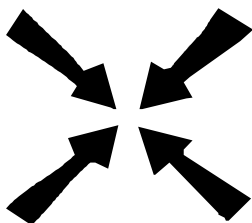


*MEETING
POINT*



*FEBRUARY
2014*



Meeting Point

Volume 38, Number 5 February 2014

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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From the Editor

The waxwing on the front cover of Meeting Point is one of the winter birds you can read about in this month's magazine. St. Mary's Olveston will reverberate to an alternative kind of music – read on to learn more about the music and the musicians. There is news of an internet café which has just opened. And the Parish Players present 'Hello Dolly'.

Please help, if you can, in the search for records of the Littleton war horse, remind yourself of last year's weather courtesy of Marcus Bean's annual report – and, when you aren't reading the magazine, enjoy early spring bulbs coming up.

The cover: waxwing
photographed by Tatiana Bulyonkova
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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.olvostonandaust.com

Waxwings and Blackcaps

Trevor Cook

Although the days are brightening, winter can often give us an unpleasant reminder of its power as we go through February. A hard winter brings hope for a waxwing year and a mild one the sight of a blackcap.

A waxwing year is when the cold Scandinavian winter drives the waxwings in desperation across the North Sea to us. It doesn't happen every year and when it does the birds are more often seen on the east coast of Britain..However, they can be driven down to the Severn Valley in hard times.



Waxwing
©Darren TA Bradnick

A picture of a waxwing is the bird on the cover of the magazine and you can see what a beautiful bird it is. It is not a shy bird and can often be seen in supermarket car parks. In November 2012 the birding website www.severnsidebirds.com reported waxwings in a supermarket car park in Avonmouth Way.



Blackcap
©Magnus Manke

In contrast to the waxwing the blackcap can be seen around your bird table. As a warbler and insect eater, it normally flies south for winter but in recent years some have decided to stay with us. Look for an almost uniformly grey bird with a black cap on his head. I say 'he' because it is only the male that has the eponymous black cap on his head; the female is similar in every respect except she has a chestnut-brown cap on her head. The blackcap is very distinctive but doesn't linger long at the bird feeder, normally pecking voraciously at a fat-ball.

Encourage them because as the spring creeps in you will be rewarded by a lovely fluty song which you can hear on the RSPB website

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name/b/blackcap/index.aspx>

Pictures from <http://commons.wikimedia.org>

Village people:

James Leaver and Dan Lewis-Leaver

Pat Thirkettle

James and Dan have recently moved to Olveston, but as children they lived in Rudgeway and went to Marlwood School, so are certainly local. They come from a musical family, Motown Soul music was always played at home, and they became obsessed with music towards the end of their time at school. James and Dan had very extensive collections of vinyl records and they attended live music gigs in Bristol. They were into, amongst other things, grunge music (a sort of cross between punk and rock) in the early 1990s. They never had formal lessons and are completely self-taught. At the end of the sixth form James formed a band playing Indy music, he played the bass guitar, and Dan learnt the drums in order to join the band.

After school James went to Brunel Technical College where he met a guitarist/songwriter, they formed a band with Dan and began to move amongst a musical network in Bristol. Dan went to Catering College in Bristol and they then began to meet more advanced musicians who had been playing longer and had studied music. They moved into Bristol and gradually became immersed in the music scene in their spare time. Between 1992 and 1994 they broke into the scene themselves and played gigs in Bristol, Sheffield and at Ashton Court Festival.

Their first band was called 'Supergrover', which broke up when the guitarist left. After playing in a couple of other bands, their next permanent band was called 'Box of Frogs', Dan now singing, James changing to guitar and both taking on song writing responsibility. They have never made much money from the band but have made their own CDs. The other guitarist in the 'Box of Frogs' was tutored by someone who had a recording studio; there they recorded their first album released on HERR, House of Rest Records. They pressed the album and did the artwork themselves, and are self-managed. James, who is the PR man, took the CDs to record shops on a sale or return basis and they also sold them at concerts.

They then had a break of a few years while James married and started a family and Dan learnt the guitar. Two years ago they started a new band 'Pilot Whale Research' (none of the band names means anything), and have played a few gigs. The Folk House in Park Street is their preferred type of venue, and they can fill it for a gig. Their brother-in-law Mike joined them; he plays the keyboard and sings. There was then another break when Dan married and started a family, but now they live close together in Olveston they can practise weekly. Dan is now the singer/songwriter; he has a digital recording kit and has written their new album.

James and Dan realised that St Mary's Church has great acoustics, requested an audition which was successful, and details of their forthcoming concert are below.



'Pilot Whale Research' live in concert

On Saturday 8th February 2014, 'Pilot Whale Research' will perform an evening of music live in St Mary's Church, Olveston.

Brothers Dan Lewis-Leaver and James Leaver will be previewing songs from their forthcoming release 'We Gathered in Circles until the Sea Turned Red'. The two brothers will also be joined by their long-time collaborator, and brother-in-law, Mike Meade for the second half of the show.

The bar in the church will be open serving refreshments during the interval. The music is original, acoustic guitar based, alternative folk and admission to the event is free of charge; any donations on the night will be greatly appreciated and will go to the church. The event will start at 7.30pm.



