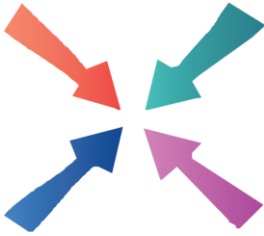


Meeting Point



January 2020



Meeting Point

Volume 44, Number 4, January 2020

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

EDITOR:

Marelin Orr-Ewing
Courtlands
Olveston
Bristol BS35 4DU
Tel: 01454 610081
*meetingpointeditor@
gmail.com*

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Angela Williams
Ashlea
Haw Lane
Olveston
Bristol BS35 4EG
Tel 01454 612850
*meetingpointmagazine@
gmail.com*

ADVERTISING:

Bernard Amos
Tel: 01454 620388
*meetingpointadvertising@
gmail.com*

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From the Editor

Our cover illustration this month – the first Meeting Point of 2020 – is a painting of Tockington in the snow by the late John Crossley, whose work we have used a number of times before. In fact, occasionally, we like to use paintings of local scenes for the covers as a change from photographs. We would really like to hear from local artists who have painted scenes that might be suitable for use in the future. Please do get in touch.

This month Thornbury Volunteer Centre has put in its annual appeal for people to consider volunteering, and hopefully some readers will contact them to find out more. However, just looking at the number of activities in this month's magazine which depend on the hard work of volunteers, we can see that 'volunteering' is flourishing in this community.

A Happy New Year to all readers.

Marelin .

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

The Greatest Showman Singalong

Saturday 11th January, 5:30pm (doors open at 5pm) St. Mary's Church, Olveston.

The Sow & Grow appeal will be hosting a special St. Mary's Children's Movie Club presentation of the singalong version of 'The Greatest Showman' (Cert PG, 105mins 2018). This is a special fundraising event aimed at children and adults. Children's tickets are £5, which includes popcorn, free raffle ticket, pizza (to be served in the interval) and squash. There will be cupcakes available too. For the adults we will be running a bar as well as having a raffle. As there is no charge for adults, a donation would be appreciated.

During the interval there will be a Juggling competition for the children (hopefully you asked Father Christmas for a set of juggling balls, so you can practice!).

The aim is to have lots of fun as well as raise lots of money for the Sow & Grow appeal.

Tickets available from Olveston Stores, Olveston School, June Robbins 01454 617491 or Gail Lowe 07949 920851 or you can pay on the door.

SOW & grow
Rwanda Appeal
PRESENTS

Special!

Children's movie club:
★ St Mary's
★ ★ ★

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN
SING ALONG

Children's Tickets £5

11TH JANUARY 2020 AT 5PM

Olveston and Tockington W.I.

Vicki Townsend

November saw our Annual General Meeting, and it was a time to thank retiring Committee members: Kim Prewett as Treasurer for a year, following 6 years as President. Thank you, Kim, much appreciated. Rita Garlick also retired as Vice President; she had stepped in for a year to help us and her past knowledge has been invaluable. Thank you, Rita. Sue Harris has taken on the mantle of Treasurer and Vice President and Pat King and Janet Smith have joined the Committee; lots of tasks await them! The business section of the AGM was followed with wine and mince pies, together with a 'Who am I?' quiz which caused much laughter and allegedly some cheating.

We have welcomed several new members this year, so Olveston and Tockington W.I. is refreshed, invigorated, alive and well and going forward with new ideas. We are not all 'Jam and Jerusalem', in fact we have not had a jam competition for years and we sing Jerusalem, at most, once a year. Please come and join us, we meet at the Parish Hall, 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month. *Stop press – the January talk is Decorating Eggs by Pauline Rice.*

The Royal British Legion Women's Section Olveston Branch

In December we rounded off a very successful year with a social evening and fund-raising for our own branch with a beetle drive, a Christmas buffet and 'Secret Santa'.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th March at 2.30pm in Daldry Gardens. We look forward to an active and busy programme in 2020 and if you would like to join us you will be most welcome.

Poppy Appeal

Stan Bradburn, RBL Poppy Appeal Organiser

On behalf of the Royal British Legion I would like to thank all the people who helped with this year's appeal, which raised a total of £7300, a fantastic amount once again. Special thanks to all the house to house collectors of Olveston who surpassed themselves in their efforts. Once again Rose Brown and the ladies of the British Legion have provided wonderful assistance. Thanks once again to you all.

Hot Homemade Soup

Due to large deliveries being made to Olveston Stores on Tuesdays, we have changed our Winter Soup day to Mondays. The dates are now January 6th and 20th and February 10th and 24th, from 12 to 1.30pm.

We would also like to say how grateful we are to Sarah and her team for making us feel so welcome, both for Winter Soup days and the weekly Coffee Shop on Thursday from 9am -12noon.

