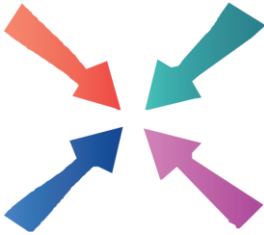


Meeting Point



July 2017



Meeting Point

Volume 41, Number 10, July 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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Publication date
1st of each month

Material for August 2017
to the Editor or Deputy Editor
by 10th July 2017.

July is definitely a month for local outdoor events, which, if we are blessed with fine weather, look like being very enjoyable. On July 1st there is the opening event for the Olveston and Tockington Tennis Club's new Clubhouse and, of course, the Thornbury Carnival. The following weekend is the Severn Festival, an event which is new to me but has apparently been running for some time. Later on in the month there are Open Gardens in Thornbury and a Garden Party in Alveston with music from MoMac'n'Me. All good fun!

Looking back briefly, to June, I would like to say congratulations to the organisers of the Olveston Summer Fair. It was a delightful afternoon - I wandered round all the stalls, bought some plants for my garden, said 'Hello' to friends and had a delicious glass of fruit punch. As I sat watching the children perform their dancing, I felt really lucky to be there.

Marelin

The cover is by Les Harper

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

News from St. Mary's

Trevor Cook



The solstice has gone by and summer is here and it's time to enjoy some of the highlights of the season.

Champagne Ball

Break out the ball gowns and brush down the dinner jackets! The summer Champagne Ball will take place on **Saturday, 8th July**, at Tockington Manor. Reception is at 6.15 for 7pm. Dinner will be served in the marquee by

Napier Catering and dancing will be to Manhattan Nights.

Tickets cost £65 and are available from Julia Johnstone, telephone 07966 302762.

Concert by BCO Sinfonietta

We are always delighted to host the Bristol Concert Orchestra Sinfonietta will fill the church with music on **Saturday, 15 July**, starting at 7.30pm.

The programme will include a selection of classical pieces:-

Handel. Music for the Royal Fireworks

Mozart. Ave verum corpus

Mendelssohn. Concert Piece for 2 Clarinets

Haydn. Trumpet Concerto

Beethoven. Symphony No.4

The conductor will be Stefan Hofkes

Tickets available from Olveston Stores and at the door on the night

Open Air Service

On **Sunday 23rd July** at 10am we shall be holding our annual outdoor service at Cromwell Court (opposite the entrance to the village shop). It will be led by Paul Harrod and will feature a treasure hunt for the children, and a focus on some of Jesus' most famous parables. All are welcome.

New Vicar

It has been decided that the post of minister for North Severnside will be re-advertised as a permanent position. Interviews will have been held towards the end of June and it is hoped that a new minister will be in place in October.

A Forgotten Landscape.

Welcome to summer! We're running lots of fun free events again this year. There's a short list below but visit our website www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk for more details.

Event volunteers

Want to help run a range of events in your local area? Interested in helping others learn more about your community's natural or cultural heritage? Like the idea of learning how to hold your own events? Then come join our team of event volunteers. Learn useful skills you can use to run your own events!

If you're interested or have any questions please contact Emma at: emma.cross@southglos.gov.uk or 01454 864265



Severn Festival. Saturday 8 July, 11am – 4pm Severn Beach Village Hall

Come and join us for activities, entertainment and fun. There will be a music stage with a full programme of live acts hosted by Bradley Stoke Radio who will be broadcasting live, plus stalls, nature walks, storytelling, crazy bikes to try to ride and much, much more. The Scouts will be firing up their big barbeque, the schools will be involved and so will every local group that wants to be. If you'd like to get involved email emma.cross@southglos.gov.uk

Meadow Sweep with Ed Drewitt

Sunday 16 July, 2pm – 4pm Woodwell Meadows Nature Reserve

Come and visit our local wildflower meadow near Littleton-on-Severn with local naturalist Ed Drewitt. This little known nature reserve is full of lots of beetles, grass bugs and colourful flowers waiting to be explored. With sweep nets and trays at hand, discover the wildlife living amongst the fields of flowers and grasses. Sun cream, hats and outdoor clothing recommended, depending on the weather. Directions and location given on booking. Book your place at meadowsweep.eventbrite.co.uk

Calling all landowners and farmers

We're very keen to work with local farmers and landowners. Our volunteer surveying projects depend on your kind permission to survey the rhines, ponds, orchards and bird roosts on your land. And we wouldn't be doing any archaeological digs without your permission either! If you'd like to learn more about the flora and fauna living in your orchards, ponds and ditches, and how to improve these special habitats for wildlife, please give us a ring on 01454 863 043 or email Katie at Katie.scaife@southglos.gov.uk.

