



Meeting Point

Volume 34, Number 4, January 2010

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

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Publication date

1st of each month

**Material for February 2010
to Editor or Deputy Editor by
7th January**

From the Editor

"Here's to the bright New Year, and a fond farewell to the old; here's to the things that are yet to come, and to the memories that we hold."

-- Anonymous

This month's Meeting Point has articles on past events but also gives us the opportunity to join in or support new activities in and around our community, including Severnside Ramblers and Thornbury Volunteer Centre.

Our cover this month is by Kate Hickman
Meeting Point Founded in 1976 by the Anglican and
Methodist churches in Olveston, near Bristol

Meeting Point magazine and Meeting Point Directory is online on the
Community Website: www.olvestonandaust.com.

Village People:

Paul Cantrill and Jayne Leigh

Carol Vincenot

The Boar's Head sits at the centre of our wonderfully picturesque village of Aust. Just half a mile from the old Severn Bridge, this 16th century inn has retained many of its original features, including fabulous low beams and roaring inglenook fireplaces. It has been serving locals and indeed many travellers, in the days of the Aust ferry, for centuries and continues to do so today.

In recent years the pub has changed hands a few times, always great people at the helm, but hopefully now it seems we have turned the corner to a more settled era with the current landlord and landlady, Paul Cantrill and his partner Jayne Leigh. The difference here is that Jayne and Paul are no strangers to Aust and are already held very highly in the esteem of the Aust villagers because they very successfully ran the pub a few years back from 2000 - 2003. Indeed, if anyone ever talks fondly of the pub they nearly always mention this period as being a bit of a 'heyday', despite the fact that these were difficult years, with foot and mouth rife, not forgetting the incessant fuel strikes.

Originally from Nottinghamshire, Jayne and Paul have been in the trade for 14 years. Previously in the army for seven years, Jayne trained as a chef at the in-house catering college in Aldershot. A highlight for Jane during this time was her parachute training; to date she has partaken in 19 jumps, an amazing feat by any one's standards! On leaving the army, she worked in hotels and restaurants, mostly in and around Bournemouth, most notably spending a couple of years at the 5* Royal Bath Hotel. These days you will find her front of house where she is an absolute natural.

Paul, her partner of 23 years, was in sales, funnily enough selling and designing kitchens - later on he would find himself running his own, which is where he is right at home these days. One of Paul's more famous customers was Edwina Curry, for whom he designed a kitchen for her then home, a converted Windmill. However, Paul's lifelong passion is Arsenal Football Club and during a stint running a London pub earlier on in their careers, he would get to support his team on a regular basis.

So what brought them back from Bournemouth to Aust? Well, they were quite simply head-hunted back to re-create the success they brought to the pub a few years back and they jumped at the chance. Having made and kept some great friends here, they were delighted to be able to return. They were and are very much part of the village, often participating at the village fete where Paul was once put quite literally in the 'Stocks' ! They have also enjoyed hosting

events, most recently a very successful Halloween night for all ages with treasure hunts for the children and quizzes for the older guests. They have also held MG Sports Car events, whilst the Barmy Army have been known to pop in and set up their Army Vehicle rebuilds in the car park. Other exciting guests have included the North Berkeley Hunt for their Stirrup cup and last but not least the wonderful Morris dancers with their swords aloft in the bar area or they can be found in the beer garden for a few impromptu dance routines.

Looking forward to the future, the couple have great plans for the pub; a new menu was introduced on the 1st December, combining good food and exceptional value for money. There really are some great offers on at the moment to tempt you (e.g. 2 meals for £12 Monday to Friday) so do pop in and say hello; you are sure to receive a fabulous welcome.

The Boar's Head is once more back at the heart of the village and back in the hearts of its villagers!

Goodbye Mrs. Chips

Following the highly successful Grafitti Classics performance, the 'Ministry of Entertainment' returns to Olveston Parish Hall on **Friday 22nd January** at **7:30pm** with a new upbeat, energetic and inventive production laced with classic songs and laughs.

After nearly 60 years of sterling service at Brookshields School, dinner lady extraordinaire Mrs. Chipping, is finally hanging up her potato masher, egg mallet and gravy sieve for the last time.

She has watched generation after generation of the Brookshield boys grow up fit and healthy, dining on her traditional school fare of watery cabbage, steamed mullet and lumpy custard. To the boys, as they've gazed through her hatch, she is a surrogate mother; she will of course deny this, as she has never chained herself to anything for the right to vote! To the Headmaster, she is an inspiration, solving the problems of the school from the pages of Mrs. Beeton, Elizabeth David and Fanny Craddock. Now it is time for her to retire, to move on to the desert course of life or rather, at her age, it's more the little square chocolates you get with the bill!

Tickets include a free school pudding and are available at £8 (£5 for under-16s) from Geoff on 01454 615806. Tea and Coffee will also be available.

Loyal Mail



A few of months ago there was much national news of the dispute within Royal Mail but here within the Meeting Point area we have a friendly and efficient service provided by a group of Royal Mail employees who give an unflagging and cheerful service to everyone in the community. There's Paul in Tockington and Old Down, Chris in Olveston, Ki in Aust and Elberton, Steve, Bryan and Darren in Littleton and their supporting colleagues.

It isn't just at Christmas with their heavy workload that we appreciate them, though that may be the time when most of us thank them, but we value the friendly service they give to us throughout the year.

