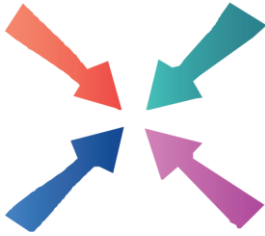


Meeting Point



May 2020



Meeting Point

Volume 44, Number 8, May 2020

The community magazine for the villages of Olveston, Tockington, Old Down, Lower Hazel, Awkley, Ingst, Aust, Elberton and Littleton upon Severn

EDITOR:

Marelin Orr-Ewing
Courtlands
Olveston
Bristol BS35 4DU
Tel: 01454 610081
*meetingpointeditor@
gmail.com*

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Angela Williams
Ashlea
Haw Lane
Olveston
Bristol BS35 4EG
Tel 01454 612850
*meetingpointmagazine@
gmail.com*

ADVERTISING:

Bernard Amos
Tel: 01454 620388
*meetingpointadvertising@
gmail.com*

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From the Editor

If you read the small print at the bottom of this page, you will see that Meeting Point was founded in 1976. This month is the first, in all those 44 years, that the magazine has not been delivered to every home in the area by our delivery volunteers. The reasons why we have decided to be 'online only' for the time being are now all too familiar to our readers. Rest assured - we will return to a print copy just as soon as we can.

This month's content is quite unusual; there are no articles advertising upcoming events - in fact there is no diary page, and we have no details of church services, just contact details for each church. However, the magazine is full of a variety of articles: we learn how a team of volunteers quickly mobilised to support the homebound and elderly in the area during lockdown; there are two articles about how VE and VJ Days were celebrated locally; we can find out how to access weekly services from St. Mary's via YouTube and there is plenty more.....

Marelin .

This month's cover is by John Hodges

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**

A Message from the Team



If you have a neighbour, or friend, who would like to read Meeting Point, but who is not online, please offer to print them a copy.

This is easy to do from the website and most printers will fit two A5 pages onto one side of A4.

News from St Mary's

Bernard Amos



Rev. David Moss and Rev. Stephen Oram are now known as the Revs Rural. Together they are pulling together an on-line virtual service each Sunday. This is a challenge, obviously, as they are in isolation from each other, but they have managed to get people together by asking various

folk to either sing a hymn (or a verse or two), play a piece of music, take the intercession prayers, give a sermon, read bible passages.....pretty much as it would happen in Church. They then 'stitch them together' into a virtual service.

For Palm Sunday they asked for some people to video themselves waving and inserted the videos into the service. They are getting a little bit slicker each week and on Palm Sunday even included a humorous out-take at the end. They can be found on YouTube, simply put 'RevsRural' into your search engine.

Walks in the Area

Rod Williams

With so many of us enjoying local walks as our daily exercise, it is worth remembering that there are six leaflets, published two years ago, describing different walks covering Tockington, Olveston, Old Down and Rudgeway. Most are about 2.5 miles, with one at 1.8 miles.

Packs of the leaflets - which are free - are available in the porch of St Mary's Church, Olveston. There are three map boards in the area which also show the walks; these can be found on the bus shelter in Tockington, at Old Down near the pavilion and at the bottom of Haw Lane.

[These walks are also online. Go to www.olvoston.com - bottom of the page.]

Village Volunteers

Martin Gibson

Churchwarden & Parish Councillor

Everyone knows that we live in a very special community. Two large villages and four outlying hamlets, rural but with several useful facilities and good links to work-centres in Bristol and the rest of the country. And then – disaster - Coronavirus, illness, lockdown, social distancing. How on earth do we cope, especially with an elderly demographic. If you are not allowed outside other than for limited exercise, not supposed to drive, can't socialise, how on earth can you manage?

This was the problem put to me on Sunday 15th March. Then somebody suggested that we start a social media group of 'lower risk' volunteers. Requests for support could be posted onto the group and then volunteers could offer to resolve the issues. The idea was to bring all the key contacts in the community together (such as the shops, Church and Parish Council) with anyone wishing to volunteer, so that up to date information could be passed and support offered to our vulnerable and self-isolating neighbours. Twenty people signed up immediately to a WhatsApp group - called Village Volunteers - and that initial group soon swelled to sixty.

Although the crisis had not yet hit home, the first thing needed was useful, practical information - such as phone numbers of key people and local services - to be delivered to every household in the Parish. St Mary's Church already had a distribution network and Olveston Parish Council offered to stump up the cost of printing.

Within two days, cards with essential contact numbers were compiled and printed. They were ready for distribution by 2:30pm on Tuesday 17th March and by 4:30pm on the same day, over FIVE HUNDRED households had received them. All 650 houses in the Parish had the card by noon the next day. The Village Volunteers did all the legwork (in the rain!)

Phone calls asking for help started arriving on Wednesday 18th March.

