

Meeting Point

Volume 32, Number 1, October 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@mail.com

ADVERTISING:

Nigel Dawes

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

Publication date

1st of each month

**Material for November to
Editor or Deputy Editor by 8th
October**

From the Editor

The problem with the editor's email address, that developed just as September's Meeting Point was going to print, proved to be a permanent one. Orange webmail seems to have deleted all fnet accounts without warning. The Assistant editor's gmail address is working well so now the editor too has a googlemail address. I have again included my personal address this month to make sure lines of communication stay open.

What a delight the end of August and September has been with so much warm sunshine and no rain. The downside is that the rainwater butts are nearly empty and the gardens are very dry. If you haven't already seen it, the Al Gore film on global warming 'An Inconvenient Truth' is being screened on October 9th at Olveston School (see p 7). It is a chance to hear about, and discuss, some very important issues.

We have a very warm tribute to Peter Wike on p15. He has left a thriving school as a legacy and there is an excellent website: olvestonschool.com

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

Village Person: Muriel Shurmer

Muriel's story has a distinctively international flavour. Born to Lebanese parents in Egypt, she and her brothers learnt Arabic, French and English at school. Holidays were spent with their uncle and cousins in the mountains of Lebanon, which was then a peaceful and beautiful country, known as the Switzerland of the Middle East, being affluent and fashionable as it was on a major trade route.

When the Suez crisis occurred in 1956, the family had to decide whether to move to Lebanon or England. Muriel's father chose England, made possible by having a relative living here married to an Englishman. In those days you had to have someone to vouch for you if you wished to become an immigrant. He was a master tailor and soon got a job in Oxford and sent for the family a year later. They travelled by sea and rail to a new life in England when Muriel was ten.

They lived in Reading, and then moved to Oxford. Muriel said the weather took a bit of getting used to; she missed swimming in warm sea and having only ever drunk ice cold drinks, had to learn to like hot tea! However they all settled in quickly, thanks to speaking English, and it was lovely to grow up in such a beautiful city with superb countryside on the doorstep.

After school Muriel went to Oxford Polytechnic (now Oxford Brookes University) to do a two-year secretarial course, a qualification that her father said would never leave her without a job, which, as things turned out, was true but also very necessary. It was here that she met her husband Peter, who was studying engineering. When he finished, because of a passion for aircraft, he applied to BAC to work on Concorde. He lodged in Olveston with Mr and Mrs Ward at Glenmona, (the house next to the church), and liked the village so much that when they got married a year later, they decided to buy the newly built house on The Green where Muriel lives today.

Meanwhile Muriel had been working for the Pergamon Press in Oxford and they used to see Robert Maxwell coming and going by helicopter and thought how dynamic and successful he was, little knowing the truth. On moving to Olveston, Muriel had sent her CV to BAC, and was actually interviewed, sitting on packing boxes, in their new house! She was offered the job there and then of PA to a senior manager in charge of testing Concorde 002. She did this for five years, often working on the Dakota shuttling between Bristol and Fairford.

At this time Peter and Muriel indulged their love of travel and covered most of Europe and as far as the Atlas mountains in North Africa. Their daughter Isobel (Issi) was born in 1974 and Muriel stopped working, her only regret being that she was unable to fly in Concorde due to being pregnant. Peter got a scholarship to do an MSc at Cranfield and they moved to a pretty thatched cottage there for a happy two years, and made good friends that Muriel still sees today. Their second daughter Anita was born in 1977 and then it was back to Bristol, where Peter worked for Westland Helicopters in Weston-super-Mare, before starting up their own business. Then tragedy struck when Peter developed a rare form of cancer and died in 1988. This was of course devastating, the girls were fourteen and eleven and Muriel had to become father, mother and breadwinner.

She returned to work full time, and has done so ever since, working for different firms at Aztec West, and supporting Issi and Anita through four-year degree courses. As her father prophesied, she has always found another job quickly whenever the firm she was currently working for closed its office in Aztec West. Today she works for a small family firm which she joined when it started and it doesn't feel like going to work because there is such a happy atmosphere.

Issi met her Omani husband Ali when they were both studying at Southampton University and they live in Oman with their three children. They have just been staying with Muriel for a month, honouring a promise from Ali to Muriel that he would bring Issi back every year. Muriel goes out to Oman each winter, and as she speaks Arabic, albeit with a different dialect, she can converse with Ali's family and Issi has now added fluent Arabic to her other foreign languages. Anita went to Birmingham University and travelled extensively in vacations, including working in an orphanage in the Caribbean. She has since done a graduate training course and is working for a private bank in London, a job that involves much travel, just as you would expect from a member of this family!

In what little leisure time Muriel has, she likes to travel twice a year. She plays badminton once a week and has done several charity walks for Macmillan Cancer Care, for obvious reasons. She loves living in such a delightful, caring village as Olveston, and when she finally retires hopes to participate more in its activities. She also hopes to travel to Lebanon one day to visit her cousins, and to lay flowers on the grave of her uncle, who was shot on the green line in Beirut many years ago. Anita has managed to visit and Muriel has seen photos that show that the house and garden where she spent many happy childhood holidays is still the same but, at present, the Foreign Office dissuade people from travelling to the area.

