to Hockey' sessions on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8pm at The Castle School, Astro Pitch.

Pop down and play some hockey in an informal and friendly atmosphere, it is a great way of meeting people, improving your fitness and having a laugh. If you haven't played since school, or ever played at all, it really doesn't matter. Do not worry if you are nervous about picking up a stick again or cannot remember or don't know any of the rules. We promise it is nothing like the old school days of muddy pitches and standing around waiting for a touch of the ball. If you would like more information, please contact Sara Newman on saraneuman2@icloud.com or 07708472158. We hope to see you there!

St Peter's Hospice Quiz

St Peters Hospice Severnside Support Group would like to invite you to take part in their annual quiz, to be held in the Armstrong Hall on Friday 8th March at 7.15p.m.

Tables of four, to include a light supper, £30.00 per table.
Excellent raffle prizes, bar available.

Please come along and help us to support the vital work of the Hospice within our community. For further information please ring Mary on 01454 412567.
Thank you.

King Arthur - the Pantomime

Wednesday 20th – Saturday 23rd February
7.30pm nightly with matinees 2.30pm on the Friday and Saturday.

Based in the realms of the Arthurian legend, 'King Arthur The Pantomime' is sure to be a family favourite, being a traditional family pantomime full of fun and frolics, audience participation, hilarious comedy, catchy music, drama and romance. Arthur, a lowly squire in the court of King Pellinore, longs for the love of the beautiful Lady Guinevere, and Merlin, the time travelling wizard, aims to enlighten us with his edification and delights of the modern worlds, whilst arming Arthur with the skills to defeat all evil. Arthur's love for Guinevere takes him on a journey fraught with danger, bringing him into the path of the villainous Mordred and his wicked mother Morgan Le Fey (the wicked witch). Pellinore's kingdom has seen better times and a quest to find the Holy Grail is placed upon the young men and, as this is a pantomime thing, will surely not go their way. Arthur's quest truly starts when he happens to come across The Lady of the Lake (Nimue) and is gifted with the famed sword, Excalibur. His journey takes twists and turns, having to battle all manner of foe. Come along and see if Arthur is to succeed in his quest for the Grail and for Guinevere.

Tickets from £10.50 are bookable online at www.tmtg.org.uk with no booking fee. Family tickets £40. For enquiries call Angie at the Box Office on 07516 270140. We are once again indebted to Lisa Costa Residential Sales and Lettings for their generous offer to run our Box Office at 53 High Street. The staff are big fans of TMTG and always delighted to meet our audience members but remember it's a very busy office so please be patient if they're not available the first time you call.



Swimarathon 2019

Another great opportunity to have some fun and help raise funds for worthy causes. Swimarathon 2019 will be held at the Thornbury Leisure Centre on the evenings of Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd March. The event, run by Rotary Club of Thornbury, will be supporting two main charities, BRACE (for Alzheimer's Research) and the South

Gloucestershire Young Carers. Other local charities and good causes will benefit from the proceeds. The Rotary Club is delighted to have Berkeley Vale Motors as the main sponsor, with many other local businesses lending generous support to the event.

If you can swim the length of a 25-metre pool and can be part of a team of up to 6 swimmers, you can take part! More teams are urgently needed to fill the lanes.

Details are available at www.thornburyrotary.org or you can contact our organiser Stuart Hill via email: swimarathon@thornburyrotary.org. As well as sponsorship forms being available, teams can set up their own fundraising pages through MyDonate via <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/thornburyswim2019>.

Anyone wishing to support a team or the whole event can do so via the MyDonate page. Rotary's target for 2019 is a challenging £20,000.

Charity Auction



Making Memories for Bereaved Children
Registered Charity Number 1178952
www.madeamarkcharity.com

Alveston, on March 22nd. Tickets £10 to include cheese and biscuits and a dessert platter.

Can you help us? Do you have a talent that we can use to raise funds in our charity auction?

The Made a Mark Team is planning a charity auction evening with live music from Just 3 Harmony, in St Helen's School,

We are being kindly supported by auctioneer John Pullin.....and we are now appealing for items/talents/promises to auction and raise funds to support our work with bereaved children.

If you think you can help us please do get in touch, either through the contact form on the website www.madeamarkcharity.com or email us: madeamarkcharity@yahoo.com .

More details and information on how to obtain tickets will be in the March edition of Meeting Point.

