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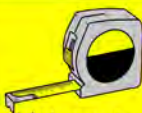
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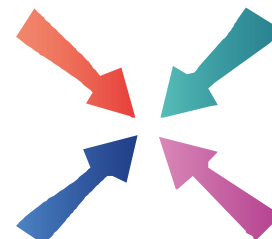
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# Meeting Point

**Volume 48, Number 2, November 2023**

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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6th November 2023

## From the Editor

This month we are very grateful to three local people for sharing their stories with us – we hear from one of our South Gloucestershire Councillors, the clerk to Aust Parish Council and a Tockington farmer. Hopefully readers will enjoy these items.

There is, as ever, information about a huge number of events being held during November. I must say I am very tempted by the 'Vintage, Antiques and Craft Fair' which is being held in Littleton on Severn.

Looking back to September we have a review of the Tockington Harvest Fayre, with lots of lovely photographs. Looking forward to December we are reminded about Olveston School's Christmas market and Christmas tree sale, also about how people can help Mo Lewis' annual appeal on behalf of disadvantaged children and families.

This month's cover photograph was taken in 2020 by Lisa Helyar.

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

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

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## June Robbins

*Les Harper*



With the sad death of June, on 18<sup>th</sup> September, our community has lost one of its great characters, known and loved by many of us.

June joined the Editorial Committee of Meeting Point when it was founded in 1976, representing the church. She remained part of our team for about 45 years, only stopped by declining health a couple of years ago and was our only remaining founding member. Through all that time we benefitted from her comprehensive knowledge of village people and affairs, her sage advice and her charm and joyful humour.

Also in 1976, she became the Verger of St Mary's Church in Olveston. She managed not only the regular services but baptisms, marriages and funerals, and those on special occasions. She also held Communion Services at Windmill House and Daldry Gardens. All these activities meant that June became known to many people, often at critical times in their lives.

On a less serious note – June was an enthusiastic participant in Parish Players. Her exuberance and humour were a joy to behold!

June willingly appeared as our 'local Queen', accompanied by her late husband Arthur riding in a limousine at local parades, where her 'Royal Wave' was much admired.



June's contribution to community life was recognised in 2014 by an Award from the Chair of South Gloucestershire Council, and in 2018 she went to Windsor Castle to receive Maundy Money from the late Queen.

In June's words, "It was a day to remember".

We'll miss June and we send our sympathy to her family.

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## News from St. Mary's

Debbie Harries

### Remembrance Sunday

We will be holding our annual remembrance parade service on Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am. All welcome.

### Christmas Tree Festival

2nd to 9th December

St Mary's is holding a Christmas tree festival this year!

If you are a charity, business, club, association, school or community organisation and would like to enter a tree this year to make a beautiful festive display for all to enjoy, please contact Debbie Harries for more information: oboe-debbie@live.co.uk or 07870557961

## From the Registers of St. Mary's

August 17 <sup>th</sup>	The funeral of Derry Smart
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	The baptism of Hugo and Albert Fairhead
October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	The funeral of June Valerie Robbins
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	The funeral of Angela Ruth Knight
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	The marriage of Verity-May Haskins and George Charles Agg
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	The marriage of Claire Elizabeth Lyons and Martin Emerson McDermott



## Thank You

### Celebration for the life of June Robbins

Jim, John, and their families would like to express their sincere thanks to everyone who attended and participated in June's funeral. It was a wonderful celebration of June's life, and she will be missed by us all.



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## Advent Windows



We will be lighting up the village again this December with our Advent Windows. A living advent calendar! They are always very popular and lovely to see them all as we prepare for Christmas. If you would like to decorate and light up a window please contact Debbie for more information:

[ofoe-debbie@live.co.uk](mailto:ofoe-debbie@live.co.uk)  
 or 07870557961

## Olveston and Tockington WI.



November's meeting is our AGM, followed by a Bingo Quiz about our WI year. Other activities organised for November are an afternoon tea, walking group, book group, and our stitching group. A trip to the Birmingham Xmas market and an WI evening at John Lewis have been organised by the Avon Federation of Women's Institutes.



Olveston and Tockington WI meet at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month at Olveston Parish Hall and last month we welcomed 4 new members. If you would like to join us, please contact Angela Green on 01454 615222 and scan the WI QR code to find out more about joining the UK's largest women's membership organisation.



