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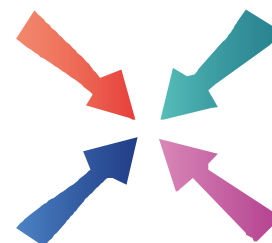
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Meeting Point

Volume 50, Number 12, September 2026

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

From the Editor

September is a busy month, with a lot of groups, shows, concerts and so on, returning after the summer break. You can find details about many of these activities here. It is also the start of the new academic year, and the news about the 918 bus will be very welcome to local Castle School pupils and parents alike.

After it failed to get into the magazine last month (my fault!) we have the article from Making Space for Wildlife about the nature walks they organised earlier in the year. It sounds as though they were very interesting and informative.

The Tockington Harvest Fayre is a regular item on the local calendar and is the result of seriously hard work from a dedicated team of people. If you can, do go along and enjoy a lovely afternoon.

Marelin

This month's cover is by Isabel da Viegas. Do you know where it was taken? Answer at the back of the magazine.

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

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Olveston Parish Wildlife Group Guided Walks

In March and June this year the Olveston Parish Wildlife Group undertook three local guided walks with Ed Drewitt, a professional naturalist from the Forest of Dean.

The first walk in March was at Tockington Hill and The Slad and focused on the observation and identification of birds in those two neighbouring but different habitats. March is a wonderful time of year to both listen and see birds as it is the beginning of the summer migration for species such as warblers and it is the breeding season, therefore birds are in full song to attract mates. We learnt skills in both how to observe birds and how to listen for them. We also learnt about the different types of habitat and what species of bird are likely to be present. Everybody in the group that day learnt a lot whether they were new to birding or already had some experience.

Our second walk in June was on Stroud Common, Old Down. The focus of this walk was insects and wildflowers. We were slightly nervous about the weather for this walk as the weeks leading up to it were wet and windy. However, a few days prior, the sun shone, the wildflowers bloomed and the insects came out to feed and to find mates. We had a wonderful two hours



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recording many species of butterfly such as Marbled White, Common Blue, Large Skipper, Ringlet and day flying moths such as the 6 Spot Burnett. We also observed a parasitic wasp (*Ctenichneumon Panzeri*) which is a rarity with only 19 records currently submitted nationally. We learnt a lot about the importance of unimproved habitats such as Stroud Common for all forms of wildlife and the impact on wildlife of those habitats which are affected by the use of chemicals on the land. This was also an opportunity to observe the variety of wildflowers in this wonderful area including the meadow through the gate, which is being kept by the landowner as a wildflower meadow - which is fantastic.

Our third walk was a bat walk which took us back to Tockington Hill, as well as the area of trees near the Scout Hut and to the top of Vicarage Lane. How wonderful this evening turned out to be. We were all equipped with Magenta 5 bat detectors and off we went into the evening. Standing on Tockington Hill just by the cricket pitch we were astounded by the number of cockchafer in the air. It would be impossible to guess their numbers. When we first arrived around ten swallows were feeding on them and then they were replaced by herring gulls, which were flying around the oak trees feeding from the tree on the chafers. It was like a slow-motion movie. Absolutely wonderful. However, we needed to remind ourselves that our focus was on bats! As day light faded in the same area, we first saw a noctule bat and then several moments later around the same tree we started to see serotine bats (we estimated six), flying around this same oak tree feeding on the cockchafer. The serotine is a lot less common in our area than other species and this was really quite special. Ed commented that he had never seen such a display of serotine bats.

We then moved towards the Scout Hut and our detectors picked up long eared bats and pipistrelle, following that we went to the top of Vicarage Lane stopping at the brow of the hill by the gate to the 'hanging tree'. As we stood here looking across the Severn Vale, we observed pipistrelles flying amongst us, again wonderful in such a setting.

We had three fantastic and varied walks which we all not just enjoyed, we also learnt so much from them. We observed species of wildlife we did not know were present and we all learnt skills on how to identify them. We also appreciated how wonderful some areas of our parish are for wildlife, such as The Slad, Tockington Hill and Stroud Common. The view was that the landowners of these areas should be praised for what they are doing to support wildlife and protect important wildlife habitats.

If you would like to find out more about the Olveston Parish Wildlife Group please contact msfw@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

It would be great to hear from you, and you would be very welcome to join us.

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School Bus Saved!

Caroline Brewser

The 918 bus service, which operates at school times between Severn Beach and The Castle School, Thornbury, has been saved, thanks to a more than three-year campaign by local parents and other residents.

The bus will be combined with the Y2C service, and the two together will be called the 104. Importantly, the service to and from The Castle School will continue to be in a double decker. All other runs of the 104 will be in minibuses. The double decker will also continue to serve Severn Beach, Pilning and Easter Compton before travelling through Lower Almondsbury, Tockington, Olveston and Alveston, while the minibuses will only serve their current Cribbs to Yate route. The double decker 104 will deliver students into the grounds of The Castle School in time for the school day and take them home safely at the end.



