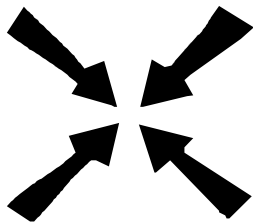


Meeting Point



March 2016



Meeting Point

Volume 40, Number 6, March 2016

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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From the Editor

This edition is being delivered along with the latest Meeting Point Directory, compiled by Jenny Newley, and described in her article on the next page.

Jenny also takes the opportunity to publicise the olvestonandaust.com website that she and the Meeting Point team maintain. This contains the Directory and much more besides. Many readers will be aware of this splendid on-line resource, but if you are not, do read Jenny's article.

As the cover reminds us, Easter is approaching, and this edition highlights a number of seasonal events, including an exciting Easter Egg Hunt that you can do at your leisure. And do have a bash at Meeting Point's Prize Puzzle.

The picture on this month's cover shows banners for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day, made by the banner makers from St Mary's Church, Olveston.

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

Meeting Point magazine and Meeting Point Directory are online at the Community Website: www.olvostonandaust.com

Meeting Point Online

www.olvestonandaust.com

Jenny Newley



With this month's copy of Meeting Point, you should also have received – if you're a local household – a copy of the updated **Meeting Point Directory**.

The idea of the Directory is that it should be a handy reference booklet of local services, clubs and organisations. Some of them you will already know about. Others may be new to you. We hope you find it useful and that it encourages you to discover more about the local area.

Of course, any such publication can only be a snapshot of a moment in time and I have no doubt that the contact people for one or two local organisations are changing as you read this! But we hope it provides a good starting-point.

We can't produce a new printed Directory every month – it was quite an effort to produce this one! – and it's quite costly - but what we do offer is an online version of the Directory. That way, as soon as we are notified of a change to the details of any organisation or service, we can update the online version of the Directory. So, we depend on you, and the organisations and services you know about, to keep us informed of changes and new information. Details of how to contact us with updates are in the Directory.

To find the Directory online, go to the **Olveston and Aust Community Website** (www.olvestonandaust.com). This is the website created by Meeting Point to give you information about the Meeting Point area, the two civil parishes of Olveston and Aust.

(Olveston village, Tockington, Old Down, Awkley, Lower Hazel and Ingst make up Olveston parish. Aust parish is made up of Aust village, Elberton and Littleton-on-Severn.)

On the website, just go to **Directory** on the main menu. We also put an online version of Meeting Point on the website each month – go to **Community Magazine**. (You can find past copies of the magazine there - back to March 2008!) If you're wondering what's on in the area, go to **Events**. There's information too about local **clubs and societies**, as well as **village halls, schools and pre-schools**, the local **parish councils, churches** etc. Why not save it as one of your go-to websites? Typically, we have 700 to 1000 unique visitors a month. We hope you enjoy browsing... and don't forget to keep us updated!

Christoph and Nora Schwitzer

Profile by Pat Thirkettle



Nora and Christoph both grew up in animal-centred households. Christoph's mother took him almost daily to Cologne Zoo; he says he was bottle fed in the lemur house, which seems to have impacted on his future career. As he grew up he continued going every day and founded a Youth Group of like-minded young people, which involved education, going behind the scenes and making nest boxes for birds etc. The zoo director guided him to studying biology so he could work in zoos. Nora meanwhile was growing up in the Ruhr Valley area of Germany with lots of pets and hopes of being a farm vet.

Christoph studied biology at Cologne University and did his PhD on lemur nutrition. At one point his PhD supervisor asked him to look after a new research intern, and so he first met Nora, who was now studying veterinary medicine in Munich and wanted to work with 'real' animals. They kept in touch by email and both finished studying. Then Christoph was hired by a French NGO to run a field research and conservation programme in Madagascar. Nora was intending to do her PhD on domestic chickens at Munich University but jumped at the alternative of two years in Madagascar where she did her PhD on, guess what, blue-eyed black lemurs! They worked in a remote forest.....and there is remote and remote; they were only the seventh and eighth white people seen there and to get there involved a small plane, miles of driving across country in atrocious conditions, driving a boat through a tidal river system and over the open sea and then trekking for miles carrying all their equipment. For the next two years life was very basic; the diet was rice and beans, they slept in a very small tent and the rudimentary field station was only halfway finished during their stay. It was a very happy time and they came back and married in Germany.

They started new jobs but found Germany rather dull and boring after Madagascar so were tempted to return. However Nora became pregnant with their daughter Ira and decided the Madagascan field station was not the best place to give birth. Christoph had always liked England and he successfully applied to Bristol Zoo as their research officer and they came over for two days to find somewhere to rent. Houses on offer in Bristol did not appeal, and

knowing nothing about the area, they chose to rent in Bramley Close, because it had the cleanest kitchen! Ira was born on the sitting room sofa nine years ago, and their other two children, Marta and David, were born in Southmead Hospital.

Natasha Harrod befriended Nora immediately, and the family became regulars at Breakfast Club where they made many friends. The children were christened at St Mary's and Christoph is on the PCC. Nora works part time as a vet in Chipping Sodbury and plays the cello in the Thornbury Orchestra. They love walking, (and Nora running), in the cosy English countryside; perhaps we take it for granted. Our public footpaths, bridle ways, kissing gates and hedges are unique; in Germany, as in many other European countries, footpaths are functional, not public, and usually in straight lines between enormous fields. They are very happy to remain here and have bought a house in Old Down. Their menagerie consists of a cat, three chickens, and two guinea pigs, all rescued, not to mention a flock of six Boreray sheep, an endangered breed originally from St Kilda, that were surplus to requirements at the Wild Place Project.