St Mary's Appeal

By the time you read this I hope we will have raised the £235,000 we needed, but the building works still won't be finished - the end of November has become the end of January in terms of completion date. But the work itself has been excellent - do come and have a look at the fruits of Carrek's labours, our Architect's designs, and the reason for all that fundraising. And do come along on **January 31st** at 10am when the Bishop of Bristol is coming to dedicate it all. We will be joined by the congregations of St Mary, Almondsbury and Tockington & Olveston Methodist Church, so come early for a seat. It will be followed by a glass of something and refreshments.

Talking of 'a glass of something', a bar in church is not part of the reordering! Word has got round that we have applied to be a licensed premises and that much is true. But it merely means that we don't have to keep applying for occasional licenses for the times we have a bar at events and concerts in the church, and to be a licensed premises is cheaper over the year. It is illegal to serve alcohol in return for a donation - if any money changes hands you have to have a license. I can assure you we shall not be opening up in competition with The White Hart! It just makes it simpler - and saves an awful lot of paperwork.

Having said that, a huge thank you to all of you who have supported the Appeal this past year, and to all of you who support us so much in all sorts of ways all through the years. We remain humbled and truly grateful for all that we have received.

Have you ever thought about foster caring?

This is not a question you hear every day, nor is it something that many people contemplate in their lifetime. And why should they? The public perception is that it is an onerous task, an unnecessary life-changing event and definitely something that other people get involved with. So, how can I address all these points and present reasons why people should seriously think about foster caring and, once completely convinced, then make that first step by contacting me? I shall try to do this below:

Foster caring will always be regarded as an onerous task to those outside the process because it involves taking in a child or young person who needs care. It is, by its very nature, something extra that needs to be done. These children need to be looked after by people who can offer them a nurturing, positive environment and it is carers who can offer this that we are looking for.

Fostering a child or young person will change your life, as will introducing anyone, or anything different, into your lifestyle and household. This is why any carers, when being assessed, are as prepared as possible for the time when a child arrives.

Yes, other people do get involved in foster caring and they are supported every step of the way by this authority. As the ultimate welfare of the children is our responsibility, it is in our best interest that the foster carers we attract, assess, approve and, very importantly, retain are people we can trust, call upon and know will provide the best care for the children. In exchange for this we offer generous fees and allowances, structured training, interaction with existing foster carers and continuous, ongoing support.

I'm not going to tell you it's easy, or that it isn't challenging; what I will say is that that the opportunities are there to not only help the children and young people attain their goals but, at the same time, develop your own fresh aims and targets in life, which are rarely easy or unchallenging.

If, after reading this article, you feel you want to take that first step you can either contact me on 01454 866423 and I will answer any questions you might have, or you might prefer to read our very comprehensive information pack which can be viewed online at www.southglos.gov.uk/fostering. Here you will also find further information on fostering.

Tony Bray Recruitment & Marketing Officer,
Family Placement Team, South Gloucestershire Council

The Severnside Ramblers and a 75th Birthday

The Ramblers Association is 75 years old and is celebrating 2010 with Baton Walks. Baton walks will start in South West England in January, pass through Wales, loop through Scotland and finish in South East England by December. We will have the Baton on Saturday 23 January for a walk near Tockington. Do join us on this walk, or any others on the programme. Non-members are very welcome.

For more information about walks in January, pick up a programme at your local library, or log on to www.severnside-ramblers.org.uk. A contact name and telephone number is given for each walk. We meet at the Aldi car park, Bradley Stoke, BS32 9DA and share lifts to the start of the walk.

Sat 2 Jan	Beechenhurst: woodland and sculpture trail	5 miles	Jill & Gareth 0117 3739712
Sun 3 Jan	Bristol: secret footpaths from Durdham Down. Last of the Festival of Winter Walks	8 miles	Heather 01454 632134
Sun 10 Jan	Monkton Coombe: pretty scenery, river and lovely views on this undulating walk	7 miles	Joy 0117 9334998
Sun 17 Jan	Gray Hill and Wentwood Forest: fairly strenuous walk through lovely countryside	10 miles	Don 0117 9391685
Sat 23 Jan	<i>Tockington: easy walk through pretty villages, fields and woods. Optional pub lunch at end.</i> Ramblers Baton walk	8 miles	Joy 0117 9334998
Sun 24 Jan	Marshfield: rolling Cotswold countryside with good views	10 miles	Gordon 01454 616344
Sun 31 Jan	Backwell & Brockley: level walking past Brockley Court, climb into Brockley Combe	9 miles	Ken 0117 9315108

Our Parish Matters

Andy Clarke

It's 2010 and Christmas has gone, so what are you looking forward to as the New Year stretches before you? If you're looking for new resolutions to stiffen your resolve, how about getting more involved with our community. You can, of course, make as much or as little of this as you like, but there are many ways to do so, including Rod Williams' Parish-Tidy volunteer group and the Vale Link Transport volunteers (see November issue). It is possible that yet another group will be in the offing too, which will be concerned with an overview of the Parish's current provision and its identifiable future needs.

However, if you would rather keep it simple, why not just turn up to support local events, whether at our rejuvenated Parish Hall functions, activities at the Parish's churches, entertainment, skittles or Jazz nights at the local pub of your choice.

