

Meeting Point

Volume 34, Number 6, March 2010

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 April 2010
to Editor or Deputy Editor
by 8th March 2010**

From the Editor

*A good example
has twice the value of good advice.*

~Author Unknown

Spring has finally sprung and there are numerous events taking place locally to make the most of this wonderful season including **Do you have an appetite for the Good Life?** page 27. or maybe you would like to take a stroll up to **Old Down Country Park** page 3.

Our cover this month is by Peter Floyd
Meeting Point Founded in 1976 by the Anglican and
Methodist churches in Olveston, near Bristol

Meeting Point magazine and Meeting Point Directory is online on the
Community Website: www.olvestonandaust.com.

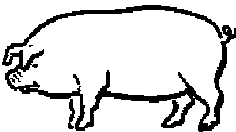
Old Down Country Park - a phoenix rises

Pat Thinkettle

Old Down Country Park is being reinvented to provide a first rate facility on our own doorstep. It reopened in April 2009 and the owners Arron and Katya Banks are developing a cafe, farm shop and stunning Manor House for exclusive hire within the country park.

At present the cafe, farm shop and park are up and running. The old shop and cafe have been switched over and the cafe side extended to give a warm and welcoming meeting place. There are two wood burning stoves and the one at the far end is surrounded by cosy sofas. A new cook, Jenny, started in November and she cooks all meals and cakes on the premises. Ingredients are sourced locally, even just outside the door where sixty hens provide the eggs, the surplus sold in the shop, six for £1. The cafe is available to hire for any event and Jenny will cook to order. She also provides sandwiches for local businesses, and buffets and canapés etc, whatever is needed. They have small marquees that can be used for bigger events and they also accommodate wedding receptions in the grounds. For these Old Down could hire the marquee and organise the catering on your behalf, or the site can be hired independently, allowing you to organise the extras yourself.

The farm shop aims to provide the very best local shopping for you. All produce comes from as close to home as possible, the furthest sourced goods are from Dorset. Organic vegetables are delivered weekly and in summer many will be grown in the kitchen garden along with soft fruits and herbs. There is also a wide selection of toys and gifts.



The grounds are home to: reindeer, llamas, alpacas, ostriches, rheas, wallabies, ponies, pigs, cattle, goats, geese, turkeys, rabbits, and peacocks. A baby llama was born on December 27th and named Snowy by the children of Crossways School! There are three breeds of pig:

Vietnamese pot bellied, Gloucester Old Spot and Saddleback and the latter two will eventually appear in the shop. There are two breeds of cattle: Belted Galloway and Dexter, both these will be found in the shop. A new adventure playground has been built and the garden and forest walks are the same as before.

The house is being converted at present. It will have over ten bedrooms, indoor swimming pool and provide a venue for a wide variety of events. The cottage will be complete first and the **Severnvale Art Trail** exhibits there from **1st - 9th May**. The **Austin 7 Annual Rally** will be held in the park on **Sunday 20th June**, when

a hundred and fifty cars will line the front drive, and the park will also host a number of clay pigeon shoots throughout the year.

So it would be wise to keep an eye out for what might be coming in future.

Meanwhile entrance to the cafe and shop is free; you only pay when you go through into the kitchen garden and grounds.

Adults £5.50, children/OAPs/concessions £3, family season ticket £65.
Open all the year round at 10am; closing times vary according to season.

Bristol Concert Orchestra



The BCO Chamber Orchestra, who performed a concert of mainly Mozart at St Mary's last July, are delighted to announce that they return to Olveston this year (together with outstanding clarinettist Nick Shipman) on **Saturday 17 July** to perform more Mozart - details to be announced nearer the time, watch this space!

In the meantime, you may like to hear the full orchestra (numbering over 100 players, plus a chorus of nearly 200) perform Mahler's 2nd Symphony 'Resurrection' at the Colston Hall in Bristol on **Saturday 13 March**. One of the mightiest pieces of all music, a live performance is always an experience not to be missed. The apocalyptic conclusion - depicting both the terror and glory of a last judgement and resurrection - is surely one of the most overwhelming, exhilarating and uplifting passages of music ever written. Tickets (£10 - £14) are available now from 0117 922 3686.

For those with children or grandchildren they would like to introduce to music, the orchestra will also be presenting a **FREE** concert for children on **Sunday 25 April at St Alban's Church, Westbury Park at 3pm**. Poulenc's delightful setting of the 'Story of Babar the Little Elephant' will be the main work, to be narrated by Bristol children's author Tracy Alexander. The orchestra is passionate about inspiring the next generation, so has bravely decided to offer free admission to all children AND accompanying adults with an optional retiring collection.

Seats can be reserved online at www.bristolconcertorchestra.org.uk

1st Olveston Scout Night Hike

Friday 29th Jan 2010

Alex Lapworth

One thing about being a scout in Olveston is our leaders like getting us to do things; the good thing is I like doing things, especially hiking and especially at night with my friends. I got mum to send in all the paperwork and I arrived with my new thermo hat, scarf and gloves, (I wore shorts but she insisted on the others). We were lucky a clear sky, full moon and a -3 weather report.

Caroline dropped my team off somewhere in Littleton, by a hall. Greg was in-charge, me, Tom, Matt B and Rooky Will – he's still a cub, oh and Lynda to keep an eye on us. We found out where we were on the map and headed off. We got lost once, we couldn't find the style but Greg sent two scouts in one direction and another two in the opposite, we soon found our way out of the field. This led us to the muddiest lane I've ever walked down, it was great. It was at least 15cm deep in mud, it had a ditch on either side but luckily no-one fell over. Tom lost a boot at one point but we sorted him out.



