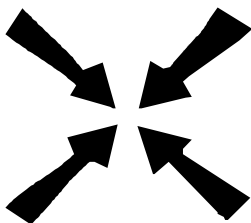


# MEETING POINT



JANUARY  
2014



# Meeting Point

*Volume 38, Number 4, January 2014*

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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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## **From the Editor**

Happy New Year!

The emphasis in January Meeting Point is on 'new'. This month the magazine features Stephen and Amanda Symonds, newly arrived at Tockington Manor School, there's a new column about wild birds and Meeting Point would welcome some more new contributors of front cover artwork.

There's a sprinkling of seasonal shows in and around the area and regular updates on local clubs and societies. You can go out to lunch, learn how to keep bees, study calligraphy ...

The cover: Play area in Vicarage Lane, Olveston  
photographed by Peter Haworth

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.olvestonandaust.com](http://www.olvestonandaust.com)**

# Village people:

*Pat Thirkettle*

## Stephen and Amanda Symonds



Stephen and Amanda took over as head and registrar respectively of Tockington Manor School in August 2013. They are delighted at the opportunity to continue leading a school which is held in high regard in the independent sector and stands for all that is good in educational and family values.

They both come from Kent and met when Amanda was studying science and Stephen had decided that retail management was not for him, and had returned briefly to stay with his parents before starting a four year teacher training degree. They married at Christmas 1995, by which time Amanda had also qualified as a teacher and they were both working in primary schools in Kent.

They moved on to be House Parents at Friars Prep School in Ashford where Stephen became Deputy Head. The next move was for Stephen to be Headmaster of Thetford Grammar Junior School for four years. However they missed the feel of a boarding school, and the 'wrap around care' that such schools provide. So the next move was for Stephen to take the headship of another prep school in Hampshire for five years. By now they had two sons, George and Archie, and the time came to move to Tockington.

Arriving in lovely, hot August weather, Stephen and Amanda had a string of visits from family and friends. The very first weekend saw them and their

visitors at Thornbury Rugby Club for a fun performance by the Wurzels. What an introduction to Somerset for Kentish folk!

They are proud of the wide range of opportunities offered at Tockington Manor. Apart from academic success (year 8 pupils regularly obtain scholarships for their next school), they reckon that the whole school is one of the fittest. They have sport every day, excellent PE teachers and pupils who compete at national level. The weekly newspaper 'Tockington Tim', written and edited by the pupils themselves and overseen by the English department, received a national award last summer.

Nowadays it is primarily a day school, with only twenty boarders cared for by house parents, and very flexible opening times. Pupils can arrive as early as 7.30am for breakfast and leave at 4pm or stay on for extracurricular activities until 7.30pm. Saturday is an action packed affair with children being able to take part in sport, camp craft, drama, swimming, engineering activities and inter school fixtures. They can also board for a night or two if necessary and it must be stressed there is a very strict registration system to cater for such flexibility. The Nursery section is growing steadily and, on a recent inspection, was judged as being excellent in all categories. It's an integral part of the school, is involved in all social functions and when I was there a decorated lantern (jam jar actually!) competition was open to school and Nursery. I also noticed that the framed art work in the entrance hall was definitely 'nursery produced.'

The school ethos is 'making the most of every moment'. Above all it is a happy school, with every pupil meeting their potential. Stephen and Amanda look on the whole school as their extended family and are looking forward to many happy years in Tockington. They are keen for the school to be involved with the church and village and would be happy for people and organisations in the community to get in touch on 01454 613229.

## **Annual OPTA Quiz**

**Friday 7th February 2014 Olveston Parish Hall 7.30pm (for a prompt 7.45 start).**

Teams of 4 - £5 per person to include light refreshments. There will be a bar serving beer, lager, wine and soft drinks. There's a prize for the winning team! To reserve your team's table, please contact Noel Clarke (01454 614099)

# Olveston Pre-school

Olveston Pre-school would like to thank the pre-school parents and the local community for their continued support, especially at our recent Halloween party where there was a fantastic show of fancy dress costumes and lots of fun was had by all! This is a great community event for under 10's, so look at for it again next year. Yet again preschool enjoyed a very successful Christmas Nativity performance which was enjoyed by everyone but especially the children who had worked very hard to put on a fantastic show.

We look forward to a fun filled 2014 so look out for our upcoming events on our website and come and join in! Pre-school will commence on 6<sup>th</sup> January. If you're interested in enrolling come and have a stay and play session. Pre-school is open every day, Monday 9 am till 12.30 then Tuesday - Friday 9-3 pm for ages 2-5 years or visit our website [www.olvestonpreschool.co.uk](http://www.olvestonpreschool.co.uk)

## Olveston School - The Wike Hall

Have you seen the Wike Hall recently? During the summer it was treated to a make over! In addition to a coat of paint, the stage was moved and a new projector screen erected. Thanks to the Friends of Olveston School (FOOS) we also have lovely new boards for the children to display their work and achievements on.