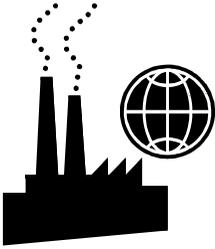
Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church

Tockington Chapel: Hymns, Tunes and Harwood.

Tockington Chapel will be open on Friday 12 October from 9.30am - 1pm and from 3.30 - 6.30pm, and on Saturday morning 13 October from 10am - 1pm. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be available, and there will be a Fair Trade stall. There will also be a small exhibition concerning favourite hymns and tunes, especially those written by Basil Harwood, the eminent composer who lived at Woodhouse Manor and named several of his tunes after places in the parish (Olveston, Tockington, Lower Hazel, Ingst etc.). A book on Harwood is to be launched by Olveston Parish Historical Society in St Mary's on Wednesday 7 November. For a taster, come and find out why he chose these titles and how they sound, and hear recordings of some of his other music. Also check out how our favourite Methodist hymns have changed over the past 30 years, and what's popular now. On Sunday evening, 14 October, the theme of the service in the Chapel at 6pm will be 'Hymns in worship and how they help us'.

An Inconvenient Truth

A GLOBAL WARNING



This riveting Oscar-winning documentary film charts former presidential candidate Al Gore's efforts to raise public awareness of climate change and global warming.

Based on over 1000 lectures on the environment, which Gore has given around the world since 2000, the film showcases the man's wit, humour and intellect.

Gore pleads that we can no longer afford to view global warming as a political issue – rather, he argues that it is the biggest moral challenge facing our civilisation if humanity is to survive.

To be shown in Olveston School Hall on **Tuesday, October 9th at 7.30pm** followed by a forum and refreshments. A small donation will be welcomed to cover costs

ALL WELCOME



Olveston Pre-School

Open Morning

Olveston Pre-School is having an open morning for all prospective parents and their children, and anyone else curious about what we do, to come and join us during the morning.

This will be held at 9.45 – 11.30am on Wednesday 17th October in Olveston Parish Hall. Teas, coffee and cakes will be available. We're looking forward to seeing you there.

For further details, please contact Helen Moorefield on 07786395414 or Clare Evans, 619850

Don't forget **Auction of Promises** on 6th October in Olveston Parish Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from Natasha Harrod on Tel: 613642 or natashaharrod@hotmail.com

Another date for the diary is the ever popular Olveston Pre-School **Nearly New Sale** on **Saturday 10th November from 10am – 12noon** in the **Parish Hall**.

Further details from Natasha as above.



St Peter's Hospice

Coffee Morning

Kath Burgess

This will take place on Wednesday 3rd October at Alveston Methodist Hall between 10.00am and 12 noon. Stalls and refreshments.

All Change at the Parish Council

Andy Clarke, Parish Councillor

The first item of the recent meeting of the Parish Council was to welcome a new councillor, Allen Cogram, to its ranks. However the second item was to accept reluctantly the resignation of two existing councillors who will be difficult to replace. Arthur Webb, the sage of Old Down, has sadly had to give up due to ill health, whilst Roger Hindle cites pressures of work and other commitments as reasons for his withdrawal from the Council. The process for replacing these two councillors is well in hand.

While some may think that Council meetings are dreary and uninteresting, there was never a dull moment with the aforementioned gentlemen. Roger's corny wisecracks raised many a chuckle (as well as a groan) while Arthur's dry humour, often delivered deadpan, required careful listening.

Records are a little shaky but Arthur must have been a councillor for the Parish of Olveston for in excess of 25 years. He has served on all the sub-committees and has chaired the Recreation and Leisure Group for a number of years. Over a lifetime of living in the area Arthur has built up an enormous wealth of local knowledge about people, places and events that is second to none. Whenever information is uncertain Arthur can always be relied upon to come up with facts or personal anecdotes to help fill the gaps. He has certainly been the longest serving councillor of recent times and will be mightily missed. He is a forthright individual, and as a councillor he has been unafraid to confront issues and fight for what he thought was right. His long service to the public must be commended.

Roger too has served as a chair of Recreation and Leisure Group during a period of six years on the Council. He will be remembered as a cheerful and friendly man whom we all wish well for the future.

The future council will certainly be shorter on experience but perhaps be re-energised and refreshed by the new members for what is to come.

Severn Safer Stronger Partnership - Severn Villages Working Together covering Olveston, Aust, Oldbury on Severn, Hill and Rockhampton Parishes

Matthew Riddle

This is a newly formed local partnership which will look at common issues such as crime, but also the many things that will help to make our communities stronger. Some good examples in our area might be traffic speeding, rural isolation, transport and fire prevention. It is hoped that all the parish councils in the area will be represented plus the local police, the fire service and many of the voluntary groups.

The first meeting took place at Thornbury Police Station at the end of August. Cllr Matthew Riddle was elected Chairman and Cllr Mike Hawkins, Vice Chairman. Many different topics were discussed and it was agreed that the first action would be to obtain a hand-held speed gun and for the local police to train up resident 'speed watch' groups in areas where there is concern about speeding. The next public meeting is planned for Wednesday 17th October, 7.30pm at Elberton Village Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Haw Lane Closure

After much legal opinion and contact with the adjacent landowner's solicitor, South Gloucestershire Council has now confirmed that it is responsible for the dangerous wall and its repair.