Tea and Chat

Make 2020 the year you join Tea and Chat! If you find it difficult to get out and socialise, why not join our group as we get together once a month for tea and cake? Both men and women come, all with different backgrounds so everyone has a lot to talk about. We'd love you to join us. Transport is provided and it's all free.

The January Tea and Chat will be at 2.30pm on Friday January 31st at Littledown, Haw Lane, Olveston. For details, or to request transport if necessary, please telephone Lynn: 01454 612201 or Lesley: 01454 613804



**The longest journey
begins with the first
step. Or tree.**

Melinda Evans

There is much in the news about planting trees at the moment, not least the political parties of different colours trying to 'out-tree' each other. But for good reason, as trees are one of the nicest solutions we have to address both climate change and biodiversity loss.

As I write this, National Tree Week is coming to an end. Individuals and communities around the country are mobilising to plant trees. Locally, South Gloucestershire Council declared a Climate Emergency in July. As a result, they are aiming to plant 1000 trees this winter, and Olveston Parish Council is taking part in this initiative as it also helps improve local biodiversity. It will be

our community's chance to get involved on Sunday 19th January (the trees won't mind us being a few weeks late!) and the Making Space for Wildlife project would like to invite you to a community tree planting event to be held at the Vicarage Lane playing fields in Olveston. More details are on the poster below..... All welcome.



Come along
to a

Community Tree Planting Day

19th January, 11am—1pm
Vicarage Lane Playing Field, Olveston
BS35 4EB



RSVP to the Clerk at clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk
or just turn up on the day.

Refreshments will be available

Please wear gardening gloves and appropriate shoes.
Please bring spades or trowels if you have them.

In the event of poor weather the event will be postponed to a later date.



Neighbourhood Watch



There are seven Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across the Meeting Point area, and recently Olveston (North West) Neighbourhood Watch achieved 20 years since its formation, following a public meeting held at Olveston Methodist Church Hall, in September 1999. The Committee for this scheme marked the occasion at their last meeting in November with a commemorative cake.

Derek Baker (Scheme Coordinator) and Richard Cockerton (Treasurer) are the two founder members and still on the committee – which consists of ten members, each representing their area within the Watch. It is thanks to the commitment of our members, past and present, that we still have a strong group.

There are benefits to joining a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:

- It shows that members of a community are looking out for each other,
- It keeps you up to date with what is going on in your area,
- It can help prevent and tackle crime in your community,
- It may save you money on your home insurance.

If you would like to know more about your local scheme, visit www.olvestonandaust.com and follow links to the Meeting Point Directory which includes an item on Neighbourhood Watch.

From the Registers of St Mary's, Olveston

November 21st

Funeral of Stewart Gordon Davis, followed by committal at Almondsbury Cemetery

Probus

Severn Vale Probus Club meets at the Thornbury Golf Club on the third Thursday of the month for a lunch, followed by an interesting presentation. These cover a wide range of topics and have included Dunkirk's Little Ships, The American Civil War and Online Safety and Cyber Security.

Probus is a network of groups for retired PROfessional and BUSInessmen which provides the opportunity to socialise with like-minded people. Severn Vale has also arranged visits to places of interest such as an organic farm in Somerset, The Rolls Royce Archives and Hinckley C nuclear power station construction site. At the August and December meetings wives, partners and widows are invited to the lunch. In August we invite a suitable speaker; this year it was a very amusing pantomime dame, and in December we have a Christmas lunch at a local venue. We have a walking group, with a pub lunch to round off the walk, which meets once a month.

We always welcome new members to Probus, so if you would like to join us or come as a guest to get a first-hand experience of what we do, please contact our Secretary Andy Dewar on 01454774201 or email: andrewdewar19@gmail.com

Alveston Gardens Association



Britain's Rarest Orchids

with Dr. Colin and Angela Scrutton

7.30pm in Alveston Jubilee Hall,
Monday 6th January 2020

All welcome – Visitors (£3)

Full programme on www.alveston.org

Thank you again

Robert Slade would like to thank all who donated money in Siân's memory.

A total of £2499 was raised for St Peter's Hospice.

Parish Players present 'South Pacific'

Following last year's sell out success for 'The Sound of Music', the Parish Players' 2020 show is the even more colourful and vibrant 'South Pacific', which is coming to the Parish Hall in Tockington for February half term.

The musical is adapted from the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel 'Tales of the South Pacific' by James A Michener, who was posted to the region in 1944 with the task of writing a history of the US Navy. He based his novel on the stories he heard told by real sailors stationed on the islands during World War II, and the characters he met there. Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote their now famous musical, well aware that their work would send a strongly progressive message about racism when it was first staged, in 1949.

The story focuses on Nellie Forbush, an American nurse who falls in love with Emile de Becque, a French plantation owner who has mixed race children from his previous marriage: a situation which Nellie finds hard to accept. Meanwhile, a passionate romance develops between Lieutenant Joseph Cable and Liat, a Tonkinese girl. Cable has to confront his feelings about the consequences of marrying his Asian sweetheart. We follow the characters as they each come to recognise what really matters to them.