Healthwatch

Do you have some time available to volunteer? Healthwatch South Gloucestershire is looking for new volunteers.

healthwatch Healthwatch can shape and improve local health and social care services for the future but we need volunteers to find out what people think works well and how they would like to see care improved. Healthwatch South Gloucestershire is all about people power. We listen to people's experiences and opinions of using local healthcare services. We tell providers what people think and how they can improve, based on what local people say they want and need. Volunteers can represent Healthwatch at health and social care meetings and boards or help staff information stands at venues such as local hospitals and GP surgeries, visit and talk to local community groups and attend big community events to find out what local people want and need from their local health care services. Healthwatch volunteers can also be trained to 'enter and view' health and care services to observe the service and make recommendations to help make the service better.

Quality Lead: We are looking for a volunteer to lead on Quality for our South Gloucestershire Healthwatch Executive Board. This person will lead on responses to NHS Trust quality accounts and the priorities each trust has set for the year. Quality accounts are a report about the quality of service provided by NHS healthcare providers.

To find out more about volunteering with Healthwatch contact Pat Foster Volunteer Support Officer Tel: 0117 9589344 or Email: patfoster@thecareforum.org.uk

The Rockhampton Wind Quintet

Cossham Hall Saturday 9th February 7.30pm.

Tickets £10 (to include interval finger food) are on sale at Thornbury Town Hall or call 01454 412272

These five talented local musicians will perform an uplifting selection of music from Mozart to Malcolm Arnold, via Poulenc and a catchy jazz number that has just celebrated its centenary. The concert is part of the fund raising in aid of the Armstrong Hall Redevelopment Project (Phase 1).

“Wonderful tunes brilliantly played by these talented musicians” (*Bristol Evening Post*)

Thornbury Events in March and beyond.....

Oscar Wilde's 'Lady Windemere's Fan'

Following the successful presentation of “The Importance of Being Earnest” last March, Thornbury Picture House in association with More2Screen will be screening “Lady Windemere's Fan” on Friday March 8th in the Cossham Hall.

TPH in the Cossham Hall enjoys Surround Sound, an 18-foot screen and high definition projection. Tickets at £10 (£8 for over 65 or under 18) are available from Thornbury Town Hall, or call 412272 for details, or visit www.thornburypicturehouse.org.

Thornbury Jazz Festival

March 23rd is the date for the eagerly anticipated second Thornbury Jazz Festival which will once again feature an entire evening of great jazz for you to savour. A wonderful evening of jazz to suit all tastes in The Armstrong Hall in Thornbury on Saturday 23rd March. Bar and hot food will be available. The concert is part of the fund-raising effort in aid of the Armstrong Hall Redevelopment Fund. Tickets for the whole evening from 6pm to midnight costing £20 can be obtained from Thornbury Town Hall or by calling 01454 412272

Thornbury Arts Festival

A landmark anniversary will be reached this year when the 2019 Thornbury Arts Festival celebrates 50 years of bringing top class entertainment to the town. The festival runs from Friday, April 26, to Saturday, May 4, with tickets on sale from February 1.

Full programme details are available on the arts festival website www.thornburyartsfestival.org.uk

We hope to have more details about these events in later editions of Meeting Point.

Yours Faithfully

David Moss, Vicar of Alveston, Aust, Elberton, Littleton and Olveston

I am a huge supporter of singing. When we use our voices together it cultivates a warm sense of community and belonging. Singing brings healing and hope to the broken hearted, it empowers children and adults together, and yet it requires no outstanding gift, skill or equipment. With time, confidence and practice all can sing. There are no superstars when you join a choir because everyone is there to help each another.

It is was singing that first bought me to church. It was the notes and words of hymns, sacred songs and choruses that nurtured my faith and understanding of the nature and mystery of God. It was the music and language of sacred songs that brought me back to God at my time of doubt and uncertainty.

“Understanding life, the universe and everything else was just too much for me until I entered the sanctuary of God and joined with others to sing and praise God’s name.” (my rewriting of Psalm 73.16-17)

If you would like to give singing a go, there is the opportunity to come and sing Fauré’s Requiem with us in March*. Whether or not you have sung this piece before doesn’t matter, we would love to see you. If this is the first time you have ever sung in a choir, this also doesn’t matter, we would love to help and support you.



*More details about this opportunity to sing can be found in News from St.Mary’s.

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Note the new 9.30am services, for a trial period.

Feb 3	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Helen Webb
	9.30	Holy Communion (Candlemas)	Revs Moss & Lloyd
	6pm	Evensong with Choir	Paul Harrod
Feb 10	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
	9.30	Morning Prayer with Choir	Trevor Cook
	6pm	Holy Communion	Rev A Lloyd
Feb 17	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
	9.30	Holy Communion with Choir	Revs D Moss and D Bone
	6pm	Evensong	Trevor Cook
Feb 24	8am	Holy Communion	Rev D Bone
	9.30	Fourth Sunday	Janet McBride
	6pm	Evensong with Choir	Rev David Moss

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

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

Verger: Mrs June Robbins, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 2.45pm in the Chancel

WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION: At 9.15am except 4th Wed when it is at Olveston Methodist Church

Morning Prayer 8.30am daily ex. Wed

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Feb 10	10am	Holy Communion	Revs Moss & Parker
Feb 24	10am	Morning Prayer	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

Feb 10	9am	Morning Prayer	Mrs Tracey Black
Feb 24	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

NOTE the changed schedule and particularly the time for Communion.