In early September, in the same week that this legal advice was released, I organised a meeting with South Gloucestershire Council engineers and Olveston Parish Council at Old Down. The purpose of the meeting was firstly to express the concern of local residents at the closure and the increased traffic that was now being carried down Old Down Hill and Vicarage Lane, and secondly to press Council officers into resolving the situation. One short term option was to prop the wall and allow single file traffic, one way up Haw Lane. However, officers did bring plans to show that this would not allow enough room for even single file traffic.

Council engineers are now working on surveys, geological investigation, risk assessment and the structural design of wall. They are going to provide a written report to the Parish Council meeting at the end of September and another meeting with Council engineers, the Parish Council and myself has been organised for the middle of October, to review progress. Meanwhile I am raising a petition to show the level of public feeling about the closure of the lane and this is available to sign in the Post Office area of Olveston Stores.

Matthew Riddle, South Gloucestershire Councillor, Severn Ward
Tel. 07877413298 or 413263



Olveston & District Royal British Legion Women's' Section

60th Anniversary Celebrations

Peggy Oakhill

We are looking forward to the 13th and 14th October with great anticipation and thankfulness.

On Saturday 13th we will be having a Celebration lunch at the Olveston House Hotel, when our County Chairman and Secretary will be joining us. On Sunday 14th at Mary's Church at 6pm we will be holding a service of thanksgiving at which hopefully the Choir will be singing an anthem and Rev Helen Webb will officiate.

We would like to invite everyone to come to this service and join us in our celebrations.

We look forward to seeing you there.

TMTG Presents *'BRIGADOON'*

The Thornbury Musical Theatre Group will be performing '*Brigadoon*' at the Armstrong Hall in Thornbury from 31 October to 3 November, including a matinee on the Saturday. This fantasy musical with its haunting songs and lively choreography will surely be a crowd puller, so don't miss out. Make a note of the dates in your diary now.

Brigadoon is a Scottish fantasy about two Americans, Tommy Albright and Jeff Douglas, who stumble on the enchanted village of Brigadoon while hunting grouse on the Scottish moors. In Brigadoon, Tommy falls in love with Fiona. The men soon discover that a miracle occurs every night in that when the village goes to sleep it vanishes in the mists for 100 years.

Tommy, burdened with Brigadoon's secret and his love for Fiona, has to face the choice of remaining in Brigadoon or returning to New York to be with his fiancée. So sets the scene for this endearing love story.

Tickets cost £8.50 with concessions available. For **ticket enquiries**, please call **01454 415850**.

For more information about '**Brigadoon**' and our group generally, take a look at our website www.tmtg.org.uk or contact us by e-mail at tmtg@f2s.com. Otherwise, speak to John on 01454 885226.



A Tribute to Peter Wike

Maria Vizard

"Mr Wike guided our team at Olveston School for twenty years and under his effective leadership, the community and ethos of the school has grown. His sad death has left us all to reflect on the gifts he has given to us over the years, and we draw comfort from many positive memories. Mr Wike was a fair, generous man with a strong set of values.

These qualities were demonstrated in his relationships with staff, pupils and parents. He was a man of warmth, humour and compassion. His drive, energy and commitment to the school have been an absolute inspiration to us all.

His paramount concern was the children and how we, as a team, could nurture their growth and help them to achieve. He strove to keep education fun for all and firmly believed in each child as an individual. We are all thankful to have known him and have learnt so much from him. He had further visions for his school that, sadly, he will not see come into fruition. However, he has laid firm foundations for us to build on as we continue on the school's journey. His legacy and belief system will live on at Olveston School as we, as staff, lead the school into the future.

Our prayers and thoughts go to Mr Wike's wife and son and all members of his family."

Jubilee Sailing Trust Update

Peggy James Tel: 613129

Our Garden Party was a great success, despite the weather although the rain did hold off all afternoon!

We raised £836 due to a benefactor who donated extra....We all had an enjoyable day. The Jazz Trio played some lovely old tunes- music to tap along to. Thank you to everyone!

Also at the Table Top Sale recently we raised a further £85 to go towards supporting our two amazing Tall Ships. Do call if you want to go " Voyaging "!!

Pampered Chef Demonstration in aid of WARMTH

Fleur Tweehuysen

This will take place on Friday, 12th October 2007 from 2pm until 5pm at Redhill Farm House, Elberton. There will also be a Raffle and Second Hand Books, Cakes & Savouries (with a South African theme) for sale.

WARMTH stands for War Against Malnutrition, Tuberculosis & Hunger. The charity fits out old ship containers with kitchens and helps local women to run a business producing low cost nutritious meals for local people in very poor areas of Cape Town, South Africa. A lot of the container kitchens are located near schools and clinics in order for children, the elderly and infirm to get at least one hot nutritious meal a day.

Pampered Chef is a catalogue company which specialises in very useful but unusual kitchen equipment. They have some great gift ideas for Christmas and all the commission made on sales will go to WARMTH.

Turn up on the day and bring a friend, for more information call Fleur Tweehuysen on 01454 416 773 or 0788 418 6121.



