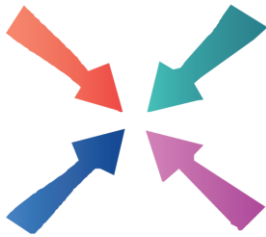


Meeting Point



December 2016



Meeting Point

Volume 41, Number 3, December 2016

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

As you might expect, Christmas themes dominate December's Meeting Point, and you can find a huge range of seasonal offerings to tempt you. One highlight in this edition is a special Christmas true story drawn from the wartime experiences of a local author while serving in the Royal Navy 63 years ago.

This is my last issue as Editor. I thanked the Meeting Point Team in our 40th Anniversary edition, but here I would like to express my thanks to the many contributors to these pages. The quality and quantity of their articles has made my job much easier than I expected, and I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience over the last two years.

I wish my successor, Marelin Orr-Ewing, good luck, and I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Chris



The cover is by Ernie Baker

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

Angela and Matthew Knight

Profile by Pat Thirkettle

Matthew is Bristol born and bred, but Angela comes from a military family and so she moved around until coming to Bristol for nurse training at Frenchay in 1981. Matthew was also there as a theatre orderly and they married in 1986 and lived in Yate. Matthew's mother lived in Olveston and they were married in St Mary's Church, before moving here in 1992.



Angela was one of the last ward-trained nurses, becoming a State Registered Nurse before moving to Southmead to do midwifery and she has worked as a midwife ever since. She has had many different roles as changes took place; she was once a Community Midwife based in Thornbury in a Project Group Practice with responsibility for the whole pregnancy - antenatal care, hospital and home birth and post-delivery. However, with NHS cuts this expensive model of care was withdrawn and Angela returned to the hospital delivery suite. In 2012 she took up a non-clinical role managing the pregnancy and baby screening programmes, but will soon take early retirement.

Meanwhile Matthew briefly took a break from his theatre post to work with the Lions of Longleat, only to find the lions were looked after better than the staff! Back at Frenchay he decided to train as a paramedic and in 1983 that meant patient transfer followed by training and qualifying as a front line paramedic. Matthew particularly wants it on record that he has delivered several babies and has one named after him, yet Angela, who has delivered hundreds, has not had that honour! They have forty years working for the NHS between them, juggling shift work, weekends and bank holidays; Angela now works social hours whilst Matthew still does twelve hour day and night shifts.

Their children Emma and Oliver live locally and Angela's mum is nearly next door; Matthew's brother lives in Olveston, and so did his sister, so they are a real village family. Angela's impending early retirement is due to ill health but she hopes to return two days a week within maternity services. She is on permanent medication for secondary breast cancer, but wants to sound a positive note. She feels we are so blessed to have access to effective free treatment in this country, and after coming to terms with the situation over the last four years she is now ready to join a Living with Cancer group in Bristol. Even more important she is looking forward to catching up with friends and family and as I write she and Matthew are off to Cyprus to close up their flat there and have a well-earned break.

Advent Windows Olveston Parish

Debbie Harries

As we prepare for Christmas we hope you enjoy the Advent windows as they are lit up throughout the villages.

1. Lavender Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Olveston.
2. 30 Russett Close, Olveston.
3. The Knoll, Lower Tockington Road, Tockington.
4. The Old Post Office, Vicarage Lane, Olveston.
5. Green Lane Garage, Olveston.
6. Holly Cottage, Church Hill, Olveston.
7. 55 Laxton Close, Olveston.
8. The White Hart, Olveston.
9. 3 Grey Gables, Vicarage Lane, Olveston.
10. Travalan, New Road, Olveston.
11. Waypoint, New Road, Olveston.
12. Holly Cottage, New Road, Olveston.
13. 12 Orchard Rise, Olveston.
14. The Wesley Rooms, Tockington.
15. 4 Russett Close, Olveston.
16. 1 Cromwell Court, Olveston.
17. Little Grange, The Green, Olveston.
18. Hillside House, Haw Lane, Olveston.
19. 19 Orchard Rise, Olveston.
20. Alma House, Tockington Green, Tockington.
21. 4 Grey Gables, Vicarage Lane, Olveston.
22. April Cottage, The Street, Olveston.
23. 66 Orchard Rise, Olveston.
24. St Mary's Church, Olveston.

Christmas Coffee Morning

On Saturday 3rd December from 10.30am - 1pm, there will be a **Christmas Coffee Morning in Olveston Methodist Hall and Chapel:**

In the Hall: Soft drinks and light refreshments.

In the Chapel: Live music, Christmas visuals and a gift stall.

The event is in aid of Action for Children and Christian Aid. Please come and enjoy this festive occasion.

News from St Mary's

Jo Baxter and Trevor Cook

Christmas is a difficult time for many if they have lost a loved one. So needless to say, this parish will miss Roly and many others who have died this year. On **14th December** is '**Grieving Space Café**' which is a free drop-in for anyone experiencing loss and bereavement. It's from **2 - 3:30pm** – look out for posters with full details.



Don't forget, at the end of November is our **Family Breakfast and Advent Craft** session on **Saturday 26th at 9:30am**. It's a free event with donations going towards the Springs of Hope Appeal but please book so we know how many to expect at johanna@baxterfamily.co.uk. And then, in the evening there is the **Curry Quiz at 7.30pm**. Please email Debbie Harries at oboe-debbie@live.co.uk for tickets, but be prepared to be disappointed as it's normally a sell-out. And sorry, but we can't accept people on the door.

On **27th November at 6pm**, we celebrate Advent with our **Service of Light** led by Sandy Shaw and Elveen Mead and featuring the choir.

