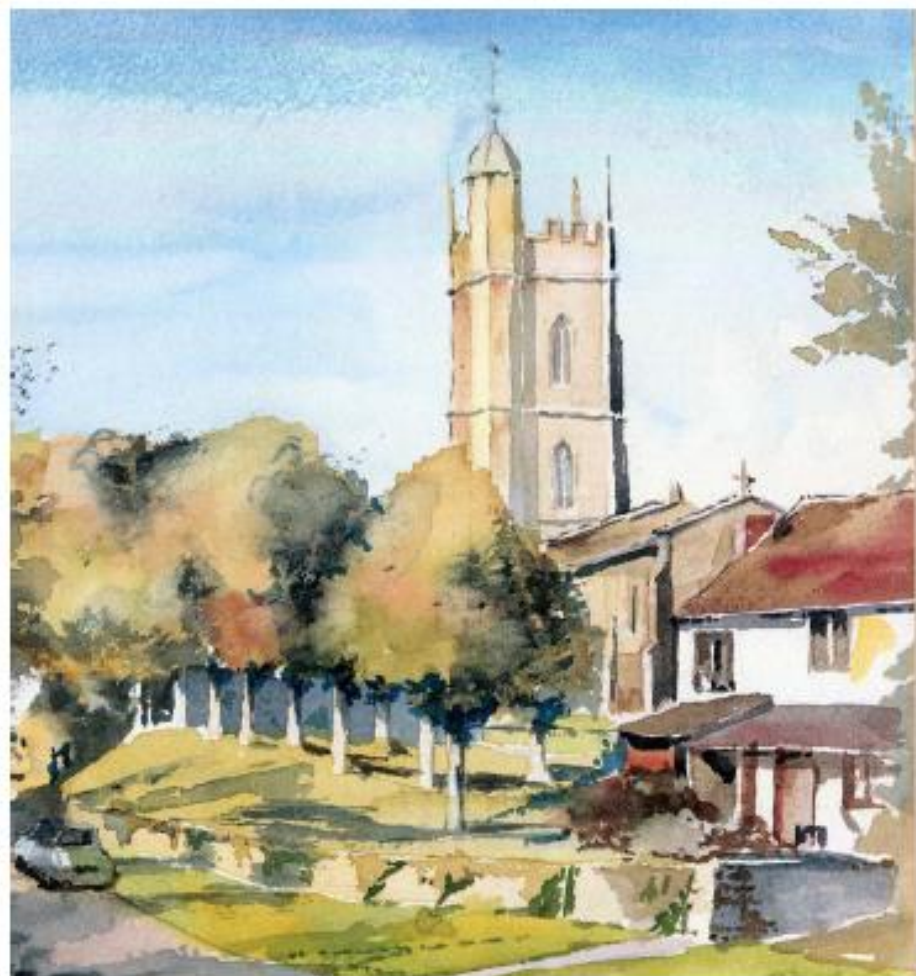
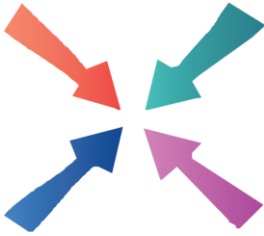


Meeting Point



October 2020



Meeting Point

Volume 45, Number 1, October 2020

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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**to the Editor or Deputy Editor
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From the Editor

Among the many and varied items in this month's magazine, we hear about two Olveston residents who have made an unusual World Record attempt. Their article explains how they planned and completed this challenge during, and just after, lockdown. We also have the second article in the series about the St. Mary's Tower Restoration Project. This time the focus is on exploring the possible history of the tower over the years.

Unfortunately, there is still no confirmed date for Monday Movies returning to St. Mary's. In the meantime, however, readers can attempt a film-themed puzzle.

It is good news that Aust at last has a new Parish Clerk, who introduces herself in this edition. We look forward to hearing more from Aust in the future.

Marelin

This month's cover picture of St. John's, Aust, was painted by the late John Crossley.

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**



ST MARY'S CHURCH TOWER RESTORATION PROJECT

St Mary's Church Tower Restoration Project

Having lost its lead covered timber framed spire to lightning and fire in a storm in 1605, 400 years later, the replacement tower with its worn-out pinnacles and failed pointing is now in urgent need of restoration. This project, introduced to you last month, is already remarkably successful, since its design work has been done; its permissions have been obtained and £166,000 has been offered by a variety of specialist funds towards the anticipated cost of £200,000, leaving only £34,000 to be collected from generous local donors.

Bristol lost 2,200 people, 10% of its population, to plague in 1603. Nothing is new and due to Covid19 and the unsocial need for everyone to socially distance, we have been unable to offer everyone a launch party, so Meeting Point is kindly making space for a widely different article each month about the tower; its past, its present and the work we are commissioning to ensure its future.

Jennifer Bone wrote last month about the awful conditions, from the weather; starvation and disease and from politics and religious dissent that everyone faced in England in 1605 and yet the tower bears a plaque with the astonishing announcement of its restoration by 1606. How on earth did they afford to do that so quickly and why in that form? As this series of articles develops over the coming months, we hope that other members of the tower restoration team will be writing about their contributions to the project.

St Mary's Tower - what might have happened?

Peter Floyd

The spire and tower.

There is no record of the shape of the former spire or who paid the considerable sum for the restoration of the tower. Ralph Greene was the vicar between 1590 and 1639 - an astonishing 49 years and he was the vicar of St Mary's church at that fateful time. He must have been a real survivor and in hard times, well supported by his parishioners to have collected the funds to

carry out the works to repair, not only the tower, but much of the church as well. With few written records, does the present building offer any clues as to what might have happened?



