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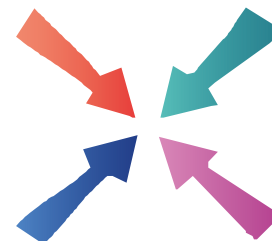
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Meeting Point

Volume 47, Number 4, January 2023

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

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Publication date
1st of each month

Material for February 2023
to the Editor or Deputy Editor
by 9th January 2023

From the Editor

When I was a little girl, growing up, we didn't celebrate New Year's Eve – despite my father being from the north of England, with stories of going round the houses in his village 'first footing' with lumps of coal. Once I'd left home there were parties – of course – and later bring-and-share dinners with friends or celebrations squeezed into a ski trip. Recently, for all sorts of reasons, NYE has been quieter, but still I like to mark the arrival of a new year and, on behalf of the team at Meeting Point, wish readers all the best for 2023.

This month we have another beautifully illustrated article from our wildlife expert; the second in the 'volunteering' series; details of a wassailing event in Littleton on Severn; musical events in Thornbury and much more. We are so lucky that there is such a lot going on locally and plenty of different activities to choose from.

Marelin

This month's cover is by Peter Haworth

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

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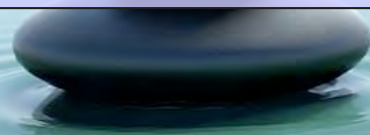
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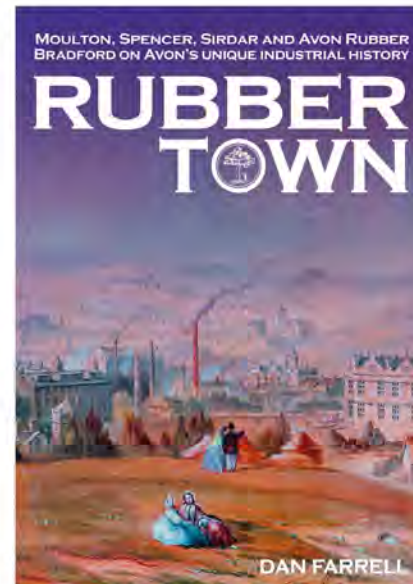
Rubber Town: Bradford on Avon

Olveston Parish Historical Society. Wednesday 4th Jan. 7.30pm. Methodist Church, The Street, Olveston BS35 4DR

All welcome! Non-members: £3.

Many of you will know the lovely town of Bradford-on-Avon as a cloth-making town, with, later, some of those woollen mills housing the Avon Rubber company and the Moulton Bicycle Company.

Dan Farrell is technical director at Moulton Bicycles. On 4th January, he will tell us why and how Bradford on Avon became 'Rubber Town', thanks to the determination of a man called Stephen Moulton, who, in 1842, brought samples of Charles Goodyear's 'vulcanised' rubber to England. Stephen purchased a derelict mill in Bradford-on-Avon and the grand, but decaying, Jacobean house that overlooked it and founded his own rubber manufacturing enterprise, overcoming many hurdles to do so.



The painting shown on the cover of Dan's book, see left, (which he'll bring along in case anyone would like a copy for £10) shows Stephen Moulton and his wife Elizabeth looking over The Hall and the rubber works from the Tump on the edge of town. In the foreground are their daughters, Kate and Elizabeth.

Stephen Moulton's factory in Bradford on Avon became the world's centre of production for 'railway rubber' including all manner of springs, hoses, glands, seals and gaskets. Its customers included Isambard Kingdom Brunel and Sir Nigel Gresley (designer of *The Flying Scotsman* and *Mallard* locomotives).

The factory employed almost all of the working-age population of Bradford on Avon for nearly 150 years. Come and hear all about it!

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From the Registers of St Mary's Olveston

Sunday November 20th

Baptism of Stacie Davey

Monday November 28th

Funeral of Fennella Orr Tait

Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church

Open Consultation on Property, Saturday 28th January, 2.30 - 4.30 pm

Many thanks to those of you who responded to our invitation to be in touch with us, following our article in November's Meeting Point. In it we reported that our Church Council has decided to reduce the number of our buildings, and to reach a decision by June/July 2023 on which to keep and which to let go.

On Saturday 28th January our Minister, Simon Edwards, and the stewards, will be at our Olveston premises from 2.30pm to 4.30pm for an open and informal consultation with anyone who wishes to discuss and explore views on what would be in the best interests of the community. Come and go as you wish - tea/coffee and cake provided.