Christoph is now Director of Conservation at Bristol Zoo. The Wild Place Project, on land owned by the zoo opposite Bristol Golf Club, opened two years ago and includes a lemur enclosure where the public can enter and enjoy their antics; unsurprisingly Christoph was instrumental in that idea! It is gradually building up species numbers; two years ago it was wolves, last year it was cheetahs, this year it is baboons and next year it will be giraffes. The vision is to be a natural wild life conservation park; it achieved its target of 100,000 visitors in 2015 and is well worth a visit.

Easter Prize Puzzle

Jan Winter

Can you find a way to make five rectangles, using each of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 as the length and width, so that the rectangles will fit exactly into an 11x11 square?

For example, the rectangles could be 1x2, 3x4, 5x6, 7x8 and 9x10, but these would add up to too large an area to fill the square. Can you find a combination that works? And if you think you have five suitable rectangles, how do they fit together in the square?

The Editor is offering a prize of £10 to the first correct solution he receives after 1st March. If you are under 16, please state your age. Send your solution to meetingpointeditor@gmail.com.

Aust Parish Council Matters

Tim Pyper (austparishcouncil@googlemail.com)

Precept for 2016/17

The precept is the sum added to all council tax payers' bills to cover the cost of the parish council. The council fixed the precept for next financial year at its January meeting. The amount to be charged for a band D property will increase from £18.87 to £19.24, an increase of 53p a year (1.96%), and other bands will be increased in proportion. This increase will compensate the council for the reduction in the support grant that South Gloucestershire Council have given because their grant from central government has been reduced quite sharply. At the same time, the parish council has persuaded South Gloucestershire Council to reduce the amount it charges for grass cutting and hedge trimming in Aust village and this will offset some of the increase.

The expense of running the parish council does increase each year and the council believes that it should aim to balance income and expenditure. The budget is designed to provide a small surplus over the year as a whole.

Stronger Safer Communities Group

South Gloucestershire Council has been looking to reduce its expenditure and its eye fell on the SSCG groups. As a result, some groups have been merged with others. The Council's original proposal was that the group covering Aust should be merged with Pilning and Severn Beach (which also covers Cribbs Causeway). We protested and now we have joined the group covering Thornbury, Alveston and Oldbury-on-Severn.

The meetings are held in public and happen every month in different places in the area.

Fly tipping on Aust Wharh

This has become a problem, and Councillor Riddle is working to get some security measures in place to help to stop it.

Broadband service

While Aust has been up graded and now has (I believe) a good fast broadband service, the rest of the parish remains in the dark ages. The parish council continues to push South Gloucestershire Council for some action to improve the situation, and is also exploring whether there may be other solutions available.

Annual Parish Meeting

As in past years, the annual meeting will be held on the second Tuesday in April – the 12th this year – at 7.30 pm in Elberton Village Hall. All are welcome. More details next month.

Parish Players' "Annie" - review

Barbie Davies

"Never work with children and animals" is a maxim firmly rejected by the lively Parish Players as they wisely recognise that including young people in events is lifeblood to the community and its societies. The animal in their latest production, "Annie" may have been a human being in canine costume, but Aoife McBride, as Snowy the Dog, certainly created the cute factor. She was sister to the just eleven year old leading lady, Niamh McBride who dealt superbly with the lengthy and demanding role

The script and music of "Annie" is refreshingly pacy, witty and inventive for a modern musical. However, the vocal range demanded (particularly for Annie) is challenging. Right from the very first number, Niamh took it all in her confident stride, which also included tap-dancing! She certainly won the audience's hearts with her sincere performance of straight-forward innocence and optimism.

All the other orphans supported her beautifully. Each one was totally disciplined and committed to their part and the team. Their spirited singing raised the rafters, and Molly (played by Isobel Lambie) showed huge potential and polish. No wonder their dragon of a matron of the orphanage, Miss Hannigan (played by Sian McBride) was jealous! However, Sian played her role as a drunken vulture with real panache, clarity and super singing.

Three McBrides in the cast so far! Granny Cath Chappel played the cook and was a member of the flexible, gracious adult cast who played an enormous number of roles with real verve and variety. Grandad Mike Chappel stage-managed the production with great efficiency so that the team breezed through the considerable number of scene changes despite the "bijou" backstage arrangements.

The scenery itself was very well conceived by Keith Richards, being practical and dressed with good period props. It was greatly enhanced by projected images of New York, which included a moving motor car! Lighting by Richard Churchill played its part, in particular adding snowy winter weather to the set.

There is much uplifting humour in "Annie" which was always skilfully exploited, nowhere better than in the Radio City and White House Cabinet scenes in which versatile David Proud, Richard Newley and Brian Brown twinkled in everything from ventriloquism to President Roosevelt himself.

The villains, played by Ray Hale and Amy Sunderland, shone with slick sliminess in the acting and well-chosen costumes. The "goodies" also shone. Phil Savage captured the huge hearted American billionaire, Warbucks, while Lesley Clarke created a most warm and winning Grace Farrell, the secretary.

Butlers are perhaps not renowned for excellent singing, but Mike Belsten, as Drake, broke the mould.

All the accompaniments were crisply played with the right pace and sensitivity under the leadership of Chloe Allsopp-Jones. This skill completed the ingredients for an uplifting evening's entertainment – but then it is always so at Tockington under the experienced and expert hand of director Linda Evans. Lucky us and lucky Parish Players!

A Royal Deer Park in Alveston?