Whatever your interests are, you could well find ways forward into a positive new year in the Olveston Parish community. Whatever the future holds, the Parish Council would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

As you go about the Parish you may notice that South Gloucestershire work teams have made considerable progress in improving some of our roadside footpaths and verges.

For the walkers amongst you, the wettest November in years will have made many off-road paths very wet and muddy. Indeed many of the areas in the wilder, wetter places have become treacherous underfoot, though slippery leaf mulch and wet conditions have also made some of our public places rather dangerous too- so tread carefully everywhere.

It may perhaps be appropriate at this point to remind dog owners to remember to collect their doggy droppings - after all , it's mucky enough underfoot as it is! Still pursuing an outdoor theme, we have news that, due to their increasing growth interfering with the power lines, the row of horse chestnut trees along the Aust Road opposite the allotments, is to receive a manicure from Western Power Distribution's workmen. Similarly, it was discovered recently that one of the three old Holm Oak trees down Ley Lane is in a dangerous condition and urgent attention is required to alleviate the problem.

If any of the items here, or other issues that vex you, prompt you to contact us, please ring any councillor or our hard working clerk, Mrs Valerie Tutin (01454 613730).

Olveston Parish Council

Find out how Thornbury Volunteer Centre can help you!



Christmas has been and gone and many of us dread the long dark winter nights which seem to go on forever. Getting out and about in your local community and helping others less fortunate than yourselves is a good way of banishing these winter blues. By finding ways in which to occupy your time, which are both enjoyable and worthwhile, can instantly make you feel that you are making a valuable contribution to your community. During the previous year you may have seen major life changes such as retirement, unemployment, bereavement or moving house, you may now have more time on your hands and are finding it difficult to find ways in which to fill it. Or you may simply have decided that you want to make new friends and meet more people. Either way Thornbury Volunteer Centre may be able to help you.

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

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

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

Please contact Thornbury Volunteer Centre on 01454 413392 or email us on tdvl@freenet.co.uk or visit our website on www.volunteer-thornbury.co.uk We operate an Outreach session in Severn Beach Post Office on the second Wednesday of each month, this month Wednesday January 13th. Alternatively, call into the office at Thornbury Town Hall between 10.30am-12 noon Monday to Friday. We look forward to meeting you.

Tricked and Conned On the Internet

Richard Churchill

Security on the internet is about more than just the programs installed on your computer; there are other more subtle threats. There are thousands of fake websites and millions of fake emails which are all designed to get your personal details, simply by looking official and asking you for them.

These fake websites and emails are known as phishing scams, and rely on you believing that the email or website is real. These attempts are getting more a more sophisticated; even computer security experts have been caught out.

So how can you stay safe? Firstly, remember a few key facts. Most companies have ways of asking you to update your information AFTER you have logged in the normal way. It is normally a bad idea to use links in emails unless you are 100% sure the email is real.

A bank will never ask existing customers to supply their full details online; if there are any major changes to the way you have to log in to your account always phone and ask (using a trusted number).

You can check a website is genuine by entering the wrong password first; if it is accepted you know something bad is happening and can leave immediately. Scammers can be very persistent; a friend received 5 emails from 'yahoo' warning of increasingly dire consequences if he didn't complete the account update form, and they were all bogus.

What to do if you get caught out? Contact the website/bank immediately; most will have a page about fraud on their website (a quick Google/yahoo/MSN search will find you the real website). They will then help you reset your password and check for damage. Your email could be very handy for an identity thief so if you think your email has been read, it is always worth signing up to an identity protection service.

Software to help you detect phishing scams is starting to appear. These however are still a work in progress, so the best advice is still to treat everything you see on the internet with suspicion and if in doubt contact companies directly using trusted email addresses or phone numbers.

I welcome any ideas or questions you may have, you can call 01454 616365 (ask for Richard) or email articles@yourpcguru.co.uk. Visit <http://yourpcguru.co.uk/articles/> for past articles and more information.

1st Olveston Scouts

Line of Coins

28 November 2009



A big thank you to the people of Olveston and the parents and children of 1st Olveston Scout Group for making this years' 'Line of Coins' a great success. A whopping £554.43 was raised in just under two hours.

All Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts were issued with a cup and asked to take it home and fill it with coins – the Beaver Scouts were definitely going to win the award for enthusiasm!

The line between Olveston Stores and the Bakery was completed by 11.30am, including a Scout Trefoil Badge made of 5p coins and copious amounts of 1p and 2p coins. Then the challenge began: the Beaver Scouts' challenge was to pick up only 1ps or 2ps, the Cub Scouts to help to make sure the money got to the know-it-all Scouts, who were ready to count and pack the coins into £1 bank bags. By 12.15 all the money was counted and thankfully we were blessed with a dry and sunny day, meaning no money 'laundering' had to be done this year!

All the Leaders would like to thank the fundraising committee for running the coffee morning, Olveston Methodist Hall for the use of their hall and Tortworth Estate shop for taking a ridiculous amount of coppers!

Lynda Spratt, Scout Leader, 1st Olveston Scouts 01454 632484

Thank You

OLVESTON and District Royal British Legion, which this year for the first time includes the Pilning and Severn Beach area, would like to thank everyone for their support in raising much needed funds during the recent Poppy Appeal. A total of £4,187.96p has been collected to date. This money will be gratefully received by the charity, without your help they would be unable to continue their vital benevolent work.

