

# Meeting Point



February 2026

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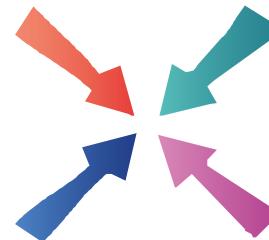
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# Meeting Point

Volume 50, Number 5, February 2026

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

It is that time of year again, and the indefatigable Parish Players are putting on their annual show during the half-term week. Tickets are selling fast, apparently, so get yours quickly if you want a slice of the fun.

In this month's magazine we have got the next article in the Tockington's Hidden History series, and some lovely pictures of January's Wolf Moon, taken from a garden in Olveston. There is an update from The Armstrong, which describes a project which is at last nearing completion and the return to regular use of a much-loved local venue.

As well as the musical from the Parish Players, there are details of a quiz in Olveston and a number of events in Thornbury. So, although February can be dark and cold, there is plenty to do if you want to venture out.

*Marelín* .

Cover illustration 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](http://www.olvestonandaust.com)

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## 'Loverly' tickets for My Fair Lady!

Caroline Brewster

Are you looking for something to brighten your dark winter evenings? Don't miss the chance to see one of the best musicals of all time, as The Parish Players' 2026 production of My Fair Lady comes to the Parish Hall in Tockington (BS32 4LQ).



This ever-popular show features many well-known and much-loved songs, including 'Wouldn't It Be Loverly?', 'With a Little Bit of Luck', 'The Rain in Spain', 'I Could Have Danced All Night', 'On the Street Where

You Live' and 'Get Me to the Church on Time'. The stage will be filled with music, dance, humour and fantastic costumes, in a colourful spectacle to be enjoyed by all the family. (Players in rehearsal, above.)

Performances will take place at 7.30pm every evening from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February (half-term week) – with an additional matinee performance at 2.00pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

As always, you will also have the chance to win amazing raffle prizes generously donated by local businesses and individuals. Refreshments will be on sale before the performance and in the interval.



Tickets have been selling very quickly during January, so place your order soon to avoid missing out. You can order online at <https://bit.ly/PPorders> (or use the QR code) or by calling 01454 202011. Prices are unchanged from last year: £12 for adults, £8 for children and £14 for premium seats.

For up-to-date information (but not ticket sales), see [www.facebook.com/OlvestonParishPlayers](https://www.facebook.com/OlvestonParishPlayers).

We are really looking forward to bringing you a show week full of fun and laughter.

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## Monday Movie 2nd February

Our February film\* is an irreverent and cheeky English comedy film in the same vein as The Full Monty and Calendar Girls. It is based on the true story of a struggling English shoe factory owner, a bit of a wimp, who faced with cheap Chinese imports, changed the downward course of his business and found success making high-heeled boots for drag queens and the transgender community. The story was originally shown in a BBC documentary in 1999. The film was made in 2005 and was subsequently transformed into an internationally successful stage show - with music by Cindy Lauper.

Lola, the star, is a Drag Queen, played by Chiwetel Ejiofor and his performance was ranked one of the very best of the year. The best way to describe the film is 'naughty but nice' and guaranteed to make you laugh!

Everyone is welcome at all the Monday Movies held in St Mary's Church. There is no admission fee, but donations are always welcome. Doors open at 7pm and the film starts at 7:30pm. Coffee and tea available along with licensed bar.

*\*Under the terms of our licensing agreement we are not permitted to show the title.*

## Parish Hall Annual Fish and Quiz

The Annual Fish and Quiz evening will take place on Friday 27th February. Tickets are £12.50 each to include a fish and chips supper, followed by a mini-ice cream. There will be a cash/card bar.

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## Village People: Laura Orna



Some local villagers will know Laura, as she is the new Clerk to the Governors at Olveston CEVC Primary School, having taken on the role 12 months ago. Before this she had served on the allotment committee and was a secretary and trustee of the Bristol Family Centre for the support of Deaf Children, as well as being on the committee of the Bristol Deaf Children's Society. Safe to say she is a real contributor to whatever community she belongs to!

Laura was born in Solihull but moved around quite a lot as her father worked for the MOD. However, most of her school years, (primary, secondary and sixth form) were spent in Cheltenham. In her childhood Laura was a keen horse rider and wanted to be a professional eventer. Although she has retained her love of riding, an accident a few years ago, which caused some mild spinal damage, means that she no longer risks riding.