New Year - New Friends

It started in a house. During lockdown, it continued in a garage. And now it's in a church. What am I talking about? Tea and Chat, of course! At half past two on the first Friday of each month, a group of men and women meet up for tea and cake in the Oasis church in Old Down.

If you find it difficult to get out and you'd like to meet new friends, why not come and join us? The next Tea and Chat will be on Friday January 6th. Tea and cake is free and so is transport if you need it. The only thing we ask for is small donation of £1 towards the heating.

If you are interested, please call Lynn on 01454 612201 or Lesley on 01454 613804. We'd love to see you in January!

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Southmead Hospital

A Hospital Volunteer

I volunteer at Southmead Hospital in the new Brunel Building, which opened in 2014 amalgamating the old Frenchay and Southmead Hospitals. It is a state-of-the-art hospital, with a vast atrium providing a light, bright public space. It doesn't look like a typical hospital and uses an airport type system of 'gates' to identify the different departments. The atrium houses two Costa coffee shops, a shop, a pharmacy and a League of Friends Café. It's a lively area with art exhibitions and quite often someone playing the piano. It aims to make visiting the hospital a welcoming and less stressful experience.



It takes 15 minutes to walk from one end of the building to the other, so a motorised buggy is available (driven by a volunteer) to assist those with mobility issues. There is an army of 'Move Makers' in the atrium, these are volunteers who help patients and visitors navigate their way through the online check in process and provide directions as required.

I started at Southmead in March 2022 as a Ward Support Volunteer. I report to the housekeeper on my allocated ward and my duties are basic, but vital. I work a 4-hour shift once a week starting at 9.30 am. My first job is to prepare the tea/coffee cart for the first round of the day, following breakfast. Once the cart is ready with freshly made tea, milk and biscuits I visit the individual rooms offering hot drinks and a chat if that's what the patient wants. There are two bays of 6 patients and the other 26 are in en-suite rooms. I check that the patients have fresh water and that the PPE stations are fully stocked - we get through a vast amount of gloves and aprons every day.

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Once the hot drink round has been done, there is the routine task of loading and unloading the dishwasher. The kitchen is small, but it is a lively place to work, with nurses and health care assistants making drinks, grabbing a slice of toast or more often than not a chocolate that a grateful patient or family has brought in for the staff.

The catering staff deliver the menus for the following day mid-morning, so my next task is to collect the tea/coffee cups and take the menus around. Many patients are not well enough to read and write, so time is taken with them to go through the choices for lunch and supper.

The next big event is lunch, which is delivered from the kitchen at about 12.30. With apron and gloves on, I deliver individual trays to the patients. The patients have a choice of 4 hot dishes, sandwiches, a hot pudding or cold dessert and snacks for in between, fruit, crackers or a brownie. The food is individually plated from the trolley and so making sure the patient has the correct chosen menu is top priority, this is the most hectic part of my shift with speed of the essence to get the hot food to the patients as quickly as we can. There are usually one or two healthcare assistants to help out with lunch too.

My shift finishes at 1.30, so my last task of the day is to collect the trays from the patients and load the trolley to go back down to the kitchen. This is the last opportunity for me to check whether a patient needs anything else before I leave and the next volunteer arrives. The patients are always so appreciative, as are all the staff, and I go home feeling as if I've done something good for the day.

My husband was admitted to Southmead after he suffered a stroke last year, from which he didn't recover. The care and compassion shown to him in the time that he was there was exemplary and provided the motivation for me to give something back through voluntary work. I can highly recommend it.

To find out more about volunteering at Southmead contact:
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Pamela MacLeod
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Thanks from Mo Lewis

Having moved to Severn Beach earlier in the year, Mo Lewis was unsure what effect the new location would have on her Christmas Toy Appeal on behalf of the Salvation Army. Well, the answer was positive – there was a further increase on the impressive £10,000 of donations that were received in 2021. Local people in Thornbury, Olveston, Almondsbury, Easter Compton, Hallen and Alveston linked with Mo's community in Severn Beach and Pilning to donate a massive pile of toys, toiletries, cash, Boots Gift Vouchers, in addition to knitting hundreds of items for babies and toddlers.



All the gifts were collected by a Salvation Army van and taken to their warehouse in Staple Hill for wrapping and distribution to underprivileged children in the South Gloucestershire area.

Mo, who was overwhelmed by the response, commented: *"I can't adequately thank our local community and surroundings enough for this fantastic generous*

response. I know times are hard for most of us, but the Christmas spirit has prevailed once again".

