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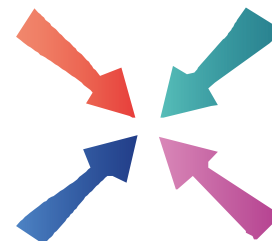
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# Meeting Point

**Volume 45, Number 12, September 2021**

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

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Material for October 2021  
to the Editor or Deputy Editor  
by 6th September 2021.

## From the Editor

It is September and young children will be returning to Olveston School, their older siblings heading off to secondary schools in Thornbury and beyond. Young people with university or college places will be getting ready to depart. We wish all of them a successful and uninterrupted academic year!

Our cover picture was taken at the 2019 St Mary's Street Fete. In fact, if the photographer had aimed slightly further to the right, I might have been in the shot, as I was helping to run a stall. It was, as I remember, a lovely afternoon and let's hope this year's fete is as much fun. (Details in News from St. Mary's.)

It is a very full magazine this month. As well as a wildlife article and a profile from Olveston's newest business, we have information about the Tockington Harvest Fayre, an Open Garden, a concert at St. Mary's and the welcome return of Monday Movies.

*Marelin*

This month's cover is by Debbie Harries.

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

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

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# 51<sup>st</sup> Tockington Harvest Fayre

Garry Phillips

It couldn't happen last year, but this year the Fayre will be held on Tockington Green on Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.



There will be the usual delicious cream teas and home-made cakes; a dance display from the Brownies with the Ukelele Band providing musical entertainment. There will be the usual formal opening and crowning of the Harvest Queen and we plan to have as many stalls and games as we can handle but – please note - we will **not** be having the White Elephant stall.

We will be grateful for any donations of new items/unwanted presents or good

quality books, toiletries, garden plants, vegetables, bottles for the Tombola stall, as well as home-made cakes and biscuits. We would very much appreciate if baked goods could come with a list of ingredients. Please leave any non-perishable items in plastic bags outside the Wesley Room doors, anytime, or for perishable items or items that you would like us to collect please contact:  
Garry Phillips: [garryphillips194@btinternet.com](mailto:garryphillips194@btinternet.com) or 613241  
Maggie Spooner: 610053,  
Jane Sawyer: [jane@prologue.co.uk](mailto:jane@prologue.co.uk)

The theme for this year's childrens' Fancy Dress Parade is 'In the Garden'. You can decorate your wheelbarrows, dress as a scarecrow, butterfly, gardener, insect or vegetable. The Childrens' Competition is 'Create your own Favourite Garden on a Plate'. You can use real plants, Lego or small world items to make a garden on a tin lid, tray or plate.

We do need help setting up, running and taking down, so any volunteers please meet at 6.30pm on the Friday evening at Tockington Chapel to help collect the old white pews from Olveston (including a free tractor ride!), and/or at 9 am on Saturday to set up the Fayre and then at 5pm to help pack it all away.

Please contact us – details above - if you can help. We hope to see as many of you as possible to celebrate this special Harvest Fayre.



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2.30pm – 5pm 30<sup>th</sup> August, Bank Holiday Monday\*

Proceeds will go towards the maintenance of the Methodist buildings in Olveston and Tockington.

\* This may be of interest if you receive your magazine early!

## Thank You

Isobel, Mark, Kevin and family would like to thank all those who offered their love and support following the very sad passing of Trevor (Anderson). We were absolutely overwhelmed by the number of cards received and are so grateful to those who shared the many wonderful memories that they have of Trevor.

In addition, we would also like to express our sincere gratitude for all the very kind donations received in memory of Trevor. All money raised has been put towards the St Mary's Church Clock Tower project.

Finally, we would also like to thank all those at St Mary's Church Olveston, T&J Gulwell and the Fox Inn, Old Down, who helped to ensure Trevor was given the perfect farewell.

## Alveston Local History Group

We are delighted to offer three meetings for the Autumn, subject to Covid Regulations. Visitors\* will be most welcome, with an entry charge of £2.50. Meetings begin at 7.30pm at Alveston Methodist Church.

Wednesday Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>: The history of Frenchay Hospital with Alan Freke.

Wednesday Oct 27<sup>th</sup>: The Royal Palaces of Cheddar with John Page.

Wednesday Nov 24<sup>th</sup>: The Royal Connections of Gloucester Cathedral with Derek Conaty.

\*Visitors wishing to attend should contact 01454 417578 or email: dandmcad@googlemail.com



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## Lee Burnell of GR8 Cars, Olveston

My parents will confirm that I have been obsessed with cars since before I could walk, and later, when most of my friends at school were chasing footballs, I was helping my dad in his garage in Eastville and attending



American car shows in the rumble seat of mum's 1939 Buick Roadster, pictured here on the left.

