

# Meeting Point

*Volume 37, Number 3, December 2012*

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

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## **From the Editor**

Christmas is approaching .... My 'to do' list is getting longer by the day and I am, as usual, in danger of overlooking the spiritual in favour of the secular. Meeting Point tries to maintain a balance; there are lots of seasonal events to note, some light hearted and some serious comment to read, and also a full church calendar towards the back of the magazine.

Everyone at Meeting Point would like to wish all readers, contributors and advertisers a happy and peaceful Christmas.

*Phyllida*



The cover uses a design by Kate Hickman for December 1984

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

**Meeting Point magazine and Meeting Point Directory are online at the  
Community Website: [www.olvestonandaust.com](http://www.olvestonandaust.com)**

# We are all Village Persons

Pat Thirkettle

Olveston Parish is a very green and pleasant part of England, but it is the feeling of community that makes it such good place to live. It is not unique in that; every time there is a horrific murder or disaster people often say 'nothing like that happens in our lovely community'.

However, every one of us is unique and has an interesting story to tell, (even if we don't think so), when someone takes the time to enquire. Each month's Village Person is suggested by the Meeting Point committee, and they would welcome future ideas, especially about younger members of the community.

People are endlessly fascinating to interview. They all fit between two extremes, usually after they have said 'why me?!' There are those who are very organised, have done some homework and have nearly written the article themselves; and at the other end there are those who jump backwards and forwards chronologically which makes the notes rather confusing. They have usually lived in this country even if they have moved or worked abroad at times. However there was one Village Person, Marissa Morrey featured in 2002, who was here for a year's exchange with her family from Cairns, Australia. Her article was completely different as she was outside, looking in, and the following is how she summed us up.

*Marissa is delighted by the warm welcome she has received from the school mums (Thomas and Patrick are at Olveston School) and the Pre School mums (Michael and Louise go there). She is amazed how 'English' it is here, exactly as Australians imagine it to be; small stone buildings, little lanes, small fields, hedges, daffodils, bluebells, horses ridden on the roads and people walking on the footpaths. She is impressed with the energy in the village and the wide variety of social activity. The family look forward to the Jubilee celebrations having heard people's memories of the Silver Jubilee locally.*

*(Meeting Point June 2002)*

A big thank you for allowing me briefly into your lives – you know who you are, including the three who refused!

## Fish and Quiz Supper at Olveston Parish Hall

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Teams of 4 - 7.30 for 7.45 pm prompt start - £7.50 per person - cash bar  
Contact: Pat Savage on 01454 610388 or pat@savageassociates.co.uk

# Advent windows

Look out for the living Advent Calendar throughout the villages of Olveston and Tockington. Each day a new window will be lit up, and they'll all stay lit till January 6th. Why not follow their progress and work your way towards Christmas? Here's where (at the time of going to press) they are:

- 1 The Knoll, Lower Tockington Rd
- 2 Morton House, New Road
- 3 Apple Tree Cottage, Tockington Green
- 4 Greengates, The Street
- 5 Green Lane Garage
- 6 The White Hart
- 7 April Cottage, The Street
- 8 Court Lodge, Upper Tockington Rd
- 9 Orchard Lea, Vicarage Lane
- 10 Churchill Cottage, Vicarage Lane
- 11 Waypoint, New Road
- 12 Cromwell House, The Street
- 13 3 Hardy Lane, Tockington
- 14 The Old Forge, Upper Tockington Rd
- 15 Lavender Cottage, Vicarage Lane
- 16 Hillside House, Haw Lane
- 17 Court End, Haw Lane
- 18 13 The Green, Olveston
- 19 20 Denys Court
- 20 Two-Ways, Tockington Green
- 21 23 Manor Park
- 22 13 Manor Park
- 23 12 Orchard Rise
- 24 St Mary's Church

## Lizzy Philpott

Neil wishes to thank the hundreds of people who have written to him and who attended his wife Lizzy's funeral last month. He was unable to speak to many people, but is very grateful that you all participated in the service Lizzy had requested and was carried out according to her wishes by Paul Ashford, her family and friends. Lizzy touched many lives through her family, her teaching and her many friends, and she shared her strong Christian faith with all, as well as living it daily in her own life.

# **Friends of Olveston School Christmas wreath-making event**

FOOS are holding a Christmas wreath-making evening on Friday 7th December from 5.30pm - 7.30pm or 8.00pm - 10.00pm in the Wike Hall at Olveston School. The cost is £17.00 per person (including mulled wine & a mince pie).

No experience is necessary as a professional will be on hand to guide you to the end! You will need to bring a pair of secateurs and any donations of greenery most welcome to be shared by all. This was an extremely popular event last year so book early to avoid disappointment. Places are on a first come first served basis.

For more information or to book your place please contact Clare Evans on 07584 194545 or at [clareevanstobe@hotmail.com](mailto:clareevanstobe@hotmail.com)

## **St Peter's Hospice Sevenside Support Group Annual Bazaar**



The Annual Bazaar for St Peter's Hospice will take place in the Armstrong Hall on Saturday 8th December between 10.00am and 12 noon. Variety of Stalls including Cards and Diaries, Gifts, Crafts, Home-made preserves, Cakes and Puddings, plus many more. Raffle and Teas. Entry by Donation.

Thank you for supporting St Peter's – your local Hospice.

