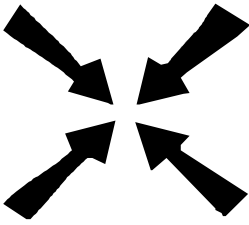


Meeting Point



November 2014



Meeting Point

Volume 39, Number 2, November 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 December 2014
to the Editor or Deputy Editor
by 10th November 2014.

From the Editor

Exactly one hundred years on we remember with particular poignancy the first winter of the Great War and the toll this and subsequent wars have exacted on us and other nations. The first two articles of this month's magazine reflect this feeling. Olveston Parish Historical Society devotes its November meeting to a consideration of Olveston Parish in the First World War (see p.11)

Elsewhere late autumn events and pre-Christmas fairs are under way. And on page 18 there's a different organisation which may interest you....

The cover: The War Memorial and St Mary's Church, Olveston from a painting by Peter Floyd

Meeting Point Founded in 1976 by the Anglican and Methodist churches in Olveston, near Bristol

Meeting Point magazine and Meeting Point Directory are online at the Community Website: www.olvestonandaust.com

The Great War comes home to our Parishes.

Nick Fear

War had been declared on the 4th of August 1914. Men connected with our area had said their fond goodbyes and gone to fight. Reports in the local newspapers had been grave although most of the places mentioned were formerly unheard of, foreign and seemed very far away. The war had not yet come to the local villages and hamlets but the images must have been in the minds of some who had found themselves writing home from 'Somewhere in France'. Many had been professional soldiers whose expertise could not be bettered and none more so than the officers and men of the county's much loved Gloucestershire Regiment, our 'Glosters'.

The 1st Battalion, to many the finest one in the regiment, had been in action from the start. It had taken up positions near Mons in Belgium in late August and heard the sound of severe fighting nearby. Probing patrols had come into contact with a much stronger German force and the first casualties had occurred. The Glosters' prowess prevailed and the Germans were routed. A sensible and well planned withdrawal took place and over several weeks battalion perambulations saw it visit several locations and cover many miles.

In late October it found itself transported near a picturesque town called Ypres. Its buildings were magnificent, with a towering trading palace, the Cloth Hall, next to the gothic structure of Saint Martin's Cathedral. Both were cool contemplative places through which the sounds of battle, then some distance off, reverberated. The streets seemed deserted and many homes evacuated although some innocent pleasures existed and the local population were more than friendly.

On 21st October orders came to move east along the road to Menin. At first a sheltered position was taken in a valley behind the small railway station in the village of Langemark. News came that the Worcestershire Regiment were in the area and a battalion of Welsh troops. The local connections to Gloucestershire must have been reassuring.

For the next few days the German positions had been reconnoitred; these had been static, but getting too close resulted in the discharges of accurate rifle and machine gun fire from them. On 31st October the situation changed and became critical, when the Germans mounted a determined attack on British lines.

The Worcesters and Welsh were in action in the village of Gheluvelde. The 1st Battalion of the Gloucesters moved to their rear to cover them. They took positions astride a small crossroads, with deep ditches providing sound cover and a good forward view. A few houses to one side awarded it the local name of Veldhoek but it was barely a hamlet by any standards. For good measure the 1st Battalion built a barricade across the main road, blocking access down it. Orders were then received to move back a few hundred yards towards Ypres to the cover of a wood.

On the following day there was a slight respite, allowing men to clean equipment and cook a good meal. German troop movements were observed and shelling occurred to the front.

On 2nd November the battalion moved further back to a place called Sanctuary Wood, although this was no haven. The men saw a Belgian armoured car in action on the Menin Road and also cavalry going forward although neither stayed for long. The Germans shelled the area with high explosives and in particular the aptly named 'coal boxes'. These large destructive shells burst in the ground and showered the area with a black residue like coal dust, which clung to uniforms and skin. The circumstances of the day meant that confusion reigned, with rumours of German breakthroughs and unfortunately some of our own artillery shells falling short, causing casualties.

Through all of this, an attack was ordered and the 1st Battalion went bravely forward under fire, only to return to their starting point without making contact with the enemy. A roll was called and several men were found to be absent; some were known to have been killed, others simply missing. One of these was Charles Durnell from Littleton-on-Severn. He had worked in the local brickyards before joining the Gloucestershire Regiment prior to the war. Fate bestowed on him the sad epithet of being the first local man to be killed in the Great War. He has no known grave and is remembered along with friends on the mighty Menin Gate at Ypres.

The news of Charles's death would have taken days to return home; the effect on his large family can only be imagined. On 17th November the toll increased with the sad news of Charles Watts George from Oldbury on Severn being killed in battle. Nine days later the first man from Olveston, William George Edwards died from his wounds received in action. The war may have been fought far from our area, but the heart-breaking results had come home to haunt our parishes.