We also offer grants for willow pollarding and hedgerow laying with our partner Mark Smith of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). If desired, Mark can additionally offer advice on Countryside Stewardship and adjusting farm operations to support wildlife.

We will always strive to work respectfully and sensitively with farmers and landowners. But don't just take our word for it. Read what Rob Watkins has to say about working with AFL at www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/working-afl-farmers-perspective/

Disney's 'The Little Mermaid Jr.'

Join Thornbury Musical Theatre Group Juniors 'Under the Sea' as they perform their latest production. Based on the Hans Christian Anderson story, this features the characters and songs from the well-known Disney film, bringing this colourful musical to life right in front of your eyes. Join Ariel and her friends Flounder, Scuttle and Sebastian in their underwater adventures as Ariel longs to be 'Part of Your World'.

Thursday 13th to Saturday 15th July, Armstrong Hall, Thornbury.
Performances 7.30pm nightly, and a matinée at 2.30pm on the Saturday.
Adult tickets £10 and £11, Concessions (OAPs, students and under 16s) £8 and £9.

Box office enquiries 07896 607653.

Thank You

The Alveston Singers would like to thank the appreciative and generous audiences who attended their first concerts with their new conductor, James Davies. The retiring collections at the concerts raised just over £1244 for the chosen charities, The Julian Trust and Off the Record.

We look forward to welcoming many of you to our Christmas concerts. Details will be announced nearer December.

Starlings

Trevor Cook

It was late May that I woke up one morning to a deathly quiet; yes, the baby starlings had fledged and left the roof space above my bedroom. Although it seemed like forever, it was really only a few weeks but during that time, as the sun rose earlier and earlier, the family grew louder and louder and I was often wakened by a, far from tuneful, dawn chorus.



Starlings often go by unnoticed, but on closer inspection, and especially when they are in their breeding plumage, they are a beautiful iridescent green and blue underneath their buff and white spots. Topped by a bright yellow bill they are a very elegant looking bird.

They can be seen around the villages all the year round, and in late spring the bright parents are

accompanied by their dull brown fledglings tailing the adults and screeching for food.

Watching 'my' starlings revealed they fed them with rather disgusting looking 'leatherjackets' (crane fly larvae) which they dig out of the grass and lawns (a good thing) but they will also visit your bird feeders and let you know very loudly of their presence.

They are not known for their beautiful song but can be heard mimicking other birds and even mobile phone ring-tones. You can often hear them chattering away to each other on your television aerials or high in a tree.



In winter they gather together in huge flocks and as dusk gathers they circle in the sky in the murmurations that you will have seen on several TV nature documentaries and which bring delight to all who see them.

Anyway, this year I have done my bit for the Starling population and I (kind of) wish that they might return next year, despite the noise and the poop all down my windows.

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Vegetable Matter

Chris Bolton

My friend and allotment neighbour John Clayton was Born in the USA, so I thought he would be a good person to ask about sweetcorn.

John's first advice, consistent with his enthusiasm for the produce, was about eating it. "There is nothing like the taste of really fresh sweetcorn. Cook it as soon after picking as possible. Before going to the allotment to pick it, I put the pan on so that I have water ready and boiling when I get home." I'm not sure he wants me to tell you this, but if you're going to copy his practice, you should also remember to take the door key with you, to avoid having to borrow a ladder to break back into your house...(sorry John!).



John's growing tips relate to the fact that it is wind-pollinated. So the first advice is to plant it in blocks not rows, which makes for the most efficient transfer of pollen from the male parts of the plant to the female parts. Secondly, the courgette and the corn are companion plants, so plant courgettes upwind of the sweetcorn. This is because pollinating bugs attracted by the courgettes are blown onto the neighbouring sweetcorn.

Apparently in some parts of the USA, corn, squash and beans are known as the Three Sisters because they are companion plants.

For small blocks of sweetcorn, the wind mechanism of pollination may not be enough, and you can give the plants some help with their sex-life. This is done



Tassels (male)

by taking a fresh tassel (male) from the top of one plant and placing it on the hairy tufts of silk (female) which emerge from the growing ears of corn.



Silk (Female)

Repeat this daily throughout the time when the tassels are yellowy with pollen (about five days), and you should get ears full of corn kernels. Poor pollination leads to lots of missing kernels (which was what happened to mine last year, so I'm hoping for better this time: thanks for the advice, John).