The Hall is one of the busiest places in the school. During the day you are unlikely to find it empty. If there isn't a PE lesson taking place, you will find pupils doing drama or singing. It provides the ideal space for the children to come together at lunchtime and again in the afternoon for assembly. After school activities include Sing Stars, drama club, cheerleading and multi skills. As always, the Hall has enjoyed being the centre of our Christmas festivities - the FOOS Christmas Fair, KS1 Nativity, parties and school Christmas dinner all happen there. We think it deserves a couple of weeks rest while we go home and celebrate with our families and friends!

When the children have left for home, there is still plenty of activity in the Hall. The Church Breakfast club meets here most Sundays and we have a crafting group that meets monthly. A sports club is hoping to hold a number of children's clubs during the holidays, making the most of the Hall and the field. We also hold a number of children's parties - watching the Hall become transformed into a pirate's island, complete with bouncy pirate ship, is a treat not to be missed! To hire the hall please contact the School Office on 01454 613299. We would be very happy to show you round.

# Flights of fancy: Winter Thrushes

*Trevor Cook*

As winter bites into the New Year, spare a thought for those birds that have flown in from the north to enjoy our milder climate. Our native bird populations will swell with many millions of birds and at this time of year two thrushes in particular are worth looking out and listening for.



Redwing ©Tony Hisgett

The first of these is the redwing, which has the thrush's spots and, as its name suggests, is picked out by a reddish orange patch just below its folded wing and seen underneath it when it flies. You may also notice its broad eye stripe. It's given away by the thin "tseep" sound it makes and, on a starry night, you will hear one call as it flies over your head in the darkness.

The redwing's cousin is the fieldfare which also has the thrush's spots but is identified by its grey head and a brown back. You will often hear it in the hedgerows and fields with a voice which has been described as "chackling".

Either type will happily sit in berry bushes such as pyracantha or cotoneaster eating until all the fruit is stripped or dark falls.

They will eat old apples if you have any, and the blackbirds don't get them first. Look for them in orchards, you don't have far to go.



Fieldfare ©Jerzystrzelecki

A good spot is the old orchard alongside the short road between the car park and the northern lagoons at Oldbury Power Station.

For colour photographs and a sound recording see the RSPB website on bird identification. <http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name>

# The joy of travelling in a mobility scooter

*Sandy Shaw, Tockington*

I have just been immobilised for three months and was given the loan of a mobility scooter. This totally revolutionised my life as it gave instant independence and the ability to get to village shops and visit friends. It also opened my eyes to the problems that people with disabilities encounter - parked cars on pavements, dustbins in the middle of paths, and overgrowing shrubs and trees, all of which create a great risk when one has to mount the curb or use the road to by pass obstacles.

I must also add that I have found most people extremely helpful and willing to assist. However, inconsiderate parking has been a nightmare. Happily my incapacity has been temporary but it has made me aware of the problems for those that live with it daily. It would be good if people were to remember those less fortunate than themselves. As a lady commented to me, 'nobody would willingly be in a wheelchair or scooter, but needs must ...'

## South Gloucestershire Beekeepers Association

A beginners' evening class will be held at Alveston Methodist Church, every Monday night from the 13th January to 3rd March 2014, 7.30pm until 9.30 pm. It will cover all aspects of the British Beekeepers Association "basic" examination syllabus; and is suitable for both novice and complete beginners to beekeeping. The eight theory sessions will be followed by two practical sessions, one on hive and frame building, and one on handling bees. The cost of this course is £120, and will include course notes and a text book. Contact Tom Farmer on 01454 412572, or e-mail [gascall@btinternet.com](mailto:gascall@btinternet.com).

## South Glos Ladies Lunch Club

Would you like to be a lady who lunches? Why not join our friendly Ladies Lunch club? We meet 12.15-3pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month, Oct-March at The Old School Hall, Lower Almondsbury for a 3 course lunch plus coffee followed by a speaker or event. Membership is £15.00 for the 6 months (£7.50 for Jan-Mar) plus lunch at £7.50. All guests would be made most welcome - guest's lunch is £3.00 only. We look forward to seeing you there - please telephone Hilary 01454 619554 to confirm.

# 'Hello Dolly'

*Linda Evans*

February will soon be 'showtime' for the Parish Players and rehearsals are gathering momentum now that Christmas is behind us. 'Hello Dolly!' is an American comedy by Jerry Herman, beginning life as a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Austrian farce and later becoming Thornton Wilder's popular play 'The Matchmaker'. Tom Stoppard's 'On the Razzle' has a similar theme, of two young men escaping from a curmudgeonly employer to go 'on the town' where they meet charming romantic attachments.