- *Can someone please go into Thornbury for my medicine, I'm housebound?*
- *Can someone please shop for me I am an invalid?*
- *I am 98, live on my own, no family, no support, I'm lonely and afraid.*
- *My dog is in difficulty and having puppies – could someone please take me to the vets in Milbury Heath? (This was at 10.30pm and the volunteer didn't get home until 2am!).*

Every single call for help was answered within minutes.

At the time of writing (5th April) no one knows what the next few weeks will hold, but one thing is certain, there is help, whatever that might be, available to everyone, from the Village Volunteers – and not forgetting Tockington Together, St Mary's Church and our Parish Council. Local businesses, especially Olveston Stores and The Crusty Loaf, have also been extremely helpful.

So now we know just why Olveston Parish really is the best place to live in the world – it's called 'Community Spirit'.

OLVESTON PARISH TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Twinning Update

Chris Bolton

In common with so many other events, this year's trip to Bréhan, our Twin village in Brittany, due to take place in May, has been cancelled. This year's visit would have coincided with the 75th anniversary of VE Day, and it would have been particularly interesting to see it from the other side of the Channel.

A coach and a ferry crossing had already been booked, and our friends in Bréhan generously offered to contribute to the cost of cancelling, but fortunately we were able to cancel before it cost OPTA's funds a great deal.

Back at the end of March we had an update from Bréhan, which had a familiar ring:

'Bréhan has been an empty town for 2 weeks. We are all locked in our houses, with only an outing for supplies and bread, and work for those who cannot work from home. We have a few people hospitalized for CORONAVIRUS.

It's very stressful confinement. The Government has just announced that the next 2 weeks will be terrible in terms of the number of people infected. We are asked not to go out.'

Our thoughts have been, and are, very much with them.

The other activity which OPTA had planned was the Wine Tasting Event, a fundraiser which has been postponed until we can hold it safely. The wines to be tasted are stashed away in my house. I just hope I can resist the temptation!



Marlwood's Got Talent

Saffia Farr

On Friday 13th March, Marlwood's Got Talent, was back for its second year and it was bigger and better than ever. Eighteen acts performed before a packed-out hall. The audience was treated to solos, piano and singer duets, drumming, dances, duets, self-composed piano performances and a show-stopping recorder performance of Mamma Mia by Mr Dyer and Miss Staley, dressed in costumes borrowed from Marlwood's extensive theatrical wardrobe!

The event was judged by teachers Mr Hulin and Mr Richards who made an excellent double-act. The evening was hosted once again by the amazing Paris Troy who supported and encouraged the acts and entertained the audience with his quick wit.



Photo by Imogen Roberts

continues to lift everyone's spirits in these difficult global times.

The judges award went to Mabel and Hattie who performed a beautiful and expressive dance to Sia's *Bird Set Free*. (See photo) The audience vote was won by Megan and Harry who performed George Ezra's *Budapest* with Megan on vocals and Harry on guitar. Both sets of winners were given glass trophies kindly donated by Linela.

With amazing performances, refreshments provided by the Friends of Marlwood and a raffle with generous prizes from Kings Heavy Haulage, The Fox at Easter Compton, Container Team, Randalls Office Furniture, Perry & Sons butchers, NEAT technical services and C The World Travel, the audience left buzzing with happiness and with smiles on their faces. There is no doubt that Marlwood has got talent and the love of the Marlwood community

Monday Movies in Olveston

Trevor Anderson



Greetings from the Movie Club Team. As many of you will know, we have taken the difficult decision to cancel our April to June Spring Programme of movies in response to the worst public health crisis in a generation. Here at St Mary's the health and wellbeing of everyone in our community is always our number one concern. We hope to return to a full programme in the Autumn and we will keep you informed.

Meanwhile, how about a short quiz? If you have time (and I think many of us have time at the moment) have a go at answering these Movie Club questions.

1. When did we show our first film? a) Oct 2010. b) Jan 2012. c) Apr 2012.
 2. How many came to our most popular showing? a) 64. b) 108. c) 126.
 3. What's our bestselling wine at the interval? a) Sauvignon Blanc. b) Merlot. c) Rioja.
 4. What did people say when asked why they came? a) Friendly welcome. b) Thought provoking films. c) Refreshments at the interval. d) All of these.
 5. Who is welcome to come along? a) St Mary's Church members. b) Anyone from the Meeting Point area. c) Everyone.
 6. When do we start again? a) Sept. b) Oct. c) Don't yet know.
- Answers on page 22. No prizes for getting them all right!

These are difficult times for us all and we look forward to seeing you again soon. Our best wishes to you and stay well. And finally, here is a note from St Mary's Church.

Dear Movie Club Members

We are sad that we have had to suspend so many of our activities. One of the church's key functions is to build communities of wholeness, by encouraging those who share common interests to meet together in unity and love. The Movie Club is important to St. Mary's Olveston and we hope to restart this club as soon as this national crisis is over. For the time being however we must support our nation in the tremendous efforts that are being made to beat to this virus.