The show's engaging mix of comedy and tragedy, together with the famous and much-loved score, make this a musical that you can watch time and time again without tiring. 'There is Nothin' like a Dame', 'Some Enchanted Evening', 'Bali Ha'i' and 'I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair' are just a few of the memorable songs.



Cast members rehearsing in the Parish Hall

South Pacific is in the experienced and capable hands of Linda Evans as Director, whose talent and guidance have brought us so many superb productions, including The Parish Players' hugely successful previous staging of South Pacific, in 2004. We can all look forward to being immersed in the uplifting music, once again in the skilful hands of Chloe Allsopp-Jones as Musical Director.

Sarah Wiggins makes an exciting and welcome return this year, as she takes the role of Ensign Nellie Forbush. David Proud, having made us laugh heartily for the last two years as the Scarecrow in The Wizard of Oz and impresario Max in The Sound of Music, now becomes the romantic lead, Emile de Becque. Paul Harrod's public appearances in Olveston are usually more ecclesiastical, but we now welcome him to the Company as the heroic Lieutenant Cable, whose romance with the beautiful Liat, played sensitively by Amy Sunderland, is carefully engineered by Liat's bawdy and straight-talking mother, Bloody Mary, brought to life by Lesley Clarke.

Paul Dimery returns for this production as the loveable but roguish sailor Luther Billis, whose antics will bring a smile to your face. John Jones is the acerbic commanding officer, Captain George Brackett, while Ray Hale plays his altogether more laid-back right-hand man, Commander William Harbison. Sophie Allsopp-Jones and Nathanael Moss take the roles of Emile de Becque's charming children. David Moss (our multi-talented local vicar) is a very welcome addition to the Company, appearing alongside Richard Newley, Cath Purchase, Cath Chappel, Jane Mitchell, Mike Belsten, Evie Snadden, Isobel Lambie, Brian Brown, Judy Jones, Kate Baldwin, Timothy Mitchell and others, as they play a range of cameo roles and provide our all-important chorus.

Choreographer Jill Harris returns to skilfully craft the dance numbers – especially the lively choruses of GIs and nurses. She is supported by Isobel Lambie as the show's dance captain.

Set designer Andy Black and his construction team of Rod Williams, Brian Brown and Richard Newley have once again created the stunning scenery, which captures the mood and colours of the Pacific Islands. Richard Churchill as Lighting Designer, Cath Chappel as Wardrobe Mistress and her husband Mike in charge of Sound Effects complete the production team.

South Pacific takes place during half term week on Wednesday 19th to Saturday 22nd February, at the Parish Hall, Tockington: curtain up at 7.30pm.

Tickets go on sale on Saturday 11th January, at 9.30–11.00am, in Olveston Stores. Prices: £10 for adults, £7 for children and £12 for premium seats.

From 12th January, tickets are available on 01454 202011. But don't dither, they usually sell quickly! Follow the Parish Players on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OlvestonParishPlayers

Cat Poisoning

Sadly, three cats on The Green, Olveston, have died recently through drinking anti-freeze. Please be extremely vigilant when using anti-freeze and other car fluids that contain the substance, ethylene glycol, which is lethal to animals. Please clear up any spillage or leaks immediately and ensure it is secured away and not left open. Even better, please consider buying products that do not contain ethylene glycol. Such products are on the market although slightly more expensive.

The Police have been informed and have taken the matter very seriously, delivering letters to residents on The Green. They have reassured me that if another cat falls victim to this poisoning in the area, then they will investigate further.

Thanking you in advance for helping to protect our beloved pets.

Dance Anyone?

Jo Baxter



'Strictly' may be over, and the Greatest Dancer Series 2 is on its way, but as you watch does your heart ever yearn for you to get up and dance?

There is a Zimbabwean proverb "*If you can walk you can dance!*" and so I want to

hear from people who would like to start a daytime dance/movement class. I've had enquiries about a Ballet class but would also be happy to do Tap/Rhythm, Jazz and Movement.

Dance is beneficial for the body, the mind, the spirit and the soul. I stress this is something all can do, even if you're in a wheelchair. So, give me a call and let's see how we can *'Keep on Dancing'*!

Ring: 07773 709155 or email: johanna@baxterfamily.co.uk

News from St. Mary's

Debbie Harries



Our next Quiz Night will be on Saturday February 1st, 7.30pm at St. Mary's, Olveston.

Tickets £6 person to include a goulash supper.

A maximum of 6 per team.

To book contact Debbie on:

oboe-debbie@live.co.uk

Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

150 Club Winners December 2019:

£50 Ben Riggs
£15 Simon Higgs
£5 Tony Cudmore

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2020.

Up the Down!!

St Peter's Hospice - Winter Warmer Lunch

St Peters Hospice Severnside Support Group would be delighted to welcome you to the Methodist Church Hall, Thornbury, on Wednesday 22nd January at 1.00pm for our Winter Warmer lunch.