Littleton event in remembrance of the Great War

Littleton decided to have a WW1 themed Village Challenge event this year, as it is the centenary of the opening of hostilities. The challenge involved 3 teams and several games with fancy dress, potato peeling, artillery (with spud guns) and casualty evacuation across a simulated trench. There was also a poetry competition on the WW1 theme and there were some outstanding entries. All the poems and a beautiful poppy made from the fancy dress headgear are on display in the Village Hall. We'd like to share with you the winning poem from Jan Major.

I was dreaming last night of summers long past
When I was a boy, running free, running fast
Through field after field to the stream where I could
Paddle and splash, and build dams with the mud.
Playing for hours then home for my tea,
Then bath, some cocoa and bed for me.
Now I'm a soldier at war, living in mud
It's filthy, it stinks, it's streaked with the blood
Of the wounded, and those who are dead.
I can't stop the visions running round in my head
Of the fighting, the screaming, men dying in pain
I want to be that boy by the stream again.
Looking for water voles, not seeing rats
Running over our legs, some big as cats
Bold as brass, whiskers trembling, eyes gleaming
We shoot some and hit some but still men are screaming
With revulsion, with horror, we can't take much more
Our bodies are failing, our hearts are sore.
In my dream the mist's rising from the heat of the sun
Warming the fields so that boys can have fun

But then a shout wakes me – “On with your masks!”
It's not mist we can see, but poisonous gas
Silently rolling like a wave to the shore
Oh when will they tell us what it's all for?
Why is George killing Hans, why is Kurt shooting Fred?
By the end of it all there'll be thousands dead
I hear mothers' cries, I hear widows' screams
Shattered lives, shattered minds, shattered dreams.
A hundred years on will the world be the same?
Was it worth being pawns in the Generals' chess game?

Jan Major

Aust Defibrillator

You may have read in last month's Meeting Point about the three defibrillators in the area. Well, the villagers of Aust are aiming to make it four. They are hoping to adopt the phone box on the main road and have the defibrillator housed within it.

Aust is a small village but it has a lot of visitors, particularly to the Boar's Head. Funding such a scheme is a large task for such a small community so if you find yourselves in the pub please put a donation in the box on the bar!

If you wish to find out more about the scheme or make a donation, please contact Pandora McGee (01454 631046).

Aust Music Presents Blast from the Past

8pm Saturday 6th December, St John's Church Aust

A Victorian Christmas – A Festive Cornucopia of Carols, Songs, Tales and Drama from the time of Dickens and Hardy. For more information see www.blastfromthepast.org.uk

For tickets, ring Clive & Susie Roberts 01454 632238

News from St Mary's Olveston

Roly Bain

You are invited to the launch of 'Bridge to Guatampuri' at St Mary's, Olveston, on Nov 1st at 12 noon, when wine and canapés will be served. This is our latest major fundraising scheme, this time for a health and education centre in the Guatampuri slum in Delhi. If we can raise £15,000 it will provide a brick built centre for the community for health education, education, the ladies sewing group, a church and all sorts of community uses. At present they are all disparate, and this will help bring them all together and provide a focal point for that community. We're doing it through a local Christian charity, the Bridge Trust, based in Almondsbury, so you can be sure that all the money raised will go directly to the project and none will be squandered along the way. They've been working in that slum for the last 17 years so they're well-informed and on the spot. Our first fundraising event as such is on Nov 22nd when we're having an Auction of Promises at 7.30pm. If you feel moved to do or offer anything - it might be doing two baskets of washing, or offering a week's holiday, or walking dogs for a week, or something you've made, indeed anything at all, please let Gail Lowe know on 612709 - and do come along and bid for something. Curry will be served!

Looking slightly further ahead, we're having a busy weekend on Dec 6/7th. On Saturday evening Dec 6th at 7.30pm we welcome back the Easton Salvation Army Band for a Christmas Concert, and then the following morning at 10am we're having a Toy service. Tockington Manor School will be singing and there will be a preacher from the Children's Society. The idea is to bring presents for children that they can distribute, so please add that to your Christmas shopping list! More details next month.

On Nov 16th at 4pm we're starting a new time and type of worship at St Mary's, called Back to Front - you'll find out why it's called that when you come! It's aimed at the younger generations of adults and parents with plenty of music and a big-name preacher on the screen. Why not come and see what it's like?! Our Remembrance Day Parade Service is the week before at 10am, when we have a visiting preacher, Canon David Hanley RN Retd. We look forward to another packed church, so come early if you want a seat!

Litter Pickers

Please meet at Olveston Parish Hall at 1pm on Saturday 1 November for the last litter pick of the year.

Olveston Parish Council Matters

Richard Rogers (olvestonpc@gmail.com)

Flyers placed on telegraph poles are tolerated on the understanding that they are for local, singular events and that the flyers are removed promptly after the event. In future, please could organisers delegate an individual to ensure that the adverts are removed promptly.

