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Summer Fayre and Proms,
Friday 30th June



June 2023

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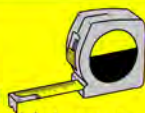
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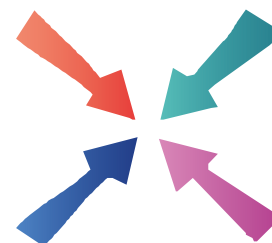
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Meeting Point

Volume 47, Number 9, June 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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by 5th June 2023

From the Editor

Thank you to Olveston School pupils, Amelia and Luciana, for this month's cover illustration. They won the school's competition to design a poster for the Summer Fayre and Proms. Well done! I'm sure lots of people will want to come along and enjoy all the different things on offer. There are more details inside the magazine.

June 1st to 7th is Volunteers Week, run by Thornbury Volunteer Centre. As well as an article from the Volunteer Centre, this month's magazine has several references to volunteering - a local volunteer has written about her work in the Lifeskills Centre in Bristol, the library is looking for people to help children take part in the 'Summer Reading Challenge' and Armstrong Arts is looking for first-aiders to help at their events. In Tockington, both the Friday Community Café and the Harvest Fayre are looking out for willing volunteers. So, no shortage of opportunities locally!

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**

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First Friday Community Café at Tockington Chapel

The next community coffee morning will be on Friday 2nd June in Tockington Chapel from 9.00 - 11.30. Please come along and invite your friends. Remember to spread the word to others who may not receive Meeting Point. Tea, coffee, squash and delicious cake will be available. Cash payments only please.

If you could help us run a future coffee morning or do some baking for us, please get in touch via TOCS.friends@gmail.com. Also, please let us know if you have any suggestions for ways to support the Chapel and the other local Methodist buildings.

Our community coffee mornings are proving very popular! We are delighted by the support from the local community and pleased to have found such a great way to bring people together.



Olveston School Summer Fayre and Proms

Friday 30th June

3.30 – 5.30 Fayre
6.00 – 8.00 Proms

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Garden Opening for NGS Charities

Stoneleigh Down, Upper Tockington Road, Tockington BS32 4LQ

Su and John Mills are pleased to be opening their garden for National Garden Scheme Nursing and Health Charities between 1.00pm and 5.00pm on Friday 2nd June and Sunday 4th June.

Beautiful roses, peonies, and early summer colour. Various places to sit to enjoy different views of the garden, which was Regional Finalist in More4's Garden of the Year 2022

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Admission: Adults £6.00 Children free. Dogs on leads welcome.



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Pilot Whale Research at Alveston Church



Saturday June 10th, doors open at 7pm. Dan Lewis-Leaver and his band Pilot Whale Research are playing live at Alveston Church. Please come and enjoy a chilled evening of local folk music.

Tickets are £10.00, £6.00 for children. This will include 2 hours of music, a hot dog and glass of wine. To book please email: revsrural@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/PilotWhaleResearch/>

Olveston and Tockington WI

As part of King Charles's 'Big Help Out' some members helped at the Coronation Tea on the Green, and it was wonderful to be part of such a lovely village event.

June is a busy month for the members of our WI, with a trip to the Wave for coffee and a tour around the gardens at Highgrove. For our monthly meeting in June, we are looking forward to a talk from Angela Baker about her life in the RAF.

Olveston and Tockington WI meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in Olveston Parish Hall. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Angela Green on 01454 615222.



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The Film for June

On Monday 5th June, in St Mary's Church, Olveston, Monday Movies present a great British comedy*; understated, facetious and utterly enjoyable!

In the West End of 1950s London, the plans for a movie version of a smash-hit play come to an abrupt halt after a key member of the crew is murdered. When world-weary Inspector Stoppard (Sam Rockwell) and eager rookie Constable Stalker (Saoirse Ronan) take on the case, the two find themselves thrown into a puzzling whodunit within the glamorously sordid theatre underground, investigating the mysterious homicide at their own peril.

Everyone welcome, no entrance fee (though if you want to leave a small donation it will be greatly appreciated). Doors open at 7pm and the film starts at 7:30pm. Coffee, tea and licensed bar.

*Due to licensing restrictions, we cannot give the film title.

Tockington Bank Holiday Cream Teas

A big thank you to everyone who has helped us at our last two Cream Teas. The Teas on Easter Monday and the Coronation Bank Holiday were both very successful events, despite the weather being typical bank holiday fare. At Easter it was grey and windy but still people wanted to sit out on the Green and enjoy their cuppa and a cake.