When I first attended Olveston Primary School in 1973, my dad had a small garage in Bristol specialising in American Cars. I will always remember rocking up to school

in a big red Pontiac with a black stripe down the bonnet and a white convertible roof. Everyone was aghast when, at the flick of a button, the colossal roof opened like a missile silo before hiding itself neatly in the boot (or should I say trunk as it was after all an American car?) Another great childhood memory entails me at the age of five sitting in the back of my dad's Aston Martin DB5 convertible in the middle of a thunderstorm, returning from school to our home in Aust. A car that cost him a sultry £1000 and is now worth over a million! (Fortunately, he has seen the light and now drives a Skoda)

My childhood dream was to work with both my dad and brother in the garage that was first set up by my grandfather, my brother being far more skilled would work on the cars, whilst my dad and I would find and sell them. Sadly, fate had other plans, my brother sought a career in the RAF, and I fell into a career in the travel industry. Whilst being badgered by my Marlwood careers teacher to pick a placement for work experience I fell upon a Thomas Cook TV advert and was immediately drawn to the extremely attractive blonde Travel Agent. A week later I started my work experience at the Lunn Poly branch in Thornbury. On the last day of my work experience the store manager offered me a Youth Training Scheme (YTS) placement on £26 per week. I must have been doing something right as within two years I was promoted and became the youngest shop manager in the company's history. In my twenty years with the company, now branded TUI, I held various roles including Internal Auditor and finally National Sales and Operations Manager.



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#### ABOUT ME

Jed Williams – I'm 16 years old, live locally & have had my own business for over 3 years

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My time at Lunn Poly/TUI included a break, during which I spent a short spell working for Volkswagen /Audi in Cheltenham as a Salesperson. This was followed by several years of running my own chauffeur company called 'Go Gazelle '. Unfortunately, after the 1<sup>st</sup> Gulf war hit in 1991, most of my customers (who were American) stopped travelling to the UK so I returned to the travel industry.

The point is, in all this time, my passion for cars has never waned. Even before I started my own business selling cars, I worked out I had owned over 70 cars starting with my humble Hillman Imp. Over the years friends, family and workmates would come to me for help buying or selling their car and it soon got to a point where too many of the cars in TUI/Thomson Head office car park had passed through my hands at some point. With a total of twenty-six people answering to me directly, and the complicated politics of a company that was constantly restructuring, I decided to leave TUI and start buying/selling cars for a living.



The first few years were difficult. It's a very different ball game when you turn your hobby in to a vocation, but in truth it never felt like work from that day forward. In fact, I often felt guilty for enjoying my job so much whilst others moaned that they hated their work. My main two mantras have always been to only buy cars that I would love to own myself and always

treat people how you would expect to be treated.

After ten years of trading on the outskirts of Berkeley I moved to Gaunts Earthcott, where I developed a beautiful business premises in the grounds of my 400-year-old cottage. Sadly, no sooner had I completed the development work, the motor trade took its first prolonged downturn. The effects of the earlier recession had finally caught up with us and there were far fewer lease cars being released into the market resulting in very high demand, and prices, within the trade. Unfortunately, as we were still recovering from recession, customers didn't want to pay more for their cars, so our profit margins were hit badly. So, totally unaware of the impending pandemic, and in a bid to greatly reduce my overheads, I sold up my lovely house and returned to the village I more less grew up in. Both the pandemic and the rise of internet-based car sales has meant it is unlikely that I will return to selling cars full-time, but my



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passion is still strong, and I will continue to help friends, family, neighbours and my many loyal customers with the buying, selling or cleaning of their cars. Having sold well over 1000 cars over the years, I have learned a thing or two about preparing them ready for sale and I have an armoury of specialist



equipment to help me. To this end, I have decided to put my knowledge, skills and equipment to good use. I think it's fair to say I enjoy cleaning cars almost as much as buying them, and quite frankly the dirtier they are the better. Most people don't notice the paintwork of their car getting duller as it happens over such a long period of time, but the reality is most cars (especially dark colours) require attention every 3 or 4 years. Usually this entails a 'machine polish', after removing all the surface contaminants such as tar, tree sap etc the car is polished all over with a machine. This is usually a three-stage process starting with a heavy cutting polish and finishing with a very light polish. The results can be amazing,

and there is an example of a Ford Focus that I treated on the back page of this issue of Meeting Point.

Once you have your car looking great again you want to keep it that way, in the past we've all used polish, wax or sealants which were often marketed by main dealers as 'lifetime' products. The reality is several months down the line, the wax/polish has worn off and your paint starts to deteriorate again. Thankfully, a couple of years ago ceramic coating was developed – I can honestly say I have never in all my years of cleaning cars found another product like it. The ceramic layer also provides a much deeper shine and helps prevent light scratches and paint damage caused by bird droppings etc. The best bit being, provided no aggressive cleaning products are used, the ceramic coating can last five years, with only a quick yearly top up required.

Most of my interior cleaning is carried out using a professional steam cleaning machine which uses steam vapour to remove and sanitise ingrained dirt and grease. I also have an upholstery/carpet cleaning machine for heavier soiling/spills and a specialist odour removal machine. There are very few obstacles I haven't conquered over the years, including spilt paint, dried on concrete, cigarette and dog smells, mouldy trim and rusty chrome. One thing for certain, I'm always up for a challenge.