Dolly Levi, a matchmaker, has the pivotal role and this is a well-earned opportunity for Laura Pritchard, who joined our company last year to play Tuptim in 'The King & I'. Andy Black, who has once again designed an exciting New York set, also plays the acerbic Horace Vandergelder, Dolly's toughest matchmaking challenge to date! His all-singing, all-dancing shop assistants, Cornelius and Barnaby, are cast by Ray Hale and Chris Bentley. Lesley Clarke as Irene Malloy, a widowed hat shop owner and Amy Sunderland as Minnie, her somewhat timid assistant, complete the romantic quartet. Ermengarde, Horace's lovelorn niece is played by Esther Sully and Ambrose, her artist beau, by Richard Newley. Linda Chappell has the fun of playing Ernestina, a totally unsuitable match for Horace, whilst Mike Belsten plays a long suffering Prussian Head Waiter. Jill Harris is in charge of the challenging choreography, including the famous 'Waiter's Gallop' at the Harmonia Gardens Restaurant, with all the culinary props, and all the waltzes, quick-steps, foxtrots and good old-fashioned marches that pepper the show. Keith Richards as Stage Manager (ably assisted by Norma) is already burning the midnight oil making the unusual props (such as a large roast turkey with all the trimmings!) and is assisted backstage by Rod Williams and Brian Brown. Wardrobe Mistress, Gill Olewicz is in charge of the colourful 1890s costumes.

The multi-rolled chorus is busy rehearsing the memorable ensemble numbers such as 'Before the Parade Marches By', 'Elegance', 'Put on your Sunday Clothes' and, of course, 'Hello Dolly'. Musical Director Chloe Allsopp-Jones and Linda Evans as Director look forward to entertaining you, the audience, the most important element of the production. The show will run in February half-term week, with performances nightly at 7.30pm from Wed. 19<sup>th</sup> to Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Olveston Parish Hall, Tockington.

Tickets go on sale in the café area of Olveston Stores on Sat 11 January, 9.30 – 11 am and, after that, by calling the Box Office on **07855 182225 (note: the number given in the printed magazine is wrong!)**. Last season's show sold out in advance, so make a note on your calendar to book early!



# Olveston Parish Council Matters

*Richard Rogers ([olvestonpc@gmail.com](mailto:olvestonpc@gmail.com))*

**Flooding** is a regular concern within the Parish whether on the Common, outside the Stores or even down Haw Lane. At the Annual Parish Assembly, the Environment Agency gave a talk on its defences along the Severn Estuary (a copy of which is on the Olveston website). Responsibility for the management and maintenance of our flood defence and drainage systems also lies with the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board ([www.lowersevernldb.org.uk](http://www.lowersevernldb.org.uk)).

Drainage authorities have general supervisory functions and powers. They can make byelaws to ensure and protect adequate drainage systems and works. Open drainage channels need to be regularly dredged and vegetation controlled; and underground storm water culverts need to be kept in good repair and maintained. It is therefore important that if you notice blocked ditches, or if you are planning any works on your property that may affect drainage, you first contact the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board.

**South Gloucestershire Over Fifties Forum** recently celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday and, with over 4,500 members, is a network and platform for senior citizens in the South Gloucestershire area. It aims to raise the profile of the needs, values and interests of senior citizens in South Gloucestershire and to speak up about social, economic and community issues that affect senior citizens, through a series of regular forums.

In addition to a quarterly newsletter, regular afternoon (2pm – 4pm) meetings are held at Community Centres including Hanham, The Shireway, and at Filton. Speakers at recent meetings have included Chris Skidmore (MP for Kingswood), Ian Boulton Chair of South Glos Council and Amanda Deekes, Chief executive of South Glos Council. The next meeting is on Tuesday 21st January 2014 at Warmley, with speakers from the South Glos Council Transport Team. Details are on the website [www.sthglosoverfiftiesforum.co.uk](http://www.sthglosoverfiftiesforum.co.uk) or the Parish Clerk can put you in touch with local residents who regularly attend.

Happy New Year and good health to all. The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014, but please let the Clerk know if you wish to attend as the normal venue at Old Down is only designed for about a dozen people.

# Aust Parish Council Matters

*Tim Pyper*  
[austparishcouncil@googlemail.com](mailto:austparishcouncil@googlemail.com)

## **Vacancy on the Parish Council**

We duly gave notice of the vacancy, and no election was requisitioned, so the Council intends to co-opt a new Councillor at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014 from amongst those who have expressed an interest.

## **Proposed Ingst wind farm**

Without in any way reducing its opposition to the proposal, the Council initiated a meeting with the intending developers of the wind farm to explore the size and nature of their proposed community fund. Between the time of writing and publication, we hope to complete discussions with nearby Parish Councils and with REG to ensure that, if consent is given, there will be a community benefit fund under the control of local people.

## **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014. The Council will consider its budget for the next financial year, and fix its precept.

# Artwork for Meeting Point Covers

We use a variety of material for the cover picture; sometimes photos and sometimes drawings or paintings. Meeting Point has quite a collection of artwork; some of the drawings date back to the early days of the magazine. We would now be delighted if some of our talented local artists could send us copies of suitable paintings or drawings so that we can add new pictures and maintain the variety. Ideally, we need a digital image of reasonable resolution, say a jpg file of around 3 or 4MB. However, if you would prefer to lend us your original, at A4 paper size or smaller, then we'd be just as happy to scan it and return the original. If you look at a Meeting Point cover, you'll see that the image should be approximately square, or slightly taller than its width.

The subject should be a local scene, building or event, or a design for a particular season: spring, summer, etc. It would be especially useful to have some more images suitable for Christmas and Easter.

