

# Meeting Point

*Volume 32, Number 2, November 2007*

---

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

---

## **EDITOR:**

**Sue Hunter**

Hazeldown,  
Hazel Lane  
Old Down  
Tockington  
Bristol BS32 4PL  
Tel: 01454 412191

*meetingpointeditor@gmail.com* or  
*sue.hunter@southglos.net*

## **ASSISTANT EDITOR:**

**Carol Norman-Vincenot**

The Stocks  
Main Road  
Aust  
Bristol BS35 4AX  
Tel: 01454 631814

*meetingpointmagazine@gmail.com*

## **ADVERTISING:**

**Nigel Dawes**

Cromwell House  
The Street,  
Olveston  
Bristol BS35 4DR  
Tel: 01454 201558

## **Publication date**

*1st of each month*

**Material for December to  
Editor or Deputy Editor by  
5th November**

## **From the Editor**

November is rather a sombre month for me and probably for many other people. The clocks have gone back to give us long dark evenings and we have All Souls Day and Memorial Services to remember our loved ones and then Remembrance Sunday, which falls precisely on November 11<sup>th</sup> this year.

Of course for children the opposite is true: Halloween, with pumpkin heads and witches' hats can be fun and then there is Bonfire Night and fireworks.

For the grownups in this month's magazine you will find plenty of early Christmas shopping opportunities at Bazaars, Gift Fairs and Autumn Fayres and the chance to support a number of charities at the same time

There is also the opportunity for a bit of fun regarding the Haw Lane situation (see page 37).

I am pleased that we are able to include news of Olveston School in this edition and this should be a regular feature.

Our special Poppy cover is by an unknown artist.

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



# Village Person

## Joan Bird

'...so I just went along!'

*Pat Thirkettle*

Joan was born in the Forest of Dean, the youngest of six children. It was a free and easy childhood, families mixed together and the children were allowed to roam, so unlike the situation today. Milk was delivered by pony and trap, it came in milk churns straight from the farm, and you took your jugs out to be filled. She went to the grammar school in Coleford, now in new premises, the original building having been converted into a Country Club. There is a yearly reunion, a service in Newland church followed by a gathering in the Club, but Joan doesn't go every time.

She married her husband Brian in the Forest, he being a local lad and their daughters Linda and Lesley were born there. In 1964 Brian started working at Heneage Court, Falfield, the family moved to a house on the estate and Joan helped with cooking for Mr and Mrs Armstrong. Later Brian moved to Old Down to work for Mr and Mrs Deverson, who lived with their eleven children in Windmill House. Initially Joan and Brian lived in a part of Hay Tor, until they moved to 2 The Crescent. Later still they bought No1 The Crescent, and extended it into the house they live in today.

Linda went to Olveston Guides and Lesley went to Olveston Brownies. One day Linda came home and said it was due to close for lack of a leader then nagged and nagged Joan to offer. Eventually she said she '...would just go along'. When she got there she found herself announced as the new leader, and so began over twenty years of guiding! She had no experience of the Guide movement, so attended two training sessions and from then on learnt on the job. Many more training sessions followed including qualifications to take the company camping. Initially they used to camp on local Guider's farms, so there would always be experienced people around. Sometimes they amalgamated with Pilning Guides and went further afield, such as Westonbirt or Symonds Yat. During this time she had a son Matthew, who was taken to meetings from a very early age.

After twelve years as Olveston Guide Captain, Joan became District Commissioner, responsible for the running of Olveston, Almondsbury, Pilning and Easter Compton Guide Companies and Brownie packs. This involved more training and much form filling, and if a Guide Captain was ill, taking the meetings. She even had to take the Brownies on occasions, and she had had no experience of that at all. When she retired as District Commissioner, she missed the girls so much she became assistant to Sarah Jones who was then

running the Olveston Company. In the mid 1990s she was persuaded to continue until the summer and finished with a big camp at Symonds Yat before retiring for good. By this time she was working full time for the University of Bristol, but is now retired.

Joan is on the Neighbourhood Watch committee and she and Brian have delivered Meeting Point for more years than they can remember. Meeting Point was also responsible for the hobby that they took up on retirement. An earlier article about Andy Phillips mentioned American Square dancing and prompted Joan to enquire about it. Thus started a whole new interest, as they joined a group in Winterbourne and now dance twice a week. They have performed at the last two Old Down Neighbourhood Watch barbecues at Windmill House and had just come back from a weekend of dancing workshops in Ilfracombe. They have a camper van to which they attach their bicycles and have travelled extensively in this country, and also France. Trips include cycling twenty five miles of the Tarka trail near Barnstaple in Devon and the van is also useful for attending far flung dancing events, such as a week in Lytham St Annes, where they danced three times a day. I'm sure they would recommend it to any one for a hobby that combines exercise with the opportunity to make many friends.



## **ST PETER'S HOSPICE SEVERNSIDE SUPPORT GROUP**

*Kath Burgess*

The Annual Bazaar for St Peters Hospice will take place in the Armstrong Hall on Saturday 10th November between 10.00am and 12noon. Variety of Stalls, Raffle and Teas. We would be most grateful for any donations for the Bazaar and will be pleased to collect from you, please telephone 417543 or 412567 to arrange – thank you.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November Eddie “The Eagle” Edwards will be the guest speaker at the Sporting Dinner to held at Thornbury Golf Centre at 7.30pm. Tickets are £25.00 per person and this will include a three course dinner and coffee. Please ring 417543 or 412567 to make a reservation.

