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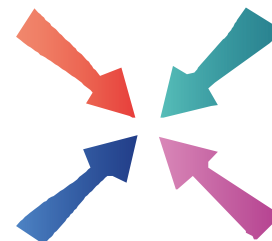
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Meeting Point

Volume 46, Number 5, February 2022

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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Publication date
1st of each month

Material for March 2022
to the Editor or Deputy Editor
by 7th February 2022.

From the Editor

A short while ago a previous editor of Meeting Point asked me to help him with some research into an article that had appeared in the magazine during his editorship. I looked back through the bound copies of past magazines that I keep, and the job was done quite quickly. But I then couldn't help reading on and seeing what went into Meeting Point in the 1980s.

Amongst many other things, the February 1986 magazine contained a photo quiz, a local walk, an update from the Scouts, a local man's memories of going to school as an infant in Old Down and then Olveston, and a welcome to a new family in the area (Mrs 'P' took on the editor role 25 years later in 2011). Two items made me think how times have changed, one was about the local baby-sitting circle – is there anything like that now? And the other was a notice about the Youth Club – it is very sad these clubs are in decline, when they are clearly much needed.

I wonder what a reader in 2058 would make of this edition.....

Marelin

The cover this month is by Peter Haworth
Meeting Point Founded in 1976 by the Anglican and
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Lyndsey Gethin: New Parish Councillor

Pat Thirkettle



Lyndsey was eighteen and working for a year to support herself on a degree course at Derby University when several niggling symptoms, previously dismissed by her GP, prompted her to go to hospital where she was seen by a trainee doctor. He decided to do a thorough examination with the result that within twenty-four hours she was on a high dependency ward with endocarditis. There she remained for two months until it was safe for replacement valve surgery, and she was finally discharged just before Christmas.

Lyndsey's intended degree was Art Therapy, but once recovered she pursued training as a therapist and moved to Bristol to study counselling at UWE, alongside working with Connexions which offers advice and careers guidance for 13-19 year olds. There she joined a group of six In Reach workers, whose purpose is helping individuals to access training and support to acquire life skills. It was unique that the role was split between hands-on client work and research; this fed directly to the Learning Skills Council to identify and understand triggers into why young people disengage

and helped develop prevention measures that were then implemented in post 16 educational settings.

Lyndsey then worked for Gordano Training, gaining her PGCE teaching qualification and working on a three-year funded research project across

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Bristol that worked individually with 16–19-year-olds helping them to acquire life skills. When it finished, her manager employed Lyndsey to help design a European Social Fund project that helps clients learn new skills and obtain better jobs. The premises were on one floor of a building in Portland Square in Bristol, offering a wide variety of projects to encourage new skills from improving core English, maths and IT skills, the latter taught by Lyndsey's partner Glenn. These skills would help to overcome barriers to homelessness, opening bank accounts, health, addiction and careers advice. The National success rate for clients leaving and progressing to a full-time training programme was 32%, but they achieved 84%.

The funding for this project came to an end, along with Gordano Training, and after a move to City of Bristol College, Lyndsey took voluntary redundancy and - with a complete change of direction - managed a pub for a year in Portland Square. However, she continued as a self-employed careers and engagement consultant for many schools across Bristol. Though the change in work seemed drastic, both Lyndsey and Glenn put all their learned skills to good use, providing support and advice to many customers and the local community.

After this initial year they saw they could combine their skills further and moved to Cafe des Amies in Easton Community Centre and everything fell into place. Good food, engaging with others in a safe environment and feeling part of the community is essential to their philosophy that a starving child or adult is unable to function to their full ability. Their aim when setting out was to offer good, fresh, homemade food at accessible prices. This ethos has stayed and grown from strength to strength. No fried or processed food, sugar and salt, but lots of tasty options, a welcome smile and time for each customer. They provide food for Raised in Bristol nurseries, eventually up to 130 a day, so they needed a bigger kitchen! They are now running the cafe at Southmead Community Centre; it is low cost, caters for everyone and especially those who have fallen through the gap.

Lyndsey and Glen lived in central Bristol, but they love walking and the countryside and knew this area through fifteen years of dog-sitting for friends in Tockington. Eventually they asked themselves why they were living in central Bristol and escaping to the country? They decided to move to Olveston two years ago.

They work long hours but surprisingly COVID was a personal blessing for them as it enabled them to reassess the hours they worked and become more involved in the local community. Lyndsey was elected to the Parish Council in November. They found the local footpath booklets very useful; outdoor and environmental issues are close to Lyndsey's heart as well as support for young families and community events She is already getting involved in preparations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

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Perhaps we should give this more thought?

