

Meeting Point

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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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**Material for February 2011
to the Editor or Deputy
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**Your worth consists in what you are
and not in what you have.**

Thomas Edison, Inventor

From the Editor

As always we have many events for the start of the New Year, ranging from breakfast @ the Vicarage in aid of Mosquito Nets to Get Singing Thornbury.

The answers to the December Meeting Point Quiz can also be found in this month's magazine.

Our cover this month is by Rosemary Wilson

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

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

Thank you to our Parish Clerk

Those of us on Olveston Parish Council are trying to imagine what it will be like when quite soon Valerie Tutin will no longer be our Parish Clerk.

Valerie has lived on Olveston Common for many years and has taken an active part in many aspects of village life. Years ago she was a founder member of both the Young Wives and Mother and Toddler groups, also Olveston Tennis club where she regularly played. She trained as a bank cashier and later taught others this job. While bringing up her two sons who attended Play group, Olveston and Marlwood schools, Valerie was playgroup leader at the Parish Hall.

In 1991 Valerie became a Parish councillor. She served on the Recreation and Leisure committee. She became council representative on the Tennis club committee and the Police consultation group. In 1995 she left the council but returned in 1998 as Parish clerk.

Since 1998 the council has enjoyed twelve years of stability. With her experience of being a councillor Valerie soon settled in as clerk. The minutes were accurately recorded, letters written and problems sorted. Her bank training meant that keeping monthly balances, checking the council was within its budget and sorting out the annual precept didn't present too many problems. Councillors were advised on correct procedures to follow and most meetings have run smoothly! She has never complained about parishioners' telephone calls or visits to her home which over the years must at times have been inconvenient. She has been happy to attend site meetings when councillors are not available and for some years attended the Stakeholder Group meetings for Oldbury Power Station.

For me, personally, Valerie has been a pleasure to work with; nothing has been too much trouble. She has always been at the other end of the telephone and over the years almost apologetic about taking some time off!

Unfortunately, Valerie's eye sight has deteriorated over the last few years. It has become very frustrating for her to cope with being clerk. On behalf of the Parish, the members of the Parish Council thank Valerie for all her work over the years. We hope with more time to spare she will enjoy her family and friends and her garden and perhaps even take a few days away.

June Lyons

Oveston Parish Historical Society

Wednesday, 5th January 2011, 7.30pm, Oveston Methodist Hall

Thornbury has been a market town for over 900 years. We know, because Domesday Book in 1086 says so. Meg Wise has researched the history of the market, which was a magnet for local farmers, traders and professional people until 1996, when the livestock market closed. Recently, food fairs and farmers' markets have helped to revive the tradition. Meg has some wonderful photographs of the market from the last hundred years – people in Edwardian dress surrounded by cattle, or local farmers from the 1950s to the 1990s, showing their prize cows and selling their sheep.

She's also been researching the history of Daggs Allotments. According to a recent BBC gardening programme, they're among the oldest allotments in the country. Meg will tell us what she's found out and whether that's true.

Her illustrated talk, "**Market... Garden: The History of Thornbury's Market and Allotments**", will be of great interest to everyone who can remember the market or who wants to know more about the history of community gardening in Thornbury – or to people who are newer to the area and want to find out more.

Everyone is very welcome. £2 payable at the door or £5 for the whole season, which includes 3 more talks, on a range of subjects, after this.

Thank You

Mary Slader

Many thanks to everyone who came along to the Swishing Evening on 12th November. Between us we raised £160 to be split between St Peter's Hospice and the Lung Cancer Fund at Southmead Hospital.

I will be arranging more fundraising events next year so keep checking Meeting Point.

I would also just like to thank everyone again for their continued support.

Focus on the Crocus

Back in October, many people were curious at seeing Rotarians in and around Thornbury planting Crocus Bulbs. Whilst they should provide a welcome sight to brighten the late winter period there was no obvious reason for our involvement.

Throughout the UK Rotary Clubs have been planting these giant purple crocuses to raise public awareness of the fight to eradicate Polio and which our Members throughout the World have supported for 25 years. We have assisted the World Health Organisation and UNICEF providing both funds (£376 Million) and practical assistance on the ground with the running of mass immunisation days. In 1985 there were 125 Countries affected now there are just 4 and more than 2 Billion children have been immunised against this terrible crippling disease. One of the 4 remaining Countries is Pakistan and the recent flooding disaster has unfortunately increased the number of new cases seen – as if they didn't have enough problems to contend with!