Olveston's spire, (see above, left, with its existing stone parapet and stair turret) which we know was built of timber clad in lead, might well have been designed like one of its neighbouring churches. If it was similar to Elberton, (see above, middle) with its spire sitting inside a stone parapet, it would have been more likely to have fallen inside the tower walls and if the elaborate parapet was already there, it may only have needed to be repaired. However, descriptions of the damage suggest that the spire was more like Almondsbury, (see above, right) which is timber framed, lead clad and covers the top of its tower walls. On fire it would have been much more likely to have fallen outwards and through the adjacent church rooves - which Olveston's spire reportedly did.

If money was short and not sufficient to replace the spire, I can imagine that the new roof might have been a low pitched, lead covered pyramid, similar to that which is there now, but also covering the tower walls, as the spire had probably done. The battlemented and stepped parapets are elaborate and well built, with design references to the even more elaborate tower of Aust. Would such fine work have lasted this long if it is indeed 400 years old? Repairs, improvements and extensions to St Mary's have always taken place to keep up with the natural decay of the building and the parapets and pinnacles might have been added much later, though no record has so far been found.

The bells

Access to the tower is equally curious. Elberton has an external stair turret attached to the north east corner of its tower, right up to the roof, whilst access to the bells at Almondsbury would have been up a stair turret, very similar to

Olveston's. Olveston's bells were destroyed in the fire and the plain interior of the rebuilt church shows no sign of ever having had an internal stair. Bells are rung from different places in other churches - and whilst one bell can still be tolled from the floor at Olveston, the ringers would probably have been in the way of services had they rung from the floor under the central tower. It is more likely that the bells were always rung from the ringing chamber, accessed perhaps by a ladder, similar to that which still gives access up to the bells from the ringing chamber. At the time of the fire the bells were noted as being a sad loss, but they were unpopular with puritans in 1605, which might account for their not being replaced at once. It is however, recorded that a new ring of five bells was cast at Chepstow and hung, but not until 1732, well over 100 years later.

The stair turret

At about the same time in the 1770s, a record exists of a decision to build a staircase giving access to the tower costing not more than £6! Perhaps this refers to the existing external stair turret which was pushed between two existing windows into the north east corner of chancel and north transept, forcing it into an odd oval shape. It is extremely narrow even by the standards of the time and since its foundations barely exist, it is sliding down the church walls, to which it is not connected and is remote from the tower to which it had to be connected by a covered gallery.

The turret seems unlikely to have been there before the fire and perhaps it was added cheaply in the 1770s, but with that unexpectedly elaborate castellated parapet? Or was it added later?

The tower, the bells, and the stair turret, all remain fascinating riddles!

How to donate

David Prothero

Funding of £166,000 has already been pledged by local, regional and national conservation trusts but a further £34,000 is still required to meet the total cost of the project. We are keen to move forward soon to protect the Tower and ensure we don't lose the pledges already made. Any donations would be very much appreciated. If you would like to help, then 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.

If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please e-mail me at djprothero@talk21.com. Thank you.



Monday Movies in Olveston

Trevor Anderson

Greetings to all readers from the Movie Club Team. We had hoped to re-open on Monday October 19th, but at the time of writing (early September) we were unable to say whether this would be possible. For the latest information, please visit the church website at stmarysolveston.org.uk. Meanwhile, here's a puzzle to try. Twenty 3-word film titles have been selected from the hundreds we have shown, plus **one** which we have not (yet) shown. In alphabetical order, the first words are in the first column, the second words in the second column and the third words in the third column. So, three things to do:

1. By selecting one word from each column, reconstruct the 21 titles
2. Identify the film we have not shown. (Will you succeed? Good Hunting!)
3. Create a title for a new film using the words, one from each column.

Example: "Cool Your Feet". (But you can do better than that!). Send your creations to me at trevoranderson@btinternet.com.

Alice	And	Abdul
Breakfast	Angry	Avoir
Bridge	At	Baby
Bringing	Before	Eagle
Cool	By	Feet
Eddie	Chance	Florette
Etre	De	Harvey
Finding	Et	Hunting
Good	Fair	Lady
Goodnight	Full	Land
Jean	Hand	Luke
La	Identical	Men
Last	In	Monty
Man	La	Northwest
Me	Mr	Spies
My	Of	Strangers
North	On	Tiffany's
The	The	Tom
Three	Up	Wire
Twelve	Will	Wonderland
Victoria	Your	You

Aust Parish Council

Emma Pattullo

Following an 'interesting' recruitment process, which was interrupted by lockdown and ended up with interviews conducted via Zoom, I am pleased to announce that Aust PC has at last managed to appoint a new Parish Clerk.

My name is Emma Pattullo and I was previously the clerk to Oldbury on Severn PC, so the relocation is not too far! I live in Rangeworthy, near Yate, and have two children who attend Castle School. As a keen walker I am familiar with some of the local footpaths, but I am looking forward to getting to know the area in more detail.

Aust PC continues to hold virtual meetings via Zoom; these are public meetings in the same way as regular ones in the hall and parishioners are most welcome to join a meeting and see what the council is up to. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month and the agenda (including details of how to join in) is posted on the community website several days before. Please contact me on austparishcouncil@gmail.com if you want more details, or for any other council related matters.