This will be Cottage Pie and Crumble followed by tea or coffee. A vegetarian option will be available.

Tickets are priced at £8.00 per person and are available from the Town Hall in Thornbury, from 6th January 2020.

Please come along and support St Peters, your local Hospice.



Olveston Parish Council

Pat Savage

V E Day Celebrations

V E (Victory in Europe) Day falls on Friday May 8th, 2020. This will be a Bank Holiday and replaces the May Day holiday which would have been on 4th May. The Council is very keen to have as much involvement from the community as possible to make this a memorable occasion.

How do you wish to celebrate V E Day in May 2020? Please let us know if you are able to help in any way.

Please send John Hughes, Chairman of Olveston PC, your ideas and suggestions by 20th January so that the Council may consider them at the January meeting: john.hughes@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Local Community Grants

Grants were awarded at the November Meeting to the following:

Friends of Marlwood School £1,000

Castle School Friends £500

Friends of Olveston School £1,500

Old Down Cricket Club £1,000

We hope to have a photo shoot of the recipients for the February publication.

Tockington Phone Box

This is no longer a TARDIS; at present, it is simply used as a book swop. Any non-perishable food bank items should be taken to St. Mary's Church in Olveston or to the Baptist Church in Thornbury (at the junction of the St. Mary Street Car Park). Please continue to send suggestions for its future use. Redecorations will take place in the Spring, once the weather improves.

Tree Planting

We do hope as many parishioners as possible can join us on Sunday 19th January for this event. There is a poster about this, and an article from Melinda Evans, in the magazine.

January Movie Programme

Trevor Anderson

Happy New Year to all readers from the Movie Club Team at St Mary's Olveston.

We begin our 2020 season with two very different all-time classics. If you haven't seen them yet, come along. If you have, come again – for no matter how many times you see them, you'll find something new. Everyone is welcome (you don't need to be a Movie Club member), admission is free and there is no need to book.



Mon 6 Jan at 7.30pm: Sixty years on, this is still considered to be one of cinema's best ever courtroom dramas. Tyrone Power, Marlene Dietrich and Charles Laughton star in this brilliantly made film that left audiences reeling from its surprise twists and shocking climax. Directed by Billy Wilder and based on an Agatha Christie play, this six-time Oscar-nominated classic crackles with emotional electricity and continues to keep movie lovers riveted until the final, mesmerising frame. They don't make films like this anymore! (1957, 1h 52m, Cert U)

Mon 20 Jan at 7.30pm: The original and still the best! Join Sir Michael Caine and his gang of crooks for the ultimate British comic caper movie about a plan to steal a gold shipment from the streets of Turin by creating a traffic jam. Packed with fast cars, beautiful girls and swinging 60s action, it is stylish and classy, with the best car chase ever! (No overloaded and impossible CGI involved). And in his final screen appearance, Sir Noel Coward joyfully sends up his own patriotic persona, and there are small though priceless cameos from the likes of Irene Handl and John Le Mesurier. (1969, 1h 36m, Cert PG).

All the films are shown in **St Mary's Church, Olveston** and doors open 30 minutes before the start. Refreshments are available at all the shows, plus licensed bar in the evenings and popcorn and soft drinks at any morning films.

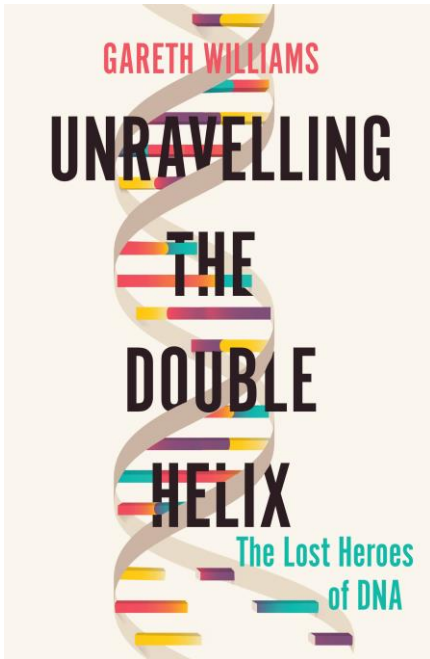


We make no charge for entry, but we do value and appreciate a small **donation** towards church running costs if you have enjoyed the show.

For copyright reasons we can't name the films here, but if you join the Movie Club we'll send you titles and full details by email. It costs nothing to join – just email me at trevoranderson@btinternet.com

Investigating the Lost Heroes of DNA

Wed. 8th Jan. at 7.30pm. Methodist Church, The Street, Olveston



Immediately after Gareth Williams' last talk in February, he emailed to say what a great group of people we were and how much he enjoyed talking to us - whereupon we offered him a slot in this year's programme!

