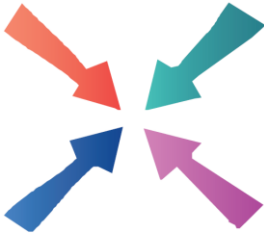


Meeting Point



January 2017



Meeting Point

Volume 41, Number 4, January 2017

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

As new Editor I have just taken delivery of two huge boxes of bound past copies of Meeting Point going back over forty years. So, as this edition was beginning to take shape, I decided to look back, say ten years, to see what was happening in January 2007. Our then editor was suffering from the after effects of a huge storm (tree fallen bringing phone line down, daughter very fed up at lack of internet.....) and reading through the magazine I could see articles about very familiar activities, such as a quiz, WI talks, charity fundraisers and so on, as well as a thoughtful local history item. I was very amused by a delightful poem which takes a slightly offbeat look at the twelve days of Christmas and it is included here, in January 2017.

My thanks go to Chris for all his help in getting me up to speed for the Editor role, and in the crucial final stages of this edition.

Happy New Year.

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.olvostonandaust.com

Lalu and Katie Sapkota

Profile by Pat Thirkettle

Lalu and Katie are a delightful couple, soul mates who found each other from opposite sides of the world, with widely differing childhoods, but much in common on a personal level.



Lalu was born in the jungle in Chitwan National Park, Nepal, literally as it happens: his mother was collecting grass for the animals about two miles from home when she delivered him. He and his friends happily ran free amongst wild animals that they learnt to live with and understand – rhinos, elephants, Bengal tigers, bears, storks, a hundred different birds - and they even swam near crocodiles. School was two miles away, but he found that rather irrelevant and preferred to do paid jobs round the village, usually helping with the harvests, three times a year, of rice, mustard and maize. This was an early indication of the energy, work ethic and lovely outgoing personality that finds him in Olveston now.

His brother worked for a hotel and recommended Lалу for a job there as a handyman. However Lалу was keen to help the staff and guests in any way he could and started learning to be a tour guide. Hotels ran jeep tours, but also walking tours through the jungle accompanied by two guides. Lалу became a government qualified senior tour leader and General Manager of his hotel.

Meanwhile Katie was enjoying an idyllic country childhood in Kington, near Thornbury, followed by a music scholarship to Cheltenham Ladies College and then four years at Leeds University. After a classical music education her tastes widened at Leeds, where she directed musicals and played in a pop band for which she arranged covers - which made them good money. She then left to live in London and tried to make a living by writing music, only to find that the necessity of having a job and commuting left little energy for creative activity.

So at the age of twenty seven she moved to Mexico where she earned a good living teaching English as a foreign language to professionals and playing in two bands, one jazz and one rock. She loved the lifestyle but her personal life led her home again to work at the South West Academy of Dramatic Arts in Filton, teaching singing technique and performance skills to HND level which she enjoyed, and there were some very successful students. However, at the age of thirty four, she had a spiritual calling to take a sabbatical and back pack

around Russia, China, Nepal and India with the intention of writing a meditation musical album.

In October on the third leg of her journey she met Lalu in Chitwan as he was leading a tour. She decided to go on to India, but her heart remained in Chitwan and in January she shipped all her musical equipment to a hotel there, worked during the day (using a dongle, no Wi-Fi there!), and met Lalu in the evenings, often at the Culture House. Here Lalu compered events featuring the Tharu people, a free spirited ethnic group of the Chitwan forest, with their own interesting music and spiritual links to the natural world. Katie returned to the UK to publish her album, which proved fruitless, so she went back to Nepal on a six month visa. It was at this point that they decided to marry and then discovered it was a four-month process littered with challenges! Her parents joined them at the marriage ceremony in Pokhara.

Soon pregnant with their daughter Maya, Katie returned to the UK to navigate the complicated visa application process on behalf of Lalu. She discovered the process of applying for a legal visa in the UK is virtually unfathomable and it is also very difficult to rely on the information provided by immigration officials. For the next several pregnant months, problems abounded. Even at the last moment as Lalu arrived in Kathmandu for his first flight, he was forbidden to travel by an official, unofficially; and not knowing any better, Lalu set off back home. Back in England Katie made frantic phone calls and, in the end, it was only the intervention of contacts at the British Embassy that enabled Lalu eventually to board the plane for the UK.

In February 2009 married life began in St George, Bristol, with Katie back at her job in Filton, and within two weeks Lalu got a job in a Nepalese restaurant. He was then offered the job of gardener at Old Down Manor, a job he loved. He managed to bring the gardens back from the wilderness they had become to the way they are now. Never having driven a car, he cycled there and back each day, once even pushing a faulty electric bike both ways....

While on maternity leave from Filton, Katie was offered the job of Head of Music at Tockington Manor School and they moved to Olveston at Christmas with baby Maya just nine months old. Lalu describes how they immediately felt at home; in his usual sociable way he had visited a pub in St George but it felt wrong so he went home. Needless to say this did not happen in Olveston, and he is now a valued member of two skittles teams at the White Hart and has even won a doubles title at skittles.

In 2011 their son Janu was born - which completed the family unit. While on this maternity leave Katie worked at Vicarage Farm Holistic Therapy Centre as a qualified Reiki practitioner; Reiki is a Japanese technique for stress reduction and relaxation that promotes healing and is very important to Katie. In 2015 Lau decided to set up Lalu's Gardening Services, a business which has taken off really well with no need for advertising and many satisfied

customers. His tax return showed a good profit this year; just as well after the thousands of pounds he has invested in renewing his visa!