We very much hope that you will keep in touch with the Church. Please visit our website or contact us by phone or email. (See Church Contact Details page).

Thank-you for your support.

Revs David Moss and Steve Oram



Green Waste? Wildlife opportunity!

Melinda Evans

We are all spending a lot of time at home at the moment, and for some this will be a great opportunity to spend even more time working in the garden. Springtime also gives those of us more 'fair-weather gardeners' the encouragement needed to get outside and attend to jobs. The warmer weather and bonus home time has coincided with the withdrawal of garden waste services by South Gloucestershire Council as they concentrate on domestic waste, to create a perfect storm for green waste. However, the silver lining to this situation is that some possible solutions could be used to encourage more wildlife to your garden.

One of the happiest coincidences for me was that learning that wildlife doesn't like things to be too neat. Not tidying borders so thoroughly will not only reduce the amount of green waste to be removed, but rotting vegetation also provides a lovely home for all sorts of creatures.

Making mulch is another way to cut back on green waste. Mulch is a layer of material (you can use grass cuttings) put on the surface of soil which helps to retain moisture in the soil, improving soil fertility and health as well as reducing weed growth.

Another way to cut back on green waste is to leave some, or more, of your lawn uncut. Just like the Blue Campaign encourages us to do, reduce how often you mow the lawn and/or leave a portion uncut. Let the grass grow for a while to create a mini meadow in your garden which small creatures will love. Wildflowers already in your lawn will grab their opportunity to bloom and the longer grass will create a sheltered environment for insects.

Another way to make use of bigger items of garden waste is to use branches from cutting back trees and bushes as supports for other plants later in the year or make a log pile or bug hotel.

More information on ideas to reduce green waste and helping wildlife can be found here:

Making mulch: <https://bit.ly/3bmnmZH>

Giving you mower a rest: <https://bit.ly/2QEYPaA>

Create a bug hotel: <https://tinyurl.com/y8367n8c>

Blue campaign: <https://bluecampaignhub.com/>

Friends of St Mary's

Andy Phillips

Chairman of The Friends of St Mary's

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the Government guidelines that demand social isolation, our committee has decided that we cannot at present hold our monthly draws and abide by these guidelines. We had considered holding our monthly draws remotely and then issuing winning cheques via the postal service, but recognise that winners might not be able to cash their cheques if they are also self-isolating.

However, we promise that when things get back to normal – whenever that is – we will hold a series of draws for the months we have missed (starting from the month of April). We hope you will understand the dilemma we have but given the circumstances we think that this is the safest way for everyone.

We are also placing this information on the St Mary's website so that we can try to inform as many of our members as possible. We will also make every endeavour to get in touch with any of our members who may not have internet access and also those who live a bit further afield who have been kind enough to keep their memberships going, even after moving away.

We are so grateful for your continued support - please keep safe and stay well.

If you have any queries or need further information, please give me a ring on 01454 614890.

Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner

07889 72729

150 Club Winners April 2020:

£50 Bill Finch
£15 Malcolm Grosvenor
£5 Martin Walker

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

14/03/20 Richard Panes
28/03/20 Mike Rowen
04/04/20 James Green

Up the Down!!

VE Day and VJ Day. How World War Two ended locally

Nick Fear

Adolph Hitler ended his life on the 30th of April 1945. The German people fought on, but a week later, on May 7th in Reims, the German General Alfred Jodl signed a surrender document which ended hostilities. Unlike The Great War when an Armistice stopped fighting allowing Germany privileges, the Second War ended with a complete and unconditional surrender of German forces. The news of the surrender was broadcast and with a few exceptions caused by German fanaticism or disbelief, fighting ceased on May 8th. This was called V for Victory Day, by Winston Churchill who broadcasted the good news to the nation. King George the 6th also spoke on the radio of his joy and relief that the war in Europe had ended. Both men understood that the war in the Far East was still being waged and that an effort to end this was a priority.

The broadcasts were heard by many in our local villages. The news was heralded by the sounding of bells in churches like St. Mary's in Olveston. Bell ringing had been banned since 1940 and was only to be used as a warning of an invasion. This was relaxed only once when Winston Churchill allowed peals on the 5th of November 1942 to celebrate the famous victory at El Alamein.

Local newspapers covered events, and many used the expression 'VE (Victory in Europe) Day' in their headlines. Fine details of the surrender were given alongside communications between the allied powers. One report noted that the surrender had been after 2094 days of war, 526 days longer than World War One. The Ministry of Food issued instructions that commercial life had to carry on. Bakers needed to bake more bread, milkmen still had to deliver, and grocers stay open for trade. Only on inside pages was there mention of the war raging in the Far East, involving several local men.