Thanks from RBL

Stan Bradburn

On behalf of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, I would like to thank the many people responsible for making this year's appeal such a success in our area. The total collected was £7650.41 which is tremendous.

Special thanks to the ladies' section of the RBL and the villagers of Olveston, who turn out every year for the house-to-house collection. The schools in the area contributed a massive £1000, which goes to show that our children are being taught about what has happened in the past, and how that has given us our present. Their support is invaluable.

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It's time to get your tickets for 'Kiss Me, Kate'!

If you are looking for some colour and laughter to fill your dark winter evenings, look no further than this year's production by the Parish Players. Buy your tickets now for Kiss Me, Kate, which takes place during February half term at the Parish Hall in Tockington, BS32 4LQ, on Wednesday 15th to Saturday 18th February. Curtain up at 7.30pm.

Kiss Me, Kate was first performed on Broadway in 1948. It is famous for the clever wit of its script, written by Sam and Bella Spewack, and its memorable music and lyrics by Cole Porter, which includes renowned numbers such as 'Another Op'nin', Another Show', 'I Hate Men', 'Too Darn Hot' and 'Brush Up Your Shakespeare'. The combined talents of its creators, complemented by that of the show's esteemed fourth 'contributor', William Shakespeare, make this one of the finest musical comedies of all time. The original 1948 production and its 1999 Broadway revival each won five Tony Awards.



Linda Evans shown working with some of the cast in rehearsals

Linda Evans once again masterfully directs the Parish Players as they perform this 'play within a play'. It tells the story of divorced actors Fred Graham (played by Paul Dimery) and Lilli Vanessi (Kate Coyle), whose off-stage relationship closely shadows their on-stage roles as Petruchio and Katherine in a production of 'The Taming of the Shrew'. Through their arguments and jealousies, we can see that they are still in love; a fact it takes them some time

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to accept. Meanwhile, nightclub singer Lois Lane (played by Emily Jones) twists Fred round her little finger to get the part of Bianca in the Shakespearean production. However, her boyfriend, chronic gambler Bill Calhoun (David Proud), signs an IOU for his gambling debts in Fred's name, resulting in a couple of ham-fisted gangsters (Ray Hale and Phil Savage) unintentionally making their acting debut, with hilarious consequences.

As well as the leads, we welcome the return of other familiar faces from previous productions. Richard Newley takes on the role of character actor Harry Trevor, who plays Katherine and Bianca's father Baptista Minola, while Paul Harrod and Cameron Phillips play the roles of Bianca's other suitors, Hortensio and Gremio. Lesley Clarke is cast as Maggie, the stage manager for 'The Taming of the Shrew', while Heather Collins plays Hattie (Lilli's dresser) and Jake Woodward is Paul (Fred's dresser). Paul Harrod also takes the role of Lilli's fiancé, General Howell.

Jo Baxter's inventive choreography features throughout, particularly highlighting the skills of our team of talented dancers – Isobel Lambie, Evie Snadden and Sophie Allsopp-Jones. They also join Cath Purchase, Jane Mitchell, Anne Leslie and Viktoriia Shchavinska in the chorus and the many cameo roles. We are delighted that Viktoriia, who previously acted in and directed shows in her homeland of Ukraine, has joined the Parish Players while she is staying in Thornbury.

It is Chloe Allsopp-Jones's immense skill as Musical Director that enables the company to take on Cole Porter's highly sophisticated score. The whole company are enjoying the challenge of performing the fantastic range of harmonies, rhythms and styles, alongside extracts from the original Shakespearean dialogue, written in blank verse.

Set designer Andy Black and his construction team of Brian Brown, Rod Williams and Richard Newley have returned to create the engaging and clever scenery that we have grown to expect. We also welcome back Richard Churchill as Lighting Designer, Cath Chappel as Wardrobe Mistress and her husband Mike in charge of sound effects.

Tickets go on sale on Saturday 14th January between 9.30 and 11.00am in the Methodist Church Hall, 2 The Street, Olveston BS35 4DR. Prices: £10 for adults, £7 for children and £12 for premium seats.

After that time, tickets will be available on 01454 202011. But don't delay, as they usually sell quickly!

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Olveston and Tockington WI

At Olveston and Tockington WI, Angela Green kindly remains President for another year. One of her innovations this year is to involve small teams of non-committee members to organise trips and welcome new members. We also have organisers for both a walking group and a stitching group.

After a very musical Christmas party, members are looking forward to a talk in January from Phil Savage about his trip to the Antarctic.

