

Meeting Point

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

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**Material for May 2009 to
Editor or Deputy Editor
by
10th April**

From the Editor

In response to our appeal for a deputy editor last month I am very pleased to announce that Pat Hinton, from Tockington, has stepped forward and will be in harness for the July issue onwards. Thank you Pat.

Talking of appeals, it has been well publicised that St Mary's has just launched one to bring about some much needed improvements to the church building. Most churches I know have had or are planning appeals for their upkeep, sometimes just to keep them safe and useable. In France, by contrast, it is the state who pays for such maintenance and it is tempting to think what a relief that would be. However having visited lots of churches and cathedrals in France and Spain last summer, many appeared soulless and unloved places, despite their beauty. It's as though the hand of the secular state lands a death blow to the church community.

Let's be thankful we have thriving church communities in our area to care for and preserve the churches for posterity.

It's now for me to wish you all a very happy Easter and some lovely spring weather for the holiday.

Our cover this month is by Kate Hickman

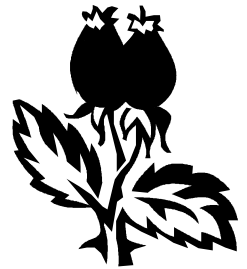
Meeting Point Founded in 1976 by the Anglican and Methodist churches in Olveston, near Bristol

**Meeting Point magazine and Meeting Point
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www.olvostonandaust.com**

An Elberton Childhood – Peggy Oakhill

Pat Thirkettle

Elberton was a busy, lively little village in the 1940s and 50s, before it was cut in half by the Aust Road and eaten away by Harnhill Quarry. There was a blacksmith, undertaker and butcher's shop, and the mobile fish and chip van called every Friday night; other shopping was done by foot or bus in Olveston, Thornbury or Bristol, the stop for which was at Priestpool on the Aust road reached by Quarry Hill, a lane long gone into the quarry. It was a simple way of life; for example, when a hearse left the undertaker's everyone stayed indoors and drew their curtains. It was also the setting for idyllic childhoods of total freedom, as everybody knew everybody else, and with such simple pleasures as putting on cardboard wings and trying to fly down the steep hill at the Vineyards or sledging down in winter on tin trays. Junior children went to school in Littleton-on-Severn, in the summer they walked over the fields and in winter by road. If they were lucky they would be given a lift by the milk collection lorry, the young ones in the cab and the older ones sitting on the milk churns. In the autumn they went out to pick rosehips from the orchard and fields next to the former Canada House, which were turned into rosehip syrup and for which the school was paid.



Life centred round the church, with two services on Sunday as well as Sunday School. Everyone was in the choir with practice on a Friday evening, eagerly followed by fish and chips. On Good Fridays the children, with the choir mistress Mrs Withers and their mothers, went to Hay Wood (beside the present day Littleton Treatment Works) to pick primroses and bring them back to decorate the church. The vicar, Mr Batchelor, was a lovely man who lived in the Vicarage (now demolished) behind the Village Hall, and taught the children archery in the field opposite and how to use his printing press. He always hosted the annual church fête. Every year there was a choir outing to Bournemouth or Southsea and a Sunday school outing to Weston-super-Mare, with sixpence (less than three pence now) to spend on the pier.

Brownies met in Elberton Village Hall and Guides in Tockington Parish Hall, which also had country dance classes. There was a lot of dancing; Mrs Haskins gave dancing lessons there too and the children would put on shows. A great excitement occurred every Saturday morning in Tockington, when a picture (now we would say film!) was shown and the children would walk in from the surrounding area. The Elberton Horticultural Society thrived and held an annual Flower Show in a marquee. People came from all around for the flowers and sports, followed by supper and dancing in the evening.

Jack Hammond, the blacksmith, played a big part in the village. He had a thriving business shoeing farm horses and hunters, and Colonel Turner, a real

gentleman, would ride down from Old Down House for his horse to be shod and lift his hat to all the ladies. When it was time to go to Thornbury Grammar School, Jack Hammond collected the children from Littleton, Elberton, Olveston and Kington in one of his Buick cars. Sometimes they would be driven by Bev Caswell (Norma Richards' uncle) who would lead them in a sing-along, but if you stayed on for games after school you had to walk home. No late bus! Jack Hammond also owned a caravan at Weymouth and each year he took one family down there for their summer holiday. On Coronation Day in 1953 if you were lucky, and knew someone with a TV set, you could watch it. Later there was a fancy dress parade and tea at Elberton Manor, next to the church.

In the 1960s things changed radically for Elberton. Firstly the Olveston quarry expanded and swallowed up the Vicarage, a tithe barn, a farm, five dwellings and the lane to Priestpool. Some residents were elderly and had died before it happened, others were re-housed and the vicar moved away, not to be replaced. Then the first Severn Bridge was built and the winding road through Elberton was straightened out, demolishing two dwellings, a barn and an orchard.

So this is Elberton as we know it now, still a pleasant place to live, but cut in half by a busy road and a portion gone forever. As we mostly use cars and children are unable to roam freely perhaps it does not matter so much, and progress is progress, but it has been a joy to go down memory lane and hear what it was like to grow up in a small English village.



Music in the Church at Aust The Oxford Waits Saturday 18th April 8pm

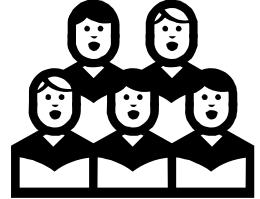
The Oxford Waits take their name from a real-life band of city musicians, known as 'waits,' who flourished in Oxford during the 17th century; the tumultuous era of the English Civil War and Restoration.

Their programme for Aust commemorates the life of Restoration poet John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester, a brilliant wit and a notorious rake. Subject of the Hollywood blockbuster, *The Libertine* (starring Johnny Depp), Rochester was a close friend both of Charles II and Nell Gwynne. He is remembered not only for his scandalous life, but for verses imbued with perceptive satire, great insight and a tender lyricism too.