But why the Crocus planting? Well each child immunised is marked with a purple dye on their small finger and the display of purple Crocus will hopefully provide a link in the public's mind when we are out and about with our collecting boxes during February. Each 20p donated covers the cost of protecting one child at risk.

Coincidentally, Thornbury Rotary Club's main annual fundraising event, the Swimathon has also been running since 1985 raising around £300K over the years to support local Charities and good causes. It's a great family fun event with the Castle School Steel Band accompanying the teams as they swim. So why not put together a team and come and join us. In 2011 it will be held as usual at the Leisure Centre on Friday to Sunday, March 11-13. For details and entry forms please visit our website: www.thornburyrotary.org.

Better Than Butties!

Roly Bain

I'm delighted to report that thanks to the generosity of all sorts of people, we'd raised nearly £6,000 of our £10,000 target by the first week of December. One man felt so guilty about getting a heating allowance that he donated half of that to Net-work and the other half to another charity.

I hope that by the time you read this we'll be even nearer to the target - the work is certainly worthy and the need is great, and every penny we raise is spent on the nets that will save the lives of countless families in Sierra Leone. There is also the possibility of doubling the money if we can send in our donation by the end of December - and Mercy Ships would benefit from that, which is a good incentive. We have a couple of events lined up too.

Because I'm getting quite a reputation for providing bacon butties when we garden in the churchyard, 'Better than Butties' is the title given to our Breakfast morning at the Vicarage. A full cooked breakfast, with three sittings at 9am, 10am & 11.15am for the princely sum of £10, all in aid of the Mosquito Nets. But we've changed the date to Jan 29th - not the 8th as advertised in our parish leaflet.


If you'd like to come ring me on 616593 or Gail Lowe on 612709, for a ticket. Then on Shrove Tuesday we have Pancakes & Paintings, but more of that in the next issue!

Monday Movies

The Monday Movies are gaining momentum. If you've not been yet, come and experience the big screen - it's a real community event. Our next evening performance - always the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm - is on January 3rd, and it's the classic **'The Shawshank Redemption'**, which remains a favourite for so many people. But that morning there's a kids' film too - Monday Morning Movies are in the school holidays at 10am - and that's **'Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium'**, starring Dustin Hoffman. If you read this in time, you might be able to catch the repeat showing of **Toy Story 3 on Dec 27th** at 10am too! We have a bar in the evenings and popcorn & ice cream in the mornings. Come and see!

Burns Night

We're having another Burns Night Party in the Vicarage on January 22nd at 7.30pm, with our usual piper as well as a feast of haggis, neep and tatties. There's wine tasting as well as whisky tasting and all sorts of things going on. Tickets are only £5, available from Roly or June Robbins, and there's a paying bar. All in aid of the church on this occasion.



Totally-Locally

at the heart of the community

www.totally-locally.org

The weather was kind to us again on Saturday; we were even able to continue with the fresh vegetables for this month. I think we are a community of sprout lovers as we sold out so quickly!

A big thank you to the Methodist Church for allowing us to put up some gift stalls inside as a one-off for Christmas.

Supply now is short for the fresh vegetables over the next couple of months so we have decided not to continue through Jan, Feb and March but will be back again from **2nd April 2011**

Please continue to support our local Stores, The Crusty Loaf in Olveston, Powell's The Butcher and Olveston Stores as they would like to join with us to wish you all a ***Happy New Year 2011.***

Jane Sunnucks
Old Down
01454 419931

Thornbury U3A

At November's Annual General Meeting the Chairman reported that with a membership of 1612 Thornbury U3A has become one of the largest in the country. Annual membership costs £6 per person and £10 for two people at the same address. This was the amount paid in 1997 when the local U3A began although at that time the amount paid to the Third Age Trust was £2 per person compared with the present £3.50. Subscriptions are due in January and entitle members to join as many of the 70 plus groups as they wish (or as many as they can manage to fit in). Groups cater for a wide variety of interests that provide educational, social and leisure activities. Most meetings are held during the day either in members' homes or local halls for which there is a small charge to cover expenses. There are also a number of one-day visits and summer outings that are open to all members

Further details and membership forms can be obtained from the Membership Secretary, Penny Withers on 01454 632315.

A thank you from WORKAID

Derek Glew (for Workaid)

The recent call across the area, Almondsbury to Thornbury, for equipment, haberdashery and tools has yielded 15 sewing machines, 6 knitting machines, approx. 1 cubic metre haberdashery wool and fabrics, 22 typewriters, and very useful trade tools, ironmongery and horticultural tools.