We were very grateful to the members of Olveston and Tockington Women's Institute who offered their help with the Coronation Cream Teas and made the whole task so much easier. We had a wonderful array of cakes and scones, and it was lovely to have the assistance of such an able team to make this a truly special occasion.

We would also like to thank Nikki Clarke for her brilliant organisational skills, and her fabulous team who served the teas from the Bus Shelter.

Easter Cream Teas raised £885 and Coronation Cream Teas raised a fantastic £1,263, with all money going towards the upkeep of Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church and buildings.

Our next Teas on the Green will be on August Bank Holiday Aug 28th.

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Tockington from the Air



In last month's magazine we provided some basic guidelines on how to use the aerial photographic archive on the Historic England website. The detail in these photographs, taken by the RAF in the 1940s and 1950s, is quite amazing.

We have been given permission to share an image from this site as an example.

On the left is a photograph of Tockington and, below,

an enlargement of Apple Tree Cottage, which is the fourth house from the left on the road going past the green.



It looks like there are two young lads sitting on the wall. Did they see an aircraft flying overhead and wonder what it was doing? I wonder who they were?

To do some research on this interesting site, go to:
<https://historicengland.org.uk>

Detailed instructions on how to navigate the site can be found on page 29 in the May edition of the Meeting Point magazine.

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Coronation Fun

Here are a couple of photographs from two of the many street parties that were held locally on Sunday May 7th. It was so lucky that the day was warm and sunny.

Children at Tockington School are shown enjoying some Coronation-themed activities.

And, below right, the Coronation image on 'the gate' at the bottom of Vicarage Lane.



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News from St Mary's

Bingo!

We will be holding a bingo afternoon with tea and cakes at St Mary's, Saturday June 10th at 2.30pm. Tickets £5.

If you would like to join us, please contact Debbie: ocho-debbie@live.co.uk

From the Registers of St Mary's, Olveston

April 2nd

Baptism of Beatrice Rose Sadler



Tweet of the Day

Last spring, working together with St Mary's Church, the Olveston Parish Hall committee and Olveston Pre-School, the Making Space for Wildlife Project installed several swift boxes on both St Mary's and the Parish Hall. It turned out the swifts did not take up our

offer of accommodation last summer, and now we are taking the next step in enticement.

By the time this article goes to press, we will have installed sound systems at both buildings, each with small speakers mounted onto the bottom of the swift boxes. It's not that swifts love noisy parties (although they do love a bit of screaming), the sound systems will play specially recorded swift calls at dawn and dusk. This method has been used widely across the UK as a way of encouraging swifts to find new homes. So, fingers crossed for this summer, we do hope the swifts will decide to move in!

Making Space for Wildlife is part of the Olveston Parish Council Biodiversity backed and funded initiative.

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03/06/23 1st XI v Bradley Stoke CC
10/06/23 2nd XI v Frys CC
17/06/23 1st XI v Failand & Portbury CC
24/06/23 2nd XI v Frampton Cotterell CC

1.00pm Start. All spectators welcome.



Olveston Parish Council

Pat Savage

Speedwatch

This has been an ongoing saga which we at the Parish Council have been keen to resolve. We have now been assured by the Police that training can take place during the coming month. The lighter evening, and hopefully dry weather, will enable us all to get started. If you are interested, please email our clerk, Malcolm Evans: clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Annual Parish Assembly

This was held at the Parish Hall on Thursday 20th April. The turnout was low, which is often viewed by the Council as an endorsement that all is well in the Parish. There were six presentations during the evening:

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Allotments Society Marlene Baker
Making space for Wildlife Mel Evans
Olveston Grand Prix Brian O'Kelly and his team

Councillors

At the recent Council Elections, the existing Councillors were elected unopposed. However, the Council remains two Councillors short. We would again ask that any parishioner who is willing to involve themselves in local policies and decision making to put themselves forward to be co-opted on to the Council. If you are at all interested, please contact the clerk, Malcolm Evans: clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Friends of St Mary's

David Prothero

Next year the Friends of St Mary's will have been running for 30 years and within that time we have had endless winners in our 'Local Lottery'. To date we have given away £127,000 in prizes and a similar sum to our local church and had nearly 3,500 happy winners.

We realise that there are people out there who haven't been part of that success, so we want to remind you that it's never too late to join. Often people say, 'I'll get around to it' or 'I must join that' and simply put it off for another day. Well, this might be that very day.....