News from St Mary's

Debbie Harries

Harvest Festival

St Mary's Harvest Festival will be on Sunday October 11th at 11am, followed by a bring your own picnic. If you would like to donate any non-perishables, they will be very much appreciated as a donation to the food bank. We look forward to celebrating harvest with you!

Advent Windows

Celebrating Christmas may be a little different this year. So, having our annual Advent Windows to light up the village will be even more special.

If you would like to create a window for a date in December please contact Debbie Harries for more information: 01454 613273 or email:

oboe-debbie@live.co.uk

Friends of St. Mary's

We are pleased to say that we have now cleared the backlog of draws that were suspended due to the Covid-19 restrictions! Draws have now been held for July, August and September (see below) which brings us right up to-date. Almost all our members remained with us during the lockdown, in spite of the suspension of the draws, and we wish to express our sincere thanks to you all for your loyal support.

As always, if you are not yet a member and wish to join the lottery please telephone Andy Phillips on 01454 614890.

Winners in July 2020 Draw

Amount	Number	Name
£150	165	Mrs P Kemp, Stoke Lodge
£75	309	Mr A Vizard, Tockington
£25	275	Mrs L Evans, Alveston
£25	267	Mrs J Hughes, Olveston
£25	398	Mr C Fairhead, Oldbury-on-Severn
£20	563	Mr B Brown, Olveston
£20	242	Mr J Mason, Tockington
£20	324	Mrs M James, Olveston
£10	258	Mr H Pearce, Ingst
£10	469	Mrs J Dawes, Olveston
£10	545	Mrs S Chick, Olveston
£10	414	Mr R Lloyd, Tockington

Winners in August 2020 Draw

Amount	Number	Name
£150	289	Mrs G Davies, Abergavenny
£75	630	Mr K Richards, Tockington
£25	345	Mrs C Mason, Tockington
£25	582	Mr B Amos, Olveston
£25	152	Mr G Williams, Olveston
£20	165	Mrs P Kemp, Stoke Lodge
£20	173	Mrs B Morgan, Tockington
£20	496	Mrs E Marsh, Tockington
£10	201	Mrs E Jackson, Olveston
£10	251	Mr & Mrs R Williams, Olveston
£10	288	Mrs G Davies, Abergavenny
£10	266	Mrs J Hughes, Olveston

Winners in September 2020 Draw

Amount	Number	Name
£150	613	Mrs S Fairhead, Oldbury-on-Severn
£75	324	Mrs M James, Olveston
£25	151	Mr B Farr, Olveston
£25	495	Mr & Mrs M Gibson, Tockington
£25	555	Mrs E Whitford, Tockington
£20	239	Mrs A Harley, Alveston
£20	512	Mrs R Arkell, Olveston
£20	508	Mr P Floyd, Old Down
£10	469	Mrs J Dawes, Olveston
£10	565	Mr R Lloyd, Tockington
£10	328	Mr & Mrs A Goodbrook, Olveston
£10	504	Mrs S Farr, Olveston

News from St. John's, Aust

Trevor Cook



Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) which was scheduled for 27th September has had to be postponed, as several of our key members were unavailable on that date. The new, revised, date is Tuesday, 6th October at 8pm in St. John's. If you do have an interest in caring for St John's church and the community of Aust at large, please do come along and play a part in village life

and its Christian faith. This is an open meeting, held in a place of worship, and so all are welcome to attend, albeit with current Coronavirus restrictions in place. Those on the church's electoral roll may vote on any proposals made and on the election/re-election of committee officers. Should you wish to go on the electoral roll, application forms are always available and quick and easy to fill in. Hope to see you there.

We would like to express our thanks to South Gloucestershire Council, and especially Cllrs Matthew Riddle and Keith Burchell, who have been able to award us a grant of £500 towards the repair of the church pathway. As winter approaches renewing the tarmac path, which runs along the south side of the church and between the two sets of access steps, is sure to be a boon and a vast improvement on the existing.



Olveston Parish Council

Pat Savage

Speedwatch

As a Council we are fully aware of our residents' concerns both relating to traffic volume and speed throughout the villages. We are now in the process of re-introducing the Speedwatch patrols. This is being led by Councillor Martin Gibson, who has written about this initiative further on in the magazine. If you are at all interested please contact: clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Local Community Grant Funding

Are you involved with a club or organisation who might benefit from a Community Grant? £5,000 is awarded twice yearly. Should you wish to make an application please email the clerk: clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clubs and Organisation

It is good to see that all of these have now re-opened. The football club now has a Ladies Team. The tennis club nights and practice nights have re-started. As has the Bowls Club. The September issue of Meeting Point showed a perfect photo of the Cricket Club, complete with the cricket themed cover text! Both Olveston School and Pre-School have reopened, welcoming new pupils.

New Councillors

Our quest for new Councillors continues. During September all households will have received a leaflet inviting them to apply for one of the vacant positions.

Neighbourhood Care during Lockdown

The Council is aware of the number of residents who cared for their neighbours and relatives by shopping, picking up prescriptions and just being available for a socially distanced chat during lockdown. Please be aware your efforts are valued by the Community. To all of you we extend heartfelt thanks.



Help us to Reduce Landfill

Further to our article in August Meeting Point, the Greenforce Team at St Mary's church is now launching their project to help reduce the number of items sent to landfill sites and, at the same time, support local schools.

A brown storage box with various bins inside is now located to the left of the Church porch and this will be the collection point for you to drop off your items as shown below. We are collecting 3 types of items to begin with on a trial basis.

