



Meeting Point

Volume 35, Number 7, April 2011

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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Publication date
1st of each month

**Material for May 2011
to the Editor or Deputy
Editor by 7th April 2011.**

**If there is anything better than to be loved
it is loving.**
Anonymous

From the Editor

In September, I will have completed two very enjoyable years of editing and it will be time for someone new to step into this fulfilling post. If you are interested in taking over as editor, please make contact and I will be delighted to give you further information.

Our special thanks to Kate Hickman for creating this month's commemorative cover. The photograph of HRH Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton is by kind permission of Clarence House.

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

**Meeting Point magazine and Meeting Point Directory is online on the
Community Website: www.olvestonandaust.com.**

Village Person: Peter Haworth

Pat Thirkettle

Peter was born in Lancashire, but his family moved south and at the age of twelve he went to the Nautical School Mercury in Southampton. It has been described as one of the most brutal, savage and toughest boarding schools in the country, and from the sound of it, with good reason. The main school and playing fields provided a spartan regime; the boys sometimes went barefoot in winter and summer, with basic food, violent games of forty-a-side shinty, forced to swim a mile in the River Hamble, and many physical duties such as cleaning the school or climbing one hundred foot masts during PE. At night the boys walked half a mile to the river in order to board an old navy gunship (The Gannet) moored in midstream. Fifty boys would be crammed in a cutter, the older ones rowing them out to the ship where they slept in hammocks approximately a hundred on each deck. On a calm summer night, this only took five to ten minutes depending on the tide, but on dark stormy nights it is barely worth imagining – Health and Safety regulations were far in the future!

Peter left when he was sixteen. He started in the Merchant Navy as an apprentice deck officer and in his first year he sailed around the world twice in tramp steamers; both east and west, with only two days break in Hull between voyages. It was a tough life as an apprentice; each day you would be on the bridge on 4-8am watch, day duties from 8-4pm, dirty jobs such as cleaning the holds and bilges for the next cargo, then on the bridge from 4-8pm. He worked his way up to First Mate, but after seven years he had had enough and decided to go to Cardiff University to study Maritime Commerce and gained a BSc (Hons) degree. In the vacations he would go to sea and thus funded himself through university.

He got a job with Sir William Halcrow and Partners Consulting Engineers based in London, as a Marine Consultant writing feasibility studies for Port and Harbour designs. At the same time, his father suggested he studied for his Master Mariner's Certificate, and he eventually passed the certificate which stated he was "Competent to sail as Master of a Foreign Going Steamship", but sadly it was never used at sea.

He met his wife Jane, in London, when she was sharing a flat with his twin sister as they worked together as physiotherapists. He and Jane got to know each other at his sister's wedding and they married in 1971. They started married life in Peter's flat in Pimlico and looked into buying a house, but were unable to afford London prices. Peter decided that the best place to start in the housing market would be Scotland, because of the oil industry, and they moved up to Glasgow where he got a job with the Admiralty Research Dept. They bought a house just outside Glasgow and their children Rachael and Robert were born there.

Peter moved jobs in 1976 to work for a family-run shipping company in Glasgow, J.J Denholm Group, as a Marine Consultant advising Governments, International Banks including the World Bank, and Companies who wished to be involved in ship owning and/or ports.

He travelled the world extensively, meeting all manner of people, rich and poor, the powerful and weak and decided on a life philosophy. All people had something to offer in this world and he would treat fellow human beings fairly and equally whatever their rank or status.

One of Peter's consultancy clients wished to develop a shipping company to carry Forest Products from South East Asia to the UK. Peter was asked to recommend the best port, and after looking at various ports he settled on Avonmouth. A Shipping Service office was set up in 1978, with Peter as Managing Director, and Denholm's as part shareholders. Vessels were chartered and forest products such as hardwood and plywood were carried.

In order to offer a first class service, the cargo was controlled from the loading ports in the Phillipines, Malaysia, and Indonesia all the way through to the final importer, and deliveries were made throughout the UK. Computerised systems were established to improve efficiency and as a result the shipping service became the foremost carrier of Forest Products from S.E Asia to UK and Europe. In its prime it carried 700,000 cbm of Forest Products in one year, with two or three 30,000 ton ships calling into Avonmouth and European port a month.

In addition to the Far East shipping service, Peter developed and diversified the business in various ship and port related activities such as ship owning, ship agency, ship broking, haulage, customs documentation, warehousing, sea and air freight forwarding, and stevedoring. The business was expanded by establishing offices from scratch and also through the acquisition of eighteen companies, and by 1998 Peter had developed twenty seven offices in the UK, six in the Gulf of Mexico and three in Russia and diversified into most shipping related activities. For example the company arranged and organised shore tours for cruise ship passengers calling at St Petersburg and Tallin to visit various palaces in those cities. This grew into handling 100,000 passenger shore tours every summer season. By the time Peter was due to retire, the business had grown from an early turnover of £250,000 a year to £120 million a year and it was all very exciting.

Peter retired when he was fifty nine and having lived in Littleton for many years they now live in Haw Lane, Olveston. Jane asked him what he intended to do in retirement so he joined a beginner's course in photography. Needing a challenge after building such a big company up from scratch, he studied to become an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society, He is also a member of Bath Photographic Society and Thornbury Camera Club and has converted an

old coach house into a studio and regularly wins awards in photographic competitions.