Tickets are £10 full and £8 concessions, available from Peter or Gina Dobbins on 01454 632306 or directly from the Boar's Head, Aust, or Olveston Stores.

Performance of Haydn's Passion: The seven last words of our Saviour on the Cross

Members of several local Choirs are combining to sing the rarely performed "Passion" by Joseph Haydn on **5th April (Palm Sunday) at 6pm in St Mary's Church, Thornbury.** This choral work was developed from the orchestral pieces commissioned by the authorities at Cadiz Cathedral, Spain, in 1785. They were played between the declamations of the Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross which come into every telling of the Easter story, and form the basis of many Good Friday services.



WI News

Anne Boulton

Graham Purchase, former television presenter, is still in the communication business though focussing on a smaller audience than when he worked for Points West. He entertained us at our March meeting, recounting the history of a career that began in outback Australia with the "hatched, matched and despatched" columns of a small-town paper, and ended in Bristol with the producer-directorship of HTV.

Forthcoming evenings we can look forward to are:

April: Guide dogs and more, by Mrs Verna Clifford

May: The work of the Children's Hospice, by Mrs Jane Powell

June: My life, by Mrs W Garrett

July: Choosing and using herbs, by Mrs B Partridge

September: Experiences in Antarctica, by Mr Philip Savage

October: The history of hats and how they are made today, by Mrs Tyrell

November: Horn – eco-friendly and socially acceptable, by Mrs Mary Hoad

... and in addition to all that we have outings that are open to friends and husbands (or partners as we must now call them).

Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Visitors are welcome to join us.

The Missing Pedestal

Mrs Carmen Pitts has asked to repeat this appeal. A flower pedestal has disappeared from the Village Hall and she would be grateful if anyone who knows of its whereabouts could get in touch with her.

W.I. Prescription Collection Service.

As from April 30th the twice weekly W.I. Prescription Collection Service from Olveston Stores will be **discontinued**.

Rita Garlick, Hon Secretary, Olveston & Tockington W.I.

Dog Fouling

It has been brought to Meeting Point's notice that there has been an increase in the incidence of pavement fouling by dogs and owners too lazy to dispose of the dog mess in the appropriate places. Perhaps the very cold weather we have had and the short days of winter have been partially to blame, but there are a number of dog bins around the parish and no excuse for not using them.

Annual General Meeting

St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group



The AGM will take place on **Thursday 30th April** in the Thornbury Baptist Church Hall commencing at 7.30pm. Please come along and support St Peter's, your local Hospice.

Salisbury by Train

A trip is planned on Saturday April 18th from Parkway Station – on arrival we enjoy a morning walk, then a pub lunch, followed by a visit to the Cathedral and the City.

Closing date April 15th. Contact: Dan Evans on 01454 625313.

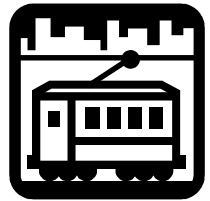
The following article is from a talk given by Ron Sparrow to Alveston Local History Society.

Sir George White - The Forgotten Entrepreneur

Sir George White “brought the trams to Bristol” - but also founded a Bristol-based aeroplane industry that became a world leader, an industry that played a critical role in both World Wars. In the course of this and his many other business endeavours, he made a huge personal fortune and became a local benefactor.

George was born in Kingsdown in 1854, into an age of enormous advances in technology and engineering, providing opportunities for the astute businessman. Son of a painter and decorator, George was a clever boy who at the age of 15 became junior clerk at the Bristol law firm, Stanley & Wasborough who were involved in tramway promotion. He took over bankruptcy cases and soon showed business acumen, able to solve problems and re-organise unsuccessful businesses. George had an eye for good ideas and an ability to relate to the “top men” and work with them.

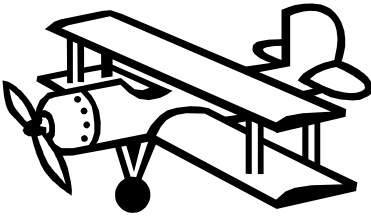
At this time, urban Bristol was bursting at the seams, but further suburban development relied on horse-drawn trams, slogging along overcrowded streets to transport workers to and from the Centre. The system needed modernising - but new routes required government sanction. The Council-built Redland/Bristol line was running at a loss, and Stanley & Wasborough stepped in offering to run it profitably and to construct other lines. George sorted out the legal and political difficulties – getting to know business magnates such as William Butler and Joseph Wethered - and the endeavour was a success.



George became secretary of the new Bristol Tramways Co in 1874 and managing director in 1894. In the 1890s Bristol was the first UK City to adopt electric tram traction, through George’s collaboration with engineer James Clifton Robinson. The pair also controlled tramways in Dublin, Middlesbrough and Reading.

By 1890 George had formed his own stock broking firm Geo White & Co, dealing with important clients such as Wethered & Stuckey’s Bank. He used his business skills and links with men such as Henry Gardner of Western Wagon Co, to become involved in railways, docks and shipping; he borrowed money and bought up shares in failing businesses, turned them around, and sold his shares at a profit. George married Caroline Thomas and they moved to luxurious Cotham House with their young family, who were later involved in the running of the family businesses. George was created a Baronet in recognition of his efforts in raising funds for Bristol Royal Infirmary.

In 1910 George White became interested in the aircraft industry and established his Bristol & Colonial Aeroplane Company (BCAC), in two sheds leased from a former bus depot at Filton - these still exist in the grounds of BAE Systems site.



He first built Zodiacs, but soon switched to a BCAC modification of the reliable French biplane designed by Farman, the Boxkite. Boxkites were manufactured at Filton and Brislington, and tested at Brooklands, or Larkhill on Salisbury Plain. The first officially logged Boxkite flight from Filton was made in 1911 by Henri Jullerot. George White started Flying Schools for his customers and

260 Boxkites were made and delivered before 1913. The BCAC company office and HQ was installed first in the 18thC Filton House, later moving to the purpose-built New Filton House.