After leaving school she worked in care home for several years, before studying nursing at UWE and qualifying as a Registered General Nurse in 2012. Whilst she was studying, she also worked part-time at a care home for people with learning difficulties. It was here that she met her husband, Henry, who was working there as a support worker. Laura says he followed her into nursing and Henry is now a qualified mental health nurse, for an agency based in Gloucester. Had Laura always wanted to be in nursing? Well, the answer is no..... she actually wanted to be a teacher and started studying English Language at Plymouth University but says that she soon found that it wasn't for her, so changed to nursing.

Laura's first job, after qualifying, was at a care home in Winterbourne. After that, she worked on the neurosurgery post operative wards at Frenchay Hospital including the high dependency unit. When the new Southmead Hospital opened, she transferred to the intensive care unit working with patients from both neurological surgery and other intensive care needs. She took maternity leave from there, but the shift patterns didn't help with the challenges of bringing up a baby, so moved to a role in pre-op assessment, still at Southmead Hospital, for 8 years. From there she moved to Emersons Green hospital, working on the surgical wards. Although she no longer has a



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full-time contract, Laura still does some part-time nursing work at Emersons Green as part of the 'bank'.

Laura is now focusing on using her passion for caring by providing a home care service for people in Olveston and the surrounding villages. She will provide personal care, medication support helping with transport, shopping meal preparation etc. This means enhanced DBS vetting and professional indemnity insurance have all had to become a part of her life.

Laura, Henry and their children Max and Evie are all quite sporty and particularly into running. She ran one marathon with her husband, (the Eden Project marathon) a few years ago, but says that a half marathon is more suited to her! So, her next challenge is the Paris half marathon later this year, which she is running with her sister. We wish her luck.

## Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church

Thank you to everyone who came to Tockington Christingle Service on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. We were delighted to have so many families and children in our church. The children loved joining in the service and making the Christingles and having them lit in church created a very special moment. It was a highlight of our Christmas celebrations and raised £100 for NCH Action for Children. We hope that we can make this an annual event.

## February Puzzle

Below, 5 nine letter words have been broken into chunks of three letters. These chunks have been mixed up, no chunk is used twice, and all 15 chunks are used. What are the five words? (Answers at the end of the magazine.)

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## Tockington's Hidden History: The Eye Well

Martin Gibson



The Eye Well, St Michael's Well or Miles Well, are different names for the same well located on the verge of Upper Tockington Road, close to Westfield but today hidden from sight by overgrowth. The Ordnance Survey of 1881 called it St Michael's Well. According to our late local historian, Eric Garrett, it was named after the chapel attached to the original Manor at Tockington, both now lost. By 1903, however, the OS map described it as Miles Well. It lies in an interesting position on the boundary between the two villages. The map also records the discovery, in 1867, of human remains at nearby Westfield Cottage. Interestingly, pre-Christian burials were often sited near holy wells and boundaries.

The plot thickens - in the Tockington Court Roll of 1794, William Clarke was presented (accused) "for encroachment of the Lord's Waste near Miles Pool.....and we order him to lay open the same before next Court under penalty of 5 shillings." William Clarke was presented for similar offences over the next 5 years. It appears he had enclosed the piece of waste land where Miles Well stood, presumably to include it in the adjacent field. So, we have use of the name Miles at least for the locality, if not for the well itself. Who was Miles? Miles is the Latin name for Knight and might therefore refer to the Lord of the Manor ie "the Lord's well on the Lord's waste".

Cont/.....



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The most common name for the well is the Eye Well. It could be a corruption of Michael's or Miles Well but certainly there are many testimonies to the soothing properties of the water on the eyes. About forty years ago, Mr Farr of The Elms Farm, just below the well, recalled, *"My father in the early 1900s had an accident with quick lime which went into his eyes. It was reckoned that the quick application of the well's water and subsequent use, saved his eyesight. My brother, 50 years ago, had a very bad stye come on his eye when he was in London. He came home with this stye in full spate. Within 24 hours of bathing with well water it was gone."*



*the water to bathe our eyes. The stinging sensation and inflammation was soon cured..... I also remember we were not allowed to drink from the well unlike the sparkling (water from the) Rams Well, also in Tockington."*

Hilda Meachin (nee Dyer) also remembered... *"Myself and younger brother Jack, developed badly inflamed eyes known locally as Pink Eye (probably conjunctivitis). We lived next door to The Fox Inn at Old Down, and my mother would walk down to the Eye Well, fill bottles with*