To finish, and on a very personal note, I would just like to thank everyone in Olveston for making me feel so welcome. It's an amazing village and I feel blessed to be living here.

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Up the Down!

## Friends of St. Mary's

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# Get on your Bike and Support Pilning Station

I.C.Awkley,

Transport Correspondent

Over the years, Meeting Point has included many articles from the Pilning Station Group – which campaigns to keep the station open and to encourage local people to make use of it. Back in 2017, in response to one of these articles, I came up with a suggestion for an outing, which included taking the train from Pilning and combining it with a bike ride. Inspired by the article, Meeting Point committee member Derek Baker gave it a go:

*"Cycling from Olveston I caught the early train from Pilning and it was just a 20 minute train ride to Temple Meads. Conveniently it was then just 15 minutes before the train departure to Severn Beach. At Severn Beach I followed the advice from the article and had a bacon roll and mug of tea but had this in Shirley's Café next door to the station! From there it is a very pleasant route back just as described. The whole around trip from Olveston and back was about two and a half hours. A very pleasant morning out and one I can thoroughly recommend for doing something different".*

Here are my updated instructions for this trip, which I do regularly on a Saturday morning, if you are interested in giving it a try before the summer is over.

- Cycle to Pilning Station, put the bike on the train and catch the 08.33 to Temple Meads, then catch the 09.11 to Severn Beach, arriving just before 09.50 (cost with an old codger's railcard is £4.15).
- Then treat yourself to an excellent bacon sandwich and cup of tea in the café situated by the shops, followed by riding along the sea wall to New Passage, with beautiful views across the Severn, turning right into New Passage Road. The tranquillity of this lane has been ruined by the constant flow of lorries servicing the nearby seawall improvement project, so take care if cycling with little ones.
- Just before the lane starts to climb, by a salmon pink house on the left, turn left onto the 4/41 National Cycle route. The entrance to this is partially hidden by large bushes and is easily missed.
- Then using this cycle path which avoids Pilning and the busy A403, you'll come out into the stub of Northwick Road by the White Horse at Northwick, (all main roads thus avoided). You then have the choice of cycling back to Olveston via Northwick Road, Bilsham Lane and Ingst or Redham Lane and Greenditch Street.
- An alternative to this plan would be to catch the 15.32 from Pilning (NB Saturdays only) which would have you passing the White Horse

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in time for a pint or two! The only problem with this plan being that the White Horse has not reopened following its closure due to the Covid19 pandemic. However, next door is the newly opened Central Pook Café at Vine Farm, where non-alcoholic drinks and snacks can be purchased.

Two last points to perhaps note. Trains only stop at Pilning on Saturdays, with weekend train journeys often being adversely affected by essential railway maintenance. It might be worth checking out planned disruption before setting off. See <https://www.gwr.com/travel-information/travel-updates/planned-engineering>. Second, the increase in 'staycations' has meant that many more people with children and dogs are walking along the seawall at Severn Beach. Cyclists therefore need to go slowly and be ready to react to unpredictable movement, whether it be of the two, or four- legged variety.

## Garden Open for NGS Charities

**Stoneleigh Down, Upper Tockington Road, Tockington**

Su and John Mills are pleased to be opening their garden for National Garden Scheme Nursing and Health Charities between 1pm and 5pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September.



The garden has been open throughout the various lockdowns, with appropriate social distancing measures, and has welcomed many visitors who have enjoyed being out in a beautiful space. If nature behaves itself, there will be plenty of colour from clematis, dahlias, grasses and cannas.

Tea and cakes will be available and there are plenty of seats to enjoy the different aspects of the garden. All monies raised go to charity.

Visitors can pre-book tickets at [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk) or simply turn up at the gate.

Admission: Adults £5.00, children free.

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# Olveston Parish Council

Pat Savage

## Monthly Full Council Meetings

Monthly meetings are now held physically; virtual meetings ceased in May. To comply with social distancing and to accommodate members of the public who wish to attend, all future meetings will be held at Olveston Parish Hall, Tockington.

## Old Down Play Area

As this publication lands on your doormat, work on the Play Area will be complete. A fun filled open day is planned for the Bank Holiday weekend. Please check the various social media platforms and our website for the dates and times.

## Local Community Grant

The Council awards grants totaling £10,000 per annum. £5,000 will be awarded for the six months to 30th September. We encourage all voluntary organisations within the Parish to apply to: [clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov](mailto:clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov)

## Councillor Vacancy

May we remind you that we are still one Councillor short of the full quota. If you are at all interested in contributing to Parish life, then please contact the Council on: [clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov](mailto:clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov)

## Parish Website

We would like to remind all our Parishioners that any updated Parish news can be found on the website. As we return from our summer break, we trust that all Parishioners have enjoyed a restful time.



## Olveston Parish Hall

The 2021 Autumn Supper will be held on  
Saturday 9th October.

