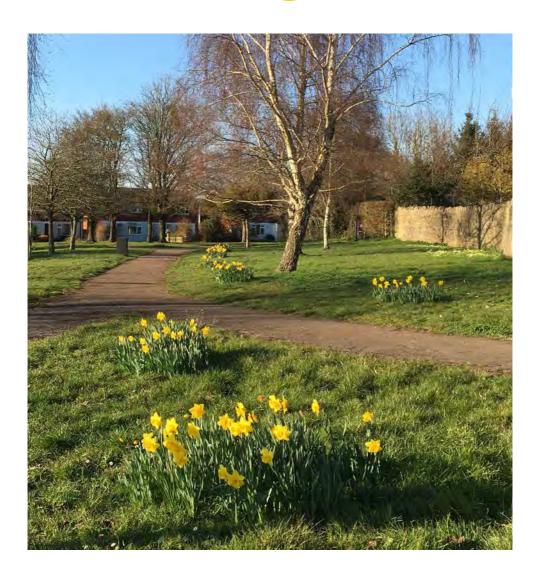
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Meeting Point

Volume 47, Number 6, March 2023

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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Publication date 1st of each month Material for April 2023 to the Editor or Deputy Editor by 6th March 2023

From the Editor

The magazine begins this month with an article from Making Space for Wildlife, with news about their latest tree-planting initiative. This group has been going for seven years now and, in that time, they have done a tremendous amount of good work in our area. It is not only the wildlife that benefits!

The allotments in Olveston are a wonderful facility and, at the height of their productivity in summer, they put on a brilliant display. You can't beat the taste of home-grown vegetables, so - given that there are some plots available - maybe this is your chance to join the ranks of local 'allotmenteers'. There is an article with contact details within the magazine.

The subject of our profile this month is one of our most recent advertisers and I think you will find it a most interesting story.

Marelin

This month's cover is by Les Harper

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

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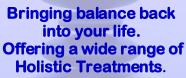
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Making Space for Wildlife Queen's (and Bees') Trees

'The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.'

National Tree Week is 20th to 26th March.

Although the Making Space for Wildlife project is now in its seventh year, we are still busy planting trees! At around the time this month's magazine goes to print, we are pleased to say that six new trees will have been planted in public open space areas.

Three trees are planned for Tockington Green, two for the Vicarage Lane playing field and one will be planted at the Old Down playing field area. The new trees are part of Olveston Parish Council's Local Nature Action Plan, which aims to improve biodiversity and tree cover in our area. The species that have been selected include beech, small leaved lime, wild cherry, cockspur thorn, Scots pine and English oak, all of which are excellent for wildlife. The trees on Tockington Green are being planted in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council and its response to the climate and nature emergency. Letters have been sent to residents living nearest to the planting locations, to let them know about this work.

In addition to helping biodiversity, three of the trees will be dedicated to the late Queen Elizabeth II. One tree from each village - Tockington, Olveston and Old Down - will become part of The Queen's Green Canopy. We hope that you will enjoy watching the trees grow and mature in the coming years.

Making Space for Wildlife is part of the Olveston Parish Council Biodiversity backed and funded initiative.

Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner

150 Club Winners February 2023:

£50 Jeff Pullin

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Indian Stories

Jenny Newley

Thornbury and District Museum currently has an exciting exhibition, 'Indian Stories', featuring the lives of South Gloucestershire residents of Indian heritage.



The exhibition is a blend of images and stories, filmed interviews and objects on loan from the interviewees. All the contributors have stories to tell of family and travel, work and education, but their stories are very different.

They range from a Thornbury restaurant owner, who worked in Delhi, Dubai and Bristol before choosing to settle in Thornbury, to a Yate GP whose patients successfully lobbied the Health Secretary on her behalf when her GP husband died, and their practice was threatened with closure. One young couple run a busy educational consultancy but have found the time to set up a football academy offering football training programmes to children in both the UK and India. One contributor has designed a highly regarded local degree course for experienced Rolls Royce and Airbus technicians.

The exhibition is the result of an Arts Council-funded collaborative project, led by South Gloucestershire Council, to which all the museums in South Gloucestershire contributed. The aim of the project was to give voice to previously little-known stories of local residents. We have greatly enjoyed taking part in the project and we hope you will enjoy the results.

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Unit 15 Hemingway Business Centre Walker Way, Thornbury, Bristol, BS35 3US

The Indian Stories exhibition runs until 22nd April. Entry is free and our opening hours are currently Tuesdays and Fridays 1pm - 4pm and Saturdays 10am -4pm www.thornburymuseum.org.uk

Indian Stories - Film Show

In association with the current museum exhibition (see previous page). Olveston Parish Historical Society, for its March meeting, is going to show a



selection of edited film interviews with South Gloucestershire residents of Indian heritage.

Although these filmed interviews will be available to view in the museum, it may be more comfortable to watch them while seated and with refreshments! (Tea/coffee/biscuits - no charge for these.)

