

Meeting Point

Volume 32, Number 3, December 2007

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

EDITOR:

Sue Hunter

Hazeldown,
Hazel Lane
Old Down
Tockington
Bristol BS32 4PL
Tel: 01454 412191

meetingpointeditor@gmail.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Carol Norman-Vincenot

The Stocks
Main Road
Aust
Bristol BS35 4AX
Tel: 01454 631814

meetingpointmagazine@gmail.com

ADVERTISING:

Nigel Dawes

Cromwell House
The Street,
Olveston
Bristol BS35 4DR
Tel: 01454 201558

Publication date

1st of each month

**Material for January 2008
to Editor or Deputy Editor by
3rd December**

From the Editor

First I would like to thank all four contributors of poems on the Haw Lane Saga which you will find in this month's magazine. I am sure you will enjoy reading them as much as I have. The closure is mentioned in the Parish Council report – the Council is 'attempting to speed up matters' - but meanwhile I am sure they and South Glos can allow us a little fun at their expense!

It is also a great pleasure to include some work from pupils at Olveston School.

As usual there are lots of Christmas Concerts and Carol Services to go to and also details of how to make Christmas a happier time for under privileged people.

Sadly you will see that it's End of an Era for Philip and Geraldine White at Olveston Central Garage. We send them very best wishes for their future after the Garage closes in December.

Finally Meeting Point would like to wish every one of our readers a very Happy and Enjoyable Christmas. And when you have a little free time after the Christmas preparations are over perhaps you could think of writing an article for Meeting Point - this is *your* magazine for you to express *your* point of view.

Our cover is by Kate Hickman.

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

Janet Davis and her family Part 1

Pat Thirkettle

Janet is one of two well-known faces behind the Post Office counter in the Olveston Stores, so even if you don't recognise the name, you will know who I mean. She has recently published her life story ('My Life So Far', available from her), in 232 crisply written pages, fast moving and always interesting. This article is culled from the book to give you a glimpse of Janet's life.

She was brought up in Knowle with her brother Don and she describes a free and easy tomboyish childhood, with a taste for adventure that characterises the whole book. In 1961 the family moved to a new house, designed by her mother on the edge of Stoke Bishop. At the age of eight, with her one shilling pocket money, she would often buy a return train ticket to Severn Beach to watch the funfair, without telling her parents, because she knew she would be in trouble. Progressing through junior and senior school she was involved in many activities, including Guides, singing for the Bristol Schools Madrigals in the Colston Hall, tennis, and hockey.

She also loved horses. She owned her first pony Topper at fourteen, and several others followed him. The horses were kept at Compton Greenfield and for many years Janet rented the top floor flat at Manor Farm. When riding on Durdham Downs she met some of the Mounted Police, one of whom gave Janet riding lessons, and also introduced her to Suzanne Philpott from Church Farm, Aust, with whose family she was to become very good friends. Her interest in horses lessened after she joined the Police Force, and her horse, and everything horse related was sold.

Janet left school after 'O' levels, and marked time as a Junior Clerk with Imperial Tobacco until she was seventeen and able to apply to the Bristol Constabulary, as a Police Cadet. Firstly she attended a month long Police Cadet Camp in the Brecon Beacons. It was spartan, very sporting and ended with a three and a half day expedition to climb Pen-y-Fan, the highest mountain.

Back in Bristol she received her uniform and was taught drill, before her first attachment to A & E at Southmead Hospital. This was followed by attachments to what was then known as the Spastics Workshop in Dovercourt Road, and then on to the Docklands Settlement in City Road, St Paul's. Cadet training continued, which included working for the D of E Gold award, swimming every day at 8a.m, and taking life saving awards, first aid, and organising and going on a four day expedition to the Isle of Arran off the west coast of Scotland. The Cadets also learnt how to be butlers at The Lord Mayor's Mansion House, in Clifton.

In 1972 Janet was sworn in as a Police Constable, number '20W'. First there was three months at Police Training School, where the recruits were taught criminal law, how to take statements, self defence and drill. She was then stationed at the Central Police Station in Bristol. Duties here included dealing with shoplifters, occasional wardress duties in the cells, escorting prisoners to and from court and

even point duty in rush hour. An unpleasant task was admitting bodies to the mortuary during out of office hours.

Next year she went on her probationary attachments. Two weeks in the Road Traffic Department, one week in the Vice squad, one week in the drug squad, and two weeks in CID, and also four weeks at Police Driving School in Devizes. Now she was ready for night duty, midnight to 8a.m, and was the only policewoman on duty to cover any incident involving women or children in the whole of Bristol. Fully trained, she worked in Lockleaze where sex offences loomed large, details in Janet's book!

In 1976 Janet transferred to the Road Traffic Division. After completing her Advanced Driving course at Devizes, she was offered an Instructors Course, passed with high marks and is qualified to instruct police personnel at all levels. She spent twelve years in the Division. The patrol cars that she drove included Triumph P.I. 2.5's, and Ford Granada 2.8's, which I remember as the jam sandwich!

Duties included assisting Divisional personnel when called upon, chasing stolen vehicles, escorting ambulances, chauffeuring armed officers on VIP protection, attending serious road traffic accidents and responsibility for Rocks Rescue in the Avon Gorge. There are sixteen pages in the book devoted to tales from Road Traffic Division and I can't possibly cover them here.