This will now be sorted and reconditioned by the volunteers at the Workaid UK centre in Buckinghamshire before packing as kits and shipping to wherever it is most needed.

Again our thanks for the support.

Women's Institute

Some two years ago, to mark our 90th birthday, we subscribed to a painting by Kate Hickman and presented it to the Children's Hospice, South West. From this sprang the idea of raising funds for the Hospice and this we made our 2010 project. We held coffee mornings, posh lunches, sold home made cakes, raffled paintings and organised a skittles 'friendly', raising a grand total of £1732 – a very worthwhile and enjoyable enterprise.

We also filled a large number of shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse as we have done for several years now.

Our new season starts on January 11th when our speaker will be Rose Lunt on 'The New Look'.

In February, Phil Roos will give us a photographic feast with 'Gardens of England'.

In March Gill Suttle will speak on 'Celestial Horses: Travels in Turkestan'.

Visitors are always welcome – second Tuesday of the month at the Parish Hall at 7.30.

Do come along and join us on one of these evenings. Phone Rita on 612790, for further information.

Police Report



19 Crimes were reported to the Police for the month of November. There were a spate of domestic burglaries across the force area, 3 of which were on our beat. The occupants were absent due to work or being away on holiday. Please ensure that you inform neighbours when you are away for any length of time so properties can be checked. Please be vigilant and report any persons or vehicles that are acting suspiciously in your area. Items targeted were televisions and jewellery. Please can you make sure that property is security marked with, for instance, ultraviolet marking.

Intelligence suggests that persons responsible for this are travelling from Bristol, sometimes using stolen cars as transport. At the time of writing this report, arrest attempts are being made on suspects.

Two vehicles have suffered criminal damage by tyres being punctured in Oldbury-on-Severn. These vehicles belonged to the same family and one vehicle suffered criminal damage in the village of Hill.

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is a great way to keep up to date with what is going on in your area. If you are not part of a scheme and would like to be, it's simple, give me, PCSO Kelly Dimery, a call on 0117 945 5959 and I will pass your contact details to the relevant scheme, so they can keep you updated.

The next Beat Surgery will be in Olveston Stores between 10.30 and 11.30 am on Thursday 20th January 2011.

To contact PC 3404 Roger Hopes or PCSO 9317 Kelly Dimery please call 0117 945 5959 or mobile (on duty only) 07919 628625 or 07917 586645. These numbers **MUST NOT** be used to report crimes or incidents.

For emergencies phone 999

To report a crime or an incident phone 0845 456 7000

Litter Pickers 2011

One thing is certain, there will be plenty of litter after Christmas, so if you appreciate seeing the approaches to the villages looking tidy, why not join us on Saturday January 8th at the earlier time of 1.00pm at the Parish Hall car park for a couple of hours. Equipment and orange vests provided.

Rod Williams, tel.no. 612850.

Thornbury Library

Thornbury Library user committee

The next meeting of the Library user committee is on Wednesday 12 January at 7.00pm.

Members of the public who would like to comment on any matters relating to the library are warmly welcome to attend at the start of the meeting.

Computers

Did you know we offer free internet access and word processing in the library together with other software packages? You can also use our computers to access *Ancestry* free of charge to trace your family tree and access many other reference sources

Our friendly Age Concern South Gloucestershire tutors are available to give you help on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. There is a small charge. We can also offer free help with *Ancestry*. Please ask for details.

Home Library Service

Winter and the bad weather is with us. If you enjoy reading but are housebound and unable to get to the library (even if it's a temporary incapacity due to an operation etc.) or you find your library books are too heavy to carry home, our friendly and helpful home library service volunteers can deliver library books to you in your own home. Just give the library a ring or ask a friend or relative to contact us on your behalf.

Did you know you can also ask 'Four Towns & Vale Link Community Transport' to bring you to the Library? Just ask us for details. Or why not try our Mobile Library?

For more information on any of the above items please ring the library on 01454 868006 or visit our web-site: www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries

You can use the website to renew your books, check the catalogue, reserve items and consult a wide range of on-line reference materials including Oxford English Dictionary Online; Oxford Reference Online; Oxford Dictionary of National Biography; Grove Music Online; Grove Art Online. You will need your borrower number and pin number (available from the library).

We have a 24 hour renewal line on 08450 020 777, and can inform you of reservations and overdue items either by email, text or voice message. If you would like to opt into any of these you can change the details online, ask at the counter or ring on the above number. Please note to access many of these services you may be asked for your PIN number, please ask the staff for this.

