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Meeting Point

Volume 46, Number 12, September 2022

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

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From the Editor

This month's cover is a reminder that September marks the start of a new academic year. We wish all pupils at Olveston and Tockington schools – and their teachers - all the best for the autumn term.

In this month's magazine, as always, you will find details of what's on in and around the Meeting Point area. I hope the weather stays good as there are two outdoor events - Aust Fete and the Tockington Harvest Fayre – both of which will benefit from blue skies.

Good news about the sale of the painting we used for the August cover. The painting was sold for £150 and this money has now been passed to Friends of Marlwood School and it is destined for use by the school's Art Department. Many thanks again to the artist, Adrian Holmes, for his generosity.

Marelin

Cover photograph by Jan Winter

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

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

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Lisa Helyar

Pat Thirkettle

Lisa left Wells Blue School in Somerset at sixteen to become a veterinary nurse. She worked at a practice in Midsomer Norton, learning on the job as well as studying residentially for six months at Bicton Agricultural College to obtain her qualification. She and a friend often went clubbing in Bristol and there she met her husband, Dave. They initially lived with his parents until they married in 2001 and moved to Bradley Stoke.

Lisa continued working in various veterinary practices for thirteen years until she became allergic to animals, causing her very bad asthma. A change of career was called for, so she took an office job, no nights or long sifts and more money. Today she is Project Manager of the Suez Community Trust which distributes funds, generally called landfill grants, contributed by Suez Recycling and Recovery UK to non-for-profit organisations in England and

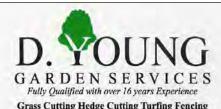


Scotland. A grant can be up to £50,000 for long lasting physical improvements such as public amenities, biodiversity or historic buildings or sites.

In 2007 Lisa and Dave moved to Olveston to start a family in a village environment. At first it was a family of three, the third member being Moss, a border terrier puppy. Moss grew up with their two boys until this year, when the curse of a dog's short lifespan caught up with him. (This photo is of Lisa with Moss.)

Lisa started taking photographs of Moss, and then the boys, but it was in lockdown that photography came to her rescue. Living full

time with two boys reluctant to home school and a part time job working from home, like millions of mums everywhere, Lisa needed her own outlet. She picked up her camera and went out spotting ladybirds, finding the fluffiest dandelion and waiting for busy bees to land, all the while being very grateful that this was all on her doorstep. Lisa's photos have graced the cover of Meeting Point many times, with the acknowledgement on the editorial page.



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Olveston Parish Council

Olveston Parish Council

Pat Savage

Olveston School Leavers' Service



At the recent School Leavers' Service, held at St. Mary's Church, the awards for **Excellent Attitude Towards Learning were** presented to Anna Shaw and Charlie Hollingdale. This award is given annually by the Council. Anna and Charlie are shown receiving their award from Councillor Martyn Suker.

Community Awards

There is still time to apply for a Community Grant. The Council awards £10.000 annually which is paid half yearly in April and October. The closing date for the October Grants is 30 September. The grants are open to all voluntary organisations within the Parish. Please

contact: clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk for an application form.

Fly Tipping

Fly tipping is the illegal dumping of waste. Whilst locally we have an excellent 'Sort It Centre' on Cooper Road, Thornbury, fly tipping is sadly on the increase. Should you decide to use a private waste carrier do ensure that you see their Waste Registration Certificate, together with details of their trading address and telephone number. Do not be tempted by cash in hand deals.

Prize-Winning Cake

As promised last month, we have managed to make contact with the winner of the Platinum Jubilee Pudding. An interview with Barbara, and the recipe, is on the next page,



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The Winning Jubilee Pudding

Martin Gibson

Even three months after the Queen's Platinum celebrations, people are still talking about that day; all the fun of the soapbox derby, the classic cars, the dog show, the parade, all the other activities, the setting at Tockington Manor School and the great community spirit.

One event that is worth mentioning again is the Pudding Competition. There were 4 finalists, and the winner was Barbara Maksymiw. Barbara, who lives in Olveston, has an interesting food background because her recipes often blend traditions from the UK with those from Eastern Europe. This comes about through her husband, Max, whom she met when both were in higher education in Glasgow. Max's parents were Ukrainian, but he was born in Coventry. His mother was an accomplished cook, as was Barbara's Scottish mother. Naturally, Barbara adopted recipes and experience from both the mothers and so from time to time her baking reflects cultural culinary combinations.

And so it was when Barbara entered the pudding competition. Her recipe centred around a cheesecake with both Scottish and Ukranian influences, lavishly decorated with cream, strawberries and raspberries and then laced with coulis. Not just a scrummy dessert, but a work of art too. On the big day, and as Barbara was gently easing the cheesecake base out of the pan - horror of horrors - it split in two! Nevertheless, being a resourceful cook, she was able to join it all back together with a generous layer of cream and still won first prize.

The Parish Council applauds Barbara and thanks all the other contestants, as well as Pat King (WI) and June Lyons (WI and past chair OPC) for judging the entries.