Gareth never fails to deliver a talk that's zealously researched, totally engrossing, and absolutely shot through with humour, wisdom and, occasionally, pathos.

The latest book to come from this astoundingly energetic local resident explains his unravelling of the story of how the structure of DNA was discovered.

The story of DNA is a saga packed with awful mistakes as well as brilliant science, with a wonderful cast of heroes and villains.

So, do join us as Professor Gareth Williams introduces us to some of the lost characters in the discovery of the double helix. (No specialist scientific knowledge needed. He knows how to talk to non-scientists.)

We have asked Gareth to bring copies of his book along, in case anyone wants to buy one (or more) for the scientists (or non-scientists) in their family. He'd be happy to sign them.

We're looking forward to seeing you at this lively start to the New Year!

Olveston Parish Historical Society www.olvestonandaust.com/historical-society All are welcome; visitors pay £2.

The 50 State Traveller

Meeting Point's Chief Geographical Reporter

A person whose car won't go forwards so has had to be driven backwards all the way from Iron Acton to Olveston, and then later reversed to the pub and back, is clearly of an adventurous nature, or at least has very strong neck muscles. So, add to the names of such famous explorers as David Livingstone, James Cook, Mungo Park, Ellen MacArthur and Ranulph Fiennes, our very own intrepid international adventurer and traveller, a local farmer's son and grandchild of a former vicar of St Mary's.

This person, whose identity as yet cannot be revealed, has visited every single state in the USA in the last 30 years. As a youngster, cowboy films were all the rage, and it was this that motivated our Olveston pioneer to explore the USA. Favourite states were visited repeatedly, particularly those in the west such as Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Nevada and Oregon. Lakes and mountains were explored, and it is estimated that over 120,000 miles have been driven on American roads and trails.



Not all these journeys were uneventful, such as the restaurant fence that was knocked down in Chicago – the excuse being that an attack of gout had somehow created confusion between the accelerator and brake pedals – or

bailing out a fellow-traveller from the police station for a traffic violation. Whilst in Yellowstone National Park a mule decided it was nicer in his car than in the rain and when on Antelope Island in Utah, he inadvertently became part of a buffalo stampede. Other adventures remain discreetly untold. Clearly, what happens in the USA stays in the USA.

Our explorer of the New World decided he would like to visit all 50 states, the last, Hawaii, being ticked-off in early 2019. Whilst flying to Honolulu from Denver, someone tipped off the aircraft captain that our intrepid traveller was about to visit his 50th state. During the flight, both the captain and co-pilot came to speak to him (not at the same time, thankfully), and congratulated him on this achievement – something neither pilot nor many others could match. Free drinks and food were presented courtesy of Delta Airlines.

When asked of the lasting memories of his many visits to the USA, the reply was simple, 'The vast open spaces, the contrasting scenery and the friendliness and generosity of the American people.' In these troubled political times, perhaps we should make our explorer the next UK/USA trade envoy. He says all the right things!

Now you may be wondering who this person is and why his identity is being so carefully concealed? The answer is that we would like you to do a little detective work and try and name our mysterious 50 State traveller. Maybe you've unwittingly rubbed shoulders with him in the White Hart, the Swan or more probably the Fox. There are others within the Meeting Point area who will have already worked out who we are referring to. Either way, do drop the editor a line or two, perhaps with an amusing anecdote or supporting storyline. Olveston's mysterious 50 state traveller really does need to be unmasked.

Thornbury Choral Society

Come and join us! We are going to run a 'Back to Singing' course from January 16th to March 12th, covering the basics of singing and reading music, to be held at Thornbury United Reformed Church, at 7.30pm. Contact 01454 416518, or email thornburychoral@gmail.com

Come and sing with us! You are invited to join us and sing some lovely well-known opera choruses at our choral workshop on Saturday 29th February 2020, to be held at Thornbury Baptist Church, conducted by Steven Kings and accompanied by Robin Baggs, starting at 10.30 am.

Rehearsals on the day will culminate with an informal workshop performance for family and friends. Tea, coffee, biscuits and cake included; lunch is available by pre- booking only for £7.50. Scores available to hire on the day at £2. Workshop price £13.50 (£11.00 for Thornbury Society Members) Enquiries email: workshop.thornburychoral@gmail.com or contact Tessa Sullivan 01454 417865.

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the December draw, held on 5th December 2019 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	377	Mrs J A Jones, Olveston
£75	405	Mrs S Farr, Olveston
£25	585	Mrs J Davis, Olveston
£25	457	Mr S Webb, Olveston
£25	552	Mrs B Kingscott, Almondsbury
£20	288	Mrs G Davies, Abergavenny
£20	453	Mr G Clark, Olveston
£20	346	Mrs J Spratt, Tockington
£10	402	Mrs N Slaytor, Tockington
£10	474	Mr C Malpus, Alveston
£10	444	Mrs J Skinner, Sneyd Park
£10	222	Mr T G Watkeys, Old Down
£10	477	Mrs S Farr, Olveston
£10	166	Mrs E Dobson, Rudgeway

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

Thornbury Volunteer Centre

Start the New Year with a resolution to help others in your community!

