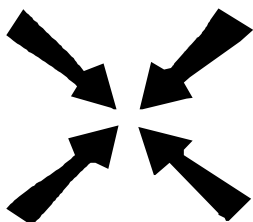


MEETING POINT



DECEMBER 2013



Meeting Point

Volume 38, Number 3, December 2013

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

EDITOR:

Phyllida Pyper
Stock Farm
Littleton upon Severn
Bristol BS35 1NL
Tel: 01454 416422
meetingpointeditor@gmail.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Angela Williams
Ashlea
Haw Lane
Olveston
Bristol BS35 4EG
Tel 01454 612850
meetingpointmagazine@gmail.com

ADVERTISING:

Nigel Dawes
Cromwell House
The Street,
Olveston
Bristol BS35 4DR
Tel: 01454 201558
julie.dawes@tiscali.co.uk

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to the Editor or Deputy Editor
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From the Editor

This month, Cook's Calendar ends a year of recipes with a Christmas flourish and I should like to thank Natasha Harrod very much for her regular contribution. Even if you haven't cooked her recipes, you've almost certainly enjoyed reading them during 2013.

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. On the first page of the regular Christmas insert you will find a unique montage of Angus Macaskill's 'gates remembered' at Churchill House, Olveston.

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

The cover: Christmas roses and holly
by John Crossley

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

Oveston War Memorial - An Architectural View

Peter Floyd

Everyone has been pleased to see the care with which the War Memorial has been repaired and to hear that it may be cleaned as well. So many men were lost in “the War to end Wars” that it is not surprising that no expense was spared to erect the very best monument that the village could afford.

In 1918 three architects were asked by the government to design a Cross of Sacrifice to be used in war graveyards in France and in villages at home. Reginald Blomfield’s design of a cross with a superimposed bronze sword matches ours almost exactly.

Before the war St Mary’s Church, like much of the rest of the village, must have been almost out of sight behind its high wall, so the decision to remove a section of wall and place the war memorial on this corner gave it an appropriate setting and opened an entirely new view of the church. The local designer decided to place the memorial inside the churchyard wall, with its octagon base with three facets facing the corner and matching its curve, the octagon extended by a set of steps of local stone from the churchyard down to street level.

The high adjacent walls are still capped with distinctive black blocks, cast from weather resistant copper slag, but brittle, so those being removed from the top of the wall probably fell apart and could not be replaced. Thus the existing walls were given new ends of bath stone cut to match the slag blocks, and the pattern was continued on the lower wing walls on either side of the memorial which the designer used as an embracing structure, turning the cap stones at the ends on either side of the steps up to the memorial into curled bases, each supporting a great stone “bun”. This is a most unusual and satisfying idea and I like to imagine that he had in mind the arms of the family embracing memories of those lost.

The design of the War Memorial, from the decision to open up views of the church, to the unusual bun terminals embracing the great stone cross, bear the mark of a generous village and a clever architect – for there is no doubt in my mind that a good, probably local architect was involved – and I have yet to discover who it was.

November 2013

Cook's Calendar: December

Natasha Harrod



As we approach the time of festivity and indulgence, I like to have the odd night where light, clean flavours predominate. Please don't think I'm against proper Christmas food, indeed I defy anyone to enjoy a warm mince pie more than me, but after some particularly heavy Christmas food this feels just the thing.

This recipe is also brilliant to have up your sleeve for guests who can't eat gluten, dairy or meat ... golly, I'm in danger of sounding like Gwyneth Paltrow. Yet it's super tasty, fragrant and gleams with ruby-like cranberries. I promised you something festive; if it's cranberries, it must be Christmas.

Sweet potato and cranberry tagine

Serves 4

- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic, chopped or crushed
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 chilli, deseeded and chopped
- 2 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into cubes
- 100g dried cranberries, the unsweetened variety
- 200g cooked chickpeas (1/2 a can)
- 1 tin of chopped tomatoes
- 1 large courgette, cut into cubes
- 1 lemon
- 1-2 tablespoons honey
- 100g cashew nuts, ground in a food processor
- 100g green olives
- 1 tablespoon flaked almonds

Preheat the oven to 180C

Continued overleaf

Gently fry the onion in a large, lidded casserole. After about five minutes, when softened, add spices, garlic and chilli, fry for another few minutes, then add the sweet potato, chickpeas and tinned tomatoes.

Bring to a simmer and simmer gently, stirring, for about five minutes, then add the courgette, ground cashews, olives and cranberries.

Return to a simmer and cook in the preheated oven for 30 minutes, or until the sweet potato is tender. Remove from the oven, add the juice of the lemon and honey to taste. Scatter with flaked almonds before serving.

Ideas for Christmas?

The spirit of Christmas is about giving and the family. You may want a family project which joins everyone together, something in which everyone can participate. It does not have to be done all at one time, but slowly over the Christmas period when there is a spare moment.

Why not do an old fashioned wooden jigsaw puzzle? Olveston Church Lands have sponsored a special Wentworth puzzle of the interior of St Mary's. Why not set it up on a side table or a big tray, so that the family can gradually put it together during Christmas?

The puzzle costs £27, and takes a couple of hours to complete. The money goes towards the maintenance of St Mary's church. The Charity is outside the authority of Parochial Church Council and its sole purpose is to look after the fabric of St Mary's for future Christmases and future generations.