# News From St Mary's Olveston

*Roly Bain*

## **Flight for Sight**

That's the name of our new major fundraising project that we launched last month. We're trying to raise another £12,000 to enable MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) to fly in a monthly eye clinic to remote parts of Africa. Each three day trip costs £1,000 so it's a year's worth. Simple operations can give the blind, or should that be blinded, back their sight, and people walk hundreds of miles if they think they can be helped in this way. Our next event will be at Olveston School on January 25th-26th, and there will be details of that in our next Meeting Point as well as through the usual school channels, but there will be a plane in the school grounds and a flight simulator to have a go on as well as other attractions. Our annual Burns Night will be on the 26th at The Vicarage and profits from that will go to MAF too. Meanwhile, you might like to consider adding those people to your Christmas present list - the gift of sight is a precious gift indeed. If you'd like to, please send a cheque, payable to Olveston PCC, to me, Roly Bain at the Vicarage, Olveston, BS35 4DA, or put it through my door. Thank you!

## **Brace**

Thank you to those who contributed to our appeal for BRACE, a local charity that funds Alzheimer's research. We had hoped to host a Big Breakfast to raise the £500 target but not enough people expressed an appetite for that! Nevertheless, people have been generous since then and the target has been reached. It's all part of the Silver Service Appeal, celebrating 25 years of their existence. Thanks indeed.

## **Christmas songs in 'The Hart'**

For those of you who enjoy singing Christmas songs and carols in the pub along with the choir each year, it's on Friday, Dec 21st at 9pm, and mince pies will be served as always. We're grateful to Steve for his hospitality. Our Village Carol Service this year is the Sunday before, ie the 16th, so don't be caught out!

## **The Buttonhole Window**

All things being equal (in other words, if it's finished!) we shall be dedicating the newly repaired Buttonhole Window on Dec 2nd at 6pm. It is so called in memory of John Crossley, who always wore a buttonhole and produced a book of them himself. The family have paid for its repair, along with the addition of a frieze of six buttonhole panes along the bottom. A glass of wine and simple refreshments will be served after the service. Do come and join Jill and her family on this occasion. The rest of the service will be Taize in style - a simple service for Advent Sunday.



# The Garden Line

From articles (1991-92) by *Cecilie Turton*

Have a good look around the garden and make sure all clay pots have been put under cover, they are very expensive to replace should frosts crack them.

Keep houseplants on the dry side and give them plenty of light. Pots of bulbs should be kept just moist and not too hot.

Garden frames need to be covered after severe frost to avoid rapid thawing. Pinch out tips of seedling sweet peas after second or third pairs of leaves have formed.

Plant deciduous trees and shrubs during mild weather, firm soil well around the roots. Roses can still be planted if the soil is dry and no frosts or snow are about. Talking of snow, should we get a heavy fall, shake branches of shrubs and conifers free to help keep their shape and avoid branches breaking with the weight.

One of the most exciting pastimes of December is to curl up by the fire with the new seed catalogues. I always get carried away and shocked when I tot up the cost and find it difficult to strike any out. It's best to share your packets with a gardening friend.

The apples in my little orchard are not going to keep, grubs have had a fine time with them, so if not too late I shall grease band the trees as soon as possible to deter earwigs etc.

What is nicer than a baked Bramley apple cooked on a well buttered slice of bread, conserving all the juices?

Enjoy your Christmas and have a happy, healthy New Year.

## Litter Pick

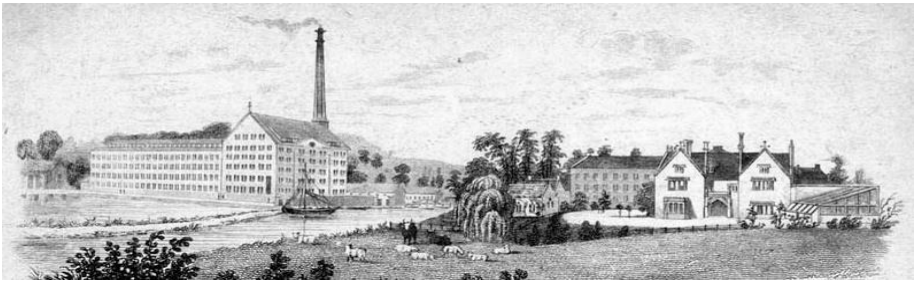
There will be a Litter Pick on Saturday 1st December. Please meet at the Parish Hall car park at 1pm. Everyone welcome. Rod Williams 612850.

# Cloth-Making in Gloucestershire

Wednesday, 5 December 2012, 7.30pm, Olveston Methodist Church

Professor Jennifer Tann will give an illustrated talk entitled: ***Exploring Gloucestershire's Cloth-Making Heritage through Pictures and Places.*** Using paintings, photographs, maps and plans, she will bring to life some of Gloucestershire's extraordinary, centuries-long history of woollen-cloth making.

The river valleys of places like Stroud, Cam, Uley and Dursley were studded with watermills, some of which went over partly to steam as time went on. The largest mills were enormous, hundreds of feet long and up to five stories high and they employed hundreds of local people.



*Ebley Mill Copyright: 2004 – Digital Stroud*

Gloucestershire supplied the luxury end of the market with superfine broadcloth. Stroud broadcloths were renowned for their deep colours, with Stroudwater Scarlet famous as the cloth of red military uniforms. 'Red for the army, white for the clergy and green for the billiard table' was a traditional saying in the Stroud cloth industry. The tradition of fine woollen cloth-making continues, with one company still producing high quality, worldwide exports of cloth for snooker tables and tennis balls – on the sites of two ancient Gloucestershire mills!