We think you'll greatly enjoy

discovering the range of backgrounds and experiences of the different interviewees. As always with oral history interviews, it feels like a privilege to be let into other people's lives.

Olveston Parish Historical Society Wed. 1st March 7.30pm. Methodist Church, The Street, Olveston If you're not a member, just pay on the door. £3. All welcome!



The Film for March

St Mary's Church, Olveston.

On 6th March we are showing the biggest box office success of 2022. An action film which gained both audience and critics' approval. Our hero is an American test pilot who instructs elite pilots on the Super Hornet F18 fighter bomber. Theirs is a mission to destroy a foreign country's uranium enrichment plant - sounds familiar? During practice the lead character has to face up to the circumstances surrounding his best friend's death in the prequel, and whose son is now one of the trainees. The film has been universally praised for its cinematography.

Doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 7:30pm. Everyone welcome, free admission, tea, coffee, licensed bar.



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'Befriending' with Age UK

A Volunteer

A few months ago I found I had some spare time, and thought I would like to spend it doing something useful. I think that I am guite good motivating people to help them, so I called the Thornbury Volunteer Centre who chatted to me over the phone and suggested various options with different potential volunteering opportunities. I finally decided on Age UK and was interviewed in Thornbury. I was very impressed with this process and the Age UK representative said that I, as a volunteer, was as important to them as their clients and that they wanted both parties to benefit from the arrangement.

After a short time, I was linked to Bill Grey (not his real name) who lives in a local care home, to be a 'Befriender'. I had doubts about this term, but after various admin procedures, I was introduced to Bill.



In my early visits we started by talking about local things, past jobs, life experiences and we also played some cribbage. As we got to know one another Bill told me that he wanted to improve his mobility and that this was very important to him. As an ex-teacher I know that when a person is motivated it becomes easy to assist them. We have worked together (only once a week for about an hour) and he has made great progress – he said that it is a shame that he will have a long wait for the next Olympic Games! He really does have a great sense of humour. We both enjoy our time together, and now I would say we are friends. Bill is incredibly appreciative of my help, as is his daughter, and I have got a lot out of getting to know him.

I would recommend this kind of volunteering for anyone who enjoys getting to know people and can make a fairly regular, but limited, commitment of time. Just make contact with the Thornbury Volunteer Centre (https://volunteerthornbury.co.uk/) or go to the Age UK website: (https://www.ageuk.org.uk/bristol/)





News from St Mary's

The Journey to Easter 2023

This began on Ash Wednesday 22nd February. We invite you to be with us for the key services marking the journey – Mothering Sunday, Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday These are set out in

Church News section of the magazine.

We also invite you to pick up in St. Mary's the booklet '*Embracing Justice*'. For each day there is a reading, thought and prayer. If you wish to share this study with others, the details of available groups are in the Lent Brochure.

Good Causes for Lent 2023

Those chosen are Amnesty International www.amnesty.org and Bristol North West Food Bank www.bristolnorthwestfoodbank.org.uk. Funds received will be divided equally between these organisations who work for justice for those they serve. To donate - visit the website: www.sthelensalvs.co.uk/ and follow the link to St Mary's Olveston and click on the red Donate button.

Electoral Roll

The Annual Revision of our Electoral Roll takes place between 26th March and 10th April. If you consider yourself a member of St. Mary's, we encourage you to fill out an application form which is available in the church.

Mothering Sunday March 19th 10am

Please join us for this family service. Flower posies will be given to all the ladies during the service. We look forward to welcoming you.

Thank You

Rita Garlick would like to thank everyone who sent such lovely cards, messages of kind thoughts and flowers on the passing of my very dear husband Roy. Also, my thanks to the choir and all who attended for making the celebration of Roy's life such a special occasion.





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Thank You

The family of Issy Phillips, who passed away suddenly in January, would like to pass on their sincere thanks to friends, neighbours, and all who have been so kind since her death. There are far too many to name individually and for fear of forgetting someone, we would like to thank them all for their kindness and generosity, for their cards, prayers and kind words and deeds.

Many thanks to you all – it's so good to belong to such a caring community.

Men's Walk & Chat Group

Kevin Wood

I've noticed that many villages have men's walking groups and I wondered if there would be interest in having one locally. Nothing formal, no sign up, just turn up for a walk and chat. The group is not about speed walking or endurance! We walk at a pace where we can enjoy a chat.

We plan to meet and walk every other week departing 9:30 am from Tockington Green, and sociable dogs are welcome. We have already met twice and the numbers are growing. Walking dates in March are Monday 13th and Monday 27th.

I have set up a WhatsApp group to keep everyone informed of dates. If you would like to be added to the WhatsApp group, or have any questions, please email me at *kevin.wood@prepit.co.uk* with your mobile number. Thank you. See you on the Green.

