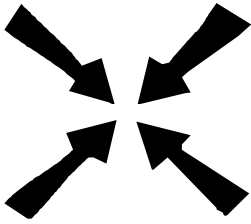


Meeting Point



Easter 2015



Meeting Point

Volume 39, Number 7, April 2015

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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From the Editor

April is a weirder month than I thought! I know what happens on the 1st, of course, but I find on-line that April 7th is No Housework Day and April 26th is Hug an Australian Day. I choose to believe that both of these exist and will do my best to comply!

This month's edition has the usual impressive array of events coming up, as well as some articles of general interest which I hope you will enjoy. The Profile article this month is of the Chair and Vice-Chair of Olveston Parish Council, who are both retiring after long periods of service. I am sure the community is grateful for their hard work and commitment on our behalf, and would want to wish them a relaxing 'retirement'.

Happy Easter!

The cover was specially painted for Meeting Point by Elaine Thomas.

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

Meeting Point magazine and Meeting Point Directory are online at the Community Website: www.olvostonandaust.com

June Lyons and Irene Reid

**Retiring Chair and Vice
Chair of Olveston
Parish Council**



Profile by Pat Thirkettle

June and Irene have served on the Parish Council from 1985 and 1987 respectively and feel it is time to retire. Elections will take place on May 7th and offer a good opportunity for new enthusiastic parishioners to stand for election and carry forward the Parish that they have both cherished for so many years. They have striven to avoid politics and consider they have had a good working relationship and thoroughly enjoyed serving in worthwhile roles.

June trained as a Home Economics teacher, teaching at Thornbury Grammar School and Castle School before becoming a full time farmer's wife. She has three sons. Irene worked in Medical Physics at Bristol General Hospital and BRI Oncology before auxiliary nursing at Southmead Maternity Unit. When she was over forty she qualified as a nurse and many will remember her as a practice nurse at Almondsbury surgery. She also has three sons.

They have seen many changes in the last thirty years, a major one being the creation of South Gloucestershire, replacing Northavon, on 31st March 1996. The precept is a tax charged on each property in the Parish used to fund all activities the Council undertakes for the benefit of the community. In 1991/2 it was £6,000; this year it will be £36,000. Until 1992 when it was sold, there was a Police station in Olveston; now there are monthly police surgeries in the coffee shop and an active Neighbourhood Watch network. After years of negotiation, gas arrived in the villages in 1993.

A vast increase in traffic has led to the creation of three new footways, the safety of school children being paramount. The biggest project that took some years to achieve was the foot-way from Old Down to Alveston, completed in 2013. The Council are supporting the safety concerns of Olveston school parents; in 2004 flashing lights were installed on the school signs and in 2013 the Aust road car park was created.

The Queen Alexandra Memorial Pavilion is the only building owned by the Council. Over the years it has been upgraded and is managed by the Sports and Social Club; all the lease holder clubs are flourishing and looking to improve their facilities. In 1994/5 a small play area was built on Old Down, and

the Council has recently negotiated a twenty five year lease on the Vicarage Lane play area. In 2010 the Council was asked to become Holding Trustee of the Parish Hall during the establishment of Preschool accommodation and modernisation. Some things don't change, such as keeping the Parish well turned out. Grass is cut every ten days in summer, areas strimmed, hedges cut, play equipment repaired, bus shelters cleaned, telephone boxes painted, picnic benches, seats and notice boards stained.

Parish Planning Committee tasks have increased over the years with applications for house extensions, barn conversions and house building infilling almost every available space. Some were controversial, leading to the Village Design statement in 2003 outlining how we hoped our villages would continue to look in the future.

Money and time were found for various celebrations. 1994 saw the Centenary of the Council, and in 1996 June represented the Parish in Bréhan and Olveston following the creation of the Twinning Association. The Chairman's medallion was commissioned to celebrate the millennium and in 2002 and 2012 the Queen's Silver and Golden Jubilees were celebrated in style. The war memorial steps were sympathetically replaced in time for the centenary of the start of WW1.

The Parish Council's remit is now widening since the Localism Act of 2011, hence the formation of a Vision Group and possible need for a CLT, Community Land Trust. June and Irene are saying farewell and hope they have sounded inspirational for you, the parishioners, to step forward into the future to value and protect our village life and countryside for the benefit and well-being of all. Our grateful thanks go to them for a combined service of fifty eight years and best wishes in their retirement.

A Thank You

From Roly Bain

Roly is very grateful for all the cards, gifts and well wishes he has received following his operation. In the end they took the whole kidney out - he now matches his triplet brother Toby who had his taken out ten years ago! He was also surprised by the large number of Valentines cards he received this year - ah, the power of Meeting Point!

Oh Deer

By Angela Daymond

There have been intruders down on the allotments, cloven hoof prints giving proof that deer have been nosing around the winter veg.

In Britain we have a total of six species of deer. Only Red and Roe are native, although the Fallow can be argued to be natural to the UK, as it has been here since the 11th century, possibly earlier. Muntjac are originally from Asia, and Sika from Japan. These parkland escapees have been around for about 150 years. Our latest arrival to Britain, is the Chinese Water Deer.



Red Deer



Roe Deer

Red are the largest, in fact our largest land mammal. The stags with their majestic antlers which grow back with more branches each year, are known for their bellowing calls during the rutting season in late Autumn. Fighting can be fierce, even lethal, to become the dominant male. The 'doe' will give birth to a single fawn the following Summer.