Local historian Eric Garrett remembers that there were no local celebrations as such, people were just glad that the war nearest to us was over and life went on. Local newspapers reported the success of Olveston Bowling Club. They covered the activities of The Young Farmers Club, whose members attended lectures in local halls and arranged ploughing competitions at Washingpool Farm and Home Farm. In July, The Berkley Hunt Gymkhana combined with the Olveston and Alveston flower show at Alveston. The Tytherington Victory Band played at the event which was organised by Gordon Upston from Old Down. On the 21st of August, The White Hart in Olveston was sold at auction to the Bristol Brewery along with two adjacent houses. Minor crimes occurred, road accidents happened, and the problems caused by rationing were reported. One overarching feeling was that the war was, in

reality, not yet over. Local men and women in uniform were still absent from their homes.

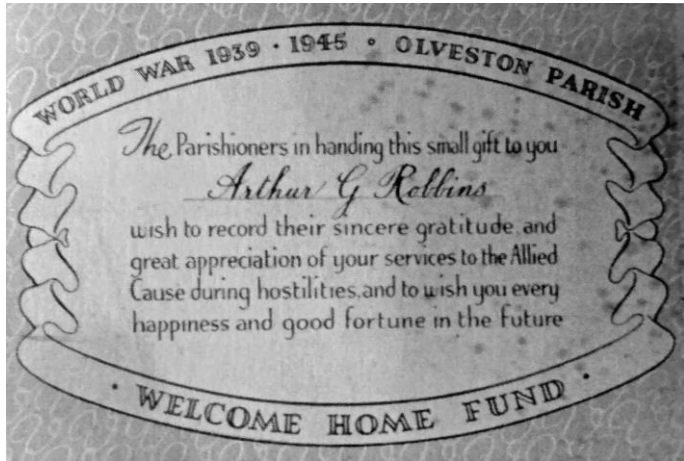
On August 6th, 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Three days later Nagasaki suffered the same fate. The Japanese nation fought on, but on August 15th Emperor Hirohito announced that his nation had surrendered. This was to be officially ratified 18 days later, on September 2nd. The day was called VJ Day, for Victory in Japan and the May V Day became officially VE Day to differentiate the two events. World War Two had lasted 643 days longer than World War One.

Once again Eric Garrett remembers few local celebrations, only the relief that the conflict was finally over. 151 local men and women had gone to war, 12 were never to return home and mourned. 100 men had served in the local Home Guard.

Every returning person had a story. Stanley Clifford had fought with The Gloucestershire Regiment in Burma. In May 1942 he was at first reported as missing, then killed in action. His family's grief can only be imagined, but a greater shock was to come. One day a bus dropped off a soldier at the White Hart Public House, he entered and had a familiar face, it was Stanley. The 'fog of war' had masked him being evacuated wounded to hospital and he was returning home to recuperate. Hugh Stanton, serving in the Royal Armoured Corps, had been taken as a prisoner of war in France at the end of June 1944 and taken to camp Stalag 8A in Poland. Both men, on returning home, celebrated modestly with the tradition of a kindly free beer from Mrs Garrett in the White Hart. As with so many, neither talked openly about their war and their silence was respected. Men returned home as they were released - often unexpectedly - to the delight of their families and others. Frank Sewell was warmly welcomed back to Olveston Bowling Club in December 1945, resuming his place on the committee. Some took until 1948 to be demobbed and return home. A few sported injuries supported in regulation style slings and bandages. Mental scars were not so obvious, but they were observed.

In 1944 a 'Welcome Home Fund' had been started by the Olveston Parish Council to benefit returning service personnel. After VE Day this fund was managed by a local committee prominent in which was the much-respected Colonel Charles Edward Turner of Oldown House. Parishioners and businesses donated money to the fund, dances and events were arranged contributing to it. Each person who met certain criteria, was given a share from the fund, a salmon supper and entertainment was also provided. As time moved on, some returning people preferred to have money rather than these treats and extra cash was given.

A kindly worded certificate of appreciation for war service was presented to all. There was a moving and appropriately worded one for the families of those who sadly never returned.



In July 1946 Colonel Turner held a welcoming home party for returning personnel and their families at his home. (See photo below.)

The fund was actively administered until March 1948, at which time all service personnel had returned home

World War Two, with so many destructive sides to it, had also exposed a kindness and kinship from the people of the local parishes. 75 years may have elapsed since those terrible times, but this bond is still in smiling evidence today. Long may it continue.



Olveston and Tockington W.I.

Vicki Townsend

Thornbury in the 1950s was the topic of our March meeting. Jane Marks and Pauline Montgomery from Thornbury Museum gave us a walk-through talk of Thornbury's recent history - from the Cricket Club in 1871, Football Club in 1890 to the Picture House opening in 1920 and a local debutante being presented at court in 1958. Slides displayed local buildings and points of interest, many still present in the town, albeit some looking a little different. An interesting journey through time, remembered and appreciated by many of our members.