As an example of the type of benefits the church enjoys, our latest project has been the installation of lighting to the church paths which benefits everyone. So, while you're having a flutter, the local church is gaining a few pounds as well. It's a 'win win' situation...

The prize winners in the May draw, held on 4th May 2023 were:

Amount	Number	Name
£150	251	Mr & Mrs R Williams, Olveston
£75	469	Mrs J Dawes, Olveston
£50	515	Mrs J Pillinger, Yate
£25	292	Mr A Phillips, Olveston
£25	558	Mrs S Chick, Olveston
£20	374	Mr P Savage, Olveston
£20	372	Dr & Mrs M Wright, Olveston
£20	454	Mrs P MacLeod, Olveston
£20	512	Mrs R Arkell, Olveston
£20	166	Mrs E Dobson, Rudgeway

If you are not yet a member and wish to join the lottery, simply telephone Andy Phillips on 01454 614890 or email andisp28@hotmail.co.uk and we will do the rest. If you're not in – you can't win!

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Wild Humbugs!

Paul Godwin

In April this year we spent several days in the Forest of Dean, spending quite a lot of time at the RSPB site at Nagshead. This was primarily to undertake bird watching. However, early evening in one of the hides, on a day which had been very quiet with regards to both people and birds, we heard some shuffling and snorting noises to our right. We looked out the side of the hide and were amazed to see 10 juvenile wild boar. We were very excited by this as neither of us had seen a wild boar before in their natural environment. Wild boar, despite all of their notoriety, are not commonly seen and these were coming right up to our hide and did not appear to know we were there. They apparently have very poor eyesight but very keen sense of smell. They stayed for about five minutes very close to our hide, when they then ran back into the thick brush where we could no longer see them.



Juvenile boar are called piglets, but are also known affectionately as humbugs due to their stripy backs. This provides the piglet with effective camouflage against the backdrop of the forest floor. What was strange was that we saw no evidence of the sow and could only assume that she was close by.

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As many will know, a clear sign of wild boar is uprooted and disturbed soil and there was plenty of evidence of that. It is this which gives the wild boar a mixed, or sometimes negative, reputation, especially when they decide to leave the cover of the forest to uproot a cricket pitch or bowling green! Other signs of wild boar are wallows; they will create areas in wet ground to wallow in the mud to clean themselves of parasites and we saw plenty of evidence of that as we walked within the forest, especially areas created around the base of tree stumps.

A wild boar can grow up to 80cms at the shoulder and can weigh 60 – 100kg. They are native to the UK but were hunted to extinction in the wild in the Middle Ages. However, they were bred in captivity for meat, and it was in the 1990s when it is believed some escaped (or were intentionally released) and free-living wild boar were seen again in the wild. They are powerful animals that are covered in bristly hair. The adult male has tusks which protrude, the female also has tusks, but these do not protrude from her mouth. They are omnivores and enjoy many sources of food. During spring and summer they settle in dense woodland to raise their litters, so their diet then consists mainly of root and plant matter. It is during autumn and winter when the wild boar may leave the cover of woodland to seek grasslands which have been softened by rain, to dig up insects to eat. It is then when their conflict with humans is more likely. Wild boar will eat much of what they identify on the forest floor, whilst this is mostly roots, seed and vegetation their diet may also include carrion and small mammals. It is worth noting that the forest supplies ample sources of food for the boar and they should never be fed.



The average size of a litter is 6 – 10 piglets and around birthing time the sow will identify a 'farrowing nest' in the cover of the woodland and close to food. At this time the boar will remain near the nest for around a week, but soon after they will depart and continue their nomadic lifestyle within the forest. Wild

boars live in groups which are known as sounders and this is mainly the adult female and her young. Adult males are solitary, seeking out females in the mating season. The Forest of Dean has the largest breeding population, but boars are present in some parts of southeast and southwest England and also northwest Scotland. They should be treated with some caution as they could become aggressive if they feel threatened, especially if piglets are present. An