Having travelled the world for a living, (he reckons to have visited nearly every coast line in the world), and consequently leaving Jane to keep the home fires burning single handed, for which he is immensely grateful, they now have the chance to enjoy travelling together. They climbed 11500 feet, not quite the summit, of Mount Kinabalu in Borneo a few years ago and Peter recently visited an island off the North Coast of Alaska to photograph polar bears - it was quite cold! When not travelling or working in his studio, there is always work on the allotment, fly fishing, the garden, walking, wine tasting or watching Bath Rugby Club and more. However their greatest joy is seeing their three grandchildren grow up.

Wine Holiday in the Alsace region of France

Thornbury U3A WineTasting Group is organizing an eight-day professionally-led coach holiday from 11-18 September this year in this lovely region of France. The holiday includes tastings in some of the best wineries and visits to top scenic attractions. We are staying in Colmar and there are half-way overnight stops in Laon, the ancient mediaeval capital of France. We also have a hosted visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. The numbers are being limited to 40 on a 53-seater luxury coach so that we can travel comfortably with plenty of room for bringing back wine.

There are **eight places** available if you would like to come. The coach leaves from and returns to Olveston with other local pick-ups. The cost of the holiday is £700 if we have our full complement of 40, but will increase slightly (because it is non-profit) if the numbers remain at 32.

If you would like an itinerary or would like further details please contact Tony Bates on 01454 614145 or by e-mail at tony@tbatesassociates.co.uk.

Thank You

June and Arthur would very much like to thank all their kind friends and neighbours who supplied them with food and transport during June's recent illness. Also thank you to all our friends at St.Mary's and at the Methodist church for all the gifts and good wishes. Thank you all very much, you were all so kind.

Olveston Parish Historical Society

Wednesday, 6th April 2011, 7.30pm, Olveston Methodist Hall

Gunpowder:

The West Country's Role in its Manufacture and Trade



Dr. Brenda Buchanan has earned an international reputation as a gunpowder historian and she's coming to Olveston this month to talk about this explosive subject.

The picture on the left shows the Powder House at Shirehampton, on the River Avon, where merchant ships on their way into Bristol were required to offload their stocks of gunpowder and other highly inflammable materials, and pick them up on their outward journey.

Come along and find out more about the history of the substance which played such an important part in Britain's trade and warfare. **All welcome. Non-members £2, payable at the door.**

Olveston Parish Countryside Group

The AGM for Olveston Parish Countryside Group will be held on Wednesday 20th April 7.30pm at Olveston Methodist Hall.

A short AGM will be followed by a talk 'A Year on the Farm' by local farmer Richard Cornock. Open to everyone (a small admission charge of £1 for visitors). New members are very welcome.

New this year - the Church and School Fayre

Olveston School's FOOS committee and St Mary's Church are combining forces this year to hold a joint summer fayre on Saturday 18th June. It is planned to have a street-party atmosphere, subject to approval from the authorities. More details will follow in subsequent Meeting Points.

The Royal British Legion Women's Section

The Royal British Legion Women's section are having three trips in the following months and would welcome others to join us if they are interested.

On **Tuesday 3rd May** we shall be taking a tour of the Forest of Dean through to Monmouth and return along the Wye Valley. Whilst in Monmouth there will be an opportunity to visit the Castle and Regimental Military Museum. This small volunteer-run museum, with free admission, tells the story of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers.

On **Sunday 5th June** we shall be travelling to the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire. This is the UK's year-round centre of Remembrance.

On **Tuesday 5th July** we shall be enjoying the delights of the sun and sea of the Bristol Channel with a trip to Weston-super-Mare.

Please contact Peggy Oakhill (01454 201091) for more details and costs of these trips.

Finally, a date for your diary: this year the Royal British Legion will be celebrating its 90th anniversary. By kind permission of Tom and Rose Brown, there will be an Open Garden and 'RBL Big Birthday Party' tea at Tomorosa on **Sunday 12th June**. Look out for details in Meeting Point nearer the time.

'Five Sides of a Circle'

On the Wednesday of Holy Week, April 20th at 7.30pm, we're staging a play called 'Five Sides of a Circle'.

It's the penultimate night of a 12-night tour by a professional company and it considers what might have happened when 'eventually the four Gospel writers meet'. It is Neville Boundy's second play and has been performed widely since 1995.

In the play, Timothy, a young disciple, makes separate important and revealing visits to the four Gospel writers. On his journey he discovers much about why they wrote, who they wrote for, and something of what they thought of each other. Once he has seen the creative differences, he is in a unique position to persuade them all to meet together. The lively discussion and argument (over their still relevant and important variations for us today) forms the second half of this highly significant play.

Tickets at only £5 are available from Roly Bain, 01454 616593
roly@rolybain.co.uk.

A Taste of Bangladesh

Saffia Bullock

In February 2010, I visited Jheelpur Slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh. What I saw there has changed my perspective on life.

I would like to share with you some words, pictures and tasters of Bengali curries from this extraordinary country. I would also like to tell you about Jheelpur Slum and what we are doing to try and help people there.

There will be no admittance fee but if you felt inspired to make a donation, we would be delighted.

