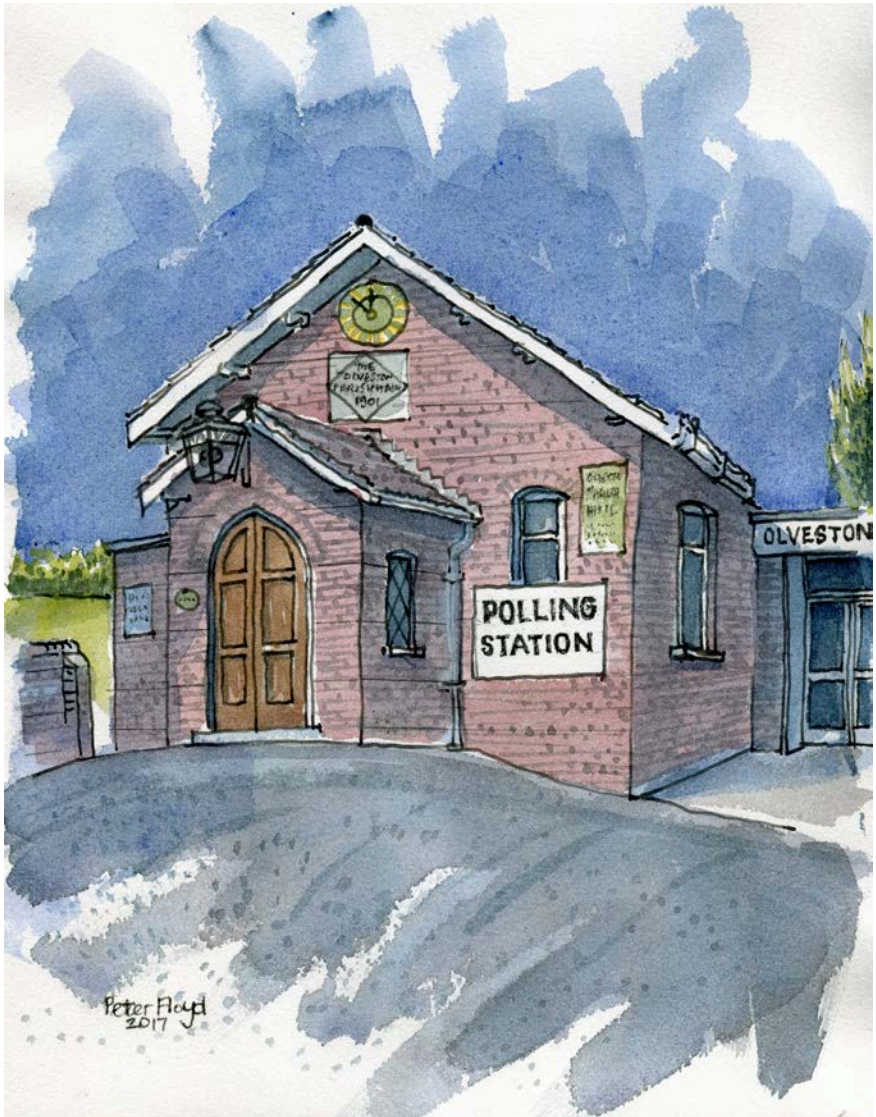


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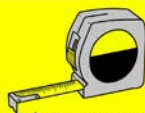
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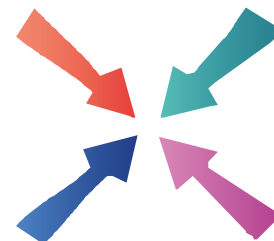
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# Meeting Point

**Volume 48, Number 10, July 2024**

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

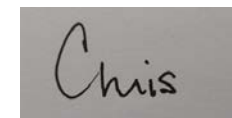
## From the Editor

Marelin is away just now, and has asked me to finish getting this edition together. It's a momentous time for the country, of course, with the Election on 4<sup>th</sup> July. But, as you'll see on page 3, it's also quite a moment for Olveston, with the announcement that The Crusty Loaf is closing on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

Some important anniversaries are covered too: Jean Panes' 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and the local Scouting Group's 110<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Also in this edition is a stirring account of local youngsters' strenuous (and successful) participation in the 2024 Ten Tors Challenge.

Our cover picture, of Olveston Parish Hall as a Polling Station, was painted by Peter Floyd.



Chris Bolton

Meeting Point Founded in 1976 by the Anglican and Methodist churches in Olveston, near Bristol.

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# The Crusty Loaf

Ian Curtis

To all our customers and friends

It is with a great deal of sadness mixed with a touch of trepidation and little excitement that I have to inform you that on the 27th July 2024 we will be bringing the curtain down on 51 amazing years of The Crusty Loaf bakery.

We have met so many people over the decades and have enjoyed some great times mixed with some not so good moments (bread strike & Covid in particular) but we sincerely hope that we have, at least in some small way, created some happy memories for everyone.