Plans for new monoplanes were being developed at Filton which by 1913 had 3 large hangars with a large apron and runway. But with WW1, BCAC commenced production of over 1000 BE2 biplanes, designed by the Royal Aircraft Factory for use in combat. Many wartime pilots had first learnt to fly in George White's training schools and sadly at this point Sir George White's story ends - he died very suddenly in 1916.

But aircraft production continued and expanded, with a name change in 1920 to Bristol Aeroplane Company and the acquisition of facilities for producing its own engines for the Bristol Scout and Bristol Fighter. During WW2 the Blenheim, Beaufort and Beaufighter were produced at Filton; after the war the larger passenger planes - the Brabazon, Britannia and Concorde - came into production, with a 60's name change to the British Aircraft Corporation. All this is another story!

Angela Swan



St Peter's Hospice Sevenside Support Group SPRING FLING -

This will be held on **Saturday 18th April from 10.00am until 12noon** at Thornbury Methodist Church Hall. If you are looking for it, we have it: clothes, accessories, bric-a-brac, books, jigsaws, records, magazines, china, toys, a real Jumble Sale. No reasonable offer refused for any item. Teas and raffle available, all proceeds to St Peters Hospice, your local Hospice. Please come along and have a rummage, you never know what you might find!

Police Report



Roger Hopes

The horse and cart racing continues on the main A403 road and remains the Safer Stronger Community Group focus. I haven't been able to make much progress as yet, due to other commitments.

An update on the nuisance problems in Olveston - Kelly has worked hard on identifying some of those responsible and recently held a meeting with some of the victims, the young people and their parents. We call these meetings "restorative justice" and it brings both parties together to show the effect their behaviour has. This was a positive meeting and will have good outcomes, I hope. We will continue to patrol, especially during the evenings.

On a very positive note, after a very significant rise in rural type thefts from outbuildings and stables, at about 10pm on 22 February the police responded to an alarm call to a stables in Ingst, just outside Olveston. Numerous police units, including Road Policing and the Helicopter, attended and four men were arrested from the fields very near by. They had with them a stolen vehicle from Rangeworthy on false plates. They were forensically linked to crimes throughout South Glos. They were put before the Magistrates Court the next day and one was remanded in custody and the others released on conditional bail. I know I'm tempting fate and I'm touching wood as I write this but strangely this type of crime has dropped off dramatically.

Crimes of interest to the community were as follows:-

1. 06/02 Tyres on a van were slashed in a yard in Hardy Lane, Tockington.
2. 09/02 A house in Passage Road, Aust, had pond equipment stolen from the garden.
3. 10/02 A vehicle was stolen from Orchard Rise and believed to be used later on in a burglary in Avonmouth.
4. 15/02 At Whale Wharf, Littleton, some outbuildings were broken into and power tools, such as strimmers and chain saws stolen.
5. 20/02 Stables at Mill Lane, Tockington, were broken into.
6. 21/02 A vehicle was stolen from Olveston and later found dumped in Wotton.
7. 22/02 A trailer was stolen from Littleton.

Roger Hopes, PC 3404 Neighbourhood Beat Manager DC 125 Severnvale
Phone: 0117 945 5959 Mobile: 07919628625

Thornbury Camera Club News & Tips

Peter Haworth

NEWS

The first meeting on the 6th April is a show featuring the 2008 Western Counties Photographic Federation print folio. The Camera Club AGM and the presentation of the beginner's cup is on the 20th April and on 27th April there is a three way battle between Thornbury, Trowbridge, and Mid Somerset in Thornbury.

TIPS

The cold winter months are behind us and hopefully we can now enjoy spring and outside photographs of those picturesque spring flowers and blossoms. Flowers and plants come in endless varieties, texture, colours and shapes and can be photographed in all seasons as individual blooms or in groups. It's tempting to photograph flowers from a lofty perch, but to capture those sumptuous blooms and buds from a bug's-eye viewpoint can be more rewarding.



Overcast conditions can be suitable for floral photographs as they tend to mask the colours and textures. Full sunlight brings out the brighter colours and detail, although also leading to dark shadows. Experiment with different light conditions, try a position so the sun shines through the flower to capture details of translucent petals and leaves;

also water droplets on leaves and petals can add to your floral image.

Set the camera on Aperture priority (AE) and try an aperture of F8 or F11 for more generous depth of field to bring more flowers in focus.

Alternatively, macro photos with a tripod or other innovative kit such as a flower pot for close up should give a sharp image, unless you get a puff of wind!! Enjoy those spring flowers.

The club welcomes new members - contact me Peter Haworth on 01454 612441 for more information.

Brain teaser

What do all these words have in common?

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 1 Banana | 2 Dresser | 3 Grammar | 4 Potato |
| 5 Revive | 6 Uneven | 7 Assess | |

The answer is NOT that they all have at least two double letters.

Look again. The REAL answer is revealed later on in the magazine.

Fires in Victoria, Australia

Owen Piggott was at Art College with Kate Hickman in 1949/50. In 1950, Owen emigrated with his family to Australia, completing his training at Melbourne College of Art. He has since become a very successful landscape artist and lives at Metung, Victoria with his wife Lyn.

Thank you for your letter of concern re our recent Fire Storm event. The fires - over 100 of them were situated to the west of Melbourne - but the worst areas were in West Gippsland and to the north and north east of Melbourne. These fires were very destructive and virtually wiped out the towns of Kinglake and Marysville.

At Metung we were safe, being over two hundred miles from the carnage but we were very fearful and stressed, having experienced lesser fires three years ago. These recent fires have rewritten the concept of the summer events that are reasonably regular features of the Australian eucalypt forests. On the weekend of Feb 7/8th the temperatures reached 46°C plus; these temperatures coming when the areas had experienced drought for the last two years.

