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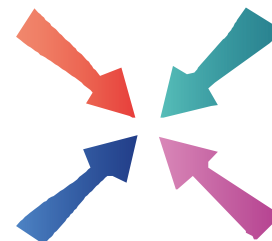
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Meeting Point

Volume 50, Number 2, November 25

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

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Material for December 2025
to the Editor or Assistant Editor
by November 10th 2025

From the Editor

To acknowledge Remembrance Day, which falls on November 11th, we have an account of a nurse from Aust, who served 'at the front' during WW1. It is a fascinating and well researched story.

Since spring, I have enjoyed reading the monthly articles about the produce growing on Olveston Allotments. I'm pleased that the series is continuing into November, with details of an allotment that is designed to increase biodiversity and provide produce right into the winter.

As you might expect with a November edition, there are hints of the approaching festive season. Friends of Olveston School are again offering Christmas Trees for sale, there are details of a couple of Christmas fairs, and a pantomime in the New Year. More events will no doubt follow next month.

Marelin

Cover illustration by Peter Floyd

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**

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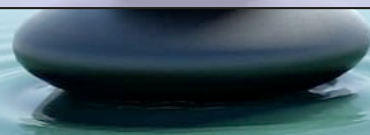
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Winter on our Allotment

Paul Godwin

Our allotment is a year-round project. No two years are ever the same. Over the past 10 years our approach has changed significantly. Whilst the purpose of the allotment is to grow flowers and vegetables, we now balance that with providing an allotment which increases biodiversity. We use no pesticides or herbicides as we have found with a balanced approach of naturally occurring wildflowers, the planting of native and non-native flowers, as well as vegetables, that there is no need to use additional control measures.



Increasingly we allow wildflowers to grow in a semi organised way! (Please note, this picture was not taken on *our* allotment!) Some of the less dominant species we keep in the ground to provide seed and food matter for wildlife over winter, as well as providing hibernation sites

for a variety of insects who will all present themselves early next spring as we begin to plant for the summer. Early wildflowers, such as dead nettle, also provide essential feeding opportunities for pollinators in early spring.

We grow a selection of winter vegetables such as, winter and spring cabbage, sprouts, carrots, leeks and parsnip and in autumn we plant crops such as garlic and winter onions. The earth is kept open throughout winter. One of the things we do which provides us with great amusement is every Christmas morning, rain or shine, we pick our first crop of winter vegetable for dinner. It makes it all worthwhile.

On a rotational basis we add nutrition to the soil either through green manure or standard manure from the heap at the allotment. This year we are experimenting by creating a long open compost with the intention to plant squashes in it, either next season or the season after (an idea we saw on Gardeners World recently). For us winter is an important part of the annual cycle of events at the allotment, even if it means getting wet and cold on occasions.

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Aust Parish Council

Current issues

Aust Parish Council has been looking at a wide range of issues recently, including speeding on the B4461 in Elberton, overnight van parking at Whale Wharf, Littleton and a planning application for reprofiling the former landfill at Northwick. If you have a local issue which you would like the council to consider, please contact the clerk or your local parish councillor.

Your chance to talk to South Glos. Council

South Glos. Council's new community engagement programme, Your Voice, will give residents the chance to share their views, ideas and concerns directly with decision makers. These informal meetings, to be held quarterly, are about listening to the community and understanding what matters to people who live here. Meetings will be split into three sections – a marketplace of information stands, a roundtable discussion about a particular issue and a community talk involving a presentation - and you can attend all or part of the sessions. Find out more at: www.southglos.gov.uk/your-voice.

Enjoy Fireworks Responsibly

As we approach Bonfire Night, many of us look forward to the sparkle and excitement of fireworks. While firework displays bring joy to many, they can also cause distress to pets, livestock, and wildlife. Sudden loud noises and bright flashes can be frightening for animals, often leading to anxiety or injury. We kindly ask all parishioners planning to set off fireworks to do so with care and consideration. Please inform your neighbours in advance—especially those with animals—so they can take steps to keep their pets safe and calm. A simple heads-up can make a world of difference. Let's celebrate in a way that brings joy to all members of our community, two-legged and four-legged alike.

Next parish council meeting

Council meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month, except for August and December. Our next regular meeting will be on **11th November** in Elberton village hall, starting at 7:30pm. Agendas for council meetings are posted on the village noticeboards at least five days before the date of the meeting, and are also available on the council documents web page (bit.ly/austpc_docs). Residents are very welcome to attend.

