

# Meeting Point

**Volume 36, Number 4, January 2012**

The community magazine for the villages of Olveston, Tockington, Old Down, Lower Hazel, Awkley, Ingst, Aust, Elberton and Littleton upon Severn

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## **From the Editor**

As we stand at the “gate of the year”<sup>\*</sup> it is inevitable that we think about the uncertainties of the year ahead. This edition of Meeting Point offers (among many other things) a look back at the tangled history of the reordering of St. Mary’s Church, Olveston, and a look forward to suppers and a swimarathon.

On the way you can share the autumn fun had by the Scouts, and get out in the garden (at least in spirit) with Cecilie Turton’s ‘Garden Line’, as relevant today as it was when that much loved gardener wrote it some twenty years ago.

Happy reading!

<sup>\*</sup> from “God Knows” by Minnie Louise Haskins (1875 – 1957)

Our cover this month is by Peter Floyd

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](http://www.olvostonandaust.com)

# The Reordering of St Mary's Church, Olveston 1990 - 2011

*Mike Wright*

It was in 1990, over 20 years ago, that St Mary's first began to think about providing modern facilities in the church.

Even though the church was large, the only support facilities were crammed into the Victorian vestry, so that after a service people would crowd in; clergy disrobe; count the collection; do the washing up and all this with a hardboard enclosed WC in a corner of one quite small room!

The church had no separate hall, no proper clergy vestry anymore; no proper lavatories, no kitchen, no meeting room, no storage. It was no longer acceptable and something had to be done.

Norman Griffith drew a sketch of a hall with associated facilities outside the church north wall where the oil tank and old shed used to be and where there was little else to limit the work. The church council (PCC) agreed that design work should begin, but decided that space inside the church should remain untouched and that all new facilities should be in the extension.

The church and its architect, debated long and hard on many ideas. Whilst PCC still wanted the inside of the church kept as it was, the planners insisted that the historic fabric should not be touched, which the north wall extension would have done.

In 1996 the planning application had to be withdrawn.

The church architect retired in 1997 and a new one was chosen who proposed a new free standing building in green oak in the church yard. South Gloucestershire Council planners only gave planning permission after Councillors decided to override their officer's recommendation to refuse and by 2002 all the necessary preparatory work was done, except for one last village meeting - which objected and PCC decided not to proceed and the church architect resigned.

St. Mary's decided to begin again with a "brainstorm", rethinking the church's approach to the scheme. This time it was decided to reorder the inside of the church since this did not require planning approval. A new church architect was

appointed and a scheme developed for reopening the former south west door; with a new clergy vestry, accessible WC, choir stalls, choir vestry and materials store. A new WC and kitchen were planned for the old clergy vestry and the Chancel had its own heating, lighting and furnishings to allow its better independent use as one of the only clear spaces in the church.

The necessary permissions from Bristol Diocese and the village were received in 2009 and since planning approval was not needed for internal alterations, St Mary's was able to raise the money – an amazing feat - and to proceed with the building contract, which was due for completion at the end of 2010 but which dragged on until 2011 when the building contractors went bust!

The work they had done was good, but was unfinished and it fell to St Mary's to pick up the pieces, which have been completed, at last!

A final word of thanks to all those who have supported us through the years and financially with the fundraising. It should all allow us to be the parish church we're meant to be - open for the use for all the residents of the parish, not just for those who worship here.



St Mary's Church, Olveston reordering:

West End view

# Old Down Manor

*Pat Thirkettle*

Katya and Arron Banks live at Westwing, Kington, near Thornbury. In 2007 Old Down House came on the market and they were so taken with the view and the surrounding land that they bought it as a family house, with a view to selling Westwing. Unfortunately the bottom dropped out of the market immediately, due to the credit crunch. One year later they were no further forward, so something had to be done.

They decided not to sell Westwing and set their minds on what to do with Old Down. Although they had no experience in either field, they decided to re-open the Country Park, as the license was still valid, and convert the house into a wedding and conference venue.

The Country Park opened in a small way at Easter 2009. Gradually the cafe and farm shop were added and in 2011 they had 45,000 visitors and became part of the prestigious National Farm Parks Attraction Network. There are now three chefs working and the cafe is open for Bistro Nights, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Soon the barn next door will open as a restaurant.

Meanwhile work has been going on feverishly restoring the house and garden to their original design, only with many improvements and additions. The Orangery has been rebuilt on the side of the main house, with spectacular views over Severn Vale. The courtyard entrance now has a stone fountain in the centre; an alternative entrance to the house is via the garden, passing a stone sculpture of a stag. The entrance hall has two chandeliers with a new staircase and curving balustrade leading to eight beautifully furnished bedrooms with a further five bedrooms situated in the cottage next door. Downstairs there are rooms of various sizes, for a variety of uses, all with lovely views. The cellar has been converted into an exclusive night club, where late night noise will not disturb others. It is intended to charge high prices for such a luxurious venue.