Janet's taste for adventure is amply illustrated in the story of Saleem the Moroccan barman. She met him on holiday in Majorca in 1977, they got on well and she was invited to visit his family in Morocco. Fancying the chance to see a new country, she accepted. Concerned, her sergeant at work asked her time and again what her plans were and would she leave her address, but undeterred Janet flew out to Tangiers. An American businessman on the plane was horrified at her plans and warned her about white girls disappearing every day from the streets of Tangiers. Now rather frightened, she booked into a small hotel and locked the door, intending to fly home again the next day. However Saleem appeared at reception and was so pleased to see her she went back to the original plan. It started with a bus ride, the occupants including goats and chickens, the smell was frightful and they finally got off at a small village. There they borrowed bicycles and set off through cactus country with Janet's suitcase balanced on her handlebars. Saleem's family lived in mud huts and were thrilled to see her, because Saleem had told them he was bringing home his future wife!! Janet was in shock. The family spoke no English, killed a chicken for her and she 'slept' on the floor of a mud hut with one of Saleem's sisters. Next morning she packed her bag, got back on the bicycle, cycled back to the village and caught the next bus to Tangier. She booked on the first flight out, which was to Malaga. Saleem insisted on accompanying her and when she couldn't get a flight to Bristol, persuaded her to go back to Majorca with him on a boat. Every flight to Bristol was fully booked from there too, but in the end persistence paid off and she ended up flying back to Bristol in the cockpit of the plane, with the Captain and his Co Pilot. She stayed firmly on British soil for the next two years!



St Mary's Outreach - Giving for Christmas

Rowena Winkler

This year at Christmas we are going to repeat our very successful gift and food collection for the Crisis Centre in St Paul's – one of Bristol's vital links of care, concern and practical help for the many homeless people, and those with life-disrupting problems, living in Bristol.

Because many churches were generous in their gifts from their Harvest Festival celebrations, the list of foods required for the WILD GOOSE CAFÉ has been adjusted. Please do have a look at the list in the Village Stores window, or on the box at the back of church before you make your donation. Also much needed and greatly appreciated are gifts of specific items which can be later wrapped and given as presents at their Christmas party. These gifts might be:

Chocolate and/or sweets
Chocolate biscuits, mince pies, Christmas puddings
Soap
Razors
Tissues
Pants (male and female)
Vests / T shirts
Socks
Deodorant
Any other toiletries
Gloves / scarves / hats
Towels
New or nearly new Toys (not too big) and children's books.

Please leave your donations in the box provided at the back of church. Do not wrap the gifts. Goods will be delivered weekly to the Crisis Centre throughout December. If you would like to make a donation of money, cheques should be made payable to 'Crisis Centre Ministries' and put in a sealed envelope, in the box.

CCM works so hard throughout the year to help these vulnerable people – you can make your contribution by giving these folk something to remind them of the spirit of Christmas.

Any questions, or if you want donations collected, call Rowena on 202511.

Hike for Hope

In March 2006 Phil Savage, now a retired Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, undertook a trek through the rift Valley of the Jordan Desert. The trek went from the Dead Sea to Petra – a distance of over 150Km in 6 days – and the 104 participants, ranging in age from 17 to 74 years, raised over £750,000 for the two charities for Women's Cancer Research and Prostate Disease Research.

The intrepid group – known as the 'Hikers for Hope – are embarking on a further challenge to walk the volcanic rim of the Great Rift Valley in Kenya from the 24th November to the 3rd of December.

If you feel that you could support these two hugely important charities (all donations go directly to them in equal amounts) then Phil would be truly grateful. Indeed, many local people have already been exceedingly generous.

Cash or cheques made out to Hike for Hope can be left in an envelope on the table in St Mary's Church, Olveston, or posted to Warren Lodge, Kington Road, Thornbury BS35 1PG.

Phil is intending to organise an evening event in the Church – hopefully in mid-January – and will talk about, and show pictures of the Hike for Hope.



Christmas Wreath Making

Peggy Oakhill

We are once again running two evenings of Christmas Wreath making at Elberton Parish Room on Wednesday 5th December and Tuesday 11th December, both at 7.30pm. All materials are supplied and Sally Taylor will be the Demonstrator. Anyone interested, please phone Peggy on 201091.

Olveston Primary School News

Year 2 children have been inspired to write poems about bonfire night. They began by watching some film footage of fireworks and thought of some beautiful adjectives. Here are some examples of their poetry.



In the dark, dark night, in the cold, cold sky,
Fireworks zooming up, up in the sky.
Lighting it up as it flies by.
Fireworks zooming in the sky.

By Sarah T

In the night fireworks whiz!
Sparklers kerbang!
Zooming! Booming!
Hailing colourful. Dark.

By Flora T

Popping fireworks in the sky.
They pop in the sky.
Zoom! Whizz! Shooting!

By Ollie E



Fireworks are cool, cool, cool!
Fireworks rule, rule, rule!
Whizzing in the sky, sky, sky.
Zip! Zam! Zoom! (Boom!) (Bang!)

By Theo D. M

In the night time sky when showers of fireworks are a booming
And scattered all over the sky.
The Catherine Wheels are going round and round.
Rockets are zooming across the sky.