Vanilla Cheesecake

Barbara Maksymiw

For the biscuit base 165g soft butter 40g icing sugar 165g self-raising flour

For the filling
2 x 300g packs Philadelphia cream cheese
1 x 500 ml tub crème fraiche
365g caster sugar
60g plain flour

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6 large eggs beaten, 100ml double cream, 1.5 teaspoons vanilla essence

You will also need

A 28cm wide, 6cm deep springform tin and a shallow sided non-stick tin 15 x25.5 can, both lightly oiled

Method

Preheat the oven to 190 deg C, 175 deg fan, gas mark 5. Make the biscuit base by creaming the butter and icing sugar together, using an electric hand whisk, until light and fluffy - this will take about 5 mins. Sift in the self-raising flour and whisk that in too. Spread the mixture evenly in the shallow tin and bake for 10-12 minutes or until light golden. Leave the biscuit to cool completely. Turn off the oven.

Meanwhile, make the filling. In a bowl, using a wooden spoon, beat together the cream cheese, crème fraiche and caster sugar. Stir in the plain flour, followed by the eggs, in batches, stirring well between each addition. Stir in the cream and vanilla extract. Don't worry if there are still a few lumps. Cover and set aside.

When the biscuit is cold, break it up and whizz it in a food processor until you have crumbs. Firmly press the crumbs into the base of the springform tin using the back of a spoon. Then put in the fridge to chill for 30 mins.

Preheat the oven to 150C, 140C fan, gas mark 2. Pour the cheesecake mixture over the biscuit base. Bake on the lowest shelf of the oven for 1 hour 20 minutes. The cheesecake will have risen to the top of the tin and will be just firm on the outside but still wobbly in the centre. Don't worry if there is a crack in the cheesecake as this will be covered by the topping. Once cold, cover the cheesecake with cling film and chill in the fridge overnight.

To serve

Cover the cheesecake in whipped cream and decorate with seasonal fruit -1 used raspberries, strawberries and blueberries. I served it with a red berry coulis made from leftover red fruit crushed together and sieved, then added icing sugar and crème de cassis.

Coffee Shop in the Church

Lis and John

Calling all seniors, mums, and tots.....everyone is welcome to the Coffee Shop at St. Mary's, Olveston, every Thursday from 10am to 12 noon. You can have coffee and homemade cakes, so do come along. We'd love to meet you.

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The Hummingbird Hawk-Moth

Paul Godwin

This summer you may have been lucky enough to see a hummingbird hawk-moth in your garden. They are a very beautiful day flying moth and are migratory from North Africa and Southern Europe. They arrive in this country when warm air flows up from Africa and Europe, such as we had in July. Due to this they are said to be 'messengers of good tidings'. However, I do not think too many people would have thought that during our heatwave!

Whilst worldwide there are over 1000 species of hawk-moth only 11 are recorded in the UK, of which only 3 are day flying. The other two (narrow boarded bee hawk-moth and the broad-bordered bee hawk-moth) are both defined as being nationally scarce. There are other hawk-moths you may possibly see during the day, but these are night flying moths having a rest, such as the privet hawk-moth or the elephant hawk-moth.



Because of the hummingbird hawk-moths migratory habit and the need for warm southerly air currents, numbers can vary greatly in a year, and you are only likely to see one at any point in time. It has not been possible to determine if the one I photographed is a single moth which I saw on multiple occasions, or if was different moths? My feeling is it was a single moth on multiple occasions as it took the same journey each day into and out of our garden (I must have far too much spare time!). It was observed feeding on lavender and verbena for 6 days in July during and just after the heatwave. I

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saw another at the Olveston allotments feeding from buddleia in the hedgerows on one occasion.



It has a long proboscis (tongue). This is a tube-like feeding structure which allows it to suck nectar deep within flowers when unfurled. Its length allows the moth to hover and feed from its food plant without landing. This flight motion being in the style of a hummingbird, hence its name. As you will see from the photographs; the proboscis when at rest is almost like a 'coiled spring' but when extended, is a considerable length, in relation to its body size. They are very difficult to photograph as they move quickly from one flower to the next never stopping in one place long. It is said their wings move so quickly they hum. So, to capture these I used very fast shutter speeds: 1/2500th and 1/4000th of a second.

The hummingbird hawk-moth is immediately recognisable; its forewings are greyish brown with orange-brown hind wings which are visible in flight. Its body could be described as greyish with a broad black and white abdomen. Its caterpillar may be found through summer up to October and its food-plants are wildflowers such as lady's bedstraw and hedge bedstraw. The caterpillar is a yellowish green with prominent white lines and, as with all hawk-moths, the caterpillar has a bluish 'horn' with a yellow tip. I haven't seen any caterpillars at the time of writing (early August), but by early September it is quite possible that you could, as long as you locate the correct food plants. A very small number of adult moths in the far southwest have been seen to be hibernating for winter, but the vast majority will be migratory. The adult flying time is summer into autumn, so it will still be possible to see them by the time you read this - especially if we have further warm air currents from the south. If you do, take some time to observe them, they really are worth it.