A big thank you to all concerned.

Old Down Cricket Club

Dear All

Please see below details of two exciting new ways you can help to raise funds effortlessly for ODCC.

Please try to support the club by using these two initiatives where ever possible.

These details are also available in the fund raising section of our club website

<http://www.olddowncricketclub.co.uk> and links to the easyfundraising site are also available on our home page.

Raise Funds for Old Down Cricket Club When You Shop Online

easyfundraising is a shopping directory listing some of your favourite online stores, including Argos, Next, Amazon, Debenhams, John Lewis, Toys R Us, HMV and over 2000 other top name stores. Whenever you shop with any one of them using the links provided on the easyfundraising site, you'll generate a free donation for us of up to 15% of the purchase price every time! It really is that simple!

It's completely FREE to register and you won't pay a penny more for your shopping when you use the easyfundraising site. In fact you can even SAVE MONEY as many retailers give discounts, special offers and even 'e-vouchers' exclusive to easyfundraising.

You can shop for holidays, flights, electronics, mobile phones, computing equipment, food, wine, pet supplies, finance, insurance and much more - and every purchase you make will raise funds for us at absolutely no cost to you!

All you need to do is register for free at

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/odcc> and use easyfundraising every time you shop online.

Raise Funds for Old Down Cricket Club When You Search Online

Do you search the Web? Did you know you could be raising funds for Old Down Cricket Club with easysearch, a search engine with a difference!

When you search the Web with easysearch instead of Google or any other search engine, you'll raise funds for us with every search you make. It's completely free to use and if you make just 10 searches a day, you could raise around £20 a year for us, just by searching with easysearch. That's right! Simply search the Web and raise funds - what could be easier?

What's more, easysearch is a 'super' search engine that combines the strengths of several search providers together - Yahoo!, Ask.com, Bing and many more.

This unique approach to searching means that easysearch can track down the most relevant and accurate results from across the Web, so you'll find what you're looking for quickly and easily every time - all in one 'easy' search.

It is such a simple way to raise funds for us, so please set our unique easysearch page - <http://odcc.easysearch.org.uk> - as your homepage and use it every time you search the Web. Please spread the word to your family and friends and ask them to support us to.

Old Down Cricket Club

150 Club Winners December
£50 Mrs Paddy Gardner
£15 Dave Buckley
£5 John Welsher
Christmas Bonus Prize Bill Finch
Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners
28th November Kate Bridle
5th November Ian Maunder

1st Olveston Brownie Pack Holiday –

Coalport Youth Hostel, Telford – November 20th-22nd 2009 *by Harriet Gill*
Friday At 5 o'clock on Friday night, I left my house and went to Olveston Tennis Courts to get the coach to take us to Telford. I sat next to Lottie and opposite Rebecca and we chatted and sang songs on the way. Halfway there we got our lunch boxes and tucked in. When we got to the Youth Hostel I carried my bag and stumbled in! I slept in a bunk bed and shared the room with 6 other Brownies.

Saturday I was a 'cook' on Saturday morning so I had to get up first. In the kitchen, I put the baked beans in a tin and waited for them to cook. After breakfast, I did some washing up. Then we went on a hike and when we got to Ironbridge we stopped to have our packed lunch. Very soon, it started to rain so we caught a bus to the Museum of iron and afterwards we went to an interactive science museum. We stayed at this museum for ages and I spent most of the time playing with a water run. It was still raining outside when we went to catch the bus back to the Youth Hostel. When we got back to the Youth Hostel, we made our sandwiches for Sunday and then got ready for tea. For tea, we had pasta, peas, sweetcorn and fish fingers. After tea, we made some penguins and I called mine 'Perfittey'. Then we got into our pyjamas, wrote some more in our diaries and went to bed.

Sunday I woke up on Sunday feeling good in my bed, and started to talk to the others who were awake. At breakfast time, it was my job to serve, so I asked the people on my table what they wanted. I was excited about going to the Victorian Museum. When we got to the Museum, we went into the Bank to change our money into Victorian money so that we could pay for things. I bought some sweets at the sweet shop and a rubber. We also went to a printing office, a school with a very scary teacher and into a tunnel on a train where we saw a film on mining, when it was time to leave we changed our money back to modern coins and caught the bus back to Olveston.

South Gloucestershire Local Involvement Network

Join the LINK

Help Make Small Changes and Have a Big Influence on Your Health and Social Care Services.

You can become part of the new way for local people to have their say about local health and social care services, and about the way they are run and developed by joining the South Gloucestershire Local Involvement Network. You can participate in the LINK as much or as little as you wish from receiving information regularly to being involved in working groups. You can join the LINK as an individual or as a representative of a voluntary or community group. If you belong to a community or voluntary group we can come and talk to you and let the LINK know about the issues you are facing.

The LINK is working hard and talking to the Local Authority and Local NHS about issues including the provision of respite care, translation services for people whose first language is not English, services for older people and for people with physical and sensory impairments.

The LINK can pass issues to the Care Quality Commission (the national watchdog for health and social care), the local Select Committees and on occasion can enter and view health or social care services to see firsthand what is happening.