Recently Olveston Parish Council has been discussing **Community Land Trusts** with South Glos Council, St Mary's Parish Church, the Parish Vision Group and local land owners and is to hold a **public meeting at 7.30 pm on 19th November** at the **Parish Hall** to open the discussion to all residents.

Community Land Trusts (CLT) (www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk) are non-profit, community-based organisations run by volunteers that develop housing, workspaces, energy generation, community facilities or other assets that meet the needs of the community, and are owned and controlled by the community. CLTs are defined in Statute as a corporate body laid out in Section 79 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008.

A CLT is set up by the community and for the community. The members of the CLT control it and the assets can only be sold or developed in a manner that benefits the local community. If the CLT decides to sell the asset, the cash realised is protected by an asset lock and is re-invested into something else that the trust's members think will benefit the local community.

People who live and work in the defined local community, including occupiers of the properties that the CLT owns, must have the opportunity to become members of the CLT. The CLT should actively engage members of the community in its work and ensure that they remain engaged in the development and operation of the CLT.

All CLTs are not for profit and any profits generated by the CLT cannot be paid by way of dividend or otherwise to its members but must be used to further the community's interests. A CLT does not disappear when a home is sold or let but has a long-term role in stewarding the homes. In some cases they will remain the landlord of the rental homes or will retain an element of unsold equity in the homes. At the least, the CLT will retain the freehold, endeavouring to keep the homes or assets at permanently affordable levels.

Progress with the Olveston Parish Vision

A thank you to those parishioners who came to the Drop-in Event in the Parish Hall to see progress with the Parish Vision and offer comments on emerging ideas.

On display were posters setting out issues which were identified through last October's Community Questionnaire and possible actions to address them. There were posters about local shops and services, internet services, community facilities, travel and transport, housing, traffic and parking, the environment and street lighting, flooding, and communicating issues and events in the parish. Copies of the posters may be viewed on the Olveston Parish Vision website – www.olvostonparishvision.co.uk

The Vision Group is now digesting what people have said and is starting to pull together the final Vision Document. This will include an action plan with actions for South Gloucestershire Council, the Parish Council, and not least to be taken forward by the community itself. It is hoped the process can be completed early in 2015. A draft of the Vision Document will be placed on the Vision website offering an opportunity for further comment.

One emerging idea to help provide some local needs housing and protect key services for the parish is to set up a Community Land Trust (CLT). The Parish Council is organising a public meeting to be held in the Parish Hall on 19th November to provide more information about CLTs and to gauge public support and seek a mandate to proceed further. See the separate article under Olveston Parish Council Matters. *Olveston Parish Vision Team*

Aust Parish Council Matters

Tim Pyper (austparishcouncil@googlemail.com)

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

I reported last month that there is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, John Alway of Aust having retired. The vacancy has been advertised and, at the time of writing, the time is still open to ask for a poll. If (*as seems likely*) no poll is demanded, the Parish Council will co-opt a new member.

If you would be interested in serving as a Councillor, or would like more information about the process, please get in touch with me. Tel:01454416422.

Friends of Olveston School

Wreath making event

FOOS are holding a Christmas wreath making evening on Friday 5th December 2014 from 7.30pm - 9.30pm in The Wike Hall at Olveston School. The cost is £17.00 per person (including mulled wine & a mince pie). No experience is necessary as a professional will be on hand to guide you to the end! You will need to bring a pair of secateurs and any donations of greenery will be most welcome, to be shared by all.

This was an extremely popular event last year so book early to avoid disappointment. Places are on a first come first served basis.

For more information or to book your place please contact Amanda Setter on 07966 055506 or at amanda.setter@live.co.uk

Olveston School Christmas Fair

Saturday 6th December, 2pm - 4pm. Lots of games, stalls, refreshments and of course you can visit Father Christmas in his grotto. Come and join us!

Olveston School Parent Tours

For children starting school in September 2015 tours of the school are happening on the following dates:

Monday 10th November 1.30pm

Friday 21st November 9.30am

Friday 9th January 9.30am

Please call the School Office on 613299 to book a place. We look forward to showing you round the school and answering any questions you may have.

Flights of Fancy: Tit family

Trevor Cook

The clocks have gone back, Halloween has come and gone, and the dark days of winter have arrived. It's time to clean out and fill the bird-feeders, help the birds and receive the pleasure of their company.

The members of the tit family will become frequent visitors if you care to put food out. The two commonest are the blue tit and the great tit. Some have asked why the smaller of the two is called the blue tit when its body is yellow. You have to look at its head to see the sky blue markings. Interestingly the birds themselves can see ultra-violet light and so for them their heads shine as a mark of fitness and good health. The larger bird is the great tit which is identified by the black stripe that extends down the breast. Males and females can be told apart by the bolder, broader stripe in the males whereas in the females the stripe is less well defined and thinner.