Ticket prices are being held at the 2019 amount of £12.50. This will include a two-course supper with coffee and post supper entertainment. We are so pleased to be able to hold this very popular annual event once again. To reserve a place or a table please contact Pat Savage at: [patsavage1948@icloud.com](mailto:patsavage1948@icloud.com) or call 07703281625



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## Aust Fete 31st July

*Trevor Cook*

It was my first time at the Aust Fete, so I don't know if it is always as good (I think it is) but what I can say is that this year everyone enjoyed a super, successful fete. Whilst the sun didn't shine in the Boar's Head garden, it remained dry and the day was brightened instead by the warmth and smiles of all those who came along.



The pub garden was full to capacity; the Skittle Alley had to be relegated to the rear car park; the Dog Show and Tug of War extended into the neighbour's garden. Prizes and cakes, jams, pickles and burgers appeared as if from nowhere; live music played in the background as the cakes were washed down by teas and coffees

(and the occasional glass of Pimm's). Bottles were won, plants were snapped up, to the accompaniment of kids letting off steam on the Bouncy Castle. Local pooches were put through their paces in obedience and beauty competitions, while, as the afternoon progressed, Tug of War teams were recruited.

Special thanks are due to the Boar's Head publicans (the two Rich(e)s) for hosting, to Janet Spratt for the use of her garden and to Jenn Dickens' team of volunteers, all of whom made it appear as if the fete just happened, a sure sign of a well-organised event.





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## News from St Mary's

Debbie Harries

### St Mary's Steet Fete

Church Hill, Olveston

Following the great success of our last street Fete in 2019 (see this month's front cover!) we will be having our second one on Saturday September 4<sup>th</sup> 2pm - 5pm

- Raffle
- Stalls
- Games
- Pimm's
- BBQ
- Teas.....and more!

Come and join in the fun! We look forward to seeing you there!

### Harvest Festival and Lunch

Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Bring your children along to make bread during the service! Lunch will be a roast pork and apple sauce roll followed by crumble! Only £2 for adults and £1 for children. All welcome!

### Bristol Sinfonietta

This wonderful orchestra will be giving a concert on Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm, at St Mary's. This is always a highlight in the church's musical year, and we look forward to welcoming them back.

Tickets £8 and are available from Debbie Harries on 613273 or David Shaw on 612781.

### Advent Windows

For the last few years all sorts of people in the village have mounted Advent Windows as a kind of living Advent Calendar, and they have been enormously popular. If you would like to be part of it this year, please get in touch with Debbie Harries on 01454 613273 or oboe-debbie@live.co.uk

### And finally.....

Tessa and Peter Floyd are pleased to report that their Open Garden at Maryland on 27<sup>th</sup> June, on a pleasant afternoon, was enjoyed by about 50 people who donated nearly £300 to the Tower Restoration Fund.

## Beauty at the Barn

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## Aust Parish Council

Emma Pattullo  
Parish Clerk

The Parish Council does not meet in August but continues to work behind the scenes. We have recently been contacted by residents about issues including litter, dog waste, grass cutting and road safety. Most of these are the responsibility of South Gloucestershire Council (SGC), but the Parish Council will try to help where possible, within our limited powers and budget.

Litter has been a particular problem around Aust. We have decided to fund a new litter and dog waste bin between the two tunnels on the entrance to Aust village via Sandy Lane. The new bin will be in place soon and will hopefully reduce the amount of litter dropped as people enter the village. Another area of concern is the Severn Bridge viewpoint, which attracts many casual visitors. The Parish Council is grateful to several Aust residents who have kindly been collecting litter in this area for some time.

We are aware that a number of roadside verges in the Parish are in dire need of cutting. The issue has been raised with SGC and will hopefully have been addressed by the time you are reading this. Residents can raise any areas of particular concern using the online 'Report It' tool on the SGC website: [www.southglos.gov.uk/general-information/online-services/report/](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/general-information/online-services/report/). You can also report problems with highways, litter, waste services and many other issues using the tool.

The Parish Council is now back to meeting in person. Meetings are held in Elberton village hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. The next meeting is on 13<sup>th</sup> September. You can find the agendas on the Olveston and Aust community website at least three days before the meeting or contact me on 01454 837271 or [austparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:austparishcouncil@gmail.com) for details.

## Thank You

*It is always pleasing to get feedback on the businesses that advertise in Meeting Point. We received this glowing reference recently:*

I would just like to say what wonderful service Jed Williams of N.E.A.T has given to me and two of my friends. (Jed's advert is on page 8) His knowledge of Apple Products is incredible and his timekeeping, and help, first class. What a wonderful young man, at 16 to have the 'Business Brain' of a person some 20 years his senior. Good Luck Jed. You will go far in life.

Roger Riggs

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# St Mary's Church Tower Restoration Project

*Peter Floyd*

Well, the 'fairy story' came true at last and work has begun on the tower after many years of planning and fund raising - for which thank you all.