Our C.F.A., the volunteer bush fire-fighters, were completely overwhelmed by the ferocity of the temperature and the speed at which the fire travelled – so all the known facts about previous fires were of little use. Temperatures at the fire front were in excess of 1400 degrees C and with the radiant heat, the scene would have been compared to an atomic bomb blast; flames soared upward to 150 feet and travelled at speeds of 150 kilometres per hour. People, property and towns had little or no chance and those that survived were lucky. One can only surmise the personal loss of those survivors and, I'm afraid, theirs will be a hard road to recovery. The national response has been supreme – it brings out the quality of mate-ship, and an egalitarian streak that still resonates in Australians at times like this – the great side of human beings. I could recount lots of stories, tragic and heroic, but I guess your TV and Press has coverage enough.

Lyn and I are glad to be reaching our twilight years and, like you, there are times when we reflect on the firestorm, then we count ourselves as fortunate to be still working creatively in our studios in our part of the world we call 'Heaven'. The aches and pains of the aging process are daily events but so are the wonders of nature – the light and colour, constant changes of mood and, of course, the fickle nature of humankind within a dangerous natural world. There's so much to be thankful for.

Keep up your spirits and thank you for your concern and thoughts.

Send in the Clowns

Laura Hall saw this article in the Economist of February 16th 2009 featuring our own Rev Roly Bain. Parts of it are reproduced here:

“The service in Holy Trinity Church, Hackney, that I was fighting so desperately to get into, was the Clowns International Annual Service. It has been held on the first Sunday in February every year since 1946 to honour Joseph Grimaldi, the father of modern clowning, and to celebrate and encourage those generous souls who juggle and giggle, tumble and trip, wobble on unicycles and generally offer themselves up for our entertainment.

The service was led by the Reverend Roly Bain, an incongruous blend of cleric and clown. His dog collar was pretty standard for an Anglican priest but the long checkered robes and rouged cheeks with crosses in the middle distinguished him from the average vicar. Mr Bain was wobbling on top of a large blue ball and was talking about daring to do anything with God’s help.



Mr Bain was followed by a white-face, the classic circus clown, like Grimaldi himself, reading from the Gospel of St Mark. His eyebrows, one a smile, the other a frown, formed a sharp, black contrast to the pallor of his face and the red of his ears. The gold, pink and blue sequined glory of his harlequin coat sparkled as he meandered up and down the aisle playing a tiny saxophone.

Cheerful though his appearance was, the melody was melancholy, as clowns themselves often are. Sadder still was the recitation of names of clowns who died in the past year. As the poignant litany of departed jesters was recited—Bozo, Boxcar, Uncle Dippy and the Unknown Clown—beaming children placed a thick cream candle for each clown at the back of the church.

The clowns then joined together in the Clown’s Prayer. They gave thanks for the gift of laughter. The final words of the prayer offered a gentle alternative to the financial hubris with which the world has been confronted: “As your children are rebuked in their self-importance and cheered in their sadness, help me to remember that your foolishness is wiser than our wisdom”.

At the end of the service, a organist who resembled Groucho Marx bashed out Grimaldi’s favourite song, the Hot Codlings polka, on the church’s squeaky instrument. Mr Bain led a prancing procession of clowns down the aisle and out the door where they put on a proper show in the church hall.”

St Mary's Appeal: Building for the Future.

Roly Bain, Appeal Chairman

At time of going to press we haven't had our March 13th launch of the Appeal, but we have sent out lots of Appeal Packs, largely to those who we know to be church attenders. There are also some which can be picked up in church and in Olveston Stores. If you'd like a pack you can always get one from me. Either ring 616593 or email me on roly@rolybain.co.uk. There is also an exhibition in church if you want to see it. Initial responses to those packs are very encouraging, I have to say, in terms of financial commitment. One question, however, that does need nipping in the bud, is that the redevelopment project does not include removal of all the pews! The other reassurance that seems to be necessary is that work will start soon. I can confirm that it is going to happen this time! 'Set your troubled hearts at rest!'

Give a Thought for Africa

We're very lucky to have Pahukama, a Zimbabwean family choir of about 15 people, coming to give a concert at St Mary's, Olveston, on April 24th at 7.30pm. They will obviously sing but they will also have tales to tell of Africa in poetry and prose. It should be a memorable evening. Tickets are £5 from Roly Bain on 616593, June Robbins on 617491, or Olveston Stores. They will also take part in an African Eucharist the following morning, which will be followed by a simple African lunch. What a weekend! Further details from me, Roly Bain.

Peak Oil Talk

Maggie Jeffrey

Remember last year when oil reached around \$140 per barrel? We all noticed the effects on the cost of fuel and energy bills. Although prices have gone down again now, we are likely to see them rise again as the oil that we have gets used up. Many scientists believe that we have already used up half of all the oil available in the world – we are past the peak. If you think that this will not affect you, here are a few facts: we have allowed oil to become vital to virtually everything we do. Ninety per cent of all our transportation, whether by land, air or sea, is fuelled by oil. Ninety-five per cent of all goods in shops involve the use of oil. Ninety-five per cent of all our food products require oil use. Just to farm a single cow and deliver it to market requires six barrels of oil, enough to drive a car across America.

Sustainable Thornbury invites everyone to come and find out the facts about Peak Oil. Ian Page, a local expert, will be explaining the issue and we will have time to talk about what this means for us. Come along to the Peak Oil event at the Chantry, 7.30pm on Tuesday 28th April. Admission Free.

Green Lane Garage

Have you seen that Olveston Garage is now open again with a bright new look. It's now opened under the name of Green Lane Garage and has had a total revamp.

Steve Fryer (the owner) has made some improvements to the garage and has opened it as an MOT Centre, Repairs, Servicing and Sales.