For reference enquiries try our Library Enquiry Centre on 01454 866900 or email askthelibrary@southglos.gov.uk (requires JavaScript to display).

Line of Coins

Saturday 27th November 2010

A BIG thank you to the people of Olveston and parents for helping 1st Olveston Scout Group raise a massive £407.98. The Beavers were out in force with the cupfuls of pennies they'd extracted from parents and other relations, the Cubs made the most of the lovely cakes and other goodies on sale in the Methodist Hall, and the Scouts did sterling work picking up all the coins afterwards!



The money will go towards the upkeep of the Hut and the Leaders' on-going kit 'wish list'.

The Scout section would also like to thank the Parochial Church Council for their recent donation towards climbing kit. This will enable us to take the Scouts out rock-climbing much more easily without needing to hire kit (and having to run around the county to collect it).

1st Olveston Scouts

Old Down Cricket Club

150 Club Winners December:

£50 Ian Bradly
£15 Greg Welsher
£5 Simon Gould
Christmas Bonus Prize Charlie Jarvis

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

13th November Diane Grosvenor

Old Down Cricket Club would like to thank all members & friends for their support in 2010 & wish everyone a Happy Christmas & Best Wishes for 2011.

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

Poppy Appeal

The collection on Remembrance Sunday at St Mary's Church, Olveston raised £623.66 for the Poppy Appeal.

Make a new year's resolution a reality with Get Singing Thornbury!

Do you love singing but usually only sing at home or in your car? Have you always thought it might be fun to sing with others but not got round to it yet? If so, then come along to Get Singing Thornbury.

Get Singing Thornbury is a friendly community choir that meets on Tuesday evenings (term time only) at Turnberries Community Centre, from 7.30 – 9.00pm. The emphasis is on singing for fun rather than for perfection. The group is open access, all musical abilities are welcome and you will not be asked to read music as everything is taught by ear. Singing with others is relaxing, fun and a great way to meet new people in your local area.

Get Singing Thornbury starts back on Tuesday the 14th of January. If you'd like to come along and have a try you can just turn up, there is no need to book in advance and no regular commitment is necessary.

For more information about Get Singing Thornbury please see the website at www.getsinging.co.uk or contact Philippa on 01454 852705.

Programme for Severn Valley Quilters 2011

- Weds 26th Jan. - A.G.M. plus – Badge making Workshop.
- Weds 16th Feb. - Sewing Machine Demonstrations by Mark Pickles.
- Weds. 23rd March - Management Quilts – with Anne Rippon.
- Weds. 27th April - Skills Evening – Various short workshops.

Visitors Welcome. Contact Lorraine on 01454 417559 for details.

Revd Roly Bain: Curate in Charge

Philip Rowe

This is just to let you know of this development at St Mary's. For the last four years Roly has been paying a reduced rent for the Vicarage in return for doing two days a week in the parish. He does, of course, do a lot more than that. Now the PCC is paying Roly's rent and council tax and increasing his honorarium. This allows him to continue to live here and extend his work. This is the right decision for Olveston because this ensures there is still a parish priest in the Vicarage. It is a brave decision because of the financial implications.

Roly already has the oversight of Pastoral care, but he will now be responsible for baptisms, weddings and funerals, so enquiries should now go to him in the first place rather than to me. I remain Vicar of the parish, but Roly will now be your first port of call. He will also be around more on Sundays.

There is a letter in the Church which gives further details. This is good news both for the church and for the community and has my full support.

Christianity Explored

Christianity Explored will be running in Almondsbury Vicarage on Wednesday evenings from January. It is an informal course for people who'd like to investigate Christianity, or just brush up on the basics. It explores who Jesus was, what his aims were, and what it means to follow him.

You won't be asked to pray, sing or read aloud, and you can ask any questions you like. Or, if you prefer, you can just come along and listen. Christianity Explored has been around for over a decade now, and it's been designed to suit different age ranges and people. Please contact Philip and Alison Rowe on 01454 613223 or office@stmaryssevernside.org.uk for further details.

Thank You

Marcus Bean and the family wish to thank all who contacted them, for their messages of support and sympathy when Joyce died. They were a great comfort and help.

Learn Something Different In The New Year!

The WEA, the UK's largest voluntary provider of adult education has a Thornbury branch run by local volunteers. We aim to offer support to all learners so that individuals with very different backgrounds, levels of general education and learning skills can learn together successfully because of shared interests.

From **12th January** “**Calligraphy for All**” will run for 5 weekly Wednesday evening meetings in the Chantry. Beginners welcome.