The speaker's knowledge of this successful export industry is considerable and her enthusiasm for Gloucestershire woollen mills is infectious! In fact, she now chairs the Stroudwater Textile Trust which aims to raise awareness of this industrial past (especially its mills).

Don't miss this talk. You can come along as a visitor and pay £2 on the door. All welcome! But if you'd like to join, Olveston Parish Historical Society's annual membership costs only £5, which you can pay on the door. As well as this one, there are four more talks this season.

**[www.olvoston.com.historical-society](http://www.olvoston.com.historical-society)**

# 1st Olveston Brownie Pack Holiday

Badminton Cottages Oct 19th – 21st 2012

*Written by Milly, Niamh, Rosie and Larragh*

## **Friday**

We have just arrived at Brownie Pack Holiday, after a long walk. I love the cottage; it's really small on the outside but surprisingly big on the inside! It's great to be spending time with lots of my Brownie friends and it's a fantastic idea to label parts of the house to fit in with the theme 'Beauty and the Beast'. All the adults had new names from the story and our sixes too!

## **Saturday**

Today we had breakfast and I cooked it, it was delicious! At 11.00 we went for a long, muddy walk, luckily we had sweets to keep us going! When we got back, we made dens in our sixes in the woods (ours was the best by far) using lots of wood and sticks. We also made a fire outside to toast marshmallows, jaffa cakes, popcorn and chocolate bananas. Then I went in to make a glass candle holder with stars, butterflies, dragonflies and flower gems on. I helped to prepare tea which was chicken, potatoes, peas and sweet corn; for pudding, I had ice cream and chocolate sauce. After that, we went outside to look for the Beasts puzzle in the dark with our torches, there were 35 pieces to find. As a reward for finding the puzzle the Beast made a wonderful surprise for us in the woods – it was lots of glow sticks and they looked like they were floating in the air. Then we went back to the camp fire and we sang and danced round it until it was time to go to bed.

## **Sunday**

Good morning, I had a good night's sleep – hooray! Today is the last day of Brownie Camp so I'm going to make the most of it. For breakfast, we had cereal, toast and a small fry up. We made paper roses, bats out of pompoms and felt, and played a tea set treasure hunt game out in the woods – our six won! For lunch ate pizza and veggie sticks. Afterwards we went to do some cooking on the camp fire. We also had two rope swings to play on – great fun! At four o'clock, we walked back down to Badminton Village hall through the muddy woods. Thank you and goodbye to Brownie Camp!



# Olveston Parish Council Matters

*Richard Rogers (Olvestonpc@gmail.com)*

Despite the inclement weather, the reported poor harvest and general economic gloom, 2012 will be remembered as a very good year. The Parish has enjoyed the wonderful Diamond Jubilee celebrations, has shared in the country's joy in the various sporting successes throughout the year, and there have been outstanding scenes as the trees have taken on their autumn hues. Even as the evenings have drawn in, the clocks have gone back, and the rain has again fallen, we have enjoyed Guy Fawkes Night and Halloween.

It is important to remember that not everyone likes these events and their privacy should always be respected. However, walking round on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, it was evident that many families had taken the opportunity for another party. Tubs of water could be seen with apples bobbing, half eaten doughnuts hanging on strings and some marvellously hideous pumpkins that demonstrated many had a good time on 'All Hallows Eve'. It is a shame that a small minority again caused unnecessary damage in the parish, and perhaps should focus their energies on arranging their own parties in future years.

December is the time to look forward and, with the recent inaugural meeting to kick off the Parish Vision, there are great opportunities to build on this year's successes, and develop the parish for the benefit of its many residents. 2013 will also see changes in the Parish Council with three members retiring in March. Mr Spratt after many years serving the parish has decided that it is now time to step down, Ms Hudspeth is moving to France and unable to regularly attend meetings, and Mr Cogram has been forced to retire due to work commitments. South Gloucestershire Council will be formally notified in February so that the democratic process can be instigated to seek replacements. However there is an opportunity in the meantime for anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor to find out more about it. Please feel free to contact the Clerk or any councillors, and parishioners are always welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month (except December when the meeting is on the 11<sup>th</sup>), details are advertised on the Parish notice boards.

The Parish Council would really like to thank the editors for their hard work in producing Meeting Point each month and Jenny Newley for keeping the Olveston website ([www.olveston.com](http://www.olveston.com)) updated. The Council would also like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2013.

# Aust Parish Council Matters

*Tim Pyper*

[\(austparishcouncil@googlemail.com\)](mailto:austparishcouncil@googlemail.com)

At its November meeting, the Council received advice from Avon Association of Local Councils about the Localism Act and its consequences for our Parish Council. This included a discussion of community (otherwise called parish) plans and neighbourhood plans. The former reflect the views of residents as to how they would like the community to develop and can cover a wide field, including land use, transport, facilities and so on. They have no legal effect but do have persuasive influence. A neighbourhood plan is one created under the Localism Act and is about land use only: effectively, a neighbourhood (which may be all or part of a parish) may create its own plan for development. This could, for example, be for a community hall or affordable housing. A neighbourhood plan, once approved by a referendum of the community, becomes legally binding with the same force as the South Gloucestershire Core Strategy will have. The Parish Council will be considering whether to pursue either or both of these options in the coming months.

The Avon Cycleway runs through the parish and residents have expressed concern about the danger to pedestrians caused by cyclists whizzing silently along with heads down, along narrow lanes with no pavements. It's difficult to know what can be done about this, but please take care. The Council will be writing to the appropriate authorities.

