

Meeting Point

Volume 34, Number 2, November 2009

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

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**Material for December 2009
to Editor or Deputy Editor by
9th November**

From the Editor

With such an active community, we have received so many contributions to this month's Meeting Point that a few articles will have to appear in the December issue.

There are numerous fundraising events happening this month including the ***Line of Coins, a Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale, a Gift Fayre and Christmas Bazaar***, please support these events.

Many of you showed an interest in the letter titled 'Orphaned Dad would love to find his family' and I'm pleased to say there is a happy ending, to read more see page 7.

Our cover this month is by Kate Hickman
Meeting Point Founded in 1976 by the Anglican and
Methodist churches in Olveston, near Bristol

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

Village Person - Marcus Bean

Our local weatherman

Pat Thirkettle

Marcus's interest in weather statistics originated at The Kings School, Peterborough. The headmaster had a small weather station requiring daily readings, and Marcus, who lived opposite the school, was requisitioned to do this whenever the headmaster went on holiday. They were entered into a blue book and sent off every three months to the Meteorological Office. The headmaster also owned a book published by the Met Office called 'The Cloud Atlas'. It was huge, expensive and very beautiful, and Marcus was allowed to study it because of his involvement in collecting weather data.

The interest lay dormant until Marcus retired and his wife Joy bought him his own weather station which is on the roof of their house, Hill House, Olveston. He takes the readings at midday and asked the Met Office for a blue book in order to send them the data. Unfortunately it is now done electronically and as Marcus does not intend to join the computer fraternity, the Met Office's loss is Meeting Point's gain. We receive the statistics quarterly in longhand and Les Harper converts them digitally. There is also a yearly review.

Marcus's other interest is medieval history. As it happens their house is medieval, first built in 1320 and is one of the oldest in Olveston, (incidentally the village name is derived from the farmstead of a Saxon called AElf and 'tun', a settlement). It was built by one John Hill, from a wealthy family living near Weston. Marcus surmises that due to the severe famine around 1314 (cold and very wet summers), John Hill was sent off to find somewhere else to live. He married Alice Weston from Ingst and called the house Hill's Place. It was a small stone house built on an east west axis and sunk into the ground for protection from the elements and the marauding Welsh! In the original dining room the fire grate and ironmongery for cooking are still there. The flagstone floor has a channel cut, through which a stream runs from a spring, then under a culvert and into the stream in Catherine Hill.

The Hill family flourished and the three storey house you see today was built on top of the original, in the shape of a T, in 1570. In 1623 Edward Hill was obviously a royalist as he was granted his own coat of arms. Unfortunately the Civil War erupted in 1648 and the family were ejected. The house remained empty until 1660 when it was bought by William Rogers, a wealthy Bristol merchant who traded in West Indies rum and tobacco. George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, spent his honeymoon there as a guest, when he married Margaret Fell, a prominent Quaker, in October 1669.

Over the next three centuries the house was bought and sold many times. At one time it was rented by the Sturge family, well known local Quakers and another owner was a Dr Lower who ran his surgery from the early 1800's

extension. In 1910 it was bought by Mr Vowles senior, and also owned by his son. In 1956 it was bought by Mackenzie of Ord and he was responsible for a major restoration resulting in the house as it is today. Plaster was peeling from bedroom walls and he noticed that there were discrepancies between the stonework and the outside. In fact several had been blocked up because of the window tax. He employed Hawkins of Thornbury to repair all the windows and remove the rendering. It took two years and at any one time there was a window missing.

It again changed hands several times until bought by the Bean family in 1981. The original coach house and cider barn are unchanged; the latter still contains all the cider making machinery and operated until 1935. It is a delightful secluded house surrounded by a beautiful garden with a goldfish pond, and when you stand in it you could be in the depths of the country.

Advent At Tockington Chapel:

Tuesdays from 12 noon to 2 pm

Looking forward to Christmas but dreading the rush? If so, why not take some time out? Tockington Chapel will be open every Tuesday in Advent from 12 noon to 2 pm. The first hour will be given over to lunch and chat - coffee, tea and rolls available - bring your own soup (it can be heated) or whatever you wish. From 1pm there will be an opportunity to join in some Bible-based reflections on Christmas, if you would like to do so, led by the Rev. Sandy Williams. Everyone is welcome to come and go as suits them best, including just joining for lunch at any time up to 2pm.

Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale

On **Tuesday 3rd November**, a Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale will be held in the Community Room, Daldry Gardens, **10am – 12 noon**, to raise funds to take the residents out at Christmas

Thanks for helping to find my father's family

courtesy of Bristol Evening Post

I want to say thank you very much for carrying my letter recently. We live in New Zealand and we have been trying to make contact with friends and family of my father, Kenneth Hobbs, who was raised in Bristol. My dad was abandoned at an orphanage when only a baby. He did not know family life until he was about 11 years old and he was never adopted, only fostered.

Within a few hours of the letter appearing I had a reply from the family of Dad's foster family. One cousin said she and her mum were only recently speaking of Dad and wondered what had happened to him and his family. They are so excited. I rang them right away. There were lots of tears and joy. My family and my sister are bringing Dad home to Bristol next summer as I have been told your winters are not very kind. When we have plans and flight dates we are going to gather everyone together and meet them all.

I have also had some emails from people who have read the article who could not help but just wanted to wish us the best. I have emailed everyone who has replied and I am going to meet them all.

