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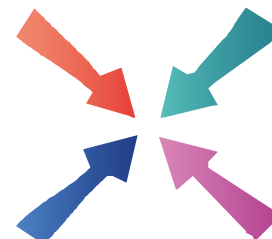
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Meeting Point

Volume 45, Number 5, February 2021

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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1st of each month

Material for March 2021
to the Editor or Deputy Editor
by 8th February 2021.

From the Editor

So here we are again, in lockdown, and having to produce Meeting Point as an 'online only' magazine. This decision was taken to protect our team of volunteer deliverers, but we really hope that we can safely return to a printed magazine as soon as possible.

In this month's edition we have got a reminder about how and where to get help if you are currently self-isolating and are unable to go shopping, for example. We have also got many of our regular items, plus a couple of longer articles which are of local interest.

The cover picture this month, of a rainbow over Littleton, was chosen to symbolise a spirit of hope for our community and the promise of better times to come.

Marelin

This month's cover is by Alex Stagg.

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

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News from St Mary's

Debbie Harries



We start with a message from Rev. Steve Oram.

With the nation once again in full lockdown and a dramatic increase in Covid infections in our local area, the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's Church decided, for everyone's safety, that the church should remain closed for normal public worship until it is safe to re-open - hopefully in the not-too-distant future. However, just because the church is closed for the time being, it doesn't mean there aren't many exciting ways to engage in church life.

For those living alone, hopefully you'll receive a phone call just to check you are OK. We will continue to pray for you and our local community as well of course continuing our online YouTube services.

For those of you missing worship at St. Mary's, there is an exciting and new opportunity to join in via ZOOM. Many people enjoy Wednesday Communion and we a starting ZOOM Wednesday communion live at 10am, which will be up and running by the time you read this. The link is below. This, as well as any other new initiatives, can be found on the church website.

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk and on the Church's Facebook page.

The link for Wednesdays is:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5787738098?pwd=bXVldmtwaHVITDY2NjNZRDh3Mmp1Zz09> Meeting ID: 578 773 8098 Passcode: 8QQPs5

If you need to contact a member of the team, our contact details are:

Rev. Steve Oram 07830 151622 email: Steve.oram@blueyonder.co.uk
Rev. David Moss 01454 415190 email: mossds@gmail.com
Martin Gibson, Church Warden 01454 616856 email: mrtngibs@aol.com
Debbie Harries, Church Warden, pastoral care and support
01454 613273/ 07870557961 email: oboe-debbie@live.co.uk

Advent Windows

Thank you to all who created the Olveston Advent windows. They were absolutely beautiful and enjoyed by many people. We look forward next Advent!

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Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who donated to the food bank over the Christmas period. As can be seen by the letter below it means so much. If you are able to donate, we are continuing to collect in the church porch. A list of items that are particularly needed is on the porch notice board.

A Huge Thank You from Thornbury Foodbank

We have been overwhelmed and are so grateful to our community for the amazing support you have given to Thornbury Foodbank since the start of the pandemic. It has been such a difficult time for so many people in the locality which means that so many more families and individuals have benefitted from your support through donations both financial and in kind.

From 27 March 2020 to 11 December 2020, we have fed 711 adults and 307 children, issuing 12.48 tonnes of food and essential items and received 13.28 tonnes of donations. Compared with the same period last year all these figures are up by over 50%. We also purchased 1.76 tonnes of extra items made possible by amazing amount of financial donations we have received. These extra items include fresh vegetables, bread, spread and items where we were low in stock.

It is impossible to thank each individual personally so we would like to thank everyone who has donated to the Foodbank from individuals to local businesses in our locality for their generous donations of food and money.

We do, however, want to thank Tesco Thornbury for their support. We have a collection basket situated in the store where donations can be left. We have built up a good relationship with their Community Champion who ensures our monthly list of needs is made visible on the basket.

The photograph below illustrates some of this generosity as it shows the extra parcels we were able make up of Christmas items donated and bought from financial donations which we hope brought some loving care into those lives for whom Christmas would not have been a happy time.

We are also most grateful for our team of dedicated volunteers who have freely given of their time during these difficult times.



So, on behalf of all of those benefitting from your kindness we want to say thank you for making life a little easier than it would have been without your support.

Wishing you all peace, joy, health, and all good things in 2021! Mair Vaughan - on Behalf of Thornbury Management Team.

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Local Businesses and Covid

We have asked some of our regular advertisers to let us know how they are coping during the pandemic. This month we hear from Craig Young of Francis Design and Build.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have had to make quite a few adjustments to how I work for my customers. Initially, I was only willing to take on assignments in empty houses, or outside (extensions, decking, sheds, log stores etc), so that I did not come into physical contact with others.