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The prize winners in the October draw, held on 5th October 2023 were:

Amount	Number	Name
£150	310	Mr A Vizard, Tockington
£75	408	Mr A Phillips, Oveston
£50	598	Mr P Haworth, Olveston
£25	177	Mrs D Hedges, Pilning
£25	614	Mrs S Fairhead, Oldbury-on-Severn
£20	363	Mrs J Hahn, Olveston
£20	573	Mr P Haworth, Olveston
£20	552	Mrs B Kingscott, Almondsbury
£20	572	Mr P Haworth, Olveston
£20	443	Mrs J Skinner, Sneyd Park

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

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

## Old Down Cricket Club

*Tony Gardner*

### 150 Club Winners September 2023:

£50 Malcolm Grosvenor  
£15 Tony Gardner  
£5 Harry Kitchen

### Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

12/08/23 Matt Snell  
19/08/23 Stuart Bushell  
26/08/23 Tony Gardner  
02/09/23 Andrew Kitchen

### 150 Club Winners October 2023:

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£15 John Welsher  
£5 John Cryer

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## Harvest Fayre 2023

Tockington Harvest Fayre on Saturday 23rd September was a great success. The sun shone and a huge number of people gathered on Tockington Green for an afternoon filled with community spirit. Everyone's generous donations of time and money meant that almost £3,700 was raised in support of Olveston and Tockington Methodist church, including The Wesley Rooms.



This year's Harvest Queen was Charlotte Oates, with supporters Bea and Eloise. Emma Slade opened the Fayre with a warm and poignant speech, reflecting on how her father, Garry Phillips, had organised the Fayre for many years, to bring the community together. Emma said, "My dad truly would be delighted to know that the Fayre goes on and that the sun is shining, and to see the great numbers that have turned out to join this special day."

Emma also spoke on behalf of Olveston and Tockington Methodist church when she said, "A massive thank you to all the people of Tockington and the surrounding areas for the amazing help you always give to make this a special event. There is no way the congregation could organise a Fayre of this magnitude without your tremendous help. Heartfelt thanks from the Church for everything you do." She reserved a special thanks to her dad's "apprentices of 20 years", Jane and Maggie, who led the organising team.

Highlights of the day included the children's 'Ugly Bug Ball' fancy dress parade and the entries to the children's competitions, which included model making

and posters on a bee-friendly theme, encouraging biodiversity. The winner of the poster competition, Daisy Burnett, will have her poster made into a sign to be displayed around the village.



As always, the Brownies entertained everyone with their uplifting dance display. The Brownie parents were a huge asset, as many were part of the early morning team who lifted out all the tables and chairs, as well as later

running many stalls. The Fayre was pleased to welcome the Emma Kate Dance Academy from Almondsbury who gave us a lively and entertaining



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street dance performance. Richard Harrison added to the entertainment with his collection of percussion instruments made from recycled objects for everyone to try out. Great fun for all ages!



Local sensations 'The Femmes' returned after 9 years to provide a perfect musical back drop of 1940s hits and vocal harmonies. It is hard to believe that they began their professional careers by singing at Tockington Harvest Fayre, and now they tour the country, performing at events such as RHS Flower Shows and on cruises.

Of course, the Harvest Fayre would not be the same without its sublime cakes and cream teas, and this year was no exception. The refreshment team was so busy that it was a race to get teapots and cups cleared, washed and refilled for the next round of eager customers.



Thanks again to everyone for such a wonderful day. Please watch out for opportunities to get involved in the teamwork running up to the Fayre next year, all of which helps make this combined church and community event so very special.



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Brilliant pianist, singer and raconteur, Michael Lunts, from the Armstrong Arts Group team, is to present a concert featuring a number of highly talented young musicians. Their impressive and gifted performances will delight and amaze you.

The concert will take place at The United Reformed Church, Chapel Street, Thornbury BS35 2BA on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 3.00pm. Tickets cost £7.50 or £5 for under 16 years. Tea and cakes will be served in the interval.  
Contact: [AAGThornbury@gmail.com](mailto:AAGThornbury@gmail.com)

## Tabletop Sale

Thornbury Volunteer Centre Christmas Tabletop Sale  
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Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 10am-1pm. Free entry.

Visit us to find that elusive Christmas present, choose from cards, local produce, hand-made gifts, crafts and vintage items. We are also serving teas, coffees and homemade cakes and there will be a giant Christmas raffle.

## Littleton on Severn Village Hall

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**Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
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## James Farr

Pat Thirkettle

In 1907 James's great grandfather, also called James, bought twenty-six acres of land in Tockington, opposite the Parish Hall, and the family have farmed it ever since. They have a map with the title deeds of the land and the names of their neighbouring landowners. James's mission has been to make the farm work, and, with purchases, the land now totals 240 acres.

