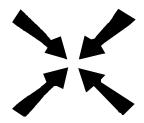
MEETING POINT



MAY 2014



Meeting Point

Volume 38, Number 8, May 2014

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

EDITOR:

Phyllida Pyper Stock Farm Littleton upon Severn Bristol BS35 1NL Tel: 01454 416422 meetingpointeditor@ gmail.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Angela Williams
Ashlea
Haw Lane
Olveston
Bristol BS35 4EG
Tel 01454 612850
meetingpointmagazine@
gmail.com

ADVERTISING:

Nigel Dawes Cromwell House The Street, Olveston Bristol BS35 4DR Tel: 01454 201558 julie.dawes@tiscali.co.uk

Publication date 1st of each month

Material for June 2014 to the Editor or Deputy Editor by 5th May 2014.

From the Editor

If you look through Diary Dates for May, you will see that that you can have a wonderful month of coffees, teas and cakes on nearly every day! Then at the end of this epicurean month you can walk it all off between Bristol and Aust and/or Malmesbury and Littleton.

Also in this edition: get to grips with your computer, learn how to use the newly installed defibrillators, look at bluebells with the Olveston Parish Countryside Group, help choose next year's Parish Players' show ... the opportunities are endless.

Have a good month.

Phyllioz

The cover: Meccano model traction engine by John Hawkins. See also article on p.5.

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

Village person: Mary Griffiths

Pat Thirkettle

Mary was born in Bournemouth, ninety years ago. She has happy memories of a wonderful childhood by the sea. Her parents ran a hotel and from there the family regularly walked half an hour down the Alum Chine to the sea shore. Initially they had a primitive canvas hut rented from the council; this was later updated to a sturdier one that they rented for £150 year. It had a water supply nearby and a small stove and could be used all day long all the year round. Mary said it was really their garden, and when she and her two sisters were about 9 or 10 they were sometimes allowed to go on their own for as long as they liked – what freedom! Also using a much larger beach hut were the children from the Shaftesbury Home for Crippled Children. Most were bed ridden and wheeled down to the sea and Mary loved to spend some time talking and playing with them.

At eleven she went to boarding school where she was very happy and when she left she did a domestic science course and a secretarial course, neither of which she really enjoyed. She was working in an accountant's office in Bournemouth when she met her future husband Norman who was in the army and posted to Bournemouth. In her spare time she joined the St John's Ambulance doing relief work in several local hospitals. By now the Second World War was well under way and, unsuited to secretarial work, Mary joined the WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air force). After receiving her uniform she was sent to Morecombe in Lancashire for basic training. It was winter, wet and felt much too cold to be marching up and down the sea front. The women were billeted five to a room in private guest houses, and by now in the war everything was in short supply. A perfect example of this was the note in the lavatory: 'one sheet of lavatory paper, per person, per sitting'!

Later twelve of them were chosen to be 'Sparks', (in naval parlance), given badges and sent to Yatesbury, ostensibly to be wireless operators. It was a very, very cold winter and they were in an ex-army camp, sleeping in huts with the windows open because there had been cases of meningitis.

One day Mary was put on a charge for being late (because the camp was so big she got lost) and her punishment was stirring dried egg for fifty in the cookhouse! But the real reason the twelve were chosen was for training as plotters and trackers of Britain's radar defence, which was very new and very secret.

After training she was posted to Dorset, first at Ringstead Bay where they plotted and tracked high flying channel aircraft and then to Worth Matravers to

plot and track low flying channel aircraft. Next it was to Deal in Kent to plot and track aircraft of the RAF Pathfinder squadron going out and returning. These aircraft located targets and marked them with flares for the bombers to aim more accurately. Her last posting was to Portland in Dorset, plotting and tracking low flying aircraft again. A few weeks before the invasion of Normandy, or D-Day as it was known, all leave was cancelled. They were unable to leave the island and knew something was about to happen. Predawn on 6th June 1944, D-Day itself, Mary was tracking the gliders of the American Airborne Division carrying the first troops to land behind enemy lines. She continued working with radar until VE Day in 1945 when she immediately became redundant and returned home in August.

Meanwhile she and Norman had become engaged in 1942; he proposed by service airmail as he was travelling to India. They were eventually married in December 1945, two months after his return from the east. They lived in Southampton where Norman worked for the Borough Council on the rebuilding of the city. When Mary's mother died suddenly in 1949, (her father was already deceased), Norman was given compassionate leave and they rushed over to help and eventually took over the tenancy of the hotel in 1950. By now they had two children, Michael and Hazel and stayed running the hotel for ten years. In 1960 they bought the Devonshire Arms at Long Sutton, a 350 year old hotel in deeply rural Somerset. The business thrived for eight years until the combination of drink/driving laws coming into practice and the enforced departure of the couple who cooked and ran the forty seat dining room made it impossible to continue, and they sold the business.

They had always liked this area so they moved to Alveston for seventeen years; Norman worked for Victoria Wine, first in Thornbury and then Clifton. When he retired they bought April Cottage in The Street, Olveston and Mary has been there since 1984. Norman was always a keen bird watcher and they belonged to Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust and the RSPB. They both became active members of the congregation of St Mary's Church and Norman served on the PCC. They were, and Mary still is, active in pastoral work. She is a member of the Local Churches Support Group, the WI, St Mary's Handbell Ringers and an original, now retired, helper in the Thursday Coffee Shop. She celebrated her 90th Birthday in April last year with a tea party in church surrounded by her many friends.