Aust Parish Council will not meet in December and its next meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

## **The Village Players present** *The Snow Queen*

an amateur production in association with Jasper Publishing  
Michael Buchanan-Smith's Pantomime

At Pilning Village Hall, on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2012  
Weeknights at 7.30 pm, Saturday at 1.30 and 6.00 pm £6.00 / £3.50

Booking Office 01454 633786

# News from the Windfarm Action Group

Many residents of the parish noticed over two weekends in October a weather balloon tethered in a field just the other side of the M48 close to Ingst. This was flown at 126m high by the Olveston Windfarm Action Group to illustrate to everyone how high the turbines would reach if the planning proposal is approved. (The latest proposal is for 2 turbines at 130m high.) Most people were astonished at how high the turbines would be and at how they would dominate the village. Don't forget that this height represents the tip of the blade, not the moving disc described by each of the turbines. Those will be 100m across. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmQ8zOlaDNg&feature=youtu.be> shows a compilation of all the photos of the weather balloon taken by local residents.

OWAG held a public meeting in the Parish Hall on 8 October. A good number of people turned up and the lively and impassioned discussion reinforced the message from the parish questionnaire earlier in the year. OWAG knows that the vast majority of local residents are against the proposed development, in the Green Belt and so close to where people live.

It is important to remember that, although OWAG has the formal support of Olveston Parish Council, and also of Aust and Pilning Parish Councils, it cannot respond on the community's behalf. When the application is submitted OWAG will contact everyone by a mail drop and explain in detail how to object. If you object, you have to say so to make it count!

*In the interests of balance, the Editor offers REGWindpower the right of reply in a future issue of Meeting Point*

## Old Down Cricket Club

### **150 Club Winners November:**

£50 Dave Buckley                      £15 Simon Gould                      £5 Jean Panes

### **Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:**

20th October    Tony Williams                      3rd November    Paul Middleton

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

# Movies at St Mary's: Dec

Trevor Anderson



THREE movies this month at St Mary's Church Olveston. Everyone is welcome and there is no need to book:

## **MONDAY MOVIES** (*Recent releases and popular classics*)

**Mon Dec 3rd at 7.30pm:** The best of the many film versions of Charles Dickens' classic Christmas Eve novel, with a wonderful performance from Alastair Sim. *Cert U*

## **MONDAY MOVIES EXTRA** (*Quality 'non-mainstream' films*)

**Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7.30pm:** A dazzling, enchanting and gorgeously drawn fairy tale from Japan about a young girl who finds herself trapped in a mystical realm of bizarre creatures. *Cert PG*

## **CHILDREN'S MOVIE CLUB** (*Every Monday morning in the hols*)

**Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Dec at 10.00am:** Once upon a cold and blustery day in the Hundred Acre Wood ... a festive adventure for the whole family from Disney. *Cert U*

Refreshments available at all the shows. Admission is free although a small **donation** at the end towards expenses is appreciated.

For copyright reasons we can't name the films here, but if you **join the Movie Club** we'll send you titles and full details by email. It costs nothing to join – just email me at [trevoranderson@btinternet.com](mailto:trevoranderson@btinternet.com).

## "The King and I"

The Parish Players' annual production will be earlier than usual next year. Performances will take place nightly at 7.30pm from Wed. 13 February to Sat. 16 February 2013. Best to write it in diaries and on calendars now! Tickets will go on sale on 12 January – more news in the January issue of Meeting Point.

The cast – including many local children – is busy rehearsing hard – 'whistling a happy tune' and 'getting to know you' and is determined to brighten your February evenings. Keep your eyes open for news of ticket sales – they'll probably sell like hot cakes!



# An Accident at Olveston Church on Christmas Day 1838

*Eric Garrett*

On Christmas Day in the year 1838, just after the Rev. Dr. Charlton had ascended the pulpit and commenced his sermon, the rope of the large weight of the tower clock broke and let the weight of about 250 lbs fall about 17 feet upon the belfry floor with a tremendous noise, which was heard over the village.

Under the tower and in the transepts on rows of wood benches, the school children sat. The master, Mr Williams sat in the corner and had the weight come through the floor it would have killed him and probably some of the children. A stout plank stopped it from coming down into the church.

The children, as may be imagined, were frightened nearly out of their wits and made a dash to the little door as it is now called, loudly screaming, with frantic efforts to get out of the church.

In a pew near to the door sat the worthy doctor, he also was one of the first to make an exit for the same door and in so doing was sadly pulled about by the children, so much so that on his way home his coat was anything but becoming to his honourable profession.

The vicar standing in his pulpit unmoved, watching his congregation making frantic efforts to escape from the church, but who were unable to do so on account of the door opening inwards.

His curate-assistant, who was sitting at the reading-desk beneath the pulpit, was not so self-possessed, for the instant the weight fell, he bounded from his seat into the aisle and bursting open the door, threw up his arms over his head, struck with terror at the tremendous noise from above, while particles of lime and dust from the roof fell upon him.

The cause of this great commotion was soon discovered, the vicar dismissed the remainder of his congregation.

*Recorded in Gloucester Notes and Queries*

# **Olveston and Tockington W.I. Report**

At the AGM at the beginning of November a presentation with photographs reminded us of the many events our members took part in, such as the Avon Kurling championships, Skittles, Table Tennis, the transfer of the WI “Olympic” Torch around the Avon branches, the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee (including our card to Her Majesty and her reply), the charity coffee morning and garden party, not to mention our monthly meetings and social events. Our accounts were shown to be in a pleasingly healthy state, so all in all it was a very enjoyable year. Most of our committee agreed to stand again so I’m sure we can rely on our hard-working committee to arrange another good W.I. year for 2013.