Olveston Parish Allotment and Gardeners Association

Several allotment plots have become vacant recently. However, plots do not stay vacant for long so, if you would like to have an allotment, please get in contact as soon as possible. Gardeners from neighbouring villages would love such an opportunity but we must ensure people from our parish get preference. So, anyone from the parish wishing to have an allotment, please make your wishes known as soon as possible.

Please contact 07968050548 by phone or text, or email: opaga.chairman@gmail.com

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Aust Parish Council

Council funding 2023-24

At the January meeting the council agreed a budget for the coming financial year and set the precept (our main income) at £6,422. This will be charged to residents as part of your council tax payment, and for an average household works out at £27.56 for the year or £0.53 per week.

Street Care and Maintenance

In early February, you may have noticed a team from Streetcare carrying out various maintenance jobs around the parish, such as clearing moss from pavements, removing overhanging vegetation, litter picking, replacing broken or missing signage and cleaning of road signs. This is part of a new scheme where each parish is allocated a week of work to 'blitz' minor issues like these, with priorities set by the parish council. We hope they have left the parish looking a bit tidier!

If you see any other similar problems on or around roads and pavements, or other areas of publicly managed land, they can be reported directly to South Glos. Council using their online "Report It" tool: beta.southglos.gov.uk/report. If you can't access the internet then please let the clerk or your local councillors know and we can report on your behalf — sadly, this doesn't push the job up the queue though, so the best way to get something dealt with quickly is for several residents to report it.

Annual Parish Assembly

This will be held on Tuesday 11th April at 7:00pm in Elberton Village Hall. The assembly is a chance for the community to hear about what the Parish Council has been doing to represent them over the last year and discuss any issues of concern. One of our SGC ward councillors will be present, and we try to get another speaker on a matter of general interest (to be confirmed). Please put the date in your diary.

Could you serve your community as a Parish Councillor?

In May 2023 there will be elections to the parish council, alongside the South Glos. Council elections. Anyone who thinks they might be interested in being part of the council is warmly encouraged to talk to one of the current councillors (contact details at bit.ly/austpc_main) or contact the Clerk to ask any questions they might have and find out a bit more about what is involved. Parish councillors get involved in a broad range of village issues: in recent months we have covered litter, highway maintenance, traffic, the Jubilee celebration and many other matters. Several of the current councillors are not planning to stand for re-election this time, so we really need some new faces to step forward and represent their communities. Attending the next council

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meeting would be a great way to see more of what we do and decide if you might be a good addition to the team.

Election nomination packs are available from South Glos. Council - details at beta.southglos.gov.uk/stand-for-election/ or contact the Parish Clerk.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th March at 7.30pm in Elberton village hall. Agendas for council meetings are posted on the village noticeboards at least five days before the date of the meeting and are also available on the council web page (bit.ly/austpc_docs). Residents are very welcome to attend.

Aust Parish Council

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Pamela MacLeod

Bernard Amos

Pam was born in Edinburgh and celebrated her 'diamond' birthday in January. She describes her childhood, with her older brother, as being happy but tinged with a lot of sadness. She lost her mum when she was only three and then her father died when she was ten. Pam doesn't remember her mum, sadly, but does remember going to full time nursery. Her aunt (her father's sister) and uncle then brought her and her brother up through their teens and adolescent years. Her aunt and uncle had always been key elements in their lives, supporting her father through what must have been a very demanding time, having to work hard and look after two young children. Her aunt and uncle used to take her and her brother on holidays or look after them at weekends to give Pam's dad a bit of respite.

The loss of her father and moving in with her aunt and uncle meant big changes, such as going to a new school. Her aunt was an amazing person who made sure the children had as many opportunities to develop as possible. Pam was taken to dancing lessons, learning highland, tap and ballet. She had horse riding lessons and even learnt to ski on what must have been one of the earliest artificial ski slopes in the UK, but also skied on real snow, (whenever there was some), at Glenshee. She joined the Brownies and then Guides, so must have had a very full life before leaving school.

When it came time to leave school, Pam had decided she wanted to work with animals, so she trained as a British Horse Society Assistant Instructress. This involved training both horses and riders, which Pam really enjoyed, but found it really hard work for very little reward and needed to earn more. So, it was off



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to Secretarial College for her, becoming proficient in audiotyping, shorthand and other secretarial skills. After a year at college, she landed her first job and remembers vividly her first annual salary of £5,300.00.....she felt like a millionairess! Pam got married in 1989 and her first daughter, Sophie, was born in December 1990, followed by Hannah in 1994.

Then in 1996, early one Friday afternoon, her husband came home to announce that a vacancy had come up in the southwest, which came as big shock to the rest of the family, who had no idea that this would be an attractive proposition. However, after a lot of discussion and planning, the family moved to Bradley Stoke in 1996. Property prices in Edinburgh were strong and the family were able to move to a house with much more space than they had in Edinburgh, which helped to ease the upheaval of the move.