Wednesday, 2 March 2016, 7.30pm, Olveston Methodist Church



If you'd like to hear a story of local historical sleuthing, come along to hear John Adnams of Oldbury-on-Severn describe his quest to find out more about a coin and some pottery found in a local field five years ago.

John's quest isn't finished yet but has already turned up some fascinating information,

thanks to some archaeological digging, some extensive hunting through archives and some good old-fashioned walking over fields. Now's your chance to find out what he's discovered!

This meeting is open to everyone and all are very welcome. £2 for a single meeting, payable at the door. You can see the rest of the programme here:

www.olveston.com/historical-society

News from St. Mary's

Roly Bain

A Trio of Bishops!

Life's a little quieter in March at St Mary's with it being Lent, but three bishops are coming to St Mary's in the space of a fortnight. The Bishop of Bedford is one of our Lent preachers at 10am on Feb 28th, the Bishop of Bristol is doing a Confirmation Service on March 7th at 7.30pm, and the The Rt Revd Ian Brackley, who has just retired as Bishop of Dorking, is coming on March 13th. More details about our Lenten preachers are on a separate leaflet in church,

but our last one on March 20th is The Revd Ian Tomkins, a former schoolboy at Tockington Manor.

Lent Movies

Once again we're having Lent Movies on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. You'll have missed a couple by now, but on March 1st we have a much-acclaimed film about the bravery of a community of Cistercian monks in the face and midst of the threat of Islamic fundamentalism. Then on March 8th and 15th we have a biblical double header as we follow the New Testament story of the Early Church as seen through the eyes of St Luke. Tea and coffee are served, and any donations will be in aid of the Loaves & Fishes Project.

Special Services

Mothering Sunday is on March 6th with the usual posies for the adults. Holy Week begins on March 20th with the Palm Sunday procession down from Daldry Gardens at 9.45am. Our Maundy Thursday Agape takes the form of a passover meal cum Holy Communion at 7.30pm. There is a Good Friday Procession of Witness from Tockington Methodist Church at 12.30pm, before the Final Hour at 2pm at St Mary's. And then we have a series of services on Easter Day, beginning at 6.30am up at The Brake.

Russian Orthodox Choir

On April 2nd we are privileged to have a concert from the Hermitage Ensemble, a Russian Orthodox Choir touring the country. It will be a real treat. Tickets at £7.50 are available from June Robbins 617491 or Sian Slade 617389. Don't miss a golden opportunity. Just to make a Russian weekend of it, the Monday Movie on April 4th is a Bond movie - no prizes for guessing which one!

Charity Support

The congregations of the Severnside churches are holding a coffee morning at St Helen's, Alveston on March 12th from 10.30 -12.00 in aid of the Loaves and Fishes Project, run by the Sisters of the Church in St Paul's who feed the homeless of Bristol. And on March 19th, St Mary's are having a fundraising lunch for Christian Aid in church from 12.30-2.00pm.

Bridge to Gautampuri

By the time you read this, four of the congregation will have been out to India to open the three-storey multi-purpose health and education centre in Gautampuri, one of the slums in Delhi. There will be an evening to show everyone what happened and is happening over there but that date hasn't been fixed at time of going to press. Meanwhile, thank you once again to all those who supported the project. The final total was a wonderful £21,522.30p. Thanks indeed!

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the February draw, held on 4th February 2016 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	277	Revd R Bain, Olveston
£75	228	Mrs J Davies, Olveston
£25	388	Mrs S Shaw, Olveston
£25	544	Mrs T Fear, Tockington
£25	395	Mr T McLeavy, Olveston
£20	380	Mr R Hicks, Cornwall
£20	286	Mr R Thorne, Dorchester
£20	458	Revd R Bain, Olveston
£10	589	Mr B Amos, Olveston
£10	293	Mr R Hicks, Cornwall
£10	291	Mrs I Phillips, Olveston
£10	257	Mrs C Healey, Olveston
£10	599	Mrs J Davies, Olveston

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

Help me get to Borneo!

Richard Sawyer

Come along to 'Home-made Cake and Teas or Coffees' on **Mothering Sunday (March 6th) in Tockington Methodist Church, from 2.30 to 5.30pm.** All welcome!

I am raising funds for my trip to Borneo in July this year as part of Marlwood School's Expedition. We will be working to improve the lives of local communities there.

Joan Organ (formerly Lansdown)

Keren and Rachel would like to thank all those who sent cards and condolences following the death of their mother Joan on January 6th 2016. Also for the donations given in her memory for St Mary's Church. Thank you all very much.

Olveston Parish Matters

Richard Rogers (clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

There is a feeling of déjà vu about this month's article, compared with that written a year ago!

Councillors

The Parish Council welcomes Nick Gingell who answered the call to become a Parish Councillor earlier this year. Nick and his family live in Moor Lane Tockington. Sadly Sue Hunter has had to resign following recent hip problems so there is another vacancy on the Council, and we will shortly be told by South Glos Council whether an election has to be called or we can co-opt another parishioner. The Parish Council wish Sue all best wishes and a full recovery.

Whether through an Election or by the Council co-opting (following interviews), the process relies on parishioners deciding to serve their local community and putting their names forward. Currently one Councillor lives in Tockington, and seven live in Olveston, Old Down is not now represented, and any bias is therefore down to parishioner choice. It is also interesting that currently there is now only one lady serving on the Council, compared to four, five years ago. If you have an interest in becoming a Councillor please email the Clerk at the above address.

