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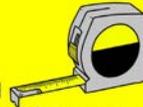
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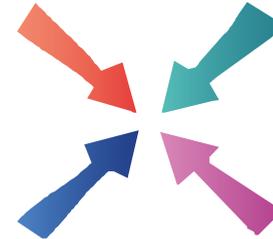
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# Meeting Point

**Volume 48, Number 6, March 2024**

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

Another beautiful cover this month with cheerful bright coloured daffodils taking centre stage. Images like this make us believe that blue skies and warmer weather are not too far away. If you want to see more spring flowers, we have details of a local 'Open Garden' where you will be able to see them in all their glory. I shall certainly be visiting.

We are very lucky to have a good selection of advertisements in each edition of Meeting Point. Not only does the revenue from these adverts finance the production of the magazine, but they also provide readers with a useful source of information about a range of local services. When my washing machine broke down recently, I went straight to the magazine to remind myself of the name and details of the local company I had used previously. If you want something sorted, fixed or replaced, look here first and, if you use one of our advertisers, do let them know you found them in Meeting Point.

*Marelin*

This month's cover is by Les Harper

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

**Meeting Point magazine and Meeting Point Directory are online at the  
Community Website: [www.olvestonandaust.com](http://www.olvestonandaust.com)**

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# Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, Emma Frost (Betty) will be celebrating her 100th birthday.



Betty was born in Kingsteignton in 1924, the youngest of three siblings. During the Second World War she was called up to work in the Filton factories, making Spitfire parts. This was where she met her husband, Charles, and they moved into their house in Tockington. Betty still lives there now - 65 years later! Betty also worked for many years at Lansdown Coaches in Tockington, opposite the Green.

Betty has 2 sons, 6 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. They all love her dearly and wish her a very 'Happy Birthday'.

*Betty aged six*



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

Don't forget - if you're not in, you can't win!



## Monday Movies

### Monday 4th March

Venice, Italy, 1947. A famous Belgian private detective (star of TV and film) played by Kenneth Branagh, awakens from a nightmare. He has retired from detective work and currently lives in post-World War 2 Venice, but people continue to hound him for help in solving mysteries due to his past reputation. Our hero is now accompanied by a bodyguard, a former police officer, who keeps the people from pestering him. But now add in - orphanage - seance - curse - Belsen - and the scene is set for an exciting, and sometimes scary, movie.

Monday Movies in St Mary's, Olveston, is a community event and admission is free (though donations are always welcome!). Doors open at 7pm and the film starts at 7:30pm

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## Green Force



**Did you know that there is a St Mary's Churchyard Group?**

This is a group of volunteers who maintain and care for the churchyard through most of the year. They represent a real example of village community effort, and it is much appreciated by the many visitors who pay tribute in memory of family and friends. Access is tidy and welcoming for those who choose to marry at church too.

The work means regular mowing through the summer months. The area needing attention is roughly one acre. The mowing is done with great effort and with the use of four mowing machines. It is not a straightforward task as most of the graves have stone boundaries at ground level. The machines undergo maintenance in the winter to keep them in good working order, which is also done by volunteers. The awkward areas are strimmed. The flagstone paths around the building are sprayed with herbicide twice a year, and the boundary hedges are cut. Some years ago the main boundary wall against the road was cleared of all invasive weeds and repointed at great cost, so it is now carefully monitored to keep it clear of weeds.



The group, under the leadership of Chris Smart, endeavours to be mindful of the environment by not mowing the spring bulbs, primroses cowslips and daisies, and other naturally growing wildflowers when they are in season.

There is an area by the memory wall that is designated for No Mow May. It is left to grow for the summer and then strimmed in the autumn. It was very exciting to

find just one orchid in flower there last year.

There are also piles of sticks and old wood in various places throughout the churchyard to provide cover for any wildlife. There is a hedgehog box which so far has been adopted by a local cat. Mounted on the north face of the church building are several swift boxes which we hope will encourage the swifts to take up residence when they arrive every April. There is an established colony at the local school nearby, so they might appreciate some more homes in the future.