Aust Parish Council

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The Remarkable Nurse May Fowler

Nick Fear

On 27th November 1915, the Bristol Times and Mirror published a two-page spread entitled 'Olveston and the War Call, the following have responded to call of King and Country'. Below were the names of 127 locals, with regiments, bordered by their images. One photo in particular stood out, as it was of a fresh-faced young woman called Nurse May Fowler, who was 'at the front'.



Nurse May Fowler,
(At the front)

Mary Ann May Fowler was born in Aust on April 15th, 1889. She was educated locally, living with her family in a cottage near Manor Farm. Her grandmother Emma was a country nurse and May followed in her footsteps. The 1911 census records her as a nurse at Camberwell Infirmary in London. At the outbreak of war in 1914, May volunteered for nursing services abroad, giving her address as Rose Cottage Tockington and her mother Elizabeth as her next of kin.

Travelling to France on October 28th, 1914, she worked in two military hospitals near Boulogne on the northern French coast. These were receiving hospitals for war wounded, the sites of which today are marked by large war cemeteries. The sights May saw and the care she administered can only be imagined. May's nursing qualities were recognised by a promotion to the rank of Sister.

Reports described her as 'a good ward sister, energetic, reliable, temperate and punctual.' She had plenty of common sense and above all was good with patients.

The staffing of military nursing in The Great War came from a mixture of trained nurses and several voluntary units. The backbone of the organisation came from the Queen Alexandra's Royal Military Nursing Service (Q.A.R.M.N.S.). This was formed in 1902, but its origins can be traced back to the work of Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War. There were strict criteria for selection imposed with army correctness by experienced, respected and sometimes feared, matrons. Nurses had to be single women of good social standing between 25 and 35 years of age. They needed to show that they had trained for three years at one of only 34 UK hospitals approved by the Nursing Board. May's nursing abilities and suitability made her a prime candidate and, after encouragement, on April 10th, 1915, she joined the service. She was issued with a uniform featuring the distinctive bright red collar to its cape.



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Although the battle lines were miles away, the war also harried the French coast. Zeppelin and aircraft raids caused many casualties, and several cemeteries still care for the graves of nursing staff. The nursing hours worked were excessive and often exceeded planned rosters determined by need. This took a toll on staff and May had a brief period of sick leave in the autumn of 1916. From France she was transferred to southern England and eventually at her request to London. There is a hint in records that the privations from her nursing may have had a negative effect on her health. She battled on and continued to serve beyond the end of the war, eventually being demobilised on July 26th, 1920. Being placed on a nursing reserve list, May returned home to Rose Cottage in Tockington to recuperate in the care of her mother.

It was not long before she was looking to the future and a return to nursing. She may also have realised that she wanted to explore the wider world again. Her career training, stopped by the war, began again and in February 1921 May qualified as a midwife, but there were no vacancies in the military nursing world. In February 1922 May was offered a nursing post in the Shanghai Municipal Council and she left London bound for Yokohama a month later. Returning home after this adventure, in July 1924, she took a boat from Plymouth to New York for a brief visit. She then nursed for the engineering firm of Sir George McAlpine on the Gold Coast of Africa for six months.

By the end of 1925 May had returned to England and briefly to military nursing in Millbank Hospital London. At the beginning of 1928 she had undertaken a housekeeping course at University College London, qualifying her for more senior nursing work. At the end of the year, she took the demanding post of night superintendent at Hackney hospital. In early 1929 she moved to work at Fulham and Lewisham hospitals, still giving Rose Cottage as her home address.

In April 1930 May took the post of Assistant Nursing Superintendent at Lady Harding Hospital in New Delhi India. The testimonials about her abilities for this position were as professionally glowing as they had always been. However, on October 30th, 1930, May wrote to the matron in charge of the Q.A.R.M.N.S to inform her that she was no longer nursing. In September she had married Captain Charles Allen Tice of the Indian Army in Bareilly, India. The matron replied, informing her that as she was now married, she had been removed from the military nursing rolls. The board thanked May for her past services and expressed good wishes for her future happiness.

With war looming she returned to England, leaving Charles in India. In 1939 she settled in Torquay, taking an active part in the local A.R.P administration. When Charles retired at the end of the war he joined May, and they moved to Paignton. Charles died there in January 1967 aged 78, May in April 1970 aged 81. Nurse May Fowler, was indeed a remarkable local woman.

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Stories of Bristol Women

Wed 5th November, 7.30pm Olveston Methodist Church

Jenny Newley

Jane Duffus is an author, editor, journalist and founder in 2012 of the 'What the Frock!' comedy project, which staged almost 70 events in seven UK cities, with more than 100 female comedians.

Jane has compiled three books called 'The Women who Built Bristol'. Each book contains short profiles of 250 ordinary and extraordinary women who have lived in or had links to Bristol.