Green Lane Garage, Milbury Heath was set up 12 years ago and has grown successfully year after year. Constantly busy, Steve has always realized that customer care is paramount. This is reflected in the numerous Thank you Cards and the pile of testimonials filled out for the good garage scheme (<http://www.goodgaragescheme.co.uk>) found in his reception area.



After meeting Phil and Geraldine, Steve and his family felt that Olveston presented such a great opportunity to allow them to naturally extend the business. Steve thought it "felt right" from the moment he entered the garage.

So, what can we look forward to from Green Lane Garage, Olveston? Steve and his team promise to continue the high standard of service that is given from Milbury Heath, offering Servicing,

Repairs and MOTs. Steve also offers a car sourcing service. In other words if you are looking for a specific type of vehicle, make or model Steve will do his best to find it for you. Equally, Steve is more than happy to advise you on what vehicle would suit your needs and budget and in fact over two hundred vehicles were sold last year. He promises to provide the same high level of service for many years to come.

Obviously very proud of the customers and friends that have been built over the past years, Steve and team look forward to forming many more relationships by offering exceptional customer service and first class work.

You can contact Steve on 01454 418784 Milbury Heath or 01454 202030 Olveston.

Spring Art Events

The Severn Vale Art Trail 2009 from **2nd to 10th May** is showcasing the work of forty two artists. The event is part of Thornbury Arts Festival and provides established and emerging artists working across South Gloucestershire with opportunities to present their artworks to new audiences. Barbara Ray, Creative Director of the Festival commented 'In its fourth year the Festival and its Art Trail are very successful events bringing the arts into the heart of rural communities and attracting new audiences into the Severn Vale.'

Visitors will be able to meet artists in their studios, chat to them about their work and buy high quality paintings and prints, jewellery and ceramics, textiles and sculpture. The Art Trail starts in the village of Almondsbury and travels through the villages of the Severn Vale to Thornbury and Dursley. The event is sponsored by South Gloucestershire Council, Octagon Visual Arts Centre and Thornbury Arts Festival.

Thornbury Festival's Showcase Exhibition at the Town Hall from 17th to 25th April (excluding Sunday 19th) offers a preview of the vibrant range of contemporary artworks by the **42 artist members** of the Severn Vale Art Trail - this is an opportunity to visit the Thornbury Arts Festival and get a taste of artworks from the Art Trail. Examples of Artists' work can also be seen in Thornbury shop windows running up to this exhibition.

Octagon Visual Arts Centre, in the grounds of Castle School, is exhibiting photographs by Walker Evans from 1935-36 between 27th April and 22nd May. This Hayward Touring Exhibition from Southbank Centre, London is a collection of iconic photographs taken during the Great American Depression. Evans travelled to Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and South Carolina capturing the townscapes and buildings as well as making more intimate portraits of family life. These disquieting, provocative images on show in The Octagon are seen by many as the culmination of Evans' photographic career. The Octagon organises '**Art for Offices**' offering framed artworks produced by art students from The Castle School for exhibition with local businesses, see www.art4offices.org. The Gallery is open Monday to Friday 10am-5pm. Contact Andrea Hazlehurst tel:01454 862176.

Jane Lampard, a gifted painter working in oils, pastels and mixed media to create atmospheric landscapes of the West Country and Mediterranean, will be opening her studio at Goldwick Farm on 2nd and 3rd May, plus afternoons of 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th May. Jane offers painting and drawing tuition for groups and individuals, based in her peaceful studios.

Mitra McQuilton is a talented threadpainter. She uses free machine embroidery to create images on fabric such as calico. The thread becomes the paint, the calico the canvas. Her results are vibrant, detailed and representational. She is taking part in a group exhibition at Thornbury Golf

Centre, open throughout the Art Trail 2nd-10th May, 10-1am.and 2-5pm.
contd

Booklets will be available during April/May from Thornbury Town Hall and other local establishments. Enquiries to Jane Parfitt on 01454 414221 - or visit the virtual gallery: www.thornburyartsfestival

Please note that tickets for the John Sergeant and Rick Wakeman events in Thornbury Arts Festival are already sold out.

Thornbury Library

Jeannie Johnson- author talk-Wednesday 22 April 7.30-9.00

Tickets £1.50 members/£2.00 non-members available in advance from the library - numbers are limited so please book early.

Local author Jeannie Johnson has kindly agreed to give a talk based on her books, many of which are historical and based in Bristol.

Jeannie Johnson, weekend columnist of the Western Daily Press writes popular fiction for women, a lot of which centres on Bristol. As J G Goodhind she also writes the Honey Driver mysteries which are set in Bath - think ABFAB with murder thrown in. All books are available on Amazon.co.uk or via her website www.jeanniejohnson.net

Thornbury arts trail. Thornbury Camera Club and local artist Anne Harrison

The library is also a venue for the above events. The camera club exhibition will run from 14 April till 11 May and Anne Harrison's paintings will be on exhibition and available to purchase from 1 May till 11 May.

Mobile library – routes for 2009

South Gloucestershire Mobile Library is a fortnightly service that covers the whole of the council area. It stocks books (including a large print and children's selection), DVDs, Talking Books (on CD & Cassette) and Jigsaws. You can either join on the Mobile or use your existing South Gloucestershire library card. If we do not have the book you require, we will reserve it for the next visit free of charge. The Mobile Library is equipped with a lift for ease of access. We can also deliver books to people living close to where it stops.

Aust	Boar's Head	4.05 - 4.20	Wednesdays 8 and 22 April
Olveston	Orchard Rise	10.50 - 11.10	Mondays 27 April, 11 May
Olveston	Daldry Gdns	11.20 -11.40	Mondays 27 April, 11 May
Littleton			
On Severn	Post Office	11.50 - 12.05	Mondays as above
Tockington	The Green	4.00 - 4.20	Thursdays 2,16, 30 April

April News?