With Christmas just a happy memory, getting out and about in your local area and helping others less fortunate than yourselves is a good way to banish those winter blues. Finding ways to occupy your time, which are both enjoyable and worthwhile, can instantly make you feel that you are making a valuable contribution to your community.

There are many reasons why people volunteer. For some, volunteering can be a route to employment, or a chance to try something new which may lead to a career change. For others, volunteering appeals because of its social benefits, meeting new people and making new friends.

Thornbury Volunteer Centre can provide you with information and support on volunteering opportunities in the local area which best suit your needs, skills and time available, whilst making sure that you find volunteering an enjoyable and worthwhile experience.

We are contacted regularly by groups and organisations that are seeking to recruit volunteers from all walks of life and time available. These opportunities vary between clerical work, working with the disabled or vulnerable adults in the community, fundraising and marketing, counselling and emotional support, shop work, driving, working in local schools and much more. The majority of these organisations would be unable to survive, and valuable community services would be lost, if volunteers were not to be found.

Age, gender or disability is not a barrier to volunteering. Anyone, who is able to spare some time, from an hour a week to once a month or just on a one-off basis, would be warmly welcomed by someone in the community.

Volunteering is a valuable experience that benefits all parties.

If you would like to find out more please contact Thornbury Volunteer Centre on 01454 413392; email mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk; visit our website on www.volunteer-thornbury.co.uk; follow us on twitter: @thornburyvc or Facebook: [thornburyvolunteers](https://www.facebook.com/thornburyvolunteers). Alternatively, call into the office at Thornbury Town Hall between 10.30am-12 noon Monday to Friday. We look forward to meeting you.

Armstrong Arts Group

2020 events for your diary

Enjoy arts events locally whilst raising funds towards the Armstrong Hall redevelopment fund.

Sunday 12th January in the Cossham Hall at 3pm. From Puccini to Sondheim. A one-hour performance with singer Kate Milner Evans and pianist Nicki Barnes. Tickets £10 (to include tea and cakes) from Thornbury Town Hall or ring 01454 851965.

Saturday 29th February in the Cossham Hall at 7.30pm. Divorced, Beheaded, Died, an audience with King Henry V111 – John S. White, performance historian. Tickets £12 or £10 for over 65s at Thornbury Town Hall or ring 01454 412272.

Thursday 12th March 7.30pm in the Cossham Hall. Multi-instrumentalist Phil Beer in Concert. Tickets £15 to go on sale after Christmas from Thornbury Town Hall or ring 01454 412272

Saturday 28th March Jazz Festival (not AAG, but affiliated). Tickets £20 at Thornbury Town Hall or ring 01454 412272. Bar and food available. Acts include Remi Harris, Sinead and the Sinnermen, the Jenner Jazz Quartet and the Chris Nock Big Band.

Friday 5th June Bristol Old Vic Theatre Company. Far from the Madding Crowd, Armstrong Hall. Tickets £16 and £10 for under 16s from Thornbury Town Hall or ring 01454 412272.

Aust Parish Council

austparishcouncil@googlemail.com.

New Parish Councillor

The Parish Council is very pleased to welcome a new Councillor. Shaun Sutton was co-opted to the Council at the November meeting and will attend his first full meeting in January. Shaun moved to Littleton-Upon-Severn about two and a half years ago and is already actively involved in the local community.

Planning Applications

Very few planning applications were submitted during the first part of last year, which I understand is very unusual for the Parish, only two were recorded between January and June 2019. However, this increased during the second part of 2019 when a further eleven applications were recorded and discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 14th January 2020, when the Council will be agreeing the budget and setting the 2020/21 precept.

The Thornbury Orchestra

Thornbury's local Symphony Orchestra will be holding the latest in their successful series of concerts on Sunday 19th January at the Thornbury Castle School, 3.00pm.

The programme will include a mix of animal themed music including Die Fledermaus Overture by Strauss, the 'Cunning Little Vixen' suite (Janacek) and 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' (Coates). The concert is in aid of the The Lemur Foundation, which supports the conservation of Madagascar Lemurs, and there will a short talk from a representative of the foundation during the concert.

Entry for children and young adults is free and adults charged at £8. Tickets are available on the door or from any of the Orchestra members. Full details of this and future concerts are available on the Orchestra website www.thornburyorchestra.org.uk

The Sleeping Beauty

The Armstrong Hall, Thornbury, from Wednesday 19th to Saturday 22nd February.

Performances are 7.30 pm nightly, with matinées at 2.30 pm on the Friday and Saturday. Adult tickets at £12.50, with concessions and group discounts available, are bookable online at www.tmtg.org.uk; by phone on 07516 270140 and at Lisa Costa Residential Sales and Lettings, 53 High Street, Thornbury. Please note that all tickets are subject to a 50p booking fee, regardless of how they are booked.

