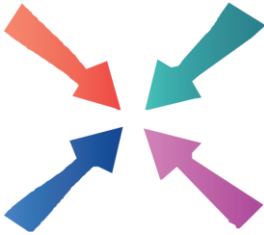


Meeting Point



February 2017



Meeting Point

Volume 41, Number 5, February 2017

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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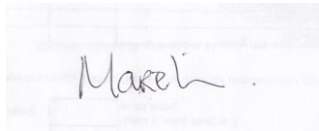
From the Editor

Despite its reputation as a rather bleak month, there is plenty going on in our area this February to take our minds off whatever the weather might throw at us.

This edition includes another update from the A Forgotten Landscape project and the events they are offering continue to be amazingly varied and interesting. It would be good, in the future, to include an article from anybody who has joined in one of these activities. Please get in touch if you would like to write something.

It is worth noting that the half term week also includes a children's film in St Mary's and two local pantomimes to choose from. Which is very good news for those of us with children or grandchildren to entertain.

And finally, I have included a piece about the Thornbury Arts Festival. Although it is some way off, it is worth looking forward to what will be on offer in May.



The cover is by Lisa Helyar

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

Diamond Community Service

Since moving with her family to Olveston in 1953, Peggy James has contributed to the well being of the community for over sixty years in many, many ways. In 1971 she and a colleague started a playgroup in the Methodist Hall which ran till 1985 and has continued in various forms ever since to become Olveston Pre-School today.



There being no Youth Club, Peggy spotted an opportunity for 12-18 year olds to learn to dance. An unusual sort of Youth Club, but Peggy quickly engaged them with her innovative way of teaching which was new, simple and fun, conveying her passion for ballroom dancing and many were surprised to find they could dance, some very well and even enjoy it! This led to Peggy teaching dance at Marlwood School for twenty years where many former playgroup pupils learnt how to cope with school balls. Her fame spread and other schools requested lessons for their pupils including West Wing.

Peggy also taught dance at adult classes in Thornbury, South Gloucestershire and Filton. Her 'anyone can dance' approach had a high

success rate and to quote a former student: 'my wife loves dancing so we went to many ballroom dance classes over the years, but I didn't really improve and was always told I had two left feet. Then we heard about Peggy James' dance classes and with a great deal of individual and patient help from Peggy, I can now waltz around the dance floor with my wife! This may not seem much to some but for me it's a great achievement.' From 2006 – 2012 Peggy ran Ballroom Dancing for the U3A, and so her dance classes spanned thirty five years.

Meanwhile she was supporting many charities including the Red Cross, and for twenty one years organised the Christian Aid collection in the district. She supports the Children's Society from 1977 to this day. In the early 1980s she heard of a new charity, The Jubilee Sailing Trust, a pioneering way of improving the lives of disabled people by crewing tall ships alongside able bodied 'buddies'. She organised the first public meeting in Bristol and helped to set up the Bristol branch, of which she is still the chair, to raise funds, such as her annual summer garden parties, sales, card making and enthusing volunteers to row in the annual Bristol Dragon Boat race for the charity. She crewed on the first voyage of the tall ship 'Lord Nelson' from Bristol, when she and her 'buddy' caught mackerel on the way to Jersey. Crewing for disabled and able bodied alike includes steering, sharing the night watch, hauling on

ropes, food prep in the galley and being hoisted up to the crow's nest and Peggy has completed five voyages.



Over the last sixty years, Peggy has been tireless in supporting her friends, family and those in need of help over sickness, disability, loneliness or bereavement. She wouldn't expect any thanks, but this article expresses the thanks from those around her.

Susanne James

Reminder OPTA Annual Quiz

Don't forget to book your table for the 2017 OPTA Quiz. This popular annual event is being held this year in the Olveston School Hall. We look forward to seeing some new faces as well as our loyal regulars.

Friday 3rd February Olveston School Hall

Doors open 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start.

Teams of 4 (max) £5 per person to include assorted refreshments.

There will be a bar serving beer, wine and soft drinks.

This is always a very popular event so please can you contact Emma on 07812719948 or emmaneal369@btinternet.com to reserve your table?

15-2, 15-4, and one for his Hat...

We are the White Hart, Olveston, Cribbage Team looking for new players to join us on our rounds of the local pubs on Monday nights 8pm – 10pm.

People new to the game or those just needing their skills brushing up would be welcome. For more information please contact Julia Stephens-Parr on 01454 616173 or email julia.stephens@btinternet.com.

Litter Pick.

Rod Williams

Saturday 4th February at 1pm

Please meet in the Parish Hall car park.