Good News

You are cordially invited to join us on the fourth Tuesday of the month in Tockington Chapel.. We meet at 10.30 am for coffee, followed by songs or hymns of your choice and then a wide ranging discussion of life's problems and uncertainties, and how the Bible can guide and point us in the right direction.

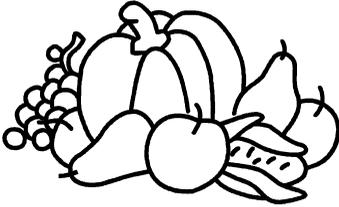
Thank You

Val Brazell and family wish to express huge thanks for the support received from friends in the village during Graham's illness and since his death. Thank you for all the many cards and letters of condolence.

We would like to especially mention the Reverend. Philip Rowe, Mrs June Robbins and Val's friends at Olveston School for their continuing care and love.

Harvest Festival

Roly Bain



The St Mary's Harvest Festival and Harvest Supper have been much enjoyed and valued by both the church and the community for many years. But recognising that a number of those who have been so pivotal to its success are no longer with us, we are going to try to continue the tradition but do it differently. The same elements of Festival, Food and Fun remain but we want to

try to bundle it all together - a good Harvest analogy! - by having a whole morning's Harvest Celebration. It begins with the traditional Harvest Festival, continues with entertainments, and finishes with a lunch - all in church. Our theme is Local Harvest for Local people using Local Produce. Entertainments include a magician, playing conkers and apple-bobbing, a treasure hunt, and Arthur's graveyard tour. Lunch is local pork in a bap, hog roast style, with homemade apple sauce, and a barrel of cider. We hope people will bring locally grown produce both to eat and to barter. It all takes place on October 7th, beginning at 10am. Tickets for the entertainments and lunch are only £2 for adults, £1 for children and are available from June Robbins, Olveston Stores or Sian Slade on 419162.



Olveston Baby & Toddler Group raise funds for Barnardo's

Fleur Tweehuysen

On 21st July 2007 in pouring rain 8 youngsters from Olveston Baby & Toddler Group did a Half- Mile Sponsored Barnardo's Big Toddle around Olveston

Playing Fields. They then all walked to the Olveston Methodist Hall where they enjoyed an indoor picnic; the youngsters all received a certificate and medal on completion of their Big Toddle. They raised a grand total of £130.00 to beat last year's total.

The Barnardo's Big Toddle 2007 is raising money to help the 1 in 4 children in the UK who are living in poverty. Barnardo's website is www.barnardos.org.uk.

Olveston Baby & Toddler Group meet every Thursday afternoon, including during holidays, from 2.30pm to 4.30pm in Olveston Methodist Hall. All parents, carers with babies & toddlers are welcome, for more information contact Fleur on 01454 416 773 or 0788 418 6121.



Legal Article A Flexible Approach to Work

The challenges of being a parent, adopter, guardian or foster parent can often give rise to a request for flexible working arrangements. However, there are many misconceptions about the Employment Rights Act. Bill Owen, Senior Partner of Kirby Simcox Solicitors, takes a look at the facts.

The Employment Rights Act 1996 states that “carers” (parents, adopters, guardians and foster parents) who have children under six years old, have the right to request flexible working. The change in the law has been in force since 6 April 2003, but it is still very much under-used and also misunderstood.

The actual statutory right requires an employee to **request** flexible working in a written application, indicating if he or she wants to work either reduced hours, differently organised hours, or at a different place of work (including home working). They may also request other changes, but must explain what effect these may have on their employer’s business.

When an employer is faced with a request for flexible working, their statutory duty is to give it proper consideration and to follow carefully a set procedure. The employer must hold a meeting with the employee to discuss the request and this must take place within 28 days of when the application was received. A decision on the proposal must be made within 14 days of that meeting and has to be issued in writing. Where the employer is refusing the request, then they have to do so with a written explanation of the grounds for refusal.

It is often thought that if an employer refuses to agree flexible working, then the employee has the right to bring Employment Tribunal proceedings to challenge the decision. Sadly, this overstates the position. An employer is permitted to refuse flexible working on any of no less than eight grounds:

- Burden of additional costs.
- Detrimental effect on ability to meet customer demand.
- Inability to reorganise work among existing staff.
- Inability to recruit additional staff.
- Detrimental impact on quality.
- Detrimental impact on performance
- Insufficiency of work during times the employee wants to work.
- Planned structural changes.

An employee can challenge a refusal to allow flexible working. However, a Tribunal can only make a finding in the staff member's favour if either the employer has failed to comply with the statutory procedure or has rejected the application "on incorrect facts".

However, women seeking flexible working should not despair as it has been the law for over thirty years that an employer must treat women equally to men. If they wish to work part-time and can show that a male colleague is or has worked part-time, then they could consider bringing a claim for indirect discrimination under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

The advantage of bringing a claim under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 is that the Tribunal has much greater powers to award compensation and also to make binding recommendations on the employer.

Like matrimony, neither an application for flexible working, nor a claim for sex discrimination should be embarked upon without great thought and good advice from an employment lawyer.

Don't Forget the 'Walk in 'Flu Clinic

On October 13th 9-12am for patients registered with Almondsbury Surgery

The session will be held in Almondsbury Old School Hall and no appointment is necessary.