Advance notice – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December our ever popular Christmas Flower Evening with Mrs Dot Curtis will take place at St Mary’s Hall, Thornbury, 7.30pm.

# MISS E M WALKER MBE

*Kath Burgess*

It was with deep sadness that we learnt of the death on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September of Eileen Walker.

For many years Eileen was the driving force behind the Severnside Support Group which was founded in 1985, to support the vital and valuable work of St Peters Hospice. She held the post of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer at various times.

The Severnside Support Group has raised and sent to St Peters the magnificent sum of £222,000 pounds and for every event that was held to raise money Eileen Walker was there, helping in whatever capacity was required of her.

We will truly miss an inspirational lady.

*A memorial service was held for Eileen on 19<sup>th</sup> October in St Mary's Church Thornbury – a truly memorable occasion Ed*



olveston pre-school

## Olveston Pre-School

### Promises Auction Thanks

A big thank you to all those who supported Olveston Pre-School at the Promises Auction, and for their very generous bidding.

It was a fantastic evening and very enjoyable and also raised over £2600 much needed funds for Olveston Pre-school. We are already planning our next Pre-school Promises Auction

### Forthcoming Events

#### Nearly New Sale

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you about our next Nearly New Sale, 10-12pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November in Olveston Parish Hall.

There will be good quality toys, books and baby equipment but no clothes at this sale. If you're thinking of having a clear out of your child's clothes, we'll be accepting clothes at the next Nearly New sale in May.

*continued*

## Christmas Pantomime

'Frosty the Snowman' has been booked as the Olveston Pre-school Christmas Panto. on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December** at 4.30pm. More details to follow, but book the date in your diary. All welcome.

For further details, please contact Helen Moorefield on 07786395414

# An Inconvenient Truth

*Graham Clark*

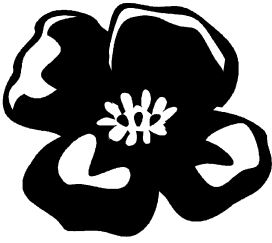
The public showing in Olveston on 9 October of the award-winning Al Gore film *An Inconvenient Truth* generated lively discussion between the panel and the audience of 60. The film was shown in Olveston Primary School hall by the St Mary's Church 'CHAT Group', with the objective of stimulating discussion in our community on the issues surrounding global warming.

Trevor Anderson chaired the post-film discussion, with lively debate between the panel -- Chris Bolton, Mary Leithwood and Angus Macaskill -- and well-informed audience. Several in the audience have close professional contact with many of the issues such as the nuclear industry, transport, aviation and conservation.

There was no time to do more than scratch the surface of the issues raised in the 45-minute discussion. However, the question was raised as to whether the CHAT Group or some other local forum might wish to consider any local implications in more detail, particularly our local 'carbon footprint'.

The Al Gore film is a fascinating *tour d'horizons* for anyone with even a passing interest in geography and world climate. But in addition, Gore points to what he sees as a moral imperative to make urgent changes at personal, industrial and political levels.

The St. Mary's CHAT Group meets once a month to 'put the world to rights' and debate issues seen as important to our citizens. The next discussion will be on the merit/demerits on 'The introduction of some form of National Service'. Meetings are co-ordinated by Sue Farr: 01454 614861.



## R.B.L. Women's Section

*Peggy Oakhill*

The Royal British Legion Women's Section will be holding a Bingo Evening on Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at Daldry Gardens

Community Room. It is open to everyone so we would welcome anyone who enjoys playing bingo. All proceeds go to the Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal.



## Ordination service in Bristol Cathedral

Family, friends and parishioners were well represented among the congregation in a packed Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, September 30, for a service which included David Bone's ordination as a priest. David and Jennifer have lived in the parish, in Tockington, for many years, David serving at St Mary's in a number of capacities, including as a Reader/Lay Minister while Jennifer is a Steward of Olveston and Tockington Methodist churches.

The Bristol Diocese has adopted a scheme through which a lay minister with substantial experience and the support of his or her vicar and parish may offer themselves for ordination; if accepted, they serve in a voluntary capacity within the parish. The first such ordinands, including David, were ordained as deacons last year, and the process was completed by their ordination as priests this September.

In a lengthy but powerful and memorable service, David and his fellow ordinands promised to minister faithfully in word and sacrament, seek to be an instrument of peace in both church and world, and to work with others for the sake of the Kingdom of God; then hands were laid on him by the Bishop, supported, among others, by Philip Rowe, Brian Carne, Anita Thorne, and John Poarch.



# Olveston Parish Historical Society, Basil Harwood event

*Les Harper*

On 7<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding a special event at St Mary's Church, Olveston, to launch a new book on Basil Harwood.

Last year, OPHS celebrated its 40th Anniversary by publishing "Yesteryear", a collection of papers written by members of the Society in its early years. Some of the items in our archives were seen to be important enough to deserve publishing as separate books. This biography of Basil Harwood (1859-1949) clearly falls in that category.

Basil Harwood is perhaps one of the mostly widely known sons of Olveston Parish. He was an eminent organist and composer in the late Victorian and Edwardian period. He composed the music for many hymns, often giving them the names of Gloucestershire towns or villages; most of us would recognise the tune of "Thy hand O God has Guided" ("Thornbury"). Although his professional musical career was most productive during his time living in Oxford, he continued to compose and perform, and took an active role in musical life in the area and further afield, after he returned to Woodhouse to run the estate when his father died in 1907. He remained at Woodhouse for the next 28 years.