In 2001, Pam's entrepreneurial juices started flowing and she launched Jo Jingles. This was a franchise which offered music, singing and movement classes for babies and pre-school children, and Pam had purchased the Bristol 'patch'. About this time, the family were looking to choose a secondary school for Sophie and Hannah and had decided that Marlwood was the preferred destination. This meant having to move into the catchment area and the lucky recipient of the MacLeod family was Olveston. In 2002 they moved into Russet Close, with Hannah attending Olveston Primary School and Sophie going to Marlwood. Sadly the marital relationship broke down and, in 2006. Pam used an inheritance to move into their present address in Bramley Close with her two daughters.

Jo Jingles was proving a great success, with about 300 children per week attending and Pam having to employ three staff to cope. She was awarded Franchisee of the Southwest in 2008 and Franchisee of the UK in 2009. Pam. also took JJ into the local women's prison each month and, whilst she felt very



intimidated there, she continued with it for the sake of the children in the mother and baby unit. In 2014, she decided on a change of direction and sold the franchise to one of her class teachers. She is delighted that it is still going strong in Bristol and loves it when she bumps into mothers who used to come to her classes.

Pam had always been interested in drama, having studied it at school so, in parallel with Jo Jingles, she had signed up with a TV extras agency. As a result she has appeared in quite a lot of programmes, including Downton Abbey (see left), Casualty (see next page), Silent Witness, The Casual Vacancy (JK Rowling),

with her latest one being a role in a Channel 5 drama as Scottish Country

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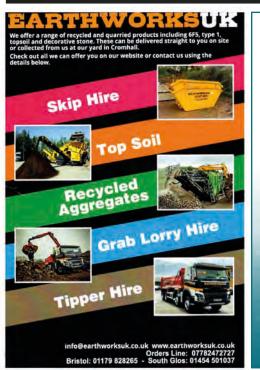


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Dancer...so the dancing lessons paid off! One surprising aspect of being an extra that Pam discovered, is that they are not always aware of the programme they are being filmed for, such is the secrecy surrounding the recording. Also, Pam says it is not at all glamorous, sometimes hanging around all day and maybe shooting the same scene several times...taking hours only for the

scene to be a few seconds when broadcast. She describes it as a paid hobby and insists you wouldn't do it for the money. She also said that sometimes, when filming and hanging around, members of the public would ask for her autograph despite not having a clue who she is.

In 2008, she met Dave, a retired police officer. He and Pam have been together since then and married in 2022. In 2015 Dave was diagnosed with male breast cancer. Fortunately his treatment worked, and now Dave campaigns tirelessly to raise awareness among men and is an ambassador for the Breast Cancer Now charity, as well as a moderator for a monthly men's breast and prostate cancer forum.

Whilst deciding what she wanted to do with her life after selling Jo Jingles, Pam invested in a small property portfolio with a business partner, which they manage themselves. She did a number of other jobs for about five years, and during that time she went back to college to study complimentary therapies (encompassing reflexology, Swedish massage and aromatherapy massage with essential oils). Which brings us right up to date - as Pam has now launched her new business Pamela MacLeod Holistic Therapies and has created a treatment room in her house in Bramley Close for the next stage of an interesting life. She says, "If ever there was a time for selfcare, it's now, and I don't mean taking a bubble bath once a week!"

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The prize winners in the February draw, held on 2nd February 2023 were:

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£150	196	Mr W Morgan, Tockington
£75	439	Mr D Skinner, Sneyd Park
£50	563	Mr B Brown, Olveston
£25	274	Mr & Mrs J Croome, Exmouth
£25	602	Mrs V Brazell, Olveston
£25	490	Mr I Lyons, Cowhill
£20	578	Mr R Lloyd, Tockington
£20	411	Mr R Lloyd, Tockington
£20	273	Mr & Mrs J Croome, Exmouth
£20	279	Mr A Bryan, Olveston

If you are not yet a member and wish to join the lottery, please telephone Andy Phillips on 01454 614890 or email andisp28@hotmail.co.uk.

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

Olveston and Tockington WI

Our meeting in January, with a fantastic talk from Phil Savage, saw two new members joining the WI. February's meeting was about hatting in Winterbourne, with a talk from Peter Bruce. The talk this month will be given by Carolyn Morton: 'The Scientific Detective'. Carolyn is a retired Forensic Science Lecturer at University of the West of England.

Twelve of us has a great day out, seeing the gorgeous snowdrops at the Rococo Gardens in Painswick at the beginning of February and our next visit is exploring backstage at the Bristol Old Vic.

Olveston and Tockington WI meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in Olveston Parish Hall. Please contact Angela Green on *01454 615222* if you would like to know more about WI.



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Green Force

Did you know there is a nitrogen cycle?