The house on the site was initially called Paradise Place but changed its name in the 1880s to The Elms - James and his wife Vanessa have considered changing the name back! It was sub divided into flats for many years, but James and Vanessa renovated it in 2020 to become a family home for them and their daughters. A historic survey shows that parts of the house date back to the 1660s.

In the 1990s his father Bruce ran a poultry farm, but new regulations necessitated a change. He therefore set about diversifying with the chicken sheds becoming storage units and the other buildings became mixed use. The largest, Avon Tuning, which modifies car engines, was started by a local lad and now employs ten people. Others include a Caribbean bakery supplying local markets, a metal worker and an 'Up Cycler' of furniture.



James and his family on holiday

Farming is still the common denominator with commercial cattle and sheep and a few chickens. James' family own Old Down Woods in the Slad which have been slightly neglected recently due to all the new activity but is sometimes used for groups of young children and local dog walkers. A small wood near the house is the home of a Woodland School started three years ago by Elise Goard, ([www.woodlandmastery.com](http://www.woodlandmastery.com)). It is used by Olveston Pre-School and Jigsaw, a charity supporting children and young adults with special needs.

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garden. All rubbish was removed, the soil cultivated, and now they grow flowers all the year round with the aid of a greenhouse. They sell online at [wildzinniabristol@gmail.com](mailto:wildzinniabristol@gmail.com), they also do weddings and sell to local florists.



A view of The Elms

community of like-minded people living and working at The Elms.

Sustainability is important to James - his other grandfather was a pioneer of the Soil Association and had a big impact on him on visits to their farm. The chicken sheds have solar panels and last year he planted six hundred broadleaf trees, with the aid of a few local volunteers.

James is glad to carry on the family farming tradition, of course there is diversification, but farming is still at the core. This combination has developed a nice

## CRUK Quiz Night

Thornbury and District Cancer Research UK Committee is holding a Quiz Night with Fish & Chip Supper.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November

7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start.

Manorbrook Primary School, Park Road, Thornbury, BS35 1JW

Teams of 6 (maximum).

Please note there will be no bar, so bring your own drink, glasses will be provided. There will be a raffle.

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## Emma Pattullo Clerk to Aust Parish Council



I grew up in the north of Scotland, moved south for university (and some warmer weather) and now live in Rangeworthy with my husband and two teenagers. Outside work I am a member of Rangeworthy WI, I volunteer in my local primary school and have just started a Spanish language class, so my life is certainly busy.

I've been a parish council clerk for seven years, having held the same role with Oldbury-on-Severn Parish Council before moving to Aust PC. I started my current role in summer 2020, a very strange time to start a new job as everything was being run over Zoom, including my interview and my first few council meetings.

It was great to finally meet the councillors face to face once we were allowed to do so.

The role of parish clerk, and parish councils, is often misunderstood. Firstly, we are nothing to do with the church; parish councils are the most local branch of government and exist to represent and improve their local communities. Parish councillors are not paid, they carry out the role to help their communities. In a smaller parish like Aust, which also covers Elberton and Littleton, the parish council is largely focused on representing the interests of our residents in dealing with other bodies such as South Glos. Council, but in larger parishes and towns, local councils also provide many services such as grass cutting or playgrounds.

My clerk role covers far more than it might first appear. Although I do run the administration of the council – such as drawing up the agendas for council meetings, taking minutes and dealing with many, many emails – I am also the council's accountant, legal advisor, planning specialist, human resources department, IT support, communications officer and general 'chief cook and bottle washer' as my Gran would have said. In short, the councillors might make the decisions, but I'm the one who gets things done (sorry, councillors!)

The best thing about my job is that it can be incredibly varied. One day I might be looking at a planning application for a new development, whilst the next I could be learning about legislation for the protection of badgers on our nature reserve at Woodwell Meadows. There is always something new to learn, although thankfully my experience has now made the unexpected surprises a little less common.

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Matt Cole  
1 Olive Gardens Tel 01454 851545  
Alveston Mob 07715 705670

The worst part of the role (apart from all the emails) is often that parish councils operate under a rather out-of-date set of legal rules. The main parliamentary Act which governs us was drawn up in 1972, when nobody had heard of emails, let alone Zoom. This means that we can sometimes appear to operate at rather glacial speed. Believe me, it can be frustrating for us too. But I enjoy knowing that my role helps make Aust parish a better place to live.

## New times for First Friday Community Cafés

Thanks to your support, the First Friday Community Cafés at Tockington Chapel have met with great success ever since they started running in February. Based on feedback from our many customers, we have decided to change the café opening times to 10.00 - 12.00.