On the first Sunday of **December, the 4th**, we will be having our annual Toy Service which will feature the excellent '**Reach Up and Reach Out**' **Puppet group** from Kingswood and the beautiful singing from **Tockington Manor's School Choir**. You are invited to bring unwrapped toys which will be distributed by the Salvation Army as Christmas presents for those less fortunate than ourselves.

On the **10th December** we once again welcome the Easton **Salvation Army Band** for a **Christmas Concert at 7.30pm**. Tickets at £5 are in aid of the Salvation Army's great work. There will be a licensed bar, profits from which will come to St Mary's. Tickets are from June Robbins on 617491 or from Olveston Stores.

Our **Christmas Singalong** with the choir at the White Hart is on **16th December at 9pm**, and all are welcome. We're delighted to welcome Marlwood School for their Carol Concert on the 6th December and The Inner Wheel are having their Carol Service in church on the 14th at 7.30pm. Both Tockington Manor and Olveston Primary School are having their Carol Services too, on the corresponding Fridays when they break up.

Springs of Hope – St Mary's Home and Away Appeal has been launched and hopes to raise £16,000 to support 2 projects: a women's refuge in Bristol run by Crisis Centre Ministries, and a solar pump for a clinic in remote North West Zambia. Please see notice boards for details of fundraising events.

Struggling at Christmas? Don't forget that we can help financially if things are getting tight in the bleak midwinter. Get in touch with Nita Slaytor on 612675 or lesslaytor@aol.com. All done with complete confidentiality.

'On the Twelfth Day of Christmas'

Jan's December Puzzle

by Jan Winter

How many presents did my true love
send me altogether over the 12 days of
Christmas, according to the song?

Can you find a fairly simple way to
calculate this?



November's polyomino puzzle solutions

Here is a possible solution for arranging two sets of tetrominoes:



One way to see why it is not possible to arrange one set into a rectangle is to shade all the tetrominoes with alternate black and white squares, like a chess board. Each shape will have 2 black and 2 white squares except the 'T' shape which has to have three of one colour and 1 of the other. This means that in the whole set you do not have the same number of black and white squares, which you would need to arrange them into a rectangle. A bit tricky to understand!

Here is one way of arranging the 12 different pentominoes:

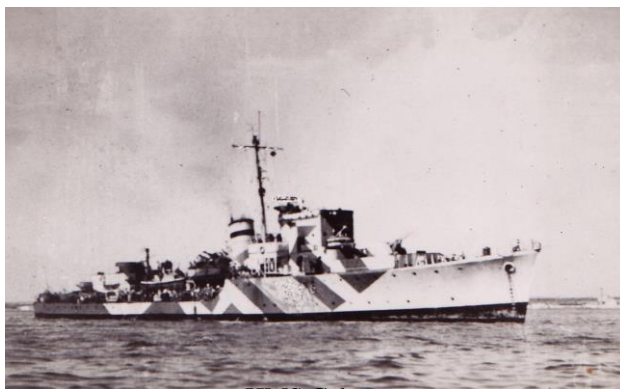


In both cases there are lots of other ways you may have found.

Another War

John Hitchcock

Hunting submarines is a common enough activity for those serving in destroyers, and hunting and sinking enemy ships is what the men in submarines do. Back in mid-December 1943 when the Allied armies were pushing eastward along the North African coast, a small group of American and Royal Navy destroyers was hunting one particular U-boat which had already sunk several Allied ships including merchant ships, troop ships and destroyers.



HMS Calpe

The hunt had been proceeding for several days when the destroyer in which I served made contact and a depth charge attack was commenced. Each time we lost contact as the U-boat dived to escape.

Finally after some 30 minutes the submarine broke surface and it was clear that she was

sinking as her crew abandoned ship. We launched boats to bring them aboard as the sub slid beneath the waves.

Later, on our way back to Algiers with the prisoners under armed guard, the watch below were listening to a BBC programme of records, and, as the voice of Bing Crosby began to sing "Silent Night", our boys quickly joined in, closely followed by the Germans – "Stille Nacht."



I couldn't help thinking "What the Hell are we all doing here!"

News from Olveston School



- Following the success of the Olveston Fun Run, reported in last month's Meeting Point, many of our Year 5 and 6 runners took part in the South Gloucestershire cross country trials. Several of them finished in the top ten, and have been selected to represent the county in future races.
- A group of Year 4 pupils have got together to form SoOS (Students of Olveston School). Their aim is to hold fundraising events to support various charities. With a little help from FoOS, they launched their venture with a disco in aid of Cancer Research UK. They were delighted with the huge turn-out of fellow pupils and the amazing sum raised: £233.82. Well done SoOS!
- Reception marked the end of their first term in school with a 'Buddy' Church Service. Back in June, each Year 4 pupil was given a Reception 'buddy'. They spent time getting to know their buddy during their visits to school and to help them settle in. During the service Mrs Luke read a story about the importance of friendship and the Year 4 children presented their buddy with a prayer book.
- Christmas is just around the corner, and all our pupils are busy rehearsing for their Christmas productions. You are very welcome to join us at any of our Christmas events:

KS1 Christmas Nativity – Monday 5th December, 2.30pm; Tuesday 6th December, 9.45am

KS2 Carol Service – Thursday 8th December, 6pm, St Mary's Church

Community Carols – Friday 16th December 2.30pm, St Mary's Church

As always, our festivities start with the **Olvoston School Christmas Fair, on Friday 2nd December, 3:30 – 5:30pm**

Join us for a festive evening with loads of stalls, including games and crafts for the children, tombola and raffle. Refreshments will include Barbecued Turkey rolls, delicious cakes and drinks.

Christmas trees will be for sale, and as usual Father Christmas will be making an appearance. We look forward to seeing you.

Wishing you all a very peaceful Christmas.