With regard to our food, buying locally if possible cuts down on air miles. In the UK 50% of our food is imported. It is also worth bearing in mind that in order to keep our livestock/meat industry going it's preferable to eat meat less often but spend a little more in order to maintain the industry. This has the effect of raising stock less intensively and therefore maintaining welfare standards which are high in this country.

Fairtrade has a recognisable registered logo and appears on selected food items. The organisation supports products sourced in developing countries and has its own strict set of standards through which it promotes fair and just trade.

Have you thought of reading the labels on your clothes to see what they are made of?

Viscose is used widely, as is polyester. The former is manufactured from trees and the latter from PET plastic which originates from crude oil. Micro plastics from washing our clothes find their way into the sea as micro particles which then enter our food chain. Eventually we finish up eating micro plastics too! Perhaps we should try to buy cotton and wool which are natural products.

Olveston Parish Hall Annual Fish and Quiz

The 2022 Annual Quiz will be held on Friday 4th March.

Doors open at 7.00 for a prompt 7.30 start.

Full details will appear in the March Meeting Point. Any queries in the meantime, please contact Pat Savage: patsavage1948@icloud.com

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Aust Parish Council

Precept setting

One of the first tasks of the new year for the council is to set the precept amount (the share of council tax which funds parish councils) for the coming year. At our meeting in January, councillors decided on a total precept of £5,990; this equates to £25.93 for the average household for the year, or 50p per week.

The decision was made following a detailed budgeting process. This amount will cover the general running costs of the council as well as some additional items including:

- contributions towards maintenance of the churchyards in each village,
- provision of a new, larger parish noticeboard in Elberton, with room for community events and organisations to advertise,
- refurbishment of the noticeboard in Littleton,
- servicing of the new litter bin near the Aust tunnel..

I would be happy to explain in more detail if anyone has questions on the council's finances.

Jubilee celebrations

Plans are being developed for a parish-wide event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in June. We are very grateful to the small team of volunteers who have come forward to start shaping the plans – though appeals for more helpers, both in the run up to the event and on the day, will be coming soon! We have applied for a grant from South Gloucestershire council to help with funding the celebrations, so please keep your fingers crossed that the application is successful. If not, it will be a somewhat scaled-down party but still, I'm sure, fun for everyone. Please get in touch with me if you are able to offer any help to the organisers.

Emma Pattullo, Clerk (01454) 837271 / austparishcouncil@gmail.com



A Swift Recovery

Melinda Evans

As previous articles in Meeting Point have highlighted, the strategy for the Making Space for Wildlife project is now organised on three key themes: species, habitats and community spaces. On species, for now we are focussing on two much beloved animals, hedgehogs and swifts. Previous

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issues of Meeting Point, including October 2021 and an update in December, have provided information about our plan for hedgehogs. Here, we wish to provide some information about our plans to help swifts.

Swifts need our help more than ever as their numbers continue to decline at an alarming rate. In the last 30 years, we have lost nearly 60% of the swift population, and the rate of loss is increasing. In late 2021, because of population decline, swifts were added to the UK's Red List, which is a list of species of the highest conservation priority where urgent action is needed. The reasons for their decline are complicated, in part because they are global travellers. In the UK, a shortage of food (flying insects) and nesting sites is largely to blame. As swifts like to return to the same nest each year, losing their nest can have a devastating impact on a breeding pair (who also mate for life). Swifts have relied on man-made structures for nesting for quite some time, but modern practices such as increased loft insulation, new building regulations, repairs and renovations that create better 'sealed' homes are all reducing the number of suitable nesting sites. Therefore, our plan aims to provide more nesting sites for swifts in the Parish.

We are lucky to have these summertime visitors each year, with quite a few nesting at the old library building at Olveston School. Indeed, Olveston School has already been very active in helping swifts and you can see a lovely article on the Bristol Swifts website about what they have been doing, see <https://www.bristolswifts.co.uk/swift-projects/>. This means much of the hard work to attract swifts to the area has already been done.

In conjunction with other groups in the Parish we are hoping to install swift boxes on local buildings. However, there is much scope for residents to install their own swift boxes as well. If you were interested in putting up a swift box on your own home, here are some pointers on what to look for.

- Swifts like to live in colonies, so installing 2-4 boxes (or more!) is best if you have the room. They arrive from late April onwards, so now is a great time to install them.
- Ideally swift boxes should be situated around five metres above the ground, and always make sure the swifts have a good clear approach both below and in front of the nest (allowing roughly five metres lateral clearance is best). The flight path into the nest box should be free from nearby obstacles such as trees, fences, wires and other buildings. This also reduces the chances of predators being able to reach the boxes.
- If possible, avoid installing boxes directly above windows and doors.
- A north-east to north to north-west facing aspect is best but really the nest box can be fitted to any aspect, as long as it is protected from the weather. If it is fitted on the south side, precaution should be taken to avoid the mid-day sun (maybe by painting it a light colour).