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# Update from Marlwood School

Seema Purewal, Headteacher



**Marlwood School**

*"Staff know pupils well and build positive relationships with them."*

*"The school has high expectations of pupils' behaviour and achievement."*

**This is a 'Good' school**

[www.marlwood.com](http://www.marlwood.com) [MarlwoodSchool@CSET.co.uk](mailto:MarlwoodSchool@CSET.co.uk) Tel: 01454 862525

I am delighted to announce that at the latest inspection, which took place at the end of 2023, Marlwood School was awarded a 'Good' grading by Ofsted. Marlwood is a wonderful community school, and it was fantastic to have this recognised by the inspection team. The report states, "staff know pupils well and build positive relationships with them" and "the school has high expectations of pupils behaviour and achievement".

This is due to the hard work of a committed staff team who have remained focussed on improvement despite a very challenging 10-year period for the school. I would like to acknowledge the tenacity and resilience of our wonderful staff body and students for their part in this journey – as always, they did us proud! A particular mention to our colleagues from Castle School Education Trust (CSET) who worked closely with us to strengthen our practices. We are looking forward to the next chapter in the Marlwood journey with renewed vim and vigour!

If you would like to come and find out more about the school, then please get in touch at [MarlwoodSchool@CSET.co.uk](mailto:MarlwoodSchool@CSET.co.uk)

We also have social and theatrical events across the year that everyone is welcome to attend. The next event is the ever-popular Marlwood's Got Talent which is taking place on Friday 8th March. See details on the next page.

Please keep in touch with what is happening at the school at [marlwood.com](http://marlwood.com).

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## Marlwood's Got Talent Returns for 2024



**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm,  
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More information about Friends of Marlwood is on our Facebook page:

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## Olveston and Tockington WI.

During our WI meeting in March our WI member, Mandy De La Mare, will be talking about 'Living with Thalidomide'.

At each meeting we have a small raffle and competition which raise funds for the charity we are currently supporting, Missing Link <https://missinglinkhousing.co.uk>



Olveston and Tockington WI meet at 7.30pm at the Parish Hall. Usually this is on the second Tuesday of the month. If you would like to join us, please contact Angela Green on 01454 615222. Scan the WI QR code to find out more about joining the UK's largest women's membership organisation.



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## Olveston Fun Run

This is advance notice of the Olveston Fun Run, to be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April, open to all runners of any age and ability. Take part in a 5K run around the local area or a 1K colour run around Olveston Primary School field.

There will also be family friendly stalls and refreshments (including bacon baps) for supporters to participate in this community event. This is an open event, not just for families of children who attend Olveston Primary School. Early bird tickets are available – secure your place today.

Contact: [olvestonfunrun@gmail.com](mailto:olvestonfunrun@gmail.com)

## U3A Thornbury

Thornbury and District U3A is holding its next New Members' Welcome Meeting on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 from 3.30pm in St. Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Road, Thornbury, BS35 1DR and they would welcome anyone who is interested to come along to find out more.

Have you recently retired or reduced your commitments leading up to retirement? Are you new to the area and looking to make new friends? Thornbury U3A promotes keeping us mentally and physically engaged and active in an enjoyable and friendly atmosphere.

'Learn, Laugh and Live' is the U3A motto and aims to provide opportunities for members to do so without having to travel too far or enrol in expensive courses. We have over 1500 members and around 85 different groups meeting at various venues throughout the area, but there is always room for more.

Our Groups mainly meet during the day and interests range from Archaeology to YOYO (You On Your Own). Some meet weekly, others less often, and they include physical activities, wine tasting, lunches out, crafts, board and card games, language lessons, organised visits to gardens and churches, concerts and theatre as well as purely 'educational' topics.

Details of all our groups can be found on our website:  
[www.thornburyu3a.org.uk](http://www.thornburyu3a.org.uk). Please come along as we would love to meet you.

For further information visit our website or phone our Membership Secretary, Pat Light on 01454 412260 or our Chairman, Roger Steer on 01454 294371.