The Spring Walk in Highgrove House gardens booked for April has been cancelled, hopefully to be rebooked for a different season later in the year. In common with so many other things, the W.I. is suspended until further notice. We wish all our members, and residents of the villages, good health and safe keeping. Now is the time to catch up on phone calls to maintain those important connections, it is lovely weather for gardening, there is time to enjoy a good book and look forward to better days ahead.

Tutoring Services

Maria Vizard, a locally based Primary School Teacher, is embarking on a new tutoring career aimed at students from primary age to Year 9. Maria believes in nurturing a growth mindset, whilst developing a lifelong love for learning.

The tutoring services will be up and running fully once the lockdown is lifted. In the meantime, Maria is happy to offer bespoke, tailor made, tutoring remotely, or to give support with learning activities set by school. For more information please contact her on either:

Email: Vizard243@btinternet.com or Tel: 07801983643 or 01454417255

Lockdown Puzzles

Jan Winter

1. Number puzzle

Can you find a two-digit number such that when you add together its digits and multiply the answer by 6 you get the number you started with? Is there only one solution? Suppose you chose a different number to multiply by? Can you still find an answer, and can you see a pattern to help you find solutions?

(This was originally a puzzle on Radio 4 in their daily puzzle slot just before 7.00am)

2. Sequences

What is next in each of these sequences? And why!

- a) 11, 21, 1112, 3112, 211213, 312213, ...
- b) O, T, T, F, F, S, S, ...
- c) 1, 5, 10, 20, ...

3. House numbers

Five houses next door to each other are on the odd side of the road. They are all two-digit numbers and in ascending order. The fourth one is the only prime number. What is the number of the middle house?

4. Mini Kakuro

Use seven of the digits from 1 to 9 to fill in each unshaded square, so that no digit is repeated, and the totals of the entries in the rows and columns are as shown.

			12
			7
			13
4	16	12	

(This puzzle is from www.nrich.maths.org which has many more mathematical puzzles and games.)

Answers next month!

A Personal Reflection on Counting Blessings

Pat Thirkettle

Eight years ago I snapped my Achilles tendon playing tennis and spent twelve weeks hopping on one foot, the other in a boot and using a Zimmer frame. Looking at a possible twelve weeks lockdown now, I am just so grateful to be walking freely into the garden; you have no idea how difficult it was to hop over a high threshold.

On that note, we in this Parish have instant access to fresh air whatever the size of the garden, there are no high-rise flats. What must it be like to be in

lockdown with young children on the eighteenth floor? Perhaps you think that's all very well, but what about those who are housebound.? In these villages they are not neglected; within a few days we had received three offers of help with shopping and I know it is replicated elsewhere.

We have just endured a miserable wet winter. Now the sun is shining, the birds are singing (loudly without competing traffic noise) and nesting, the blossom is flowering, the nights are getting lighter and summer is round the corner.

None of this stops us thinking of the immediate future. We have no idea how long it will take to control the virus, how many people will die, how many have lost their jobs, their businesses and their health. However, we live in a country with a functioning government, a brilliant NHS, many resources and volunteers. The plight of the homeless, refugees and displaced peoples in this situation is appalling. The economic outlook is bleak. So please keep counting your blessings, however small.

Tessa's Elderflower Cordial

I asked Tessa Floyd to share this recipe for Elderflower Cordial for two reasons:

- a) I have had a glass of this lovely drink at Tessa's house and it is delicious!*
- b) We should see elderflowers in the hedgerows and gardens around this area towards the end of May, particularly if we have a spell of warm weather.*

Recipe



Boil 2pt water and 2lb sugar to a syrup and pour over 2 squeezed and chopped lemons, 2oz citric acid* and 25 heads of Elderflower. The flowers need to be fully out and fragrant.

Put in cool place and stir regularly for 2 days. Strain well and pour into bottles. Freeze the cordial in small quantities. Because of the high sugar content, it does not go very hard. I freeze it in used water bottles. Keep in the fridge once opened.

*Citric acid is a preservative and it sharpens the flavour. It can be bought from chemists, or last year I bought some from Riddifords in Thornbury. If you can't get hold of citric acid, then an extra lemon will help.

Carers Support Centre and COVID-19

Are you looking after someone through COVID-19? Families, friends and neighbours often provide crucial care for someone who couldn't manage without their help. You could be caring for a relative, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or substance misuse problems.

In this worrying time, Carers Support Centre urges carers to reach out to their support systems. All carers must consider what their contingency plans are in the event of them contracting COVID-19 and being unable to provide care. Is there someone who can support you if this becomes necessary? Talk to family and friends about this, to help reduce anxiety during this uncertain time.