This decision has not been taken lightly and it's for many different reasons, but the main overriding reason is simply that I no longer want to do it! I have always said that being a baker is a job that you have to want to do because of the unsociable hours and often hot, sweaty, dusty conditions, and I simply don't want to do it anymore.



for me (which drives me nuts!!)

As many of you will be aware, Mum & Dad who opened the bakery on the day I was born (16th January 1973), have been suffering ill health for the last couple of years. I have dedicated my life to the bakery, working with them, Trudi and Gary, and I have now reached the point that I would like to step away and dedicate my time to family life for a change, which has very often taken second place to work. A special thanks goes to Sam (my wife) and Kieran & Jamie (my boys). Too many times they have had to miss out because of work, so now it's time to put that right. I certainly couldn't have lasted as long as I have without their support, especially Sam who has looked after all the admin



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Probably the most important thing we want to come from this decision is that we want to spend as much quality time as we can with our parents while we still can, which I don't feel we can truly do whilst concentrating on the business. I don't want this to be a sad occasion or one that people hate me for, although for some it probably will be a loss to them for which I am sorry. But everything has a time when it reaches a natural end and that is where we are right now.

The bakery has given our family the chance to be a part of a fabulous community over the years and allowed myself, Trudi & Gary along with our families, to live in a fantastic area, attend some great schools and grow up with some lovely people, for which we will be eternally grateful.

We have been blessed through the years to have had some fantastic staff both in the shop and the bakery, without whom we would not have been able to make it this far. So to anyone who has worked here over time, please know that we are truly grateful for your help in making the bakery such a success and hope that it played a positive part in your life.



Above all though, we could not have made it this far without you, our fantastic customers. There have been so, so many people that have grown up with us and indeed have continued coming in with their children, which is amazing. We have had the privilege of meeting so many wonderful people, who have helped make our job so satisfying. Sorry we can no longer be a part of your lives, but we hope that you will remember us as fondly as we will remember all of you.

We will still be here for a few weeks yet and would love to see anyone who would like to come in, even if it's just for a chat and to say farewell. Mum & Dad are only next door to the shop and would love to have a chat with some of their old friends from down the years, so don't be shy and above all don't be sad, I want this to be a decision made for the right reasons rather than be forced on us.

Love to you all.

Ian & Sam, Chris & Jenny, Trudi, Gary and the whole Crusty Loaf gang.



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## Tockington gets Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

*Nick Gingell.*



**TEN TORS  
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10th-12th May

**Scouts**   
**Cotswold Edge  
Ten Tors**

Many people may not have realised that four young people from Tockington have spent the last 7 months, using most of their weekends training towards the Ten Tors Challenge 2024, which was held on the weekend of the 10th - 12th May.

The Challenge is run by the British Army every year from Okehampton Camp, and the young people have to work in teams of 6 to complete

either a 35 mile, (Bronze) 45 mile (Silver) or 55 mile (Gold) hike and survival challenge over two days across Dartmoor.

All 2700 young people who qualified this year camped at the Okehampton Army camp on Friday night. They were woken at 5am to Chariots of Fire blaring from the camp tannoy system, so that they could get fed, packed and on the start line for 6.30am. They watched the Army helicopters and Red Devil parachute display team, before having a pre-challenge address from celebrity survival expert Ray Mears.

Following a countdown by Ray Mears, the Army canon fired at exactly 7am and the mass of keen young people, making up 450 separate teams, briskly set off to hike across Dartmoor to find their designated list of checkpoints. They carried their maps and compasses in their hands and everything they needed to survive for two days and one night on Dartmoor on their backs.

It all sounds like a nice few days hiking and camping – but you couldn't be more wrong. These young people had worked very hard to make the grade, and as soon as they pass the challenge start line, they are completely left to fend for themselves in their teams. There are no fixed routes for the teams to follow, and if they navigate well it will be the mileage they signed up for; however if they get it wrong, they walk further than planned.



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The teams are split up with different route checkpoints to reach, so it's no good following other teams as they could have a different list of checkpoints and a different order to complete them. The plan is to get to the checkpoints in a timely manner and is decided by the team's navigators themselves.

The rules of the challenge are strict and fiercely enforced by the army. At no point must a team split up or accept or seek assistance from adults during the challenge, and they must carry everything they need between them, so no stopping at shops or ice cream vans is allowed, and if caught ignoring the rules this can lead to disqualification. What's more, they are completely 'tech free' – yes, they are separated from their mobile phones for the whole of the weekend, and the only tech they have is an Army supplied tracker/radio, and an alarm clock to wake them up on Sunday morning.

Once their water is empty, it's stream or river water with water filtration tablets from then on, (not the nicest taste apparently) and only the food they carry to get them through to the end. There are no home comforts - someone must carry the poo shovel, whilst others carry tents and cooking equipment in their back packs - which are already heavy as they contain other survival equipment required by the rules.

With 10 separate Tors plus other waypoints to navigate to, the Army adds time constraints where, if a team falls behind the times required, they can be 'crashed out' by the checkpoint officials who are plotted across Dartmoor. Army Land Rovers and helicopters were on standby for anyone who needed to be rescued due to illness or injury. This particular weekend saw temperatures of 23 degrees and humidity of 87%, so there were quite a number of people brought back with sun stroke, especially on the Sunday.