Once again thank you very much for your kindness.

I have also had a couple of gentlemen contact me who are doing history on Olveston and one man remembers my Dad and when he started school.

So this is all very exciting. I am in the process of photographing where I live and putting together a photo album to send to the family.

Kerrie Hopps, New Zealand

Big Toddle - Thank you

Olveston Baby & Toddler Group helped to make a big difference to other little children by taking part in the Barnardo's Big Toddle 2009.

Ten children took part in a sponsored fancy dress toddle in Olveston Play Area on Thursday, 30th June 2009 a picnic afterward, our toddlers raised an amazing £271.75 for Barnardo's 'Early Years' work with disadvantaged and vulnerable under 5s in local projects throughout the UK. Thank you to the children and the sponsors.

Olveston Baby & Toddlers meet every Thursday afternoon from 2.30pm until 4.30pm at Olveston Methodist Hall. Parents, grandparents or carers come along for a chat & drink whilst your baby or toddler plays. We end the session with a sing along of the children's favourite songs. For more information contact Fleur Tweehuysen on 0788 418 6121.

The Marriage Course

Philip Rowe

The Marriage Course is for anyone who is married, to help them get the most out of their relationship. It is based on Christian principles but is very suitable for non-churchgoers. It gives couples skills to grow together and to deepen their intimacy with each other. And it is fun! Privacy and confidentiality are key – couples are not required to divulge anything about their relationship to anyone else, but they are encouraged to talk to each other.

The aim of the course is to enable married couples to build a healthy marriage that will last a lifetime. They have the opportunity to talk about issues that have been swept under the carpet in the rush of daily life. They discover what makes their partner feel loved and they recognise the sources of pressure on their relationship.

The course is for those whose marriage is already strong and it also helps couples who are going through difficulties. Whilst it emphasises and explains the unique nature of marriage, couples who have been co-habiting for some time will find it equally helpful and are most welcome

There is a free introductory session, at **7.30-9.30pm on Friday 27 November** at the Vicarage in Almondsbury. It starts with an informal meal, followed by an overview of the course, and hearing from couples who have previously done the course as to the difference it has made to them. People decide at that point, whether to attend the next course, which is planned for early in 2010. The course is led by Mike and Celia Jenkinson. Please phone 01454 613223 for further details or to book in.

Annual Memorial Service

Nothing is ever the same after someone we love dies. We say our goodbyes at the funeral and try to get on with our lives, but the loss keeps hitting us at unexpected times. In grieving it helps to make space to reflect, give thanks and to meet with others who have suffered loss.

For all who are mourning the loss of someone they loved, regardless of whether the bereavement was recent or long ago, a Memorial Service will be held at **St. Mary's Olveston at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday 8th November**. At this Service there will be an opportunity to light a candle, as well as having the name of your loved one(s) remembered in the prayers. Please mention the name(s) you wish remembered to the sidesman as you enter the church. Afterwards there will be a chance to meet and talk with others over light refreshments. Please do attend with as many of your family and friends as you wish.

The story of a journey

continued from October

On the last morning our spirits were high, which is more than I can say for our bodies. Bordeaux was just a few hours away and the terrain was a little flatter after the hills of Brittany. However, regardless of the terrain, those first few minutes in the saddle are always a little uncomfortable. We hit the outskirts of Bordeaux at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon and spent the next hour making our way in to the city centre. Bordeaux turned out to be a superb city to travel through. It has a very new looking tram system which seemed to be the preferred choice of transport for most of the population. The architecture is very interesting and the city as a whole had a vibrant feel to it. The evening was spent eating, drinking and celebrating the fact that we all made it safely and had had a great time in doing so.



As people slowly dragged themselves to breakfast the party was a little more subdued than the night before. The return journey was divided between those who were flying back to Bristol and those sleeping on the minibuses back to Nantes. Being a rugby based charity there were a lot of people not wanting to miss the British Lions Test match against South Africa later that afternoon and

Nantes was the chosen location to watch the game. I, however, had chosen the route of more pain. I was to spend the next 2 days cycling from Bordeaux to Toulouse to spend some time with my brother-in-law and his family. My route took me directly south to Mont-de-Marsan on dead pan flat roads which would have been super fast roads to cycle if I could have mustered the energy. One thing I did learn about rural France is that all shops and cafes close on a Saturday afternoon. On my arrival at Mont-de-Marsan I was more hungry, thirsty and hung over than I care to remember. The second thing I learnt about cycling in southern France is that if a car passes you every 4 – 5 minutes then it is a busy day on the roads - a cyclists dream. On arrival at the hotel I was horrified to discover that I had booked a room for the 23rd July and it was in fact the 23rd June. I think the pitiful, exhausted look on my face touched the receptionist enough for her to find me room but not before having a good chortle to herself.

My final day was possibly the hardest in terms of terrain. During the previous day I travelled south running parallel to the main river courses. Today my direction was directly east which took me down into many river valleys and up the other side. I had learnt my lesson from the previous day and took plenty of food and water. At one stop I was sitting in a village square when around the corner came a procession of classic Citroen 2CV's. The occupants seemed to be having such a good time it was hard not to wave back. As soon as the last car disappeared around the corner a marching band appeared from the same direction. They marched on past playing merrily, but I was a little unsure who their target audience was as there was no else around.

I arrived at my final, final destination late that afternoon to rapturous applause from the family and an ice cold beer. Total distance cycled was 1005 kilometres (or somewhere approaching 650 miles in old money).