As this was such a new venture, the Banks took advice on providing a wedding and conference venue from Eastwood Park Conference Centre. It all came to fruition in October last year when, before opening, they held a Wedding Fair. It was massively supported and by the end of the day they had eight weddings booked and even one that had already been booked at a different venue but was willing to pay compensation there and re-book at Old Down!

It is hoped people will wish to book the house for anniversaries and special occasions. Boot Camps, a health and fitness break, will be coming, the Banks

having experienced one in Ibiza for research. Katya, who is Russian, will be advertising the delights of Old Down over in Russia, and they are on the look-out for any other type of activity suitable for such a lovely location. There will be monthly updates in their Meeting Point advertisement.

For further information, contact Old Down Country Park on 01454 414081 or [www.olddowncountrypark.co.uk](http://www.olddowncountrypark.co.uk)

## 185ft drop!

*Charlotte Lapworth*

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November, my mum and I joined 63 others in abseiling down the side of the Premier Inn building in the centre of Bristol.

Before taking the lift to 17<sup>th</sup> floor, which took a matter of seconds, we had over an hour of waiting around; which involved having a safety briefing and getting harnessed up. The wait gave us time to over think. Once on the roof we had to wait yet again for around 20 minutes for the people in front of us to make the descent. That was even more nerve-racking for us. The abseil itself was only around 3 minutes but the waiting was the worst.



Once over the side and three metres down, the rest was easy. The view over Bristol was truly fantastic and thoroughly enjoyable! When we reached the bottom the adrenalin rush was incredible but we couldn't believe how quickly it was over.

We wish to thank family and friends for helping us raise over £400 for St.Peter's Hospice. Sponsorship can still be made by going to

<http://www.justgiving.com/Sharon-Lapworth>.

# Parish Matters

*Richard Rogers*

(olvostonpc@googlemail.com)

The Parish Council would like to wish all parishioners and readers of Meeting Point a happy New Year, and as prosperous one as possible in these straitened times. Despite the financial gloom there are certainly lots to look forward to this year with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and the Olympics heading the list. One item not necessarily making the headlines is the 'Localism Bill' which is likely to finally become law. This new statute will have far reaching consequences on what South Gloucestershire Council becomes responsible for, and what may be devolved to a Parish level - several of our councillors have already attended preparatory training sessions with more planned.

The Parish Council is currently working on its budget for the next financial year (2012/13) and the associated Precept from South Gloucestershire Council. We live in a wonderfully rural parish, currently have the benefit of three separate play areas, as well as other green areas. But existing costs including insurance have increased; maintenance is now urgently required on existing play equipment in Vicarage Lane, and all three bus shelters, and this, together with the proposed renovations of both the War Memorial steps and the Tockington Play Area, make it difficult to work within the existing budget.

Following extensive discussions the Council has decided to seek 3rd party funding before the renovation of the Tockington play area can go ahead, and to defer any provision for replacement play equipment in the next financial year. To balance the budget your Parish Council will still need to request a precept in 2012/13 of £30,800. This does however represent a less than 10% increase on the 2011/12 figure, which is approximately an extra £3.50 per household per year.

South Gloucestershire Council is working on plans to improve our broadband service with the help of the Government, and has now put out a survey on the council's website [www.southglos.gov.uk/broadband](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/broadband) for residents and businesses to complete if they want faster access to the internet.

Finally each household has either received, or is shortly to receive further information and a questionnaire drawn up by the Parish Council concerning the proposed Wind Farm at Ingst. You are strongly urged to complete it and return it as soon as possible to help the Parish Council form a balanced opinion, in the best interests of the parish. Please contact the Clerk urgently if you do not receive one.

# Wind Turbines

*REG windpower*

We would like to thank everyone who attended the exhibitions on the proposed M4/M48 Wind Farm. Over the two days in excess of 200 people came along to find out more about the proposals and to share their thoughts. There were, of course, people who supported and those who opposed the plans and while we welcome the support we are also taking seriously the points raised by those with concerns.

The proposed M4/M48 Wind Farm would have 3 wind turbines which could generate enough domestically produced clean renewable energy to power over 3,600 homes per year [1]. We believe this is a great site for wind turbines. The initial wind speed data is good and we will be looking to carry out further studies to refine this data. At the moment a planning application is with the council for a 16m tall met mast to carry out this task. This is separate to the planning application for the Wind Farm, which we anticipate being submitted in spring 2012.

One of the concerns raised was with regard to noise. The evidence suggests that there is a very slim chance anyone in the area will hear the turbines above the existing background noise, which includes the motorways. However, to ensure there is no noise nuisance we will soon be carrying out a comprehensive noise monitoring survey, the results of which will be in the planning application to South Gloucestershire Council.

We are proposing a community benefit for the area surrounding the wind turbines in the form of a fund of up to £21,600 per year. This principle is common practice on wind farm projects and the fund can be administered at a Parish or cross-Parish level. If you have any ideas or suggestions for the use of the community benefit please feel free to get in touch, using our website ([www.m48windfarm.co.uk](http://www.m48windfarm.co.uk)) or write to us at Freepost Meeting Place Communications (no other address details are needed).