Forthcoming dates are Friday 3rd November, Friday 1st December and Friday 5th January. We look forward to seeing you there! Tea, coffee, squash and delicious cake will be available. Cash payments only please.

The café is a community event, and we would welcome you as an occasional helper, perhaps with a group of your friends. Please get in touch at [TOCS.friends@gmail.com](mailto:TOCS.friends@gmail.com). We donate the proceeds to the Methodist Church in exchange for free use of their building, which is a valuable hub for the Tockington community and currently needs the community's support.

## Advent Coffee Morning

Olveston Methodist Church, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 10.30am - 1.30pm

We will be holding our usual Advent Coffee Morning in our Olveston premises this year, on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, the day before Advent Sunday. Refreshments will be in the Hall - coffee, mince pies and other treats will be served from 10.30, then soup and savoury items later on, until 1.30. In the Chapel there will be a stall for small gifts and Christmas items, festive music, and somewhere to sit and chat. Profits will go to Action for Children and one other charity. Last year, thanks to your support, we were able to send a substantial donation to Leprosy Relief. We look forward to welcoming you again,

For donation of gifts or offers of help, please contact Maggie Spooner (01454 610053) or Jennifer Bone (01454 614601).

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## Olveston Parish Council

*Pat Savage*

By the time this edition lands on your mat, the first two items should have occurred!

### Village Gates

These will have been installed at the following locations:  
Lower Tockington Road - coming down Fern Hill.  
At the bottom of Washingpool Hill approaching Tockington.  
Olveston - on the Aust Road approaching the allotments.  
Old Down - approaching from the Crescent.

### Vicarage Lane Play Area

The public meeting will have been held at the Parish Hall. The presentation by Councillors Martin Gibson and Tony Turnbull will have set out the future vision for the play area with both equipment suitable for the younger generation and some adult equipment. Once agreement has been reached on the equipment to be installed the Council will then make grant fund applications to the relevant 'Sport and Lottery' funding.

### Police Annual Update

PCs Will Price and Paula Perry attended the September meeting. Their annual update was as follows:

Burglaries.	8
Criminal.	8
Drugs.	1
Public Disorder.	4
Thefts.	12
Vehicles.	7

They advised that parishioners do need to be on the alert for rogue traders who are targeting the elderly. They are very happy to meet with resident groups, even as small as six, to discuss and clear up any worries they may have. Contact can be made via our clerk ([clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk))

### Thornbury High Street

Our District Councillor informs us that the work on the High Street has now been brought forward and should be completed by the end of October or early November at the latest.

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## Friends of Olveston School



Everyone is warmly invited to our Christmas Market Night on Friday 1st December, 5.30-8pm at Olveston School

Please do come along and get into the festive spirit! Enjoy Christmas market stalls, food, drinks, music from a 'dad band' and even some crafts and games for the children!

If you are a local crafter or stall holder, and would like a table, please contact: [foospta@gmail.com](mailto:foospta@gmail.com) for more information.



## FOOS Christmas Trees Nordman Fir Super Premium

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Trees are available to collect from Olveston School on Friday 1st December 1:30 - 4pm, and then later the same evening during the Christmas Market 5:30 - 8pm.

Purchasing your tree through us helps to raise much-needed funds for our lovely school.

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## Thornbury Christmas Lights

Thornbury Christmas Lights Association will be hosting the annual switch-on event on Tuesday 21st November, an event which has been placed on hold since 2019. This will take place on Thornbury High Street, with a community market opening at 5pm and the lights being switched on at 7pm. Unfortunately, due to the current position of the works on the High Street, and the uncertainty regarding the timeline of these developments, we will not be able to host a funfair as we have in previous years.

FFI: [thornburychristmaslights@gmail.com](mailto:thornburychristmaslights@gmail.com)






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## What's next for Bristol Port?

Jenny Newley

Wednesday 1st Nov. 7.30pm .  
Methodist Church, The Street, Olveston BS35 4DR

The November meeting of Olveston Parish Historical Society will be a talk by John Chaplin, who is a director at The Bristol Port Company.

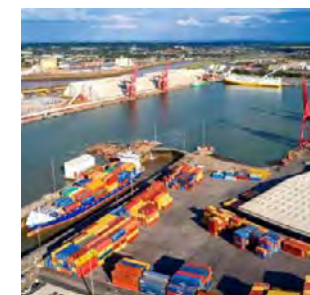


About 10 years ago, some of us visited the site. We heard about the history of the port and how it was operating at that time. We saw the grain and feed silos, and the part that coal played in the operation of shipping and the port.

