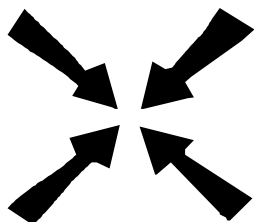


Meeting Point



January 2016



Meeting Point

Volume 40, Number 4, January 2016

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

EDITOR:

Chris Bolton
The Old Meeting House
The Green, Olveston
Bristol BS35 4EJ
Tel: 01454 610056
*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

Publication date
1st of each month

Material for February 2016
to the Editor or Deputy Editor
by 11th January 2016.

From the Editor

Happy New Year to everybody.

Here's hoping for a peaceful outcome to the problems that face the nation and the wider world as I write this.

As ever, the new year ahead will bring some notable anniversaries, but Meeting Point itself will be marking its 40th birthday in 2016. I am sure the team will devise ways of celebrating!

Of course, resolutions are another feature of New Years. One of mine this year is to cultivate brevity, so I think I'll stop here. Read on...

The picture on this month's cover is of a snowy silver birch at the top of Orchard Rise, and was taken by Les Harper.

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**

John and Sue Harbottle

Profile by Pat Thrikettle

John and Sue were born in Somerset, and met at Wells Grammar School, after which they both went to London, John to University College to read physics and Sue to Teacher Training



College. John followed up with a PhD in the metallurgy of reactor materials at Imperial College and Sue taught infants in Wells, until they married in 1965. John was working at Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories and they moved to Thornbury, where Sue taught infants at what was then The Leaze, now Gillingstool School. Their three children were born in the next six years: Paul, Lucy and Jennifer.

In the 1970s France was the leader in nuclear power generation and John went on a year's research secondment to the Atomic Energy Laboratory in Grenoble. The family went too, Sue teaching English to children at home and their children starting school unable to speak French but soon picking it up. The first day Paul came home and asked for some marbles, which were duly bought and he and John had a game. The first time Paul rolled a marble he said 'ah merde' as he missed! Apparently he thought that was part of the game as he heard it said at school! The whole family learnt to ski; the company ran a ski club, with in-house instructors and each Saturday you learnt which resort had been booked for a day's skiing. Most of the family still ski.

Then it was back to Thornbury, Marlwood for the children and Sue teaching at Crossways. They moved to Brook House in Tytherington where Sue played the piano and the children acted in the village pantomimes. John was working in Anglo/French liaison on nuclear energy and travelled often to Grenoble for the next ten years. Then he worked on the Sizewell B Pressurised Water Reactor project, (commissioned in 1995), obtaining technical information and doing experiments and analysis in the UK, France and Canada.

In 1990 John joined the Stoller Corporation in New York, a technical consulting company that provides advice to nuclear utilities worldwide. Their children by now at university and Brook House sold, Sue went with him for the next six years and taught in a New York school, which she loved, saying

children are the same the world over. John meanwhile was travelling the world, Japan, the Far East, US and Europe.

They came back to the UK in late 1996 as John continued working for the European arm of the same company from an office in Thornbury, still travelling extensively. Sue taught at Oldbury School for four years until she retired, followed by five years of supply teaching. They lived in a small townhouse in Thornbury before moving to Elberton where they are enjoying an action-packed retirement. In 2003 John started his own consultancy from home, which he still does a little when not playing golf; they both learnt to play at Thornbury Golf Club and thoroughly enjoy the sport. John has always played tennis at Thornbury Tennis Club. He was chairman at the time of negotiating land from the adjacent farmer for four new courts in the 70s and was chairman again recently when a grant of £50,000 was obtained from Sport England to refurbish the club house.

Sue is musical and has taught ballet and tap, and been a member of operatic societies. She plays the organ at Elberton Church and the United Reform Church in Thornbury, and piano with a small group playing duets. John joined a committee to help raise £25,000 to build a kitchen, indoor toilets and storeroom for Elberton Village Hall and Sue assisted with the catering for seventy odd people who filled the Hall for the opening in 2011. It is now used most days by the Stepping Stones playgroup, which has a garden and a forest walk and helps significantly to fund the upkeep of the Hall. Sue is a governor of Crossways School, but she says when she meets up with former colleagues they reminisce about all the fun they had teaching, which seemingly does not apply nowadays with league tables, tests and much paperwork.

Paul lives in Northamptonshire and is commercial director of a large UK company, Lucy lives in Thornbury and is a tennis coach and Jennifer lives in Hong Kong with her Australian husband and is a writer and teacher. This means John and Sue have visited them regularly as they moved between Melbourne, Kuala Lumpur, China and Hong Kong. They have nine grandchildren to keep them busy when not playing golf, tennis, skiing or playing music, and this summer they had all the family together to celebrate their Golden Wedding.

Olveston and Tockington W.I.

Emma Slade will be giving a talk on her work as a police officer in Bristol at the meeting at the **Parish Hall in Tockington on Tuesday 12th January at 7.30pm.** Guests are very welcome to attend.

When monarchy made a comeback: Charles II

Wednesday, 6 January 2016, 7.30pm, Olveston Methodist Church



Ronald Hutton, professor of history at the University of Bristol and well-known from TV, will follow up an earlier talk about the English Civil War by giving us his analysis of what happened when the Commonwealth period ended and monarchy was restored.

His talk is entitled **Charles II: Monarch in a Masquerade** and is sure to be lively!

This meeting is open to everyone and all are very welcome.

£2 for a single meeting, payable at the door, or you can buy **annual membership for just £5**, also at the door, which entitles you to this and three more talks. You can see the rest of the programme on the website.