The consultation process remains open and we will return for a further exhibition before submitting the planning application.

[1] Based on NOABL wind speed of 6.1 m/s scaled up to 80m hub height and divided by the average domestic consumption in kWh for South Glos, 2009. Available from [http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy\\_stats/regional/electricity/electricity.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/regional/electricity/electricity.aspx)

# 1st Olveston Scouts

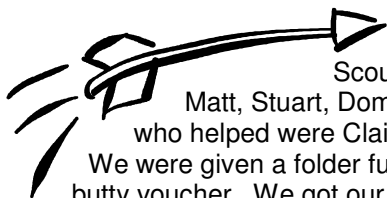
## COUNTY SHOOTING COMPETITION



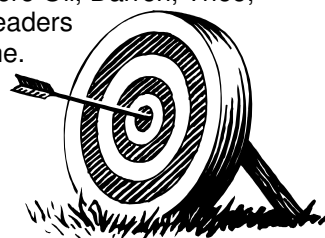
KEYNSHAM 25.09.11

*Louis Powell: Lion Patrol*

We met at 7am outside the Olveston butchers which felt very early for a Sunday morning. John kindly drove us to the competition in a mini bus. We arrived at Chelwood campsite in Keynsham for the Avon Scouts County shooting competition. This was Olveston's fourth year of entering, but my first time. There were sixty nine other competitors from across Avon.



We checked in at the main tent. The seven Scouts representing Olveston were Oli, Darren, Theo, Matt, Stuart, Dominic and myself. The four leaders who helped were Claire, John, Lynda and Caroline. We were given a folder full of targets and a bacon butty voucher. We got our breakfast and sat down.



There were a total of six competitions including field target, 3-point, clay pigeon, the eliminator and archery. Each had three age categories of adult, over 12s and under 12s. We made our way around the shooting competition in the morning. I went around with Theo. We liked the field target the most. John was range officer for the 3-point and Caroline was timing people.

After a busy, but wet, morning we all met up and ate our packed lunch in the main marquee. Afterwards we all went to the archery range for the archery competition. There were 10 bosses (targets) and 20 archers firing alternately. It was two per target. Lynda had the difficult job of watching the flying arrows and trying to find them all in the grass (and got soaked) and Claire changed the targets. By the time that had finished it was the award ceremony and the sun had come out.



Oli came first in the over 12s clay pigeon. Then there was a mix up with the age category. They said Stuart had come first in the under 12s Archery but Stuart is over 12. I was then really surprised when they announced I had won the Junior Archery. They gave me a really cool trophy, which was brand new and had the feathers of an arrow on. I had a good fun day.

# DISTRICT WATER POLO COMPETITION

BADMINTON GIRLS SCHOOL 12.11.11

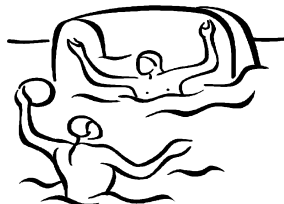


*Matt Bird: Kestrel Patrol*

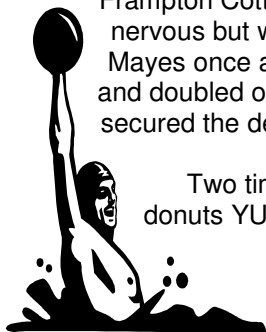
On Saturday we played water polo at Badminton School, we arrived at 4:00 pm ready to kick some bottom before we started. We started thinking of catchy chants to well you know chant we ended up after screaming at each other for 5 minutes we came up with Olvisterate which I thought was pretty good. We then made our way into the swimming pool building got changed and were ready to olvisterate.

Our first match was against Pucklechurch we took off our t-shirts off, put on the protective headwear and jumped into the pool raring to go. The first half we got two goals in there by Tom Mayes and Stuart Sopp we then went into the second half and Tom Mayes scored another one GO TOM.

We then had to wait two more games before we played again but in-between that time me and Tom Mayes went to the changing rooms because we had been sitting down too long. As we walked in, the showers turned on and we got wet yyyyaahhhh!!!



After that we went up against Severn Beach which we absolutely Olvisterated!!!!!!! We beat them 6-0 Tom Mayes scored 3 Ed Lovering scored 2 and Stuart Sopp scored 1. This meant that we were tied with Frampton Cottrell and went into the final with them. We started off very nervous but we pulled it together and went in storming the first half Tom Mayes once again scored and that ended the first half. We were tired and doubled our defence but at that Tom Mayes got us another goal that secured the deal and we WON.



Two times champions and because we won, Lynda promised us donuts YUM.....

1st Olveston Scouts 01454 632484

# Dear Editor

How I always love to receive my 'Meeting Point' through the post. I receive them regularly from friend Pat or cousin Wendy. However, for Wendy and me, the November edition was very special.