Since then, Britain's relationship with the rest of Europe has changed, there's been a worldwide pandemic, and the emphasis on moving towards net zero has become much stronger. What effect have these factors had on the operations of the port?

John will explain how the Bristol Port Company is planning for the future. What are the challenges?

What are the opportunities?



Bristol Port is a vital part of Britain's infrastructure, moving goods into and out of the country. At one time bananas were a key import! What is imported and exported now? It's essential the port continues to be successful. This is history in the making!

All very welcome. You can pay an annual membership subscription of £10 (which covers all the 2023/24 meetings) or visitors can pay on the door, £3 for one meeting, by cash, or cheque to OPHS - no cards. Free refreshments before the meeting starts.

[www.olveston.com/historical-society](http://www.olveston.com/historical-society)

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# A Trip to 10 Downing Street

*Matthew Riddle*



Out of the blue I received an invitation to a reception in June, to thank me for the work I do locally. An even bigger surprise was that it would be taking place at Number 10 Downing Street. At first, I was a bit hesitant about attending, as it felt like a long way to go for quite a short event, especially given the costs involved and the carbon footprint of such an adventure. However, we wanted to visit my mother-in-law in Berkshire, and doing that meant I would already be more than halfway to London, so I said yes to this rare opportunity to visit such a well-known location.

Downing Street is located off Whitehall, nearly opposite the Cenotaph, and it struck me that it is really quite a narrow street, with white stone buildings towering up on either side. The four well-armed police guarding the black metal gates leading into the street sent a powerful message. Passing through security meant a thorough check of my official invitation and photo ID, then all my loose possessions went into a tray and through a scanner, before I also stepped through an electronic security device. Interestingly, this was much more rigorous than when going to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party a few years ago, as I recall, back then, only having to show my invitation at the gate.

The door of Number 10 Downing Street is physically very much like any other door, though very gleaming and very black, but it was not as heavy as I had imagined. I reflected that I had actually entered a 'Number 10' door many times before in my life. Firstly, my Granny Riddle's door at 10 Eastland Road, and then my late parents' door at 10 Westmarsh Lane. This particular Number 10 however was unlike any other doorway I have ever stepped through! The weight of history was everywhere. I walked through the hallway behind the famous door, where all guests had to leave any mobiles or cameras, then down a corridor and onto the main staircase. The walls of these stairs are famously adorned by the black and white portraits of all previous Prime Ministers, which stretch upwards in chronological order from the first Prime Minister, Robert Walpole who took office in 1721, to the most recent former holders of the office, at the top.

One of those pictured Prime Ministers who is of particular local interest is Robert Jenkinson, the Second Earl of Liverpool, whose family came from

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Hawkesbury, and who lived at Eastwood Park, Falfield. At 42 years old he was one of the youngest to take up the role, and, in office for almost 15 years, he was also one of longest serving Prime Ministers. During his tenure, from June 1812 to April 1827, he had some tricky situations to sort out. The King, George III, was suffering with a mental illness and his son (whom the King did not get on with at all) was Prince Regent from 1811 until George III died in 1820. The Corn Laws were a hot potato, and the Prime Minister also had to deal with civil unrest after the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, and debates about Catholic emancipation. He died in 1828 and was buried in Hawkesbury Church beside his first wife and his father.

To get to the Rose Garden, where the reception took place, you actually go down the main stairs and then out onto a beautiful wide lawn surrounded with roses, shrubs, and a high sheltering brick wall. Outside it was a very sunny afternoon. I was glad to have taken my straw hat, one of only two straw hats to be seen amongst about a hundred of us there. The garden, like the house, was very well kept, as you would expect. It was good to meet councillors from all over the country and discuss the common issues which we are all dealing with. After the speeches, the Prime Minister mingled with some of those present. He did not come my way, but he looked in very good form, and is shorter and slimmer than I had previously thought.

*This article first appeared in the August edition of Oldbury on Severn's 4Ward magazine. We are grateful to the Editor for allowing us to use it here.*

## Mo's Christmas Toy Appeal

Mike Lewis

It's that time of year again. In conjunction with the Salvation Army, Mo Lewis has launched Mo's Christmas Toy Appeal for a 6th year. Last year was a phenomenal success with over £10,000 of gifts being received and distributed to children throughout South Gloucestershire and Bristol. Without this appeal, more than 500 under-privileged children in our area will wake on Christmas Day to find no gifts. A thought that horrifies Mo and, fortunately, many more supportive people in our area.

The deadline for donations is Friday 1st December. The Salvation Army then collects the gifts and takes them to their Staple Hill base for sorting into age categories. They are then taken out to the listed homes to enable their parents or guardians to personally wrap them up.