From **7th March** “**Health in the Home**” will run for 5 weeks at the Chantry on Monday afternoons.

“**Art & Belief in Ancient Egypt**” will run as a Saturday Day School in the Chantry on **26th March**.

A further dayschool on “**Anthony Trollope in Basset**” will be held at the Chantry on Saturday **7th May**.

For further information, please pick up a WEA brochure in Thornbury library, or ring Simon on 01454 610071. Also www.wea.org.uk

Tuition is free to learners on some benefits or on low incomes – please ask for further information.



Charity Run

Jo Jenkins

A group of mums from the Olveston area have been touched by the lives of other mothers like us, and their children, living in slums in Dhaka, Bangladesh. These families live in the extremes of poverty, literally living in other people's sewage because there is no choice. They have limited access to the basic human needs that we all take for granted, such as clean water or health services. The population density is comparable with the whole of Olveston living in the School Hall.

We would like to be able to make a difference to the lives of some of these families, and so, we have set up a charity called ARBAN, UK. We have committed to raising £25,000 to help fund a doctor and some healthcare and Education projects in conjunction with the NGO ARBAN, Bangladesh.

Our first major Fundraising Event is RUN FOR THE SLUM.

If like us your New Year's Resolution is to 'get fit', or, if you already are fit (we don't discriminate!) could you help us, by signing up to one of our charity places for the **Bristol 10K race on 15th May 2011** and gaining sponsorship.

If you're not a runner yourself but would like to help, we would be very grateful if you would consider sponsoring a runner, or buying one of our t-shirts (and wearing it!) to show your support.

To book your 10k place, please contact Nicky Browne ASAP – 0776 9171772 or email nicky_rangetiki@yahoo.co.uk

If you would like further information, please see our Website WWW.ARBAN.ORG.UK (Association for realisation of basic needs).

Sevenside Ramblers

Walking is a great way to get fit again once the festive season is over.

For friendly company, fresh air and exercise – join Sevenside Ramblers on a walk. Non-members are always very welcome.

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



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

Sun 2 Jan 10.00am	Littleton on Severn Perfect starter walk	4.5 miles	Jill 01173 739712
Sun 9 Jan 9.00am	Bath Skyline Good views from higher slopes	10 miles	Bob 01179 312711
Sun 16 Jan 9.30am	Ozleworth area Exploring woods and villages.	8 miles	Andy 01454 411305
Sat 22 Jan 9.30am	Doynton/Abson/Siston Optional pub lunch.	4 miles	John 01454 777283
Sun 23 Jan 9.15am	Hawkesbury Upton Scenic walk	8 miles	Gordon 01454 616344
Sun 30 Jan 10.00am	Charlcombe A new footpath, an old battlefield	12 miles	Jill 01454 633001

Olveston Parish Hall AGM

It has been an exciting year for Olveston Parish Hall. The award of a substantial grant for a permanent Pre-School area, the installation of a new kitchen and the long awaited refurbishment of the ladies toilets all having taken place.

If you are interested in getting involved in the running of the hall, want to have a look around at the new facilities, or just want to find out more about what's going on, then why don't you come along to the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 23rd Feb 2011.

The meeting will start at 19.45 and will include an update on progress on the Pre-School extension and a discussion on ideas for the Grand Opening. We are looking for a new secretary and committee members.

If you are interested in finding out more, pop along or give Geoff a call on 01454 615806. Look forward to seeing you all.

TRADING STANDARDS

ATTENTION!

South Gloucestershire Trading Standards would like to warn residents to be on their guard for rogue traders during the current, and predicted, poor weather.

Recent years have shown that following heavy frosts and snowfalls, there has been a sharp increase in rogue trading incidents across the country.

Residents may receive unexpected callers at their doors offering their services to check properties for damage as a result of the ice or snow, or to clear gardens and driveways.

Be Aware! Rogue traders use such tactics to extort money from residents or to gain entry into people's homes with a view to committing distraction burglaries.

If you are not expecting a caller, be suspicious.

If you want advice on this or any other matter, contact
Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the draw held on 9th December 2010 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<i>Name</i>
£150	513	Mrs. M. Bailey, Lower Hazel
£75	291	Mrs. I. Phillips, Olveston
£25	447	Mr. R. J. Tovey, Tockington
£25	335	Mrs. M. E. Gillard, Olveston
£25	289	Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Davies, Old Down
£20	421	Mr. R. P. Bush, Westbury on Trym
£10	151	Mrs. H. G. Dangerfield, Olveston
£10	461	Mr. & Mrs. R. Smith, Olveston

Everything Is Tickety Boo!