We look forward to having some new eye-catching artwork to intersperse with our existing images. Replies/queries to the Editor, contact details on page 1.

# Eric Garrett: Large Houses in the Locality

**Olveston Parish Historical Society: Wednesday 8 January 2014, 7.30pm  
Methodist Church, The Street, Olveston BS35 4DR**



Something to look forward to in the New Year – a talk from Eric.

He will share with us what he has discovered about some of the substantial houses built in this area – including when they were built, the people who lived in them and what's left of them now.

*Over Court, Almondsbury*

We can expect to hear about Knole Park and Over Court, Tockington Manor and Olveston Court - and maybe some others. Make a note on the calendar and come along!

**Everyone welcome - £2 on the door. Or buy annual membership on the door (just £5) – three more talks after this one!**

**Website: <http://www.olvoston.com/historical-society>**

## Tudor cookery day school

Bookings are now being taken for a WEA day school to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at Turnberries Community Centre (close to Rock Street car park). This will be a study of Elizabethan and early Stuart cookery ingredients, cookery methods and dishes, followed by practical preparation during the class of a number of period dishes. Cost £18. Starts at 10am.

The WEA, the UK's largest voluntary sector provider of adult education, has a Thornbury branch run by local volunteers. No previous knowledge or qualifications are needed to join its courses, only a willingness to share with others your curiosity, ideas and experience.

For more information, contact James Ball on 01454 415165, email: [james.ball9@talktalk.net](mailto:james.ball9@talktalk.net) enrol online: [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk) or tel: 0845 458 2758.

# News from St Mary's Olveston

Various **visiting preachers** are lined up for the New Year at our 10am services. Canon Christopher Pullin, Canon Chancellor of Hereford Cathedral is coming on Jan 19th, and Pastor Paul Ferguson from Thornbury Baptist Church is our preacher for our service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. On March 16th we welcome back Anita Thorne who is celebrating the 20th anniversary of her ordination as priest - do come and celebrate with her! The next **Quiz** is on Jan 11th and we'll be serving chilli con carne this time - tickets only £5 as always, and Chris Smart is our excellent quizmaster. Ring Roly for a ticket (616593) - teams are a maximum of 6 people. If you'd like to be on the quiz mailing list, email him on [roly@rolybain.co.uk](mailto:roly@rolybain.co.uk).

**St Mary's Annual Burns Night Supper** at Olveston Vicarage with haggis, neeps and tatties, all piped in by our usual bagpiper, is on Jan 25th at 7.30pm. Tickets are only £6 and there's a paying bar. Tickets from Roly 616593 and June Robbins 617491.

St Mary's has produced a **souvenir DVD of the Flower Festival**, with a series of around 70 images all set to music, lasting about 15 minutes. All the pictures are taken by Peter Haworth, so it is subtitled 'through the eyes of Peter Haworth', and is a lasting and evocative record of a memorable event in 'A Year in The Life of a Parish Church'. Copies available from June Robbins 617491 and Roly Bain 616593, as usual.

Owing to popular demand, we're repeating the evening of **Memories of Arthur** on March 1st in church at 7.30pm. It features an interview made with Peter Floyd a couple of years ago, and finishes with 18-20 minutes of highlights of June and Arthur's performances in Parish Players, courtesy of Nigel Dawes. There will be a licensed bar available as well as tea and coffee. No charge for the evening but donations are welcome, as always!

## Olveston and Tockington W.I.

Happy New Year to all members, past and present, and also to those who have yet to discover the pleasure of sharing interesting evenings and good times with friends in the W.I.

Visitors are always welcome, so why not come along to our first meeting of 2014 on January 14, in the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm, to hear our favourite local long-distance walker, Phil Savage, tell us about his adventures in the Rift Valley in Kenya. This was one of several walks that Phil has undertaken in aid of Hike for Hope, which raises money for two charities, Prostate Cancer UK and Wellbeing for Women (the research arm of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists).

# 1<sup>st</sup> Olveston Scouts

## Sodbury Challenge

12 October 2013

By Harry Smale. SCOUT RECOUNT OF THE SODBURY CHALLENGE



On the 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> Olveston Scout group participated in an event called the Sodbury Challenge. The Sodbury Challenge is a night hike where you have a certain amount of time to collect points, the points are collected by going to checkpoints. Each checkpoint has a different value, which is dependent on the distance you must travel to get there. We were split into two groups of three and were given a list of grid references, these were the locations of the checkpoints, and we were told to work them out and plan a route as in twenty minutes we were to be dropped off somewhere....in the dark! Along our trek we encountered 4 pieces of road kill: 2 badgers, a pheasant and a frog. We also met a live frog which we all crowded around as

we checked the map, however about to leave the frog jumped terrified everyone in my group and the night as fast as we could, for could. However, we had the good

of breath as we shelter, where two of us including me wanted to sit down and dig into our jammy dodgers. Unfortunately the third of us was the leader, who held all the vital equipment, so we had to keep going.