- **Crisp packets** - will be taken to Olveston School to support a project in conjunction with Guide Dogs for the Blind. All brands of crisp wrappers are accepted.
- **Dental waste** – will be taken to Crossways school in Thornbury which is already enrolled in the TerraCycle Scheme. Items **accepted** are any brand of: floss containers, plastic toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes and caps, electric and battery toothbrush heads, any plastic or carton outer packaging for toothbrushes and toothpaste. *(Please note that items **not accepted** on this scheme are interdental brushes, battery operated toothbrushes, dental floss (string), mouthwash plastic bottles, breath sprays, denture adhesives packaging, denture tablets packaging, denture cream tubes, toothpaste pumps, toothache kits).*
- **Writing instruments** – will also be taken to Crossways school in Thornbury. Items **accepted** are any brand of: pens, felt tips, highlighters, markers, mechanical pencils, correction tape and fluid pots, fountain pens and ink cartridges. *(Please note that items **not accepted** are wooden pencils, crayons, glue sticks, rubbers and rulers).*

We do hope that as a much loved village and local community you will join us in trying to support these local schemes, whilst at the same time helping to reduce the items that currently go to landfill sites. Thank you!

Olveston Parish Historical Society

2020/21

Les Harper

Normally at this time of year you would be reading about an exciting programme of talks at Olveston Methodist Church, arranged by Jenny and Richard Newley. Unfortunately these are far from normal circumstances, and we have decided that due to Covid19 restrictions on meetings, and with no indication of how long the situation may last, we are unable to provide a programme for 2020 to 2021. We hope that we will be able to re-start in a year's time.

We will be contacting existing members of OPHS by email to fulfil the Society's requirements for an AGM. Naturally, no membership fees will be required this year.

St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group

What extremely sad times we have had to cope with, and the charities within our community are missing our support, especially St Peters Hospice to whom so many of you have been steadfast over the years. Our fundraising events locally have all had to be cancelled, to ensure everyone's safety. We as a group have really missed the hustle and bustle of preparing things, welcoming people, doing the washing up and of course counting any profit! The Hospice is estimating a loss of at least £2million pounds this year. The fifty-one charity shops were closed, although they are slowly beginning to open again.

Three beds on the Inpatient unit have been temporarily closed and the Day Services for the medium term. The need for service and care has not decreased but increased considerably. We give you our assurance that as soon as is ever possible we will be back with you all within our community, enjoying our social life as well as raising vital funds for St Peters. If you are able to help in any way, please do contact the Hospice fund raising office direct: *01275 391400*.

Thank you. Take care and stay safe.

A World Record Attempt

Fiona Mackaskill

Who would have thought that a tea-towel would inspire a Guinness World Record attempt? Well, it inspired me and my husband, Angus. While taking our grandchildren out for a morning snack at a 2nd World War themed café on the east coast of Norfolk a couple of years ago, we spotted a tea-towel showing all the airfields that British and American air forces had built during the 1940s.

As we both enjoy flying light aircraft, we started to investigate how many of these airfields were still operational. As it turned out, many of them were still being used and more had been built by local enthusiasts. We thought that attempting a Guinness World Record to land at as many airfields as possible in twelve hours would be a fun thing to do. East Anglia was full of small air strips so we decided that would be the place to do it. I sent a proposal to Guinness: no one had ever attempted a 12-hour record to land at multiple airfields, so I proposed landing at over 50 in 12 hours.

Lockdown proved the perfect time to prepare for the attempt. Firstly, we had to identify all the possible places we could land (Guinness only allowed airfields longer than 300m and marked on an air-map). As we can't land on an airfield shorter than 450m, this was not a limitation. I started to draw routes that included as many airfields as possible. After numerous versions, I settled on a course that included 87 airfields stretching from Birmingham, down to the north of London and over to the east coast of Norfolk and Suffolk. The route was over 600 miles long and required three fuel stops. We decided to declare a 12-hour attempt and, if possible, continue flying beyond 12 hours and attempt to beat the existing 24-hour record which stood at 92 airfields. To do this, we needed a few more hours and added a further 13 airfields.

We felt that the challenge was interesting enough to turn it into a fund-raiser, so set up a JustGiving page to support the Air Ambulance. When contacting the airfields to explain what we were trying to do and request permission to



land, every single one agreed to waive their landing fees to support the Air Ambulance charity. The landing fees came to around £500, which we set as our fund-raising target. Any more than that would be a bonus. As it turned out people gave very generously, and we have raised over £2,000.

Planning, planning, planning: I re-drew the route over 18 times, wrote several thousand e-mails, and then we flew a trial, landing at 17 airfields before we planned the timing of the entire route. We decided to allow 4 ½ minutes per airfield - this included a 'full stop' landing and a back-track before taking off again at every airfield under 900m long. We expected to fly at around 100 miles per hour between each landing. We then recruited 28 people, several from Olveston, to 'witness' our flight from the comfort of their own homes by watching our live flight path on their PCs. We needed at least two people watching throughout the day, as well as a couple of witnesses at the airfield where we started and finished. We decided to make the attempt around the longest day and as soon as lock down eased; 7th July was the hoped-for day. The weather forecast was good, we booked a couple of nights at 'The Aviator Hotel' at Sywell/Northampton Airfield (our start and finish point) and gave all 100 airfields an ETA, requesting them, if they were able, to photograph our landing and return a witness statement as evidence for Guinness.

