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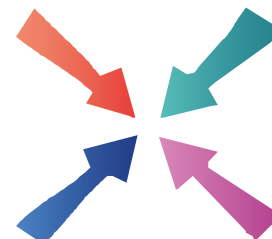
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# Meeting Point

**Volume 45, Number 8, May 2021**

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

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### Publication date

**1st of each month**

**Material for June 2021  
to the Editor or Deputy Editor  
by 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

## From the Editor

As Editor of Meeting Point, you become familiar with the regular items that appear each month and being to look out for them in the inbox as the deadline for material approaches. The Friends of St Mary's monthly draw (I always look to see if I recognise any of the names) and the 150 Club winners from Old Down Cricket Club, arrive regular as clockwork. There is always some News from St Mary's, a Yours Faithfully and, most months, we have an update from the local Parish Councils and a profile of a local resident. So, as things begin to open up, I shall look forward to welcoming items from other organisations which have been regular in the past, but 'on hold' in recent months.

This month we have the first article in a while from the Making Space for Wildlife project. The subject of this article will be very welcome to anybody who finds mowing the lawn a chore!

*Marelin*

This month's cover is by Cheryl Miller ARPS

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

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



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## HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

*Les Harper  
Meeting Point Chairman*



The sad passing of Prince Philip on 9<sup>th</sup> April was not unexpected, but it is still a shock when someone who has played such a significant part in our national life for the past 70 years leaves us and he will be missed. We send our condolences to HM The Queen and the Royal Family.

One of the most important innovations which Prince Philip created, and continued to lead, was the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Many local young people have taken part in this and one proud father told what a satisfying and life-forming experience it had been for his youngster to complete all the stages up to Gold. The award ceremony at Buckingham Palace, with presentation by Prince Philip, and the family in attendance, provided memories that will never be forgotten.

Thank you, Sir. Rest in Peace.

## Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the April draw, held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were:

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£25	484	Mrs R Arkell, Olveston
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## Go 'Mohican' in 'No Mow May'

Melinda Evans



For me, this is a happy coincidence - giving wildlife a helping hand, whilst also feeling less need to conjure a perfect lawn. Conservation charity Plantlife is encouraging us to leave the mower in the shed for all of May and having a 'Mohican cut' lawn. What's reassuring is this wildlife-friendly time-saving initiative is backed by science.

Plantlife has released results of its citizen science project called *Every Flower Counts*. The study was the largest-ever survey of the humble lawn. This study revealed not only the astonishing diversity of wildflowers growing on Britain's lawns, but also that simple changes in our mowing practices can benefit wildlife, resulting in enough nectar for ten times more bees and other pollinators.

Amongst many things, the study showed:

- the three most abundant lawn flowers were daisy, white clover and selfheal,
- across the country, all the surveyed lawn flowers combined produced a colossal 23 kg of nectar sugar per day, enough to support 2.1 million honeybees (that's around 60,000 hives),
- the highest production of flowers and nectar sugar was on lawns cut once every four weeks. This gives 'short-grass' plants like daisies and white clover a chance to flower in profusion, boosting nectar production tenfold,
- by contrast, areas of longer unmown grass were more diverse in their range of flowers, with other nectar-rich plants like oxeye daisy, field scabious and knapweed increasing the range of nectar sources for different pollinators and extending nectar availability into late summer,
- on average most lawns could support 400 bees a day, but 'superlawns', or those with lots of flowers, can support as many as 4,000.

This year, if you have a lawn, why not treat yourself and wildlife to 'No Mow May' and leave the mower in the shed for all of May?

Alongside this, think about having a 'Mohican Cut' lawn for the summer. This means having two lengths of grass. Leave some patches completely unmown to let taller flowers come into bloom, and then cutting these areas back in early September. For the rest of the lawn, keep the grass shorter by mowing once every month to a height of around one to two inches. This cutting regime supports the biggest range of wildflowers, and by consequence, insects and pollinators.



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We are also all invited to be part of Plantlife's *Every Flower Counts* citizen science project for this year. Taking part is simple:

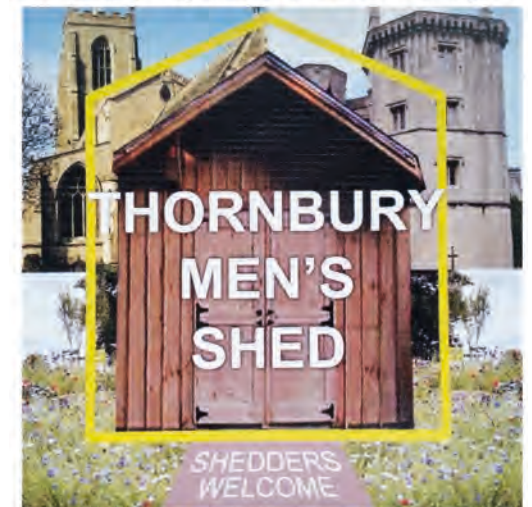
1. Leave your mower in the shed for No Mow May and let the flowers grow.
2. From 23rd May to 31st May take part in *Every Flower Counts* by counting the number of flowers in a random square metre of your lawn. Information on <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts> shows you how to do this.
3. Enter your counts on Plantlife's website to get your Personal Nectar Score, which will show you how much nectar is produced by the flowers on your lawn and how many bees it can support.