Coal Tit ©Kickapoo

The coal tit is a less frequent visitor and, in my experience, does not like to linger at the bird feeder; it's more likely to grab and go and is therefore easy to miss. Some say the pattern of black and white on the head reminds them of a badger and certainly it's a good identifier for the bird. Look for its yellow breast with a peachy hue along the line of the wings and listen for its 'pitchoo' call.

Finally, look for the long tailed tit which is an infrequent visitor to the bird table. This bird prefers to roam the hedgerows in families of around ten birds and so can be found during those long winter walks. Mostly black and white, with touches of brown, it's easily recognised by the colour and by its long tail. Often the first clue is its high pitched 'zsi-zsi-zsi' call. If you see one, look for the others for they are bound to be there. And, to repeat a tip from a more experienced birder, always look around below the long tailed tits as they provide excellent cover and warning for different small birds that prefer to skulk along undetected.



Long Tailed Tit ©Andreas Trepte

If you want to go walking to find birds try the Bristol Ornithological Club
<http://bristolornithologicalclub.co.uk/>

November

Angela Daymond

Autumn slides into winter this month. Now is the time that much of our wildlife starts to plan ahead for spring.

Fox vixens will be searching out suitable places for an earth, ready for cubs in the New Year. They will look for up to three sites. Then if one is disturbed she will gather up her cubs and move them to a readymade new home.

Atlantic salmon gather in the estuaries to swim to the very place of their own birth to spawn. They will perish shortly after laying their eggs in the gravelly river bed following an arduous journey which often takes weeks.

Grey seals will actually be giving birth at this time of year, their furry white pups clinging to the rocks around our shores through the autumn storms. They grow quickly with their mother's fatty nutritious milk, shedding that snowy fur within two weeks and joining mum in the water after just a couple of months.

Even rooks stay by their rookeries this late in the year, maybe keeping an eye on their nests and planning any improvements for next spring. Of course others decide to just hunker down and dream of warmer days. A nice leaf pile is all that's needed for hedgehogs to settle in for their winter sleep.

We still don't know where many of our pipistrelle bats roost in winter, as numbers in summer far exceed the number of hibernating sites. Bats also mate in the autumn, but the females will 'store' the sperm and not become pregnant until next spring!

Christmas Demonstration at Thornbury & District Flower Club

Thornbury & District Flower Club are having an Open Christmas Flower Demonstration "What Christmas Does to Me" by Bob Harris on Thursday 4th December at the Armstrong Hall, Thornbury. Bob is a National Flower Arranging Demonstrator who has also been involved in the "Longhope Experience" where Longhope Village and the surrounding areas have been decorated with flowers which attracted many visitors. Tickets cost £8.50, including light refreshments. Doors open at 6.30 pm for 7.30pm and a stall of flower arranging sundries and a book stall will be available. All are welcome.

From Olveston to Aleppo:

Olveston Parish in the First World War

Olveston Parish Historical Society www.olvoston.com.historical-society
Wednesday, 5 November 2014, 7.30pm, Olveston School Hall

Everyone is invited to hear Eric Garrett talk about the results of his researches into Olveston's part in the First World War.

Tonight is also the occasion of the launch of his new book on the subject, 'From Olveston to Aleppo'.

In the book, besides describing life on the home front, he traces the journeys and experiences of the local farmers who made up the Olddown Troop a hundred years ago, after they found themselves shipped to Egypt with their horses. Eric describes, in a matter-of-fact way, how, in the years that followed, they found themselves not only subject to aircraft attack, shellfire, rifle and machine gun fire, but at the mercy of sandstorms, locusts, heat exhaustion, rain and mud, very cold temperatures, malaria, influenza, diarrhoea, scorpions and snakes. A personal dimension is provided; three members of Eric's family were in the Troop.



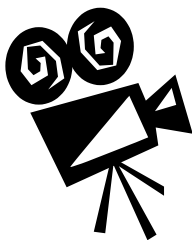
We're in Olveston School Hall for this meeting because we're expecting a larger than usual turnout. Make a note in your diaries - and remember to bring £6, if you'd like to buy a copy of the book!

All are welcome. £2 for a single meeting, payable at the door, or - for just £5 - you can buy annual membership, also at the door, which entitles you to this and five more talks.

Thornbury Picture House

Thornbury Picture House screens the French subtitled film, 'You Will Be My Son' (15). For full details of this film and future screenings, please view our website www.thornburypicturehouse.org
Cossham Hall at 7.30pm, Friday 7th November, £5 on the door for non-members

Movies at St Mary's: Nov Trevor Anderson



Why is **St Mary's Movie Club** in Olveston so popular? Here are just a few reasons that people have given us:

- *The friendly welcome*
- *The chance to watch well-known classics plus wonderful films I'd never heard of*
- *An easy way to see new films soon after release*
- *A glass of wine while watching*
- *Lots of people to chat to*

So if you haven't yet been, come and join the hundreds who have! 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. Everyone is welcome and there is no need to book.