Amanda Luke, Head Teacher

Future Library Services

In last month's Meeting Point, the Clerks of both Aust and Olveston Parish Councils commented on the latest information from South Gloucestershire Council about the future of library services. A new three month consultation is now running until January 2nd 2017 to hear what the public has to say about the new proposals: information is available online at www.southglos.gov.uk/librarychanges and in your local library and council offices.

The new target is to save £500,000 and this would mean a reduction in staff hours. The council will consult with library users and non-users alike on how best to deploy staff among local libraries. It is proposed that the mobile library service be replaced with libraries based in community centres across South Gloucestershire and run by volunteer groups. The Council would also fund the building costs of Chipping Sodbury Library, with the service being delivered by volunteers. These plans would mean that no library building would have to close as a result of the savings.

The council has also agreed to continue to develop plans to use technology that would allow registered members to use library facilities for 11 hours a day, seven days a week, between 8.30am and 7.30pm. This technological approach to delivering library services would build on existing self-service kiosks by providing access to library buildings for registered users out of staff hours. It would be a new approach for South Gloucestershire. The council wants to hear from existing library users as well as those who perhaps cannot at present use these facilities during current opening hours, about how they feel about this option.

After the new consultation process, a final decision on how to proceed will be made in the New Year. Changes in services would not take place until October 2017.

Mobile Libraries still working!

In the meantime don't forget that local mobile library services will continue to operate as before until at least October 2017. Future visits in our area (both Aust and Olveston Parishes) are as follows:

Village	Location	Day	Time	Dec. Dates
Aust	Boar's Head	Alt. Weds	4.05-4.20	7 th , 21 st
Littleton	Post Office	Alt. Mons	12.00-12.15	12 th
Olveston	Orchard Rise	Alt Mons	11.10-11.25	12 th
Olveston	Daldry Gardens	Alt Mons	11.30-11.50	12 th

Transported Women

Olveston Parish Historical Society - all welcome.

Wednesday, 7 December 2016, 7.30pm, Olveston Methodist Church



This rather idyllic picture belies the nature of what went on inside the walls of the building shown.

This is the Parramatta Female Factory, the first purpose-built female prison-workhouse in New South Wales. Conditions were tough, work was hard and the women lacked the protection of family and friends.

Parramatta was one possible destination for British female convicts sentenced to transportation to Australia. In **'Transported Women'**, Pat Hase, a very skilled family history researcher, will show us how she has traced the stories of some female convicts from the West Country, concentrating specifically on those sentenced to transportation in 1842.

Single meeting: £2 or Annual Membership: £8 (pays for this and 4 more meetings) - payable on the door. Open to all!

www.olvoston.com/historical-society

Dashing Away with a Smoothing Iron

From **1st December 2016**, we shall have a small display in our upstairs exhibition room of unusual and intriguing irons from days gone by.



Thornbury & District Museum – find us in Chapel Street, next to the Armstrong Hall. FREE entry. Tuesdays to Fridays 1-4pm and Saturdays 10am-4pm.

Tel: 01454 857774, email: enquiries@thornburymuseum.org.uk,
www.thornburymuseum.org.uk.

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the November draw, held on 3rd November 2016 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	378	Mrs N H Dawes, Olveston
£75	307	Mrs B Morgan, Tockington
£25	313	Mr and Mrs R Birtle, Olveston
£25	477	Mrs S Farr, Olveston
£25	275	Mrs L Evans, Alveston
£20	363	Mrs J Hahn, Olveston
£20	353	Mr B J Rogers, Winterbourne Down
£20	157	Mr J H Chick, Olveston
£10	480	Mr D Skinner, Tockington
£10	463	Mr S Panes, Pilning
£10	349	Mrs L A Thomas, Tockington
£10	451	Mrs C E Black, Thornbury
£10	392	Ms A Chick, London

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

Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

150 Club Winners November 2016:

£50	Chris Northover
£15	Neil Cross
£5	Tracey Jarvis

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winner:

22/10/16	Dave Gardner
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Diary Date:

A.G.M. Mon 31st October at Olveston Sports & Social Club 7.30pm.

Olveston United AFC Juniors

We are looking for more year 3 & 4 children for our under 9's football team. All will be welcome to come along and join in with training sessions at Olveston United Football Club on Saturday mornings from 10 to 11.30am.

Please contact Neil on 07971 240362 if you require further information.

Suicide Corner

Graham Clark

This is not a trick question: what do these six Olveston roads have in common?

The Street, Green Court, Denys Court, New Road, Cromwell Court and The Green.

Yes, they all feed into or join together right next door to the village shop, a location where it is routine for groups of racing cyclists to approach almost silently and very fast, any day of the week but especially at weekends. Somewhat more slowly, electric cars also now frequent this junction, where pedestrians approach from several directions to cross the road with a blind bend. All totally legal.

Seen recently at 11:30 am on a 'quiet Sunday morning': grey-haired elderly lady approaches the junction to cross from *New Road* to *The Street*, with her head down in her mobile phone; while three cars simultaneously and audibly approach from different directions.

Kerb drill? Not a bit of it. The old lady - in a spirited attempt at suicide - still head down, stepped out into the road without a glance for possible silent, oncoming traffic. Maybe she was a bit deaf too. She was on an almost certain collision course (they missed).

Citizens, Citoyens, Burgers, Villagers all, and especially the elderly:

Stop, Look and Listen, before you cross *The Street*; use your eyes, use your ears, and then you use your feet. (Do you remember that from Primary School?) And *please*, set a good example to the kids.

Litter pick

Rod Williams

Our final litter pick of the year will be on **Saturday 10 December, 1pm** at the Parish Hall car park in Tockington.