We heard strange noises, we thought it was pigs Lynda though it was badgers..... we speeded up. We soon forgot the wildlife and talked about why the Kendal Mint Cake mum had packed was called a cake..... This took a long debate. We walked about 5.3km and it took us about

2½hrs we were well in time so we showed Lynda Olveston's famous 'Tree House' (a well known play haunt for us kids in Olveston) we learnt how to find North by the star, it's easy when you know where to look. And also checked on the Geo-cache stash...Shh we're sworn to secrecy.....!!!

We finally made it back, our supper smelt **sooo** good. Caroline had prepared a homemade soups and bread. We had to wait for the next group, they wouldn't be long, we could hear them at the top of Olveston Hill passing the house with the 'BIG DOG'. We had to wait another 2hrs for the last group to return (they got lost) but they had a great time. We played cards and some of us made woggles between pillow fights.

After we had all eaten and cleared away, we got our PJ's on and invested Dan, Will and Ben at 12 midnight into the troop. We played 'Cheat' and 'Rummy' for a bit and let the leaders get on with their 'leaders meeting!' I think I fell asleep about 3am, but most of my group woke at 5am and continued our game of cheat. Lynda got us all up at 6.30 because we had to cook breakfast outside.... it was freezing..... the dishcloth stuck to the table. Stuart lit a big campfire outside. Soon it was 10am and our parents came to pick us up.

I had a memorable time and I would like to thank Lynda, John, Stuart, Caroline and Claire for organising the very MUDDY hike and putting up with Jacques SNORING!!!

Lynda Spratt SL 01454 632484

Litter Pickers

Rod Williams

Spring is coming and it is proposed to celebrate with a 'litter pick-up' therefore volunteers are required. We will be concentrating on the some of the approach roads into the Parish of Olveston. Depending on people numbers and litter state at the time, we will choose from Fern Hill, Washingpool Hill, Aust Road, Alveston Road, Upper and Lower Tockington Roads, Elberton Road, Vicarage Lane and Haw Lane.

So, if you are constantly disappointed by the sight of roadside litter spoiling the appearance of our villages, now is the time to join forces with like-minded residents and do something about it.

The date for the initial session is **Saturday 6th March from 2 until 4pm**. It will easier now, before the spring growth occurs. The exercise is supported by the Parish Council and South Glos Council. Gloves, bags and grabs will be provided. As there is a potential road-safety risk, it will not be suitable for young or unsupervised children. Boots and bright-coloured old clothing which is hawthorn-proof would be the best attire.

If you are interested, please contact me at rodangelawill@btinternet.com or on 612850 anytime..

Old Down Neighbourhood Watch

The Old Down Neighbourhood Watch AGM will be held at the Scout Hut on Monday 26th April 2010. Commencing at 19.30pm.

Come along and join us for a chat with some of your local neighbours over a cup of Tea, Coffee and /or a glass of wine

Thornbury Food Fair

Spring is hopefully nearly upon us so come and celebrate warmer days at the next quarterly Food Fair down in Castle St on Saturday 20th March 10am – 2pm. Along with the welcome return of established favourites such as Perry's Butchers, Hamptons Deli, Riddiford's Grocers, The Great Western Brewery and Snowdrop Jams and Preserves. Newer stallholders are joining us each time, after hearing what a great place Thornbury is. This time sees new cheese producers, cake stalls and many many more. So come and join the hustle and bustle of the Fair, enjoying the best of local produce in the best of local towns.

January in South Africa

Sue Hunter

As a child I grew up in a house full of South African craft objects. I heard stories and saw pictures of this colourful country where my aunt lived and worked as a missionary somewhere near Ladysmith. Some 50 years later I have at last managed to travel there to see for myself. I chose an expedition with a small group, travelling nearly 3000 miles by truck with everything we needed on board. It was an adventure all right! I found myself the oldest by some years of an international group of 10, one Norwegian, one Venezuelan, two Kiwis, the rest Brits and of course our South African driver/guide (25) and his fiancée (21) who cooked for us.

We met up at Johannesburg airport and apart from one British couple, who preferred to be a bit separate, we were soon a thoroughly meshed group. The truck looked a bit like a large armoured vehicle and with its rugged engine and 4 WD could go on tracks in the National Parks yet achieve a respectable 75mph on a tarred road. After some spectacular scenery in Mpumalanga (previously Transvaal) we were in the Kruger for a few nights before going into Mozambique and a perfect 'chill-out' beach – actually baking hot. A night in the lively capital, Maputo, followed before returning to South Africa, then Swaziland and also Lesotho (so lots of stamps for my new passport). There were so many highlights from this part of the trip – here are just a few: a dawn walk in the game reserve when we were ten yards from a group of 4 rhinos; the Rastafarian guide at Rorke's Drift who spoke for two hours and made the whole battle scene come alive; the view from our mountain lodge in the Drakensburgs and not least pony trekking in Lesotho where we were entertained every evening by a choir and band playing home made instruments.

The second half of the tour was in the more conventional tourist spots in the Western Cape like Tsitsikamma where I cannot remember seeing stars glitter more brightly or the Milky Way stretch from horizon to horizon. Then along the spectacular coastline of the Garden Route to Hermanus, to Stellenbosch and the Wine Lands and finally to Cape Town where we got to visit Robben Island, not to be missed if you have read Mandela's Long Walk to Freedom. On our free day I elected to visit the Kirstenbosch Gardens, sadly too late in the season to see the giant Proteas in bloom, whilst 5 of the group spent a fortune on diving in a cage with great white sharks. The final morning's trip up Table Mountain was not to be despite the gorgeous blue sky, the strong wind made it too dangerous.