There will be TWO Movie Club films in November:

MONDAY MOVIES (*Recent releases and ever-popular classics*)

Mon 3rd November at 7.30pm. A former British Army officer, tormented as a prisoner of war at a Japanese labour camp during World War II, discovers that the man responsible for much of his treatment is still alive and sets out to confront him and his haunting past. (2013) *Cert 15*

MONDAY MOVIES EXTRA (*'Non-mainstream' films and historic classics*)

Mon 17th November at 7.30pm: Christmas 1914, and the soldiers in the trenches of the First World War briefly lay down their arms to celebrate the holy day. A vivid, quietly powerful recreation of a truly extraordinary moment in history. (2006) *Cert 12*

Licensed bar and refreshments at all the evening 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.

Pop-up Breakfast

Enjoy an English Breakfast before facing your Christmas shopping. Meet up with your friends and neighbours or read a newspaper. Olveston Parish Hall, Saturday 29th November, orders taken 08:00 to 10:30. Adults £7.30 children (under 11) £5.00. Fundraising event for Olveston and Tockington Tennis Club. Everyone welcome

Christmas Fair

When? Saturday 29 November, from 10.30 am - 1 pm

Where? Olveston Methodist Chapel and Hall

Last year we raised money for our own building fund and, with Aust's help, for Aust Church roof. This year the profits will go to various charities (please see posters for further details). As last year, there will be a variety of stalls, eg gifts, cakes and produce, cards and local books, and an opportunity to stock up on your Fair Trade Christmas purchases. There will be competitions, musical entertainment and refreshments throughout the Fair.

Please note **date** and timing – morning only this year.

Jennifer Bone

Tockington Manor School Christmas Food and Craft Fayre

Tockington Manor School would be delighted to welcome you to a wonderful afternoon of Christmas shopping and craft activities on Saturday November 29th 12pm – 4 pm.

Come and start your shopping early, and let your children make some of their own decorations or presents to take home, all within the beautiful surroundings of Tockington Manor. Come and catch up with friends over some light refreshments and wander round a lovely selection of stalls to help get you into the festive spirit.

Friends of Daldry Gardens

Ukulele Jam will be performing in Daldry Gardens Communal Lounge on Thursday 11 December at 7.30pm. Tickets are just £2. Early purchase advised as capacity is 50. Ring Mike Lewis on 01454-618315 or email friendsodg@btinternet.com

Olveston Sports and Social Club

Bingo has started for the winter. This year we are starting at 7pm to make it more of a family evening. So come along and bring the children: it only lasts about an hour. We are just a friendly group who get together for a game and a chat. We started on 5th and were disappointed only 8 people turned up but they enjoyed themselves, so why not join us one Sunday to try it out?

Our quiz nights once a month are still running and once again we raised £600 for local charity and groups. So why not join us on Sat Oct 25th or Sat Nov 15th? Party bookings for remainder of year and next now being taken - contact Barbara 01454 415036. We would welcome any suggestions you may have about functions we could run that might be of interest to others.

Barbara Lansdown

Old Down Cricket Club

150 Club Winners October:

£50 Bill Finch £15 John Fox £5 Andrew Kitchen

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

13th September Olivia Maunder
20th September Tony Gardner
27th September Simon Higgs
4th October Paul Middleton

Diary Date:

Ascot Races 'Christmas Shopping' Meeting Friday 21st November.
Breakfast Bap/Premier Enclosure/Cash Raffle/Return Coach £40.00

Up the Down!!

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

Alveston Local History Society

Programme November 2014 to May 2015

All meetings take place in the Alveston Methodist Church, starting at 7.30pm.
Annual subscription: £12: Visitors: £2.50

November 26th	Vintage films of the South West - Mike Holder
January 28th	Clifton: the handsomest suburb in England - Mike Rowland
February 25th	Romans and the Severn Valley -Dr. Mark Lewis
March 22nd	Ashton Court: Past, Present and Future -Peter Weeks
April 22nd	Various tools of the trade - Mike Holder
May 27th	The Berkeley & Spetchley Estates - Tim Davies

Orchestral concert in Thornbury

Hot on the heels of our recent appearance with the Choral Society, Thornbury Orchestra has another treat in store for you.

Come and hear some wonderful, tuneful music played live in Thornbury by Thornbury's own orchestra! The concert includes the vivacious overture Zampa, some of Dvorak's Slavonic Dances as well as Brahms' stirring First Symphony, and takes place in Thornbury Baptist Church at 7.30 on Saturday 29th November. Free entry but with a retiring collection in aid of work with women prisoners. So come and support a good cause while having a lovely evening!