Olveston and Tockington WI meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Olveston Parish Hall.

Thornbury Orchestra Concert

Our next concert will be on Sunday 29th January in St Mary's Church, Berkeley at 5pm. Tickets, available on the door, are £10 for adults, with children and concessions free.

The concert is in aid of the New Start Debt Advice Service, based in Thornbury, and the music will include a selection of popular classics including the Hansel & Gretel Prelude (Humperdinck), a Fantasia on Welsh Nursery Tunes (G Williams), the Gaelic Symphony (H Beach), and extracts from 'Rodeo' by A Copland.

The orchestra was founded in November 2002 and draws players from across South Gloucestershire and beyond. We rehearse regularly in St Helen's Alveston, and normally we perform two or three concerts a year, all in support of local charities. We are always keen to hear from interested players and currently have a number of vacancies.

Visit our website for more details www.thornburyorchestra.org.uk or contact: info@thornburyorchestra.org.uk

Alveston Local History Society

We would like to announce the first three meetings for 2023. All these meetings begin at 7.30pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month in Alveston Methodist Church. There is a charge of £5 for each presentation, including coffee or tea and biscuits.

Wednesday January 25th: We shall welcome back a friend of this society - Ronald Hutton – who will talk about Queen Elizabeth 1st.

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Wednesday February 22nd: Liz Davenport will speak on the subject of 'A visit to the Antipodes in 1852 -4 and its impact on a unique Gloucestershire House' She is closely involved with the Woodchester Mansion.

Wednesday March 22nd: Roy Ackerill will talk about printing and 'Gutenberg to Gates'.

Aust Parish Council

Happy New Year to all residents from Aust Parish Council! We are ready to kick off another year of serving the communities of Aust, Elberton and Littleton.

Council budget 2023-24

The first big task of the new year is to set the council budget for the coming financial year. Councillors have carefully considered each element of spending and will try to set a budget which balances keeping the council running smoothly against the rising costs which we know residents are facing. It is likely that there will be a small increase in the parish precept (the share of your council tax which comes to the parish council) compared to last year, but the precept will still be less than £30 per year for most households. The exact amount will be set at the next council meeting on 10th January.

Could you serve your community as a parish councillor?

Later in the year, May 2023 will see elections to the parish council, alongside the South Glos Council elections. Anyone who thinks they might be interested in being part of the council is warmly encouraged to talk to one of the current councillors or contact the Clerk to ask any questions they might have and find out a bit more about what is involved. Parish councillors get involved in a broad range of village issues; in recent months we have covered litter, highway maintenance, traffic, the Jubilee celebration and many other matters.

You can find contact details on the web page (bit.ly/austpc_docs). Attending a council meeting would also be a good way to find out more about the range of subjects which the council gets involved with.

Next parish council meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th January in Elberton village hall. The agendas for council meetings are posted on the village noticeboards at least five days before the date of the meeting and are also available on the council web page (bit.ly/austpc_docs). Residents are very welcome to attend.

Emma Pattullo, Parish Clerk

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Winter Wonders

Paul Godwin

In January we are in wintertime, where summer now feels a very long time ago and we are looking forward to spring. For many, winter can seem like a season where the 'natural world' has closed down until spring. We therefore risk not going out so much to walk and explore. It is true of course the trees have shed their leaves, many of the birds which nest here in summer have left for warmer climates and some mammals will be in their winter hibernation. However, there is still an abundance of life. In old and ancient woodlands we can see many types of fungi. You can now see the shape and structure of the trees, observe overwintering birds and the woodland floor is a carpet of colour from the fallen leaves. So winter is a wonderful time to go out to explore.

Just over the Severn Bridge - and no more than 15 to 30 minutes away - we are very fortunate to have access to areas of ancient woodland and wildlife habitat. Due to the close proximity of these areas to where I live in Olveston, I go to a number of these areas fairly frequently in winter: The Piercefield woodland, the ancient heathland and woodland areas accessed from Tidenham Chase car park (including The Poor's Allotment Nature Reserve) and also the Nagshead RSPB Reserve and woodland near Parkend. Each of these locations offers something very different in each season of the year.

What follows are some photographs of fungi I have taken recently in these woodlands, and they are just a very small example of those which you may find. Firstly, here is the 'Chicken of the Woods' or Sulphur Polypore.