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- Swifts are by nature very clean and tidy birds and the boxes do not need to be cleaned out every year. Although from a maintenance point of view, it might be worth checking on them occasionally.
- Most importantly, take care when putting it up and don't take any risks on a ladder, please check up on working at heights and ladder safety beforehand.

To increase the chances of attracting new swifts to your boxes, locating a sound system next to the nest boxes that plays swift attraction calls can really help.

There's a lot of online information about buying ready-made swift boxes or making your own, and about swifts in general. For example, here are the links to making a swift box on the Bristol Swifts project website:
<https://www.bristolswifts.co.uk/swift-nest-box-design/>.

Because we'd love to have not only more swift boxes in Olveston Parish, but also have an idea of how many are being installed, please let us know if you have installed a swift box by emailing us on: olvestonwildlife@gmail.com



Making Space for Wildlife is part of the Olveston Parish Council Biodiversity backed and funded initiative.

Calamity Jane - Stop Press

Remember - tickets for the Parish Players production of Calamity Jane at the Parish Hall on 23rd to 26th February are available now. Please call 01454 202011. In light of Covid, we'll have appropriate measures in place to try and keep everyone safe. See www.facebook.com/OlvestonParishPlayers for up-to-date information. We're really looking forward to bringing you a show week of light, colour and joy!

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£10	373	Dr M Wright, Olveston

If you are not yet a member and wish to join the lottery, please telephone Andy Phillips on 01454 614890 or email: andisp28@hotmail.co.uk.

Mike's Christmas Quiz - Answers

Here are the answers to the Christmas Quiz which appeared in December's Meeting Point. There were several 100% correct entries, but the lucky winner was Paige Warr, who won two of Mike's Amazon published quiz books. Congratulations Paige!

1. 1843.
2. Indian.
3. The World is not Enough.
4. 4.
5. Driving home for Christmas.
6. Gabriel.
7. It came upon a midnight clear.
8. Mistletoe.
9. Cinderella.
10. Codfish
11. Merry Christmas.
12. The ox and the lamb.
13. 1957.
14. Home Alone / Elf.
15. Little Donkey.

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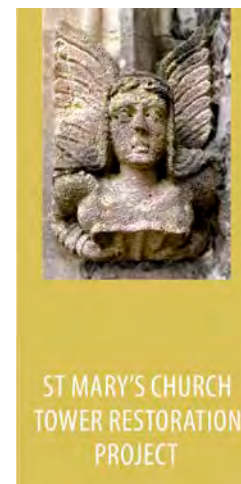
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St Mary's Church Tower Restoration Project

Peter Floyd

Well, we thought we would finish underpinning the stair tower very, very carefully, just before Christmas, but the team arrived one morning to find water pouring down the inside of the spiral turret stairs! This was a total surprise, since as far as anyone knew there was no water around the stair turret at all.

We have already described the curious tale of the stair turret being added in a somewhat amateur way, long after the 1606 tower rebuild, to provide access to the ringing chamber via the equally makeshift timber bridge across the roof.



The water seemed to be coming from below the boarded floor of the bridge and having prised up some of the boards, a large lead hopper head was found collecting rainwater from the long north aisle valley and the tower. This hopper head was drained by a lead rainwater downpipe in the right angle of the chancel and north aisle walls of the church and totally enclosed within the stair turret when it was built. It had remained unknown ever since and was now blocked solid.

Rather than trying to get it going again, it is now intended to run a new pipe down the outside of the turret, so that, rather than pouring rainwater into the ground drain which runs around the outside of

the church, soaking the foundations of the chancel, it will be redirected to a soakaway in the churchyard.

A much more visible object, the elaborate stone cross on the east end of the chancel roof has gone – had you noticed?

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Fifteen years ago we realised that the pinnacles were severely weathered, and the east end cross was cracked. Whilst the pinnacles were wrapped in netting by Mark Hancock of Centreline (our current main contractor), the cross had to be taken down at once.

Scaffolding would have been a serious expense, so early on a Sunday morning, from the back of a lorry outside the churchyard, Mark Hancock allowed himself to be hoisted in its large bucket, on a rather jerky journey, over the church wall, up and across the churchyard, to the top of the chancel roof. With great courage he took down the heavy stone cross to pin and later replace it.

While working on the tower project, our church architect Marcus Chantry spotted that the arms of the stone cross on the chancel roof were drooping again. Another decade of weather had finally worn it out and it is once again in the workshop, but this time in many pieces, so consideration is being given to its replacement.