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the June draw, held on 8th June 2017 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	289	Mrs G Davies, Abergavenny
£75	446	Mr B Amos, Olveston
£25	468	Mr G Clark, Olveston
£25	324	Mrs M James, Olveston
£25	155	Mr J Chick, Olveston
£20	398	Mrs G Crossley, Olveston
£20	417	Mr & Mrs J Graham, Olveston
£20	496	Mrs E Marsh, Tockington
£10	420	Mr R Bush, Westbury-on-Trym
£10	431	Mrs A Harley, Alveston
£10	156	Mr J Chick, Olveston
£10	352	Mrs V Brown, Olveston
£10	157	Mr J Chick, Olveston

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

Garden Party

St Peter's Hospice, Severnside Support Group, would be delighted to welcome you to Grove House, The Street, Alveston (BS35 3SX) to a Garden Party to be held on **Sunday 23rd July, 2.30pm - 5.00pm** (by kind permission of Geoff and Carol).

Bring a picnic chair, listen to the music of **MoMac'n' Me** and enjoy the gardens.

Entrance is £4.00 to include tea and cake. Raffle and stalls.

Please come along and support St Peter's, your local Hospice.

Aust Parish Council Matters

Tim Pyper (austparishcouncil@googlemail.com)

Aust Parish Council has a new Chairman

Mike Hawkins, having served as chairman for 10 years, has now retired as chairman. The Council elected Catherine Collinson as the new chairman and Steve Meredith as vice chairman.

Mike has been an excellent chairman of the Council, and has made a great contribution to the village of Elberton and to the whole parish. He was elected to the Council in 2003. Before that, he led the Elberton Action Group in a successful battle to prevent the Harnhill Landfill site, which for years had been a source of smells and litter, being raised by several meters. He also was instrumental in having a speed limit set on the B4461 though Elberton. Whilst on the Parish Council and while leading it as chairman he confronted many serious problems, such as the traveller sites at Aust, the continuing planning problems at Whale Wharf and the flooding in Aust in 2008. He was chairman of the Safer Stronger Communities group for the area and represents the Council on the Oldbury Site Stakeholders Group. Council members are very grateful for his service and very pleased that his experience and expertise will remain available as he is continuing as a member of the Council.

Open Gardens

Once again Thornbury and District Cancer Research UK Committee are holding Open Gardens on **Sunday 16th July** between 2pm and 6pm.

This year there will be gardens open at Heathend, Cromhall, Milbury Heath (by the Garden Centre), Tytherington (West Street) and Alveston (A38), also for those interested the Alveston Allotments will be open.

A single Entrance Fee of £6, covering all gardens/allotments, is payable at any of the gardens. Teas and plant will be on sale at the garden in Alveston.

Please do support us by attending and enjoy a wonderful afternoon. All monies raised will go direct to Cancer Research UK.

For further information please contact Pam on 01454 416941

Platinum Wedding Celebration

Pat Thirkettle

Meeting Point goes one better than Diamond this month, as we read about the forthcoming Platinum Wedding celebration of Dr Brandon and Dr Margaret Lush. They will celebrate seventy years of marriage on July 12th with a family lunch at the Alveston House Hotel.



Margaret Lush was fortunate in the 1920s to be the daughter of a barrister and school headmaster who believed in equal education for her and her brothers. Only six girls made the sixth form at her school and she alone made it to medical school at Kings College Hospital in London, where there were only four women in her year.

Brandon Lush, a few years older, also studied medicine at Kings College Hospital. He

Photo: Michael Donald/alumni.kcl.ac.uk

graduated in 1941, was called up and after initial training spent the war treating front line troops in Italy and Africa. He was a Major by the age of twenty five, and in 1945/6 commanded a military hospital in India.

After demobilisation and jobs in general practice, he returned to Kings College Hospital as a Houseman for six months where Margaret was doing likewise. She worked in diabetic medicine with the use of a special kitchen and was able to take special rations down to Brandon in the evenings, which she thinks might have helped! They married in 1947 at her parents' home, with a proper cake and good food in spite of rationing. Brandon's family worked in a brewery and provided the alcohol, some of which ended up in the fruit punch. Margaret's parents were teetotal as was the friend, a pillar of the church, who gave a speech having drunk alcohol for the first time in his life!

Married life began in Wimbledon but first they were guests of one of Margaret's patients at his Spanish house near the Costa Brava. At that time you were each permitted to take only £10 currency out of the country. Brandon drove the round trip of nine hundred miles in their Hillman Minx and owing to the generosity of their host while there, they were able to return home with some money in hand.