This is how nitrogen is converted into multiple chemical forms as it circulates around the globe. The nitrogen cycle is of particular interest because nitrogen availability affects human processes, fossil fuel combustion, and the use of fertilizers. The release of nitrogen in sewage



waste can have a dramatic effect. In other words, human modification of the global nitrogen cycle can negatively affect the natural environment system. Untreated sewage released by water companies is responsible for 35% of pollution, and the excessive use of fertiliser and pesticides in agriculture is responsible for 40% of pollution in England.

Natural fertilisers (manure and compost are examples of natural fertilisers) release nitrates into the soil slowly because they depend on the action of soil bacteria to break them down. The quantity of nitrate contained in natural fertilisers is relatively low, so large volumes of them may have to be added to the soil.

Artificial fertilisers are manufactured from petrol or natural gas. Fertilisers that contain nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium are called NPK fertilisers which are familiar to farmers and gardeners. Artificial fertilisers contain a relatively high quantity of nutrients so smaller volumes of them are needed. They release their nitrogen in the form of nitrates into the soil very quickly. Artificial fertiliser that has been sprayed on to a field can be washed out by rainwater moving through the soil. If the fertiliser then flows into a river or lake, algae can multiply very rapidly which then become blue/ green algal bloom which can lead to severe problems of toxicity.

Nitrogen is one of the most paradoxical elements in the periodic table. Flames are extinguished and animals die in an atmosphere of pure nitrogen and yet this colourless, odourless gas, making up 78% of the atmosphere, has an explosive nature in the form of Nitroglycerin and TNT (Trinitrotoluene) which are compounds of nitrogen, oxygen, hydrogen and carbon. One of gunpowder's main constituents is potassium nitrate.

Tockington Chapel Coffee Morning

The next 'First Friday' coffee morning will be held in Tockington Chapel on Friday 3rd March from 9.00 to 12.00. All welcome. Cash payments only.

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and Year 7

2023 entry

Book your private tour of the school with our Headmaster at a time convenient to you. 01454 613229 www.tockingtonmanorschool.com Scan the QR

CRUK Quiz

Thornbury and District Cancer Research UK Committee is holding a guiz night with a 'Fish & Chip Supper' and a raffle.

Saturday 18th March 2023 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start Manorbrook Primary School, Park Road, Thornbury, BS35 1JW

There will be no bar so please bring your own drink - glasses will be provided.

Tickets, to include food and entrance, £12.50 from Gill Blackborough on 07866580608 or any other committee member.



Onwards and Upwards Marlwood@Alveston is 50

Fortunately for some of us. Disce aut Discede was not strictly observed at the Friends of Marlwood's annual guiz. Marlwood alumni or Latin aficionados reading this will recognise the school's former motto, Learn or Leave. Thankfully, having learned this little bit of local history, those of us flunking this question were not shown the door until the guiz had reached its happy conclusion!



FOMS held its annual guiz at the end of January to a record turnout of 126 people, raising £700 in the process. As Marlwood School is celebrating 50 years at the Alveston site this academic year, quiz contestants were challenged with a round of questions dedicated to the history of the school. Which was how we learned that not only is Mr Helliker a fabulous Quiz Master, but he is also the

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Please note; If your property is currently on the market, the terms and conditions of your Existing agency agreement must be considered before instructing ourselves. longest serving teacher currently at the school, with 32 years of service. Thank you once again Mr Helliker for putting together such a fun and engaging quiz, and congratulations on your long service to Marlwood School. Thanks to Deep Blue in Thornbury who supplied over 100 portions of freshly cooked fish 'n chips, veggie burgers or sausages, and Racks Bar and Grill in Bristol for its terrific catering, bar and raffle prize. We are grateful to all those who donated raffle prizes and everyone who came along and supported us on the night. Congratulations also to the winning teachers' team Pea Pod, we hope to see you back next year to defend the coveted title. The photograph above shows the winning team with Quiz Master, Mr Helliker, on the right

FOMS is also pleased to report it has been successful in gaining some community grants from both Olveston Parish Council and Alveston Parish Council. Together these grants bring £850 funding to the school and will be used to purchase essential equipment for the design and technology, art and music departments. Enormous thanks to both Councils for their generosity, your ongoing support is appreciated by all at Marlwood School.

Finally, just before Christmas, FOMS received the wonderful news that the Olveston Parish Twinning Association wished to make a donation to the language department. This much-appreciated donation will have a big impact on the teaching and learning of languages at the school. Thank you OPTA for your generosity.

More information about FOMS is on our Facebook page: @Friends of Marlwood School or please email marlwoodfriends@gmail.com.

Repair Café



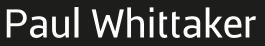
St Helen's Church, Alveston Saturday 25th March 10am – 1pm

Volunteers will be on hand to repair your possessions for free – a voluntary contribution towards costs is requested.

Electrical, clothes, jewellery (light repairs), bicycles (plus bicycle health check) and general repairs.

Tea, coffee and cakes available.