*Making Space for Wildlife is part of the Olveston Parish Council Biodiversity backed and funded initiative.*

## Thornbury Men's Shed

With lockdown and the projected increases in unemployment, the need for Men's Sheds has never been more important. Red Cross research, 'Life after Lockdown and Loneliness' showed 41% of people polled said they were lonelier because of lockdown with 33% stating they had not had a meaningful conversation in the last week. Recent evidence shows loneliness and isolation can be as hazardous to our health as obesity and excessive smoking. Surveys from mental health charities are finding that millions of people report feeling lonely on a daily basis. Men typically find it more difficult to build social connections than women. It is not the case for all men, but for some, when retirement comes, it can feel like personal identity and purpose is lost. Men's Sheds can change all of that.



### What are Men's Sheds?

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#### ABOUT ME

My name is Jed Williams and I live in Easter Compton – I am 15 years old  
I go to Marlwood School and have had my own business doing this for over 3 years

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degree of autonomy. Men's Sheds offers this to a group of such men where members share the tools and resources they need to work on projects of their own choosing at their own pace and in a safe, friendly and inclusive venue. They are places of skill-sharing and informal learning, of individual pursuits and community projects, of purpose, achievement and social interaction.



Our Men's Shed activities may involve carpentry, metalworking, bike repair, gardening equipment repair, electronics, tool renovation, model engineering and vehicle restoration. Reclamation, reuse and restoration will feature strongly - then some say that is true of the men too! Whatever activities are pursued, the essence of a Shed is not a building, but the

network of relationships between the members.

The Shed workshops are open for members on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 17:00. An increase in opening sessions is envisaged.

Thornbury Men's Shed, a not-for-profit local organisation, is financed by membership subscriptions and sales of repaired and recycled items. Men's Sheds in the UK have, in the past eight years, grown from 30 to 600 Sheds with an additional 150 or more in planning. That's around 13,000 or more Sheddors, as we call them, benefiting from regular social interactions, new and improved skills, and active participation in activities they enjoy.  
<https://menssheds.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/What-is-a-Mens-Shed.mp4>

Thornbury Men's Shed, 6 Eastland Road, Thornbury, BS351DS Tel: 01454 415857 Contact: [info@thornburymensshed.com](mailto:info@thornburymensshed.com)

## Thornbury Library

The library is now open for browsing from 10am - 5.30pm every weekday - except Tuesday when it is closed - and Saturday from 9.30am - 12.30pm.

We are following the Government roadmap out of lockdown and offering services according to current restrictions. These include self-service borrowing and free access to computers and Wi-Fi. However, services may change at short notice and our webpage is kept updated:  
[www.southglos.gov.uk/librarychanges](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/librarychanges)



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## News from St. Mary's

*Debbie Harries*

It was lovely to be able to open our doors again over Easter and welcome so many of you back to services.

Our regular service pattern will now be every Sunday at 9.30am and 6pm. Every Wednesday at 10am for Holy Communion. We look forward to seeing you!

## Reflective Space at Olveston School

*Lynn Shelley*



The reflective space in Olveston School grounds, which was part of our Sow and Grow fundraising project a couple of years ago, has now been completed.

It has created a beautiful area including a maze, seating areas, a wooden umbrella with seating and sensory planting. This will be a place where members of the school community can sit, explore and enjoy some peace and quiet, away from the hustle and bustle of the school day. It will be especially beneficial for children's well-being when so many have been struggling with their mental health during the pandemic.

Who could have known, when the idea was first discussed, that it would be perfect, for a time such as this? The school is thrilled with the garden and they are already making good use of it.

Paul Watkins designed and built the garden, using ideas suggested by the children. Olveston Parish Council also made a very generous donation of £1500 from their Community Funding Project. There will be a formal opening when restrictions allow. Hopefully, there will also be an opportunity for the local community and church members to come and have a look at what has been created with the money they have raised.



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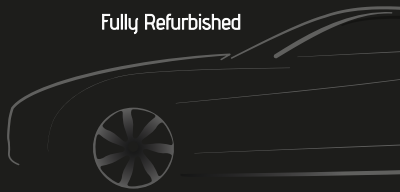
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## Olveston Parish Council

Pat Savage

With summer just around the corner, and hopefully the further easing of lockdown, we will be restarting some of the projects that have been on hold.