Dog Problems

Since 2014, dog owners have had a large number of sites around the parish where they can deposit bagged faeces. Yet the increasing number of complaints to the Parish Council indicates that dog owners are not bothering to clear up after their dogs, particularly on the pavement from the Church to the School where many young children walk. There are no 'poo fairies' that clean up for these inconsiderate people, so everyone needs to feel empowered to encourage them to do it themselves.

If you see someone not clearing up after their dog, you can offer them a plastic bag. Alternatively, contact the South Glos Dog Warden (streetcare@southglos.gov.uk or 01454 868000), who would be happy to contact dog owners on **our** behalf to make them aware of the regulations concerning dog fouling and if necessary issue a £50 fixed penalty notice. To be effective, the dog warden will need a description of the dog and owner and details concerning the date, time and location. The Parish Council would also be happy to support residents if they wish to coordinate practical approaches to reduce the amount of faeces left on our pavements and footpaths, and some ideas can be found at www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-22853270.



Anniversary Trip to France

This year is the 20th Anniversary of the twinning between Olveston and Bréhan, in Brittany, and we have been invited to go to Bréhan over the May Bank Holiday weekend (**Friday April 29th – Monday May 2nd**). So, if you would like a weekend in France for the cost of the travel why don't you join us on this next visit? We always have a great time as we're entertained by 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 of the 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. Some of us will also be visiting the primary school in Bréhan on the Monday morning before we depart, which should be great fun.

We will leave Olveston by coach in the afternoon of Friday 29th April at 3.30 pm (approx.) and travel to France by overnight ferry, arriving by coach in Bréhan on Saturday morning. We return on Monday 2nd May, travelling on an early evening ferry and arriving back to Olveston at some point after midnight.

The only cost is for the travel and a small gift for your French hosts. The price will be £100 per person and any child still at school goes free. We will need a deposit of £25 per person before March 11th to secure your place. 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.

Interested? If you'd like to come or just want to talk about it to find out more, please contact either John Clayton (01454 612641) or Hamish Orr-Ewing (01454 610081)

The Great Olveston Wine Challenge

One of the most popular events of the local social calendar, the OPTA wine challenge, is on **Friday 15th April at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall**. We challenge you to test your knowledge of wines - and your ability to distinguish them. You will be served a selection of anonymous, and hopefully delicious, wines and all you have to do is match the wines to the descriptions on your answer sheet. The evening is sure to be great fun - it always is.

It's £12 for OPTA members and £14 for non-members, to include all the wines and some tasty nibbles. Last year some folk couldn't get tickets, so to make sure of your place please buy in advance - call Noel on 01454 614099.

Movies at St Mary's: March *Trevor Anderson*



The Movie Club in **St Mary's Olveston** now has more than 250 members and sometimes it's a squeeze to get a good seat. So come early - doors open 30 minutes before the films start. You can always indulge in a glass of wine or soft drink whilst waiting in your seat. (*In how many cinemas are you invited to*

do that?).

As I'm sure all readers now know, we show films for the 'grown-ups' on the first and third Monday evenings of each month and for 'children of all ages' every Monday morning during school holidays. Everyone is welcome to all the films (you don't need to be a Movie Club member) and there is no need to book. Admission is free, although a **donation** at the end towards expenses is always welcomed and appreciated.

MONDAY MOVIES (*Recent releases and popular classics*)

Mon 29th Feb at 7.30pm: (Our 'March' movie is at the end of Feb; if it hadn't been a leap year, it would have been on 1st March!) Despite just two albums, she was one of the biggest music icons in British history. With a voice often described as a combination of Billie Holiday, Dinah Washington and Sarah Vaughan, she was a pop star with soul. But while her music made her a star, her chaotic personal life stole headlines. This is her story in her own words and features unseen archival footage and unheard tracks. (*2015, Cert 15*)

MONDAY MOVIES EXTRA (*Quality 'non-mainstream' films*)

Mon 21st Mar at 7.30pm: Teenage maths prodigy Nathan, diagnosed at an early age as being on the autistic spectrum, struggles to connect with those around him. In a world difficult to comprehend, he finds comfort in numbers. When he lands a spot on the British squad at the International Mathematics Olympiad, he discovers new confidence and new friendships. An original and heart-warming tale. (*2015, Cert 12*)

CHILDREN'S MOVIE CLUB (*Every Monday morning in the hols*)

Easter Mon 28th Mar at 10.00am: CGI and live action comedy adventure from the makers of 'Despicable Me', featuring the voice of Russell Brand as the Easter Bunny. A bright and breezy film with first rate animation, although some of the jokes are a bit weak. A film for the younger children. (*2011, Cert U*)

Refreshments available at all the shows, plus licensed bar in the evenings and popcorn, soft drinks and biscuits in the mornings.

For copyright reasons we can't name the films here, but if you **join the Movie Club** we'll send you titles and full details by email. It costs nothing to join – just email me at trevoranderson@btinternet.com.



Calling All Egg Hunters!



Olveston Pre-School is raising funds with an **Easter Egg Hunt** around the village during the school holidays (**25th March-10th April**). Simply pick up a map from Olveston Stores (£2 per map per family) and follow it at your leisure to find eggs decorated with letters to solve the anagram puzzle. Return the map and your answer to the Stores, where you will receive an Easter treat as well as the chance to win a bumper chocolaty prize.

Happy hunting!

Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

150 Club Winners February 2016:

£50 Dave Gardner
£15 Alex Grosvenor
£5 Roger Rowen

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners: All recent numbers unsold.

Diary Dates:

Senior indoor nets are at Castle School starting **Thursday 31st March 19:30 - 21:30 through to Thursday 28th April**. All players intending playing senior cricket this season are welcome.