For more information about the South Gloucestershire LINK contact:

Sarah Booker - Development and Information worker for South Gloucestershire LINK ☎ 0117 9589351/07896918205 Fax 0117 9650200

✉ sarahbooker@linksouthglos.org.uk www.linksouthglos.org.uk

Or write to the LINK at:

FREEPOST RSBG-GTHJ-JUKK, South Gloucestershire LINK, The Care Forum, The Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Bristol BS16 2QQ

Be wary of who is at your door!

South Gloucestershire Trading Standards would like to reiterate to consumers to be wary of those visiting unexpectedly.

Trading Standards have been made aware of rogue traders visiting vulnerable residents offering to do repair work following the stormy weather and high winds. Money has then been demanded for work not carried out.

These incidents are linked to distraction burglaries and money has been stolen in many cases.

There are a number of steps consumers can take to try and avoid becoming the victim of a rogue trader.

- Be wary of traders who cold call and the deals they offer you – it is unusual for genuine tradesmen to need to cold call to drum up work!
- Do not allow any unknown and unexpected visitor into your home.
- If they claim work needs doing, get a second or even third opinion from other professional tradesman.
- If you agree to work you are afforded cancellation rights by law, and these should be given to you in writing.
- Ensure you have the correct company name and/or owners name and the full postal address – this will not guarantee the work is done satisfactorily but may enable you to take further action if things go wrong.
- If you are unhappy or feel intimidated by the visitor – shut the door and call the police.

If you do have work you wish to be carried out, why not use a trader who is a member of the Trading Standards operated Buy With Confidence scheme? For a list of approved traders, visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or contact South Gloucestershire Trading Standards on 01454 634001 or email trading.standards@southglos.gov.uk.

If you believe you have fallen victim to a rogue trader, or would like some further pre-shopping advice, please contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

If you have been a victim of a distraction burglary, contact the police immediately.

Calling all Ballerinas/dancers!

A few years ago when I first came to the village, I wanted to start up an adult ballet class but life happened and somehow it never manifested. Having had a child a couple of years ago, I can't get into my tutu anymore and miss my professional ballet training. Some of my fellow toddler mums thought it would be great if I could get an adult ballet class off the ground..... So I'm aiming to 'sauté into 2010' with this idea. The aim is to make it fun, hold it locally and to cover costs - So if you'd like to join in please let me know. No previous experience is necessary - please contact if interested Jo Baxter 07773 709155 - dance@baxterfamily.co.uk

Olveston Toddlers

New timing 2pm – 4:30pm and increased cost to £1.50 per family.
Contact: Jo Baxter 07773 709155

Police Report for November

Dear All,

The Safer Stronger Community Group priorities are:

1. Anti-Social behaviour, Olveston. During November we worked with South Glos anti-social behaviour unit delivering leaflets, raising awareness and ensuring residents know how to contact us and other relevant agencies. We also carried out extra patrols especially in and around the park late at night. The only call the police received during November was in relation to a nuisance moped late at night in around the park area. An officer found the moped and the owner is being reported for various offences for summons to court.
2. Street Lighting (council led), no update.
3. Rural Youth Event (council led) no update.

The January beat surgery is Thursday 14th January 2010 between 10.30am and midday at the coffee shop, Olveston Stores.

Please log onto www.avonandsomerset.co.uk and search on "in your area" to search on crime figures locally.

In response to a request from a pet owner in Olveston, please can I ask that if you are changing the anti-freeze in your car you don't leave any outside in an open container. This person's three-month-old kitten was sick and examined by a vet who thought that the cause was it drinking anti-freeze. This is not thought to be malicious as we've had no other calls locally reporting anything similar.

In the last couple of weeks we've recovered two mountain bikes (one worth about £500) and a sit on mower that we can't find an owner for. Please, please take the time to mark your property and register it on www.immobilise.co.uk. This is especially important after Father Christmas has delivered lots of new things!

Phone numbers emergency 999
non emergency 0845 4567000

Roger Hopes PC 3404

Neighbourhood Beat Manager DC 125 Severnvale

Phone: 0117 945 5959

Mobile: 07919628625

Fax: 0117 945 5981 (65981)

Thornbury Police Station, Rock St, Thornbury S Glos. BS352BA

E-mail: roger.hopes@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

A Charitable Night for the Carnival

Thornbury's Carnival Committee made public its intentions with regard to the proceeds from the 2009 Carnival, at an Open Meeting held recently.

An AGM held immediately prior to the Open Meeting confirmed Constitution and Policies, and preparations for application as a Registered Charity that will be submitted shortly. The Committee was re-elected with Vanessa Carter, Jan Atkins and David Goldring appointed respectively as Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman. The MyThornbury.co.uk website will continue to host news and features on Carnival developments for the year – thanks to Claire Jaggard.

The 2009 Carnival, which included a major Parade through the town led by the Band of the Light Cavalry, and a hugely varied afternoon of entertainments on the Mundy field, highlighted by the flypast of the Red Arrows, attracting 11,000 people, yielded a net surplus of £16,000 for the voluntary organisation, against total costs of £16,000, and with £11,500 in sponsorships from companies such as Aldi, Magnox North, Dunkleys, Electricity Alliance (SW), and Co-Operative Foodstores. Thornbury Town Council also weighed in with much appreciated funding.

Charitable activity has included donations to all the charities active in the Carnival field itself to cover their costs, to Cotswold Tyndale Rotary Club for their care of the car parking, and to Thornbury Tennis Club for their stewarding of the road entrance throughout the day. The Thornbury Sea Cadets will receive a contribution for their roof appeal, and the Thornbury in Bloom appeal has been given good contribution, too.