February Facts*

So here we are in February. My internet research tells me that at one time this was the last month of the Roman calendar and a time of ritual purification by washing. It is, of course, the shortest month of the year and the last month of winter in the Northern Hemisphere.

In Ireland, the festival of Imbloc is being revived by traditionalists. This is one of the four Gaelic traditional seasonal festivals and celebrates the onset of spring. Imbloc has traditionally been celebrated on 1st February, however it appears that the timing of the festival was originally more flexible and based on seasonal changes such as lambing or the flowering of the blackthorn. It was a festival of the hearth and home, and a celebration of the lengthening days and the early signs of spring. Celebrations often involved special foods, candles or a bonfire if the weather permitted. The lighting of candles and fires represented the return of warmth and the increasing power of the Sun over the coming months and hopes for a good harvest.



In America February is designated as National Bird Feeding month which strikes me as rather a good idea. February 1st is – believe it or not – National Baked Alaska Day. Then there is Groundhog Day on February 2nd. According to folklore, if it is cloudy when a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day, then the spring season will arrive early; if it is sunny, the groundhog will supposedly see its shadow and retreat back into its den,

and winter weather will persist for six more weeks. Many people will be familiar with the idea of Groundhog Day thanks to the 1993 film starring Bill Murray as an arrogant weatherman.

Valentine's Day, February 14th, is, of course, a very well known commercially driven celebration. While the custom of sending cards, flowers, chocolates and other gifts originated in the UK, Valentine's Day still remains connected with various regional customs in England. In Norfolk, a character called 'Jack' Valentine knocks on the rear door of houses leaving sweets and presents for children.

And finally, February 28th is Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. It's also known as Pancake Day and making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday was a way to use up ingredients like eggs, fats and milk that were not allowed during Lent. Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shricing, i.e. the process of confessing and repenting of sins by fasting and abstaining from luxuries during Lent.

** Everybody knows that internet research is not 100% foolproof so there may be some debate around some of these 'facts'. Editor.*

Classical Guitar Ensemble

In the January Meeting Point, local musician Andy Warn announced his plans to start a new Classical Guitar Ensemble meeting once a month in Tockington - with the day and time yet to be decided.

Unfortunately the contact details were not included in the article (*Apologies from the Editor*) so, if you read music and need an excuse to dust off your guitar, do get in touch with Andy to find out more. Tel: 07916 253 267 or 01454 625 360.

Peter Pan, the Musical

Wednesday February 15th – Saturday February 18th

Olveston Parish Hall 7.30pm



Olveston Parish Players present J.M Barrie's play, which has been set to music by Piers Chater Robinson. This production features a young cast in the principal roles and as Lost Boys, with our stalwarts as marauding Pirates and Indian Braves! Let us transport you to Neverland with Wendy, Michael and John to meet Captain Hook and Peter Pan, the boy who never grew up!

If you haven't got your tickets already, seats MAY still be available for the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances at 7.30pm. Standard tickets £10 for adults, £7 for children. In addition there is a preview evening on Tuesday 14th February.

Please phone Richard or Jenny at the Box Office on 01454 202011 for information, to check availability, and to purchase your tickets. Come and get 2017 off to a 'flying start'!

Women's World Day of Prayer

To be held at Tockington Methodist Church at 10.15am on Friday March 3rd 2017. This year it is compiled by the women of the Philippines and is based on the bible story of the workers in the vineyard, Matthew 20 v 1-16.

Friends of St.Mary's

The prize winners in the January draw, held on 5th January 2017 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	
£150	158	Mr D J Talbot, Olveston
£75	412	Mr R J Lloyd, Tockington
£25	223	Mr & Mrs R C Panes, Olveston
£25	292	Mrs I Phillips, Olveston
£25	267	Mr & Mrs I A Hughes, Olveston
£20	308	Mrs B Morgan, Tockington
£20	362	Dr R R Slade, Olveston
£20	283	Mr J Mason, Tockington
£10	155	Mr J H Chick, Olveston
£10	363	Mrs J Hahn, Olveston
£10	512	Mrs R Arkell, Olveston
£10	369	Mrs E M Screen, Rudgeway
£10	229	Miss J M Davies, Olveston
£10	217	Mrs J Hahn, Olveston

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

Alveston Gardens Association



A presentation on how to attract wildlife into your garden will be given by Nathalie Mignotte.

7.30pm in Alveston Jubilee Hall.

Monday 6th February

All Welcome – Visitors £3

For full programme see www.alveston.org

Movies at St Mary's: February

Trevor Anderson



Greetings to all readers from the Movie Club Team at **St Mary's Olveston**. Our WINTER PROGRAMME has been agreed and Movie Club members will already have received details by email. Paper copies of the programme are available to pick up from just inside the church door.