Roe are the most widespread and the most likely culprits in the allotments. Like their bigger relatives they will graze at any time but are best spotted at dawn or dusk. Their antlers are less than 30 cm, but they'll still put up a fight. Being ruminants they will 'lay up' for long periods to digest their food. Hiding in long grass you can't expect to see them, though - unless you trip on them by accident. Roe will have two, sometimes three babies.

Fallow are the 'Bambi's' with their white spotted backs. Less like tree branches, their antlers are filled in, known as 'palmate'. The Normans introduced the Fallow and they were protected in Royal Hunting Forests. (Some argue that the Romans might have first brought them though). Woe betide a person caught poaching



Chinese Water Buck

them: punishment was severe and brutal.

Muntjac and Sika like the others are mainly woodland or heath animals, but the Chinese Water Deer, as the name suggests, are happier in marshes and wetlands. In their native China they are listed in the IUCN red data book as 'lower risk, near threatened'. So it's surprising to know that it is now thought the UK is home to 10% of the world's population.

It's agreed that all our species of deer are increasing and spreading throughout the country. But hopefully not fast enough to threaten the allotments altogether...

Pictures from <https://www.flickr.com>; by 'Flickpicpete', 'Borderslass' and Don Sutherland. Creative Commons Licence.

Olveston and Tockington Tennis Club

Do you play tennis? Want to play more regularly? Why not join us this year. We have two courts located behind the Parish Hall in Tockington. Come to our AGM, 8pm, Tuesday 21st April, in the Parish Hall in Tockington and enjoy some wine and cheese. You can find out more at www.OTTCTennis.co.uk, or contact our membership secretary Steve Parrott on 07979-884987 or email steve.parrott3@btinternet.com.

News from St Mary's

Roly Bain

This year on Good Friday, Friday 3rd April, we're having an ecumenical Walk of Witness beginning at Tockington Green at 12:30 and ending at St Mary's Church. This is a new venture and we hope that Christians from all churches and denominations might join in.

Our Easter Quiz is on Saturday 11th April at 7:30pm. Sausage casserole is on the menu. Tickets are £5 per person with a limit of 6 people in a team. Last time we had to turn away two teams so by the time you read this it may be too late but ring Roly on 616593 for tickets. If you would like to join the quiz mailing list to avoid possible future disappointment please let Roly know (roly@rolybain.co.uk).

Our next 'Back to Front' is on 19th April at 3:45pm. This is our new time of worship and prayer designed with younger adults in mind. Children are welcome too! It is so called because everything is back to front as you will see when you come.

This year we are delighted to be hosting the Thornbury Arts Trail commencing on the 30th April and running to the 9th May. Four artists will be in residence including Angus Macaskill. It will be open during the day please check the Arts Leaflet for timings and full details.

Eighteenth Century Bristol Women

Olveston Parish Historical Society

Wednesday, 1st April 2015, 7.30pm, Olveston Methodist Church



For a forthcoming book which she is editing on women in Bristol from 1400 to 2000, Madge Dresser has been carrying out her own researches into eighteenth century Bristol.

She has been trying to find out how 'middling women' (women who were neither aristocratic nor receiving poor relief) earned their living and how their economic activity contributed to Bristol life.

She has identified that, although women were operating within structures defined and managed by men, there was some limited 'room for manoeuvre', as she puts it, for enterprising women – especially for widows, for spinsters to a lesser extent and even, occasionally, for married women, despite the frequent Common Law practice of consigning a woman's property to her husband.

Madge has drawn on a wide range of contemporary sources to trace and bring to life particular women's stories. Come and hear what she has discovered.

All welcome. Visitors pay £2 on the door.

www.olveston.com/historical-society

Computer Clinic – April

This month's topic will be "**De-cluttering your Computer**" so come along and give your computer a spring clean!

If you have moderate to good computer skills and would like to help out a couple of hours a month come along to a session and have a chat with us.

MON 2pm-4pm / WED 10am-12pm / FRI 7pm-9pm.

Parish Community Land Trust

Meeting - February 25th 2015

Over 50 parishioners and local residents attended the second public meeting concerning a Community Land Trust, chaired by Mr Mike Wright. The Meeting heard from Mrs June Lyons Chairman of Olveston Parish Council on its considered support (and associated concerns) for creating a CLT. The Meeting then heard from Mr Richard Lloyd on the work undertaken by local residents to find out more about Community Land Trusts before the meeting was opened for questions and comments. Mr Matthew Riddle our Local District Councillor then addressed the meeting to clarify South Glos Council's position.

Mr Mike Wright reminded the audience that the meeting had been well publicised with a leaflet posted through every household in the Parish as well as advertised in Meeting Point and on the Olveston website. Following further discussions Mr Wright proposed the following resolutions in a single motion, which was seconded from the floor.

1. That a strategy group be invited to prepare draft Articles of Association for a Community Land Trust for the parish of Olveston/Olveston area;
2. That the draft Articles of Association be presented to a subsequent meeting of the Olveston area community;
3. If approved at that meeting, that the Group proceed to formalise the CLT as a legal entity, in accordance with the requirements of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008.

During the meeting it had been noted by several residents that there was some disparity in using the Olveston Parish Boundary, the Primary School catchment or even the delivery area for the Meeting Point. The general consensus was that this would need clarifying by the strategy group, to involve the correct residential group.

The resolution was carried by 39 votes in favour, 28 against with 6 abstentions.