If this sounds like a holiday for toughies, it wasn't. On camping nights our tents were erected and taken down for us. We had camping beds and mattresses and chairs to sit on and never any preparation or washing up! Even though I was a different generation from most of the group this was never an issue and I even might go zip-lining on another occasion. However I'm afraid you can't see my photos on the internet because no – I'm not on Facebook!

Twining visit to Bréhan



Friday 30th April to Monday 3rd May

Would you like a weekend in France for the cost of the travel? That is what you'll get if you come with us on our weekend visit to Bréhan, our twin village in Brittany.

We have been visiting Bréhan for 14 years now and always have a great time as we're entertained by our very friendly French hosts. During the weekend we can expect interesting shared outings and, of course, marvellous eating and drinking. Don't worry if you don't speak French – many of our hosts speak English and we get by with a bit of miming from time to time. We spend much time as a group, which eases any language difficulties, and we stay with host families in and around the village. There are children of all ages there and they love to welcome ours.

We welcome new members to OPTA and to our visit – it's a great way of getting to know more families from our own community as well as broadening horizons to get to know part of France a bit better.

Last year, we hosted a group of visitors from Bréhan and we expect to do so again next year. So if you get to know a family there you may want to host them if they return – but don't feel you are committing yourself to this by going to Bréhan.

The plan is to leave Olveston by coach early evening on Friday 30th April. We travel to France by overnight ferry, arriving in our coach in Bréhan on Saturday morning. We return on Monday 3rd May, travelling on a daytime ferry and arriving home in the evening. The only cost is for the travel at £100 for adults and £50 for under 16s.

Interested? If you'd like to come or just want to talk about it to find out more, please contact either Paul Hayton (01454 626835, evenings and weekends) or Jan Winter (01454 612641, evenings and weekends). If you are not a member of OPTA you will need to join for the year, but this only costs £10 for a family or £5 for an individual and gets you great discounts off other twinning events during the year.

Paul Hayton, Chair of Olveston Parish Twining Association

Can You Help?

We are soon to welcome a curate to serve in the parishes of Almondsbury, Olveston and Aust .

Ruan and Lisette Crew and their three children will be joining us, as from the end of May. Ruan spent some of his childhood in Alveston so is thrilled to be coming home. They are moving from a flat in Holland to a four bedroom vicarage in Pilning and would appreciate any of the following items if anyone is getting rid of them.

Having never lived in a house with a garden they would be delighted if anyone is throwing out any garden furniture e.g. chairs, tables, benches etc, swings, bikes, climbing frames or trampolines, no longer needed, gardening tools, chicken coop, pots, wheelbarrow etc, rotating washing line.

They also would be grateful for:

A guest bed that can be made into a double bed, i.e. a single bed with a bed under it.

Any bedding, curtains, toys and clothes (girls age 9 and 7 and a boy of 5)

TV and large fridge /freezer will also be needed.

Please excuse us asking; this family are coming to serve and help in our community and we would like to give them a warm welcome.

Please ring or e-mail the vicarage if you are able to help.

With many thanks

Philip and Alison Rowe

01454 613223 or amrowe@hotmail.co.uk

The Great Olveston Wine Challenge

Wine tasting with a difference - organised by Olveston Parish Twinning Association. At the Parish Hall, Friday 12th March 2010 at 7.45pm.

The Challenge - all you have to do is to taste the wine and match its characteristics with one of the descriptions on your answer form. If you get enough right, you could win a prize but, by then, who cares?

Most forms of cheating are allowed but not under-age drinking.

Ticket price includes nibbles, cheese, French bread and a selection of wines to taste.

Tickets, £12 or £10 for OPTA members, are only available from Emma Neal on 01454 619833.

Thornbury Castle Band

Thornbury Castle Band are a Brass Band situated in Thornbury itself and rehearse every Tuesday 7pm - 9pm at the Sea Cadets Centre. Thornbury Castle Band are pleased to announce they are hosting a Concert with special guests Dursley Male Voice Choir, at The Armstrong Hall, Thornbury on **Saturday 6th March, 7pm**, tickets only **£6.00**. The concert will celebrate the band's 20th Anniversary and also officially introduce the new Musical Director Mr. Geraint Barnes to Thornbury. To purchase tickets, please contact the band directly on **01454 617441**, come along to a rehearsal, visit our website www.thornburycastleband.webs.com or obtain them from The Town Hall. The band will be competing at its first ever contest in February and are proud to be participating in Thornbury Carnival this year. If you play a brass instrument then you would be very welcome to come along to a rehearsal to play or even join the band. 2010 is a very exciting time for the band so come along and support your community brass band!

Old Down Cricket Club

150 Club Winners February

£50 Greg Welsher
£15 T Cudmore
£5 Bill Finch

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners

23rd January Greg Welsher
6th February Angus MacDonald

Diary Dates:

March 1st Players' Registration Evening & Kit Sale at Olveston Sports & Social Club 7.30

March 6th - April 17th (Excl Easter Sat) Colts Indoor Nets at Bradley Stoke Community School

- 3.00 pm- 4.30pm U9s to U13s
- 4.30 pm- 5.30pm U15s

March 15th - April 26th (Excl Easter Mon) Senior Indoor Nets at Castle School 8.30pm

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

Thornbury Camera Club



Thornbury Camera Club meets on Monday evenings in The Old Bakery Annexe, Chapel Street, Thornbury. Members enjoy a varied programme of competitions, presentations by visiting speakers, practical studio sessions, and outdoor meetings in the summer. Visit the website at www.thornburycamera.co.uk or telephone 01454 419178 for further information.