The Graveyard Team did a great job in clearing the sheds (you would not believe the amount of stuff the church collects) and they are continuing to maintain the churchyard from a much smaller space. The contractor's yard is adjacent to the east end of the church, next to the churchyard wall and quite close to the bottom of the scaffolding. All is enclosed by high metal fencing and protected by an alarm system. It's

all quite tight around the end of the church, but care has been taken to retain a path to the main churchyard and to its tap.

The scaffolding went up at remarkable speed but will have taken a month to complete. The old pinnacles will be lowered to the ground, and one will be set up temporarily in church alongside the new one for comparison. The church is open once again, every day from 10am until 4pm, so you can enjoy its peace and look at the pinnacles for yourselves.



Sculptor and main contractor, Mark Hancock, gave a talk about what he does with a short demonstration of stone carving to Year 5 pupils from Olveston Primary School, just before the end of term. This was a great success, so much so that after the talk, very sensible questions kept coming and they were there for an hour and a quarter!

Mark, who is an excellent speaker, will give another talk in church at 5.30 pm on 22nd September to anyone who would like to come (subject as ever to current Covid advice).

Booking will not be necessary, and donations will be gratefully received.



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# Summer Butterflies

Paul Godwin

In the July issue of Meeting Point I featured butterflies which could be seen during spring into early summer. In this article I have focussed on four butterflies you may have seen whilst out on walks locally, or within your gardens, during summer. They are by no means the only butterflies present and you may observe plenty of others such as Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Peacocks, Painted Ladies, Whites (Small, Large and Green Veined) and Brimstone.

Habitat is a key consideration to the success of butterflies throughout their life cycle (eggs, caterpillars, chrysalis and adult). In our garden this year we have not only kept a variety of pollen or nectar rich plants in flower throughout the year, but also kept long grass areas and sown clover and daisies inspired by 'No Mow May'. In addition, grass verges and hedgerows along our roads being kept long, and some fields kept as meadows allowing grasses and wildflowers to grow, has had notable results for insects.

The butterflies I have included here are some of the most colourful we may see locally within our gardens and local countryside at this time of year. All photographs have been taken locally between late June and early August.

## Marbled White



Marbled Whites can be found in areas of unimproved grassland. They have been very abundant this year and I have observed them in large numbers on Stroud Common near Old Down and also in grass

fields off of Bond Lane leading down to Kington. This photograph was taken in July on Stroud Common. It is a very distinctive butterfly and unlikely to be mistaken for any other.

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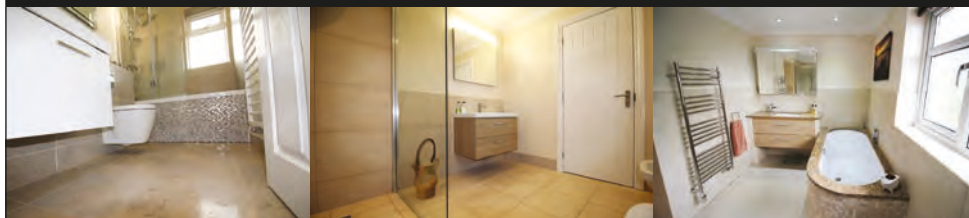
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The adult Marbled White is quite often observed low within tall grasses laying eggs, as well as flying over different feeding areas such as thistles and knapweed. Interestingly it is within the Nymphalide family and not the Pieridae (whites and yellows) as it is classified as a 'Brown'. Its main season as an adult is mid-June until the end of August and is most frequently seen in sunny weather. Eggs are laid in July and August in either Red Fescue or Tor Grass, and hatch after three weeks. The caterpillar once emerged immediately hibernates until spring, the chrysalis is then formed close to the ground within the grasses, and it emerges as an adult in approximately three weeks.

Marbled White distribution is typically the southern half of England and some parts of South Wales. It is absent from Scotland and largely absent from large parts of eastern and northern England, although in some years it has begun to extend its habitat northwards.

### Comma



The Comma is also within the Nymphalid family and is unique due to its ragged outline. They can be observed from March into September and produce two broods.

Comma eggs are laid on nettle leaves and hatch after about three weeks. It spends approximately seven weeks at the caterpillar stage, a further two as a chrysalis, until the adult emerges.

All adults from the second brood hibernate and can therefore be one of the first butterflies to be seen. I believe there have been greater numbers this summer. We had some early visitors into our garden in Olveston at the beginning of February, but have seen them much more frequently throughout July feeding on the lavender. They have been observed in woodland glades such as those around Oldbury Power Station and lanes, where its main food



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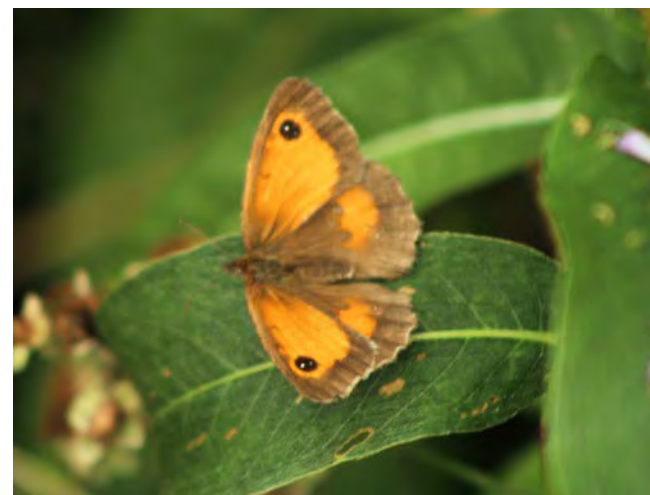
types of common nettles, catkins, fallen fruit and flowers such as buddleia, are present.