Another, perhaps less obvious way that there has been community support, was in the availability f.o.c., of a page in the Programme each for several community-wide groups, such as the Museum, the Arts Festival, Thornbury Churches Together, Thornbury in Bloom, ACT, Lions Club and Round Table.

In these and other ways, we hope to put back into the greater Thornbury community all of the proceeds of each year's Carnival. But what is available for donation into worthy causes will depend entirely on the yield from the previous Carnival. Necessarily, a significant sum will need to be retained in a reserve fund to guarantee the costs of the next Carnival function.

Charitable-giving will be considered each September, once the yield from the previous Carnival is known. Decisions on suitable group applications or nominations will be made by a Charitable-giving Sub Committee.

Tom Fothergill

Aust Parish Clerk, Tom Fothergill, is retiring. During his service he has been an invaluable source of advice and guidance to his Councillors, drawing on the experience and knowledge derived from both twenty four years of service to the Parish and from his previous existence.

Following war service in the Royal Corps of Signals, in Italy, Tom qualified as a geologist, and commenced a long career in oil exploration, working for the Anglo Iranian Oil Company, and its successor, BP. This work took him around much of the Middle East, Iraq, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, and Iran, eventually back to London, and then again to Abu Dhabi. Following retirement and some consultancy for BP he finally came to rest in Aust properly, and shortly thereafter took over the Parish Clerk's job.

Now, as well as Clerk, the usual domestic interests, gardening, sailing and so on, he became a churchwarden, and was a major collaborator in the restoration of Aust church. It is very true that if you want something doing, then ask a busy person.

During much of Tom's tenure Aust Parish seems to have had rather more than it's fair share of significant issues - flooding, Whale Wharf, Greenacres all come to mind. Throughout Tom has played a valuable part, he is a man who has contributed to his adopted Village and Parish in many ways, we were lucky to have him, and he will be missed. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

The Alveston Singers

would like to thank all those who supported their concerts and carol singing over the Christmas period.

The two charities which The Singers have nominated this season are The Great Western Air Ambulance and The Alzheimer's Society.

Each charity will be receiving a cheque from The Singers.

The Alveston Singers' summer concert will be 'War and Peace' and will include 'The Armed Man – a mass for peace' by Karl Jenkins and 'Paukenmesse – Mass in time of war' by Haydn.

The choir would welcome some more tenors and basses, so if you would like to be part of this friendly choir ring 01454 411253 or 01454 412086 for more information.

In order to maintain a balance of parts within the choir, availability of ladies' places is limited. However, competent altos and sopranos may be accepted – especially if they bring a tenor or bass with them!

Does your child want to be a Beaver Scout?

1st Olveston Beaver Scouts have room on their waiting list for new recruits... Beaver Scouts are boys *or girls* between six and eight years of age. We meet on Mondays at the Scout Hut in Old Down from 6pm - 7pm for fun and friendship. We play games, make things, sing and make music, we have visitors come to talk to us and show us exciting things - like snakes, we have sleep-overs and we go on adventures!

To become a Beaver Scout 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 anytime right from when they are born! Our Beaver Scouts automatically move up to the next scouting section - Cub Scouts without having to sign on to their waiting list.

If you think your child would like to join us then get their name down quickly...it's never too soon!

For more information or to put your child on the waiting list contact Beaver Leader, Nikki Clarke by telephone on 614099 or email me with your details at nikki@beavers.olvoston.com

Four Men - and a Girl!

West End star Kate Radmilovic and celebrated pianist Christopher Northam in company with recent Thornbury Arts Festival sell-out favourite Three Mens Company return to Thornbury for what promises to be a memorable fund raising concert.

An Evening of Words and Music includes a light-hearted sequence of songs, piano pieces and readings performed by 3MC, narrator David Higson, pianist John Marsh and vocalist Jeremy Watkins featuring highlights from musicals, opera, drama and revue including Rodgers & Hart, Lerner & Lowe, Stephen Sondheim, Irving Berlin and Alan Bennett. The celebrated English soprano Kate Radmilovich accompanied by Christopher Northam, will select opera highlights and join Jeremy Watkins in duets by Franz Lehar and Noel Coward.

Don't miss the chance to appreciate local star Kate and her friends. The concert will be held in the **Cossham Hall** at **7.30pm** on **Saturday 16th January**. All proceeds from the concert are in aid of the Armstrong Hall Dressing Room Appeal. Tickets are available from the Town Hall at £10 each and include a free glass of wine and finger food during the interval.

Safer Stronger Community Group

South Gloucestershire's 20 Safer Stronger Community Groups are all about working together to improve your local community. The groups also enable you to have your say about the services that your community needs and receives. These groups have been set up as part of the South Gloucestershire Council's Community Engagement initiative and Neighbourhood Policing Model. Their members include people who live and work in the area and representatives from South Gloucestershire Council, the local police, Avon Fire & Rescue, Primary Care Trust, the Town & Parish Council and other local organisations.

The aim is to:

- work together to ensure that local communities are safe and pleasant places to live, work and play
- give local people a greater voice and influence over local decisions and the priorities of the service providers
- support actions and initiatives that meet local needs
-

The **next meeting** of the Severn Safer Stronger Community Group is on **Weds 13th January 2010** at 7.30 pm at Olveston Primary School, Elberton Road, Olveston, BS35 4DB.