Last year was a truly remarkable effort, as the new toys, toiletries, knitted blankets and clothes, a stash of cash and Boots Gift Vouchers all mounted up. That amazing effort will take some beating, especially in these tough times. However, any donations will be very much

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appreciated. Many knitters have been hard at work for many months, so a queue of very warm and smart babies and toddlers is assured.

Gifts can be delivered to Mo, at her Severn Beach home, or she will collect within a reasonable distance. Last year, several people ordered gifts from Amazon - and then had them delivered to Mo.



There is a short information video posted on the local community Facebook pages in Severn Beach, Pilning and Olveston, in addition to Mo's own page (Mo Lewis). The video is just 4 minutes long, with top comedy

impressionist, Christopher Gee, narrating, and it outlines everything you need to know about contributing to the appeal.

The deadline for donations is Friday 1st December. Mo's contact information is as follows: email: [lewismollie829@gmail.com](mailto:lewismollie829@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 0795 814 0896

If you have any further queries, or need more information, please get in touch.



## Community Oil Buying Scheme

If you rely on oil for your heating and hot water, then you may have considered joining a syndicate buying group...but did you know you have your own, local, well-established group, buying throughout BaNES, North Somerset, South Gloucester and Bristol?

The West of England Rural Network (WERN) is a local charity promoting rural sustainability. Already well recognised in the community as the organisation from which the Village Agents operate, see below, they have additionally, over the last 10 years, been successfully operating a syndicate oil buying scheme, aimed at reducing rural fuel poverty. By placing a single, large order once a month and negotiating with multiple national suppliers to get the best price, members may on average pay 6 pence per litre less than the average high street oil price.



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Thanks to a grant awarded by Quartet Community Foundation, annual membership (normally £20/year for domestic users) is free for domestic heating oil users aged 70 and over. The scheme is open to all residents, community buildings (£30/year) and businesses (£100/year) within Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bristol.

If you're interested in joining or learning more about the Community Oil Buying Scheme, give Kaz a call, on 01275 333701, email: [karen@wern.org.uk](mailto:karen@wern.org.uk) or visit WERN's website <http://www.wern.org.uk/community-oil-buying-scheme/>

## Severn Vale Village Agent Update

*Elizabeth Woodland*

As you may recall, I was recently recruited as a Village Agent for the Parishes of Aust, Oldbury on Severn, Olveston, Hill and Rockhampton.

Over the summer I have been meeting all sorts of people and organisations that provide much needed support and advice to residents. It's been a revelation to discover the wide range of services and initiatives out there including drop in cafés, community transport schemes, ageing well initiatives and practical support. My job is very much about raising awareness of these services and the opportunities to improve health and wellbeing.

If you are finding things more challenging than you used to you may be entitled to an Attendance Allowance. What you may not realise is that the Attendance Allowance is not means tested, so will not affect any savings you have. If you would like to know more, please get in contact with me.

Just to recap, the Village Agent service:

- Is a free confidential service.
- Offers one to one support and help to connect with others.
- Signposts people to information and professional services.
- Helps with financial concerns (including claiming of benefits).
- Is for anyone over 18 years old.

More information on the project can be found here: [www.wern.org.uk/village-agents](http://www.wern.org.uk/village-agents) or contact me on 07880 344460 (please leave a message) or email [elizabeth@wern.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth@wern.org.uk)



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## Let's Get Quizzical!

Mike Lewis

Following the tragic death of Carole Moorlen, from Hallen, her family opted to raise money for local mental health charities and they plan to launch their own charity. Carole had helped her husband Steve raise £200,000 for Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre. The pair of them had also willingly helped out at many other fund-raising events in South Gloucestershire - some of them to help me at my fund-raisers! So, it is no surprise that this remarkable family, faced with immeasurable grief, should try to help others faced with mental health issues. Together with my son Rob and my wife Mo (AKA The Inquizitors), I am hosting a fun quiz, sponsored by MB Frames PVCu Ltd, in memory of Carole, on Saturday 25th November at the BAWA Club Ballroom in Filton.

All proceeds will be handed to local mental health charities or, if it is launched in time, the Moorlen's very own charity. Tickets cost £10 per person. The winners will be the first team to be given the Carole Moorlen salver. The members of the team will each receive a smaller engraved salver too. Additionally, the 2nd and 3rd placed teams will also be handed silver and bronze medals respectively. We've not forgotten the last placed team, who will win a wooden spoon trophy.