The ever popular ODCC day at the races is back!

Cheltenham Race Meeting - Weds 13th April 2016, £45 per person:

10am	Breakfast Roll at The Fox Inn
11am	Coach Departs ODCC
12pm- 5pm	Races
6pm - 8pm	Buffet (At a venue in Montpellier, Cheltenham)
9pm	Return to ODCC

Enquiries, and to book your place, contact Dave Gardner,
dave.gardner@gillmansmain.com

Update from A Forgotten Landscape

There's been lots going on at A Forgotten Landscape (AFL), the Heritage Lottery funded project run through South Gloucestershire Council. AFL aims to work with local people to conserve, restore, enhance and explore the natural and cultural heritage of the Lower Severn Vale Levels.

Projects are at the heart of what we do and we are currently looking for people interested in getting involved in the latest ones. Full and free training comes as standard!

Tales of the Vale - A project in two parts

The two strands of this project – one exploring the past with Historian Virginia Bainbridge, one collecting living memories with Oral Historian Julia Letts – aim to help more people enjoy finding out about the past. Both strands will come together in a new publication called 'Tales of the Vale' and a travelling exhibition in 2018. As a volunteer in this project, you will have the chance to learn from and be mentored by Virginia and Julia in a hands-on programme of doing research, collecting, and sharing the histories you find. No experience necessary!

Fruit of the Vale: Traditional orchards their wildlife

AFL wants to find out about the health of the remaining orchards in this area through a simple survey, and we need your help to do it. Your work will contribute to the People's Trust for Endangered Species' nationwide orchard surveying project and help save traditional orchards and the thousands of animals they support.

Working with Water Voles - a monitoring project

Water vole numbers have plummeted nationally by a shocking 95% since the 1980s. However, one of the most significant populations of water voles in the West of England makes its home in A Forgotten Landscape. They are looking for volunteers to help monitor these fascinating elusive animals.

Great Crested Newt monitoring project

Starting in April, AFL will need volunteers interested in inspecting ponds and water courses for Great Crested Newts. The aim is to increase our knowledge of where these protected animals exist in the project area in order to conserve and safeguard our local colonies.

For more information on AFL, including volunteer role descriptions and application forms please go to www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk. Or contact Katie on 01454 863 043 or at Katie.scaife@southglos.gov.uk. Sign up (on the website) for our newsletter and get all the news first!

Wanted! Young Achiever

The Rotary Club of Thornbury is looking for a young achiever to join other 16 to 18 year olds on an all-expenses-paid six day long "Leadership Course" to be held in the Forest of Dean this summer.

Whether you are a student or have started work the course will give you a memorable, enjoyable and unique opportunity to learn and develop your leadership and communication skills, as well as your self-confidence through a series of outdoor practical exercises supported by theory and classroom discussion with some forty like-minded young people.

This Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) Course is to be held at the Dean Field Studies Centre, Parkend, in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, from Tuesday 26th July to Sunday 31st July 2016. The successful candidate will be sponsored by the Rotary Club of Thornbury.

Now in its 13th year, the RYLA Course has proved to be a valuable and rewarding experience for all who have participated. The RYLA Certificate awarded at the end of the course is a valuable addition to your "CV".

Full details of this exciting opportunity and application forms are available on the RYLA website www.ryla1100.org or by contacting Rotarian David Thomas on 01454 613962 www.thomas11a@tiscali.co.uk to whom applications should be sent by the end of March.

St Peter's Hospice Coffee Morning

St Peters Hospice Severnside Support Group would be delighted to welcome you to the **Spring Coffee Morning in the Thornbury Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 9th April at 10.00am.**

Home-made Cake Stall, Books, Crafts and Raffle. Entrance £2.00 to include tea/coffee and cake. Please come along and support St Peters, your local Hospice.

From the Registers of St. Mary's Olveston

6th January 2016: Funeral Service, followed by burial at St. Mary's Olveston, of Joan Organ.

5th February 2016: Funeral Service followed by burial at St. Mary's Olveston, of the Reverend George Edwin Fooks (Ted).



Unwanted Foreign & Old Coins Appeal

The back of drawers, in sofas - we all have little corners we have not looked in for ages: please have a look and put your old coins to good use. It will enable RP Fighting Blindness to continue giving help and support where it is needed. The Used Stamp Appeal continues, and Gina and Ron would like to say a big thank you to all who have sent stamps previously. If you have not, but would like to send us your used stamps, please do. (If you can trim outside the perforations we get more money for them.) Also unwanted collections are welcome.

Do you belong to a group or club that has speakers? Would they like someone to come along and give a talk? The talk is designed to be interesting, informative, and humorous, (we do not charge for the talk) so please feel free to contact us.

Ron and Gina Pritchard 22, Huckford Road, Winterbourne, Bristol, BS36 1EA
Tel 01454 772927 or email bristolsglofightingblindness@gmail.com
www.rpfightingblindness.org.uk Registered charity no 1153851

Give Golf A Go?

THORNBURY GOLF CLUB is running free taster sessions for youngsters aged between seven and 18 who are interested in giving golf a try, or developing their existing game. The GIVE-GOLF-A-GO day will be held on Thursday March 31 at the golf club off Bristol Road and will include professional tuition in the driving range and on the putting green, as well as a chance to play on the Severn View (par 3) course.

Youngsters who show potential could be selected for coaching scholarships. There will also be a chance to win free membership. There are two two-hour sessions planned – at 10am and 2pm – but space is limited, so pre-booking is essential.

Visit www.thornburygolfclub.com to download a registration form or contact the organiser Carol Weeks on 417439 or email merrymead@talktalk.net. Clubs and balls will be provided.