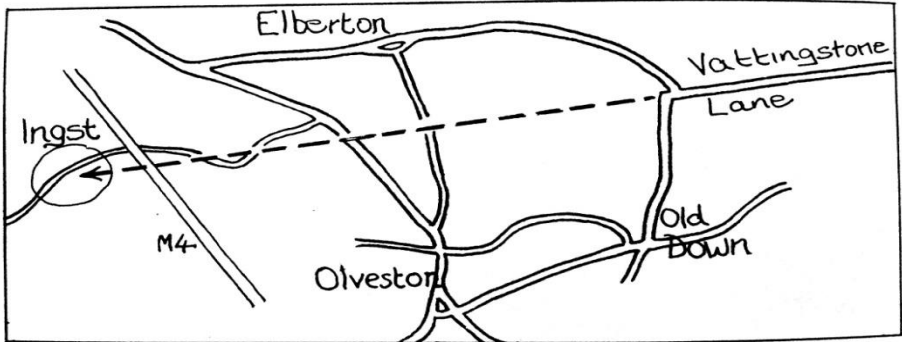
Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Strategy Group should contact the Parish Clerk (olvestonpc@gmail.com).

Updated information will be made available on a dedicated website nominally entitled www.olvestonclt.org, although links will continue to be available from the www.olveston.com website.

How Ingst got its Name

Dr Rovers

'How did the village of Ingst get its name?' is a question I was asked recently. Because the village has been in the news recently, I thought I would share my answer with Meeting Point readers. My research reveals that it was once called 'Vattingstone'. If you draw a straight line to extend the present Vattingstone Lane you will find that it goes straight through the village – see map.



During the brief period of the Letter Tax in the 18th Century, all villagers in England and Wales paid a levy for each letter of their village's name. The people of Vattingstone quickly realised that if they removed the two overhanging ends of their sign they could reduce the tax to less than a half.

The tax was abandoned when, on April 1st 1715, the good people of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysyliogogoch marched to London in protest.

Olveston & Tockington WI

For your April diary: A talk by Gill Suttle entitled 'River, Mountain and Desert. A horse ride through Syria in the late 1990's'. Non W.I. members are very welcome.

At the March meeting Terry Pashley gave an interesting and informative account of the construction, and a transit, of the Panama Canal, which was completed in 1914. The figures quoted for construction costs and the infrastructure were immense, but the rewards were worth it. The distance to be travelled by shipping was cut by over 50%: no longer was it necessary to take the hazardous route around Cape Horn to get between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

There is now a second Canal under construction, running parallel to the existing Canal, due for completion in 2015.



2015 Exchange Visit

As we announced in last month's Meeting Point, we have heard from our French friends in the village of Bréhan, Brittany and their visit to Olveston is planned for the weekend of Friday May 1st to Sunday May 3rd.

These annual exchange visits – one year we go to Bréhan and the next year they visit us – are at the heart of our twinning activities. We run a number of fund-raising activities throughout the year in order to make sure our French visitors have a good time when they are here. We like to be able to take them to some of the delightful places in the South West and to experience activities that are unique to this part of the world. For example, last time they were here, we all went to the Frampton on Severn for a pub lunch and saw cricket being played on the green, we also went to the May Day Celebrations in Iron Acton. On an earlier visit we took a steam train all the way to Minehead where we ate fish and chips or had picnics and built sandcastles on the beach.

At this point we do not know exactly how many French will be coming this time and have yet to finalise our plans for that weekend, but if you do want to find out more, and get involved, please make contact with one of our two co-chairs Robert Harris (01454 618331) or John Clayton (01454 612641).

However, we do know that we will be having a 'Partay Français' centred round a Barn Dance on the evening of Saturday 2nd May in the Parish Hall in Tockington. This will be open to anyone, not just the French and members of the Twinning Association. If you would like tickets for this event, contact Noel Clarke on 614099. More information will be available on posters displayed around the village - or from Noel – as we get a bit nearer the event.

Old Down CC

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

150 Club Winners March 2015:

£50	Sylvia Gould
£15	Bill Finch
£ 5	Tony Gardner
Easter Egg:	John Welsher

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

21st February	Tony Williams
28th February	Tony Gardner
7th March	Barbara Binns

Olveston Pre-School



Olveston Pre-School is conveniently located between the villages of Olveston and Tockington and is part of the South Gloucestershire community. The Pre-School has been running for more than 50 years; some of the parents of our children attended the Pre-School themselves. We aim to provide the highest standards of pre-school education and were awarded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in its most recent report. Olveston Pre-School is

open to all children aged from 2 to 5 years. Children from all areas are welcome to join us.

We have highly-qualified and caring staff, with many years' experience in Early Years education. The Pre-School is based in spacious and purpose-built facilities within Olveston Parish Hall in Tockington. There is a large amount of space both indoors and outside for the children to play and have fun. A selection of free-choice activities is available at all times, as well as group circle time for songs, stories and discussion.



We meet every week day during term time for a morning and afternoon session, and there is a daily lunch club available too. Extended opening times are Monday – Friday 9.00am to 3.00pm

In response to demand from working parents, we have recently introduced a new Breakfast Club which runs from 8am – 9am on Monday to Friday, and breakfast will be provided.

But don't just take our word for it, come and meet us for yourself! Parents and carers are welcome to come and look around Pre-School at any time. Please contact Helen Moorefield, General Manager on 01454 612074 or use the [contact us](#) form on our website, www.olvestonpreschool.co.uk

Easter Holiday Activity... Preschool is running an Easter Egg Hunt around Olveston village from 27th March until the 12th April. Maps are available to buy in the Preschool and the Village Shop. Find the eggs and solve the puzzle... Children taking part will receive a small prize and entry to a large prize draw.