Be generous and apply to John Gunnery (413225) for the puzzle. The picture, kindly taken by Peter Haworth, can be seen in the church porch. (Incidentally, the Charity has just given a Grant to the PCC to help restore the porch).

Remember, Remember the 7th December! Thornbury Christmas Food and Gift Fair

takes place in Castle Street on Saturday 7th December 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. with 70-80 assorted Food and Gift Stalls, Mulled Wine and Christmas Music. Join us and get into the Festive Spirit. See page 29 for more details.

Olveston Advent windows

We're doing the Advent windows in the parish again, with a new window being lit up each day of December - it's a sort of living Advent Calendar. By Christmas Eve they'll all be lit up, and they'll remain lit till New Year's Eve this year. We're grateful to all those who have agreed to do it - do go along and see what they've got up to as we prepare for Christmas.

Window number + address

1. Apple Tree Cottage, Tockington
2. Lavender Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Olveston
3. Sunnyfield, Upper Tockington Road, Tockington
4. Methodist Hall Tockington
5. Morton House, New Road, Olveston
6. Green Lane Garage Olveston
7. The White Hart, Olveston
8. Orchard Lea, Vicarage Lane, Olveston
9. 1 The Green, Olveston
10. Cromwell House, The Street, Olveston
11. Waypoint, New Road, Olveston
12. Corner Cottage, Elberton Rd, Olveston
13. Two-ways, Tockington Green
14. The Vicarage, Olveston
15. April Cottage, The Street, Olveston
16. 12 Orchard Rise, Olveston
17. 3 Green Court, Olveston
18. 39 Laxton Close, Olveston
19. 20 Denys Court, Olveston
20. Tynant, The Green, Olveston
21. Ashlea, Haw Lane, Olveston
22. 22 Russet Close, Olveston
23. The Knoll, Lower Tockington Rd, Tockington
24. St. Mary's Church Olveston

A Tudor Christmas

Olveston Parish Historical Society: Wed. 4 December 2013, 7.30pm
Methodist Church, The Street, Olveston BS35 4DR

Cherry Hubbard, who once worked for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, is coming to offer us a perspective on **A Tudor Christmas** – not the perspective of the nobles of Thornbury Castle but that of a Tudor housewife 'of the middling sort'. She will dress authentically and present her '**Christmas table**', explaining how her food and clothes were made.

Open and welcome to all - £2 on the door. Or buy annual membership on the door (just £5) – four more talks after this one!

Website: <http://www.olvoston.com/historical-society>

Music in the Church at Aust

Saturday 7th December at 8pm

This year's Christmas Concert focuses on an Elizabethan Christmas, with the 5-strong group PIVA, who have been very well reviewed, and who offer a lively and varied programme. The church will be candle-lit, with wine, mince-pies and apple pies served in the interval.

Tickets £10, available from the Boar's Head at Aust, Olveston Village Stores, or by phone from Clive and Susie Roberts 01454-632238.

Lights on for good causes at 42

Cope Park, Almondsbury Sunday 1st December

On Sunday 1st December at 6 pm we will be turning on our Christmas lights at 42 Cope Park, Almondsbury. Come and join us from 5.30pm for a glass of mulled wine or hot chocolate and a warm mince pie. Father Christmas will be there with small gift for all the good boys and girls. We will be making a collection for Paul's Place and St. Peters Hospice, the two charities we support. If you cannot join us on the 1st the lights will be on every night from 5 pm until 10 pm until January 3rd.

We wish you all a merry Christmas.

Sue and Graham Hawkes

Friends of Olveston School wreath making event

FOOS are holding a Christmas wreath making evening on Friday 6th December 2013 from 7.30pm - 9.30pm 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 will be 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 Amanda Setter on 07966 055506 or at amanda.setter@live.co.uk

Olveston School Christmas Fayre

Saturday 7th December, 4pm - 6pm.

Lots of games, stalls, refreshments and of course you can visit Father Christmas in his grotto. Come and join us!

Salvation comes to Olveston!!

St Mary's Church, Olveston is hosting a concert on Saturday 7th December at 7.30pm given by the Salvation Army Band based at the Bristol (Easton) Corps.

This is a wonderful band and is one of the finest Salvation Army bands in the country. Tickets cost only £5 and will be available from the church, from Olveston Stores or on the door on the night. All proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Army so please come and support this wonderful cause and have a memorable evening's stirring music to start the festive season.

Friends of St Mary's

The prize winners in the November draw, held on 7th November 2013 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	260	Mrs P R Kerrison, Olveston
£75	314	Mr R Birtle, Olveston
£25	538	Dr M Wright, Tockington
£25	224	Mr R C Panes, Olveston
£25	225	Mrs A M Neale, Olveston
£20	276	Mrs L Evans, Alveston
£20	194	Mr J C Brown, Alveston
£20	423	Dr D F Cochrane, Olveston
£10	549	Mrs D Harries, Olveston
£10	160	Mr J H Chick, Olveston
£10	219	Mrs P K Dash, Olveston
£10	214	Mr J Hahn, Olveston

For those with eagle eyes, you have probably spotted that we have increased the number of monthly prizes from 7 to 11 over the last few months due to an increase in our membership. This means that we can give away more in prizes and indeed more to the Church. As there are 12 days of Christmas and this will be our 'Christmas draw', we are giving away 12 prizes this month totalling £400! If you have not yet joined but want to be part of the 'local lottery' please give Andy Phillips a ring - you might just be lucky and help our local Church at the same time. Tel 01454 614890

May we thank you for your support over the years and wish you a Very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Hello Dolly!