St Mary's Reordering

We had a wonderful celebration on Jan 31st to rededicate the church building, with marching bands, the bishop, and congregations from Aust and Almondsbury and Tockington & Olveston Methodists joining us. 230 people filled the church, sang their hearts out, and were both moved and inspired by the preaching and the ceremony.

But the building isn't quite finished yet - there are lots of little bits and pieces to be done, the new green curtains for the chancel are yet to arrive, and our new glass doors that will go inside the main entrance arrived in time but without the glass in! By the time you read this it may be finished - we hope so! It looks wonderful, finished or not.

Come and have a look and judge for yourselves. And please do use it too - either for personal space or as a group needing a venue. The church is back to being open all day, and the chancel is now heated separately and has new tables and chairs so that groups can use it. It's your parish church and it's for everyone's use as well as our witness. Meanwhile, thanks once again to all who have made this possible.

Handel For Haiti

On **Sunday 7th March at 2pm. in St Mary's Church Thornbury** a "Come and Sing" event is being organised to raise funds for the Haiti Appeal. Under the expert guidance of Kate Phillipson-Masters, the assembled singers will perform all the choruses from Handel's Messiah, accompanied by Nigel Davies on the organ. There will be no charge for participating but there will be a retiring collection in aid of the Haiti Appeal.

If you are not a singer you are most welcome to come and listen. No booking is required.

If you cannot come and participate but wish to donate please send a cheque made out to DEC Haiti Earthquake to DEC c/o 18 Willoughby Close, Alveston, Bristol BS35 3RW.

Please bring your own score if you have one, otherwise loan scores will be available in exchange for a £10 returnable deposit. Water and juice will be available in the interval.

For further details contact Jos Gregson on 01454-411652, Kate Phillipson-Masters on 01454-411652 or David Primrose on 01454-413209.

Women's World Day Of Prayer

'Let everything that has breath praise God'

On **Friday 5th March** over 3 million people worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a service prepared by Christian women in Cameroon.

Emma Wilcock, president of the National Committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer Movement, said:

'This is always an exciting day as a great wave of prayer sweeps the world, beginning when the first service is the Queen Salote Girls' School in Tonga and continuing around the world until the final service takes place, some 35 hours later, in neighbouring Western Samoa. By then the day will have celebrated in over 170 countries and over 5,000 services will have been held in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.'

The Republic of Cameroon is said to be 'Africa in miniature'. It is a country of great cultural diversity with more than 240 ethnic groups and languages. The constitution promotes equality between men and women but traditional rights and attitudes discriminate against women in many areas of life. However giant steps have been taken towards assuring women's rights and women are involved in the struggle for peace, justice and integrity.

Cameroon faces many challenges as its people seek to move forward into a modern age without losing their distinctive characteristics. But at all times, in all circumstances, Cameroonians are able to praise God with joy and exuberance and the service reflects this.

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody

Olveston Methodist Church, 5th March 2010 – 10.15am
Everyone Welcome including babies.

Passion Play

Roly Bain

If you've ever wondered what Jesus and God the Father said to each other during Jesus' life, then come to the Passion Play, 'Father & Son: Son & Father', being staged at St Helen's Church, Alveston, on Friday, March 26th at 7.30pm.

We were going to stage it at St Mary's but decided to have a joint enterprise.

Written by Bristol priest, Neville Boundy, it is described as conversations at intervals on the journey, the journey being from Jesus' own baptism through to the cross. The Church Times says, "The poignancy of Jesus' sense of abandonment at Golgotha is tangible. The Beatitudes and Apostles scenes are laced with pungent wit. The final Easter scene is brief, optimistic and deeply moving. This is a beautifully constructed, wise, probing, and stimulating play. It should be seen everywhere". Don't miss the opportunity - it would be wonderful preparation for Holy Week. Admission is only £5. Tickets (and enquiries) from Roly Bain 616593

Olveston Parish Countryside Group

The Countryside Group will be holding their Annual General Meeting in the Olveston Methodist Hall on **Friday 26th March at 7.30 pm**. The AGM will be followed by a talk by Kate Baxter from the Oldbury Power Station's Environmental Team on their projects around the Power Station.

Everyone is welcome.

Beaver Scouts send help to Haiti



1st Olveston Beavers have donated nearly £500 of their hard earned cash to buy a Shelterbox to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The money had originally been raised to build seating round their outdoor campfire circle but when the Beavers discussed the tragic effects of the earthquake at their meeting, the children decided to do something to help.

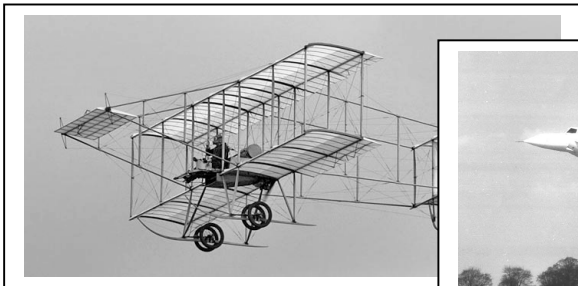
In 2009 Shelterbox - an international disaster relief charity which provides humanitarian aid worldwide formed an official partnership with the Scouting Association and this year issued the Scouts with a challenging fund raising programme.

We were planning to do some fund raising activities to help Shelterbox this year but then the disaster in Haiti happened and suddenly it became a lot more urgent.

The Beavers have been fantastic! We talked about fund raising ideas but when they realised that it would take too long to help these people, they suggested we use the money earmarked for the campfire area instead.