It has never been more important to have a Carers Emergency Card. This card shows your name, a unique identification number and an emergency phone number. If you have an accident/emergency or are taken seriously ill, the card can be used to alert a 24-hour emergency call centre that the person you care for needs help. Steps are then taken to ensure the safety of the person cared for.

If you look after someone and you don't have a Carers Emergency Card, make sure you register for one now. Register for a card on the Carers Support Centre website: <https://www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk/our-services/carers-emergency-card/>

Carers Support Centre's wellbeing service is also here for local carers. It aims to give emotional support and help you become more resilient. This is a difficult and testing time for carers. The wellbeing service includes befriending, mentoring and counselling. It is free, confidential and is delivered by phone. Through the befriending service, the charity will match you with a trained volunteer, who can provide conversation, companionship and emotional support. Contact Maria for more information:
maria@carerssupportcentre.org.uk or 07526 850 772

If you need to talk about issues relating to your caring situation, get in touch with CarersLine on 0117 965 2200
10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday
2pm to 4pm, Monday to Thursday
CarersOnline: *CarersLine@carerssupportcentre.org.uk*

Carers Support Centre also has a coronavirus FAQ page full of guidance, advice and resources for carers: www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk

News from Thornbury Library

Although our library buildings are currently closed due to COVID-19, our online library remains open 24/7 so if you are in need of a constantly updated supply of reading material to match your interests, delivered straight to your screen, it's all yours with free South Gloucestershire library membership through the LibrariesWest partnership.

Download the latest issues of 100+ bestselling magazines (including GQ, Heat, Attitude, Countryfile, New Scientist, Best, Ideal Home, Top Gear, Mojo, Vogue, Hello! ... and more) plus free eBooks and eAudiobooks🎧

Get started here: bit.ly/d1gitalLibraryServices

Not a member? Don't worry, you can join online now at bit.ly/joinLW – membership is free. You will receive a Temporary ID number which will work for our digital services right away.

Where the form asks "Pin" and next "Re-enter Pin" it is asking you to choose your own 4-digit PIN and then to re-enter it to confirm your choice. Please provide your email address when you join online, as this will give you more control of your account and allow you to reset your PIN easily if you forget it
Already a library member? Get started straight away with your membership number as printed on your library card.



Lego Club Online

Look out on Facebook every Monday for Lego Club online, make a model on the theme for the week and share it with us!

St Peters Hospice Severnside Support Group

It is with much regret that we advise of the suspension of all our fund-raising events until September at the earliest. We will miss seeing you all this summer at our events but are sure you will agree that this is the best course of action in the current climate. If anyone bought a ticket for the Flower Demo, upon receipt of the ticket, the Town Hall (when open again) will be able to refund the cost. Any donated raffle prizes of chocs/biscuits/sweets have been given to the Thornbury Food Bank organised by the Thornbury Baptist Church, so they will be used. Thank you for all your support in the past and we will very much look forward to seeing you all again in the future. Stay safe and take care.

CHAT (Come Here And Talk)

What, you might ask, is CHAT? Here is an extract from an article written by Peter Floyd for Meeting Point in August 2017 which explains its origins and how it normally functions:

A decade or so ago church people wanted wider discussion than was available in ordinary services. So, with the support of the then Vicar, CHAT was formed, and it has continued ever since, with Sue Farr's gentle guidance.

Chat is a group of 20 or so, of whom 6-9 on average meet in each other's houses to discuss a wide range of subjects which we have chosen for ourselves, not all of them by any means, 'churchy'. Some recent subjects have been "Could we look after ourselves better or should we leave it to the National Health?"; "What do your clothes say about you?"; "What will our grandchildren think of our decision to leave the European Union?" and "Does religion provoke violence or peace?" and "Is there a solution to mass migration?"

Sounds pretty serious? Well I suppose it is, but CHAT is always interesting; gets side-tracked pretty often; is sometimes quite funny - and seldom comes to a conclusion!

CHAT group is continuing to meet via Zoom, during the Lockdown period, thanks to the expertise of Brian McBride. We are meeting weekly instead of monthly and find it beneficial to chat, share topical views and extend our technical skills.

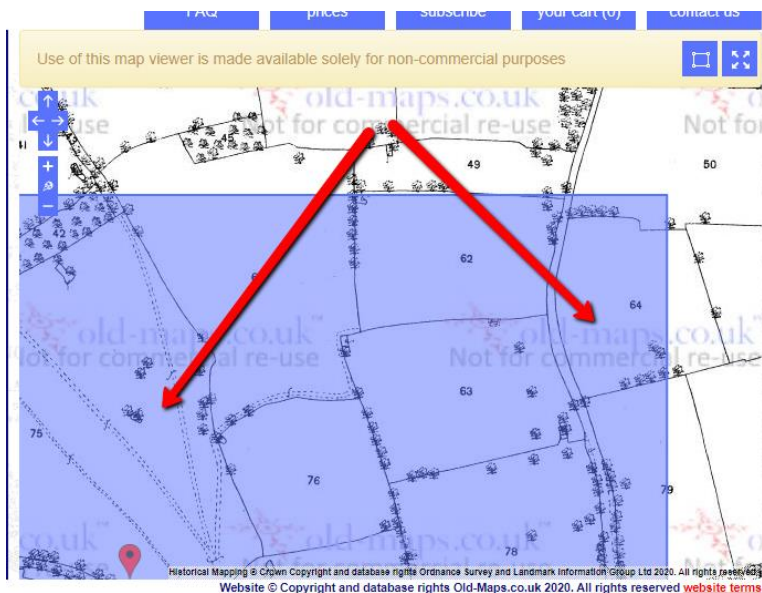
If you are interested email Sue Farr on farrdoodie@hotmail.com.