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19th Century Gossip



Stories have always circulated in society since communities began. Some tales may have been factual, others - passed on in muted tones - less so. Many were worthy of a listen if only for the prospect of a titillating story of local scandal. Certain members of a community were trusted as a good source, not that they were gossips of course.

In the mid-1880s a largely trade newspaper called Magpie was printed in Bristol and widely distributed in the region. Its banner proclaimed it to contain satire, wit and criticism. One section dealt with stories from many local villages, headed with their names and certain unattributed accounts from Olveston and Tockington found themselves in print. Even though from another age and written in an older English the gist of meaning can still be understood and some comments seem to identify the main subject.

"If a certain young grocer is contemplating marriage and leaving home shortly. When he goes, he will carry with him the best wishes of all."

"The musical blacksmith thinks Magpie most unkind not to give him a call. He has serious thoughts of giving up horse racing and paying more attention to his lady love. Magpie thinks it quite time to do so."

"If Emma had kept to her William on Olveston flower show day instead of going dancing with Freddy, her dear William would think more of her."

Comments in subsequent editions seemed to give a right of reply, although these never named the subject of criticism. In the 1800s it can be imagined that there was more than one woodcutter in the area?

"The conceited and cantankerous woodcutter wishes to inform the old bird that he has never bestowed the least affection on that miserable set of belles represented."



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"The woodcutter admits the old bird pecked rather hard, but it is much to be regretted he could not contribute to Magpie again, as such a genius is seldom met with. Does he find the expense too much, if so, one of those miserable belles will gladly forward stamps if only to enable him to post Magpie to London. Rather!"

A 'masher' was a man who paid unwanted attention to women, and it is not a complimentary title. Mention of such a local masher seemed frequent in the messages.

"If a certain masher would keep better hours at night, instead of staying out with the belles of Olveston and rise a little earlier to get to his work, it would be much more to his credit and he would not get talked of."

"If a certain well-known and rather conceited young masher who takes such a lively interest in and talks so much about other people, would mind his own business, he would have enough to do."

"If the masher referred to last week would look more attentively at his book in church on Sundays and not quite so often at the young ladies, he would sing more correctly."

"If a certain young masher, rather conceited, did not visit the belles of Tockington quite so often and attended more to his own lady love and not bring a name up so often in Tockington company, the old bird might not have given him a call."

Terms like 'old bird' above, and 'old fish' and were titles of insult no one would have wanted.

"If the old fish had common sense enough to know how the young ones are suffering for water below, he would not advise his family to assist him in consuming it all in this scarce time of downfall."

Did someone cause problems by using too much water from the local standing pumps? These were often a community resource affected by climate conditions. Clean accessible water was often a scarce resource.

Is there humour in the Magpie's snippets? One would hope so, although there may have been a more sinister and serious side to some of the issues raised. Some of the people mentioned would probably have been easy to identify at the time, others less so. And what about now, in the 21st century? Whether it is a group of friends discussing another's choice of partner, or tabloid newspapers obsessed with the lives of 'celebrities', or social media (where some of the content is so malicious that it can cause the subjects serious mental anguish), we can see that stories and gossip are certainly still circulating.

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Property Care & Improvements

Alveston Gardens Association

Our next two meetings are:

March 6th The Spring Garden, with Duncan Coombes.

April 3rd The Wonder of Trees, with Mary Fenton

We meet in the Jubilee Hall, Alveston at 7.30.pm on the first Monday of the month. We will be very pleased to welcome new members and visitors.

Volunteer with Carers Support Centre

We are currently looking for kind, compassionate, reliable and caring volunteers to join our team of 'sitters' to support the Carers Breaks Service in South Gloucestershire. Unpaid carers look after a family member, often all day, every day, with little or no time for themselves. It's sometimes impossible for carers to leave the person they care for, so if you can give a few hours of your time, they can take a break.

If you can regularly spare 2-3 hours (Monday to Friday) a week, or fortnightly, during the day, we'd really like to hear from you. The service we provide covers South Gloucestershire, so it would be ideal if you live in or close to this area. No personal care is involved, and previous experience is not required. We provide an excellent package of training and on-going support to all our volunteers.

To find out more, please contact Marilyn Crump, Volunteer Coordinator on 07840 818 316 or email: marilync@carerssupportcentre.org.uk

Easter Tabletop Sale

Thornbury Volunteer Centre is holding a charity 'Easter Tabletop Sale' and pop-up café on Saturday 1st April between 10am and 12.30pm at Thornbury Methodist Church Hall.

Local community groups and charities will be selling a large variety of goods including cards, produce, crafts and vintage items. Join us for tea, coffee and delicious home-made cakes. Enter our Easter raffle and help raise valuable funds for local community groups and charities.

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Thornbury Jazz Festival 2023

4.00pm - 9.30pm, Saturday 25th March

Drama Hall, Marlwood School, Alveston BS35 9AL

There are still tickets available for this year's Thornbury Jazz Festival, but they won't be there for long! Come and join us at Marlwood to hear four fabulous bands in a relaxed jazz café setting.