Everyone is welcome to all films, no need to book.

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

Mon 6th Feb at 7.30pm: Set in the Deep South, Norman Jewison's five-time Academy Award-winning film pits Virgil Tibbs (Sidney Poitier), a black Philadelphia homicide detective, against prejudiced white sheriff Gillespie (Rod Steiger), as they struggle to solve a murder. Released in 1967 to a country riven with racial tensions, it crossed fraught political lines and became a landmark in American cinema. *(1967, Cert 12)*

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

Mon 20th Feb at 7.30pm: A shy Northern girl (Jane Horrocks) can only manage to express herself by singing along to records in her room, in the timeless voices of Judy Garland, Marilyn Monroe, and others. When a sleazy talent scout (Michael Caine) overhears her singing, he is determined to make her a star and become rich in the process. But despite all his charm and promises, she is reluctant to take to the stage..... *(1998, Cert 15)*

CHILDREN'S MOVIE CLUB *(Monday mornings in the school hols)*

Mon 13th Feb at 10.00am: A young girl, the Queen of England and a friendly giant set out on an adventure to capture the evil, man-eating giants who have been invading the human world. The movie minimizes the darker elements of Roald Dahl's classic in favour of a resolutely good-natured, visually stunning, and largely successful family-friendly adventure. *(2016, Cert PG)*

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



We make no charge for entry, but we do value and appreciate a small **donation** at the end towards expenses if you have enjoyed the evening.

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.

News from St. Mary's

Trevor Cook



Memorial Service for Rev. Roly Bain

A memorial service for Roly will be held at Southwark Cathedral, London on 1st April (Roly's choice of date!). People interested in attending this service should contact Debbie Harries by email at *oboe-debbie@live.co.uk* in order to understand the numbers of people who wish to go. St. Mary's choir will sing at the service.

Quiz night

Our next quiz night is on 11th March in the church. More on this next month, but put it in your diary as this is always a popular event and usually over-subscribed.

Auction of Promises

There is still time to offer your "promises", which will be auctioned in March. Proceeds will go to our 'Springs of Hope' appeal. If are able to offer something towards the cause, please contact Gail Lowe on 612709.

Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 1st March when there will be a Severnside Holy Communion at St. Helen's Alveston at 7.30 p.m. led by Rev Pete Brazier as a Methodist Service, and a speaker from Methodist-Centre.

Full details of groups and actions taking place during Lent will be available towards the end of February.

New Vicar

The advertisement for the new Vicar for the Benefice of Alveston, Littleton and Elberton, with Olveston and Aust appears on the Diocesan website.

The job pack, which profiles all the parishes involved, is worth a read in its own right and it can be found at http://www.bristol.anglican.org/i/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Job_App_Pack.pdf

News from Olveston School

Amanda Luke, Head Teacher



With Spring just around the corner, we are looking forward to developing our outdoor learning opportunities thanks to a grant from the Ernest Cook Trust. Over the last five years we have proudly worked to maximise outdoor play for our pupils. On the school field children build dens, climb trees and learn to risk assess in a safe and well supervised environment. We use 'Playpod' to enrich the materials our children have to develop their imaginations. We are eager to extend the outdoor experience into our curriculum and believe that delivering a Forest Schools programme will be extremely beneficial to our pupils. The Ernest Cook grant will allow us to train Staff in Forest Schools and purchase essential resources. In addition to our school grounds, we are very grateful to have been offered the use of a local wood both for activities and as a source of natural material that can be brought back to school for onsite projects.

Our drama club is very excited to have been asked to perform its successful Christmas production 'The Star of Beth'n'Liam's Kebab Van' in St Mary's Church in aid of the 'Home and Away Springs of Hope' appeal. The school enjoys opportunities to work with the local community and our 'SoOS' pupils are busy planning other events to support the appeal – we will share these with you in next month's article.

Finally, if you are looking for some part time work and would enjoy being with our children during their lunch break, we currently have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor. Full details can be obtained by contacting Nicola Hemming in the School Office (01454 613299).

St Peter's Hospice Quiz

St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group would like to invite you to take part in their 25th Anniversary quiz, to be held in the Armstrong Hall on **Friday 3rd March at 7.15p.m.**

Tables of four, to include a ploughmans supper, £28.00 per table.

Excellent raffle prizes, bar available. Please come along and help us to celebrate in style, whilst supporting the vital work of the Hospice within our community. For further information please ring Mary on *01454 412567*.

Thank you.

February Puzzle

Jan Winter

Take a long strip of paper and fold it in half. Fold it again, and again, and again – in fact, fold it 50 times. If the paper is 1/10 of a millimetre thick, how thick is the folded pile of paper?