VE Day Bonfire Memories

John Simpson, who now lives in Bedfordshire and reads Meeting Point online, sent us his memories of VE Day.*

Who among your readers, I wonder, goes back to the Second World War and early post war years? Probably lots! My family moved from Surrey in 1945 to live for two or three years at Elberton Vicarage, (alas no more) with my uncle, the Rev. Eric Lake and family.

This time left me with many fond childhood memories and one of those was the VE Day Bonfire Celebrations. Whether it was on the night of May 8th or another night - I know not. It was very dark for a child of four, but what an extraordinary blaze and never to be forgotten. A big blazing tractor tyre came off the bonfire, rolled all the way down the hill, to the hedge at the bottom, just before the lane that ran from Elberton village to Littleton! According to the map below and my reckoning, this was Henley Hill. Would your readers know, as a matter of interest?



**John also wondered if we were likely to be celebrating the 75th Anniversary of VE Day locally. Of course there were celebrations planned – a whole day of events which would have been great fun – but they had to be cancelled due to Coronavirus.*

A shrewd time to fill up your oil tank!



WEST OF ENGLAND RURAL NETWORK

If you rely on oil for your heating and hot water, then now is probably the best time to top up your tank. Demand for oil has dropped with the recent outbreak of Coronavirus. This in turn has led to a significant drop in oil prices.

Kaz Adams, from the charity West of England Rural Network, says “*Whilst we would generally advise all our members to fill up their oil tanks during the summer months (the time when most oil suppliers experience a quieter period and are therefore generally more willing to negotiate a lower price) it would appear shrewd to do so now*”.

Kaz runs a community oil buying scheme, which obtains cheaper prices for its members by placing a single large order once a month and negotiating with multiple local suppliers to get the best price. Members’ prices are on average 6 pence per litre cheaper than average oil prices and was 39.10p per litre (plus VAT) in February 2020.

The West of England Rural Network is offering free memberships (*normally £20/year for domestic users) to domestic heating oil users aged 70 and over who may be struggling to pay their fuel bills, living in the West of England. This is thanks to a grant awarded by Quartet Community Foundation from their ‘Surviving Winter’ fund. The scheme is open to all residents of Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bristol. Local community buildings such as village halls, schools and churches can also benefit from the scheme, as well as businesses such as farms, shops and offices.

If you are interested in joining the community oil buying scheme, contact Kaz Adams on Tel: 01275 333701, Email: karen@wern.org.uk or visit <http://www.wern.org.uk/community-oil-buying-scheme/>

Historic Painting returns to Tockington

Alison Dix

This painting was given to Miss Daisy Venn in 1920 by her Aunt and Uncle, Percy and Lucy Frost who at the time ran the Tockington Post Office and Sweet Shop from Trenance Cottage, now known as Apple Tree Cottage, near Tockington Green. It was painted by Mr F Crang, who later married Lucy Frost after Percy died.



Daisy lived in Alma Vale Road, Bristol and regularly used to visit and stay with her Aunt and Uncle. It was on one of these visits that Daisy met her future husband, Frank Garrett from Olveston at a function held at Olveston Parish Hall. Frank had not long returned from active service in the First World War where he fought in The Middle East with the Old Down Troop, part of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars.

Frank's parents had both sadly died whilst he and his two brothers fought in the War, so in late 1919 Frank emigrated to New Zealand. In November 1920, Daisy boarded SS Pakeha Cargo Ship to join Frank. The painting went with Daisy as a cherished memento of Tockington and an early wedding present.

Frank met Daisy in Wellington on 15th January 1921 and two days later they were married by the Archdeacon of St Paul's Cathedral, Wellington. The painting took prominent place in their home for many years. Frank sadly died in 1954 aged 70 and before Daisy died at the age 102 in 1994, she gave the cherished painting to one of their 5 children, Sylvia who lives in North Island.

In October 2018, Sylvia came to the UK to attend her granddaughter's wedding in London, she carefully bubble wrapped the painting and put it in her case. After the wedding Sylvia stayed in Olveston to visit all the family and to my surprise kindly gave me the treasured painting. It has returned to Tockington after 100 years in perfect condition, having travelled many miles to remain in the family!!