It is called a Comma due to the white marking on the underside of its wing and when its wings are closed it resembles a dead leaf and is therefore well camouflaged. It has a gliding flight pattern, ragged wings and beautiful colouration and it is the blend of these things which catches my eye when it is amongst other similar butterflies. The comma had been in serious decline, but

populations have significantly recovered in its main territories in the south and it is now beginning to expand northwards.

### **Gatekeeper**



In local hedgerows and woodland edges the Gatekeeper (also known as the Hedge Brown) has been a very common sight this year, especially when the sun has shone. Again, another beautiful butterfly which can be seen resting on bramble or other such leaves. It is also frequently seen on the flower of

ragwort. Its caterpillars are dependent on meadow grasses, common couch, common bent and red fescues. It has very distinctive colouration a rich orange colour with chocolate-coloured patterns. It is found in the southern half of the UK and is not present in Scotland or Northern Ireland. This photograph was taken near Elberton church.

The Gatekeeper is found in small colonies and will stay very much local to that colony. The adult has a short flight season between July and August. It then lays its eggs within grasses, which then emerge after three weeks to form the caterpillar. This stage lasts for nine months where it hibernates. The chrysalis is formed in June and the adult emerges in approximately three weeks This



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butterfly, whilst not at risk, is very vulnerable. It is dependent on hedgerows and, at the caterpillar stage, on meadow grasses. A single colony of Gatekeepers can easily be disrupted or destroyed if those habitats are destroyed

### Small Tortoiseshell



Another very attractive butterfly which is resident across the UK. It can be found in many locations and habitats including mountain tops. Depending on the availability of food, adults may have up to three broods per year. It is a very successful butterfly, but annual populations can fluctuate from year to

year due to parasitic wasps. This year however would appear to be a highly successful year with plenty feeding on nectar rich plants in fields and gardens. I saw flowers on sale outside the Olveston Stores, where at one point there must have been ten Small Tortoiseshells feeding. This photograph was taken on lavender plants in our garden.

The Small Tortoiseshell can be one of the first butterflies to be seen in a year because the adult hibernates over winter and re-emerges on warm days to feed in March. Eggs are laid within nettles between April and beginning of August when they emerge on the nettle as caterpillars for about four weeks. The caterpillars initially form an untidy web until they are fully grown. The chrysalis stage last for twelve days until the adult emerges. In summer males can be seen frequently spiralling in the sky duelling with other males for territories. Flowers such as lavender and buddleia are important to the feeding adult, and common and small nettles for the eggs and caterpillars. They begin to consider hibernation during August, when you may find them in sheds and other outbuildings where they should not be disturbed if possible.

If you are interested in butterfly conservation and identification, the Butterfly Conservation Group: [www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org) is a good source of information.



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## Thornbury Memory Café

John Lee

We are pleased to announce that the café will be re-opening on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, and we look forward to welcoming back all our existing friends and new ones who would like to join us.

Thornbury Memory Café is for anyone with memory issues, together with a carer. We have had a long period of closure due to Covid19, but we hope that is now all behind us. We will, of course, be taking all necessary precautions to keep everyone safe, but it will be a great pleasure to see everyone again. Our volunteers are all ready to get going.

Just to remind everyone that the venue, as before, is the Methodist Church Hall, Castle Court, Thornbury, just behind the Church on the High Street, and the café will be open from 10.15am until 11.45am. The style will be as before with coffee or tea, and biscuits for which there is no charge, although we do have a voluntary contribution box. There is sure to be lots of chatter about events since we had to close last year. Parking is very easy just outside for 'Blue Badge' holders or in the nearby car park.

Contact Sue Rowley on 01454 412941 or Louise Wright on 01454 260371 for further information. We look forward to seeing you all.

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# Neighbourhood Watch

Derek Baker



Using a grant from Olveston Parish Council, the three Neighbourhood Watches for the village of Olveston recently purchased new street signs to be sited on all of the six 'entry roads' into the village.

On a morning in August, Derek Baker, Andy Philips and Rod Williams (the three Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators for Olveston) formed a working party and all were put in place. Two are pictured below.



If you would like to know more about your local scheme all the contacts are listed in the Meeting Point Directory under Neighbourhood Watch. We are also looking for additional volunteers to assist on the committees for running the Neighbourhood Watches in Olveston Village. Contact Derek Baker on 07984 949827 for more information.