A Shelterbox costs £490 and supplies an extended family of up to 10 people, a tent, blankets, water purification and cooking equipment, basic tools, a stove and other essential equipment to use while they are displaced or homeless.

Now the Beavers will be working especially hard to replace the funds as the work to the campfire area had already been booked to start in February, so please support our Haiti fund raising events when you see them...



100 Years of Aviation, the Local Connection

Exhibition at the Parish Hall, Tockington

Saturday March 13th

10.00am to 4.00pm, admission free.

We'll be showing memorabilia, books and photographs of aspects of BAC and its descendent companies which have provided employment for many residents of this area.

Particular reference is made to the pioneering work carried out at Tockington Manor during the War Years.

There will be illustrated talks by Chris Bigg.

A new book, "*I worked there*" will be launched. This records reminiscences of local people who worked for BAC, Rolls-Royce or the other descendent Companies.

Olveston Parish Historical Society

Do you have an appetite for the Good Life??

Jane Sunnucks

If you are interested to increase the amount of food grown and eaten locally and want to help with ways to try and get the whole community to be involved, please try and attend our first seedling exchange mornings.

This is the time for chitting potatoes and starting early indoor seed planting. If you are like me, I always end up with too many!!! So with the ones that you don't need please bring them along. Also if anyone can spare any root cuttings ...bring them along...

There are two dates to put in your diary:-

Saturday 27th March - Tockington Green 9am – 11am

Saturday 24th April - Tockington Green 9am – 11am

Our goal is to inspire others to start growing vegetables wherever they can: in their own back gardens, on balconies, outside their offices...so part of the morning will be to share ideas over a bacon butty and a coffee or tea.

Tickets will be available from Olveston Stores and Old Down Country Park Shop at a cost of £3.00. Proceeds will be used to plant some apple trees in the local community.

There will be some local stalls selling local produce.

Please spread the word and if you would like to contact me in advance to answer any questions my number is 01454 419931.

Disco and Curry Night

Come along to a disco and curry night at Alexandra Pavilion (Old Down Sports and Social Club) on **Friday 26 March from 8pm to midnight!** Ticket price includes a curry, with drinks on sale from the licensed bar.

All funds raised will go towards creating a seating area at the back of the new Scout Hut for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to enjoy.

Tickets on sale now at £10 each (including curry). Please contact Amanda Stagg on 01454 418637

Calling all golfers!

Swing into ACTION on April 20th

Thornbury Golf Centre will be buzzing with activity on Tuesday April 20th when **ACT** (Arts and Community in Thornbury) will be hosting their **Second Charity Golf Day** in aid of the community project to build a new arts and performance centre in Thornbury. There are three perpetual trophies to be won this year. Catherine Johnson, our founder patron, has donated a trophy for the best mixed team performance whilst the best ladies' team will win The Bond Girls Rosebowl kindly donated by Bonds of Thornbury. The best men's team will win a trophy generously donated by Gems of Thornbury and the team with the best overall score will win four tickets to the Welsh Open in June where many players from the Ryder Cup teams will be honing their skills. There will be a chance to win a car in a hole-in-one competition sponsored by Berkeley Vale Motors and many other prizes and chances for golfing glory.



ARTS & COMMUNITY IN THORNBURY

Tee times will start at 11am from both the 1st and 10th tees and the golf format for the day will be a Stableford Bowmaker. The teams of four can be all men, all ladies or mixed – and the team entry fee of £140 includes coffee on arrival and a two course buffet after the game.

So come on golfers ~ give your support to this extraordinary and ambitious local project ~ **swing** into **ACT**ion, **put** your name down to play and you'll have a **ball**! Anyone interested in participating themselves, sponsoring a team, sponsoring a hole or providing competition prizes or raffle prizes should get in touch with the organisers.

To request an entry form or to offer help with any of the above, please contact Jackie Jackson on 01454 416421.

For more information on **ACT** and its exciting project, please checkout our website: www.ACTthornbury.org.uk

Lyn Bedford, 35 Siband Road, Thornbury, BS35 2EP
lynbedford@blueyonder.co.uk

01454 884154

Reg. Charity No. 1120422 Founder Patron: Catherine Johnson Company No. 6009419

ACT.Thornbury@yahoo.co.uk
www.ACTthornbury.org.uk

NEW Under 9s Cricket at Old Down Cricket Club

If you have a child in Year 3 or 4 who is keen to play cricket for a local cricket club, why not bring them along to the new Under 9s team at Old Down Cricket Club. For those of you who don't know where the club is, it's hidden behind the scout hut, football pitch and Social Club at Old Down, and has been running a successful Junior section for many years. Reg Purchase, captain of the Senior 2nd team has been coerced by his son and local parents into coaching a new younger team, and to hopefully encourage local children to stay at Old Down CC for many years to come!

The Under 9s will play Kwik Cricket, a softball version of traditional cricket played with lightweight equipment, designed specifically for younger children starting out in cricket. The focus will be on developing the children's interest in cricket by providing a fun, inclusive, environment for all children to have a go at playing the game. The Under 9's do not play in a league, although will have a handful of friendly fixtures against other local clubs, the first being Thornbury CC on Friday 14th May. All necessary equipment will be provided. Cricket whites are not required for under 9's - track suit and trainers is fine.

If your child is interested in joining, or you would like to find out more, come along to the registration evening at 7.30pm on Monday March 1st at Old Down Social Club. The bar will be open, there will be an equipment sale by MGM Sports and it would be a great time to meet other interested children and parents.