In all 18 cyclists and 6 support staff raised almost £20,000 for PROPS and had a fantastic time in the process. We already have 15 cyclists signed up for next year's ride which will again be from Bristol to Bordeaux. I have decided to take the pain and exhaustion to the next level. Approximately 8 days before the trip departs I will be leaving John O'Groats with the intention of reaching Bristol in time to join up with the main party and depart for Bordeaux. On arrival there I will continue down in to the Pyrenees and finish at the France/Spanish border. The distance cycled will be approximately 1800 miles and I hope to raise £1.00 for every mile I cycle.

If any readers would like to find out more about the amazing work PROPS does then please visit www.propsforward.co.uk. If you are interested in taking part in next year's ride or sponsoring me then please contact me – Jonathan McGee

Thornbury Methodist Players

present House Guest By Francis Durbridge.

Imagine how you would feel. Your only child has been kidnapped but no ransom demanded. All the kidnapper wants is to stay in your home for 48 hours. If you go along with this request your child will be returned unharmed. That is the dilemma faced by Robert and Stella Drury when their nine year old son, Mike, is abducted in Francis Durbridge's thriller. Of course there is more to this than meets the eye. The Drurys find they do not know who they can trust and as the story unfolds we discover the real reason behind the kidnapping.

This production runs from **Wednesday November 18th to Saturday November 21st** at Thornbury Methodist Church Hall (just off the High St). Curtain up is at **7.45pm** and tickets can be obtained by phoning **414749 or 411813**. Prices are **£6 for adults** and **£5 concessions**. See you there.

Thanks

Simon Shaw would like to thank all family and friends for their kind gifts and best wishes following David's 70th birthday. Both David and Sandy had a fantastic day together and look forward to the next event, Sandy's 70th in May next year!



**ARTS & COMMUNITY
IN THORNBURY**

ACT to the rescue!

Feeling lost without that friendly crowd of actors, musicians and techies? Sad, because you missed Thornbury's phenomenal community production, or perhaps stumped for ideas for Christmas presents? Well, dry your tears and plaster that smile back on your face, as ACT has the answer to all your problems!

We have not one, but TWO DVDs of *The Wigan Girls* available ~ one contains highlights and interviews taken during the exciting rehearsal period, while the other contains the stunning performance, witnessed by 2000 people in July, plus a CD of all the music! It seems too good to be true, but all three disks are available for a mere £15, while for only £7.50, ACT has produced a stunning calendar, featuring location, rehearsal and performance photographs of *The Wigan Girls*.

The calendars are on sale at Thornbury Town Hall, or for an extra £1, by post from Jackie Jackson, Bay Tree Cottage, Crossways Lane, Thornbury, BS35 3UE, or tel: 01454 416421 and Jackie is also the contact for the DVD package. All cheques should be made payable to ACT and remember that each memento sold counts towards another brick in the wall of the hoped for new theatre-based community complex, which will really put this area on the map!

To learn more about ACT's aims, activities and arts events, plus how to become a FACT [friend of ACT], visit www.ACTthornbury.org.uk or send us an email: ACT.Thornbury@yahoo.co.uk .

A Project to Build a New Performance & Arts Venue in Thornbury
Reg. Charity No. 1120422 Founder Patron: Catherine Johnson Company
No. 6009419 ACT.Thornbury@yahoo.co.uk www.ACTthornbury.org.uk
Lyn Bedford, 35 Siband Road, Thornbury, BS35 2EP 01454 884154
lynbedford@blueyonder.co.uk

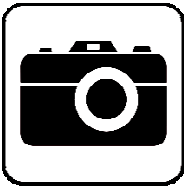
Thornbury Camera Club

Peter Haworth

NEWS

The Beginners Course is presently underway at the Old Bakery Annex it is designed to assist people to understand their camera. It also considers composition, creative photography, manipulation techniques, and presentation of images.

The programme for November starts on the 2nd with a “Practical Evening – Table Top”, on the 9th the judging of Internal Competition No2 takes place. The 16th brings visiting speaker Peter Gennard, his subject “PG Tips” on prints. The North East Midlands Photographic Federation 2009 annual Exhibition will be shown on the 23rd and a selection of photographs from members will be discussed on the 30th.



TIPS

A monochrome image has a power and appeal that doesn't go away, people still like Black and White photographs.

The skills required to shoot a good black and white picture are quite different to those required for shooting colour. It's often the colour in a scene that catches your eye and the contrasts or harmonies between colours.

This doesn't happen in black and white. Here, you're reliant on tonal contrasts alone. You need to be able to visualise the world in shades of grey and also consider shapes, lighting and textures of an image in a new way.

Some digital SLR and Compact cameras offer a black and white mode but shooting in colour offers the best flexibility and there is no quality lost when converting to black and white.

There are many methods of converting into mono using a post editing programme such as Photoshop. Here are three ways: you can Desaturate the Colours, or Use Lab Mode, or use The Channel Mixer.

When you have converted your image to black and white you can still continue with further editing if desired.

Give black and white photography a try for a change you may be pleasantly surprised.