Thank you to everyone who has helped whether at these sessions or individually.

Aust Parish Council Matters

Tim Pyper (austparishcouncil@googlemail.com)

Whale Wharf

Many of you will know that the owner of Whale Wharf has put forward a proposal that the site be used as a residential school providing education, welfare and pastoral care for migrant children who will be taken into the UK primarily from the Calais "Jungle". The proposal was publicised on Radio Bristol recently. Apparently the proposal was put to the Home Office.

South Gloucestershire Council's view is that the existing planning permission does not extend to this use (it is for an adventure holiday destination which would not be used during the winter months, or when high tides are forecast) and that the flooding risk is too great. No planning application has been made at the time of writing. It is understood that the site is not on the list of potential regional dispersal centres and it also appeared that the original charity involved has pulled out.

It is likely that the owner has not yet given up on the project, and Councillor Riddle and the parish council are keeping a close eye on developments.

Greenacres site at Aust

This is the site adjoining the junction of the A403 and the M48 westbound. It was at one time an unauthorised traveller site. After enforcement action by South Gloucestershire council (and a good deal of effort by Aust parish council – before my time so I claim no credit), that use was discontinued. The owner was then given consent to restore the site using inert materials to an agreed contour, and, once that has been completed, will be able to build a stable and use it for keeping horses.

Restoration was not completed. Recently, ore material has been imported and the licence holder has said that his work is complete. However, the site has not been restored and the parish council considers that the profile of the site now is very much higher than that authorised by the consent. The parish council is pushing South Gloucestershire to take enforcement proceedings to ensure that the site is restored fully and in accordance with all the conditions.

Community Resilience emergency plan and flood plans

South Gloucestershire Council is asking parish councils to consider the need for resilience and emergency planning for the benefit of their residents. Risks might include flooding, pollution, serious road accidents, and snow and power cuts. Aust parish council is going to consider whether such a plan is required for our parish, and if so, how it should be done. If anyone is interested in contributing, please let your Councillor or me know.

Young Musician Competition

Thornbury, in partnership with other local Rotary Clubs, is now embarking on our Young Musician of the Year competition for 2017, which will take place at Sibly Hall, Wycliffe College on 19 February 2017. This will be the fourteenth year of an event that has become well established in the local musical calendar.



We have seen many young people take part and enjoy the experience over the years and they tell us how much the competition helped their musical development. The event is also greatly valued by those who come to listen and give their support.

The competition is open to all musicians of school age, 18 years old or under, who are of Grade 6 standard or above on their instrument. They must either live or attend school in the area covered by the nine Rotary Clubs of the Southern Gloucestershire region who organize the event. Over £1000 in cash prizes (£300 first prize!) and a number of trophies are to be won.

A copy of the rules of the competition and an application form, which should be submitted by **30 November 2016** can be downloaded from www.thornburyrotary.org or by contacting John Massie on 01454 885238.

Wanted! Baby Clothes

Sandra's Baby Clothes, a Rotary Charity, has been sending clothes and shoes for children to North East Romania for at least ten years. To date clothes to the value of approximately £250,000 have been sent to Romania and Moldova.

Thornbury Rotary Club continue to support this simple but effective charity and once more are seeking good quality, clean clothes and bedding for cots, for infants age up to 2 year, and clothes for use for up to 11 years old. These could be knitted or crocheted.

If you are able to contribute to this very worthwhile project we can arrange collection. Please call David Thomas on 01454 613962

Movies at St Mary's: December *Trevor Anderson*



Christmas Greetings to all readers from the Movie Club Team at **St Mary's Olveston**. Details of our December films are given below. Everyone is welcome and there is no need to book. Admission is free, although a **donation** at the end towards expenses is always welcomed and appreciated.

MONDAY MOVIES *(Recent releases and ever-popular classics)*

Mon 5th Dec at 7.30pm: Sir Laurence Olivier is making a movie in London. When Marilyn Monroe arrives for the start of shooting, Olivier struggles to meet her many demands and acting ineptness. When a young film student is intrigued, Marilyn invites him into her inner world where she struggles with her fame, her beauty and her desire to be a great actress. **The truly stellar cast** includes Michelle Williams as Marilyn, Eddie Redmayne, Kenneth Branagh, Dame Judi Dench, Zoe Wanamaker, Simon Russell Beale, Derek Jacobi, Toby Jones and many others. (2011, *Cert 15*)



MONDAY MOVIES EXTRA *(‘Non-mainstream’ films and historic classics)*

Mon 19th Dec at 7.30pm: “My favourite Christmas film” says the Guardian. Starring Jack Lemmon and Shirley MacLaine, this acclaimed satire from writer/director Billy Wilder isn’t a Christmas film exactly – elves, Santa and reindeer are in very short supply. But for a holiday-season movie that’s a little less mainstream and with slightly more adult themes, then this dark comedy is a perfect choice thanks to its humorous cynicism and ultimately uplifting tone. Winner of five Academy Awards, it is still considered to be one of the finest comedies Hollywood has ever turned out. (1960, *Cert PG*)



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

Mon 19th Dec at 10.00am: When an 8 year old boy misbehaves before a family Christmas holiday he is sent to the attic to sleep. After his parents accidentally leave without him, he is left to protect the family home from two robbers. It’s a film which manages to capture some of the best qualities of Christmas in a surprisingly enjoyable format and will provide the whole family with large quantities of festive spirit. (1990, *Cert PG*)

All the films are shown in **St Mary’s Church, Olveston** and doors open 30 minutes before the start. Refreshments available at all the shows, plus licensed bar in the evenings and popcorn and soft drinks in the mornings.

For copyright reasons we can’t name the films here, but if you **join the Movie Club** we’ll send you titles and full details by email. It costs nothing to join – just email me at trevoranderson@btinternet.com.