Brandon then worked at the Royal Free Hospital as a physician in training for three years. Their daughter Bidy was born in 1948, followed by son Patrick and another daughter Penny. Margaret worked part time as the children grew up, including medical boards for the Ministry of Pensions and re-trained as a psychiatrist.

Brandon started working at the Medical Research Council, and after ten years was promoted to Principal Medical Officer for another ten years. He then re-trained and in 1972 was appointed to found the Department of Care for the Elderly at Frenchay Hospital. He had visited Bristol University at the invitation of the Vice Chancellor as a guest speaker on medical research, and their son Patrick was a medical student there at the time. They moved to Almondsbury and Margaret worked part time as clinical assistant at Barrow Gurney Hospital and continued the medical boards. They heard about their present house in Lower Hazel through a friend and downsized there on their retirement thirty five years ago, although they subsequently extended it.

The Department for the Care of the Elderly was so successful that a second professor was appointed in 1980 and the University appointed a Professor of the Care of the Elderly in 1983. However there was not enough money from the University and the NHS to cover expenses so Brandon founded the charity BRACE in 1985 to raise money for research and teaching in the Department. The charity is still going strong but Brandon retired three years ago.

They love gardening, and opened their garden for the National Garden Scheme for ten years with the teas served by 'Brandon's ladies' from BRACE. Margaret continued with medical boards for another ten years, and Brandon was president of the Olveston branch of the Royal British Legion for a period and they are involved with Hazel Landowners Ltd as one of the twelve house owners that own and manage the old golf course in Lower Hazel.

Their children are all old age pensioners; Bidy lives in Olveston with her son James Rowland, well known to many local, elderly computer users, and is a great help to her parents. Patrick has retired as a GP in Gloucester after being President of the Gloucester branch of the British Medical Association and Penny, a retired Lecturer, is building a house on an island in the River Thames. It was delightful to meet such an interesting couple and certainly much more could be written about their very full lives. Meeting Point and its readers congratulate them on reaching this impressive anniversary milestone.

Oveston and Tockington W.I.

Vicki Townsend

An interesting evening was enjoyed by members in May, when Gordon Craig gave a talk on 'Chocolate'. Among the things we learnt were that chocolate produces endorphins, chemicals that make us feel happy and it does it even faster if it is mixed with air, which is why we like a chocolate flake. Many small independent companies have closed, being 'eaten up' by the big multinationals. Black and Green, for example, is now owned by Cadburys and Mars by Wrigley's. The confectionary market in Britain is worth £5.4 billion a year, compared with bread at £3.6 billion a year..... so much for weaning us off of sugary, fatty foods. Gordon brought along a variety of different kinds of chocolate which W.I. members were very happy to sample!

Police Report

PCSO Kelly Dimery

There were three reported crimes for April:

- Item stolen from a garden in Rockhampton by two males.
- Garden ornaments stolen from a property in Oldbury.
- Vehicle broken into and item stolen in Oveston.

Reported crimes for May:

- Vehicle Crime – entry gained via driver's door, cash stolen, Mumbleys Lane.
- Shed break in – entry gained and garden tools stolen – Hill
- Stable break in – entry gained nothing stolen – Hill
- Shed break in – entry gained and garden tools stolen – Oldbury
- Male caught climbing over electric gates to a property then made off – Awkley Lane
- Vehicle crime – vehicle broken into overnight and keys stolen – Old Down
- Attempt to break into outbuilding – person seen on CCTV in rear garden and attempted to gain access to outbuilding
- Theft of pigeons from a loft at an address in Oldbury
- Theft of battery and electric cables from a field in Old Down

Beat Surgery July 26th: Easter Compton Village Hall 9:15am – 10:00am
Oveston Stores 10:30am – 11:15am

New Clubhouse Open Day,

Saturday 1st July 2pm – 4pm



Olveston and Tockington Tennis Club is pleased to invite you to the opening of their new clubhouse. Food and refreshments will be provided on the day. Please come along to see what the club has to offer you and your family, join in with some fun games or just relax in our wonderful new facility.

For further details please visit www.ottctennis.co.uk or call Martin Dawes on 07720 509653.

Everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing you on the 1st July!

From the Registers of St Mary's Olveston

May 20th Marriage of Andrew Brown and Victoria Spriddell.

June 3rd Marriage of Elizabeth Anne Charlton Ormerod and Nicholas James Williams.

From the Registers of St John the Evangelist, Elberton

May 31st Funeral Service and Burial of Una Mary Hosken.

Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

150 Club Winners June 2017:

£50 Reg Purchase
£15 Lesley Clarke
£5 Mike Rowen

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

27/05/17 Diane Buckley (Happy Birthday!!)
03/06/17 Paddy Gardner

Fixtures at The Park July 2017 (1.30pm Start)

01/07/17 1st XI v Blagdon
08/07/17 1st XI v Old Bristolians
15/07/17 2nd XI v Failand & Portbury
22/07/17 2nd XI v Long Ashton
29/07/17 1st XI v Brislington

Up the Down!!

Watch out, watch out, there is an amazing Cub Scout about!

1st Olveston Cub Pack, as part of their World Challenge Badge took part in a 'Big Tidy Up' which started around their Scout Hut and the Football Pitch, down Vicarage Lane and ending up at Vicarage Lane Playing Field (so often used by the Cubs and children from School.) This community work was very kindly supported by Rod Williams our local volunteer litter-pick co-ordinator with resources from Keep Britain Tidy. Rod also very kindly presented each

Cub with a certificate of thanks, for working hard to keep our area clean and beautiful on behalf of us all, in and around Olveston. 1st Olveston Cubs would like to say a big thank you to Rod for organising equipment, resources and donating his time to us, to all the parents who help us with Cub activities and to Sara in the village, for providing much-needed refreshments. Litter-picking is hungry work!



The main goal of the Cubs' badge work is to make a difference and understand our community more. We started with an enjoyable visit to our nearest elderly care home, where Cubs explained what they loved about being a Cub Scout, while chatting with residents over a slice of cake and cup of tea. We also had a brilliant visit to Thornbury Fire Station, where the Cubs learnt lots about what to do (and what not to do) in fire-emergencies. So, as well as helping with a 'Big Tidy Up' the Cubs certainly are getting out and about and learning to enjoy and respect our community spaces, people and places.

Over the next few weeks we will be cycling across the Severn Bridge, completing first-aid badges, having camp-fires, doing some outdoor cooking and then we are off to Camp for four days jam-packed full of outdoor pursuits, fun events and challenges. So if you see 1st Olveston Cubs & Leaders out and about, feel free to ask us what we are doing. Most likely our answer will be that we are learning by doing, working hard, having fun and most of all 1st Olveston Cubs will always be doing their best!

If you have a young person who is interested in becoming a Beaver (from 6 years) or a Cub (8 years to 10½ years) a Scout (to 14 years) or an Explorer more details can be found at <http://scouts.org.uk/get-involved/map-page/>

Scouting also still needs more adult volunteers so if you think you can help, even for just a couple of hours a week, to enable even more young people to be involved in Scouting... we need you now!

Please contact: Beavers – nikki@beavers.olveston.com, Cubs - anne.howell@blueyonder.co.uk or Scouts - diana.heming@btinternet.com

There are also executive and support roles, such as helping with the Scout Hut, ground maintenance and various bits of administration so, if you feel that facilitating young people's activities is not for you, there are still ways you can make a big difference doing what you might consider a small thing.

Make a difference and join the Scouting adventure! <http://scouts.org.uk/get-involved/>

Alveston Gardens Association



Gill Hazel will introduce examples of

'Classic, Rare and Unusual Bulbs'

Join us at 7.30pm in Alveston Jubilee Hall on Monday 3rd July 2017

All welcome – Visitors £3

Full programme see www.alveston.org

Stay Tuned for Thornbury Radio

A new local consortium has been formed to bring local radio back to Thornbury. Thornbury Media Community Interest Company (TMCIC) is a not-for-profit venture and has been formed especially to deliver a new radio station for the area. Behind the idea are Glyn Roylance and David Wrench who were founder members of the original Thornbury FM.

“Thornbury FM proved that there was plenty of local talent to produce great local radio” said Glyn. He continued “Although Thornbury has a strong community spirit, it does not have a local radio station to help showcase the town. Commercial stations don't serve Thornbury, and the BBC stations focus

on their regional briefs for Bristol, Gloucester and Somerset. We want to fill that void and play our part in building an even stronger community spirit in Thornbury”

The radio station is currently in the early stages, examining technical feasibility and business plans. They are looking for people with business skills who would like to get involved to help build a viable organisation. They are also keen to hear from local benefactors who would consider supporting the project and any organisations or businesses that have empty accommodation which could host a small radio studio.

If you think you can help, please get in contact! radio@tmcic.org

July Puzzle

Jan Winter

Magic Squares Challenge - and a chance to win a prize.