Future plans include moving to a larger house in Orchard Rise - they do not want to leave Olveston. Katie would like to work part time at Tockington Manor in order to spend more time with the children, devote herself to finally publishing her music album, teach privately and research the healing properties of Nepalese singing bowls. Lalu especially wants me to emphasise how lovely Olveston is, with a wonderful community spirit; he looks forward to developing his business and never wants to leave.

My Twelve Days of Xmas

On the **first** day of Christmas, my true love said to me,
"I'm glad we bought fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree".

On the **second** day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey, a most delicious bird.

On the **third** day we entertained the people from next door.
The turkey tasted just as good as it did the day before.

Day **four**, relations came to stay; poor Gran was looking old.
We finished up the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.

On the **fifth** day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes flurried,
But we were nice and warm inside for we had our turkey curried.

On the **sixth** day, I must admit, the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered. We ate turkey rissoles, fried.

On the **seventh** day of Christmas, my true love she did wince
When she sat down at the table after cooking turkey mince.

Day **eight** and nerves were getting frayed; the dog had run for shelter.
We served up turkey pancakes with a glass of Alka-Seltzer.

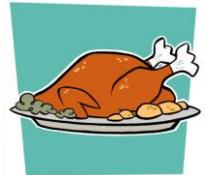
On day **nine** our cat left home; by lunch Grandad was blotto.
He said he had to have a drink to face turkey risotto.

By the **tenth** day all the booze had gone (apart from our home made brew).
As if that wasn't bad enough, we suffered turkey stew.

On the **eleventh** day of Christmas, the Christmas tree was moulting,
The mince pies were as hard as rock and the turkey was revolting.

On the **twelfth** day, my love and I had smiles upon our lips.
The guests had gone, the turkey too, and we dined on fish and chips.

*From the Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association 'Christmas Poems'.
Submitted originally for the January 2007 Meeting Point by Mike Neal.
Image: Clipart.co*



Aust Parish Council Matters

Tim Pyper (austparishcouncil@googlemail.com)

Boundary Commission

The Boundary Commission has proposed that the parliamentary constituency boundaries for our present constituency should be changed. The Commission is neutral and has proposed that the towns of Thornbury, Berkeley, Cam, Dursley, Chipping Sodbury and Yate should be put together into one constituency to be called Dursley, Thornbury and Yate. The rationale appears to be that these are all market towns in the countryside. A counter proposal has been put forward by one of the political parties that the Severn Ward (the parishes of Olveston, Aust, Oldbury Hill and Rockhampton) should not form part of this constituency, but instead be included in the constituency of Filton and Bradley Stoke.

The parish council considered these proposals and has told the Boundary Commission of its view that their proposal is preferable. In spite of being very close to Bristol, the Severn Ward - and Aust parish in particular - is a rural community and does not look towards Bradley Stoke and other developed areas of the north Bristol fringe, and has very little in common with those areas. It would not welcome the counter proposal.

Joint Spatial and Transport Plans

These plans published by the South Gloucestershire, Bath and NE Somerset and Bristol City Councils deal with development proposals for the period up to 2036. Consultation closes in January and your council will be submitting its comments after the January meeting. There are important proposals affecting the Thornbury area, but no direct implications for Aust parish itself. You can see the plans at

<https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/JSPwestofengland/consultationHome>

Skittles Afternoon -

In Memory of Roly

The Spice Girls Skittle Team would like to thank everyone who supported us to raise £380 for Cancer Research. Thanks, also, to Steve (White Hart) for use of the Pub's Skittle Alley. We all had a great afternoon and we know Roly would have really enjoyed it too.

Di Roberts

Twelfth Night Confusion

Twelfth Night is widely thought of as the end of Christmas and the date by which all your festive decorations should be taken down in order to avoid 'bad luck'. And yet there is some confusion about when, exactly, it falls. The Church of England is clear that it is January 5th, the night before Epiphany, the day when the nativity story tells us that the Three Wise Men visited the infant Jesus. Centuries ago Christmas was deemed to start at sunset on December 24th so January 5th was twelve days later and not at all contentious.

However, today, many people believe that Twelfth Night falls on January 6th which is the twelfth day after Christmas Day. Plus, many churches keep their decorations up for longer than this to cover the Epiphany celebrations. Confused yet? What does Wikipedia say?

*"If Christmas Day is the first of the twelve days, then Twelfth Night would be on **January 5**, the eve of Epiphany. If December 26, the day after Christmas, is the first day, then Twelfth Night falls on **January 6**, the evening of Epiphany itself."*

Not exactly a definitive answer. In any event, in our house the decorations come down on January 5th (if not before) by which time pine needles are clogging up the vacuum cleaner and the cats have demolished anything they can reach.



Olveston Toddlers

Jo 07773 709155

This group, held on Thursday afternoons in Olveston Methodist Hall, sadly closed in July 2016. Since that time the toys have sat unloved and in need of young hands to play with them once again. I am sure that there are new mums (or dads or grandparents) in the parish who would welcome a place where they could

bring their children to play - with toys they don't have at home - and to chat with other grown-ups. The insurance is paid till April so it's now or never... and if Thursday afternoons don't suit then let me know what would be better.