Get Ahead for Christmas!

Make pickles, do some batch baking and make sweets for Christmas gifts at a Day School in Turnberries, Thornbury, (opposite Rock Street Car Park) on Saturday 8th November, starting at 10am. The day school will be run by the Thornbury branch of the WEA, is open to all adults, and requires no previous knowledge or experience. The tutor will be Judith Lobo and the cost is £30.

For further information, and to book a place, ring 0845 4582758 or book online at www.wea.org.uk Course code C3525617. Local contact is Kate on 01454 610071.

Events in aid of St Peter's Hospice

Coffee Morning

A coffee morning will be held in the Methodist Church Hall, Alveston on Wednesday 5th November between 10.00am and 12noon. Entrance to include tea/coffee £1.00. Stalls, Bring and Buy table and raffle. Please come along and support St Peter's, your local Hospice.

Acupuncture Taster Session

Thornbury Chiropractic Clinic in association with St Peter's Hospice are offering Acupuncture Taster Sessions on Saturday 15th November 10.00am – 3.00p.m with a suggested donation of £10.00 for St Peter's Hospice.

To make an appointment please ring 01454 418259, the clinic is based in The Georgian House in Thornbury.

Carols for Charity

SIP `n SING. Why not come along and singalong with Thornbury Castle Band and get that `feel good` factor that comes from singing together. Thornbury and District Cancer Research UK committee are again holding this event at The Ship, Alveston on Thursday 4th December from 7.30pm – 10.00pm.

Hot mince pies will be provided but it's your participation in singing in an informal get together that will make for an enjoyable and successful evening. Word sheets of Christmas songs and Carols will be provided so there is no excuse for not coming along. It was a `Sell Out` last time so get your Tickets early. Hope to see you there.

Tickets £6 from Mary on 01454 414466 or from any committee member.

Avon & Somerset Search and Rescue Team

In Avon and Somerset we have our own search and rescue team. Manned by volunteers and available 24hr a day, 365 days a year, the team responds directly for the police.

Why do we have such a team? The simple answer is that we have the highest cliffs and areas prone to flood and that is sufficient justification on its own. The team has recently been used in searches for missing vulnerable people, helping the evacuation of Northmoor during the recent flooding, assisting members of the public to safety from potentially hazardous locations and recovering bodies. There are a variety of skills within the team but the basic ones are searching rough and /or steep ground and being able to evacuate any casualties safely to definitive medical care. Did you know, by the way, that most of the things being searched for are found by a backward glance? There is a big difference between searching and looking.

The team is aware of the needs to preserve evidence if the emergency is likely to require a criminal investigation. However there are extra skills within the team and these include technical expertise to enable cliff rescues and also swift water and flood rescue which is becoming ever more relevant.

The area ASSAR covers is 1855 square miles with a population of 1.5 million. The team members are based all over the area ensuring they can respond wherever and whenever they are needed. As part of the national Mountain Rescue organisation, the team has close links with the Exmoor Search and Rescue Team, SWAST, the Coastguard the Search and Rescue Helicopter Service, currently run by the military, the various air ambulances and with the Hazardous Area Rescue Team of the ambulance service.

This wide range of activities requires a considerable amount of equipment; radios, computer mapping, ropes (and very long ropes too for Cheddar and the Avon Gorge/Clifton Suspension Bridge), technical gear for allowing hoisting or lowering of rescuers and casualties, vehicles to transport this equipment, dry suits and the associated equipment for flood and swift water rescue and stretchers of different types. The list is extensive and that excludes the personal gear that team members buy for their own use such as safety helmets, harnesses and the like. There is regular monthly training and regular training beyond this for the specialist teams. All this requires

Continued overleaf

volunteers who are prepared to make this sacrifice of time and money. Being a voluntary charitable organisation, the team rely completely on the good will of those who support it financially and materially.

Hugh Price, a local Team Member says: "We're very proud of the way we can help people that are far from help in our area. We search for and rescue the unwilling and unable, the despondent trying to take their own life or the person with mental health problems who is confused and lost. It's a hugely committing role but immensely rewarding."

If you would like to know more about joining the team, the sort of work the team does, how to make a donation or would like a speaker to expand on the work of the team then please do visit this web site: <http://www.ascrt.com/>

Thornbury Carers' Support Group

Following on from last month's excellent article about the Carers Support Centre, I noticed that no mention was made of the various Carer Support Groups that also exist across South Gloucestershire. These groups give carers the opportunity to meet other carers, have a cup of tea and a chat and pick up information. Some of the groups are open to all carers and some focus on specific health issues e.g. carers looking after someone with dementia. Your local Carers' Group is open to all carers and we meet at The Chantry, 52 Castle Street, Thornbury, BS35 1HB on the 1st Friday of every month 1pm - 3pm.