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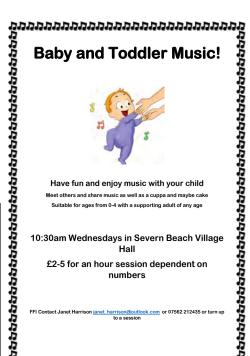


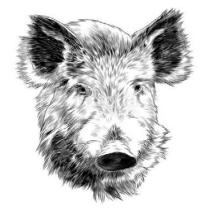
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News from St Mary's

Debbie Harries

Quiz

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To book contact Debbie: oboe-debbie@live.co.uk

BCO Concert

Saturday September 17th 7.30pm St Mary's Church

We are delighted to welcome back the Bristol Sinfonietta Orchestra! This is one of our musical highlights of the year. Please join us for a wonderful evening of music.

Tickets £8.50 available from Debbie Harries 01454 613273 David Shaw 01454 612781

Harvest Festival

Sunday September 11th 11am Join us for our Service followed by a ploughman's lunch. We look forward to seeing you.

Porch Produce

There is a variety of freshly grown produce in the St Mary's church porch. This is for the whole community so please help yourselves and enjoy!

St Mary's Church Clock

Now you can set your watch by it! The weight-driven church tower clock and its hour chime have recently had automatic winding installed and a system to ensure accurate time keeping. The clock and chime are about 300 years old and required the drive weights to be wound up by hand every week. The clock mechanism is inherently incapable of running accurately, added to which are the effects of atmospheric pressure, temperature and humidity, therefore regular manual adjustment has been necessary. This was done by setting the clock to always run slightly fast by addition of coins to the pendulum bob and then stopping it every week for a minute or two to adjust the time. The new system uses electric motors to wind new smaller drive weights and receives an accurate radio time and date signal. The clock is still set to run slightly fast

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but is now automatically stopped several times a day to correct the time, achieved using a telescopic electromagnet which 'grabs' the pendulum bob for the required correction period. British Summer Time changes will also happen automatically, all controlled from two electronic 'black boxes'.

This picture shows the black box controllers, cables to the weights and the white tensioners for the chain drives. (The tower still needs ascending regularly to oil the bells, sadly heard infrequently these days due to a shortage of ringers).

Advent Windows

I know... it's only September, but if you would like to design an Advent window for our 'living advent calendar' that would be great. It is lovely to see the village windows being lit up during December as we prepare for Christmas. For more details contact Debbie oboe-debbie@live.co.uk or 07870557961

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Up the Down!

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ST MARY'S CHURCH

Restoration Update

Peter Floyd

Our ancient and beautiful church needs constant work and sometimes brings unexpected joy.

As everyone knows, the restoration of the tower has been completed as a result of years of effort; the support of all those who gave so generously and the skill of both professional and building teams.

In June we were surprised to learn that St Mary's had been given an award by the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the restoration of the tower and were invited to a ceremony addressed by the Bishop. The DAC is a voluntary committee that exists to help parishes planning to make changes to their buildings and to advise the Chancellor of the Diocese, who is responsible for

granting the faculty which is the diocesan equivalent of planning permission. This award is a special indication of their admiration of what we have achieved.

The framed award is now in the church and we would like to thank once again all those who made generous donations to make the work possible, particularly the Olveston Feofees, an ancient charity, independent of the church, with the sole purpose of supporting the maintenance of the church fabric, which gave us a good start to our wider fund raising from other charities, as well as from the kind people of Olveston parish and you, the readers of Meeting Point..

However, work never stops. In working to restore the stair turret it was discovered that rainwater from the roof was taken down a lead pipe buried

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inside the stair tower when it was built. This had become blocked and flooded the staircase - which was described in February's Meeting Point. Since no-one knew it was there, nor where it went, a survey is now being undertaken and



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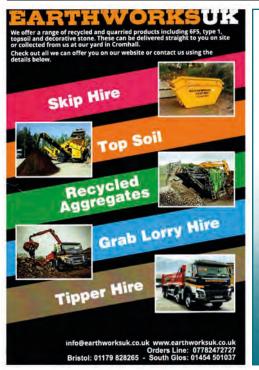
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proposals made for all the church rainwater drainage, after which action will be taken to ensure it works properly in future.

A decorated stone cross was on top of the chancel roof and its disappearance was also described in February's Meeting Point. It was found to be cracked in 2008 and repaired, but recently a check found it was at risk of falling, so it has



been removed to Mark Hancock's workshop. The photo shows that whilst its shaft can be saved, its cross will have to be re-carved. In place of its former soft Bath stone, we hope to use the same fine limestone as the tower pinnacles for a longer life, at an estimated cost of about £2,500. See below for details of how you can make a donation towards this project.

The main church cast iron heating boiler was converted to gas many years ago. The gas burner has failed and could be replaced at a cost of £3,000, but having received a detailed report, PCC has decided to invest in the far more flexible and

sustainable option of replacing both boiler and burner with a pair of wall-hung condensing boilers at a cost of £11.400. The second more expensive option with two boilers, means that half power will be there should one boiler need to be shut down and offers a 10-year guarantee. It should pay for itself in 8 years and operate more efficiently. Spares are more available and easier to fit and the boilers are also designed to operate with hydrogen rich gas, expected to be the next big step forward in carbon footprint reduction.