The basis of the book is a well researched and delightfully written paper produced by the late Mrs. Betty Singleton when she lived in Olveston around 1970. Eric Garrett has added a section outlining the history of Woodhouse, Basil Harwood's family home, and photographs and illustrations. The book is edited and published by David and Jennifer Bone.

There have been other biographies of Basil Harwood, but this book will be particularly interesting to the local reader in the way that it deals with his life at Woodhouse, both in his childhood and in his later adult life when he returned from Oxford. The book gives a charming insight into the life of a land-owning family in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The event is open to the public as well as to OPHS members, doors open at 7.30pm. Admission is free.

There will be an exhibition of photographs, and we hope to play some of Basil Harwood's compositions.



# OLVESTON SCHOOL NEWS

OCTOBER 2007

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MR WIKE**

The children, parents and staff of Olveston School joined together to celebrate the life of our Head Teacher, Mr Wike. This was an opportunity for all to recall warm memories of his warmth and compassion as Head Teacher for twenty years. Children enjoyed singing songs, particularly, 'The Building Song' and Year 5, with the support of Mr Bonney had written an inspirational and touching song that was performed with great pride.

As a lasting tribute to Mr Wike, the school community felt that our new school hall should be officially named, 'The Wike Hall.' Mr Wike's son, David had the honor of revealing the plaque which will now be displayed in our wonderful hall.

The morning concluded with a 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' event in aid of The Macmillan Cancer Trust and we were proud to raise £500 for the charity.

## **Avon Wildlife Project**

Children, parents and staff at our school have been taking part in an exciting year-long project to enhance our school grounds for wildlife and the school community. Our project has featured in a published wildlife magazine where the work we have done has been celebrated for its excellence!

Back in January 2007, Naomi Silverton, one of the Avon Wildlife Trust officers, delivered a special assembly and challenged the children to investigate how wildlife could be encouraged into their school grounds. Since then, a beautiful butterfly garden has been created and has flourished over the summer holidays.

We have also made hedgehog and bird boxes to make homes for wildlife in Olveston. The autumn term brings exciting developments for the project. Year 1 children will be planting the bulbs that have been brought in for harvest. Year 4 children will be working with Naomi to create a marsh garden.

continued



## Yellow Pages Challenge!

The school is part of a 'Yellow Woods' recycling challenge to collect as many old Yellow Pages directories as possible. The school that collects the most directories per pupil, will receive a prize. The recycled Yellow Pages will be turned into notice boards across South Gloucestershire. If you have an old Yellow Pages that you would like to recycle, please bring to St. Mary's Church. Thank you for your support!

## OPTA's- AGM and Skittles Evening

The Association will also be holding a Skittles Evening, to coincide with its AGM. This will be at The White Hart, Olveston, on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

Another important date for your diary. The **2008 Great Olveston Wine Challenge** is being arranged for Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March. This has become a sell-out event, so make a note and remember to reserve a table early!

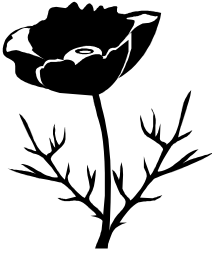


## Memorial Service

*Rev Philip Rowe*

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

For all who are mourning the loss of someone they loved, regardless of whether the bereavement was recent or long ago, a Memorial Service will be held at St. Mary's Olveston on Sunday 4th November at 6pm. At this Service there will be an opportunity to light a candle as well as having the name of your loved one/s remembered in the prayers. Please mention the name(s) you wish remembered to the sides man as you enter the church. Afterwards there will be a chance to meet and talk with others over light refreshments. Please do attend with as many of your family and friends as you wish.



# Royal British Legion

## Oveston Branch

*Arthur Robbins*

The Remembrance Sunday Service on November 11<sup>th</sup> will be at 10am at St Mary's Church.

The Parade will start at the Parish Hall, Tockington at 9.30am prompt to arrive at the Church at 9.50am

stopping at the bottom of Orchard Rise en route.

## THORNBURY LIBRARY

### Libraries make a noise day – Saturday 3 November

Have you visited your local library recently? On *Libraries Make a Noise Day* there will be a range of fun and exciting activities designed to encourage new and 'lapsed' members to pay us a visit and find out what we can offer. Events on the day include:



Live music provided by students from Marlwood School  
10.30am-11.00am

IT Taster sessions run by our colleagues from Age Concern  
10.00am -12.00noon

Jackie Ashman will be signing copies of her new book  
'*Echoes from the Front Line*' 10.00 am – 12.00 noon  
Children's activities including a visit from the *Bookstart*

*Bear* 3.00pm – 4.00pm


Usborne books – 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Refreshments

In addition on the day we will be offering a fines amnesty; free hire of DVDs, CDs and spoken word; free reservations

**Echoes From the Front Line**, is an exciting book, readable for all ages, and will be available to purchase throughout South Gloucestershire Libraries, museums and local heritage centres, and local bookshops priced £5.95. Or contact Jackie Ashman by 01454 317869 email [jackie\\_ashman@hotmail.com](mailto:jackie_ashman@hotmail.com)

**Computer classes** Age Concern are offering computer classes in the library for the over 50s. Sessions are held on a Tuesday on a one to one basis and there is a small charge. To book a session please call at the library.



# From Sheep to *Shyrdak* - Making felt in Kyrgyzstan -

Saffia Farr

Have you ever wondered how felt is made? According to legend it was discovered by a poor boy who stuffed holes in his shoes with wool. After days of walking and sweating it pressed into felt. A rich man stole the patent and lived happily ever after.