*How long ago the water was drinkable is not known, but it is clear that the old Sentinel steam lorries working from the quarries (in the early part of the 20th century) used the well water and polluted it with oil. In the 1930s the Eye Well and Rams Well were looked after by a Bill Gardener for £1 a year from the Parish Council. He recalled that the "Eye Well was surrounded on three sides with stone walls with a corrugated iron roof sloping towards Olveston to keep the leaves out. The well was entered via a wooden gate and there were two steps down to a fairly small hole from which the water could be scooped up." Nick Fear, recounting Eric Garrett, added there was a large stone slab below the steps and that the only light was from the doorway.*

*In the late 1940s the gate was broken and the Parish Council were concerned that someone might get drowned there. In the 1950s the water was condemned as unfit to drink unless boiled and the well was infilled with hardcore . It seems a pity that such an interesting parish feature has been lost.*

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At the turn of the last century a group of interested locals opened a discussion with the landowner, Mr Bruce Farr, with a view to restoring the well to its original condition. Plans were prepared, certain consents obtained and costings sought (around £3,000). The idea was abandoned in 2002.

*\*This is an amalgamation of Meeting Point articles, one by Tony Turnbull in 1985 and another by Nick Fear in 2017. Some updating has been carried out and additional information concerning the planned restoration in 2000 AD provided by Martin Gibson, with thanks to Bill Morgan.*

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Tony Gardner

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£25	556	Mrs S Chick, Olveston
£25	353	Mrs J Jones, Shrivenham
£25	376	Mrs J Jones, Shrivenham
£20	399	Mrs D Grosvenor, Tockington
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## January's Wolf Moon in Olveston

Many thanks to Paul Godwin for these amazing photos of January's Wolf Moon. It was the first full moon of 2026, and it was also a supermoon, appearing much larger than normal. A supermoon occurs when the Moon's orbit is closest to Earth at the same time the Moon is full. These two, and the one on the next page, are just three of the many he took from his garden, at dawn on a very cold morning, just as the moon was close to setting.



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## Olveston and Tockington WI

After our exciting evening last month, when we and our visitors imagined ourselves living on the International Space Station, we've got something a bit more down to earth for this month at WI. We are going to have an evening of songs and music from a singer, Danny Guest. He'll be playing and singing well-known songs with tunes we can all join in with. It should be a lovely, harmonious evening!

Anybody interested in joining our very active group is welcome. More information can be had from me, Angela Green, on 615222.

## Unsung Heroes

All of us at Meeting Point would like to thank Ashley and Pauline Ford and Pippa Johnson, who have – for just over fifty years – voluntarily delivered Meeting Point in all weathers. Back in the day, we believe, they used their babies' prams to transport the copies around from door to door. Their service, and indeed that of all our wonderful deliverers, is very much appreciated.



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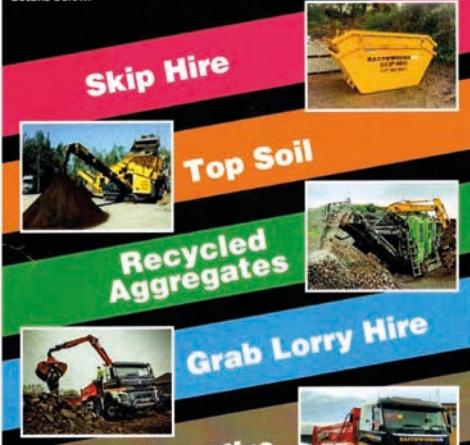
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## The Newport Medieval Ship

Olveston Parish Historical Society

Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026, 7.30pm, Olveston Methodist Church

Jenny Newley



Toby Jones has worked as an archaeologist, lab technician, dive safety officer and diver on various scientific and archaeological projects since 1997. He has worked on shipwreck projects and surveys in Oklahoma, Brittany, the Gulf of Mexico, Cyprus and the Algarve.

The Newport Medieval Ship is a fifteenth century merchant vessel, the remains of which were unearthed in the heart of Newport, South Wales, in 2002.

Toby has worked on the Newport Medieval Ship Project since 2004 and, as the Curator of the Medieval Ship, he's responsible

for the supervision of the recording of, cleaning of, research into and publication of the vessel's hull and associated artefacts.

Come along and hear him tell us what he knows about the ship, what's happened so far and what's next for the ship project.

This talk is open to all - everyone's very welcome. Non-members: £3 on the door (by cash, or cheque to OPHS - no cards, please). Free refreshments.

Toby will bring along some books about the ship, sales of which all help the project. Feel free to browse, and to buy if you want to know more.

[www.olveston.com/historical-society](http://www.olveston.com/historical-society)



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## Nostos Trio

Formed in 2025, The Nostos Trio unites three young dynamic musicians, Monty Guo, violin, Khrystyna Mikhailichenko, piano and Jae Min Kim Kang, cello. They represent Australia, Ukraine and Spain/South Korea respectively.

