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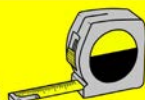
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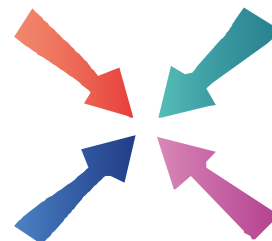
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Meeting Point

Volume 48, Number 7, April 2024

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

From the Editor

This month's beautiful cover photograph, of bluebells in dappled shade, is by John Hodges, and was first used in May 2020. At that time Meeting Point was online only, due to the pandemic, so we thought it would be a good opportunity for more people to appreciate it.

There are so many articles of interest this month that it is hard to pick just a few to highlight. We have news about the 918 bus, which is a service worth retaining, not just for Castle School pupils but for all local residents who are eligible to use it. If you are interested in archaeology, there is a talk on the medieval site in Lower Hazel, and one from Olveston Parish Historical Society about a Roman villa that was located in Tockington. Aust Parish Council gives an update on the work on the Sandy Lane Tunnels, and Olveston Parish Council announces the launch of its new website. Read and enjoy!

Marelin

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

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The Ruins in the Woods

The exciting discovery of a local medieval site at Hartygrove Brake, Lower Hazel, is the subject of this illustrated talk by Aaron Gridlestone. Aaron leads the Community Archaeological Excavation Group, which looks at the history and archaeology of the ongoing excavation of about 15 years by Thornbury and District Museum Archaeological Research Group. Students and tutors from Bristol University join in each summer, sometimes accompanied by interested parties from abroad.



The investigation ranges from a 1940s den, the search for a chapel and into life during the time of England's First Civil War. This fascinating discovery of a medieval hunting lodge so close to home, brings history to life, linking us with our roots. The site has appeared on Professor Alice Roberts' Digging for Britain on BBC2.

The talk is followed by tea and cakes and takes place on Friday April 19th at 7.30 pm in St. Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Road, Thornbury, BS35 1DR.

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Hello and Goodbye

This month we are pleased to welcome a new Assistant Editor, Diane Godwin, who will be taking care of the Church News and Diary section of the magazine. Diane's contact details appear on page one, so if you want to make sure an event gets featured on the diary pages, she is the person to contact.

Diane is taking over from Angela Williams, who has stepped down from this role after many, many years. All of us on the Meeting Point team will miss Angela - it will be very strange without her - but we all agree that she has earned her 'retirement'. Thank you, Angela, for everything you have done.

What's on in Littleton on Severn?

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As the poster says, why not visit the Littleton on Severn Village Hall on Saturday 27th April?

See if any of the items – vintage, antique or craft - take your fancy. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake.




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Aust Parish Council

Council update

The Parish Council has been involved in several planning applications recently, including one which Littleton residents will be aware of, for redevelopment of part of the Whale Wharf estate as an addiction treatment centre. At the time of writing, the outcome of this application is uncertain but by the time you read this, the decision should be available on the South Glos. Council website: developments.southglos.gov.uk/online-applications/ then search for the reference P23/02219/F.

In January, councillors set our budget for the next financial year, and the resulting 'precept' tax funding amount, which is collected on our behalf by South Glos. Council as part of your regular council tax bill. The annual charge for an average Band D household will be £28.54, a rise of 6.2% or just under £1 from last year.

We are also involved in ongoing discussions with South Glos. Council about possibly forming a volunteer group to help care for the Woodwell Meadows nature reserve. Thank you to those residents who have been in touch to offer help – we are finding that it is a longer process than we had initially appreciated but we will get back to you when progress has been made!

You can keep up to date with the parish council's activities via our minutes which are published on the website: bit.ly/austpc_docs.

Annual Parish Assembly

The Parish Assembly is a chance for residents to hear about what the Parish Council has been doing on their behalf over the past year, listen to speakers on matters of local interest, and raise any points which they would like the council to consider in the near future. This year's Assembly will be held on **Tuesday 9th April at 7:00pm** in Elberton Village Hall. Steve Meredith, who has been Chairman of the council for the past year, will give our annual report and the local SGC ward councillors will also attend. Other speakers have not yet been confirmed but it is hoped that we will hear from:

- the police neighbourhood team,
- our local Village Agent about her role in supporting more vulnerable members of our community,
- Sustainable Thornbury, who are planning to set up a community energy scheme in the area.

Look out for more information on the council website and noticeboards from the end of March.