Work to historic buildings (or any other building) is never done and our quinquennial fabric review is due, so you may be hearing from us again!

Oveston and Tockington W.I.

Angela Green

In a complete contrast to January's talk from Sir Steve Webb about what it is like to be an MP, this month we are holding a 'Murder Mystery' evening. We shall be turning detective, watching and listening very carefully to see if we can discover 'Whodunnit', with a prize for the right answer! The mystery will be brought to us by the Red Herrings, a local group of actors who use their own original plots, so you won't have heard the story before.

Come and pit your wits against them at 7.30pm on Tuesday, February 8th in the Parish Hall. £4 entry, everybody welcome.

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Robin Cole-Morgan on 01454 414281

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Sea Shanties at The Ship

Storm Force 10 is rolling up at The Ship, Bristol Road, in Alveston on the evening of February 19th at 7.30pm. A gathering of shipmates has been convened by the Armstrong Arts Group to keep the music going and the smiles on our faces!



Storm Force 10 is a Bristol-based shanty and sea song group and performs predominantly to raise funds for local charities. They keep the tales of old Bristol's seafaring alive, creating new songs and revitalising the old.

This year they are donating to two charities, Dementia, and Diabetes in Children.

Seating will be at tables and Covid precautions will be taken. A bar will be available in the room.

Tickets will cost £12, with the option of a buffet, eaten beforehand in a separate room and to cost £10 per person. These can be booked by emailing AAGThornbury@gmail.com or ringing 01454 850933.

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Monday Movies

Our mixed programme continues on the 7th February with a Music Documentary (2019 Cert U 1hr 52m). After a series of 11 consecutive hits in 1972, Aretha Franklin recorded 'Amazing Grace,' the most successful gospel album of all time at the New Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles. This documentary footage has remained hidden for 50 years and celebrates the voice of a legend in a performance of a lifetime.

On 21st February we show an action film (2012 Cert12 2hr 23m) which is Daniel Craig's third performance as 007 agent James Bond. An ex-MI6 agent steals a hard drive with top-secret information exposing Agents around the world and causing M, played by Judy Dench, to relocate MI5. Seemingly a vendetta on M causes Bond to face his past in a bid to try and save her. It's a long film so bring cushions for comfort or to hide behind when the going gets tough for James!

St Mary's church doors open at 7pm for 7:30pm. All welcome!
Free to all, though a donation towards running expenses is gratefully received.

To join the email list please email: mondaymoviesolveston@gmail.com.
For those on our mailing list who wonder why they don't receive our emails, please check your spam folders and make sure you mark our email address as 'friend' not 'foe'.

Thornbury Swimarathon is Back!



Do you fancy a fun challenge and do some good at the same time?

Thornbury Rotary is delighted to announce the return of the annual Swimarathon from Friday 4th March to Sunday 6th March, once again held at the Thornbury Leisure Centre.

Having cancelled the event in 2021 due to COVID, the organisers are keen to turn this year's Swimarathon into a popular and even more successful fundraiser. Previous years' events have proved to be a lot of fun and have raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for charities and good causes. Teams of up to 6 swimmers swim in relays for 55 mins to try and swim as many lengths as possible.

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ABOUT ME

Jed Williams – I'm 16 years old, live locally & have had my own business for over 3 years
Email: me@jedwilliams.co.uk Website: myneat.co.uk Tel: 07887 652358

This year, the principal charities benefitting from the event are 'Made a Mark' (making memories for bereaved children) and 'Children's Hospice South-West' (providing hospice care for children with life-limiting conditions and their whole family). Thornbury Rotary is in the process of generating lots of interest, seeking corporate sponsors and, of course, teams of swimmers who are keen to take part. Donors will be able to sponsor individual swimmers, or their teams, either online through the Rotary Swimarathon Just Giving page, or through sponsorship forms.

For more information, have a look at Thornbury Rotary Club Website: www.ThornburyRotary.org where details of the event can easily be found, including mobile and email contacts, online applications, sponsorship forms and instructions. There is also a direct link to the Just Giving page, where donations can be made and teams, if they wish, can set up their own fundraising page for the event.

Paul Glover, President of Thornbury Rotary Club, has expressed his sincere thanks to all those who wish to be involved in Swimarathon 2022, supporting this community event, and helping to raise funds for such important causes.

World Day of Prayer 2022



You are invited to join us on March 4th for this year's World Day of Prayer local service at 10am. We are considering moving from Old Down, Oasis Church, to one of the larger local churches so that participants can easily comply with the current Covid Pandemic guidelines.

