

Meeting Point

Volume 33, Number 8, May 2009

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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**Material for June 2009 to
Editor or Deputy Editor by
14th May**

From a grumpy Editor

After a pretty stiff gale that blew overnight Tuesday 7th April, I found I had no landline connection at all on Wednesday. After checking that my phones weren't off the hook, I used my cell phone to call BT Faults (not free on mobiles) to be told by an automated voice that my line had been checked and that it was functioning satisfactorily! I could find further help online – useful advice when you haven't got a connection. The trick is not to press options 1, 2, or 3 as requested but to keep hanging on until an Indian voice eventually answers. At last - a human being who believes you do have a problem and will get an engineer to ring you (on your mobile).

Unfortunately for me that is not the end of the story – I have a connection of sorts but not enough to run broadband properly which made putting this issue of Meeting Point together somewhat problematical.

For those of you who do have a decent internet connection, have a look on our website at the lovely photographs of our area supplied by Peter Haworth. You can also see pictures of the successful Oklahoma production.

Our cover this month is by Neil Cairncross, courtesy of Olveston Parish Historical Society

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.**

Village Person - Peter Floyd

Pat Thirkettle

Peter's family lived in Bristol for generations until the Second World War. They were bombed out of their house in Cotham when Peter was eighteen months old and lived in Thornbury until 1944, when they moved to Tockington and rented half of Cross House - Kenny's corner! When he was five Peter started walking up Old Down Hill to the school at the top, now known as Westons. He still bears the scar from falling in the playground which was solid rock! At the age of eight he walked up Washingpool Hill to catch the bus to Thornbury Council School in Gillingstool, and then moved on to Thornbury Grammar School in Thornbury (which is now Marlwood School).

Meanwhile, his father, a commercial artist, obtained permission to build a house on Sunday's Hill in Almondsbury, where his parents lived for thirty years. Peter left school at sixteen because in those days you only needed 'O' levels to study architecture. He studied for four years on day release, while working in architectural practices in Bristol, followed by two years full time and one year in an office doing professional practice.

After a spell in London he took a postgraduate Civic Design course at Edinburgh University, before joining Bristol City Council Planning Department, where he led production of the new City Centre Policy report, in the mid sixties.

Peter then spent a year lecturing in Urban Design at Hong Kong University where he wrote his planning thesis – about Bristol, completing thirteen years of study to become both architect and town planner. He decided that Britain was best and returned to work for Bristol City since they had asked him to join a special team to prepare a study of the Severn valley, an area of 2,500 square miles. He then returned to the City Council for five years becoming head of Urban Studies.

Meanwhile he had met and married Tessa and they set up house in a tiny flat over a cafe on Whiteladies Road. Peter moved into private practice, their children Will and Sally were born and by now they were living in a small house with a tiny garden in Clifton.

Peter always knew about the small cottage in Old Down called Maryland. At this time it had been empty for fourteen years, was derelict and the garden a wilderness. It was where Gwen Hicks, who had looked after him as a child, had lived and was just what they wanted in order to bring the children up with plenty of space, but it took Peter four years and two planning appeals before permission was granted. The building work was completed and they moved in 1979. Thirty years later, after much hard graft, the house sits overlooking the Sheepcombe valley, amid six acres of delightful woodland garden.

Peter has remained heavily involved in Bristol affairs and continues to do so since retiring in 2000. He has, amongst a variety of voluntary jobs, been President of Bristol Zoo and Chairman of Bristol Civic Society, when he was closely involved in a campaign which planted 2000 trees in Bristol streets. He is currently president of the Canynge Society supporting the fabric of St Mary Redcliffe Church, which

is similar to his involvement, over the last twenty years, with the Fabric Committee of St Mary's Olveston.

The project 'Building for the Future' is the culmination of five years work, in which Peter produced sketches of what was possible. Public views were sought and many alterations made, in fact the final brief was Revision 'H'! The scheme has now been drawn up by a firm of architects, Architecton, and is nearly complete. Funding is in place except that we, as a parish, are required to repay a loan of £80.000 from the Diocese. Fund-raising is going full ahead and already there have been many contributions. The church is the biggest and most beautiful building in the parish and the vision is to provide a building for community use, as well as Christian worship, fit for the twenty first century.

Will and Sally were both married at St Mary's and Peter and Tessa have their first grandchild, Esme, who is a year old. Other interests are friends, gardening (he does the building and Tessa does the real gardening), travel, drawing and painting, when there is time!

Aust Parish Clerk

Tom Fothergill has served Aust Parish Council for nearly 25 years as Parish Clerk. He is a valued contributor to our deliberations, based on his wisdom, experience, and local knowledge. Now he is looking to retire and we are seeking a replacement. It will probably appeal to someone interested in local affairs, and the job does attract a modest salary. I would be pleased to hear from any potential applicant.

Mike Hawkins, Chairman Aust Parish Council,
mike@brookcottage.info/tel 418249

Tockington Chapel

Fund-raising for Christian Aid:

On Thursday May 14 at 7.30 there will be a Quiz Evening. Team tables for four are £10 or an individual ticket is £2.50. The price includes refreshments in the Wesley Rooms. To book a table, please ring Trevor Watkins (416528) or Jennifer Bone (614601).

On Saturday May 9: 10.30-12 noon. Coffee morning., with proceeds to Christian Aid. Small Christian Aid exhibition.

Craft & Gift Fayre

This is in aid of Breast Cancer Care & Research,

Saturday 20 June 2009 10.00 am to 4.00 pm at Tockington Parish Hall.