We woke early on the 7th and checked the weather forecast one more time. It showed that an occluded front carrying showers was moving across towards the east later in the evening but, on balance, we decided we were good to go. We took off at 07.15 and completed 22 airfields, landing Duxford (home of the Imperial War Museum in Cambridgeshire) for fuel at 10.03. We had requested that the fuel bowser would be on stand-by at the parking area so we could re-fuel and get away quickly. Unfortunately, the bowser's engine would not start, and our planned 12-minute stop turned into 30 minutes and we 'lost' 18 minutes of precious time!



As we continued on our route we tried to have a sandwich and coffee from our thermos, but the time available between landings was usually so short, sometimes just 1 ½ minutes, that this proved almost impossible, with the result that we had very little to eat or drink.

Angus navigated and radioed ahead at each

Landing at Shipmeadow

airfield requesting permission to land, while I flew the aircraft. We were totally focused on the task, every landing and take-off had to be 'spot on'. Our second fuel stop was at Old Buckenham in Norfolk, at 13.32. We were running a bit late and we could see the weather starting to deteriorate. However, visibility remained good so, after a very quick fuel stop, we continued on our way.

As we flew east, we received a call from Norwich airport saying that the visibility was deteriorating, and they did not advise us to land there. We therefore decided to cut out the east coast airfields and fly north to Fenland, near the Wash, for our third and final fuel stop. We arrived at 16.50, in the pouring rain. Two wonderful volunteers were waiting for us and we quickly refuelled. We took a couple of minutes to re-consider our route. As we had already landed at 64 airfields we decided to head back to Northampton, landing at a few airfields on the way. We arrived back at our starting point at 18.15, making that our 71st landing. We had beaten our target of 50 airfields and decided to call it a day as legal 'visual' flight would have been very difficult.

On returning home, we spent the next week collecting witness statements and photos, thanking over 100 witnesses for their support and help. We assembled all the photos, video footage (we had 3 video cameras on board), GPS track logs (stored on three devices, all using different software) and 100 witness statements. We uploaded over 500 files onto the Guinness record attempt application form and sent it off. I am pleased to say that we have recently received confirmation that our attempt has passed through the adjudication process and we are, indeed, World Record holders!



Roll on 2021, when we hope to attempt the 24-hour record – in better weather!

Thornbury Library – Welcome Back

Things may look a little bit different, but we are pleased to be able to offer services in a safe environment.

Self-service borrowing so you can choose your own items

Our 12 main libraries* are open between 10am and 4pm on usual open days and Saturday mornings from 9:30am. You are welcome, once again, to come and choose from our shelves. Please make sure you bring your library card with you to use the self-service machines and a face covering, as you now need to wear one in the library unless you are exempt.

Order ahead using Click and Collect and we will choose for you

“We tried click and collect ... this week and I'm really happy with what they've chosen for us”

You can order up to 6 items to collect at a pre-booked time of your choice. Simply complete a Click and Collect webform for the library you will collect from online anytime at sglibraries.eventbrite.com or call 01454 865022 Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm; Saturday 9:30am – 12pm and speak to a member of library staff.

Use our computers, scan, and print

You can use the computers or Wi-Fi when you use the library if there is space or to guarantee use of a computer or hotspot you can book one in advance by phoning 01454 865022 Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm; Saturday 9:30am – 12pm. Photocopying is also available.

Find more information on our website: www.southglos.gov.uk/librarychanges.

Keeping Fit During Covid

Russell Knight

Elite Fitness Gym in Thornbury has had to adapt to a new way of doing things in order to survive. We have introduced a range of measures to help keep members and staff safe whilst being able to resume physical fitness training.

We have introduced an online booking system and limited capacity to ensure the gym doesn't get crowded and members have the space to exercise safely. You can also join and take part in online classes from home, so you don't even need to leave your home to keep fit!

If you are looking to join or find some tips to keep fit during this uncertain time head over to elite-fitness.co.uk or check out our social media profiles on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for more information.

Local Weekly Pub Quiz

Steve Macmillan

Many people have been trying on-line quizzes for the first time to ease lockdown boredom. Well, why not get out to a pub and enjoy a live interactive prize quiz? Steve's weekly Fun Quiz at The Masons Arms in Rudgeley started up again in September, after a 6-month absence during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The quiz is held weekly, on Tuesdays, and starts at 8pm. There are six fun quiz rounds include General Knowledge, Blockbusters, Follow On and a Link round. It also includes a handout Picture Round and a separate Music Quiz which is always popular. There are prizes for first and second place. We finish the evening with a snowball rollover 'Play Your Cards Right' game for a cash prize. There are plans for some future evenings to be Charity Quiz Nights supporting local good causes.

Steve, an Alveston resident, has been running quizzes in pubs in and around Thornbury for over 30 years. He was question master at the Thornbury St Peter's Hospice Charity Quiz in 2018 and will be running that prestigious event again in the future. He hopes you will come along and join in his local quiz now that lockdown is over!

Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner

07889 727729

150 Club Winners September 2020:

£50 Richard Watkins

£15 Mike Rowen

£5 Rob Birtle

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

15/08/20 Roger Riggs

Up the Down!

Where is it? The Answers

In last month's magazine you were challenged to identify where these five photographs were taken.



Above: The post box is in Awkley Lane, close to the junction with Hardy lane and Pilning Street. The CPRE Plaque is outside Olveston Stores. The electric gates are on the Water Treatment Works on the road to Littleton on Severn

Below: The 'Weak Bridge' is on New Passage Road at Pilning and the gate with the 'Keep Clear' sign is at Whale Wharf.



How many did you get right?