Fancy a trip down Memory Lane to 1929, 1939 and 1944, accompanied by Thornbury Swing Band, with Nigel Davies on piano? Opportunities abound to boogie with the Band and enjoy the everyday life of a market town, which hosts a touring repertory company: *The Merry Roosters*.



Leader Hetty Forthwright *just* manages to keep the artistic talents and temperaments of her group together, while the townsfolk, led by Pandora Everscreech Montcrieff, are almost as volatile! The WI wage war on the local 'bobby', landladies lambast the performers and Scouts and Guides wreak havoc backstage! Join the party, revel in evocative, gloriously melodic songs and dances and spot any stray performing poodles!

Barbie Davies directs Thornbury Thespians and Dursley Dramatists in this special production, in St James' Parish Church, Dursley at 7.30pm on 9, 10 and 11 February, for Church funds, and at Marlwood School on Saturday 12 February, 2011, at 2.30pm & 7.30pm to support **ACT** (Arts and Community in Thornbury and its project to build a community complex with a theatre at its heart).

Dash along for tickets (£8 for all) from Thornbury Garden Centre or the Parish Office in Dursley, or ring 01454 884154 for information, as it was a sell-out for Thornbury Arts Festival! Fancy a revue? Come to ***Tickety Boo!***

Lyn Bedford, 35 Siband Road, Thornbury, BS35 2EP Tel: 01454 884154
lynbedford@blueyonder.co.uk

1st OLVESTON SCOUTS



Armed response unit visit Olveston Scout Group:

...“So... do any of you play Call of Duty?”

And sadly the answer to the police officer’s question led to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the group saying yes (including me). An armed response unit consisting of 2 police officers came to talk to our scouts on Tuesday 12th of October about their job. They started off the session by handing round some mystery guns and asking with a show of hands who thought whether each one was real or fake.

The first one handed round was a very light plastic imitation firearm (bb gun). Next a quite heavy, full metal gun, this caused thoughts between people that it was real because when you pulled the barrel back it made a more authentic sound, this in fact was also an imitation firearm and well over half the group believed it to be real. At this point the officers told us how hard it was to distinguish between an imitation and a real gun and that that was what made their job so difficult. “Imagine being in a dark alley at 12 o’clock at night stood 20 metres away from the man with this gun if you couldn’t tell it was fake from 10 centimetres then how are you to know that this gun is not real” one officer said. After this we watched a few short clips on what one boy does when he finds his older brothers illegal fire arm under his bed.

The last thing that happened in the meeting was the group was split into 2. One group went to see the armed response car and the other the kit that the officers were distributed. In the kit there was ballistic armour and helmet, a tactical vest and lots of other police stuff i.e. baton. in the car they showed us their G36 assault rifles their baton gun which fired massive rubber pellets about the size of a mars bar they also had tazers and showed us how they work by taking of the barbs and just sending a shock through the 2 metal bits on the gun, you could see the electricity going from one metal to the other. We had a great time learning about the safety and hazards of guns and I would do it again and apologise for the noise made by the police sirens that night.

By Dean Gardiner PL Kestrel Patrol

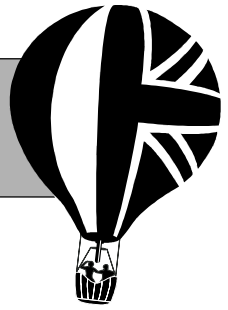
A big thank-you to Almondsbury ARU Police. Even though it had a wow factor that night, ‘Operation Tommy’ was a fantastic insight into guns and their consequences.

Lynda Spratt SL 01454 632484



OLVESTON PARISH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

OLVESTON AND BRÉHAN - TWINNED 1996



News and Updates

Firstly, just a reminder about what OPTA is all about: OPTA is the Olveston Parish Twinning Association, which was started over a decade ago when Olveston was 'twinning' with the small, pretty, French village of Bréhan, in Brittany. In alternate years a group of us travel, via coach, to Bréhan and spend the bank holiday weekend in the homes of French families. Don't worry if you do not speak any French as this has never been a problem. During the weekend we all join together to visit areas of local interest followed by an evening of entertainment when inevitably good food and wine is enjoyed by all. On the first bank holiday in May 2011 (Friday 29th April 2011 to Monday) it is our turn to host our French visitors in Olveston, when they make a return visit. We are looking for people to host a French family, but if you can't, don't worry as this is not a requirement, and there are many activities that you can join in. It is great fun for all ages.