The Olveston Parish Players are pleased to announce that their 2014 production will be 'Hello Dolly', the story of matchmaking Dolly Levi. The cast is hard at work rehearsing a colourful, lively production to brighten the end of winter. The show will run in the February half-term week, with performances taking place nightly at 7.30 p.m. from Wednesday 19th to Saturday 22nd February. Best to write it in diaries and on calendars now. Last year, all four evenings sold out in advance! So, make a note that tickets will go on sale on Sat.11th January – more news in the next issue of Meeting Point.

Aust Parish Council Matters

Tim Pyper

austparishcouncil@googlemail.com

Vacancy on the Parish Council

Councillor Peter Ellis of Littleton-upon-Severn has resigned from the Council with effect from 12th November. At its meeting on that date, the Council unanimously passed a vote of thanks to him for his contribution. Elected in May 2007, he has been an energetic and committed Councillor throughout his 6 years. His trenchant views will be missed.

As a result, a notice of vacancy has been issued and publicised on the parish notice boards.

South Gloucestershire Consultation on the People Sites and Places document

The Parish Council considered the papers issued by the South Glos. Council and agreed on its response at the meeting. I believe this will be available on the South Gloucestershire website.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th January 2014. The Council does not meet in December.

Register of electors 2013/14 - save time!

Have you received your voter registration form? There are now quick and easy ways to advise South Gloucestershire Council of NO CHANGES in your household.

Don't delay: use the automated service today and save your Council money. Use the two part security code on your registration form and contact South Gloucestershire Council by Freephone 0800 197 3114, online at www.registerbyinternet.com/southglos or text 80212.

The Council only needs your paper form returned if there are ANY CHANGES to the information held on their register. Remember – if you are not on the register you can't vote. Getting personal credit may be difficult too. If you have lost your form or need help, please telephone 01454 863030.

Oveston Parish Council Matters

Richard Rogers (olvestonpc@gmail.com)

Looking back to the Parish Matters article in December 2012, it was noted that 'despite the inclement weather, the reported poor harvest and general economic gloom', 2012 would be remembered as a very good year. Oveston also looked forward to the Parish Plan and the search for new Councillors. One year on, the weather has again made the news but, with a hot summer and extended autumn, 2013 may be marked as another 'good year'. The economy appears to be improving; the harvest has been better; the War Memorial Steps have been completed, as has the trial parking area on the Aust verge; and, the initial Questionnaire for the Parish Plan has been published.

Three new Councillors have been about six months in post although, following resignations by Mrs Jane Webb and Mr Tony Heming due to work commitments, the Parish Council's search for Councillors continues. It is perhaps pertinent that the new Councillors were recently asked for their initial impressions.

Richard Panes echoed the views of many when he wrote: "*The strange thing about being a Parish Councillor is the reaction you get from other people when they know you have become one!! The comments range from – 'why do you want to get involved in all that' to 'best of luck you will need it' to 'rather you than me!!' I probably may have thought along the same lines before getting involved. I have lived in or around this area all of my life and have always thought how well the various strands both big and small work to make our lives go smoothly, what I didn't know was who was responsible for what, and certainly becoming a Councillor has given me a much clearer idea.*" Whilst Jamie Mayes wasn't 100% sure what to expect when he became a Parish Councillor, he has found the whole experience so far, satisfying, interesting, and enlightening. Sue Hunter was also hesitant in becoming a Councillor, never having taken part in any sort of political activity before, but realised that she need not have worried, and noted that at most meetings there has been representation from one group or another concerning local issues.

The new Councillors were complimentary about the regular Council Meetings being friendly and informal and yet businesslike. All three in different ways commented on the future, noting the increased importance of Localism, and consequentially the breadth of issues that will need to be considered, with suspicions that the Parish Council will be given more responsibility as things move forward.

It was a pleasure to receive their comments, as all three feel part of a team trying to make our Parish the best it can be, gaining satisfaction from seeing a number of projects realised. They believe that Councillors are committed to doing a good job for the area, contribute to the work being carried out for the benefit of all parishioners, and are very pleased to be part of it. If you would like to become involved, or require more information, please contact the Clerk or any Councillors. The next Parish Council meeting is on the 10th December 2013 - parishioners are always welcome to attend.

The Parish Council would again like to thank the editors for their hard work in producing Meeting Point each month and to Jenny Newley for keeping the Olveston website (www.olveston.com) updated. The Council would also like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2014.

Olveston Parish Vision Update

We hope you have all received your parish vision questionnaires, completed them and handed them in. It is not too late if you haven't as we can still take your questionnaires up until the 15th of December but please contact us on 07780 572594 or email theplan@olvestonparishvision.co.uk to arrange collection. We would like to say a huge thank you to all those involved in the sorting, distribution and mailing of the questionnaires and also to the organisations that allowed us to use them as collection points. The collation of answers will take place over the coming few months so keep an eye on Meeting Point and the website www.olvestonparishvision.co.uk for updates. There are still many tasks to complete so if you'd like to offer some of your time, please get in touch.

Adrian Baxter, Olveston Parish Vision Steering Group

Old Down Cricket Club

150 Club Winners November:

£50 Greg Welsher

£15 John Moody

£5 John Fox

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

19th October Simon Higgs

26th October

Greg Welsher

Up the Down!!