Top of the bill are the top-notch Storyville Strutters, veterans of The Old Duke and countless other venues and festivals in the South-West and Wales. They'll end the night by taking us back to the authentic roots of jazz in the Storyville Quarter of New Orleans, early in the 20th century. The three supporting bands cover a broad spectrum of jazz and will provide much to appeal to jazz fans of all tastes. The Festival begins with a bang and a big-band wall of sound from the excellent 16-piece Thornbury Swing Band and the evening continues with two popular local ensembles - The Class Act Quartet and the Mood Indigo Trio.

There's plenty of free parking at Marlwood, the bar will be open from 3.30 pm, and a selection of hot food will be available. Bring your friends and make up a table! Book your tickets now – just £25 – from AAGthornbury@gmail.com

Thornbury Memory Café

The Memory Café is now proving to be very popular with people who have memory difficulties, and their carers or family helpers. We are not a clinic, but we do provide an opportunity for people with these problems to meet and socialise. The Café is open on the second and fourth Tuesday each month in the Methodist Hall, which is just behind the church on the High Street, Thornbury. We are open from 10.15 am until 11.45 am. There is easy parking for Blue Badge holders just outside, or in the nearby car park.

Tuesday 14th March will be our Anniversary Party to celebrate 11 years since the Café opened. New guests are always welcome, so come along and share the enjoyment and chatter.

We have an excellent team of volunteers who chat to visitors as well as serving tea, coffee, biscuits and fruit - which are free of charge, although we do have a voluntary contribution box.

Contact Sue Rowley on 01454 412941 or Louise Wright on 01454 260371 for more information.



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March at Thornbury Library

An Afternoon of Tea, Coffee, and Cake with award winning author Rachel Jovce

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Keeping warm and well

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Use the computers or use your own iPad, phone etc. (wifi available) Read a book, a newspaper, browse the shelves, enjoy a communal puzzle or just relax.

Meet The Dino that Pooped

Friday March 3rd at 4pm

Enjoy a story, some rhymes, and a cuddle with 'the dino that pooped'. Photo opportunities.

Lego Club

Listen to a story or some poems, then create your own LEGO masterpieces and display them in the library for your family and friends to see Free. Every Saturday 9.30am. No booking required.

Rhymetime

Free. Every Monday and Friday 9.30am-10am

Have You Read...? A book group for everyone

Come and enjoy an open book group with a difference. No set novel to read. Just drop in for an hour for refreshments and a chat Friday 3rd March 2pm-3pm

Book Group for Years 7 and up

Come and spend an hour discussing your favourite books with others. A great way of finding brilliant new authors to Thursday 9th March 4pm-5pm

Computer Support 1-1

Book a session with our computer volunteer for IT and digital support. Every Thursday 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am

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Monday 20th March 10am-1pm



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Yours Faithfully

Revd Dr Simon Edwards Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church

I have always had a tendency to explore new places. If I go for a walk I'm always tempted to 'see what's down there' rather than stick to routes I know. I often decide to try new roads, to much sighing and rolling of eyes from others who might be in the car. There is something that appeals to me about travelling on unknown roads and generally wandering. But when I am wandering, I know where I am, I may not know every part, but I can usually work out where it fits into the bigger picture.

In JRR Tolkien's The Fellowship of the Ring there is a poem, The Riddle of Strider, which has the line 'not all who wander are lost'. The poem shows how easily things can be misunderstood, 'all that is gold does not glitter, the old that is strong does not wither, deep roots are not reached by the frost'. It's easy to think that if you wander you must not know where you're going, and you must be lost. But wandering is OK.

In the life of faith, we can often wander, not leaving behind all our beliefs and convictions, but just nipping down a pathway we haven't seen before or have ignored because we always go the other way, widening our experience, and getting a new perspective on how everything might fit together. The Bible is full of wandering too. Abraham travels to the new land God has promised. Jacob travels from Haran to Bethel and wrestles with God on the way. The whole of God's people are freed from slavery in Egypt and wander for forty years! In the New Testament there is the road to Emmaus, the road to Damasus, and the constant travel in the book of Acts. Sometimes these journeys are comfortable and joyful, sometimes they are the opposite, but they always help to give a bigger picture of the world for God's people.

Wandering might mean we admit to struggling with questions of faith and church life and taking some time to try to see the bigger picture and find our place with God again. Wandering might mean lots of things, but it is not to be feared.

Wherever we wander - God is with us!