Practically, how many times can you fold a strip of paper before it becomes impossible to fold again? Does it matter how big the paper is to start with?

January Solution – the birthday problem

Consider each time one more person is in the group (and we'll ignore leap years for simplicity!): For a second person, the probability that their birthday is different from that of the first person is 364/365. For a third person, the probability that their birthday is different from either of the first two is 363/365.

We need to keep multiplying these probabilities together until we get to less than half. It turns out that for 22 people this gives a result just over 0.52 – in other words it is just more likely that no two people will share a birthday. However, when we add person 23 the result is just over 0.49, so it is just more likely that two of these people **will** share a birthday. Try it out next time you're in a big enough group.

Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

150 Club Winners January 2017:

£50 Richard Watkins
£15 Iain Murdoch
£5 Bill Finch

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

24/12/16 Ian Maunder
31/12/16 James Green

The Club is making a concerted effort to recruit more players for 2017. All age groups are welcome, but Senior Players are particularly required. Dave Gardner & Simon (Sam) Gould have volunteered to head up the campaign.

If you are interested in playing cricket in 2017, or know anyone who is, please contact Dave: dave25laxton@aol.com, 07771 848898 or twitter @deeg159

Up the Down!!

Annual Parish Fish & Quiz Night

Friday 24th February 2017.

7.30pm for 8.00pm in the Parish Hall.

Teams of 4.

Tickets £8.00 per person to include fish & chip supper.

For further information please contact:

Pat Savage 01454 610388 or pat@savageassociates.co.uk

or Geoff Chappell 01454 615806

Police Report

PCSO Kelly Dimery

The following incidents were reported for December:

Outbuilding broken into and a large amount of garden equipment stolen. Aust

Theft of items from a yard in Field Lane, Littleton.

Burglary to a shed and garden tools taken in The Crescent, Old Down.

Beat Surgery Dates for 2017 - Olveston Stores 10.30 – 11.15 am

January 18th

July 26th

February 22nd

August 16th

March 29th

September 27th

April 19th

October 25th

May 17th

November 15th

June 28th

December 13th

Poppy Appeal - Thanks

Stan Bradburn

As the Poppy Appeal Organiser for Pilning, Severn Beach and Olveston I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with the fund raising in 2016. The hard work of Legion Ladies, the house to house collectors, schools and businesses raised an amazing £8200 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Special thanks once more to Mr & Mrs Tom Brown (Tomarosa) for their invaluable assistance.

Aerospace at Filton: the BAC story

This is the new exhibition at **Thornbury and District Museum**, running from **1st February until 22nd April 2017**.

Filton has been involved with the aerospace industry since 1910, when the British and Colonial Aeroplane Company was established, and since then the Bristol name has been associated with the design of everything from aeroplanes and aircraft engines to satellites and guided weapons. Today Filton is the home of facilities for Airbus, Rolls-Royce and GKN and the south west still has the largest cluster of aerospace-related industries in the country.



Photo credit: Eduard Marmet

In summer 2017, the Bristol Aero Collection Trust will be opening a new museum in Filton, Aerospace Bristol, which will celebrate the BAC story. In the meantime, this much smaller exhibition has been travelling around the area and Thornbury & District Museum is delighted to be hosting it. As well as information on everything from the Bristol Box Kite to Concorde, various artefacts, pictures and documents will also be on display.

Free entry. The Museum is open from 1st Feb. on Tuesdays to Fridays 1pm-4pm and Saturdays 10am-4pm. Tel: 01454 857774.
email: enquiries@thornburymuseum.org.uk www.thornburymuseum.org.uk

Pins and Pans

Question: What do Rolling Pins and Keeping Warm in Bed have in common?

Answer: Reg King of Alveston! A chance purchase some years ago led to Reg developing an interest in rolling pins and their history and now he has over 500 of them in his collection. Not content with acquiring rolling pins he then branched out into collecting and researching bed warmers.



On **Friday 24 February** in Thornbury's **United Reformed Church** (opposite the museum)

at **7.30pm**, Reg will be giving not just one, but two talks: "The Mystery of Rolling Pins", followed by "A History of Keeping Warm in Bed". This is the first of Thornbury and District Museum's

winter talks programme. 2 for the price of 1! Tickets: £5 (includes tea/coffee & biscuits in the interval) and should be obtained in advance. Tel. 01454 857774 or email: enquiries@thornburymuseum.co.uk

Thank You

Alveston Singers thank all of you who supported us in 2016.

Thanks to your generosity, during the year we raised just over £1875 which will be divided between Meningitis Now and BRACE.

We look forward to welcoming you to our concerts in 2017.