Weather Report for Olveston, 2013

Listed below are the highlights for the year followed by a short commentary on each month.

Marcus Bean

| 1. Temperature (degrees Celsius) | | | Date recorded |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| 1.1 | Highest day max temperature | 33.0 | 23 rd July |
| 1.2 | Lowest day max temperature | 0.4 | 19 th January |
| 1.3 | Highest night temperature | 16.4 | 23 rd July |
| 1.4 | Lowest night temperature | - 4.1 | 14 th March |
| 2. Barometric pressure (millibars) | | | |
| 2.1 | Maximum pressure | 1040 | 26 th November |
| 2.2 | Minimum pressure | 972 | 24 th December |
| 3. Wind | | | |
| 3.1 | Maximum speed | 58mph | 19 th December |
| 3.2 | Prevailing Direction | West | 66 days |
| 4. Rainfall (millimetres) | | | |
| 4.1 | Maximum in one day | 35.89 | 28 th October |
| 4.2 | Wettest month | 149.57 | October |
| 4.3 | Driest month | 17.92 | June |
| 4.4 | Total for the year | 788.6 | |
| | <i>Equivalent to</i> | | <i>31.05 inches</i> |

Commentary

January was a cold month with significant rain and snow mid-month. Average temperature was 1°C below norm. **February and March** were very cold months with high pressure centred over Scandinavia bringing Arctic winds which resulted in February being 2°C below, and March 3.5°C below, norm. It was the coldest March for 50 years. Rainfall was close to average. **April and May** continued the cold dry theme for spring, which was the coldest since 1976 with both months registering average temperatures 2°C below norm. **June** was very dry, being the driest since 1995. Temperature however was close to normal. **July**, with high pressure firmly established, was dry and at 3°C above norm was the hottest since 2006. **August** was a month of sunshine and showers with normal temperatures, but about half the average rainfall. **September** was a changeable month with much cloud but little rain, this being an inch below normal. In **October** a succession of Atlantic low pressure systems brought significant amounts of rain, this being 2 inches over norm, but average temperature was 1°C over that expected at this time of year. **November** was wet and windy at the beginning of the month with a severe gale on the 3rd but after mid-month it was dry and cloudy. Rainfall and

temperature were marginally below normal. **December** for the half of the month was overcast but mainly dry and reasonably mild, but for the latter part of the month Atlantic low pressure systems dominated with heavy rain and gales. Atmospheric pressure was close to normal but temperature was 1.5°C above norm and rainfall was nearly 1.5 inches above that normally experienced.

Summarising the year: we had a very cold winter and spring with warm dry conditions in mid-year and with autumn returning to normal pattern being reasonably mild and wet. Annual rainfall was close to average and approximately 20 inches less than for 2012. Pressure and temperature were close to average.

Swimarathon 2014 - the big splash!

The Rotary Club of Thornbury is looking for teams to enter 'The Big Splash 2014'. The principal charities are **The Alzheimer's Society** and **The Avon Riding Centre for the Disabled**. Both these charities need lots of support, so we're hoping for more teams than ever to take part. If you fancy entering a team, please do not hesitate to contact Adrian Dennis by email: ardennis@blueyonder.co.uk or mobile: 07970 435520

This family event will be held over the weekend of the **28th February, 1st March and 2nd March 2014**. We will be swimming to the Caribbean sound of the Castle School Steel Band and the vocal support of many excited onlookers! It's a great atmosphere. You don't have to be fast, you don't have to be a great swimmer and you don't have to swim on your own. In fact, you can have as many as 6 in a team, each taking it in turn to swim lengths. Each session is 55 minutes. Once you've finished, you'll receive your personal certificate to prove you did it!

We'd love to have more teams entering in 2014 and we would welcome any corporate sponsorship to help with the money raised. As well as the main beneficiaries, we support local initiatives, projects and good causes. Every single penny raised is handed over to charity in one form or another. Our special thanks to the Thornbury Leisure Centre for all the help and support given over the years.

COME AND JOIN US, WE WANT TO MAKE THIS THE 'BIGGEST SPLASH' YET!



Dear Residents of Olveston,

As you are all aware, we have been building 4 houses on the former feed mill site opposite the Olveston Stores. The project is moving swiftly forward to completion in the New Year. I am confident that the care and attention to detail in meeting all of the local authorities' conservation criteria for the external façades of the buildings will only enhance the look and feel of your village.

Due to the site being so close to the old quarry it was inevitable that digging was not going to be easy and, sure enough, after only going down 18 inches we hit the solid lime stone bed rock. After a couple of re-welded digger buckets and several blown hydraulic hoses, 70 digging days later we finished all foundation and drainage excavations. As the work was progressing many of you saw the large concrete pipes that were being installed below ground between The Street and the new houses. These are now acting as holding tanks for all the surface rain water for the development, as due to the rock there is no natural percolation.