As the supply of protective equipment improved and knowledge about how not to contract or spread the virus became better known, I was able to interact with customers more and undertake internal projects as well, such as kitchens, bedrooms, door hanging etc.

Now, if I'm working inside, I have a supply of hand sanitiser and face masks or visors, to minimise risks. I spray my tools regularly and make sure I spray the installations or work I have been doing. I try to make sure that customers can be in another room in the house whilst I'm working there. Although I had to make changes very quickly, I am lucky to be able to continue helping customers.

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ABOUT ME

My name is Jed Williams and I live in Easter Compton – I am 15 years old
I go to Marlwood School and have had my own business doing this for over 3 years

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Carolyn Portch



Most people around our village will recognise Carolyn from seeing her walk around the local area with her springer spaniel. Carolyn has lived in the area for all of her life. She presently resides in the barn conversion by Port Farm duck pond, where she has lived with her family for the last 23 years.

Carolyn has held numerous jobs within the Care sector over the last 15 years. She has worked for many years at Emerson's Green NHS Treatment Centre as a Health Care Assistant on the wards, followed by an engagement and marketing position explaining the hospitals NHS services. More recently Carolyn has worked in a Breast Cancer Care role providing face to face advice to patients following surgery and ongoing treatments and care.

2020 was the year of unprecedented changes beyond the control of many people including herself. Carolyn could see the need for help and assistance for the vulnerable and isolated people in our community and surrounding villages and decided to see if she could help in any way. She placed adverts locally and used the Olveston Community Village Face book page to promote her services explaining that she can provide an extra pair of hands and a friendly face to help people remain independent within their own home setting. Sometimes it is not just the physical restrictions that need to be met but often the emotional isolation that people are presently experiencing at this time along with loneliness and being restricted from having visits and support from family members and friends that are now unable to visit and travel .

Carolyn takes pride in being seen as an extra extension to family support - it may just be a simple 'pop in' visit and a smile, a chat over a cup of tea, simple tasks like putting the dustbins out, feeding the birds, shopping, cooking, picking up prescriptions, helping with house hold chores and even trips out and about to visit places (when present restrictions are lifted of course). The simplest of things, and sometimes a trouble shared, can often have the biggest impact on people and make a bad day turn into a positive one. Carolyn has said that all the people she regularly visits have become dear friends, it cost nothing to put a smile on someone's face and that is always her main objective.

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Amount	Number	Name
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£75	546	Mr K L Richards, Tockington
£25	510	Mr P Floyd, Old Down
£25	331	Mr J Mason, Tockington
£25	181	Mr R Riggs, Almondsbury
£20	221	Mrs S A Pearce, Ingst
£20	184	Mr R Riggs, Almondsbury
£20	231	Mr & Mrs A Gardner, Olveston
£10	544	Mrs T Fear, Tockington
£10	460	Mr & Mrs R Smith, Olveston
£10	303	Mrs B Morgan, Tockington
£10	292	Mrs I C Phillips, Olveston

May we wish you a Happy & Healthy New Year and thank you for all your support during 2020. If you are not yet a member and wish to join the lottery, please telephone Andy Phillips on 01454 614890 or e-mail andisp28@hotmail.co.uk.

Don't forget, if you're not in – you can't win!



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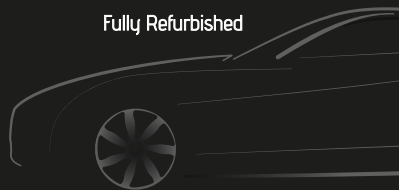
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Help Available During Lockdown 3

Martin Gibson

When we first went into lockdown March 2020, several organisations and private individuals gathered together to help those in the community who, for whatever reason, were unable to venture out to shop, or get medicine, or walk their dog, or any other of a myriad of reasons.

In the Spring there were some lovely stories of how neighbours and, yes, even strangers, interacted to provide support to those in need.

This help is still available:

The Parish Council can be contacted by telephone on 01454 806 186 or by email: clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Clerk can quickly put you in touch with any number of the services provided by the Council and South Gloucestershire Council.

St Mary's Church helps with everything too, both practical and spiritual. First point of contact is Rev David Moss 01454 415190 or email: mossds@gmail.com

Village Volunteers & Tockington Together & Old Down Community Support Group are the hands-on helpers who will shop for you, go to the pharmacy, help in the garden, sort out your computer and so on.

Just ring Angela Young 07710 452 009 or Martin Gibson 07990 970 725 or Clare Evans 07860 227 219 or Di Buckley 07967 609 266.