Meeting Point needs.....

Regular readers of Meeting Point will have noticed that, after a longish hunt, we have found somebody to take on role of co-ordinating the advertisements in the magazine. Bernard is now well-settled into this job and Nigel is enjoying a well-deserved break after 39 years of service.

We need some more new people, however, and this is an appeal for anybody out there who might be interested in joining the team. Angela has been Assistant Editor for many years – in charge of the Church News and Diary section – and I have been editing Meeting Point for about three years. We both feel it is time for somebody else to have a go.....Would you like to find out more about these two roles, with a view to taking over in the near future?

If you are interested, we would be more than happy to meet up and tell you more. Basically, you need to have a home computer which can operate Word and a familiarity with Word – you don't need to know about complicated publishing programmes as our wonderful printers (Motion) do all that. You also need a good internet connection.

Meeting Point has a strong and supportive committee which meets once a month. Les, the Chairman, also deals with the cover illustrations, Bernard – as mentioned above – deals with adverts and Tessa sorts out deliveries. This means that, as Editor or Associate Editor, you are never 'on your own' if there is a problem, which happens only very occasionally. Please do get in touch with us if you are interested (contact details can be found on Page 1) and we look forward to hearing from you.

January at Thornbury Library

Friday 3rd January 2pm Have You Read? Come and join our friendly library book group on the first Friday of every month. This month's theme will be any book set in a European country other than the UK

Saturday 11th January 10.30am-11.30am Chatterbooks Group. Are you in years, 4, 5, or 6? Participate in book themed activity sessions every month

Saturday 18th January 10.45am-11.30am Ukulele. Join us for some excellent foot tapping music and maybe even start a new hobby for the New Year.

Saturday 25th January 10.30am-11.30am Lego Club. Come and join us for a story and create your own Lego masterpieces. Display them in the library for your family and friends to see.

For more information on any of the above, plus the many other activities happening in the library, please contact us:

- Telephone: 01454 868006
- Email: thornbury.library@southglos.gov.uk
- Visit our website: www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries

Yours Faithfully

Revd. David Moss

The Benefice of North Severnside

Snowdrops emerging through the barren frozen January soil are a sign of new life at the beginning of the new year. January has always been tough! More funerals happen in this month than in any other.

For the ancient church, the snowdrops flowering came to signify hope and comfort in these dark times. At the end of the month, they would be gathered into the churches, in readiness for Candlemas (February 2nd). As the festival began, candles were lit, illuminating the snow-white petals in the midst of darkness, shining out as a symbol of new life.

The Bible tells us that the invisible qualities of God are clearly seen in creation. We all face difficult times, but the signs that God is with us are all around us.

*"Then sings my soul,
My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art!
How great Thou art!"*

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Jan 5	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong with Choir (CW)	Rev Steve Oram Revs S Oram & A Lloyd Paul Harrod & Rev S Oram
Jan 12	10am 6pm	Holy Communion with Choir Evensong (BCP)	Rev S Oram & Trevor Cook Revs A Lloyd & S Oram
Jan 19	10am 6pm	Service of Christian Unity with Olv & Tock Methodists Evensong (CW)	Revs S Oram & D Bone Trevor Cook & Rev S Oram
Jan 26	10am 6pm	Fourth Sunday Worship Holy Communion (BCP) with Choir	Paul Harrod Rev David Moss

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

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

Verger: Mrs. June Robbins, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk

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

Morning Prayer: 8.30am daily ex. Wed

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Jan 12	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev Ann Parker
Jan 26	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Parker

Focal Minister: Rev Ann Parker, 01454 632329

e-mail annatdibley@btinternet.com

Church Wardens: Jon Burnett 633835 & Jenn Dickens 632035

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Jan 12	9pm	Morning Prayer	Mrs Tracey Black
Jan 26	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

Contact: Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Jan 12	9am	Morning Worship	Judith Heybyrne
Jan 26	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

Contact: Mrs Judith Heybyrne 01454 616725

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Jan 5	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Mr Niall Briggs
Jan 12	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by members of the congregation
Jan 19	10am	St Mary's Ch	United Service of Christian Unity
Jan 26	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Hilary Cooke

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wed. 8 January
To book your lunch, please ring 416528.

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP: meets at *The Swan* at 12.15 on Thurs 16 January.

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

PRAYER MEETINGS: Tuesdays 9.00-10.00 in Olveston Methodist Church.

CONTACT: Rev Simon Edwards Tel 01454 418176,

email: simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

THE VINE House of Prayer

Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL

Designated as a 'House of Prayer for all Nations' in 2005 we continue to meet in a relaxed atmosphere seeking, with God's help, to find ways to influence the world in which we live through prayer and relevant actions. We meet, on Sundays at 10.30am and Mondays and Wednesdays at 7.30pm We also visit other Churches and events so please check our Notice Board or contact.