I am sure most people are familiar with a 3x3 magic square using the numbers 1 to 9. (A reminder: a magic square is one where the numbers in each row, column and diagonal add up to the same total)

What about bigger magic squares? This one contains 16 numbers:

4	5	16	9
14	11	2	7
1	8	13	12
15	10	3	6

This is a very special magic square – it is called a ‘diabolical’ magic square! As well as the rows, columns and diagonals adding up to 34, there are many other sets of four numbers within it that have the same total. The challenge is to find as many sets of four numbers totalling

34 as you can, recording each set. For example, the four numbers in the middle $11+2+8+13=34$ so I have recorded this by shading the squares in red:

There are **lots** to find! (Recording each set on a separate 4x4 grid will be clearest)

There will be a prize of a £10 Book Token for the person who finds the most ‘sets’ and who shows clearly all the possibilities they have found. Entries can be handed in to the Olveston School Office or scanned and sent to meetingpointeditor@gmail.com. Please give your age if you are under 15 years. **Deadline 12 noon Friday 14th July**

If anyone wants an extra challenge how about trying to make a 5x5 magic square using the numbers 1 to 25?

Answer to June puzzle

$$\boxed{9} - \boxed{5} = \boxed{4}$$

$$\boxed{6} \div \boxed{3} = \boxed{2}$$

$$\boxed{7} + \boxed{1} = \boxed{8}$$

Company, Conversation and a Cuppa



**CONTACT
THE ELDERLY**

Contact the Elderly is a registered charity. We arrange monthly tea parties for people aged 75 and over who live alone, often without family nearby. If you, or someone you know, would like to come along to our tea parties why not get in touch to find out more.

Freephone: 0800 716 543

Email: guest@contact-the-elderly.org.uk

www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk

We are starting a new group in the Thornbury area, so volunteer drivers and tea party hosts are always needed!

Almondsbury Surgery

Do you know that Almondsbury Surgery offers "Patient Access" to all its users? Patient Access is a computer system, which can be accessed through the internet, and allows patients to do the following:

- Book appointments
- Order repeat prescriptions
- View their medical record

The advantages of using this system are that it can be used at any time – day or night – and is very simple to use and easily accessible and there are many more appointments available up to six weeks in advance via Patient Access than by making a telephone or personal call to the surgery.

Due to the high and increasing volume of telephone calls made to the Practice the decision has been taken not to take repeat prescription requests over the telephone as from **1 August 2017**. After that date requests for repeat prescriptions will only be accepted in person at reception, or in writing or online – hence all the more reason for us all to use the Patient Access system. Telephone requests can still be made – after 10.30 am in the morning – until 1 August. The turnaround time for repeat prescription requests is 4 working days but online requests can be met in half this time - 2 working days.

By using Patient Access you are helping the surgery staff who are always so busy and freeing them up for other tasks. If you would like to know more about registering for Patient Access, please speak to one of the surgery staff on *01454 613161* – preferably after 10.30 am in the morning. They will be happy to help you or go to www.almondsburysurgery.co.uk.

Once you have registered to use “Patient Access” you may need a little help to use the system and the staff at the Olveston Computer Clinic are very happy to help you with this (see Diary pages for details of opening times etc.). They will be able to help you access the system for the first time and give further assistance should it be necessary – anyone with internet access will be able to use the system.

If you would like further information please contact Pat Hinton, Almondsbury Patient Participation Group Committee Member on *01454 612884*. All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.

The Healing Waters of Tockington's Eye Well.

Nick Fear

Tockington has several ancient sites around it and some are well known, but others like the mystical St. Michael's Chapel are lost to the mists of time. One location is passed by many people every day without them realising that they are at the place where the healing waters of Tockington once flowed, the site of the Eye Well.



Travelling along Upper Tockington Road towards Olveston there is a sharp right hand bend in the road. To warn drivers of this there is a tall slender road sign, beside which, cloaked in ivy is the base of a stone structure. Despite its natural

camouflage, it has not lost its squared outline and is the base of the famed Saint Michael's Well, which became known as the Eye Well because of its healing powers.

The well structure was made of local stone, with a sloping galvanised steel roof to protect it from the elements. With no pavement originally, it was slightly below road level at the bottom of a small grass slope. It was a solid building and had an entrance large enough for a person to visit it with ease. Entering into it from ground level, there was a step down to a large slab, then a tight turn to the right and another step down, lead to a final slab. Illuminated only by the light the entrance offered, directly in front of a visitor's feet, was the water. The well could better be described as a pool, which corresponded in shape to the building's outline.