Aust Parish Council Matters

Tim Pyper (austparishcouncil@googlemail.com)

Annual Parish Meeting

The annual parish meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th April at 7.30pm in Elberton Village Hall. This is your opportunity to tell your parish Councillors what you would like to be done in your parish, and to hear reports of their and South Gloucestershire Council activity during the past year.

Proposed Defibrillator at Aust

The parish council was pleased to hear that nearly all the required funds have been raised and has agreed to provide the last amount required. We hope the new defibrillator will be installed in the old phone box quite soon.

Footpaths

The Council has been discussing the state of some of the footpaths in the parish with the South Gloucestershire Council Footpaths Officer. We hope that some improvements will be made to Canada Lane (which is a bridle way). South Gloucestershire Council has improved the kissing gate at Whale Wharf at the parish council's request.

Parish Council Election

A new parish council will be elected in the forthcoming election on 7th May. Nominations for candidates must be lodged with South Gloucestershire Council by 4pm on Thursday 9th April. Candidates must be at least 18, a British, EU or eligible Commonwealth citizen, and be either a registered elector in the parish; have been an owner or tenant of land, or worked in the parish for at least the last 12 months; or have lived in or within 3 miles of the parish for at least the last 12 months. There are certain disqualifications, such as bankruptcy or having been sent to prison within the last 5 years. I will try to answer any queries!

Olveston & District Bowling Club

Never bowled before? Fancy giving it a try? Bowls is a sport for all: male, female, young and old.

ODBC is to hold a beginner's course starting on **Sunday 26th April**. The course will be run by our own qualified coaches in a very informal and fun way. ODBC prides itself on being a very friendly and welcoming club.

Complete beginners are very welcome. Come and have a go! Contact Geoff Cook on 01454 614366 or email odbcmembership@gmail.com for more details or to book your place.

Oveston Parish Council Matters

Richard Rogers (olvestonpc@gmail.com)

As mentioned elsewhere in this edition of Meeting Point, both Mrs June Lyons (Chairman) and Mrs Irene Reid (Vice Chairman) have announced their intention to retire at the forthcoming elections in May. Between them, they have given nearly sixty years of Service to the Community, and Oveston Parish Council is very grateful for their support, the work they have done and the changes they have overseen in this time.

The Parish Council performs several roles on behalf of the local community, and tries to ensure that not only are residents kept fully informed about issues, but that they are represented at every opportunity. It is therefore vital, that the Parish has a full complement of Councillors. If you wish to stand as a Parish Council candidate in the forthcoming election, then you need to lodge your interest and a completed nomination form with South Glos Council before 4pm on the 9th April 2015. The Parish Clerk (olvestonpc@gmail.com) can provide further details on request.

As part of its work, the Parish Council intends to offer 3-year contracts for local grass cutting and grounds maintenance from April 2016. Oveston Parish Council is therefore interested in any local Companies who would like to tender for this work so that a formal specification can be issued. It is also hoped that suitability assessments can be undertaken during the latter part of this year.

Oveston Parish Hall has been booked for the Annual Parish Assembly on Tuesday May 5th, starting at 7:30. Oveston Parish Council will present the annual review of the Council's activities on behalf of the Parish - it is hoped that the Parish Vision report will be formally released at this meeting, and that the CLT Strategy Group will provide an update on their progress of formalising a draft 'Articles of Association'. It is also intended that all the local sports clubs and societies will present their respective ambitions to upgrade their respective facilities and generally showcase what they have to offer the community as a whole. You are all welcome to come.

St Peter's Hospice - Coffee Morning

St Peters Hospice Severnside Support Group would be delighted to welcome you to the Spring Coffee Morning in the Thornbury Methodist Church Hall on **Saturday 11th April at 10.00am.**

Home-made cake stall, Books, Crafts and Raffle.

Please come along and support St Peters, your local Hospice.

Viewing Arrangements for Future Parish Player Productions

Parish Player

We at Parish Players have long been aware there is sometimes a problem for members of the audience seated in rows D and beyond seeing the whole of our show as their view can be obscured by those in rows A to C.

This was illustrated in our 2004 production of "South Pacific". Who will forget the scene where the handsome young naval officer and the lovely nubile native girl sank to the floor to make love? A large part of the audience stood up to watch. It happened again in the 2013 production of "The King and I", when two guards held the beautiful, scantily dressed, sex slave prone on the floor while the King stood over her, whip in hand. Rows D to K rose "en masse", eager not to miss anything.

We feel 'das theatermittlerenreihenvolk', as the Germans call them, should not have to stand to watch what one member of the audience described as "the juicy bits". It is unseemly for sections of the audience to be bobbing up and down all evening and causes ill feeling amongst those behind them whose view, even when standing, remains obscured. Apart from that, it can be very distracting for those on stage to see the audience perform some sort of "Mexican Wave" and can result in missed cues and entrances.

In this year's production of "Oliver", we experimented by raising the rear two rows (J and K) on staging. This helped to some extent, and we have had very positive feedback, but it still does not overcome the problem for those in the middle rows.

After much discussion, it has been decided that in next year's production we will trial what we think might be a satisfactory, though what some might call "out of left field" solution to the problem. This is to repeat certain scenes. At a signal, perhaps a dimming of the lighting or the ringing of a bell, the scene would be played for rows A to C to watch, seated, with rows D to F standing. The scene would then be played again with rows G to I standing, while D to F remained seated.

We're sure those in rows D to F will appreciate the needs of those behind them and not stand when it is not their turn. A programme note, together with an announcement by Front of House detailing the arranged signal and requesting co-operation perhaps?