Of her first book, 'The Women Who Built Bristol 1184 - 2018', Helen Pankhurst - (granddaughter of Sylvia and great-granddaughter of Emmeline Pankhurst) said:

"Jane Duffus and fellow contributors of *The Women Who Built Bristol* introduce us to a glorious and eclectic set of women who are linked to Bristol. This is a wonderful reminder of the texture of women's lives and their influence in every sphere – something historical accounts often forget. I hope other cities also follow suit."

Following on from the 500 women already profiled in Volumes One and Two, another 250 women feature in Vol. Three, which came out in March this year.

The women profiled include: the two girls thrown over the Clifton Suspension Bridge by their desperate father (spoiler alert: they survived); the prominent portrait photographer with strong suffrage ideals; the women who lived in a cemetery for more than 100 years; the greengrocer who sold the very first bananas in Bristol... and a woman who quite literally built (bits of) Bristol by virtue of owning a building company. Plus 243 others.

Come along and find out which women Jane chooses to tell us about. And I'm sure she'll bring some of her books along, in case you want to buy one and read more. The books are £15 each (or buy all three for £40, saving £5); Jane welcomes cash and card payments.

Open to all - everyone very welcome. Free refreshments before the meeting starts. If you're not a member, you can pay £3 for this one meeting. Or, for £10 (the annual sub), you can gain entry to this and all the monthly meetings up to April 2026. Bargain!

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Almondsbury Christmas Fair

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Tony Gardner

150 Club Winners October 2025:

£50 Bill Finch
£15 Alex Grosvenor
£5 Harry Kitchen

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

20/09/25 Roger Riggs

Up the Down!



November's Movie

Monday 3rd November in St Mary's, Olveston

Our November choice is an American film* from 2024 (with subtitles) which won many awards and favourable reviews. A comedy/drama, the storyline revolves around an elderly grandmother who gets scammed out of her savings. She's not really fit enough to be on her own, or even let out in public, but resolves to track down the despicable thief who would rob an old lady. The title role is played by June Squibb who gets excellent support from the late Richard Roundtree. The storyline is based loosely on the Director's grandmother's experience. The plot may be somewhat improbable, but it's a fair reflection of what can and often does happen to the elderly. However, reviews have called it tender, stellar and laugh out loud funny.

Doors open at 7pm. Film starts at 7:30 prompt. No entry charges and everyone is welcome. Licensed bar, tea and coffee. This is a St Mary's outreach event, and all donations go towards the upkeep of the church.

**The terms of our licensing agreement do not allow us to give the film title.*

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Tockington Harvest Fayre

Cath Purchase

It was a day of rain-dodging on Saturday 13th September but, as always, the Harvest Fayre was a great success! The fayre was opened by Charles and special guest, author Amanda Prowse, followed by the crowning of our harvest queen and the fancy-dress parade. Throughout the afternoon the crowds were entertained by Ride the Edge, who were able to maintain their high energy for two hours! The Parish Players rounded off the event by performing a montage of songs from recent shows and reminding everyone about February's upcoming production of My Fair Lady. Thanks go to Katie from the Jolly Melodies Company who also gave her time to sing with the younger children.

There are so many people in our community who contribute to make our Harvest Fayre so successful. It's impossible to thank everyone individually but hopefully you know you are if I've missed you!

Thanks as always go to Nikki and her team of cake bakers, the heavy lifters, those who donated gazebos, the stall holders who set up and dodged the rain during the day, and those who prepared the products for the stalls in advance. Delia even spent time completing the jigsaws to ensure they were intact! Thanks go to Beverley for all the raffle prize collecting, and James for donating and serving his own produce. As always, the huge team of volunteers and Brownies are coordinated by the amazing Jane and Maggie, without whom the fayre would not happen.

And finally, thank you to all those who braved the rain to support this annual event. £3234 was raised on the day to support the ongoing running costs of the Methodist church buildings.

Cont/.....

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Dates for your diary - all held in Tockington Chapel on the Green:

Saturday 29th November 2pm - 4pm Community Cafe and Toy Sale

Friday 7th November and 5th December for our monthly First Friday Community Cafe 10am - midday

For further information or to help at any of these events, please email tocs.friends@gmail.com

Please note that next year's fayre will be held on:

Saturday 19th September 2026.