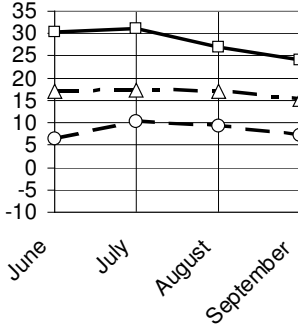


Weather Record

July to September 2009

Marcus Bean

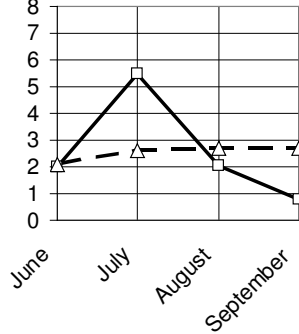
°C



TEMPERATURE

—□— Max. -○- Min. -△- Ave.

INCHES



RAINFALL

—□— Actual -△- Ave.

July The first few days of the month were warm and sunny and with one short electrical storm. Following this brief spell the rest of the month was characterised by sunshine and showers with a procession of Atlantic low pressure systems, driven by a Southerly jet stream passing over us. Rainfall was over twice the average (parts of Bristol had three times the average, being the most since 1888) but average temperature and pressure were significantly lower than average.

August The level of sunshine was consistently low due to a series of Atlantic depressions, some the remnants of hurricanes from the Caribbean, moving between Iceland and Scotland swinging their fronts with rain over us on an almost continuous procession. The Azores high pressure system managed to exert its influence for a few days mid month bringing slightly drier conditions, but its retreat soon occurred. Average rainfall for the month was marginally below norm as were temperature and pressure. We had one electrical storm and two days with gales during the month.

September The showery conditions of late August continued, with two very wet days, until the 5th of September. After this the Azores high pressure system finally established itself over the Southern half of the Country and we had fine, dry, sunny weather for the rest of the month with only two days on which light rain occurred. This was the driest September since 2003.

Average pressure for the month was well above normal but temperature and rainfall were below average.

Thornbury Choral Society Celebrates

To commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the death of Handel (1685-1759) Thornbury Choral Society is christening November "Messiah Month" Why you may ask? Well, we have two events to which you are warmly invited.

On Thursday November 12th 2009 musician Philip Robinson will give an audio-visual presentation in the Cossham Hall (part of the Armstrong Hall complex) on Handel's Messiah at 8 p.m. Philip will discuss Handel's life, show images of the original score and examine Handel's hand-writing as well as playing recordings going back over a century. Tickets cost £5 each and include a glass of wine or a soft drink.

Then on Saturday 28th November 2009 the society will sing the work conducted by Steven Kings with soloists Siân Winstanley (soprano) and Niall Hoskin (baritone). Both of whom have sung with the Choral Society on previous occasions and have given memorable performances.

Come and join in the celebrations. The concert will take place at

The Castle School in Thornbury at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 (£9 concessions, under 16s £1)

Tickets for both events will be available from Thornbury Town Hall, from any member of Thornbury Choral Society, from Alison Makepeace (01454-415019) or from the Secretary Jos Gregson (01454-411652 or jos@josgregson.plus.com)

Calling all cooks - to a book launch!

Saturday, 28th November, 10.30-12noon at Olveston Methodist Church

Are you interested in easy recipes? More than 50 cooks of all ages, most of them local, have supplied recipes for The Almost Effortless Cookbook. Please come along for the launch and meet some of them. Coffee and biscuits will be available and there will also be a Christmas Fair Trade Stall. .

The cookbook is being published by Tockington Press and sold in aid of the re-ordering fund for St John's, Aust.

The Scouts are having their Line of Coins and Coffee Morning in the Methodist hall on the same day. Why not come along for both events?

Saturday, 28th November, 2.30-4pm at Aust.

Copies of the book will be on sale in St John's Aust. Tea and mince pies will be served and there will also be a Fair Trade stall. Plans for the re-ordering of the church will be on display.



Oveston Branch Royal British Legion Remembrance Service Sunday 8th November

The parade will leave the **Parish Hall at 9.20am**, stopping at Orchard Rise, then on to the church to arrive at 9.50am. There will be a rehearsal in the church on Saturday 7th November at 10.30am for all standard bearers and colour parties. It is hoped that all ex-service personnel will join us on parade.

Tockington Harvest Fayre

Garry Phillips

This year's Fayre must have been the best we have ever seen on the Green! The weather was (as it always seems to be) perfect and the number of people and children who came along far exceeded any of our expectations. There was a real community spirit throughout the afternoon - the Crowning of the Queen, the delightful fancy dress parade, the dancing displays by the Brownies and Bristol Ballet, the music of the resident folk band, the display of animals from Old Down Country Park, our excellent compere and magician and of course all the children's games, stalls and cream teas -with tables and chairs placed on the Green for the first time in the history of the Fayre. We had some incredibly designed alternative shoe boxes on display in the Wesley Rooms along with the "Far Away Places" photo competition – our thanks to all of you who competed and congratulations to the winners for all your efforts. Thanks also to Ted Addis for providing his magnificent working display of handmade wooden model steam engines.

It was a memorable village day and is hopefully a taste of more to come – we shall certainly try to do as well if not better next year!

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU WHO CAME ALONG ON THE DAY – ESPECIALLY ALL OUR HELPERS. WE RAISED OVER £2,100, A RECORD AMOUNT.

Advent Talks

Following last year's success, we're having another series of Advent Talks at St Mary's. The speakers are encouraged to tell their story - it's not a theological debate on Advent. It's a chance to escape the maelstrom of Christmas activities and prepare for Christmas in a different way.