### Communications

During lockdown we have been busy reviewing the way in which we communicate within the Parish. We are developing a new communication strategy to better connect with everyone and to provide more opportunity for feedback. More details will follow in the June publication.

### Making Space for Wildlife

This is part of South Gloucestershire's Biodiversity initiative. We are very keen to see what we can achieve once the current lockdown has eased. In the past we have had fantastic effort from volunteers and will be asking once again for people to become involved. (Please see the article from MSFW on page 5.)

### Community Funding Awards

The beneficiaries of the 2020-2021 Awards were the Friends of Olveston School, Old Down Children's Play Area, and the Friends of Marlwood School. With lockdown easing we will have photographs of the recipients in the June issue.

### Pickleball

This is a fun sport for people of all ages (from 8 – 80) and abilities and combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. It can be played both indoors and outdoors on a badminton-sized court. The Council would like to introduce this to the Parish. We are planning an open morning at the Parish Hall car park sometime in June to which all Parishioners are invited. If you are interested, please email [patsavage@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:patsavage@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk) Once we have an idea of numbers, we can set a date.

### Parish Assembly

We were unable to hold the 2021 Annual Assembly. We very much hope that we can hold one in 2022. This is an opportunity for the Parishioners to meet and discuss and indeed question the Parish Councillors on their work on behalf of the Parish. Please email [Clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk) should you have any topics for discussion.



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## Spring: Arrivals and Departures

*Paul Godwin*

I think that one of the things that best marks the passage of the seasons is the wildlife we see in our gardens and surrounding areas. We are very lucky in this area to have such wonderful countryside which we can explore without the need to travel far. Whilst on a local walk in March I noted 16 different bird types. These included: Fieldfare, Pied Wagtail, Gold Crest, Green Woodpecker, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Little Egret, Buzzard, Goldfinch, Bull Finch and Chiffchaff. Some of these birds were readying themselves for their migration back to their breeding grounds and some had recently arrived in this country to breed here.

Birds provide a very visible and audible sign for us as we move from winter into spring. We notice that some birds which were present in winter are no longer to be seen, whilst others such as the Chiffchaff have just arrived in the UK from southern Europe or North Africa. In spring, birds become highly active as they look to nest build and breed.

These photographs, which I have taken locally, feature just a few of the birds we can see in spring in this area. Birds which have quite possibly just made that long migration to be here or are about to migrate back to their breeding grounds.



### The Fieldfare

The Fieldfare is a strong migratory bird and large numbers winter in the UK. They are a member of the Thrush family and can often be seen in large flocks arriving around October and departing in March. They rarely breed in this county. They migrate south to us from

Northern areas such as North Norway and Sweden.

Whilst seen mainly in trees, hedgerows and fields they will come into gardens in very cold spells to eat available berries and seed. This photograph was taken in my garden, which it claimed it as its territory, trying to keep away other birds such as Blackbirds and Blackcaps who were also trying to feed on the fallen apples and berries available. So, when food becomes short, they become very territorial, and scuffles can break out.

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## The Little Egret

This bird first appeared in the UK in 1989 and its numbers are increasing annually in the UK. It is a small white heron. On the south coast it is a breeding species and is mostly found around estuaries. You can also see them along the Severn estuary. I believe the one in the photograph - taken on The Common - is a winter visitor and has recently migrated to Europe as I have not seen it for several weeks now. Numbers of egrets wintering in the UK are

comparatively low just 4500 in the UK with roughly 700 breeding pairs in the UK. So, this bird which has spent a lot of time around the Common this winter is a welcome winter visitor.

## The Chiffchaff

For me, the Chiffchaff marks the coming of spring where you are likely to hear the bird singing high in trees with a clear and distinct call 'Chiff - Chaff, Chiff - Chaff'. Unless it is disturbed you can clearly hear its call repeatedly for long periods. It is a member of the warbler family and has bland olive-green plumage with buff underparts; it is very similar to the Willow Warbler however its call is very different. The Willow Warbler has an ascending and descending trill. It is one of the smaller birds approximately 11cms.



It is a partial migrant and those who do migrate to Southern Europe or North Africa will depart in September and return in early March. Interestingly the male bird migrates to the UK up to three weeks earlier than the female and is the last to leave. It is possible you may see their nests. They build a domed nest for the first clutch of 4 to 9 eggs in April, made of dead vegetation and feathers close to the ground in tall grasses or bushes. You may also see them eating from the underside of tree leaves as they eat aphids, caterpillars and insects. They do move quickly from tree to tree so sometimes can be heard but are more difficult to see. The photograph above



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was taken along the Elberton Road, just after the Blackthorn trees blossomed towards the end of March.