This is a bracket fungus and can be found on beech, oak, cherry, chestnut and yew trees. As you can see its colours are bright, so quite easy to identify. They can be found on both upright or fallen

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trees, from summer through to early winter. Large specimens can make it through winter itself. This photograph was taken at the end of November 2022 in the Nagshead woodlands at Parkend. It has a positive benefit to wildlife, deer often feed on it and some beetles live and feed on it, including the hairy fungus beetle. It is known to be an edible fungus unless it is growing on yew (which is a toxic tree), but my advice would be unless you are very skilled and knowledgeable about fungi identification (which I am not) do not try eating it. Apparently it does not agree with everyone, and my view is that it looks far better on the tree!

The fly agaric is probably one of the most identifiable and photogenic fungi. It has featured in many fairy tale illustrations of mushrooms and fairy rings. I have never seen one in our immediate area so was very pleased to come across this specimen, which was photographed in November 2022,



on the edge of woodland near The Poor's Allotment Nature Reserve. This is a poisonous mushroom which also has a psychoactive and hallucinatory affect, so please do not be tempted. It is steeped in mythology including references within 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' when Alice is given the mushroom to eat. DO NOT try this at home! In Victorian times it was a common image on Christmas cards and its colours may have influenced Santa Claus's red and white coat. Reindeers can also be seen in a 'drunken state' after eating this mushroom and indeed it is possible that this is where the references come from of Santa's reindeers being able to fly.

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The fly agaric also has a traditional use as an insecticide, where it is crumbled up in milk which then attracts houseflies who die as a result of the poisonous effect. Hence its name. The specimen in the photograph is likely to be almost fully grown, as when they first emerge through leaf litter they are entirely covered in white warts which they then begin to lose as they grow and the red pellicle shows through.



I am including the photograph, above, although I have not been able to identify it. I thought it was worthy of inclusion as it is a very striking specimen. It may belong to the genus *Rhodotus* or possibly *Creidotus* but I am really not sure? Given its striking features I really felt that I should be able to identify it. I did say that I am not an expert! So, if there are any mycologists reading who are able to identify this fungi, I would be pleased to hear from them via Meeting Point.

A Message from The Femmes

We would love to say a heartfelt thank you to all who joined us for our Christmas concert at St Mary's on Saturday 3rd December. We had a wonderful evening and loved sharing with you all.

A big thank you to all who came to support and especially to Junior Fascinating Rhythm, a local young girls' choir, who helped join in the festivities! We hope to see you all again next year!

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Playing with Words - Mondegreens and Feghoots

Marelin Orr-Ewing*

Mondegreens

Firstly, what is a Mondegreen? It is a mishearing or misinterpretation of a phrase in a way that gives it a new, if slightly odd, meaning. The origin – allegedly – comes from a mishearing of the words in a Scottish ballad The Bonny Earl of Murray:

Ye Highlands and ye Lowlands,
Oh, where hae ye been?
They hae slain the Earl o' Moray,
And laid him on the green.

The final line was misheard and thought to be '*And Lady Mondegreen*'. Hence, Mondegreens.....

Back in the day, many children sang the hymn with the words *Gladly my cross-eyed bear*, or the carol, *While shepherds washed their socks by night*. In popular music there are many examples, such as the line in Purple Haze by Jimi Hendrix where people were convinced it was '*kiss this guy*', when he actually sang '*scuse me while I kiss the sky*'. In The Beatles' song Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds, a line was heard as *the girl with colitis goes by* (the girl with kaleidoscope eyes). And the mishearing of the line 'All of the other reindeers' in the song Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer inspired a children's book titled *Olive, The Other Reindeer*.

Outside of song lyrics or hymns, there is a story of a typist writing '*jockstrap position*' instead of juxtaposition, or the invitation to a *Haddock Stirring Committee* (ad hoc steering committee). Or the very famous '*send three and four pence, we're going to a dance*' (Send reinforcements, we're going to advance'). Jane Asher, the actress turned cake-maker, wrote that she had once received a letter addressed to *Mr J Nasher* and the letter began..... *Dear Mr Nasher*.

Do Meeting Point readers know of any other famous (or family) Mondegreens? If yes, do share.