We presented our members’ donation to “Multiple Sclerosis People’s Help”, a local charity, after which we enjoyed an amazing Magic Show from two of their volunteers. – How do they do it?

## **Generous shoppers support Cancer Research**

Many of those shopping at Tesco over the weekend 26-28th October were so generous that the sum raised amounted to £1,463.59.

Mary Hurford-Jones, Chairman of the local committee, expresses appreciation of the efforts made by Committee members and volunteers, drawn from family and friends, who cheerfully gave of their time to collect on behalf of Cancer Research UK. Tesco management was helpful and accommodating throughout the weekend.

It all made for an incredible and worthwhile achievement, and a wonderful sum to send to Cancer Research UK Headquarters to fund valuable research into the many forms of cancer. Thank you, everyone.

# Thornbury Memory Café

The Memory Café is now a regular event and is available to all those with memory problems and any form of dementia, together with carers, family and friends.

We meet in the Methodist Church Hall, Thornbury on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 10.15 am and coffee, tea and snacks are available free of charge, though we do have a donation box.

It is NOT a clinic, we have a café atmosphere and usually a short talk on a topical subject or some entertainment. Forthcoming subjects include National Trust gardens, Thornbury in Bloom, the development of Broadmead in Bristol, and Thornbury Museum, who came recently and brought lots of old fashioned every day objects which jogged a lot of happy memories and created a lot of chatter.

So come along and meet people with similar problems and chat to our volunteers and friends. Bring old photographs or mementos that interest you. You will be made very welcome.

## Workers Education Association - Helping to Steer Adult Education

Do you think that education is lifelong? Are you interested in volunteering to help make it happen for adults around Thornbury?

We are seeking to appoint new members to the Branch Committee to help us plan and promote short courses for local adults. We believe in learning for the fun of it so the courses are non-vocational. Qualified tutors are engaged to run the courses. Nationally, the WEA is the largest single voluntary provider of adult education and is a registered charity.

We are a small committee and meet two or three times a year. We would like you to show an interest in adult education and to be able to operate effectively and creatively in a small group. You may have taken part in our courses in the past but this is not necessary.

For an informal discussion, contact Simon Cannell on 01454 610071.



ARTS & COMMUNITY  
IN THORNBURY

# Mumping Night

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December

It wouldn't be Christmas without it, so we're delighted to announce that **ACT** (Arts and Community in Thornbury) is once again bringing **Mumping Night** ~ the traditional Christmas entertainment, to the Chantry, Thornbury, on Saturday 15 December, after a hugely successful, sell-out event last year.

Following a procession through the town, interspersed with carols, accompanied by our stalwart Thornbury Band members, after a warm, wassail cup and mince pie (both included in the ticket price), entertainers now confirmed include acclaimed magician Barry Smith, Keith Sullivan with a History of The Chantry, well-known folk singers: *The Rambling Boys*, *Marlwood Drama Group*, artist Shirley Sharp, who will be working with long brushes and blindfolds (!), the *Handbell Ringers*, Guilda Ludwell with the poems of Pam Ayres, *Good Companye*, *Marlwood Folk Companions* and Sally Taylor, with stunning tips on Christmas flower arrangements, plus even more entertainers, so we can guarantee there will be plenty of variety!

**ACT** hopes to offer 16 different acts for your delight, plus food, (including delicious hotdogs) and drink aplenty, as the Chantry Bar will be open! Just to add to the mix, there will probably be more than one *Lord of Misrule* this year, so look out for fun and high jinks throughout the evening. Tickets remain at £8 and £4 for children (available from Thornbury Garden Shop), but please note that the Chantry is unsuitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs. Tickets are limited to 200, so don't miss out and start Christmas with **ACT**, the Charity aiming to build a theatre based community complex in the centre of Thornbury. Visit [www.ACTthornbury.org.uk](http://www.ACTthornbury.org.uk) to learn more and become a **FACT**: a Friend of **ACT**.

## Carols around the Christmas Tree

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

On Saturday 22 December, from 10.00 am until 12 noon, **ACT** extends a warm welcome to everyone to come along and join in with youngsters from local primary schools, teenagers, Community Choirs and students of the Northavon School of Drama. As usual, this event takes place by the large Christmas tree, in the middle of St Mary Centre, Thornbury, with Kate Phillipson-Masters on the keyboard, so do come and join us!



# Carols at Winterbourne Medieval Barn

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December

The Barn's final event of 2012 will be the very popular "Carols in the Barn". Come and sing some of your favourite carols, interwoven with the Christmas story which this year takes the form of a light-hearted nativity play seen from the perspective of the Angels. Members of St Michael's Church provide the players and music, and the Barn makes a perfect setting for a traditional Christmas celebration.

Last year we had to turn people away on the gate as the Barn more than reached capacity, so this year the Trust is providing two opportunities to take part - 15th and 16th December at 4pm. Gates will open at 3.30pm. Entry will only be by ticket bought in advance either from 'The Handmade Store' on Flaxpits Lane, or through the website [www.WinterbourneBarn.org.uk](http://www.WinterbourneBarn.org.uk), or by phone from 01454 774479, or by post from 11 West Ridge, Frampton Cotterell, Bristol, BS36 2JA (enclosing SAE and stating how many adult and child tickets you want - please provide a phone number in case of queries, and make cheques out to Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust). Tickets cost £2 for adults and £1 for children which includes mulled wine or fruit juice and mince pies.