### The Goldcrest



The Goldcrest along with the Firecrest is the Britain's smallest bird weighing only 5.5gramms and 9cm in length. Despite its size, in European folklore it is known as the 'king of birds'. This being due to its scientific name *Regulus* meaning 'king or knight'. Early ornithologists did not believe that this small bird could migrate from eastern Scandinavia crossing the North Sea as it was too small. They believed that they rode on the backs of Woodcocks or Short Eared Owls on their migration journey. A theory which is now,

obviously, dispelled.

Goldcrests are partial migrants and numbers swell considerably in Britain with birds migrating from eastern Scandinavia. Migrating Goldcrests arrive in Britain from late August to November, joining our native stock, and depart in March or April.

They are quite difficult birds to see but are very identifiable with the female having a gold crest across the centre of its crown and the male an orange crest. Once you can tune into their call, a very quiet and high pitched 'zi -zi -zi' and stay still you will hopefully see one. Their favoured habitat is pine or dense wooded habitat. They can also be quite inquisitive so, if you locate one, they may come reasonably close to you for a short period. This being especially the case when hungry following their migration journey. However, they move very quickly within and around trees. The photograph was taken in Harnhill.

So, these are just a few examples of some of the birds you may see locally, which either arrive, or depart, our area in spring. By the time you read this other very visible summer migrants will have begun to arrive, such as swallows, house martins and swifts. These will have made a very long migratory journey to our area from Africa. Let us hope the sun shines for them when they arrive!



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## Tony Turnbull

*Pat Thirkettle*

*Tony is the third of the three new Olveston Parish Councillors we are profiling in Meeting Point.*

Tony was born in Northumberland and, via County Durham, Nottinghamshire and Manchester University, came to Bristol in 1961. With a degree in physics, he started working at Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories, where he spent 33 years until taking voluntary redundancy in 1994 to become a freelance consultant in nuclear materials. He continued with this role until he retired in December 2019.

Moving out of the city, he lived first in Alveston, then Thornbury and finally moved to Tockington in 1978. Soon after moving into the village Tony was seconded for two years to the Research Reactor Project at Halden in Norway.



This was a great experience and very interesting time for him and his wife Maggie. While there they both learnt to cross country ski which later proved useful in unexpected circumstances. He was Editor of Meeting Point from 1985 to 1987, during which time there was no Assistant Editor. In the bad winter of 1986 the local roads were impassable, but he managed to deliver the draft copy of the magazine to the Chairman by skiing from his home in Tockington to Olveston. The picture, left, was taken on that occasion.

About this time, he co-founded the Countryside Group with Ted Addis concentrating on two sites, Wild Acre Wood on the outskirts of Olveston and the lower reaches of Old Down Quarry. With willing volunteers, they cleaned up the sites and planted many trees which continue to grow well to this day. The group eventually fell into abeyance but there is hope it might resume.

Tony has been a keen sailor and was Sail Training Officer for Thornbury Sailing Club for five years, initiating both youngsters and adults into the art of sailing on the difficult River Severn.

Tony and Maggie are keen cyclists and in 2009, with no backup, they cycled from Land's End to John o' Groats staying with friends and B&Bs, covering 1110 miles in three and a half weeks. In 2012, he was persuaded to join Thornbury U3A Committee, resulting in him taking on the role as Membership



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their communities. Primary countries they work in are Ghana,  
Malawi, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia.

So, if you have tools you no longer require, please contact  
Rotarian

**Robin Cole-Morgan on 01454 414281**

He will arrange to pick up the tools and take them away at a time  
that suits everyone.

**What you could declutter and donate:**

Garden Tools and Workshop Tools (for example, spanners,  
screwdrivers, chisels, planes, and hammers). They can be hand  
tools or powered.

Thank you!

Secretary for three years. 200 renewal letters arriving by post on Christmas  
Eve was quite a shock!



Last year Tony was  
asked to join Olveston  
Parish Council. He  
serves on the Recreation  
and Leisure Committee  
where, among other  
things, he inspects the  
three Parish playgrounds  
once a month. He also  
helped Councillor Martin  
Gibson install a seat on  
Tockington Green in  
memory of Kenny Neale,  
a well-loved village  
character.

In the future, he is  
looking forward to working on biodiversity projects with fellow Councillor  
Martyn Suker and Mel Evans, who has been flying the flag for biodiversity in  
the Parish through the Making Space for Wildlife project.

## Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

### 150 Club Winners April 2021:

£50 Iain Murdoch  
£15 Tony Williams  
£5 Jenny Moody

### Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winner:

13/03/21 Andy Rowen  
20/03/21 Roger Riggs  
03/04/21 Angus MacDonald

### May Fixtures at The Park (Start 1.00pm)

01/05/21 1st XI v University Staff  
08/05/21 2nd XI v Stapleton  
15/05/21 1st XI v Congresbury  
22/05/21 2nd XI v Old Park  
29/05/21 1st XI v Long Ashton

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## St Mary's Church Tower Restoration Project

Peter Floyd

Over the winter we have explained how the tower is to be restored and had hoped by now to have been able to give you a start date. But the pinnacles, the most complex and expensive part of the job, are far more eroded than had been expected - worse than any experienced elsewhere - due to being in the direct line of the prevailing winds straight off the Atlantic and coupled perhaps with many years of Avonmouth pollution.