By Megan A

The school choir warmly invites you to '**Carols by candlelight**' in Olveston Park, near Daldry Gardens. This event will take place on Monday 17th December at 5pm and will be raising money for 'Angels in Art'. This charity funds Art projects at Bristol Children's Hospital, where children are suffering from cancer. If you are able to come and support our event, we would love to see you there.



Christmas Singalong

June Robbins

**In aid of the Parish Hall, Friday December 7th
Bar, Nibbles, Coffee and Mincepies. Doors open 7.30pm
Voice raised in unison 8.30pm.**

Tickets £4.00

from June 617491, Rod 612850 or Val 613608

PLEASE SUPPORT US



End of An Era

Geraldine White

After 32 years of trading, Olveston Central Garage will close its doors for business on Friday 21st December 2007.

Philip and Geraldine would like to thank all of their customers old and new, who have used them over the past number of years. Their goodwill alone helped to make the business the success that it was.

David, their trusted mechanic for 30 years is taking early retirement due to health reasons. Philip, Geraldine and Jonathan are now making exciting plans on moving to pastures new.

They wish everyone all good wishes for the future

Your Parish Matters

Here we are in December and even the Parish Council looks forward to Christmas so I have very great pleasure, on behalf of Olveston Parish Council, in wishing all parishioners a very happy Christmas and a fruitful New Year. We would also like to welcome Tony Heming and Jane Turley-Green to our midst as they have been co-opted to become our latest new counsellors, filling recent vacancies.

We are of course still working hard to promote a Parish Plan, attempting to speed up matters on the Haw Lane road works and improving facilities and services generally where we can.

It was suggested recently that dog walkers, who are required by law to collect their pet's mess when in public areas, would like more dog-bin sites. We do already have a small number of them across the Parish but more may be possible and two new places have been identified. One is next to the litter bin near the Vicarage Lane play area while another is at the entrance to the footpath near the front of the Parish Hall in Tockington.

We are anxious not to waste money (they cost £200 each to install and £180 each per year to maintain) so we would like feedback from you about this. Is this what you want or not? You can phone me, Andy Clarke on 613804 or the Parish Clerk Valerie Tutin on 613730.

I have another request requiring a response from you too. When Christmas has mellowed you into a generous feeling and your goodwill for your fellow men is running high, you may feel like ringing me to volunteer your services for your community.

Sometimes, when we deal with Council business, we lack specific expertise to handle some issues confidently without consulting others with special knowledge. What we would like to do is set up a pool of volunteer consultants that we could approach from among our neighbours to make life easier. So if you have a special skill or professional expertise that you would be willing to let us tap, on an occasional advisory basis, please contact me. Your services will be very much appreciated if you do, and who knows, you may enjoy the experience.

Andy Clarke, Olveston Parish Council

Haw Lane Closure

Haw Lane Closure,
What does it mean?

Have a picnic in the road
A good night sleep
Walk in the middle of the road

Listen to wildlife while sitting on the road
Art on the road with chalk
Never think it won't be open again
Enjoy the peace and quiet

It may be a bore to some,
Having to go round the long way - Washingpool Hill Road, but

Haw Lane is just one way to get to get to Thornbury
Alert people about the new way to get to Thornbury
Walk up Haw Lane and remember what it was like

Love all the things you miss about Haw Lane
Always think about Haw Lane when driving
Never forget Washingpool Hill Road is a 'good' road to
Enjoy a new road and its sights

It's not the end of the world that Haw Lane is shut, but remember these things and it won't matter at all.

*By Oliver Harries
Age 13*

Thank You

Brenda Watt

Alf and Brenda Watt would like to thank everyone for their prayers, thoughts and offers of help during Alf's recent illness. We are pleased to say he has now fully recovered.

Haw Lane is Shut !

Haw Lane is Shut,
It's about a dangerous wall,
Which hasn't fallen over yet –
And may not fall at all.

Haw Lane is Shut,
It has a Pisa Lean
Which seems no worse than last year,
It's just that it's been seen.

Haw Lane is Shut,
The Council hasn't any money,
So it may never be reopened,
It isn't very funny.

Haw Lane is Shut,
It really is a pain,
We have to go round Tockington.
Or squeeze down Vicarage Lane.

Haw Lane is Shut,
Whilst roundabout we're going,
Vicarage Lane gets wider
And our carbon footprint's growing.

Haw Lane is Shut,
To residents it's charming,
They haven't seen a car in weeks,
And call it "traffic calming".

Haw Lane could be Open !
If we planned ahead
And used the massive barriers,
To prop the wall instead !

Peter Floyd, October '07

2007 National Parish Magazine Awards

Bill Morgan, Meeting Point Chairman, received the following email:

The results of the Awards have just been announced and we are pleased to inform you that out of over 200 entries your magazine finished in 17th position. Congratulations on your achievement and we hope that you enter next year.

The Saga of the Wall at Haw Lane

Mary Perham

Once there was a wall
It was great and strong
Grey and majestic
But 'ere too long
It grew top heavy
And leaned to the West

Colin said, that wall's not right
It is not safe, it's a fright
I will not pass it
Either fast or slow
Especially at night
In headlight's glow.

The Council came and looked
quite glum
For sure that wall is out of plumb
We must look into this
And then decide
If we own the wall
Or someone beside

The Council put up a notice
DIVERSION, OLVESTON, STOP,
Do not proceed,
Cars turn left
At 30 speed, no more,
That adds five minutes to Olveston
Store

When the Stone Mason with all his art
Looks at the Wall and makes a start
Sometime next year or ere too long
That wall will be finished
The end of my song
And all will say:

Hip Hip Hooray
At last, once more
We now can go
Haw Lane way!