In addition to the opportunities that all of the groups offer, the Thornbury Group also has a local complementary therapist who attends the meetings and offers therapies at greatly reduced rates e.g. a head or shoulder massage. So if you would like the opportunity to chat with other carers, find out more about the support available to you and also have some fun, why not come along and meet us?

For further information about our group please contact Penny Snow, our group facilitator, on 07763 192 812. For information about other groups please contact the Carersline on 0117 965 2200 or look at the South Gloucestershire Council's website www.southglos.gov.uk under Health and Social Care.

We look forward to seeing you!

Delia Robins, Group Administrator 01454 615368

From the Registers of St John's Church Elberton

11th July 2014

Funeral Service and Burial of Peggy Irene Oakhill

From the Registers of St Mary's Church Olveston

21st September 2014 Baptism of Morgan-Blubelle Honey, daughter of William and Cimone Duke

29th September 2014 Funeral Service at St Mary's followed by burial in the church yard of Richard William James Lacey

10th October 2014 A celebration of the life of David Lewtas after a funeral service at Canford

Friends of St Mary's

The prize winners in the September draw, held on 9th October 2014 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	314	Mr & Mrs R Birtle, Olveston
£75	540	Mrs S Chick, Olveston
£25	402	Mr L Slaytor, Tockington
£25	313	Mr & Mrs R Birtle, Olveston
£25	543	Mrs T Fear, Tockington
£20	595	Mrs C Healey, Olveston
£20	554	Mrs B Kingscott, Almondsbury
£20	256	Mrs C Healey, Olveston
£10	502	Revd D Bone, Tockington
£10	533	Mr M Stevenson, Awkley
£10	448	Mrs C Black, Thornbury
£10	581	Mrs J Davis, Olveston
£10	289	Mr & Mrs R J Davies, Old Down

Yours faithfully

Paul Ashford

The Oasis Church, Old Down

“Life’s too short?”

Last weekend I found myself watching the Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix where the weather conditions were particularly adverse. Although the safety record within Formula 1 has improved immeasurably since the “bad old days” of the 1970s and early 1980s when fatalities were unacceptably frequent, the sport is not without its risks. Owing to an unfortunate series of events resulting from the adverse conditions, one of the drivers – a talented Frenchman, Jules Bianchi – was involved in a collision with one of the recovery vehicles attending to a previous accident. At the time of writing, Jules Bianchi’s condition is viewed as ‘critical but stable’. When Jules Bianchi woke on the morning of the race, I doubt that he, or anyone else, foresaw the condition in which he would end the day – hanging onto his life.

This example made me think of his, and our own, motivations in life. Obviously, Jules Bianchi was, and hopefully still is, a very gifted driver. It was his ambition to reach the pinnacle of his pursuit and become world champion. However this ambition may now never come to fruition. It challenges us to think about our own motivations and ambitions. Although expectations from our lives will vary considerably across the population, often depending on early experiences and opportunities, we can never be certain that they will be fulfilled. While average life-spans are increasing, none of us can be certain about tomorrow. We therefore need to hold on to our objectives and ambitions lightly. This is equally important if we are to live a balanced and fulfilling life throughout its phases.

For the Christian, the perspective is a little different. When an earthly life is apparently cut short, it does not represent the end, since the guarantee for the believer is everlasting life. This changes the outlook on ambition. When writing to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul talks about *“pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”*. In other words his ambition was in the eternal realm. This takes pressure off of having to fulfil his ambition in his lifetime. That said, Paul acknowledges in his letter to the Ephesians that *‘...we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.’* The implication is that God has pre-ordained those things that he wants us to achieve. So Paul was comfortable that God would leave him ‘in place’ for as long as necessary, while realising that *‘to be with Christ is far better’*. For Paul, life was never too short!

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Nov 2	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Breakfast Club Memorial Service with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe Rev P. Rowe & Mr T Cook Breakfast Club Team Rev. Roly Bain
Nov 9	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Remembrance Parade Service Breakfast Club Holy Communion	Rev Roly Bain Rev Roly Bain & Canon David Henley Breakfast Club Team Rev. Roly Bain
Nov 16	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion with Choir Breakfast Club Evensong	Rev Roly Bain Rev R Bain & Rev P Rowe Breakfast Club Team Rev David Bone
Nov 23	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Celtic Communion Breakfast Club Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev David Bone Rev R Bain & Mr D Jones Breakfast Club Team Rev Philip Rowe
Nov 30	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Breakfast Club Service of Light with Choir	Rev. Roly Bain Mr D Foot Mrs J McBride Breakfast Club Team Rev Ann Lloyd

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 Chancel

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

Nov 9	5.30	Holy Communion.	Rev Ann Parker
Nov 23	5.30	Evening Service	Rev Ann Parker