Dartmoor is renowned for its unpredictable weather and all entrants had to have completed at least two full Dartmoor weekend camps as well as many practice hike weekends, theory work, navigation exercises and survival training before the main challenge. Ironically throughout the training our young people trained in snow, ice, high winds, thunder and lightning, thick fog, heavy rain, flooded rivers, impassable bogs, and slippery slopes and yet not one of their training weekends saw any temperatures above 12 degrees or a day of warm clear weather.

These young people soon learn the importance of planning, organisation, fitness, and most importantly teamwork, as doing this challenge is tough on anyone, and without your team you have no chance to complete it, and everyone in the team needs some support of one type or another throughout the challenge. Over the last seven months, our intrepid young people gave up their weekends to train and qualify for the challenge, having had to hike many miles with full kit on planned hiking days such as the Frome Valley, Bath to Coalpit Heath, the Cotswold Way, the Pensford Ring, the Brecon Beacons, Exmoor, the Three Castles hike in Monmouth, West Mendips, as well as full



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weekend training in the Wye Valley, and a couple of full kit, full weekends at Dartmoor before the main challenge.

A huge thank you goes to Lead Scout Volunteers Steve Martin, Derek Forward, Chris Harris and their Cotswold Edge District Explorer Units Ten Tors volunteer support team, all of whom supported the young people to ensure they were physically and mentally able to complete the challenge. They have done such a good job that before we all left Okehampton, all of the 35 milers were saying they want to do it again next year.....It is at this point that I'd like to give a special mention to James Lawrence (also from Tockington) who carried out most of his training weekends, and as a previous Ten Tors challenger gave support and guidance to new challengers, unfortunately James suffered an ankle injury in April which prevented him from taking part in the 45 Mile challenge this year.

As part of the Endeavour Explorer Unit, Emily Gingell and Miles Roper represented Cotswold Edge District Explorer Scouts, teaming up with other Explorer scouts in the district, to create two 35 mile teams, and one 45 mile team. Emily completed the 35 mile Challenge, and Miles completed the 45 mile challenge having done the 45 mile challenge last year. Our other returning Ten Tors challenger was James Askey, who on his last day at school, went directly to Okehampton and represented his school, QEH, in their 55 mile team. Even though conditions were extremely tough in the heat, and the fact that the Army held all teams for a 30 mins enforced cool off break on Sunday afternoon, Emily, Miles and James all completed their team challenges within the cut off time and having reached all checkpoints.



The finish line is as amazing as the start line, with thousands of cheering family supporters lining each side of the final uphill stretch of the challenge course. It is also customary for many teams to dress up at their last checkpoint for the final leg of their challenge, and the outfits are to try and allow supporters to spot their teams coming over the last Tor from a distance. Miles's team chose a beach party theme, whilst Emily's team chose to dress in pink Hello Kitty pyjamas. (See photo of Emily on the left)

As the young challengers approach the final stretch, they are handed their flags or banners from their training supporters, and they march the last 500 metres often on the heels of their feet as their feet are burning with blisters and their bodies have aches and pains many of us will never experience. They then cross the finish line to be greeted by Army co-ordinators, every



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Above, Miles Roper and right, James Askey.

If you want to see the highlights of this year's challenge, please watch ITV's highlights on ITVX and look for Ten Tors Highlights, or on Instagram ArmyTenTors.



challenger now running on adrenaline and pride, tears begin to flood as they spot their parents, siblings and friends waiting for them as they exit the course. Are they now looking forward to medals they earned? No, apparently it's the nice warm pasty they are handed soon after! A big 'Well Done' to all the young people who entered this year's challenge, it was seven months of hard work for them all, but the memories and pride will remain with them forever.



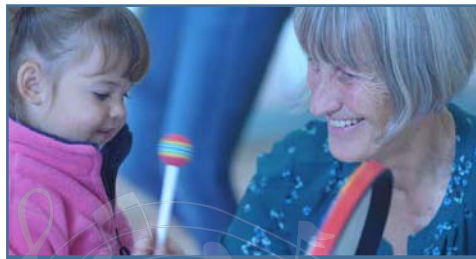


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Jenn Dickens

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Hope to see you on the 27<sup>th</sup>!

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## Thank You

Many thanks to all who came along to the 'Cream Teas on Tockington Green' on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Despite a showery forecast we managed (yet again) to dodge the rain and have a very successful afternoon.

We are also extremely grateful to all who helped to bake cakes and scones, set up, serve teas, clear tables and deal with the endless trays of washing up - we couldn't have done it without you.

We raised an excellent £1229 which will go towards the maintenance of Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church and buildings.

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# News from 1<sup>st</sup> Olveston Scout Group in our 110<sup>th</sup> Year!