We're very lucky to kick off with Sr Frances Dominica, founder of the first childrens' hospice, Helen House in Oxford, who is a wonderful speaker and an even more wonderful woman. She is followed by Roger Ducker, leading Methodist minister, now retired and living in Severn Beach. We are privileged to then have Alan Johnston, BBC journalist who spent 5 months as a hostage; and we finish off with Sally Challoner, BBC presenter and producer, who, of course, lives in Olveston.

Do take time out and join us. The Talks begin at 7.30pm, then there's a chance for questions, wine and nibbles are served, and we aim to finish at 9pm. No charge, although donations to speakers' expenses would be appreciated.

Dec 1st: Sr Frances Dominica

Dec 16th Alan Johnston

Dec 8th: The Revd Roger Ducker

Dec 22nd Sally Challoner

The Parish Show 2010

The Parish Hall Committee are planning to organise a weekend summer event on **21/22nd August 2010** to include a flower/produce /craft show and a vintage car display to based in and around the Parish Hall.

We are seeking support and help from groups and individuals who would like to become involved in helping or exhibiting with an event of this size. As you can appreciate, a lot of work will need to be done to make this successful, therefore we propose sub-committees will be established from interested parties to agree a format and schedule of classes. A lot of thought and ideas have already been suggested but now need to be put together, so why not come and join us to make this a weekend to remember and an event for the Parish of Olveston to be proud of.

Why not come along to the Parish Hall on **Tuesday 17th November at 7.30pm** for an informal meeting, all welcome. If you would like to become involved, please ring Geoff Chappell - 615806 - or just turn up. Your help would be appreciated.

St Mary's Appeal

Roly Bain

By the time you read this I hope that people will be able to see great strides in the progress being made in the building. By the beginning of November we hope that the west end with its new accessibility toilet and vestry office will be largely complete and most of the new ash panelling screening erected for the new choir vestry and storage space. The other new toilet will be finished up at the North East end, and much of the new kitchen installed. The chancel steps and pillars and floor will have been repaired and renovated. And the heating will be back on! After all the weeks of preparation, we're beginning to see the project come to life. As a date for your diaries, the Bishop of Bristol is coming to dedicate the reordered church on Jan 31st, and to rededicate the war memorials which are being moved from their present site in the South west corner to the North East corner.

There has been a little confusion in some corners about the fundraising. Although our boards suggested we were trying to raise £100,000, the whole thing costs £220,000! We have £119,000 in our reserved fabric fund. We don't really want to use all of it because there's bound to be something that goes wrong with the building before too long, but when we started, we had that as a basis and the Diocese agreed to loan us £80,000, so that we could go ahead with it all - the original estimate was £200,000. In March when we launched the Appeal, we had £10,000 from previous events including last summer's ball, the Stones' concert, our annual organ recital and the UWE Big Band Concert – now we've got nearly £230,000 and we haven't had to borrow any from the Diocese at all, thanks to the generosity of so many of you. That's £100,000 in seven months – extraordinary!

People have asked where it's come from. Well, in round figures, £63,000 has come in individual pledges and donations, £19,000 from other grants and donations, £29,000 from this year's events. If you'd like to know what was raised at each event if you came and supported it, here's a list: Burns Night £260, Craft fair £400, Quiz Night £410, Bonnets & Bows £1317, Cheese & Wine at The Loans £600, Art in a Garden £718, Plant Sales £143, Crossleys' Open Garden £1125, Guitar & Recorder Concert £647, RAF Band £472, St Swithun's Eve Ball & Silent Auction £9,600, Chamber Orchestra £829, Coffee at Carmen's £414, Glamorous Nights £1485.

It's been a busy year, but we haven't finished yet. 'We'll meet again' is the title of another evening with the Stones and friends on Nov 7th at 7.30pm – tickets are £5. We're very lucky to have Richard Posner coming to do his one-man show of Dickens' Christmas Carol on Dec 5th at 6pm. And then, of course, there's the Mary & Joseph Roadshow from Jan 7-9th. Do come and join in the fun.

Energy That Won't Cost the Earth!

Many households in South Gloucestershire are keen to install renewable energy in their home. But did you know that over 50 installations across the area have benefited from a grant from South Gloucestershire council's SGFutureenergy scheme? There are still grants available of £500 grant towards the cost of renewable energy installations on top of the national Low Carbon Buildings Programme Grants.

South Gloucestershire Council is also offering a low interest loan for renewable installations of £3,500 repayable up to 10 years.

It's a good time to invest in renewables at the moment; by installing now you can claim local and national grants and also be eligible for the premium feed-in tariffs offered by the government next year.

As well as financial benefits you will, of course, also be saving carbon emissions and reducing your climate change impact both locally and globally.

All this means that there has never been a better time to install renewable energy in South Gloucestershire than right now!

Phone the SGFutureenergy advice line 01452 835087 for more information.

Time to Think About the Future?

How would we cope if the oil for our tractors and lorries became too expensive to use? The cost of our food would increase as fuel prices increased. But what will happen when it finally runs out? Cuba faced this crisis when their oil supplies were cut off through sanctions. They found the answer in a renewal of their community life.

Sustainable Thornbury invites you to a free showing at Oldbury Village Hall on **Tuesday 24th November** of two short films. The first explains the oil resource issue (*Peak Oil – Imposed by Nature.*). The second is an inspiring story of how Cuba responded to the lack of oil (*The Power of Community*). There will be an opportunity afterwards to discuss the films. Doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Free admission. This film is the third event of a monthly series of talks and films looking at our future prospects in a changing world.