And with the Quinquennial Survey due – who knows what challenges St Mary's will face next?

Stone Cross Appeal

To-date, £1,000 has been received in donations towards meeting the cost of £2,500 for replacing the collapsed stone gable cross. We are of course most grateful to those who have already contributed. However, if anyone still wishes to make a contribution towards the remaining £1,500 required, it can be made in one of the following ways:

> By bank transfer to the St Mary's Church bank account, the details of which are: Sort Code: 40-52-40, Account Number: 00029936, using the reference "Gable Cross"

By cheque made payable to "St Mary's PCC Olveston", and sent to David Prothero, Treasurer, St Mary's Church Olveston, Rose Cottage, Buckover, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, GL12 8DX.

If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please e-mail me at dlprothero@talk21.com.

Many thanks to all who have supported this project. David Prothero, Treasurer, St Mary's Church Olveston

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Malawi, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia, So, if you have tools you no longer require, please contact Rotarian

Robin Cole-Morgan on 01454 414281

He will arrange to pick up the tools and take them away at a time that suits everyone

What you could declutter and donate:

Garden Tools and Workshop Tools (for example, spanners, screwdrivers, chisels, planes, and hammers). They can be hand tools or powered

Thank you!

Save the Dates! OPHS 2022/23

We're delighted to report that Olveston Parish Historical Society (OPHS) plans to return to the Methodist Church every first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm, from October 2022 through to April 2023.

The dates for your calendar or diary are: Wed 5 October, Wed 2 November, Wed 7 December, Wed 4 January, Wed 1 February, Wed 1 March and Wed 5 April - all at 7.30pm. Add them now, if you plan to come!

Details of the programme will be available in the October edition of Meeting Point. As always, we look forward to seeing lots of people there. All welcome!



Monday Movies Returns

The team has been 'resting' during the summer but awakens on Monday 5th September for the start of its Autumn programme. Over the last year it has proved difficult to find quality films to show, so it has been decided that for the Autumn, at least, there will only be one showing a month - always the first Monday of the month.

September kicks off with a real blockbuster! The sequel of a period drama transferred from TV to the big screen. Everyone was watching it on a Sunday night. On Monday 3rd October we are showing a film about the archaeological excavations which discovered the Sutton Hoo treasures just before the start of the 2nd World War. Then in November. Monday 7th, it will be another British film from 2020, starring Jim Broadbent in the true story of the man who stole a famous painting from the National Gallery with the best of intentions. And to mark Remembrance month there will be extracts of a film about Bristol in the Second World War and particularly the bombing it suffered. December - and a biggy! The award winning 2021 film about the most famous pop singer of all time and the relationship with his manager. A great Christmas treat!

Entry is free. Doors open at 7pm, with showings starting at 7.30pm

There is a licensed bar, teas and coffee. Everyone welcome.

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ABOUT ME

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Tockington Harvest Fayre 2022

Maggie Spooner

Tockington Harvest Fayre will be held on the Green on Saturday 24th September at 2.00pm. We hope that you will come along and enjoy a fabulous afternoon with delicious cream teas, home-made cakes, children's fancy dress parade, performances from ROKH dance school, Junior Fascinating Rhythm (youth choir) and a display from Olveston Brownies.

Our theme this year will be the 70 years of our Queen's reign. Therefore, this year's children's fancy dress competition is a children's fictional character from the last 70 years such as Mary Poppins, the Pink Panther, Andy Pandy or Sponge Bob. The children's craft competition is to make a model of an invention from the last 70 years such as Concorde, mobile phone, drone, robot or space rocket. Make your models from either junk/recyclable materials or Lego (or similar). Entries should be brought to Tockington Church labelled with your name and age, before 2.00pm on the day.

Stalls will include cakes, fresh garden produce, plants, books, 'As New' items, with games and skill stalls for everyone. We would be grateful for any good quality donations of new/unwanted presents, toiletries, bottles, plants, garden produce, jewellery, books and children's toys, games and soft toys. We are unable to accept any unwanted household items or bric-a-brac – please take them to a local charity shop. Donations can be left in plastic bags outside the Wesley Room doors at any time, or contact: Maggie Spooner (610053) or Jane Sawyer (jane@prologue.co.uk)

Help Needed

Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church relies heavily on the very generous offers of help that we receive to run this event. We need help with preparing, setting up, running stalls, serving teas, washing up and packing away at the end of the day. We also need volunteers to assist with the heavier jobs on Friday evening, Saturday morning and putting away on Saturday evening, great for anyone who likes a good workout! Please contact Jane or Maggie if you can help in any way – we really do appreciate it!