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

1st Olveston Scouts



County Shooting Competition
Sunday 29th September 2013
Sunny Chelwood, South Bristol
By Jamie Curtis

On Sunday 29th September, we went to the County Shooting Competition at Chelwood, South of Bristol. The main competition involved rifle shooting (3 position & field target) and archery, we also competed in pistol shooting and shot gun. The people taking part were Rhys, Stuart Sopp (Explorer), my Dad (Ian) and me (Jamie). We all travelled there together along with our scout leader John. It was a beautiful sunny day and we all had lots of fun. The presentation of prizes took place at 4pm; we were all lucky enough to come away with certificates.

<u>Rhys (Junior Scout under 12)</u> Won the Eliminator 2 nd Main Competition 3 rd Field Target	<u>Jamie (Scout under 14)</u> 1 st Archery 1 st Field Target 3 rd Shot Gun
<u>Stuart (Explorer)</u> 1 st Shot Gun 2 nd Air Pistol 3 rd Main Competition	<u>Ian (Leader/Adult)</u> 1 st Archery 2 nd Shot Gun 2 nd Field Target 3 rd Three Position Air Rifle

Soon we are all going to the National Scout Shooting Competition at Bisley in Surrey; we can't wait!
Jamie.

*Interested in joining scouts? Aged 10.5-14 yrs??
Fancy trying new things and learning new skills...?*

Call Lynda 01454 632484 or 07790 348726 Lynda.spratt@icloud.com



Angus Macaskill

2013/2014 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS



Support Your Local Traders !

December

January

	Sat 21st	Sun 22nd	Mon 23rd	Tue 24th	Wed 25th	Thu 26th	Fri 27th	Sat 28th	Sun 29th	Mon 30th	Tue 31st	Wed 1st	Thu 2nd
Local Shops													
Oveston Stores	Open	Open	Open	Open	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	6 to 12pm	Open
Post Office	Open	Closed	Open	9 to 12pm	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Open	9 to 4pm	Closed	Open
Powell's Butcher	8 to 1pm	Closed	8 to 5.30pm	8 to 1pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	8 to 1pm	Closed	Closed	8 to 1pm	Closed	8 to 5.30pm
The Crusty Loaf	Open	Closed	Open	6.30 to 1pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	7.30 to 1pm	Closed	Closed	7.30 to 1pm	Closed	Closed
Tesco (fuel open throughout)	Open	Open	12pm to 12am	12pm to 7pm	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Open	Open	8 to 7pm	Closed	Open
Hair and Well Being													
Shirley Ann	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Open
Clean Cut	9 to 6pm	Closed	9 to 5pm	9 to 1pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 to 1pm	Closed	Closed	9 to 1pm	Closed	Closed
Vicarage Farm Holistic Ctre	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Closed	Reduced hrs	Reduced hrs	Closed	Open	Reduced hrs	Closed	Open
Garages													
Green Lane Garage	Open	Closed	7.30 to 1pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Elberton Garage	Open	Closed	Open	8 to 1 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Others													
Linela Embroidery	Closed	Closed	am only	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open
Leisure													
Thornbury Leisure Centre	7.45 to 8.30pm	7.45 to 10pm	7.15 to 10pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	8 to 4 pm	8 to 4 pm	8 to 4 pm	8 to 4 pm	8 to 4 pm	Closed	7.15 to 10pm
Thornbury Library	Open	Closed	8.45 to 5.30pm	8.45 to 1pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	9.30 to 5pm	Closed	8.45 to 5.30pm	8.45 to 5pm	Closed	Closed
Thornbury Sort It Centre	Open	Open	Open	Open	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Closed	Open
Pharmacies													
Alveston Pharmacy	9 to 1pm	Closed	9 to 6pm	9 to 6pm	Closed	Closed	9 to 6pm	9 to 1pm	Closed	9 to 6pm	9 to 6pm	Closed	9 to 6pm
Lloyds Pharmacy	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Open
Boots Thornbury	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Open

Doctors

Almondsbury Surgery Drs Lockyer/Hill/Whyte	Tel: 01454 613161 www.almondsburysurgery.nhs.uk
Thornbury Health Centre Drs Burney and Partners	Tel: 01454 412599 www.drburneyandpartners.co.uk
Thornbury Health centre Drs Male/Thompson/Higgins	Tel: 01454 412167 www.thornburyhealthcentre.nhs.uk
Pining Surgery Drs Omerod/Wint	Tel: 01454 632393 www.piningsurgery.co.uk
St. Mary's St. Surgery Drs McCulloch/Harrison/Kerr/Williams	Tel: 01454 413691 www.stmarystreetsurgery.nhs.uk
NHS non-emergency	Tel: 111

Dentists

Bank Cottage Dental Cole-Morgan/Furlong/Hitchens	Tel: 01454 412053 www.bankcottedental.co.uk
High Street Dental Chadwick/Gaffori	Tel: 01454 412051
Phoenix Dental	Tel: 01454 613800 www.phoenixdental.co.uk

Vets

Coppins Vet Practice	Tel: 01454 269339 www.thecoppinsvets.org.uk
Rowe Group	Tel: 01454 415478 www.rowevetgroup.com

NB: Times correct as at going to press



Does your child want to be a Beaver Scout?

Our Beaver Scout boys and girls meet on Mondays in term time, at the Scout Hut at the top of Old Down Hill from 6pm - 7pm for fun and friendship.