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the October draw, held on 2nd October 2025 were:

Amount	Number	Name
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£75	452	Mr M Belsten, Olveston
£50	536	Dr M Wright, Olveston
£25	588	Mrs M Shurmer, Olveston
£25	157	Mr B Farr, Olveston
£25	391	Mrs S Shaw, Olveston
£20	470	Mrs J Dawes, Olveston
£20	376	Mrs J Jones, Chippenham
£20	558	Mrs S Chick, Olveston
£20	373	Dr M Wright, Olveston

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

Litter Picking

Pat Savage

Have you ever driven through our villages and noticed litter, possibly empty take-out containers or tins, and wondered whether you should stop and pick it up? Then, on the next or subsequent day, did you notice all the litter had gone? This is all thanks to our very active group of Litter Pickers. They meet on the first Sunday of the month at 10am at the Parish Hall.

The idea was the brainchild of June Lyons when she was Chairman of the Parish Council, some twelve years ago and it has continued ever since. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact our clerk: clerk@olvostonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Local Buses

Les Harper

It was good to read about the new local bus services in the article by Caroline Brewster in last month's Meeting Point. We have found the Y2C bus very useful, such as for shopping in Thornbury and going to the doctors in Almondsbury. We've even used it for the short trip between Olveston and Tockington when we didn't feel like walking.

It was a relief to find that the existing On Demand West Link Bus Service is continuing, at least for the present, for local destinations not served by the Y2C route. This is particularly useful for getting to Parkway Station and Southmead Hospital, or to Severn Beach at times not covered by the 918.

Details of alternative ways of using this service are given on the notices on bus stops. You can use an App, but I prefer to do it the 'old fashioned' way by phoning a human on 01174578561. The first time you use it you must register – they then have your phone number and send you text messages on when your bus will arrive. Both the Y2C and the On Demand are free if you have a Diamond Travelcard.



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For further details please contact Nicola Hemming on 01454 613299 or email to olvestonschool@gmail.org.uk

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Autumn Supper

The 2025 Autumn Supper will be held on Saturday 15th November at Olveston Parish Hall, Tockington. Doors open at 6.45pm.

Catering will be provided by AHM Caterers. There will be cash/card bar together with entertainment. The ticket price is £20.

Please contact Pat Savage on 07703 281625 or patsavage1948@icloud.com

Olveston and Tockington WI

Angela Green

It's our AGM this month. We will be looking back over the events of the year and trying to remember all the details about them, as we will be tested in the fun quiz set by our Secretary, Sue. Trips, outings, speakers, cream teas as both customers and helpers, coffee mornings, crafts, skittles.....

Recently some members went to hear Ann Widdecombe at the Avon Federation meeting at BAWA - that was entertaining!

For our competition this month we're going further back in time, with photos of ourselves as youngsters. It's really fun seeing who looks just the same and who you would never recognise. So, everybody, please dig out an old photo to bring.

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Autumn at Thornbury & District Museum

A new exhibition is now open – Thornbury: A Garrison Town, WW2. Our district played an important, perhaps unexpected, role in the Second World War, as it hosted a significant military presence throughout the war years.



The exhibition looks at the various units which passed through the area, especially Thornbury's 'own regiment' – a little-known and unusual section of the Royal Artillery that was raised in the town and taken into the hearts of the residents.

What impact did the presence of hundreds of troops and the military aspects of the war have on the lives of the civilians? The exhibition features personal accounts remembering the armed forces, the fall of Dunkirk, aircraft crashes, the arrival of the 'Yanks', the build-up and effects of D-Day, and much more.



In our upstairs exhibition room, a related exhibition, "My Dear Mum", concerns the Harwich evacuees who stayed in Thornbury during the war. Their stories are told using personal letters, oral histories, photographs and other sources such as school logbooks. This should be of great interest to local schoolchildren learning about child evacuation. We also now have another, smaller display in our Coins Room which looks at Education in Thornbury.

The Museum is in Chapel Street and is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 1pm - 4pm and on Saturdays 10am-4pm. Entry is free. Cont/.....

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The magnificent Thornbury Quilt, which is part of the Museum's collection, is now on permanent display in an upstairs room at Thornbury Town Hall and can be viewed every Wednesday during the Town Hall's opening hours.



This unique coverlet was created locally in 1900 to help fundraise for a new vicarage. Some of its 236 squares represent local people and tradesmen. Their stories, and the story of how the quilt was rediscovered in 2013, are told in an accompanying audio-visual display, created by the museum.

www.thornburymuseum.org.uk

Thornbury Choral Society

Saturday, November 29th St. Mary's Church, Thornbury at 7.30pm.

The soloists are Laura Curry (soprano) Frances Gregory (alto)
Rhys Batt (tenor) and Edmund Saddington (bass). The choir will be joined by
the Thornbury Camerata and will be conducted by Steven Kings.