More details on www.sustainablethornbury.org or tel 416778.

Thornbury Library

We have two organisations offering basic computer courses in the library:

Age Concern – Mondays/Tuesdays. Friendly and patient tutors from **Age Concern** are offering computer classes in Thornbury Library for the over 50s. Sessions are held on a one to one basis and there is a small charge. To book a session please call in at the library.

Filton College- 15 week FREE course on Thursday afternoons 1.00pm-3.30pm from January.2010. Enjoy learning how to use a computer while gaining an up to date English qualification. Brush up your skills through using Word to create typed documents and letters, using the internet to search for information and receiving and sending emails. Complete IT beginners welcome. To book a place please call in at the library.

Computers in the library. Did you know we offer free internet access and word processing in the library together with other software packages? You can also use our computers to access *Ancestry* free of charge to trace your family tree. In November our computers are being replaced with new ones.

Public rights of way – Saturday 14 November 10.00-12.00

Continuing with our Saturday morning demonstrations, a colleague from our Public Rights of Way department will hand out leaflets and answer your enquiries.

“As the highway authority for South Gloucestershire, we are responsible for 783 miles (1257km) of public rights of way. The council aims to help you make the most of the opportunities available to you, whether you're on foot, on pushbike, in the saddle or at the wheel.”

Don't forget your Bookstart + pack! If your two year old has not received one of these colourful canvas bags containing picture books, colouring books, crayons etc then please ask for one at the library.

Pensions surgeries. Pensions surgeries are held every Friday morning from 10am-12noon run by South Gloucestershire Pension Service.

Oral history tapes. We have a collection of over 40 tapes which were kindly donated to us by the Thornbury and District Oral History Society. These tapes contain personal memories of life in and around Thornbury in days gone by and are available for hire free of charge.



Coffee Morning

A coffee morning will be held in the Methodist Hall, Alveston on **Wednesday 4th November** between 10.00am and 12noon. Entrance to include tea/coffee £1.00. Stalls and raffle. Please come along and support St Peters, your local Hospice.

Gift Fayre

A Gift Fayre in support of St Peter's Hospice and MacMillan Nurses will be held in Tockington Village Hall on **Saturday 7th November**, 10.00am – 3.00pm. Teas available.

Shop early for Christmas and help to support two worthy charities.

Christmas Bazaar

Andy Phillips

Where ?Parish Hall - Tockington.

When ?.....**On Saturday 21st November.**

What time ?....**2-00pm to 4-00pm (Santa is there from 2pm to 3 pm)**

How Good is it ? Brilliant if it's anything like previous years.

What's there ? The Bottle stall; The Famous Christmas Stall; Cake stall; Bric a brac;

Could I run a stall there for my organisation ? ..You can for a fiver.

Can I help in any way? ..Yes please do - For any query please ring me on 01454 614890 or ring June on 01454 617491. See you there !!

Cricket Club News

150 Club Winners October:

£50 Philip Pullin

£15 Reg Purchase

£ 5 Nigel Dando

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

19th September Simon Gould

Diary Dates:

Friday 13th November Annual Cheltenham Race Day.

March 2010 (date to be finalised) Deeds Auction.

Tony Gardner 07889 727729 www.olddowncricketclub.co.uk



1st Olveston Scouts Go Shooting



Sunday 27th September 2009

A six thirty start at a weekend is not a good idea, trust me, I'm Stuart Sopp by the way from 1st Olveston scout troop and I will be telling you about the shooting competition that me and 87 other scouts from all over Avon entered on the 27th September. When we started the journey to Bath it was really misty as you could hardly see a metre in front of you, not a good day for shooting.

We arrived at the field, 500 metres up a dirt track. Lynda assembled us all and quickly invested Alex into the troop. Next we each had a bacon butty and then had a safety briefing. The day was to include the following activities, a knock out competition, precision targets, field targets, archery and an optional 12 bore Clay shoot.

I started with the knock-out and narrowly got through to the second round as my opponent [Matthew B-S] and I missed all the targets but I had more bullets left so I went through. Next we went to the precision targets. Now the idea here was that you had five targets and five shots and you had to get one shot in each target but there's a catch, the targets are only an inch and a half across. (Dan Stokes came 1st, George Dix came 2nd and I came 3rd - pretty good!) Next we had a go at the field targets. There were 10 lanes and we had 2 shots on each and you had a selection of things to hit such as plastic bottles, empty cartridge cases and spinners. The spinners were smaller than the targets in the precision. Now I personally did well and got 11 out of 20, which was the highest in my age group.

Next was lunch. That came as a relief as we had been so busy during the morning. After lunch it was our turn for archery. We were given four arrows and a target, first from 20 yards then 10 yards, and the scores were added up together. I then had a go at the Clay targets; we had three stands of five shots each. And my dad being the show off he is, said load up two clays and he would shoot them both together, which he DID. I managed 5 out of 15 on the clays, which was the first time I had shot them.

Next was the second round of the knock out where I was against Tristan and he beat me fair and square. The rounds continued to the semi-finals where Tristan

was knocked out. No one from 1st Olveston was left but it turned out to be a good final, a fight to the death.