Though newly established, the trio combines a wealth of international experience with its members having performed widely across Europe, Asia and Australia as soloists, chamber musicians and orchestral leaders. Together they bring a distinctive energy and sensitivity to the piano trio repertoire, creating performances marked by depth, clarity and communicative power.

Their programme consists of Piano Trio no.1 op. 70 Ghost by Ludwig Van Beethoven, Piano Trio no.3 op. 101 by Johannes Brahms, Piano Trio (1952) by Amo Babadjanian.



For tickets, contact: [AAGThornbury@gmail.com](mailto:AAGThornbury@gmail.com).

The concert takes place  
at The United Reformed  
Church, Chapel Street,  
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Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>  
at 7.30 pm. Tickets £25  
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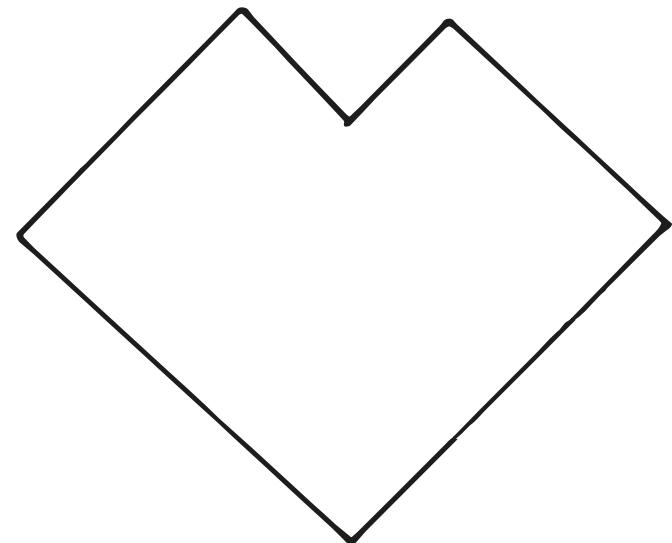
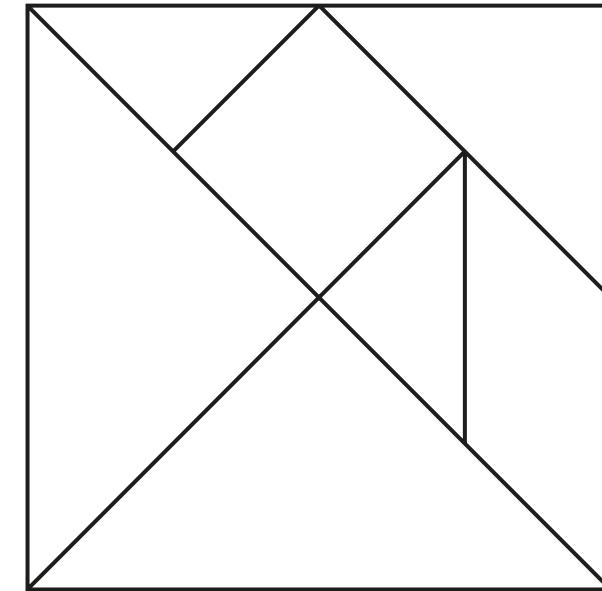
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Jan Winter

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Answers on Page 41.



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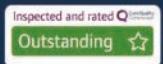
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## St Mary's Music

The next 'Third Sunday' concert at St. Mary's Church ,Thornbury (BS35 1HQ) will take place on February 15th at the usual time of 4.00pm.

We are delighted to welcome the highly accomplished Welsh harpist, Glenda Clwyd, to perform for us. Glenda studied harp, piano and singing from an early age and went on to study at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. As well as being a distinguished performer, she is also a highly sought after teacher. We are sure that this will be a most enjoyable afternoon.

As usual the concert will be followed by refreshments . Admission is free and donations go to St Mary's Music.

## Thornbury Art Club

### Club Night Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February



You're invited to watch Jonathan Newey paint a tiger portrait with acrylic paint. Jonathan will guide you through the step-by-step process of creating a striking tiger portrait whilst also sharing his techniques for capturing the majestic animal's expressive eyes and vibrant fur using acrylic paints. Suitable for all skill levels, the session will cover colour mixing, brushwork, glazing and layering, allowing participants to develop confidence and achieve realistic effects in their own pet and wildlife artwork.

We'll have a short break during the evening for free tea, coffee, and biscuits. This will give us an opportunity to chat with member, visitors and the artist. Don't miss this fantastic chance to learn, socialise, and enjoy an evening of art, whether you're just starting out or looking to refine your skills. If you're interested in joining the Club, our membership secretary, Pat will be on the door to give you more information, or else contact us below.