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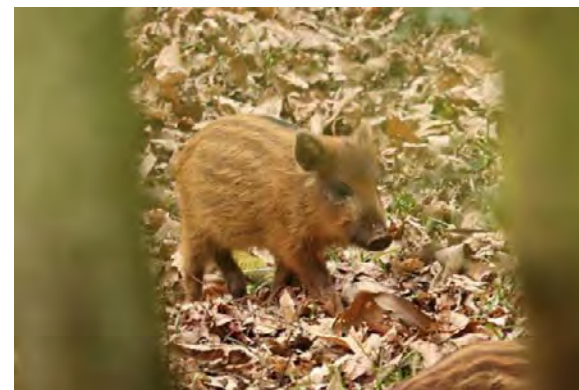
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adult male or female will guard their young by standing firm by them but are unlikely to attack humans. However best advice is to move slowly and quietly away in the opposite direction. I have heard that due to a wild boar's poor eyesight they may stand and look at you - presumably to determine if you are any threat - however this is not aggressive behaviour. They are much more likely to attack a dog, as from a boar's perspective they are like a wolf which was many years ago one of its predators. So, if walking a dog where there is evidence of wild boar, keep it on a lead (the dog that is).



It is said that wild boar are eco engineers; they shovel the ground in search of food and air the soil, improve its drainage, release the seed of tree and flower seeds within the ground and uproot bracken and bramble which would otherwise shade young plants. However, as they no longer have any natural predators their numbers

are at risk of becoming too high for their environment and therefore, as with deer, they are culled to control numbers, so they are a benefit to the environment and not disruptive to it.

So yes, the piglets were exceptionally cute as they rooted and tooted around us in the bird hide, but it is worth being reminded that they are called wild boar for a reason. It was perhaps fortunate that we were in the bird hide. After that we called it a day, as I don't think much could have upstaged those five minutes! We searched again over the coming days but, apart from the signs of wallows and upended ground, we never heard or saw another wild boar.

Thornbury Orchestra Concert

Our next concert will take place on Saturday, 10th June at 7.30pm in Marlwood School, Alveston. Tickets, available on the door, are £10 for adults, with children and concessions free.

The music will include Beethoven's Symphony No 3 (Eroica), Peer Gynt Suite No 1 by Grieg and the Force of Destiny overture by Verdi. The concert is in aid of Listening Post, a professional voluntary service established to assist those who cannot afford private counselling to relieve distress. For more details, contact info@thornburyorchestra.org.uk.



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This month we are considering 'Harmony'. The meaning of harmony is the combination or arrangement of parts to form an orderly whole. We often think of harmony in terms of music, where the notes are pleasing to listen to and have a certain rhythm.

Our planet should have harmony and balance, but due to human interference over the past 150 years or so, that balance has been severely upset. The consequence is that our climate presents a series of huge extremes in the form of hurricanes, floods, heatwaves and drought all round the world. It is time to follow the science and act now before the order of our planet completely collapses.

Our newly crowned monarch, King Charles, is an advocate for restoring our planet to its proper harmony and balance, so we should follow his example and support the cause. Every little helps the whole, so keep contributing to the effort. Lack of action leads to extinction.

An example of true harmony is the gathering of starlings as they prepare to roost, when a flock of hundreds of the birds present a murmuration. Never does the formation break up or appear to get fragmented.



Opera in a Box present Don Giovanni

June 18th at 2.30pm.

Rockhampton Village Hall Field, GL13 9DX



Following the buzz of the Rockhampton Folk Festival*, with its facilities of marquee, bar and refreshments, Opera in a Box brings the magic and drama of Don Giovanni to our locality. Take all of your preconceptions about opera and throw them out of the window as opera is taken in fresh and exciting directions. The performance brings together a hugely talented ensemble of musicians, artists and a first rate production team.






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Mozart's Machiavellian feast, Don Giovanni draws a line under society that celebrates an ethics-free central character, in what is often considered to be one of the greatest operas ever composed.

For open air comfort bring chairs and somewhere to put a drink! Tea, coffee and cakes available from the Village Hall.

Tickets are £20 from AAGThornbury@gmail.com

AAG are looking for accredited First Aiders, free tickets by arrangement, for specified events. Contact: janeparfittrail@gmail.com

The event has been sponsored by Quartet Community Foundation.

*For details of the Rockhampton Folk Festival: rockhamptonfolkfest.org.uk

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK Sustainable Thornbury

Discover local solutions for a sustainable future! Sustainable Thornbury is delighted to welcome you to its speaker event.

Wednesday 14th June, 7pm
The Chantry Community and Arts centre.
52 Castle Street, Thornbury, BS35 1HB

Featuring Anna Simmonds from the Thornbury Community Permaculture Project and Lucy Rees, Senior Environmental Policy and Climate Change Officer at South Gloucestershire Council.