Entrance by donation. Refreshments and Ploughman's lunches available.

Please contact Mary Slader on 07747 562264 or mezzas@fsmail.net for more information.

Poplars Golf Society

Richard Panes

Are you a budding golfer who doesn't want to be tied to a golf club due to lack of time then Poplars Golf Society maybe the answer. The Society was formed when my brother Simon ran a golf range at Poplars Farm in Pilning Street. After an initially successful start to the range, competition in the shape of Thornbury and Hambrook forced the closure of the range ten years ago and many of us felt this would spell the end of the Society as well.



We shouldn't have been so pessimistic as it is still thriving with over 50 members to its name who come from local villages, Bristol itself and even a couple of members from Somerset and the Forest of Dean. One of the main reasons for its continuing good health was the boundless enthusiasm and hard work put into it by

Graham Scull who was its chairman but who sadly passed away last year.

The society runs an event most months of the year visiting golf courses locally but also going further afield to courses in surrounding counties. It also runs a main tour which has ventured to mainland Europe in the past but this year is taking place in the UK. To complement this trip there is a mini tour which is also staying within these shores.

Although there is a competitive element when the events take place we pride ourselves in not taking things too seriously and to make sure that taking part is seen as an essential part of the day. We have golfers with single figure handicaps but also some at the higher end as well. The age range is also wide ranging from those in their teens to one of our longest serving member who is now into his eighties. The cost of joining is just £12 and then members may play in as many or as few events as they wish. Every year we have a chosen charity and since the society was formed we have raised over £20,000 for different organisations. This year we are planning a special event in memory of Graham on June 12th and for anybody who would be interested in being involved on that day or becoming a member please contact me on 01454 618468.

Quiz Night

The school will be holding their annual Quiz Night again this year on **Friday 8th May**, in the main school hall. Teams of up to 6 people are welcome, at a cost of £2.50 per person.

We invite you to bring your own drinks and nibbles and there will be a prize for the winning team. To book your teams place please contact Marie King on 01454 419330, mobile 07887652381 or email marie@customwrap.co.uk.

Marie King, Chairman Friends of Olveston School

OKLAHOMA!

Jennifer Bone

"A once in a generation masterpiece" says the sleeve of the LP record which introduced the music of Oklahoma to a world-wide audience in the 1950s. The original stage show opened in Broadway in 1943 during the dark days of the Second World War, and the story, set in the context of the new state of Oklahoma, caught the post-war mood of optimism. The Olveston Parish Players therefore set themselves a real challenge this year, "the most demanding production that we have undertaken" as the Chairman of the Company, Phil Savage put it. All concerned rose to the occasion, and the cast's evident enjoyment in their task communicated itself to their audience in full measure.

Oklahoma! has a happy and forward looking theme, expressed in its music, words and action, but it is not sentimental. The various characters have strong personalities, and the story line is dependent upon the contrasts. One of the strengths of this production was the effectiveness with which the entire cast, in parts both large and small, conveyed their various roles.

The similarities and differences between the two pairs of lovers were skilfully displayed by Mike Jones and Louise Luft as Curly and Laurey on the one hand, and Phil Savage and Linda Chappell as Will Parker and Ado Annie on the other. As the unlovely Jud Fry, Phil Domaille gave an exceptional performance; from his first silent walk across the stage he generated an aura of menace, reinforced as the show proceeded, a sure indication of trouble ahead. By contrast, Aunt Eller's presence offered continuous re-assurance; Judy Jones' portrayal fully matched the demands of the role, and of the key moments which were in her hands, such as the auction of food baskets and nipping the farmer/cowboy fight in the bud. Pedlar Ali Hakim, played by Andy Black, could have persuaded anyone to buy anything. Those who see the show year after year now await with anticipation the 'cameo' spot for the Robbins' duo, which never fails to trigger an appreciative audience response, and this year was no exception.

Oklahoma's melodies are well known, and the quality of the music is crucial to its success. In the course of this show, the Director of Music, Chloe Alsopp-Jones, and her two fellow musicians had little respite, and their mutual understanding and the effective dovetailing of the contributions of the two key-board players, strongly underpinned the musical quality of the performance and the cast's singing. Jill Harris's choreography offered ample interest, remarkably so given the restrictions of stage space, and it was good to see the evident pleasure and confidence with which the new and younger members of the cast took to their task.

In her own programme contribution, director Linda Evans disclosed her particular affection for *Oklahoma!* The show, however, presents some real challenges; the dream sequence which concludes the first act and the drama of the show's conclusion were testimony to her skill, as well as to that of the cast. For any such production, there are more jobs to be done off-stage than on; wardrobe and make-

up, lighting, scenery, scene shifting, stage management, props, prompt, continuity, publicity and audience support on the night, all operated to the high standard which the community has come to expect.

Those of us who know members of the cast appreciate that all this is not achieved overnight. The high standards of presentation and performance stem not only from intensive months of preparation and rehearsal, but from the confidence and expertise built up over many years. The Parish Players have a remarkable track record, resting as it does upon a blend of professional in-put and amateur talent.

Oklahoma! was, of course, a sell-out. How can the Players cap it next year?

If you would like to view photos of the show look on the parish website:

www.olveston.com/photo-galleries/olveston-parish-gallery.

Calling all budding artists!



Volunteers' Week

Celebrate with

Thornbury

Volunteer Centre and enter our Poster design competition.

Volunteers' Week (1-7 June) is the UK's annual celebration of the work volunteers do. During the Week events are held across the country to recognise, reward and recruit volunteers. It plays a huge part in raising the profile of England's 22 million volunteers while encouraging others to get involved.