The Ballad of Haw Lane

Les Harper

The Great Wall of China can be seen from Outer Space,
The Berlin Wall long kept East Germans in their place,
But it's the Dodgy Wall of Haw Lane that we have had to face.

Vicarage Lane and Old Down Hill have endured extra traffic's roar,
While for residents of Haw Lane it's never been so quiet before,
So still and undisturbed like some deepest Devon moor.

One day soon they say the road-closed signs will all be gone.
The diverted trucks and cars will return to routes where they belong,
And in Haw Lane we'll sadly dream of when we only heard bird song.



ST PETER'S HOSPICE SEVERN-SIDE SUPPORT GROUP

Kath Burgess

Christmas Flower Arranging Evening – this very popular event will take place at St Mary's Hall, Thornbury on Monday 10th December, to commence at 7.30pm. Mrs Dot Curtis will again be regaling us with her stories and amazing us with her flower arranging skills all at the same time. For those of you who have not attended before – you have missed a treat. Bring and Buy Christmas stall, cards and calendars, craft and raffle.

Entrance is £3.00 to include a cup of tea/coffee and a mince pie.

Friends of St Mary's Christmas Bazaar December 1st

Yes, folks, it's that time again - Turkeys roasting on an open fire & Chestnuts doing whatever they do !! But we know what we do - we give free gifts to the children from Santa every year & this one is no exception.

Providing that the children are accompanied by an adult, then Santa will give a gift to every child between 2pm & 3pm in our Christmas Bazaar. We will have all the usual bargains on the Christmas stall, we'll have a Cake stall, Bottle stall, Bric a brac, Grand Raffle & even a place to rest a while to have a cup of tea & a chat.

Come & see us at the Parish Hall - you won't be disappointed!

We look forward to seeing you there - Sale between 2 & 4pm but Santa will be gone at 3pm, so come along early.



Turnabout Foster Care Article

Tony Bray

An article was previously published about foster caring, where the hope was that people reading it might at least decide to look into the matter further.

People have done this, directly as a result of the article, and some have already decided to take the first step towards being a carer. I am grateful, therefore, for the chance to get the message out to the community.

Whilst the previous article focussed on what can be termed as 'mainstream foster care' – the placement of a child or young person with carers in the short or long term – the issue of foster care continues to evolve. A couple of years back the council established Turnabout, a fostering programme aimed at helping young people who have had the most difficult start in life. Turnabout foster carers care for a single young person, aged 10 -16, for at least 9 months to prepare them to rejoin their families, or move to a permanent foster placement. A typical young person will be supported in school, involved in out of school activities and will work with the Turnabout team to recognise and change those aspects of their behaviour which hinder progress in their lives.

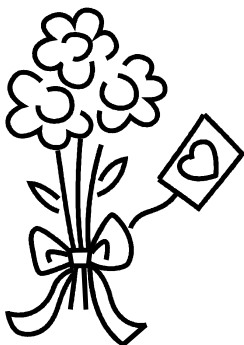
Turnabout foster carers are part of a specialist team which also includes education staff, psychologists, family therapists, social workers and youth workers. They give each young person referred to Turnabout a thorough assessment of their educational, medical and social needs and design an individual programme to address them. A family therapist from the team also works with the young person's difficult behaviour. The support given to carers is excellent.

Working full-time in this role, the foster carers receive around £34,500 a year, mostly tax free. They are also given regular short breaks when the young person that they are caring for will stay with another carer. Although carers do not need to have had their own children it is preferred that they have some experience of working with and/or caring for children. An ideal potential Turnabout situation would be a couple who have had children – who have now all left home – but who feel they still have a lot to offer a young person, particularly one with more problems than most. If one of the couple is regularly at home and can drive this would add to the desirability of this situation.

After the initial recruitment drive, the council is now looking again for people who feel they can meet this challenge to look after such young people in their own home and these skilled carers will need to call upon a wealth of talent in building

self-confidence and self esteem in young adolescents. Because of the intensive nature of this programme there are certain criteria which must be met by prospective carers, the most important one being that there must be no other children living in the house under the age of 16. If, after reading this article, you feel you want to find out more about the programme you can either contact me on 01454 866423 and I will answer any questions you might have, or you might prefer to read our comprehensive booklet which can be viewed online at www.southglos.gov.uk/fostering. Here you will also find information on all types of fostering.

Tony Bray
Recruitment & Marketing Officer
Family Placement Team
South Gloucestershire Council



Harvest

Carmen Pitts

I would like to thank the group of ladies, young and old, who decorated the Church so well and so professionally for Harvest Sunday. Thanks must go, too, in appreciation of the beautifully worked banners which enhanced the harvest theme and blended so well with the flowers. Congratulations on all the hard work and time freely given to create this result once again.

Cricket Club winners

150 Club Winners November:

£50 Richard Panes £15 Philip Pullin £5 Paddy Gardner

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

6th October Paul Middleton
13th October Olivia Maunder
20th October Andrew Rowen
27th October Malcolm Grosvenor
3rd November Barbara Binns

Please ring for more information.
Tony Gardner 07889 727729



Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church

Jenny Bone

TOCKINGTON CHAPEL

Pre-Christmas opening and events:

Tockington Chapel will be open as usual for coffee, newspapers and Fair Trade for the second weekend of the month and through the following week: portrait of Christmas visual display; Christmas cookery books to consult; Christmas music CDs - play your favourite tunes.