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## Wagtails

Paul Godwin

It is true to say these birds do exactly as their name suggests - they wag their tails! The reason why is unclear, some say that when they wag their tails it disturbs insects enabling them to source food, others say it is a behaviour developed for social signalling, but I do not think there is any firm evidence as to why. There are two types of resident wagtails in the UK, the pied and the grey wagtail. They are also joined in summer by the yellow wagtail which spends its winter in North Africa.

What prompted this article was that I was lucky to observe a grey wagtail near my home in Olveston. Locally they are seen much less frequently than its close family member, the pied wagtail, which is common across the Meeting Point area in various settings such as fields, roof tops and even in car parks.

The grey wagtail is a very beautiful bird with lemon-yellow underparts and blue-grey upperparts. Care is needed not to confuse it with the yellow wagtail which has green-yellow upperparts. The bird in the picture below is a female as she has a white throat, the male bird's throat is black. This photograph was taken on Olveston Common 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



## Dave Webb

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Wagtails are mainly associated with high ground areas where water feeds into fast flowing rivers or streams. A typical setting would be perched on rocks amid the flowing water, waiting to catch insects as in the photograph below.



This photograph is of a male bird. It was taken on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 on the River Bovey, Dartmoor. You can clearly see the difference between the male and female birds.

In winter, birds from further north will fly south and they can be seen drinking and feeding in lowland areas such as ours, around the rhine systems. The grey wagtail is known as a partial migrant as during a mild winter it may move south in the UK and stay resident, but if we have a cold autumn and winter then some may move as far south as North Africa. The population in the UK fluctuates and it is currently on an amber conservation watch list. Its population was in serious decline around 2015 when it was placed on a red list, but this has now begun to stabilise. There is estimated to be a population of 37,000 pairs. I would imagine that as we move into spring those birds on The Common will move back to upland areas, maybe Dartmoor, Exmoor or The Brecons.

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The pied wagtail is much more common. I think it is a bird you are quite likely to hear first as it has a characteristic call, a loud 'chirrup'. It is an attractive black, grey and white bird with some differentiation between the sexes. This photograph was taken on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 near Littleton on Severn



On the ground it can be seen chasing insects, where it favours short grassland or concrete areas. I once saw a flock of approximately 300 in Morrisons car park at Cribbs Causeway. It is believed that they have learnt that supermarket car parks are an easy source of food - not only because of the food we drop, but the insects which are attached to our cars. They are a bird which is comfortable in both rural and urban environments and in winter they can also form large roosts to keep warm, sometimes up to 4000 birds.

It is said that wagtails are a sign of bad weather - and we have certainly had plenty of that. So, whilst I hope we see plenty of wagtails in our area in spring, I am hoping that they bring fine weather with them as well.



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# Oveston Parish Council

Pat Savage

## Oveston Development Proposals

By the time the March edition of Meeting Point is published, the consultation date will have passed. Parishioners will be aware that a guide to contributing to the Local Plan was distributed to all households. The Council will continue to update parishioners on future developments.

## Website

Whilst we had hoped that the new website would now be up and running, we have experienced some teething problems which have caused delays. We are now confident that the launch date will be 1st May.

## Annual Precept

The Council agreed a figure of 7.5% at the December meeting. This equates to £6 per year, i.e. just under 12p per week. This will enable the Council to proceed with the various projects which it has already earmarked.

## Jubilee Medal

Whilst it may seem a long time since we celebrated the late Queen's Jubilee, the Council arranged for medals to be given in the first instance to all schoolchildren in the villages at the time. However, there are some medals remaining. Should any parishioner wish to avail themselves of one, please contact: [pat.savage@olvestonparishcouncil.com](mailto:pat.savage@olvestonparishcouncil.com)

## Bell Ringers Needed

The tower bells at St Helen's, Alveston, and St Mary's, Oveston, have gone silent! We need new ringers to form a team to enable the bells to ring out again. Philip Coward (St Mary's Tower Captain) has kindly offered his time to meet those who would like to learn more. We need to get a group together who could ring at both churches. Practice times could be weekly, but you would not be required to ring every Sunday.