All this water has to go somewhere; you've guessed it, straight into the existing culvert in The Street. However, this culvert was on South Gloucestershire Council's 'to do' list, as I found out when I contacted them after inspecting it myself and deeming it to be in a state of disrepair. It emerged that the culvert was blocked, not with mud or leaves but with a 9 inch mains gas pipe and BT ducting, that had both been laid directly across the bottom of the culvert 10 or more years ago. Of the 11-12 weeks that followed to resolve this problem, Halsall Construction's works to connect to the mains sewer in the road only took 4 days from start to finish. So I would like to thank you for your patience, as having the temporary traffic lights up for this length of time was not easy for anyone. Now you have a new culvert across the road and one in the foot path. We have also installed a surface water drain across the entrance to the development from the public carriageway, which should go some way to limiting the flooding & ponding that has occurred in the past at this junction.

I would like to thank Peter & Judith Dawes, Nigel & Julie Dawes and Sanjay Dom & family, with all of whom we have had to share the access to the site, for their patience and cooperation during this project. Also thank you to the Olveston Stores, not only for their patience but also for keeping my site team fed and watered, along with The Crusty Loaf Bakery. I know we couldn't have done it without you.

Yours sincerely,

David Wright – Site Manager for Halsall Construction

Aust Parish Council Matters

Tim Pyper

austparishcouncil@googlemail.com

New Council Member

Stop press news as MP goes to press. At its meeting on 14th January, the Council co-opted a new Councillor to replace Peter Ellis who resigned when he moved out of the parish. The Council was fortunate to have two excellent candidates to choose between and it was a difficult decision.

The Council is pleased to welcome Philip Jenkins as the new Councillor. He has lived in the village for 20 years with his family and is much involved in village affairs. He comes from a family that has farmed in the village for several generations, although he isn't a farmer himself.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th February 2014. The Council will consider its budget for the next financial year, and fix its precept.

Littleton's own Warhorse

Have you ever heard the story about a horse from Littleton that was sent to the First World War battlefields and was then returned safe and sound to its stable in Littleton?

If so, then Carol Watkins tel 414837 email: dandcwat@talktalk.net and also Thornbury Museum would like to hear from you.

Concert by the Salvation Army Band

On Saturday December 7th, St Mary's church Olveston hosted a fabulous concert given by the Bristol Easton Corps band of the Salvation Army. It was a lively and varied programme containing something for everyone. They also told us a little about the work they do at Christmas and throughout the year for those less fortunate in society.

Almost £1000 was raised for their wonderful work. We are delighted to say that they will be returning next December.

Sian Slade
David Shaw

Olveston Parish Council Matters

Richard Rogers (olvestonpc@gmail.com)

Looking for ways to keep the Parish informed? Trying to generate interest in forthcoming events? Certainly the Parish Council is very interested in ways of spreading information to keep residents informed, and is currently trialling a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Olveston-Parish-Council/533174733392552>) in addition to its regular 'Parish Matters' contributions, articles on the Olveston Website (www.olveston.com) and on its three notice boards distributed about the Parish.

These notice boards have limited space for third party contributions. Unfortunately the Council has recently received complaints about the number of fly posters and the time they have been left up. One alternative might be to install more notice boards, or for existing organisations to 'swap' space on their own boards. From the 4th January 2014 Olveston Methodist Hall is hosting the new 'internet café', which in addition to being open to all parishioners (whatever their level of computing ability) might increase access to electronic 'adverts'. Comments would be welcome on how better to balance the aesthetics of the Parish with the need to support local events.

The Parish Council has also received complaints from several families about high pitched alarms being sited around Olveston. Whilst these devices are nominally sited to discourage cats, they are particularly unpleasant for everyone who can hear the high pitched noise they create. Please could householders refrain from using these devices in their front gardens or where they could affect any pedestrians on communal footpaths, and play areas such as the concrete triangle between Bramley Close and Laxton Close.

Olveston Parish will again be 'hosting' the annual Severn Bridge Road Race on Sunday 2nd March from 11:00 – 13:45. Neither the Parish Council nor South Glos Council have powers to prevent the race occurring, although we can object to any road closures or requests for residents to move parked cars. The situation is being monitored by the Severn Safety Stronger Community Group which includes representatives from Avon and Somerset Police. It can only be hoped that this race will pass off without incident and with minimal disruption to local residents.

Olveston Parish Council is also keen to hear from anyone interested in becoming a Councillor, and you are most welcome to contact the Parish Clerk or existing Councillors via email or by phone. Parishioners are always welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Ideally new Councillors will be introduced to the Parish at this year's Annual Parish Assembly scheduled for Tuesday April 29th 2014.

Olveston Parish Vision

Mark Roper

The Olveston Parish Vision Steering Committee would like to say a huge thank you to all those who took the time to fill in and return their questionnaires. We received over 350 replies which equated to around a 50% response.

Analysis of the tick box sections has now taken place and we would invite the viewing of the results on the Olveston Parish Plan website olvestonparishvision.co.uk Further analysis of all the comments received is now underway. The results of this will allow for greater scrutiny into the areas of concern for the community.

And look what someone won as a result of completing the questionnaire! Ed.

Christmas Turkey

I would like to express my thanks to Tom and Mark Roper of Lower Woodhouse Farm for the fantastic turkey I won this Christmas. They generously donated this prize as an incentive to local residents to complete the recent Parish Vision questionnaire. I was lucky enough to be the winner and can confirm the bird was delicious and enjoyed by all 14 family members who joined us for Christmas this year.