Alveston Gardens Association



Villa Gardens of the Italian Lakes with Robert Bryant Monday 5th September 7.30pm in Alveston Jubilee Hall All welcome – Visitors (£3)

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Olveston Parish Hall Autumn Supper

The 2022 Autumn Supper will be held on Saturday 15th October. Hannah and her team at AHM Caterers will again serve a two-course supper followed by coffee/tea and chocolates. Lewis and Furneaux 'In Concert' will provide the post supper entertainment.

Tickets £15 per person. Doors open at 6.45. If you are interested, please contact: patsavage1948@icloud.com Payments can be made at the door by cash or card.

Aust Village Fete

Trevor Cook

In deference to the Queen's Jubilee, it was decided that our Village Fete would be held over from late spring until late summer, and here we are...



Aust Village Fete will be held on 3rd September in the Boar's Head pub garden (courtesy of the two landlords Rich and Rich). Events will run throughout the afternoon from 2pm until 5pm and will include a cake stall, plant stall, spin-for-a-bottle and skittles. There will be a woodcraft stall by local artisan Pete Kelly (pete@kellywoodcrafts.co.uk) and a raffle with prizes.

At 3pm there will a Dog Show held in an adjacent garden (courtesy of Janet Spratt) followed by A Tug of War for both adults and children. Music and commentary will be provided by a combo of Clive Roberts and Joe Romo.

Don't miss out on this your chance of a final summer fling and an unmissable reason to be cheerful!

Olveston and Tockington WI

Angela Green

After our summer break, Olveston and Tockington WI members are looking forward to Tuesday 13th September, when we shall have a talk and demonstration by the well-known local flower arranger, Sally Taylor. This is sure to be a really entertaining evening, as Sally's presentations are always

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Tuesday 13th September at 7.30 in the Parish Hall, or ring *615222* for more details. We look forward to seeing you there!



Green Force

Climate change is all around us and we are living through it day by day. It is exhibited by extremes such as violent storms, droughts, floods, and wildfires which occur in different places all around the world, including here in UK. So, what can we do about it? Green Force is going to make an effort by holding an 'Environment Event' in the

in the form of an Open Afternoon entitled 'Your Carbon Footprint' on Saturday 1st October at 2.30pm in St Mary's Church Olveston.

There will be a video presentation, a guest speaker, activities, and refreshments. The group will guide you through the process of assessing your personal carbon footprint online. So do come along.

Friends of St Mary's

The prize winners in the August draw, held on 4th August 2022 were:

Amount	Number	Name
£150	387	Mrs M Baker, Olveston
£75	362	Dr R Slade, Olveston
£50	625	Cheryl Miller, Tockington
£25	440	Mr M Belsten, Olveston
£25	278	Mrs B Kingscott, Almondsbury
£25	498	Revd D Bone, Tockington
£20	347	Mr & Mrs M Gibson, Tockington
£20	412	Mr R Lloyd, Tockington
£20	227	Mrs P Halfyard, Birmingham
£20	203	Mrs J Davis, Olveston

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

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







Walkathon 2022

Following on from the successful Walkathon, held last year, Thornbury Rotary is 'running' the event again in September. In 2021, the total amount raised came to over £10,000, and Rotary is thanking all those who took part, plus all their sponsors. Proceeds were handed over to local charities and good causes who were delighted with the amounts they received.

Walkathon 2022 will be run from 17th September to 1st October. Anyone wishing to take part can choose whichever date they wish during this period. They can also decide on the walking route they would opt for, perhaps a 1 mile walk around the Mundy Playing Fields, or 4 miles around the paths and lanes of Thornbury, or maybe a more challenging 10 miles, linking Thornbury and the surrounding villages. Walkers can even plan their own route to suit individual/team challenges and locations.

Rotary is asking all those who wish to take part to access the Walkathon page of their website: www.ThornburyRotary.org/walkathon. All the details for the event are available, as well as application forms and sponsorship forms. If anyone needs to contact the organiser, Andrew Maxwell, they can do so via email: ThornburyRotaryClub@gmail.com, or by calling mobile 07949 072703. Individual and team sponsors can donate directly via Just Giving: https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/thornburyrotary-walkathon22

This year, one of the principal recipients of the money raised is the charity Paul's Place (Southwest), whose mission is to enhance the lives of physically disabled adults and those with cognitive and sensory impairment. The other main charity is South Gloucestershire Young Carers. Rotary will be supporting other local charities and good causes, as well as Butterfly Space, which is a UK registered charity, set up to help local communities in Malawi. One of their main projects is 'Stepping Stones' which provides high level academic training for primary and nursery schools. Thornbury's own Alice Leaper is the founder of Stepping Stones and one of the owners of Butterfly Space.

Thornbury Rotary's president, Stuart Hill, said that he is very keen to have as many teams taking part in Walkathon 2022 as possible, to benefit the community. The goal is to raise more funds than last year and to have fun whilst taking on the challenge. People wishing to take part are urged to contact Rotary as soon as they can to register.

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The Old Meeting House

Recently, Marcia Howard, who lives in North Yorkshire, sent us a poem written by her mother in 1970.