Once again Thornbury Volunteer Centre in conjunction with, and sponsored by, St. Mary Centre is holding a children's design competition with cash prizes of £20, £15 and £10!

Split into two age groups of 7-11 years and 12-16 years, the competition is open to any child living in the Thornbury area. We would like a drawing, picture, painting, collage, computer generated poster or similar which highlights what volunteering means to either individuals or groups of people, the local community or the environment. It could be a drawing of someone walking a dog, a collage of someone gardening, a poster asking for volunteers or anything which you feel shows the work of volunteers and the spirit of volunteering – it's up to you!

Entries must be submitted on A4 paper with names, addresses, contact telephone numbers and age of the child on the back and either posted to Thornbury Volunteer Centre, The Town Hall, 35 High Street, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2AR or handed into the office. Closing date for entries will be Wednesday June 10th.

The entries will be on display at the Volunteer Fair which is being held in St. Mary Shopping Centre, Thornbury on Thursday 18 June from 9am-1pm. After the Fair they will again be on display in the St. Mary Centre and the winning entries will be published in the Gazette newspaper. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Thornbury Choral Society

Ruth Piolle

More magnificent music will be performed on **Saturday 16th May at 7.30pm**. The society strives to provide a wide variety of music for the very faithful audience it has built up. This concert is no exception. Two very different works are on the programme:- Duruflé's harmoniously soothing Requiem and Rutter's rousing and exuberant Magnificat.

Duruflé's requiem is well grounded in the Gregorian plainsong chant of the Catholic Church. Its haunting melodies and sophisticated harmonies transport you to the ancient monasteries of old and instil comforting reassurance.

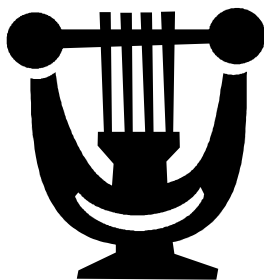
Rutter's Magnificat on the other hand sends one out whistling the tunes and dancing along the way. Syncopated rhythms and strong melodies and a hint of musical theatre are all there as well as the beautiful and haunting setting of the 15th century poem "Of a rose, a lovely rose".

All this and more will be performed by Thornbury Choral Society under the able leadership of their conductor, Steven Kings accompanied by Peter King, organist at Bath Abbey. Susan Atherton (Mezzo-soprano) is the soloist.

So, come and experience a wide gamut of human experience and some wonderful music on Saturday 16th May at 7.30pm at the Castle School Thornbury.

Tickets £ 10 (£9 concessions) under 16 £1

available at The Town Hall Thornbury, from choir members, by phoning 01454 411652, or on the door.



Music in the Church at Aust

Saturday 16th May at 8pm

Brilliant local guitarist Keith Hyett and poet Patricia Eades live near the estuary down river from Aust, flanked by a riverscape of sea marsh and shallows.

This setting, between the two bridges, inspires them both. Keith's music is visual in impact, and whole sets of pieces are based on features in the landscape. He also bases his work on poetry, and a shared delight in 17th Century English verse and folksongs brought Keith and Pat together. Of her own writing Patricia says "I put impressions and ideas which strike me as significant into either stories or poems. Connections can fly together, and a poem is born."

Before their concert, Keith and Pat will hold a workshop on music, composition, poetry and writing in the Village Hall at 3pm. This is especially aimed at young people, but all are welcome and there is no charge for entry. Musicians, and particularly guitarists, should bring their instruments with them.

Keith and Patricia's concert will be at Aust church on Saturday 16th May at 8pm. Tickets are £10 full and £8 concessions, available from Peter or Gina Dobbins on 01454 632306 or directly from the Boar's Head, Aust, or Olveston Stores.

Music for a summer's evening -

Guitar and Recorder

Following the success of the gamelan concert and workshop last summer, Andrew and Jacob Warn now return for a concert of guitar and recorder music. Andrew Warn is a highly accomplished musician and teacher who has performed regularly as a soloist and as a conductor of music workshops from all around the world. Jacob Warn, 14, is currently studying both guitar and recorder at diploma level and he was recently awarded Thornbury Festival Junior Musician of the Year. He also studies violin. This will be the first full concert Jacob has given with his dad and the evening promises to be a stunning display of solo and duet playing, involving both guitar and recorder repertoire from baroque to jazz! The concert will be held at **St Mary's Church, Olveston** on **27th June 2009** at **7pm**. Tickets £5.

OPHS Oral History Project

Les Harper

February 2010 will see the 100th Anniversary of the foundation of the British and Colonial Aeroplane Company (BAC) in 1910. Olveston Parish Historical Society is celebrating this by gathering an oral history of the memories of local people who worked for any of BAC's descendent companies such as Bristol Aeroplane Company, BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce (Bristol), British Aerospace, Airbus, Bristol Cars, and many others. We have been fortunate to gain grants from South Gloucestershire Council to buy recording and transcription equipment and to partly support the costs of publishing a book which we think will be of great local interest.

We have already recorded several people and have a list of other "possibles" but we want to be sure that we don't miss anyone who has a story to tell. We are looking for inputs on any aspect of working life from the war-time period, or earlier, up to the present and in any capacity from engineering, design, manufacture, test, clerical or any other role.

We are not seeking technical accounts, just interesting stories. These can be any length. So far, the longest account we've had was around an hour, and the shortest some five minutes.