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Tony Gardner

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Animals are not just for Christmas

Lily Purchase

At Meeting Point we really appreciate contributions from the younger members of our community. We were therefore very pleased when Lily Purchase, aged 9, who lives in Olveston, got in touch with us about her concerns for badly treated and neglected animals. Here is what she wrote.....

With my school I recently wrote a letter to the local MP and to Battersea Dogs Home. I would like to raise awareness around the importance of adopting dogs and cats and making sure it's the right decision. I also wanted to help raise support to build more shelters for dogs and cats as I see so many homeless animals on the streets of Bristol, which makes me feel very sad that they do not have a home.

This is my letter to my local MP:

Dear Luke Hall,

My name is Lily and I'm 9 years old and I'm concerned that animals are not getting a good amount of food and care. I saw this cat with a person and the cat was following me and the person kicked the cat out of the way. It made me upset because people shouldn't be mean to animals.

Firstly, we would like to discuss the main topic which is dogs are not just Christmas or lockdown but they are for life. This leads to abandonment of lots of animals on the streets in the freezing cold. Animals should get food, water, love and a bed.

I would like you to create more shelters for the animals, especially cats and dogs because people will buy them from the shelter. I want you to help me spread the message across Olveston about a dog not only being for Christmas but for life by advertising the message on magazines and TV.

To conclude I feel very strongly about the points that I have covered. By spreading the message through TV and magazines I think less dogs and other animals will be shaking with fear with no shelter and nothing to eat.

Yours sincerely,

Lily Purchase

I also sent an email to Battersea Dogs Home:

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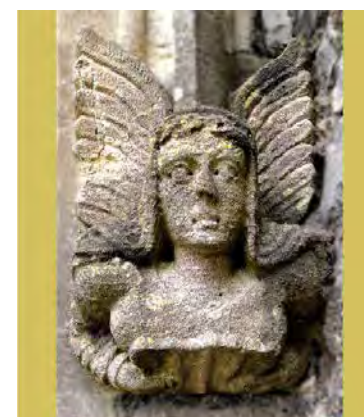
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Dear Battersea,
I really hope you get this email.
I want you to make more shelters for cats and dogs because I feel really bad that they are out in the freezing cold. What can I do to help you help the cats and dogs? I have written to my local MP also asking for help.
Thank you for looking after the cats and dogs, I hope they are all ok.
Love Lily

I am still waiting for replies to my letters, but I know that everybody is very busy, particularly at the moment.



St Mary's Church Tower Restoration Project

Peter Floyd

Over the last few months several articles have appeared about this project, and we were to have enjoyed another this month from our church architect, Marcus Chantry.

However, since Meeting Point is only to be published online this month - and the article will best be read on paper rather than on a screen - we have decided to wait until Meeting Point is printed once again.

This does not mean the scheme is not progressing. As money continues to come in, we expect to be able to begin work in the spring.

A printed wallet describing the scheme and including a church guidebook is now

available. If you would like to have one, please contact Debbie Harries oboe-debbie@live.co.uk or 01454 613273.

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Who was the Jamaican Miller of Tockington?

Nick Fear

Milling and mills have been connected with the Tockington area for centuries. Grain was at first crushed using hand powered stone grinding wheels, called querns, a laborious and exhausting task. The process was later mechanised and there are at least four windmill sites recorded in the area. These were in turn supplanted by water powered mills, alongside which are family surnames associated with the trade. The Esworthys, Lippiatts and, perhaps most remembered of all, the dynasty of the Grosvenor family.

The first recorded water mill in Tockington was at Brook Farm at the entry of the village. The leat which channelled water to turn the mill machinery still exists, most obviously between the front of the farm and footpath. Strangely the flow seems to go against the downward gradient before disappearing below ground. The water course can be traced back to the fields below Tockington School playing fields. The remains of a sluice gate and the mill pond can be found, both now in disrepair although the water flow still exists.

With time and mechanical innovations, a larger mill was needed and at the beginning of the nineteenth century a mill was built close to the valley below Hardy Lane. The water course from Brook Farm was diverted in an engineered way, doubling back on itself under the road, to flow into the fields beyond. Its pace and power is still evident today and pushes clean water to, and far beyond, the mill site.

In 1861 Samuel Grosvenor and his wife Ann worked the mill and had five children living with them. Samuel had been born in Devon, Ann was from Worcestershire, but the census record intriguingly shows that whilst three sister siblings were local girls, William and his brother Samuel were born in Jamaica. This was definitely unusual for that era, as Jamaica is a long way from Tockington and both boys had been baptised in Olveston. The explanation is linked to the shameful history of the slave trade.