Throughout the year we hold a number of fund-raising events to cover the costs of the activities that we arrange for when the French are visiting Olveston, so anyone wishing to learn about OPTA can come along and meet us. We have two events planned so far this year, a quiz night and an event that has been successfully held many times – the OPTA Wine Challenge.

Quiz night Friday 4th February 2011 - £5 per team of 4 in the Parish Hall, Tockington; 7.45pm for 8.00pm start. There will be a bar and snacks/cheese platters for sale. The 1st prize, to the lucky winners, is a 'Hamper of Treats'; so get your thinking caps on and get your team together! Tickets will be available on the door or booked in advance at Vicarage Farm on 01454 614390 or evenings on 01454 626835.

OPTA Wine challenge 18th March 2011 - It's the time of year for our ever popular wine challenge - to test you on your knowledge of wines - and your ability to drink them! Enjoy an evening of fun and laughter, cheese and nibbles, whilst trying to identify a selection of wines! Tickets will go on sale from the evening of the quiz night. We will also be taking table bookings for you and your friends. Further details to follow nearer the time.

Paul Hayton, OPTA Chair, Telephone 0789 975 4640

Meeting Point Quiz

Here are the answers to the December Meeting Point Quiz, where all the two-word answers began with M.... P.....

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. With one of these, nothing should go wrong. | Master Plan |
| 2. Nice variety for chips. | Maris Piper |
| 3. Area down Gloucester Road. | Monk's Park |
| 4. One of Gail's exes. | Martin Platt |
| 5. Ex MP and cabinet minister. | Michael Portillo |
| 6. Capital law and order. | Metropolitan Police |
| 7. More than one use. | Multi Purpose |
| 8. Inca attraction. | Machu Picchu |
| 9. 1966 Englishman. | Martin Peters |
| 10. Pretty silent star. | Mary Pickford |
| 11. Lisa - - . | Marie Presley |
| 12. Explored the East. | Marco Polo |
| 13. On the Mile Straight. | Murco Petroleum |
| 14. High road. | Mountain Pass |
| 15. Doyenne of Agony Aunts. | Marjorie Proops |
| 16. You'll be eating these soon. | Mince Pies |
| 17. 'Over to Wimbledon where it's - -.' | Match Point |
| 18. Where goods are taken to be bought and sold. | Market Place |
| 19. Not Steve Redgrave. | Matthew Pinsent |
| 20. Looked after the Banks children. | Mary Poppins |

Number puzzle:

In December, you were set the task of adding up the numbers from 1 to 100.
(Clue: $1+100=101$)

Did you get it right? The answer is 5050, nice and neat. And did you manage to take a shortcut, instead of adding $1+2+3+4+5$ etc?

The quick way to do it is to realise that you can pair up the numbers ($1+100$, $2+99$, $3+98$ etc) so that you've got 50 pairs, each one of which totals 101. Then all you've got to do is multiply 50 by 101 and – hey presto – you come up with 5050!

Yours faithfully

Naturally we all hope that we will have one, that is a happy and prosperous New Year, but life being what it is there is a very strong probability that there will be times of unhappiness and financial constraints, even hardships in the months to come.

How does one cope? What resources can we draw on from within ourselves that will enable us to live a life of satisfaction?

Well, talk is that the Government will soon be able to give us an answer when the National Survey on well-being is completed but I have my doubts that anything substantial will change but more than happy to be proven wrong.

To those of you readers who profess to have a Christian faith you will be aware that the Bible has much to say about the times in which we live and the increasing difficulties we will face as time draws to an end!

To us comes the comfort and satisfaction that we have a Father who is aware of our needs, even before we ask about them, and that His acts of faithful loving kindness are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23). So let us set our hearts this year to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to us. What things? Check it out in Matthew 6:25-34 and be ready to share with those who do not have this hope.

For those of you who do not have a Christian faith why not seek out some answers from those who attend the local church congregations or check out the Bible itself. The Jesus so recently remembered is not like the season, it passes away; but He is alive and ready to take charge of the direction for your life which I can assure you will provide more than adequate resources, not only to cope but to find value as well

With the mutual support and encouragement of one another we could by God's grace see this year turning out even better than we might have envisaged. Every blessing to you all.

Michael Matthews, The Vine, (House of Prayer for all Nations)
Pilning Street, Awkley
Email: thevine_awkley@hotmail.com
Tel: 07512917229

From the Registers of St Mary's

26th November 2010 Funeral Service of Joyce Bean (Joy), followed by Burial in the Churchyard.