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Sandy Lane Tunnels, Aust



Aust residents will have seen that work has finally started to repair the roadway underneath the M48, between Sandy Lane and Manor Farm. National Highways report that a new water main had to be constructed after problems were discovered; this was completed in mid-February but unfortunately has meant a delay in the planned timescales. Other utilities have also had to be diverted. Work has now started to remove the old surfacing (see photos) but again has been more complicated than anticipated, with asbestos found in some of the old materials requiring careful handling. The latest estimate of timescales is for the tunnels to be reopened towards the end of May, though National Highways and their contractors are trying to find ways to speed this up if possible.


Next parish council meeting

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 9th April** in Elberton village hall, following on from the Annual Assembly. Agendas for council meetings are posted on the village

noticeboards at least five days before the date of the meeting and are also available on the council documents web page (bit.ly/austpc_docs). Residents are very welcome to attend.

Aust Parish Council
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Jan Winter

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The rent is very reasonable, and you will also receive a discount at a local garden centre to help with buying your seeds. If you are interested, please get in touch with the chair of the allotment association, Marlene Baker, on opaga.chairman@gmail.com. She will be happy to show you round the plots and discuss what would suit you. Happy veg growing!

Evidence of the Romans at Tockington Park

Jenny Newley

We're in for a treat in April, when John Gunnery will share with us what he knows about the Roman villa site - now partly covered by buildings - at Tockington Park Farm.



The villa was partially excavated in 1887 and the beautifully detailed painting on the left shows just one of the mosaic floors discovered at that time. We look forward to John telling us more about it.

Everyone's welcome. Non-members: £3. Free tea/coffee/biscuits available before the start of the meeting.

**Olveston Parish Historical Society,
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Olveston and Tockington WI

Philomena Connelly will be putting WI members through their paces as she leads us through an armchair Zumba routine at our April Meeting. Six members will be trying to beat the Riddlr Escape Room in Kingswood this month. In contrast, some will be having afternoon tea with the WI Avon Federation, where there will be speakers on flower arrangement and textile design.



Olveston and Tockington WI meet monthly at 7.30pm at the Parish Hall. Usually this is on the second Tuesday of the month. If you would like to join us, please contact Angela Green on 01454 615222. Scan the WI QR code to find out more about joining the UK's largest women's membership organisation.

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Street Life Needs Your Help

Lynn Shelley

How many of you have heard about Street Life? I certainly hadn't until a few years ago, when a couple of members of our church became involved in it. Beginning in 1997, Street Life has been a ministry of City Church since 2019. The team, led by Richard Townsend, mobilises volunteers from local churches and community groups across Bristol.

Each Saturday evening, the volunteers set up in Brunswick Square, serving up to 100 people who may be homeless or in need. The helpers provide hot meals, drinks, sandwich packs, toiletries, sleeping bags, clothing and dog food.

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Brigadoon

Barbie Davies

This year's audience was whisked from the cosy confines of Olveston Parish Hall to the Highlands of Scotland through a most atmospheric Brigadoon mist, cleverly created by gauze and subtle lighting from Richard Churchill. Scenery has to work hard – quickly and inventively – in this little hall, and in the experienced hands of Andy Black and his team, and the very efficient stage crew, it always does. Like the two American tourists of the story, the audience soon found themselves immersed in the mystical glens, forests and village of Brigadoon itself.



The show was yet another wise choice by Linda Evans for her cast, and the chance to resurrect an often forgotten musical. Maybe its fairy-tale innocence doesn't have immediate appeal for more cynical, modern audiences, and perhaps there are fewer well-known numbers to be heard. However, the company, as ever, gave all its enthusiasm, talent and commitment to bring a little gem alive.

The music was expertly handled by Chloe Allsopp-Jones and her quartet. Balance, pace and panache are always their hallmark, which brings real quality to the performances. One addition this year was a piper for the funeral lament which, together with Isobel Lambie's graceful dance, made a very moving scene. The singing of both the male and female choruses was strong, clear and expressive; indeed, all the full cast scenes benefited from a very evident team spirit and vivacity, as numbers like Jeannie's Packing Up and The Chase showed.

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Esther Beales played Jeannie very sweetly, and she also choreographed the show expertly. Her routines were practical for the space yet gave a real sense of movement with a lovely Highland flavour. The ominous Sword Dance was executed with real style and aplomb. Cameron Phillips gave a very convincing performance of the thwarted young man and lover. His singing, acting and dancing abilities are blossoming fast. William Elderton also shows much promise, as do several of the young lassies.