The service is absolutely essential for pupils living in the villages south of Thornbury, and surveys have shown that more than 60 families rely on it. The Castle School is also their nearest Sixth Form.

The parents' lengthy campaign, backed by South Gloucestershire Council, began when the school-time bus from Severn Beach was withdrawn as part of the 622 service in April 2023. Since then, parents and students have been busy, including speaking regularly at Council meetings, and conducting surveys to demonstrate the overwhelming need for the service. The campaign successfully obtained interim support four times from the Council, while working alongside them to secure the bus's long-term future as part of the local network, operated by WECA.

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The new decision at last sees funding guaranteed for at least three years for the whole 104 service, including the double decker - former 918.

Further details will follow, but the timetable for the school-time service is likely to be very similar to the 918 service. Child/adult fares will apply as they do across the rest of the local bus network (rather than the current fares). The double decker will remain a public bus, so anyone can use it, not just schoolchildren.

The parents are hugely grateful to all the campaign's supporters, especially South Gloucestershire Council, and also all four Parish Councils that are served by the bus, and The Castle School.

Please continue to support the bus and spread the word to other people! To receive further updates, contact: cbrewser@freeuk.com.

Y2C Bus Timetable

Yate	7.10	9.10	11.10	13.10	15.10	17.10	18.45
Thornbury	7.48	9.48	11.48	13.48	15.48	17.48	19.23
Alveston	8.00	10.00	12.00	14.00	16.00	18.00	19.32
Olveston	8.08	10.08	12.08	14.08	16.08	18.08	19.38
Tockington	8.09	10.09	12.09	14.09	16.09	18.09	19.39
Almondsbury	8.18	10.18	12.18	14.18	16.18	18.18	19.40
Cribbs	8.31	10.31	12.31	14.31	16.31	18.31	19.54

Cribbs	9.00	11.00	13.00	15.00	17.00	19.00
Almondsbury	9.12	11.12	13.12	15.12	17.12	19.12
Tockington	9.19	11.19	13.19	15.19	17.19	19.19
Olveston	9.20	11.20	13.20	15.20	17.20	19.20
Alveston	9.29	11.29	13.29	15.29	17.29	19.29
Thornbury	9.40	11.40	13.40	15.40	17.40	19.40
Yate	10.17	12.17	14.17	16.17	18.17	20.17

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Tockington Harvest Fayre

Saturday 19th September 2pm

Please come along to this great village occasion on Tockington Green. There will be delicious teas, home-made cakes, ice cream, a children's fancy dress parade, competitions, and musical entertainment. We will have lots of stalls including toys, garden produce, plants, books and 'As New' items; with games and challenges for all ages.



We always need lots of help to run the Fayre so any offers of your time will be extremely welcome. Help is needed with heavy lifting from 9.30 – 10.30am, from 10.30am to set up stalls, with running stalls from 1.30 - 4.30pm and finally

from 5.00-6.00pm to put everything away. (Contact details below)

Don't forget our children's competitions:

Fancy Dress: Life on Earth. Come dressed as any living creature – plant or animal - for example come as a frog, a butterfly or a gorilla! This will be judged at the start of the Fayre.

Handprint Animal: Draw around your hand or take a print and make it into any wild animal on A4 paper.

Pokemon Competition: Design and name a new Pokemon character, on A4 paper – templates will be available at Olveston Stores.

Competition entries should be brought to Tockington Chapel on the morning of the 19th with the child's name, age and contact details clearly displayed

Donations Welcome: Cakes, scones, bottles (for the tombola), unwanted gifts/ 'as new' items, toys, books, garden produce and plants. You can leave items in Olveston Methodist Church porch or bring items to the Friday 4th September, Coffee Morning at Tockington Wesley Rooms. Alternatively email tocs.friends@gmail.com or call Maggie on 01454 610053 to arrange pick up or other drop off times.

All money raised will go towards the running costs of Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church.

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News from St Mary's

Debbie Harries



Concert on Saturday September 5th 7.30pm

We are delighted to welcome the Feria Orchestra again with a programme which includes Mozart's masterly 40th symphony. This is always a wonderful evening of fantastic music, so do come along and enjoy.

A paying bar will be available. Tickets £10.

Contact Debbie Harries oboe-debbie@live.co.uk

Services of Reflection at St Mary's Olveston

Every 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month we have a quiet, reflective service at 6pm. It is not a formal service, but one where we might mix poems with bible readings. The idea is to provide a safe and quiet place to worship and pray together, to share with each other, to ask questions about bible teachings and faith in a non-threatening environment. We do not sit in pews, we gather in a circle in front of the altar, sitting in chairs. No-one is 'gowned up'. We may have piano music. We have a time after the bible readings and prayers to have a discussion on anything and everything the service has brought to mind. The hope is that we leave to return home more peaceful and rested, and feeling we have gained from the experience.