The service this year has been created by the countries of England, Wales and Northern Ireland and encompasses our landscape, people and culture which had been shaped by our history as well as celebrating our diversity and the contribution made to our countries by the many groups and individuals who have made their home here. The

Bible text "I know the plans I have for you" from Jeremiah reflects on some of the issues facing us today: poverty, domestic abuse, and disability, finding hope in difficult situations and encouragement in the help we can give to each other.

Full details will be in March's Meeting Point, however if you wish to be involved in any way please contact Jo Baxter, johanna@baxterfamily.uk or call 07773 709155.



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Olveston Parish Council

Pat Savage

Queen's Platinum Celebrations

Plans for the celebrations, which will take place on Friday 4th June, are now gathering pace. We held our first meeting just before Christmas. Our initial proposal is to commence at 11 am with a musical rendition and refreshments by the Church. A fancy-dress parade will then process to Tockington Manor School, by kind permission of the Headmaster and his wife, where events of the day will take place on the playing field. The day will culminate with a Barn Dance at the Parish Hall. We will always welcome any suggestions for the day and indeed any volunteers to mark this memorable occasion. Please email: martin.gibson@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Bus Stop Warden

Following our recent article in Meeting Point we now have a volunteer to look after the bus stop at Old Down. We still require a volunteer for the bus stop in Tockington, which has been so ably looked after by Keith Lazelle. If you are interested please contact: pat.savage@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Community Awards

A reminder that applications for the second tranche of awards totalling £5,000 can now be made. Applications forms are available on our website or direct from the clerk at: olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk
The deadline is 31st March 2022.



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Olveston United AFC

Philip Williams

Upcoming home fixtures* scheduled to be held at The Plain, Alveston Road:

Saturday 5th February 2022 – First Team (Men's) vs AEK Boco

Reserves – Kick off 2pm

Sunday 6th February 2022 – U18's vs Larkhall Athletic Youth U18

Colts – Kick off 2pm

Saturday 12th February 2022 – Reserve Team (Men's) vs Bristol

Barcelona First – Kick off 2pm

Sunday 13th February 2022 – U18's vs Cribbs Youth U18 – Kick off 2pm

Saturday 19th February 2022 – Reserve Team (Men's) vs Hanham

Athletic Saturday Reserves – Kick off 2pm

Saturday 26th February 2022 – First Team (Men's) vs Totterdown United First – Kick off 2pm

*Please note that the above is subject to change and for a full fixture list please visit our website: www.olvostonunited.co.uk

100 club January 2022 prize winners:

1 st Prize	£30	J Jacks
2 nd Prize	£10	I Hall
3 rd Prize	£5	L Jones

For details on how to enter this prize draw, please contact us using the contact details below.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the running of the club and are very grateful of any support received. If you are interested in volunteering then please do get in touch. Two roles that we are currently recruiting for are Welfare Officer and Junior Chairman.

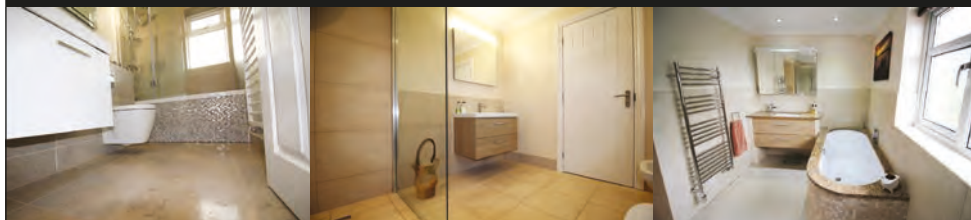
Finally, as Martin Lansdown has recently stepped down as Club Chairman after a period of 10 years, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Martin for his exceptional service over the years which has seen the club grow from strength to strength.

Please remember that everyone is welcome to visit and become a member of the football club and social club, and that we look forward to seeing you very soon! We welcome any questions that you may have, so please do not hesitate to contact us: info@olvostonunited.co.uk or 0750222158.

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Fungi: The 5th Living Kingdom

Paul Godwin

Back in September 2021, whilst walking locally, I saw some white objects in a field. I was curious, so walked over and found parasol mushrooms growing across a significant area, they were beautiful and numerous. Within the field there were also other mushrooms such as waxcap. From this find an interest developed and so, last autumn and this winter, I photographed and identified many different species of fungi in this local area and slightly further afield.

My knowledge of fungi is limited and what follows is from photographs I have taken and then researched - most notably from the Collins Fungi Guide and the NHBS, First Nature and Woodland Trust web sites. I hope I have been accurate in their identification. As there are 15000 species of Fungi belonging to 26 major groups in the UK it is a tricky business and some, unless you are an expert, appear very similar. There is a tremendous amount of information available, far beyond what I can cover in this article, so I will leave the body of science and study (mycology) which exists on this unique 'living kingdom' for you to research if you so wish. I will also not be making any comment on their edibility as I do not wish to be responsible for any upset stomachs, or worse!