Cameron's father, Dan, played Tommy Albright, one of the American tourists who enter the mysterious world of Brigadoon. His performance had confidence, charm and sincerity which paired so well with his heroine, Fiona MacKeith, played by Emily Jones. Is she Scottish? Her accent was perfect, even in her singing, which was as glorious. Her purity of pitching gave the real period feel, which is so often lacking in the modern musical 'sliding' onto notes. Emily gave Fiona all the innocence and good-humoured grace the part demanded, a most winning and professional performance.



The comic roles of American Jeff Douglas (Paul Harrod) and Brigadoon flirt Meg Brockie (Kate Coyle) gave much amusement with their timing and liveliness. (See photo on the left) Kate's patter-type songs were truly challenging, but carried off with real skill, sparkle and clarity. Paul's gently sozzled jokes and scepticism were delivered with a delightful American accent and flavour. Paul Dimery's splendid traditional delivery of Charlie Cameron's songs and warm character provided an excellent contrast, and Phil Savage, as Mr Murdoch, delivered a most difficult and long speech about Brigadoon's mystery very convincingly and logically.

All the leading roles were very well supported by those who played cameos

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with much care and commitment, so that the overall high impact was maintained. New Director Heather Collins is obviously steering with an experienced eye and hand, and her husband Mark (on this occasion on sound) is obviously going to be an asset too! The future bodes well with such a partnership.

Only two things were missing from the show: Linda Evan's serene and lovely presence, and wonderful Mike Chappel, who sadly died recently. Cath Chappel had still organised all the costumes and was one of the villagers of Brigadoon. In the finale, on the last night of the show, I caught the mist in her brave eye, and the mists of Brigadoon were in my own. Thank you, Parish Players.

Watch this space for details of next year's show and save the dates: 19-22 February 2025. You can follow The Parish Players at www.facebook.com/OlvestonParishPlayers.

Bell Ringing is Fun

The church bells at St Mary's, Olveston, and St Helen's, Alveston, have fallen silent. We need some heroes to get them ringing again! No experience is needed. Please come to St Helen's Church on Thursday, 11th April at 7.30 pm to meet with Philip Coward (Olveston Tower Captain) and a few others, to learn more.

Suitable for anyone over the age of age ten and those who need to learn a skill for the Duke of Edinburgh or King's Scout award schemes. Everyone is very welcome. Email revsrural@gmail.com for details, or just turn up.

Collectors' Book Fair

An annual Book Fair, held at Easter Compton Village Hall since 2006, takes place again on Saturday 20th April 10am to 12 noon.

This regional event, run by the Observer's Books Collectors' Society, features thousands of vintage collectable books for sale. As well as Observer's books, others include Ladybirds, Beatrix Potter, Wayside and Woodland. There are also many different book series on subjects like natural history, transport and militaria. All book enthusiasts are welcomed, and admission is free. Advice and valuation on books can be gained from the expert stallholders who come from all over the country to attend.

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Update on the 918 Bus

Caroline Brewser

The 918 bus runs through our villages on the route of the former 622. Unlike the 622, it only runs twice per day - once in time to get pupils to The Castle School in Thornbury in the morning and then to bring them home at the end of the school day. It exists as a result of a long-running campaign by parents, so that children in our area can get to school.

The bus is open to all members of the public and stops at Rock Street in Thornbury as well as The Castle School. The fare from Olveston Parish to Thornbury is £3 return and £2 single (regardless of age). In the morning, the 918 leaves Tockington (The Swan) at 08.04, Olveston (Haw Lane) at 08.08 and Old Down at 08.10. It returns from The Castle School at 15.30 and Rock Street at 15.35.

The bus is supported by a subsidy from South Gloucestershire Council. The good news is that the Council have just agreed to continue the subsidy until July 2025 (it was previously July 2024). They have so far provided three emergency subsidies to keep the bus going, while we continue to discuss long term funding with the West of England Combined Authority (the organisation with responsibility for public buses in our region).

Please spread the word about the bus to people who may not know about it. If you or your child relies on this bus for transport, please let me know (cbrewser@freeuk.com). You won't be asked to do anything else, but if we know how many people rely on the bus, it will help our discussions about its future. Thank you.

Classic Car Breakfast Meeting



Saturday 13th April 10am until 12 noon.