If you are unable to attend a meeting but would like to know more, please visit your group's webpage at <http://groups.southglos.gov.uk>. Here, you will be able to become a member of your local group, view agendas and minutes from meetings and gain access to more information about the issues and projects in your area. Alternatively, you can contact your Safer Stronger Communities Officer on 01454 864625.

Olveston Sports & Social Club.

Barbara Lansdown, Secretary

We finished this years Quiz nights being able to hand over cheques of £200 each to The Meningitis Trust & Sense, a Family Centre for deafblind people based in Kingswood. Thank you to everyone that supported us. We start the New Year with our first quiz on Sat Jan 9th 2010 at 8.15pm and would be happy to welcome any newcomers. We are now open Tues, Weds, Thurs, Sat & Sun Evenings. Tues evenings we do not charge for the use of pool table. We still have a friendly game of Bingo on Sun evenings. Dates for diary: Sat Jan 9th, Sat Jan 30th, Sat Feb 20th, Sat Mar 13th, Sat Apr 10th - future quiz nights.

Parish Players

Rehearsals are now in full swing for the production of Gilbert and Sullivan's delightful comic opera—

THE GONDOLIERS---and the enthusiastic and talented cast are very much looking forward to performing for you. The dates are from **Tuesday 2nd March** through to **Saturday 6th March**. To avoid "Sold-out" disappointment for our loyal supporters, the additional Tuesday night is being designated as our "Opening Night" this season, so there will be 5 available performances for you rather than the usual 4. We hope that we will "Sell Out" all those 5 evenings this year, and look forward to seeing you in the Village Hall again.

WATCH THIS SPACE in the February Meeting Point for Box-Office details, and further news on the Production.

Discovering the past from our landscape

Jenny Newley

If you're a fan of Time Team or simply want to know more about reading the past from our local landscape, you'll enjoy a new exhibition at Thornbury and District Museum: **Archaeology & Landscape in South Gloucestershire**. It's an easy-to-grasp, well-illustrated introduction to the main archaeological eras and the evidence for each of them in the South Gloucestershire landscape.

If you can't tell your Palaeolithic from your Neolithic and you want to find out when woolly rhino and mammoths roamed our area, this exhibition will do the trick! See the submerged forests where the River Severn now flows. Discover when the last Ice Age was and how long it lasted. If you enjoy Time Team's digs and geophysical surveys, the museum's displays will show you how local archaeologists carried out trial digs and surveys between 2001 and 2004 and found evidence of a substantial Roman settlement in our area. And archaeology isn't just about the long-distant past. As the recent coal-mining exhibition demonstrated, it can relate to recent industry.

If you end up being inspired and want to become a community archaeologist yourself, this exhibition tells you how you can get involved in the South Gloucestershire Archaeology & Landscape project.

The exhibition runs from January 19th to March. The museum is in Chapel St. in Thornbury between the Armstrong Hall and the Wheatsheaf and is open **Tues-Fri: 1-4pm, & Sat: 10am - 1pm. Admission: FREE.**

Tel: 01454 857774, if you need more information.

Yours faithfully

David Bone

The Romans had a temple to Janus, god of doors, doorways, and gates, who is always shown having two faces, one looking forward, and the other looking back. Writing this column for *Meeting Point* a month ahead gives those of us charged with this task the problem of not knowing what might have happened before you read this. What natural disaster, what terrorist outrage, will still be strong in our memories? Some things we'll inevitably look back on with sadness or horror. But the great thing about Janus's month, January, with its opportunity for well-meant good intentions, is that as the year turns, we really do start to look forward, to spring, to summer, to all sorts of new beginnings, a new bike, a new job, a new doll, a new hip.

OK, so I know, we all know that most of those good intentions will barely last a week. So why bother? Well, I think the good Lord has given us humans so many lovely presents, not just at Christmas time but every day, in every way; three of the chief of these are the ability to love (and the experience of being loved), the ability to trust others (and to be regarded as trustworthy ourselves), and, especially at this time of the year, the ability to hope (and to inspire others to have hope). The worst and most insidious thing about cynicism is the claim that a cynical outlook is the only viable or honest point of view for mankind to take. To be truly human must be to have faith, and hope, and love.

That doesn't mean being a cock-eyed optimist. It means having hope born of experience of good things that have happened in the past; I trust that will include for most of us the recent past of the Christmas season just gone. So, although I hope to be singing *All look forward, never look back* with great gusto this January in *The Mary and Joseph Roadshow*, because I do have hopes and dreams for the future, I also hope we'll all be able to look back on some pleasant memories of December. Perhaps, after all, my secret wish is for us to be like Nellie in *South Pacific* – “stuck like a dope with a thing called hope”.

From the registers at St. Mary's

Marriage on Dec 5th of Jonathan Wright & Louise Webb

Baptism on Dec 6th of Elden Arthur Todd son of Nick & Lucy Todd

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Jan 3	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	6pm	Evensong with Choir	Rev David Bone
Jan 10	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Morning Worship with Choir	Mr Denis Jones
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Rev Philip Rowe
Jan 17	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Mrs Janet McBride
Jan 24	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	At Methodist Church	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev David Bone
Jan 31	8am	Holy Communion	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Dedication Service	Rev P Rowe & Bishop Mike
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	No Service	Rev Philip Rowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Contact:

The Rev Philip Rowe, 01454 613223; email: office@stmaryssevernside.org

Please contact Philip about Baptisms, marriages, funerals or other matters at any time, but please try to avoid Thursdays except in an emergency.