So if, like me, you noticed the giant turkey on Fern Hill in December but didn't think much more about it, I suggest that next Christmas you check out their website - lowerwoodhousefarm.co.uk - and treat yourself to a farm fresh, locally-reared, succulent Kelly Bronze turkey. I'm sure you won't be disappointed! Thanks again to all concerned. Mary Long, Tockington

Parish Hall - Fish & Quiz Supper

The Annual Parish Hall quiz will take place on Friday 28 February. This is an opportunity for all members of the Parish to partake and pit their knowledge against fellow parishioners! Please arrive by 7.30 for a prompt start at 7.45. Tickets £7.50 to include a fish and chips supper.

For tickets please contact: Pat Savage on 01454 610388
Email pat@savageassociates.co.uk

Parish & Olveston & Tockington Methodist Church

The Parish of Olveston now has an Internet Café! It has taken over 12 months to get it set up due to various problems, but at last we have succeeded.

With immediate effect you are invited to participate, if you are interested. Perhaps you have often thought about doing e-mails, or perhaps you have never thought of it? Well, now is your chance to start, on your door step. If you do not have an e-mail address and would like one, come along and we will help you get started. Also, if you have relatives or friends anywhere in the world who have this facility, and you would like to e-mail them and even see them and chat at the same time, we will help you to do so. OR perhaps you want to widen your knowledge on a particular subject, or even start a new hobby. We will show you how!

We will be open at the following times:-

Monday from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Wednesday from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon

Friday from 7.00 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The cost is £1 per hour or part of an hour and coffee or tea and biscuits will be available for 50p per cup.

If you have any questions please contact Adrian Baxter on 01454 617108 or Glyn Varney on 0117 9696387

'Hello Dolly'

Richard Newley

The Parish Players' 2014 musical production "Hello Dolly" opens on Wednesday February 19th. Tickets are still available for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall (£10 for adults, £5 for children). In addition there is a preview evening on Tuesday 18th February – phone for information.

Phone Richard or Jenny at the Box Office on **07855 182225** to purchase your tickets (**please note: we made an error in the number given in the January issue!**). Last season's show sold out in advance, so book early!

Young Farmers' Whist Drive

Saturday 8th February 7.30 pm Olveston Parish Hall

All money raised will be donated to the Cardiomyopathy Association (CMA). This is a great charity that provides support and information to families affected by the heart muscle disease cardiomyopathy. This can include people of all ages and is mostly inherited. It is not curable, but can usually be treated successfully, with most sufferers going on to lead a long and full life.

The services that the CMA offer include support nurses, information days all over the country as well as support groups. These services are extremely important as families affected by cardiomyopathy face a bewildering future as they come to terms with their situation and seek to learn more about the condition. The CMA really does help them and can help relieve the feelings of anxiety, isolation and confusion which people commonly feel when affected by cardiomyopathy

<http://www.cardiomyopathy.org>

Olveston Sports & Social Club

will now take bookings for parties on Saturday evenings, so please enquire for your special occasions. Our charity quiz nights are taking place on the following Saturdays at 8.15pm: - February 8th, March 1st and 22nd, more dates to follow. Anyone interested in becoming a member, please visit when we are open and you will receive a warm welcome.

During the winter you will find a football match taking place on Saturday afternoons and in summer there is cricket, so why not come along and show your support for local lads. The bar is always open for liquid refreshments.

The club is always open for all big sports on the big screen; watch the notice board for details... Anyone interested in Bingo will find a warm welcome on a Sunday evening starting at 8.15pm. *Barbara Lansdown, Club Secretary*

Memories of Arthur

Don't forget: owing to popular demand, we're repeating the evening of **Memories of Arthur** on March 1st in church at 7.30pm. After an interview made with Peter Floyd, and highlights of June and Arthur's performances in Parish Players, courtesy of Nigel Dawes, there will be an opportunity to swap stories of Arthur. There will be a licensed bar available as well as tea and coffee. No charge for the evening but donations are welcome, as always!

Gloucester Docks - Then & Now

Olveston Parish Historical Society: Wednesday 5 February 2014, 7.30pm
Methodist Church, The Street, Olveston BS35 4DR



*'The Quay and Docks,
Gloucester, 1878'
by Edward Smith*

Gloucester Museums Service Art Collection

We look forward to welcoming Tony Conder, ex-Curator of the Gloucester Waterways Museum, for a fascinating, illustrated talk on **Gloucester Docks - Then and Now**. His talk will explain the history of the Docks, tell us when their heyday was, describe the kinds of goods handled there and show us how the Docks linked with the Severn and the Midlands.

Everyone welcome - £2 on the door for non-members.
Website: <http://www.olveston.com/historical-society>

Stitches in Time

Thornbury & District Museum will re-open after winter closure on Tues 4 Feb. with a new textile exhibition: "Stitches in Time". The items on display all have local connections and many rarely come out of the Museum's store, mainly because of their delicate nature. There are items of clothing, examples of needlework and other craftwork and some of the tools involved in their making, as well as stories about the people behind their creation.