So, to give the best possible performance for the very long term it was decided to use the finest and most expensive limestone, as used on Gloucester Cathedral, which comes from France. The combination of Covid and Brexit, means that we are not sure when the stone will arrive, though hopefully it will be here by the time you read this. Meanwhile, with all necessary action having been taken, the work on carving will begin once the stone arrives and, on the tower, once the scaffolding goes up. Watch the Tower!

### Appeal Update

David Prothero, Treasurer,  
St. Mary's Church Olveston

I am pleased to say that progress continues to be made towards raising the funds necessary to undertake the restoration of the Church Tower. The total amount raised now stands at £218,000. A massive 'thank you' to all in the local community (and beyond) who have donated so generously in response to the Appeal. Although another £5,000 is required to ensure that we cover all eventualities, the restoration work is expected to commence very soon. If you would still like to help, donations can be made in one of the following ways:

**By bank transfer** to the St Mary's Church bank account, the details of which are: Sort Code: 40-52-40, Account Number: 00029936, using the reference "Tower Project".

**By cheque** made payable to "St Mary's PCC Olveston", and sent to David Prothero, Treasurer, St Mary's Church Olveston, Rose Cottage, Buckover, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, GL12 8DX.

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## Answers: The Great Bench Hunt

Here are the details of where you can find the benches that were featured in last month's challenge.

Old Down, opposite the junction of Alveston Road and Pipe Lane.	On the Tockington Manor school sports ground.	By the cricket pitch on Old Down
In the garden of the White Hart at Littleton.	On Church Hill, Olveston, outside St Mary's Church.	Junction of Main Road and Orchard Drive, Aust.
Vicarage Lane Play Area, Olveston.	Elberton Churchyard.	Daldry Gardens, Olveston.
The Green, Littleton.	By the noticeboard opposite the bottom of Haw Lane, Olveston.	On Tockington Green.

## Answers: Literary Dingbats

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Ring of Bright Water       | 11. Heidi                      |
| 2. Howards End                | 12. The Tiger that came to Tea |
| 3. Bring up the Bodies        | 13. Middlemarch                |
| 4. Brighton Rock              | 14. Northanger Abbey           |
| 5. To Kill a Mockingbird      | 15. War and Peace              |
| 6. Room on the Broom          | 16. Kidnapped                  |
| 7. Ivanhoe                    | 17. The Big Sleep              |
| 8. Far from the Madding Crowd | 18. A Man for all Seasons      |
| 9. Fifty Shades of Grey       |                                |
| 10. 1984                      |                                |

How many did you manage to solve?



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# THORNBURY Carnival

The Thornbury Carnival committee has confirmed that the carnival, scheduled for Saturday 3rd July, will go ahead - although attendees should expect changes to the event's format. Liam Williams, Chair of the committee said: *"Although we appreciate the event is due to take place within weeks of social distancing restrictions being lifted, the rapid roll-out of vaccines and the fact this is an outdoor event delivered in a large space, has given us the confidence to push ahead"*.

Liam also explained that the committee has taken the difficult decision to remove the carnival parade from the schedule this year: *"We know lots of people enjoy the parade and even though we anticipate that social distancing restrictions will be fully lifted in time for the event, we realise some people may still feel slightly anxious about being in a crowd. We believe it is sensible, therefore, to avoid creating concentrated crowds where people will find it difficult to maintain personal space or, the significant queues caused by people moving from the parade into the Mundy Playing Fields"*.

Thornbury Carnival is run by a small group of volunteers and is totally dependent on community support to ensure that it remains viable. Liam highlighted that, in recent years, ensuring financial viability of the carnival has proven challenging and has asked for businesses or organisations that might be able to support the event to come forward: *"If you are involved in a business that might be able to support us with sponsorship, grants or volunteers, we would be really appreciative. We will ensure we give plenty of opportunities to promote your business across the event and of course, ensure you have a VIP experience on the day!"*

The committee is continuing with its planning and will release further information as soon as it becomes available. In the meantime, people are encouraged to keep up to date by following the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/thornburycarnival/> or visiting the website: [www.thornburycarnival.co.uk](http://www.thornburycarnival.co.uk)



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It is not biodegradable but is recyclable. So, it would be very much appreciated if you could keep going with recycling and the reusing. PET must not find itself in landfill or the oceans.