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You may have observed that certain fungi grow only in specific environments, such as a certain type of field, woodland or close to a certain tree. This in its basic form is due to an association called mycorrhiza, meaning that the fungi and, for example, a particular tree, could not exist adequately without the other. This is especially the case in poor soils where neither the plant or fungi would be as successful on its own and the fungi gains much of its required carbon from the roots of the plant and in return it acts as an intermediary in the uptake of nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphate and potash from the soil to the benefit of the plant. Fungi are able to exploit most natural habitats. Locally we see them in some fields, woodlands, hedgerows and our gardens, but they can also be identified in some sand dunes, salt marshes and wetland areas. The key element for where they grow is that the land is undisturbed.

The photograph on the previous page of a Parasol (*Macrolepiota procera*) was taken in a local field. I would guess that there were over 20 such mushrooms. They can be found in small groups as these were, or in fairy rings. They are found mostly in southern regions of the UK in undisturbed grass land, close to woodlands. Their season is from late July to November and this photograph was taken end of September 2021. It is a 'saprobic fungus' and breaks down dead organic matter to make nutritional energy. Its name 'procera' means tall, which is very appropriate as it can grow up to 30cms.



This photo of Meadow Waxcap (*Cuphophyllus <Hygrocybe> pratensis*) was taken at the same time and location as the parasols and appears between late August and December. It is fairly widespread and can be found on grassland and upland pastures. It is actually one of the very few

species that can tolerate small amounts of fertiliser. It can form small groups of mushrooms as this one or scattered singletons. The genus *Hygrocybe* translates as 'watery head' and *Cuphophyllus* translates as 'with curved gills'. These waxcaps were actually amongst other waxcap species in the same field.

The next photograph, of Dead Man's Fingers (*Xylaria polymorpha*), was taken in woodland near Old Down in November. It is fairly common and is found at the base of dead or decaying tree stumps especially beech.



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They can be difficult to spot due to their colour and often being almost buried in fallen leaves. It is a saprobic fungus and consumes what it can of the dead tree stump, which then leaves a nutrient rich soft substance which small creatures and insects feed off. The 'fingers' vary in appearance at different

stages of its life cycle and 'polymorpha' translates as 'many shapes', to reflect this and they can grow to 8cms. When young they are pale grey with a whitish tip, which is a coating of asexual spores. Inside the flesh is white. In Indian medicine this fungus is used dried and mixed with sugar to promote lactation after childbirth.



The caps of Velvet Shanks (*Flammulina velutipes*) continue fruiting from late autumn to spring and it is commonly known as the 'winter mushroom'. The photograph on the left was taken at the end of December, just north of Chepstow near the Piercefield Woodland Nature Reserve. I have seen them locally in old woodland but not in such numbers. Most commonly seen on dead ash, beech and oak, it is a classic example of the importance of leaving dead or rotting wood in situ to encourage a whole range of wildlife.

The name *Flammulina* refers to the orange caps which are said to shine like little flames in winter sunshine.

Part 2 of this article will appear next month.

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Your Planet and Local Environment Needs You!

Climate Action Thornbury and Surroundings, or CATS, is part of Sustainable Thornbury and we are always keen to welcome new faces to the group. Sustainable Thornbury was launched in 2006 by some visionary residents who wanted to improve our local (and global) environment. Much of this is to help with the transition away from the burning of fossil fuels, leading to a pleasanter and healthier environment and way of life.

Sustainable Thornbury consists of various groups, some of which run existing community facilities such as the Community Orchard and nearby wildflower meadow, whilst our Grow Your Own Food group is a supportive group dedicated to (as the name might suggest) learning how to be more food self-sufficient. Then, in 2019, the new climate focussed group CATS was formed, with the objective of achieving a carbon neutral Thornbury in the next ten years.

Sustainable Thornbury works alongside parish and town councils, as well as South Gloucestershire Council, contributing to their efforts to improve the local environment and green spaces. We recently held a COP26 Schools Climate Summit and invited local politicians along to hear from school children about their hopes for a greener future. Our future projects include a biodiversity ring around Thornbury and thermal imaging surveys of local housing. Much more information about us is on our website, <https://www.sustainablethornbury.org/>.

We hold monthly 'Green Drinks' on the first Wednesday of every month, which is an informal meeting, where ideas can be exchanged, drinks drunk and questions raised in a friendly social atmosphere. At the moment we are holding these both in person and online, to cater for all needs in the evolving post-Covid world. To attend in person, please come along and join us at Hawkes House in Thornbury, located at St Mary Street. Look for a reserved area, and some green drinks on the table. Our next meeting will be on 2nd February, and we will be there from 7.30 onwards.