A Taste of Bangladesh is happening at St Mary's Church, Olveston on Saturday 21 May 2011. Food served from 7.30pm, presentation starts 8pm.

For more information telephone Saffia on 07917 276 410 or visit www.arban.org.uk

Police Report

There were 5 reported crimes for the month of February. This is a sharp decrease from previous months.

Two crimes of note occurred in Aust.

Lead from the Church roof was stolen, which is the third theft since October 2010. Total value of lead stolen was £20,000; this could well jeopardise the future of the church.

A quad bike was stolen from a garage in Aust where it was hidden and not visible to the public. Please bear in mind that any property that you own like this should be marked overtly and covertly and registered on www.immobilise.com where descriptions and photographs can be uploaded should anything happen to your property. Consider chaining your property to a ground anchor for extra protection using Sold Secure items.

South Gloucestershire police to launch Rural Watch

Police across South Gloucestershire are planning to launch a new 'Rural Watch'. The aim is to offer support to farmers, stables and rural households to combat crime and improve their security.

More than 100 members of existing Farm Watch and Horse Watch schemes and those who have recently suffered from crime will be offered a security survey by specialist officers.

The local neighbourhood team will also offer a property marking service for the top five most commonly stolen pieces of equipment.

Neighbourhood Inspector Deryck Rees is co-ordinating the initiative. He said: "We know that thieves will travel to rural areas to target isolated outbuildings and premises, stealing quad bikes and power tools. We're working with the National Farmers' Union to alert farmers to incidents and encourage all rural residents to report anything suspicious."

South Gloucestershire police work closely with neighbouring Gloucestershire and Wiltshire forces on operations to identify and bring to justice those responsible for rural crime.

On Tuesday March 1st, three suspects were arrested near junction 19 of the M5, just half an hour after a burglary was reported in Almondsbury. A 21-year-old woman and two men aged 19 and 27, all from the north Bristol area, were released on conditional police bail pending forensic test results and further enquiries. This burglary was very similar to previous burglaries in Tockington where televisions and jewellery were stolen.

Letter to the Editor

Who are they?

Who are these drivers who discard their detritus on the roadsides coming into and passing through our villages? We are fortunate to live in pleasant surroundings so it is difficult to understand the mentality of people who wish to despoil the area with their discarded cigarette packages, fast food containers, beer cans and drink bottles. They may actually live among us but they are unlikely to be readers of Meeting Point. By example, they may slowly realise that others do care about our environment and maybe one day they will become responsible citizens before they become victims of their own smoking, eating, drinking and driving habits.

Goodbye to Halibut

Mariann Dale

This letter is either an epitaph to a lost friend or, maybe, one of those statements by a victim of crime, saying how the offence affected them. Either way it is a small personal goodbye to someone/thing that gladdened my mornings when I was lucky enough to catch a glimpse of him, Halibut the village heron.



He probably had other names. His mother maybe gave him a name. I expect anyone with an unguarded fishpond called him quite a few, but to us he was Halibut. I perhaps saw him once or twice in or near the duck pond. If we were very lucky we caught a quick sight of him while sharing an early cup of tea in bed. Any morning that began that way felt special.

His loss was mentioned only briefly in Meeting Point, understandably. However to those who were fond of him as many in the village were, his passing has, in a small way, taken some of the brightness from their world. So goodbye Halibut. I hope there are lots of fish in Heaven!



“Calling all Veterans!”

The Royal British Legion (RBL), Men’s Branch, meets every second Wednesday in the month at Daldry Gardens, Olveston, and would welcome any men who have served in the Armed Services of the Crown and the Merchant Navy. We meet at 7pm (1900 hrs) and often, after a short meeting, we watch a suitable Film, have Guests or discuss other military matters of interest.

Membership of the Men’s Section of the Branch, while aimed primarily at Regular, full time, gentlemen who have served the Queen in The Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and Royal Air Force; is more and more often now welcoming members of the Royal Navy Reserve (RNR), Royal Marine Reserve (RMR), Territorial Army (TA) and Royal Air Force Reserve (RAF(V)) and members of the Sea Cadet Corps (SCC), The Army Cadet Corps (ACF) and Air Training Corps (ATC). Any male who has a close family connection with the military is also very welcome.

The work of the Royal British Legion in helping our nation’s Heroes is well known and we all wear our “Poppy” with pride on, and about, Remembrance Sunday in November, but the RBL works for Veterans and their Families all year round and never stops giving help where needed. Since World War II, with a few notable exceptions such as Korea, the Falklands, Northern Ireland, to name but a few, we have enjoyed relative peace. However, with the recent action in Iraq and currently in Afghanistan, we have become all too aware of the bravery and service that today’s young men and women are undertaking on the nation’s behalf. We salute them.

We would welcome any men in the area who would like to join the Royal British Legion (Olveston Branch) at any of our meetings at Daldry Gardens. Come and join us.

Martin J Scott JP
Lt Col (Retd)
Chairman

The Ladies’ Section of the Royal British Legion also meets on the first Tuesday of each month at Daldry Gardens at 7.30pm and would also welcome new members.

Oveston and Tockington W.I.

Since the beginning of the year we have enjoyed three very varied journeys. In January we were whisked away to the post war 40s and 50s, the age of Dior's 'New Look'. February saw us touring the most glorious English gardens via the lens of Phil Roos's camera, then in March we travelled to the very different world of Turkestan.