Jamaica was, for centuries, associated with the production of sugar, coffee, cotton and other exotic items. Several nations had fought to dominate it for its bounty and the English Crown took over in the mid-1650s. The terrible side to the production of goods on the island, was that it was achieved using slave labour. The horrors of this are well documented, and the trade was abolished in 1807. Sadly, the institution of slavery was not ended, and it continued until the total abolition in 1834. Even after abolition, many freed slaves had no choice but to continue working for their former masters and the situation was complex and occasionally volatile. Some years later, businesses in Jamaica put out adverts in British newspapers about jobs for people with agricultural and managerial skills. The adverts gave information on inexpensive boat



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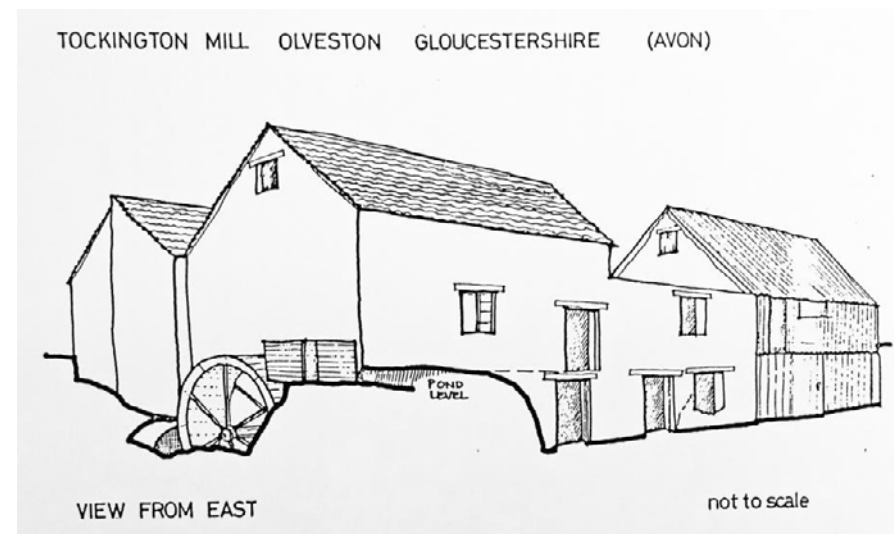
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passages to the island, and rumours spoke of the great financial rewards, even fortunes, to be made.

Samuel and Ann must have been an adventurous couple as, after their marriage, they set off to Jamaica. It seems that they had arrived in the early 1840s after a journey which could take up to two months. The couple settled in an area then known as Wisconsin, working on a ginger farm. The times in Jamaica were unsettled, with clashes between freed slave workers and immigrant groups. Overall, politically, there was a movement for more independence for the island, which caused tension to the extent of riots. Cyclones and other weather disasters hit the island, the climate in general tested inhabitants causing disease and premature deaths. Beyond its shores other countries were developing similar farm crops, produced at a cheaper rate as they used more modern techniques. Samuel and Ann started a family and worked hard for around eight years before returning to England, with enough savings to invest in their own mill.



In 1863 Samuel died, aged 46, and their son William took over the mill. He married a local girl, Fanny Lippiatt, and they set up home in the mill. The family prospered and William took on modern innovations in the business. Around 1874 a steam engine was installed at the mill to improve efficiency and solve the problem of summer water shortages. It made excellent business sense, but it also portended a stroke of sad fate. In 1889 a tragic, terrible accident occurred in the mill. William had been altering the drive bands connecting the machinery to the engine and, somehow, he became attached to them and was drawn into the mechanism. His son working outside, realising a blockage in the system, found a terrible sight and went for help. William had died instantly; he was carefully taken from the mill with the assistance of two

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with local African organisations to deliver a programme of tools
and training that brings about effective and sustainable
change for carpenters, builders, blacksmiths, artisans and
their communities. Primary countries they work in are **Ghana,**
Malawi, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia.

So, if you have tools you no longer require, please contact
Rotarian

Robin Cole-Morgan on 01454 414281

He will arrange to pick up the tools and take them away at a time
that suits everyone.

What you could declutter and donate:

Garden Tools and Workshop Tools (for example, spanners,
screwdrivers, chisels, planes, and hammers). They can be hand
tools or powered.

Thank you!

men who were working nearby. An inquest held at the Swan Public House recorded a verdict of accidental death for William Grosvenor, the Jamaican-born miller of Tockington.

The story continues with William and Fanny's son Samuel, the first Samuel's grandson, who took on the family business. In 1909 he married Laura Mills, a girl from Oldbury on Seven, and they moved from the mill premises and set up home nearby. Samuel improved the business; steam power was replaced by a Blackstone diesel engine in 1912. He worked the mill until his premature death in 1921, aged 45, from the dust induced 'miller's lung'. The amount of dust at the mill had always been noted and caused problems for workers.