It has been suggested to Meeting Point that, as part of the National programme being promoted by all political parties, consideration should be given by landowners to the benefits of installing vertical windmills on their property. Financially assisted pilot schemes are under consideration here in the Severn valley at Frampton, Olveston, Oldbury, Lydney and Slimbridge. There are several advantages with this form of 'green' electrical generation: the structure is graceful, is non-directional and virtually silent in its operation. Due to our location in the Severn Vale and the fact that the former Harnhill tip is currently generating electricity from biomass, the authorities believe that a pilot scheme here would highlight the benefits to other areas of the UK and encourage inward investment from the European Union.

Energy thus generated over and above that consumed by the landowner will be sold to the National Grid to alleviate any unfunded costs of installation and operation. A typical installation can be seen next to the westbound Membury Motorway services area.



Thornbury Volunteer Centre can help you!

With the winter nights over and spring around the corner, many people may be looking to change direction and to find new ways in which to occupy their time. The previous year may have seen major life changes such as retirement, unemployment, bereavement or moving house, you may now have more time on your hands and are finding it difficult to find ways in which to fill it. Or you may simply have decided that you want to make new friends and meet more people. If this is the case then Thornbury Volunteer Centre may be able to help you.

We are the Volunteer Centre that services the Thornbury and district area, and we are able to provide information on volunteering opportunities in the local area, further afield, nationally and internationally. We can offer support and information on opportunities which may best suit your needs, experience and time available, whilst making sure that you find volunteering an enjoyable and worthwhile experience.

We are contacted regularly by groups and organisations that are seeking to recruit volunteers from all walks of life, with a variety of different skills to offer and time available. We can offer clerical work, working with the disabled or vulnerable adults in the community, fundraising and marketing, counselling and emotional support, shop work, driving, working in local schools and much more. The majority of these organisations would be unable to survive, and valuable community services would be lost, if volunteers were not to be found.

Age, gender or disability is not a barrier to volunteering. Anyone, who is able to spare some time, from an hour a week to once a month or just on a one-off basis, would be warmly welcomed by someone in the community.

Here is what a couple of our experienced volunteers say,

“Volunteering enriches my life because every hour spent as a volunteer I learn something of interest which I did not know before” and

“It makes me feel as though I’m part of society and gives me a feeling of self-worth. I also feel that I am giving something back.”

At the end of the day, volunteering is about meeting new people and making new friends, broadening your horizons, learning new skills, building confidence and gaining valuable work experience, but most of all it is about doing something that you really enjoy.

If you would like to find out more about the volunteering opportunities available to you in your local community, please contact Thornbury Volunteer Centre on 01454 413392 or email us on tdvl@freenet.co.uk or visit our website on www.volunteer-thornbury.co.uk Alternatively, call into the office at Thornbury Town Hall between 10.30am-12 noon Monday to Friday. We look forward to meeting you.

From the Register at St John's, Elberton

Funeral Service & Burial in the Churchyard of John Lansdown on March 11th 2009

From the Registers at St Mary's

13th February funeral service and cremation at Canford of Doreen Gingell.

17th February burial of her ashes in the churchyard.

1st March baptism of Olivia Neave, daughter of Michael and Claire Lloyd

1st March thanksgiving service for Emily Claire and Catherine Angela Shepherd, daughters of Michael and Dawn Shepherd.

Advance Notices:

Craft Fayre in aid of Breast Cancer

Mary Slader

Once again I am organising a craft fayre in aid of Breast Cancer at the Parish Hall in Tockington on **Saturday 20 June from 10.00am - 4.00pm**. Please put the date in your diaries now.

If you are a local craftsperson and would like a table, please contact me on mezzas@fsmail.net or telephone 07747 562264.

If you are able to help with refreshments on the day or even donate a cake or two I would be very grateful.

Last year with your help I raised £311 - wouldn't it be good to beat that in 2009? Many thanks.

Tockington Gardens Open

The gardens of The East Barn and Brook Farm, Lower Tockington Road, will be open on **June 13th and 14th** from 2 – 5.30pm. Teas will be available and a small plant stall and a raffle for a flower watercolour. Profits from these will go towards the Church Appeal.

Thornbury Art Club's

Spring Exhibition "Serendipity IV"

will take place at Wyevale Garden Centre (off the A 38), from **May 8th to 13th**, normal opening hours 9 – 5pm

Thornbury Hospital League of Friends

The Thornbury Hospital League of Friends will be holding a coffee morning on **Saturday April 4th 2009** at Quaker Court, Thornbury beginning at 10.30am. Proceeds will go to supporting Thornbury Hospital.

Let's boost our broadband!

Bernard Amos

For most of us in the Meeting Point area that have broadband, it is likely that you are paying for "up to 8Mb/s" in terms of your down load speed.

A straw poll recently demonstrated that the most common speed being achieved is 0.5Mb/s ie only one sixteenth the speed you could expect. You can check your own speed at www.broadbandspeedchecker.co.uk/ or www.broadband.co.uk/broadband-speed-test.jsp. (There are any number of sites offering to check your speed, but all show the same reading).

The reason for the discrepancy in speeds is due to the distance of your home to the exchange and the quality of the copper wires provided by the BT infrastructure. Some providers, notably TalkTalk are now allowed to introduce their own equipment into the exchanges which should guarantee an increase for their customers. However this is likely to boost speeds to only 2Mb/s, still well below what we could expect, unless BT's copper wires from the exchange to the premises are also changed.

BT have recently been authorised to upgrade their infrastructure by replacing these copper wires with fibre optics, which will allow much faster speeds, (think of a number and multiply by ten.....data will be downloaded almost before you've asked for it!!!!)