We are very excited about one particular exhibit which has been lent to the Museum for the exhibition: a beautiful piece of workmanship which, like Sleeping Beauty, has been hidden away undiscovered for nearly 100 years. We hope you will come along to see this remarkable piece of work and find out about its history and enjoy the rest of the exhibition.

Thornbury & District Museum, Chapel Street, by the Armstrong Hall.

Open: 4 Feb - late April. Tues-Fri 1-4pm, Sat 10am-4pm. Admission free.

Olveston & Tockington W.I.

Christmas is past, but at the W.I. we're still enjoying Christmassy events. We were invited to see Peter Pan in Bath in January (plus a tour of the theatre and lunch!) and in February we are looking forward to a talk by a pantomime Dame.

Tim Mayo is a former teacher who has been playing pantomime characters and especially the Dame for many years. He is coming to talk to us about the different panto characters, the make-up, costumes and wigs, and has hinted that he may transform himself from a normal man to a pantomime Dame "before our very eyes".

You'd be most welcome to join us at 7.30 in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 11th February to see how this transformation takes place and then to join us for refreshments.

British Legion Olveston - Ladies' Division

Belated New Year's greetings to all residents of Olveston. The Advent Windows were excellent and all the lights around the villages were magical. What a magnificent Poppy Appeal collection - £5311 - organised by Stan Blackburn. Thirty of us had a delicious 3-course Christmas meal at the Farmer's Table at Tortworth Farm Shop. Our next meeting is on Tuesday Feb 4th at 7.30pm at Daldry Gardens. We are having a film night with popcorn, drinks & ice cream. We play Bingo on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Please join us for a taster evening as we still need more local support. Pat King

Thornbury Picture House

'Monsieur Lazhar' (12) (French subtitled) Cossham Hall, 7.30pm, Friday 7th February

In this Oscar nominated tale, 55 year old Algerian immigrant, Bachir Lazhar, finds himself replacing a popular elementary school teacher who dies unexpectedly. Bachir slowly re-builds the confidence of the pupils who are shattered by the loss of their beloved teacher. As the children go through their healing process, nobody in the school is aware of Bachir's own personal struggle. £5 on the door for non-members.

Movies at St Mary's: Feb

Trevor Anderson



St Mary's Movie Club in Olveston is now well into its fourth year. Over that time, our understanding of *'what works'* for our members has increased – as has our confidence to introduce a few slightly more 'daring' films in 2014! We hope that members will find our 2014 programme interesting and enjoyable.

We've completed our plans to the end of March and everyone can pick up a programme from just inside the church door. If you are already a Movie Club member, you'll have received your copy by email. We're planning to show three films in February:

MONDAY MOVIES (*Recent releases and popular classics*)

Mon 3rd Feb at 7.30pm: Orson Welles's epic tale of a publishing tycoon's rise and fall is widely recognised as one of the great masterpieces of cinema (*Cert U*)

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

Mon 17th Feb at 7.30pm: A fascinating insight into the lengths and depths that the East German government went to in order to keep tabs on the lives of its population. (*Cert 15*)

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

Mon 17th Feb at 10.00am: The second film from one of the best loved and most influential trilogies of all time which has enthralled and entertained generations of cinema goers. (*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.

Old Down Cricket Club

150 Club Winners January:

£50 Mrs J Maunder

£15 Ian Maunder

£5 Diane Grosvenor

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

7th Dec. James Green

14th Dec. Simon Davis

4th Jan. Simon Davis

Senior Players' Registration Evening: Wednesday 5th March 7.30 Olveston Sports & Social Club. Up The Down!

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

The Annual OPTA Quiz

A reminder that our popular quiz is back again on Friday 7th February 2014 at Olveston Parish Hall, 7.30pm (for a prompt 7.45 start).

Teams of 4 - £5 per person to include light refreshments. There will be a bar serving beer, lager, wine and soft drinks. There's a prize for the winning team! To reserve your team's table, please contact Noel Clarke (01454 614099).

PS A date for your diary: The Great OPTA Wine Challenge 2014 on Friday 11th April in the Parish Hall. More details to follow in future editions of Meeting Point.

Vive la France!

Looking for a new activity in 2014? Make new friends and do a little gentle learning celebrating the life and variety of France, in all its aspects.

Yes, I too hesitated for ages about visiting the Thornbury French Circle – thinking they would all speak fluent French/I wasn't good enough/ had never stuck in properly at school. Nonsense! We are a social and sociable group, meeting at the Stuart Room, the Chantry, usually on the second Monday of the month, at 8pm, for 2 hours of pleasant entertainment, with a French flavour. We often have a speaker – subjects last year included a travelogue through central France, and a talk on Parisian cafes and bistros. We've had a guided wine tasting, and a very interesting talk on French sweets and patisseries, with samples!

We also have the occasional film – usually a comedy, not the grim and grainy, moany, miserable 'significant' French film – and always with sub-titles. There's a yearly skittles evening, a barbecue, a summer lunch, and winter dinner – local restaurants prepare special menus with French elements – and of course a Christmas party.

But yes, I hear you say, this business of speaking French? Well, now and again, and here and there, but our speakers generally speak mostly in English, and translate if they don't.