For many years the properties of the Eye Well were known by local inhabitants. The water was cool and fresh and good enough for drinking but that was not its prime use. There are still village memories that, well into the dark years of the early 1940s, local doctors recommended the waters as a cure for eye problems. Bathing sore eyes directly or using a small blue glass eye bath to soak them produced pleasing results. Inflamed eyelids subsided, dry eye balls moistened and eyesight sharpened across the age groups. The efficacious nature of the water was shared and people from further afield came to fill containers with the wonderful waters.

The waters were once used by the drivers of Sentinel steam lorries from Olveston quarry to refill their tanks. This resulted in an oily film being left on the water and the company kindly went elsewhere after local complaints. Nothing should be allowed to pollute the Eye Well.

Time, as ever, moved on and manufactured medicines overtook more natural homespun remedies. Public health matters became an increasing concern and laboratory science aided this. In early 1940 an official sign was attached to the well's structure, courtesy of the local council, stating that the Eye Well had been condemned as the water was not fit for human consumption unless boiled. The National Health Service was inaugurated in the summer of 1948

and opened a new world of opportunities for infirmities. The Eye Well waters were still used by local people, but post war as both villages expanded, it became less known.



Photo: Eric Garrett

By the mid 1950s, with a growing population in the area, the site became a safety concern, particularly for children who walked past it on route to school. A discussion took place in local councils and a decision was taken to demolish the structure and infill the site with the rubble. At first the structure, appropriate to its history, was in plain sight, but over time nature has tried to reclaim it for its own.

In more recent times there was a move locally to reinstate the well, but these did not come to fruition. Whatever is below the capped well would make for an interesting archaeological examination, but passing it there may be a feeling that the healing waters of Tockington still flow.

Thornbury Library

South Gloucestershire Council One Stop Shop Office has left Thornbury Library

The council's One Stop Shop service, which operated inside Thornbury Library for the past three years, closed permanently on Friday 30 June. Alternative One Stop Shop offices are situated in Patchway, Yate and Kingswood, full address details at www.southglos.gov.uk/contactus. You can also report a range of issues from missed bin collections to pot holes online at www.southglos.gov.uk/reportit

Animal Agents, Summer Reading Challenge 2017

Saturday 15th July until 16th September

It's free to join! Best suited to 4-11 year olds. Read six library books to get your medal and certificate, picking up goodies including stinky stickers, bookmark and wristband along the way.

Go to www.southglos.gov.uk/childrenslibrary or drop in to your local library to find out more. See Facebook for latest updates.

Macmillan Cancer Support and Information Service

Friday 21st July 1.30pm-3.30pm

Do you have questions about cancer, for you or someone you care for? Drop-in to Thornbury Library to see the Macmillan Cancer Information Specialist.

Storytime & Rhymetime for Babies and pre-Schoolers

Join us in July for Storytime until Monday 17 July 2.15pm-2.45pm and Rhymetime until Friday 21 July 11.15am-11.45am before we take a break over the summer. No booking required, just turn up! We look forward to welcoming everyone back after the summer from Monday 4 September.

Yours faithfully

Lyll Drewett, Oasis Church

The Oasis church sends greetings to all readers of Meeting Point.

The definition of an Oasis, as I am sure you are all aware, is 'A fertile spot in a desert' and our decision as a church to attribute such a title to our building has been verified over the years, as regular worshippers and visitors have had their Spiritual thirst quenched and Spiritual hunger satisfied through an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. After all it was he who said "I am the Bread of Life, he who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty". (John's Gospel Ch 6 verse 35.)

The concept of a church for many people is that of a rather magnificently built edifice with a beautiful spire reaching to the sky, exquisite stained glass windows and a glorious organ. Our building is nothing like that at all, in fact many people have said they didn't realise we existed as a church. However we need to know that the Apostles and early church often met in homes where Christ's presence was manifestly evident and the Holy Spirit's power experienced. Acts Ch 2 verse 46, 1 Corinthians Ch 16 verse 19, Colossians Ch 4 verse 15. etc. Our God is Omnipresent, Omnipotent, and Omniscient and Jesus said "Where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in their midst".

God is a Spirit and is not limited to time and space. Many persecuted Christians are meeting in secret in many parts of the world today because of fear but Jesus is in their midst. (Matthew Ch 18 verse 20) How fortunate we are in this country to still be able to meet freely, to worship God through the person of his beloved Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Our prayer is that more people from Old Down and the surrounding area will join us and find in Christ the 'Oasis' in their desert experience. We look forward to welcoming you.