Training in the indoor nets will be held at 3pm - 4pm on Saturdays from 6th March - 17th April (excluding Easter Saturday) at Bradley Stoke School and then outdoor nets or matches will be Friday evenings 6:30pm – 8pm at Old Down CC from Friday April 23rd until the end of the summer term in July. Parents will need to stay at the club with their children on the Friday nights, so as the club house and bar will be open it will be a great way to enjoy a summer evening!

There is a yearly membership fee of £24 per child, and £2 per indoor nets session but then all outdoor nets and matches are provided free of charge. If you are able to give up some time to help with the Under 9s coaching please contact Reg Purchase on 07778701703 or email reg@reeg.co.uk For further information about Old Down CC.

The Big Splash!!

The Rotary Club of Thornbury is holding its annual Swimathon at Thornbury Leisure Centre on 12th, 13th and 14th March from 6.15pm until 9.15pm each night.

This is the 25th year in succession that we have held this great event. We are inviting people to organise teams of six swimmers who swim in relay over 55 minutes in one lane having obtained sponsorship either per length or per session.

It is a fun event and the Castle School Steel Band will be playing at the pool side which always produces a wonderful atmosphere of fun and fellowship in the pool.

So far, over 25 years, this event has raised over £250,000 for local and national charities and this year the main beneficiaries of the Swimathon will be The Fairbridge Trust (which helps young people aged 13 – 25 years who have had great difficulties for example with drugs or alcohol etc to turn their lives around and gain meaningful employment) and Meningitis Research Foundation of Thornbury.

To confirm the input of everyone involved, we will present certificates to each participant in recognition of the effort they have put into this event.

If you would like to take part and obtain a sponsorship form, please contact Philip Savage (tel: 01454 413009) or email him (pesavage@btinternet.com) or contact www.swimathon@thornburyrotary.org.

It would be great to see you there!

Olveston Parish Hall Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Parish Hall will be holding its AGM on Wednesday 10th March at 7.30. It's been a busy year at the hall with an ongoing programme of refurbishment and many new ventures alongside the traditional programme. If you are interested in joining the management committee or finding out more about what is going on, come along to the hall. An update on the plans for a major development will be given, alongside the normal business of electing the committee.

Look forward to seeing you there

Parish Hall Events

Well, here we are at the end of another successful autumn and winter programme of events held at the Parish Hall arranged by the Management Committee for your entertainment.

The **Harvest Supper** in October was a lovely evening with 96 people attending. The ladies who prepared the food did a fabulous job - what would we do without them. The local talent was as always X factor standard, including a potential new verger for St Mary's. Watch your job June!

We then moved into November with a Razzle production from South Glos Rural Arts, **A Touch of Magic** by Thornbury magician Barry Smith assisted by his delightful wife Sue. A *tricky* show to perform but carried out to perfection.

"Absolutely brilliant, how did he do that?" was the order of the night.

Christmas at the Hall was held in December, our annual get together with communal singing of carols and songs. Mulled wine helped to lubricate the larynx and mince pies were on offer. An event for the whole community to participate in and enjoy.

January brought us the Ministry of Entertainment, again from South Glos Rural Arts, with their production of **Goodbye Mrs Chips**, a wonderfully funny, energetic and nostalgic show. The appreciative audience of over 100 were treated to school puddings in the interval. Proceeds from refreshments totalling £124.55 was donated to the Haiti appeal.

Can I thank those of you who helped in any way to arrange this programme and everyone who came along to our events which provides funding for the ongoing refurbishment of your community Hall. Without all of you, all of this would not happen.

Police Report

We have recently recovered numerous valuable items such as generators and high value mountain bikes but have been unable to trace the owners as none of these items have been security marked.

Marking your property with your postcode deters thieves because it helps police prove the property has been stolen.

Mark your property and register it for free at www.immobilise.com the property database checked by police across the country.

Our next beat Surgeries are **Thursday 25th March and Thursday 29th April at Olveston Stores between 10.30 12.00 mid-day.**

For police assistance and to report crimes please dial 0845 456 7000.

If you have any information which could help police investigate crime, you can call the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org. They never ask for your name or trace your call.

Half A Sixpence.

HALF A SIXPENCE is based on the novel: *Kipps* by H G Wells and tells the story of a young man who meets an eccentric actor: Harry Chitterlow and suddenly finds himself unexpectedly rich. He is consequently transported from a poor existence and a seemingly everlasting draper's apprenticeship, '*All In The Cause of Economy*', to becoming '*A Proper Gentleman*'.

Seats will once again be at a premium for this celebrated group, which is now in its 34th year of bringing high quality youth productions to Thornbury. It has an impressive list of theatrical awards, plus more than 40 successful productions to its credit. The production is at Thornbury's Armstrong Hall from Tuesday 31 March until Saturday 3 April, with evening performances at 7.30 pm [Tuesday to Thursday and Saturday], plus an afternoon performance only on Good Friday at 3.00 pm.

To find out whether money does bring happiness to this young man, or if he learns a different lesson, join NYTC for a musical comedy that will appeal to all ages, with an eleven-piece orchestra bringing nearly 30 numbers to life, including some great song and dance classics! With special party rates and Family Tickets available on Good Friday, demand for seats will be high, so to avoid disappointment, either ring: 01454 613172, call into our Box Office at Wildings, Thornbury High Street from 15 March, or post your booking to: NYTC, c/o Jarvis Woodhouse Events Ltd, 19 High Street, Thornbury, South Glos BS35 2AE.

Ladies Night

Please come along to this event being organised by the PA of Almondsbury Primary School. We are raising money for further play equipment.

There will be a variety of treatment areas and stalls including manicures, massage, reflexology, make-up, gifts and cards.

Please do join us even if it's only to chat with friends over a glass of wine or a cup of tea! Go on, spoil yourself....