Tickets are £18 (pre-booked) £20 (on the door) and £5 (under 18s)
They are available from tickets@thornburychoralsociety.org.uk, from members
and from Horders Stationers, Thornbury, from November 17th.
We do hope you will come and support this event,



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News from Tockington Manor School

Young athletes from Tockington Manor School have brought national sporting glory back to South Gloucestershire with outstanding achievements in swimming, rugby, and equestrian sport.

At the IAPS (Independent Association of Prep Schools) Swimming Finals in London, more than 20 Tockington pupils represented the school against 600 competitors from across the country. The highlight came when the Year 5 and 6 boys stormed to victory in the U11 Small Schools Freestyle Relay – reclaiming a national title last held six years ago.



Hot on their heels, the school's Year 7 and 8 mixed team (pictured here) triumphed at the National Schools Touch Rugby Championships in Oxford.

Having already won the Southwest regionals, the children went all the way in their very first season of touch rugby, beating St John's Leatherhead in a thrilling final.

Adding to the summer of success, local rider Sophie secured a remarkable double at the British Showjumping Junior KBIS Club National Championships, winning both the 90cm and 1m classes – the first to do so in nearly a decade.

Headmaster at Tockington Manor School, Stephen Symonds said: "These children have made their school and the wider community extremely proud. We are so pleased their hard work has paid off."



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Cancer Research UK Quiz

Fish and Chips Quiz St. Mary's Church Hall, Thornbury, BS35 1DR
Saturday November 15th 7.00pm for a 7.15pm start.
Tickets £16 per person from Gill Blackborough on 07866 580608.

Contactless will be available on the night and there will also be a raffle. Our usual Quiz Master Tony Flintoff will be in charge. Maximum 6 per team. Please bring your own drinks. We will provide glasses, cutlery and condiments.

All proceeds going to Cancer Research UK.

Hospice 40th Anniversary Tea Party

Saturday 15th November Falfield Village Hall 2.30pm



St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group would be delighted to welcome you to an afternoon of tea/coffee and cakes to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the formation of the Severnside Support Group. Tickets are priced at £5.00 and are available from the Hospice shop in the High Street.

The event will take place at Falfield Village Hall (GL12 8DH), please note change of venue due to road closures in Thornbury. Overspill parking by kind permission of the Huntsman Public House is available in their car park.

Please come along and support this very special occasion event, in aid of St Peters Hospice, thank you.



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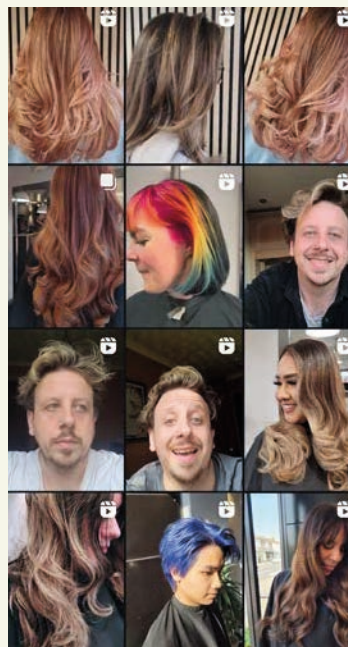
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Thornbury Young Musicians 10th Anniversary Concert

An Action Arts Group presentation at the United Reformed Church, Chapel Street, Thornbury, BS35 2BA on November 9th at 3.00pm.

Join us for one of the highlights of the musical year for many in our AAG audiences. This will be the 10th year of the Thornbury Young Musicians Concerts, started in 2016 by local musician and actor Michael Lunts to showcase the immense amount of young musical talent in the locality. The concerts have grown in popularity year on year, such that they are now regularly sell-out events.

Tickets cost £7.50 or £5 for under 16 years.

Tea and cakes will be served in the interval.

Contact: AAGThornbury@gmail.com or 01454 850933



Tube Alloys: Professor Gareth Williams

This is the story of the British scientists who built the first atomic bombs. Their names are mostly forgotten but they changed the course of history. Without them, the Manhattan Project and Los Alamos would never have happened, and no atomic bombs could have been made during the Second World War.

In his new book, *The Impossible Bomb*, Professor Gareth Williams unearths the remarkable story of the top-secret British nuclear programme, set up in 1940, and code-named 'Tube Alloys'. It is a gripping true-life scientific thriller, which sheds new light on the birth of nuclear weapons and reveals how and why Tube Alloys was written out of history.

Professor Gareth Williams' talk takes place on Thursday November 13th 7.30pm at St. Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Road, BS35 1DR.