Numbers are limited, so get your tickets early. If you can possibly walk down there, please do, as parking in Church Lane is limited and it is a lovely late afternoon walk on a winter day. Please bring a torch and wrap up warm - the Barn is an unheated medieval building!

*Louise Harrison, for Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust*

## Thornbury Library Christmas Events

### **Christmas coffee morning and bell ringing display**

Come along to the library on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December between 10.00 and 12 noon for coffee and mince pies. There will another opportunity to see the bell ringing display, listen to some festive hand bell ringing and even have a go yourself!

### **Christmas Crafts**

Drop in to Thornbury library on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December any time between 2 and 3 pm and make Christmas cards and decorations.

# Stay safe this winter

Avon Fire & Rescue Service (AF&RS) is reminding people of some top tips to help get their homes ready for winter – and to reduce the risk of fire. Using portable heaters, log fires and electric blankets in one room may seem like a win-win situation, especially in these financially-challenging times. Keeping you and your loved ones warm in that one room while keeping your heating and energy costs low sounds like a good idea, but you could pay the ultimate price if a fire starts. So now that the darker nights and colder days are with us, AF&RS want to remind people of some simple steps they can take to help stay safe.

## **Electric blankets**

You should always buy an electric blanket from a reliable source and make sure that it has a UK safety standard mark.

## **Portable heaters**

Plug-in heaters use a lot of electricity and generate a lot of heat. This means they can be dangerous if they are not bought from reputable shops and used correctly.

Other tips in relation to portable heaters include:

- Position them clear of curtains and furnishings;
- Keep at least three feet – one metre – away from them;
- Have fireguards to prevent and protect children and/or pets from coming into contact with them; and
- Never dry washing on or near them, or on the fireguards.

## **Chimneys**

Chimneys with fires using smokeless fuel, bituminous coal, oil and gas should be swept at least once a year. Those using wood should be swept every three months when in use.

## **Smoke alarms**

And last, but by absolutely no means least, think about smoke alarms, which have proven to provide an early warning that a fire has started, and gives people those vital extra minutes to safely escape.

Top tips concerning smoke alarms include:

- Ensure you have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home;
- Check that the batteries are working at least once a week; and
- Keep your smoke alarm clean and free from dust.

For even more fire safety advice, visit [www.avonfire.gov.uk](http://www.avonfire.gov.uk)

## **Advance Notice ...**

St Mary's Church will be filled with laughter and music when the historic building with roots in the 11th century hosts a professional three act variety show with its stars firmly in the 21st century.

# **"Rolling in the Aisles"**

**Saturday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2013**

"Rolling In The Aisles" is a 150 minute entertainment feast starring top ventriloquist Jimmy Tamley, TV comedy impressionist Christopher Gee and the superb soul singer Leroy 'Badboy' Brown.

The show is a fund raiser with profits being shared between St Mary's and The Friends of Daldry Gardens. The link? Daldry Gardens' social chairman Mike Lewis is a long established entertainment agent as well as being a former church warden. When Mike and his wife Maureen arrived in Olveston last year they went to a service at the church and were delighted with the friendly spirit of true Christianity that lives within St Mary's. When they then went to see a concert in the church they were very impressed with the way the old religious building opened its arms in such a welcoming way to the wider community with great entertainment - and a bar!

A brief meeting with Roly Bain followed and a date was set: Saturday 5 January 2013 at 7.30 PM. Tickets will be just £10 with concessions for over 65s and students. If the show proves to be a success, there is a promise of more to follow. Mike suggests tickets are an excellent Christmas present. To obtain them, contact Mike at 01454 610587 or e-mail [lewismike3@sky.com](mailto:lewismike3@sky.com). The e-mail address can also be used to get the tickets via PayPal payment. Alternatively, tickets from Roly or June Robbins at St Mary's. June's number - 01454 617491.

Final word from the promoter, 'This is an expensive show to stage and I am really looking to the Olveston community to come out in strength to support it. So please do take a pew and join us on the night'.

# Yours Faithfully

*Jon Burnett*

*Aust Evangelical Church*

What a year of contrasts this has been; we started the year with the worst drought in 30 years and were told the resulting hosepipe bans might not be lifted until 2013 – followed by the wettest summer for over 100 years and it's still raining as I write! The gloomy predictions of financial chaos were set against the celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and a treasure trove of medals at the Olympic Games. We live in a world of extremes, grinding poverty sits side by side with great wealth, war and peace either side of a national border, hopelessness and despair alongside hope and purpose. The intervention God made two thousand years ago when he sent Jesus to be born into this chaotic world was to bring us Life, and an abundant one at that! Whatever our circumstances are, good/bad, rich/poor, healthy or not, he wants us to live a life that shows a very needy world his love and compassion.

There is so much focus on the material things of life at this time of year, the presents, the food, family visits, etc. that we can forget the reason Jesus himself gave as to why he came, recorded in John 10 verse 10; he came to bring us life in all its fullness - a life that is not self centred but God centred.

At Christmas we can look at the baby Jesus, he is sweet, lovely to sing about, precious and totally manageable – we can pack him up and put him away on Twelfth Night with the decorations until next year. If instead we invite him into our lives, he comes not as a baby - that's how he was two thousand years ago - but now as the King of Kings, the creator of the universe. He is the one who was willing to humble himself to the very lowest place and come as a baby in order to have a relationship with us, and he wants to give our lives purpose and fullness. That will really change things, first in us and then through us in the world around us. The change he brings can be as dramatic as any of the extremes we see in the world. So don't pack him away after Christmas, invite him in to stay!