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## A Community of Creatives

For over 60 years Thornbury Art Club has been a place for people who love to paint together and share experiences in a friendly atmosphere. Our monthly events are a perfect opportunity to meet local creatives while listening to accredited artists give talks, instruct and demonstrate their particular techniques. Tea and biscuits during the breaks are the best part, of course.

We have weekly studio groups where we can create, share, learn or just relax in the company of others. We don't always need to paint but might enjoy meeting for a coffee with like-minded people or maybe go out sketching. If you think this might be for you then explore our brand new website [www.thornburyartclub.co.uk](http://www.thornburyartclub.co.uk) Then, if you would like a taster without any obligation, come along to one of our evening demos or pop in to a studio group and see what we're about. Whether you're a professional artist or just like painting for fun, we'd love to see you.

### Our March club night is Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>

Sky Arts Landscape Artist of the Year winner Finn Campbell-Notman will be demonstrating his work. With Finn's varied and diverse background in the arts, this should be a fascinating evening. We welcome any visitors or prospective new members, £6 on the door. 7.15 for 7.30pm.

For more details visit our new website [www.thornburyartclub.co.uk](http://www.thornburyartclub.co.uk), [www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub](http://www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub), email: [publicrelations.tac@gmail.com](mailto:publicrelations.tac@gmail.com) or tel: 01454 414433

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## The Experience of Travel in the Bristol Channel 1420-1820 *Jenny Newley*



Philip Ashford is coming back to Olveston Parish Historical Society this month to talk about four centuries' worth of people traveling in the Bristol Channel. His research has entailed delving into diaries, government papers, memoirs and business accounts.

His talk will focus on Pill and Minehead, the main Bristol Channel ferry ports, and will describe the main reasons why people of all sorts came and went in the Channel. Troop movements were common. People (mainly Quakers and Methodists) traveling on Christian Mission were another significant category of passenger. We'll hear about other motives for journeys too.

Philip will tell us what it was like waiting for a wind at Pill and waiting on board anchored ships in the Channel. The effect of wind, pirates, drunkenness, war, sand banks and leaky ships will all be considered. And Philip promises what he calls 'ripping yarns' to give the whole thing an authentic flavour. Come along and discover whether you'd have been brave enough to put to sea.

Everyone's welcome. Non-members: £3. Free tea/coffee/biscuits available before the start of the meeting. [www.olvoston.com/historical-society](http://www.olvoston.com/historical-society)

**Olveston Parish Historical Society, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm at Olveston Methodist Church, The Street, Olveston BS35 4DR**

## News from Littleton on Severn

**Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup>**

Village Hall Fundraising Auction. White Hart from 7pm

**Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>**

Vintage, Antique and Craft Fair. Village Hall 10.30 - 3pm

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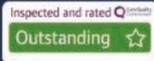


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## St Peter's Hospice

### Coffee Morning

St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group would be delighted to welcome you to the Spring Coffee Morning in Falfield Village Hall on Saturday March 23rd at 10.00am.

Please come along and support St Peter's, your local Hospice, and celebrate the start of spring. Homemade cake stall, books, and a raffle. Entrance £3.00 to include tea/coffee and cake.

### Calling all Knitters

Do you knit, or belong to a Knit and Natter Group? If so, would you consider helping St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group with some knitted chickens which are sold locally, after being filled with a crème egg.

If you can help at all please contact Mary on 01454 412567, who can supply a pattern and any information required. Any colour wool can be used, we like a variety of coloured chickens...thank you.

## Old Down Cricket Club *Tony Gardner*

### 150 Club Winners February 2024:

£50 Angus MacDonald  
£15 Roger Riggs  
£5 Simon Higgs

### Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

13/01/24 Russell Knight

Up the Down!

## Alveston Gardens Association

Meetings will be as usual at 7.30pm on the first Monday of the month at the Jubilee Hall Alveston.

March 4<sup>th</sup>: Madagascar, its unique plants and animals, by Duncan Coombes.  
April 1<sup>st</sup>: Rosemary Verey 1918-2001, by Margie Hoffnung.



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## Tea and Chat.

Do you find it difficult to get out and socialise? Would you like to meet other people for tea and cake once a month? Transport is provided and it's all free. The March Tea and Chat will be on Friday March 1st at 2.30 at Oasis Church in Old Down.