Our programme for the next three months is equally varied.

April 19th. Hike for Hope. Phil Savage's illustrated account of his journey in the Middle East. Anyone who saw his account of his visit to the Antarctic will not want to miss this one.

May 10th. A Floral Demonstration by Kathleen and Sally Taylor, guaranteed to be both instructive and entertaining.

June 14th. An evening with Beatrix Potter by Sheila Keevil.

Visitors and new members are always welcome. Just come along and join us at the Parish Hall, 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month. For any further information ring Rita on 612790.

Old Down Cricket Club

150 Club Winners March:

£50 Charles Jarvis
£15 Simon Gould
£5 Philip Pullin

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

5th February Angus MacDonald
19th February The Buckleys
26th February Tony Gardner

Looking ahead to the 2011 Season, the Club is always on the lookout for New Players of any age or standard.

The Senior Nets will be led by ex-Gloucestershire CCC Player & Coach Andy Stovold.

The Junior Nets will again be led by our CRB-checked, ECB-qualified Junior Team Managers.

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

Aust Parish Annual Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting of Aust Parish will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th April 2011 at Elberton Village Hall. The Parish Council hopes that as many residents as possible will attend.

We have arranged that a representative of South Gloucestershire StreetCare department will come to talk about the proposed installation of a reed bed at Harnhill Quarry. This would be used to process gully waste from street gully clearances, and would avoid the Council having to send its street sweeping vehicles to Wiltshire for processing. It would reduce the Council's costs and use less energy. This item may also be of interest to residents of Olveston parish, who would be welcome.

We have also invited a representative of National Grid to talk about the implications for the area of the 400 KV power lines being built from Hinkley Point to Avonbank, and associated works in Aust Parish.

We will also receive a report on community safety issues from our community police officer, Roger Hopes, and Ward Councillor Riddle will report on South Gloucestershire matters and the chairman of Aust Parish Council, Councillor Mike Hawkins, will report on the activities of the Parish Council over the past year.

Tim Pyper
Clerk
Aust Parish Council
Stock Farm
Littleton-upon-Severn
Bristol BS35 1NL

Crib Players Wanted

Do you play Cribbage? Would you like to play for a local team?

We are looking for players to join a local team, home base being The White Hart, Olveston.

It is a league that plays during the Autumn and Winter months, playing one game at home and one game away. If you are interested, please contact Jean Best on 07577 626 734 or 617725. Look forward to hearing from you.



Olveston Pre-School Open Day & Spring Fair

Saturday 14th May 2011
11.00am - 3.00pm

Olveston Pre-School is delighted to announce that their fantastic new building is now finished...!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Roger Smart, Val Hudspeth, Geoff Chappell and Ray Lambe, without whose help this exciting project would not have been possible.

We will be celebrating the opening of this wonderful, purpose-built pre-school facility for 2½ to 5 year olds with a special **Open Day and Spring Fair** on **Saturday 14th May 2011** from 11.00am until 3.00pm. We look forward to welcoming everyone.

We are delighted to announce that we will be joined by **Steve Webb MP** who will cut the ribbon and officially open the Pre-School.

Helping us celebrate on the day will be many of our friends from the local community including Olveston Primary School, Olveston and Tockington Tennis Club, Members of the Parish Hall, the WI, Roly Bain, a Steel Band from the Castle School and Old Down Country Park.

We will have plenty of other children's entertainment and various refreshments available (including a BBQ with burgers and sausages kindly donated by Powells of Olveston) throughout the day.

Admission is free. We do hope that you and your families will be able to join us!

With best wishes from the Staff, Committee, Parents and Children of Olveston Pre-School

Olveston Pre-School, The Parish Hall, Upper Tockington Road, Tockington, Bristol, BS32 4LQ

Tel: 07790246588 email: info@olvestonpreschool.co.uk
www.olvestonpreschool.co.uk

Our Parish Matters

Andy Clarke

As our year begins to spring into new life, there is certainly a lot going on in Olveston Parish. While established activities like Parish Players, Skittles at the Pub and the Ladies Netball team continue to serve us well, there are new things to excite our interest as well. In addition to the new Monday keep-fit in the park, a new circuit-training class has started on Fridays too, at Vicarage Lane. Cimone Johnson's 2:00 pm class will no doubt attract more new movers and shakers.

Less obvious perhaps are other activities of our Parish Council, yet no less important. Our actions have helped to create the new system of rubbish collections. The latest move is to improve cardboard collection and in the summer, those people who want to use a special new cardboard collection bag will be able to get one - so watch this space.

The Annual Parish Assembly will take place this year at 7.30pm on the 28th April in the Pavilion at Old Down and will feature Chairman June Lyon's Parish report, as well as a talk from local historian Eric Garrett on the history of Olveston Parish Council. We hope to see you there.

The improvements at the Parish Hall are about complete and what a difference they make. All concerned should feel proud of the modern and attractive facilities that are now housed there.

The Parish Council has now been installed as holding trustees of the Parish Hall. Whilst this is a non-active role at present, it is an important addition to the Hall's management, if only in the almost unimaginable resort of any future winding up.