Members free, non-members very welcome - £6 on the door, cash or card. 7.15pm until 9.30pm. St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Rd, Thornbury, BS35 1DR Free parking on-site.

For more information contact: [www.thornburyartclub.co.uk](http://www.thornburyartclub.co.uk)  
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## Snow White



Join Thornbury Musical Theatre Group as they return to the Winterbourne & District Community Association (WADCA) at Watleys End Road, Winterbourne, Bristol BS36 1QG, following their sell-out pantomime Jack and The Beanstalk last year. During half term week, from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February, Thornbury Musical Theatre Group is proud to bring you a brand-new take on one of the most traditional and popular pantomimes.

Written in-house by Jamie Wright and Tirion Cowell, our story is of Snow White, a beautiful princess, and her evil, vain stepmother, the Wicked Queen. The Queen is obsessed with being the 'fairest in the land' and regularly consults her magic mirror. With Prince Rupert set to visit the castle, the Queen gets Snow White to clean up the castle ready for the royal visit. Things don't go to plan for the Queen when Prince Rupert sets his eyes upon Snow White and asks the Queen for Snow White's hand in marriage. The Queen in a fit of rage calls for Herman the Henchman to take Snow White deep into the forest from where she wouldn't return. Herman takes pity on the princess and leaves her in the care of the woodland creatures. It is in the forest Snow White meets the Mini Miners who want to be the big new boy band on the scene. The Queen learning that Snow White is still living in the forest, sets out to finish the job herself. There are plenty of capers and laughs as Snow White's friends set out to rescue the princess. Odd Job Bob, Nurse Nora and the Chamberlain, falling over themselves to look after their friend. With music and merriment to help things along it's a party not to be missed.

Whether you are a kid or kid at heart, this will be a great half term treat. A feelgood show packed with audience participation, drama, romance, upbeat songs, high powered dance routines and plenty of laughter.

Performances 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm, 20<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm and 7.30pm and 21<sup>st</sup> at 10.30am and 2.30pm. Standard tickets £12.00 bookable online at [www.tmtg.org.uk/tickets](http://www.tmtg.org.uk/tickets) or by phone on 07516 270140. Please note - all accessible tickets need to be booked via our box office telephone number on 07516 270140 or by emailing [tickets@tmtg.org.uk](mailto:tickets@tmtg.org.uk)

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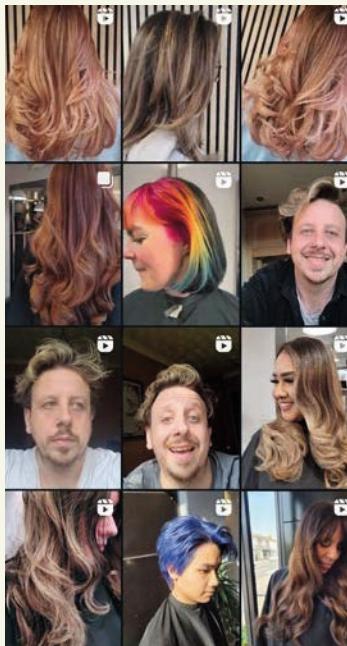
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## February Facts\*

So here we are in February. My internet research tells me that at one time this was the last month of the Roman calendar and a time of ritual purification by washing. It is, of course, the shortest month of the year and the last month of winter in the Northern Hemisphere.

In Ireland, the festival of Imbloc is being revived by traditionalists. This is one of the four Gaelic traditional seasonal festivals and celebrates the onset of spring. Imbloc has traditionally been celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> February, however it appears that the timing of the festival was originally more flexible and based on seasonal changes such as lambing or the flowering of the blackthorn. It was a festival of the hearth and home, and a celebration of the lengthening days and the early signs of spring. Celebrations often involved special foods, candles or a bonfire if the weather permitted. The lighting of candles and fires represented the return of warmth and the increasing power of the Sun over the coming months and hopes for a good harvest.



In America February is designated as National Bird Feeding month which strikes me as rather a good idea. February 1<sup>st</sup> is – believe it or not – National Baked Alaska Day. Then there is Groundhog Day on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. According to folklore, if it is cloudy when a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day, then the spring season will arrive early; if it is sunny, the groundhog will supposedly see its shadow and retreat back into its den, and winter weather will persist for six more weeks. Many people will be familiar with the idea of Groundhog Day thanks to the 1993 film starring Bill Murray as an arrogant weatherman.