Kyrgyzstan is the home of felt-making. Before being collectivised by the Soviets, nomads roamed the steppes with herds of sheep using wool to make homes, clothes and furnishings. Today, desperate to continue the traditions of their grandmothers and escape poverty following the break up of the Soviet Union, enterprising women have set up groups to turn wool into dollars. While I was living in Kyrgyzstan one of these groups, *Altyn-Kol* meaning 'golden hand', organised a festival called 'From Sheep to *Shyrdak*'. Curious, I went along to find out how it was done.

To get there I turned right 120 kilometres east of the capital, Bishkek. We wound through a mountain pass overtaking huge lorries stacked with scrap metal headed for China. One had overturned. It lay on its side, a slain beast with innards of girders and manhole covers spilling from its belly. In the village the livestock market was crowding the streets, a jostling throng of women in headscarves, grandfathers with white goatees perched on donkeys and men in *ak-kalpaks*, conical felt hats, tendering brown sheep whose fat bottoms wobbled as the jeep squeezed past. They were the sheep, now where were the *shyrdaks*?

We eventually found the festival in a field by a river. Clustered around a *yurt*, the round felt tent of nomads, women in hot velvet dresses were bashing wool with vicious metal rods, teasing wool into fluffy mounds, twirling yarn from spindles and boiling roots and leaves in huge iron caldrons over fires - I hoped this was the dyeing demonstration rather than lunch. There was even a lady in traditional costume; a frilly white dress, long velvet coat and a huge hat which looked like a Christmas cake. She soon changed into a pink tracksuit to chop vegetables for the soup.

So, how do you make felt? The ladies of *Altyn-Kol* were desperate to demonstrate. First they laid a lot of wool on a reed mat, the thickness much deeper than I was expecting. Too little and your felt will have holes in, the ladies explained. Swift fingers deftly tugged orange and blue puffs into curves

of stylised sheep horns, a much-used symbol of prosperity. When the pattern was complete they rolled the mat while pouring boiling water onto the wool. The roll was bound into Hessian sacking with rope and hot water then dragged up and down by a small boy or horse, while us foreigners took turns in stamping on it and having our photos taken.

After an hour the mat was unfurled. We gasped – it was felt. The women knew there was more work to do. They rubbed the rug with soap – to meld it and brighten the colours – poured on more hot water, rolled it back up, got on their knees and rolled and pressed with forearms in the motion of Islamic prayer. Roll and press, roll and press, more hot water, roll and press. It took hours. When a smooth piece of felt was presented someone asked, “but what about the *shyrdaks*?”

“That’s another few day’s work,” the tired ladies replied.

*Shyrdaks* are carpets made with contrasting colours of felt overlaid with braid. We watched as curved patterns were cut from red and blue, interlocking perfectly in a mosaic of geometric patterns. They would be sewn together, using a brass thimble to protect finger tips, bordered, backed with more felt, and decorated with tiny quilting stitches. According to the brochure, half a square meter of *shyrdak* takes about eighty hours of work, but sells for a few dollars; a powerful illustration of how hard people have to work to earn a pittance.

From sheep to *shyrdak* is hard work. Felt making takes days, a completely unsuitable occupation for lazy foreigners. You have to be stuck in the mountains with no winter clothes or struggling to survive on post-USSR wages to have the patience to make felt. I’d tried for an hour and had blue hands and a sunburnt forehead as a result. But I’d also gone home with a felt ‘bag’ which I could proudly say I’d made, and that’s rare satisfaction in this modern commercial world.

Saffia Farr’s book about living in Central Asia, **Revolution Baby: Motherhood and Anarchy in Kyrgyzstan**, is being published this autumn. On the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> November there will be a Kyrgyz Festival in Bristol to celebrate its launch. If you are interested in attending, please contact Saffia on 07917 276 410. For more information see [www.saffiafarr.com](http://www.saffiafarr.com)



## Thornbury Orchestra

There will be a concert of classical music by the Thornbury Orchestra on Saturday 1st December in the Thornbury Methodist Church at 7,30pm. The programme will include the Overture to Fidelio by Beethoven and Schubert's 4th Symphony. Proceeds are for Methodist Homes for the Aged, a charity established 65 years ago to provide care homes,

housing and support services for older people throughout Britain. Tickets available at £5 can be obtained from members of the orchestra or by phoning 01454 260815.



St Mary's, Olveston

## St Mary's Olveston Harvest Festival

*Pauline Wright*

The church buzzed with activity during the Parish Harvest Festival Service and Lunch on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

A large gathering of parishioners of all ages joined in a traditional harvest service with added participation by the Olveston School choir and St Mary's handbell ringers.

Entertainment after the service was provided by Ernie Baker from Littleton. The children also enjoyed a treasure hunt in the churchyard, conkers and apple-bobbing.

There was a big variety of local produce on exchange at a novel swap shop and a fascinating churchyard tour was led by Arthur Robbins.

A traditional lunch of roast pork, fruit crumble and cider was enjoyed by all present.

Musical entertainment was supplied by David Shaw on piano and Sam Bain on drums.

Festival attenders departed happy and well-fed after a joyful harvest thanksgiving.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the occasion.



# Historic Churches Trust Cycle Ride

*Peggy Oakhill*

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 5 members of St John's Church, Elberton and Rev Dave Pole did a sponsored bicycle ride to raise money for Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust. The aim was to visit as many churches and chapels as possible. We managed twelve. We would like to thank all the people who sponsored us. Between us we raised £465.55. Half goes to our own church and half to the Historic Churches Trust. Besides raising money we had a great day.



## Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church

**Tockington** **Chapel:**  
**Remembrance and Sacrifice**

This month Tockington Chapel will be open on:

Friday 9 November from 9.30 - 1pm and from 3.30 - 6.30pm  
Saturday 10 November from 9.30 - 1pm.

Tea, coffee, and soft drinks will be available, and there will be a Fair Trade stall. This month's exhibition will be on the theme of Remembrance and Sacrifice, recalling the costs of war and violence both in the past and as they continue today. It will include a display by Olveston Parish Historical Society on what war has meant to this parish. If you have items you would like to share, please get in touch with Trevor Watkins (416528) or Jennifer Bone (614601).

Sunday 11 November at 6pm: evening meditation on the theme of Remembrance, Love and Sacrifice

(Advance notice: in December the Chapel will be open, with various events, from Saturday 8 December to Sunday 16 December, in celebration of Christmas. Look out for further details.)

# ALL SAINT'S AUTUMN FAYRE - SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER - EASTER COMPTON VILLAGE HALL -2.00 TILL 5.00

Don't miss this great event – an afternoon packed with fun and plenty to keep all the family amused!

The Fayre will start with a children's fancy dress competition to be judged by local boxing hero, Jane Couch. There will be a procession of vintage cars which will be on view during the afternoon.

Cream teas will be served to the relaxing sounds of a small orchestra – Palm Court style, whilst there will be various entertainments including a clog dance, a demonstration of 'strange' musical instruments and more..

Stalls will provide cakes, crafts and a bottle stall. There will be a raffle as well as naming the dog, guess the weight of the cake, etc.

Plenty of games to amuse all ages and a Quiz.

Please come and support your local community, and have a great afternoon.

Jane Leslie (enquiries to 01454 632255)



## Autumn Gift Fayre Thornbury Golf Course

Mary Slader

10 & 11 November 2007 from 11.00am - 4.30pm

At the Autumn Gift Fayre there will be the opportunity to peruse and purchase cards and gifts. Amongst the stall holders will be local artist Rachael Richardson with her glass work and Janet Clarke's hand made

wool felt accessories and wire work . The Fayre is supporting St Peters Hospice with a donation entrance fee. Ample free parking is available.



## OLVESTON COUNTRYSIDE GROUP

Malcolm Scott

Mike Woodcock will be giving a talk on The History of Trees in Great Britain using slides of trees within the Parish and the surrounding area to illustrate his presentation. All are welcome to attend the meeting in the Olveston Methodist Hall on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm.

# A Parish Plan - Action for the Future

*Andy Clark*

Would you like the chance to help shape the way your community should be in the future? Do you feel strongly about community issues like housing, transport, healthcare, leisure facilities, jobs, footpaths, shops and services, parish assets and heritage? Are we making the most of what we have got or could we do better? Perhaps you a 'bee in your bonnet' about a particular issue.

Well now is your chance to get involved. A steering group is about to be set up from local people who live within our Parish who would like to lead the community in setting up a Parish Plan. They will coordinate and set up focus groups to discuss specific issues. *Everyone* within the community will be encouraged to offer their opinions or ideas about our needs for the future.

This process will be supported by local government, first with advice and funding, and later by using your ultimate Parish Plan in the future. This way we hope to improve the quality of life in our parish and our environment.

Your Parish Council will not be running this campaign. Their role will simply be to initiate the formation of the steering group and to maintain a watching or advisory brief. They will also provide a link with the District Council and the parent body for the project: Community Action.

Anyone who feels inspired to volunteer to participate on the steering group should telephone Irene Reed on 613461 or Andy Clarke on 613804. There could be quite a lot of work involved but it could also offer rewards for us all.

# Almondsbury Bazaar

organised by St Mary's Church, Almondsbury will be in the Old School Hall, Lower Almondsbury on **Saturday 3rd November from 2.00 p.m to 4.30 p.m .**

Stalls include Bottles, Bathroom, Children's Activities, Cards & Paper, Christmas, Traidcraft and a Raffle. Entrance is free, and all is in aid of the following Charities – Children's Hospice South West, Crisis Centre Ministries, Church Mission Society and Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Do come along and support these worthwhile causes.

*Michael Kirby Churchwarden (412399)*



# Olveston School Shopping Evening

In Olveston School New Hall 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 - 9.30pm

*Jane Sunnucks*

Following the success of last year's shopping evening we are expanding the evening into the new school hall. Please join us for a glass of mulled wine with a cosy atmosphere to buy some early Christmas presents.

There will be approximately 20 tables full of local crafts, toiletries, candles, books, stocking fillers, cards and many other opportunities with a full gift wrapping service available.

Entrance is £2.00 and all proceeds will go to the new Olveston School Library.



## GIFT FAIR

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November a Gift fair will be held at Tockington Village Hall, between 10.00am and 3.00pm. There will be many stalls, ideal for Christmas shopping. Refreshments and raffle in support of St Peters Hospice and Olveston Pre School.