Feghoots

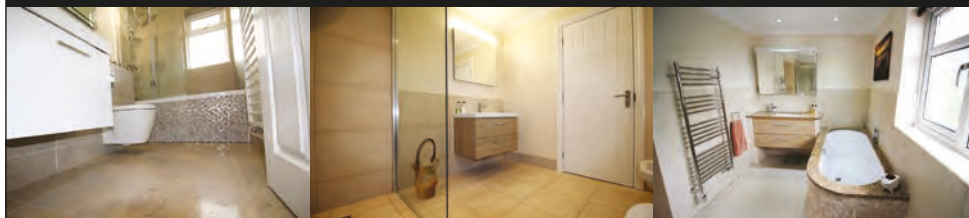
A feghoot is a humorous short story or anecdote where the punchline is a well-known phrase or saying which has been deliberately turned into a Mondegreen – where the words sound the same but have a different meaning. (Homophones, in fact!)

Perhaps the best way to explain this is to give you a couple of examples:

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"There was a young boy called Franz who woke up one morning and found he'd been transformed into a raging bull elephant. He charged around the house with his trunk sticking straight up and making loud trumpeting noises. A picture of his parents' wedding came crashing down and a vase of anemones tipped over. He was afraid of what his family might do if they saw him like this, so he tried to get out of the house. But it was too late. His parents and sisters had already been woken up by the racket and rushed downstairs. They were shocked at what they saw, and Franz looked back at them with sad elephant eyes. Finally, after an awkward couple of minutes in which no one spoke, Franz's mother went over and put her hand against his trunk and said, "What has happened to you?" Franz let loose a bloodcurdling blast and his mother slipped to the floor in a dead faint. Franz's father was about to go and help her, but just then he noticed the anemones tipped over on the table. He picked them up and threw them out of the window, saying, "*With Franz like this, who needs anemones?*""

Or this one:

Mahatma Gandhi walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him (you must prepare yourself for this) *A super calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.*

There was a round in the popular BBC radio panel game *My Word!* [1956-1990] in which veteran broadcasters Frank Muir and Denis Norden told tall stories and funny anecdotes revolving around a well-known saying or quotation and each story ended with the phrase they had been given turned into a clever and funny Mondegreen. One that I actually remember was where the story ended with the words '*The gay Miss Nutworthy-Kendall*' (the game is not worth the candle) In another, 'There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip' ended a story about the artist Manet, drunkenly dozing in a beauty spot between a carp pond and Lover's Leap with the words '*There's Manet asleep 'twixt the carp and the leap*'.

So here is a Feghoot challenge – can you make up a short story or anecdote that ends with a well-known phrase or saying turned into a groan-inducing Mondegreen? Amusing solutions to this challenge will be published!

**Thanks to Pat Thirkettle who sent in the idea for this piece....*

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Don't forget, if you're not in you can't win!

Thornbury Orchestra Concert

Our next concert will be on Sunday 29th January in St Mary's Church, Berkeley at 5pm. Tickets, available on the door, are £10 for adults, with children and concessions free.

The concert is in aid of the New Start Debt Advice Service, based in Thornbury, and the music will include a selection of popular classics including the Hansel & Gretel Prelude (Humperdinck), a Fantasia on Welsh Nursery Tunes (G Williams), the Gaelic Symphony (H Beach), and extracts from 'Rodeo' by A Copland.

The orchestra was founded in November 2002 and draws players from across South Gloucestershire and beyond. We rehearse regularly in St Helen's Alveston, and normally we perform two or three concerts a year, all in support of local charities. We are always keen to hear from interested players and currently have a number of vacancies.

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Do you know what Greenwashing is?

Greenwashing is a PR tactic used to make a company or product appear environmentally friendly, without meaningfully reducing its environmental impact. For example, a fast food company could promote a switch to recyclable paper straws while still using meat suppliers responsible for burning down forests to make

their burgers. Or by using a recycling symbol on packaging without telling you which part is or can be recycled. Or buzzwords that are meaningless without explanation, like 'non-toxic', 'all natural', 'eco conscious' and 'chemical-free'. Greenwashing lets companies keep business as usual, so all the planet-polluting they do carries on. We're led into the belief that everything is fine, while environmental problems are being handled or solved by someone else. Greenwashing means we miss supporting the companies who really are reducing their environmental impact.

So what can we do? Read the labels carefully.

The Future is Seaweed! Last month the Earthshot 22 Global Environment Competition, set up by William, the Prince of Wales, had 5 winners. The UK company NOTPLA was one of them. This company believes that the future is not plastic - but seaweed. This naturally occurring plant can be manufactured into packaging to hold liquids, coating for food containers and paper for the cosmetic and fashion industry and is fully biodegradable. Seaweed farming simultaneously creates new opportunities for fishing communities. NOTPLA has won a considerable financial reward which hopefully will give them the means to invest in their new company to make it into a fully commercial enterprise. Well done NOTPLA.