Friendly Duplicate Bridge for People with Dementia

We are trying to organize some easy going Bridge Sessions for people who no longer feel they can attend Social Bridge Clubs.

We are writing to Meeting Point as your readers may be interested in joining these sessions, or know others who may be interested. Also, we would like to hear from anyone who might like to volunteer to partner any of these bridge players.

Brian has recently been diagnosed with Mixed Dementia but still enjoys playing bridge and we still play in our local U3A Group.

We do feel it could be a problem for some people with dementia to continue in their normal Club and that is why we are trying to set up some sort of 'Crazy Bridge' Sessions – you have all heard of Crazy Golf!

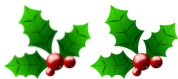
Until we have some idea of who may be interested we cannot say where or when these sessions might take place.

We look forward to your co-operation in this new venture. Here are our contact details:

Brian and Gill Welch, 69 Robin Way, Chipping Sodbury, Bristol BS37 6JP, email: welches2011@hotmail.co.uk, Tel: 01454 882239.

From the Registers of St Mary's Olveston

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Oct. 18 th : | Burial of ashes, Heather Hegarty. |
| Oct. 18 th : | Burial of ashes, Ronald Arthur Hicks. |
| Oct. 20 th : | Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's for the life of Rodney Keith Clare, followed by burial at St John's Aust. |
| Oct. 23 rd : | Baptism at St Mary's of Zachary Peter, son of Ian and Caitlin Parnell, also baptism of Caitlin Amy Parnell. |
| Oct. 26 th : | Service at St Mary's to celebrate the life of Christopher Michael Robins. |
| Oct 28 th : | Burial of ashes, Clifford Martin |



ALVESTON SINGERS
invite you to an evening of
FESTIVE FUN

with a selection of new carols and arrangements,
traditional carols for you to join in, and
other seasonal songs celebrating Christmas

TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER at St Helen's Church, Alveston
SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER at Thornbury Baptist Church
Concerts start at 7.30pm

FREE ADMISSION WITH RETIRING COLLECTION FOR
Meningitis NOW and BRACE



Rockhampton Wind Quintet

Café Style Concert on 6th December

These five talented local musicians will perform an uplifting selection of European music - from English sea-shanties (premiered in an aircraft hangar at Filton) to Mozart, via some of the most beautiful writing for wind instruments - not forgetting seasonal diversions to the Americas.

The Quintet is led by Gareth Williams on flute accompanied by experienced musicians Sophie Cottrell on oboe, Emma Tenison on clarinet, Margaret Putin on bassoon and Chris Pople on horn.

The concert, which will take place café style in the intimate surroundings of the **Cossham Hall on Tuesday December 6th at 7.30pm**, is part of the fund-raising in aid of the Armstrong Hall Redevelopment Project (Phase 1). Tickets are £10 (to include interval finger food) and are on sale at Thornbury Town Hall or by calling 01454 412272.

The logo features two stylized faces in profile, one red and one grey, facing each other.

Northavon Youth Theatre Company

WELCOME TO THE 60s!

Welcome To The 60s! is not only one of its popular songs, but also the message that the Students of the **Northavon School of Drama** want to send out, as it just been announced that under their performance banner of the **Northavon Youth Theatre Company**, they will stage the 1960s musical extravaganza **HAIRSPRAY** next Easter from 12 to 15 April, at Thornbury's Armstrong Hall.

There was great excitement among cast and crew when they learnt that the group had secured the rights to perform this iconic show and auditions were hotly contested, but there are lots of parts and numerous opportunities for every youngster in the group to be involved in dancing and singing such hits as *I Can Hear The Bells*, *Good Morning Baltimore*, the title number *Hairspray* and the unforgettable *You Can't Stop The Beat*, which lasts an incredible 5½ minutes, requiring every ounce of the energy and enthusiasm that NYTC has always prided itself on!

Rehearsals are continuing every Saturday morning, with cast members also taking part in various fundraising events, as the show is likely to cost more than this year's 40th Anniversary production of **Thoroughly Modern Millie**, which came to over £17,000! NYTC is still negotiating a new 'home' for its Box Office, but the telephone number remains the same: **07980543691** and you can keep up with us on our Facebook page or check out our website: www.nytc.org.uk. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to wallow in the nostalgia of 'beehives' and *Brylcreme* or discover what fun it was for the first time!

Thornbury Chamber Players

Relax and enjoy the sounds of Christmas with the Thornbury Chamber Players at **St Helens Church, Alveston on Sunday 8th December 3.00-4.00pm** followed by light refreshments.

Music will include:

Correlli's Christmas Concerto

Howard Blake's The Snowman Concert Suite.

Admission is free, with a retiring collection towards the church roof fund.

Can You Read This?



(Reg. charity no 1153851)

Would You Like To Help Those Who Can't?

WELL YOU CAN: PLEASE SEND US YOUR USED POSTAGE STAMPS AND TAKE ON THE FIGHT (stamps cut outside the perforations will earn the charity more). We are also grateful for any unwanted stamp collections, old and foreign coins.

Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) is a disease of the eye that leads to loss of vision and blindness. The Charity RP Fighting Blindness works hard to stimulate and fund cutting-edge research to find a treatment or cure, and to support those affected - some 25,000 people in the UK alone. Your contribution will make a difference.

The Difference Money used by RP Fighting Blindness goes to the help-line service and to research into a cure for the disease, which affects 25,000 people in the U.K.