Thank you

Colin and Kim Prewett would like to thank everyone so much for all their kind thoughts, wishes and cards whilst Colin has been in hospital. It really has been amazing to know so many people have been "rooting" for him. We are glad to say that he is now home and making a wonderful recovery.

The South West Meccano Club

Saturday 3rd May Olveston Parish Hall 10.00 - 4.00

The South West Meccano Club has been holding its annual exhibition at Olveston Parish Hall for eight years. At each exhibition, we show a selection of large and small models some of which are interactive. We also show a selection of Meccano sets and factory display models which have been available over the last 110 years.

Meccano is so versatile that almost anything you can think of has been modelled over the years. As well as cranes, steam engines and vehicles, we have shown barracuda fish, fairground rides, clocks, motor vehicles and much more.

Sir Frank Hornby invented Meccano in 1901 and later produced Hornby Trains and Dinky Toys. Some of the most respected 'old timers' in the Meccano fraternity say that the 'hey day' of the Meccano hobby was not in the 1930s but is now. This is because the complexity and quality of models keeps improving. It doesn't matter whether you are 3 or 93 years old, there is something to interest every one.

Please come along on Saturday 3rd May between 10.00 and 4.00. Teas and cakes are available as well as friendly banter on the Meccano hobby.

Internet Café

Are you like me, having problems with your PC, laptop or Ipad? Have you felt like throwing it on the floor and jumping on it?

Does it do what you want, or seem to do what it wants?

Does it ask you to do something and you don't know what it means?

Is the jargon used like a foreign language?

Are you thinking about having a computer but do not have a clue what it is all about?

Could you break it if you do something wrong?

The Internet Café has the answers

Pop in to the Methodist Hall on a Monday 2-4 pm, or Wednesday 10-12 noon or Friday 7-9 pm when there are experts who, in my experience, put you right in a friendly way on a one to one basis. Come along and try it. All for a pound and also you can have a cup of tea.

Aust Parish Council Matters

Tim Pyper austparishcouncil@googlemail.com

The Annual Parish Meeting - Tuesday 8th April 2014

At the Annual Parish Meeting (which was attended by several residents), the chairman, Mike Hawkins, presented his report on the Council's activities over the past year. The draft minutes of the meeting, containing a copy of his report, are on the website. He talked about the Council's objections to the proposed wind farm at Aust and the co-operation between the three affected Parish Councils about establishing a community benefit fund if it goes ahead.

He mentioned a couple of other successes – the decision by South Gloucestershire Council to close the wide load lay-by at Aust; and preventing Aust council tax payers having to meet the cost of grass cutting round the Aust roundabout and along the A 403.

He also talked about the possibility of creating a parish plan to take account of the things residents would like in and about the three villages. Several volunteers have offered to help with the preliminary stages. At this meeting, and the subsequent Parish Council meeting, it was agreed that the first step should be to establish whether or not people would like a plan made. It is important to note that a parish plan doesn't deal with planning permission or development (though it can express views about both) but is really about the services and ambience that villagers wish to see. A small group of the Council will prepare a questionnaire for residents designed to find out if a plan is needed. So please watch this space.

Our ward Councillor, Matthew Riddle, spoke about the good things that parish councils do by prodding others into action. He complimented Aust Parish Council on its ability and persistence in prodding him and South Glos Council. He mentioned three matters. First, he was pleased that the Council had been able to freeze council tax for the fourth year. Second, broadband provision. Aust and Littleton should have improved coverage under the South Gloucestershire agreement with BT, but Elberton was not part of that agreement, being part of the area within BT's commercial arrangements. However, the green box in Alveston was too far away to enable Elberton's service to be improved. South Gloucestershire is making some additional funding available, as is the government, and he hoped that some of this money would be used to improve service in Elberton. Lastly, he said that South Glos Council would again be increasing its spending on provision for elderly people, as it has in recent past years.

At the meeting of the Parish Council held immediately after the Parish Assembly, there was further discussion about the parish plan.

Olveston Parish Council Matters

Richard Rogers (olvestonpc@gmail.com)

Two defibrillators have now been installed in the Parish with a third on its way. Each defibrillator is securely stored in a green box, with adjacent signage and an associated green night light. One is sited at Green Lane Garage, Olveston and the other is adjacent to Tockington Methodist Church.

Full instructions are provided at each location detailing how to open the box and apply the defibrillator. The units will be formally 'launched' on Sunday 11th May at the Parish Hall, and will include instruction and training in their use. Full details can be found overleaf in this issue of Meeting Point, advertised on the Parish notice boards and online – everyone is welcome.

The defibrillator itself is very portable, and the storage box accessed via a numerical code that has to be obtained by telephone from the Ambulance Service. In order to save lives, the defibrillators will need regular maintenance and the pads replaced after each use or every three years. Several parishioners are needed to co-ordinate this maintenance, and where possible assist with fund raising for replacement parts. When a defibrillator is used, please try and ensure that the unit is returned to the cabinet and the Parish Clerk or one of the co-ordinators notified to replace the pads.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Diamond Jubilee Committee and St Mary's Church for their fundraising; the Methodist Churches and Green Lane Garage for installing the units; and the Sports Clubs and Societies at Old Down for funding the third unit for installation at the Queen Alexandra Memorial Pavilion.

The **Annual Parish Assembly** was notified of the anticipated charges as South Glos Council seeks to redistribute the cost of 'optional' services to Parish & Town Councils. The Parish Council has written objecting to the introduction of the charges for the green waste bin collection, and expressed concern at the way that South Glos Council is endeavouring to save costs by going 'paperless' and increasingly rely on the internet to consult with residents on their many proposals (including the removal of the bottle banks from the Parish Hall car park), at the expense of parishioners who do not have access to the internet. Please remember that you have to opt **in** to have your green bin emptied (www.southglos.gov.uk, ring 01454 868000, or visit the 'one stop shop' in Thornbury Library). These are also the contacts for any feedback that you wish to make about the various ongoing consultations.