Opening times are:

Friday December 7:	10am - 12.30pm and 2.30 - 5pm
Saturday December 8:	10am - 1pm
Monday December 10:	10am - 12.30pm and 2.30 - 5pm
Tuesday December 11:	10am - 12.30pm
Wednesday December 12:	CLOSED
Thursday December 13:	10am - 12.30pm
Friday December 14:	10am - 12.30pm and 2.30 - 5pm
Saturday December 15:	10am - 1pm

Special events:

Tuesday 11 December: 7.30pm: Christmas Concert with St Mary's Choir, followed by finger buffet in the Wesley Rooms. Tickets £5

Thursday 13 December: 2.15pm: Let's Sing Carols, with Olwen Wonnacott (pianist) and the Manifesto quartet. Come in, choose and sing your favourite carols.

For information on Sunday services please see elsewhere in Meeting Point and the Churches Together Christmas leaflet.

RBL Women's Section Diamond Celebrations

Peggy Oakhill

Our 'Diamond Weekend' is now behind us and it was a great success. Our lunch at the Alveston House Hotel was very enjoyable and it was good to have our County Chairman and Secretary as guests.

The Church Service on Sunday evening owes special thanks to the Rev Helen Webb, whose sermon was 'spot on' to the occasion. Our thanks also to David Shaw and the Choir and also the St Mary's Hand Bell ringers. We're not forgetting you, June, for all your help- you're a star!! You all contributed to making this service extra special for us - many thanks.



Our Church Bells

Rosemary Ruddick

You may recall a series of articles earlier this year, marking 100 years since the bells of St Mary's Olveston were re-cast and re-hung. On 14 May, we replicated the service and ringing from 100 years ago and it was also our intention to ring a peal, but for various reasons this was delayed.

If you were out and about on the beautiful sunny morning of Saturday 3 November, you would have heard a group of experienced ringers marking the occasion with 5056 changes of Cambridge Surprise Major in 2 hours and 53 minutes. It was a joy to hear our lovely bells being rung so expertly and we are grateful to the 8 ringers for helping us mark this significant anniversary in the life of our Church. If you felt inspired by the joyous sound or are just curious to know more about the art of ringing, please feel free to come along to one of our Friday practice nights between 7.30 & 9.00pm.

Thornbury Fun Run or Walk

On Sunday 30th December at 11.00am, there is the chance to end the year on a fitness high by joining a Fun Run or Walk around 4 miles of Thornbury footpaths, starting and finishing at the Mundy Playing Fields. You may prefer to walk the course, starting five minutes after the runners.

The event is organised by Thornbury Rotary Club in association with Thornbury Running Club and will raise funds for Kidney Research UK. Changing facilities, showers and toilets are available at the Mundy Playing Fields.

Last year there were serious competitors from a number of running clubs but many entrants were locals anxious to raise money for a worthy charity. Those not into vigorous exercise can walk, win spot prizes and enjoy the bracing air!

There will be prizes for the first, second and third men and women in the Run. Veterans and juniors will be rewarded, unless they have already won the top prizes.

Advance entry to the Run is £6 (£4 if affiliated to a club) Entry on the day is £1 more. The Walk costs £3 per person (£8 family).

Entry forms are available online from www.thornburyrotary.org, from Thornbury Library, and from Derek Baker on 01454 619289.



Police Report

Roger Hopes

Dear All,

Here are the details for the month of October. There were 14 reported crimes on the Severn Ward. At the start of the month, a house in Tockington was broken into via a rear window. All rooms were searched and various items stolen. Tockington seems to have been hit particularly hard this month as a work van was stolen. The keys were left in the ignition as the workman was very close by. The vehicle was found a short time later in Almondsbury but, on a cautionary note, leaving the keys in the vehicle will affect your insurance claim.. A Land Rover was also broken into and the ignition barrel taken.

In Aust there have been a few incidents. Someone tried to steal a tarpaulin off a flat bed lorry but the driver disturbed him. A large quantity of diesel was stolen from a lorry parked overnight with the driver asleep in the cab. Money was stolen from an office in the Motion Media complex (Old Severn Services). The current services had 2 drive-off type thefts.

A container at Fernhill Scout camp was subject to an attempted break-in, where somebody tried to force the padlock. Some garden furniture was stolen from the front garden of a house in Pilning Street. Two cement mixers were taken overnight from Elberton. Two vehicles on a farm in Greenditch Street had their tyre valves cut.

Towards the end of the month, a male tricked some money from the Post Office staff in Olveston. The offender left the scene in a red BMW car. The occupants are believed to be travelling country wide committing this type of offence. This car was later seized by Hertfordshire police for other offences.

About half-way through the month, the first Safer Stronger Community Group public meeting was held. It was a very positive meeting and the main community concern directed to me was the speed of vehicles through Olveston and especially on the B4461 through Elberton. Community speed watch is one way of combating this problem and volunteers are requested to set up these groups. I've also been at the location using a speed gun, so be warned.

The next Safer Stronger public meeting will be held in Rockhampton village hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15th January 2008.