Our appeal for ideas for the Tockington red phone box's future use, when we have bought it as a non-operational item from BT, have induced some good responses and you will soon see some changes there that may appeal. The same future looks likely for the box at Old Down and any interested residents with ideas for its future when it, too, is no longer operational should contact me, Andy Clarke, on 01454 613804 or 07821159350. Regardless of their uses, both boxes will be retained by the Parish to continue as part of our visual amenity.

Some of the residents of Daldry Gardens, whose houses overlook the park, have suffered intrusions from ball players who have climbed the walls into their property a little too frequently. If you are able to prevent such actions, please will you help, as this can be both frightening and damaging.

On the 5th May, elections will take place for members of Olveston Parish Council. If you need more information about that or any other issue, please contact the Parish Clerk, Richard Rogers on 01454 618987 or by email at olvestonpc@googlemail.com, or any councillor.

'Helsfest' - Community Festival

21st May from 2pm - 9pm

There's just over a month to go now to 'Helsfest' – a community festival raising money for St Peter's Hospice and the Lung Cancer Fund at Southmead Hospital – and to remember a much loved friend – Helen Knight.

It'll be on 'Farrell's Field' – alongside Primrose Cottage off Vicarage Lane. There'll be limited parking so why not walk there? Bring a picnic and chair - or blanket if the weather's good (fingers crossed!). Children under 12 years need to be accompanied.

Entry will be by 'Helsfest' band, for a minimum donation of £2.50, available from the White Hart, the village stores and Totally Locally. Feel free to buy one even if you're not able to come – every little helps!

It's shaping up to be a great day for all the family – we have music from Bristol band The Atomic Rays and other local talent; a fantastic auction with prizes including a tour of the BBC West studios and House of Commons wine, a signed Bristol Rovers shirt and more.

There'll be a beer tent kindly staffed free of charge by the White Hart; Jo Jingles and traditional games for the children – and the grown-ups: tug of war, wellie wanging, face painting, football; as well as plant and cake stalls.

We still need help manning stalls, and with donations for the Tombola, plant and cake stalls. If you can help, contact Mary Slader on 07747 562264 or mezza192@yahoo.co.uk

Thornbury Arts Festival

The dates for this year's Festival are 6th May - 15th May 2011.

Please note that full details of the 2011 Thornbury Arts Festival can be found on our website: www.thornburyartsfestival.com.

This year's headline act is Julian Lloyd Webber.

The Box Office will be open for ticket sales from 11th April.

The Box Office will be open at Thornbury Town Hall Monday to Friday, 9-4.

In addition the April edition of the Thornbury Magazine will give details of all performances and contain a booking form that can be mailed to Thornbury Town Hall, High Street, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2AR, Telephone 01454 412103.

Trip to Ethiopia

Sue Hunter

I wonder what Ethiopia conjures up in your mind? Is it famine and kidnappings? Well actually Ethiopia is a very safe country to visit and the famine was nearly twenty years ago. The people are peaceful and friendly and none is starving. It is a predominantly Christian country with a strong Ethiopian Orthodox Church – not Coptic, which is Egyptian. Of course there are also many Moslems around but all live in harmony together.

It is a beautiful, mountainous country, even the capital Addis Ababa is 2800 meters or 9000 feet above sea level, so the dry season climate is like a perfect English summer's day. It does get chilly at night though and there can be frost in the mountains. We share Ethiopia's patron saint, St George, and their other emblem is the black lion of Judah. Another connection is that their last Emperor Haile Selassie and his family fled to England when Mussolini invaded Ethiopia in 1936 returning to Ethiopia after the British ousted the Italians in 1941. Apart from this short occupation, Ethiopia has never been colonised like so many African countries and in fact they saw off an Italian invasion in 1896 of which they are very proud.

So why visit Ethiopia? There are very many reasons but chiefly for us was to visit the historic northern half of the country and to combine this with a trekking expedition in the Simien mountains national park. Ethiopia's history predates ours with a civilisation based around Axum 3000 years BC. This is thought to be where the Queen of Sheba came from and she returned from her visit to Solomon pregnant with her son Menelik. Ethiopians believe that the true ark of the covenant is based in Axum guarded by a hermit who never leaves his post. In fact all Ethiopian churches have a replica ark in the innermost 'holy of holies'.

The most notable relics in Axum are stelae, like Egyptian obelisks cut from solid granite from a nearby quarry; some are over 20 metres high and they mark the position of underground grave chambers. We happened to be in Axum for the Ethiopian Christmas which is on January 6th when the Churches are packed for most of the night with chanting to the beat of rhythmic drums and syncrums. There was also singing and dancing outside one church mostly by younger women – everyone wearing white cotton wraps except for me in a turquoise pashmina! On Christmas day there is feasting on the sheep, goats or oxen purchased at the huge cattle market on Christmas eve. Meat is killed, cooked and eaten immediately.

The two other main towns of historic interest that we visited were Lalibela where the famous 12th century rock churches are located, and Gondar where there are a number of impressive castles built by Kings and Queens in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Apart from the eleven, connected churches in Lalibela itself, there are monasteries and churches all over the region, some of which can only be

reached by rope ladder built in inaccessible caves in the mountains. All have monks in attendance and all have wonderful illustrated manuscript books, intricate silver crosses and priest's regalia which they are pleased to show you. The internal walls of lots of the churches are completely covered with wall paintings with scenes from the Old and New Testaments as well as some interesting stories from the 'The Book of Miracles'. Often the wooden rafters of the church are painted with angels' faces.