Thornbury Food Fairs 2016

Hard to believe it, but this is the 8th year we have held our quarterly fairs in Castle St. They have gone from strength to strength, bringing people from far and wide into Thornbury to appreciate what a lovely place we live in. Stalls have come and gone but there is always a great show of quality local produce across the board, with the added bonus of all the gift stalls at our Christmas event.

This year's dates are:

26th March - Easter Saturday. So a chance to avoid the traffic jams that the Bank Holidays inevitably bring to our roads and buy something delicious and local to eat at home;

18th June - the day before Fathers' Day. So ideal to buy something a bit different for your favourite father;

10th September - time to treat yourself as we get back into the usual routine after the chaos of summer holidays; and finally

3rd December - which gets us all into the Christmas spirit and offers an opportunity to buy something that little bit different.

So come and join us, bring your friends and family to make a day of it. Meet old friends and neighbours and enjoy the best food the area can bring. Usual time, usual place - **Castle Street, 10am until 2pm** - and we look forward to seeing you all then.

Fascinating Rhythm and The Mendip Male Voice Choir

WILL BE PERFORMING THEIR

CHARITY CONCERT

at The Castle School, Park Road, Thornbury, BS351HT

on Saturday 5th March 7.30 pm start

Tickets are £10 , £8 for Seniors, £6 for under 16's

Tickets can be purchased from our box office at

www.fascinating-rhythm.com



All proceeds will be going to the
Riding for Disabled Association
- local Patchwork group -
Gloucestershire West



Are you interested in “The Blues”?

The Thornbury Branch of the WEA, the UK’s leading voluntary provider of adult education, will be offering the following day school in the local area:

C3526587: The Story of “The Blues”

Date: Saturday 7th May 10am – 4pm

Venue: The Chantry, 52 Castle Street, Thornbury BS35 1 HB

Tutor: Andrew Bazeley

Cost: £32.

Through his own playing, early recordings, photographs and testimonies, Andrew will explore the social history which brought about this strange and influential music, and help students to define what ‘The Blues’ actually means, and why it is so instantly recognisable and important.

No prior knowledge or experience is necessary for this day school. All adults are welcome.

Enrol and pay online at www.wea.org.uk

Or for more information or to book a place, ring 0845 4582758.

Local contact: Kate on 01454 610071.



Northavon Youth Theatre Company

Thoroughly Modern Millie

We're celebrating twice over! We've just won a coveted Rose Bowl Award for *Best Youth Production, 2015*, with our stunning version of *Sunshine On Leith* and we've also reached an astonishing milestone: 40 years of presenting superb youth productions. So come and join more than 40 Students of the Northavon School of Drama, who perform as the Northavon Youth Theatre Company, in a lavish 40th ANNIVERSARY production of the 1920s madcap musical: *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at **Thornbury's Armstrong Hall, from 23 to 26 March, 2016, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday evenings, with a 2.30 pm Matinée on Easter Saturday.**

It's 1922 and young ladies are flattening their chests, raising their skirts and bobbing their hair, in pursuit of modernism, and another naive young lady (Millie) arrives in New York from Kansas, determined to follow the 'modern' grand plan: find a job as a Secretary and then marry the wealthy Boss.

Unfortunately, the owner of Millie's dingy hotel is involved in people trafficking, while the man Millie actually falls for appears to be penniless (or should that be dimeless?) and can the quaint, well-spoken new female arrival really be as innocent as she appears? Add in a curmudgeonly Stenographer, a glamorous, yet kind Stepmother, plus two Chinese illegal immigrants and you have the perfect mystery, tinged with romance, just waiting to be discovered!

Interwoven throughout the story, we hear such catchy tunes as *Forget About The Boy* and *The Speed Test*, with a nod to Gilbert and Sullivan, plus surprisingly beautiful ballads like *I'm Falling In Love With Someone* and the heartrending *Jimmy*, or the Billie Holliday style number: *Only In New York*. Social commentary on *How The Other Half Lives* is balanced by an astonishing Chinese rendition of the Al Jolson favourite: *Mammy!* The Jazz Era features in *They Don't Know* and *What Do I Need With Love?*, but the Moderns win out with crazy numbers like *The Nuttycracker Suite*, which might just sound familiar, plus the unforgettable tap dancing extravaganza: *Thoroughly Modern Millie!* Our nine-piece Band accompanies frisky Flappers, dashing male Dancers, a vile Villainess, a bombastic Boss, a mêlée of Moderns, illegal Aliens, White Slavery, a slinky Speakeasy and a myriad of madcap Merriment, brought to you through Tap, Charleston, Black Bottom and Soft Shoe routines, while magical sets and hundreds of colourful costumes provide a visual feast!

As always, enthusiasm reigns supreme, so join us for this hilarious musical. Just ring our Box Office number: 07980543691, send a postal booking with SAE to BONDS of Thornbury, 14 The Plain, Thornbury, BS35 2BD, or call into Wildings, in Thornbury High Street from 7 March. Bring 10+ friends to this double celebration and get a 10% discount, with Family Tickets available for the Saturday Matinée! Find us on Facebook, Twitter or visit: www.nytc.org.uk for more details.

Can You Help NYTC?

Over its 40 year existence, the **Northavon School of Drama**, whose Students perform as the **Northavon Youth Theatre Company**, has built up not only an enviable reputation, plus many theatrical awards, but also through numerous grants, sponsorship and hard work, it has amassed stocks of Scenery, Properties and Costumes - all needing **storage space!** About 20 years ago, a kind Rockhampton Farmer made a unit (ex-Stable!) available to us for the princely sum of £4 per week, which he has never increased, understanding we operate as a community based organisation, guided entirely by volunteers and giving young people an exciting opportunity of learning all aspects of Stagecraft, taking part in Musical Productions, Showcases and Concerts.