Roger Hopes, Neighbourhood Beat Manager, Tel: 0117 945 5959

Fascinating Rhythm Christmas concerts

featuring the British **GOLD MEDALLIST QUARTETS**

Fri 7th Dec at Kingswood Village Hall, near Wotton-under-Edge, 7.30pm

Sat 8th Dec at King George V Memorial Hall, Rangeworthy, 7.30pm

Fascinating Rhythm invite you to their Christmas concerts, featuring the current British men's and women's champion gold medal quartets: **QED** (both nights) and **HAVOC** (Fri only) and on Saturday only, the **Castle School Gospel Choirs**.

Tickets £7 (under 12's £4), available from Brenda Roberts 01453 845456 and Emma Richardson 01453 845214

www.fascinating-rhythm.com

FREE Singing Course (women only!)

Do you love to sing ? Would you like to learn to sing in harmony? Develop your voice and confidence? Have lots of fun and make new friends?

Then come along to our FREE 6 week Learn to Sing course at King George V Memorial Hall, Rangeworthy starting on Thursday 17th January. Beginner and experienced singers welcome and there's no need to read music. To book your place, contact Emma Richardson on 01453 845214.

Further details can be found on our website www.fascinating-rhythm.com

Thanks

Mike and Pauline Wright would like to say thank you to everyone in the village for their help, support and prayers for Mike's brother Stuart during his short illness and death in Derbyshire. The family has drawn great comfort from all you have done.



Aust Family Carol Service

On Thursday 20th December at 6.30pm

Carol Vincenot

Come along and enjoy our Family Carol Service. The Village children will be making their splendid contributions and there will be mulled wine and mince pies afterwards, as well as Christingles and treats for the children. Everyone is welcome.



Weather- October 2007

Marcus Bean

ITEM	DATE RECORDED	ACTUAL READINGS 2007	ACTUAL READINGS 2006	LONG TERM AVERAGE
Max Temp °C	6 th	20.9	22.4	21.0
Min Temp °C	19 th & 20 th	2.6	6.2	2.7
Max Press. mbars	19 th & 20 th	1036	1030	1030
Min Press. mbars	16 th & 28 th	1011	988	980
Max Wind speed mph	28 th	33	44	53
Days with Gales(35kts+)	—	nil	2	4
Max Day Rainfall mm	17 th	30.55	43.78	33.85
Rainfall in Month mm	—	51.80	128.91	100.58

Summary

The high pressure continued from September and brought mainly settled weather for the first eight days followed by one day with rain prior to the high pressure re-establishing itself. This continued until the 17th when the high pressure moved slightly to the East allowing a depression to move in bringing heavy rain. High pressure again re-asserted itself with sunny days and occasional nights with ground frost. This pattern continued to the end of the month with only one short period of rain.

October was another dry month with rainfall being approximately half the long term average. Pressure was very high, being twelve millibars above normal but temperatures were close to normal. We had six ground frosts in the month.

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. [1 Timothy 2:1-2]

You are invited to
The Vine, Awkley on December 31st
@2100hrs until 0100hrs on January 1st
to thank God for all that is past and to wait on Him
to show us the way ahead.

You may come and go as you feel right.
We will be an informal group and tea, coffee and biscuits
will be available throughout our time together.



From the Registers

St Mary's Olveston

On 21st October 2007:

Baptism of **Lara Elizabeth**, daughter of Jeremy and Caroline French
Baptism of **Edward Anthony Oscar**, son of Tony and Diana Heming

Yours Faithfully

There comes a time ...

Paul Ashford

I am writing this piece from San Francisco, having been in Chicago this week with 28,000 other people interested in constructing more environmentally responsible buildings. They were (only) expecting 20,000, so everything was a little packed! The event dovetails rather nicely, although perhaps on a different scale, with a showing of Al Gore's 'The Inconvenient Truth' at Olveston School in mid October. As a result of that event, I promised our editor, Sue Hunter, that I would write an occasional series of articles for Meeting Point on various aspects of the climate change agenda during 2008.

This is not one of those articles, but it would be my hope that it could be a 'chapeau' for the whole series, since it embodies the spiritual framework that is so critical to marshal our responses. For many years, the majority of Christians have been seen to ignore the environment. Many environmentalists I have spoken to over the past 15 years have described Christians as '*part of the problem rather than part of the solution*'. They cite the Christian adoption of the principle of 'dominion' set out in Genesis which allows man to rule over Creation and use it for his own purposes. In doing so, they avoid reference to the equally important call of Christians in Genesis to stewardship of the Earth. However, their main point is hard to answer – namely that the evidence of Christian witness towards the environment is of apathy at best and hostility at worst.

Whatever your beliefs, we are reaching a point when how we respond is going to matter hugely. In his speech to the Holt Street Baptist Church in Montgomery back in December 1955, Dr. Martin Luther King, responding to the arrest of Rosa Parks, used the now famous phrase '*....there comes a time....*'. This was a call to action, but not just any action. Later in the same speech he said '*Let us be Christian in all our actions*'. Just like Martin Luther King, I dream.....I dream of a Christian community that will see that action to save the environment (God's Creation) as an integral part of our faith.

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Church at Colosse, said of Jesus:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

I have never heard a better definition of sustainability. As we look forward to celebrating the coming of Jesus at Christmas, never has Jesus been more relevant. We must be people who do the right thing at the right time for the right reasons, with the right attitude.....not because it will make a difference but because it is RIGHT.