A Walk for an Autumn Day

This walk is one of the Olveston Parish Walks which were produced by the Parish Council in conjunction with the A Forgotten Landscape project. Packs of the leaflets - which are free - are available in the porch of St Mary's Church, Olveston. There are three map boards in the area which also show the walks; these can be found on the bus shelter in Tockington, at Old Down near the pavilion and at the bottom of Haw Lane. You can also download the walks individually, by visiting olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk and following the links.

It is an easy walk, including some little-used footpaths. It takes you past Tockington Mill Rhine, the most important waterway in the Parish for commerce from the River Severn in the old days. Be careful when crossing the often-busy road in Lower Tockington and note that some dogs may need to be lifted over a couple of the stiles.

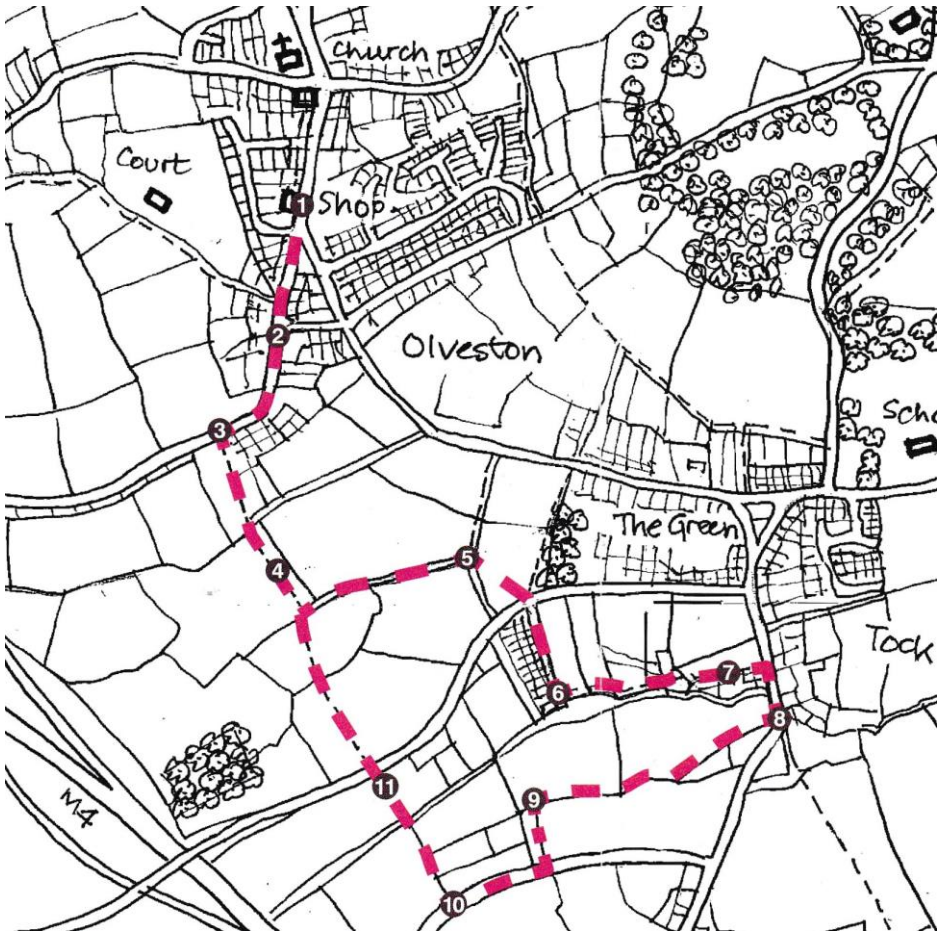
Walk Directions and Background Information

Before you start, stand with your back to Olveston Stores on The Street **1** and observe that this road and The Green on your right lie more or less in a straight line. The old route to Tockington was along these two roads, then up through Port Farm and round to the brow on the current road near the entrance to 'Westfield' residence. New Road, where the butchers and garage are now situated, was constructed in the 19th Century to provide a better route for horse drawn traffic to Aust Ferry.

To start the walk, go 15 yards to the road junction, cross the top of Denys Court and proceed along The Green, passing first Green Court and in about 200 yards an old water pump and covered well on the remains of the old Green **2** (which was an open space until the Enclosure Award of 1842). Carry on ahead past Hill House and The Old (Quaker) Meeting House on the left. The duck pond on Catherine Hill comes next (where the road included a ford until about 1930) and then Port Farm **3**. Turn left into the farmyard and walk up the track past horseboxes, straight on over a stile next to a farm gate and straight on up the field, following the fence on your right.

At the brow **4** take in the magnificent panoramic view before descending a short distance to a new kissing gate. Then turn immediately left, over a stile and follow the track (originally 'Port Lane') down between hedges. At the sharp bend in the track **5** cross the stile and bear right across the field towards the far corner.

Go through the kissing gate, cross Hardy Lane and go down Mill Lane. At the end **6**, by 'The Old Corn Mill', turn left and follow a short path which ascends old wooden steps before soon dropping down and over a stile into a small field (do not cross the rhine). Go straight ahead and over another stile into a small



copse then out into a field and straight ahead. About 50 yards before the end of the field, find a stile in the right hedge which drops down on to the driveway of 'Ivwell' **7**. At this point, observe the old 'Rams Well' behind the opposite stone wall. A few families in the parish were without mains water right up to the 1940s and were reliant on such wells. Turn left on to Lower Tockington Road.