Celebration - tea, cake and CPR!

Sunday 11th May from 3 - 5pm at the Parish Hall, Tockington

LIFE SAVING SKILLS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Please come along and find out about our amazing defibrillators and how they can help you save a life. There will be demonstrations - showing you how easy it is to get the defib unit and use it to help save a life - **plus** we will teach you CPR using the famous 'MiniAnnie'. It won't take any longer than 5 minutes for you to learn and it's an invaluable skill to have.

Everyone is welcome, children as well....there will be tea and cake too. You can make a difference - restart the heart!

St Mary's Olveston Church Choir in Hereford Cathedral

According to *My Fair Lady*, "in Hertford, Hereford and Hampshire hurricanes hardly ever happen". But there was certainly much activity in Hereford Cathedral on Sunday 6th April when our church choir sang three services there in the day – Eucharist at 10.00am (with a congregation of about 300), Matins at 11.30am and Evensong at 3.30pm. There was a party of 40 of us: choristers and partners (and Roly!). We all stayed in the Green Dragon hotel on Saturday night – about 150 yards from the cathedral – ready for an early breakfast at 7.30am on Sunday and then on to our only rehearsal in the cathedral at 8.45.

Most of the choir explored the architecture and history of the cathedral on Saturday afternoon, including the famous Mappa Mundi and the Chained Library, where the oldest volume was over 1000 years old. It was a privilege for us to be there and to be such an important element in the services of that glorious building.

Awaiting us on our return was a lovely email from the Canon Precentor of the cathedral who said extremely complimentary things about the music we provided for the services.

All the cathedral staff – the Dean and Chapter, the team of vergers, the guides, the volunteers in the cathedral shop and exhibitions were extremely helpful and welcoming to us. There was a most friendly atmosphere in the whole building and it was a great joy to be there. A day which will never be forgotten.

Flights of Fancy – Swallows and Swifts

Trevor Cook

After asking you to look for invisible warblers last month it is perhaps time to look for some birds you cannot fail to see. House martins and then swallows arrive in numbers in late April, either returning to us or making their way to homes further north.

The house martin, as its name suggests is the one that loves to live near us



House Martin

and which creates those mud nests under the eaves if you are fortunate (or unfortunate, depending upon your point of view, as they are both noisy and messy). Apart from those mud nests, which identify it, the house martin is easily picked out as a black and white bird and, in particular, by the white on its back between the wings and the tail; its rump.

Swallows are a bit less partial to human habitation, preferring to live in more open country and entering barns and outbuildings to

make their nests on a ledge. Once they have nested they are not very bothered about humans and will come and go as they please. The swallow is identified as the one with longer wings and tail. It is darker than the house martin and has no white on its rump.

But my favourite summer visitor must be the swift. It is made for the air and it is said that it never lands except to nest. For sure it is not able to take off from the ground. Although it is mostly brown it looks like a curved scimitar skimming through the air. The most exciting time is after the young are fledged and the families literally scream through the summer air with the youngsters begging for food.

Further afield, along the river you may get to see the final member of the swallow family which is the sand martin. This bird is around the size of a house martin but is brown and white. It is often seen making its way up or down the Severn depending upon the season.



Swift ©Pawel Kuzniar

More help with identification can be obtained from the RSPB lovebirds app; but it does cost.

Olveston School Annual Quiz Night

Friday 16th May in the Wike Hall

The Friends of Olveston School are once again organising this fun quiz night. Cost £2.50 per person, max 6 people per team. B.Y.O drinks and nibbles - there will be a prize for the best laid table!

Please confirm your entry with Amanda: amanda.seeva@gmail.com Doors open at 7.30pm, Quiz starts at 8.00pm. Hope to see you there!

Open Morning at Stepping Stones

Wednesday 14th May 10.00 - 12.00 noon

Stepping Stones is a small friendly pre-school in Elberton which offers "attentive, individual, one to one care in an environment where every child is heard". We offer a wide range of activities for children age 2 upwards and are now taking bookings for September.

The old walled orchard provides an excellent setting for our beautiful enclosed garden. Here the children can play and learn in the well-equipped space whilst still appreciating the peace and tranquillity of nature. At present we are busy improving our garden area, extending it to provide a separate enclosed space for a wooden climbing to challenge our older children. The main garden will now also include a mud kitchen which will stimulate children's imagination and provide a wealth of different learning experiences. The surrounding woods enable us to offer the children a variety of safe, stimulating challenges and every Wednesday is a 'Woodland Wednesday'!

We invite you to come to see the benefits which the children gain from these outdoor experiences and our new improved garden at our Open Morning. We will be running a Forest session as usual which you and your child are welcome to join in with. Please visit our website at www.steppingstoneselberton.co.uk where you can also read our extremely positive last Ofsted report. For more information please phone Gill Powell on 07853 173221.

Almondsbury Primary School Family Fun Run 2014 Sunday 18th May Almondsbury School

1km dash starts at 10.30am prompt from Almondsbury Primary School, with the 5km and 10km distances off at 11am. For prices and entry forms go to www.almondsburyprimary.co.uk



Bad Weather Causes Delays

This was the mantra of all of the service providers throughout the West Country but the strong winds and heavy rainfall have proved to be an obstacle to the Coxes' fund raising regime.