"Although originally from Elberton, my grandparents were living in Olveston by the time I was born, and it was the place where we - my mother, my brothers and sisters and I - spent many long school holidays every August. Unlike at home, we were allowed to roam freely when we were in Olveston. (The two places we were told we mustn't ever go were the quarry and Priest Pool, so of course that's where we headed!)

My parents were married at Elberton Church, which is where my grandparents Albert and Emma Clifford are buried, plus the ashes of an uncle and my mum. The grave next to my grandparents now holds my uncle by marriage and my last remaining aunt, Queenie Hagan. Despite spending all her married life between London, Bedfordshire, and Berkshire, my mother Ivy Baker, nee Clifford, remained a true Gloucestershire country girl throughout her life.

My mother loved writing and I recently came across a verse that she'd written on one of her many visits to Olveston, about the Old Meeting House, near the duck pond. She remembered it as a lively place where bazaars and concerts were held, long after the Quakers had stopped using it as a Meeting House. Over time it had fallen out of use and become overgrown with ivy and creepers but, in 1970, it had recently been rescued from disuse and this is what Ivy was celebrating in her poem."

The Old Meeting House

Ivy Baker (1970)

Your dignity has been restored, Once more your rooms are cared for, warm. Gone is decay from roof and board Stairs can be climbed without alarm.

What stories your old walls could tell Of Quakers meeting long ago, Sober of dress, more serious still, their Thoughts and prayers all mirth did guell.

The Quakers left, you shabby grew
Down through the years until at last
The upper rooms were left to mice, and some said
Spirits of the past!

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Later came the Y.H.A.

Young folk cycling, hiking too.

No talk of ghosts kept them away,

You sheltered them the whole night through.

Another generation past

With playschool sounds your rafters ring Learning by playing, they leave at last,

And youth takes over to "do their own thing".

These read their works of rhyme and prose Music is played on flute and horn.

The older folk put on their shows

Of village life e'er they were born.

We're thankful dear Old Meeting House,

To you and to those now departed. May we and others yet to come

Continue what the Quakers started!

Postscript



The Old Meeting House in Olveston – seen on the left at its most derelict and overgrown - has been a private house for many years and when Marcia was visiting the area in late July, the owners invited her to pay a visit. There was a lot of discussion about the history of the Old Meeting House, which in the 1960s had been brought back from dereliction by the then owner of Hill House.

opposite, to be used as a place for concerts. (This has an interesting parallel with today, as the present owner of the Old Meeting House is a professional musician.) In her poem Ivy lists many other ways in which the Meeting House was used, and we would love to hear from anybody who remembers it being used by the YHA, Bands of Hope, playgroups, youth clubs and so on.

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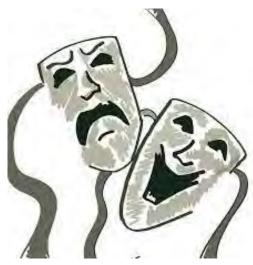
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Another Op'nin', Another Show!



After a triumphant return to the stage in February 2022, with our uplifting and colourful performance of Calamity Jane, The Parish Players will soon begin rehearsals for our February 2023 production of 'Kiss Me, Kate'. Now is the time to get involved if you want to join in the fun – on stage, behind the scenes, or both.

To be part of this year's show, make sure you come to the Parish Hall on Monday 3rd October at 7.30pm. Rehearsals and auditions will then continue every Monday and Thursday

evening (other than October half term and the Christmas holidays) until show week in February half term. Performances will be on Wednesday 15th to Saturday 18th February 2023 inclusive (write the dates in your diary now!).

'Kiss Me, Kate' was first performed on Broadway in 1948, winning five Tony Awards, including the inaugural Tony Award for Best Musical, Best Original Score for Cole Porter's memorable lyrics and music, and Best Authors for its writers Bella and Samuel Spewack. The show's many famous songs include the unforgettable 'Too Darn Hot' and 'Brush Up Your Shakespeare', alongside its opening number 'Another Op'nin', Another Show'.

The story is a clever retelling of 'The Taming of the Shrew'. We watch as the cast prepares a production of Shakespeare's famous tale. However, the off-stage conflict between the director Fred Graham, who stars as Petruchio, and his ex-wife Lilli Vanessi, in the role of the feisty Kate, spills over into their theatrical performance. The situation is further complicated by the romance between Lois Lane, in the role of Bianca, and her boyfriend Bill Calhoun, whose gambling debts lead local gangsters to tread the boards. The tale told in this musical comedy twists and turns like all good Shakespearean plots, and it's sure to entertain and entrance everyone in our audience.

For more information, you can contact us via: secretaryparishplayers@gmail.com or, alternatively, keep an eye on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OlvestonParishPlayers.

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Octobus Drama Group

Octopus Drama Group presents 'Give Us a Sign', a comedy by Tony Domaille.

Wednesday September 28th to Saturday October 1st at 7.30pm All tickets are £8 and can be bought at Rosie and Rex Gift Shop, 32 High St, Thornbury. Tickets go on sale on September 1st

Ken is out of work and decides he will become a clairvoyant to make money. How difficult could it be? What could possibly go wrong? What he doesn't reckon with is MI5, the French and the Americans all wanting to use his skills to contact a scientist who has died, taking with her the secrets that they all need. Our hero Ken needs to have all his wits about him as he tries to extricate himself from this difficult situation.