The Grosvenor family continued to have a stake in the working of the mill. It did valuable work throughout the Second World War, producing mainly food for cattle. Cider was also made there, which was very popular with local licensed premises and private buyers. Photographs of the mill taken around the mid-1950s (see example below) show the building, particularly the roof, in a neglected state, although remnants of the original mill machinery were still in place. The link to the Grosvenor family lasted until 1966, when the site – by this time used only for storage – was sold.



A surveyor's report from 1977 detailed the poor state of the premises and listed walls and chimneys having fallen. It noted a plan to turn some of the buildings into accommodation and supported the need to preserve such an important village structure.

Today the mill has been skilfully restored and it is now a solid desirable dwelling. The old iron water wheel, which had once been a modern replacement for the original wooden one, is still in place. The mill leat still flows nearby at speed but does not move it.

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A Maths Puzzle

Jan Winter

Can you complete these calculations using any of +, -, ×, ÷, √ or ! ?

Insert whichever operations will make the calculation equal 6 (using brackets too if you need to).

You might need an introduction to ! when it is used as a mathematical symbol. It means multiply together all the whole numbers from the number given down to 1. For example, $4! = 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 24$. Obviously $1! = 1$ and because it is a special case $0!$ is defined to equal 1 as well.

Also, if you use √ this will mean the positive square root of the number. For example, $\sqrt{4} = 2$

So, try these:

$$0 \quad 0 \quad 0 = 6$$

$$5 \quad 5 \quad 5 = 6$$

$$1 \quad 1 \quad 1 = 6$$

$$6 \quad 6 \quad 6 = 6$$

$$2 \quad 2 \quad 2 = 6$$

$$7 \quad 7 \quad 7 = 6$$

$$3 \quad 3 \quad 3 = 6$$

$$8 \quad 8 \quad 8 = 6$$

$$4 \quad 4 \quad 4 = 6$$

$$9 \quad 9 \quad 9 = 6$$

Answers will be provided next month.

The Royal British Legion Women's Section Olveston Branch

The members of WRBL Olveston wish to thank Stan Bradburn for all his hard work in organising the annual 2020 Poppy Appeal. Volunteers and parishioners raised a remarkable amount of money despite difficult circumstances. All this was made possible by Stan's tireless dedication and commitment to supporting the annual Appeal. Thank you, Stan!



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The Latest from Thornbury Library

Libraries continue to work within current Government Regulations with safety measures in place. Services we are typically able to offer during this time include borrowing items using Click and Collect and limited computer access – we strongly recommend booking in advance. All the information you need to plan your visit is on our website www.southglos.gov.uk/librarychanges or you can call 01454 865022.

eBooks, eAudiobooks, eComics, digital magazines and newspapers continue to be available for library members to download anytime and www.southglos.gov.uk/eresources has all the details. It now also includes *Who Else Writes Like?* and for children, *Who Next?* where you can find authors who write in a similar way to those you have already enjoyed reading. Simply log in with your library card number and select South Gloucestershire.

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Thornbury Rotary – Busy as Always

Adrian Dennis



Thornbury Rotary President Barry Williams

Despite the Thornbury Rotary Club not being able to meet physically since March of this year, like many community organisations and charities, the work goes on. Members of the club get together through Zoom meetings to discuss projects and fundraising activities. Recently they have managed to raise money through their COVID-19 Appeal to support local charities and charitable voluntary organisations that continue to struggle through these difficult times.

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Organisations that have benefitted include Kington & District Scrub Hub (a volunteer group making scrubs & masks), Krunch SW (a local charity supporting youngsters through activities and mentoring), Thornbury Radio (community radio station with consistently high quality publicity for food banks, charities etc.), Made a Mark Charity (to support children who have suffered the loss of a parent, carer or sibling), Thornbury Town Football Club (cost of providing equipment, footballs for young players) and PHASE (A charity that provides support and counselling for youngsters struggling with drugs, plus support for their families). From the Appeal, Rotary has also handed over a grant to the Over 60's Tea Room in Thornbury, a very popular venue that urgently needed PPE.

Mark Wilkinson, Thornbury Rotary's Fundraising Chairman, expressed his delight that Rotary could help so many worthy causes through the Appeal. There are still some funds left in the pot to be able to award small grants to one or two more organisations. They can find out how to apply through the website: www.ThornburyRotary.org. Also, anyone wishing to donate to the COVID-19 Appeal can access the Virgin Money Giving page through the same website.