Each year Old Down couple Eileen and Gary Cox, embark on a Crazy Bike Ride for their chosen charities. Last year they cycled between Bristol and Paris on a tandem. In the process they organised a variety of events to publicise their challenge and, between them and their supporters, they raised a princely sum in excess of £2000 for the British Heart Foundation.

This year they have decided to support the **Children's Hospice South West** by cycling between **Bristol and the Mont St Michel in France**. But, they have also admitted that they are 'All Behind'. Eileen commented that "the strong winds made cycling too dangerous to contemplate training. We were not brave enough to venture out in the gales. And, unfortunately the fundraising has also suffered."

Now the weather has become a little more settled and the evenings are longer, Gary and Eileen have started training in earnest by regularly pedalling 50 miles a day. In preparation for the 3 day, 400km ride they hit the road as soon as they arrive home from work. Each weekend they devote their time to more miles and more fundraising in an effort to make up for lost time. Recently, they held an Open House and raised £900 from Eileen's produce, shabby chic furniture, a raffle and tombola. A Bristol Masonic Lodge was kind enough to donate £500 to their cause but they still need donations to hit their target of £2000+.

"The **Children's Hospice South West** is an extremely worthwhile organisation which every parent hopes they will have no real need to contact. They care for and assist children and families who require upmost care and assistance" Eileen said. "Sadly, I have a number of children at my school who will be attending the hospice and I have seen at first hand their care and compassion. Why wouldn't we choose the Children's Hospice this year?"

In order to bolster their efforts Gary has set up a 'Just Giving' page, quoting his mantra..." If you're not going to join us on our ride, join us on our webpage!"

www.justgiving.com/GARY-COX3

News from St Mary's Olveston

Severnside Songs of Praise

Once again the churches of Severnside are planning a Songs of Praise event for all the churches in our area. This year we're having it in church for a change, and I warmly invite you to come and join us at St Mary's, Olveston, on June 8th at 6pm. Trevor Fry, presenter of The Late Show on Radio Bristol, as well as other Local BBC Radio stations, will be our host, and midst all the songs of praise we're hoping there'll be liturgical dance and a band as well as 'massed choirs'. Why not come and help us celebrate the Church's birthday?! Any enquiries to me, The Revd Roly Bain on 01454 616593 or roly@rolybain.co.uk

Cobbler Quiz

Our next Quiz is on May 10th and our food this time is good old-fashioned cobbler. Tickets remain £5 each, but we reached our maximum number last time of 90 people and several were disappointed - SO BOOK EARLY! If you'd like to be on the Quiz mailing list, email Roly on roly@rolybain.co.uk. Teams are a maximum of six people, and Chris Smart is our genial and popular quizmaster once again.

On Saturday, May 10th, we're having a **Quiet Day** from 11am – 3pm in church. Not speaker-led this time, it's a chance to come in for a while and be quiet, to take some space away from the busyness of our normal lives. There will be various things to help and inspire, so come for as little or as long as you like. Our theme is Prayer.

Rogation Sunday is on May 25th and once again we're having a Rogation Procession, beginning in church at 10am before going to Elberton church and back. It's a chance to give thanks not just for the crops but for the community. Dogs can come too! It's all fairly informal. And on Sunday June 1st, Bishop Lee of Swindon is our preacher at 10am. He's been out of action for quite a while owing to chemotherapy but he's now back in full swing. Talking of Bishops, the Confirmation service is here this year for a change, on September 18th – see me if you'd like to be confirmed. Oh and don't forget the joint Church and School Fete on June 28th from 2.00-4.30pm – all contributions as well as your presence are welcome!

The Sunflower Ball

Our Charity Ball this year is on a Saturday for a change, July 12th, beginning at 7pm, and this year it's the Sunflower Ball so you're encouraged to wear a splash of sunshine amidst the glad rags! At the beginning of April we had 250 people booked in – the first time we've broken the 200 barrier, and we're placing a limit on numbers.

Continued overleaf

But there's still time to book if you'd like to. Before May 1st it's £55 – the same price as our first Ball six years ago! Same band and same bar as last year, silent auction and raffle, and it's in aid of the East Window Restoration Fund, with a donation to CLIC Sargent for Children with Cancer. Ring Julia Johnstone on 07966 302762 – come on your own or bring a tableful!

Friends of St Mary's recent draws

The prize winners in the **March draw**, held on 6th March 2014 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	319	Mr J L Henniker-Heaton, Winterbourne
£75	536	Dr M Wright, Tockington
£25	354	Mrs J V Robbins, Olveston
£25	589	Mr G B Amos, Olveston
£25	376	Mrs J A Jones, Olveston
£20	502	Revd D Bone, Tockington
£20	462	Mrs M Morey, Portishead
£20	570	Mr R J Lloyd, Tockington
£10	209	Mrs C E Black, Thornbury
£10	334	Mr J Mason, Tockington
£10	212	Mr J Mason, Tockington
£10	273	Mr J Croome, Exmouth

The prize winners in the **April draw**, held on 10th April 2014 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	188	Mrs J Williams, Pilning
£75	208	Mrs C E Black, Thornbury
£25	443	Mrs J M Skinner, Tockington
£25	354	Mrs J V Robbins, Olveston
£25	363	Mrs J M Hahn, Olveston
£20	201	Mrs E Jackson, Olveston
£20	365	Mr G Clark, Olveston
£20	486	Mrs C A Phillpott, Tockington
£10	298	Mrs J Dickens, Aust
£10	552	Mrs B Kingscott, Almondsbury
£10	322	Mrs A M Bennett, Alveston
£10	533	Mr M Stevenson, Awkley

Movies at St Mary's: May τ_n

Trevor Anderson



St Mary's Movie Club in Olveston is now well into its fourth year. We show films for the 'grown-ups' on the first and third Monday evenings of each month and for 'children of all ages' every Monday morning during school holidays.