Dip a toe in; come along on Monday 10th February, for a talk on growing up in Normandy. Visitors welcome at £3 per evening, reduced rates on taking out membership. For more information and a full programme please contact Helen Giles 01454 411571, email Helen_giles@hotmail.co.uk. A bientot!

Keeping you in touch: Olveston beat surgeries 2014

Avon & Somerset Police at Olveston Stores on Wednesday mornings in 2014 between 10:30 - 11:30 on the following dates:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| January 15th | July 23rd |
| February 12th | August 13th |
| March 26th | September 10th |
| April 23rd | October 22nd |
| May 14th | November 12th |
| June 25th | December 10 th |

Thornbury Orchestra open rehearsal Wednesday 5th February 2014, 7.45pm – 9.45pm

A FREE invitation to young musicians and music lovers of all ages to come and watch an open rehearsal.

Come and hear a top local orchestra rehearse some great music, including: Sibelius: Finlandia and Beethoven: Symphony No. 5. Meet and talk to players, find out how experienced adult musicians rehearse and prepare for a concert. Experience the sounds of a symphony orchestra at full blast playing some of the greatest music ever written.

If you would like to come along then please join us for the evening at the United Reformed Church, Chapel Street, Thornbury, BS35 2BA (Children should be accompanied by an adult as Thornbury Orchestra is not able to provide any supervision for the evening.)
www.thornburyorchestra.org.uk

A great big thank you from the Alveston Singers

During the year the Singers performed two concerts in June, and two in December, to raise monies for their chosen charities. All four concerts were well attended, and due to the generosity of the audiences £2,500 was raised. This is a magnificent result and the monies will be shared by CHILDREN'S HOSPICE SOUTH WEST and GREAT WESTERN AIR AMBULANCE. The Alveston Singers thank you and look forward to welcoming you to their concerts in 2014. We wish you all a very happy New Year.

THORNBURY U3A

Serving postal codes BS32, BS34, BS35, BS36, GL12, GL13

Thornbury University of the Third Age continues to be a thriving group within the local community. The term “university” may appear a little misleading as there is no accreditation or validation and there are no assessments or qualifications to be gained. It is purely a self-help organisation for people no longer in full time employment that provides educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a very friendly environment. The list below shows the extremely varied nature of the groups on offer to members for the £7.00 annual subscription or £12.00 for two people at the same address. Members can join as many groups as they choose, although in some cases there may be a waiting list. They may also need to pay the cost, if any, of materials, a contribution towards the cost of refreshments and if required of the hire of premises. The majority of meetings are held during the day and some in the home of the group leader.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Archaeology | Architecture | Armchair music |
| Art Appreciation | Aspects of 20 th century | Astronomy |
| Bird Watching | Book groups (2) | Bridge (3) |
| Bus travel | Card Making | Church visits (2) |
| Cinema | Classical studies | Computer club |
| Concert visits | Cooking for one | Cooking for gentlemen |
| Country dancing | Cycling | Discussions |
| D I Y help | Drawing (3) | Family history |
| Financial planning | French Book club | French for beginners |
| French slightly advanced | Garden visits | Gentle exercise |
| German (2) | History (The Tudors) | History (The Stuarts) |
| Humour | Indoor bowls | Investment clubs (2) |
| Italian | Jazz Appreciation | Latin |
| Lunch Clubs (2) | Mah Jong(2) | Maths |
| Music | Opera | Our Living Language |
| Painting | Photographic | Play-reading |
| Plodders walking | Poetry appreciation | Railway and Transport |
| Recorder | Sailing | Scrabble (2) |
| Science and technology | Singing for non-singers | Spanish |
| Short Slow Rambles | Spanish | Table Tennis (3) |
| Tai Chi | Theatre and Opera visits | The Great War |
| Traditional Folk Music | Travel and Tourism | Walking |
| Wine clubs (3) | | |

Further details can be obtained from the Membership secretary, Tony Turnbull at 01454 614843 or tonyt@cherry-lyn.demon.co.uk Information can also be obtained from the website: www.thornburyu3a.org.uk

Lent in Severnside 2014

Roly Bain

Ash Wednesday, 5 March marks the start of the Christian's annual journey to Good Friday and Easter Day, 20th April. There will be a 9am service in church with The Imposition of Ashes. But it is also a good time to travel "better together" in deepening our faith.

Discussion Groups will be meeting across Severnside. Some will engage with the new York Course "Build on the Rock – Faith, doubt and Jesus" (www.yorkcourses.co.uk). There will be several groups in this parish, lasting five weeks each. A *Pilgrim* group 'Turning to Christ' for those who are just beginning the journey, or who want a refresher course on the basics of faith (www.pilgrimcourse.org) will start on Wed, Mar 12th at 7.30pm led by me. This, unlike the others, lasts for six weeks. Sorry!