Tickets £7.50, with tea/coffee and cake, from 01454 850933 or AAGThornbury@gmail.com

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Rivers have been flowing for billions of years. They have seen many civilizations and empires rise and fall. The very first civilizations were born on the fertile floodplains of African and Asian rivers like the Nile and the Euphrates. Rivers were borders and transportation routes and they stimulated industrial development. The ceaseless energy of rivers has long been used for watermills and for trade, but the intense exploitation didn't start until the 20th century. Watercourses have been altered using dams for hydroelectric power.

However, a river that is unexploited represents the best defence and the most efficient system to protect against seasonal floodings. Natural aquatic plants in water and along riverbanks successfully remove organic and mineral pollution pouring into the water from fields, industry or human settlements. The effect of climate change on rivers is profound. The flow of rivers is primarily governed by a combination of precipitation, temperature, and land usage. Any alteration to these elements through human activity or global warming can upset the normal equilibrium and ecosystem of a river. Intense rainfall leads to increased runoff, altering a river's flow patterns.

The reforestation of river catchment areas to slow down runoff, restoring wetlands that act as natural sponges, and even allowing rivers to meander once more, can restore a river's equilibrium. Droughts can diminish water levels affecting everything from local agriculture and public water supplies to wildlife habitats. Both scenarios are increasingly common in a warming world.

The economic implications of altered river flows not only affect agriculture, but also tourism, fishing, and energy supplies, all of which are dependent on the health of rivers. The future of rivers worldwide lies not only in scientific research but in the hands of those who recognise the importance of their environment. Together, the health of our rivers can be sustained and conserved.

Date for your diaries: November 29th...no shopping day. A real challenge!

Cinderella

Octopus Drama Group's forthcoming pantomime 'Cinderella' will be performed in Christ the King Hall in Castle Street, Thornbury from 7th to 10th January 2026. Written and directed by Abi Baskerville, this pantomime is sure to be a crowd pleaser!

Cont/.....

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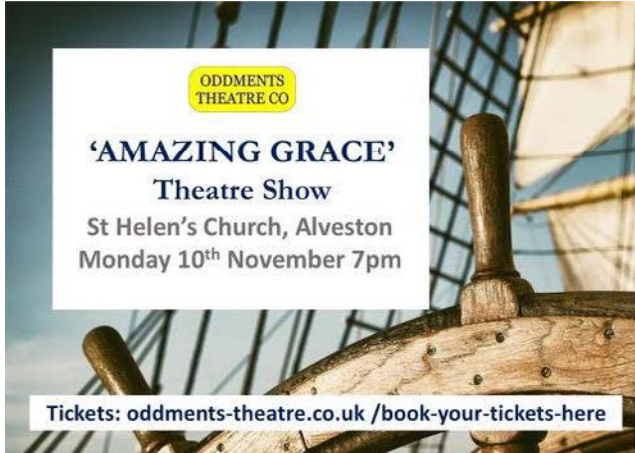
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Thornbury Art Club

Tuesday 25th November Club Night. No demonstration this month. There will be a members' only party instead, to celebrate Thornbury Art Club's 60th Anniversary. St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Rd, Thornbury, BS35 1DR



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Bristol Care Homes Summer Fundraising

Bristol Care Homes is proud to share the success of its summer fairs held across Glebe House, Beech House, Quarry House, and Field House, which together raised a remarkable £2,166.70 for local and national charities. These events are more than just summer celebrations – they reflect our ongoing commitment to supporting the wider community while creating meaningful opportunities for residents, families, and neighbours to come together. Each home chose a charity close to their hearts:

- Quarry House raised £526.84 in support of the Alzheimer's Society, contributing to vital research and support services for those living with dementia.
- Beech House (pictured below) raised £500.64 for Mind, helping to improve access to mental health support across the UK.
- Glebe House raised £533.70 for Macmillan Cancer Support, funding services for people affected by cancer and their families.
- Field House raised £605.52 for The Parish of St Mary's & St James, supporting a valued local community organisation.



A Celebration of Community Spirit
Each fair combined fun activities, stalls, raffles, and entertainment, creating lively and inclusive occasions enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. The funds raised are being directly donated to the chosen charities, reinforcing our belief that care homes are an integral part of the communities they serve.

Bristol Care Homes are committed not only to providing high-quality care but also to playing an active role in building stronger, more supportive neighbourhoods. These fundraising successes demonstrate the generosity of their teams, residents, families, and friends – and the impact they can make together.

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From the Registers of St. Mary's Church, Olveston

Saturday 13th September

Baptism of Ted David John Gibson

Wednesday 17th September

Funeral of Sharon Louise Gunning

Saturday 20th September

Interment of ashes of Emma Frost

Coming up in December.....