All welcome. Refreshments available. Entry is free. Coin donations welcome.

Thornbury Art Club

Thursday 1st June. Thursday Painting Studio Group. 1.30 - 4.30pm, every Thursday. FFI: 07776271010

Tuesday 6th June. Tuesday Painting Studio Group 1.30 - 4.30pm every Tuesday. FFI: 01454 414433

Tuesday 27th June. Monthly Club Night 7.15 for 7.30pm. Susannah Crook will be giving a presentation on 'The Use of Natural Pigments in Art'. Visitors welcome. Non-members £5. Call 01454 414433 for further details.

Meetings held in St Mary's Church Hall, Thornbury.

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The Last Flight of Sergeant Harold Clinton Cotnam

Nick Fear

The date of July 1st may hold special significance for some people. For me it is the anniversary of the start of the infamous 1916 battle of the Somme. To Canadians it has a great significance as it is their National Day. This celebrates a Constitution Act in 1867, which saw three independent territories form the single nation of Canada. The UK has many links with Canada, including a sad one within our area which may not be widely known.



Harold Clinton Cotnam was born on the 13th of September 1919 in Pembroke Ontario. He grew up on his parents' farm in the Ottawa Valley. He served in a military cadet force for four years, attaining the rank of corporal. Harold ended his schooling at the prestigious Pembroke Collegiate Institute.

On leaving college aged 18 in the spring of 1937, he obtained a post as a bank clerk in the Royal Bank of Canada. Beginning in Pembroke he was moved to Brockville and eventually Mount Royal in Quebec. It was here in 1940 that he applied to join the Royal Canadian Air Force. His required testimonials were glowing. His medical examinations were passed with ease. Harold declared that he smoked ten cigarettes a day and drank two beers a week. He stated a wish to become a flying observer, a skilled and highly dangerous position, mainly involved in reconnaissance work, when he began pilot training. He passed written tests with high scores and, flying a number of training aircraft, he progressed well. His flying, landing, instrument work and navigation were of the highest standards. He was described as smart, with a pleasing personality and displaying very good conduct. A concluding report detailed; 'an alert, stable lad who may be a little lacking in self-confidence'. He had no financial or other worries.

As was the norm, in early October 1941, Harold travelled to the UK for further experience, particularly in the skills of aerial combat. He was given the rank of sergeant and was posted to 52 Operation Training Unit based at RAF Aston Down, near Minchinhampton. Here he began solo flying Hawker Hurricane fighter planes. On the afternoon of Friday 31st October Harold took off from Ashton Down on a standard training flight. The top speed of a Hurricane aircraft was 340 mph, so in a matter of minutes he would have been over our area.



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Sergeant Frank James of the Gloucestershire Constabulary subsequently took a witness statement from Ronald White, an anti-aircraft gunner serving with the Royal Artillery.

'At about 3 to 3.30 pm on Friday, 31st of October 1941 I was standing at the main doors at Firleaze House, Rudgeway, when I heard a plane overhead, it sounded as though the engine was not working properly. I looked up and the plane came out of the clouds nose first, the whole of the plane would turn halfway and then back again. He did this about four times. The plane went straight to the ground in an almost vertical dive, it went behind the trees and immediately I heard a crash. The plane was not very high when it came out of the clouds, but for a large cloud through which it came, visibility was fair. I am absolutely certain that the engine of the plane was running the whole time it was nose diving to earth.'

Local residents Edward Churchus, William Burgess and Dennis Hicks had witnessed the event and went to the scene to find a wrecked aircraft in a field, described as 200 yards north of Washing Pool Hill. Harold was still with his plane and had died instantly. It seems he may have been able to level out the Hurricane at the last moment but could not avoid the crash.

Harold was carefully stretchered from the field. RAF Filton took over the recovery of the wrecked aircraft, which was deemed a total loss. A Board of Enquiry concluded that the accident had occurred due to loss of control in



cloud and an inability to recover due to the low height of the plane. No criticism of Harold was made. If any signs of the crash remained, over eighty years of farming has buried them deep.

Harold was buried with military honours on November 4th in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission plot in Canford Cemetery. He was 22 years of age. He lies at peace amongst comrades, his parents inscribed his grave with the words; 'The strife is over the battle done now is the victor's triumph won'.

He is not forgotten in his hometown of Pembroke Ontario where the War Memorial has a poignant inscription:

'All's well for over there amongst his peers a happy warrior sleeps'.