However we had somehow developed a craving for jammy dodgers, so we tucked into them anyway whilst we walked.

when we were onto my boot. This we sprinted off into as long as we luck to be just out reached a bus



As we got into our last hour, a Sodbury Challenge minibus came past and asked us for directions and offered us a lift back to the hut. We gave them the location and expressed our determination to carry on and beat our rivals (the other 1<sup>st</sup> Olveston group). However as the bus pulled away we noticed our rival group in the back of the mini-bus. This meant we were less motivated to compete to our very best, it meant we just had to finish (if you get a ride to the hut you will get disqualified). This meant the whole way back from that point, all we did was eat jammy dodgers, walk and moan about our aching legs (eat, walk, moan,

eat, walk, moan). Only joking, it was a great experience. I highly recommend it to anyone joining a Scout group (even though you get back at 2am and are frozen to the bone and in great need of a bath!).



*Like jammy dodgers and interested in becoming a scout?? Contact Lynda Spratt 01454 632484/ 07790348726 Lynda.spratt@icloud.com*

## Old Down Cricket Club

### **150 Club Winners December:**

£50 Ian Watkins

£15 Lesley Clarke

£5 Alex Grosvenor

### **Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:**

9th Nov John Welsher

23rd Nov Simon Higgs

30th Nov Simon Higgs

### **Christmas Bonus:** Simon Panes

Happy Christmas & hopefully a sunny summer in 2014, from everyone at Old Down Cricket Club.

Up the Down!!

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

# Movies at St Mary's: Jan

Trevor Anderson



Two movies this month at St Mary's Church Olveston, each one chosen to warm the heart and put a smile on your face in this cold month of January. As always, everyone is welcome, it's a friendly social occasion and there is no need to book.

## **MONDAY MOVIES** (*Recent releases and popular classics*)

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan at 7.30pm:** Digitally re-mastered version of the classic musical about bad boy (*John Travolta*) and good girl (*Olivia Newton-John*) who fall in love to a toe-tapping soundtrack of memorable hits. This new 'sing-along' version invites you to follow the words on screen and (*only if you would like to, of course!*) join fellow movie-goers in re-creating, in January, those amazing summer nights with impromptu renditions of the hits. (*Cert PG*)

## **MONDAY MOVIES EXTRA** (*Quality 'non-mainstream' films*)

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Jan at 7.30pm:** From the team planning a reunion later this year. Sublime insanity as King Arthur and his trusty knights fearlessly travel the length and breadth of the country in search of the mythical Holy Grail. A cult classic as hilarious as it is blithely ridiculous, it has lost none of its exceedingly silly charm. (*Cert 15*)

Licensed bar and soft drinks available at all the shows. Admission is free although a **donation** at the end towards expenses is always appreciated. For copyright reasons we can't name the films here, but if you **join the Movie Club** we'll send you titles and full details by email. It costs nothing to join – just email me at [trevoranderson@btinternet.com](mailto:trevoranderson@btinternet.com).

## Live in Concert

On Saturday 8th February 2014, 'Pilot Whale Research' will perform an evening of music live in St Mary's Church, Olveston.

Brothers Dan Lewis-Leaver and James Leaver, who live locally in the village, have been playing together in bands for over 21 years and will be previewing songs from their forthcoming release 'We Gathered in Circles until the Sea Turned Red'. The two brothers will also be joined by their long-time collaborator, and brother-in-law, Mike Meade for the second half of the show.

The bar in the church will be open during the interval serving refreshments. The music is original, acoustic guitar based, alternative folk and admission to the event is free of charge; any donations on the night will be greatly appreciated and will go to the church. The event will start at 7.30pm.

# **Octopus present their latest pantomime - 'The Snow Queen'**

**written and directed by Tony Domaille**

A thousand years ago, the wicked Snow Queen and her apprentice were banished to the pages of a book. Now Mrs McFly's naughty son, Will I Am, has mistakenly set them free and they are intent on causing misery and mayhem by freezing everyone they come into contact with.

Will Prince Eric and his trusty friend Vince be able to break the spell? Will they get all the help they need from a good fairy, Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson and the Wizards who live in a cave that his hard to find? If they cannot, the Royal family will be frozen forever and the beautiful Princess Stephanie will never get to marry handsome Prince Eric.

Come along and see how it all turns out with the usual mix of colourful characters, music and laughs at Christ the King Church Hall, Castle Street, Thornbury from Wednesday 8th January to Friday 10th January at 7.30pm and Saturday 11th January at 11am and 2.30pm.

Tickets are £6 for adults and £5 for concessions and are available from 2nd December from RA Bennett, The Plain, Thornbury and Karen Gill Tel 413783.

## **Fascinating Rhythm**

**South Gloucestershire's award winning all female a Capella chorus  
invite you to their One Day Harmony Singing Workshop**

Saturday 18 January 2014 at The Castle School, Park Road, Thornbury BS35 1HT. 10.00am - 4.00pm. Registration 9.30am. Cost £12 tea/coffee included. Please bring lunch.