A number of us believe that a coordinated approach to lobby BT may bring forward the sorts of upgrades we need to match the service in most towns around the UK. Trevor Anderson, Bernard Amos and Steve Webb are coordinating this lobby and if you would like to add your name to give more weight to the list please let either of them know. Just send a message with your name and address to:

broadbandboost@live.co.uk or steve@stevewebb.org.uk

London Marathon

Kit Thompson will be running on Sunday 26th April 2009 to support Breast Cancer Haven. Details of this charity were published in the March edition of Meeting Point. If anyone wants to sponsor Kit please log onto www.justgiving.com/kitthompson to make a donation.

Answer to Brain Teaser

In all of the words listed, if you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word!

Cricket Club News

150 Club Winners March:

£50 Bill Finch
£15 Diane Buckley
£ 5 Greg Welsler

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

7th February Barry Reeves
21st February Olivia Maunder
28th February Dave Gardner

Diary Dates:

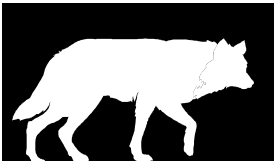
Saturday 4th April Beach Party at Surrey Wine Vaults. £10 Incl Coach & Buffet Tickets available from any Committee Member.

Membership Subscriptions for 2009 were due on 1st January - see website for details.

Tony Gardner 07889 727729 www.olddowncricketclub.co.uk

Wolves in Norway

Sue Hunter



Despite having more snow here this winter than for many years, my family and I booked up to ski in Norway in March. By comparison Norway has had some three metres of snow about half of which was still lying in Geilo, our resort, lying on the edge of the Hardanger plateau – the largest in Europe. This was where Hitler had his heavy water plant in his

own attempt to develop an atomic bomb and where some still remember the heroism of the British and Norwegian resistance on their Telemark skis. (In the September issue of Meeting Point Arthur Witherbed recounted his wartime adventures in this part of the world.)

Apart from the skiing on near empty slopes we took a daytrip to Langedrag Nature Park some 30 miles away through magnificent scenery passing wild moose on the way up to their bellies in snow.

The park was started in 1978 by Eva and Edvin Thorson and has some 350 animals including many goats, cows and horses but also reindeer, lynx, arctic fox, yaks, rabbits and wolves. Eva has made an extensive study of the wolf pack behaviour and is accepted as boss animal. She explained about the significance of blinking, or not, the curl of her lips and expression and she fed them individually whilst making wolf like sounds to establish her authority. All quite fascinating! Some of our party opted to go into the enclosure with her and but little children were not allowed so I did granny duty and opted out.

Yours faithfully

“Not too ‘Good’ to be true”

Paul Ashford, Old Down Evangelical Church

We are going through times, as an international community, that many would not have foreseen less than a year ago. As the financial crisis deepens, we regularly get to a point when we think that it cannot get any worse.....and then it does! It seems that there are no bounds to the depths of the recession, depression or whatever we are now supposed to call it!

It's strange because, in practical terms, the situation now is little different than it was this time last year. Although unemployment is now beginning to rise, most people are still being paid their same monthly salary and, in principle, still have the same amount of money to spend. However, this assumes that we all only plan to spend the money we receive rather than the money we can borrow.

The root of the problem is ‘confidence’. Banks have taken their eye off the ball and borrowed from each other without ‘due diligence’. The toxic nature of the sub-prime packages has undermined trust between the banks. Not only has confidence been eroded at the bank level, but individual investors have suffered at the hands of unscrupulous entrepreneurs such as Bernie Madoff and Alan Stamford. It seems that every generation has to learn the same lesson for itself – *‘if something seems too good to be true, it usually is’*.

With fears growing about whom to trust, job security and the expectation that we are not yet at the bottom of the cycle, folks are hanging on to what they have and not taking any further risks. As a result, the market sinks even further and, with an inflexible banking community, companies crash. It's a downward spiral.

What the situation needs is a source of confidence. In contrast to the recent financial experiences, confidence comes from a placing one's trust in something or someone that doesn't let you down. For the Christian, that confidence is found in Jesus Christ. The Bible is punctuated with evidences of a faithful God and a people that increasingly learned to put their confidence in Him. We read of a God that, when the going got tough, was willing to give His One and Only Son to rescue the situation. There are no limits to His love and compassion. If Christians did not feel that this love was still evident today, they would have lost their confidence in God by now – but they haven't.

The events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday are a timely reminder that our God is faithful beyond all measure and able to deliver on His promises. Our confidence is well-placed, since the Easter account is *“not too ‘Good’ to be true”*¹

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Apr 5	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev P. Rowe & Rev D Bone
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong with choir	Mr Denis Jones
Apr 9	7.30	Agape	Rev Ted Fooks & Rev David Bone
Apr 10	2pm	Last Hour - with Choir	Rev P Rowe & Rev D Bone
Apr 12	6.30	Dawn Eucharist	Rev Roly Bain
	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev David Bone
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Rev Philip Rowe
Apr 19	8am	Holy Communion	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Mrs Janet McBride
Apr 26	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Fourth Sunday	Rev Roly Bain
	6pm	Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Contact:

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.

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

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

Apr 5	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Apr 12	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
	10am	Family Worship	Rev Ann Parker
Apr 19	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Roly Bain
Apr 26	10am	Morning Prayer	Mrs Janet McBride

Assistant. Curate: **Rev David Bone**, 01454 614601

Church Wardens: **Jo Jenkins**, 01454 632838 and **Janet Ford**, 01454 633300

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Apr 5	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole
Apr 19	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Apr 12	8am	Easter Family Holy Communion	Rev. David. Pole
Apr 26	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Apr 5	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Rev Iesinga Vunipola Junior Church in the Wesley Rooms.
	6pm	Olveston Ch.	Evening Worship- Rev David Deeks former General Secretary of the Methodist Church
Apr 10	2pm	St Mary's Ch, Olv. Meth. Hall	Good Friday-"The Cross of Christ" - followed by Hot Cross Buns in the Olv. Methodist Hall
Apr 12	8am	Tock. Green	Holy Communion -Rev. I. Vunipola
	10am	Olveston Ch.	All AgeWorship-Mr Glyn Varney.
	6pm	Tock. Church	Evening Worship led by Rev Tom Hall
Apr 19	10am	Tock Ch.	Morning Worship-Rev. Malcolm Warren Junior Church in the Wesley Rooms
	6 pm	Daldry Gdns	Evening Worship -Mrs Rosalie Doyle
Apr 26	10am	Tock Ch.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev, Iesinga Vunipola Junior Church in the Wesley Rooms.
	6pm	Olveston Ch.	Evening Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney

LIGHT LUNCHESES: Thursday 2nd April at 12.15 in the Tockington Wesley Rooms.
To book your lunch please ring 416056.