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In 2005 I visited the Lifeskills Safety Education Centre in Bristol to find out what it was all about. Eighteen years later and I am still working there as a volunteer guide and a trainer guide. The hours that I work are entirely up to me, morning, afternoon, or all day. It is a very flexible and enjoyable role.

Lifeskills is a place for children, aged ten to eleven, to visit with their school. It is an interactive village where we have 18 different locations, or sets, which the children go around, usually in groups of four, with a guide. There is a limited time of five minutes on each set which keeps them very busy. In one set they learn about making 999 calls, which is very important as the majority of children have mobile phones these days. Each child will make a 999 call. (These calls are, of course, on our own internal phones). There are other sets covering, for example, safety in the home, drugs, crossing roads safely, safety in the kitchen, fire hazards and shopping. Hazards outdoors are addressed, for example trampolines, skateboards and scooters. There is one covering safety near railway lines which has very effective sounds of a train coming through a tunnel. Also covered is safety around water.

Lifeskills is a lovely place to work, especially if you enjoy working with children. We also have special needs children visit us, which is very rewarding. If anyone is interested to find out more, we run regular taster hours, which is a great introduction to the charity and includes a tour.

The centre is open 9.30am – 12 noon and 12.30pm – 3pm

If you are interested in a visit and would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer guide, contact details are as follows:

Lifeskills: The Create Centre, Smeaton Road, Bristol BS1 6XN

Telephone: 0117 922 4511

Save the Date -Tockington Harvest Fayre

Delia Robins

Planning has already started for this year's event, which is being held on Saturday 23rd September. There is a variety of entertainment lined up for you to enjoy whilst eating a delicious cream tea, or a slice of homemade cake.

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All the usual stalls will be there and we're happy to receive donations ahead of time, so remember us if you're having a summer clear-out! Any good books, and new items/unwanted gifts, toiletries, toys and games would be very welcome (though no bric-a-brac/white elephant items please). There will also be children's competitions, tombolas, games stalls and the main raffle.

Further details will appear in the next Meeting Point, but if you can spare some time to help on the day or with the preparation or clearing up, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact either Maggie Spooner 01454 610053 or Jane Sawyer email: jane@prologue.co.uk.

The Royal British Legion Women's Section Olveston Branch

At our meeting in May we welcomed our guest speaker, Lynda McLaren. Lynda is an Olveston resident who works as a guide at Berkeley Castle. There is a long and interesting history to the castle which dates from before the Norman Conquest in the 11th century. The Berkeley family are still in residence on the estate today. The castle is a popular tourist destination and is used as a location for films and TV dramas. We concluded the evening with a raffle and refreshments.

In June we will enjoy a game of bingo and in July we will be welcoming Carolyn Morton, who will be talking about her experiences as a forensic scientist.

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month and all are welcome to join us at Daldry Gardens at 7:30pm.

Octopus Drama Group

A Bunch of Amateurs by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman

Wednesday June 14th to Saturday June 17th at 7.30pm.

Christ the King Church Hall, Castle Street.

Keen to boost his flagging career, fading Hollywood star Jefferson Steele arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford. Imagine his surprise to find that this is not the birthplace of the Bard but a sleepy west country town! He is also horrified to find that his fellow actors are a bunch of enthusiastic amateurs



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trying to save their theatre from developers. As acting worlds collide Jefferson's monstrous ego, vanity and many insecurities are put to the test. He discovers some unpalatable truths about himself – along with his inner Lear. This hilarious script, written by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman, is a gift for any amateur group, struggling or otherwise. Ian Hislop's acerbic wit is in evidence throughout.

Octopus is delighted to welcome Abi McManus into our fold. As director of the play, she is already adding a huge amount of fun to the rehearsals and as an ex-drama teacher, her ingenuity knows no bounds. This new, all encompassing, production will have you rolling in the aisles. Octopus Drama Group is also pleased to announce that their last play, 'Give Us a Sign' by Tony Domaille, has been nominated for a NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association) award in the Best Comedy category.

Tickets for A Bunch of Amateurs are on sale from Rosie and Rex Gift Shop on Thornbury High St. This is an adult only production and tickets will be £8 each.



Volunteers Week

Volunteers' Week is an annual celebration of the contribution millions of people make across the UK through volunteering in their communities. Volunteers Week takes place 1st to 7th June every year and it's a

chance to say thank you, to celebrate and inspire. The aim is to show that there's more than one way to volunteer and encourage people to take that first step into volunteering.