If this sounds a little unusual, it's because it is. However, we at Parish Players want everyone to know we are determined to provide maximum enjoyment of our shows for the maximum number of our audience and we ask for your help in this.

The 1831 Riot at Old Passage

- or was it?

By Nick Fear

Life for farm workers has often been harsh, with poor living conditions and long hours, but in the late 1820's they were particularly bad. Agricultural wages had been low for many years, but by 1830 three years of poor harvests led to some pay being cut further. Many men were put out of work and forced to go the workhouse with their dependants. Being supported by the Parish meant families being separated and more backbreaking and menial work for all with no pay. Trying to keep away from this life led many to commit minor crimes which resulted in major punishments, such as transportation to Australia.

The frustration and hopelessness of the situation caused many workers to go on strike and begin organised protests. Public meetings of large numbers of disgruntled workers occurred and further fanned the flames of discontent. Instances of criminal acts which destroyed machinery, buildings and farm stores began to occur. Furtive fires were set in ricks, sluice gates were opened causing flooding and animals disappeared. This public disorder was deemed riotous behaviour by many gentry, which sent shock waves right into the hallowed halls Parliament. The militancy in the south of England was particularly noticeable. Feelings in rural Gloucestershire caused real concern and resulted in a Government proclamation to the peasantry of the county. It pointed out that a state of peace and good order was in everyone's interest and should be sought by all. It warned that local magistrates had been instructed to deal harshly with illegal gatherings and punish offenders against the peace. It assured people that local landowners were more than sympathetic to their feelings. It urged them to go back to work and express their grievances to their masters and landlords. These would be addressed fully, once they had returned to work. The desired effect was not immediately felt, crops were still being neglected and farm animals ignored by erstwhile carers.

The Gloucestershire Journal of the 15th of January 1831 published to a wide audience an account of an incident which would have been the talk of the local neighbourhood. In the early hours of the 9th of January a Mrs Alway of Aust near Old Passage, had been disturbed from her sleep by a terrible commotion. Looking from her bedroom window she saw to her horror that fire had broken out in her farmyard. She helped her house servants and local people to fight the flames which were eventually extinguished. It was discovered that two small barley mows, eight or nine tons of hay, together with a store of oats and another of beans had been lost. The cost of this was estimated at £120.00, equivalent to about £9000.00 in today's money.

Mrs Alway was concerned that incendiaries had visited her premises, especially after hearing a voice in the smoke and darkness call out, 'this is your eight shillings work'. This related to the sum that many farmers had reduced wages by. It was also noted that the fires had burst forth in all the mows at the same time. The trustees of the estate of which the farm was a part offered a reward of £150.00 to secure a conviction of the criminals who had caused such harm. Local farmers rallied round to help Mrs Alway and offered a further £50.00 to the reward. As far as can be ascertained, this sum was never paid out.

A riot is a legal term for serious public disorder and to many minds what happened at Aust was certainly riotous. The reporter of the Gloucestershire Journal was obviously very thorough in his investigation, however. He reported that prior to the conflagration Mrs Alway's servants had been tending to a cow which had just calved. They had been using candles in the area and it may have been one of these which had caused the fires. So a riot may have occurred, but then again - perhaps not.

'Stepping Stones' Fun Day

There will be a **Family Fun Day/Open Day** at Stepping Stones **Saturday May 9th 10.00-12.00** in **Elberton Village Hall** in aid of **Make a Wish Foundation**.

Come and join in the fun and support this worthwhile charity who, 'grant magical wishes to children and young people fighting life-threatening conditions'. Cake stall, tombola, second-hand books and toys, refreshments and many different children's activities, including face painting, colouring competition and cake decorating. Our usual woodland Wednesday activities will be available in the woods for both parents and children to join in with. These include den building, making crowns, walking with mirrors, bark rubbing and making magic potions. The garden with the large wooden climbing frame and mud kitchen will also be open for the children to play in. Come and meet our friendly staff team and see all our facilities. All proceeds from the day will go the 'Make a Wish Foundation'. For more information please ring Gill on 07853173221. Hope to see you there!

Oveston Parish Hall

The recent **Fish and Quiz** evening was again a great success. Thank you to all those who took part. The winning team was **Four in the Corner**. This is now part of the Hall's annual events so do make a diary note for the **2016 Quiz** which will be held on **Friday 26th February**.

Thornbury Castle Revisited

Friday 17 April 2015, 7.30pm – Buckingham Room, The Chantry



In January, Tony Cherry, author of 'A History of Thornbury Castle', gave a talk called 'Thornbury Castle Revisited', with new stories and previously unseen photographs from several private collections.

All sixty seats were sold out and so Tony is giving the talk again, for anyone who could not get a ticket first time – and for anyone else who is interested. Once again, sixty tickets are available and, at time of

going to press, more than half have been sold.

Tickets cost £5 and must be booked in advance from the museum: tel: 01454 857774 or email enquiries@thornburymuseum.org.uk.

Check our website for further information: www.thornburymuseum.org.uk

'Tockington Together'

Liz Finch

Some ladies in the village got talking as ladies do and decided it would be a good idea to try and get people together to meet up, chat, make new acquaintances and re-engage with old.

This was not a good idea, it was a **GREAT IDEA** - which was said and heard by the many people who turned up on Friday 6th March at the Swan Inn, Tockington for the first gathering. Judging by the numbers of people of all ages and stages of life, and the sound of chatting and laughter, the evening was a great success.

Cathy's short speech suggesting this become a monthly event was greeted with cheering and clapping.

The monthly date agreed is the first Friday of every month at 5pm in the Swan, courtesy of Alistair, Julie and staff. There is no agenda; it is just a social gathering where people can meet each other and make suggestions on how our village develops as a community, engage with neighbours, have a chat and a laugh.