St Helen's Church, Alveston, BS35 3QT

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An April Tweet

Dr Rovert

As many of us know, our garden bird population has been declining for some time. Research has shown that that this decline is caused primarily by a reduction in natural habitat brought about by the need for greater efficiency in agriculture. So we are indeed grateful that South Glos. Council, through its Parish Councils, is promoting a Biodiversity Action Plan, one aspect of which is to restore the wild life habitat in our area by encouraging garden owners to cultivate plants which are 'wild life friendly.'



But I have to report that this will not solve the problem – not in the West Country anyway. Recent research has shown that there is a much more sinister reason for the decline. Several years ago (*as you may remember*) a 'wonder bird food' was introduced into our market: Japanese Walnuts. Everyone loved them, including the birds: they sang louder, their plumage was brighter and they seemed friendlier. But, shortly after this, the decline in bird numbers accelerated and some disappeared almost entirely. The research suggested that the Japanese Walnuts were the cause because they were probably programming the birds to fly east. The Japanese Walnut tree (*Juglans ailantifolia*) is native to Japan and is unhappy growing anywhere else, so it was possible the nuts were sending some kind of message to the bird saying "I don't like it here – take me home."

The researchers then travelled to East Anglia to test their theory, and sure enough they discovered that, far from decreasing, the number of small garden birds in that region had been *increasing* over the last few years! Several residents commented on this and one reported that the blue tits always seemed to prefer nest boxes that looked out over the sea to the east.

The researchers then decided to see if they could solve the problem. They set out feed trays containing Oregon Filberts, these are the fruit of the Oregon hazel, a tree native only to the US state of Oregon. Would the birds eat them? Would it programme them to fly west? Would they return to South Glos?

So far it's been partly successful: YES, the birds are eating them. YES they are flying west. YES they are coming to South Glos. But they are not the species that left us. The birds coming in are mainly avocets and bitterns! So here's the challenge for us: What do we do to make them feel at home? Providing the right habitat is the top priority and so, if you'd like to help, come along to Olveston Stores at 10.00 a.m. on April 1st to collect a free supply of wet reed plants for your garden. Let's show we welcome our immigrants from the east!



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Who is Dr Rovert?

The article on the previous page is from the Meeting Point archive and was first published in 2018. But who is Dr Rovert? The answer is that this was the pseudonym used by the late Trevor Anderson for his humorous articles, particularly ones he produced for this time of year. Trevor was a long-time friend of Meeting Point and a past editor. It is great to be able to enjoy one of his light-hearted pieces once more.

Thornbury Art Club



Tuesday April 23rd is our Club Night, when Lee Wright - professional artist, printmaker and tutor - will demonstrate a floral still life oil painting. This is a great opportunity to watch an artist at work, ask questions, and get some tips.

We welcome any visitors or prospective new members. £6 on the door, includes tea and biscuits.

7.15 for 7.30pm
St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Rd, Thornbury.

For more details visit:
www.thornburyartclub.co.uk, www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub,
Email: publicrelations.tac@gmail.com or Tel. 01454 414433

Tabletop Sale

Thornbury Volunteer Centre is holding a spring tabletop sale and pop-up café on Saturday 27th April between 10am and 12.30pm at Thornbury Methodist Church Hall.

Local community groups, charities and individuals will be selling a large variety of goods: cards, produce, crafts, vintage items and much more. Join us for tea, coffee, and delicious home-made cakes. Enter our Easter raffle and help to raise valuable funds to support local community groups and charities.

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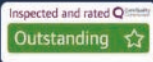


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Oveston Parish Council

Exciting News!

Our new website is now up and running. It features up to date information from events in our local area to minutes of our last meeting. We have also launched a Parish Council page on X (@OvestonPC1), Instagram (@ovestonparishcouncil) and Facebook (@Oveston Parish Council).

To kick things off we would like to share some photographs of our wonderful Parish. The focus is 'Spring' so please do get involved and send your photographs to: clerk@ovestonparishcouncil.gov.uk.



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Community Quiz Night

Friday 26th April at Olveston Parish Hall. Doors open at 7pm ready for quizzing to start at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 per person including fish and chips, or £6 quiz only.

Don't miss this fun, interactive, Community Quiz Night with questions for everyone. Bring your own alcoholic drinks, and don't forget to have some cash to buy soft drinks, sweets, and raffle tickets. Teams should be up to a maximum of 5 people. Book by emailing TOCS.friends@gmail.com. Please send us your bookings by midday on Thursday 25th April, so we can preorder the fish and chips.