We Talk Never heard of Retinitis Pigmentosa? Do you belong to a Club or Group who would like us to come and give a talk about the condition RP and the work of the charity? If so we would be pleased to receive an invite. The talk is designed to be interesting informative and humorous.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us so far. £3304.95p has been raised to date **YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE**. Further information from Ron & Gina Pritchard, 22, Huckford Road, Winterbourne, Bristol, BS36 1EA. Tel 01454 772927 Email bristolsglosfightingblindness@gmail.com.

St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group Christmas Bazaar



The Annual Bazaar for St Peters Hospice will take place in the **Thornbury Methodist Church Hall on**

December 10th between 10.00am and 12noon. There will be a variety of Stalls including Cards, Gifts, Crafts, Home-made preserves, Cakes, Books, and many more. Raffle and Teas.

Entry is by Donation - thank you for supporting St Peters, your local Hospice.

Greetings from AFL



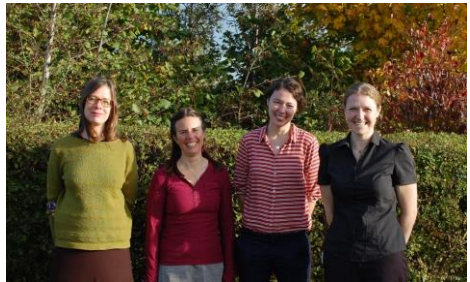
Here at A Forgotten Landscape's HQ we are looking forward to a few weeks of reflection on 2016 and planning for 2017 and beyond.

We've had an amazing year and we're very grateful to all the people we've met along the way. Our wonderful volunteers, our friends in the community, our project partners and everyone who has come out to our various events - we thank you all!

We'll be a bit quiet over Christmas but new opportunities and events are in the pipeline for January, so watch this space. As always, you can check our event listings and find out our latest news at our website at www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk, or follow us on Facebook or Twitter or Instagram. Feel free to get in touch – we love to hear from you!

Wishing all Meeting Point readers a very merry holiday season and a Happy New Year.

The AFL team



The AFL team: L-R Katie, Miriam, Emma, & Rebecca.

Thornbury Library in December

Festive Family Rhymetime

Saturday 10 December 11.15-11.45

For families with a child under 5 years. No booking required. Christmas jumper-wearing encouraged!

Adults' Christmas Craft Drop-In

Saturday 10 December 2pm-4pm

Calling all people who love to make things... a chance for people who love crafting to get together and share inspiration. At this special Christmas session materials will be provided, for a small charge, to make Christmas cards and tree decorations. No booking required – just turn up!

Festive Fun – Children's Holiday Drop-In Activity

Monday 19 December 11am-midday

Drop-in for free family fun, making Christmas crafts - most suitable for primary-aged children. Adult supervision required, no child under 8 years to be left unattended.

'Jack and the Beanstalk'

Octopus present their 2017 Pantomime – written by Peta Maurice

When Jack is forced to sell his beloved cow, Pat, he decides to exchange her for a bean – but not just any bean – it's a magic bean! Follow him on his crazy adventures up the beanstalk to the land of Gigantico where he has to battle with two evil brothers called Baz and Spike. Can he rescue his sweetheart Tiny from the wicked Giant? Will his Mum, Flower Pott and her gardeners Bill and Ben be able to help? Probably not! Maybe Hattie the Forest Fairy will save the day - or will the Power Rangers come to the rescue?

Come and join us for fun and frolics in a pantomime full of songs and jokes and a host of magical characters – it's a show not to be missed.

Tickets will be available from 11th December, prices £6 and £5 concessions, available from Chappell and Matthews on the High Street or Karen on 413783, or you can order them on-line from www.octopus-thornbury.co.uk.
Performances are from Wednesday 11th January 2017 – Friday 13th January 2017 at 7:30pm, Saturday 14th January 2017 at 11:00am and 2:30pm at Christ the King Church Hall, Castle Street, Thornbury.

Could you help?

**Volunteer Opportunity: Sitting service and companionship
Monday to Friday, mornings or afternoons**

Do you enjoy building relationships with new people and want a rewarding role where you make a real difference? Carers looking after a family member or friend give invaluable care and support, so regular time-out is important to enable them to 'recharge the batteries'.

We are looking for volunteer companions to enable carers to take a regular break, by spending quality time with the person they care for.

Volunteers need to be friendly, reliable and trustworthy. You need to be sociable and enjoy the company of others. Additionally volunteers need to be sensitive, caring and compassionate.

If this sounds like the ideal volunteering role for you, please contact:

Marilyn Crump

Sitting Service Coordinator, South Gloucestershire. Tel: 0117 937 5622
or 07722 283 672

Email: MarilynC@carerssupportcentre.org.uk.

Yours Faithfully

Trevor Cook, St Mary's Church Olveston

Nativity

Nothing gladdens our hearts at Christmas like children performing a Nativity play; for in their innocence they somehow portray the mystery and joy of the birth of our Saviour better than we grown-ups ever could.

The plays are never perfect but the joy of the children and spectators shines through and the children learn quickly about the coming of our Saviour. And there are lessons for us adults too; because we know that, although life itself is imperfect, the joy of life can shine through.

What the stories of the birth of Christ show is how ordinary people can be touched by extraordinary events; and I encourage you to take the time this Christmas to go back to the source material and contemplate the mystery and wonder of the Christmas as it is recounted in the Bible.

I say stories because there are two accounts; the first is found in the gospel of Matthew who begins in the middle of Chapter 1 to tell us of Mary's conception and, in Chapter 2, about the coming of the Three Kings (or Magi). The second version is found in Luke who, in Chapter 1 describes how it was the Archangel Gabriel who visited Mary and concludes in Chapter 2 with the birth of Jesus; it then goes on to recount the story of the Angelic host visiting the shepherds on the hillside.