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Jan 2	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Feast of Fools	Rev Roly Bain
	6pm	Evensong with Choir	Mrs Ann LLOYD
Jan 9	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Morning Worship with Choir	Mr Denis Jones
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Rev Philip Rowe
Jan 16	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Mrs Janet McBride
Jan 23	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	4 th Sunday	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong (BCP)with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe
Jan 30	8am	Holy Communion	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev David Bone
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Holy Communion(BCP) with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Contact:

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

Please contact **Roly Bain** about Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals on 01454 616593
e-mail roly@rolybain.co.uk

Verger: Mrs. June Robbins, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 2.45pm in the Church

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

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Jan 2	10am	Family Worship	Rev David Bone
Jan 9	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Jan 23	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev David Bone

Assistant Curate: Rev David Bone, 01454 614601

Church Wardens: Janet Ford, 01454 633300 Terry McLeavy 633680

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Jan 2	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole
Jan 16	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Jan 9	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield
Jan 23	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Jan 2	10am 6pm	Tock Ch St Andrews	Morning Worship led by Deacon Gary Hoare United Service led by Mr John Creech
Jan 9	10am	Olv. School	We will join Breakfast Club at Olv School
Jan 16	10am	Tock. Ch.	Annual Covenant Service led by Rev Sandy Williams
Jan 23	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Rev Sandy Williams
Jan 30	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Rev Sandy Williams

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 12th January. To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP meets at 12.15 in the Swan Tockington on Thurs 20th Jan To book please ring 613241 or 612112

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

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

CONTACT: Rev Sandy Williams tel 07841 752 941

sandy.williams48@btinternet.com

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

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

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

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLDDOWN

Jan 2	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Jan 9	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies
Jan 16	6.30pm	Lyllal Drewit
Jan 21	6.30pm	Courtney Harris
Jan 30	6.30pm	Munir Din

Prayer Time every Thurs 7.30 for 8pm.

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

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Family Worship 11.00am Evening Worship 6.30pm. For more details, please phone 632564.

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

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

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

Diary Dates for January 2011

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

1 st Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
2 nd Sun			
3 rd Mon	Mr Magorium's Wonderful Emporium Shawshank Redemption	10am 7.30pm	StM StM
4 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR
5 th Wed	OPHS History of Thornbury's Market & Allotments	7.30pm	MH
6 th Thu	Coffee Shop Thornbury Farmers' Market Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 9.00-1.30 2.00-4.30	OS+ MH
7 th Fri			
8 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
9 th Sun			
10 th Mon	Craft Group tel 07747 562264 for venue		
11 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Aust Parish Council meeting Women's Institute	9.30-11.30 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR EVH PH
12 th Wed	Royal British Legion Men	7.30pm	DGCL
13 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OS+ MH
14 th Fri			
15 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
17 th Mon			
18 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR
19 th Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club "Whatever takes my Fancy!" Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	2pm 8.30pm	AH
20 th Thu	Coffee Shop Thornbury Farmers' Market Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 9.00-1.30 2.00-4.30	OS+ MH
21 st Fri			
22 nd Sat	Coffee Morning Burns Night	10.30-12.00 7.30pm	MH OV
23 rd Sun			
24 th Mon			
25 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR

	Olveston Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	AP
26 th Wed	Alveston Local History Soc. - History of Herb Gardens in Bristol	7.30pm	AMC
27 th Thu	Coffee Shop. Olveston Baby & Toddler Group Th. & District Flower Club-New Year Party	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30 7.30pm	OS+ MH TMH
28 th Fri			
29 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
30 th Sun			
31 st Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club - Practice	1.30pm	AH
Looking ahead to February			
7th	Alice in Wonderland	7.30pm	StM

KEY: AC Aust Church; ACR – Almondsbury Church Rooms; AH – Armstrong Hall; AMC – Alveston Methodist Church; AMH- Alveston Methodist Hall; AP – Alexandra Pavilion; AVH – Aust Village Hall; CCCP – Castle Court Car Park; CH – Cossham Hall; Chy – Chantry; DGCL – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; EVH – Elberton Village Hall; MH – Olveston Methodist Hall; OMC Olv Meth Ch OS – Olveston School; OSt – Olveston Stores; OV – Olveston Vicarage; PH – Olveston Parish Hall; StM – St Mary’s Church, Oliv.; StMA Almondsbury Church; TBCh - Thornbury Baptist Church; TMH – Thorn. Methodist Hall; URC - Thornbury United Reform Church; WR – Wesley Rooms.

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

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