Finally was the awards ceremony and everyone supposedly knew who was going to win as the scores had been put up during the day, but my name had been included in the wrong age group as they had thought I was already twelve. They awarded winners in each activity and age group as well as an overall winner.

Dan Stokes won the U/12 Precision and I won the field targets and to my surprise I was declared the overall winner for the U/12s with Dan getting second. It had been a great day for 1st Olveston Scouts Shooting team - and a nice shiny trophy too!

Parish Players Need You!!

Philip Savage

The Principal Roles for our 10th Anniversary Production have now been very strongly cast, and we look forward to presenting THE GONDOLIERS next March with great excitement and anticipation.

For many reasons we have lost a significant number of members who would have been excellent contributors to the Chorus which is an important and vital part of any, but particularly, this Production. If you feel that you would like to join us in this role and help maintain the very high standards that our discerning audience has now come to expect, then you will be part of a demanding but hugely fun-filled experience.

DO COME AND JOIN ONE OF THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SOCIAL SCENE IN THE VILLAGES. Please ring Phil Savage on 01454 413009, or Felicity Hemmett on 01454 415979 for further details.

From the Registers at St Mary's

Baptism on 4th October of Matilda May, daughter of Alex & Rachel McSweeney.

Wedding Blessing on 20th September of Larry and Laurie Vallas.



Oveston School News

Over the past year in Oveston School we were very lucky to have volunteers come into School who were willing to share their skills and knowledge. Sessions included a fascinating talk about local history, support over many weeks with the drama productions, regular help with our very productive gardening club and a brilliant Japanese day. These sessions have enhanced the children's education and knowledge of the world over and above the curriculum. Sometimes small groups of children took part, sometimes the whole school. If you feel that you have a particular skill or area of expertise that you would like to share with the children, perhaps this might be conservation – we have a newly enlarged conservation area, knowledge of living in another culture, a craft or language, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Mrs Slaytor or Mrs Hemming in the School Office.

We look forward to hearing from you!

School Vacancy for a School Meals Supervisory Assistant (SMSA) and Cleaner.

Please contact Mrs Slaytor in the school office on 01454 613299.

Oveston School and Pre School

Promises Auction

Marie King

On Saturday 3rd October 2009, we held a joint event at Oveston School. Attendance wasn't huge but even so we managed to raise a grand total of just under £3,000.

Our thanks go to everyone who attended, everyone who made generous promises, and those who made very generous bids especially a very generous donation from a local resident!

We must also thank Natasha Harrod for the fabulous food and the incredible amount of work she put in and Paul her husband for being an excellent auctioneer.

The amount raised will be split between the two local schools and will assist both provide additional equipment for the children.

Friends of Oveston School are pleased to announce they are raising funds towards a new outdoor learning area for the school. The cost of this will be approximately £8,000 -£10,000 and we are now well on our way to achieving this.

Yours faithfully..... *Rev. Sandy Williams*

The nights are drawing in and winter is approaching. I wonder if you are someone who welcomes this time of year and likes to put the lights on in the evening, close the curtains and settle down peacefully in the comfort and warmth of your home. There are books to read, the occasional good programme on the box, the opportunity to listen to music, browse the net, bring out the knitting or even stimulate the brain by beginning a new course of study. You may, however, be someone who finds the long winter evenings lonely and who misses pottering in the garden on a summer evening or taking the dog for an evening stroll without having to put on an extra layer or pick up an umbrella. How we respond to this time of year will depend on so many things: whether, for example, we live with others or live alone, whether we enjoy our own company or find that time hangs heavily when we can't get out and about. Then of course there's SAD – Seasonal Affective Disorder – with the downward mood swing that seems to affect many people once the clocks change.

It is not surprising that for centuries, many different cultures have included some kind of 'festival of lights' during the winter season. In Blackpool the illuminations are switched on. In multi-cultural areas in Britain festivals like the Diwali, have been celebrated with fireworks and neon lights and, as you receive the November edition of Meeting Point, bonfires will be lit and fireworks will light up the sky again for Guy Fawkes' night.

There is no doubt that we all respond to light – sunlight, starlight, candlelight - and that light lifts our spirits. There is no doubt, either, that the world needs light both literally and metaphorically. Light is the opposite of darkness and darkness can be the darkness of loneliness and despair, of anxiety and fear for the future and we search for ways to lift that darkness. All of us have different ways of trying to dispel darkness. Some are life giving and life enhancing; others may be damaging and harmful. Think, for example, of the increasing number of people who try to make themselves feel better by using their credit cards to excess because shopping gives them an adrenalin rush but who then face spiralling debt, depression and self-doubt.

'I am the light of the world', said Jesus (John 8.12). He was standing high above Jerusalem in the temple court at the end of a festival as the sun went down and burning torches were lit to provide illumination. Jesus came to show us how to love one another as God loves us, in other words, to build a community based on mutual care and companionship, sharing our laughter and tears, listening to one another, so that loneliness is eased and darkness is defeated. At the end of November we will be entering into the Advent season as we prepare ourselves to celebrate Christmas – the Christian festival of light and life, hope and peace. It is a joy and privilege to be the Methodist Minister in Tockington and Olveston and I hope our paths will cross in the coming weeks and months. I wish you all every blessing.