The trekking and camping part of the holiday caused me some anxiety since I am not a great long distance walker these days and mountain sickness was a distinct possibility. Knowing that our bags and tents would be transported by mule I asked for a mule to ride and this was a great success. We had a team of seven for just the two of us: a guide and assistant guide with gun (not required!), a cook and assistant cook and three muleteers for transport so my mule (Mullah) and my muleteer (Mohammed) made the eighth. The food we ate on the trek was some of the best of the holiday and the scenery stunning. The National Park was full of endearing Gelada monkeys who minded their own business and ate grass yet let you approach quite close. We also saw Ibex, Ethiopian wolf, Bushbuck and Klipspringer as well as lots of different vultures and raptors. The 'facilities' however consisted of a stone hut with a hole in the ground several hundred yards from the tent - not great. However our cook would provide hot water for washing and best of all for a hot water bottle after a chilly evening around the fire.

After a few days of this regime, we were glad to get back into our 4WD Toyota Land cruiser with our excellent driver, Birhanu. His skill on, for the most part, dirt roads, which a few vehicles share with villagers, children, donkeys, camels, flocks of sheep, goats and cattle, was awe-inspiring. On occasions we were high in cloud on the edge of a precipice or driving in thick dust behind lorries or road building machinery. The Chinese are there in force, building roads which Birhanu had no opinion of since they need repairing after every wet season. Not only a driver, when we had one of our numerous punctures Birhanu would whip out his overalls and set to work. Ethiopia is a big country and you can comfortably fly between Addis, Lalibela, Axum and Gondar by Ethiopian Airlines but we decided to experience more by going overland.

Our last destination was Bahar Dar on Lake Tana which is the source of the Blue Nile. Papyrus boats called tankwas ply their trade on the lake, becoming waterlogged in 3 or 4 months but taking only 10 days to make. The lake has many monasteries on its islands, some of which are closed to women. We visited a couple of highly decorated ones, bought souvenirs and drank local wild coffee in the formal ceremony which lasts an hour and is accompanied by wafting incense – very relaxing.

Ethiopia is hard to beat as a destination with wonderful scenery and historic interest. I would like to return one day to sample some of the areas south and east of Addis and the many different tribes who live there. If anyone wants more information about visiting there, I am happy to be contacted.

Thornbury Arts Festival

The dates for this year's Festival are 6th May - 15th May 2011.

Please note that full details of the 2011 Thornbury Arts Festival can be found on our website: www.thornburyartsfestival.com.

This year's headline act is Julian Lloyd Webber.

The Box Office will be open for ticket sales from 11th April.

The Box Office will be open at Thornbury Town Hall Monday to Friday, 9-4. In addition the April edition of the Thornbury Magazine will give details of all performances and contain a booking form that can be mailed to Thornbury Town Hall, High Street, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2AR, Telephone 01454 412103.

Windy Strings

Concert at Cossham Hall, Thornbury

Saturday 9th April, 7.30pm

Followers of Windy Strings, local father and son duo Jacob and Andy Warn, will be delighted to hear of their forthcoming concert at Cossham Hall, Thornbury. Successful concerts have included those at St Mary's Church, Olveston and Aust Church, as well as a variety of performances in and around Bristol. More recently Jacob performed a concerto at the Victoria Rooms with the New Bristol Sinfonia, part of his prize for winning the Rotary Young Musician of the Year 2010 in Bristol.

Abandon the distant memory of recorder playing at primary school! 16 year old Jacob will dazzle you with his playing on a variety of recorders and guitar, complete with unusual effects, accompanied by his dad. A thoroughly entertaining evening is promised with their latest programme, including a collection of classics as well as some new, exciting and unusual repertoire. To find out more about Windy Strings visit their website: www.windystings.co.uk

Tickets are £8 full and £6 concessions, available either from the Garden Shop, the Town Hall in Thornbury or directly from Andy Warn 07916 253267.

Thank You

Bernard and June Trott wish to thank all those who attended the funeral of their son Peter and for all the kind words and cards and donations made at the church service.

Pancakes & Paintings

Roly Bain

Huge thanks to everyone who supported Pancakes & Paintings at St Mary's on Shrove Tuesday - lots of people were involved and lots came, but special thanks of course to the artists who so generously donated their work in aid of Net-work, our Mosquito Net Appeal. The event raised around £1750, which makes our final total over £11,300. We were aiming for £10,000, so now even more nets will be going to Sierra Leone and the Mercy Ship that's already out there. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to that amazing total - I can now declare the Appeal over! Sadly malaria continues ...

Sevenside Ramblers

Come and join us!

For friendly company, fresh air and exercise – join Sevenside Ramblers on a walk (or even a cycle ride!)

Non-members are always very welcome.

For more information about walks in April, log on to www.sevenside-ramblers.org.uk, or pick up a programme at your local library.

A contact name and telephone number is given for each walk. We normally meet at Aldi car park, Bradley Stoke, BS32 9DA at the times shown below and share lifts to the start of the walk.