Due to the pandemic, the Swimathon, which is run every year by Rotary at the Thornbury Leisure Centre, has had to be postponed from early March to May or June 2021. The new dates will be announced shortly. Rotary wishes to thank all the sponsors, both corporate and individual, as well as all the teams, for their generous support of this fundraising event, which has raised in excess of £400,000 over the years.

The 'Tools for Self-Reliance' project continues to be very successful. Rotarian Robin Cole-Morgan has been busy collecting unwanted tools from homes in the area. The UK based charity renovates the tools and sends them to various African organisations and, ultimately, they are delivered to local communities for the carpenters, gardeners, builders and blacksmiths etc. Anybody wishing to 'declutter and donate' can call Robin on 01454 414281.

Thornbury
Rotary



We are for Communities

On behalf of the club, Rotary President Barry Williams would like to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year, with the hope that 2021 delivers a dramatic improvement as the Covid vaccine programme is rolled out over the forthcoming months.

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- that insects are the foundation of our ecosystem?
- that our garden birds need 30% more food in winter to just keep warm at night?
- that at the entrance to Tesco Bradley Stoke Willowbrook Centre there is a recycling facility for water filters, light bulbs and make up?
- that at the entrance of St Mary's church there is a big box for recycling crisp packets, toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes? Money in return for these items goes to the school here in Olveston. So, start collecting now!

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- feeding the birds? Then, as spring approaches, gradually feeding less each day so that they return to foraging naturally.
- adjusting your diet?
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Oveston Parish Council

Pat Savage

New Councillors

The Council is pleased to announce that at the January Meeting Mr Miles Grocott and Mr John Suker were appointed Councillors. Tony Turnbull joined the Council in the summer of 2020 which means the Council is now up to its full quota of nine Councillors. Their profiles and photos will be in the March publication.

New Footpath Warden

Our new Warden is Ruth Ferris. Ruth grew up in the parish and is a keen horsewoman. Her knowledge of the Parish will prove invaluable in identifying those parts which do require improvement. As always, we do ask all walkers to report any damaged styles or kissing gates to clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk



New Bench

Have you seen the new bench – pictured left - on Tockington Green? This was constructed by Councillors Martin Gibson and Tony Turnbull and is dedicated to the memory of (Smiley) Kenny Neale.

Speedwatch

This continues apace under the direction of Councillor Martin Gibson. We now have a half share with Oldbury Parish Council for a six-month period in a radar speed visor. We are about to receive a second speed visor which has been kindly donated by a local businessman.

Annual Precept

In the light of the continued uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and its impact on personal finances the Council has unanimously agreed that the precept for 2021 will remain at the 2020/21 level.

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Word Search Answers

In last month's Word Search, there were 8 local place names.

They were all outside the Meeting Point area:

Itchington

Cromhall

Morton

Leyhill

Hill

Over

Alveston

Tytherington

I	M	V	N	Z	H	N	N	B	Z	D	G
T	T	Q	N	Y	O	V	L	U	J	G	N
C	R	O	M	H	A	L	L	C	T	J	O
H	M	O	R	T	O	N	A	K	E	H	T
I	T	S	W	K	X	B	E	O	W	H	S
N	L	E	Y	H	I	L	L	V	C	J	E
G	D	R	K	A	I	N	M	E	A	C	V
T	R	E	J	C	H	L	H	R	Y	I	L
O	A	L	N	R	I	N	L	P	C	N	A
N	I	J	T	S	H	I	I	J	A	N	E
B	A	N	O	E	T	L	A	E	T	R	L
N	O	T	G	N	I	R	E	H	T	Y	T

Another Word Puzzle will follow next month.....

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OPTA Update

Our annual AGM is normally held towards the end of November in the White Hart, Olveston. Obviously, for reasons that are all too familiar, this did not happen in November 2020! We are obliged to hold an AGM within 15 months of the previous one, which means we have until just before February 24th, 2021. So, in the light of the current lockdown, we will review the situation and decide how to proceed. In the meantime, just like most other local clubs and organisations, all our activities are on hold.

Some Local Geology

Hamish Orr-Ewing

Anyone looking at the geology map of this part of the country would be struck by the kaleidoscope of colour which reflects the large number of rock and soil types in the area. In fact, Bristol and its surroundings probably has more varied geology than any other region in Britain. Most people take it for granted – or don't even notice it – as it is all around them and always has been. Yet local geology has shaped our lives, whether it be the type of house we live in, the availability of water supply, the type of farming that can be carried out or the presence of mining and quarrying.