Verger: Mrs. June Robbins, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 3.00pm in the Church (except third Monday)

WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION: At 9.00am led by the Rev. Roly Bain

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Jan 3	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Jan 10	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Jan 17	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Jan 24	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev David Bone
Jan 31	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone

Hon. Curate: Rev David Bone, 01454 614601

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

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Jan 3	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole
Jan 17	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Jan 10	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield
Jan 24	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Jan 3	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle
	6pm	St Andrews.	Evening Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney
Jan 10	10am	Olv. Ch.	All Age Worship led by Rev Sandy Williams. The Breakfast Club will join us later.
	6pm	Tock Ch.	Annual Covenant Service led by Rev Sandy Williams
Jan 17	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Miss Rosemary Clews.
	4pm	Daldry Gdns	Worship led by Mrs Margaret Mortlock
Jan 24	10am	Olv. Ch.	United Anglican/Methodist Service led by Rev Sandy Williams
	6pm	Olv Ch	Evening Worship led by Rev Sandy Williams
Jan 31	10am	St Mary's	Join with St Mary's for their Service of Dedication
	6pm	Olv Ch	Evening Worship led by Rev Peter Mortlock

LIGHT LUNCHESES: Thursday 7th Jan at 12.15 in the Tockington Wesley Rooms.
To book your lunch please ring 612112 or 613241.

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 13th Jan. To book your lunch please ring 0117 696387

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

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

CONTACT: Rev Sandy Williams Tel 07841 752 941

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

We meet in a relaxed, informal manner for worship, prayer and conversational Bible studies and incorporating Communion, normally 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 us. Prayer requests can be posted through the letter box at The Vine or sent to us by post or email. Please add a name or initial to identify your request.

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

thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLDOWN

Jan 3	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan- Davies
Jan 10	6.30pm	Munir Din
Jan 17	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Jan 24	6.30pm	Lyall Drewitt
Jan 31	6.30pm	TBA

Prayer Time every Thurs 8pm.

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

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Family Worship 11am Evening Worship 6.30pm Phone 632564 for more details

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

Contact 01454 613305 www.bcfnet.com

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury - each Sunday

8.30am Mass 11.00 Family Mass 6.30pm Mass

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Meeting for Worship Sundays 10.30-11.30: The Hanover Room, The Chantry, Castle St. Wheelchair accessible. Children welcome with prior notice. **Local contact: Elizabeth Sidwell**, 412975

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

Diary Dates for January 2010

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

1 st Fri			
2 nd Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
3 rd Sun			
4 th Mon		7.30pm	MH
5 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Royal British Legion - Women	10.00-12.00 7.30pm	WR DGCL
6 th Wed	Olv. Par. Hist. Soc: - 'Clevedon Court'	7.30pm	MH
7 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group Mary & Joseph Roadshow	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30 7.30pm	OS+ MH StM
8 th Fri	Mary & Joseph Roadshow	7.30pm	StM
9 th Sat	Coffee Morning Mary & Joseph Roadshow	10.30-12.00 7.30pm	MH StM
10 th Sun			
11 th Mon			
12 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Women's Institute - Eric Garrett "Tockington" -	10.00-12.00 7.30pm	WR PH
13 th Wed	Royal British Legion - Men	7.30pm	DGCL
14 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OS+ MH
15 th Fri			
16 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
17 th Sun			
18 th Mon			
19 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	10.00-12.00	WR
20 th Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club: 'Jewels in the Crown' - Beryl Griffiths	2pm	AH
21 st Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group Thornbury & District Flower Club - New Year Party	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.30 7.30pm	OS+ MH TMH
22 nd Fri	"Goodbye Mrs Chips"	7.30pm	PH
23 rd Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH

	Burns Night Party in the Vicarage	7.30pm	
24 th Sun			
26 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	10.00-12.00	WR
27 th Wed	Alveston Historical Society - Films of Old Bristol - John Penny	7.30pm	AMC
	Olveston Parish Council	7.30pm	AP
28 th Thu	Coffee Shop	10.00-12.00	OS†
	Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	2.00-4.30	MH
29 th Fri			
30 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
	Burns Supper		AVH
31 st Sun			

KEY: **AC** Aust Church; **ACR** – Almondsbury Church Rooms; **AH** – Armstrong Hall; **AMC** – Alveston Methodist Church; **AMH**- Alveston Methodist Hall; **AP** – Alexandra Pavilion; **AVH** – Aust Village Hall; **CCCP** – Castle Court Car Park; **CH** – Cossham Hall; **Chy** – Chantry; **DGCL** – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; **EVH** – Elberton Village Hall; **MH** – Olveston Methodist Hall; **OS** – Olveston School; **OS†** – Olveston Stores; **OV** – Olveston Vicarage; **PH** – Olveston Parish Hall; **StM** – St Mary's Church, Oliv.; **StMA** Almondsbury Church; **TBCh** - Thornbury Baptist Church; **TMH** – Thorn. Methodist Hall; **URC** - Thornbury United Reform Church; **WR** – Wesley Rooms.

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

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