Please let me know if you'd like to restart this group. I look forward to hearing from you.

Parish Players present "Peter Pan"

The Parish Players are enjoying the exploration of J.M.Barrie's Peter Pan. Written in 1904, it is based on Barrie's long-term involvement with the five Llewelyn Davies boys, his surrogate sons after the tragic death of both their parents. The toe tapping, uplifting music is composed by Piers Chater Robinson. The show, classified as a British musical, nevertheless has pantomimic features that will appeal to old and young alike, and includes marauding pirates, Indian braves, fairies and Lost Boys, who after falling from their prams as babies, were transported to Neverland to spend an idyllic childhood with Peter Pan, "the boy who never grew up".

The iconic role of Peter is doubly cast by Timothy Mitchell & Jake Woodward, with Niamh McBride playing the motherly Wendy. Hannah Clarke is cast as John, and Theo Woodward as Michael, the youngest of the three Darling children. Barrie's ideal mother figure, something he longed for in his troubled childhood, the altruistic Mrs Darling, is played by Lesley Clarke.

Mr Darling, played by Phil Savage, is, as is traditional, double cast as the notorious baddie Captain Hook, his first mate the genial Smee, by Ray Hale and Richard Newley plays Starkey, his bumbling partner in crime.

The Lost Boys, cast by local young people, have many opportunities to sing and dance in the engaging musical numbers. Tinkerbell, the mischievous fairy (often represented as a darting spotlight) is double cast by Isobel Lambie & Evie Snadden who mime their emotions and 'speak' through tinkling bells. Newcomer, David Proud, is the lovable Nana, the children's beloved canine nanny.

The colourful scenery, divided between cosy Edwardian respectability and an exciting tropical island, has been designed by Andy Black, who makes a very welcome return after a serious illness. He is assisted by Rod Williams, Brian



The show is being presented by Parish Players during half-term week on the nights of **Wednesday 15th to Saturday 18th February**, at the Parish Hall, Tockington, curtain up at 7.30pm.

Tickets will go on sale on **Saturday 14th January, 9.30 – 11am, in Olveston Stores**. Prices: £10 for adults, £7 for children and £12 for Premium seats.

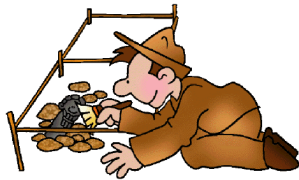
From the 15th January, tickets may be obtained by phoning Richard & Jenny on **01454 202011**. *But don't dither! Tickets traditionally sell very fast.*

Brown and team. Richard Churchill has the challenge of creating the atmospheric lighting. Chloe Allsopp Jones is once again Musical Director with her daughter Sophie in the show and husband Andy as Stage Manager and her entire family forming the band. Jill Harris as Choreographer and Linda Evans as Director are working with everyone to produce an entertaining production of this evergreen 'Awfully Big Adventure'!

Excavations at Lower Hazel

Olveston Parish Historical Society - all welcome.

Wednesday, 4 January 2017, 7.30pm, Olveston Methodist Church



Are you a Time Team fan? Or interested in archaeology generally? Would you like to find out about a dig that's happening in Olveston parish?

Roger Howell of the Thornbury Archaeology Group will be explaining what he and his fellow diggers have been unearthing over the last few seasons at Lower Hazel. There's a link to John Adnams' talk in March about Alveston's royal Norman deer park. Come and find out more!

Open to all. £2, on the door. www.olvoston.com/historical-society.

Police Report

PCSO Kelly Dimery

The following incidents were reported for November:

- Upper Tockington Road - Building site entered by unknown persons and items stolen
- Old Down Hill - Attempted break to garage door.
- Kington - outbuilding broken into and power tool stolen.
- Foxholes Lane - Unknown offenders gained access to a barn and stole items from within, some of which were recovered on Vicarage Lane.
- Lower Tockington Road - Builders tools stolen.

Recently there has been an increase in outbuilding/shed and garage break-ins across the whole of the Beat area. Items such as power tools, garden equipment, motocross bikes and quad bikes have been stolen. Please be vigilant, security mark your property and ensure it is locked away.

Please report any suspicious activity, vehicles or persons that you may see...

Rotary Young Musician Final



Thornbury Rotary Club sponsors many events and competitions to involve young people in the local

community and one such is a Young Musician competition based on the old Avon area. Together with 8 other clubs we have just sponsored 3 high standard heats where we have heard 19 competitors from 9 schools including 5 pupils from Castle and Marlwood.

The final is to be held at Bristol Grammar School on Friday, February the 3rd. at 7.30 pm. One of the finalists is Ellen O'Brien from Castle School who will be playing the French Horn. We are sure that she would appreciate as many local supporters as possible and to that end further details and tickets can be obtained from Phil Savage on 01454 616370 or pesavage@btinternet.com.

Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

150 Club Winners December 2016:

£50	Reg Purchase
£15	Angus MacDonald
£5	Martin Walker

Surprise Christmas Gift: Andy Phillips

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

12/11/16	Simon Davis
19/11/16	Tracey Jarvis

The Club is making a concerted effort to recruit more players for 2017. All age groups are welcome, but Senior Players are particularly required.