Our maternal grandmother Ellen Mills was brought up in, and indeed inherited, Central Farm. It was sold in 1946, the year I was born. Granny was brought up there by her father's brother John and her mother's sister "Auntie", (we never knew her name). Two brothers 'Mills' had married two sisters 'White'.

Granny's parents had six children. Her father was a prolific cider drinker and their Brick Lane cottage was no place to bring up a delicate girl.

Uncle John and "Auntie" had no children and asked if they could bring up Ellen. She told us she worked hard with the chickens and cows, but had a lovely life. She was given a white pony 'Darling' and a little dog called 'Flossie' who appears in the 1906 wedding photo at St Mary de Malmesbury, Littleton. Apparently Flossie walked down the aisle with the bridesmaids. The photo hangs on my wall as we speak.

As children and young people even, my mother and Aunts spent all their holidays at Central Farm, wandering 'the meadows'. My mother, Eleanor, collected wild flowers and won a school prize for her collection and research.

By the time we girls came along, Central Farm was no longer 'ours', but we revelled in the tales and wandered around the area, always ending up in the White Hart garden, especially on Boxing Day. In our sixties we still do; always promising to do the family tree. We never seem to get farther than the pub, however. How lovely to know that our 'meadows' are now a local Nature Reserve. Thank you Mary Wilkins.

Happy New Year to all Meeting Point readers.

Elisabeth Townsend  
Wadebridge  
Cornwall  
November 27th



# The Garden Line

from articles (1991-2) by *Cecilie Turton*

The cold dark days of January are usually quite unsuitable for outside work, but an ideal time to sit and reflect on what happened last year. You can sit back and remember with pride the flowers and vegetables which excelled themselves but cannot forget the one or two which failed. So try a little detective work to establish what went wrong and avoid making the same mistake again.

Your garden manual can provide some useful clues; from this you can find out whether a certain specimen prefers limey or peaty soil, full sun or part shade, a lot or a little water, its susceptibility to blight or slugs, depth of planting etc. This information may help with selection of plants. It is frustrating to spend a lot of money on something that does not survive.

During mild dry weather it should be possible to plant deciduous hedges, never attempt this if the soil is frozen or water logged. Roses too can be planted if conditions are favourable.

Order gladioli corms and examine well when they arrive, place in shallow boxes or trays and keep in a dry, frost-proof place, better still visit a nursery and choose your own. I'm tempted to buy quite a lot of gladioli this year, especially the smaller butterfly hybrids which do not require so much staking.

I shall double up on seeds of Rudbeckia Marmalade, for I find them most elaborate in large clumps in front of dark green foliage; they are good as cut flowers too. Larkspur seeds need to be planted early to get a good mid-summer and autumn display. These too are good for cutting. It is hard to cut down on ordering seeds, best to find a friend with a greenhouse and share the cost.

This is an exciting time, a new year, new beds to dig, old ones to re-arrange and time to think about it whilst getting over the Christmas fare.

Reading garden magazines can give good ideas for plantings and colour combination, though I think most plants look good if planted in clumps and not rows.

Continue planting broad beans and peas in a sheltered place, nothing tastes quite so good as the first vegetables straight from the garden. Rhubarb roots can be bought now from most nurseries. Plant 3' apart in well manured ground. Don't plant too deeply; tops should be about 1" below soil level.

Happy gardening, and a Happy New Year to you all.

# **St Mary's Events**

## **Charity Supper**

St Mary's are considering supporting the Bristol North West Food Bank on a regular basis, and will be finding out more on Jan 14th at 7.30pm when Emma Murray is coming to do a presentation about their needs and their works. It's the first of a series of charity suppers that we're having this year, and since a number of those charities exist to provide food for others, to have them over a meal seems somehow appropriate. There's no charge for the meal, although donations are always welcome! Come along and find out more ... Any queries to Roly Bain on 616593.

## **Burns Night**

St Mary's increasingly popular Burns Night Supper is on Jan 21st at 7.30pm at The Vicarage. Our customary female piper will pipe in the haggis, and there'll be neep and tatties too. Wine and whisky tasting are on offer, there is usually a Scottish quiz of some kind, a fairly short sing-along of Scottish songs, and there's a paying bar. Tickets for this extravaganza are a meagre £5 - available from Roly Bain 616593 or June Robbins 617491.

## **Parish Calendars**

Thank you to all those who bought our Parish Calendars this year. It is the first time we've done it, and 220 of them were sold. The superb pictures were all by Peter Haworth, and we are extremely grateful to him. We intend to do another one for next year, so watch out for those later in the year!

And looking ahead ...

## **The UWE Big Band are coming back!**

It's on Monday, Feb 20th, at 7.30pm, and since it's the eve of Shrove Tuesday, we'll be serving pancakes as well at the interval! A paying bar will be open beforehand and during the interval. Tickets are only £7.50. Last time they came, the church was packed, so get your tickets early, from June Robbins 617491 or Olveston Stores.