We're showing a series of Lent films again on Tuesdays at 7.30pm, addressing various issues. For personal use, 'Looking Through the Cross' The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2014 by Graham Tomlin is commended and available on Kindle @ £6.49. Further details will be available in church later in February or via Roly on roly@rolybain.co.uk

Friends of St Mary's

The prize winners in the January draw, held on 9th January 2014 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

| <u>Amount</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Name</u> |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| £150 | 449 | G R & L J Chappell, Olveston |
| £75 | 249 | R S & A M Williams, Olveston |
| £25 | 576 | Mrs V Brazell, Olveston |
| £25 | 582 | Mr B Amos, Olveston |
| £25 | 320 | Mrs E Whitford, Tockington |
| £20 | 591 | Mrs P R Kerrison, Olveston |
| £20 | 481 | Mr D Skinner, Tockington |
| £20 | 319 | Mr J L Henniker-Heaton, Winterbourne |
| £10 | 353 | Mrs J V Robbins, Olveston |
| £10 | 267 | Mr I A Hughes, Olveston |
| £10 | 589 | Mr B Amos, Olveston |
| £10 | 398 | Mrs G Crossley, Tockington |

Yours faithfully

Rev. Pete Brazier

Anyone for a Spare Mince Pie Tax?

As the fun and excesses of Christmas and the New Year fade into the background, we may find ourselves wondering if this will be a prosperous year or one of hardship; will it be one of joy or of sorrows. Some of us may be wondering what to do with the last of the Christmas food; the chocolate, the mince pies and the Christmas puddings. At this time of year Methodist Churches around the country are having what we call a 'covenant service' in which we reiterate our commitment to the church and the work of God. It is as such our collective new year's resolution; to try once again to be the people that God would want us to be. At Christmas we celebrated the arrival of Jesus, the son of God but several hundred years before that someone wrote down these words from Leviticus chapter 26, which says;

"I will keep my covenant with you. You will still be eating last year's harvest when you will have to move it out to make room for the new. I will put my dwelling place among you."

These words seem strangely relevant, but as we move out last year's harvest to make room for the new, and as we continue to live in the light of a world where Christ has already come to dwell among us, I wonder if we ought to spend some time thinking about those whose harvest this year has not been so good and who have had to live on welfare benefits. Those of us with money enough for good things at Christmas may feel a little pang of guilt at the overestimating of the food that we might want or need during the festive season, but not enough to call for laws and sanctions against wasted food. So I wonder how Christ might react to a government that seeks to reduce welfare and tax unused bedrooms of the poor while leaving the rich to their excesses. So may this be a prosperous year for you, but may we also seek the prosperity of your fellow human beings wherever we are able.

From the registers of St Mary's, Olveston

- 18th December 2013 Thanksgiving Service for the life of Ronald King
followed by burial at Thornbury Cemetery
- 24th December 2013 Thanksgiving Service for the life of Ramond Gill
followed by burial at Woodlands
- 3rd January 2014 Noreen Coward - Burial of Ashes
- 5th January 2014 Baptism of Alex David Hill

**MEETING POINT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 2013**

| RECEIPTS | 2013 | 2012 | PAYMENTS | 2013 | 2012 |
|--|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | £ | £ | | £ | £ |
| Balances at 31st October 2012 and 2011 | | | | | |
| At Bank: | | | | | |
| Current Account | 2087.17 | 1044.00 | Printing | 11606.00 | 11560.00 |
| Clubs & Charities A/C | 3006.40 | 5001.40 | Insurance | 368.43 | 73.53 |
| Advertisements | 13517.00 | 11944.00 | Postage | 88.00 | 1055.37 |
| Interest | 3.57 | | Stationery/Materials | 129.82 | 112.10 |
| Donation | - | 5.00 | Book Binding | 42.00 | 42.00 |
| Corporation tax rebate | - | 123.51 | Gratuities | 99.50 | 79.99 |
| Insurance Rebate | 67.69 | - | Photocopying | - | 6.35 |
| | | | Queen's Jubilee Fund | - | 100.00 |

At Bank:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Current Account | 3338.11 | 2087.17 |
| Clubs and Charities A/C | 3009.97 | 3006.40 |

18681.83 18122.91

18681.83 18122.91

Documents relative to this Statement have been examined and found correct.

J. P. Howells

14th December 2013

Dated

J S Howells F.C.A.

T. W. Watkins

Treasurer

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

| | | | |
|--------|------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Feb 2 | 8am | Holy Communion | Rev Philip Rowe |
| | 10am | Holy Communion | Rev P Rowe & Rev R Bain |
| | 10am | Breakfast Club | Breakfast Club Team |
| | 6pm | Evensong/Candlemas with Choir | Rev D Bone |
| Feb 9 | 8am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Rev David Bone |
| | 10am | Morning Worship with Choir | Rev R. Bain & Rev A Lloyd |
| | 10am | Breakfast Club | Breakfast Club Team |
| | 6pm | Holy Communion | Rev Philip. Rowe |
| Feb 16 | 8am | Holy Communion | Rev David Bone |
| | 10am | Holy Communion with Choir | Rev David Bone |
| | 10am | Breakfast Club | Breakfast Club Team |
| | 6pm | Evensong | Mr Denis Jones |
| Feb 23 | 8am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Rev Roly Bain |
| | 10am | Fourth Sunday | Mr D Jones&Rev Roly Bain |
| | 6pm | Evensong (BCP) with Choir | Rev Philip Rowe & Mrs Janet McBride |