There will be FOUR Movie Club films in May. Everyone is welcome and there is no need to book:

MONDAY MOVIES (Recent releases and ever-popular classics) **Mon 5th May at 7.30pm:** Judy Dench stars in this recently released BAFTA Award-winning drama about a mother's search for her child she was forced to give up. (2013) Cert PG

MONDAY MOVIES EXTRA ('Non-mainstream' films and historic classics) **Mon 19**th **May at 7.30pm:** Strapped for cash, recently widowed Grace, (a splendid Brenda Blethyn), turns to dealing marijuana, with hilarious results. (2000) Cert 15

CHILDREN'S MOVIE CLUB (Every Monday morning in the school hols) **Mon 5th May at 10.00am:** Playing as both an exciting sci-fi adventure and a remarkable portrait of childhood, Steven Spielberg's touching tale of a homesick alien is a piece of movie magic for young and old. (1982) Cert PG

Mon 26th May at 10.00am: An evil witch casts a curse on the young Princess Aurora that only a prince can break. This lavish animated fairy tale was, at the time, the most expensive Disney cartoon ever made. (1959) Cert U

Refreshments 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.

Baby & Children's table top sale

Have you got lots of unwanted good quality baby and children items? Olveston Toddlers and Tockington toddlers would like to have a table top sale so that they can raise funds and you can de-clutter. Please let Jo Baxter know if you are interested in having a table on 07773 709155 or olvestontoddlers@yahoo.co.uk.

Olveston Parish Countryside Group

We have been in existence for some 30 years and some of us have been members since the beginning.

We are a small friendly group of about 20 people, and we meet about once a month. We offer a varied programme of walks, bird watching, wild flowers, woods and trees, during the summer, and in winter local speakers entertain us on topics relating to the countryside. However, to be able to continue as a viable group we urgently need to recruit some more nature lovers, otherwise we are in danger of closing down.

Our next meeting will be a bluebell walk at Blaise Castle, 2.30pm on Wednesday 7th May, meeting in the main car park, and if you would like to come along, please phone our Chairman, Rose Brown, on 612094. You will be made very welcome.

Events at Olveston Parish Hall

The recent Fish and Quiz evening was voted a resounding success by those who attended. Whilst initially we did run out of beer this was soon remedied! The winning team were The Auroras. We very much hope that this will now become an annual event. Please keep the **last Friday in February 2015** free!

We are welcoming back **Men in General on Saturday 28**th **June**. The ticket price will include a forked supper. For those who did not see them in 2013 they mix à cappella classics with comedy, advice on relationships, what not to wear etc., in other words" a barometer of blokedom"!

Events for the autumn include the **Panama Band in September** and as always the **Harvest Supper in October**. Pat Savage

Cromwell House Coffee Morning

Please come to Cromwell House, the home of Nigel and Julie Dawes for a "Coffee Morning" on Thursday 15th May from 10.30. This event is in aid of "Teenage Cancer Trust". Everyone is welcome to help support this worthy cause. There will be a Grand Raffle, cake stall, bring and buy, home-made cards, jewellery and hopefully lots of sunshine!

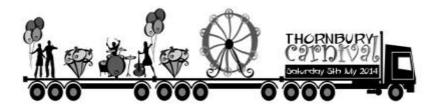
Parish Players AGM

The Parish Players AGM will be held on Thursday May 22nd at Tockington Methodist Chapel (7.30pm) and, following a review of this year's show "Hello, Dolly!", we will be choosing the show for next year. Come and take part. All Players and prospective Players are very welcome.

The Village Players

present THE HAUNTING OF HAROLD, a spooky comedy by Doris Hilliard, in Pilning Village Hall at 7:30 p.m. from Wednesday 14th to Saturday 17th May 2014. Tickets are £6 for adults in full-time employment and £4 for everyone else. Please contact our Booking Office on 01454 633786/632813 or email villageplayerspilning@gmail.com. Come along for a really good laugh!

Harold has inherited a Manor in Devon which he has converted into holiday flats and where he is troubled by spooky goings-on. Revenge is in the air, not only from a drug smuggler but also from a trio of ghosts, when two sisters hire the now dead Sherlock Holmes to find out who murdered them! Into all this enters a 'Ghost Story' writer looking for a quiet weekend to catch up on some writing - closely followed by a passionate fiancée he is desperately trying to avoid! Smuggling spirits is a lucrative side-line for ex-convict Harold. This play is a topsy-turvy whodunit where ghosts attempt to unravel the mystery of their own demise. It all goes pear-shaped for Harold when Big Vera threatens to have his knobbly kneecaps blasted unless he hands over his ill-gotten gains. Harold's girlfriend, Cathy, is also in grave danger. Tensions mount when Harold is haunted by his two dead aunts who are convinced he murdered them for their money. But did he? Maybe their suave and kindly doctor helped them on their way! Or could it be someone else ...?



Can you be a philanthropist? Give of your time and labour and imagination? Can you work with a group to help it prepare for the Thornbury Carnival, on Saturday 5th July? Full details on the website: MyThornbury.co.uk/Carnival. More in the next Meeting Point!