We have campfires and toast marshmallows, play games, make things, sing and make music, visitors come to talk to us and show us exciting things - like snakes - we have sleepovers and we go on adventures! Our colony of 24 children is supervised by four adult leaders and we have five regular helpers.

To join the 1st Olveston Beaver Scout Colony your child has to be 6 years old, live in the parish and go to either Olveston or Tockington Manor School. We run a 'waiting list' and your child's name can be added to it at any time from when they are born up until they are seven and a half.

Beaver Scouts move up to the next scouting section - Cub Scouts, when they reach eight and this happens automatically if they have been a Beaver. There will be spaces coming up in the New Year ... so get in quickly!

For more information or to put your child on the waiting list contact Beaver Leader, Nikki Clarke at nikki@beavers.olvoston.com or ring 614099

St. Peter's Hospice Severnside support group December events

Christmas Bazaar

The Annual Bazaar for St Peters Hospice will take place in the Thornbury Methodist Church Hall on December 7th between 10.00am and 12noon. Variety of Stalls including Cards, Gifts, Crafts, Home made preserves, Cakes and Puddings, Books, plus many more. Raffle and Teas. Entry by donation.

Christmas Concert

St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group and Cantanti present 'Christmas Celebration' at Thornbury Methodist Church Saturday 21st December at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5.00, to include 3 light refreshments, available from the Town Hall or at the bazaar. By popular demand Cantanti have agreed to sing for us again a selection of seasonal music.

Movies at St Mary's: Dec

Trevor Anderson



FOUR 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 2nd Dec at 7.30pm: A remake of the 1947 'feel good' Christmas classic, telling the heart-warming story of a young girl's desire for a fully-functional family, complete

with a father and a baby brother. (*Cert U*)

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

Mon 16th Dec at 7.30pm: In this Christmas fantasy tale, a bishop (David Niven) is trying to get a new cathedral built and prays for guidance. An angel (Cary Grant) arrives, but his guidance isn't about fundraising! (*Cert U*)

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

Mon 23rd Dec at 10.00am: Aardman Animations and Sony present this joyful, simple Christmas movie with a heartfelt message. (*Cert U*)

Mon 30th Dec at 10.00am: Walt Disney's beloved coming of age story about a wide-eyed fawn will thrill a new generation of fans with this new enhanced digital restoration. (*Cert U*)

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

Olveston British Legion

We would like to say a big thank you to all who came to our Poppy Appeal Bingo on Nov 5. A large amount of money was made which will be sent to the British Legion.

There will be no meeting until February which will be a film night with popcorn and ice cream. Why not come along and join the British Legion and come to our fun nights on the first Tuesday of each month? We have an annual Christmas lunch and our chosen venue this month is the Farmer's Table at Tortworth. A Merry Christmas to all residents and we hope to see some of you in the New Year.

Pat King

Try Thornbury F1rst gift vouchers

The Thornbury Chamber of Commerce is running a campaign of “Try Thornbury F1rst” to encourage local people to come into the high street and try the shops in the town before jumping into their cars and driving further afield. You can now buy Thornbury Chamber gift vouchers to spend in any of the local Chamber businesses. They are available in £5 or £10 denominations and would be a great gift idea for the person who is difficult to buy for. At present you can buy the vouchers from Bonds Estate Agents, Gems Jewellery Shop and Kirby Sheppard Solicitors, all in the high street area. We also have a reusable canvas shopping bag with a hand drawn map of the high street and our “Try Thornbury F1rst” Logo which are on sale in many of the shops in the town. Find us on Facebook or mythornbury to see what is happening in and around the town.



Thornbury Christmas Food & Gift Fair

Saturday 7th December, Castle Street 10 am – 2.00 pm

Christmas is coming and although you might not find a fattening goose ... there will be the usual high quality food stalls including Perry's Butchers, (you could order your Xmas dinner here), Absolutely Cakes, Jacquie's Homemade Cakes and Sweets, The Parsnipship for great veggie fare, Sushi, Sauces, Pickles, Speciality Breads etc etc. You can even stock up on Beers, Ciders and the wonderful award winning Bramley and Gage Liqueurs and Gin.

However, it's not only about the food this time! There will be Gift and Craft Stalls for you to browse, to buy individual gifts for that person who is so difficult to buy for or deserves something special. You can also get cards and paper to round it all off. All this, Music and Mulled Wine too – what a great start to the Christmas Season, spread the word and come and see the best of local!

Thornbury Christmas Window Competition

The Christmas Window competition is to take place between the 9th – 24th December in and around Thornbury High Street. Visitors to the town can pick up prize draw entry forms from any participating shop.

Vote for your favourite window and find all the words displayed in the participating shops to enter the free prize draw. You can also vote online for your favourite window at www.mythornbury.co.uk and you can find prize draw entry boxes to post your entry forms in Surroundings, The Wool Stop, Gems and Heritage.

Thornbury Clarinet Choir

The Thornbury Clarinet Choir was formed during the summer of 2013. Its aim is to explore the wide variety of music available to clarinet choirs. The choir has a range of clarinets from the small Eb to the very big contrabass clarinet.

On **Saturday 14th December** the choir will be performing in public for the very first time. There will be a recital (about one hour in length) in the **Cossham Hall starting at 3pm**. Why not take an hour off and come and listen to the beautiful sound made by a choir of clarinets? The concert will feature a mixture of classical, popular and seasonal music. Entry is free (retiring collection), just turn up on the day. For more information about the choir please contact thornburyclarinetchoir@gmail.com or call Alison on 01454 412393.