Dave Gardner and Simon (Sam) Gould have volunteered to head up the campaign. If you are interested in playing cricket in 2017, or know anyone who is, please contact Dave. email: dave25laxton@aol.com, Mobile 07771 848898 twitter @deeg159

Best Wishes for 2017. Up the Down!!

Movies at St Mary's: January

Trevor Anderson



New Year Greetings to all readers from the Movie Club Team at **St Mary's Olveston!** Our WINTER PROGRAMME has now been published and features eight terrific films from January - March. Movie Club members will already have received theirs by email and paper copies are available to pick up from just inside the church door.

As I'm sure all readers now know, we show films for the 'grown-ups' on the first and third Monday evenings of each month and for 'children of all ages' on Monday mornings during school holidays. Everyone is welcome to all the films and there is no need to book.

MONDAY MOVIES *(Recent releases and ever-popular classics)*

Mon 2nd Jan at 7.30pm: In the picturesque Welsh town of Pembroke, a kooky young woman (Emilia Clarke) takes a job as a carer to a scowling, aristocratic wheelchair user (Sam Claflin). She soon determines to thaw his wintry heart and dissuade him from taking his own life. This beautifully played romantic drama is based on the best-selling novel by Jojo Moyes. (2016, Cert 12)

MONDAY MOVIES EXTRA *(Non-mainstream' films and historic classics)*

Mon 16th Jan at 7.30pm: Rebellious teenage orphan Ricky is sent to live with a foster family in the New Zealand countryside. Unhappy with his surroundings, he runs away and hides in the unforgiving wilderness. His reluctant caretaker eventually finds him and the unlikely duo survive in the harsh terrain as a nationwide manhunt is launched. This charmingly off-beat comedy drama from New Zealand unites a solid cast, a talented filmmaker, and a poignant, funny, deeply affecting message. (2016, Cert PG)

CHILDREN'S MOVIE CLUB *(Monday mornings in the school hols)*

Mon 2nd Jan at 10.00am: The friendly-but-forgetful fish, Dory, begins a search for her long-lost parents, and everyone learns a few things about the real meaning of family along the way. This charming animated film will delight young and old and is a great way to start the New Year. (2016, Cert U)

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** at the end towards expenses if you have enjoyed the evening.

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.

News from Olveston School

Amanda Luke, Head Teacher



As always, we finished our Autumn term with a host of events – Christmas is a very magical time at Olveston School.

In addition to our annual KS1 Nativity and KS2 Christmas Service, the Sing Stars choir took part in the South Gloucestershire Primary School Carol Service at Clifton Cathedral and also entertained Seniors Citizens at the Severnside Transport Christmas lunch. Drama club performed the premiere of Mr Bonney's latest production, 'The Star of Beth 'n' Liam's Kebab Van'. Our older pupils worked with their younger 'Buddies' to produce decorated baubles with woodland creatures, to adorn our Christmas tree at the Almondsbury Christmas Tree Festival. We are extremely grateful to Almondsbury Garden Centre who donated our school Christmas tree. It was lovely to see so many of you at our events over the Festive Period.

Our sports teams also had a busy term. The Year 5/6 football team are competing in a South Gloucestershire school league, as well as having friendly fixtures with our neighbouring schools. Mr Titterton (our caretaker and chess coach) took members of the chess club to the Cardiff School Chess Day. They all had a brilliant day, finishing 10th out of 36 teams and can't wait to go again next year!

Several members of the running club were selected to represent South Gloucestershire Primary Schools at the inter-area championships. They raced against teams from North Bristol, South Bristol, Somerset, and Bath and North East Somerset. Everyone ran brilliantly in tough, muddy conditions. Laura came second in the Yr6 girls race and George came second in the Yr6 boys race. In addition, George and Devan were both in the winning team for the Yr6 boys' event, claiming the team trophy for South Gloucestershire for the first time ever!

Finally, thank you to everyone who donated tokens from the Bristol Post 10k science giveaway – your support really does make a difference.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the December draw, held on 8th December 2016 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	186	Mr G Clark, Olveston
£75	594	Mrs S Roos, Olveston
£25	169	K Hughes, Olveston
£25	498	Revd D Bone, Tockington
£25	565	Mr R Lloyd, Tockington
£20	392	A Chick, London
£20	215	Mr J Hahn, Olveston
£20	312	Mr & Mrs A Maunder, Newquay
£10	244	Mrs C K Hickman, Olveston
£10	351	M Evans, Olveston
£10	346	Mrs J Spratt, Tockington
£10	377	Mrs J Jones, Olveston
£10	425	Mrs S Fairhead, Oldbury-on-Severn
£10	208	Mrs C Black, Thornbury

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

Help your Community!

The Olveston Parish Hall is a charity run on a day to day basis by a management committee made up from a group of volunteers who together work for the benefit of the community. We meet every other month to discuss any current issues, set direction and invite user groups to attend with their input as to how we can improve the hall facilities.



At our AGM in March we will be looking for additional like-minded people to join our friendly committee. Could you spare a few hours of your time and help with the continued success of the Parish Hall?

If you feel you would like more information please do not hesitate to contact me: *Geoff Chappell 01454 615806 email geoffrchappell@aol.com*

News from St. Mary's

Trevor Cook

Sing-Along-a-Sound of Music.

Put a note in your diaries for 28th January when "Sound of Music" fans will be singing-along to all their favourite songs from the musical. The mountains of Austria will be brought to Olveston as the church will be filled with fans dressed in character.



Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children available from Lesley Clarke 613804 and June Robbins 617491. There are prizes for the best costume! Profits go to our Springs of Hope project.

Auction of Promises

Also as part of our 'Springs of Hope' project there will be an Auction of Promises on 18th March. But first, of course, we need the "promises" that can be auctioned. If you can offer something towards the cause; anything from a sponge cake to a trip to the Caribbean, please contact Gail Lowe on 612709.

Christian Unity

It is not often we say this, but please don't come to St. Mary's for the 10am service on 22nd January. Instead join us in the Methodist church where we shall be sharing our worship with our friends there in a celebration of Christian Unity.

Candlemass

To be celebrated at 6pm on 29th January, Candlemass celebrates the purification of Mary, forty days after Jesus' birth, when he was ritually presented in the Temple. The candlelight provides a special atmosphere for this lovely service.

New Vicar

The process of recruiting a new Vicar for Alveston and Olveston and surrounding churches continues apace. The position will be advertised in early January and prospective candidates will be interviewed in February and, hopefully, we will have a new person in place before the summer.

A Thank You

Rita and John Hitchcock would like to say thank you for all the cards, sweetmeats and good wishes received during their recent indisposition. It is so reassuring to be aware of good friends and neighbours. We are truly blessed!

Short Walks without Wellies for the New Year

Rod Williams

You've probably done them all before but here's a reminder of a few quiet local walks that don't require wellies and mostly go and come back along the same route. Caution: apart from one, they are **all on roads with no pavements**. Times are approximate for the return walk.

Alternatively, free packs of leaflets describing six longer circular footpath walks through fields in the parish are available from St Mary's church, Olveston any time.

Aust. From the Boars Head to Old Passage, just downstream from the Severn Bridge. Ferries crossed from here for centuries. 2 hours.

Redwick . From New Passage to Severn Beach, along the sea wall. Traffic-free and smooth for anyone with a new bike from Father Christmas. 1.5 hours.

Olveston. Up Vicarage Lane and down Haw Lane. A glorious view and a free cardiovascular exercise thrown in. 45 minutes.

Olveston. Down Church Hill and along The Common. Short and peaceful. 30 minutes.

Old Down. Old Down to Lower Hazel then up to the A38 at Rudgeway. Longer and with a quaint hamlet and two easy climbs. 45 minutes.

Littleton. From the White Hart to Whale Wharf. Admire the elegance & setting of the Severn Bridge. 45 minutes.

Olveston & Tockington WI

The following speakers are booked for Olveston & Tockington W.I. Meetings are at The Parish Hall, Tockington at 7.30pm:

10th Jan 2017 Emma Britton – 'Being a BBC Presenter'

7th Feb 2017 John Smith – 'Berkeley Castle'.

Recycle Bubble Wrap

A reminder to everyone to save any 'Bubble Wrap' from Christmas and **take it to a Charity Shop**. It is invaluable for wrapping fragile items sold in their shops.



OPTA Annual Quiz

Friday 3rd February Olveston School Hall
Doors open 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start.

Teams of 4 (max)

£5 per person to include assorted refreshments.

There will be a bar serving beer, wine and soft drinks.

This is always a very popular event so please can you contact Emma on 07812719948 or emmanea1369@btinternet.com to reserve your table?

OPTA News and upcoming events

We had a very special and busy year in 2016. It was the 20th Anniversary of the Twinning and our visit to Bréhan in May was very, very enjoyable. Our bus was pretty much full with villagers of all ages joining in on this trip. During our stay we planted a tree in front of the Bréhan town hall to commemorate this Anniversary.

- **The Great Olveston Wine Challenge** will be held in the Parish Hall on **Friday March 24th**. Make a note in your diaries and look out for more information nearer the time.
- We have invited our Bréhan friends to visit us for the May Day weekend. **Friday April 28th to Monday May 1st**. More information will follow in future editions of Meeting Point.

Classical Guitar Ensemble Starting!

As 2017 gets under way, Andy Warn, local guitar teacher and performer, is setting up a new Classical Guitar Ensemble. The group will meet on a monthly basis in Tockington, for one and a half hours. This is the perfect opportunity to practise and play in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

If you read music and need an excuse to dust off your guitar, do get in touch. The ensemble will meet on a weekday evening, to be decided.

The Death of a Heroine and the sale of Tockington Manor

Nick Fear

On June 20th 1941 a society wedding took place at St. Peter's Church in Dyrham. Honor Isabel Pitman married Henry Roope Pomeroy Salmon of Tockington Manor. Henry was a serving major with the 3rd Hussars, Honor a Flying Officer in the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA). The couple were well matched and a delight to all who met them. They both had properties locally but Tockington Manor was a favourite, which they chose as their main address.

Honor had joined the Bristol Flying Club aged 17 years and progressed to take her pilot's licence. In March 1941 she joined the ATA, a civilian organisation managed by BOAC under military control, which ferried new and damaged military planes around the country as needs arose. Aircraft were unarmed and therefore non-combatant, a dangerous state in a war where enemy aircraft could appear at any time. Honor flew well, and over two years became qualified to fly the most complex multi-engine planes.