However, the cycle ride starts at sea wall Severn Beach (10.30am) or Kington Lane, Thornbury at 11.45am



Fri 1 April 9.30am	Severn Beach Part of Severn Way	2 hours leisurely	Chris 01454 618853
Sun 3 April 8.30am	North Wye Valley St Briavels area. Steep climbs	12 miles moderate	Janet & Mike 01179 650661
Sat 9 April 10.30am	Cycle ride to Berkeley Choose short or long easy ride	17 or 26 miles	Heather 01454 632134
Sun 10 April 9.30am	Dyrham & Cotswold Edge Undulating. Views to Wales	7 miles leisurely	Kathy 07890113179
Fri 15 April 9.30am	Chipping Sodbury/Wapley Several stiles	2.5 hours leisurely	Jean 01454 419274
Sun 17 April 10.00am	Coaley Peak/ Uley Bury Includes part of Cotswold way	6 miles moderate	Jean 01454 419274
Sun 24 April 9.30am	Thornbury and River Severn Passing Shepperdine & Oldbury	11 miles leisurely	Ann 01179798628
Sun 1 May 10.00am	Four Sodburies and four churches! Flat walk	5.5 miles leisurely	Joy 01179 334998

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the draw held on 28th February 2011 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<i>Name</i>
£150	468	Mr. G. Clark, Olveston
£75	345	Mrs. C. Mason, Tockington
£25	287	Mrs. A. Harley, Alveston
£25	502	Revd. D. H. Bone, Tockington
£25	379	Mr. N. H. Dawes, Olveston
£20	288	Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Davies, Old Down
£10	460	Mr. & Mrs. R. Smith, Olveston
£10	271	Mr. J. D. Donaldson, Alveston

The prize winners in the draw held on 7th March 2011 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<i>Name</i>
£150	453	Mr. G. Clark, Olveston
£75	360	Mr. T. E. J. Roper, Fernhill
£25	325	Mrs. M. James, Olveston
£25	477	Mrs. C. M. Pitts, Olveston
£25	238	Mrs. P. Vincent, Olveston
£20	193	Mr. D. J. Talbot, Olveston
£10	455	Mrs. C. Phillpott, Tockington
£10	166	Mrs. E. Dobson, Rudgeway

From the registers at St. Mary's

A service of thanksgiving at St. Mary's Olveston, for Peter John Trott, on 2nd March, followed by cremation at Westerleigh Crematorium.

A service of Thanksgiving at St. Mary's Olveston, for Joyce Roper, on 7th March, followed cremation at Canford Crematorium.

From the registers at St John's Church, Elberton

On 11th Feb, a Memorial Service for Mr Don Streatfield.

On 15th Feb, a Funeral Service & Burial of Mr Ray Hosken

Yours Faithfully

Geoff Watkins

Early in January I was asked if Pam & I would be interested in going to Israel on a 10-day tour and as we had visited once before and only been to Jerusalem, we agreed to go.

The next step was to pay a deposit to secure our booking. In a few days back came the receipt, which also informed us when the balance had to be paid and that failure to pay by that date would invalidate the booking.

This reminded me of what Easter is all about; Jesus came to the earth as a deposit from God (Matthew 1 vs. 21), and as a baby He grew up in an environment that was hostile to Him. Very similar to the attitudes of today, I should imagine. He only did what his Heavenly Father asked Him to do for the 33 years He lived on earth.

During these years Jesus worked as a carpenter in Joseph's home where He lived and He had a large following of people from whom He picked the 12 disciples. He taught them to trust Him. They went everywhere Jesus went and were witnesses to all the miracles, healings and teaching He performed. However, even these avid followers of Jesus sometimes could not understand His actions.

The time came for the balance to be paid; God had sent the deposit 33 years earlier but the balance was the arrest, trial, humiliation, crucifixion and resurrection of a man who had never sinned in his entire life. He died for the redemption of MY and YOUR sin, from the youngest to the oldest. His death was the greatest gift the world has ever been given; please don't miss the opportunity of asking Jesus to forgive you for anything you have done wrong during your time on this earth. Life is so short here on earth but eternity has no end and can be spent either in Heaven or in hell. No one knows when we are going to die, be it as a result of an illness or an accident, but one thing we can do NOW is to acknowledge Jesus as our Saviour. He is coming back one day at a time known only by His Father.

Don't hesitate. He may come back sooner than you think.

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Apr 3	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Family Service	Rev. Helen Webb
	6pm	Severnside Evensong BCP Choir	Rev Roly Bain
Apr 10	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev David Bone
	10am	Morning Worship with Choir	Mrs Janet McBride
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Holy Communion	Rev P.Rowe & Rev R Bain
Apr 17	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev P Rowe & Rev R Bain
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Mrs A Lloyd & Rev Roly Bain
Apr 21	7.30	Maundy Thursday Agape Supper	Rev D Bone & Rev R Crew
Apr 22	2pm	Last Hour with Choir	Mr Denis Jones
Apr 24	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev David Bone
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong (BCP)	Rev PhilipRowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Contacts:

Rev Philip Rowe, 01454 613223; email: office@stmaryssevernside.org.uk

Rev Roly Bain for Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals 01454 616593.