The People's Emergency Briefing

This film, shown in St Mary's on 9th June, invited all with concern for the effects of climate change to sign the petition calling for a UK wide public briefing by independent experts. This petition opened on 20th May 2026 and on 15th June the UK government responded that it is right "to highlight climate change as a major threat to the UK and the world".

The Church Council has endorsed support and invites all who have concern about this threat to respond on: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/767687>

Sanctum – Spiritual Direction Formation & Training

Applications are now open for Sanctum, the Diocese of Bristol's new formation and training course in spiritual direction, launching in January 2027. Designed to be accessible to a greater diversity of students, the course will meet fortnightly online during term time, with three in-person Saturdays each year. Each session will include teaching, drawing upon biblical, theological, and psychological perspectives, alongside a breadth of Christian spiritual wisdom



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Closing date for applications & references: Friday 2nd October 2026

Choral Evensong

On the first Sunday of the month at 6pm St. Mary's, history comes alive through the service of Choral Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer, first introduced in 1549. Archbishop Thomas Cranmer was commissioned by Henry VIII to produce a set of services for the new Church of England following the break with Rome in 1534. The creation of the new Church ended centuries of tradition, including the abolition of the monasteries where prayer and worship had continued uninterrupted through the seven daily 'offices' or services of the monastic day.

Canon Giles Fraser has written 'Evensong was originally designed by Thomas Cranmer as a mash up of the evening monastic offices for those who were not themselves professionally religious - and so couldn't spend eight hours a day in prayer. It always includes a passage by a young pregnant woman saying what great stuff God has done for her (the Magnificat) and an old man saying he can now die in peace because he has seen what he needs to have seen (the Nunc Dimittis). It works because it draws upon the alpha and the omega of human existence and sets it to the most beautiful of music: Tallis, Byrd, Stanford.'

At St. Mary's we keep this tradition alive month by month. For about an hour Evensong creates space in our increasingly busy world for reflection and refreshment through word, music and silence. We would love to welcome you to share it with us.

Informal Holy Communion

No standing up and sitting down and standing up again, no crowds, no fuss. On the second Sunday at 6pm we meet for a shorter, informal service of Holy Communion for about half an hour. We gather together around the altar and, after hearing words from our scriptures, a short reflection and prayers we celebrate Christ's Last Supper with his friends, following his command, 'do this in remembrance of me.' As with all our evening services the emphasis is reflective as we try to find a stillness and calm in which we may find God and allow God to find us.

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U3A Music Group

Les Harper

The Music Group was one of the first to be formed when Thornbury U3A started in 1998. In the early days we met at members' houses, but the group soon grew and for many years we've met at Alveston Methodist Church, usually with a near capacity attendance.

Mostly we listen to classical music, but from time to time we get more adventurous and have performances of folk songs or sea shanties for example. We are very fortunate that the programme organisers have a wide range of contacts, so we can enjoy performances by a number of groups and soloists from the local area and beyond, including from The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. The musicians fill in background and history of the pieces and their composers in between playing, so we leave each meeting enlightened as well as entertained. The June meeting takes a different format – modelled on the BBC's Desert Island Discs. A local musical personality is interviewed, and we hear their chosen discs.

The members are a friendly bunch; some have been in the group since its start – almost 30 years. In the middle of each session there's a coffee and biscuit interval, which provides time for a chat and socialising. After the June meeting of each season, we have a group lunch at a suitable pub.

The meetings are from September to June on the second Friday, starting at 10.30am and finishing around 12.30. You can come as a visitor or join for the year. FFI contact our group leader Jos on Josgregson@gmail.com



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Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

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20/06/26 Matt Snell

27/06/26 Helen Barnett

04/07/26 Bhavin Radia

150 Club Winners August 2026:

£50 Jeff Pullin

£15 Audrey Evans

£5 Bill Finch

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

08/08/26 Tony Gardner

Olveston and Tockington WI

After the long summer break it will be lovely to catch up with our friends again. There's bound to be lots of chat such as, 'How did you cope with the heat?' and 'How's your garden been in the drought?'

After the extraordinarily dry months we've had earlier this year, our topic for this month's WI meeting may be particularly relevant - or it may be just the opposite! It's called Sewers to Rhines - not a very promising title, you may think, but it's a talk about how our local waterways are looked after, and it turns out to be a fascinating tale. The talk is given by our well-known local councillor, Matthew Riddle, who goes into the history of this very important subject and brings it right up to date with the current work of the Lower Severn Drainage Board, whose land-rovers we see trundling round the area from time to time. It's nice to know how we're being looked after!

Join us to hear all about it on Tuesday 8th September at 7.30 in the Parish Hall.

For any more information, please contact me, Angela Green, on 615222.