## Have you thought of .....

- looking up on the web how to make a 2 litre drinks bottle into a windmill? There are plenty of ideas out there.
- identifying wildflowers while out walking and noticing how many insects are around them? Also watch out for the return of house martins, swallows, and swifts this month, and reflect on the distances they have flown. It is also good to stay still for a while when out walking and tune in to any birdsong there may be.

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\*subject to eligibility



## Open Doors!

The Olveston Parish Hall Management Committee is pleased to announce that the Parish Hall will be re-opening for regular bookings and events from Monday 17th May, in line with Step 3 of the government's roadmap.

Last summer, we took the opportunity to carry out a major redecoration of the Hall and introduce Covid-secure precautions.



We are hopeful that our regular bookers will return and that our recent new users will continue to enjoy our enhanced facilities. Please contact the Booking Secretary on [bookings@olvestonparishhall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@olvestonparishhall.co.uk) to discuss your requirements and the safety measures that need to be put in place. We very much look forward to seeing you back!

## Local Elections

**May 6<sup>th</sup> 7am to 10pm**

In our area we will be voting just for the Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner and the Mayor of the West of England Combined Authority (WECA). A booklet containing candidate details will have been sent to eligible voters around 16<sup>th</sup> April. Polling stations will limit numbers inside the polling station at any one time and ask people to wear a face covering, use the hand sanitiser provided and maintain social distancing. People can bring their own pencil or pen!



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## Thornbury Rotary's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 'Walkathon'

Thornbury Rotary Club celebrates a big anniversary this year. The club held its inaugural meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1971 and was presented with its charter on 31<sup>st</sup> August of the same year. With 50 years of service to the local community, the Club is delighted to report that it has raised over a half a million pounds for local charities, good causes, projects overseas and worldwide disaster relief.



Two founder members of the Rotary Club are still active members today. Nigel Dawes from Olveston (pictured left) and Maurice Stagg from Alveston have, between them, racked up 100 years of work for the community. The club has congratulated both Nigel and Maurice for their outstanding dedication to service over the years, with a special mention for Maurice who turned 90 years of age in April.

### Thornbury Walkathon



To help mark the Club's half century, Thornbury Rotary has launched its latest fundraising campaign, 'Thornbury Walkathon'. This fun event has been planned to run over a two-week period, from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June, to avoid large gatherings whilst Covid restrictions still apply. People taking part can choose the time and date that best suits them and Rotary welcomes individuals, pairs, friends, relatives, and groups of up to six. The sponsored walk has been inspired by some amazing people who have taken on personal challenges during the last 12 months of Covid,

helping to raise funds and awareness for the NHS and other important charities and good causes. This year, 'Walkathon 21', as it has been labelled, is intended as a fundraiser for Jigsaw Thornbury, the principal charity for the event, and many other local charities and good causes will benefit. Jigsaw

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supports families who have children with additional needs or disabilities. Rotary is thrilled that Europa Group has kindly offered to be the Main Business Sponsor for the Walkathon.

For the Walkathon event, suitable routes have been devised that will cater for everybody, from circuits around Mundy Playing Fields, to fully pathed routes around Thornbury, to bigger challenges, like a 10-mile route that incorporates several villages. Wheelchairs and children's buggies can be used on some of these recognised routes. Anyone wishing to participate should contact Mark Wilkinson on [ThornburyRotaryClub@gmail.com](mailto:ThornburyRotaryClub@gmail.com) to obtain more details and to register their interest. A fundraising page has been set up with Virgin Money Giving and this can be found as follows:

[www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/ThornburyRotary.Walkathon21](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/ThornburyRotary.Walkathon21), or alternatively, via Rotary's website: [www.ThornburyRotary.org.uk](http://www.ThornburyRotary.org.uk). There is an opportunity for groups or individuals to set up their own fundraiser pages for this campaign. For any assistance, an email request can be sent to the Gmail account above.

**Swimarathon 2021** Sadly, like so many other events and activities, Rotary's Thornbury Swimarathon had to be cancelled this year due to the pandemic. The organiser has been in touch with recent captains of the swimming teams to thank them for their involvement in this major fundraiser and to advise that the Club has every intention of bringing back the event in 2022.

**Covid-19 Appeal** This appeal was introduced by the club to support local charitable organisations that have been struggling for funds during the pandemic. Rotary is pleased to advise that 13 organisations have benefitted. Some residual funds from the Appeal, plus additional funds, were given to the Castle School Education Trust for students' remote education at home. The donation allowed for five 'Chromebooks' to be acquired for families who could not afford the purchase of computers. In addition, a number of Rotary members donated their old laptops to support the cause.

**Rotary meetings and membership** During the past 12 months, Thornbury Rotarians have continued to meet, albeit via Zoom. One important development is the introduction of a 'satellite club' to encourage new members to join Rotary through the Thornbury Rotary Network. There will be a lot of emphasis on networking for younger members who are still working (rather than retired), as well as identifying projects at local community and international levels. Anyone interested in joining, or finding out more, can contact Nico Sialelli via his mobile: 07871 795846 or by emailing [ThornburyRotaryNetwork@gmail.com](mailto:ThornburyRotaryNetwork@gmail.com). Thornbury Rotary can be followed on Facebook and Twitter: @ThornburyRotary.