# Colin's Return

My name is Colin Bickford and I live in Elberton. I had a very serious motorbike accident just over 18 months ago and was in Frenchay for a year. I am (slowly) recovering, and my family and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our friends and neighbours who have supported me whilst in hospital and since I have been home and to wish you all A Very Happy New Year for 2012.

More recently, I have started to take up some of my previous hobbies in electric guitar playing and recording. I used to play guitar in a band and have some facilities at home to play/record. My ability to play has obviously been affected by the accident and I would like some support in playing again. I would be interested in hearing from a musician who plays guitar/keyboard/drums, who might be willing to come and play with me for a couple of hours a week (day time) and possibly write some rock music (e.g. time signatures 7/8, 5/4).

My contact details are: Colin Bickford & Gillian Foxton, Elberton Tel. 01454 414062 [bickford@filton.ac.uk](mailto:bickford@filton.ac.uk)

# Heartfelt Thanks

Liz, Bill, Katie & James Finch would like to thank all who sent condolences, sympathy cards, flowers and kind words on the sad loss of Liz's dear Mum Lily Coady. Although she was not a permanent resident of Tockington, she has been visiting since we moved here almost thirty years ago. Most of you knew her for her singing, chat, glamour, sense of fun and being a good listener. To us she was a wonderful Mum and Nan.

We repatriated Mum back to Dublin, having suffered a long illness while visiting the UK, to rest in peace with Dad, her beloved Jim. Special thank you to all the people who travelled to Dublin for her funeral: your presence, friendship and sympathy was very much appreciated and will always be remembered. Thank you all.

# Life in the Thornbury Workhouse

**Wednesday, 4 January 2012, 7.30pm, Olveston Methodist Hall**

Once the Christmas and New Year indulgences are over, Tony Cherry will be giving an illustrated talk on "**The Thornbury Union Workhouse, 1836-1871**". Until the 1830s, Olveston Parish took responsibility for looking after its own poor but, following the New Poor Law of 1834, parishes had to unite in Unions, with a central workhouse. Olveston was one of 21 parishes in Thornbury Union. Tony has been researching the history of the Thornbury Workhouse for a new book and has some hair-raising tales to tell.

If he manages to intrigue you, you'll also be able to buy his book: "I'm a Pauper. Get me Out of Here!" (£10). Tony is generously donating all proceeds from his book to Thornbury and District Museum, which is entirely volunteer-run.

Olveston Parish Historical Society's annual membership costs only £5. As well as this one, there are three more talks this season. But you don't need to join. You can just come along as a visitor and pay £2 on the door. All welcome!  
**[www.olvoston.com.historical-society](http://www.olvoston.com.historical-society)**

## Movies at St Mary's: Jan

*Trevor Anderson*

**Two films this month in St Mary's Olveston**



**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 10.00am (all ages), 7.30pm (adults)**

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away .... This is the first film in the greatest cinematic epic of all time. If you are one of the few who can still say "I've never seen it" now's your chance to do so. And if you have seen it, you know you must come again! Showing twice. *Cert PG*

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Jan, 8.30pm**

This absorbing drama of French rural life, impeccably performed and directed, is the extraordinary and award-winning sequel to the film shown last October. Because many people have asked us to show the first film again, we plan to do so starting at **6.00pm**, with a short break before the second film. All welcome to join us for one or both films. *Cert PG*

Doors open 30mins before films start. Licensed bar and soft drinks at evening shows. Popcorn and soft drinks at morning show. Free admission.

For film titles, see posters and new leaflets in church or join the mailing list. To request a film, contact [trevoranderson@btinternet.com](mailto:trevoranderson@btinternet.com) or 613279.



# Swimarathon 2012

## Advance Warning!

The Rotary Club of Thornbury is staging its annual Swimarathon at the Thornbury Leisure Centre on the evenings of Friday, Saturday and Sunday 9th 10th and 11th March 2012. Proceeds this year will be shared among Cancer Research UK, Meningitis UK and local charities, and other good causes.

Last year some £15,000 was raised from swimming teams and industrial sponsors, of which £4,000 went to each of SSAFA and the National Autistic Society, our main charities then.

As is our custom we run up to 12 lanes of swimmers swimming in relay for as many lengths as they can, in 55 minutes. The swimmers seek sponsorship from relatives, friends and colleagues, which they then collect for the benefit of the organisations identified above. We organise several sessions each evening as required; 3 on Friday starting at 6.15, 7.15, and 8.15 pm. and 2 each on Saturday and Sunday at 7.15 and 8.15 pm.

Get up a team (normally up to 6), join us at one of the sessions above and have a great time. The atmosphere is terrific, reinforced by the rhythm of the Castle School Steel Band.

Detailed information and application forms etc

from our website; [www.thornburyrotary.org/swimarathon](http://www.thornburyrotary.org/swimarathon)

Or: from Brian Lowrie 10 Chestermaster Close, Almondsbury. Bristol BS32 4EH.

Tel 01454 613361. email [bandh.lowrie@talktalk.com](mailto:bandh.lowrie@talktalk.com)

Remember it is all for good causes.