The following people are entitled to free vaccination:

Registered patients 65 or over

Registered patients under 65 who have chronic disease including:

1. Coronary Heart Disease
2. Diabetes
3. Asthma requiring repeated inhaled or systemic steroids or previous exacerbations requiring hospital admission
4. Chronic Renal Disease
5. Chronic Liver Disease
6. Chronic Respiratory Disease
7. Immunosuppression
8. Stroke or TIA

If you are unsure if you fall into the 'at risk' category please call the surgery for advice. Please wear something that allows a sleeve to be rolled up without being removed as there will not be the facility to undress.

Following your immunisation you will be asked to remain on the premises for 10 minutes to ensure that you have no adverse reaction

Refreshments available to buy, courtesy of Almondsbury WI

Once again Avon fire and rescue will be in attendance offering advice on home safety, free home visits and free smoke detectors



Free Drink at the White Hart, Olveston

On Sunday 14 October 6-10 pm

Mary Slader and Vicky Carne

Whilst enjoying a free glass of wine, take the opportunity to do some gift shopping from Virgin Vie, Yankee Keepsakes, Phoenix Cards and Vanilla Gift. Raffle & Complimentary Hand Massages.

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in May's draw, held on 17th May 2007 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	289	Mr. & Mrs. R.J. Davies, Old Down
£75	201	Mr. & Mrs. R.J. Jackson, Olveston
£25	274	Mr. & Mrs. J.E. Croome, Exmouth
£20	222	Mr. & Mrs. T.G. Watkeys, Old Down
£20	264	Mr. & Mrs. I.A. Hughes, Olveston
£15	386	Mrs. M. Baker, Olveston
£10	439	Mrs. D.M. Gingell, Awkley

The prize winners in June's draw, held on 9th July 2007 were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	442	Mrs. J.M. Skinner, Olveston
£75	263	C.L. Dance, Olveston
£25	340	Mr. D. Peachey, Rudgeyway
£20	222	Mr. T.G. Watkeys, Old Down
£20	496	Mrs. J. Williams, Greenditch Street
£15	372	Dr. M. Wright, Old Down
£10	157	Mr. B. Brown, Olveston

The prize winners July's draw, held on 16th July 2007 were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	356	Mr. D.J. Smart, Olveston
£75	336	Mrs. J.W. Harper, Olveston
£25	299	Mrs. J. Dickens, Olveston
£20	358	Mrs. S. Toft, Olveston
£20	276	Mrs. L. Evans, Alveston
£15	268	P.E. Garrett, Olveston
£10	175	Mrs. H. Tovey, Olveston



St Mary's, Olveston

Return of The Big Breakfast

Join your friends for a Full English Breakfast with all the trimmings

Saturday November 24th at The Bower House, Old Down Hill. Tel. 01454616312

Sittings at 9.00, 10.00 and 11.00am. Price £5.00



St Mary's Church Walking Group

Dan Evans, Tel: 625313

Walking Group plan for October to December:

Oct 9th: We meet by the compost heap at the back of Thornbury Leisure Centre car park. We walk through Thornbury and follow the Streamside Way, and then we'll

do a brief study of the medieval fishponds. The Group will return to T.L.C. by lunch time as usual.

Nov 6th: We meet again, as above, at T.L.C. The walk is to Itchington and return.

Dec 4th: We meet at the large car park opposite the Anchor at Oldbury on Severn. We cross the airfield and walk as far as Sheppardine and return along the river bank.

Please note: all walks start at 10.00 a.m. From November onwards, walks will take place on the first Tuesday each month. There is usually a light lunch for friends later.



Weather- August 2007

Marcus Bean

ITEM	DATE RECORDED	ACTUAL READINGS 2007	ACTUAL READINGS 2006	LONG TERM AVERAGE
Max Temp °C	6 th	29.3	28.3	29.5
Min Temp °C	8 th	9.0	8.8	9.2
Max Press. millibars	26 th	1031	1025	1029
Min Press. millibars	15 th	992	999	1003
Max Wind speed mph	15 th	35	33	32
Days with Gales(39mph+)	—	Nil	nil	nil
Max Day Rainfall mm	14 th	10.50	22.81	22.11
Rainfall in month mm	—	41.32	55.34	68.33

Summary

Following the deluge of July the first thirteen days of August were dry, apart from two showers, with more reasonable levels of sunshine. A low pressure system moved in on the fourteenth bringing about half an inch of rain. This spell of unsettled wet weather continued until the nineteenth when, at last, the Azores high pressure system began to exert itself and formed a ridge of high pressure over Southern England causing the low pressure systems to track to the North of Scotland. The south west of the British Isles experienced northerly winds and cloud interspersed with reasonable spells of sunshine. This weather pattern brought good conditions over the Bank Holiday through to the end of the month.

Rainfall for the month was about one inch below average and average temperature and pressure were also marginally below norm.

Note: Mr Bailly, who lives near Dursley, quoted the rainfall he had experienced from January to end of July as being 35.31 inches. By comparison we had 25.4 inches in Olveston, which was still a staggering 7.87 inches above average.



Oveston Allotment & Gardeners' Association

Samantha Crabb, Secretary

Oveston Allotment & Gardener's Association will be holding their AGM and Social Evening on Friday 19th October at the Parish Hall. Tockington. Doors will open at 7:00 pm with the AGM commencing at 7:30pm followed by the Social Evening which will start at 8:15pm and include a talk by Eric Garrett on the history of the allotments. Nibbles and drinks will be available. All are invited to come along and join us in celebrating 40 years of the Allotment Association.