## From the Registers at St Mary's

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 15 <sup>th</sup> September | Marriage of David Daniell to Julie Cheaker  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> September | Funeral service of William Peachey followed by cremation at Westerleigh             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> October    | Funeral Service of Robert Probert-Parsons followed by burial at St John's, Elberton |



# Weather-September 2007

*Marcus Bean*

ITEM	DATE RECORDED	ACTUAL READINGS 2007	ACTUAL READINGS 2006	LONG TERM AVERAGE
Max Temp °C	8 <sup>th</sup>	26.5	29.4	27.3
Min Temp °C	18 <sup>th</sup>	4.6	8.9	7.1
Max Press. millibars	6 <sup>th</sup>	1033	1031	1029
Min Press. millibars	24 <sup>th</sup>	1005	1000	997
Max Wind speed mph	24 <sup>th</sup>	42	42	37
Days with Gales(39mph+)	24 <sup>th</sup>	1	2	nil
Max Day Rainfall mm	24 <sup>th</sup>	14.18	14.03	21.99
Rainfall in month mm	—	37.72	55.24	75.44

## Summary

The high pressure system which established itself at the end of August continued for sixteen days, channelling the low pressure systems with their fronts to the North of Scotland. In consequence we had a protracted period of dry warm sunny days and fairly warm nights. On the 17<sup>th</sup> a low pressure system moved in from the Atlantic bringing rain and wind for the next seven days. On the 24<sup>th</sup> the first major vigorous Atlantic storm of Autumn occurred bringing gale force winds and heavy rain. A weak high pressure system re-established itself on the 26<sup>th</sup> bringing colder Northerly winds and occasional showers. This system persisted to the month's end.

Rainfall for the month was about half the long term average and average temperatures were below norm but atmospheric pressure was significantly above average. We had two ground frosts.

Although this was a wet summer (April to September, inclusive), with 17.81 inches of rain against a long term average of 14.77 inches, it is worthy of note that the average barometric pressure for the same period was 1015.4 millibars against a very long term average of 1015.5 millibars. This underlines the consistency of long term weather patterns.

# Severnvale Smallholders' Association

## Programme of events 2007-8

*Chairman: Rex Davis*  
*Tel: 01454 415286*

*Secretary: Ian McCollam*  
*Tel: 01454 414827*

Meetings are held in the Stuart Room at the Chantry, Castle Street, Thornbury at 7.30pm.

### 2007

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November: **BATS** An illustrated talk by David Brown of the Avon Bat Group

### 2008

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January: **PROBLEMS OF KEEPING BEES AT A TIME OF DECLINING POPULATION**

Jeff Bee will explain

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February: **AVON PONDWAYS PROJECT**  
A talk by Lydia Robbins of Avon Wildlife Trust

If you are interested in any of the above come and join us in an informal, friendly atmosphere. Visitors will be charged £2.

## Haw Lane Closure

### Celebrate it with a Poem

It may not have escaped your notice but there is nothing to report on the above, at least that is the case as we go to press. One observer became quite excited as they saw 'men at work' at the barriers in Haw Lane thinking they might be being removed, but no, they were merely being made more solid and permanent than before!

Now some of us thought this could be a good opportunity for a jolly bit of satire in verse form. I'm sure there's a lot of talent out there to get some laughter out of the situation. We have a rather more serious poem by Andy Clark on the next page but what we would like to publish is some short, funny verses so please get writing. There will be a prize for the best one. Please get them to Meeting Point editor by 3<sup>rd</sup> December to be published in the January edition.  
*Ed.*

*The following is a poem called  
**Village** which Andy Clarke has  
entered in the Community Action  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Village Poetry  
Competition Ed*



When you think about a village  
As a special place to be;  
You'll see lovely old stone cottages  
Beside a gnarled oak tree.

See floral cottage gardens,  
Scent hanging evermore  
From hollyhocks and foxgloves  
And roses round the door.

Perhaps it's children playing  
Upon the village green,  
Or hunting in the hedgerows  
For conkers of their dreams.

Sometimes the smell of chutney  
Will permeate the air  
Ripe for the Harvest Festival  
Or stalls at Village Fair.

Conjure visions of a wedding  
With peeling bells on high,  
While pairs of clopping horses  
Are sedately plodding by.

Hear bat on ball in summer;  
Shouts of footballers in frost,  
Or tractors towing haycarts  
When autumn counts the cost.

As we linger in the evenings  
To watch the sunset's glories  
We can smell the land's aromas  
Through the hedges, fields and  
forests.

Night at last embraces;  
There's laughter at the Inn  
And the sound of youngster's music  
As the dancehall draws them in.

When winter's grip's upon us  
Carollers come to call,  
While there's mistletoe and holly  
Hanging festive in each hall.

What will the future bring there  
In twenty ninety-nine?  
Will villages diminish  
Or stand the test of time?

Will country folk adapt then:  
Learn to hold on to the best,  
While accepting how life changes and  
disregard the rest.

Bur now matter what the image  
Of a Village that you mount  
It's the feeling of community  
The people there that count.

Andy Clarke, September 2007

# Yours Faithfully

*Rev Ilesinga Vunipola*

After officiating so many harvest services, I appreciated how special a season as it is. At this time, I hope, we see God and what he does in the normal and routine parts of our lives a little more clearly than we normally do. The very atmosphere at this time of year seems to encourage us to pause and to identify just how blessed we are, just how much we are subjects of God's grace.

In fact it makes me aware of how we in this country get our food quite easily – shops and supermarkets. But many people around the world don't have that luxury – they must grow their own food and raise their own animals or face going hungry. For them, a good harvest is a reason for real celebration.