We now have thousands of beautiful and useful costumes in our 'Wardrobe', but all good things come to an end, and as the units are about to be

demolished, we have been given notice and desperately need **YOUR** help! Please can anyone offer us Costume Storage at reasonable rates? Current dimensions are 23' x 14', roughly the size of a large garage, and it needs to be clean and dry for our recently sorted and clearly labelled collection. We have our own rails, shelving, crates and boxes, plus a dehumidifier and fluorescent lights. All we need is a suitable space, in or around Thornbury, so if you can help, please email Lyn at nytc@blueyonder.co.uk or ring 01454 884154.

Gospel Choir Concert

On **Saturday 19th March at 7.30pm** the **Thornbury Gospel Choir**, together with the two other branches of the Gospel Generation Community Choir network, invite you to an evening of inspiring gospel music. It will be held at Thornbury Baptist Church and will be an informal, fun, free concert with refreshments. For more details call in at the church office, ring 01454 419118 or visit www.ggcc.org.uk.

Charity Dance Show

Sharon Phillips School of Dancing teaches children tap, modern and ballet dancing from the age of 18 months old to 18 years old, and also provides Adult Tap and Ballet lessons.

On 29th, 30th and 31st March 2016 we are performing our Dance Show at The Olympus Theatre, New Road, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8LP. The show involves 200 children from the school from the age of 2½ to 18 years old, showing tap, modern and ballet dancing.

We perform our show every 2 years and always choose a charity to support. Our charity this year is CICRA which supports children and young adults with Crohn's and Colitis (www.cicra.org). Last time we raised £4000 so we are hoping to do the same again. We are also trying to bring awareness to these chronic illnesses as there is still no cure.

The children have been practising their dances since January. They are all working very hard and are extremely excited about the show.

Our classes are based in Patchway, Alveston and Thornbury, but children from all surrounding areas (from Filton, Bradley Stoke, Almondsbury, and Olveston, to Tytherington) attend lessons.

If anyone is interested in purchasing tickets for our show, or would like information on joining either our children's or adult classes, our contact details are 07989 652780 or via our Facebook page.

Yours Faithfully

Michael Matthews
The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL

How often have you heard the phrase “Do you want the good news or the bad news”?

Well, not many of us can escape or ignore the world in which we live, which unfortunately seems almost full of bad news, suffering, disasters, one crisis after another - and so I could go on.

There is a verse in the Bible that portrays so many aspects of the causes of the current conditions in the world : *“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God — ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power..... 2 Timothy 3:1–5*

So nothing takes God by surprise!

So what about some good news? Did you know that the word ‘gospel’ that we read in the Bible can be translated into English as ‘good news’?

Here is some from God Himself: *“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.” 2 Peter 1:3–4*

And from the mouth of Jesus: *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33*

To know to what ‘things’ Jesus is referring you will need to read the Gospels for yourself.

Exempt from life’s troubles we will not be, but to know the reality of the presence, promises and power of a loving heavenly Father is what Jesus made possible by His completed work; His life, death, resurrection and ascension. And to be assured and convinced that the best is yet to come is some good news you need to take hold of for yourself - and what better season of the year to do so. May the true message of Easter impact your life.

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Mar 6	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Family Service with Choir	Rev H Webb & E Mead
	6pm	Evensong	Mr Denis Jones
Mar 13	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Morning Worship with Choir	Mr Trevor Cook & The Rt Rev Ian Brackley
	10am 6pm	Breakfast Club Holy Communion	Breakfast Club Team Rev P Rowe & P Harrod
Mar 20	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
	10am	Palm Sunday Procession & Holy Communion with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe & Rev Ian Tompkins
	3.45	Back to Front	Paul Harrod
	6pm	Evensong	Mr Trevor Cook
Mar 24	7.30	Agape	Rev D Bone & J McBride
Mar 25	12.30	Walk of Witness	Rev Philip Rowe
	2pm	Last Hour with Choir	Mr Denis Jones
Mar 27	6.30	Dawn Eucharist	Rev Ann Lloyd
	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev David. Bone
	10am	Easter Eucharist with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe
	6pm	Evensong (BCP)	Rev Philip Rowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

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

Rev Roly Bain for Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals 01454 616593.

Verger: **Mrs. June Robbins**, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 2.45pm in the Chancel

WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION: At 9.00am led by the Rev. Roly Bain except 4th Wed when it is at Olveston Methodist Church

Morning Prayer 8.30am daily ex. Wed

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Mar 13	5.30	Holy Communion.	Rev Ann Parker
Mar 27	5.30	Evening Service	Rev Ann Parker

Focal Minister: **Rev Ann Parker**, 01454 632329

e-mail annatdibley@btinternet.com

Church Wardens: Jon Burnett 633835 & Jenn Dickens 632035

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Mar 6	9am	Matins	Mrs Tracey Black
Mar 20	9am	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl
Mar 27	9am	Holy Communion	T.B.A.

Contact Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Mar 13	9am	Matins	Sandra Edgerton
Mar 27	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Anna Hansell

Contact Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Mar 6	10am 6pm	St Mary's Olv. Ch.	Mothering Sunday Service St Andrews Filton join for a Service led by Rev Pete Brazier
Mar 13	10am	Olv. Ch	CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE led by Rev Iesinga Vunipola
Mar 20	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Rev Pete Brazier
Mar 27	10am	Olv Ch.	Easter Day Holy Communion led by Superintendent Minister Rev David Alderman

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wed. 9th March.