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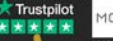
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Over the next ten months we'll take you behind the scenes, sharing the history of our bells, the people who ring them and the fascinating engineering hidden inside the tower. Together, we can ensure the bells continue to ring for generations yet to come. Donate via our website: www.revsrural.com or use the QR code



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The prize winners in the August draw, held on 6th August 2026 were:

Amount	Number	Name
£150	739	Mrs R Arkell, Olveston
£75	477	Mrs S Farr, Olveston
£50	710	Mr & Mrs C Arkey, Olveston
£25	677	Mrs P Hinton, Tockington
£25	567	Mrs M Shurmer, Olveston
£25	391	Mrs S Shaw, Olveston
£25	170	Mrs K Hughes, Olveston
£25	364	Mr R Newley, Olveston
£25	473	Mrs M Setter, Olveston
£25	480	Mr D Skinner, Sneyd Park

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.

Congratulations Tom



Former Castle School student
Tom Elderton has been
awarded the University of
Cambridge Prize for the 2026
Environmental Project (Earth
Sciences Part II), in recognition
of his first-class research
investigating secondary mineral
precipitation associated with
acid mine pollution in the Italian
Alps, using aqueous
geochemical signatures.

Tom grew up in Tockington and attended Castle School from 2015 to 2022
and is studying Natural Sciences at St John's College, Cambridge, and will
begin an integrated master's degree in Earth Sciences this autumn. He is
currently undertaking a ten-week research internship at the Bermuda Institute
of Ocean Sciences (BIOS), where he is studying microbial ecology, mesoscale
eddy dynamics, and how ocean eddies influence the biogeochemistry of
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Sisters are doing it for Themselves

Paul Dimery

Want to see a musical that'll take you to heaven and back? The Parish Players are dusting off their habits and warming up their vocal cords in preparation for Sister Act, the feelgood musical comedy that's set to light up the stage at Olveston and Tockington Parish Hall during February half-term.

Based on the beloved 1992 film starring Whoopi Goldberg, Sister Act tells the story of Deloris Van Cartier, a glamorous nightclub singer whose life is thrown into disarray after she witnesses a serious crime. Placed in protective custody in the last place anyone would expect to find her – a convent – she initially struggles to fit in with the strict way of life but soon discovers that she has a talent for bringing people together through music. As she transforms the nuns' struggling choir into a singing sensation, she finds friendship, purpose and the courage to be herself, all while trying to evade the villains who are desperate to locate her. This life-affirming show is packed with memorable musical numbers written by eight-time Academy Award winner Alan Menken (Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin, Little Shop of Horrors) and lyricist Glenn Slater.

Sister Act will be the fourth production that Heather Collins has directed for The Parish Players, following Brigadoon in 2024, The Pajama Game in 2025 and My Fair Lady earlier this year. Heather has developed a reputation for bringing warmth, energy and creative flair to every production, helping performers of all ages and experience levels to shine on stage. Joining her once again will be musical director Chloe Allsopp-Jones. Chloe has an uncanny knack of bringing out the best in both soloists and ensemble performers, conjuring up rich, vibrant harmonies that have become a hallmark of The Parish Players' musical productions over the years.

Bursting with humour, heart and heavenly music, Sister Act promises to be one of the highlights of the February half-term, with performances from Wednesday 17th to Saturday 20th February. Save the dates and keep an eye out for ticket information – this is one musical you definitely won't want to miss.

Want to be involved in this show? Preparations for Sister Act will start in September and The Parish Players are always happy to meet locals who'd like to join in. There are plenty of exciting and enjoyable opportunities to share your skills behind the scenes or with the front-of-house team, not just on stage! Email secretaryparishplayers@gmail.com for more information or keep an eye on the group's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OlvestonParishPlayers.

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Our New Season

We're back from our summer break and we have a very special film to start the autumn season on September 7th. The MM team spent a whole afternoon reviewing five films we were thinking of showing in September. One by one they were eliminated - mainly on the grounds of being of little interest. And then later that evening a film* popped up which, when released in 2024, flew under the mainstream radar, but we knew this was something special.

An elderly Jewish lady arrives in New York to visit and perhaps admonish her grandson, a 15-year-old boy, who has been expelled from school due to his bullying. Our lady then recounts her life in German occupied France in the Second World War. Sarah Blum, then just a young lively girl is living with her parents under the Nazis. Jews are being rounded up, and Sarah goes into hiding for over a year. During this time she is helped by a classmate, who calls on her every evening to pass on what he has learned at school that day. Julien is arrested in 1944 on his way to school and sent to a remote camp miles away. There he tries to escape with other prisoners. The consequences are shown in the film.

Doors open at 7pm and the film starts promptly at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge (although donations are always welcome). We have a licensed bar and also serve coffee and tea.

**The terms of our licensing agreement prohibit us from naming the film.*

Air Cadets: Adventure, Skills and Confidence

Young people looking for adventure, confidence and new skills are invited to find out more about the RAF Air Cadets. The Air Cadets offers teenagers the chance to try activities far beyond the classroom, including flying, gliding, leadership training, first aid, sport, music, STEM, cyber and community service. Cadets make new friends, build self-belief and gain practical skills that can help them in education, employment and life.