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 Olv. Methodist Church

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

| | | | |
|--------|------|----------------|----------------|
| Feb 9 | 10am | Holy Communion | Rev David Bone |
| Feb 23 | 10am | Morning Prayer | 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

| | | | |
|--------|-----|----------------|------------------|
| Feb 2 | 9am | Matins | Mrs Tracey Black |
| Feb 16 | 9am | Holy Communion | Rev David Pole |

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

| | | | |
|--------|-----|----------------|-----------------|
| Feb 9 | 9am | Matins | Sandra Edgerton |
| Feb 23 | 9am | Holy Communion | Rev David Pole |

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

| | | | |
|--------|-------------|-----------------------|--|
| Feb 2 | 10am 6pm | Tock. Ch. Tock Ch. | Morning Worship led by Rev Sandy Williams Evening Worship led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle with St Andrews' congregation |
| Feb 9 | 10am | Olv. Ch. | All Age Worship led by Mrs Deb Brazier. The Breakfast Club will join us later |
| Feb 16 | 10am | Tock. Ch. | Morning Worship led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle |
| Feb 23 | 10am | Olv. Ch. | Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Pete Brazier |

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 12th February. To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP meets at 12.15 in the Swan Tockington on Thurs 20th February. To book please ring 613241, or 612112

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

PRAYER MEETINGS Tuesdays 9.00-10.00am in Olv. Methodist Ch.

HOUSE GROUPS One on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10.30am at 7 The Green Olveston led by Mr Glyn Varney or Mrs Rosalie Doyle. Another on Wed 26th Feb at 10.30 at 40 Greenhill Rd Alveston led by Rev Sandy Williams

CONTACT: Rev Pete Brazier Tel 01454 418176

Email pete@thebigfishcafe.co.uk,

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

| | | |
|--------|--------|---------------------|
| Feb 2 | 6.30pm | Tony Ward |
| Feb 9 | 6.30pm | Munir Din |
| Feb 16 | 6.30pm | Paul Ashford |
| Feb 23 | 6.30pm | Ceri Morgan -Davies |

Thurs at 7.30pm Prayer Time

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

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

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

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 February 2014

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

| | | | |
|----------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 st Sat | Coffee Morning Charity Quiz at Sports & Social Club(Old Down) & every Sat | 10.30-12.00 8.15pm | MH AP |
| 2 nd Sun | Bingo every Sun at Sports & Social Club. | 8.30pm | AP |
| 3 rd Mon | Monday Movie | 7.30pm | StM |
| 4 th Tue | Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning RBL Women film evening | 9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 7.30pm | WR DGCL DGCL |
| 5 th Wed | Every Wed & Fri Vic Hallett Library open O.P.H.S Glos Docks Then & Now | 7.30pm | OMC |
| 6 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 |
| 7 th Fri | O.P.T.A. (Twinning Association) Quiz Th. Picture House 'Monsieur Lazhar' | 7.30pm 7.30pm | PH CH |
| 8 th Sat | Coffee Morning Coffee Morning Young Farmer's Whist Drive 2 Acoustic Guitars 'Pilot Whale Research' | 10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00 7.30pm 7.30pm | AVH MH PH StM |
| 11 th Tue | Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Women's Institute Aust Parish Council | 9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 10.15 7.30 7.30pm | WR DGCL TMH PH EVH |
| 12 th Wed | Beat Surgery Rapunzel (TMTG) 'til 15 th | 10.30-11.30 7.30pm | OS+ AH |
| 13 th Thu | Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Th.& District Flower Cl | 9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 7.30 | OS MH TMH |
| 15 th Sat | Coffee Morning Tudor Cookery School at Turnberries | 10.30-12.00 From 10am | MH |
| 16 th Sun | | | |
| 17 th Mon | Children's Movie Club Monday Movie Extra | 10.00am 7.30pm | StM StM |
| 18 th Tue | Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning RBL Women Bingo | 9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 7.30pm | WR DGCL DGCL |

| | | | |
|----------------------|--|--|-------------------------|
| 19 th Wed | Hammer Out Support Gp. Severn Vale Flower Club A.G.M. Hello Dolly 'til Sat 22nd Jazz at the White Hart Olveston | 10.30 1.00pm 7.30pm 8.30pm | AH PH |
| 20 th Thu | Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop | 9.00-1.30 10.00-12.00 | OS† |
| 21 st Fri | | | |
| 22 nd Sat | Coffee Morning | 10.30-12.00 | MH |
| 24 th Mon | Severn Vale Flower Club Practice | 1.30pm | AH |
| 25 th Tue | Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Olveston Parish Council | 9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 10.15 7.30 | WR DGCL TMH AP |
| 26 th Wed | | | |
| 27 th Thu | Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Th.& District Flower Cl A.G.M. | 9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 7.30pm | OS† MH TMH |
| 28 th Fri | Fish & Quiz Supper- All weekend Th. Rotary Cl. Swimathon | 7.30pm | PH |

Looking ahead to March

| | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| 1st | Memories of Arthur(repeat showing) | 7.30pm | StM |
|-----|------------------------------------|--------|-----|

KEY: AC Aust Church; 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; OST – 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.olvestonandaust.com. If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com

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