This lively and inclusive evening will raise vital funds to support Tockington Chapel and the Wesley Rooms in the centre of the village, which are part of Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church, to ensure that they can continue to benefit our whole community. Tell your friends and family and come along ready to enjoy testing your knowledge and guessing power. You'll have an evening to remember!

Monday Movie Club 1st April



Everyone is welcome at St Mary's, Olveston, for the Monday Movie Club. It is held on the first Monday of every month (summer excluded) and there is no entry fee or membership needed.

Refreshments, tea, coffee, wine and beer are available. The Monday Movie Club is a true community event.

This month we are showing an English/Irish film made just last year. A group of women living in a poor part of Dublin dream of going to Lourdes, but theirs is a hard, tough life. However, their local priest somehow manages to let four of them win an all-expenses paid trip to Lourdes in a raffle.

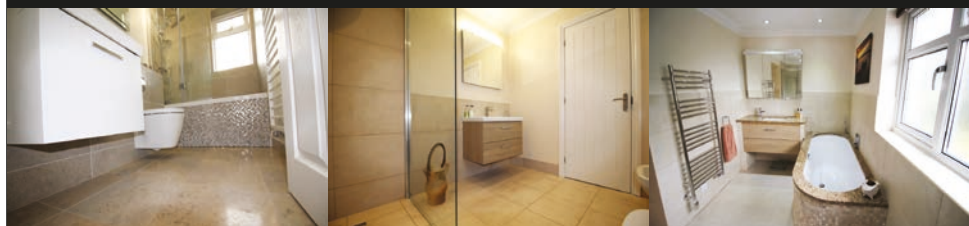
Imagine the feelings they experience on travelling to the French Pyrenees when none of them has ever left Dublin, let alone Ireland, before. Sour memories and deep wounds are exposed when they meet up with a lady who left Dublin for the States decades earlier. But whatever it is that they thought they were looking for, becomes clearer as each day progresses. This is a film full of comedy, love, and friendship.

Doors open at 7pm and the film starts at 7:30pm. (NB. Under the terms of our licensing agreement, we are not permitted to name the film.)

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St Mary's Music

The re-instated monthly Sunday afternoon concerts at St. Mary's Church, Thornbury, are proving to be very popular. The next concert is on April 21st at 4.00pm with the Thornbury Good Afternoon Choir

The concerts are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month. They last about an hour, followed by refreshments. Admission is free and there is a retiring collection. We hope to see you there.

Severn Vale Flower Club

On Monday 15th April we will be holding our Spring Open Meeting in the Olveston and Tockington Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

Elizabeth Graham, from Llanelli, will give a floral demonstration entitled 'Buds, Branches and Blooms'. Elizabeth is a past Chair of the Three Counties and South Wales area and is a longstanding member of Llanelli Floral Art Society. She is a keen competitor and has had success at the RHS shows, including Chelsea, and has organised several flower festivals.

For tickets and for further information, please contact 01454 885213 or 01453 811089.

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the March draw, held on 7th March 2024 were:

Amount	Number	Name
£150	630	Mr K Richards, Tockington
£75	273	Mrs J Croome, Exmouth
£50	176	Mrs D Hedges, Pilning
£25	595	Mrs C Healey, Olveston
£25	628	Mrs D Poulton, Olveston
£20	395	Mr M Grosvenor, Tockington
£20	564	Mr P Haworth, Olveston
£20	437	Mr M Belsten, Olveston
£20	658	Mr A Phillips, Olveston
£20	168	Mrs F Milward, Olveston

If you are not yet a member and wish to join the lottery, please telephone Andy Phillips on 01454 614890 or email andisp28@hotmail.co.uk . Don't forget - if you're not in you can't win!

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Save the Date

Tockington Harvest Fayre will be taking place on Saturday 14th September 2024, so put the date in your diary now. There are lots of opportunities to get involved - it doesn't need to be a big commitment. Just an hour or so of your time would be really valuable in bringing a lot of joy to the community, while raising vital funds for Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church and buildings, including Tockington Wesley Rooms.

- You could:
- provide some ideas for activities or entertainment,
 - help on the day, either with set up or running a stall,
 - join the planning group – we're a friendly bunch!

To get in touch, contact Maggie Spooner (tocs.hire@gmail.com) or Jane (jane@prologue.co.uk).

Severn Vale Art Trail 2024



We are pleased to announce that this year's art trail will be taking place over the Early May Bank Holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Monday 6th May 2024.