Mike and Barbara Matthews, tel. 07512 917229 or email:

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Jan 5	6.30pm	David Winfield
Jan 12	6.30pm	Mike Jenkinson
Jan 19	6.30pm	Neil Mobbs
Jan 26	6.30pm	Tony Ward

Each Thurs at 6.30pm Prayer & Praise Time

Contacts Jenny Parfitt jennyparfitt@ymail.com

Sue Tett stett56@hotmail.co.uk

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Family Worship 11.00am

For more details contact Danny Bamfield 01454 419324.

e-mail danny@thebamfields.co.uk

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Evening Worship every Sunday at 6pm for details tel. 413247

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury -

Sun 8.30am Mass 11.00 Family Mass

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday Mass at 10am

Tel 01454 412223, www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Meeting for Worship Sundays 10.30-11.30: The Hanover Room, The Chantry, Castle St. Wheelchair accessible. Children welcome with prior notice.

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

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

Diary Dates for January 2020

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

1 st Wed	Table Tennis, every Wednesday	7-8.30	PH
2 nd Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop	9-1.30 10-12	OS†
3 rd Fri	Haven Memory Café Thornbury Carers' Support Group	10.15-11.45 1-3pm	URC Chy
4 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12	MH
6 th Mon	Soup Kitchen Monday Movie Severn Vale Flower Club - Practice	12 - 1.30 7.30 1.30	OS† StM AH
7 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning Tea/Coffee & Biscuits 50p Monthly Raffle Macular & Low Vision Support Group British Legion Women	10.30-12 10.30 7.30	DGCL TMH DGCL
8 th Wed	Table Tennis every Wednesday OPHS: Unravelling the Double Helix - Gareth Williams Panto 'Finding Buttons' until Saturday	7-8.30 7.30	PH OMC CTK
9 th Thurs	Coffee Shop Olveston Playgroup, every Thursday Craft Session, also 23 rd Jan	9-12 9.30-11.30 10-12	OS† MH LVH
10 th Fri			
11 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning Panto 'Finding Buttons' 'The Greatest Showman' Singalong	10.30-12 10.30-12 11 and 2.30 5 for 5.30	MH AVH CTK StM
14 th Tues	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning Aust Parish Council Thornbury Memory Café WI.	10.30-12 7.30 10.15-11.45 7.30	DGCL EVH TMH PH
15 th Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club: demonstration Jazz at The White Hart, Olveston	2pm 8-10.30	AH
16 th Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop	9-1.30 9-12	OS†
17 th Fri	Haven Memory Café	10.15-11.45	URC

18 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning 'Rock Pipes' Burns Night, see December MP Olveston Parish Council surgery	10.30-12 10.30-12 10.30-12	AVH MH AH MH
19 th Sun	Community Tree Planting at Olveston Playing Field, Vicarage Lane	11-1	
20 th Mon	Soup Kitchen Monday Movie	12 - 1.30 7.30	OS+ StM
21 st Tues	Friends of Daldry Gardens coffee morning 'Sew Almondsbury'. £3, Jo, 07511 807 586	10.30-12 7-9	DGCL OSH
22 nd Wed	Alveston History Soc - Bristol's Great War Severn Valley Quilters	7.30 7.30	AMC CH
23 rd Thurs	Coffee Shop	9-12	OS+
25 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12	MH
28 th Tues	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee morning Thornbury Memory Café Olveston Parish Council	10.30-12 10.15-11.45 7.30	DGCL TMH AP
30 th Thurs	Coffee Shop	9-12	OS+
Looking ahead to February			
1 st Sat	Quiz	7.30	StM
19 th Wed	'South Pacific', until Saturday	7.30	PH

KEY: AC Aust Church; AH – Armstrong Hall; AMC – Alv Meth. Ch.; AMH- Alv Meth. Hall; AP – Alexandra Pavilion; AVH – Aust Village Hall; ; CH – Cossham Hall; Chy – Chantry ;CS Castle Sch. CTK Christ the King DGCL – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; EVH – Elberton Village Hall; LVH Littleton Village Hall MH – Olv.Meth.Hall; OMC Olv Meth Ch OS – Olv. School; OS+ – Olv. Stores; OSH Old Sch. Hall Alm; PH – Olv Parish Hall; StM St Mary's Church, Olv.; StMA Almondsbury Church StMT Mary's Thorn TCh Tock Chapel; TBCh - Thornbury Baptist Church; TMH – Thorn. Methodist Hall; ; TMS Tock Manor Sch. URC United Reform Ch, Th.

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

Advertisements Neither Meeting Point, its editor, nor management committee accept any responsibility or give any guarantee in case of any dispute or claim as to quality, condition or delivery of commodities or services advertised in this magazine. It is not to be taken that publication implies recommendation. It is always advisable to check prices when ordering goods or services.

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