It is not just for those interested in aviation or the Armed Forces. At its heart, the organisation helps young people become confident, capable and responsible members of the community.

Cont/.....






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Local squadrons also welcome adult volunteers. No military background is needed—just enthusiasm, reliability and a willingness to support young people. Anyone interested in joining as a cadet, becoming an adult volunteer or finding out more should contact The Officer Commanding 2392 (Thornbury) Squadron at oc.2392@rafac.mod.gov.uk



Green Force

There are many seaweeds. Kelp is the name given to several species of large brown seaweeds which are seen washed up on our beaches around the coast. Where conditions are right, kelp can form dense underwater forests, which are among the most productive and diverse ecosystems on the planet. These sea forests with their thick floating fronds provide food and shelter for hundreds of different marine animals which form the marine food chain. They are also effective in controlling strong ocean currents. Apart from providing us with good food, kelp has many applications as it is an ingredient in several everyday items such as shampoo, face creams and toothpaste. Dentists use it in orthodontistry. Alginate, which is derived from kelp, is used to thicken products such as ice cream, jelly, salad dressing, and toothpaste.

While kelp grows naturally in the ocean, it can also be farmed. The farming of kelp is now a sustainable and regenerative farming practice. It is called a zero-input crop because it grows in the oceans and does not require fertilisers or chemicals. Kelp farming is done by fixing kelp seeds to ropes and submerging them in the sea water leaving them there to grow over the winter and then harvested in the spring. It's very easy to grow and needs little maintenance. Kelp farming is incredibly climate-friendly, and good for the ocean because it absorbs excess carbon and nitrogen from the ocean to improve water quality and to counteract ocean acidity.

Dates for your diary: Organic September is a month-long campaign, led by the Soil Association, to raise awareness of the many benefits of organic food. Also Zero Waste Week 7th - 11th September.

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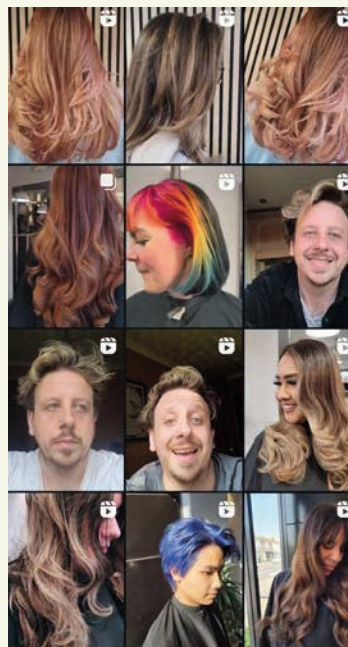
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Olveston Parish Historical Society 2026/27

Welcome to this year's talks programme in a new venue. Here's what's in store. Open to all ... just turn up!

Wed. 7th Oct. 2026: Welcome, all! After a short AGM, Brian Kemp will share more of his research into **Olveston Court and Manor**. The talk will cover the Saxon origins of Olveston, Robert Gyen's rise and then spectacular fall from grace, the royal visit of 1502, white slavery and the Quakers. Copies of his updated book with more text and illustrations will be on sale.

Wed. 4th November 2026: With many coal miners signing up to fight in the Second World War, by 1943 coal supply was becoming critical. Jackie Swift will tell the rarely heard story of **Bevin Boys: the forgotten conscripts** and the story of their war. You're bound to be surprised by what she has to say.

Wed. 2nd December 2026: Ann Taylor and Ian Mackintosh will be delivering a two-person presentation about **400 Years of Stroudwater Textile Mills**, describing the processes involved in the local broadcloth industry and passing round real artefacts for audience members to see and feel.

Wed. 6th January 2027: The return of the 70-metre-long Bayeux Tapestry to England this year was a big, carefully choreographed event, ahead of the tapestry going on show at the British Museum (from Sept. 2026 to July 2027). Benjamin Pohl, of Bristol University, has produced **A New Interpretation of the Bayeux Tapestry** - with particular focus on the intended home for the tapestry once it was made. Where and for whom was it originally displayed?

Wed. 3rd February 2027: In **Staying Curious - engaging with local heritage**, Gail Boyle, ex-head of Bristol Museums' archaeology collections and a lively and engaging public speaker, will be sharing her own experiences of researching a local place through the lens of different, easily available resources. One object, one photo, one newspaper article can lead us on fascinating journeys of discovery... Come and be inspired!

Wed. 3rd March 2027: Claire Dimond Mills, a resident of Box in Wiltshire, will be telling us about the difficult and dangerous enterprise of **Building Brunel's Box Tunnel**. She will include something about the engineering aspects of the nearly two-mile-long railway tunnel, which opened in 1841, but her main emphasis will be on the social context and the human stories behind the building of the tunnel.