Enjoy an afternoon, day, or the whole weekend, exploring the trail from Stinchcombe down to Alveston, discovering talented local artists displaying their art in their own studios or shared venues. This year we will be hosting 68 artists in 31 venues representing a diverse range of work: paintings, photography, ceramics, textiles, jewellery, glass art, mosaics and much more!

Many of the venues have refreshments for sale or are located close to local coffee shops, and include interesting churches, working studios and community buildings. This is a great opportunity to support local artists and purchase original artwork and gifts, or simply to enjoy an inspiring day out!

For details of all the artists and venues (including accessibility, directions and opening hours), and to view the trail map, please visit our website www.severnvalleartrail.org or pick up one the printed trail guides from local shops and cafes. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook [@severnvalleartrail](https://www.facebook.com/severnvalleartrail) for all the latest updates. For further information regarding press release please contact Lynda Knott on 07833496799, or Lynda.knott@yahoo.co.uk.

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Green Force

Do you know.....disposable vapes are becoming one of the defining images of our throwaway society? Disposable vapes are almost impossible to recycle and they create huge amounts of waste. For every vape sold, there's the production of plastic, mining for lithium, shipping for transport and packaging to sell it. Then the waste at the end of its life. In the UK we bin nearly 5 million vapes each week. The safest way to recycle any vape is with other small electrical appliances for the kerbside collection or find the nearest vape collection point.

The use of a lithium battery in a single-use product doesn't make sense. Over 10 tonnes of lithium were thrown out with disposable vapes in UK in one year. That's enough to make batteries for 1,200 electric cars. For a green transition we need to get the most use out of scarce minerals like lithium. Vapes also contain chemicals and nicotine which are hazardous waste that will leak into the environment when disposed.

Spring is with us..... so think about garden birds and put out some feeders as they rear their young. Bluebells and primroses will be out in the woods for you to see on a country ramble.

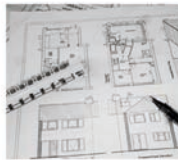
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Save the Date

Thornbury Carnival's volunteer committee has been meeting regularly over the last few months, planning for the 2024 event which will take place over the weekend of Friday 5th and Saturday 6th July. Building on the success of 2023, the committee's focus this year remains on providing an enjoyable and inclusive weekend for the local community while continuing to try and secure the long-term financial viability of the event. Thornbury Carnival will again include two separate events – Thornbury Carnival 'Swing in the Park' on the evening of Friday 5th July and Thornbury Carnival 'The Main Event' on Saturday 6th July.

More information about the event can be found on the Thornbury Carnival website: www.thornburycarnival.co.uk. If you're interested in performing, entering your vehicle in the Show 'n' Shine, or booking a stall, please visit the Taking Part section of the website.



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From the Registers of St Mary's, Olveston

Monday March 4th

Funeral and burial of Margaret Phillips

April in Thornbury Library

Easter Crafts - Bunnies in Space

Come along and enjoy out of this world crafts on
 Wednesday 3rd April 10.30am -11.30am Suitable for age 4+

Enjoy a free hot drink in the Library

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Ukrainian Storytime

Every Monday at 4pm

Please tell your Ukrainian family, friends, and colleagues, about Zoya, a Ukrainian teacher, who will be in the library every Monday at 4pm to share stories, reading, etc, from the Ukraine

Have You Read...?

A book group for everyone. Come and enjoy a reading group with a difference! No set novel to read. Just drop in for an hour for refreshments and a chat
 Friday 5th April 2pm-3pm

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 Every Thursday 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am

Staffed Times

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Wednesday: 9.30am-5.30pm

Thursday: 9.30am-5.30pm

Friday: 9.30am-5.30pm

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Tony Gardner

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17/02/24 Tony Gardner
24/02/24 Barry Reeves
02/03/24 Alex Grosvenor
09/03/24 Tony Gardner

Olveston Fun Run

Olveston Fun Run will be held on Saturday 20th April, open to all runners of any age and ability. Take part in a 5K run around the local area or a 1K colour run around Olveston Primary School field.

There will also be family friendly stalls and refreshments (including bacon baps) for supporters to participate in this community event. This is an open event, not just for families of children who attend Olveston Primary School. Secure your place today. Contact: olvestonfunrun@gmail.com

Alveston Gardens Association

Meetings will be as usual at 7.30pm on the first Monday of the month at the Jubilee Hall Alveston. April 1st: Rosemary Verey 1918-2001, by Margie Hoffnung.


Garden Opening for NGS Charities

Stoneleigh Down, Upper Tockington Road, Tockington BS32 4LQ

Su and John Mills will be opening their garden for National Garden Scheme Nursing and Health Charities between 12.00 and 4.00 on Monday 1st April, Easter Monday.