Due to the admin and technology involved, we will not be able to accept teams on the night. So, please sign up now, and then pay your dues by 18th November. It will be a fun night with the quiz utilising the giant screen for every question. The questions will involve oral, audio, video and picture questions. You don't have to be a 'Brain of Britain' to enter this quiz. There will be a super raffle too. Food available from the bar until 9pm. Doors will open at 6.30pm for a 7.30pm prompt start. To sign up, or to find out any information about the quiz or charity, please contact me on 0790 848 3979 or email [inquizitors3@gmail.com](mailto:inquizitors3@gmail.com).

## Thornbury Choral Society Concert

Thornbury Choral Society will be performing their first concert of the 2023/24 season on Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. The concert will take place at St. Mary's Church, Thornbury (BS36 1HQ)

The soloists are Rosanne Harris, soprano and James Geidt, bass.

Directed by their conductor, Steven Kings, the choir will sing Brahms' German Requiem. (Performed in English.) The two soloists will be performing

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Zweistimmige Op.63 by Mendelssohn and the Thornbury Camerata will play String Symphony No.10 in B Minor, also by Mendelssohn.

Tickets cost £18 (pre-booked) or £20 (on the door) which includes refreshments. These are available from Tess Sullivan [tickets@thornburychoralsociety.org.uk](mailto:tickets@thornburychoralsociety.org.uk) or tel 01454-417865 or from Horders, Thornbury, from November 13<sup>th</sup>.

For further details about this concert and any other forthcoming events, please visit the website: [www.thornburychoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.thornburychoralsociety.org.uk)



## Green Force

Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you'll find in one area, such as animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria, that make up our natural world. All these work together in ecosystems, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life. Biodiversity supports everything in nature that we need in order to survive, such as food, clean water, medicine, and shelter. The more diverse the ecosystem the more stable it is. We humans put increasing pressure on the planet, using and consuming more resources than ever before, therefore upsetting the balance of ecosystems and losing biodiversity. Both the land-based environment and the ocean environment have been significantly altered because of our needs and human greed.

Our world population continues to increase so that more than 33% of the world's land surface and nearly 75% of freshwater resources are now devoted to crop or livestock production for our food requirements. Humans have overfished the oceans, cleared forests, polluted water sources, and created a climate crisis. These actions are impacting biodiversity around the world, from the most remote places on the planet to our own backyards.

Since 1970, WWF has found an average 69% decline in global populations of mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. In 2019 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services reported 1million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction - the highest number in human history. Climate change completes the circle by worsening the impact of other stressors on nature and our own well-being.

So, what can we do to help the situation? We must think carefully about doing our best not to waste food, grow bee-friendly plants, support local food production to reduce airmiles and conserve energy. If we try all these things, and more, even in a small way, we can make a difference.



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## Thornbury Art Club

Thornbury Art Club monthly Club Night, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November  
St Mary's Church Hall, Thornbury 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

Local artist Bob Prince will give a talk 'Painting by Numbers, for Digital Print'

Visitors welcome. Non-members £5. Tel. 01454 414433 for further details.

For enquiries, please contact:

Mary Drown 01454 414433 or [chairthornburyart@gmail.com](mailto:chairthornburyart@gmail.com)

Pat Howarth 01454 822468 or [patricia.howarth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:patricia.howarth@hotmail.co.uk)

[www.thornburyartclub.org.uk](http://www.thornburyartclub.org.uk) [www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub](https://www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub)

## Yours Faithfully

*Judith Heybyrne*

*Focal Minister, St John's Elberton*

There is something wonderful about November, even though the weather may be dreary and drab. The trees may have lost most of their rich autumn colours, but it lays at their feet like a carpet, and they rest and prepare for new growth. The nuts and seeds are being embedded, or carried off by squirrels and birds as they stockpile and prepare for winter.

In the church liturgical calendar November is the last month of the year, when all who have died are remembered at All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance Services. As we look forward to, and begin our preparations for, celebrating the coming of Jesus at Christmas, it is important for each of us to remember those who have gone before us in the hope of the resurrection promised by Jesus. The last Sunday of the month celebrates 'Christ the King', a king who rules by love. God's love for us conquers all things, even death.

We are part of the cyclical nature of the world, the gift of Jesus, and the liturgical calendar enables us to become part of a living Christ. As followers of Christ, we learn what we must be and what we must do, and how our lives must develop and be enriched through death to life again. Hopefully the consequences being understanding and love in our communities, and for our natural environments.