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Wed. 7th April 2027: Stella Evans will be coming from Newport to tell us about **Shackleton's Endurance Expedition and the Newport Stowaway**. Jenny & Richard heard her speak at the 2025 AGM of the Friends of the Newport Medieval Ship and thought OPHS members would enjoy hearing this engaging talk about an accidental Antarctic explorer.

New Venue: Olveston School's Wyke Hall, Elberton Road BS35 4DB.
Time: 7.30pm Parking: In the school playground. Free refreshments: Come in good time for these; they'll be available *before* the start of each meeting.



Annual 2026/27 membership rate (all 7 talks): £10 in total - pay on the night. Or £3 for a single meeting - pay on the night. Cash or cheques only, please.
Programme Secretary: Jenny Newley 01454 202011
Website: <http://www.olveston.com/historical-society>

Music at St Mary's, Thornbury

Our 3rd Sunday afternoon concert will be held at St. Mary's Church, Thornbury, at 4pm on Sunday September 20th. We look forward to welcoming the Thornbury Good Afternoon Choir and their director Sian Wallers. As usual the concert will be followed by refreshments. Admission is free and the retiring collection goes to St. Mary's Music. We look forward to seeing you there.

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Thornbury Art Club

Tuesday 22nd September is club night. Steve Hall will demonstrate impressionistic watercolour mark-making through creating two different paintings: A landscape and an industrial scene. After many years working in the building industry and further education, Steve turned his career towards his first love, painting and then tutoring. For the last 30 years he has developed his own impressionistic watercolour style, influenced by such artists as Edward Seago and John Yardley. Come and see Steve at work. It should be a fascinating evening.

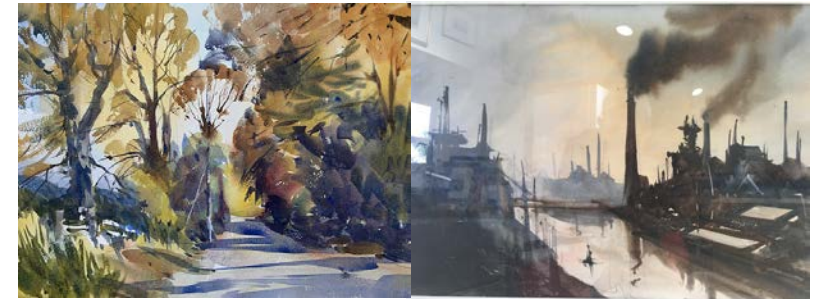
Part way through the demo we will have a short break, which will give us an opportunity to chat with members, visitors and the artist. Come and join us to learn, socialise, and enjoy an evening of art, whether you're just starting out or looking to refine your skills. If you're interested in joining the Club, our membership secretary, Pat will be on the door to give you more information, or else contact us below.

Members free, non-members very welcome - £6 on the door, cash or card. 7.15pm until 9.30pm. St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Rd, Thornbury. Free parking on-site. For more information contact: www.thornburyartclub.co.uk www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub or email publicrelations.tac@gmail.com

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Thornbury and District League of Friends

We, TADLOF, are holding a free coffee/tea and cakes morning on Saturday, 5th September, 10am-noon at The Armstrong in Thornbury.

The League of Friends support local health and well-being groups in the area with financial grants. Among our 23 recipients in 2025 were Great Western Air Ambulance, Thornbury Wayfarers, Rockhampton Ravens, Severn Area Rescue Association and Jigsaw.

We will be inviting applications for 2026 grant giving programme in October. If you are involved in a local group, look out for further details in the local press in at that time, or contact abates1101@msn.com to request an application form. TADLOF members will be at the coffee morning and happy to help if you require any further information.

Please be our guest and join us on 5th September in the surroundings of the welcoming Armstrong Foyer.

Thornbury Choral Society

Thornbury choral society resumes rehearsals again after the summer break. The AGM is on Monday, September 7th at 7.30pm and will be followed by the first rehearsal. Please note there are some changes to the start time and venue of our rehearsals. Rehearsals will be at The Armstrong (Cossham Hall) and will start at 7.30pm

Our new conductor, Gareth Morris will be joining us, and we look forward to welcoming him. He has selected a very interesting programme for the first concert of the season, The works we are to perform include the Faure Requiem, Durufle-Quatre Motets, Vaughan Williams - Fantasia on Christmas Carols and other Christmas items

The concert will be held at St Mary's Church, Thornbury (BS35 !HQ) on Saturday Nov 28th at 7.00pm

We are always looking to recruit new members, particularly tenors. Do come along and see if we are the choir for you. Further information is on the web site: thornburychoralsociety.org.uk



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Friday	10am-5pm
Saturday	9.30-12.30
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Read to the Beat! Summer Reading Challenge

It's not too late to join! Finish your challenges by Saturday 12th September

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Children's Events

Rhymes & Stories Mondays 9.30-10
 Suitable for all children 0-5 years old

Rhymetime Fridays 9.30-10
 Suitable for all children 0-5 years old

Lego Club Saturdays 9.30-10.30
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Coming Up in October



Parish Hall AGM

The AGM of Olveston Parish Hall will be held in the hall on Tuesday October 20th at 7.30 pm, followed by light refreshments.