So spread the word and just turn up at the Swan Inn on **Friday 3rd April at 5pm**. All are welcome.

Oliver! The Parish Players

Barbie Davies

The Parish Players always leave their audiences wanting more, but this was especially so in their energetic and touching performance of “Oliver” at Tockington Village Hall in February.

The whole cast gave strong performances, led by Timothy Mitchell in the title role. With his beautiful singing, crystal-clear diction and sensitive acting, he gave a most winning performance. All the two dozen children involved captivated the audience with real commitment to their parts; they played both workhouse brats and Fagin’s gang. Their discipline, energy, enthusiasm and excellent singing would be the envy of many an adult.

The children were well-matched by an equally vibrant chorus, who not only shouldered several roles, but also performed some very creditable part singing. Their movement and dance work reflected the expertise of choreographer Jill Harris – well versed in the demands of the small stage.

The line-up of actors in the leading roles was consistently impressive. Pompous Mr Bumble (Phil Savage), with his comic timing, and his heartless Widow Gorney (Gill Olewicz) made a ridiculous and ruthless partnership. Mr and Mrs Sowerberry (Richard Newley and Lesley Clarke) were gorgeously ghoulish. A newcomer, Annabelle Leicester, played their daughter, who joined in the taunting of Oliver with Noah Claypole, played with real panache by Callum Mortlock.

The Artful Dodger (Alexander Morris) would certainly have been uncatchable! Here was a really energetic performance! Maedene Webb brought a real warmth and vitality to the part of Bet. The trio of Fagin (Mike Jones), Bill Sykes (Dan Phillips) and Nancy (Louise Luft) created some wonderfully tense, sparky moments on stage. All had superb voices and a real sense of professionalism as we were treated to those famous numbers “As long as he needs me”, “I’m reviewing the situation” and “My name”.

All the music was most ably supported and sensitively played by the two pianos and percussion led by Chloe Allsopp Jones whose musical direction really captured the energy and melodrama of the piece. This was echoed in everything, from the lighting (Richard Churchill), well-chosen and varied Victorian costume (Gill Olewicz) and a set that not only moved seamlessly through the many scenes, but also conveyed the chaos and contrasts of Dickensian London. Andy Black (Designer) would have been proud of Keith, Brian and Rod who worked so well for him during his illness.

With a long string of successful shows, director Linda Evans knows how to pick the right production and get her team to positively shine. However, this time there was one particular star who stood out in the firmament of talent; Morris the Dog. So Linda has proved once again that to keep a company alive and kicking: work with wonderful children – and animals!

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the March draw, held on 5th March 2015 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	340	Mrs D Peachey, Olveston
£75	607	Mr L Harper, Olveston
£25	489	Mr I J Lyons, Cowhill
£25	208	Mrs C Black, Thornbury
£25	333	Mr & Mrs R Garlick, Olveston
£20	555	Mrs E Whitford, Tockington
£20	320	Mrs E Whitford, Tockington
£20	471	Mrs J Panes, Olveston
£10	356	Mr D J Smart, Thornbury
£10	217	Mrs J Hahn, Olveston
£10	581	Mrs J Davis, Olveston
£10	213	Mr T W Watkins, Alveston
£10	187	Mrs J Williams, Pilning
£10	378	Mr N H Dawes, Olveston

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

'In Praise of Life Itself'



Thornbury Choral Society presents a stunning concert with which to set your spirits soaring.

Beethoven Symphony No. 9

Arguably the best symphony ever written, this is a truly glorious vision of love, tolerance and universal brotherhood.

Dvořák Te Deum

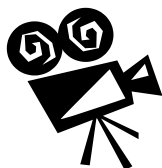
A richly tuneful hymn of praise in keeping with the sense of joy and thanksgiving with which we can welcome the arrival of Spring.

The concert takes place on **Saturday May 9th**, 7.30pm at **The Castle School, Thornbury** under the musical direction of **Steven Kings**. He will be joined by

soloists – Stephanie Edwards (soprano), Louise Crane (alto), Justin Lavender (tenor), Edmund Saddington (bass) and the **BRISTOL ENSEMBLE** orchestra.

Tickets cost £12, students £2, and can be purchased in advance from Thornbury Town Hall Box Office (open 9.00am – 5pm Monday to Friday), from Ruth Piolle (ticket secretary) on 01454 416518, or from any choir member.

Movies at St Mary's: April Trevor Anderson



The **MOVIE CLUB** at **St Mary's Church Olveston** is now well into its fifth year. We show films for the 'grown-ups' on the first and third Monday evenings of each month and for 'children of all ages' every Monday morning during school holidays.

Everyone is welcome and, as always, there is no need to book. Admission is free, although a **donation** at the end towards expenses is always appreciated.

Refreshments are available at all the shows: licensed bar and tea/coffee in the evenings and popcorn, soft drinks and biscuits in the mornings.

There will be **THREE** Movie Club films in April:

MONDAY MOVIES (*Recent releases and popular classics*)

Easter Mon 6th April at 7.30pm: The Kadam family leaves India for France where they open a restaurant directly across the road from Madame Mallory's Michelin-starred eatery. (*Cert PG*)

MONDAY MOVIES EXTRA (*Quality 'non-mainstream' films*)

Mon 20th April at 7.30pm: Charmingly old-fashioned European romantic film about a nice but dim postman's relationship with an exiled poet, who educates him and assists him in the wooing of a local beauty. (*Cert U*)

CHILDREN'S MOVIE CLUB (*Every Monday morning in the hols*)

Easter Mon 6th April at 10.00am: Roo is upset when Rabbit cancels Easter and declares "Spring Cleaning Day" instead. (*Cert U*)

For copyright reasons we can't name the films here, but if you **join the Movie Club** we'll send you titles, details and regular updates by email. It costs nothing to join and it will save you the hassle of trying to guess the film titles from the cryptic descriptions! To join, contact trevoranderson@btinternet.com or 613279.