ACTION
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GROUP

Johnny Coppin - All on a Winter's Night.

Wednesday 17th December 2025 7.30pm. Olveston and Tockington Parish Hall, Upper Tockington Road, Tockington, BS32 4LQ

In this special Christmas show Johnny Coppin, one of England's finest singer and song writers, a member of Decameron, presents a feast and rich mix of traditional carols and new songs together with stories and folklore.



Johnny is joined by Paul Burgess on fiddle/recorders and stories and Dik Cadbury on guitars and vocals. There will be offerings from the latest joyous collection and release Midwinter Live in Concert and much-loved material from his previous four Christmas albums: West Country Christmas, Keep the Flame, A Country

Christmas and All on a Christmas Night.

A sumptuous evening of new songs and old favourites with original and traditional songs/tunes from Britain and beyond.

Licensed bar. Doors open at 6.45pm. Tickets £20
contact: AAGThornbury@gmail.com or 01454 850933

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Yours Faithfully

Rev. Helen Webb

The clocks have recently gone back an hour, and the nights are quickly beginning to draw in. Darkness seems to arrive earlier each day. On grey, dreary afternoons, it barely feels like daylight ever truly breaks through. In the parts of the villages where there are only a few - or even no - streetlights, once it gets dark everything fades into shadow except for the flicker of lights behind drawn curtains and the passing beams of car headlights. It feels as if the darkness has wrapped itself around us.

Listening to the news these days, it's easy to feel that this is a reflection of the world we live in. A lot of darkness and times when the light doesn't quite seem to get through. It is a reminder that for many of us, at some point in our lives, darkness seems to overwhelm us, we feel numb, lost, weary and can see no hope and certainly no light. In the Bible, in John chapter 8 verse 12, we read these familiar words that Jesus proclaims,

"I am the Light of the world; those who follow Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life"

Jesus spoke these words during the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. As part of the celebration, priests lit four towering candelabras in the Temple's Court of the Women. This commemorated the fact that God had been with His people as a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night to protect and guide them as they journeyed through the difficult and desolate wilderness for 40 years. That cloud first appeared when Israel fled Egypt, standing as a barrier between them and Pharaoh's armies on the night before they crossed the Red Sea. Then as it went with them through the wilderness, it was a vivid symbol of divine protection and guidance, of the fact that God was with His people.

So, when Jesus stood near those blazing torches and declared Himself the Light of the world, He was reminding us that just as God was with the Israelites in their darkest, most uncertain days, He is with us now. No matter how bleak and dark life may seem, Jesus shines in our darkness - and overcomes it.





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This is a permanent position starting as soon as possible

For further details please contact Nicola Hemming on 01454 613299 or email olvestonschool@sgmail.org.uk

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of children and young people. All staff and volunteers are expected to share this commitment and all appointments will be subject to appropriate vetting, including an enhance DBS disclosure check.

Church News

ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Nov 2nd	9am 10am 6pm	Messy Church Holy Communion All Souls Service - Choir	Rev David Lloyd Rev David Lloyd Rev Ann Lloyd
Nov 9th	10am 6pm	Remembrance - Choir Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd Rev David Bone
Nov 16th	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer - Choir Holy communion BCP	Janet McBride Rev Ann Lloyd
Nov 26th	10am 6pm	Holy Communion - Choir Reflective Evening Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd Janet McBride
Nov 30th	10am 6pm	Advent, Holy Communion Advent Carols - Choir	Rev David Lloyd Rev David Lloyd

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

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

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Nov 9th	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss
Nov 23rd	10am	Morning Prayer	Trevor Cook

Contact: Trevor Cook, 01454 618442

Church Wardens: Jenn Dickens 632312 and Jon Burnett 633835

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Nov 2 nd	3pm	Not forgotten service	Judith Heybyrne
Nov 9 th	9am	Remembrance	Judith Heybyrne
Nov 23 rd	9am	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd

Contacts: Judith Heybyrne 616725 **Church Wardens:** Catharine Gunnery 413225 and Cheryl Meredith 411065



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ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Nov 9th	3pm	Remembrance Sunday Service	Tracey Black
Nov 23rd	3pm	Evensong with Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Nov 2 nd	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Samuel Uwimana
Nov 9 th	10am	St Mary's Olv	Remembrance Sunday
Nov 16 th	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Mrs. Lesley Parker
Nov 26 th	10am	Olv Ch	Local Arrangement
Nov 30 th	10.30am	St Andrews Filton	

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 3rd Weds at 2.30pm.