Cross the road and turn right down the pavement and continue to a point where you can see traffic approaching the bend from both directions **8**. Cross the road, carefully, to the grass verge by the house opposite, to safely access

the 'slab and pipe' stile to the right of the house. Go straight ahead across two fields and then find a slab stile at the far end of the left hedge **9**. Enter a narrow path between a hedge and equestrian centre. Cross a stile into Moor Lane and turn right (the lane is built on a large peat bed and was known locally as 'Shaking House'). Follow the lane for about 150 yards and find a stile in the right hedge **10**. Cross this stile, and another almost immediately after, and go straight ahead across a field, passing animal shelters. Cross a stile and then a wooden bridge over Tockington Mill Rhine with two kissing gates. Cross another stile into a field/paddock and follow the left hedge to a fence/stile and cross on to Hardy Lane **11**.

Opposite, cross over a stile with concrete steps and go straight ahead up a field following the right hedge. Go through a gate into a steeper field and continue straight on up, on the same bearing. At the top, head to the right of a wooden rail fence. Cross a stile and immediately go through the kissing gate you used earlier then retrace your steps to Olveston Stores.

Speedwatch

Martin Gibson

The Parish Council has re-launched the Speedwatch scheme. As everyone knows, the intention of this operation is to encourage drivers to respect the speed limits in the parish and therefore make all our roads and pavements safer. On Thursday 27th August, 17 volunteers met – socially distanced of course – to register their interest. Some attending were experienced observers, many others were new to Speedwatch. Matthew Riddle and Martin Gibson explained how it would be operated, use of cameras, location of sites, the need to take a police test and the safety of everyone involved. Because so many volunteers had stepped forward, Matthew said that we would be able to have a second equipment kit, which would allow two teams to operate at the same time. Speedwatch teams will be operational from mid-September.

From the Meeting Point Archives

Readers of Meeting Point might not know that we keep bound copies of all the magazines that have been published. And, given that Meeting Point started in October 1976, this is quite a large archive. Here is the first page of the very first edition – exactly 44 years ago.

MEETING POINT • VOLUME I • NUMBER I • OCTOBER 1976



EDITORIAL


This publication is intended as a Community Magazine for people living within the civil parish boundaries of Aust, Elberton, Littleton and Olveston.

It will be published monthly and distributed to every house within the community entirely FREE. This is due to the public spirited attitude of the advertisers – so please thank them by supporting them. Thanks must also be given to the many people who gave their time and effort in collecting and distributing, which also reduces our running costs.

We hope that the magazine will not be simply a notice board for village events, although this is one of its important aims, but will also be a means whereby the individual can express an idea or an opinion. Articles which could be of general interest are eagerly awaited by the Editor for inclusion in future issues. Maybe you would like to form a new society or group – perhaps your own group is not yet sending us information.

This issue tells the aims and objects of organisations mainly for adults. In next month's issue we will deal with the younger generation.

The publishers, under the auspices of the Anglican and Methodist churches, hope you will enjoy reading Meeting Point and find it both useful and informative.


=====CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS.=====

Articles for sale or wanted – Services offered – etc.
Rate 5p per word, minimum 50p. Cheques, P/O's should be made payable to Meeting Point. Hand your advertisements with your fee to the Editor.

WANTED : Articles of general interest for inclusion in future issues and any classified advertisements.
Classified ads for inclusion in the November issue must be in by 5th November.

It looks very different of course – it was produced using quite different technology – but the aims and intentions of the magazine have not really changed over the 44 years of its existence.

For reasons we are all too aware of, there will not be a Diary section in this month's magazine. Back in October 1976, however, a lot was happening. There were meetings, matches, parties, Harvest Suppers, concerts, trips and the WI and Royal British Legion were both running events. Although lockdown restrictions are gradually being eased, sadly we will not see a similar range of activities this October.



Calender

OCTOBER 1976

F 1	7.30 pm	Elberton Church Harvest Festival - Rev. J. Morley-Bunker
	7.30 pm	Royal British Legion Dinner - Village Hall
S 2	2.30 pm	Littleton Church Sale
	2.30 pm	Olveston Scouts Jumble Sale - Scout Hall
	3.00 pm	1st XI v White Lodge Rovers
S 3	10.00 am	St. Marys. Confirmation Service
	11.00 am	
	6.00 pm	Olveston Methodist Harvest Festival
M 4	7.30 pm	Olveston Methodist Hall - Sale of Gifts
	8.00 pm	Village Hall - Table Tennis
W 6		Littleton & Elberton Ladies Circle Outing - Royal Worcester Porcelain Factory
	7.30 pm	Olveston Meth. Schoolroom - Historical Soc.
T 7	2.30 pm	Village Hall - Thursday Club - Basketry
F 8	7.30 pm	Tockington Meth. Church - Concert followed by Harvest Supper
S 9	3.00 pm	2nd XI v Victoria Park
S 10	10.30 am	Sunday XI v Hop Pole
T 12	7.45 pm	Olveston Royal British Legion - Meth. Hall
	8.00 pm	Parent Scouts Meeting - Scout Hut
T 14	6.15 pm	Young People's Visit to Cliff Richard Gospel Song Concert
	7.30 pm	Village Hall - W.I. Members Day & Dinner
S 16	2.30 pm	Cup 1st Round
S 17	9.30 am	Olveston Meth. Wesley Guild Communion
	7.30 pm	Deanery Synod
W 20		Olveston Scouts 50-50 Auction
T 21	2.30 pm	Thursday Club "Nature Conservancy in the County"
	7.30 pm	Olveston Meth. Hall - Wesley Guild
F 22		Parish Weekend at St. Agnes Conference House Starts
S 23	2.45 pm	1st XI v Venture United
S 24	10.30 am	Sunday Cup - 1st Round
	6.00 pm	Tockington Meth Church - 25th Anniversary & Junior Christian Endeavour Society
	8.00 pm	Old Down Evangelical Church - Youth Rally
S 31	10.00 am	St. Marys. Leprosy Mission Speaker
	6.00 pm	St. Marys. Modern Worship

Material for December issue must be with the Editor by today.