Focal Minister: **Rev Ann Parker**, 01454 632329

Church Wardens: Terry McLeavy 633680 Janet Ford 633300

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Nov 2	9am	Matins	Mrs Tracey Black
Nov 16	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Nov 9	9am	Family Service	Sandra Edgerton
Nov 23	9am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Nov 2	10am	Tock.. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mrs Deb. Brazier
Nov 9	10am	St Mary's	Remembrance Day Service
Nov 16	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Sandy Williams
Nov 23	10am	Olv.Ch..	Morning Worship led by Mrs Clare Campion-Smith
Nov30	10am	Tock Ch.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Pete Brazier

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 12th November. To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP meets at 12.15pm in the Swan on Thurs 27th November for a Christmas Lunch. To book please ring 613241 or 612112

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

PRAYER MEETINGS Tuesdays 9.00-10.00 in Olv. Methodist Church.

HOUSE GROUPS One on the 11th Nov at 10.30am at 7 The Green Olveston.

Another led by Rev Sandy Williams on Nov 19th 10.30 at 3 Hardy Lane .

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.

Christmas Fayre Nov 29 10.30-1pm in Olv Methodist Church & Hall

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

Nov 2	6.30pm	Calix Furus
Nov 9	6.30pm	Courtney Harris
Nov 16	6.30pm	Jan Cooper (Barnabas, the Persecuted Church)
Nov 23	6.30pm	Alan Mann
Nov30	6.30pm	Paul Ashford

Each Thurs at 7.30pm Prayer & PraiseTime

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.ckk-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 November 2014

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

1 st Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
2 nd Sun	Bingo every Sun at Sports & Social club	7pm	
3 rd Mon	Mobile Library Orchard Rise(also 17 th) Mobile Library Daldry Gardens (also17 th) Mobile Library Old P.O., L-O-S (also17 th) Severn Vale Flower Cl. Open Meeting Monday Movie	11.10-11.25 11.30-11.50 12.00-12.15 6.30/7.30 7.30pm	AH StM
4 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning R.B.L. Women Poppy Appeal Bingo	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 7.30pm	WR DGCL DGCL
5 th Wed	St Peter's Hospice Coffee Morning O.P.H.S.'From Olveston to Aleppo'E Garrett	10.00-12.00 7.30pm	AMH OS
6 th Thu	Coffee Shop Thornbury Farmers' Market Olveston Toddlers Open Mic. At White Hart	9.00-12.00 9.00-1.30 1.45-3.15 8.30pm	OS+ MH
7 th Fri	Carers' Support Group Th. Picture House 'You Will Be My Son'	1-3pm 7.30pm	Chy CH
8 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00	AVH MH
9 th Sun	Remembrance Day Parade		
11 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café W.I. A.G.M. Social Evening Aust Parish Council	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR DGCL TMH PH EVH
12 th Wed	Beat Surgery	10.30-11.30	OS+
13 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Th. & District Flower Club Workshop	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 7.30pm	OS+ MH TMH
15 th Sat	Coffee Morning Quiz at Olveston at Olv Sports & Social Cl.	10.30-12.00 8.15	MH
17 th Mon	Monday Movie Extra	7.30pm	StM
18 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00	WR DGCL
19 th Wed	Brain Tumour Support Group Bosom Buddies, Swan Inn Thornbury	10.30pm 7.30pm	

	Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	8.30pm	
20 th Thu	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-1.30 9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15	OS+ MH
22 nd Sat	Coffee Morning R.B.L. Women County Conference	10.30-12.00	MH
23 rd Sun	O.P.T.A. A.G.M. in the White Hart	7.00pm	
25 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Olv. Parish Council meeting	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45 7.30pm	WR MH TMH AP
26 th Wed	Severn Vale Flower Cl.Charity Coffee morn.	10.30	CH
27 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Th. & District Flower Cl. Practice Christmas	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 7.30pm	OS+ MH TMH
29 th Sat	Christmas Fair in Olv. Meth. Church & Hall Tockington Manor School Xmas Fayre Thornbury Concert	10.30-1pm 12.00-4pm 7.30pm	OMC TBCh

Looking ahead to December

6th	Aust Music 'A Victorian Christmas'	8pm	AC
-----	------------------------------------	-----	----

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

Advertisements Neither Meeting Point, its editor, nor management committee accept any responsibility or give any guarantee in case of any dispute or claim as to quality, condition or delivery of commodities or services advertised in this magazine. It is not to be taken that publication implies recommendation. It is always advisable to check prices when ordering goods or services.

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the editor or Meeting Point magazine.

Copyright Meeting Point 2014. Copyright remains with the author(s) and Meeting Point. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without the prior permission of the copyright owners.

Meeting Point is printed by **Bristol Business Centre**.