2024 is shaping up to be a busy and successful 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year for the Group and we wanted to share some of our news with you. Always seeking ways to engage with the local community, recruit new volunteers and raise funds, the year started with a brilliant effort at Tescos in Thornbury on the first Saturday in February when the Young People of the Group packed bags, chatted to shoppers and helped raise around £1,000 - an excellent boost to our funds, allowing us to offer high quality Scouting in the Parish, whilst keeping costs to families as low as possible. Thank you for all the support and if you saw us there, I hope your shopping was well packed!

We decided then to use some of the funds raised to put on a special celebration of both our milestone birthday as a Group and St George's Day, so



we held a Group event at the Scout Hut on Sunday 28th April and commissioned a new necker badge that will be worn during this anniversary year. Around 80 young people and adult volunteers came along - the morning was spent hiking around the Parish with varied length hikes, depending upon the age group, and then the sections returned to the Hut for lunch and an afternoon of activities. We split everyone into mixed age teams, so Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers worked together as they tackled the 12 activity stations, ranging from Welly Wanging, tent pitching and popcorn making, to pioneering challenges, fire making and an inflatable obstacle course. Akela, aka

Hannah Cameron, devised the day and so huge thanks to her for the inspiration and leadership and to all the volunteers who came along to help run the day. Everyone seemed to have fun and it was fab to see the older children enthusiastically and considerately helping the younger ones with the various stands. Overall, we were able to celebrate, have fun and further the aims of Scouting through teaching young people 'Skills for Life' and promoting



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Anniversary banner painted by Group members

On the topic of being adventurous, the Explorer Unit, Endeavour, moved swiftly into a Duke of Edinburgh training weekend in early May and they had the opportunity to try out some new equipment. We have been fortunate to have 4 new Vango Scafell 2-person tents and 4 Jetboil gas cookers donated to us by local company, Newland Homes Ltd, and so a big thank you to the team there for your support and generous donation. Any local companies that would like to offer us sponsorship or donations, we would be very grateful and so please get in touch.

The next big event was the Hug the Hut morning, held on Sunday 12th May. With a great turnout of around 30 people, we managed to put a fresh coat of paint on the hut, tidy up all the outside areas and make some excellent progress. It makes such a difference to have many hands to help and I know Jim Godden, our Explorer Leader but also lead for keeping our Hut in good shape, was extremely pleased with progress. Around 90 hours worked on the hut that day would have taken many weeks of Jim's spare time if he'd had to paint the hut and do the gardening on his own!



It has been a busy first half of the year and there is much more to come with sections heading off on camp over the Summer and many more exciting outdoor and indoor activities ahead. The Group is thriving, we are proud to play our part in the Olveston Parish Community and, as always, please get in touch if anyone wants to know more about what we get up to or to volunteer and get involved.



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# Olveston Parish Council

The Parish Council has placed a rather smart new bench on The Green in Tockington. Three plaques are displayed on the bench, one of which is to commemorate a much-loved member of Tockington village, Kenny 'Smiley' Neale. Those of us who remember him will think of him fondly - standing outside his house and waving at us as we walked or drove past! The second plaque is in honour of Eric Garrett, a highly regarded local historian and 'star' of the film Eric and Jean. Eric was an inspiration to all those who knew him and is missed dearly.

The benches on the green in Tockington and all those dotted around the Parish are intended to be used - so please do take some time out of your busy day to sit, have a chat with your neighbours and friends, and admire our beautiful Parish.



Please follow our Olveston Parish Council Facebook and Instagram pages for up-to-date notices, information and Parish news.



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## Olveston & Tockington WI

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The speaker at our meeting in July will be Paul Govan from Renishaw.

After a very enjoyable and successful Coffee Morning in a WI member's beautiful garden in May, we have a Cream Tea in another WI member's garden, again raising funds for Age UK.

Olveston and Tockington WI meet at 7.30pm at the Parish Hall. Usually this is on the second Tuesday of the month but there is no meeting in August. If you would like to join us, please contact Angela Green on 01454 615222. Scan the WI QR code to find out more about joining the UK's largest women's membership organisation.

## Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardiner

### 150 Club Winners June 2024:

£50 Simon Walker  
£15 Simon Panes  
£5 Jenny Moody

### Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

11/05/24 Roger Riggs  
25/05/24 John Welsher  
01/06/24 Greg Welsher

This month's home fixtures:

06/07/24 2nd XI v Golden Hill  
13/07/24 1st XI v Bishopston  
14/07/24 Sunday XI v North Bristol  
20/07/24 2nd XI v BWI Phoenix  
27/07/24 1st XI v Shirehampton



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## Volunteers at St Mary's

Peter Floyd

We often say how pleased we are to live in such a good community. It's not only successful because we're so nice, but because we are lucky that it also offers most of what we need. Apart from businesses, much of this is only possible because of the army of volunteers who are prepared to devote considerable amounts of their time to its many quite separate parts: cricket, football, tennis, acting, music and so on. And then there are the churches – six of them – each one supported by many devoted people.



At a rough count about 100 people are involved with running St. Mary's Church in Olveston, quite apart from the clergy, some of whom are themselves volunteers: the members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), music and singing, sides persons and readers, added to whom there are all those unrecorded volunteers who keep the roof on; power available (and working); the church clean; the churchyard tidy, films shown, food and drink provided, flowers arranged (and watered) and innumerable other services which we all expect to happen (we might be surprised and even annoyed if the church was dark and dirty!)