Two Christmas Concerts

Dursley Male Voice Choir will be presenting their two Christmas concerts at the Lister Hall in the Chantry Centre in Dursley on 20th and 21st of December. The concerts will commence at 19.30 hrs. The choir's guests on this occasion will be the Cotswold Youth Chorus. Tickets costing £8 will be available from Castle Estate Agents in Thornbury or locally on 01454 613030.

Don't delay in getting your tickets. These concerts inevitably sell out quickly.

Severnside Ramblers



Come and get some fresh air and exercise. Join Severnside Ramblers on a ramble. Non-members are always very welcome. For more information about walks in December 2013, log on to www.severnside-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. Please bring packed lunch and plenty of fluids. If you want to go directly to the start of the walk, phone the contact person.

Sun 1 Dec

Severnside Ramblers. Bradford on Avon. 10 miles. Walking to Avoncliff, Freshford, Monkton Coombe and Dundas Aqueduct. Meet 9.00 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact .Ann 01179 798628

Sun 8 Dec

Severnside Ramblers. Redwick. 9 miles. Sea level pasture, lanes and tracks. Meet 9.00 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact Kathy 07890 113179.

Sun 15 Dec

Severnside Christmas Meal at Farmer's Table, Tortworth. Pre booking required. Contact Gill 01454 631500

Sun 15 Dec

Severnside Ramblers. Tortworth. 4 miles. Lovely circular walk through Arboretum before strolling along lanes & river bank. Little undulating, Can be muddy in parts. Meet 10.15 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact Jill 01454 631500

Sun 22 Dec

Severnside Ramblers. Bathford. 8 miles. Fields, quiet roads, nice countryside and a few climbs. Meet 9.00 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact Brian 01454 880580

Fri 27 Dec

FESTIVAL OF WINTER WALKS. Severnside Ramblers. Ideal for new walkers. 5 miles. Willsbridge & Bitton. Historically interesting walk, on outskirts of Bristol. Siston Brook & Monarchs Way. Meet 9.30 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact Jill 07868 727971

Sun 29 Dec

FESTIVAL OF Winter Walks Severnside Ramblers North Bristol footpath walk. 8 Miles. Footpath walk. Bring lunch as cafe might not be open. Meet 10.00 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Heather 01454 632134

Sun 5 Jan

Severnside Ramblers. Bulls Cross to Bisley. 10 Miles. Rather hilly and could be muddy in places. Meet 9.30 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact Bob 01179 312711.

Thornbury Library

Thornbury Library now offers you more than library services. The Thornbury One Stop Shop is now based within the library answering your council enquiries: council tax, housing, streetcare and much more.....

New Colour Photocopier

Our impressive new photocopier prints high quality copies in colour and black & white, as well as scanning documents to memory stick.

A4 b&w 10p, A4 colour 80p, A3 b&w 20p, A3 colour £1.60

Festive Activities

Pre-School Festive StoryTime and Festive RhymeTime

Bring your little ones to enjoy a special festive StoryTime on Monday 16 December from 2.15pm- 2.45pm. For added festive cheer join us for Christmas RhymeTime on Friday 20 December 11am – 11.30am. Suitable for babies and pre-schoolers.

Festive coffee

Tuesday 17 December

Join us for a festive coffee and mince pie in the library between 10-midday. Everyone welcome.

Children's Christmas activity

Monday 23 December

Festive Fun!

Drop into Thornbury Library between 11 and 12noon and make a Christmas card or decoration. Suitable for children aged 5 – 11.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

Monday 23 December	Normal opening hours 8.45am - 5.30pm
Tuesday 24 December	8.45am – 1pm
Wednesday 25 December	CLOSED
Thursday 26 December	CLOSED
Friday 27 December	CLOSED
Saturday 28 December	Normal opening hours 9.30am – 5pm
Sunday 29 December	CLOSED
Monday 30 December	Normal opening hours 8.45am - 5.30pm
Tuesday 31 December	8.45am - 5pm
Wednesday 1 January	CLOSED
Thursday 2 January	CLOSED
Friday 3 January	Normal opening hours 8.45am – 5.30pm

Superfast broadband rollout - recent news from Steve Webb MP

I am writing to share with you some good news which has been announced about broadband services for people living in and around Olveston and Tockington. There may also be implications for people living in Old Down, though this is currently less clear.

As you may know, the rollout of superfast (fibre optic) broadband by commercial providers is expected to cover around two thirds of Britain. But the 'final third', including many smaller towns and villages would not benefit without additional action.

As a result, the Government set up Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) to provide additional support to get superfast broadband to over 90% of the population. In our area, South Glos. Council and Wiltshire County Council have come together to tender a project for the whole area, which has been won by BT.

The good news is that the next communities to benefit from this funding have been announced, and the exchange serving Olveston and Tockington will be one of the first in South Gloucestershire to be upgraded under this proposal. The works to upgrade the exchange and to supply cables to the roadside cabinets will take several months, so it is envisaged that Olveston and Tockington residents will be able to sign up for high speed broadband from Summer 2014.