Autumn Concert at The Oasis Church, Old Down on Saturday 20th October at 7.30pm

The concert is in aid of the Leprosy Mission, and will feature Olwen Wonnacott and Carole Corpe. No ticket is required – voluntary collection will be taken. All are welcome

ALL SAINT'S CHURCH - COMPTON GREENFIELD

Annual Autumn Fayre on Saturday 10th November, 2.00-5.00pm at Easter Compton Village Hall

Jane Leslie

Our Autumn Fayre is the major fundraising event for the upkeep and maintenance of our beautiful 12th century church.

This year it will be an especially exciting occasion for all the family with attractions including 'Palm Court' style cream teas, a fancy dress competition, entertainment, including a clog dance demonstration and a procession of vintage cars. There will be a quiz, a wide variety of stalls, a raffle, gripping games for everyone and more... Please come and join us, and support your neighbours at this enjoyable festivity.



Thornbury Library

Bob Filer

Thornbury Library Committee AGM

This will be held in the library on Wednesday 10 October at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend at the beginning of the meeting to raise any matters of interest or concern. Entry will be via the back door.

Win a portable DVD player in our new monthly DVD quiz

Along with other libraries in South Gloucestershire we are hoping to introduce a new monthly DVD quiz in October. Prizes will include a portable DVD player, cinema tickets and a copy of the DVD the quiz relates to. All prizes are kindly donated by *Library Multimedia* our library audiovisual supplier. Quiz question sheets will be available only from the library at the beginning of October and the closing date will be 31 October. The first quiz will be based on *Spider-Man 3* which is released on 15 October.

Remember we have many more current DVDs in stock which can be borrowed for a full week with charges ranging from £1.10 to £2.20 depending on the category. DVDs and most library materials can also be reserved either by enquiring at the library or from our website (please note you will need your borrower and *PIN* number).

www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries

Children's half term activity

Please look out for details in the library.

i-POINT

This careers advice service has just been set up on our library computers. It gives you quick, easy **and free** access to the best resources. to help you:

- Write a CV
- Find a course
- Look at career profiles
- Get help with job-hunting
- Match your skills and interests to jobs
- Get careers and training advice by email

Computer classes

In partnership with our colleagues from Age Concern we are offering computer classes in the library.

The informal Age Concern classes on Tuesday mornings have proved very popular and have now been extended into the afternoon. There is a small charge. Please contact the library for details.

Are you eligible for library concessions?

If you are in receipt of one of the following you are entitled to concessions: Working family tax credit; disability living allowance; housing benefit; state pension; disabled person's tax credit; widows benefit; income support; industrial disablement benefit; incapacity benefit; student in full time education. We will require initial proof of benefit. In most cases the concession will entitle you to half-price reservations, music CDs and spoken word tapes. In addition if you are visually impaired or housebound you will not be required to pay any charge (including overdue charges).

Oral history tapes

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

Thornbury Gazette

Copies of our local paper are available on micro-film back until 1955 but with some gaps the further back you go. We would be grateful if you could contact the library beforehand if you want to consult these so that we can be sure we have the required dates and to enable us to set up the micro-film reader.

Fastracks

We stock multiple copies of each of the top ten selling paperbacks and these are available for a 'quick' loan period of one week.

A credit union for Thornbury?

Come to the library on Saturday mornings for more information.

Fax/photocopying/laminating

We offer a fax, photocopying and laminating service.

Ancestry. Com

Who are you?

People can now find out about their family history for free at all South Gloucestershire Libraries. Through the Ancestry website which is normally a pay to

view service, library users will have access to more than 4 billion names in over 4,000 collections which includes access to the censuses from 1841 to 1901.

The new service has been supported by local family history groups. Bob Lawrence, Chair of Bristol and Avon Family History Society said "Our society welcomes the initiative by South Gloucestershire to provide this access in their libraries, *Ancestry.Com* is a fantastic resource to both experienced family historians and those just beginning to look into their family history"

Ancestry Library Edition is available at all South Gloucestershire libraries. Time on the computers can be pre-booked by contacting any South Gloucestershire Library.

Please note this FREE service is only available from the library computers

For more information on any of the above items please give the library a ring on our new number 01454 868 006 (24 hour renewal line 08450 020 777) or visit our web-site on www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries.

*Remember you can also access the web-site to renew your books, check the catalogue, reserve items and consult a wide range of on-line reference materials including Oxford English Dictionary Online; Oxford Reference Online; Oxford Dictionary of National Biography; Grove Music Online; Grove Art Online. You will need your borrower number and pin number (available from the library). **We have also added Ancestry.co.uk to the list but this is only available using the library computers.** You can also join the library on-line. We also offer a telephone enquiry service on 01454 866 900 or you can email your enquiry to askthelibrary@southglos.gov.uk*

We also offer free internet access and word processing in the library.

Please note we can send your reservation and overdue notifications by text, email or voice message. Please ask!