St Mary's remains at the heart of the village as it has done for nearly a

thousand years, telling the story, and encouraging us to behave well towards our neighbours on whom we all depend. In these days of change, with everyone having their own ever busier lives to run, it might be expected that no-one would be available to do these jobs any longer, but they are, from across all parts of the parish and of all sorts of ages. For existing parishioners and for those new to the villages, it is a good way to get to know the 'movers and shakers' of the community. For example, a recent call for bell ringers (who are volunteers of course) produced over 20 responses.

Since I enjoyed editing a series of articles about the restoration of the tower a year or two ago, I thought it might interest readers to hear from some of the many volunteers who are involved in keeping the building in good order and helping it to be a thriving church.

The first article next month will be by Debbie Harries, Church Warden and flower arranger in chief.

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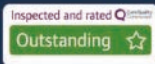


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## St Marys' Church & Village Fete



St Mary's Church and village fete will take place at the top of Church Hill on Saturday July 20th 2-4pm.

There will be lots of games for children along with the traditional stalls, cakes, books, plants, bric a brac and plenty more. A BBQ and Pimm's tent will also be there along with cream teas in the church!

Please come along and enjoy a great village event!

## Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the June draw, held on 6th June 2024 were:-

Amount	Number	Name
£150	240	Mr R Lloyd, Tockington
£75	365	Mr G Clark, Olveston
£50	226	Mr J Mason, Tockington
£25	634	Mr M Riddle, Thornbury
£25	207	Mr P Phillips, Olveston
£20	543	Mrs C Fear, Tockington
£20	344	Mrs J Hahn, Olveston
£20	479	Mrs S Farr, Olveston
£20	388	Mrs S Shaw, Olveston
£20	368	Mrs J Bendall, Almondsbury

If you are not yet a member and wish to join the lottery please telephone Andy Phillips on 01454 614890 or e-mail – [andisp28@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andisp28@hotmail.co.uk).

## First Friday coffee mornings at Tockington Chapel

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few dates are 5th July, 2nd August and 6th September from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. If you could help serve drinks or make cakes, please get in touch at [tocs.friends@gmail.com](mailto:tocs.friends@gmail.com). Helpers get free tea/coffee and a chance to chat to the other visitors!

## Tockington Harvest Fayre

Don't forget that this year's fayre will be on Saturday 14th September. This annual community gathering also raises important funds for the Methodist buildings. Anyone who can offer an hour or so of their time in setting up or running the event should get in touch at [tocs.friends@gmail.com](mailto:tocs.friends@gmail.com) - you don't need to make a massive commitment, but many hands make light work of what is a great village celebration.



## 100! Congratulations, Jean!

Jean Panes, one of the stars of 'Eric and Jean - The Movie', has celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Her son Simon has sent us a photo of her celebrating with some of her friends.

The Meeting Point team would like to add our congratulations, Jean.

## Community Quiz Success!

Thanks to everyone who packed the Parish Hall for the Community Quiz on 26th April. Together, we raised over £1000 towards the maintenance of the villages' Methodist buildings, particularly Tockington Chapel and the Wesley Rooms.

The fantastic quiz was put together by Cath Purchase, who compered the evening. Thanks are also due to Jane Sawyer, Reg Purchase, Delia Robbins and others who helped on the evening, as well as to Kerry Sawyer who collected the delicious fish and chips on behalf of the hungry quizzers.



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Participants also got to see photos of the newly transformed kitchen facilities at Tockington Chapel, which have been expanded to include a fridge as well as new cupboards and fittings.

If you want to hire any of the Methodist buildings in Tockington or Olveston for an event, contact Maggie at [tocs.hire@gmail.com](mailto:tocs.hire@gmail.com).

## Methodist Property, again...!

Many of you may remember that when we were in touch earlier in the year we were hoping to have the Olveston Hall on the market in the late Spring, and to have received agreement from the national Methodist Church to use the proceeds to modernise the Chapel as a dual purpose building for religious and community purposes. Our intention was to reactivate the plan which had been approved in 2020 but which could not be implemented due to the Covid pandemic. Sadly we have not received permission to carry over the 2020 agreement, but have to start again with a fresh application even though the details remain substantially the same. What has changed in the interval are the procedures by which the national Methodist Connexion oversees the sale of buildings and agrees on whether the proceeds can be spent on replacement projects such as we are proposing for our Chapel. Inevitably this has slowed things up which means that it will take into 2025 to get the permissions we need and therefore we cannot hope to implement the upgrade in 2024.

We will now do our best to make fruitful use of the facilities of the whole site up to Summer 2025, and have to ask you to bear with our best efforts to keep the Hall in workable order. Look out for our usual Advent Fair at the end of November in the run up to Christmas, and in the Spring or early Summer we are planning a special project which relates to the eightieth anniversary of the ending of World War II, and to the life of a famous theologian of that time, Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

We fully realise that some of you will need confirmation by Spring 2025 of the position thereafter, and we very much hope we will have good news to give about continuation into 2026 and beyond.