There are benefits to joining a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:

- It can help prevent and tackle crime in your community.
- It shows that members of a community are looking out for each other
- It keeps you up to date with what is going on in your area.
- It may save you money on your home insurance.

# Village Life in 1771

Richard Newley

What was life like in Olveston 250 years ago? Thanks to a project of the Olveston Parish Historical Society (OPHS), we are finding out about the cares and concerns of the villagers in Georgian times. In those days, the Lord of the

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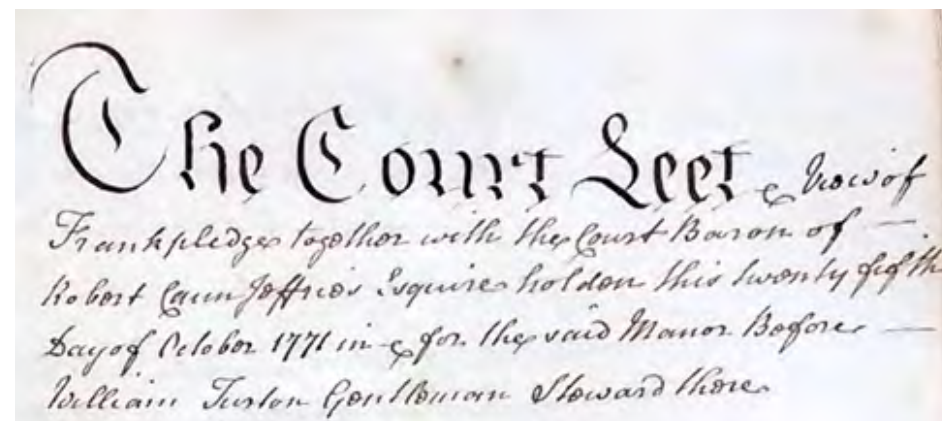
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Manor was required by government to hold an annual 'Court Leet', a meeting at which village officials were appointed to their roles and a jury of local people was summoned to adjudicate on matters (essentially 'village housekeeping' concerns).



The proceedings of the Court Leet were recorded in a Manorial Record book – and it's these volumes, containing over one hundred years of recorded minutes for the Manors of Olveston and Elberton, that have been purchased by Eric Garrett, our OPHS archivist. In March 2020, a group of OPHS members undertook a project to read and transcribe the Court Leet records and, in the process, learn something about village life.

In 1771, the village Constable was Peter Boulton, and he was able to report to the Court held on 24<sup>th</sup> October that "All is well". The Jury of 13, led by Mr Richard Ward, Foreman, dealt with 23 complaints, called 'Presentments'. For instance,

*"They Present Mr William Hollister to lop the Trees cut the Hedge & shear the Ditch six foot wide & bottom it one Foot deeper from the corner of Baghurst to the corner of Bilsom Lane by Christmas next on pain of six pence per Perch".*

The Jury set the deadline for the work to be carried out and set a fine to be imposed if the work was not completed in time. It is clear from the Leets that the clearance and maintenance of ditches to provide drainage was a high priority.

Even the Lord of the Manor did not escape censure:

*"They request Robert Cann Jefferies Esquire or Tenant William Wilton to lay the Hedge & Shroud the Trees at the Bottom of Brooks Tything against the Sandy Lane by Christmas next on pain of three pence per Perch".*





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But note that the Lord of the Manor is respectfully 'requested' rather than 'presented'!

The Court Leet also met in Elberton on the day following (25th October 1771) and dealt with similar concerns:

*"They Present Mrs Hester Roberts to cut the Hedges and shroud the Trees from her Innlands up to Elberton Downs Gate in Sandy Lane by Christmas next on pain of four pence per Perch, the same not being done according to a former Presentment".*

The Court Leet records are a rich source of information about village life. The names of all the Freeholders, Leaseholders and Resiants (other parishioners) who were present at the Court Leet and those who defaulted (and were fined for non-appearance) are listed in the minutes. From all the Presentments we can learn who is a tenant of whom, and the names of many local fields and who held them. Those appointed to be Officers or members of the Jury give us an idea of who were the socially responsible members of the community and the Presentments name those who were serial defaulters!

We hope to be able to describe some of the highlights of the project at a future meeting of OPHS. (Watch this space!)

*With thanks to the transcribers for 1771 (Liz Clarke for Olveston and Les Harper for Elberton)*

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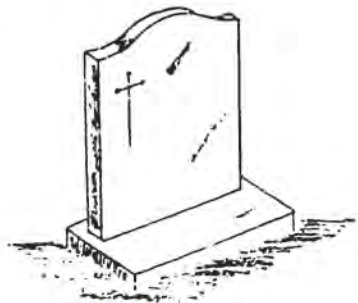
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## Yours Faithfully

Tracy Black

St. Mary de Malmesbury

The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it...  
He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to  
cultivate – bringing forth food from the earth: wine that  
gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread  
that sustains his heart.' *Psalm 104, 14-15*

With September comes the season of Harvest Festivals, one of the oldest  
known Christian festivals, which is not really surprising as humanity is  
dependent on the gifts that God gives us for sustenance. To give thanks is a  
natural human gesture, especially when your lives are dependent upon the  
success of the crop. Originally, it is likely that when the Israelites entered the  
Promised Land after their period in the wilderness, they adapted the  
agricultural festivals of their neighbours.