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 22nd
April. To book your lunch please ring 416528

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

COFFEE MORNINGS: Sats 10.30 - 12 noon in the Olveston Methodist Hall. -
except 11th Apr. when it will be in Tockington Chapel

Easter Monday Apr 13th Cream Teas Tock. Wesley Rooms 2.30-5.00

CONTACT: Rev Iesinga Vunipola, 01454 412269; Iesinga@hotmail.com

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

We meet in a relaxed, informal manner for worship, prayer and conversational Bible studies incorporating Communion, normally on Sundays at 10.30am and Mondays and Wednesdays at 7.30pm. As we also visit other churches and events, please check our Notice Board or contact us. Prayer requests can be posted through the letterbox at The Vine or sent to us by post or email. Please add a name or initial to identify your request.

Mike and Barbara Matthews, tel. 07840 793772 or email:

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLDOWN

Apr 5	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Apr 10	10am	Ceri Morgan-Davies
Apr 12	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies
Apr 19	6.30pm	Rev. Neil Mobbs
Apr 26	6.30pm	Munir Dinn

Each Thurs 8pm- Prayer Time

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

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Family Worship 11am Evening Worship 6.30pm

Worship & prayer for Severnside. Sat Apr 11th at 8pm.

For more details, please phone 632564.

BRISTOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP - Our Sunday morning meetings are held at The Grange School in Warmley at 11 am.

Contact 01454 613305 **www.bcfnet.com**

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury - each Sunday

8.30am Mass

11.00 Family Mass

6.30pm Mass

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Meeting for Worship Sundays 10.30-11.30: The Hanover Room, The Chantry, Castle St. Wheelchair accessible. Children welcome with prior notice.

Local contact: Elizabeth Sidwell, 412975

National: **www.quaker.org.uk** Bristol area: **www.bristolquakers.org.uk**

Diary Dates for April 2009

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

1 st Wed	Olv. Par. Hist. Soc. "The Fry Family of Frenchay"-Alan Freke Body Tone Exercise Class	7.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	MH PH
2 nd Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group Th. & Dist. Flower Club Demo: The Magic of Nature's Romance-Diane Pritchard	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30 7.30pm	OS+ MH TMH
3 rd Fri	OPTA Wine Challenge	7.30pm	PH
4 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
5 th Sun	Haydn's Passion in St Mary's, Thornbury	6pm	
6 th Mon			
7 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Royal British Legion - Women: Tom Brown on Namibia	10.00-12.00 7.30pm	WR DGCL
8 th Wed	Royal British Legion-Men Body Tone Exercise Class	7.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	DGCL PH
9 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30	OS+ MH
11 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	Tock Ch
13 th Mon	Easter Monday Cream Teas	2.30-5.00	WR
14 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Women's Institute: Guide Dogs & More-Mrs Verna Clifford	10.00-12.00 7.30pm	WR PH
15 th Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club: Gloria Davies with "K.I.S.S." Severn Vale Smallholders Association: Butterflies of the Cotswolds-Sue Smith Body Tone Exercise Class	2.00pm 7.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	AH Chy PH
16 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30	OS+ MH
17 th Fri	Thornbury Arts Festival opens		
18 th Sat	Trip to Salisbury St Peter's Spring Fling Music in the Church at Aust: The Oxford Waits	10 - 12 8pm	AH AC
21 st Tue	Tockington Toddlers Royal British Legion -Women: Bingo	10.00-12.00 7.30pm	WR DGCL

22 nd Wed	Body Tone Exercise Class	7.30-8.30pm	PH
23 rd Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group Th. & Dist. Flower Club Practice; Recycle & Renew	10.00-12.00 2.3.-4.30 7.30pm	OS† MH TMH
24 th Fri	Zimbabwean family choir	7.30pm	St M
25 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
26 th Sun	Marlwood School Car Boot Sale	9.30am	
27 th Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club: Practice Dutch Flemish	1.30pm	AH
28 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Fibromyalgia Support Group: Diving	10.00-12.00 7.00-9.00pm	WR AMH
29 th Wed	Body Tone Exercise Class	7.30-8.30pm	PH
30 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group Annual Parish Assembly	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30 7.30pm	OS† MH PH

Looking ahead to May

2 nd - 10 th	Severn Vale Art Trail		
8 th - 13 th	Thornbury Art Clun Exhibition at Wyevale		
16 th Sat	Music in the Church at Aust	8.00pm	AC
16 th -17 th	Art Exhibition & Open Gardens- Grove House Tockington	2.00-5.00pm	

KEY: **AC** Aust Church; **ACR** – Almondsbury Church Rooms; **AH** – Armstrong Hall; **AMC** – Olveston Methodist Church; **AMH**- Olveston 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; **OS†** – Olveston Stores; **OV** – Olveston Vicarage; **PH** – Olveston Parish Hall; **StM** – St Mary’s Church, Oliv.; **StMA** Almondsbury Church; **TBCh** - Thornbury Baptist Church; **TMH** – Thorn. Methodist Hall; **URC** - Thornbury United Reform Church; **WR** – Wesley Rooms.

Contact details for any clubs or organisations in the Meeting Point area can be found in the Meeting Point Directory on the community website: www.olvestonandaust.com. If you would like to update your organisation’s details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com

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