If you'd like to contribute your story please contact me:

Les Harper tel. 612304 or lesnjanet@hawlane.freeseerve.co.uk

Outings and Festivals at Thornbury and District Museum

In the 40th anniversary year of Thornbury Arts Festival, Thornbury and District Museum has created an exhibition celebrating **Outings and Festivals – in Thornbury and in the villages round about.**

The exhibition is packed with wonderful photographs of parades, carnivals, charabanc outings and festivities celebrating both local and national events, from over 100 years ago to the present day. Did you ever drape yourself on a carnival float – or do you know someone who did? Did you or any of your relatives sew costumes, raise funds, act, drive floats or charabancs, or carry out back-room duties at any of these events? Even if you weren't involved personally, this is a chance to see how people congregated to celebrate and have a good time during the last century.

The exhibition, along with the rest of the museum, is open from **1pm to 4pm, Tuesday to Friday**, and from **10am to 4pm on Saturdays**. The museum is in Chapel St, next to the Wheatsheaf pub and opposite the St. Mary's St. Car Park. Come along and experience the festival spirit!



St Mary's, Olveston

St Mary's Church Summer Fete 2009

We are delighted to announce that this **Summer's church fete** will be held again at Church Farm, Olveston, by kind permission of Mr John Cryer, and in St Mary's Church, on **Saturday 20th June at 2.00pm**. We hope for another sunny day with lots of action-packed entertainment and attractions to suit all ages and tastes.

There will be a whole host of traditional stalls, events and entertainments in the grounds of Church Farm, just one minute walk down the hill from the church.

We are also looking for people with new ideas who would like to become involved with this fun event and also, of course, those who would like to continue to help with the traditional stalls and activities.

Please contact Sian Slade on 419162 or Pauline Wright on 616312

We need to hear from you urgently.

Police Report

The priority for the SSCG Severn ward remains as horse and cart racing on the A403 Aust Road. For the month of March we have received one report of this for our area. However, they are known to race more towards Avonmouth which is covered by officers at Filton. We are working closely with officers to try and establish an alternative location. Officers have attended at the locations during these meetings and details have been taken of those taking part and I would like to say at this stage it is not just travellers racing their horses.

A suspicious vehicle was sighted in Olveston and other areas calling on businesses trying to sell ipods which were allegedly excess stock. An ipod was purchased and they later found that the ipod did not work. Please be aware that if anyone arrives at your house or business premises trying to sell such items they are probably fraudulent and if a deal seems too good to be true then it probably is.

We have two vacancies for a new Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Co-ordinator, one for Olveston South and one for Tockington. The role of the Co-ordinator is as follows:

A Co-ordinator is a member of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme who has volunteered to be the main contact point for the "Watch" and to maintain a sufficient number of contact people for an area and welcome new residents to join the scheme.

Tasks:

- To receive and distribute Ringmaster messages.
- To attend the six-monthly co-ordinators' meeting or to arrange for a Contact or scheme representative to attend in their place.
- To nominate new Contacts for the Scheme, should the need arise.
- To liaise with Police on behalf of the scheme on all matters giving rise to concern.
- To keep the Contacts and scheme members informed of issues, successes and advice by way of Newsletter, meetings or personal contact.
- To keep the NHW Administrator up-to-date on any changes.
- To organise the erection of NHW signs on completion of the relevant paper work.
- To respect the confidentiality of members' details
- To complete and return the annual Data Protection Health check form issued by the NHW Administrator.

Should a scheme cease to operate because no replacement Co-ordinator can be found, Neighbourhood Watch street signs must be removed within one calendar month. Members should be made aware that if they are claiming discount on their house insurance, they are personally responsible for notifying their insurance companies of the change in conditions. Criminal offences could be being committed should they fail to do this.

If anyone would be interested in taking on a Co-ordinator position please contact the NHW administrator via e-mail on bridget.whittle@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Crimes of interest to the community in March were as follows:

03/03 Criminal damage to a motor vehicle which was parked in Daldry Gardens, Olveston, whereby the body work was scratched.

06/03 Orchard Rise, Olveston: white substance believed to be brandy cream (!) sprayed onto a motor vehicle.

08/03 Criminal damage to a motor vehicle in Laxton Close, Olveston, whereby the bonnet was scratched with a key or similar thing.

11/03 An L reg burgundy Ford Fiesta stolen from The Green, Olveston. The vehicle is still outstanding as we write this.

19/03 Attempted burglary at Pool Corner, Tockington where the rear kitchen window was forced open and pots inside on the window sill were moved but the offenders gained no access. The offence occurred between 2pm and 10 pm.

19/03 Burglary at Manor Park, Tockington, where access was gained through rear patio doors and jewellery stolen. This offence occurred between 10 am and 8pm.

27/03 Theft of equipment from a property in Westmarsh Lane, Oldbury, including tools, electric net fencing and equestrian equipment.

TO REPORT ANY CRIMES PLEASE **PHONE 08454567000**. PLEASE DO NOT PHONE ME OR KELLY.

Roger Hopes, PC 3404, Neighbourhood Beat Manager, DC 125 Severn Vale
Phone: 0117 945 5959

Pilning Village Players forthcoming production – 13th – 17th May 7.30

“THE FARNDALE AVENUE MURDER MYSTERY”

by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jnr

Every drama group has experienced the horrors of what can go wrong on the night and the ladies of the F.A.H.E.T.G. (Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild) Dramatic Society are no different, with the possible exception that almost everything that could go wrong does! The scenery collapses, cues are missed, lines forgotten and the sound effects take on a strange note at times, as the ladies present their ambitious evening's entertainment with the cunning whodunit, “Murder at Checkmate Manor”. In the highly unlikely case you should get bored, there's a Film, a Fashion Show and a Murder Mystery Quiz complete with prize. The crunch comes in the denouement when the ‘murderer’, about to be revealed, has to rush home to bandage up an injured daughter. But Mrs Reece, doyenne of the group, rises above the slings and arrows of outrageous dramatics to save the situation and provide the final, inventive twist.