For further details or to request transport please telephone:  
Lynn 01454 612201 or Lesley 01454 613804  
Hope to see you soon!

## Easter Egg Hunt



Woodhouse Park Activity Centre invites you to their Easter Egg Hunt on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March, which is a great day out for everyone. The Easter Bunny has hidden clues for your young ones to find while you enjoy a walk around the beautiful grounds. When you've finished your walk, head back to reception to collect your egg prize. Trail costs are £6 per child and £2 per adult.

Outside reception there will be stalls selling hot dogs, mini pizzas - cooked in the new pizza oven - and go kart racing, all of which can be booked and paid for in advance when booking. Hog dogs or mini pizza £2 and go kart ride £1. The Centre shop will also be open for a selection of cakes, snacks and hot or cold drinks, toys and souvenirs.

The Easter Egg Hunt is one of two events the Avon County Scouts Charity hold where the centre is open to the public so, if you've ever wondered what lies behind the 'Welcome to Woodhouse Park' sign, please come along.

For bookings and information: <https://woodhousepark.org.uk/events/easter-egg-hunt/>



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# News from St Mary's

Debbie Harries



Themes from the Pilgrim Course will be the sermon subject at all morning services during Lent:

3rd March 'Do you believe in his son Jesus Christ?'

17th March 'Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?'

24th March 'Do you repent of your sins and renounce evil?'

## Mothering Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>

All welcome to join us for our family service at 10am with the guides and brownies. Posies of flowers will be distributed during the service.

## Easter Services

### Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> 7pm

Maundy Thursday Agape Supper. This takes the form of a Passover meal and Holy Communion. The ingredients of the meal will be locally sourced. If you would like to attend please contact Debbie Harries email [oboe-debbie@live.co.uk](mailto:oboe-debbie@live.co.uk)

### Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> 2pm

The Last Hour. Good Friday service of readings and music, led by St Mary's choir.

### Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup> Easter Day

Holy Communion 10am

We look forward to welcoming you to St Mary's over the Easter weekend.

# From the Registers of St Mary's

Friday January 19th

Funeral of William Gunary

Thursday January 25th

Funeral of Patrick Ward

Tuesday January 30th

Funeral of Eric Garrett

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# St Mary's Music

We are delighted to announce the re-establishment of the monthly Sunday afternoon concerts at St. Mary's Church, Thornbury. These concerts ceased at the time of the pandemic, and it is good to see them up and running again. The concerts will take place on the third Sunday of each month, starting at 4.00pm and lasting approximately an hour, followed by refreshments. Entry is free, but there will be a retiring collection. All profits go to the Choir and Music Fund of St. Mary's Church

On March 17<sup>th</sup> The Harlequin Singers from Bristol will perform.  
Up to date information can be found on: [www.stmarysmusic.org](http://www.stmarysmusic.org)



## Khrystyna Mykhailichenko

We would like to introduce you to Khrystyna Mykhailichenko, an exceptionally talented concert pianist, who has performed around the world.

Khrystyna is an 18-year-old Ukrainian pianist, who was born in Simferopol, Crimea, Ukraine. Her career began in early childhood when she displayed such tremendous talent that she started performing when she was only five years old. Since then she has won international piano competitions, mastered an extensive piano repertoire with 15 recital programmes, and been the soloist with symphony orchestras worldwide more than 40 times. Her premiere solo with the full Sevastopol Orchestra was at the age of 8.



After the Russians occupied Crimea in 2014, Khrystyna's family was forced to flee to Kyiv where she studied at the State Music Lyceum until 2022.

In March 2016, after winning three international competitions in one month, aged 10, Khrystyna continued her studies in Kyiv with Professor Alexei Grynyuk, who said, "Khrystyna's gift is stronger and more powerful than

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anyone I have ever been able to work with before. This is a performer of the highest level." She has attended The Royal Academy of Music in London.

There are two performances in Thornbury:

Friday 22nd March at 1.00pm and Saturday 23rd March at 7.30pm in the United Reformed Church, Chapel Street, Thornbury, BS35 2BA. Tickets from AAGThornbury@gmail.com Tel. 01454 850933.