Olveston and Tockington WI

The second Tuesday of May will see us transported to the Arctic with photos by Peter Haworth - he is the local photographer who provides many of the front covers of Meeting Point. So do feel free to join us at the Parish Hall on 13th May. All are welcome to come at 8.00 to listen to the illustrated talk about Peter's adventures in the Arctic. But you would of course be welcome to join us at 7.30 if you would like to know about all our other activities.

This year we are supporting the Charity "Riding for the Disabled" so during the summer we are planning a programme of Garden Parties, Skittles Lunch and many more events. The first event, where all will be welcome, is Jane's Coffee Morning at Hawkfield House, Haw Lane, at 10.30 on Thursday 8th May.

Royal British Legion Women's Section

Our meeting in April was a talk by Jane Turner from Riding for the Disabled. It was very interesting and should anyone care to visit them they are opposite Blaise Castle and have a cafeteria and a good woodland walk.

For our May meeting on the 6th we have Lucy Todd a beautician, and on June 3rd a talk by the Great Western Air Ambulance.

Visitors are very welcome, also any prospective new members.

Thornbury and District Cancer Research UK Committee





is holding a QUIZ NIGHT with Fish & Chip Supper Friday 9th May 7.15 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. start At Manorbrook Primary School Park Road, Thornbury

Tickets to include food and entrance
There will also be a Licensed Bar & Raffle
Tickets £10 from Gill Blackborough on
07866580608



The month of May probably comes from Maiesta, the Roman goddess of honour and reverence. But it also gives its name to many a thing that can be found in this month.

May blossom or hawthorn fills ancient boundary hedges and woodland. Its leaves are often the first to unfold in spring. Suspicions abound around these delicate white or pink flowers amid long thorns. May blossom was said to smell of the Black Plague and indeed has now been proven to contain trimethylamine, the same chemical that appears early in rotting flesh. And although it has been traditionally gathered for Mayday festivals and hung by doors to keep out evil spirits it would never be brought indoors as that would be considered unlucky.

By rivers and ponds Mayfly, the model for many a fisherman's lure is unique among insects in that it grows wings when still immature and will moult once more with its wings intact. Once this final metamorphosis occurs the mature adult will live for only a few hours. It has only one aim - to breed. It cannot eat or drink and can often be seen rising and swooping back down above the water in Mayfly clouds to attract a mate. By that day's end its life cycle is complete, with the hope that its genes have been passed on to start the cycle again.

The Maybug is a colloquial name for the Cockchafer beetle. With fan-like antennae and brown wing cases, these large buzzing bugs can often be seen around dusk humming around the Mayflowers or, in my own experience, crashing unnervingly down the chimney like a mini helicopter erupting into the house. Maybugs are completely harmless to humans, but will eat garden flowers and leaves, and then their larvae (rook worms) will enjoy the roots.

St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group

would be delighted to welcome you to Afternoon High Tea on Wednesday 28th May at Methodist Church Hall in Thornbury at 3.00pm. The guest speaker will be Mrs Pam Shipp who will talk about her year as Mayor of Thornbury, and all that this involved. Tickets are priced at £10.00 (to include a full home-made high tea) and are available from Thornbury Town Hall from 1st May.

Please support St Peter's – your local hospice.

Aust Pilgrimage Walk

Every year for the last 20 years or so, there has been a pilgrimage walk to Aust. Last year, the Pilgrimage Walk Committee handed over to a new team, but they have not necessarily hung up their boots yet! It is held on a Saturday as near as possible to St Augustine's day (26th May) and is usually preceded by a Mass for Roman Catholics in St John's Church at Aust at 7.30pm, this year on Friday 23 May. This year's walk on Saturday 24 May starts from Bristol Cathedral at 6.50am, via Purdown, with stops at the Church of the Holy Family at Patchway and lunch by the railway footbridge by the Cattybrook brickworks. It is a fairly gentle stroll, though a long one (about 14½ miles if you do it all). We have a short service at 4pm in St John's. Details from David Bone: 01454-614601

John Harding

John Harding of 6 The Crescent, Old Down passed away peacefully on 14 February 2014, aged 85 years. Elizabeth, Carole and their families would like to thank friends, family and neighbours for their kind words, help and support during his short stay in hospital, following his passing, attending his funeral and for the donations to St Peter's Hospice.

Old Down Cricket Club

150 Club Winners April:

£50 Paddy Gardner £15 Grantley Browning £5 Ian Watkins

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

8th Mar Angus MacDonald 15th Mar Simon Davis 22nd Mar Tracey Jarvis

May Matches at The Park (2.00pm Start):

03/05/14 2nd XI v Failand & Portbury 10/05/14 2nd XI v Bristol Pakistanis

17/05/14 1st XI v Portishead 24/05/14 2nd XI v Whitchurch

31/05/14 1st XI v Whitchurch

Please come along and support, everyone welcome. Up the Down!! Tony Gardner 07889 727729

Malmesbury to Littleton Walk -

31st May and 1st June

You might like to join Rev Dave Pole and a handful of brave souls/masochists to walk from Malmesbury Abbey to Littleton on Severn, recreating the old monks' route. It's mainly across the fields and we do 22 miles on the first day and 18 on the second. Yes it's a pilgrimage, but that doesn't for a moment mean that you have to be a church member or even religious.

Contact Dave Pole davepole@me.com or Tim Pyper tim.pyper@btinternet.com for more details.

What's on in June: advance notices

Mid-summer concert: Pimms, proms and picnics! Saturday June 21st at Aust

The concert is a major fund raiser for The Ancient Chapelry of St John, the Parish Church at Aust.