Performed at ***Pilning Village Hall***

Ticket Prices: £6.00 Adults, £3.50 Concessions

*If you would like to book tickets to see this truly hilarious show then call our booking line on **01454 633786***

Meeting Point apologises that the Olveston Parish Matters did not appear in the April issue.

Our Parish Matters

Andy Clarke

No doubt, like me, you scoured the pages of the last issue searching for the Parish Council's pearls of monthly wisdom and, like me, were disappointed to find no gripping local news about the beauty of hedgerow husbandry and the need for care for hedgerow dwellers like nesting birds.

Moving swiftly on, we hope that this current Meeting Point reaches you before April 30th as you will also have missed our early warning about the **Parish Assembly (Thurs 30th April!) being held at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Tockington**. The topical talk this year is by Richard Lloyd and is entitled, "Harnessing the Power of the Severn".

The Parish Council will also be unveiling a brand new publication to be released at the meeting and subsequently available at the usual public collection points throughout the Parish (free of charge!). This outlines the role of the Parish Council and will be central to an annual review of the Council practices. It is called, reasonably enough, "The Parish Council, a User's Guide". It can also be found on the website: www.olvoston.com under "Parish Council".

As springtime seems to urge us all to get out into our gardens, allotments and open spaces it is as well to note that the Best Kept Village Competition judging will commence from June onwards. Those of us who are inclined to support the village's aspirations can work towards that in our own gardens as well as satisfying our own horticultural urges.

Perhaps those of a less active mindset will seek quiet places to sit and contemplate, and to that end, it is good to report that South Glos has completed the repair of the bench near Daldry Gardens among our favoured resting points. Enjoy your springtime!

Jubilee Sailing Trust



Great News!! Our Tall Ship, Lord Nelson, will be in Bristol, berthed by Lloyd's Bank amphitheatre, on Saturday and Sunday 16th & 17th May.

Saturday is Open Ship for the local branch, family & friends, from 2 - 4pm, so do come along. On Sunday 10am-5pm, the ship is open for the general public.

Do come and look over our wonderful, special ship - it's amazing!

Peggy James, Bristol Branch

West Kington Gardens Day 2009

Sunday 17th May

Once again this year, the village of West Kington is opening a number of its gardens and welcoming visitors.

This beautiful village lies 2 miles north of Marshfield and is hidden in a steep Cotswold valley, through which runs the Broadmead stream. There will be a wide variety of gardens open (2 from the Yellow Book) some attached to larger houses, some to small cottages, others beside the stream. The village church (with its connection to the martyr Hugh Latimer) will be decorated and open.

This year we are again offering coffee, delicious light lunches and teas with home-made cakes. Amongst the other attractions are plant stalls and a demonstration of willow craft for the garden.

The gardens will be open from 10am to 5pm; tickets will cost £5 per person, children under 16 free. Proceeds from the day will go towards supporting West Kington Church and Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

For further information please contact Daphne Smith on 01249 782218

Friends' Walking Group.

We continue as usual on the first Tuesday of the month (except July and August).

May 5th: Clevedon - all day coastal walk, about 9 miles.

June 2nd: Watchet to Dunster - all day walk along the N Somerset coast using steam train. Free time and lunch in beautiful Dunster village. Walk about 7 flat miles. Telephone for lifts a couple of days in advance.

September: postponed – details nearer the time.

Volunteers needed to lead – full training given!

Dan Evans, Leader Friends' Walking Group. 625313.

Private Fostering

Anyone who is already looking after a child or children under the age of sixteen (18 if disabled), or is planning to do so, for 28 days or longer, where that child is not a close relative, will be classed as 'privately fostering' that child or children. This arrangement will have to be agreed by the Department for Children and Young People and an assessment will need to be carried out accordingly. If you are already doing this, or will be soon, please contact **01454 868008** for more details.

You can also find out more about this on: www.southglos.gov.uk/privatefostering

Thornbury Art Club

Superb Spring Exhibition “Serendipity IV” will take place at Wyevale Garden Centre (off the A 38), from May 8th to 13th, normal opening hours. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy and purchase a wide variety of original art-work. Do come and have a really interesting and relaxing outing.

Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church

Are you having a Spring Clean? or just about to have a turn-out? If you are, we are happy to take any items in good condition, suitable for sale at our annual Harvest Fayre ie. bric-a-brac, toys and books (but no clothes please). What's more, if you bring them to Tockington Chapel on any second Saturday morning of the month we'll give you a free cup of coffee! Maggie Spooner 01454 610053

Thanks- Joan White

May we thank our friends, neighbours and colleagues for the kind messages of sympathy and cards sent to us, her family, after Joan's sudden passing.

She spent some of her happiest years here at Olveston and made some wonderful friends. Your thoughts and good wishes gave us help and support when we needed it most.

It was good to know she had such good friends around her in this lovely village. Thank you once again from all her family.

Thanks

Frances Coleman sends sincere thanks to everyone who sent cards, flowers and good wishes during and after her recent stay in Southmead hospital. They were all much appreciated.

Thornbury Inner Wheel

There will be a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Palliative Care at Box Bush Farm Ingst, on **Wednesday 13th May at 10am.**

Stalls include Cakes, Plants, Books, Bric a Brac and a Raffle.