## From the Registers of St Mary's Olveston

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 17 <sup>th</sup> October | Funeral service at St Mary's followed by burial in the Churchyard of Florence Marion Radford                  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> October | St Mary's: Burial of ashes of Robert Simpson  |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> October | Thanksgiving Service for the life of Lizzy Philpott at St Mary's followed by cremation at Canford Crematorium |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> October | Baptism of Ava May Skuse, daughter of Cole and Louisa Skuse   |

# Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the November draw, held on 8th November 2012 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<i>Name</i>
£150	270	Mr R A Hicks, Cornwall
£75	457	Mr S J Webb, Olveston
£25	542	Mr N Fear, Tockington
£25	456	Mr B J Toft, Olveston
£25	366	Mrs P M Halfyard, Alveston
£20	503	Mr C J Dawes, Olveston
£20	292	Mrs I Phillips, Olveston
£10	176	Mr J Hedges, Pilning
£10	344	Mrs J Hahn, Olveston

## Sevenside Ramblers

Fewer walks this month – but they are good ones!

Join Sevenside Ramblers on a ramble. Non-members are always very welcome.

For more information about walks in December, log on to [www.sevenside-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.sevenside-ramblers.org.uk), or pick up a programme at your local library.

A contact name and telephone number is given for each walk. We meet at Aldi car park, Bradley Stoke, BS32 9DA at the times shown below and share lifts to the start of the walk.

If you want to go directly to the start of the walk, phone the contact person.



Sun 2 Dec 10.00am	<b>Sevenside</b> Mostly flat, local walk.	6 miles leisurely	Heather 01454 632134
Sun 9 Dec 9.30am	<b>Kingscote and Nailsworth</b> Meadow and woodland	9 miles moderate	Andy/Chris 07799576970
Wed 26Dec 10.30am	<b>Clifton Circuit</b> Popular Boxing day walk	7 miles leisurely	Jean 01454 419274
Sun 30 Dec 9.00am	<b>Bradford on Avon</b> Includes Dundas and Avoncliff	10 miles moderate	Ann 01179 798628

# Church News

## ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Dec 2	8am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Bone
	10am	Advent Family Service	Rev. Helen Webb
	6pm	Advent Taize	Mr Denis Jones
Dec 9	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev. David Bone
	10am	Morning Worship with Choir	Mrs Janet McBride
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Holy Communion	Rev. R Bain & Rev P Rowe
Dec 16	8am	Holy Communion	Rev. Roly Bain
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev. D Bone & Rev P Rowe
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Carol Service with Choir	Rev Roly Bain
Dec 23	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev. Roly Bain
	10am	Fourth Sunday	Rev. R Bain,
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Carol Service at Olv. Meth. Ch.	Rev. R Crew & Rev. D Bone
Dec 24	4pm	Christingle	Rev P Rowe & Rev H Webb
	11.15	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev Roly Bain
Dec 25	8am	Holy Communion(BCP)	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Family Service	Rev Roly Bain
Dec 30	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Morning Prayer	Mr Denis Jones
	6pm	Holy Communion(BCP)with Choir	Rev R Bain & Rev P Rowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

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

**Rev Roly Bain** for Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals 01454 616593.

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

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

**PRAYER GROUP:** Mondays, 2.45pm in the Church

**WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION:** At 9.00am led by the **Rev. Roly Bain**  
except 4<sup>th</sup> Wed when it is at Olv. Methodist Church

## CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Dec 9	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Dec 23	4pm	Carol Service	Rev David Bone
Dec 24	11.5pm	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Dec 25	10.30	Family Service	Rev David Bone

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

**Church Wardens:** Terry McLeavy 633680 Janet Ford 633300

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

Dec 16	3pm	Carol Service followed by mulled wine & mince pies at White hart	Rev David Pole
Dec 25	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Dec 9	9am	Matins	Rev David Pole
Dec 17	8pm	Carol Service at Rock House	Rev David Pole
Dec 25	9am	Holy Communion	Canon John Poarch

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

## OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Dec 2	10am	Tock. Ch	Morning Worship led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle Advent Service with St Andrews Choir led by Rev David Hardy
	6pm	Tock. Ch.	
Dec 9	10am	Olv. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney The Breakfast Cub will join us later
Dec 16	10am	Tock. Ch.	Christmas Family Service led by Rev Sandy Williams Village Carol Service
	6pm	St Mary's	
Dec 23	10am	Olv. Ch.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Sandy Williams Carol Service led by Rev David Hardy
	6pm	Olv Ch.	
Dec 25	10.15	Tock. Ch	Short Christmas Day Celebration Service led by Mr Glyn Varney
Dec 30	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr Ian Withers

**NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP:** This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December for Christmas Lunch. To book your lunch please ring 416528

**TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP** No meeting in December

**COFFEE MORNINGS:** Sats 10.30 - 12 noon in the Olveston Methodist Hall.

**HOUSE GROUPS** One led by Mr Glyn Varney on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 10.30 at 7 The Green Olveston. Another led by Rev. Sandy Williams on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Please ring 416528 for details of venue

**CONTACT:** Rev David Hardy 0117 9693135,

e-mail [dandlhardy@btinternet.com](mailto:dandlhardy@btinternet.com)