Paris by Night



Relax at an indulgent, romantic evening of music that captures the soul of the City of Light. The concert takes place at The Cossham Hall, Chapel Street, Thornbury, on Saturday 24th October at 7.30pm.

Tickets £25 from AAGThornbury@gmail.com or

01454 850933 www.bristolensemble.com

Guys and Dolls

Thornbury Musical Theatre Group are busy rehearsing for their next musical, Guys and Dolls, which runs from Wednesday 28th to Saturday 31st October. Set in the vibrant streets of 1950s New York, Guys and Dolls is a timeless Broadway musical filled with romance, comedy, and unforgettable songs. The story follows charming gambler Sky Masterson, who makes an unlikely bet that leads him to the straight-laced missionary Sarah Brown, while long-suffering showgirl Adelaide waits for her fiancé, Nathan Detroit, to finally tie the knot.

Performances are at 7.30pm Wednesday 28th to Friday 30th October, then a matinee at 2.30pm and an evening performance at 7pm on Saturday 31st October at The Olympus Theatre on the WISE campus, New Road, Bristol, BS34 8LP.

Book your Guys & Dolls tickets today - before Lady Luck deals the last hand. Tickets are available from www.tmtg.org.uk

FYI: This month's cover photograph was taken in the field behind Olveston Parish Hall.

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Yours Faithfully

Revd. Helen Webb

As I write this, we are officially in drought. Weeks of hot, dry weather have left us with the driest July on record - just 1% of expected rainfall. Everywhere we look, the signs are obvious: brown fields, thirsty gardens, trees shedding leaves far too early. Many of our daily conversations seem to be about the desire for rain. Water! We want and need water.

It's no surprise, then, that water appears throughout the Bible. Much of the biblical world was dry and desert-like, and people understood the ache of thirst. There are a number of Bible stories that take place around a well, where people come to collect water or refresh their animals. Back then people had to carry buckets or large clay jars back and forth, back and forth - for drinking, for cooking, for bathing. Water was a huge part of their lives. Jesus frequently talked about water and actually promised living water. He uses water as a symbol for everlasting spiritual satisfaction.

We can read about Jesus offering this water to a Samaritan woman at a well (John 4) and later to everyone at a festival, saying anyone who is thirsty or believes in Him can come and drink (John 7). The concept of living water has deep roots in the Old Testament, where it often symbolised God's blessing, provision, and spiritual refreshment. God describes Himself as "the fountain of living waters"

As we wait for rain to revive our dry land let's think about ourselves. The living water Jesus offers to the Samaritan woman is the Holy Spirit, given to those who believe in Him. This divine gift symbolises God's blessing and provides constant spiritual nourishment, refreshment, and renewal. It sustains believers through all of life's circumstances. Most importantly, when we are feeling dry and parched, spiritually dehydrated, thirsty for something more – that's when we can come to God and receive this living water.

So, where do you find yourself today? If you are physically thirsty, drink deeply! There's nothing like cold, refreshing water. But if you're facing challenges or difficulties at the moment; if you are spiritually and emotionally parched, come to Jesus. He knows all about that kind of thirst, but, more importantly, He offers the Spirit-filled water that can quench it, His living water satisfies our thirst for grace, strength, love, hope and life. His living water never runs dry.





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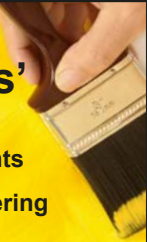
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Church News

ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Sept 6th	10am 6pm	Holy Communion Evensong - Choir	Rev David Lloyd Rev David Lloyd
Sept 13th	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer - Choir Holy Communion	Rev David Lloyd Rev David Lloyd
Sept 20th	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer - Choir Holy Communion BCP	Janet McBride Rev Ann Lloyd
Sept 27th	10am 6pm	Holy Communion - Choir Reflective Evening Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd Janet McBride

First Sunday of the month during term time, **Messy Church** 9am.
 Every Saturday (term time) **'REFRESH'**, 4.30-5.30 - Fun, relaxed church.
 Every Wednesday, Holy Communion, 10am.
 NB Clergy may change.
Contact: Rev David Moss, 01454 415190, mossds@gmail.com

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Sept 13th	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Moss
Sept 27th	10am	Morning Prayer	Trevor Cook

Contact: Trevor Cook, 01454 618442
Church Wardens: Jenn Dickens 632312 and Jon Burnett 633835

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Sept 13th	9am	Morning Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd
Sept 27th	9am 6pm	Holy Communion Harvest Festival	Rev Ann Lloyd Rev Ann Lloyd

Contacts: Church Wardens: Catharine Gunnery 413225 and Cheryl Meredith 411065

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Sept 13th	3pm	Evensong	Rev David Moss
Sept 27th	3pm	Evensong with Holy Communion	Rev David Moss

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



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OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Sept 6th	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship by Local arrangement
Sept 13th	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by David Head
Sept 20th	3pm	Olv Ch	Worship led by Rev Simon Edwards
Sept 27th	10am	Olv Ch	Harvest Festival led by Rev Simon Edwards

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 3rd Weds at 2.30pm.