Please do come along and bring your friends.

Thornbury Camera Club

News and tips

Peter Haworth

News

An Exhibition of members work including mounted prints and digital images is on display in Thornbury Library as part of the Thornbury Arts Festival; the exhibition opened on the 13th April and ends on the 9th May.

With two Bank holidays in May, the club is reduced to two events: an external competition, the "Swansea Ten Club Battle" on the 11th and, on the 18th, a "Critique evening" to discuss members' work.

Tips

As well as taking photographs of instantly recognisable subjects there are many other photographic possibilities to create a fine image. Try ABSTRACT photography; it could be your chance to make - rather than take - a picture.

Your aim is NOT to present a realistic representation of a person or object but to find interest in shapes, colours, patterns and textures. Let your imagination run wild; an image doesn't have to "look" like anything familiar. You can find abstract images in nature by isolating or enhancing parts of natural objects such as plants, clouds, rocks, and water.

Be visually aware and look at the potential in the environment.

Reflections can be a good basis for abstract photographs; a photograph could be cropped showing only the reflections to produce a final abstract image.

A tripod would be useful for close up work, using a 50 - 60mm lens to capture some detail. A camera setting on aperture priority AE will allow you to choose a small aperture and to select a slow shutter speed.

Post-processing with an image editor, such as Photoshop, by using filters can enhance edges, add texture, exaggerate colour values and perform other magic. Extra saturation, sharpness, and contrast will increase the abstract appearance. Experiment. Have some fun and try digital abstract art photography!

Anybody interested in joining Thornbury Camera Club, contact me, Peter Haworth, 01454 612441 for details.

Thornbury Library News

Free silver surfer computer taster sessions – Friday 15 May, 10 - 12

As part of Adult Learners week, we will be running free taster sessions on the above date/time for absolute beginners or anyone with very limited computer knowledge. These will be on a one to one basis with the kind assistance of our Age Concern tutors. In addition, two of our staff will be on hand to provide help with using the library version of *Ancestry* family history software. Once again, this is aimed at beginners and unfortunately we cannot give detailed assistance on compiling a family tree.

To help us gauge demand, please contact the library to book a free place in advance but you could just turn up and we could help if there is a spare computer.

Home Library Service

If you enjoy reading but are housebound and unable to get to the library (even if it's a temporary incapacity due to an operation etc) or you find your library books are too heavy to carry home, our friendly and helpful home library service volunteers can bring library books to you in your own home. Just give the library a ring or ask a friend or relative to contact us on your behalf. Did you know you can also ask 'Four Towns & Vale Link Community Transport' to bring you to the Library? Just ask us for details.

Bank holiday closures during May

We will be closed on Monday 4 May and Monday 25 May.

Cricket Club News

150 Club Winners April:

£50 Grantley Browning £15 John Fox £ 5 Iain Murdoch

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

21st March: Kate Bridle 28th March: Richard Panes 4th April: Sylvia Gould

May Fixtures at The Park:

2nd May 1st XI v Bristol Pakistanis

9th May 2nd XI v University Staff

16th May 1st XI v Coalpit Heath

23rd May 2nd XI v Bitton

30th May 1st XI v Hanham

All matches start at 2.00pm. Spectators Welcome!!



Tony Gardner 07889 727729
www.olddowncricketclub.co.uk



Thornbury Carnival!

Saturday 4th July 2009

Do you belong to a local interest group (charity group, sports team, church group, seniors group, uniformed group etc.)?

If so, then regard this as an invitation for your group to get involved in the Parade leaving Castle School at 12.30pm. (You don't need a float - most will be walking entries.)

Or perhaps you'd like to organise a food market or a craft fair or a stall representing your organisation on the Mundy Playing Fields from 2.30pm? Pitch fee only £15, but you / your group will need to have insurance cover - we can help.

Perhaps you'd like to advertise in the Carnival Programme? Contact Margaret Goldring for details – email: thegoldrings@hotmail.com Or there is still scope for sponsorship of some of the attractions, too, ranging from £200, up to £5000! Or sponsorship in the provision of various essential services....

Special attractions:

A Spitfire aerobatic display and a visit from the Red Arrows, the Light Cavalry Military Band, Nailsworth Silver Band, lots of other music, ethnic dance groups, fun fair, displays from Bristol Cars Heritage Group and Rolls Royce Heritage Trust, children's entertainers, food market, craft fair, club and society stalls, and lots more!

Make sure the date is in your diary so that you are here and enjoying the carnival atmosphere!

Dave Goldring, Chairman, Thornbury Carnival Association

01454 883631 thegoldrings@hotmail.com

News



The good news is that the Armstrong Hall Committee (all of whom are Thornbury Town Councillors) and the ACT committee are talking to each other about the possibility of using the Armstrong Hall complex site to build a new performance centre. This is indeed a breakthrough.

contd

Wigan Girls Community Play

This project got off to a brilliant start when more than 200 people turned up at Turnberries to hear Barbie Davies talk about the plan.

Now rehearsals are in full swing with a cast and crew of 400 of all ages. Amazingly groups turn up knowing nothing and within a couple of hours the scene has shape and form and there is reasonable singing due to the efforts of musical director, Kate Phillipson-Masters and Barbie's incredible vision.

If you are a man, and just able to stand up, it's not too late to join up as pit men - they are in short supply! Just email jendennis@blueyonder.co.uk and you will be sent a script and rehearsal schedule.