To attend online, please send an email to: CATS@sustainablethornbury.org and ask to receive a link to the ZOOM meeting.



Alternatively, if you'd like to join our mailing list, please get in touch with us via CATS@sustainablethornbury.org to let us know your email address.


We look forward to meeting you soon.

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A Milestone to Nowhere

Nick Fear



Entering Olveston from Aust, you may notice an old milestone, sitting at a jaunty angle, on the left verge just before the allotments. An examination shows that it has two words on it, 'TO' on the top section and 'MILES' lower down. The central portion of the stone is empty but with signs of damage. A closer inspection shows that it was well crafted by the old masons, who decorated it with a radiating array of lines at the top and lateral lines across the main body. The rear of the stone is plain, but still shows signs of skilful hands fashioning the surface. There is another such stone with the same writing on it in Tockington, incorporated in a wall it doubles as an ordinance survey benchmark.

The 'TO' is not indicated on either stone or the number of miles it would take to reach the mystery destination. It is fortunate that local historian Eric Garrett remembers the complete writing which indicated the correct distance to Chipping Sodbury. This is not an obvious local destination, Thornbury and Bristol being potentially more frequently visited places. The stones were not however intended to assist all travellers in the area, as they were placed to mark a mail route through it.

Today we perhaps take the postal system for granted, but there was a time when only wealthy people, with servants to deliver letters, wrote them. In 1635 a national postal delivery service began with men on horseback taking mail to and from local postmasters who dealt with their own neighbourhoods. The service was beset with problems with mail being stolen or lost in the system and money wasted on a facility which often simply did not deliver.

In 1784 John Palmer, a Bath born theatre owner, thought he could offer a far better postal service. He was already skilled in getting his theatre sets and actors to venues across the country using horse drawn carts. He conceived a plan of a national mail delivery service using horse-drawn coaches, and Parliament gave him sanction to try it. He cut the time mail took between, for example, Bristol and London to 16 hours, an improvement of 22 hours. The mail coach system was soon expanded to cover the country and our local milestones marked one such route.

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Palmer also allowed paying passengers to travel on his coaches. Cramped inside seats were uncomfortable and often insanitary. At least they were preferable to cheaper seats on top of the carriages which were open to the elements. To allow refreshment stops for the comfort of passengers and change teams of horses, some hotels and public houses became Coaching Inns. In Olveston the White Hart was one such establishment renowned for good food and ale. In the season it was also famous for a particularly delicious locally produced cider. Mail coach riders could stay with one team or rest awhile at an Inn, catching the next coach which came along.

John Palmer's company coaches were soon joined by rivals offering competitive rates for travellers and post alike. In the 1780s regular routes resulted in local landowners improving roads in their area and charging a toll for their use. Mail delivery times and the comfort of coach passengers increased as a result. Some mail companies were more reliable and safer than others, and some coaches were not well maintained with breakdowns occurring. Some coach drivers sped along with little regard for other road users, or even their own coaches, resulting in accidents which sometimes involved fatalities.



In the early 1800s the ancient backbone to the postal system which we now know as the Post Office introduced its own fleet of coaches. With a distinctive scarlet and black livery, these also displayed the Royal Coat of Arms. The mail coach system carried on for a few decades more, but this was gradually phased out

with the advent of the railways. By the end of the 1850s it was the railways which carried the mail.

At the start of the Second World War our local milestones had been of limited use for several years, and it was thought the directions on them could have been of use to an invading army, so the offending information was crudely removed on local council orders. Over the years hundreds of such stones have been removed in new road schemes or building projects. Milestones to nowhere and obsolete they may be, but we are lucky that these last two in our area exist to help us ponder on the past.



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South Gloucestershire Business Support Service

This service is available for all local small businesses and residents to access. It is a WECA initiative, funded and delivered in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council, and will run until March 2023. The past 18 months have been incredibly tough for local small businesses and this service will provide them with up to 12 hours of free expert support to help them to recover, develop and grow. In addition, the service will also provide help to aspiring entrepreneurs wishing to start a business. The support is provided through attendance at webinars and one-to-one meetings.

The webinar programme covers a number of key business topics such as setting up a business, marketing, social media, planning for growth, finance, HR and more. It is delivered by local consultancy firm, Cool Ventures, who have been helping small businesses in the area for over decade. They are supported by a team of business experts.

If you would like to find out more about how you can benefit from this free service, please get in touch with the Cool Ventures MD, Sue Marchant, who would be delighted to have a chat with you. She can be contacted on 08000 418293 or email sue.marchant@coolventures.co.uk.