Contact: 01454 612084, 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 CHURCH Service 11am every Sunday

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH Service 5.30pm every Sunday

Contact: esther@thebamfields.co.uk

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury

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Contact: 01454 412223, https://ctkandholycross.org.uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Contact: Chris Willmore, chriswillmore@blueyonder.co.uk

THORNBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Services are every Sunday at 10.45am Rev Neil Thorogood



Diary Dates for September:

Information believed to be correct at going to press.

1 Tues	Citizens Advice, every Tues Thornbury Arts Club painting studio, every Tues. WRBL meeting	10-12pm 1.30pm 7.30pm	TTH SMCH DGCL
2 Wed	Table Tennis every Weds	7pm	OPH
3 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers Market Coffee Shop, every Thurs Good afternoon choir, every Thurs Thornbury Art Club painting Studio, every Thurs.	9am 9.30-12pm 1-3pm	StM URC
4 Fri	Haven Memory Café, every 1 st & 3 rd Fri Tockington Community Café Friday Monthly Music Night	10.15-11.45am 10-12pm 7.30pm	URC TMC CTK
5 Sat	Park run every Sat TADLOF: Free Coffee & Cake Alveston Family Village Fair Feria Concert	9am 10-12pm 12-4pm 7.30pm	MPF TA JHA-F StM
6 Sun	Litter picking	10a.	OPH
7 Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club. Monday Movies	2pm 7.30pm	SMCH StM
8 Tues	Thornbury Memory Cafe Olveston & Tockington WI	10.15-11.45am 7.30pm	TMH OPH
12 Sat	Coffee Morning Heritage open day Heritage open day	10-12pm 10 - 2pm 1-4.30pm	OMC TTH StMT
13 Sun	Sunday Music night	7pm	CtK
14 Mon	Severn Vale Flower club: Demo	2pm	SMCH
15 Tues	Thornbury Volunteer Fair	9-1pm	By Aldi
17 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers Market	9am	
19 Sat	Classic Car Breakfast Meet Tockington Harvest Fayre	10am 2pm	StH Tock

20 Sun	St Mary's Music	4pm	StMT
22 Tues	Thornbury Arts Club Night	7.15pm	SMCH
23 Weds	Alveston Local History Society talk	7.30pm	AMC
28 Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club; Practise	1.30pm	SMCH

Looking forward to October:

Tues 6th - Olveston Parish Wildlife Grp meeting - 7pm - OPH

Weds 7th - Olveston Parish Historical Society - 7.30pm - OPS

Tues. 20th - Parish Hall AGM - 7.30pm - OPH

Sat 24th - AAGT: Paris by Night - 7.30pm - CH

KEY: **AMC** - Alveston Methodist Church, **AMH** - Alveston Methodist Hall, **AOSH** - Almondsbury Old School Hall, **AVH** - Aust Village Hall **CS** - Castle School, **CH** - Cosham Hall **CTK** - Christ the King, **DGCL** - Daldry Gardens Community Lounge, **ECVH** - Easter Compton Village Hall, **EVH** - Elberton Village Hall, **FVH** - Falfield village Hall, **JHA** - Jubilee Hall, Alveston **LVH** - Littleton Village Hall **MSch** - Marwood Schoo **MPF** - Mundy playing fields **OC** - Oasis Church, Old Down, **ODE** - Old Down Estate **OMC** - Olveston Methodist Church, **OMH** - Olveston Methodist Hall, **OPH** - Olveston Parish Hall, **OTF** - Olympus Theatre Filton **OPS** - Olveston Primary School **PHT** - Porch House, Thornbury **QAMP** - Queen Alexandra Memorial Pavilion, Old Down **RHVH** - Rockhampton village hall. **StH** - St Helen's Church, Alveston. **StHSc** - St Helen's School **StM** - St Mary's Church, **StMB** - St Mary's Berkely **StMT** - Thornbury St Mary's Ch, **StP Sch** - St Peters School, Pilning **SMCH** - St Mary's Church Hall **SBVH** - Severn Beach Village Hall, Thornbury, **TA** - The Armstrong, **TGC** - Thornbury Golf Club, **TCC** - Turnberries, **TMC** - Tockington Methodist Church, **TMCH** - Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, **TTH** - Thornbury Town Hall, **URC** - United Reform Church **WADCA** - Winterbourne & District Community Association

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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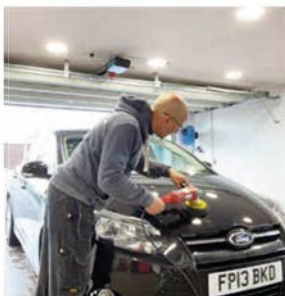
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