The recent the floods [summer 2007] damaged and destroyed crops, which is bad news for our farmers who are trying to make a living. Yet, they have been promised aid from government. But in poor countries, where people rely on the food they grow themselves and there is no support from their government, what effect would floods or droughts have on their lives? For example, in Zimbabwe, southern Africa, [among others] the situation is hard: prices for basic foods like bread and grain are high, people can't afford to buy them, people are losing their jobs and homes and many doctors and teachers who aren't being paid enough are leaving the country so that the schools and the hospitals have closed. As well as the political and economic situation, the climate is also causing food shortages. Zimbabwe has periods of drought and very little rainfall.

Despite these difficulties, people in Zimbabwe are working hard to try to feed themselves. But thankfully, Charity institution such as Christian Aid's partner, Christian Care, runs and supports projects that help poor families learn farming techniques that conserve scarce natural resources and help people to grow more food.

But in the hard times you see, we still have so much, we have life, no matter how slenderly we may hold to it, we have family and friends, no matter how scattered, we have community, no matter how it is organized, and we have the presence of God, and the promise of Jesus - the promise that when we seek first God's kingdom and God's righteousness, that all that we need will be added unto it. Thanks be to God!

## Church News: ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

<b>November 4<sup>th</sup></b> 4th Sunday before Advent	8am	Holy Communion	Rev. Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev. Philip Rowe
	10am	Breakfast Club	Team
	6pm	Memorial Service (Choir)	Rev. Philip Rowe
<b>November 11<sup>th</sup></b> Remembrance	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Parade Service (Choir)	Rev. Philip Rowe
	10am	Breakfast Club	Team
	6pm	Evensong	Mrs Janet McBride
<b>November 18<sup>th</sup></b> 2nd Sunday before Advent	8am	Holy Communion	Rev. Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion (Choir)	Bone/ Rowe
	10am	Breakfast Club	Team
	6pm	Evensong	Rev. David Bone
<b>November 25<sup>th</sup></b> Christ the King	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Exploratory Service	Mrs Janet McBride
	10am	Breakfast Club	Team
	6pm	Evensong (Choir)	Rev. Philip Rowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

### CONTACT PERSONS:

**The Rev Philip Rowe**, (01454 613223); email: [office@stmaryssevernside.org](mailto:office@stmaryssevernside.org)

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

**Mrs. June Robbins**, Verger 01454 617491

**Internet:** [www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html](http://www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html)

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

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

## CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

<b>Nov 11<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Holy Communion	Rev. Bone/Poarch
<b>Nov 25<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Matins	Rev. David Bone

Assistant Curate: Rev David Bone (01454 614601)

Church Wardens: Jo Jenkins (01454 632838) and Maria Livingstone (01454 632557)

## ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

<b>Nov 4<sup>th</sup></b>	9am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole
<b>Nov 18<sup>th</sup></b>	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield

Contact person: Rev. David Pole (01454 414810); [www.sthelensalveston.org](http://www.sthelensalveston.org)

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

<b>Nov 11<sup>th</sup></b>	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield
<b>Nov 25<sup>th</sup></b>	9am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole

Contact person: Rev. David Pole (01454 414810); [www.sthelensalveston.org](http://www.sthelensalveston.org)

## OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

<b>Nov 4<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Tockington Ch.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev'd Iesinga Vunipola. Junior Church in the Wesley Rooms
	6 pm	St.Andrews Ch. Filton	Evening Worship led by Mr.Alan Walton
<b>Nov 11<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	St.Mary's Ch	Remembrance Day Service.
	6pm	Tockington Ch.	Evening Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev'd Iesinga Vunipola
<b>Nov 18<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Tockington Ch.	Morning Worship led by Rev'd Iesinga Vunipola
	5 pm	Westbury Methodist Ch.	United Inter Circuit Service.
<b>Nov 25<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	Tockington Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr.Colin Blenkinsopp. Junior Church in the Wesley Rooms.
	6 pm	Olveston Ch.	Evening Worship led by Rev'd Tom Hall.

**LIGHT LUNCHESES:** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 12.15 – 1.30pm in the Tockington Wesley Rooms. To book your lunch please ring 416056.

**NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP:** This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November. To book your lunch please ring 01179696387.

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

**COFFEE MORNINGS :**Saturdays, 10.30am – 12 noon, in the Olveston Methodist Hall. Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> will be organised by the Royal British Legion Women's Section.

**DISCUSSION GROUP:** A Discussion Group covering topical subjects will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month. Meetings will commence with coffee 10.30am for 11.00am and this month will be on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**CONTACT PERSON: Rev'd Iesinga Vunipola. 01454 412269;  
Iesinga@hotmail.com**

## THE VINE, AWKLEY

We meet in a relaxed, informal manner for worship, prayer and conversational Bible studies, incorporating Communion of Sundays at 10.30am and Mondays and Wednesdays at 7.30pm. You are welcome to call in at anytime.

Mike Mathews, 35 Salthouse Farm Park, Severn Beach, Bristol BS35 4NH

**CONTACTS:** Mike and Barbara Matthews, The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley;  
tel: 07840 793772 or email: **thevine\_awkley@hotmail.com**

## **THE OASIS CHURCH, OLDOWN**

<b>Nov 4<sup>th</sup></b>	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies
<b>Nov 11<sup>th</sup></b>	6.30pm	"Victory Outreach"
<b>Nov 18<sup>th</sup></b>	6.30pm	Dolfus de Chickera
<b>Nov 25<sup>th</sup></b>	6.30pm	Paul Ashford

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

**AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH** offers a warm welcome to Family Worship at 11.00am and to Evening Worship at 6.30pm. For more details, please phone 613134 or 632564. 'Happy are the people whose God is the Lord'.

**BRISTOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP IN OLVESTON** - well not so much in Olveston these days as we concentrate on serving the community primarily in other areas of Bristol and Thornbury. As followers of Christ our heart is to be where the Lord wants us to be most effective and currently we are establishing our presence in North and East Bristol as well as continuing to work with the other local churches in Thornbury and in the heart of Bristol amongst the most needy. Our Sunday morning meetings are held at The Grange School in Warmley at 11 am, but the life of the church continues in a variety of forms, locations and styles throughout the week. Please contact the Fellowship Office in Almondsbury on 01454613305 for more information or on the internet at [www.bcfnet.com](http://www.bcfnet.com)

**RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING**, Thornbury - each Sunday  
8.30am - Mass    11.00am - Family Mass    6.30pm – Mass

**SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)**, Thornbury - Meeting for Worship  
Sundays 10.30am The Chantry, Castle Street. For further details please contact Elizabeth Sidwell on 01454 412975



# Diary Dates for November 2007

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Thu	Police Beat Surgery at Olveston Stores Coffee Shop Olveston Baby and Toddlers	10.30am-12noon 2.30-4.30pm	MH
2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri			
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	Almondsbury Bazaar Old School Hall p 31 Gift Fair p 33	2- 4.30pm 10 – 3pm	PH
4 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club- Clevedon Med. 0117 9620553 Memorial Service p 17	9am 6.00pm	St M
5 <sup>th</sup> Mon			
6 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers The RBLWS Olveston Bingo eve p 11Tel: 632135	10-11.30am 7.30pm	WR DGCL
7 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Olveston Parish Historical Society - Basil Harwood Event and Book Launch. Visitors Welcome. P 15	7.30pm	St M
8 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	Thornbury Rambling Club- Leisurely 01453 511931 Olveston Baby and Toddler Thorn.+ Dist. Flower Club – 'Trends' Delyth Price	10am 2.30-4.30pm 7.30pm	MH TMH
9 <sup>th</sup> Fri	Tockington Methodist Church open p 27	9.30-1pm	
10 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Olveston Pre-School Nearly New Sale p 7 Tel: 613642 St Peter's Hospice Bazaar p 5 Easter Compton Village Fayre p 29 Tockington Methodist Church open p 29 Autumn Gift Fayre Thornbury Golf Course	10-12noon 10-12noon 2 -5pm 3.30-6.30pm 11-4.20pm	PH AH
11 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club- Medium Tel: 413459 RBL Parade Remembrance Sunday p 19 Autumn Gift Fayre Thornbury Golf Course	9am 9.30am 11-4.30pm	PH
12 <sup>th</sup> Mon			
13 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers Olveston and Tockington WI – AGM – ' Story of Spices Around the World' - Mr Joiner	10-11.30am 7.30pm	WR PH
14 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Thornbury Orchestra Rehearsal Olveston School Shopping Evening p 33	7.45-9.45pm 7.30-9.30pm	URC
15 <sup>th</sup> Thur	Olveston Baby and Toddlers	2.30-4.30pm	MH
16 <sup>th</sup> Fri	Olveston Countryside Group p29	7.30pm	MH
17 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Cyser – Music in the Church at Aust – Tel: 632306	8pm	
18 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club – Minchinhampton 880097	9am	
19 <sup>th</sup> Mon			
20 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers	10-11.30am	WR
21 <sup>st</sup> Wed	Bosom Buddies – Jennie Morris Tel: 01454 884177 Severn Vale Flower Club – Charity Coffee Morning	Ring for venue Heneage Crt, Falfield	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Thu	Thornbury Rambling Club- TALK Olveston Baby and Toddlers Thorn.+ Dist. Flower Club – Practice 'Off the Wall'	8pm 2.30-4.30pm 7.30pm	TMH MH TMH

23 <sup>rd</sup> Fri			
24 <sup>th</sup> Sat	RBLWS Coffee Morning	10-12noon	MH
25 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club- Wickwar Medium 294879 Car Boot Sale Marlwood School – Tel: 202492 OPTA Skittles and AGM White Hart p 17	9am Set up from 9.30am 7.00pm	
26 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club – Practice	1.30pm	AH
27 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers Fibromyalgia Supp. Gp- Card-making Tel:418882 Olveston Parish Council	10-11.30am 7-9pm 7pm	WR AMH AP
28 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Severn Valley Quilters – Fat Father Christmas and American Supper Tel: 615749 Thornbury Orchestra Rehearsal	7.30pm 7.45-9.45pm	CH URC
29 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Olveston Baby and Toddlers	2.30-4.30pm	MH
<b>Looking Ahead To December</b>			
1st Sat	Thornbury Orchestra Concert	7.30pm	TMH
15 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Olveston Pre School Christmas Panto	4.30pm	PH

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

**MEETING POINT** is pleased to provide contact details for any clubs or organisations in the Parishes. Please contact our Advertising Manager whose details can be found on page 1.

**Advertisements** are accepted on the understanding that the description of goods or services is correct and true. Every effort is made to see that the information is correct and reliable. Neither Meeting Point, its editor, nor management committee accept any responsibility or give any guarantee in case of any dispute or claim as to quality, condition or delivery of commodities or services. It is not to be taken that publication implies recommendation of any advertisement. It is always advisable to check prices when ordering goods or services. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the editor or Meeting Point magazine

**Copyright Meeting Point 2007.** Copyright remains with the author(s) and Meeting Point. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form without the prior permission of the copyright owners.

Meeting Point is printed by E.G. Brown (Bristol) Ltd.