Written by local playwright Tony Domaille this comedy, in two Acts, is filled with brilliant characterisations and many hilarious moments. Octopus Drama Group have been performing in Christ the King Church Hall for over 50 years and would love you to join them in their latest venture into the world of the clairvoyant....but whatever you do, don't say "spirits"!

Are you a caring and sociable person? Do you have a little time to spare each month?

If you answered yes to these questions, would you be interested in helping organise activities for a new community group for carers; ex carers, people who live on their own and/or are experiencing loss & bereavement?

New Life is creating a welcoming space to build connections, support and networks for affected people in Thornbury and surrounding area.

Funded through Age UK Bristol and St Monica Trust, we offer group activities including board games and social trips. Please contact Elizabeth or Rose for further details. Activities will be run once a month on either 1st or 3rd Tuesday between 11.30-3pm at The Wheatsheaf in Thornbury.

It can be tough when you are going through difficult times on your own. But, if we can connect with others who have experiences similar to you and can share your stories, the world can feel a different place to help us through and re-build our lives. If this resonates with you, and you are available to give a little of your time every month to help, we would love to hear from you. Your reward is that you will be playing a part in making a positive difference to help somebody though a challenging time in their life and tea/coffee with delicious lunch provided for £5!

Contact for further details with the team of New Life, Elizabeth or Rose on 01454 414 114 or 077902 14425.



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Thornbury Arts Festival Returns

Thornbury Arts Festival made a successful return after an enforced two-year absence, with three nights of entertainment - well received by audiences - and a further event still to come in the autumn. The team behind what had to be a shortened post-Covid festival this year is now already looking ahead to 2023, having been encouraged by support shown for the mini event. Tickets sold well for the energetic electric instrument band Stringfever, jazz singer Cate Cody and Lesley Smith's costumed portrayal of Anne Boleyn.

With the festival's traditional Armstrong Hall home still mothballed, three different venues had to be found and the organisers were grateful to be able to use St Mary's Church and Castle School in Thornbury, as well as nearby Tytherington Village Hall. But although the loss of the Armstrong Hall complex remains a difficulty, they will press ahead with plans for next year's festival while still supporting campaigners who are fighting to have the building reopened.

The festival has run for more than 50 years and is usually staged over nine days in the spring, bringing world class and nationally acclaimed performers to the town in a programme of music, comedy, drama and talks. The introduction of a guided walk has also been a popular addition and for this year it will be held on Sunday, September 18th, when groups will be taken around 'hidden Chepstow'. It will include a visit to the Severn Princess ferry, which used to cross the river before the Severn Bridge opened in 1966.

Details about the event and tickets are on the festival website: www.thornburyartsfestival.org.uk

Queries can also be made by email to: info@thornburyartsfestival.org.uk or by phoning 07591 030785.

Yours Faithfully

Revd. Ann Lloyd North Severnside Benefice

Grandparents' Day falls on Sunday September 11th this year. Like so many 'special days' Grandparents' Day began in the USA where it was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter in 1978, and a proclamation on September 6th 1979 made it official. I well remember Margaret Thatcher, when she was Prime Minister, standing outside Number 10 proclaiming, "We are a grandmother!" No doubt many of you are grandparents too. I know how thrilled I was to become 'Grannie-Annie' to my first grandson.

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The Bible has quite a lot to say about grandparents. In Proverbs 17:6 we are told that 'Grandchildren are the crown of the aged' implying that it is a blessing and an honour not only to have brought up a child who is raising another generation but also to have lived long enough to witness it. And, of course, there are those who go one better and survive to become great-grandparents too!

The relationship between grandparent and grandchild has the potential to become mutually loving and caring. This may be more challenging if they live far away from each other, and visits are infrequent, although modern technology has made a huge difference as regards communication with all kinds of means to 'see' and hear each other. But nothing beats being able to be together physically.

However, being a grandparent is not without its responsibilities. Proverbs 13.22 states that 'The good leave an inheritance to their children's children'. A financial legacy may be welcome, but family history and traditions are also valuable. Technology comes to the fore again with family photographs and videos to inform and amuse especially if there are interesting stories behind the images.

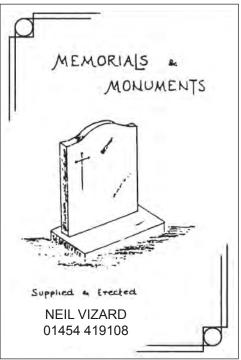
Faith, of whatever creed, often has its origins in a beloved grandparent's practice. My grandfather was a nonconformist lay preacher who held very strong views about what we could do on Sundays, but I was thrilled to be given an illustrated Bible as a gift from my grandparents on my seventh birthday. St. Paul in the New Testament (2 Timothy1:5) speaks about how Timothy's grandmother Lois, had brought up his mother Eunice as a Christian, and that she also had a strong influence in the nurturing of Timothy's own belief.