Programme for Friday 22nd March at 1pm.

L. van Beethoven – Piano Sonata No. 4op.7in E flat Major.  
Borys Lyatoshytsky – Shevchenko Suite.  
Tickets. Adults £12, under 18 students £8 under 12s free.

Programme for Saturday 23rd March at 7.30pm

J.S. Bach – French Suite N. 5 in G Major BWV 816  
L. van Beethoven - Piano Sonata No. 4op. 7 in E flat Major  
R. Schumann – Humoresque op. 20  
Tickets. Adults £15, under 18 students £10, under 12s free.

Proceeds from the concerts will go to Bristol Aid to Ukraine

## Garden Opening for NGS Charities

Stoneleigh Down, Upper Tockington Road, Tockington BS32 4LQ



Su and John Mills are pleased to be opening their garden for National Garden Scheme Nursing and Health Charities between 12.00 and 4.00 on Monday 1st April, Easter Monday.

If the weather behaves itself there should be plenty of daffodils, tulips and fresh leaves on the trees. A delightful Springtime display.

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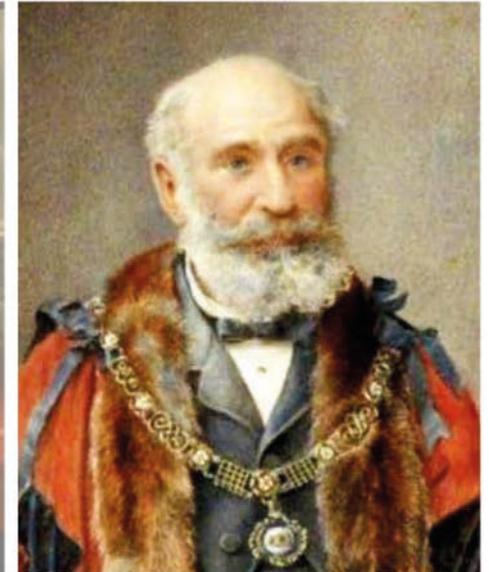
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## Handel Cossham Bicentenary

Son of a joiner and builder, Handel Shepherd Cossham (shown below aged 24, and as an older man) was born in Thornbury two hundred years ago, on 31st March 1824.



Instead of following in his father's footsteps, he became a clerk in a colliery and taught himself about the geology of the local coalfields. He went on to become a leading colliery owner in this area and a substantial employer. He was also a lay preacher, temperance advocate, educationalist, politician and public benefactor. On the day of his funeral it was estimated that 50,000 people were present at the cemetery, or lined the route.

Cossham never forgot his native town. In 1862 he paid for the setting up of a British School at Gillingstool, and then, in 1888, he gifted the former Wesleyan Chapel building to the people of Thornbury for use as a public hall.

"Handel Cossham - Thornbury's Man of Substance" is the first exhibition of 2024 at Thornbury and District Museum.

The Museum is next door to the Cossham Hall in Chapel Street and the new exhibition includes the story of the Cossham Hall – the Wesleyan Chapel he donated to the town – one of the most historic buildings in the town.

Our opening hours are currently Tuesdays and Fridays 1-4pm and Saturdays 10am-4pm. Entry is free. All are welcome!



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## Nutty Noah



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Bringing his own brand of side-splitting nuttiness to the Methodist Church Lower Hall in Thornbury, Nutty Noah's award-winning show includes cheeky original songs and amazing magic. Nutty Noah mixes music with humour and plays some very unusual instruments, one of which he invented himself. Nutty Noah is one of the most in-demand family entertainers in the country, which has won him the title 'The King of all things silly' (Ben Elton).

Grab a seat grown-ups and have as much fun as your kids. As seen on CBBC's The Slammer, Crackerjack and Channel 4's 8 out of 10 cats does countdown. Don't miss this hilariously amusing live experience, a treat for all the family.