This event will be held in the Almondsbury Old School Hall on Friday 19th, 7.30pm-10pm. Entry is £2.50 per person and includes a free glass of wine.

For more information call 01454 620251.

Our Parish Matters

Olveston Parish Council

Andy Clarke

If, like me, you have recently looked down from the top of Aust Road in horror at the 'pollarded' trees, then you will perhaps imagine that those poor stunted horse chestnut stumps will never, ever recover. We are assured however that they will sprout again though whether they can ever resemble their former glory remains to be seen. On the plus side, you may be pleased to learn that South Glos Council will be planting a new row of trees on the wide verge opposite them, which should be very nice indeed. Also at the top of Aust Road, some special hedging work has left an excellent pathway for us all to use up to the corner of Elberton Road.

During some of our recent cold and wintry weather it has been a joy to walk the local footpaths to view our countryside as it wears a different set of colours. Muddy footprints on the paths now bear testimony to the plentiful numbers of people using them. Many of course are dog-walkers, the downside of which is the heaps of uncollected dog-mess. **We would like your views on this issue and how to deal with it.**

The frost and snow brought with it the problem of waste collections when our bin-men were 'unable' to collect. At the same time, perhaps we should remember to thank those who still come to our doors regardless, to bring our daily milk, letters and parcels. Well done to them.

A number of people have asked for a plastic bottle-bank, possibly to be sited beside the Parish Hall. It now seems likely that South Glos Council have acceded to our requests, though it may be some time before it happens. The hope is to start in 6-12 months time – watch this space!

Car-parking on the pavement in the Parish is causing concern for both the disabled residents and mums with pushchairs, especially in some tight spots. Let's all try to think of others in whatever way we can, please, to look after our community.

From the registers at St. Mary's

Cremation at Canford followed by service of Thanksgiving of Donald Hartland Parker on 29th January 2010.

Cremation at Canford followed by service of Thanksgiving of Betty Daldry on 5th February 2010.

Yours faithfully

Temporary Missionary Work

While I am the parish priest of Christ the King Catholic Church, Thornbury I am also a member of a religious order called The Salvatorians. We are 1,200 priests and brothers working in forty countries worldwide, many of them are what you could class as developing countries.

Our community in the UK has a special connection with Tanzania and we sent many priests and brothers to be missionaries there over the last forty years. In common with many other churches the supply of clergy in Europe is drying up; fortunately for our order the numbers of young people entering religious life is rising in these so-called developing countries.

Just because their numbers are rising it does not mean that they no longer need help. It is only that the assistance needed nowadays tends to be more specialised.

We are no longer able to send priests and brothers to Tanzania but what we are able to do is to send lay people as so-called "temporary missionaries" and they are able to put their skills and talents at the service of these young and vibrant churches.

One member of our congregation in Thornbury is currently spending a year in Tanzania. His name is Lewis and at the age of twenty-four had recently completed a degree in computer graphics and was finding it difficult to get a job here in his chosen field. In response to our appeal he volunteered to spend a year in Tanzania and our parish agreed to support him and willingly raised the money to pay for his trip.

He is thoroughly enjoying his time in Tanzania and has been able to train our young students in computers and graphics. He has helped produce advertising materials and at the moment he is conducting training in the production of websites. Although the country might be poor it still needs people trained in modern technology which is no longer considered a luxury but an essential means of communication.

Lewis tells me that he has gained a great deal from the six months he has already spent in Africa. He has learned Swahili and got to know another culture and a different way of looking at the world. It has been particularly refreshing for him to experience life as a member of the Church in Africa.

Lewis will be making a difference by teaching people a lot of skills they would otherwise never have the opportunity to learn. But Africa is also making a difference to him, opening up new horizons and experiences and equipping him with a new way of looking at the world.

Father Alex McAllister

Christ the King, Thornbury

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Mar 7	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Lenten Vespers (Choir)	Mr Denis Jones
Mar 14	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Mothering Sunday Family Service with Choir	Rev H Webb & Mrs J McBride
	6pm	Evensong	Rev Philip Rowe
Mar 21	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir & Mission Aviation Fellowship	Rev Philip Rowe & Rev David Bone
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Mrs Ann Lloyd
Mar28	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	4 th Sunday with Choir	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong (BCP)	Rev Philip Rowe
Mar30	7.30pm	Holy Communion (Holy Week)	Rev P Rowe & Archdeacon

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Contact:

The Rev Philip Rowe, 01454 613223; email: office@stmaryssevernside.org.uk

Please contact Philip about Baptisms, marriages, funerals or other matters at any time, but please try to avoid Thursdays except in an emergency.

Verger: Mrs. June Robbins, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 2.45pm in the Church

WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION: At 9.00am led by the Rev. Roly Bain

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Mar 7	10am	Family Worship	Rev David Bone
Mar 14	10am	Mothering Sunday Service	Rev David Bone
Mar 21	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Mar28	10am	Morning Prayer (Palm Sunday)	Rev David Bone

Assistant Curate: Rev David Bone, 01454 614601

Church Wardens: Jo Jenkins, 01454 632838 and Janet Ford, 01454 633300

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Mar 7	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole
Mar 21	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield

Contact: Rev. David Pole 01454 414810; www.sthelensalveston.org

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Mar 14	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield
Mar28	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

Contact: Rev. David Pole 01454 414810; www.sthelensalveston.org

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Mar 5	10.15	Olv Ch	Women's Day of Prayer Service-Mrs A LLOYD
Mar 7	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. St Andrews, Filton	Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Blenkinsopp United Service
Mar 14	10am 6pm	Olv. Ch. Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney The Breakfast Club will join us later. Evening Worship led by Rev Sandy Williams
Mar 21	10am 4pm	Tock. Ch. Daldry Gdns	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Sandy Williams. Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney
Mar28	10am 6pm	Tock Ch Olv. Ch.	Morning Worship led by the Chairman of Bristol & S. Glos Methodist Circuit Rev. A Ward-Jones Evening Worship led by Mr John Trebble

LIGHT LUNCHES: Thursday 4th Mar at 12.15 in the Tockington Wesley Rooms.
To book your lunch please ring 612112 or 613241.