In this modern world of blended families grandparenting can come in many forms and is not always limited to those who are related biologically. In the Book of Ruth when Naomi's widowed daughter-in-law re-marries and has a son this baby is not genetically Naomi's grandson. Nevertheless, she cared for him and treated him as such. (Ruth 4:16)

On September 11th let's give thanks for and make a special fuss over living grandparents, near and far, and spend time remembering with love those we have treasured in times past.



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Church News

ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
Sep 4	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd		
	6pm	Evensong	Paul Harrod		
Sep 11	11am	Harvest Festival	Janet McBride & Paul		
	6pm	Holy Communion	Harrod		
			Rev David Moss		
Sep 18	10am	Morning Prayer	Paul Harrod & Janet		
	6pm	Holy Communion	McBride		
			Rev David Moss		
Sep 25	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone		
	6pm	Evensong	Janet McBride & Paul		
			Harrod		

Every Wednesday, Holy Communion, 10am.

Contact: Rev David Moss, 01454 415190; email: mossds@gmail.com

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Sep 11	10.30	Morning Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd
Sep 25	10am	Harvest Festival	Rev David Moss &
			Trevor Cook

Contact: Trevor Cook, 01454 618442

Church Wardens: Jenn Dickens 632312 & Clive Roberts 632238

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Sep 11	3.30	Harvest Festival		
			David Moss	
Sep 25	9am	Holy Communion	Tracey Black	

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Sep 11	9am	Morning Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd	
Sep 25	6.30pm	Harvest Evensong	Judith Heybyrne &	
			Rev David Moss	

Contacts: Judith Heybyrne 616725 & John Gunnery 413225

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OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Sep 4	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Mr David Bainbridge
Sep 11	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Mrs Pauline Culshaw
Sep 18	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Mr David Head
Sep 25	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by
			Rev David Deeks

Contact: Rev Dr Simon Edwards 418176,

simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

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

Meeting at 11am every Sunday and on the 1st and $3^{\rm rd}$ Wednesdays of each month at 2.30pm.

Contact: Mike and Barbara Matthews, tel. 07512 917229 or email:

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Services at 6.30pm every Sunday. All are welcome.

Contact: Neil Mobbs, cnmobbs@hotmail.com

AUST EVANGELICAL and LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Contact: Danny Bamfield 01454 419324 e-mail danny@thebamfields.co.uk

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury

Mass on Sundays at 9.00 and 10.30am

Contact: 01454 412223, www.ctk-thornbury.org,uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

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



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Diary Dates for September

1 Thurs	Coffee Shop	10-12	StM
2 Fri	Over 60's Bingo or Quiz, every Friday	2-4	DGCL
3 Sat	Aust Church Fete at the Boar's Head	2-5	
	Quiz Night	7.30	StM
5 Mon			
6 Tues	Thornbury Macular and Low Vision Group	10.30-	TMH
		12.30	
	Over 60's Coffee Morning, every Tuesday	10-12	DGCL
7 Wed	Table Tennis every Wednesday	7pm	OPH
8 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market	9-1	
	Coffee Shop	9-12	StM
9 Fri	Over 60's Bingo or Quiz, every Friday	2-4	DGCL
10 Sat			
12 Mon	Severnvale Flower Club	2pm	SMCH
13 Tues	Over 60's coffee morning	10-12	DGCL
	Thornbury Memory Café	10.15-	TMH
	W.I. Flower Arranging with Sally Taylor	11.45	OPH
		7.30	
15 Thurs	Coffee Shop	9-12	StM
16 Fri	Over 60's Bingo or Quiz	2-4	DGCL
17 Sat	Bristol Sinfonietta orchestra	7.30	StM
19 Mon			
20 Tues	Over 60's coffee morning	10-12	DGCL
22 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market	9 - 1	
	Coffee Shop	9-12	StM
23 Fri	Over 60's Bingo or Quiz	2-4	DGCL
24 Sat	Tockington Harvest Fayre	2pm	
26 Mon	Severnvale Flower Club, Practice Class	2pm	SMCH
27 Tues	Over 60's coffee morning, every Tuesday	10-12	DGCL
	Thornbury Memory Café	10.15-	TMH
		11.45	
	Olveston Parish Council	7.30	OPH

28 Wed	Alveston Local History - The Rise of the	7.30	
	English Pub in the Tudor and Stuart Period	7.30	AMH
29 Thurs	Coffee Shop	9-12	StM
30 Fri			

KEY: **AMH** - Alveston Methodist Hall, **DGCL** - Daldry Gardens Community Lounge,

EVH - Elberton Village Hall, OPH - Olveston Parish Hall, StM - St Mary's Church,

SMCH - St Mary Church Hall Thornbury, **TMH** - Thornbury Methodist Church Hall

Looking Ahead to October

Saturday 1st.

The Cubs: Line of Coins, The Street, Olveston Green Force Event, Calculate your Carbon Footprint, 2.30pm, St Mary's Olveston



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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