Some of the earliest rocks in the area are the mountain limestones which you can see in the Avon Gorge and the Mendip Hills. They were formed about 280 million years ago as coral formations in shallow seas. They are slightly soluble in acid rainwater which gives rise to cracks and fissures which eventually enlarge to form large caves such as those at Wookey Hole. If the water re-evaporates out, the limestone is redeposited and tends to form the calcium carbonate 'glue' which makes rock rather than a granulated soil. Much of Olveston sits on grey limestone, and you can see it peeping out of the highway verge in Denys Court as well as in exposures in many local quarries. Of course, it is the stone from which most of the early village buildings are constructed. Nowadays most of the market for quarried limestone is for roadstone and concrete aggregate. The limestone which was originally laid down horizontally was later affected by subsidence and horizontal pressure and was squeezed into giant corrugations. The 30° dip that you can see on the limestone face in the Avon Gorge is evidence of the massive scale of the movements involved.

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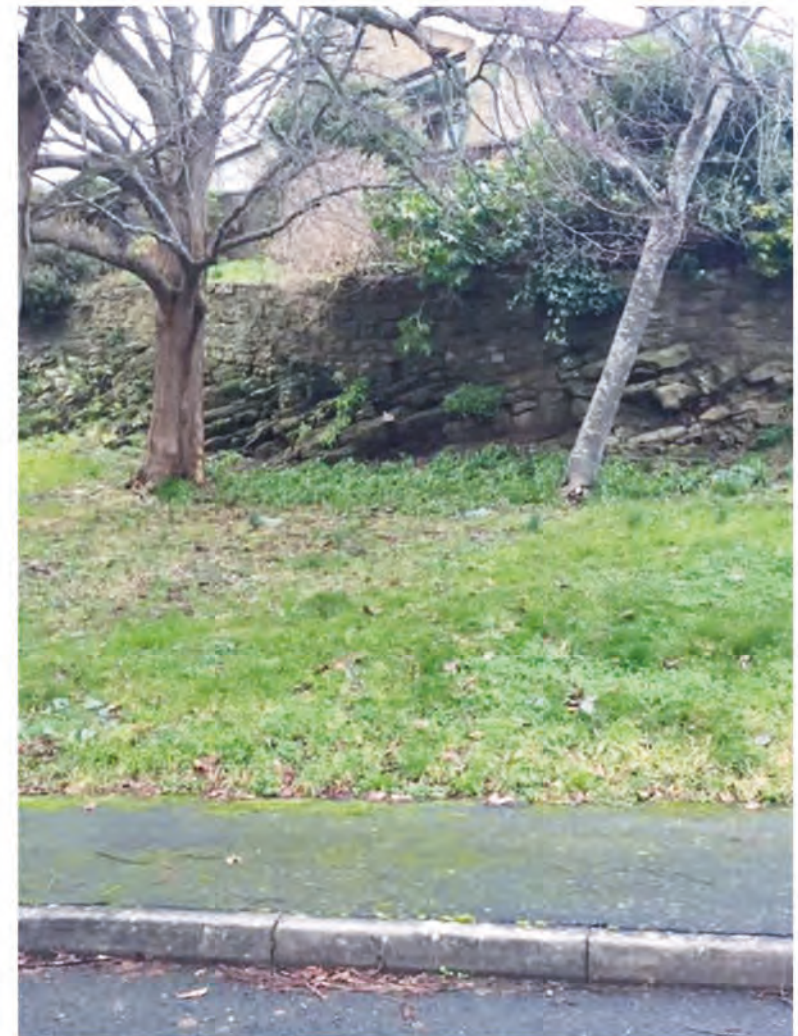
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Grey limestone showing at the base of a wall in Denys Court

Towards the end of the carboniferous limestone era, the climate changed, and land surfaces became heavily forested swamps. Successive layers of organic material built up in what is now known as the 'coal measures.' These were later eroded back to the limestone in the Olveston area, but further east they remain in a band from Cromhall down to Syston and formed the basis of Bristol's coalmining industry which worked coal from 1250 to 1968.

The eroded limestones were overlain later by Triassic mudstones, which have remained as horizontal strata to this day. The most recognisable feature of the

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material is that it is red, due to its high iron content and this has given rise to many local placenames such as Redcliffe, Redland and Redfield in Bristol. The Triassic strata was formed approximately 180 million years ago in desert conditions and may vary from sandstone, loose sand, mudstone to clay. The clays are used for brickmaking and hence the presence of a clay pit and brickworks on Over Lane. This was originally set up to provide millions of bricks for the construction of the Severn railway tunnel, but the business continues to this day.

Where the Triassic overlays the limestone, it has filled up the limestone fissures and penetrated areas of limestone scree weathered from limestone cliffs. This gave rise to another rock type – conglomerate, which looks like a pink concrete with grey limestone aggregate. Occasional lumps of it can be seen in the St Mary's Church boundary wall on Church Hill, contrasting with the grey limestone of the remainder. (Not a geological matter – but of interest – this wall is capped with blue coping blocks which were cast from molten slag which was a by-product of the once thriving Bristol brass industry.)