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Nov 1	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong with Choir	Mrs Janet McBride
Nov 8	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Parade Service with Choir	Mr Denis Jones
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Memorial Service	Rev Philip Rowe
Nov 15	8am	Holy Communion	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev David Bone
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Mr Denis Jones
Nov 22	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	4 th Sunday	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe
Nov 29	8am	Holy Communion	Canon David Sansum
		Advent Service	Rev Helen Webb
		Advent Vespers	Rev David Bone

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Contact:

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

Please contact Philip about Baptisms, marriages, funerals or other matters at any time, but please try to avoid Thursdays except in an emergency.

Verger: Mrs. June Robbins, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 3.00pm in the Church (except third Monday)

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

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Nov 1	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Nov 8	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
	11am	Village Act of Remembrance	
Nov 15	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Nov 22	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev David Bone
Nov 29	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone

Hon. Curate: Rev David Bone, 01454 614601

Church Wardens: Jo Jenkins, 01454 632838 and Janet Ford, 01454 633300

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Nov 1	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole
Nov 15	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Nov 8	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield
Nov 22	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Nov 1	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Blenkinsopp
	6pm	St Andrew's Filton	Evening Worship led by our Superintendent Minister Rev Peter Mortlock
Nov 8	10am	St Mary's Ch.	Remembrance Day Service.
	6pm	Olveston Ch.	Evening Worship led by Rev Peter Mortlock
Nov 15	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr John Trebble
	4pm	Daldry Gdns	Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney
Nov 22	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Sandy Williams
	6pm	Olveston Ch.	Evening Worship led by Rev Sandy Williams
Nov 29	10am	Tock. Ch	Morning Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney
	6pm	Olveston Ch.	Evening Worship led by Rev Ajay Singh

LIGHT LUNCHESES: Thursday 5th Nov at 12.15 in the Tockington Wesley Rooms.
To book your lunch please ring 612112 or 613241.

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 11th
Nov. To book your lunch please ring 416528

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

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

7th & 28th Nov organised by the Scouts & Cubs

CONTACT: Rev Sandy Williams Tel 07841 752 941

sandy.williams48@btinternet.com

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

We meet in a relaxed, informal manner for worship, prayer and conversational Bible studies and incorporating Communion, normally 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 us. Prayer requests can be posted through the letter box at The Vine or sent to us by post or email. Please add a name or initial to identify your request.

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

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLDOWN

Nov 1	6.30pm	Victory Outreach
Nov 8	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies
Nov 15	6.30pm	Rev Colin Lewis
Nov 22	6.30pm	Korky Davey
Nov 29	6.30pm	Arts 4 Ministry

Prayer Time every Thurs 8pm.

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

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Family Worship 11am Evening Worship 6.30 Phone 632564 for more details .

BRISTOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP - Our Sunday morning meetings are held at The Grange School in Warmley at 11 am.

Contact 01454 613305 **www.bcfnet.com**

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury - each Sunday

8.30am Mass

11.00 Family Mass

6.30pm Mass

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: Elizabeth Sidwell, 412975

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

Diary Dates for November 2009

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

1 st Sun			
2 nd Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club "Come Join the Jolly Wassail" Open Meeting Olveston Craft Group	6.30 for 7.30 7.30-9.30	AH MH
3 rd Tue	Tockington Toddlers Royal British Legion -Women-Bingo	10.00-12.00 7.30	WR DGCL
4 th Wed	Ol. Par. Hist. Soc:Talk on eccentric Glos inventor Harry Grindell Matthews	7.30pm	MH
5 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30	OS+ MH
6 th Fri			
7 th Sat	Coffee Morning "We'll Meet Again"	10.30-12.00 7.30pm	MH StM
8 th Sun	Remembrance Service (Parade 9.20am) Aust Remembrance St John's Churchyard	10am 11am	StM AC
9 th Mon			
10 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Women's Institute: A.G.M.	10.00-12.00 7.30pm	WR PH
11 th Wed	Royal British Legion - Men	7.30pm	DGCL
12 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group Thornbury & District Flower Club -Demo "Carols & Candles"	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30 7.30pm	OS+ MH TMH
14 th Sat	Coffee Morning Music in the Church at Aust- John Tams & Barry Coope	10.30-12.00 8pm	MH AC
16 th Mon			
17 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	10.00-12.00	WR
18 th Wed			
19 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30	OS+ MH
20 th Fri	OPTA Quiz	8pm	PH
21 st Sat	Coffee Morning Friends of St Marys Christmas Bazaar St Mary's Alm. Christmas Bazaar "Touch of Magic"-Barry Smith	10.30-12.00 2-4pm 2pm 7.45-10pm	MH PH OSH PH

24 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Fibromyalgia Support Group:-Christmas Crafts Olveston Parish Council	10.00-12.00 7-9pm 7.30pm	WR AMH AP
25 th Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club- Charity Coffee Morning Alveston History Soc. -"Witchcraft & Magic"	10.30 7.30pm	AH AMC
26 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group Thornbury & District Flower Club: Practice- "At the Going Down of the Sun"	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30 7.30pm	OS† MH TMH
27 th Fri			
28 th Sat	Coffee Morning & Line of Coins Aust Christmas Fair Tea & Mince Pies Royal British Legion -Women: Conference at Churchdown	10.00-12.00 2.30-4pm 1pm	MH AC
29 th Sun			
30 th Mon	Olveston Craft Group	7.30-9.30	MH
Looking ahead to December			
Dec 12	Endeavour Scouts Christmas Crafts Music in the Church at Aust Christmas Party	10.00-12.00	MH PH

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

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

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