Thornbury Jazz Festival 2022

Good news! An exciting programme of Jazz is coming your way!

Like everyone else, we are being kept guessing by that virus - but at the time of writing, the third Thornbury Jazz Festival is still on for Saturday 19th March.

The Festival will be held in the assembly hall at Castle School, running from 4pm to 10pm. Seating will be at well-spaced tables in a jazz café style, with a bar and food from the Hawkes House pizza van.

Top of the bill is virtuoso jazz guitarist Remi Harris, who will be playing with bassist Tom Moore. The 18-piece Kris Nock Big Band, a fantastic wall of sound, will get the Festival off to a swinging start, followed by the ever popular Jenner Jazz Quartet and Sinead and the Sinnersmen.

Tickets are £25 from AAGThornbury@gmail.com, or 01454 850933. Audience numbers will be limited to 125, so we recommend early booking. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Michael Matthews

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Awkley

Just as I thought things were getting better! I am wondering how many of us have experienced frustration, disappointment, setbacks and even sorrow in many forms during the past year, despite what we may have hoped for or planned? So many things seem to be out of our control.

I had a brief conversation with my wife Barbara, the day before writing this article, when considering the question, 'Was she a realist?' The simple dictionary definition is 'a person who accepts a situation as it is and is prepared to deal with it accordingly'. This seems straightforward enough, but when we take a sober look at life in general, many of our dreams and anticipations turn out differently to what we expected, and 'coping' can prove harder than we may first think.

May I make a few biblical suggestions (there are many more) to help us in the future, no matter what we may have to face?

1. Find and maintain a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and know that The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." [Philippians 4:5-7]
2. Discover and keep focused on a future goal. "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." [Philippians 3:13-14]
3. Secure an anchor for your soul (simply put, the soul is the seat of your thoughts, will and emotions) "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf." [Hebrews 6:19-20]

I'm happy to try and answer any questions you may have.

By the way, I would say Barbara is a realist!

Let's be people who can accept a situation as it is and be prepared to deal with it accordingly, with the help of a God who loves and cares for us.



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Church News

ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Feb 6	9.30am 6pm	Holy Communion Evensong	Rev Bone, Paul Harrod Rev Ann Lloyd
Feb 13	9.30am 6pm	Mattins Holy Communion BCP	Rev David Moss Rev David Bone
Feb 20	9.30am 6pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Janet McBride Paul Harrod
Feb 27	9.30am 6pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd Janet McBride

Also, every Wednesday at 10am, Holy Communion usually with Rev Ann Lloyd.

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

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Feb 13	10am	Morning Prayer	Trevor Cook
Feb 27	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone

Contact: Trevor Cook, 01454 618442

Church Wardens: Jenn Dickens 632312 & Clive Roberts 632238

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Feb 13	9am	Morning Prayer	Mrs Tracey Black
Feb 27	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Feb 13	9am	Morning Prayer	Judith Heybyrne
Feb 27	9am	Holy Communion	Judith Heybyrne

Contacts: Judith Heybyrne 616725 and John Gunnery 413225

AUST EVANGELICAL and LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Contact: Danny Bamfield 01454 419324 e-mail danny@thebamfields.co.uk

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Feb 6	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Christine Jones
Feb 13	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Christopher Leese
Feb 20	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by David Bainbridge
Feb 27	10am	Olv Ch	Covenant Service led by Rev Simon Edwards

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

THE VINE House of Prayer, Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL

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Contact: Mike and Barbara Matthews, tel. 07512 917229 or email: thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

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Contacts: Jenny Parfitt jennyparfitt@ymail.com & Sue Tett stett56@hotmail.co.uk

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury -

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SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Contact: Brian Hawkins, hawkinsb863@gmail.com 01454 854867

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY.

Monday 7 February, **Monday Movies at St Mary's**, 7.30pm

1st and 3rd Thursday 9.00-1.30, **Thornbury Farmers' Market**.

Tuesday 8 February 7.30pm **WI Meeting in Parish Hall**. Contact: Angela on 615222

Saturday 19 February, **Alveston Repair Café** at St Helen's Church

Saturday 19 February, **Sea Shanties at The Ship**, Alveston. Tickets: phone 850933

Monday 21 February, **Monday Movies at St Mary's**, 7.30pm

Wednesday 23 February, 7.30, **'Calamity Jane'** at Parish Hall, until Saturday.

Coffee Morning every Tuesday at 10.30 at Daldry Gardens lounge

Coffee Shop every Thursday at St Mary's Church Olveston, 9-12 in Term Time and 10-12 in school holidays.

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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