Both describe events that mingle earthly frailties with the divine and remind us that, whilst we cope with the hustle and bustle of our busy lives, we can often forget about the divine within us. Reading the bible helps us to rekindle that spark of divinity within and what better way than to begin at the beginning?

Good luck with the Nativity plays; if you don't manage the background reading just remember it's a very simple story about our God reaching out to the earth, and sending His son to change the world for the better. That is the true joy of Christmas.



Nativity Scene – Winchester cathedral

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Dec 4	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Toy Service with Tock. Manor Choir and puppets	Rev Philip Rowe
	6pm	Evensong with Choir	Mrs Janet McBride
Dec 11	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev David Bone
	10am	Morning Worship with Choir	Paul Harrod
	6pm	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
Dec 18	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	6pm	Carol Service with Choir	Rev P Rowe & P Harrod
Dec 24	4pm	Christingle	Rev H Webb & P Harrod
	11.15	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe
Dec 25	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Ann Lloyd
	10am	Family Service	Mr Trevor Cook
	6pm	No Service	

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

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

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

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 2.45pm in the Chancel

WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION: At 9.00am except 4th Wed when it is at Olveston Methodist Church

Morning Prayer 8.30am daily ex. Wed

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Dec 11	5.30	Holy Communion	Rev. Ann Parker
Dec 18	5.30	Carol Service	Rev. Ann Parker
Dec 24	11.30	Midnight Holy Communion	Rev Ann Parker

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

e-mail: annatdibley@btinternet.com

Church Wardens: Jon Burnett 633835 & Jenn Dickens 632035

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Dec 11	3pm	Carol & Christingle Service	Mrs Tracey Black
Dec 25	9am	Christmas Day Communion	Ven. Christine Froude

Contact: **Mrs Tracey Black** 01454 417660

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Dec 11	9am	Matins	Sandra Edgerton
Dec 13	8pm	Carol Service at Rock House	Sandra Edgerton
Dec 25	9am	Communion & Refreshments	Rev Tomkins

Contact Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Dec 4	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr Chris Sledge Advent Carols with St Andrew's congregation led by Mrs Debs Brazier
Dec 11	10am 6pm	Olv. Ch. Olv. Ch.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Pete Brazier United Carol Service led by Mrs Debs Brazier
Dec 18	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. St Mary's	Morning Worship led by Mr Adam Biddlestone Village Carol Service
Dec 25	10am	Tock. Ch.	Short Service for Christmas Day led by Rev Pete Brazier

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wed. 14th December for its Christmas Lunch. To book please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP: No meeting in December

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

PRAYER MEETING: Tuesday 9.00-10.00am in Olv. Methodist Church.

HOUSE GROUP: Thurs 15th December at 10.30 at 7 The Green, Olveston

THE OLVESTON COMPUTER CLINIC: Olveston Methodist Hall

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

Ring 07833 354672 or 07957 433091 for further information.

CONTACT: Rev Pete Brazier Tel 01454 418176,

e-mail pete@thebigfishcafe.co.uk

Christmas Tea Sat 10th December in Tockington Methodist Ch. from 2.30-5pm
in aid of 'Springs of Hope' projects

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 rog3er2@gmail.com 01454 415035

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

Dec 4	6.30pm	Steve Mills
Dec 11	6.30pm	Pastor Chris Crocker
Dec 18	6.30pm	Informal Carol Service
Dec 25	10am	Ceri Morgan-Davies(Short Christmas Morning Service)

Each Thurs at 7.30pm Prayer & Praise Time

For further information please contact Jenny Parfitt **jennyparfitt@ymail.com**

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

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH

 Family Worship 11.00am

For more details contact **Ann Roberts** 632564.

e-mail: **ann.roberts@bylanes.co.uk**

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury -

Sun 8.30am Mass 11.00 Family Mass

Monday-Friday Daily Mass at 10am

Tel 01454 412223 **www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk**

Diary Dates for December 2016

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

1 st Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop Late Night Shopping with Music Thornbury	9am-1pm 9.00-12.00 'til 8pm	OS+
2 nd Fri	Thornbury Carers Support Group Olveston School Christmas Fair Computer Clinic every week	1.00-3.00pm 3.30-5.30pm 7.00-9.00pm	Chy OS MH
3 rd Sat	Christmas Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
5 th Mon	Computer Clinic every week Olv Sch KS1 Christmas Nativity (& 6 Dec 9.45) Monday Movie	2.00-4.00pm 2.30pm 7.30pm	MH OS StM
6 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning R. B. L. (Women's Sect) Christmas Meeting Rockhampton Wind Quintet	10.30-12.00 7.30pm 7.30pm	DGCL DGCL CH
7 th Wed	Computer Clinic every week Holy Communion at Daldry Gardens Table Tennis O.P.H.S. 'Transported Women'	10.00-12.00 2.30pm 7-8.30pm 7.30pm	MH DGCL PH OMC
8 th Thu	Coffee Shop S. Glos Ladies Lunch Club Thornby. Chamber Players, St Helen's Alv. Olv Sch KS2 Carol Service	9.00-12.00 12.15 3.00-4.00pm 6.00pm	OS+ OSH StM
10 th Sat	St Peter's Hospice Christmas Bazaar Coffee Morning Coffee Morning Christmas Market Camphill Community Th. Litter Pick. Christmas Tea for 'Springs of Hope' Christmas Concert, Salvation Army Band	10.00-12.00 10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00 11.00-3pm 1pm 3.00-6.00pm 7.30pm	TMH OS+ AVH PH TCh StM
13 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Alv. Singers Festive Fun, St Helen's Alv. W.I. Members evening Olveston Parish Council	10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45 7.30pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	DGCL TMH PH AP
14 th Wed	Table Tennis Inner Wheel Carol Service in aid of BUST	7.00-8.30pm 7pm	PH StM
15 th Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market	10.30-12.00	