Contact: 01454 612084, 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 CHURCH Service 11am every Sunday

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH Service 5.30pm every Sunday

Contact: esther@thebamfields.co.uk

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury

Mass on Sundays at 9.00 and 10.30am

Contact: 01454 412223, <https://ctkandholycross.org.uk>

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

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

THORNBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Services every Sunday at 10.45am

Contact: Rev Neil Thorogood 01454 419198

Diary Dates for November

Information believed to be correct at going to press.

1 Sat	Park Run every Sat TMTG: Oklahoma!	9am 2pm & 7pm	MPF OTF
2 Sun	Litter picking	10am	OPH
3 Mon	Monday Movies Alveston Garden Association talk	7pm 7.30pm	StM JHA
4 Tues	Citizen's advice every Tues Thornbury Art Club painting studio, every Tues WRBL	10-12pm 1.30- 4.30pm 7.30pm	TTH SMCH DGCL
5 Weds	Table Tennis every Weds Olveston Parish Historical Society	7pm 7.30pm	OPH OMC
6 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers Market Coffee shop, every Thurs Good afternoon, Choir, every Thurs Thornbury Art Club painting studio, every Thurs	9am 9.30-12pm 1-3pm 1.30- 4.30pm	StM URC SMCH
7 Fri	Tockington Community Café Haven Memory Café, every 1 st and 3 rd Friday	10-12pm 10.15- 11.45am	TMC URC
8 Sat	Coffee Morning Thornbury Art Club, outdoor grp Thornbury Volunteer Xmas sale Thornbury u3a coffee morning Thornbury round table Fireworks	10-12pm 10am 10-1pm 10.30-11.30 5.30pm	OMC SMCH TMH CTK MPF
9 Sun	Thornbury young musicians' concert	3pm	URC
10 Mon	Oddments Theatre: Amazing Grace Severn Vale Flower club demo	7pm 1.30pm	StH SMCH
11 Tues	Thornbury Memory Café every 2 nd & 4 th Tues Olveston & Tockington WI	10.15- 11.45am 7.30pm	TMH OPH
13 Thurs	Gareth Williams talk: Tube Alloys	7.30pm	SMCH
15 Sat	Thornbury Xmas lights switch on St Peter's Hospice 40 th Tea Party 2025 Autumn Supper	2pm 2.30pm 6.45pm	FVH OPH

20 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers Market	9am	
24 Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club, practice Community Café and Toy Sale	1.30pm 2-4pm	SMCH TMC
25 Tues	Thornbury Art Club members party	7.30pm	SMCH
26 Weds	Alveston Local History Society talk	7.30pm	AMC
29 Nov	Thornbury Choral Society Concert	7.30pm	StMT
30 Nov	Salvation Army Concert FOOS Xmas tree collection	2pm 9.30-11am	StM OPS

Looking forward to December:

Weds 17th - Johnny Coppin concert - 7.30pm - OPH

KEY: **AMC** - Alveston Methodist Church, **AMH** - Alveston Methodist Hall, **AOSH** - Almondsbury Old School Hall, **CS** - Castle School, **CTK** - Christ the King, **DGCL** - Daldry Gardens Community Lounge, **ECVH** - Easter Compton Village Hall, **EVH** - Elberton Village Hall, **FVH** - Falfield village Hall, **JHA** - Jubilee Hall, Alveston **LVH** - Littleton Village Hall **MSch** - Marwood School **MPF** - Mundy playing fields **OC** - Oasis Church, Old Down, **ODE** - Old Down Estate **OMC** - Olveston Methodist Church, **OMH** - Olveston Methodist Hall, **OPH** - Olveston Parish Hall, **OTF** - Olympus Theatre Filton **OPS** - Olveston Primary School **QAMP** - Queen Alexandra Memorial Pavilion, Old Down **RHVH** - Rockhampton village hall. **StH** - St Helen's Church, Alveston. **StHSc** - St Helen's School **StM** - St Mary's Church, **StMB** - St Mary's Berkely **StMT** - Thornbury St Mary's Ch, **SMCH** - St Mary's Church Hall Thornbury, **TGC** - Thornbury Golf Club, **TCC** - Turnberries, **TMC** - Tockington Methodist Church, **TMH** - Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, **TTH** - Thornbury Town Hall, **URC** - United Reform Church **LVH** - Littleton Village Hall

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

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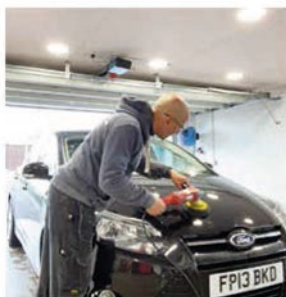
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