Memory Cafe

The Memory Cafe continues to be a very successful rendezvous spot for all those people suffering from any type of memory or dementia problem. We have a regular attendance of 25/35 visitors including carers and family/friends, which ensures a lot of chat and gossip over a cup of tea or coffee. Our volunteers do the serving, but also join in the chatting.

We always have a short talk or demonstration. We recently enjoyed hearing from Rachel Martin from "Coffee One", on the history and pleasures of coffee drinking, and also from Kate Walbridge from Wiltshire Farm Foods who came with several tasty samples.

On the 10th March we had our 3rd anniversary with a party and extra "jollies", and on the 24 March we had a talk and slides on "Brunel's Bristol", by Tony Hall. On the 14 April there will be a talk on "School Days" by Roger Howell and then on 28 April there will be a light hearted quiz to be run by Jerry Dicker. We always try and ensure the morning is as relaxed and enjoyable as possible.

As usual the cafe is "open" on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at the Methodist Church Hall, Thornbury, from 10.15am until 11.45am. New visitors will be made very welcome, and apart from meeting our volunteers, it will give you the opportunity to meet other folk with similar problems, share experiences and have a good chat.

So if you have not been before, come and try us out! There is no charge, though we do have a voluntary contribution box. No need to "book". Just come along.

Further information can be obtained from Sue Rowley or 01454 412941 or Mary Wilkins on 01454 610168.

Cancer Research UK - AGM

Thornbury and District Cancer Research UK Committee are holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 15th April at Thornbury Hospital commencing 7.30pm.

All friends and supporters are invited to attend, meet Committee Members, find out about our fund-raising and how Cancer Research spends the money we raise.

Following the formalities there will be light refreshments available.

Please contact Jennie Watson on 01454 415856 if you wish to attend.

Yours Faithfully

By Rev Pete Brazier

Happy Resurrection Day

As Easter comes around we might be turning our minds to thoughts of resurrection, or we might not. Historians seem to wrestle over the origin of the word Easter; many suggest connections with ancient pagan goddesses, though few come to a definite conclusion. The word seems to have come to us at least in part via early English and German translations of the Passover feast. Tyndale calls it 'ester' and Luther calls it 'osterfest.' Whatever the origin of the word, we can be certain that there was no hint of pagan intentions in their translations. And yet we cannot help but be aware that the Christian concept of Easter in Britain, whether originally or latterly, has been intertwined with other traditions that associate with spring and fertility. There is a natural link between the resurrection of Christ and the resurrection of the life around us as winter gives way to spring.

The church has been comfortable for many years to place the symbolism of the Easter egg alongside that of resurrection, but something troubles me about our current take on Easter, apart from the obvious commercialisation and the concentration on chocolate. If the word Easter, regardless of its origin, was a translation of the Passover, then its association ought to be more with the crucifixion, the sacrifice, the Passover lamb. The celebration of the resurrection would have its equivalence in the exodus and the eventual arrival in the 'promised land.' Our inclination is to leave behind the suffering when we get to the joy of the resurrection; to celebrate without a sense of the cost, whereas the Passover Festival sees the freedom of God's people only in the light of the journey that brought them to that point. Without the winter there is no spring, without the crucifixion there is no resurrection, without the Passover there is no Exodus, yet with the chocolate eggs and the Sunday morning Easter service it is celebration all the way.

If you could choose, what would you call this season? Easter, Passover, Resurrection day - or something else?



From the registers of St Mary's Olveston

28th February 2015. Wedding of Julian Geer and Jacqui Love.

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Apr 2	7.30	Agape	Rev R Bain & Rev A Lloyd
Apr 3	12.30 2pm	Walk of Witness Last Hour with Choir	Rev Roly Bain Rev Roly Bain
Apr 5	6.30 8am 10am 6pm	Dawn Eucharist Holy Communion Holy Communion with Choir Evensong	Rev Roly Bain Rev David Bone Rev Roly Bain Rev Philip Rowe
Apr 12	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship with Choir Breakfast Club Holy Communion	Rev Roly Bain Mr Denis Jones Breakfast Club Team Rev Roly Bain
Apr 19	8am 10am 3.45 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion with Choir Back to Front Evensong	Rev David Bone Rev D Bone & Rev P. Rowe Rev R Bain & Mrs J McBride
Apr 26	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Fourth Sunday Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev Roly Bain Rev Roly Bain Rev P. Rowe & Rev A Lloyd

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

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

WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION: At 9.00am led by the Rev. Roly Bain except 4th Wed when it is at Olveston Methodist Church

Morning Prayer 8.30am daily except Wednesday

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Apr 12	5.30	Holy Communion.	Rev. Ann Parker
Apr 26	5.30	Evening Service	Rev. Ann Parker

Focal Minister: **Rev Ann Parker**, 01454 632329

Church Wardens: Terry McLeavy 633680 Janet Ford 633300

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Apr 5	9am	Easter Day Communion	Rev David Pole
Apr 19	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

Contact: **Rev. David Pole** 01454 414810; [_www.sthelensalveston.org](http://www.sthelensalveston.org)

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Apr 5	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Dave Pole
Apr 12	9am	Matins	Sandra Edgerton
Apr 26	12am	Matins & Baptism	Sandra Edgerton

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Apr 5	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Sandy Williams
	6pm	St Andrews Filton	Evening Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Nigel Young
Apr 12	10am	Olv. Ch	Morning Worship led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle
Apr 19	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mrs Deb Brazier
Apr 26	10am	Olv.Ch..	Morning Worship led by Mr Colston Smith

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 8th April To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP meets at 12.15pm in the Swan on Thurs 16th April. To book please ring 613241 or 612112

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

PRAYER MEETINGS Tuesdays 9.00-10.00 in Olv. Methodist Church.