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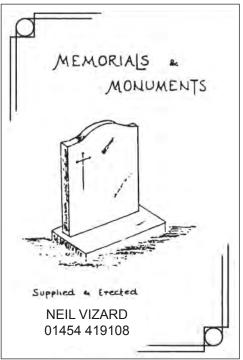


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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

MEETING POINT

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Church News

ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Mar 5	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss
	6pm	Evensong	Rev Ann Lloyd
Mar 12	10am	Morning Prayer	Janet McBride
	6pm	Holy Communion	Fran Brealey
Mar 19	10am	Morning Prayer	Fran Brealey
	6pm	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss
Mar 22	10am	Ash Wednesday Benefice	Revs Lloyd, Moss
		Service with Communion and Bone	
Mar 26	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Fran Brealey

Every Saturday in Term Time, 'REFRESH', 4.30-5.30 - Fun, relaxed church for families, all welcome.

Every Wednesday, Holy Communion, 10am. NB. Clergy may change. Contact: Rev David Moss, 01454 415190; email: mossds@gmail.com

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Mar 12	10am	Holy Communion Rev David Moss	
Mar 26	10am	Holy Communion	Trevor Cook

Contact: Trevor Cook, 01454 618442

Church Wardens: Jenn Dickens 632312 and Clive Roberts 632238

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Mar 12	9am	Morning Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd
Mar 26	9am	Holy Communion Rev David Moss	

Contacts: Tracey Black 417660 and Tim Pyper 416422 /07802 419451

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Mar 12	9am	Morning Prayer	Judith Heybyrne
Mar 26	9am	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd

Contacts: Judith Heybyrne 616725 and John Gunnery 413225

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Mar 5	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship. Preacher TBA
Mar 12	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship. Preacher TBA
Mar 19	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship. Preacher TBA
Mar 26	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship. Preacher TBA

Contact: Rev Dr Simon Edwards 418176, simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

THE VINE House of Prayer, Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL

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Contact: Brian Hawkins, hawkinsb863@gmail.com 01454 854867



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Diary Dates for March

Information believed to be correct at going to press.

1 Wed	OPHS: Piracy in the Bristol Channel	7.30	OMC
2 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market	9-1.30	
	Coffee Shop	9-12	StM
	'Good Afternoon Choir', every week	1-3	URC
3 Fri	World Day of Prayer		
	Over 60's Bingo or Quiz every Friday	2-4	DGCL
	Swimarathon, Thornbury Rotary Club		
	First Friday Coffee Morning	9-12	TC
4 Sat	Litter Pick	1pm	OPH
	'Refresh', relaxed fun for families	4.30	StM
	Swimarathon, Thornbury Rotary Club		
6 Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club	2pm	SMCH
	Monday Movies	7.30	StM
7 Tues	Over 60's Coffee Morning	10-12	DGCL
	Citizens Advice, every Tuesday	10-12	TCC
	Thornbury Memory Café	10.15	TMH
	Aust Parish Council	7.30	EVH
9 Thurs	Coffee Shop	9-12	StM
10 Fri	Over 60's Bingo or Quiz	2-4	DGCL
11 Sat	Coffee Morning at Olveston Methodist Hall	10.30-	OMH
		12.00	
13 Mon	Men's Walk and Chat group, Tock Green	9.30	
14 Tues	Over 60's Coffee Morning	10-12	DGCL
	Thornbury Memory Café	10.15	TMH
	WI	7.30	PH
	Aust Parish Council	7.30	EVH
16 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market	9-1.30	
	Coffee Shop	9-12	StM
21 Tues	Thornbury Memory Cafe	10.15	TMH
22 Wed	Alveston Historical Soc. History of Printing	7.30	AMC
	from Guttenberg to Gates		
23 Thurs	Coffee Shop	9-12	S†M

25 Sat	Coffee Morning at Olveston Methodist Hall	09.30	ОМН
	Thornbury Jazz Festival at Marlwood School.		
	Phone 850933		
26 Sun	British Summer Time commences -	2am	
	clocks go forward one hour		
27 Mon	Men's Walk and Chat group. Meet on	9.30	
	Tockington Green		
28 Tues	Memory Café	10.15	TMH
	Olveston Parish Council	7.30	QAMP

KEY: AMC - Alveston Methodist Church, AMH - Alveston Methodist Hall, CS - Castle School, CTK - Christ the King, DGCL - Daldry Gardens
Community Lounge, EVH - Elberton Village Hall, OMC - Olveston
Methodist Church, OMH - Olveston Methodist Hall, OPH - Olveston
Parish Hall, QAMP - Queen Alexandra memorial Pavilion, Old Down, StM - St Mary's Church, SMCH - St Mary Church Hall Thornbury, TCC Turnberries Community Centre, TMH - Thornbury Methodist Church Hall,
URC - United Reform Church TC - Tockington Chapel

Looking Forward to April

Saturday 1st, Thornbury Volunteer Centre charity Easter Table Top sale and pop up café, 10-12.30, Thornbury Methodist Church Hall.

Saturday 22nd The Enigma of Edward Elgar URC 7.30pm Tickets £12 from *AAGThornbury@gmail.com* or *01454 850933*. More info next month.

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

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