Craft Fair

Kath Burgess

On Saturday 3rd November a craft fair will be held at Tockington Village Hall, between 10.00am and 3.00pm. Many stalls, ideal for Christmas shopping. Refreshments and raffle in support of St Peters Hospice and Olveston Pre-School Group.

Late Summer Party at Cliff Farm, Aust

Amanda Powell

A fantastic evening was enjoyed by the Olveston Community on Friday 7th September and a whopping £2,000 raised for 1st Olveston Scouts.

A huge marquee was erected in the grounds of Cliff Farm, Aust by local marquee hire company 'Inside Out' run by Ian Knapp and excellent food supplied by Wendy Ball caterers. Local band 'Where's Nigel' kept everybody entertained with their live music.

Many local businesses kindly donated raffle prizes and much fun was had by all on the slippery pole!

Transport home was kindly laid on by Pete Thomas who ensured everybody got home safely.

All in all, it was a great night out and a fun way to raise much needed funds to enable the long awaited Scout Hut in Old Down to be completed, which so many local children will benefit from – thank you to all who supported us.

From the Registers at St Mary's

20th August Marriage of Richard Luke to Amanda Akerman

21st August Funeral Service at Canford Crematorium followed by a Celebration Service of the life of Peter Wike at St Mary's.

Church Registers - St John the Evangelist Elberton

24th August Funeral Service and Burial of Bernard John O'Neill

Czech Wine

*By Father Alex McAllister
Christ the King Roman Catholic Church, Thornbury*

At the end of July I travelled to the Czech Republic with a group of friends; we had a very pleasant time indeed in that beautiful land of forests and mountains.

One day we were taken to a vineyard in Southern Moravia for a rustic meal followed by a wine tasting. Expecting that they would only produce white wine in what is a relatively cool region, I was pleasantly surprised when we sampled several rather good reds.

I was already acquainted with the famous Czech beers but not with their excellent wines. In England we don't hear much about Czech wines and I'm sure we would be hard put to find them in any of our local supermarkets.

Some people disapprove of alcohol and indeed it can be harmful. One only has to open the newspapers to read stories about binge drinking and the problems of a 24-hour drinking culture.

But wine is also a mark of civilisation. The enormous effort to produce a fine wine takes centuries and a society in which the people appreciate the various grape varieties and vintages is regarded as having reached the height of sophistication.

Wine, of course, plays an essential role in the central act of Christian worship, the Eucharist. The Lord in his wisdom chose bread and wine as the means to communicate his very self to us in this holy sacrament.

It is easy to understand why Jesus took bread to share with his followers since it is the staple food of much of mankind and it is regarded as the staff of life. But maybe he chose wine because of its more ambiguous nature. It perhaps represents the highs and the lows of humanity, the joys and the sorrows of mankind.

And it is no mistake that in Church we most commonly use red wine for the Eucharist; its very redness making us immediately associate it with the blood Our Lord poured out on the Cross of Calvary the next day.

That's why in the Catholic tradition the Eucharist is called 'the Sacrifice of the Mass;' it being the meal Christ gave us so that we may participate in the fullest way possible in the sacrifice he made for our salvation.

The use of wine helps us to realise that it is our entire humanity, every aspect of our being, that Christ redeems and washes clean of sin.

Church News: ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

October 7th The 18th Sunday after Trinity	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Harvest Service - School Choir Evensong -Choir	Rev David Bone Rev. Philip Rowe Rev. David Bone
October 14th The 19th Sunday after Trinity	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Matins Breakfast Club WBL Anniversary Service- Choir	Canon David Sansum D. Jones Team Rev. Helen Webb
October 21st The 20th Sunday after Trinity	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion - Choir Breakfast Club Evensong	Rev. Philip Rowe Bone/Rowe Trinity T Team Rev. David Bone
October 28th The 21st Sunday after Trinity	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Exploratory Service Breakfast Club Evensong- Choir	Canon David Sansum Mrs Janet McBride Team Rev. David Bone

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

CONTACT PERSONS:

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

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

Mrs. June Robbins, Verger 01454 617491

Internet: 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

Oct 14th	10am	Holy Communion - Choir	Rev. Bone/Poarch
Oct 28th	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

Oct 7th	9am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole
Oct 21st	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield

Contact person: Rev. David Pole (01454 414810);

www.sthelensalveston.org

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Oct 14 th	9am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole
Oct 28 th	6.30pm	Matins	Rev. David Pole

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Oct 7 th	10am	Tockington Ch.	Morning Worship led by Ms Jenny Clark. Junior Church in the Wesley Rooms
	6 pm	St Mary's	Harvest evening Service
Oct 14 th	10am	Olveston Ch.	All Age Worship led by Rev. Iesinga Vunipola. The Breakfast Club will join us later.
	6pm	Tockington Ch.	"Hymns in Worship" a Celebration Service led by Church members.
Oct 21 st	10am	Tockington Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr. Colston Smith. Junior Church in the Wesley Rooms.
	6 pm	Daldry Gardens	Evening Worship led by Rev. Iesinga Vunipola.
Oct 28 th	10am	Tockington Ch.	Morning Worship led by Rev. Iesinga Vunipola. Junior Church in the Wesley Rooms.
	6 pm	Olveston Ch.	Evening Worship led by our Superintendent Minister the Rev. Peter Mortlock.