Thornbury Choral Society Annual Workshop

Puccini's Messa di Gloria

Saturday 25th February 10.30am – 5pm

£13.50 including light refreshments. Lunch £7.50

Application forms may be downloaded from www.thornburychoralsociety.org.uk or obtained by post from Jos Gregson (tel: 01454 411652 or email jos@josgregson.plus.com)

Jazz with Jessica and the Park Row Five

We are delighted to welcome Jessica back to Thornbury once again in company with The Park Row Five in a relaxed Jazz Café setting in the Armstrong Hall on Saturday 25th February 2017 at 7.30pm.

You can enjoy an evening of original arrangements of a wide range of jazz classics, blues and ballads from Gershwin and Ellington to masters of Latin jazz and beyond. It will be an evening of great music in the Armstrong Hall to appeal to all tastes. Finger food will be served in the interval and is included in the price of the ticket. Bar available.

The concert is part of the fund raising project in aid of the Armstrong Hall Redevelopment Project (Phase 1).

Tickets £15 each are on sale now at Thornbury Town Hall or call 01454 412272.

Sir Ralph Sadleir - or - *How to survive the Tudors without Losing your Head!*



This illustrated talk by Keith Sheather tells the story of a man who worked his way up the bureaucratic ladder of Tudor England to become one of the country's richest landowners, at one stage owning land in 25 counties.

Ralph Sadleir's estates included the whole of Stoke Bishop, Westbury and Henbury – and the manor of Olveston!

Remarkably, despite being at the heart of Tudor politics for four reigns, Ralph Sadleir kept his head. But he does live in the shadows, his details are sketchy and he only occasionally comes into the limelight. Teasing out his life makes a fascinating story.

There are many ways of spelling his name but *Sadleir* is our speaker's preferred spelling as it looks more exotic!

If you have read Hilary Mantel's 'Wolf Hall' and 'Bring up the Bodies' or seen the TV series, you may remember Sadleir featured as one of the characters. In these books he is called Rafe Sadler.

Keith Sheather lives in Stoke Bishop and his background is television. He was a producer with BBC Bristol specialising in history programmes e.g. 'The Victorian Kitchen Garden' and 'War Walks'. He has also made several local history DVDs.

Wednesday, 1 February 2017, 7.30pm, Olveston Methodist Church, The Street, Olveston BS35 4DR

Open to all - everyone welcome. £2 on the door.

Olveston Parish Historical Society www.olvoston.com/historical-society

Aust Parish Council Matters

Tim Pyper (austparishcouncil@googlemail.com)

Broadband

At last some good news. South Gloucestershire has recently let us know that Elberton and Littleton are due to have fast broadband provided in the last quarter of 2017. This will apparently be fibre to the premises, not just fibre to the cabinet. Let's hope it arrives and is on time!

Transport to Health

South Gloucestershire recently commissioned a report (funded by the Dept of Transport) about getting people in South Gloucestershire to hospital and other medical appointments. Its object was to understand how Community Transport works for this purpose in rural areas, whether it could be improved and whether a centralised booking system would help to improve the service to the public, and work with volunteers and the Patient Transport Service. One of the problems it hopes to address is the proportion of patients who are late for appointments (and therefore often no shows) because of transport delays. You can read the interim report at <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/transport/public-community-and-school-transport/transport-to-health/> . The final report is due to be published soon and the organisers would welcome public comments and support.

Are you over 90, and a regular driver?

If so, ITV is making a programme about you, and they would like to hear from you. Ring 0207 013 4411 or email drivers@rdftlevision.com.

New Local Plan

I have mentioned the Joint Spatial Strategy prepared by South Gloucestershire, Bristol and BANES councils. Each council will also prepare its own local plan to operate with this and to supplement the Core Strategy. South Gloucestershire Council is about to start the first stage of preparing the new local plan and will be seeking your contributions over the 6 weeks to the end of February. If you're interested, look on the South Gloucestershire website – at the time of writing, the consultation hasn't been launched so I can't give you an address.

Precept and Budget for 2017/18

Aust parish council decided on its budget at the January meeting. It has fixed its precept at £4,379, an increase of £30. Because of the way that the precept is shared between tax payers, this means that the liability of each property will increase by 2%. A band D property's share of the precept will increase from £19.25 to £19.64.

The Snow Queen

Armstrong Hall, Thornbury 15th - 18th February

7.30 pm nightly and matinées at 2.30 pm on the Friday and Saturday.

Tickets are bookable online at www.tmtg.org.uk with no booking fee.

£12.50 Adults, Concessions £10.50/£11.50 and a family ticket for 4 costs £40. Group discounts of 10% for 10+ seats can be arranged via our Box Office or online.