Following the hard work in applications to Trust bodies by David and Jennifer, and many kind donations, the roof is repaired – hooray and a huge "Thank you" to everyone involved. BUT, and there is always a BUT......we still have massive work to do so, following the success of the concert last year we are doing another – but bigger and better - and our guests will be

THE GREAT WESTERN CHORUS www.greatwesternchorus.com

If you have never heard them – all male close harmony group, they enjoy an international reputation and we are very grateful for their support with this evening. The venue will be the main barn in the central field in Aust – by kind permission of Mrs Janet Spratt. You will not need directions to the field ... It will be obvious ... Look for the bunting ...!! Gates open from 5.30pm ... Bring your chairs and picnic ... Buy your Pimms, wine and soft drinks from us. We will supply the glasses. When we're ready to start setting up for the concert, people can bring their chairs into the barn and the fun will commence. Tickets will be £10 each and "family ticket - 2 adults and 2 children under 18 for £25.

The finale will be typical "Last Night of the Proms" with flag waving ...bring your voices – flags will be on sale! There will easily be enough space for picnicking and parking. More information and tickets from Janet Ford 633300 or janetford@btinternet.com

You will be able to pay on entry

Littleton at Home

Littleton-on-Severn Sunday 15th June 2014

Come and join us "At Home" at **Littleton on Severn** from **2.00** until **6.00** on **Sunday 15**th **June.** Various gardens will be open and there will be lots of easy **FREE parking**. In addition there will a number of stalls where you can buy foods "Made in Littleton", plants and have a go at a Tombola and Raffle. The traditional Village teas will be available in the Village Hall and our Church St Mary de Malmesbury will be open.

Entrance will be £3 (children free) with all proceeds going towards essential repair work to the Church.

Make a note in your diary and join us for a lovely summer family day out.

Exe Valley and Exmoor Scenic Coach Trip Thursday 26th June 2014

Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church are arranging a coach trip to the Exe Valley and Exmoor on Thursday 26th June 2014. The itinerary will include travelling via Bridgwater, with views of the Bristol Channel, to Dunster, with its magnificent Castle, for lunch.

We then follow the Exe Valley branching off to Dulverton and Exmoor and Simonsbath. Then onwards via the imposing Valley of Rocks to Lynmouth, with its Cliff Railway and Life Boat Museum, for tea. We will return via Countisbury Hill, with more amazing views, down the steep road to Porlock and then to Minehead. We will have comfort stops on both outgoing and return journeys.

The cost of £18.00 covers the coach and drivers' gratuities only. Coffee and meals are not included. There may be some spare seats available.

If you would like more information please ring Trevor Watkins on 416528.

Yours faithfully

Quaker Silence

Silence is golden! This memorable phrase is often verbally directed to groups of noisy children, but what do we mean by silence exactly? Put simply I suppose it means cutting oneself off from the noise and commotion of the exterior world to concentrate on one's personal inner world. The Christian tradition has often valued silence as a means of contemplating one's relationship with God. Quite early on some Christians withdrew to remote places, either singly, as anchorites, or communally, as monks and nuns, with the aim of disciplining themselves in silent contemplation. In the Middle Ages silent vigils were often held to accompany momentous occasions and are still met with today, though usually displaying less rigorous discipline. Most people are deeply moved by the minute's silence held on Armistice Day when they communally contemplate the huge loss of life and destruction resulting from war.

The Quakers, perhaps uniquely, have made silence the central feature of their meeting for worship and have developed a discipline, which they call centring down, to facilitate the practice. Firstly they relax physically by consciously easing the tension in each part of the body, then they relax the mind by letting go of the cares and problems of every-day life to concentrate on the deeper, spiritual aspects of life.

It is often difficult for a whole hour to stop one's mind from wandering, but the advice is to pay no attention to the wanderings and keep returning to the quiet centre of existence. Sometimes a whole hour passes in complete silence, but on occasion someone feels a burning urge to utter what has come into their mind and will stand to speak briefly of what they are experiencing. Quakers describe the sensation variously, as a divine light illuminating their perception of life or as a welling up of that which is of God, which they believe exists in everyone. Often in the gathered silence people will find that their thoughts have been converging and sometimes two or three more will, after a suitable space of time, add to what is called the ministry.

With best wishes Roger Howell The Society of Friends

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

May 4	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Roly Bain	
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Roly Bain	
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team	
	6pm	Evensong with Choir	Mr Denis Jones	
May 11	8am	Holy Communion(BCP)	Rev David Bone	
	10am	Morning Worship with Choir	Rev R Bain & Rev A Lloyd	
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team	
	6pm	Holy Communion	Rev. Philip Rowe	
May 18	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Roly Bain	
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev D Bone & Rev P Rowe	
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team	
	6pm	Evensong	Rev R Bain & J McBride	
May25	8am	Holy Communion(BCP)	Rev R Bain& Mr D Foot	
, ,	10am	Rogation Sunday Parade	Rev Roly Bain	
	6pm	Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe	
May29	9am	Holy Communion	Rev Roly Bain	

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Rev Philip Rowe, 01454 613223; email: 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

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 2.45pm in the Church

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

except 4th Wed when it is at Olveston Methodist Church

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

May 11	10am	Holy Communion.	Rev David Bone
May23	7.30	St Augustine's Day R.C. Mass	
May24	4pm	Service following Pilgrimage	
		walk from Bristol Cathedral	
May25	10am	Celebration of John Wesley's	Rev Anita Thorne
		visits to Aust. Joint service with	
		Olv/Tock Meth. churches	