To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP meets at 12.15pm in the Swan on Thurs 17th March. To book please ring 613241 or 612112

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

PRAYER MEETING Tuesdays 9.00-10.00 in Olv. Methodist Church.

HOUSE GROUP Thurs 17th March 10.30am at 7 The Green Olveston

THE OLVESTON COMPUTER CLINIC Olveston Methodist Hall

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

Ring 07833 354672 or 07957 433091 for further information.

CREAM TEAS Served on Tockington Green or in the Chapel on Bank Holiday
Monday 2.30-5.00pm

CONTACT: Rev Pete Brazier Tel 01454 418176,

e-mail pete@thebigfishcafe.co.uk

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

We meet in a relaxed, informal manner for worship, prayer & conversational Bible studies incorporating Communion, on Sundays at 10.30am and Mondays and Wednesdays at 7.30pm We also visit other Churches and events so please check our Notice Board or contact .

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

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Mar 6	6.30pm	Michael Bryant
Mar 13	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Mar 20	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies
Mar 27	6.30pm	Courtney Harris

Each Thurs at 7.30pm Prayer & PraiseTime

For further information please contact **Ceri Morgan-Davies** 413043

Paul Ashford, 07774 110 814 or email: **Paul@CalebGroup.net**

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Family Worship 11.00am

For more details contact Ann Roberts 632564.

e-mail : **ann.roberts@bylanes.co.uk**

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Evening Worship every Sunday at 6pm; for details tel. 413247

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury -

Sun 8.30am Mass 11.00 Family Mass

Monday-Friday Daily Mass at 10am

Tel 01454 412223 **www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk**

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Meeting for Worship Sundays 10.30-11.30: The Hanover Room, The Chantry, Castle St. Wheelchair accessible. Children welcome with prior notice.

Local contact: Roger Howell at **rogerhowell2@talktalk.net** 01454 415035

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

Diary Dates for March 2016

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

1 st Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Uncertain Severn Talk AF L(see Feb MPt)	10.30-12.00 7.30pm	DGCL WHLS
2 nd Wed	Computer Clinic every week Holy Communion at Daldry Gardens Table Tennis O.P.H.S. Alveston Royal Deer Park?	10.00-12.00 2.30pm 7-8.30pm 7.30pm	MH DGCL PH MC
3 rd Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-1pm 9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15	OST MH
4 th Fri	Women's World Day of Prayer at Oasis Ch Computer Clinic every week St Peters Hospice Quiz Swimarathon 'til Sunday 7 th	10.15 7.00-9.00 7.15	MH AH
5 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
6 th Sun	Tea & cake for Mothering Sunday Bingo every Sun at Sports & Social club	2.30-5.30 8pm	TCh
7 th Mon	Computer Clinic every week	2-4pm	MH
8 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café W.I. Aust Parish Council	10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45 7.30pm 7.30pm	DGCL TMH PH EVH
9 th Wed	Severn. Vale. Flower Club Demonstration Table Tennis	2pm 7-8.30pm	AH PH
10 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers S. Glos Ladies Lunch Club in Almondsbury Thornbury & District Flower Club	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 12.15 7.30pm	OST MH OSH TMH
12 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00	AVH MH
15 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	7.30pm	CH
16 th Wed	Beat Surgery Coffee Morning Table Tennis Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	10.30-12.00 7-8.30pm 8.30pm	MH PH
17 th Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Parish Hall A.G.M.	9-1.30 9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 7.30pm	OST MH PH

18 th Fri	CRUK Quiz at Manorbrook School	7.30pm	
19 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
21 st Mon	Severn. Vale. Flower Club Practice Monday Movie Extra	1.30 7.30pm	AH StM
22 nd Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café	10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45	DGCL TMH
23 rd Wed	Table Tennis N.Y.T.C. 'til 26 th Thoroughly Modern Millie Alv. Local History Soc Medieval Chepstow	10.30-12.00 7.30pm 7.30pm	MH AH AMC
24 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Olv. Parish Council meeting	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 7.30pm	OS+ MH AP
26 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
27 th Sun	Aust Quiz Night at Boar's Head	7.30pm	
28 th Mon	Cream Teas at Tockington Children's Movie	2.30-5pm 10.00	TCH StM
29 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	DGCL
30 th Wed	Table Tennis	7-8.30pm	PH
31 st Thu	Coffee Shop	10.00-12.00	OS+

Looking ahead to April

15 th Fri	Great Olveston Wine Challenge	7.30	PH
16 th Sat	Spaghetti Bolognese Quiz	7.30pm	StM

KEY: AC Aust Church; AH – Armstrong Hall; AMC – Alv Meth. Ch.; AMH- Alv Meth. Hall; AP – Alexandra Pavilion; AVH – Aust Village Hall; ; CH – Cossham Hall; Chy – Chantry ;CS Castle Sch.CTK Christ the King DGCL – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; EVH – Elberton Village Hall; LVH Littleton Village Hall MH – Olv.Meth.Hall;OMC Olv Meth Ch OS – Olv. School; OS+ – Olv. Stores; OV – Olv Vicarage; PH – Olv Parish Hall; StM St Mary's Church, Olv.; StMA Almondsbury Church StMTSt Mary's Thorn TCh Tock Chapel; TBCh - Thornbury Baptist Church; TMH – Thorn. Methodist Hall; ; WR – Wesley Rooms.WHLS White Hart L-O-S

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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