	Coffee Shop	9.00-12.00	OS+
16 th Fri	Olveston School Community Carol Service	2.30pm	StM
17 th Sat	Coffee Morning Alv. Singers Festive Fun, St Helen's Alv.	10.30-12.00 7.30pm	MH
18 th Sun			
19 th Mon	Children's Movie Club Monday Movie Extra	10.00am 7.30pm	StM StM
20 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	DGCL
21 st Wed	Beat Surgery Table Tennis Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	10.30-11.15 7.-8.30pm 8.30pm	OS+ PH
22 nd Thu	Coffee Shop Memory Café	10.00-12.00 10.15-11.45	OS+ TMH
23 rd Fri			
24 th Sat			
27 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	DGCL
28 th Wed			
29 th Thu			
30 th Fri			
31 st Sat			

Looking ahead to January

11-14 th	Octopus Theatre's Jack & the Beanstalk	7.30/2.30	CTK
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KEY: **AC** - Aust Church; **AH** - Armstrong Hall; **AMC** - Alv Meth. Ch.; **AMH**- Alv Meth. 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** - Olv.Meth.Hall; **OMC** - Olv Meth Ch; **OS** - Olv. School; **OS+** - Olv. Stores; **OSH** Old Sch. Hall Alm; **PH** - Olv Parish Hall; **StM** -St Mary's Church, Olv; **StMA** Almondsbury Church; **StMT** - St Mary's Thorn ; **TCh** - Tock Chapel; **TBCh** - Thornbury Baptist Church; **TMH** - Thorn. Methodist Hall; **WR** - Wesley Rooms; **URC** - United Reform Ch, Th

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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2016/2017 Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

Support Your Local Traders

December

January

	Thu 22nd	Fri 23rd	Sat 24th	Mon 28th	Tue 27th	Wed 28th	Thu 29th	Fri 30th	Sat 31st	Sun 1st	Mon 2nd
Local Shops											
Olveston Stores	06.00 - 19.30	06.00 - 19.30	06.00 - 19.30	Closed	06.00 - 19.30	06.00 - 19.30	06.00 - 19.30	06.00 - 19.30	06.00 - 19.30	06.00 - 19.30	06.00 - 19.30
Post Office (lunch from 1 to 2pm)	09.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 12.30	Closed	Closed	09.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 12.30	Closed	Closed
Powell's Butcher	06.00 - 16.00	06.00 - 16.00	06.00 - 13.00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
The Crusty Loaf	06.00 - 16.00	06.00 - 14.00	07.00 - 13.00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	09.00 - 14.00	Closed	Closed
Olveston Stores	06.00 - 22.00	06.00 - 22.00	06.00 - 22.00	06.00-22.00	06.00-22.00	06.00-22.00	06.00-22.00	06.00-22.00	06.00-22.00	06.00 - 18.00	06.00 - 22.00
Livella Embroidery	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Old Down Country Park	10.00 - 16.00	10.00 - 16.00	10.00 - 15.00	Closed	10.00 - 16.00	10.00 - 16.00	10.00 - 16.00	10.00 - 16.00	10.00 - 16.00	Closed	10.00-16.00
Hair and Well Being											
Clean Cut	09.00 - 17.00	09.00 - 14.00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	09.00 - 17.00	09.00 - 14.00	Closed	Closed	Closed
Vicarage Farm	09.00 - 18.00	09.00 - 18.00	09.00 - 12.00	Closed			Appointments only			Closed	09.00 - 18.00
Garages											
Green Lane Garage*	06.00 - 18.00	06.00 - 18.00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Elberton Garage (AFS)	06.30 - 17.30	06.30 - 17.30	Closed	Closed	Closed	MOT only	MOT only	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Council Services											
Thornbury Leisure Centre	07.15 - 22.00	07.15 - 22.00	Closed	Closed	08.00 - 16.00	08.00 - 16.00	08.00 - 16.00	08.00 - 16.00	08.00 - 16.00	Closed	07.45 - 22.00
Thornbury Library	Closed	08.45 - 17.30	09.30 - 13.00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	08.45 - 17.30	09.30 - 17.00	Closed	Closed
All 'Sort It' Centres	06.30 - 16.30	06.30 - 16.30	06.30 - 16.30	Closed	06.30 to 16.30	06.30 to 16.30	06.30 to 16.30	06.30 to 16.30	06.30 to 16.30	Closed	06.30 to 16.30
Pharmacies											
Olveston Pharmacy	09.00 - 18.00	09.00 - 18.00	09.00 - 13.00	Closed	Closed	09.00 - 18.00	09.00 - 18.00	09.00 - 18.00	09.00 - 13.00	Closed	Closed

Doctors	Dentists	Vets
Almsodbury Surgery Drs Lockyer/Faulkner/Tulloch Tel: 01454 613161	Bank Cottage Dental Cole-Morgan/Furlong/Hichens 01454 412093 Tel:	Coppins Vet Practice 01454 269339
Thornbury Health Centre Dr Foubister and Partners Tel: 01454 412599	High Street Dental Chadwick 01454 418333 Tel:	Rowe Group 01454 415478
Streamside Surgery Drs Thompson/Higgins/Creevin Tel: 01454 412167	Phoenix Dental Kapoor/Panczyk/Frater 013800 Tel: 01454	
Pilning Surgery Drs Mitchell/Graham/Wint Tel: 01454 632993		
St Mary's St. Surgery Drs McCulloch/Harrison/Kent/Williams Emergency: 01454 281312 Tel: 01454 413691		
NHS Choices Tel: 111		

Garage
*Green Lane Garage
Emergency number 07585 432278