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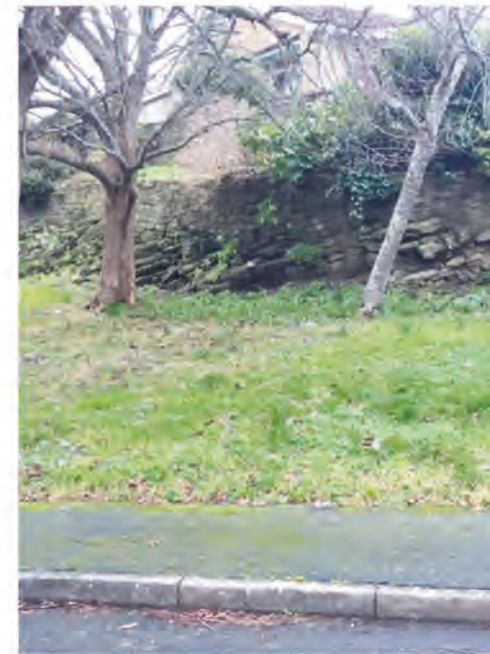
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## Some Local Geology

Hamish Orr-Ewing

Anyone looking at the geology map of this part of the country would be struck by the kaleidoscope of colour which reflects the large number of rock and soil types in the area. In fact, Bristol and its surroundings, probably has more varied geology than any other region in Britain. Most people take it for granted – or don't even notice it – as it is all around them and always has been. Yet local geology has shaped our lives, whether it be the type of house we live in, the availability of water supply, the type of farming that can be carried out or the presence of mining and quarrying.

Some of the earliest rocks in the area are the mountain limestones which you can see in the Avon Gorge and the Mendip Hills. They were formed about 280 million years ago as coral formations in shallow seas. They are slightly soluble in acid rainwater which gives rise to cracks and fissures which eventually enlarge to form large caves such as those at Wookey Hole. If the water re-evaporates out, the limestone is redeposited and tends to form the calcium carbonate 'glue' which makes rock rather than a granulated soil. Much of Olveston sits on grey limestone, and you can see it peeping out of the highway verge in Denys Court (see below) as well as in exposures in many local quarries.



Of course, it is the stone from which most of the early village buildings are constructed. Nowadays most of the market for quarried limestone is for roadstone and concrete aggregate. The limestone which was originally laid down horizontally was later affected by subsidence and horizontal pressure and was squeezed into giant corrugations. The 30° dip on the limestone face in the Avon Gorge is evidence of the massive scale of the movements involved.

Towards the end of the carboniferous limestone era, the climate changed, and land surfaces became heavily forested swamps. Successive layers of organic material built up in what is

now known as the 'coal measures.' These were later eroded back to the limestone in the Olveston area, but further west they remain in a band from

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Cromhall down to Syston and formed the basis of Bristol's coalmining industry which worked coal from 1250 to 1968.

In the Olveston area the eroded limestones were overlain by Triassic mudstones, which have remained as horizontal strata to this day. The most recognisable feature of the material is that it is red, due to its high iron content and this has given rise to many local placenames such as Redcliffe, Redland and Redfield in Bristol. The Triassic strata was formed approximately 180 million years ago in desert conditions and may vary from sandstone, loose sand, mudstone to clay. The clays are used for brickmaking and hence the presence of a clay pit and brickworks on Over Lane. This was originally set up to provide millions of bricks for the construction of the Severn railway tunnel, but the business continues to this day.

Where the Triassic overlays the limestone, it has filled up the limestone fissures and penetrated areas of limestone scree weathered from limestone cliffs. This gave rise to another rock type – conglomerate, which looks like a pink concrete with grey limestone aggregate. Occasional lumps of it can be seen in the St Mary's Church boundary wall on Church Hill, contrasting with the grey limestone of the remainder. (Not a geological matter – but of interest – this wall is capped with blue coping blocks which were cast from molten slag which was a by-product of the once thriving Bristol brass industry.)

The triass is in turn overlain by lias clay strata of a yellow/grey colour. Within that there occur isolated layers of fossil-bearing limestones. The best place to view this is either side of the first Severn Bridge, where the cliff face shows a neat section. The beach below is littered with fossils from the limestone layers, particularly after heavy rain and freezing conditions. If you take children there, armed with bucket, hammer and safety goggles, you will be guaranteed to find fossil shells and even some bones.