For enquiries call Angie at the Box Office on 07516 270140. We are once again indebted to Lisa Costa Residential Sales and Lettings for their generous offer to run our Box Office at 53 High Street.

For more information about "The Snow Queen" and the Thornbury Musical Theatre Group, take a look at www.tmtg.org.uk.

The Importance of Being Earnest

Cossham Hall, Thornbury 4th March 7.30pm



Thornbury Picture House, in collaboration with MORE2SCREEN, is proud to present a fantastic 4-star production of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* starring the Olivier Award nominee and Poirot star David Suchet as the formidable Lady Bracknell. Recorded live at London's Vaudeville Theatre in October

2015 and directed by Adrian Noble, (*Amadeus*, *The King's Speech*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*), Wilde's superb satire on Victorian manners is one of the funniest plays in the English language – the delightful repartee and hilarious piercing of hypocrisy and pomposity will make you laugh out loud!

Two bachelor friends, the adorable dandy Algernon (Philip Cumbus – regular player at Shakespeare's Globe) and the utterly reliable John Worthing J.P., (Downton Abbey's Michael Benz) lead double lives to court the attentions of the exquisitely desirable Gwendolyn (Emily Barber) and Cecily (Imogen Doel). The gallants must then grapple with the riotous consequences of their deceptions – and with the formidable Lady Bracknell.

Don't miss it! See it at The Cossham Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 4th March. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets £10 or £8 if over 65 or under 16 years. Book your tickets on line at www.thornburypicturehouse.org or reserve tickets by calling 01454 412272.

Update from A Forgotten Landscape

As always we have a range of volunteer opportunities, activities and events going on! Never mind that it's winter... it's nearly spring!

Our current volunteer opportunities are Oral History Collecting, Local History Research & Event Delivery. For more information please go to www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/get-involved or contact Katie katie.scaife@southglos.gov.uk or 01454 863 043

Roving Art Group

Wednesday 8 February Severn Beach village hall 10am - 3pm

Journeys in music and sound; looking at routes we have taken as well as wildlife migrations through, to and from the estuary. Join artist Kathy Hinde to transform these journeys into musical scores (then play them!) and experience the landscape differently by listening through microphones and hydrophones.

'Sabrina in harness' - a history of tidal power in the Severn Estuary

Tuesday 7 Feb 2016, 7:30pm Tockington Methodist Church, Tockington

For more than 150 years people have tried to harness the Severn Estuary's tides for navigation, recreation and the generation of electricity. This presentation by Alexander Portch, University of Bristol, will provide an overview of the sequence of proposals for a Severn Barrage and place the history of barrage schemes in a much broader context of efforts to exploit the Severn's tides stretching back many hundreds of years, including tidal mills, intertidal fishing weirs and the emblematic Severn trow.



Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

Friday 10 February 10-4, Piling

This free workshop will cover all the basics of pruning and maintaining fruit trees. Led by Les Davies (www.westcountryman.co.uk), the day will cover tree and grass management to enhance wildlife, natural pest control, tree planting and formative, maintenance and restorative pruning. It will also cover tool use and maintenance. Come benefit from Les' 47 years of working with apple trees. Places are limited.

Family Bird Watching!

Friday 17 February 10-1, Pilning

Come and witness the great migrations along the Severn with Rupert Higgins, naturalist. Learn to identify a range of birds, how to use binoculars, and generally enjoy a wild morning out along the River. For children aged 8+ accompanied by their parent/guardian. Meet in Pilning for an introduction to bird watching and then off to the River Severn to see the birds!



Hedge Laying Course

Learn the traditional art of hedge laying on this practical weekend in February. This is a free workshop suitable for beginners. Over the weekend you will learn the different stages in laying a hedge, how to correctly use hedge laying tools and the benefits of hedge laying for wildlife and landowners. If you are interested in taking part please email Emma at emma.cross@southglos.gov.uk and we will let you know as soon as we have the dates confirmed!

Our events are all free! Book your place for any of them at www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/get-involved/events/

Thornbury Library

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/sgloslibraries

Follow us on Twitter @SouthGlosLibs

Looking For Opening Times, Service Information or Contact Details? See our Website: www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries

Reading Passport Book to the Future - a reading challenge for grown-ups!

Complete this reading challenge for adults and be in with a chance of winning a suitcase full of books! Reading Passport Book to the Future presents the finest and most iconic reads from a century of publishing. Each decade from 1920 to 2020 is represented by our best loved and most intriguing authors whose work has helped to define an era. Join the #booktothefuture discussion on Twitter and tag us @SouthGlosLibs.

Visit www.readingpassport.org for more details and pick up your free Reading Passport from the library – ongoing until 31 March 2017.