Valentine's Day, February 14<sup>th</sup>, is, of course, a very well-known commercially driven celebration. While the custom of sending cards, flowers, chocolates and other gifts originated in the UK, Valentine's Day still remains connected with various regional customs in England. In Norfolk, a character called 'Jack' Valentine knocks on the rear door of houses leaving sweets and presents for children.

And finally, February 17<sup>th</sup> is Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. It's also known as Pancake Day and making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday was a way to use up ingredients like eggs, fats and milk that were not allowed during Lent. Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shriving, i.e. the process of confessing and repenting of sins by fasting and abstaining from luxuries during Lent.

\* Everybody knows that internet research is not 100% foolproof so there may be some debate around some of these 'facts'. Editor.

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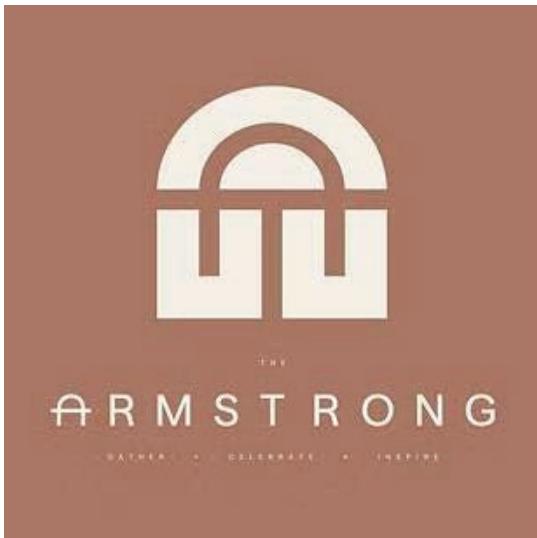


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## Armstrong Update



After the announcement at the switching on of the Christmas lights that the doors will be opening in April this year, it is all systems go for The Armstrong team. The new bar, foyer and 120-seater refurbished Cosham Hall, will be open for business in the Spring and until then, behind the barriers, the exciting transformation continues.

In the meantime, the planning and preparations are in a very intense phase, and all members of the team are working hard to make sure

everything will go to plan when the venue is once more a centre of community life in Thornbury. Work on the bar is well under way and some of the team were lucky enough to enjoy a wine tasting with the chosen drinks supplier, St Austell Brewery.

Fundraising will be vital for the next phase of the project, and the Armstrong Team has been delighted that community groups and individuals are coming forward to raise money to add to the pot. In December, Bristol Concert Wind Band held a wonderful sell out concert at the United Reformed Church in aid of The Armstrong charity. It was a delightful event which put everyone in the mood for Christmas and raised a considerable sum for the cause. If you belong to a group or organisation which is willing to run a fundraising event, please get in touch via [hello@thearmstrong.co.uk](mailto:hello@thearmstrong.co.uk) and of course individual donations can be made by donating on the website [www.thearmstrong.co.uk](http://www.thearmstrong.co.uk)

During February and March this year more members of the community will be able to find out about how the complex will be operating from April onwards. People with an active interest in its future will be invited to come through the doors and spend an hour or two learning more, along with all of us who have been heavily involved over the past few years. There will be a lot of celebrating to be done! If you would like to find out more, go to: [www.thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on) or email [jill@thearmstrong.co.uk](mailto:jill@thearmstrong.co.uk)

The Armstrong Diary is now open from April 2026 so if you are considering booking an event or community activity, please get in touch by emailing [hello@thearmstrong.co.uk](mailto:hello@thearmstrong.co.uk).

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## Green Force



### What are PFAs?

PFAs are a group of 10,000 substances that are widely used for their water, heat and stain resistant properties and are informally known as forever chemicals.

PFAs came into use with the invention of Teflon in 1938 to make fluoropolymer coatings. They were then introduced for use in a wide variety of products including waterproof fabric, yoga pants, carpets, shampoo, mobile phone screens, wall paint, furniture, pots and pans, adhesives, food, firefighting foam, electrical insulation and cosmetics.

Residues from these chemicals move through soil and water and bioaccumulate in food sources such as fish, which are then ingested by the general population, while occupational exposure occurs through accidental ingestion, inhalation and skin contact in industrial and work settings. Exposure to PFAs has been linked to many diseases and health conditions in humans. The first research study to report elevated organic fluorine levels in the blood of fluorochemical workers was published in 1900. If our blood was tested today, it would undoubtedly show PFAs were present.

### Dates for your diary:

February 2<sup>nd</sup> World Wetlands Day.