Contact Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Feb 10	9am	Morning Prayer	Rev David Moss
Feb 24	9am	Morning Prayer	Judith Heybyrne

Contact Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Feb 3	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship with Holy Communion, Rev Simon Edwards
Feb 10	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Mr Damon Ujvarosy
Feb 17	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Mrs Alison Smith
Feb 24	10am 6pm	Olv Ch Olv Ch	Morning Worship, Rev Sandy Williams Unfolding Service, Rev Simon Edwards

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wed. 13th February. To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP: will meet in the Swan at 12.15 on Thursday 21st February

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

PRAYER MEETINGS Tuesdays 9.00-10.00 in Olveston Methodist Church.

HOUSE GROUP: Tuesday 19th, 10.30am at 6 Manor Close with Rev Sandy Williams

THE OLVESTON COMPUTER CLINIC is no longer functioning.

CONTACT: Rev Simon Edwards Tel 01454 418176,

email: simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

THE VINE House of Prayer

Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL

Designated as a 'House of Prayer for all Nations' in 2005 we continue to meet in a relaxed atmosphere seeking, with God's help, to find ways to influence the world in which we live through prayer and relevant actions. This also includes sharing our own personal situations and praying for one another and the communities of which we are a part Times of worship (in various forms), applying Biblical Truths, and a time of remembrance of the death and resurrection of Jesus in sharing Communion are essential in our meeting together. 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

Feb 3	6.30pm	Steve Loader
Feb 10	6.30pm	Courtney Harris
Feb 17	6.30pm	Mike Dorgan
Feb 24	6.30pm	Mike Osbourne

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
Monday-Friday Daily Mass at 10am
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.

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

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

Diary Dates for February 2019

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

1 st Fri	Haven Memory Café Thornbury Carers Support Group	10.15-11.45 1-3	URC Chy
2 nd Sat	Coffee morning	10.30-12.00	MH
3 rd Sun			
4 th Mon	Monday Movie	7.30pm	StM
5 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning Tea/Coffee & Biscuit 50p Monthly Raffle Macula & Low Vision Support Group - inaugural meeting	10.30-12.00 10.30	DGCL TMH
6 th Wed	Holy Communion followed by tea & cake Table Tennis every week OPHS. Mysteries of Loch Ness - Prof Gareth Williams	2.30 7.00-8.30pm 7.30pm	DGCL PH OMC
7 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Playgroup Thornbury Farmers' 'Market	9-12 9.30-11.30 9-1.30	OSt MH
8 th Fri			
9 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning Rockhampton Wind Quintet	10.30-12 10.30-12 7.30	MH AVH CH
10 th Sun			
11 th Mon			
12 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning Thornbury Memory Café Winter Soup WI. Tax Case & Toy Boys Aust Parish Council	10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45 12-1.15 7.30 7.30	DGCL TMH OSt PH EVH
13 th Wed			
14 th Thu	Coffee Shop Craft Session	9-12 10-12	OSt LVH
15 th Fri	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning Haven Memory Cafe	10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45	DGCL URC
16 th Sat	Coffee Morning Parish Council Surgery Quiz at St Mary's Church Olveston	10.30-12 10.30-12 7.30	MH MH StM
17 st Sun			
18 nd Mon	Monday Movie	7.30	StM

19 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning	10.30-12.00	DGCL
20 th Wed	The Sound of Music until 23 rd - Box office tel 202011	7.30	PH
	King Arthur the Pantomime TMTG until 23rd	7.30	AH
	Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	8.00	
21 th Thu	Coffee Shop	9-12	OS†
22 th Fri			
23 th Sat	Coffee morning	10.30-12	MH
24 th Sun			
25 th Mon			
26 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning	10.30-12.00	DGCL
	Thornbury Memory Café	10.15-11.45	TMH
	Winter Soup	12-1.15	OS†
27 th Wed	Alveston Historical Soc - Defending Bristol in Napoleonic Times	7.30	AMC
28 th Thu	Olveston Playgroup	9.30-11.30	MH
	Coffee Shop	9-12	OS†
	Craft Session	10-12	EVH
Looking ahead to March			
22nd	OPTA Wine Challenge	7.30	PH

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 StMTSt 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.olvostonandaust.com. If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvostonandaust.com

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