Do you want to volunteer but don't know where to start? Volunteers' Week is a great time to find out more. There are all types of volunteering roles available, all requiring different levels of commitment, experience and time availability and each contributing to many different causes. Volunteers' Week is an ideal time to have a chat with Thornbury Volunteer Centre and let them know what you're interested in and find out more about local volunteering opportunities.

As well as helping others, volunteering has been shown to improve the wellbeing of the volunteer - it's human nature to feel good after helping someone out. Volunteering can also help you gain valuable new skills and experiences and boost your confidence.

So, to all the new volunteers who have come forward this past year, and to all those who volunteer regularly, please accept our very grateful and massive thanks. You are the people who make our communities strong. To those of you who are thinking of volunteering we look forward to hearing from you.

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Thornbury Volunteer Centre is open 10.30am - 12 noon, Monday-Friday in Thornbury Town Hall, no appointment necessary. Alternatively, visit our website www.volunteer-thornbury.co.uk and search the many opportunities online, or you can email us at: mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk



Back for 2023

This year's entertainment will kick off on Friday 30th June, in the evening, with 'Swing in the Park' and will continue from 11am on Saturday July 1st with Thornbury Carnival 'The Main Event'. Thornbury Swing Band will headline the Friday evening event and the Saturday event will feature a wide range of attractions such as the main stage with a variety of tribute acts including 'Absolutely Elton' and 'On a Night Like This' and 'Kylie' and local talent. There will be stalls, a funfair, and a licenced bar and food concessions. There will also be a Show 'n' Shine with a range of modern sports, American and classic vehicles. Much of the children's entertainment will be included in the ticket price, including face painting, mascots, balloon modelling, and a graffiti artist. Further details can be found on the What's On page of the Thornbury Carnival website.

Early Bird tickets for the 2023 event taking place over the weekend of Friday 30th June and Saturday 1st July are now available to buy via the Thornbury Carnival website: www.thornburycarnival.co.uk/tickets. People will also be able to buy tickets at the gate using contactless payment or cash.

Summer Reading Challenge



Make a difference this summer! South Gloucestershire Libraries are looking for friendly and enthusiastic volunteers to join the team running Summer Reading Challenge 2023. Volunteers will spend their time supporting children to do the Summer Reading Challenge, talking with them about the books they're reading and helping at a range of fun activities in the library. This is a great opportunity to develop skills in communication, team working and creative projects, whilst having fun and making new friends. Summer Reading Challenge volunteers say:



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'Being a volunteer for the Summer Reading Challenge was as much fun as it was doing the Summer Reading Challenge when I was younger; volunteering helped me grow in confidence and help support the growing community. I can't wait to do it again next year!!'

The theme for this year's Challenge is *Ready, Set, Read!* – celebrating games and sports and encouraging children to join in any way that suits them. Children read books of their choice and collect stickers to get their medal and certificate.

The closing date for applications is 23rd June. Volunteers must be aged 14 or over. For more information ask a member of staff at any South Gloucestershire library, email libraryvolunteers@southglos.gov.uk or visit www.southglos.gov.uk/library-volunteers.

Yours Faithfully

Revd. C. Neil Mobbs
Oasis Church, Old Down

I am privileged to have a home. I have rented my home in Lawrence Weston for 17 years, and I love being here with my dog. I am aware of people in Bristol who are homeless and other folk, who are migrants, who would wish to have a home in this country. Being a Christian believer, I know one day I will leave my temporary home to go to a more permanent home in Heaven.

We all are aware that we are living in a time of enormous change. I have worked as a Hospital Chaplain in all of the Bristol hospitals. In the Bristol Children's Hospital there was a poster in the Chaplaincy office with these words:

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is mystery, today is a gift".

We are all on the journey of life, but one could say nothing is permanent.

I am grateful to have a place to call home, and I do look forward to having a more permanent home in the presence of God that He is preparing for all people who trust in Jesus as their Saviour and Friend.

I believe a book was written about the last years of Dr. Billy Graham called *Going Home*. On the gravestone of Dr. Derek Prince, a well-known bible teacher, are the two words *Gone Home*.

Heaven is going to be so wonderful. In fact, St. Paul says it is beyond our imagination. It will be the perfect home. I do pray that we all will have the joy of meeting there, because of all that Jesus achieved for us on the cross and through His resurrection. God bless you.