Tea and homemade cakes available and plenty of seats to enjoy different aspects of the garden. All monies raised go to charity.

Admission: Adults £6.00 Children free. Dogs on leads welcome.




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The Armstrong Arts Group presents two performances, 11.00am and 2.00pm, on Saturday 6th April, at the Methodist Church Lower Hall in Castle Court off Thornbury High Street. Tickets from AAGThornbury@gmail.com or phone 01454 850933, £10 for adults and £5 for children under 16.

Support Line for Carers

Caring for someone can be difficult and lonely, but Carers Support Centre is here to help. Carers Support Centre's CarersLine is a free, confidential information and support service for unpaid carers. Whether you've been caring for years, or you're new to caring, the friendly voices on CarersLine can give you practical advice or just a sympathetic ear to talk to. Last year we talked to over 3000 carers in Bristol and South Gloucester, all with different challenges and different caring responsibilities.

Our experienced team can give you support and advice about almost anything related to caring, like:

- Breaks from caring,
- Ways of looking after yourself,
- Information about benefits and debt,
- Where carers can go to get specialist help,
- Juggling work and care,
- Where to start in getting help at home,
- Support for carers in GP practices and hospitals,
- Aids and adaptations,
- Guidance with form filling and where to go for further help,
- Managing other people's affairs.

CarersLine is open:

Monday to Friday: 10 am – 1 pm
Monday to Thursday: 2 pm – 4 pm
(Closed on Bank Holidays)

0117 965 2200 carersline@carerssupportcentre.org.uk



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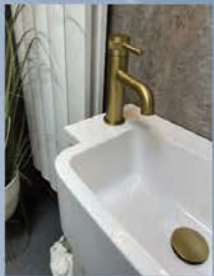



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Looking ahead to May

On Saturday May 11th, Thornbury Choral Society will be performing a concert of English music in St Mary's Church Thornbury at 7.30pm. The programme consists of works by Benjamin Britten "Rejoice in the Lamb", two compositions by Vaughan Williams "Five Mystical Songs" and "Benedicite" and settings of Psalm 86 and 148 by Gustav Holst. Tickets are £18 (pre-booked) £20 (on the door) £5 (students). Tickets are available from members and from Horders Stationers (after April 27th) or email: tickets@thornburychoralsociety.co.uk For further information go to our website www.thornburychoralsociety.co.uk

Yours Faithfully

*Rev'd Neil Mobbs
Oasis Church*

I have been privileged to serve as a hospital chaplain in several Bristol hospitals for many years. During this time I have been called upon to pray with many people who requested this. We have seen God answer our prayers. In Matthew's gospel Chapter 6, Jesus gave teaching on prayer. Jesus said "When" you pray not "if" "you pray, expecting us as Christian believers to be prayerful. We are encouraged to pray in private rather than trying to impress people in public as we pray, He said, What a joy to talk to our Heavenly Father who Jesus said would reward us as we pray.

Most of us would probably know what is called the Lord's Prayer. What a blessing to call God "our Heavenly Father" who cares, provides and forgives us. For me, one of the most important phrases in this prayer is "Your kingdom come, and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven". As we hear about wars, suffering, persecution of Christians and so much else in our world today, how we need to pray this prayer.

Prayer is important and effective. Paul wrote to Timothy, "I urge you to pray for everyone and to give thanks for them. Also for kings and those in authority so we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity". Also that the Gospel might spread through the world.

May I encourage you to pray daily to God for yourself, your family members, friends and neighbours. As Paul said, "for everyone ".

May God bless you as you pray, and may you experience many answers to our prayers to His praise and glory.



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Church News

ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

April 7th	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev David Lloyd
	6pm	Evensong	Rev David Lloyd
April 14th	10 am	No service	
	6pm	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
April 21st	10am	Morning Prayer	
	6pm	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd
April 28th	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd
	6pm	Evensong	Rev David Bone

Every Saturday in Term Time, 'REFRESH', 4.30-5.30 - Fun, relaxed church for families, all welcome. Every Wednesday, Holy Communion, 10am. NB. Clergy may change.