The Armstrong Arts Group presents two performances, 11.00am and 2.00pm, on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April, at the Methodist Church Lower Hall in Castle Court off Thornbury High Street. Tickets from [AAGThornbury@gmail.com](mailto:AAGThornbury@gmail.com) or phone 01454 850933, £10 for adults and £5 for children under 16.

## March at Thornbury Library

**The Red Herrings will be performing 'The Pirate and the Parrot'**  
Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2pm  
Tickets (non-refundable) on sale from Eventbrite and the Library.  
Refreshments included.

**Hugless Douglas** Enjoy a story, some songs, and a hug with Hugless Douglas  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 9.30am (Rhymetime)  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 11am (Family session)

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## Yours Faithfully

*Revd. David Moss  
North Severnside Benefice*

In my previous church, on Easter Sunday morning, the organist placed at the top of the highest pipe, a beautiful paper butterfly. It was a powerful symbol of the resurrection. Jesus risen, buried in a tomb in a state of death and dormancy, cocooned, he emerges from the dead, triumphant on Easter Day.

As the organ was played the colourful paper wings flickered in the draft. The words to the Easter hymns reminded us not only of Christ rising from the dead, but also of our inner need for transformation so that we can shine with God's love in the communities we live in.

One Easter Sunday morning a man in his 50s was baptised. He told us it had taken a lifetime to find Jesus. He shared his own new spiritual awakening. Like the butterfly's emergence from the cocoon, he told us that his life had completely changed. God had bought new colour, new joy, new friends, new love, and a new purpose into his life.

I found his message challenging. Unlike the butterfly it is so easy for us as human beings to climb back into the cocoon, to forget the bright colours of the love that God gives us. I was reminded of my need to renew my spiritual life. I was invited to dip my hands into the font, to put the sign of the cross on my head, to remind myself of the vows made at my baptism and to pray that God might bring love, beauty and colour back to my life.

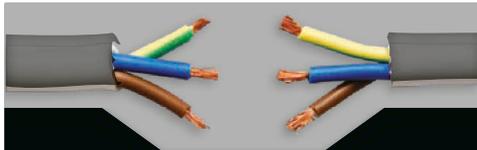
For a moment my mind wandered. I thought of the testimony of others now gone, whose faith had inspired mine. In the fluttering dance of the paper butterfly, I brought to mind all the joy they had given me, and I was sad at their loss.

Then I was reminded that the resurrection was not just for Jesus but for all who believed. That the hope of the Christian faith was not just inner transformation but physical too. Christ rose from the dead and we will be changed like him. That for all who trust in Jesus Christ life does not end.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3.16





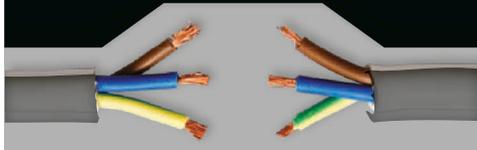


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# Church News

NB British Summertime begins Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March  
ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Mar 3	10am 6pm	Holy Communion Evensong	Rev David Lloyd Rev David Lloyd
Mar 10	10am 6pm	Mothering Sunday Holy Communion	Revs Ann Lloyd Rev David Bone
Mar 17	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Janet Mc Bride Rev Ann Lloyd
Mar 24	10am 6pm	Palm Sunday, HC No Service	Rev Ann Lloyd
Mar 28	7pm	Maundy Thursday	Rev David Bone
Mar 29	2pm	Good Friday Stations of the Cross	Rev David Moss
Mar 31	10am 6pm	EASTER SUNDAY No Service	Revs Bone & David Lloyd

Every Saturday in Term Time, 'REFRESH', 4.30-5.30 Fun, relaxed church for families, all welcome. Every Wednesday, Holy Communion, 10am. NB. Clergy may change.