Craft & Chat Drop-In - Saturdays 18th February, 18th March 2pm-4pm

Calling all knitters, crocheters, and all people who love to make things...a chance for people who love crafting to get together and share inspiration. No charge and no booking required. Just turn up and bring your craft project with you.

Children's Half-Term Free Drop-In Activity - Animal Antics. Monday 13th February 11-12 noon.

Drop in anytime between 11-12 noon for free family fun, aimed at primary-aged children. Enjoy stories and crafts with an animal theme. Adult supervision required, no child under 8 years to be left unattended.

Sending a Valentine's Card this year?

Wow your loved one with some well-chosen words from the library shelves. Check availability and reserve online on the LibrariesWest website. Recommended titles include Poet Laureate, Carol Anne Duffy's "Love Poems"; "Poetry Please: love poems" and many, many more.

Thornbury Arts Festival 2017

Organisers line up the stars for 2017 programme



THORNBURY ARTS FESTIVAL

Award winning folk singer Cara Dillon, the comic capers of the Reduced Shakespeare Company and foot-tapping band Stringfever are included in the line-up for the next Thornbury Arts Festival. Professor Lord Robert Winston, antiques expert Judith Miller and Thornbury Choral Society will also feature in the nine-day festival.

The event will be launched by former shadow home secretary Ann Widdecombe - now also known to many as a past Strictly Come Dancing contestant and pantomime star – who

will get the festival off to a flying start with a talk about her life, which still involves serious debate and regular TV documentaries.

The concert by Cara Dillon, whose legion of fans include Ed Sheeran and Sam Smith, is expected to be a sell-out, with the Reduced Theatre Company

set to attract a big audience to see its production William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play.

Professor Winston - one of Britain's best known scientists and a leading fertility expert - will give a talk on genetics and has also agreed to give a separate talk to students at the Castle School.

Other festival highlights include Thornbury Choral Society singing Mozart's Requiem and Handel's Coronation Anthems, BBC Antiques Roadshow regular Judith Miller giving an illustrated talk on collecting antiques and Squashbox Theatre's The Sea Show, which is aimed largely at children and families.

Among the topics for lunchtime talks are the work of the Bristol Film Office, the restoration of Dyrham Park's gardens, the Badminton railway line and the history of the Women's Institute.

After the success of a guided walk in the last festival, there will also be a two-hour ramble around the Purton hulks - abandoned boats and ships deliberately beached next to the river Severn near Sharpness.

The festival, which runs from May 5-13, will be brought to a close by Stringfever, which mixes electric instruments and beat-boxing with musical skill.

For further details visit www.thornburyartsfestival.com

A Thank You

Ann and the family Parker would like to thank everyone for the letters and cards, for the flowers and for all your good wishes and prayers on Kenny's death. Many thanks to you all.

From the Registers of St Mary's, Olveston

- 8th December 2016: Burial of Isabel Muriel Geissinger.
- 15th December 2016: Funeral Service followed by burial of Geoffrey Michael Meaching.
- 3rd January 2017: A service of Thanksgiving for the life of Anthony Stuart Waycott.

Yours Faithfully

By Michael Mathews, Vine House of Prayer, Awkley

On the morning I was planning on writing this article I heard an announcement on BBC Radio 4 of a programme to be broadcast later entitled, 'The New World, Nothing but the Truth', a consideration of whether we are living in a post-truth or post-fact world. It was the very 'fact' that the question should be posed that brought me more consternation than much of what was said on the programme.

Anyway, I thought I would remind myself of articles I had written in past years and in reading the one for March 2012 (which I don't necessarily expect you to remember!) I mentioned that in the New International version of the New Testament of the Bible, Jesus used an expression 'I tell you the truth' some 70 times. Actually in the King James version we read in relation to truth, the word 'verily', coming from Hebrew, 101 times and also translated 'amen' 51 times. Yes, even a few facts like these can be confusing, even boring, but I want to suggest that the very 'fact' the word AMEN which it is said, "passed from Hebrew into the Greek of the New Testament, then into Latin and into English and many other languages, so that it is practically a universal word." The word is directly related—in fact, almost identical—to the Hebrew word for "believe" (amam), or faithful. Thus, it came to mean "sure" or "truly", an expression of absolute trust and confidence"

Friends, we are talking about the Bible here. The book that has been attacked, ridiculed and disputed for centuries and yet still bears witness to truth that has changed and impacted the lives of countless millions around the world.

There were two statements made in the programme that resonated with me. "Look at the messenger before discussing the message" and "We determine the truth by the people we trust".

I want to encourage you to look at Jesus, the one of whom it is written,

"In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,"; listen to Him. He can be trusted. Why He is even called the Amen, "these are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness..."