LIGHT LUNCHESES: Thursday 4th October at 12.15 – 1.30pm in the Tockington Wesley Rooms. To book your lunch please ring 01454 416056.

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 10th October. To book your lunch please ring 01179696387.

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

COFFEE MORNINGS: Saturdays, 10.30 am to 12 noon, in the Olveston Methodist Hall. Saturday 20th September will be organised by the **Royal British Legion Women's Section.**

CONTACT PERSON: Rev. 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

Oct 7 th	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Oct 14 th	6.30pm	Julian Richards
Oct 21 st	6.30pm	John Mills
Oct 28 th	6.30pm	Ed Stuart

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

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 October 2007

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

Tue 2 nd	Tockington Toddlers The RBLWS Olveston Tel: 632135	10-11.30am 7.30pm	WR DGCL
Wed 3 rd	St Peters Hospice Coffee Morning p 9 Olveston Parish Historical Society AGM Thornbury Orchestra Rehearsal	10-12 7.30pm 7.45-9.45pm	AMH MH URC
Thu 4 th	Olveston Baby and Toddlers	2.30-4.30pm	MH
Sat 6 th	Men's Breakfast 'Auction of Promises' at Olveston Pre-School - Almondsbury Art Show -Almonds. Old Sch. Hall	8am 7.30pm 10-6pm	ACR PH
Sun 7 th	Thornbury Rambling Club- Long Walk Tel: 4411305 Almondsbury Art Show -Almonds. Old Sch. Hall Harvest Celebration – Entertainment plus lunch and much more all in Church! Further Details Tel: 419162	9am 10-6pm 10-1.30pm	st.M
Mon 8 th	Severn Vale Flower Club – Pract. 'Pots of Fun' 885213	1.30pm	
Tue 9 th	Tockington Toddlers Al Gore's Film plus debate Tel: 613788 p 7 Bosom Buddies – Tel: 0117 9284940 Olveston and Tockington WI – 'The Orient Express', St Mary's Walking Group p 27	10-11.30am 7.30pm 7.30pm 7.30pm 10am	WR OS PH
Thu 11 th	Thornbury Rambling Club- Leisurely Tel: 9701404 Olveston Baby and Toddlers Thornbury + District Flower Club – 'Red Sky' 261810	10am 2.30-4.30pm 7.30pm	MH TMH
Fri 12 th	Hymns and Harwood p 5 Pampered Chef for WARMTH Elberton p 17	9 & 3 2-5pm	Tock Meth Ch
Sat 13 th	'Walk In' Flu Clinic – Almondsbury Old School Hall 'Stomp' at Winterbourne Comm. Centre- Tel 773466 Music In The Church At Aust Tel: 632306 60 th Anniversary Celebrations RBLWS	9am – 12noon 7.30pm 8pm Alveston House Hotel	
Sun 14 th	(1)Thornbury Rambling Club- Long Tel: 880715 (2)Thornbury Rambling Club- Medium Tel: 415448	9am 9am	
Tue 16 th	Tockington Toddlers	10-11.30am	WR
Wed 17 th	Open Morning Olveston Pre-School Severn Vale Flower Club Tel: 885213 Thornbury Orchestra Rehearsal Severn Partnership Elberton	9.45am 2pm 7.45-9.45pm 7.30pm	PH URC EVH
Thu 18 th	Olveston Baby and Toddlers	2.30-4.30pm	MH
Fri 19 th	Olveston Allotments AGM and Social Evening p 31	7 for 7.30pm	PH
Sat 20 th	RBLWS Coffee Morning Autumn Concert at the Oasis Church p 31 Severn Valley Quilters – Our Exhibition Tel: 615749	10-12noon 7.30pm 10-4pm	MH TMH

Sun 21 st	Thornbury Rambling Club- Med. Walk Tel: 414198	9am	
Tue 23 rd	Tockington Toddlers	10-11.30am	WR
	Fibromyalgia Supp. Gp- Exercise On Prescription - Elaine Tel: 415374	7-9pm	AMH
	Olveston Parish Council Meeting `	7pm	AP
Thu 25 th	Olveston Baby and Toddlers	2.30-4.30pm	MH
	Thornbury + District Flower Club – 'Fascinating Rhythm' Tel: 261810	7.30pm	TMH
Sun 28 th	Thornbury Rambling Club- Short Walk Tel: 9104974 Car Boot Sale Marlwood School – Tel: 202492	9.30am Set up from 9.30am	
Tue 30 th	Tockington Toddlers	10-11.30am	WR
Wed 31 st	Thornbury Orchestra Rehearsal	7.45-9.45pm	URC
	TMTG Brigadoon p 13	7.30pm	AH
Looking Ahead To November			
1 st Thu	TMTG Brigadoon	7.30pm	AH
2 nd Fri	TMTG Brigadoon	7.30pm	AH
3 rd Sat	TMTG Brigadoon	2.30 & 7.30pm	AH
7 th Wed	Wed 7th November, OPHS - Basil Harwood Event and Book Launch. Visitors Welcome.	7.30pm	St M
10 th Sat	Olveston Pre-School Nearly New Sale Tel: 613642	10-12noon	PH
	Autumn Fayre Easter Compton p 31	2-5pm	
24 th Sat	Big Breakfast Bower House p 27	From 9am	

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.