For further details, please contact Chloe Roberts [Chloe-tony@hotmail.com](mailto:Chloe-tony@hotmail.com) 07719368701 or Linda Taylor [taylin4@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:taylin4@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Thornbury Picture House Screening - 'Where Do We Go Now?' (12)**

This story is set in a remote Lebanese village: vibrant performances and splendid storytelling in this subtitled comedy/drama. Cossham Hall at 7.30pm, Friday 10th January (£5 on the door for non-members)





## Calligraphy class at the Chantry

Why not start the New Year with new hobby? Have you ever fancied trying your hand at this fascinating art? Got a wedding coming up and want to do the place cards yourself? Do you have a calligraphy set sitting in a drawer, and not know what to do with it?

Calligraphy is the art of beautiful writing. This class explores this fascinating subject, with basic techniques and simple tools. Calligraphy is a skill that can be learned and is suitable for both left and right handed people, young and old. It is a very hands-on course exploring the many varied uses of this skill with plenty of opportunities to explore your creativity and exercise those grey cells.

A 10 week course starts on Wednesday 22 January, at The Chantry, Thornbury, from 7.30pm till 9.30pm. For further information please contact Fiona Mitchell, tel: 881545.

## Jazz with Jessica and the Park

**Row Five** Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 7.30 pm Cossham Hall

Were you lucky enough to hear Jessica Radcliffe's cultured voice along with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra at the 2013 Thornbury Festival? Jessica now sings with the elite performers from NYJO and we are delighted to announce that she will be returning to Thornbury on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014.

Back by popular demand, the group will perform in a relaxed Jazz Café setting. There will be great music to appeal to all tastes, with friends and food and drink in the welcoming ambience of the Cossham Hall. Finger food to be served in the interval is included in the price of the ticket. Bar available.

The concert, which is part of the fund raising project in aid of the Armstrong Hall Backstage Dressing Room Improvement Appeal, will be held in the Cossham Hall on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 each are on sale now at Thornbury Town Hall or by phone on 412272.

# St Peter's Hospice - winter warmer lunch

St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group would be delighted to welcome you to the Methodist Church Hall, Thornbury on Wednesday 29th January at 1.00p.m to our Winter Warmer lunch. This will be cottage pie and crumble followed by tea/coffee – vegetarian option will be available.

Tickets are priced at £8.00 per person and are available from the Town Hall in Thornbury, from 6th January 2014.

Happy New Year to you all. Please come along and support St Peter's, your local hospice.

## Friends of St Mary's

The prize winners in the December draw, held on 5th December 2013 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	348	D I Copley, Olveston
£75	351	Melinda Evans, Olveston
£25	338	Mrs R Simmons, Olveston
£25	302	Janet Rawles, Olveston
£25	578	Mr R J Lloyd, Tockington
£20	442	Mrs J M Skinner, Olveston
£20	266	Mr I A Hughes, Olveston
£20	495	Mr G Browning, Olveston
£10	303	Mr J H Chick, Olveston
£10	546	Mr K Richards, Tockington
£10	154	Mrs M Skuse, Pilning
£10	359	Mrs J Hawkins, Alveston

## RBL Poppy Appeal 2013

As the honorary appeal organizer for Severn Beach Pilning and Olveston, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone concerned in making this year's fundraising such a success. The total raised is a tremendous £5311.10 Special thanks must go to the Ladies of Olveston Branch of the RBL for their invaluable assistance.

Stan Bradburn RBL Honorary Poppy Appeal Organizer

# Thornbury Library

Thornbury Library now offers you more than library services. The Thornbury One Stop Shop is now based within the library answering your council enquiries: council tax, housing, streetcare and much more....We look forward to your next visit.

## **NEW COLOUR PHOTOCOPIER**

Our impressive new photocopier prints high quality copies in colour and black & white, as well as scanning documents to memory stick.

A4 b&w 10p, A4 colour 80p, A3 b&w 20p, A3 colour £1.60

## **NEW POLICE INFORMATION POINT**

A dedicated computer is now available providing easy access to information from Avon and Somerset Police. A freephone service to the 101 Police Non-emergency number is also available.

## **REGULAR ACTIVITIES**

### **Bookstart Bear Club**

#### **StoryTime and RhymeTime returns from January 6th**

Bring your little ones to StoryTime every Monday afternoon 2.15pm- 2.45pm and RhymeTime every Friday morning 11am – 11.30am.

TERM-TIME ONLY

Suitable for babies and pre-schoolers.

Breast-feeding welcome. Nappy changing facilities available.

### **IT enquiries – Mondays 10am-midday**

#### **Did you get an iPad for Christmas?**

#### **Need some help using it?**

Mike, our computer volunteer, will be ready to help with your IT enquiry (iPads or any computer-related matter) on Monday mornings from 10am-midday. Just drop-in.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS – advance notice**

### **Thornbury U3A Photography Group – Digital Camera Talk**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm – save the date!

More details to follow in next month's issue

### **National Libraries Day 2014**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February – save the date!

A day to celebrate libraries across the UK.

Full details to follow in next month's issue.