Contact: Rev David Moss, 01454 415190 mossds@gmail.com

## CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Mar 10	10am	Mothering Sunday	Trevor Cook
Mar 24		No Service	
Mar 31	10am	Easter Communion	Trevor Cook

Contact: Trevor Cook, 01454 618442

Church Wardens: Jenn Dickens 632312 and Jon Burnett 633835

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

Mar 10	9am	Mothering Sunday	Rev Ann Lloyd
Mar 31	9am	Easter Communion	Tracey Black

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

**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON**

Mar 10	9am	Mothering Sunday	Judith Heybyrne
Mar 31	9am	Easter Communion	Judith Heybyrne

**Contacts:** Judith Heybyrne 616725

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

**OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH**

Mar 3	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Rosalie Doyle
Mar 10	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship with HC led by Rev Dr Simon Edwards
Mar 17	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Rev Sharon Lovelock
Mar 24	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Jenny Clark
Mar 31	10am	Tock Ch	Worship for Easter Day led by Adam Biddlestone

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

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

Meeting at 11am every Sunday and on the 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 2.30pm.

**Contact:** 07512 917229, [thevine\\_awkley@hotmail.com](mailto:thevine_awkley@hotmail.com)

**THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN**

Services at 6.30pm every Sunday. All are welcome.

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

**AUST EVANGELICAL and LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCHES**

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

**RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING**, Thornbury - Mass on  
Sundays at 9.00 and 10.30am  
Tel 01454 412223, [www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk](http://www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk)

**SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)**, Thornbury  
**Contact:** Chris Willmore, [chriswillmore@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chriswillmore@blueyonder.co.uk)

## Diary Dates for March

Information believed to be correct at going to press.

1 Fri	First Friday Community Café. Haven Memory Café. Every 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri. Tea and Chat	10-12 10.15 2.30	TMC URC OC
2 Sat	Park Run, Mundy Playing Field every Sat.	9am	
4 Mon	Monday Movies	7.30	StM
5 Tues	Over 60s Coffee Morning every Tuesday Citizens Advice every Tuesday 10-12 Macular and Low Vision Group Thornbury Art Club every Tuesday RBL Women's Section Severn Vale Flower Club	10-12 10am 10.30 1.30 7.30 7.30	DGCL TTH TMH SMCH DGCL SMCH
6 Wed	Table Tennis every Wednesday OPHS: Travel in the Bristol Channel 1420-1820	7pm 7.30	OPH OMC
7 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop 'Good Afternoon Choir', every week Thornbury Art Club, every Thursday	9am 9-12 1-3 1.30	StM URC SMCH
9 Sat	Coffee Morning at Olveston Methodist Hall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturdays	10-12	OMH
11 Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club, demo	2pm	SMCH
12 Tues	Thornbury Memory Café. Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday. WI	10.15 7.30	TMH OPH
14 Thurs	Coffee Shop	10-12	StM
15 Fri	Haven Memory Café.	10.15	URC

16 Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30	OMH
21 Thurs	Coffee Shop Thornbury Farmers Market	9-12 9am	StM
23 Sat	Coffee Morning	10-12	OMH
26 Tues	Thornbury Memory Cafe Olveston Parish Council meeting Thornbury Art Club 'Club Night'	10.15 7.30 7.30	TMH QAMP SMCH
27 Wed	Alveston History Soc. Lighthouses of the Bristol Channel	7.30	AMC
28 Mar	Coffee Shop	10-12	StM
29 Fri	Good Friday		
31 Sun	British Summer Time begins	2am	

KEY: **AMC** - Alveston Methodist Church, **AMH** - Alveston Methodist Hall, **CS** - Castle School, **CTK** - Christ the King, **DGCL** - Daldry Gardens Community Lounge, **EVH** - Elberton Village Hall, **OC** - Oasis Church, Old Down, **OMC** - Olveston Methodist Church, **OMH** - Olveston Methodist Hall, **OPH** - Olveston Parish Hall, **QAMP** - Queen Alexandra Memorial Pavilion, Old Down, **StM** - St Mary's Church, **StMT** - Thornbury St Mary's Ch, **SMCH** - St Mary's Church Hall Thornbury, **TCC** - Turnberries, **TMC** - Tockington Methodist Church, **TMH** - Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, **TTH** - Thornbury Town Hall, **URC** - United Reform Church



**Contact details** for any clubs or organisations in the Meeting Point area can be found in the Meeting Point Directory on the community website: [www.olvestonandaust.com](http://www.olvestonandaust.com). If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: [meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com](mailto:meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com)

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