HOUSE GROUP 14th April at 10.30am at 7 The Green Olveston. .

Computer Clinic Olveston Methodist Hall

Monday 2-4pm Wednesday 10-12 Friday 7-9pm

Ring 07833 354672 or 07957 433091 for further information.

Cream Teas Tockington Green/Chapel Bank Holiday Monday 6th April 2.30-5pm

CONTACT: Rev Pete Brazier Tel 01454 418176,
e-mail pete@thebigfishcafe.co.uk

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

We meet in a relaxed, informal manner for worship, prayer & 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. 07512 917229 or email:
thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Apr 3	10.30pm	Good Friday Lyall Drewett
Apr 5	6.30pm	Vision of Hope
Apr 12	6.30pm	Ian Thornley
Apr 19	6.30pm	Tony McQueen
Apr 26	6.30pm	Bristol Evangelical Male Voice Choir

Each Thurs at 7.30pm Prayer & PraiseTime

For further information please contact **Ceri Morgan-Davies** 413043

Paul Ashford, 07774 110 814 or email: **Paul@CalebGroup.net**

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Family Worship 11.00am

'The Door' for young people on the last Sunday at 7pm

www.THEDOORYOUTH.CO.UK or tel 07837234949

For more details, please phone 632564.

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Evening Worship every Sunday at 6pm for details tel. 413247

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: Roger Howell at **rogerhowell2@talktalk.net** 01454 294367

National: www.quaker.org.uk Bristol area: www.bristolquakers.org.uk

Diary Dates for April 2015

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

1 st Wed	Computer Clinic every week Holy Communion at Daldry Gardens O.P.H.S. Women in 18 th Century Bristol Sunshine on Leith (NYTC) -4 th incl. Sat 2.30	10.00-12.00 2.30pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	MH DGCL OMC AH
2 nd Thu	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop	9-1.30 10.00-12.00	OST
3 rd Fri	Thornbury Carers' Support group Computer Clinic every week	10.30-12.00 7-9pm	Chy MH
4 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
5 th Sun	Bingo every Sun at Sports & Social club	7pm	
6 th Mon	Computer Clinic every week Monday Movie	9.30-11.30 7.30pm	MH StM
7 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning RBL Women Women in WW1	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 7.30pm	WR DGCL DGCL
8 th Wed	R.B.L meeting in White Hart	7.30pm	
9 th Thu	Coffee Shop	10.00-12.00	OST
10 th Fri			
11 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00	AVH MH
14 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café W.I. Aust Parish Council Annual Meeting	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR DGCL TMH PH EVH
15 th Wed	Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	8.30pm	
16 th Thu	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9-1.30 9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15	OST MH
17 th Fri	Thornbury Arts Festival -26th		
18 th Sat	Coffee Morning Pies & Promises Auction (O.T.T.C.) new date	10.30-12.00 7.30pm	MH PH
19 th Sun	Monday Movie Extra	7.30pm	StM
20 th Mon	Mobile Library Orchard Rise Mobile Library Daldry Gardens Mobile Library Old P.O.- L-O-S	11.10-11.25 11.30-11.50 12.00-12.15	

	Severn. Vale. Flower Club Practice Monday Movie Extra	1.30pm 7.30pm	AH OSt
21 st Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning RBL Women Bingo	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 7.30pm	WR DGCL DGCL
22 nd Wed	Calligraphy Class	7.30-9.30	Chy
23 rd Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15	OSt MH
24 th Fri			
25 th Sat	Coffee morning	10.30-12.00	MH
26 th Sun	Thornbury Sketch Crawl meet Coffee 1	10.00-1pm	
27 th Mon	Severn. Vale Flower Club 'April Showers'	6.30pm	AH
28 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Olveston Parish Council meeting Alveston Local History Society	9.30-11.30 7.30pm 10.15-11.45 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR DGCL TMH AP AMC
29 th Wed			
30 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15	OSt MH

Looking ahead to May

1 st -3 rd	Visitors from Bréhan staying in the Parish		
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KEY: **AC** Aust Church; **AH** – Armstrong Hall; **AMC** – Alveston Methodist Church; **AMH**- Alveston Methodist Hall; **AP** – Alexandra Pavilion; **AVH** – Aust Village Hall; ; **CH** – Cossham Hall; **Chy** – Chantry ;**CS** Castle Sch.CTK Christ the King **DGCL** – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; **EVH** – Elberton Village Hall; **LVH** Littleton Village Hall **MH** – Olveston Methodist Hall;**OMC** Olv Meth Ch **OS** – Olveston School; **OSt** – Olveston Stores; **OV** – Olveston Vicarage; **PH** – Olveston Parish Hall; **StM** St Mary's Church, Oliv.; **StMA** Almondsbury Church **SMH** St Mary,s Ch. Hall Thornbury;**TCh** Tockington Chapel **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.olvostonandaust.com. If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvostonandaust.com

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