### People Can't Work Without Tools!

Thornbury Rotary Club, along with other Rotary clubs, has been supporting "Tools for Self Reliance" for many years. It is a UK based charity working to help relieve poverty in Africa by renovating and sending redundant tools to them. They then work with local African organisations to deliver a programme of tools and training that brings about effective and sustainable change for carpenters, builders, blacksmiths, artisans and their communities. The 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!



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## Church News

### ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Nov 5	10am 6pm	Holy Communion Evensong	Rev David Moss Rev David Moss
Nov 12	10am 6pm	Remembrance Service Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd Rev David Bone
Nov 19	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Janet McBride Rev Ann Lloyd
Nov 26	10am 6pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd Janet McBride

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

NB. Clergy may change.

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

### CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Nov 12	10am	Remembrance Service	Trevor Cook
Nov 26	10am	Holy Communion	Trevor Cook

**Contact:** Trevor Cook, 01454 618442

**Church Wardens:** Jenn Dickens 632312 and Jon Burnett 633835

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

Nov 12	9am	Remembrance Service	Tracey Black
Nov 26	3pm	Holy Communion	Tracey Black

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

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## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Nov 5	2-4	All Souls Service	Judith Heybyrne
Nov 12	9am	Remembrance Service	Judith Heybyrne
Nov 26	9am	Holy Communion	Judith Heybyrne

**Contacts:** Judith Heybyrne 616725

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

## OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Nov 5	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Christine Jones
Nov 12	10am	St Mary's Church	Remembrance Day Service
Nov 19	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship with Communion led by Rev Dr Simon Edwards
Nov 26	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Rev Dr John Emmett

**Contact:** Rev Dr Simon Edwards 418176, simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

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

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

**Contact:** 07512 917229, email: thevine\_awkley@hotmail.com

## THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Services at 6.30pm every Sunday. All are welcome.

**Contact:** Neil Mobbs, cnmobbs@hotmail.com

## AUST EVANGELICAL and LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

**Contact:** Danny Bamfield 01454 419324 e-mail danny@thebamfields.co.uk

## RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury -

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## SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

**Contact:** Chris Willmore, chriswillmore@blueyonder.co.uk

# Diary Dates for November

Information believed to be correct at going to press.

1 Wed	Table Tennis every Wednesday Thornbury Art Club, studio painting, every Wednesday OPHS: Bristol Port Company	7pm 7pm 7.30	PH AMCH OMC
2 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop 'Good Afternoon Choir', every week Thornbury Art Club, studio painting, every Thursday	9.30 9-12 1-3 1.30	S+M URC SMCH
3 Fri	First Friday Community Café. (Cash only please) Haven Memory Cafe	10-12 10.15	TMC URC
7 Tues	Over 60's Coffee Morning every Tuesday Citizens Advice every Tuesday Macular and Low Vision Group Thornbury Art Club, studio painting, every Tuesday RBL Women's Section Severn Vale Flower Club	10-12 10-12 10.30 1.30 1.30 7.30	DGCL TTH TMH SMCH DGCL OPH
9 Thurs	Coffee Shop	9-12	S+M
10 Fri	Allotment Association AGM and Talk	7.30	OPH
11 Sat	Park Run, Mundy Playing Field every Sat. Coffee Morning at Olveston Methodist Hall	9am 10.30 -12.00	OMH
12 Sun	Remembrance Sunday Young Musicians Concert	3pm	URC
13 Mon	Men's Walk and Chat Group, 2nd <sup>+</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays, meet Tock Green Severn Vale Flower Club demo	9.30 2pm	SMCH
14 Tues	Thornbury Memory Café WI	10.15 7.30	TMH OPH
16 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop	9.30 9-12	S+M
17 Fri	Haven Memory Café	10.15	URC

18 Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30	OMH
21 Tues			
22 Wed	Alveston Local History Soc.	7.30	AMC
25 Sat	Coffee Morning Thornbury Choral Society Concert	10.30 7.30	OMH S+MT
27 Mon	Men's Walk and Chat Group, meet Tockington Green Severn Vale Flower Club: Demo	9.30 2pm	SMCH
28 Tues	Thornbury Memory Café Olveston Parish Council Thornbury Art Club Night	10.15 7.30 7.30	TMH QAMP SMCH
30 Thurs	Coffee Shop	10-12	S+M

## Looking forward to December

**St Peter's Hospice Christmas Coffee Morning** Saturday 9th December from 10.00am - 11.30am Methodist Church Hall Thornbury. £3.

**Tango Calor Trio** 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in Porch House, Castle Street, Thornbury. Paying bar available. Tickets £12 [AAGThornbury@gmail.com](mailto:AAGThornbury@gmail.com)

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

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

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