A Visit to the Met Office

This is a synopsis of an article written by Mike Dowdeswell's sister when she attended an open day in April along with Totnes Townswomen's Guild.

"The Met Office relocated from Bracknell in Berkshire to Exeter in Devon in 2003 and I had heard many tales about the 800 or so egg-heads who work there – all with PhDs in physics.

But I wasn't prepared for either the short span of the Met's forecasting capability or the enormity of their shiny new building! It is a massive structure built along eco-friendly lines with energy saving air-conditioning (they just open the windows) and security tight enough for a presidential visit. It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defence.

What really surprised me is that despite the Met Office's proud boast that they provide forecasts world-wide and claim 90% accuracy for 24 hour forecasts and 85% accuracy for up to 3 days ahead, they do not have any confidence in predicting further ahead than that! My confidence in the Met Office evaporated completely when we were told that last winter was NOT unusually cold but only an example of the usual variability of weather.

The Met Office staff are obviously highly skilled at their jobs but I was met with blank looks of incomprehension when I asked if they factored in the lunar phases, apogee and perigee, or even the earth's aphelion and perihelion into their calculations. I told the Townswomen's Guild over tea that if this megalith of a building with millions of pounds of government funding was still unable to tell them whether or not it would rain in a week's time, we astrometeorologists could!"

Yours faithfully - boundaries

Rev Helen Webb

Imagine you're sitting on a park bench. Someone comes and sit at the far end. How would you feel? Then they move halfway towards you. How would you feel now? Then they move right next to you, so their face is only inches from your face. What would you do?

Imagine you look out of your window and your next-door neighbours are sitting in your back garden. What would you say to them? What would happen if, next day, you arrive home to find them sitting in the kitchen, eating food from your fridge with their children sitting watching your TV. What would you do? How would you feel?

Everyone has boundaries. No-one likes to be squashed, with other people hemming you in on all sides! We feel uncomfortable if people force themselves too close, invading our 'personal space'. Most people, too, have a place that they call 'home'. Somewhere they can go to and close the door behind them. They feel safe there. No one is allowed in unless they have permission. No one can take things unless they ask. If you want to be alone then you can be. If you want friends, then you can invite them in.

The church has a festival called 'Rogation Sunday' this year it falls on 17th May. Historically it was a day when the priest, in his robes, accompanied by all the villagers, went around the boundaries of each parish. Later this procession became known as the parish 'perambulation', or 'beating the bounds'. In the 19th century, even in many large towns, the vicar, the mayor and all the people would tramp around the exact boundary line of their village or town. If there was a hedge in the way of the line - they broke it down. If a house was built across the boundary line - then a window was broken and the mayor's mace passed through. If the boundary ran along the middle of a river, then the vicar and mayor would be put in a boat and would row along it. Often, at various points, boys would be 'bumped' (so that "they would well remember the bounds of the parish within which they dwell"). What on earth was all this in aid of?

The whole idea began well before Christianity. The Romans had a festival called the 'robignalia' in which the people went through their fields and prayed to the gods to protect their crops. They especially prayed to the god known as 'Terminus' - the god of fields and boundaries. When Christianity became the religion of Europe the festival continued, although Jesus now was the focus of prayers. A cross was carried around the boundary line, at various points the Bible was read or prayers said (the place where this was done was often called 'Gospel Oak/Thorn' or 'Amen Corner'). The purpose, though, was the same as in Roman times - to ask God's blessing on the crops and to check that no-one had trespassed in any way across the border of each parish.

Yes, we all need boundaries... and yet are they always a good thing? When Jesus was alive there was a rigid boundary between Jews and Samaritans (who were Jews who worshipped in a different way); even when they lived next to each other they would not have anything to do with each other. Once Jesus was sitting by a Samaritan well. He was thirsty. A Samaritan woman came up to draw water.

JESUS: Could I have a drink of water please?

WOMAN: What! Are you talking to *me*? Jews never talk to Samaritans - let alone share a cup with them!

JESUS: I'd still like a drink of water. Anyway, if you knew who I was, then you'd be asking me for a drink. I can give you 'living water' - water that satisfies the spirit, not just the body! And a time is coming soon when Samaritans and Jews won't argue about which mountain to worship God on - everyone, whoever they are, will worship God in their hearts.

Jesus doesn't seem to have been too impressed by the boundary between Jews and Samaritans! In fact, it turns out that the Samaritans were more interested in what Jesus had to say than people in his own home-town were.

So - what you would do if you came home and found your neighbour sitting in your kitchen eating your food? Would you try and throw them out? Would you call the police? What would you do, though, if your neighbour said: "Please can you help us - I've lost my job - we have no money - we have no food - our house is being repossessed - can you let us stay until we can earn enough money to look after ourselves...?" Would you let them stay? It's a situation that is becoming more and more common as jobs are cut in the present economic climate. What do you think? We all need boundaries - inside which we feel safe and can get on with living happy lives - but what about the people shut outside, often frightened and hopeless?

What do you think Jesus would have said?