Our warmest thanks for your patience and support. If you have any enquiries at this stage, please contact one of the Stewards. Have a good Summer.

*Trevor Watkins, Maggie Spooner, Jennifer Bone: Stewards*

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## Greenforce Update

The Greenforce team from St Mary's Church would like to say a huge thank you to all the residents of Olveston who have supported our recycling projects for the community. Unfortunately, the Dental Programme which was run by Colgate as part of Terracycle now no longer exists and therefore Crossways school in Thornbury does not accept any

dental waste. So this particular project has now closed.

The Writing Implement project continues but they now accept PENS ONLY, such as felt tips, highlighters, biro's. They no longer take mechanical pencils, wooden pencils, crayons, correction tape and fluid containers. Please continue to place any pens along with your milk bottle tops in the brown bin to the left of the church porch for us to deliver to the appropriate collection points.

We will be researching any other projects that we can support in the local area over the next few weeks and will hopefully be able to bring you some positive news in the next few months.

Here are some dates for you to put on your calendars:

Plastic Free July, 1st to 31st July 2024 is to encourage us to refuse single-use plastic products and packaging, and to reduce use of single use plastic waste every day at home, school, and work. Here are some surprising items that contain plastic: chewing gum, drink cans, teabags, and tetra paks. It is also worthwhile researching on-line which toilet papers are totally plastic free.



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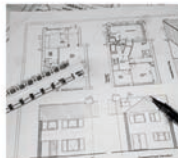
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Bees' Needs Week 2024, 8 to 14 July 2024 is an annual event organised by DEFRA in co-operation with several important organisations. The aim of the week is to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and to help bees and butterflies to survive. Why are bees so important? They are essential to human health because of their influence on our global ecosystem. They pollinate approximately 75% of our crops and 90% of wild plants and regenerate our natural forests. Bees and other pollinating insects improve the food production of 2 billion small farmers worldwide, and they therefore help ensure worldwide food security.

## Thornbury Art Club 59th Annual Summer Exhibition

Saturday 20th to Sunday 28th July. Daily 10.00am to 6.00pm, Sundays 2.00pm to 4.00pm at Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, 4 High St (entry via Castle Court door), BS35 2AQ. Everyone is welcome, wheelchair accessible, parking nearby.

The Thornbury Art Club is excited to announce its 59th Annual Summer Exhibition. Year on year our members' creativity, skills and productivity grow and inspire. This is our chance to show off all the beautiful artwork they have been producing throughout the year. Our members range from people who have started creating this year, to people who have been members since the start in 1965, amateurs and professionals. The artworks depict a wide variety of subjects and materials, and the best part is that you can bring these beauties into your own home, as many are available to buy.

When you visit you will have a chance to meet and talk with the artists, as well as chance to stock up on cards. To have a hint of what you can expect please visit our website, [www.thornburyartclub.co.uk](http://www.thornburyartclub.co.uk) and check out last year's exhibition.

<https://www.thornburyartclub.co.uk/events-2-1> for more details.

Please note there will be no Studio Groups in July or August. The next ones will commence on Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. Tel. 01454 414433 and Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. Tel. 07776271010. There will be no Club Night in July or August; the next one will be 24<sup>th</sup> September.

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## Peace Vigil

Every 3rd Saturday of the month there is a Peace Vigil in Thornbury, generally by the Tesoro Lounge on the High Street, between 10.30am and 11am. Anybody who feels drawn to, and is able to stand or sit in silence, to mourn and honour victims of conflicts around the world with the emphasis on current conflicts, is welcome to join us.

The inspiration for this vigil came very much from a monthly Peace Vigil, generally held on the last Sunday of the month by Cascade Steps, on the harbour in Bristol from 1.30-2.30pm. The Quaker who organises that vigil has said that "*The need for a gathered silent vigil for the victims of current wars and for peace with justice is growing daily.*" I couldn't agree more.

More than 35,000 people have been killed since 7th October 2023 in Gaza, The West Bank and Israel. By the middle of April this year 89,694 people were known to have been injured and famine was imminent. Nearly 2 million people have been displaced from their homes; many of these homes have been destroyed.

More than 81,000 people were killed in the Ukraine and Russian War in 2023. Over 10 million people have been displaced by that war according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

More than 15,550 people have been killed since the coup in Sudan on 15th April 2023. An estimated 8.5 million have been displaced there.

The records for Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are similarly grim.

Every single one of these statistics is a human being, just like you or me.

I write these things not to depress anybody, although I admit they do make grim reading, but to encourage people to think creatively about how we could do things differently. I want to end with a quote which I really love It is from the writer J K Rowling: "*The power of human empathy, leading to collective action, saves lives and frees prisoners.....we do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already.*"



## Blaenavon Male Voice Choir

Christ the King Church, Castle Street, Thornbury

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm.