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Tony Gardner

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Tickets: £12 per delegate (£10 if a previous workshop delegate) Block Booking of 4 or more £10 per ticket. To book your tickets, please visit: <https://fascinating-rhythm.com/events/love-to-sing-workshop/> Closing date for tickets: 21st Jan.

Take a new song from 'page to stage' in the course of a day! Whether you are a regular singer or a 'newbie', you can be sure of a warm and enthusiastic welcome from everyone at our 2023 Love to Sing day. Experience the joy of singing in glorious 4-part harmony with a large all-female show chorus and perform with us to your family and friends!

Fascinating Rhythm has come a long way from first meeting in the back room of a Sodbury pub (sounds like a good idea!) over 25 years ago. They were originally named Rainbow but that changed to Fascinating Rhythm once the group became more established. From those small beginnings they number over 50 singers now. They strive for musical excellence through regular rehearsal and dedication from their members, but they pride themselves in being so much more than singing as their strapline suggests. They recognise the value of teamwork, extended social networks, peer support and the all-important health benefits of being with like-minded people and singing.

Fascinating Rhythm are proud and successful members of LABBS (Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers) and take part each year in the national convention. This barbershop competition sees over around 30 choruses taking part from across the UK. They also benefit from high-level education provided by LABBS. From singing to music, performance to club management, LABBS provide an annual rolling program of events, training and access to high-level coaching. You will find them singing wherever they can, at local and national events. A typical year will see them perform several full shows, perform at local and national competitions, and host harmony workshops and educational events. Between our Junior Chorus (JFR) and the principal Fascinating Rhythm Chorus, we have ladies of all ages from 7 to 60 plus!

All the singing members, the teams that make up the chorus's smooth running, every booking and concert, and the charities and groups we collaborate with, all work together with care, commitment, and consideration. So, if any of you out there fancy a go at singing four-part harmony a cappella – what are you waiting for?

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A Winter Warmer - The Kim Cypher Quartet

The Porch House, Castle St, Thornbury – Saturday 21st January 7.30pm.



Recently described as '*musical champagne*' by a highly respected jazz club, one of the UK's most exciting saxophonists, vocalists and composers, Kim Cypher, heads to The Porch House Thornbury with her highly popular quartet featuring top UK jazz musicians:

Kim Cypher – Tenor, Alto, Soprano Saxophones & Vocals
Chris Cobbson – Guitar
Mike Green – Double Bass
Mike Cypher – Drums

Creating quite a stir on the jazz scene at present, and with a recent sell-out debut at world-renowned Ronnie Scott's jazz club, Kim has firmly secured a reputation for top quality, stylish, accessible jazz. The band will perform a great selection of well-known jazz favourites, swing, original music, Latin and funky grooves, together with a performance full of positive, vibrant energy, great humour, enthusiasm and wonderful musicianship. The performance is part of Kim's 'Brighter Tomorrow' project and tour, celebrating and paying tribute to The Arts as we head towards a brighter tomorrow. Kim has performed in New York and at top jazz venues across the UK. Expect a lively, entertaining selection of great music all packaged up in a captivating performance and warm, friendly stage presence. "*A rising star on the UK Jazz circuit*" The Jazz Mann. Without doubt, a performance not to be missed.

Tickets are £15 from AAGThornbury@gmail.com or 01454 850933. (Bar available.) FFI: www.kimcypher.com



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Yours Faithfully

Judith Heybyrne,
Focal Minister St John's, Elberton

Here we are into another new year, the years seem to pass with ever increasing speed, not helped by Christmas preparations starting just after bonfire night! When I was a child, we were lucky to get a tree up the week before, with major anticipation and excitement escalating until the special day came, when we were allowed into the sitting room to enjoy the open fire. It was a very special time, taking a long time to come around each year, so different from today. Perhaps all the more reason for us to make the most of the time God has given us; we may have given some thought to this already with some well-meaning new year's resolutions.

What will the new year bring, will it be all dark, doom and gloom? We are to a certain degree in control of our use of time, so having just celebrated the birth of Jesus the 'light of the world', it seems wise to investigate further. The presence of God in our lives can bring change and hope to a dark world.