Hon. Curate: Rev David Bone, 01454 614601

Church Wardens: Terry McLeavy 633680 Janet Ford 633300

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

May 4	9am	Matins			Mrs Tracey Black
May18	9am	Holy Communion		Rev David Pole	
May 31		Malmesbury	to	Littleton	
		Pilgrimage week	end		

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

May 11	9am	Matins	Sandra Edgerton
May25	9am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

May 4	10am	Tock Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr John Barnett
	6pm	St Andrews.	Evening Worship led by Mr Stephen Holliday
May 11	10am	Olv. Ch.	All Age Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney. The
			Breakfast Club will join us later
May 18	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by
			Rev Pete Brazier
May25	10am	St John's	Commemoration of John Wesley's visit to
		Aust.	Aust Preacher Rev Anita Thorne Rev Sandy
			Williams also taking part

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 14^{th} May. To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP meets at 12.15 in the Swan Tockington on Thurs 15 May. 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^{nd} Tuesday of the month at 10.30am at 7 The Green Olveston, led by Mr Glyn Varney or Mrs Rosalie Doyle Another on the 7^{th} May 10.30 at 3 Hardy Lane led by Rev Sandy Williams.

THE OLVESTON INTERNET CAFÉ Olveston Methodist Hall

Monday 2-4pm Wednesday 10-12 Friday 7-9pm

Ring $\,$ 07833 354672 or 07957 433091 for further information.

CREAM TEAS served on May $5^{\rm th}$ and May $26^{\rm th}$ from 2.30-5.30 in Tockington Chapel/The Green

CONTACT: Rev Pete Brazier Tel 01454 418176,

e-mail 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

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

May 4	6.30pm	Steve Loader
May 11	6.30pm	Vic Soffe
May 18	6.30pm	Dolfus De Chickera
May 25	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan- Davies

Each Thurs at 7.30pm Bible Study & Prayer Time

For further information please contact Ceri Morgan-Davies 413043

Paul Ashford, 07774 110 814 or email: 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 or tel 07837234949 For more details, please phone 632564.

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury - Sat Vigil Mass 18.00 Sun 8.30am Mass 11.00 Family Mass

Tel 01454 412223 www.ctk-thornbury.org,uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Meeting for Worship Sundays 10.30-11.30: The Hanover Room, The Chantry, Castle St. Wheelchair accessible. Children welcome with prior notice.

Local contact: Ben & Candia Barman 01454 412603

National: www.quaker.org.uk
Bristol area: www.bristolquakers.org.uk

Diary Dates for May 2014

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

17 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
16 th May	Olveston. School Annual Quiz	7.30pm	OS
	Olveston Toddlers	1.45-3.15	MH
	Charity Coffee morning Cromwell House	10.30	
	Coffee Shop	9.00-12.00	OSt
15 th Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market	9.00-1.30	
	Open morning at Stepping Stones	10.00-12.00	EVH
14 th Wed	Beat Surgery	10.30-11.30	OSt
	Aust Parish Council	7.30pm	EVH
	Women's Institute Arctic Adventure	7.30pm	PH
	Memory Café	10.15-11.45	TMH
	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	DGCL
13 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR
	Old Down Neighbourhood Watch A.G.M.	7.30pm	AP
12 th Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club Practice	1.30pm	AH
11 th Sun	Defibrillator training Tea & cake	3-5pm	PH
	Cobbler Quiz	7.30pm	StM
	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
10 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	AVH
9 th May	CRUK Quiz & Fish& Chips Manorbrook Sch	7.30pm	
	Th. & District Flower Club Demonstration	7.30pm	TMH
	Olveston Toddlers	1.45-3.15	MH
	Charity Coffee morning Hawkfield House	10.30	
8 th Thu	Coffee Shop	9.00-12.0	OSt
	R.B.LWomen's Section Beautician	7.30pm	DGCL
	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	DGCL
6 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR
	Monday Movie	7.30pm	StM
	Cream Teas on Tockington Green	2.30-5pm	
5 th Mon	Children's Movie Club	10.00	StM
4 th Sun	Bingo every Sun at Sports & Social club	8.15	
	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
3 rd Sat	S.W.Meccano Club exhibition	10.00-4pm	PH
	Open Mic. At White Hart	8.30pm	
	Olveston Toddlers	1.45-3.15	MH
	Coffee Shop	9.00-12.00	OSt
1 st Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market	9.00-1.30	

19 th Mon	Monday Movie Extra	7.30pm	StM			
20 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR			
	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	DGCL			
	R.B.LWomen's Section Bingo	7.30pm	DGCL			
21 st Wed	Hammer Out Support Group.	10.30-12.00				
	Severn Vale Flower Club Demonstration	2.00pm	AH			
	Bosom Buddies Meeting	7.30pm				
	Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	8.30pm				
22 nd Thu	Coffee Shop	9.00-12.00	OSt			
	Olveston Toddlers	1.45-3.15	MH			
	Th. & District Flower Club Workshop	7.30pm	TMH			
24 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH			
26 th Mon	Children's Movie Club	10.00	StM			
	Teas on Tockington Green	2.30-5pm				
27 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR			
	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	1.45-3.15	DGCL			
	Memory Café	10.15-11.45	TMH			
	Olveston Parish Council	7.30	AP			
28 th May	St.Peter's Hospice. High Tea	3pm	TMH			
29 th Thu	Coffee Shop	10.00-12.00	OSt			
31 st Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH			
	Marlwood Car Boot Sale	1.30-3pm				
	Looking ahead to June					
15th	Littleton-on- Severn 'At Home'	2-6pm				

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.olvestonandaust.com. If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com

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