## Olveston and District Royal British Legion

including the Pilning and Severn Beach areas, would like to thank everyone for their support in raising much needed funds during the recent Poppy Appeal. A grand total of £5,771.65 has been banked, a record year once again. A big thank you to all concerned. This money will be gratefully received by the charity; without your help they would be unable to continue their vital benevolent work.

# OLVESTON BEAT SURGERIES 2012

OLVESTON STORES COFFEE SHOP

SURGERIES WILL RUN BETWEEN  
10.30 AM AND 11.30 AM



## DATES AS FOLLOWS

19th January 2012

16th February 2012

15th March 2012

12th April 2012

10th May 2012

7th June 2012

5th July 2012

2nd August 2012

30th August 2012

27th September 2012

25th October 2012

22nd November 2012

20th December 2012

PC 3404 Roger Hopes PCSO 9317 Kelly Dimery  
Severn Neighbourhood Police Team

## Contact Us

0845 456 7000 (non emergency incidents and reports of crime)

0117 945 5959 (Office number with Answer phone)

07919 628625 or 07917 586645 (On Duty Mobiles)



Would you like to make your area a better place to live, work and play?

Then why not get involved with your local Safer Stronger Community Group? It works with the Council, Town Council, Police, Fire & Rescue and Health Authority to do just that.

You can:

- come along to a meeting
- go on-line at: <http://groups.southglos.gov.uk>
- call your Safer Stronger Communities Officer on 01454 864625

**The next meeting for the Severn Group is:  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012, 7.30pm  
Aust Village Hall, Main Road, Aust, BS35 4AZ**

# Police Report November 2011

In the Severnside area 20 crimes were reported to the police in November.

As some of you may be aware Olveston Social Club suffered vandalism at the beginning of November where a memorial bench was damaged, security lights broken and tables and chairs thrown around. Numerous youths were spoken to about the situation. However, there was no proof as to who the offenders were and no one came forward to admit the damage. Patrols haven't been stepped up on weekends since the incident and I am pleased to say there has been no further damage and no sign of any youths in the area.

Residents called police stating that the electricity had gone off suddenly and the last time that happened an empty property was burgled. There was also a suspicious vehicle parked in Daldry Gardens, Olveston. Upon police arrival, two males made off from police but were subsequently arrested from the local area. Investigations are still continuing.

A business premises at Redhill Farm Business Park suffered an overnight burglary where offenders gained access via a window. Offenders then carried out an untidy search of the office, where a quantity of money was stolen.

The beat has suffered numerous thefts from insecure motor vehicles whilst parked at the home addresses. Various types of property have been stolen including mobile phones and tools. An address in Bramley Close, Olveston suffered an attempted distraction burglary. A male attended the property and was persistently knocking on the walls and doors. The elderly occupant spoke to the male from an upstairs bedroom window and he stated that he needed a sample of water as there was an emergency at the top of the road. Due to the occupant being aware of bogus callers, the male was not let into the property and he then walked off. Tockington Manor School had an attempted theft of fuel from the car park; no one was seen and there were no witnesses.

## Coffee pals

Each Thursday morning two helpers prepare coffee and cake for you in our Olveston Stores. People come in to meet their friends and make new ones. We could use another helper or two on the rota, which is prepared by Graham Clark after consultation with the rota members. Would you like to give us a hand? Meet your friends there and even make a new acquaintance or ten? Please phone Graham on 01454 618218 or e-mail: [cgraham978@aol.com](mailto:cgraham978@aol.com) Coffee and cake still at the ridiculously pre-inflation price of £1.



Well, as we welcome the New Year and close 2011 all of us at Totally Locally would like to share our good cheer wishing you Happiness and Health for 2012. That's it now until March 3<sup>rd</sup>! As always, just ring me if you need an oil refill ... or have any suggestions for the Market, or require a table.

Jane Sunnucks Old Down 01454 419931

## Olveston Sports and Social Club

Our monthly quizzes this year have raised £600 which we are donating to 3 charities. These are the Children's Hospice at Wraxall, the Milestone Trust which supplies respite care to allow carers time for a break and BRACE (Alzheimer's Research).

Our quizzes in the New Year are Jan 7th & 28th, March 3rd & 31<sup>st</sup>, starting at 8.15 pm. We would like to welcome anyone who would like to make up a team & join us on any of these nights for an enjoyable evening at the Alexandra Pavilion, Old Down. Barbara Lansdown Club Secretary.

## Old Down Cricket Club

**150 Club Winners December:** £50 Neil Cross £15 Richard Watkins  
£5 Bill Finch

**Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:** 12th November Paul Middleton  
19th November Diane Grosvenor

Happy Christmas & Best Wishes for 2012 from Everyone at Old Down Cricket Club. Up The Down!!