Let the world discuss the post fact/post truth if it must, but I for one am more than content to trust the Messenger – hope you can too!

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Feb 5	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe Rev Philip Rowe Mrs Janet McBride
Feb 12	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship with Choir Holy Communion	Rev David Bone Paul Harrod Rev Philip Rowe
Feb 19	8am 10am 3.45 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion with Choir Back to Front Evensong	Rev Helen Webb Rev Philip Rowe Paul Harrod Trevor Cook
Feb 26	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion(BCP) Fourth Sunday Evensong(BCP) with Choir	Rev Ann Lloyd Trevor Cook Rev Philip Rowe

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

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

Feb 5	9am	Matins	Mrs Tracey Black
Feb 19	9am	Holy Communion	Ven. Christine Froude

Contact Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Feb 12	9am	Matins	Sandra Edgerton
Feb 26	9am	Holy Communion	TBA

Contact Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Feb 5	10am	Tock. Ch..	Morning Worship led by Mrs Debs Brazier
Feb 12	10am	Olv. Ch.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Pete Brazier
Feb 19	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle
Feb 26	10am	Olv Ch..	Morning Worship led by Rev Sandy Williams

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wed. 8th Feb. To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP meets at 12.15pm at the Swan on Thurs 16th February. To book please ring 613241

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

PRAYER MEETING Tuesdays 9.00-10.00 in Olveston. Methodist Church.

HOUSE GROUP Tuesday 31st Jan at 10.30 at 6 Manor Park led by Rev Sandy Williams

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

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

Feb 5	6.30pm	Munir Din
Feb 12	6.30pm	Phil Moulden
Feb 19	6.30pm	Steve Loader
Feb 26	6.30pm	Tony Ward

Each Thursday at 7.30pm Prayer & Praise Time

For further information please contact Jenny Parfitt jennyparfitt@gmail.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

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

Diary Dates for February 2017

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 Table Tennis O.P.H.S. 'How to Survive the Tudors without losing your Head'	10.00-12.00 2.30pm 7.00-8.30pm 7.30pm	MH DGCL PH OMC
2 nd Thu	Thornbury Farmers Market Coffee Shop	9.00am-1pm 9.00-12.00	OST
3 rd Fri	Thornbury Carers Support Group Computer Clinic every week OPTA (Twinning) Quiz	1.00-3pm 7.00-9.00pm 7 for 7.30pm	Chy MH PH
4 th Sat	Coffee Morning Litter Pick	10.30-12.00 1.00pm	MH PH
5 th Sun			
6 th Mon	Computer Clinic every week Monday Movie	2.00-4.00pm 7.30pm	MH StM
7 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning W.I. John Smith—'Berkeley Castle'	10.30-12.00 7.30pm	DGCL PH
8 th Wed	Table Tennis	7.00-8.30pm	PH
9 th Thu	Coffee Shop S. Gos Ladies Lunch Club	9.00-12.00 12.15	OST OSH
10 th Fri			
11 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00	AVH MH
12 th Sun			
13 th Mon	Children's Movie Club	10.00am	StM
14 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Aust Parish Council	10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45 7.30pm	DGCL TMH EVH
15 th Wed	Peter Pan TMTG 'The Snow Queen' -'til 18 th Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	7.30pm 7.30pm 8.30pm	PH AH
16 th Thu	Thornbury Farmers Market Coffee Shop Peter Pan	9am-1pm 10.00-12.00 7.30pm	OST PH
17 th Fri	Peter Pan	7.30pm	PH
18 th Sat	Coffee Morning Peter Pan	10.30-12.00 7.30pm	MH PH

19 th Sun			
20 th Mon	Monday Movie Extra	7.30pm	StM
21 st Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	DGCL
22 nd Wed	Beat Surgery Table Tennis	10.30-11.15 7-8.30pm	OS+ PH
23 rd Thu	Coffee Shop	9.00-12.00	OS+
24 th Fri	Springs of Hope Soup Lunch		
25 th Sat	Coffee Morning Th. Choral Society Workshop	10.30-12.00 10.30-5pm	MH TBCh
26 th Sun	Aust Quiz at Boar's Head	7.30pm	
27 th Mon			
28 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Olveston Parish Council	10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45 7.30pm	DGCL TMH AP
Looking ahead to March			
Mar 18	Auction of Promises for Springs of Hope		StM
Mar 24	OPTA Wine Challenge		PH

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 – Oliv.Meth.Hall; OMC Oliv Meth Ch OS – Oliv. School; OSt – Oliv. Stores; OSH Old Sch. Hall Alm; PH – Oliv Parish Hall; StM St Mary's Church, Oliv.; StMA Almondsbury Church StMTSt 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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