Old Down residents are served by the Thornbury exchange which is also to be upgraded, which is a step in the right direction. However, because of the distance from many properties in Old Down to the nearest 'green cabinet', it may be that the line speeds available are not significantly improved. I am therefore pressing to make sure that this programme also caters for those whose exchanges have been upgraded but who do not live near to a green cabinet. I will keep you updated on this. More information on what is planned can be found on the Council website at www.southglos.gov.uk/broadband

With best wishes,
Steve Webb MP
September 23rd 2013

The Editor apologises for the delay (due to pressure on space) in printing this article

Yours Faithfully

Helen Webb

Advent Maybe ...

Advent is the church season in which we talk about hope, about living in expectation, about being prepared. It goes beyond getting the cards written, the presents wrapped and the shopping done. We think about preparing ourselves for the coming of God. In the first chapter of Luke, Zechariah speaks of what this will mean: "Our God is merciful and tender. He will cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us and to shine from heaven on all those who live in the dark shadow of death, to guide our steps into the path of peace." (1:78-79). God's presence, Jesus, in this hurting world brings us to the dawn of a new day when darkness will be interrupted by light and death will be interrupted by life. The light will not overcome the darkness immediately - rather a path exists for peace in the midst of war, for light in the midst of darkness.

In the well known story of the shepherds visited by angels, possibility is found in the unexpected (Luke 2:8-20). Can you imagine being a shepherd startled from the half-sleep of the night watch and hearing what this first heavenly messenger had to say? The saviour, the Messiah - the anointed, expected one - is finally here, and in the form of a baby, to be found in a manger. Can you see those bewildered men turning to one another as soon as the glimmer from the last angel has left the night sky? In the dark they try to gauge the others' doubt. "Maybe," one of them says. "Maybe what those messengers said is true." Silence, except for sniggering. "No, he's right," says another, "maybe the time has actually come when things will change. The day we have been waiting for is actually here. Maybe."

And so the shepherds went, some reluctantly, to the small town of Bethlehem, to an inn, where they found two strangers and a baby. They knew that the possibility of all they had been hoping for, dreaming for, just might be lying there, a baby in a feeding trough, asleep. When they left, they could not contain themselves. Luke says these simple working men were caught up in the possibility of newness, liberation, and peace that was all bound up in that baby, they had to tell everybody, glorifying and praising God.

We all know the stories of what this baby did and said as He grew older. 'Maybe' became "truly, truly, I say unto you" as He taught the crowds and challenged the religious leaders. Possibility became reality as He healed the 10 lepers, fed the multitudes with simple loaves and fish and raised Lazarus from death.

Two thousand years later, we still claim this baby, Jesus, as the beginning of our story. We're still eager to celebrate His birth, even if we don't really think about what it means. But even, or perhaps especially, at Christmas it's hard - when we don't want to switch on the news, when confronted with yet another death toll, when angry with our fellow human beings, when things are hard and difficult. We want to believe that there still exists a possibility for understanding, a possibility for peace and reconciliation, a possibility that today, or maybe tomorrow, good news will triumph, change will happen.

This Advent – as we open the doors on our Advent calendars – let's live for today and look toward tomorrow with our eyes open. Let us hold on to 'maybe' - the possibility that God really has entered into this world in the form of a powerless baby and what that really means.

From the Registers of St Mary's Olveston

20th October	Baptism of Amelia Violet Phillips daughter of Paul and Natalie Phillips
25th October	Funeral Service of Angie Dickes followed by cremation
3rd November	Baptism of Oscar David Crofts son of Russell and Joanna Crofts
5th November	Cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving for the life of John Harold (Jack) Clucas
6th November	Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Shirley Emma Garrett followed by Burial of Ashes on 8th November

News from St Mary's Olveston

The Feast of Fools, featuring Roly as clown and the coronation of a child bishop and the distribution of chocolate fingers is on Dec 29th this year at St Mary's at 10am.

Advance notice:

'Littleton village at home' 2014

There will be a "Littleton village at home" in Littleton on Severn on June 15th 2014 in the afternoon. Further notices with more details will follow.

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Dec 1	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Advent Family Service Service of Light	Rev Philip Rowe Rev H Webb & B'fast Club Rev R Bain & Sandy Shaw
Dec 8	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship with Choir Breakfast Club Holy Communion	Rev David Bone Mrs J McBride Breakfast Club Team Rev P Rowe & Cn J Poarch
Dec 15	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion with Choir Breakfast Club Carol Service At Olv. Meth. Ch.	Rev Roly Bain Rev P Rowe & Mr D Jones Breakfast Club Team
Dec 22	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Fourth Sunday Breakfast Club Carol Service with Choir	Rev Roly Bain Rev R Bain Breakfast Club Team Rev Roly Bain
Dec 24	4pm 11.15	Christingle Holy Communion with Choir	Rev Helen Webb Rev Roly Bain
Dec 25	8am 10am	Holy Communion Family Service	Rev Roly Bain Rev Philip Rowe
Dec 29	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Feast of Fools Holy Communion(BCP)	Rev Roly Bain Rev Roly Bain Rev P Rowe & Rev A Lloyd

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Rev Philip Rowe, 01454 613223; email: 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

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 2.45pm in the Church

WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION: At 9.00am led by the Rev. Roly Bain except 4th Wed when it is at Olveston Methodist Church