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

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

April 14 th	10am	Morning Prayer	Trevor Cook
April 28 th	10am	Holy Communion	Trevor Cook

Contact: Trevor Cook, 01454 618442

Church Wardens: Jenn Dickens 632312 and Jon Burnett 633835

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

April 14th	9am	Morning Worship	Rev Ann Lloyd
April 28th	9am	Holy Communion	Tracey Black

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

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ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

April 14th	9am	Morning Prayer	Judith Heybyrne
April 28th	9am	Holy Communion	Judith Heybyrne

Contacts: Judith Heybyrne 616725

Church Wardens: Catharine Gunnery 413225 and Cheryl Meredith 411065

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

April 7th	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by the Rev. Aboseh Ngwana
April 14th	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship. Local Arrangement
April 21 st	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Christine Jones
April 28th	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Dr Simon Edwards

Contact: Rev Dr Simon Edwards 418176,
simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

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

Meeting at 11am every Sunday and on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 2.30pm.

Contact: 07512 917229, thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Services at 6.30pm every Sunday. All are welcome.

Contact: Neil Mobbs, cnmobbs@hotmail.com

AUST EVANGELICAL and LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

Contact: esther@thebamfields.co.uk

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury

Mass on Sundays at 9.00 and 10.30am

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

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

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

Diary Dates for April

Information believed to be correct at going to press.

1 Mon	Easter Monday NGS Open Garden, Tockington Monday Movies	12-4pm 7.30 pm	S+M
2 Tues	Over 60's Coffee Morning every Tuesday Citizens Advice every Tuesday 10-12 Macular and Low Vision Group Thornbury Art Club, Tues Painting Studio	10-12pm 10-12 10.30 1.30 pm	DGCL TTH TMH SMCH
3 Weds	Table Tennis every Wednesday OPHS Romans in Tockington Park	7 pm 7.30pm	OPH OMC
4 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers Market Coffee Shop Good Afternoon Choir, every Thurs Thornbury Art Club, Thursday Studio	9 am 9-12 pm 1-3 pm 1.30 pm	S+M URC SMCH
5 Fri	First Friday Community Café. Haven Memory Café. Every 1 st and 3 rd Friday	10-12 10.15	TMC URC
6 Sat	Park Run, Mundy Playing Field every Saturday Go Nuts with Nutty Noah	9am 11am/2pm	TMH
9 Tue	Thornbury Memory Café. Every 2 nd and 4 th Tuesday. Thornbury Art Club, Tues Painting Studio OTWI	10.15am 1.30pm 7.30pm	TMH SMCH OPH
11 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop Thornbury Art Club Thursday Studio	9am 9-12pm 1.30pm	S+M SMCH
13 Sat	Cossham bi-centenary Conference Coffee Morning at Olveston Methodist Hall, 2 nd & 4 th Sat	10-4.30 10-12pm	TCC OMH
15 Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club Spring Open Eve	7.30pm	OPH
16 Tues	Thornbury Art Club, Tues Painting Studio	1.30pm	SMCH

18 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop Thornbury Art Club, Thurs Studio	9am 10-12pm 10-12pm	S+M SMCH
19 Fri	Haven Memory Café,	10.15am	URC
20 Sat	Olveston School Fun Run	9 - 12.30	
23 Tues	Thornbury Art Club, Tues Painting Studio Thornbury Art Club night	1.30pm 7.15pm	SMCH SMCH
25 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop Thornbury Art Club, Thurs Studio	9am 10-12pm 1.30pm	S+M SMCH
27 Sat	Coffee Morning Vintage Antique and Craft Fair Thornbury Volunteer Centre Tabletop Sale and Café.	10-12am 10.30-3.0 10-12.30	OMH LVH TMH
29 Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club	2pm	SMCH
30 Tues	Thornbury Art Club, Tues Studio	1.30pm	SMCH

KEY: **AMC** - Alveston Methodist Church, **AMH** - Alveston Methodist Hall, **CS** - Castle School, **CTK** - Christ the King, **DGCL** - Daldry Gardens Community Lounge, **EVH** - Elberton Village Hall, **OC** - Oasis Church, Old Down, **OMC** - Olveston Methodist Church, **OMH** - Olveston Methodist Hall, **OPH** - Olveston Parish Hall, **QAMP** - Queen Alexandra Memorial Pavilion, Old Down, **S+M** - St Mary's Church, **S+MT** - Thornbury St Mary's Ch, **SMCH** - St Mary's Church Hall Thornbury, **TCC** - Turnberries, **TMC** - Tockington Methodist Church, **TMH** - Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, **TTH** - Thornbury Town Hall, **URC** - United Reform Church, **LVH** - Littleton Village Hall

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.olvostonandaust.com. If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvostonandaust.com

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