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

July 2	8am	Holy Communion	Rev. Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev. P Rowe & Rev A Lloyd
	6pm	Evensong with Choir	Mr Trevor Cook
July 9	8am	Holy Communion(BCP)	Rev Ann Lloyd
	10am	Morning Worship with Choir	Mrs J McBride
	6pm	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
July 16	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe
	6pm	Evensong	Mr Trevor Cook
July 23	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Ann Lloyd
	10am	Fourth Sunday	Mr Paul Harrod
	6pm	Evensong(BCP) with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe
July 30	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
	10am	Morning Prayer	Mrs Janet McBride
	6pm	Holy Communion(BCP)with Choir	Rev David Bone

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

July 9	10am	Holy Communion	Rev. Ann Parker
July 23	10am	Morning Prayer	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

July 2	9am	Morning Prayer	Mrs Tracey Black
July 16	9am	Holy Communion	Rev Andrew Daunton Fear

Contact Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

July 9	9am	Matins	TBA
July 23	9am	Holy Communion	TBA

Contact Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

July 2	10am	Tock. Ch..	Morning Worship led by Rev Dr John Emmett
July 9	10am 6.30	Olv. Ch. Parkway Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mrs Hennie Gray Circuit Leavers Service
July 16	10am	Tock. Ch	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Pete Brazier
July 23	10am	Olv Ch.	Morning Worship led by Miss Rosemary Clews
July 30	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship including Baptism led by Rev David Hardy

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wed. 12th July
To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP meets at 12.15pm at the Swan Tockington
on Thurs 20th July. To book please ring 613241

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

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

House Group 7 The Green Olveston at 10.30 date to be confirmed

THE OLVESTON COMPUTER CLINIC Olveston Methodist Hall

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

Ring 07833 354672 or 01957 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

July 2	6.30pm	Tony McQueen
July 9	6.30pm	Jonathan Braine
July 16	6.30pm	Richard Luxton (Gideons)
July 23	6.30pm	Chris Palmer
July 30	6.30pm	Ray Hollister

Each Thurs at 7.30pm Prayer & Praise Time

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

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.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: Roger Howell rog3er2@gmail.com 01454 415035

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

Diary Dates for July 2017

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

1 st Sat	Coffee Morning Thornbury Carnival OTTC Clubhouse opening	10.30-12.00 2.00-4.00	MH
2 nd Sun	Thornbury Open Gardens	3.00pm	
3 rd Mon	Computer Clinic every week	2.00-4.00	MH
4 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Tea/Coffee & biscuits 50p Monthly Raffle R.B.L.(Women) 'Cotswolds' Mr N Large	10.00-12.00 7.30pm	DGCL DGCL
5 th Wed	Computer Clinic every week Holy Communion followed by Tea & Cake Table Tennis	10.00-12.00 2.30pm 7.00-8.30	MH DGCL PH
6 th Thu	Thornbury Farmers Market Coffee Shop Olveston Playgroup	9.00-1.30pm 9.00-12.00 9.30-11.30	 OSt MH
7 th Fri	Memory Café Thornbury Carers Support Group Computer Clinic every week	10.15-11.45 1.00-3.00 7.00-9.00pm	URC Chy MH
8 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00	AVH MH
9 th Sun			
10 th Mon			
11 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café W.I. Aust Parish Council	10.00-12.00 10.15-11.45 7.30pm 7.30pm	DGCL TMH PH EVH
12 th Wed	Table Tennis	7.00-8.30	PH
13 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Playgroup	9.00-12.00 9.30-11.30	OSt MH
14 th Fri			
15 th Sat	Coffee Morning BCO Sinfonietta	10.30-12.00 7.30pm	MH StM
16 th Sun	Thornbury Open Gardens	2.00 - 6.00	
17 th Mon			
18 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	10.00-12.00	DGCL
19 th Wed	Table Tennis Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	7.00-8.30 8.30pm	PH
20 th Thu	Thornbury Farmers Market	9.00-1.30	

	Coffee Shop Olveston Playgroup	9.00-12.00 9.30-11.30	OS+ MH
21 st Fri	Memory Cafe	10.15-11.45	URC
22 nd Sat	Coffee Morning	9.00-12.00	OS+
23 rd Sun	St Mary's Open Air Service	10.00	
24 th Mon			
25 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Olveston Parish Council	10.00-12.00 10.15-11.45 7.30pm	DGCL TMH AP
26 th Wed	Beat Surgery Table Tennis	10.30-11.15 7.00-8.30	OS+ PH
27 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Playgroup	10.00-12.00 9.30-11.30	OS+ MH
28 th Fri			
29 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
30 th Sun	Aust Quiz Night at Boar's Head	7.30pm	
31 st Mon			

Looking ahead to August

School Holidays!

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 **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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