February 12<sup>th</sup> Honours the birth of Charles Darwin and promotes the importance of science, evolution, and environmental sustainability.



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## Aladdin: A Review

Becky Elderton

Talented students from Phoenix Youth Theatre Company dazzled audiences in their recent production of Disney Junior Aladdin. Presented over four vibrant performances in December at Olveston and Tockington Parish Hall, their enthusiasm and dedication transformed the venue into the bustling, magical world of Agrabah, captivating audiences throughout.



A lively cast of characters filled the stage, bringing the world of Aladdin to life with confidence and flair. Will Elderton delivered quick-witted charm in the title role of Aladdin, while Nick Hyndman brought sinister swagger to Jafar, supported brilliantly by Lucy Wistow as the comedic and chaotic Iago. Josh Davis (Kassim), Leia Prior (Babak) and Piper Kennedy (Omar) shone as Aladdin's three loyal mates, adding bursts of humour and camaraderie throughout the adventure. Aoife McBride sparkled as Princess Jasmine, joined by Olivia Rawlings as the kind-hearted Sultan, and the unstoppable Genie, joyfully portrayed by Amelia O'Sullivan, whose energy lit up the stage, aided, no doubt by the wonder pyrotechnics. Strong supporting performances came from Poppy Young (Isir), Hollie Head (Rajah) and Izzy Adams (Manal) as Princess Jasmine's devoted palace assistants, while Ollie Phillips impressed as the intimidating and fearsome palace guard Razoul.

Cont/....

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## Is your garden in need of some TLC?

Christopher is a professional, RHS-qualified gardener experienced in planting and maintaining a wide variety of gardens. Whatever you are after - maintenance, a makeover, or anything else - don't hesitate to get in touch!

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Phoenix Youth Theatre Company - renowned for nurturing young talent and offering exceptional theatrical opportunities - once again showcased its commitment to creativity and community. Alongside the principal roles, many other characters shone in the ensemble, bringing energy, teamwork and visual spectacle to every group scene. Phoenix Youth Theatre Company will return in summer 2026 with their next big production, Grease, promising even more music, high energy and unforgettable moments.

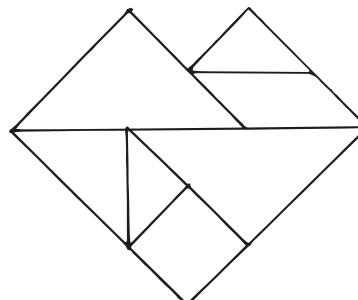
# Thornbury Choral Society

Just a reminder! Thornbury Choral Society holds its annual Come and Sing event on February 28th at Alveston Methodist Church (BS35 3RA). We shall be studying Verdi's Requiem. For further details go to: [www.thornburychoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.thornburychoralsociety.org.uk)



# A Thank You from St. Mary's.

Thank you to everyone who created an advent window in December. They were all amazing, and so many people enjoyed an advent window walk!



# Answers

**Tangram:** This is how you lay out the 7 pieces, so they look like a heart.

**Word Puzzle:** Bedspread, beautiful, dimension, pronounce, livestock

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**Yours Faithfully**

Deacon Lawrence McCarthy  
Christ the King Church, Thornbury

One of the parishioners at Christ the King kindly bought the Countryfile 2026 Calendar (in aid of BBC Children in Need) which is put to good use in my office here. There is a lovely photograph of some seals (I'm assuming grey or harbour seals, but please don't ask me which) taken by Craig Denford on the Norfolk Coast. Hopefully these beautiful animals have felt at home in what has been very cold (for us) weather in the past few weeks.

It doesn't seem a minute since the delights of Christmas and the New Year were with us and now we move forward into the month of February: the second and shortest month of the year. Highlighted in the calendar for this month is St Valentine's Day (Saturday 14th) and Shrove Tuesday (17th Feb) which is also Chinese New Year - this year being the Year of the Horse. We then have referenced Ash Wednesday (18th Feb) which is also when Ramadhan begins. So, from North, South, East and West in the space of a few short days there will be something for all to celebrate and to look forward to.

February is often referred to as 'the border between winter and spring' and as the days continue to grow longer and the enticement of St Valentine's Day cards, chocolates and flowers are in the air, let's hope that the coming period is a month for all to enjoy, in one form or another.

For many, many years, I used to send my mum a Valentine's Day card after my dad had died (at an early age). My Mum used to enjoy receiving this from an 'anonymous' person (albeit my handwriting at that time must have given the game away). Please don't forget to send those you know and love a message that you love them at this time. Small acts of kindness do last for ever in this life (and in the next!) and should never be underestimated.