On April 19th 1943 Honor was tasked to fly an Airspeed Oxford aircraft (see picture, right) from Christchurch to Lossiemouth. Accompanied by a Spitfire she began the journey, heading initially for Colerne airfield. Although visibility was good to start with, it soon deteriorated to the point where the Spitfire pilot decided to abandon her flight and return to base. Honor flew on and tragically, at 11.50am in deep fog, her aircraft flew into Roundway Hill near Calne in Wiltshire. She was killed on impact.



Honor was buried in the cemetery of St Peter's Church at Dyrham, the scene of her marriage just two years previously. Her grave is marked by a white marble plinth topped by the sculpture of a black eagle. On February 10th 1950 a memorial tablet was unveiled in the church remembering Honor and two of her brothers, Peter and John, who had also died in the war.

It can only be speculated that if Honor had lived the Salmon family would have continued to flourish in Tockington. It is not known if her untimely death prompted the sale of the Tockington estate, but this does seem likely. On June 27th 1946 the manor and estate was put up for auction at the Grand Hotel in Bristol and eventually sold, to a mystery bidder, for £46,200 which in today's money would be approximately £1.75 million.

Jan's January puzzle

Jan Winter

The birthday problem

What is the smallest number of people you need to have together in a group so that the probability of having at least one pair sharing a birthday is more than a half? It might be fewer than you immediately think!

December solution

Altogether 12 partridges in pear trees were received – one every day for 12 days.

2 turtle doves were received 11 times – so 22 altogether.

3 French hens were received 10 times, and so on.

So the total number of gifts was:

$$12 \times 1 + 11 \times 2 + 10 \times 3 + 9 \times 4 + 8 \times 5 + 7 \times 6 + 6 \times 7 + 5 \times 8 + 4 \times 9 + 3 \times 10 + 2 \times 11 + 1 \times 12$$

$$= 12 + 22 + 30 + 36 + 40 + 42 + 42 + 40 + 36 + 30 + 22 + 12 = 364$$

Interestingly, this would average out at a present for every day of the year except one.

The Big Splash

Thornbury Rotary's Swimarathon Dates:

3rd – 5th March 2017.

We're currently in the planning stages of the 2017 Swimarathon, but further information can be obtained from the organiser:

Adrian Dennis, Chairman Swimarathon Committee – The Rotary Club of Thornbury, Mobile: 07970 435520

In due course more details will be available, with links to posters, Team Entry Forms and Sponsorship Forms. We're delighted that, from the proceeds of Swimarathon 2017, we will be supporting two main charities, 'St. Peter's Hospice' and 'Incredible Kids', as well as many other good causes/charities and local initiatives.

You can follow Thornbury Rotary Club on Twitter: [@ThornburyRotary](https://twitter.com/ThornburyRotary), and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/ThornburyRotary>.



A Forgotten Landscape - Update

Happy New Year! Hope you are looking forward to it as much as we are.

We're working now on putting together events and activities for next year, re-running some old favourites and trying some new things. If you have any suggestions, please do get in touch!

Do your New Year's Resolutions include looking for a new challenge? We may be able to help. We are looking for volunteers for the following projects:

Oral History Collecting

Local History Research

Lidar Interpretation.

For more information please go to www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/get-involved or contact Katie: katie.scaife@southglos.gov.uk or 01454 863 043.

Our new Talks season starts in February (more next time!). Meanwhile try this:

Roving Art Group – upcoming sessions

Join our artist-in-residence, Deborah Aguirre Jones, in our Roving Art Group. All welcome. **Book your free place for any of the sessions at <http://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/get-involved/events/>**

Sunday 15 January Departing Severn Beach 10am, returning 4pm.

Art trip to see a range of public artworks in Cardiff, in anticipation of A Forgotten Landscape's commission for Severn Beach in 2017/18. Introduction and conversations about traditional and contemporary pieces.

Sunday 29 January Severn Beach village hall 10am - 3pm

Rock art; recalling personal memories, creating stories and capturing moments of personal experience in the landscape; join us to make art in this most ancient of ways with Bristol-based artist Rebecca Swindell. Simple techniques to make timeless art.



Wednesday 8 February Severn Beach village hall 10am - 3pm

Journeys in music and sound; looking at routes we have taken as well as wildlife migrations through, to and from the estuary. Join artist Kathy Hinde to transform these journeys into musical scores (then play them!) and experience the landscape differently by listening through microphones and hydrophones.

Limit of 12 participants

Keep Cool with 'The Snow Queen'

The Thornbury Musical Theatre Group will be performing 'The Snow Queen' at the Armstrong Hall in Thornbury from Wednesday 15 to Saturday 18 February.

TMTG follows last year's Rose Bowl Award-winning pantomime with this super-cool offering, written and directed by our own Lizzie Lindsell. Based on Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tale, 'The Snow Queen' is packed with all the traditional fun - audience participation, hilarious comedy, catchy music, drama, romance... and tap-dancing penguins!

Around February in the town of Björnborg, the Winter Fairy passes the Season Baton to the Sprite of the Spring. But this year Queen Bianca is determined to make sure it stays Winter forever! With her snowflake subjects to obey her every command, will she succeed? Can young Kristin save her fiancé Henrik from the Queen's icy clutches? Will Dame Gerda ever manage to organise her granddaughter's wedding? So come in out of the cold for this frozen frolic; it'll be "ice" to see you.