Toads Revisited

Trevor Cook

This appeared last October as part of Trevor Cook's series on local wildlife. If you are interested in wildlife and would like to write a regular article for the magazine, please get in touch as we would love to hear from you.

It had rained heavily and the courtyard at the back of my house began to flood because the water was not running down the drain. The water had reached my doorstep when it thankfully stopped; something definitely had to be done. I tried flushing water down the drain but to no avail, and then I hit on the idea of running the hosepipe down into the drain to move the blockage along.



Imagine my shock as the hose pipe went down the drain and an enormous toad came up the other way! To this day I have no idea how it got there; was it a recent invader or had it lived down there for years living on the insects and worms that inevitably fall into the drain?

It was a Common toad, as opposed to the rarer Natterjack toad, and could be identified by being browner and wartier than a frog. In addition, their hind legs are shorter than those of a frog and their toes are not webbed either. And that's because it prefers to live further away from water and so they crawl rather than jump like a frog,

As for 'my' toad- I put it in a nearby garden pond which, given their less aquatic life, was not a brilliant idea. The owners of the pond were not overly impressed either, being convinced that their frog tadpoles would be gobbled up. Unfortunately, I couldn't deny their dietary predilections as toads apparently eat almost anything that moves, including grubs, spiders, worms, insects, slugs, snails and other invertebrates



Anyway, we never saw 'my' toad again and can only hope it found a toady love and will help to engender many more little toads in the coming spring. Look out for strings of toad spawn (as shown in the picture above) in your ponds, which are quite different to the usual clumps of frogspawn.

October 2020 update. Unfortunately, Trevor's toad has never re-appeared, nor have any baby toads that he or she might have produced. What a shame.

Yours Faithfully

Roger Howell
Society of Friends

Saul of Tarsus was the son of a traditional Jewish family living in the Hellenistic City of Tarsus, in the Roman Province of Cilicia. For some reason, the family had been granted Roman citizenship, and Saul was given the additional Roman name Paul. He was educated in the typical Jewish manner and rose to become a Pharisee in Jerusalem. Like other members of that sect he was fiercely opposed to the ideas of a group of Galileans that had recently infiltrated Jerusalem and were spreading their ideas to other Jewish communities. The Pharisees, who regarded Jewish law as the basis of their faith, saw these new ideas as a direct challenge and began persecuting members of the new sect. Saul seems to have been present at the stoning of St. Stephen - of which he approved - and as a man of action he then began to harass and arrest those disseminating the new doctrines.

He was on his way to Damascus to arrest some members of the new sect when he suddenly had a vision of Jesus and was struck blind. He must have been aware of some of the teachings of Jesus, but had chosen to ignore them in his zeal to stamp out what he saw as heresy. I like to think that in his vision he was suddenly struck by the full force of Jesus's teaching on love, which later led him to put into words what I think are the most beautiful verses in the Bible, 1 Corinthians chapter 13 verses 1-13.

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

If God is love, then this is surely the most perfect description of the Godhead.

Church News

NB. Clocks change on 25 October

Details are believed correct at the time of printing. Please use contact details provided for further information.

ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Services

Each Sunday: 10am Holy Communion

Each Wednesday: 10am Holy Communion

Services taken by Rev Steve Oram

NB. Harvest Festival will be on 11th October at 11am.

Contact: Rev Steve Oram: 07830 151622

email: steve.oram@blueyonder.co.uk

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

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Oct 11	10am	Morning Prayer	Trevor Cook
Oct 25	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Parker & Trevor Cook

AGM: new date Tuesday 6 October at 8pm in Church

Contact: Trevor Cook: 01454 618442

Church Wardens: Jon Burnett: 633835 & Jenn Dickens: 632035

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Oct 11	9am	Morning Prayer	Tracey Black
Oct 25	8am	Holy Communion	Rev D Moss

Contact: Mrs Tracey Black: 01454 417660

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Oct 11	9am	Morning Prayer	Judith Heybyrne
Oct 25	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

Contact: Mrs Judith Heybyrne: 01454 616725

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

All services are at Olveston

Oct 4	10am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion	Rev Simon Edwards
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Oct 11	10am	Service taken by Members of the Congregation	
Oct 18	10am	Morning Worship	Mr David Head
Oct 25	10am	Morning Worship	Rev David Bone

Contact: Rev Simon Edwards: 01454 418176
email: simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

THE VINE HOUSE OF PRAYER, Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL
Meetings on Sundays at 10.30am and Wednesdays now at 2.30 but no meetings on Mondays.

Contact: Mike and Barbara Matthews: 07512 917229
email: thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Services each Sunday at 6.30pm. Speakers to be arranged.

Contacts: Jenny Parfitt: jennyparfitt@gmail.com & Sue Tett: stett56@hotmail.co.uk

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH & LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury -

Contact: 01454 412223, www.ck-thornbury.org.uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Contact: Brian Hawkins: 01454 854867 email: hawkinsb863@gmail.com

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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