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 10th
Mar. To book your lunch please ring 416528

PRAYER MEETINGS: Thursdays at 2.15pm in the Olveston Vestry.

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

CONTACT: Rev Sandy Williams tel 07841 752 941,

Sandy.williams48@btinternet.com

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

We meet in a relaxed, informal manner for worship, prayer and conversational Bible studies and incorporating Communion, normally 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 us. Prayer requests can be posted through the letter box at The Vine or sent to us by post or email. Please add a name or initial to identify your request.

Mike and Barbara Matthews, tel. 07840 793772 or email:

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLDDOWN

Mar 7	6.30pm	Adolphus DeChickera
Mar 13	7.30pm	Severnside Worship & Prayer
Mar 14	6.30pm	Royston Pick
Mar 21	6.30pm	Alan Tarling
Mar 28	6.30pm	Paul Ashford

Prayer Time every Thurs 8pm.

For further information please contact **Olwen Wonnacott**, 412141 or **Paul Ashford**, 07774 110814 or email: **Paul@CalebGroup.net**

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Family Worship 11.00am Evening Worship 6.30pm. For more details, please phone 632564.

BRISTOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP -Our Sunday morning meetings are held at The Grange School in Warmley at 11 am,
Contact 01454 613305 **www.bcfnet.com**

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury - each Sunday
8.30am Mass 11.00 Family Mass 6.30pm Mass

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: Elizabeth Sidwell, 412975

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

Diary Dates for March 2010

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

1 st Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club-Practice	1.30pm	AH
2 nd Tue	Tockington Toddlers Parish Players - The Gondoliers, every evening, Tues 2 nd -Sat 6 th Royal British Legion - Women	9.30-11.30 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR PH DGCL
3 rd Wed	Body Tone Exercise Class	7.30-8.30	PH
4 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OS+ MH
5 th Fri	Women's World Day of Prayer	10.15am	OMC
6 th Sat	Coffee Morning Village Litter-Pick Th.Castle Band with Dursley Male Voice Ch.	10.30-12.00 2.00-4.00 7.00pm	MH AH
7 th Sun			
8 th Mon	Craft Group	7.30-9.30	MH
9 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Women's Institute-Study of Place Names	9.30-11.30 7.30pm	WR PH
10 th Wed	Royal British Legion - Men Body Tone Exercise Class	7.30pm 7.30-8.30	DGCL PH
11 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group Th. & Dist. Flower Club-Demo	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30 7.30pm	OS+ MH TMH
12 th Fri			
13 th Sat	Coffee Morning Olv. Par. Hist. Soc: 100yrs of Aviation	10.00-12.00 10.00-4.00	WR PH
14 th Sun			
15 th Mon			
16 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR
17 th Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club-"Imagine This" - Anne Bartlett Severnvalle Smallholders Association:-"The Versatile Pigs"Glos Old Spot Breeders Club Body Tone Exercise Class	2.00pm 7.30pm 7.30-8.30	AH Chy PH
18 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OS+ MH
19 th Fri			
20 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH

21 st Sun			
22 nd Mon			
23 rd Tue	Tockington Toddlers Olveston Parish Council meeting Fibromyalgia Support Group:-LINK	9.30-11.30 7.30pm 7.00-9.00pm	WR AP AMH
24 th Wed	Alveston History Society "Stations, Platforms & Halts"-Mike Oakley Body Tone Exercise Class	7.30pm 7.30-8.30	AMC PH
25 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group Th. & Dist. Flower Club-Practice Class	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30 7.30pm	OS+ MH TMH
	OPTA Wine Challenge	7.30pm	PH
27 th Sat	Coffee Morning' Do you have an appetite for the Good Life? (Seedling Exchange)	10.30-12.00 9.00-11.00	MH Tock. Gr.
28 th Sun			
29 th Mon			
30 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR
31 st Wed	Body Tone Exercise Class	7.30-8.30	PH

Looking ahead to April

Apr 5th	Bonnets & Bows at Hillside House	12.30	
Apr 24th	Concert by Pahukama (Zimbabwean Choir)	7.30pm	StM
Apr 29th	Annual Parish Assembly	7.30pm	PH

KEY: **AC** Aust Church; **ACR** – Almondsbury Church Rooms; **AH** – Armstrong Hall; **AMC** – Alveston Methodist Church; **AMH**- Alveston Methodist Hall; **AP** – Alexandra Pavilion; **AVH** – Aust Village Hall; **CCCP** – Castle Court Car Park; **CH** – Cossham Hall; **Chy** – Chantry; **DGCL** – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; **EVH** – Elberton Village Hall; **MH** – Olveston Methodist Hall; OMC Olv Meth Ch **OS** – Olveston School; **Ost** – Olveston Stores; **OV** – Olveston Vicarage; **PH** – Olveston Parish Hall; **StM** – St Mary's Church, Olv.; **StMA** Almondsbury Church; **TBCh** - Thornbury Baptist Church; **TMH** – Thorn. Methodist Hall; **URC** - Thornbury United Reform Church; **WR** – Wesley Rooms.

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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