Tickets £15 from [AAGThornbury@gmail.com](mailto:AAGThornbury@gmail.com) or 01454 850933





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Organised male singing in Blaenavon was set up from 1873 and formalised in 1910. The choir performs wherever there is an enthusiastic request, be it the local chapel or the Principality Stadium, Cardiff. In 2018 the choir sang to 74,500 spectators prior to the Wales versus Scotland match at the Nat West Six Nations championship.

They have treated audiences around the world in Europe, Scandinavia, USA and Canada to name a few. Besides these major performances they have also featured in many TV programmes.

## We Will Rock You Young @Part®

Thornbury-based Phoenix Youth Theatre's first production is We Will Rock You Young@Part®. This is a high-energy musical extravaganza inspired by and featuring the songs of Queen. Set in a dystopian future where music is banned, it follows two rebels on a quest to restore freedom and individuality, through rock 'n' roll, to the iPlanet.

Packed with electrifying performances and chart-topping hits, this jukebox musical delivers a thrilling blend of rebellion, humour, and unforgettable tunes that will have audiences on their feet and singing along all night long. Get ready to rock out like never before in this ultimate tribute to Queen!

Thurs July 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm, Fri July 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm, Sat July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2:30pm & 7:30pm


Redland Hall, Redmaids' High School, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol

Tickets now available: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/phoenix-youth-theatre>

## Octopus Drama Group News

Thornbury's Octopus Drama Group, currently in its 53<sup>rd</sup> year, is delighted and proud to announce that the group has won a much-coveted award from NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association).

The 2023 NODA Southwest Awards Night was held in Plymouth on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Out of a total of 9 nominations, it was Octopus Drama Group which was chosen as the winner of the Peter Wheeldon Memorial Trophy for a Company Crafted Production for the play 'A Bunch of Amateurs' which was performed in June 2023. The trophy is awarded in recognition of societies which present totally handmade productions. The Director, Abi McManus, certainly did get



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the best out of this talented cast with the assistance of excellent technical and backstage help.

If anyone reading this is looking for a sociable amateur dramatic group to join, whether it is on stage, offstage or backstage, there are lots of ways for you to get involved with our friendly, fun and award-winning group. We perform a pantomime in January and a play in June, usually a comedy. Rehearsals are on Wednesday and Sunday evenings at Christ the King Church Hall which is also our performance venue. You would be very welcome and can contact us via [www.octopus-thornbury.co.uk](http://www.octopus-thornbury.co.uk), by telephoning Karen on 01454 413783 or by emailing us at [Octopusdrama@gmail.com](mailto:Octopusdrama@gmail.com).

## Thornbury and District League of Friends - Summer Afternoon Tea

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2pm – 4pm. St. Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Rd, Thornbury BS35 1DR

The event is free and musical entertainment will be provided by The Thornbury Good Afternoon Choir.

Thornbury and District League of Friends was formally Thornbury Hospital League of Friends. We are now a charity that provides grants to local charities with emphasis on health and wellbeing for both adults and children. We are happy to accept grant applications for consideration in late autumn. For more information, contact Membership Secretary: [paul.wilkinson53@talktalk.net](mailto:paul.wilkinson53@talktalk.net).

## Music at St Mary's

The next Sunday afternoon concert to be held at St Mary's Church, Thornbury, will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> July at 4.00pm. We shall have a recital given by Revd Joy Ludlow (Soprano) and Alex Hiam (Piano). The concert will last about an hour and, as usual, it will be followed by homemade refreshments.

Entry is free, but there will be a retiring collection with the proceeds going to St. Mary's Music fund. We do hope you will come along for an enjoyable afternoon.

NB. There is no concert in August. Our next event will be on 15<sup>th</sup> September.





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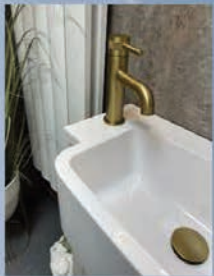
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# Yours Faithfully

Trevor Cook  
Focal Minister St. John's, Aust

As the holidays draw nigh, we can look forward to idle moments relaxing in the shade and perhaps reading a book; and by now the newspapers will be full of recommendations for a good read. So I thought I might make an additional recommendation of a good book for you. Given that it's in this slot in the magazine you will have already guessed that the good book is, of course, the Bible. Obviously it will be too much to read in a couple of weeks, so instead you might just try a couple of tasters.

In the first section the opening book is Genesis, and it contains some of the most popular stories, including the story of creation, the great flood, and the story of Joseph's brothers selling him into slavery.

The second section describes Jesus's time on earth and how He came to establish a new relationship between man and God and how his successors went on to build a world religion. The Gospel of Mark is a good place to start; together with the other gospels it tells a tale of tragedy, but also explains how the suffering of Jesus gained mankind a hope for all our futures.

You can read it dispassionately, for it will not miraculously convert you to Christianity (that's something between God and yourself). However, what you will gain is an understanding of how these stories form the foundation of the society that we live in today. A society which is based upon love and respect for each other, and for a God who loves us in return.