From the Registers

Baptisms at St Mary's Olveston:

On 22nd March 2009, William Neil son of Neil Jenkins & Jane Preston
Marta Catriona Grace daughter of Christoph & Nora Schwitzer

On March 31st Cremation at Westerleigh Crematorium followed by a
Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's of Donald Walter Pearce

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

May 3	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong with Choir	Rev. David Bone
May 10	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Morning Worship with Choir	Mrs Janet McBride
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Rev. David Bone
May 17	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	8am	Holy Communion with Choir	Canon John Poarch
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Mrs Ann Lloyd
May 24	8am	Holy Communion(BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Fourth Sunday- Pet Service	Rev. Roly Bain
	6pm	Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev. Philip Rowe
May 31	8am	Holy Communion	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev David Bone
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Holy Communion(BCP) with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Contact:

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

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, 3.00pm in the Church (except third Monday)

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

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

May 3	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
May 10	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
May 17	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
May 24	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev David Bone
May 31	8am	Holy Communion	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

May 3	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole
May17	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

May 10	8am	Holy Communion	Mr Don Streatfield
May24	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

May 3	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. St Mary's.	Morning Worship led by Miss Kitty Barrett Songs of Praise featuring hymns with local names by Basil Harwood, led by Rev. D.Bone
May 10	10am 6pm	Olveston Ch Tock. Ch..	All Age Worship led by Rev. I Vunipola. The Breakfast Club will join us later Evening Worship led by Rev. Peter Mortlock
May 17	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. Daldry Gdns.	Morning Worship led by Mr Colston Smith Junior Church in the Wesley Rooms Evening Worship led by Mrs Margaret Mortlock
May24	10am 6 pm	Tock Ch. Olveston Ch.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. I. Vunipola Evening Worship -Miss Rosemary Clews
May 31	10am 6pm	Tock Ch. Olveston Ch	Morning Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney Evening Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Iesinga Vunipola

LIGHT LUNCHES: Thursday 7th May at 12.15 in the Tockington Wesley Rooms.
To book your lunch please ring 612112.

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 20th May. 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. - except 9th May. when it will be in Tockington Chapel

CREAM TEAS Mon 4th & Mon 25th Tock. Wesley Rooms 2.30-5.00

QUIZ FOR CHRISTIAN AID Thurs 14th May at 7.30pm Tock. Ch.

CONTACT: Rev Iesinga Vunipola, 01454 412269; Iesinga@hotmail.com

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

We meet in a relaxed, informal manner for worship, prayer and conversational Bible studies incorporating Communion, normally on Sundays at 10.30am and Mondays and Wednesdays at 7.30pm. As we also visit other churches and events, please check our Notice Board or contact us. Prayer requests can be posted through the letterbox 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, OLDOWN

May 3	6.30pm	Lyal Druette
May 10	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
May 17	6.30pm	David Acres
May 24	6.30pm	Victory Outreach
May 31	6.30pm	Rev Colin Lewis

Each Thurs 7.30pm - Prayer Time

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

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Family Worship 11am Evening Worship 6.30pm

Worship & Prayer for Severnside. Sat May 9th at 8pm.

For more details, please phone 632564.

BRISTOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Our Sunday morning meetings are held at The Grange School, 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 May 2009

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

1 st Fri	Visitors from Brehan arrive		
2 nd Sat	Coffee Morning Severn Vale Art Trail: 2 nd -10th May Th. & Dist. Flower Club Demo	10.30-12.00 7.30pm	MH TMH
4 th Mon	Cream Teas	2.30-5.00	WR
5 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Royal British Legion Women-Mystery Tour	10.00-12.00 10.30	WR
6 th Wed	Body Tone Exercise Class	7-30-8.30	PH
7 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2-30-4.30	OSt MH
8 th Fri	Olveston School Quiz Night Thornbury Art Club-Spring Exhib, 8th-13th	8.00pm 9.00-5.00	School Wyevale
9 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	Tock Ch
11 th Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club Practice-Tell me a Story	1.30pm	AH
12 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Women's Institute-Work of the Children's Hospice-Mrs Jane Powell Aust Parish Council	10.00-12.00 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR PH EVH
13 th Wed	Thornbury Inner Wheel Stepping Stones Open Afternoon Royal British Legion-Men Body Tone Exercise Class	10.00am 1.30-3.00 7.30pm 7.30-8.30	MH DGCL PH
14 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group Christian Aid Quiz	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30 7.30pm	OSt MH Tock Ch
16 th Sat	Coffee Morning Art in a Garden -Grove House Tockington Thornbury Choral Society Concert Music in the Church at Aust	1030-12.00 2.00-5.00pm 7.30pm 8pm	MH AC
17 th Sun	Art in a Garden- Grove House Tockington West Kington Open Gardens Tall Ship, Lord Nelson, in Bristol	2.00-5-00pm 10.00-5.00 10.00-5.00	
19 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Severn Vale Flower Club Katherine Lee-At Home	10.00-12.00 2.00pm	WR AH

	Olveston Parish Council	7.30pm	AP
20 th Wed	Body Tone Exercise Class	7.30-8.30	PH
21 st Thu	Coffee Shop	10.00-12.00	OS ^t
	Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	2.30-4.30	MH
23 rd Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
25 th Mon	Cream Teas	2.30-5.00	WR
26 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	10.00-12.00	WR
	Fibromyalgia Support Group-Open Meeting	7.00-9.00pm	AMH
27 th Wed	Body Tone Exercise Class	7.30pm-8.30	PH
28 th Thu	Coffee Shop	10.00-12.00	OS ^t
	Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	2.30-4.30	MH
30 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
31 st Sun	Marlwood School Car Boot Sale	9.30am	

Looking ahead to June

13 th & 14 th	Open Gardens-Tockington	2.00-5.30pm	
13 th	Music in the Church at Aust	8.00pm	AC
20 th	St Mary's Church Fete	2.00-4.00pm	
	Craft Fayre for Breast Cancer Research	10.00-4.00	PH
27 th	Guitar & Recorder Concert	7.00pm	St M

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; **OS** – Olveston School; **OS^t** – 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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