Aust Cliff

The Triass is in turn overlain by Lias clay strata of a yellow/grey colour. Within that there occur isolated layers of fossil-bearing limestones. The best place to view this is either side of the first Severn Bridge, where the cliff face shows a



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neat section. The beach below is littered with fossils from the limestone layers, particularly after heavy rain and freezing conditions. If you take children there, armed with bucket, hammer and safety goggles, you will be guaranteed to find fossil shells and even some bones. The picture below shows fossil-hunting in progress. The limestone layers were popular as building stone as they had naturally parallel sides. There are some modern houses faced with this yellow limestone opposite the Olveston village shop.



The last geological period since the ice-age has involved substantial sea-level rises as the ice began to melt, and this is still ongoing, being given an additional recent nudge by manmade global warming. As the sea rose, rivers backed up and silt was deposited over the previously eroded land surface. The depth of silt at Avonmouth is over 80ft, showing that the Avon Gorge was originally much deeper. The silt formed flat flood plains either side of the Severn as far as Gloucester and beyond. It extends to the foot of Church Hill in Olveston and can be viewed by walking on Catherine Hill.

Left to its own devices, this area would be flooded by the higher tides each year, with a little more silt being deposited each time. However, man has intervened and constructed a flood embankment which extends from Avonmouth to Gloucester. The addition of rhine drainage has allowed the former marshes to be turned into agricultural land. Anyone walking at Whale Wharf may observe tidal flotsam which has, in places, been deposited within inches of the top of the embankment, suggesting that raising it is long overdue.



Flood Plain at Whale Wharf

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Wildlife in the Garden

Trevor Cook

This article first appeared in February 2018.

Although we are past the worst winter weather it is a good time to start planning our gardens and if we are to entice birds and other creatures it is worth giving some thought to what we should plant.

For with a little forethought and by planting the right bushes they can provide benefits to wildlife in the garden the whole year round. The blossom in spring is a magnet for bees and other pollinators, and the foliage provides a haven for many different insects and a hiding place/larder for birds.



Native species such as Hawthorn and Ivy fare well in the garden and provide a better insect habitat than some more exotic species. By observation Holly, Pyracantha and Cotoneaster provide good berries and, judging by the way the Redwings scooped the berries from my Mum's Pyracantha must be very tasty. But also, as an extra benefit plants such as the Cotoneaster brought in so many types of bees, I really needed a dedicated book to identify them (there are 600 species of bee I was told).

Do be aware that some of the plants mentioned are prickly and although they suit the wildlife, they are not always human friendly (as I know from my Mum's Pyracantha). But you may console yourself with the thought that you have planted a beautiful plant and one that will create a space and a larder for wildlife for years to come.

Cotoneaster

Lots more information than I can provide may be found on the RSPB website
www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife

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Yours Faithfully

Father George Malecki
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When a firm has a wagon with a load to be delivered and has no driver, the company may well contact an agency for a driver at short notice. Some time ago, I was speaking with a manager about the agency for lorry drivers he was involved with for several years. He and a business partner were running their own company and as they developed and expanded, they invested in a uniform for their drivers. I asked him one day how the drivers felt about being required to wear the uniform. His reply was simple and straight forward: they like to feel they belong. The uniform, together with its business logo, and designed after consultation with many of the drivers, gave them a sense of pride of who and what they were and who they worked for. To belong gets right to the heart of who and what we are as human beings. Through belonging, we find our identity and express the wish to be treated the same as others in the group.

As we leave Advent and Christmas behind, the Church's year now jumps ahead and sees us accompanying Jesus on his pastoral mission throughout Palestine. That journey begins with his desire to be baptised just as others are baptised. So, he quietly joins the queue for John the Baptist's 'baptism with water'. John initially finds this difficult to accept but acquiesces at Christ's insistence. Jesus therefore shows by his actions, that it is his longing to identify with his people in the fullest way possible.

In the same way, it is through our Baptism that we belong to Christ and to one another. Baptism gives us a sense of identity of who and what we are and what we stand for. Our coming together to join in shared worship strengthens and reinforces our bond with God and with one another. Online participation, better than nothing in the current circumstances, is no substitute for physically gathering together. The uniform is the very Spirit of God himself who came as a human being to identify himself with us in the fullest way possible. As a result, like Christ himself, we become 'the beloved on whom the Spirit comes to rest'. And the uniform we wear? ... the goodness and kindness of Jesus himself.



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