Our Harvest Festival corresponds to the Feast of Tabernacles, which is  
described as "*the feast of ingathering, at the end of the year*" (Exodus 23:16).  
This was the last and greatest feast of the Jewish year, and it was sometimes  
simply referred to as 'the feast'. Traditionally, the date of the Harvest Festival,  
like Lent, was related to the lunar cycle and was held on or near the Sunday of  
the Harvest Moon which takes place at the time of the Autumn Equinox in mid-  
September.

Harvest Festivals in churches as we know them today began in 1843 when  
Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving  
service for the harvest at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian  
hymns such as 'We plough the fields and scatter', 'Come ye thankful people  
come' and 'All things bright and beautiful' were used in the service. While as  
individuals we are not as dependent upon the success of the harvest, a bad  
harvest is still devastating for farmers in the western world and for individuals  
and villages in developing countries, where they are still reliant upon its  
success.

In recent years, many people in the UK have become dependent on food  
banks to help supply their needs; there are now over 2,000 in the UK. The  
impact of the pandemic has meant that now even more people are forced to  
rely on them, and I don't think this situation is going to reduce in the short term  
as the country recovers. As a Benefice all our churches support local food  
banks so maybe, as Harvest time approaches, we could use this well-known  
celebration to raise awareness, or simply remind people, of the needs of those  
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## Church News

### ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Sept 5	9.30am 6pm	Holy Communion Evensong	Revs Lloyd & Bone Rev David Moss
Sept 12	11am 6pm	Harvest Festival Holy Communion	Revs Lloyd & Bone Rev David Moss
Sept 19	9.30am 6pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion BCP	P Harrod & J McBride Rev David Moss
Sept 26	9.30am 6pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	Rev David Moss Janet McBride

Also, every Wednesday at 10am, Holy Communion.

Online services will continue at [www.stmarysolveston.org.uk](http://www.stmarysolveston.org.uk).

Also visit *Revs Rural* on YouTube, every week.

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

### CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Sept 12	10am	Morning Prayer	Trevor Cook
Sept 26	10am	Harvest Festival	Trevor Cook

**Contact:** Trevor Cook, 01454 618442

Church Wardens: Jenn Dickens 632312 & Clive Roberts 632238

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

Sept 12	9am	Morning Prayer	Mrs Tracey Black
Sept 26	3pm	Harvest Festival	Mrs Tracey Black & Rev David Moss

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

### ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Sept 12	9am	Morning Prayer	Mrs Judith Heybyrne
Sept 26	6pm	Harvest Festival	Mrs Judith Heybyrne & Rev David Moss

**Contacts:** Judith Heybyrne 616725 and John Gunnery 413225

## OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Sept 5	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Rev Stephen Newell
Sept 12	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Mr David Head
Sept 19	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Mr Robert Wallace
Sept 26	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle

**Contact:** Rev Simon Edwards 418176, email:

simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

NB. CREAM TEAS on Monday 30 AUGUST from 2.30 on Tockington Green

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

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**Contact:** Mike and Barbara Matthews, 07512 917229 or email:

thevine\_awkley@hotmail.com

## THE OASIS CHURCH, Old Down

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**Contacts:** Jenny Parfitt, jennyparfitt@ymail.com & Sue Tett, stett56@hotmail.co.uk

## AUST EVANGELICAL and LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

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## Events in September.

**\*Bank Holiday Monday 30 August, Cream Teas on Tockington Green** from 2.30pm.

Saturday 4 September, **Church Fete** on Church Hill, Olveston, 2pm.

Monday 6 September, **Monday Movies at St Mary's**, 7.30pm - 'A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood'.

Saturday 18 September **Tockington Harvest Fayre** 2pm on the Green.

Monday 20 September, **Monday Movies at St Mary's**, 7.30pm - 'Capernaum'.

**Coffee Morning every Tuesday** at 10.30am at Daldry Gardens lounge.

**Coffee Shop every Thursday** at St Mary's Church Olveston, 9 - 12 in Term Time and 10-12 in school holidays.



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

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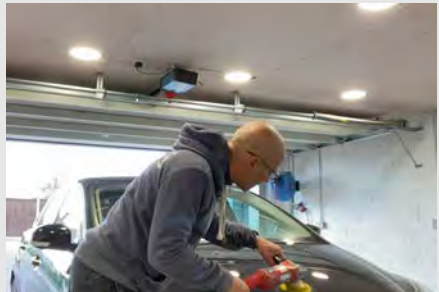


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