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# Church News

## ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

July 7th	10am 6pm	Holy Communion Evensong	Rev David Lloyd Rev David Lloyd
July 14th	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd/ Rev David Moss Rev David Bone
July 21st	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Janet McBride Rev Ann Lloyd
July 28th	10am 6pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd Janet McBride

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, [mossds@gmail.com](mailto:mossds@gmail.com)

## CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

July 14th	10am	Morning Prayer	Trevor Cook
July 28th	10am	Holy Communion	Trevor Cook

Contact: Trevor Cook, 01454 618442

Church Wardens: Jenn Dickens 632312 and Jon Burnett 633835

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

July 14th	9am	Morning Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd
July 28th	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

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

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**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON**

July 14th	3pm	Severnside Churches Songs of Praise	Judith Heybyrne
July 28th	9am	Holy Communion	Judith Heybyrne

**Contacts:** Judith Heybyrne 616725

**Church Wardens:** Catharine Gunnery 413225 and Cheryl Meredith 411065

**OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH**

July 7th	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Samuel Uwimana
July 14th	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Rosemary Clews
July 21st	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Terry Palmer
July 28th	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Forward Maisokwadzo

**Contact:** Rev Dr Simon Edwards 418176,  
[simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk](mailto:simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk)

**THE VINE House of Prayer, Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL**

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

**THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN**

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

**AUST EVANGELICAL and LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCHES**

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

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**SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury**

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

# Diary Dates for July

Information believed to be correct at going to press.

1 Mon	Monday Movies Alveston Gardens Association talk	7.30pm 7.30pm	StM JHA
2 Tues	Over 60's Coffee Morning every Tues Citizens Advice every Tuesday WRBL	10-12pm 10-12pm 7.30pm	DGCL TTH DGCL
3 Wed	Table Tennis every Wednesday	7pm	OPH
4 Thurs	General Election - Polling Day Thornbury Farmers Market Coffee Shop Good afternoon, Choir, every Thurs	7am-10pm 9am 9-12pm 1-3pm	OPH  StM URC
5 Fri	Community Café 1 <sup>st</sup> Fri of the month Haven Memory Café. Every 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday Thornbury Carnival -Swing in the Park	10-12am 10.15- 11.45am Gates 5,30pm	TMC URC  Mundy Fields
6 Sat	Park run, Mundy Fields every Sat Thornbury Carnival Main Event	9am 11am-11pm	
7 Sun	Tortworth Lake open with Refreshments (proceeds to Charities)	10am - 6pm	
8 Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club afternoon tea	2pm	SMCH
9 Tues	Thornbury Memory Café every 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues Olveston & Tockington WI	10.15am- 11.45am 7.30pm	TMH  OPH
11 Thurs	Coffee Shop	9-12pm	StM
13 Sat	Coffee morning 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sat Thornbury & District League of Friends Summer Afternoon Tea The Blaenavon Male Voice Choir Summer Concert - Bristol Concert Orchestra Sinfonietta	2-4pm  7.30pm 7pm	OMH SMCH  CTK StM
18 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers Market Coffee Shop	9am 9-12pm	StM
20 Sat	Coffee Morning Thornbury Art Club 59 <sup>th</sup> Annual	10-12pm 10am -	OMH TMH

	Summer Exhibition - daily until 28 <sup>th</sup> St Mary's Olveston Summer Fete	6pm 2pm	
21 Sun	Thornbury Art Club 59 <sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Exhibition	2-4pm	SMCH
22 Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club Practise Class	1.30pm	SMCH
23 Tues	Thornbury Memory Cafe	10.15am	TMH
25 Thurs	Coffee Shop	9-12pm	StM
27 Sat	Green Top Market	10-3pm	Thorn
28 Sun	Thornbury Art Club 59 <sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Exhibition - Closing day	2-4pm	SMCH

KEY: **AMC** - Alveston Methodist Church, **AMH** - Alveston Methodist Hall, **CS** - Castle School, **CTK** - Christ the King, **DGCL** - Daldry Gardens Community Lounge, **EVH** - Elberton Village Hall, **JHA** - Jubilee Hall, Alveston **OC** - Oasis Church, Old Down, **OMC** - Olveston Methodist Church, **OMH** - Olveston Methodist Hall, **OPH** - Olveston Parish Hall, **QAMP** - Queen Alexandra Memorial Pavilion, Old Down. **StM** - St Mary's Church, **StMT** - Thornbury St Mary's Ch, **SMCH** - St Mary's Church Hall Thornbury, **TCC** - Turnberries, **TMC** -Tockington Methodist Church, **TMH** - Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, **TTH** - Thornbury Town Hall, **URC** - United Reform Church **LVH** - Littleton Village 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.olvestonandaust.com](http://www.olvestonandaust.com). If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: [meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com](mailto:meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com)

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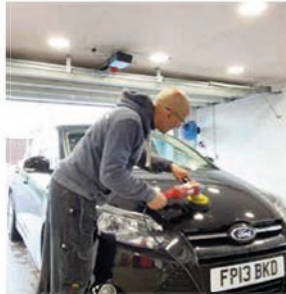




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