## **The VINE, AWKLEY**

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

We meet for worship, prayer and conversational Bible studies incorporating Communion, on Sundays at 10.30am and Mondays and Wednesdays at 7.30pm We also visit other Churches & events so please check our Notice Board or contact

**Mike and Barbara Matthews**, tel. 07512 917229 or email:

**[thevine\\_awkley@hotmail.com](mailto:thevine_awkley@hotmail.com)**

## **THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN**

Dec 2	6.30pm	Lyal Drewett
Dec 9	6.30pm	Rev Colin Lewis
Dec 16	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Dec 23	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies
Dec 25	10am	Paul Ashford
Dec 30	6.30pm	Vic Soffe

Every Thurs at 7.30pm Prayer time

For further information please contact **Ceri Morgan-Davies** 413043

**Paul Ashford**, 07774 110814 or email: **[Paul@CalebGroup.net](mailto:Paul@CalebGroup.net)**

**AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH** Family Worship 11.00am For more details, please phone 632564.

'The Door' for young people on the last Sunday at 7pm

**[www.THEDOORYOUTH.CO.UK](http://www.THEDOORYOUTH.CO.UK)** or tel 07837 234 949

## **LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

Evening Worship every Sunday at 6pm

For details tel. 413247

**BRISTOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP** -Twice monthly meetings are held at 4pm at Thornbury Baptist Church (Youth Block)

Contact 0117 3050969 **[www.bcfnet.com](http://www.bcfnet.com)**

## **RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING**, Thornbury -

Sat Vigil Mass 18.00 Sun 8.30am Mass 11.00 Family Mass

Tel 01454 412223 **[www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk](http://www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk)**

## **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:** Ben & Candia Barman 01454 412603

National: **[www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk)** Bristol area: **[www.bristolquakers.org.uk](http://www.bristolquakers.org.uk)**



# Diary Dates for December 2012

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Sat	Coffee Morning Litter Pick Fascinating Rhythm Workshop Turnberries Sat Night Quiz Dream of Gerontius (Th. Choral Society)	10.30-12.00 1pm 10-4pm 8.15	MH PH  AP CS
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	Monday Movie.	7.30pm	StM
4 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Royal British Legion Women Christmas Lunch at the Golf Club	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00	WR DGCL
5 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Vic Hallett Library open at Th. Town Hall every Wed & Fri Severn Vale Flower Club Christmas lunch & demonstration O.P.H.S 'Glos. Cloth-Making Heritage'	10.00-12.00  12.00  7.30	  AH  OMC
6 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Th. & District Flower Club Open Demo. Open Mic at the White Hart	9.00-1.30 9.00-12.00 2.00-4.30 7.30pm 8.30pm	 OSt MH AH
7 <sup>th</sup> Fri	S.V. Smallholders Annual Skittles Match FOOS wreath making event	7.30pm 5.30 & 8.00	 OS
8 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning St. Peter's Hospice Bazaar Th Food & Gift Fair in Castle St & Plain Music in the Church at Aust Fascinating Rhythm Concert Fish & Quiz Supper	10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00 10.00-12.00 10.00-2pm 8pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	MH AVH AH  AC CS PH
11 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Memory Cafe Tockington Toddlers Women's Institute American Supper & Christmas Quiz Olveston Parish Council Meeting	10.15am 9.30-11.30 7.30pm  7.30pm	TMH WR PH  AP
12 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Severn Valley Quilters Christmas Party	7.30pm	CH
13 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OSt MH

15 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Coffee Morning Mumping Night (Thornbury) Carols at Winterbourne Medieval Barn	10.30-12.00 4.0pm	MH Chy
16 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Carols at Winterbourne Medieval Barn	4.0pm	
17 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Monday Movie Extra	7.30pm	StM
18 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR
19 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	8.30pm	
20 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop Beat Surgery Olveston Toddlers Th. & District Flower Cl. Practice Class	9.00-1.30 10.00-12.00 10.30-11.30 2.00-4.30 7.30pm	OS+ OS+ MH TMH
21 <sup>st</sup> Fri	Christmas Songs at White Hart Olveston	9.00pm	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sat	Coffee Morning Carols round Christmas Tree: StM.Centre	10.30-12.00 10.-12 noon.	MH
31 <sup>st</sup> Mon	Children's movie Club	10.00	StM
<b>Looking ahead to January</b>			
5th	Rolling in the Aisles	7.30pm	StM

**KEY:** **AC** Aust Church; **ACR** – Almondsbury Church Rooms; **AH** – Armstrong Hall; **AMC** – Alveston Methodist Church; **AMH**- Alveston Methodist Hall; **AP** – Alexandra Pavilion; **AVH** – Aust Village Hall; ; **CH** – Cossham Hall; **Chy** – Chantry ;**CS** Castle Sch. **DGCL** – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; **EVH** – Elberton Village Hall; **LVH** Littleton Village Hall **MH** – Olveston Methodist Hall;**OMC** Olv Meth Ch **OS** – Olveston School; **OS+** – Olveston Stores; **OV** – Olveston Vicarage; **PH** – Olveston Parish Hall; **StM** St Mary's Church, Olv.; **StMA** Almondsbury Church **SMH** St Mary,s Ch. Hall Thornbury;**TCh** Tockington Chapel **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.olvostonandaust.com](http://www.olvostonandaust.com). If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: [meetingpointsecretary@olvostonandaust.com](mailto:meetingpointsecretary@olvostonandaust.com)

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