Above: Aust Cliff

Left: Grandchildren fossil-hunting





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The last geological period since the ice-age has involved substantial sea-level rises as the ice began to melt, and this is still ongoing, being given an additional recent nudge by manmade global warming. As the sea rose, rivers backed up and silt was deposited over the previously eroded land surface. The depth of silt at Avonmouth is over 80ft, showing that the Avon Gorge was originally much deeper. The silt formed flat flood plains either side of the Severn as far as Gloucester and beyond. It extends to the foot of Church Hill in Olveston and can be viewed by walking on Catherine Hill. Left to its own devices, this area would be flooded by the higher tides each year, with a little more silt being deposited each time. However, man has intervened and constructed a flood embankment which extends from Avonmouth to Gloucester. The addition of rhine drainage has allowed the former marshes to be turned into agricultural land. Anyone walking at Whale Wharf may observe tidal flotsam which has, in places, be deposited within inches of the top of the embankment, suggesting that raising it is long overdue.



*Flood Pain at Whale Wharf*

*Editor's note: This article first appeared in our February edition, which was online only, so it is repeated here for those who might have missed it. Fossil-hunting weather should return soon!*

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## Olveston North East Section

Andy Phillips

Calling the Olveston 'Closes'!

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they have gradually diminished in number.

So, I wonder if there is anyone who would like to take up the mantle? Ideally, we need 3 from Russet Close – 1 from Laxton Close and 2 from Bramley Close, in this way you need to be only responsible for, say, 10 local houses.

The duties are not onerous, however you would need to have a computer and an email address. Most of the time it is just to keep a friendly look out for your neighbours, which I'm sure we all do anyway. From time to time there might be a need to pass on information to your allocated houses, generally by way of a note dropped through their door.

These days we have regular updates through the Avon & Somerset Police, which help to keep us fully informed of criminal activities within our area and these will be relayed to you through your email. If you are interested, you will really make a difference.

Please give me a call on 01454 614890 or drop me an email to [andisp28@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andisp28@hotmail.co.uk) and I will be in touch with more information.

Thanks, I look forward to hearing from you!!



*This article first appeared in the March online-only version of Meeting Point. It is repeated here to give readers another chance to read it and get in touch with Andy if they think they can help.*





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## Yours Faithfully

Judith Heybyrne  
LLM St John's Church, Elberton

This first week in May is Christian Aid week, when we will be thinking about the climate chaos in Kenya and how we can help people access life-saving water. Global warming is increasing and having devastating effects on the whole planet. The most damage is done by CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere and to combat climate change we need to reduce and remove it. The most powerful weapon we have are trees, they can capture and store carbon for centuries. We need to plant more trees and protect existing forests.

Trees also play a major and important role in the Bible used figuratively and literally to help us understand God, the creator of the world. "Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made" (Romans 1: 20). Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden had eaten the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil after God had forbade them to, the consequences being self-centeredness and a broken relationship with God. There was also another symbolic tree in the Garden of Eden, the tree of life, promising eternal life. God in his grace and mercy was determined to redeem Adam and Eve's mistake so he planted in us all the seed (spirit) which would again bring forth the Tree of Life.

The mustard seed is tiny, but it can grow quickly into a tree some three metres high, Jesus refers to it many times to illustrate the growth of God's kingdom. An olive tree was a divine provision in the Bible, as its oil had many significant uses including being a component of anointing oil and its leaves a symbol of peace. An oak tree was often used as a symbol for a mighty man; even today we plant them in memory of loved ones, like in Elberton churchyard where we have oak and horse chestnut trees. There is also a beautiful Paper Bark Maple which must have been planted for someone very special. The great cedars, cypresses and oaks were used to build Noah's home the Ark, when God had chosen to save him and the animals. The cedars were a symbol of life given by God, being the largest and most majestic of trees, with a life span of up to 2,000 years.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life (John 3:16). Jesus was crucified and died on a wooden cross (a tree of life for us all).

So, to end, be happy in following God "like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper".

# Church News

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**Contact:** Rev David Moss, 01454 415190; email: [mossds@gmail.com](mailto:mossds@gmail.com)

## CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

May 9	10am	Morning Prayer	Mr Trevor Cook
May 23	10am	Holy Communion	Mr Trevor Cook

**Contact:** Trevor Cook, 01454 618442

**Church Wardens:** Jenn Dickens 632312 & Clive Roberts 632238

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

May 9	9am	Morning Prayer	Mrs Tracey Black
May 23	9am	Holy Communion	Mrs Tracey Black

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

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

May 9	9am	Morning Prayer	Mrs Judith Heybyrne
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**Contacts:** Judith Heybyrne 616725 & John Gunnery 413225

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May 16	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship, Mrs Jennifer Bone
May 23	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship, Mrs Jenny Clark
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**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.olvostonandaust.com](http://www.olvostonandaust.com). If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: [meetingpointsecretary@olvostonandaust.com](mailto:meetingpointsecretary@olvostonandaust.com)

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