*Tony Gardner 07889 727729*

# South Glos Rural Arts

Kevin Tomlinson—*Seven Ages* –Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November

This was an evening of improvised rather than scripted theatre. Whilst Kevin was inspired by Shakespeare's *Seven Ages of Man*, his take on the famous monologue enabled him to draw on the audience for their contributions and indeed comments! The baby sported a Rastafarian hairstyle, the schoolboy had a dislike of Latin, the lover assumed a female role in a delightful rose tea dress and finally the old man in his second childishness "sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything"!

Improvised theatre creates a dramatic tension in both the actor and the audience. Will the actor freeze? Will he be able to create a piece of theatre that is engaging? Kevin created a bond with the audience, managing to conjure something out of nothing! His use of masks had a strong effect on the audience stretching our imagination, tickling our funny bones and taking us to places where we have all been before! The audience was entertained and the comments afterwards were very complimentary.

The evening was funded by Rural Arts Touring and promoted by the Parish Hall Committee. The Committee wishes to continue bringing quality productions to Olveston. However, without further support and commitment from the local community we cannot guarantee that such events can be staged in the future.

The Annual General Meeting is in **February**. If you would like to **join the Committee** or become involved in **any way** please **contact Geoff Chappell on 01454 615806**.

## Marlwood School PTA "Burns Night"

Come and join us for a traditional Burns Night at Marlwood School on Saturday 28th January 2012 from 7.30pm – 12.00 midnight. This is a fabulous evening. Tickets are very reasonably priced and include a two course meal (Haggis and non-Haggis options!) and a disco (bar available for over 18's only).

For further information and to buy a ticket please contact Jill Pearce on 01454 281726 or the School on 01454 862525.

# Yours faithfully

*David Bone*

By the time most of you read this, in early January, I guess, Christmas will be over, and yet there is one feature of the Christmas story which strictly speaking, doesn't happen until about now; if you are reading this on 6<sup>th</sup> January, you are spot on! Because the sixth of January is the traditional date for the Epiphany, roughly speaking twelve days after Christmas itself. Don't worry too much, in fact, don't worry at all if you have never really clocked what the epiphany is! It is a Greek word for seeing something as it really is, for getting the gist of it, for something becoming clear ('made manifest' as it used to be translated), and it relates to the Wise Men visiting Jesus with their gifts.

Perhaps now is not the right time to be wondering whether you had the perfect gift at Christmas! It certainly seemed to be the case that all sorts of retailers were using that word 'perfect' to advertise their wares, apparently (but only apparently – the admen know perfectly well what they are doing!) unaware of how ridiculous the claim was that, eg. just one or two simple goodies from N & T would be all that you would need for a 'perfect Christmas'.

So what do we make of those gifts brought by the wise men? Gold was all that one could offer, perhaps sensing that riches can't buy you love, but what else could he bring (or she – we don't know whether the magi were male or female, nor whether there only three of them). A perfect gift? What about the dried gum of trees from southern Arabia, used for scent in religious ceremonies (and secular, for that matter)? Was that the perfect way to embellish with religious meaning the best we can offer? As for old spice, or the latest in herbal treatments (for the departed?!), well, that's the best that some of us will have managed this Yule-tide.

Please don't get me wrong. There is nothing wrong about the tradition of giving presents at Christmas-time, beautifully wrapped, of course, – but for some of us, at least, the most perfect gift of all was all wrapped up in swaddling clothes. Somehow or other, the visit of the wise men ought to remind us of the real significance of the Christmas story, the gift of love and joy, of peace to all.

So, did you get that perfect Christmas gift you'd secretly hoped for? It's there, every year, always has been, and it costs ... about a penny. Get it?

**Thank you** John and Shirley Kerr would like to thank all the kind people for their visits and for the lovely cards that have been sent to them during the past few months. You are all so thoughtful.

# From the Registers of St. John the Evangelist Elberton

27th November Baptism of Summer Alison Victoria Whitlock-Fudge,  
daughter of Rebecca Whitlock and Anthony Fudge

# From the Registers of St. Mary's Olveston

23rd November Funeral Service followed by Burial of  
William Thomas Edgley Cox (Tom)

# Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in December's draw, held on 8th December 2011 at the  
Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<i>Name</i>
£150	217	Mrs. J. Hahn, Olveston
£75	340	Mrs. D. Peachey, Olveston
£25	337	Mr. R. A. Hicks, Cornwall
£25	246	Mrs. C. K. Hickman, Olveston
£25	171	Mrs. C. Healey, Olveston
£20	166	Mrs. E. Dobson, Rudgeway
£10	378	Mr. N. H. Dawes, Olveston
£10	296	Mrs. B. Binns, Olveston

# Litter Picking

There will be a Litter Pick on Saturday 7 January 2012. Please meet at the  
Parish Hall car park at 1.00pm. New pickers are always welcome.