I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life (John 8:12)

This verse inspired William Holman Hunt to paint 'The Light of the World'. You may be familiar with it, if not you can find out more on the internet. It reminds me of an old Victorian Christmas card. The painting shows Jesus holding a bright lantern about to knock on a door, one that is overgrown with greenery and with no handle. It is a night in autumn/wintertime. The picture is full of allegorical meaning, and it illustrates Revelation 3:20: *Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me.*

The picture was very popular in 19th century England and America, it influenced poetry and book illustrations. Meditate on Hunt's vision of Christ and the meaning of all its details become clear. Spiritual truths in vision. Perhaps the painting can again capture the interest like it did in the Victorian period. Whatever the new year will bring, we do have the opportunity to walk in the light.

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MONUMENTS



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Church News

ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Jan 1	10am 6pm	Holy Communion No Service	Rev David Moss
Jan 8	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Janet McBride Fran Brealy
Jan 15	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Fran Brealy Rev David Moss
Jan 22	10am 6pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	Rev David Bone Janet McBride
Jan 29	10am 6pm	Holy Communion Taizé Candlemas	Rev David Moss Rev Ann Lloyd

Every Saturday in Term Time, 'REFRESH', 4.30-5.30 - Fun, relaxed church for families, all welcome.

Every Wednesday, Holy Communion, 10am.

NB. Clergy may change.

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

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Jan 8	10am	Morning Prayer	Trevor Cook
Jan 22	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

Contact: Trevor Cook, 01454 618442

Church Wardens: Jenn Dickens 632312 and Clive Roberts 632238

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Jan 8	9am	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd
Jan 22	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Jan 9	7pm	Plough Monday - Olveston Young Farmers	TBA
Jan 22	9am	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd

Contacts: Judith Heybyrne 616725 and John Gunnery 413225



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OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Jan 1	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle
Jan 8	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Mr Niall Briggs
Jan 15	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Mr David Bainbridge
Jan 22	10am	Olv Ch	United Service for the Week of Christian Unity, with Holy Communion. Led by Rev Dr Simon Edwards and Rev David Bone
Jan 29	10am	Tock Ch	Annual Covenant Service led by Rev Dr Simon Edwards

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

THE VINE House of Prayer, Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL
Meeting at 11am every Sunday and on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 2.30pm.

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

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

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Contact: Neil Mobbs, cnmobbs@hotmail.com



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SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury
Contact: Brian Hawkins, hawkinsb863@gmail.com 01454 854867

Diary Dates for January

Information believed to be correct at going to press.

2 Mon	Monday Movies	7.30	S+M
3 Tues	Over 60's Coffee Morning Citizens Advice, every Tuesday	10-12 10-12	DGCL TCC
4 Wed	OPHS: Industrial History of Bradford on Avon incl the Moulton Bike	7.30	OMC
5 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop Good Afternoon Choir every week	9- 1.30 9-12 1-3	 S+M URC
6 Fri	Over 60's Bingo or Quiz	2-4	DGCL
7 Sat	'Refresh', relaxed fun for families	4.30	S+M
9 Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club	2pm	SMCH
10 Tues	Over 60's Coffee Morning Thornbury Memory Café WI Aust Parish Council	10-12 10.15 7.30 7.30	DGCL TMH PH EVH
11 Wed	Octopus Drama, Ali Baba & the 40 Thieves. Wed - Fri. Tickets from Rosie & Rex, High Street (see also Saturday).	7.30	CTK
12 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop	9 - 1.30 9-12	 S+M

13 Fri	Over 60's Bingo or Quiz	2-4	DGCL
14 Sat	Kiss Me Kate tickets go on sale Octopus Drama, Ali Baba & the 40 Thieves	9.30- 11.00 11.00 2.30	OMH CTK CTK
17 Tues	Over 60's Coffee Morning Thornbury Memory Café.	10-12 10.15	DGCL TMH
19 Thur	Coffee Shop	10-12	S+M
24 Tues	Thornbury Memory Cafe Olveston Parish Council	10.15 7.30	TMH PH
26 Thurs	Coffee Shop	9-12	S+M
28 Sat	Fascinating Rhythm 'Love to Sing' Day	10.00	CS

KEY: **AMH** - Alveston Methodist Hall, **CS** - Castle School, **CTK** - Christ the King, **DGCL** - Daldry Gardens Community Lounge, **EVH** - Elberton Village Hall, **OMC** - Olveston Methodist Church, **OMH** - Olveston Methodist Hall, **OPH** - Olveston Parish Hall, **S+M** - St Mary's Church, **SMCH** - St Mary Church Hall Thornbury, **TCC** - Turnberries Community Centre, **TMH** - Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, **URC** - United Reform Church

Looking Forward to February

15th - 18th, The Parish Players present 'Kiss me Kate' at the Parish Hall

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

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