# Police Report November

There were 37 calls to the police. Seven crimes were reported, including:--

Criminal Damage to a vehicle in Olveston whilst parked on the driveway. Attempted burglary to a detached garage in Olveston where offenders attempted to gain access via the roof, however due to security measures no access was gained. Burglary to a residential property in Old Down. Unknown offenders entered the rear garden and forced a window to gain entry. Untidy search of the house and personal property such as jewellery was stolen.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes across the Severn beat are looking for new members to join their watches. If you are not a member or have recently moved into the area and would like to or are thinking of joining, please contact me on the numbers below.

The next SSCG meeting will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 7.30pm at Oldbury Memorial Hall. If anyone has any issues within the community that you would like to be raised please feel free to attend the meeting.

For emergencies dial 999. For other incidents and to report crime dial 101 PCSO 9317 Kelly Dimery 0117 945 5901

## Keep the rogues out in the cold this winter

South Gloucestershire Council Trading Standards would like to remind residents to be on their guard for rogue traders, especially now that winter is here. Recent years have shown that following periods of wet, frosty or snowy weather, there has been an 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 ice or snow, or to clear gardens, driveways or guttering of debris, such as leaves or snow. 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. Never let cold callers into your home. Use door chains and ask the caller to leave. Report possible rogue traders to Trading Standards by calling the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 08454 04 05 06, Monday to Friday 9 am to 6 pm.

# From the registers of St John's Church Elberton

14th November 2013    Funeral Service and Burial of Ellen Amy Pearce

# From the Registers of St Mary's Church Olveston

24<sup>th</sup> November 2013    Baptism of Bryony Eve daughter of David Lambie and Caroline Brewser

6<sup>th</sup> December 2013    Service to celebrate the life of Roy Simmons followed by cremation at Canford

## Looking ahead

**'Rapunzel'**    Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Feeling a bit low now that all the Christmas festivities are over? Then why not give yourself something to look forward to and book tickets for Thornbury Musical Theatre Group's annual pantomime in the Armstrong Hall?

Tickets are available on line at [www.tmtg.org.uk](http://www.tmtg.org.uk), by ringing Angie on 07516270140, or order and collect in person from R A Bennett and Partners, 6 The Plain, Thornbury. Prices are £12/£10, concessions £10/£8, family ticket £36/£30, group discount for 10 or more.

# Thornbury Choral Society Workshop

Thornbury Choral Society cordially invites you to come and join them for an all day workshop to study Mendelssohn's exciting oratorio *Elijah*.

**Date:** Saturday 22nd February 2014.

**Venue:** Thornbury Baptist Church, Grovesend, Thornbury BS35 2EG.

For a booking form contact Jos Gregson, 18 Willoughby Close, Alveston, BS35 3RW Tel. 01454-411652 email: [jos@josgregson.plus.com](mailto:jos@josgregson.plus.com) or download a booking form from our website [www.thornburychoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.thornburychoralsociety.org.uk)

# Yours Faithfully

Fr. Lazarus Msimbe

Parish Priest of Christ the King, Thornbury.

## ***New Year and Peace***

We need to thank God for all his Blessings we received during the year 2013. Some people lost their parents, some people lost their friends, and many people died because of sickness, conflicts, wars, natural calamities, etc. Why can't we thank God that we are still living! It's right and just to thank God always. It is also important to thank our relatives, our friends and other people who helped us to live in peace and happiness.

In *Num* 6:24-26, we read: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace." As we begin the New Year we need God's Blessings in our daily life and activities. In fact, in order to be blessed, we have to stand in God's presence, take his Name upon us and remain in the cone of light that issues from his Face, in a space lit up by his gaze, diffusing grace and peace.

Our life is threatened by the absence of peace. All of us have the responsibility to work for peace because we can do nothing if there is no peace. Educating Young People in Justice and Peace" is a task for every generation. After the tragedies of the two great world wars, the human family has shown increasing awareness of it. Awareness alone is not enough, we need to work for it, and this starts from the individual person.

As we begin the New Year a prayer for Peace is necessary: "*Lord, make me an instrument of Your **peace**; Where there is hatred, let me sow **love**; Where there is injury, **pardon**; Where there is error, **truth**; Where there is doubt, **faith**; Where there is despair, **hope**; Where there is darkness, **light**; And where there is sadness, **joy**."* This prayer of St. Francis of Assisi is not only a prayer but also an instruction on how we can practise to live in peace.

## **Malcolm & Fenella Tait**

Malcolm & Fenella would like to thank everyone for their prayers, generosity and acts of kindness received during Fenella's illness. They are truly grateful to you all.

# Church News

## ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Jan 5	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	6pm	Evensong with Choir	Mr Denis Jones
Jan 12	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev David Bone
	10am	Morning Worship with Choir	Mrs Janet McBride
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Holy Communion	Rev Philip. Rowe
Jan 19	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev Roly Bain & Canon Chris Pullin
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Rev. Ann Lloyd
Jan 26	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Fourth Sunday	Rev Roly Bain & Pastor Paul Ferguson
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev P Rowe & Mr T Cook

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

**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**  
except 4<sup>th</sup> Wed when it is at Olveston Methodist Church

## CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Jan 12	10am	Holy Communion.	Rev David Bone
Jan 26	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev David Bone