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Church News

ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

June 4	10am 6pm	Holy Communion Evensong	Rev Ann Lloyd Rev David Moss
June 11	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Rev David Moss Rev Ann Lloyd
June 18	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Rev David Bone Rev Anne Lloyd
June 25	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Trevor Cook Rev David Bone

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

June 11	10am	Morning Prayer	Trevor Cook
June 25	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev David Moss

Contact: Trevor Cook, 01454 618442

Church Wardens: Jenn Dickens 632312 and Jon Burnett 633835

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

June 11	9am	Morning Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd
June 25	9am	Holy Communion	Tracey Black

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

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ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

June 11	9am	Holy Communion	Judith Heybyrne
June 25	9am	All Age Scarecrow Sunday Service	Judith Heybyrne

Contacts: Judith Heybyrne 616725 and John Gunnery 413225

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

June 4	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship Preacher tba.
June 11	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Mrs Rosemary Shaw
June 18	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle
June 25	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Dr Professor Teddy Kalango

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.

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

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Services at 6.30pm every Sunday. All are welcome.
Contact: Neil Mobbs, cnmobbs@hotmail.com

AUST EVANGELICAL and LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Contact: Danny Bamfield 01454 419324 email danny@thebamfields.co.uk

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury

Mass on Sundays at 9.30 and 10.30am
Contact: 01454 412223, www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Contact: Chris Willmore chriswillmore@blueyonder.co.uk

Diary Dates for June

Information believed to be correct at going to press.

1 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop 'Good Afternoon Choir', every week	9.30 10-12 1-3	S+M URC
2 Fri	Coffee Morning Haven Memory Café NGS Open Garden Stoneleigh Down (and 4 th)	9- 11.30 10.15 1-5pm	TMC URC
5 Mon	Monday Movies Natural World of Gloucestershire by Robt Bryant, Alveston Jubilee Hall (AGA)	7.30 7.30	S+M
6 Tues	Over 60s Coffee Morning every Tuesday Citizens Advice, every Tuesday Macular and Low Vision Group WI RBL Women's Section	10-12 10-12 10.30 7.30 7.30	DGCL TCC TMH PH DGCL
7 Wed	Table Tennis every Wednesday	7pm	PH
8 Thurs	Coffee Shop	9-12	S+M
9 Fri	Tockington Manor School Open Day	9.30	
10 Sat	Coffee Morning at Olveston Methodist Hall Bingo with tea and cake. Pilot Whale Research concert, St Helen's Ch Thornbury Orchestra at Marlwood School	10.30 2.30 7.00	OMH S+M
12 Mon	Men's Walk and Chat Group. Meet Tock Green SV Flower Club	9.30 2pm	SMCH
13 Tues	Thornbury Memory Cafe	10.15	TMH
14 Wed	'A Bunch of Amateurs', a farce. Octopus, until 17 Sat	7.30	CTK
15 Thurs	Coffee Shop Thornbury Farmers' Market	9-12 9.30	S+M
16 Fri	Haven Memory Café	10.15	URC
17 Sat	Coffee Morning at Olveston Methodist Hall	9.30	OMH

18 Sun	Don Giovanni Rockhampton V Hall Field	2.30pm	
19 Mon	Men's Walk and Chat Group. Meet Tock Green SV Flower Club Practice	9.30 2pm	SMCH
20 Tues	Thornbury Memory Café	10.15	TMH
22 Thurs	Coffee Shop	9-12	S+M
24 Sat	Coffee Morning at Olveston Methodist Hall	10.30	OMH
26 Mon	Men's Walk and Chat Group. Meet Tock Green SV Flower Club practice	9.30 2pm	SMCH
27 Tues	Thornbury Memory Cafe Olveston Parish Council	10.15 7.30	TMH PH

Looking ahead to July

Sat 1st Thornbury Carnival 11am

Sun 2nd Almondsbury Gymkhana, Washingpool Hill, Tockington

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, **OC** - Oasis Church, Old Down, **OMC** - Olveston Methodist Church, **OMH** - Olveston Methodist Hall, **OPH** - Olveston Parish Hall, **QAMP** - Queen Alexandra Memorial Pavilion, Old Down, **S+M** - St Mary's Church, **SMCH** - St Mary Church Hall Thornbury, **TCC** - Turnberries, **TMC** - Tockington Methodist Church, **TMH** - Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, **URC** - United Reform Church

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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