Thank you to everyone who helped last year including those who do their own  
areas. The chairman of the Parish Council regularly expresses her appreciation  
of the work that is done.  
Rod Williams, 612850

# Church News

## ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Jan 1	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Feast of Fools Methodist Covenant Service at Olveston Meth.Ch.	Rev Philip Rowe Rev. Roly Bain
Jan 8	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship with Choir Breakfast Club Holy Communion	Rev David Bone Mr Denis Jones Breakfast Club Team Rev R Bain
Jan 15	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion with Choir Breakfast Club Evensong	Rev Roly Bain Rev P Rowe & Rev R Bain Breakfast Club Team Mrs Ann Lloyd
Jan 22	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Fourth Sunday Breakfast Club Evensong(BCP) with Choir	Rev Roly Bain Rev R Bain BCT Rev R Crew&Rev P Rowe
Jan 29	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Breakfast Club in Church Candlemas Vespers	Rev Roly Bain BCT Rev D Bone& Rev R Bain

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

### Contacts:

**Rev Philip Rowe**, 01454 613223; email: [office@stmaryssevernside.org.uk](mailto:office@stmaryssevernside.org.uk)

**Rev Roly Bain** for Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals 01454 616593.

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

[www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html](http://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 8	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Jan 22	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev David Bone

**Hon. Curate:** **Rev David Bone**, 01454 614601

**Church Wardens:** Janet Ford, 01454 633300 Terry McLeavy 633680

## ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Jan 1		No Service	
Jan 15	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Jan 8	9am	Matins	Tracey Black
Jan 9	7.30	Plough Monday Olveston Young Farmers	Rev David Pole
Jan 22	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

## OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Jan 1	10am 6pm	Olv. Ch Olv. Ch	Morning Worship led by Rev Sandy Williams Annual Covenant Service Rev Jonathan Pye
Jan 8	10am	Olv. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney. The Breakfast Club will join later in the Service
Jan 15	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Miss Claire Wood
Jan 22	10am	Olv. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Rev Sandy Williams
Jan 29	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Rev. Sandy Williams

**NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP:** This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Jan. To book your lunch please ring 416528

**TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP** meets at 12.15 in the Swan Tockington on Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Jan To book please ring 613241, or 612112

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

**CONTACT:** Rev Sandy Williams tel 07841 752 941,  
[Sandy.williams48@btinternet.com](mailto: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. 07512 917229 or email:  
[thevine\\_awkley@hotmail.com](mailto:thevine_awkley@hotmail.com)

## THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Jan 1	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Jan 8	6.30pm	Lyll Druett
Jan 15	6.30pm	Eric Barrett
Jan 22	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan- Davies
Jan 29	6.30pm	Vic Soffe

Prayer Time every Thurs 7.30

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

**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](http://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](http://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:** Ben & Candia Barman 01454 412603

National: **[www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk)** Bristol area: **[www.bristolquakers.org.uk](http://www.bristolquakers.org.uk)**

# Diary Dates for January 2012

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Sun			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	Children's Movie Club Monday Movie	10.00 7.30pm	S+M S+M
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR
4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	O.P.H.S.The Thornbury Workhouse	7.30pm	MH
5 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-1.30 9.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OS+ MH
7 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Coffee Morning Litter Pick Quiz Night	10.30-12.00 1.00pm 8.15pm	MH PH AP
9 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Craft Group Tel 07747 562264 for venue Open Mic at White Hart	8.30pm	
10 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers Women's Institute Aust Parish Council	9.30-11.30 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR PH EVH
11 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Royal British Legion Men Sevenside Safer Stronger Community Gp Sinbad The Pantomime. Octopus Drama Gp to 13th.	7.30pm 7.30p 7.30pm	DGCL AVH CKT
12 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OS+ MH
14 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning Sinbad The Pantomime Charity Supper	10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00 11.00 & 2.30 7.30pm	AVH MH CKT S+M
16 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Monday Movie	7.30pm	S+M
17 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR
18 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	2.00pm 8.30pm	AH
19 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Thornbury Farmer's Market	9.00-12.00 2.00-4.30 9.00-1.30	OS+ MH
20 <sup>th</sup> Fri	An Evening with Kate Radmilovic	7.30pm	CH
21 <sup>st</sup> Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH

	Burns Night at the Vicarage	7.30pm	
24 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers Olveston Parish Council Meeting	9.30-11.30 7.30pm	WR AP
26 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OS+ MH
28 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Coffee Morning Marlwood School Burns Night Quiz Night	10.30-12.00 7.30-12.00 8.15pm	MH  AP
31 <sup>st</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR
<b>Looking ahead to February</b>			
10th	OPTA Quiz	7.30 pm	PH
15 <sup>th</sup> -18th	Babes in the Wood TMTG		AH
20th	UWE Big Band		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; **CKT** – Christ the King, Thornbury; **DGCL** – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; **EVH** – Elberton Village Hall; **MH** – Olveston Methodist Hall; **OMC** - Olv Meth Ch **OS** – Olveston School; **OS+** – Olveston Stores; **OV** – Olveston Vicarage; **PH** – Olveston Parish Hall; **StM** – St Mary's Church, Olv.; **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.olvostonandaust.com](http://www.olvostonandaust.com). If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: [meetingpointsecretary@olvostonandaust.com](mailto:meetingpointsecretary@olvostonandaust.com)

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