Church News: ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

December 2nd Advent 1	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Advent Family Service Candlelit Vespers for Advent with Choir	Rev. Philip Rowe Rev. Helen Webb Rev. David Bone
December 9th Advent 2	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship with Choir Breakfast Club Evensong	Canon David Sansum D. Jones Team Rev. Philip Rowe
December 16th Advent 3	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Breakfast Club Village Carol Service - Choir	Rev. Philip Rowe Bone/Rowe Team Rev. Philip Rowe
December 23rd Advent 4	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Nativity United Carol Service with Olveston Methodist	Canon David Sansum Mcbride/ Webb
December 24th Christmas Eve	4pm 11.15pm	Christingle Holy Communion with Choir	Rowe/Webb Rev. Roly Bain
December 25th Christmas Day	8am 10am	Holy Communion Family Service	Rev. David Bone Rev. Philip Rowe
December 30th Christmas 1	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP)-Choir	Canon David Sansum Rev. David Bone Rev. David Bone

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

CONTACT PERSONS:

The Rev Philip Rowe, (01454 613223); email: office@stmaryssevernside.org

Please contact Philip about baptisms, marriages, funerals or other matters at any time, but please try to avoid Thursdays except in an emergency.

Mrs. June Robbins, Verger 01454 617491

Internet: www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 3.00pm in the Church (except third Monday)

WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION: At 9.00am led by the Rev. Roly Bain

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Dec 9th	10am	Holy Communion	Can. Poarch / Rev Bone
Dec 20th	6.30pm	Carol Service	Rev. David Bone
Dec 23rd	10am	Christmas Matins	Rev. David Bone
Dec 24th	11.30pm	Midnight Communion	Rev. David Bone
Dec 25th	10am	Short Family Service	Rev. David Bone

Assistant Curate: Rev David Bone (01454 614601)

Church Wardens: Jo Jenkins (01454 632838) and Maria Livingstone (01454 632557)

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Dec 2 nd	9am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole
Dec 16 th	3pm	Carol Service	Rev. David Pole
Dec 25 th	8am	Christmas Day Service	Rev. David Pole

Contact person: Rev. David Pole (01454 414810); www.sthelensalveston.org

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Dec 9 th	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield
Dec 17 th	8pm	Carol Service at Rock House	Rev. David Pole
Dec 25 th	9am	Christmas Day Service	Rev. David Pole

Contact person: Rev. David Pole (01454 414810); www.sthelensalveston.org

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Dec 2 nd	10am	Tockington Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr. Colin Blenkinsopp Junior Choir in the Wesley Rooms
	6 pm	Olveston Church	Evening Worship led by Mr. John Trebble
Dec 9 th	10am	Olveston Church	All Age Worship led by Mr. Malcom Read. The Breakfast Club will join us later in the Service.
	6.30pm	Tockington Ch.	Advent Carol Service led by Rev. Iesinga Vunipola Items by St. Andrews Choir and local young people.
Dec 16 th	10am	Tockington Ch.	Christmas Family Service led by Rev. Iesinga Vunipola and members of the Junior Church.
	6 pm	St. Marys Church	Village Carol Service
Dec 23 rd	10am	Tockington Ch.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Iesinga Vunipola.
	6 pm	Olveston Church	United Carol Service led by Church Members
Dec 25 th	10.15am	Tockington Ch.	A short Christmas Celebration Service led by Mr. Glyn Varney .
Dec 30 th	10am 6pm	Olveston Church NO SERVICE	Morning Worship led by Mr. John Hopper.

LIGHT LUNCHESES: Thursday 13th December (2nd Thursday this month) at 12.15pm in the Tockington Wesley Rooms followed by Carols and the Manifesto Quartet in Tockington Chapel at 2.15pm. To book your lunch please tel. 416056.

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 5th December. To book your lunch please ring 416528.

PRAYER MEETINGS: Thursdays at 2.15pm in the Olveston Vestry.

COFFEE MORNINGS: Saturdays, 10.30am – 12 noon, in the Olveston Methodist Hall. Saturday the 15th will be organised by the Royal British Legion Women's Section.

DISCUSSION GROUP: This will not meet in December and the next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd January 2008.

CONTACT PERSON: Rev'd Iesinga Vunipola. 01454 412269; Iesinga@hotmail.com

Please see a separate notice giving details of a week of activities from the 7th to the 16th of December at Tockington.

THE VINE, AWKLEY

We meet in a relaxed, informal manner for worship, prayer and conversational Bible studies, incorporating Communion of Sundays at 10.30am and Mondays and Wednesdays at 7.30pm. You are welcome to call in at anytime.

Mike Mathews, 35 Salthouse Farm Park, Severn Beach, Bristol BS35 4NH

CONTACTS: Mike and Barbara Matthews, The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley;

tel: 07840 793772 or email: **thevine_awkley@hotmail.com**

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLDFOWN

Dec 2nd	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Dec 9th	6.30pm	Julian Richards
Dec 16th	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies
Dec 23rd	6.30pm	Carols at Christmas - Ceri Morgan-Davies
Dec 25th	10am	Christmas Morning Service -Paul Ashford
Dec 30th	6.30pm	Paul Ashford

For further information please contact Olwen Wonnacott (412141) or Paul Ashford (07774-110814/email: **Paul@CalebGroup.net**

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH offers a warm welcome to Family Worship at 11.00am and to Evening Worship at 6.30pm. For more details, please phone 613134 or 632564. 'Happy are the people whose God is the Lord'.

BRISTOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP IN OLVESTON - well not so much in Olveston these days as we concentrate on serving the community primarily in other areas of Bristol and Thornbury. As followers of Christ, our heart is to be where the Lord wants us to be most effective and currently we are establishing our presence in North and East Bristol, as well as continuing to work with the other local churches in Thornbury and in the heart of Bristol amongst the most needy. Our Sunday morning meetings are held at The Grange School in Warmley at 11 am, but the life of the church continues in a variety of forms, locations and styles throughout the week. Please contact the Fellowship Office in Almondsbury on 01454 613305 for more information or on the internet at www.bcfnet.com

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury - each Sunday

8.30am - Mass

11.00am - Family Mass

6.30pm – Mass

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury - Meeting for Worship Sundays
10.30am The Chantry, Castle Street.

For further details please contact Elizabeth Sidwell on 01454 412975

Diary Dates for December 2007

The information given below is believed to be correct as we go to press.

1 st Sat	Friends of St Mary's Bazaar Thornbury Orchestra Concert	2pm 7.30	PH TMH
2 nd Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club - (1)Long - Tel 415615 and (2) Leisurely - Tel: 414410	(1) 9am (2) 9.30am	
3 rd Mon			
4 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers The RBLWS Olveston Tel: 632135 Thorn.+ Dist. Flower Club – Open Demonstration Andrew Lloyd- 'From me to you at Christmas'	10-12 noon 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR DGCL TMH
5 th Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club – Members Christmas Lunch. Janet Davies - '12 Days of Christmas' OPHS -The Making of the English Landscape- J. Bond Christmas Wreath Making 201091 Thornbury Orchestra Rehearsal	12 for 12.30pm 7.30pm 7.30 7.45pm-9.45pm	AH MH Elberton Parish Rm URC
6 th Thu	Olveston Baby and Toddlers	2.30-4.30pm	MH
7 th Fri	Christmas Singalong	7.30	PH
8 th Sat	Christmas Concert	7.30pm	Rangeworthy
9 th Sun			
10 th Mon			
11 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Olveston and Tockington WI Christmas Party Christmas Wreath Making 201091 Christmas Concert - St Mary's Choir	10-12noon 7.30pm 7.30 7.30pm	WR PH Elberton Parish Rm Tock'ton Chapel
12 th Wed			
13 th Thu	Thornbury Rambling Club - Leisurely Tel: 414410 Let's Sing Carols with Olwen Wonnacott Olveston Baby and Toddlers	10am 2.15pm 2.30-4. 30pm	Tock'ton Chapel MH
14 th Fri			
15 th Sat	Music in the Chuch at Aust – Joglearesa Tel: 632306	8pm	SOLD OUT
16 th Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club - medium - St Briavels – 0117 910 4974	9am	
17 th Mon			
18 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Fibromyalgia Supp. Gp - Christmas Activites - 418882 Olveston Parish Council Meeting	10-12 noon 7-9pm 7pm	WR AMH AP
19 th Wed			
20 th Thu	Police Beat Surgery at Olveston Stores Coffee Shop	10.30am-12noon	
21 st Fri			
22 nd Sat			

23 rd Sun		
24 th Mon		
25 th Tue	Christmas Day	
26 th Wed	Boxing Day	
27 th Thu		
28 th Fri		
29 th Sat		
30 th Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club - medium Tel: 880033 Thornbury Fun Run or Walk 618289	9am Mundy Playing Fields
31 st Mon	New Year Prayers	9pm The Vine, Awkley

Key: **ACR** – Almondsbury Church Rooms; **AH** – Armstrong Hall, **AMC** – Alveston Methodist Church; **AMH**- Alveston Methodist Hall; **AP** – Alexandra Pavilion, **AVH** – Aust Village Hall; **CCCP** – Castle Court Car Park; **CH** – Cossham Hall; **Chy** – Chantry; **DGCL** – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; **EVH** – Elberton Village Hall; **MH** – Olveston Methodist Hall; **OS** – Olveston School; **PH** – Olveston Parish Hall; **StM** – St Mary’s Church, Olv.; **StMA** Almondsbury Church; **TBCh** - Thornbury Baptist Church; **TMH** – Thorn. Methodist Hall; **URC** Thorn United Reform Church; **WR** – Wesley Rooms.

MEETING POINT is pleased to provide contact details for any clubs or organisations in the Parishes. Please contact our Advertising Manager whose details can be found on page 1.

Advertisements are accepted on the understanding that the description of goods or services is correct and true. Every effort is made to see that the information is correct and reliable. Neither Meeting Point, its editor, nor management committee accept any responsibility or give any guarantee in case of any dispute or claim as to quality, condition or delivery of commodities or services. It is not to be taken that publication implies recommendation of any advertisement. It is always advisable to check prices when ordering goods or services. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the editor or Meeting Point magazine

Copyright Meeting Point 2007. Copyright remains with the author(s) and Meeting Point. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form without the prior permission of the copyright owners.

Meeting Point is printed by E.G. Brown (Bristol) Ltd.