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Dec 8	10am	Holy Communion.	Rev David Bone
Dec22	4pm	Village Carol Service	Rev David Bone
Dec 24	11.30	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Dec 25	10.30	Short 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 1	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole
Dec 15	3pm	Carol and Christingle Service followed by mulled wine & mince pies in White Hart	Rev David Pole
Dec 25	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Dec 8	9am	Matins	Sandra Edgerton
Dec 22		No Service	
Dec 25	9am	Christmas Day Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Dec 1	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. Tock. Ch	Gift Service Advent Carol Service led by Mr Glyn Varney including items by St Andrew's Choir
Dec 8	10am	Olv. Ch.	All Age Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Pete Brazier. Breakfast Cl. to join later
Dec 15	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. Olv. Ch.	Christmas Family Service led by Rev. Sandy Williams Carol Service led by Rev Roger Ducker
Dec 22	10am	Olv. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr Ken Thomas
Dec 25	10.15	Tock Ch	Short Christmas Celebration-Rev P Brazier
Dec 29	10am	Olv.Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr Robert Wood

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 11th December for its Christmas lunch. To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP no meeting in Dec. Next meeting Jan 16

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

PRAYER MEETINGS Tuesdays 9.30am in Olv. Methodist Ch.

HOUSE GROUPS One on the 2nd Tuesday of the month 10.30am at 7 The Green Olveston led by Mr Glyn Varney or Mrs Rosalie Doyle. Another led by Rev Sandy Williams on the 4th Wednesday at 10.30 Please ring 416528 for venue

Prayer Meeting Tuesdays 9-10am in Olveston Methodist Church

CONTACT: Rev Pete Brazier Tel 01454 412269,

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

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

Mike and Barbara Matthews, tel. 07512 917229 or email:
thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Dec 1	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Dec 8	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Dec 15	6.30pm	Rev Jim Dick
Dec 22	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies
Dec 25	10am	Lyll Drewit
Dec 29	6.30pm	Vic Soffe

Each Thurs at 7.00pm Prayer Time

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

Paul Ashford, 07774 110 814 or email: Paul@CalebGroup.net

Sat 11th Jan 2.30 Concert in aid of 'Vision of Hope' by the Voller Quartet

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Family Worship 11.00am

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

www.THEDOORYOUTH.CO.UK or tel 07837234949

For more details, please phone 632564.

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Evening Worship every Sunday at 6pm. For details tel. 413247

Resound (BCF) -Twice monthly meetings are held at 4pm at Thornbury Baptist Church (Youth Block)

Contact 0117 3050969 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

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 Bristol area: www.bristolquakers.org.uk

Diary Dates for December 2013

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

1 st Sun	Bingo every Sun at Sports & Social Club	8.30pm	AP
2 nd Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club Practice Class Monday Movie	1.30pm 7.30pm	AH StM
3 rd Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning R.B.L. Women Christmas Lunch	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00	WR DGCL
4 th Wed	Every Wed & Fri Vic Hallett Library open Severn Vale Flower Cl. Coffee Morning Friends of Marlwood School Christmas Fair O.P.H.S. A Tudor Christmas	10.00-12.00 10.30 4-6.30pm 7.30	CH OMC
5 th Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Open Mic. At White Hart	9.00-1.30 9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 8.30pm	OS+ MH
6 th Fri	Thornbury Picture House 'Untouchable' FOOS wreath making event	7.30 7.30-9.30	CH OS
7 th Sat	Coffee Morning SPH Christmas Bazaar Litter Pick Olveston School Christmas Fayre Thornbury Food & Craft Fair Castle St Quiz at Olveston Sports & Social Club. Salvation Army Band Music in the Church at Aust Th. Orchestra Christmas Concert at Yate	10.30-12.00 10-12am 1pm 4.00-6.00 10.00-2pm 8.15 7.30 8pm 7.30	MH TMH PH OS AP StM AC
10 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Memory Café Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Women's Institute	9.30-11.30 10.15 10.30-12.00 7.30pm	WR TMH DGCL PH
11 th Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club Members' Lunch Severn Valley Quilters Christmas Party	12.00 7.30pm	AH CH
12 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Th. & District Flower Cl Open Demo.	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 7.30pm	OS+ MH AH
13 th Fri	Alv. Singers Christmas Concert St Helen's	7.30pm	
14 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning Thornbury Clarinet Choir	10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00 3pm	AVH MH CH

16 th Mon	Monday Movie Extra	7.30pm	StM
17 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR
	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	DGCL
	Alv. Singers Christmas concert	7.30pm	URC
18 th Wed	Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	8.30pm	
19 th Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market	9.00-1.30	
	Coffee Shop	9.00-12.00	OS+
	Beat Surgery	10.30-11.30	OS+
	Olveston Toddlers	1.45-3.15	MH
20 th Fri	Dursley Male Voice Choir, Dursley Chantry	7.30pm	
21 st Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
	SPH Christmas Concert	7.30pm	TMC
	Dursley Male Voice Choir, Dursley Chantry	7.30pm	
23 rd Mon	Children's Movie Club	10am	StM
25 th Wed			
29 th Sun	Feast of Fools	10am	StM
30 th Mon	Children's Movie Club	10am	StM
Looking ahead to January			
11 th	Quiz	7.30pm	StM
25 th	Burns Night		OV

KEY: AC Aust Church; ACR – Almondsbury Church Rooms; AH – Armstrong Hall; AMC – Olveston Methodist Church; AMH- Olveston Methodist Hall; AP – Alexandra Pavilion; AVH – Aust Village Hall; ; 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 TMC - Thornbury Meth. Ch 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. If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvostonandaust.com

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