Performances 7.30 pm nightly with matinées at 2.30 pm on the Friday and Saturday. Tickets are bookable online at www.tmtg.org.uk with no booking fee. £12.50 Adults, Concessions £10.50/£11.50 and a family ticket for 4 costs £40. Group discounts of 10% for 10+ seats can be arranged via our Box Office or online. 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 from Saturday 7 January. 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.

Choral Workshop

Thornbury Choral Society will be holding their fourteenth annual Workshop on Saturday 25th February 2017, studying Puccini's enchanting *Messa di Gloria*.

The Workshop will be held at Thornbury Baptist Church, Grovesend, BS35 2EG and will run from 10.30am-5pm. The price is £13.50 including teas, coffees, biscuits and cake at tea-time. Scores are available for hire for £2. The Workshop will be conducted by Thornbury Choral Society's regular Musical Director Steven Kings and accompanied by Robin Baggs, with soloists. An excellent lunch will be available at a cost of £7.50. There will be a sing-through of all the material rehearsed at 4pm to which the public are welcome. There will be a retiring collection on behalf of Thornbury Stroke Support Group.

Application forms may be obtained by post from Jos Gregson (tel: 01454 411652, email. jos@josgregson.plus.com) or downloaded from the www.thornburychoralsociety.org.uk website.

Cool Jazz Concert

On **FRIDAY 27th. JANUARY** at **8pm**, **Rockhampton Village Hall** presents a concert of smooth jazz with the outstanding

PARK ROW FIVE

The members of this quintet consist of Gareth Williams on Sax/Flute, Rob Bartlett on Trumpet, Stuart Potter on Keyboards, Ray Loadman on Bass and James Heming on Drums.

They have a great deal of talent between them and from their banter and the way they play you can tell they love their music. They will be performing a wide variety of well-known jazz standards from St. Louis Blues to Gershwin, all of them cool easy listening and entertaining jazz.



Door and bar open 7.30pm. Tickets £8. Contact Roger Watkins tel. 01454 260530.

Thornbury Young Musicians Concert

Cossham Hall, Thornbury Jan 21st 2017

Following on from the highly successful series of concerts given in 2016, 'Thornbury Young Musicians' offer tired Saturday shoppers another opportunity to rest and refresh themselves in the Cossham Hall, to the delightful sounds of some of our most talented young instrumentalists. This time we feature, alongside solo items for clarinet, horn and violin, a number of talented ensembles including combinations as varied as recorders, brass and strings. Audiences at our previous concerts have been taken aback by the high standard and commitment of these young players, many of whom are set to go on to pursue professional careers in music. Come along and say you saw them first in Thornbury!

The concert on Saturday 21st January will begin at 3.00pm in the Cossham Hall Thornbury. It will be in two parts with an interval for you to enjoy tea and cakes, and is expected to finish around 4.30pm. All proceeds from the event will go to the Armstrong Hall Redevelopment Project (Phase 1).

Tickets £7.50 (£5 for children under 16) can be obtained from the Town Hall or by phone on 01454 412272. Price of admission includes tea, coffee and home-made cakes.

Yours Faithfully

By Rev Ann Parker,

Chapelry of St John, Aust

Coming down Black Horse Hill this morning (Sunday), I left behind the hustle and bustle of 'Black Friday' and The Mall to see a light mist over the fields below me, just drifting around the Severn Crossings and across the fields. It was amazing to see the landscape so quiet and peaceful, laid out like a patchwork quilt, a pattern of fields and hedgerows, not a human or animal in sight. I reflected on how it was possible to go from one to the other in a matter of minutes.

To see life's pattern laid out like that would be wonderful, wouldn't it? Actually, I'm not too sure; maybe I have a mind that couldn't contemplate living a quiet life with the pattern laid out before me. I think I would find that boring and I would soon need some kind of activity but, equally, I couldn't begin to think about the other kind of life, frenetic, selfish, and only concerned with the next purchase or bargain and the hassle to get it. I have been known to shriek at the children (when they were small) 'I have to get out of here'. On one never to be forgotten occasion my daughter and I (she was an adult at the time) went to London for the day and decided to treat ourselves to a trip round Hamleys, the toy shop. It was absolutely heaving and I began to get crushed and then panicky. I turned to Rachel in time to see her go white and say 'I have to get out NOW'. We fought our way out and by the time we got outside she was trembling all over. It was truly terrible, never again!

But life's a bit like that, isn't it? Lots of quiet, peaceful, family time, mixed with alone time, or masses of activity. Living where we do, where children need to be picked up from school, taken to classes, swimming, and all the activities that they do, we wonder where the time goes, but we fit it in. Somehow, in the middle of all this, some of us access the great resource, God. Just as we feel life is too awful to carry on, or we wonder where the energy for the next activity is going to come from, we feel that little flame inside, and a little voice whispering....'It's OK, I am with you. I love you' and we know there's no pattern to life, not like the view from Black Horse Hill, it's a higgledy piggledy world, but the One who loves and understands us helps us to make sense of it somehow.

From the Registers of St Mary's Olveston

Nov. 25th: Wedding at St Mary's of Rebecca Jane Suker and Aaron Benjamin White.