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## Church News

### ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Feb 1st	10am 6pm	Holy Communion Evensong - <i>Choir</i>	Rev David Lloyd Rev David Lloyd
Feb 8th	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer - <i>Choir</i> Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd Rev Ann Lloyd
Feb 15th	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer - <i>Choir</i> Holy Communion BCP	Janet McBride Rev Ann Lloyd
Feb 22nd	10am 6pm	Holy Communion - <i>Choir</i> Reflective Evening Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd Janet McBride

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

Feb 8th	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss
Feb 22nd	10am	Morning Prayer	Trevor Cook

**Contact:** Trevor Cook, 01454 618442

**Church Wardens:** Jenn Dickens 632312 and Jon Burnett 633835

### ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Feb 8th	9am	Morning Prayer	Judith Heybyrne
Feb 22nd	9am	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd

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

### ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Feb 8th	3pm	Evensong	Rev David Moss
Feb 22nd	3pm	Evensong with Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

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



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## OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Feb 1st	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by John Creech
Feb 8th	10am	Olv Ch	Local arrangement
Feb 15th	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Christine Jones
Feb 22nd	10am	Olv Ch	Holy Communion led by Rev Simon Edwards

**Contact:** Rev Dr Simon Edwards 418176

[Simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds at 2.30pm.

**Contact:** 01454 612084, [thevine\\_awkley@hotmail.com](mailto:thevine_awkley@hotmail.com)

## THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Services at 6.30pm every Sunday. All are welcome.

**Contact:** Neil Mobbs, [cnmobbs@hotmail.com](mailto:cnmobbs@hotmail.com)

## AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Service 11am every Sunday

## LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH Service 5.30pm every Sunday

**Contact:** [esther@thebamfields.co.uk](mailto:esther@thebamfields.co.uk)

## RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury

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**Contact:** 01454 412223, <https://ctkandholycross.org.uk>

## SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

**Contact:** Chris Willmore, [chriswillmore@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chriswillmore@blueyonder.co.uk)

## THORNBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Services are every Sunday at 10.45am Rev Neil Thorogood

# Diary Dates for February:

Information believed to be correct at going to press.

1 Sun	Litter picking Rock House Snowdrop open garden	10am 11 - 4pm	OPH Elberton
2 Mon	Monday Movies Alveston Gardens Association talk	7pm 7.30pm	StM JHA
3 Tues	Citizens Advice every Tues Thornbury Art Club painting studio Every Tues Olveston Parish Wildlife Group meeting	10-12pm 1.30pm 7pm	TTH SMCH OPS
4 Weds	Table tennis every Weds Olveston Parish Historical Society	7pm 7.30pm	OPH OMC
5 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers Market Coffee Shop every Thurs Thornbury Art Club painting studio Every Thurs	9-1pm 9.30-12pm 1.30 pm	StM SMCH
6 Fri	Tockington Community Café Haven Memory Café, every 1st & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday Friday Monthly Music Night	10-12pm 10-15- 11.45am 7.30pm	TMC URC CTK
7 Sat	Park Run every Sat	9am	MPF
8 Sun	Rock House Snowdrop Garden open	11 - 4pm	Elberton
9 Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club AGM	2pm	SMCH
10 Tues	Thornbury Memory Café every 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues Olveston & Tockington WI	10.15- 11.45am 7.30pm	TMCH OPH
12 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers Market	9am	
15 Sun	St. Mary's Music, Glenda Clwyd	4pm	StMT
18 Weds	OPP: My Fair Lady until Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> TMTG: Snow White until 20th	7.30pm 7.30pm	OPH WADCA
19 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers Market	9-1pm	
20 Fri	TMTG: Snow White: matinee	2.30 pm	WADCA

21 Sat	OPP: My Fair Lady: matinee TMTG: Snow White:	2pm 10.30am & 2.30pm	OPH WADCA
23 Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club: Practise	1.30pm	SMCH
24 Tues	Thornbury Art Club: Club night	7.15pm	SMCH
25 Weds	Alveston Local History Society talk	7.30pm	AMC
27 Fri	The Annual Fish and Quiz evening	OPH	7.30pm
28 Sat	Thornbury Choral Society "Come and Sing" event AAG: The Nostos Trio concert	10-5pm 7.30pm	AMC URC

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 Schoo **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 **PHT** - Porch House, Thornbury **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, **TMCH** - Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, **TTH** - Thornbury Town Hall, **URC** - United Reform Church **WADCA** - Winterbourne & District Community Association

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](http://www.olvestonandaust.com). If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: [meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com](mailto:meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com)

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