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

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

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

Jan 5	9am	Matins	Mrs Tracey Black
Jan 19	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 6	7.30	Plough Monday Service with Olveston Young Farmers	Rev D Pole & Archdeacon Christine Froude
Jan 12	9am	Matins	Sandra Edgerton
Jan 26	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 5	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. St Andrews	Morning Worship led by Rev S. Williams Evening Worship led by Rev Ajay Singh
Jan 12	10am	Olv. Ch.	All Age Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney. The Breakfast Club will join us later
Jan 19	10am	Tock. Ch.	Covenant Service led by Rev. Pete Brazier
Jan 26	10am	St Mary's	Week of Christian Unity Service Rev Paul Ferguson

**NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP:** This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January. To book your lunch please ring 416528

**TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP** meets at 12.15 in the Swan Tockington on Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> January To book please ring 613241, or 612112

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

**PRAYER MEETINGS** Tuesdays 9.00-12.00 in Olv. Methodist Church.

**HOUSE GROUPS** One on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10.30am at 7 The Green Olveston. led by Mr Glyn Varney or Mrs Rosalie Doyle Another on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 10.30 Please ring 416528 for details of venue

**CONTACT: Rev Pete Brazier Tel 01454 418176,  
e-mail [pete@thebigfishcafe.co.uk](mailto:pete@thebigfishcafe.co.uk)**

## THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

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

**Mike and Barbara Matthews**, tel. 07512 917229 or email:  
[thevine\\_awkley@hotmail.com](mailto:thevine_awkley@hotmail.com)



## THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Jan 5	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Jan 12	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Jan 19	6.30pm	Rev Colin Lewis
Jan 26	6.30pm	Tony McQueen

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Jan Concert by Voller Quartet for Vision of Hope

Each Thurs at 7.00pm Bible Study & Prayer Time

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

**Paul Ashford**, 07774 110 814 or email: [Paul@CalebGroup.net](mailto:Paul@CalebGroup.net)

## AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Family Worship 11.00am

'The Door' for young people on the last Sunday at 7pm

[www.THEDOORYOUTH.CO.UK](http://www.THEDOORYOUTH.CO.UK) or tel 07837234949

For more details, please phone 632564.

## LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

**Resound (BCF)** - Twice monthly meetings are held at 4pm at Thornbury Baptist Church (Youth Block)

Contact 0117 3050969 [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 2014

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	Every Wed & Fri Vic Hallett Library open		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop Open Mic. At White Hart	9.00-1.30 10.00-12.00 8.30pm	OS+
3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri			
4 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Coffee Morning Charity Quiz at Sports & Social Club (Old Down) & every Sat	10.30-12.00 8.15pm	MH AP
5 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Bingo every Sun at Sports & Social club	8.30pm	AP
6 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Monday Movie	7.30pm	S+M
7 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00	WR DGCL
8 <sup>th</sup> Wed	OPHS: Eric Garrett on Over Court	7.30pm	OMC
8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	'The Snow Queen' @ CtheK Church Hall, Th	7.30pm	
9 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15	OS+ MH
10 <sup>th</sup> Fri	Thornbury Picture House	7.30pm	CH
11 <sup>th</sup> Sat	'Hello Dolly' ticket sales Coffee Morning Coffee Morning The Chilli Quiz 'The Snow Queen' @ CtheK Church Hall, Th	9.30-11.00 10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00 7.30pm 11.00 & 2.30	OS+ AVH MH S+M
14 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Women's Institute Aust Parish Council	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 10.15 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR DGCL TMH PH EVH
15 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club-Demo.	2pm	AH
16 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-1.30 9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15	OS+ MH
17 <sup>th</sup> Fri			
18 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Coffee Morning 'Fascinating Rhythm' <i>a capella</i> workshop	10.30-12.00 10.00-4.00	MH CS
20 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Monday Movie Extra	7.30pm	S+M
21 <sup>st</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR

	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Olveston Parish Council	10.30-12.00 7.30pm	DGCL AP
22 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	8.30pm	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Severn Valley Quilters A.G.M.	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 7.30pm	OS+ MH CH
25 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Coffee Morning Burns Night	10.30-12.00 7.30pm	MH OV
27 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club Practice	1.30pm	AH
28 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 10.15	WR DGCL TMH
29 <sup>th</sup> Wed	St Peter's Hospice 'winter warmer' lunch	1.00	TMH
30 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Th. & District Flower Cl Practice	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 7.30pm	OS+ MH TMH
<b>Looking ahead to February</b>			
7th	OPTA Quiz	7.30pm	PH
8th	'Pilot Whale Research' event	7.30pm	StM
19 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup>	Hello Dolly	7.30pm	PH

**KEY:** AC Aust Church; AH – Armstrong Hall; AMC – Alveston Methodist Church; AMH- Alveston Methodist Hall; AP – Alexandra Pavilion; AVH – Aust Village Hall; ; CH – Cossham Hall; Chy – Chantry ;CS Castle Sch. DGCL – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; EVH – Elberton Village Hall; LVH Littleton 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, Olv.; StMA Almondsbury Church SMH St Mary,s Ch. Hall Thornbury;TCh Tockington Chapel 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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