Red Kite Spotted in Olveston

Jeanette and John Treby



Meeting Point readers might be interested in an unusual sighting, by John, of a Red Kite circling over Olveston allotments on Tuesday 21st April. It might have been encouraged down the M4 by easterly winds. Has anyone else spotted one here? The Red kite is a large bird of prey with angled, red wings that are tipped with black and have white patches underneath in the 'hand'. It has a long, reddish-brown, forked tail.

Monday Movies Quiz: Answers

Q1: a) Oct 2010. Q2: b) 108 Q3: c) Rioja. Q4: d) All of these.

Q5: c) Everyone. Q6: c) Don't yet know.

Yours Faithfully

*Rev. Ann Parker
St John's, Aust*

As many of you know I moved from Bradley Stoke to Chepstow a year ago, a decision I have never regretted. For a start, unless the bridge is closed, I am a lot closer to all the churches and St. John's, Aust, is only five minutes away.

I have a very steep garden and this time last year it had been sadly neglected. I moved in at the end of April and the first thing one of my neighbours said to me was "I hope you're going to tidy up the garden" - a herculean task in my eyes. The only good thing was that most of the problem was the brambles, and they were full of blackberries, everywhere you looked there were blackberries, I had them for every meal, extremely healthy. My back hedge adjoins a path across the back of our houses and was full of birds' nests. Everywhere you looked in the back garden there were green leaves and a few bluebells.

Winter came and went, and some of the mess died down. I had trimmed the front garden before the winter really set in, but it was really untidy until, lo and behold, early this month I spotted a few tulips, red at first then a couple of yellow ones in the front, and then bluebells appeared in the front, with more tulips amongst them and now I have, quite clearly, the prettiest front garden in the street. There is also an ivory tulip at the back accompanied by an explosion of bluebells and in another week or so the ones close to the house will bloom. I shall be living in a bluebell wood, along with a robin family nesting in the hedge, next to, I think, swallows. In the big tree behind the historic wall marking the boundary of the old town, there is a family of squirrels that play happily early in the morning.

For me faith in God is like this; we make a mess of our lives, sometimes it is not even of our making, but our lives are all out of control. But then something miraculous happens that causes us to rethink, to see things a new way, and God in a new light. Signs of joy and hope, new beginnings and beauty in our lives. So, every morning, I thank God for such glory to my garden and to my life.

Many of you have heard that I shall be leaving. This is true. I plan to move closer to my grandchildren, so that when I am old I will have family nearby. However, I shan't be moving until September at the earliest. It was a hard decision because I love being here and I love living and working among you all, but, again, I feel God is telling me enough in enough. Thank you for your love and care when the dark times were near, and your rejoicing with me when I went into remission; sometimes, when we least expect it, God appears, in beauty around us. God bless you all

Church Contact Details

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

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

Rev Steve Oram, 07830 151622; email: steve.oram@blueyonder.co.uk

Verger: Mrs. June Robbins, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Focal Minister: Rev Ann Parker 01291 329569

Email: annatdibley@btinternet.com or Trevor Cook, 01454 618442.

Church Wardens: Jon Burnett 633835 & Jenn Dickens 632035

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Contact: Mrs. Tracey Black 01454 417660

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Contact: Mrs. Judith Heybyrne 01454 616725

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Contact: Rev Simon Edwards tel 01454 418176 or email:

simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

THE VINE House of Prayer Pilning Street, Awkley

Contact: Mike and Barbara Matthews, tel. 07512 917229 or email:

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Contacts: Jenny Parfitt jennyparfitt@ymail.com

Sue Tett stett56@hotmail.co.uk

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Contact: 01454 413247

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury -

Contact: 01454 412223 or www.ctlk-thornbury.org.uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Contact: Brian Hawkins, hawkinsb863@gmail.com or 01454 854867

Meeting Point Accounts

MEETING POINT RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2019

RECEIPTS	2019	2018	PAYMENTS	
	£	£	2019	2018
Balances at 31st December 2018 and 2017				£
At Bank:				
Current Account	3224.48	4095.92	12248.00	12186.00
Clubs & Charities A/C	3025.06	3022.04	339.00	327.00
Advertisements	13672.58	13296.00	797.28	793.65
Interest	3.34	3.02	61.99	134.89
			46.00	46.00
			106.00	29.00
			-	145.50
			6.00	5.40
			-	500.00

At Bank:

Cash in hand	-
Current Account	3292.79
Clubs and Charities A/C	3028.40
	<u>19925.46</u>
	<u>20416.98</u>

19925.46 20416.98

Documents relative to this Statement have been examined and found correct.

Brian Arkell 18/12/2020

T. W. Walsh

BRIAN ARKELL

Dated

Treasurer