Verger: **Mrs. June Robbins**, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 2.45pm in the Church

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

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Apr 10	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Apr 24	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone

Hon. Curate: **Rev David Bone**, 01454 614601

Church Wardens: Janet Ford,01454 633300 Terry McLeavy 633680

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Apr 3	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole
Apr 17	9am	Matins	TBA

Contact: **Rev. David Pole** 01454 414810; www.sthelensalveston.org

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Apr 10	9am	Matins	Tracey Black
Apr 24	8am	Easter Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Apr 3	10am 6pm	St Mary's Olv. Ch	Mothering Sunday Service Evening Worship led by Mr G Varney with congregation of St Andrews Filton
Apr 10	10am	Olv. Sch	We join the Breakfast Club
Apr 17	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle
Apr 24	10am	Olv Ch.	Easter Day Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Sandy Williams

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 13th April. To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP: meets at 12.15 in the Swan Tockington on Thurs 21st April .To book please ring 613241 or 612112

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

Cream Teas Will be served on Tockington Green & in the Chapel on Easter Monday 2.30-5.00pm

COFFEE MORNINGS: Sats 10.30 - 12 noon in the Olveston Methodist Hall.

CONTACT: Rev Sandy Williams tel 07841 752 941

sandy.williams48@btinternet.com

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

We meet in a relaxed, informal manner for worship, prayer and conversational Bible studies incorporating Communion, on Sundays at 10.30am and Mondays and Wednesdays at 7.30pm We also visit other churches and events so please check our Notice Board or contact .

Mike and Barbara Matthews, tel. 07840 793772 or email:

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLDDOWN

Apr 3	6.30pm	Martin Taylor
Apr 10	6.30pm	Tony Curtis
Apr 17	6.30pm	Rev Colin Lewis
Apr 22	10.00am	Good Friday Paul Ashford
Apr 24	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies

Prayer Time every Thurs 7.30 for 8pm.

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

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Family Worship 11.00am Evening Worship 6.30pm(except every second Sunday in the month). For more details, please phone 632564.

BRISTOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP -Our Sunday morning meetings are held at The Grange School in Warmley at 11 am,
Contact 01454 613305 www.bcfnet.com

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury -
Sat Vigil Mass 18.00 Sun 8.30am Mass 11.00 Family Mass
Tel 01454 412223 www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury
Meeting for Worship Sundays 10.30-11.30: The Hanover Room, The Chantry, Castle St. Wheelchair accessible. Children welcome with prior notice.
Local contact: Ben & Candia Barman 01454 412603
National: www.quaker.org.uk Bristol area: www.bristolquakers.org.uk

Diary Dates for April 2011

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

1 st Fri			
2 nd Sat	Coffee Morning Totally Locally on Tockington Green 'Drop-in' event	10.30-12.00 9.30-12.00 from 10am	MH PH
3 rd Sun			
4 th Mon	Monday Movies	7.30pm	S+M
5 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Royal British Legion Women- Film	9.30-11.30 7.30pm	WR DGCL
6 th Wed	OPHS: Gunpowder & the West Country	7.30pm	MH
7 th Thu	Coffee Shop Thornbury Farmer's Market Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 9.00-1.30 2.00-4.30	OS+ MH
8 th Fri			
9 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning Spring Fling St Peter's Hospice Music in the Church at Aust	10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00 10.00-12.00 8.00pm	MH AVH TMH AC
10 th Sun			
11 th Mon	Monday Morning Movies Severn Vale Flower Club Open Evening Craft Group Tel 07747 562264 for venue	10.00 6.30pm 7.30-9.30	S+M AH
12 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Carousel 'til Sat 16th Aust Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting	9.30-11.30 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR PH EVH
13 th Wed	Royal British Legion Men	7.30pm	DGCL
14 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group .	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OS+ MH
15 th Fri			
16 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
18 th Mon	Monday Morning Movies Severn Vale Flower Club-Practice	10.00am 1.30pm	S+M AH
19 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Royal British Legion Women-Bingo Women's Institute Village Auction Littleton	9.30-11.30 7.30pm 7.30pm 7pm	WR DGCL PH
20 th Wed	Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	8.30pm	

	SPH Support Group AGM	7.30pm	
21 st Thu	Coffee Shop Thornbury Farmers' Market Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 9.00-1.30 2.00-4.30	OS† MH
22 nd Fri			
23 rd Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
24 th Sun			
25 th Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club - Practice	1.30pm	AH
26 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Olveston Parish Council Meeting	9.30-11.30 7.30pm	WR AP
27 th Wed	Alveston Local History Society	7.30pm	AMC
28 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group Easter Tableaux -'til 30th	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OS† MH StM
29 th Fri			
30 th Sat	Car Boot Sale Marlwood School Coffee Morning	1.30-3.30pm 10.30-12.00	 MH

Looking ahead to May

7th	Totally Locally Market, Tockington Green	9.30-12.00	
14th	Olveston Pre-School Open Day/Spring Fair	11.00-3.00	PH

KEY: **AC** Aust Church; **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; OMC Olv Meth Ch **OS** – Olveston School; **OS†** – Olveston Stores; **OV** – Olveston Vicarage; **PH** – Olveston Parish Hall; **StM** – St Mary's Church, Olv.; **StMA** Almondsbury Church; **TBCh** - Thornbury Baptist Church; **TMH** – Thorn. Methodist Hall; **URC** - Thornbury United Reform Church; **WR** – Wesley Rooms.

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

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