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Jan 1	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd
	6pm	Evensong with Choir	Mr Trevor Cook
Jan 8	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Helen Webb
	10am	Morning Worship with Choir	Mrs Janet McBride
	6pm	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Jan 15	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe
	3.45	Back to Front	Paul Harrod
	6pm	Evensong	Trevor Cook
Jan 22	8am	Holy Communion(BCP)	Rev Ann Lloyd
	10am	Methodist Ch. Prayer for Christian Unity	Rev Dr Jonathan Pye
	6pm	Evensong(BCP) with Choir	E Mead & Rev P Rowe
Jan 29	8am	Holy Communion	Rev D Bone
	10am	Morning Prayer	Paul Harrod
	6pm	Candlemas Communion with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Rev Philip Rowe, 01454 613223; email: office@stmaryssevernside.org.uk

Verger: Mrs. June Robbins, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 2.45pm in the Chancel

WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION: At 9.00am except 4th Wed when it is at Olveston Methodist Church

Morning Prayer 8.30am daily ex. Wed

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Jan 8	5.30	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Parker
Jan 22	5.30	Evening Service	Re. 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

Jan 1		No Service	
Jan 15	9am	Holy Communion	Rev Jennifer Hall

Contact Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Jan 8	9am	Matins	Sandra Edgerton
Jan 9	7.30	Plough Monday	Rev Ann Parker
Jan 22	9am	Holy Communion	TBA

Contact Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Jan 1	10am	Tock. Ch.	Annual Covenant Service led by Rev P Brazier
Jan 8	10am	Olv. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mrs Sarah James
Jan 15	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney
Jan 22	10am	Olv. Ch.	United Service for the week of Christian Unity with Holy Communion led by Rev DrJonathan Pye, Chairman of the Bristol Methodist District
Jan 29	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Rev Sandy Williams

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wed. 11th

January To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP meets at 12.15pm at the Swan on Thurs 19th January. To book please ring 613241

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

PRAYER MEETING Tuesdays 9.00-10.00 in Olveston. Methodist Church.

HOUSE GROUP Thurs 12th Jan at 10.30 at 7 The Green, Olveston

THE OLVESTON COMPUTER CLINIC Olveston Methodist Hall

Monday 2-4pm Wednesday 10-12 Friday 7-9pm

Ring 07833 354672 or 07957 433091 for further information.

CONTACT: Rev Pete Brazier Tel 01454 418176,

e-mail pete@thebigfishcafe.co.uk

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

We meet in a relaxed, informal manner for worship, prayer & conversational Bible studies incorporating Communion, 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

Jan 1	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Jan 8	6.30pm	To be confirmed
Jan 15	6.30pm	Ed Stuart
Jan 22	6.30pm	Mike Jenkinson
Jan 29	6.30pm	Mike Bryant

Each Thurs at 7.30pm Prayer & PraiseTime

For further information please contact Jenny Parfitt jennyparfitt@gmail.com

Paul Ashford, 07774 110 814 or email: Paul@CalebGroup.net

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Family Worship 11.00am

For more details contact Ann Roberts 632564.

e-mail ann.roberts@bylanes.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.ctlc-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: Roger Howell rog3er2@gmail.com 01454 415035

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

Diary Dates for January 2017

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

1 st Sun			
2 nd Mon	Children's Movie Club Computer Clinic every week Monday Movie	10.00am 2.00-4.00 7.30pm	StM MH StM
3 rd Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	DGCL
4 th Wed	Computer Clinic every week Holy Communion at Daldry Gardens Table Tennis O.P.H.S. Excavations at Lower Hazel	10.00-12.00 2.30pm 7.00-8.30pm 7.30pm	MH DGCL PH OMC
5 th Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop	9am-1pm 9.00-12.00	OSt
6 th Fri	Thornbury Carers Support Group Computer Clinic every week	1.00-3.00pm 7.00-9.00pm	Chy MH
7 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
8 th Sun			
9 th Mon	Plough Monday Service at Elberton Church	7.30pm	
10 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café W.I. 'Being a TV Presenter' Aust Parish Council	10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45 7.30pm 7.30pm	DGCL TMH PH EVH
11 th Wed	Table Tennis Jack & the Beanstalk -14 th inc Matinees	7.00-8.30pm 7.30pm	PH CTK
12 th Thu	Coffee Shop S. Gos Ladies Lunch Club	9.00-12.00 12.15	OSt OSH
13 th Fri			
14 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00	AVH MH
15 th Sun			
16 th Mon	Monday Movie Extra	7.30pm	StM
17 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	DGCL
18 th Wed	Table Tennis Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	7.00-8.30pm 8.30pm	PH
19 th Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop	9am-1pm 9.00-12.00	OSt
20 th Fri			
21 st Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
22 nd Sun			

23 rd Mon			
24 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Olveston Parish Council	10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45 7.30pm	TMH AP
25 th Wed	Table Tennis	7.00-8.30pm	PH
26 th Thu	Coffee Shop	10.30-12.00	MH
27 th Fri			
28 th Sat	Coffee Morning Sing-a-long- A Sound of Music	10.30-12.00 7.00pm	MH StM
29 th Sun	Aust Quiz Night at Boar's Head	7.30pm	
30 th Mon			
31 st Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	DGCL
Looking ahead to February			
15-18	Parish Players Peter Pan	7.30pm	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; **OST** – 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; ; **WR** – Wesley Rooms. **URC** United Reform Ch Th

Contact details for any clubs or organisations in the Meeting Point area can be found in the Meeting Point Directory on the community website: www.olvestonandaust.com. If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com

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