Olveston Parish Historical Society www.olvoston.com/historical-society

Young Musicians' Afternoon Concert on 23rd January

Start the New Year by enjoying a delightful classical musical concert accessible to all given by our top local young musicians. You can expect a range of musical pieces on strings, piano, woodwind and brass, organised and introduced by well-known local professional musician Michael Lunts.

The concert on **Saturday 23rd January** will begin at **2.30pm in the Cossham Hall Thornbury**. It will last around 50-60 minutes and be followed by tea and cake when you will have an opportunity to interact and chat with these talented enthusiastic young people. Tickets £5 (with concessions for children) from the Town Hall or phone 01454 412272.

Olveston Parish Matters

Richard Rogers (olvestonpc@gmail.com)

www.olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Olveston Parish Steering Group (consisting of Councillors and local residents) has now been running for several months, and the respective Sub-Groups considering the provision for further Cemetery space, Traffic & Parking Issues, Mechanisms for Delivery, Housing, Retail, and Communications have already held at least one meeting. It is hoped to publicise their work in early April 2016, and additional volunteers would be welcome (please contact the Parish Clerk via email in the first instance if you are interested).

The new **Olveston Parish Council website** is also now available (please see address above), the Clerk can still be contacted at the above address or

clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

And all the Parish Councillors have got their own email addresses for direct contact:

geoff.anderson@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk;

adrian.baxter@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk ;

john.hughes@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk;

sue.hunter@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk ;

richard.panes@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk;

pat.savage@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk;

tony.williams@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk;

tom.witherbed@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

South Glos Council are increasingly **consulting** with local residents on many issues. As well as the Olveston Parish Housing Needs Survey, they are consulting on their overall Housing Strategy, the designation of Green Spaces, and Recycling, to mention just a few. Whilst the Parish Councils try to review these consultations on behalf of their respective parishes, residents can also access Consultations and have their say via

<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/consultation>.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 26th January 2016, but please let the Clerk know if you wish to attend as the normal venue at Old Down is only designed for about a dozen people.

Happy New Year, and good health to all.

New Year - New You?

What do GPs and Healthcare professionals recommend?

Natasha Leschinski

I was talking to some ladies in one of my classes about how I wanted to write interesting, motivating and helpful articles for the local magazines in and around Thornbury and Severn Beach based upon sound exercise and nutrition advice. I was going to start with a piece about how we need to consume more water and eat less refined sugar in the winter to help our immune systems cope with all the winter viruses that do the rounds. But one of my ladies is a doctor at Southmead. She is a bowel surgeon – you can imagine the conversations we have about foods, what to eat, what clogs you up, etc! Anyway she forwarded me an article that she was sent by her Chief Medical Officers.

In the article it states that we are, as a nation, declining in the amount of regular exercise we do, and that she and all health professionals need to embark on a policy of telling patients to increase the amount of regular exercise they do. We are 20% less active than in the 60s and if we keep going the same way we will be 35% less active by 2030.

Physical inactivity is one of the top ten causes of UK ill health, responsible for 1 in 6 deaths. But if we introduce 30 mins of exercise (that raises our heart rate) 3 to 5 times a week, there is powerful evidence that this type of physical activity is a 'miracle cure' capable of preventing and managing over 20 long term conditions.



It goes on to say that one in four people would be more active if they were told to do it by their GP. I'd like to save you that visit and confirm what you probably already know – exercise is really good for you and your body will thank you if you do more of it!!

For more information about this article, my classes or my Eat Your Way to Health 28 Day Detox please get in touch, I'd love to hear from you!

My e-mail is natashaleschinski@gmail.com and my phone is 07810068722.

Movies at St Mary's: January

Trevor Anderson



We have something *ExtraSpecial* for you this month!
Read on to find out more...

At **St Mary's Olveston** we show films for '*children of all ages*' every Monday morning of the school holidays and for '*grown-ups of all ages*' every first and third Monday evening of each month.

Our two annual **licences** permit us to select from many hundreds of films: recent releases, ever-popular classics, non-mainstream curiosities and many foreign films. We are never short of films to choose from and so we are happy to accept that there are some we are unable to show. But occasionally, along comes a film which is so special we believe we ought to show it, and that it's worth purchasing a single-title licence just to do so. This month's Monday Movie is such a film.

So here's our programme for January. Put the dates in your new diary now:

MONDAY MOVIES (*Recent releases and popular classics*)

Mon 4th Jan at 7.30pm: This *ExtraSpecial* is one of those quiet dramas that is eye-opening and heartbreaking at the same time. A brilliant college professor is diagnosed with Early-Onset Alzheimer's. From there it's about the impact of the disease not only on her, but her family. The film can be uncomfortable to watch at times, but will mean a lot to many people – not just anyone whose life Alzheimer's has affected, but anyone it could affect, ever. (2015, Cert 12)

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

Mon 18th Jan at 7.30pm: This delightful film from Italy, which has captured the hearts and minds of audiences worldwide, is a poignant tale of a young boy's love affair with the cinema. The kissing scene makes you cry just thinking about it! Featuring a lavish score by Ennio Morricone, it won an Academy Award and Golden Globe for the Best Foreign film, as well as 5 Baftas and the Grand Jury prize at Cannes. (1988, Cert PG)

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

No school holidays in January ('boo!') so no CMC.

Refreshments available at all the shows, plus licensed bar in the evenings. 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.

News from St Mary's

Roly Bain

The Dumplings Quiz

Our next Quiz is on Jan 9th at 7.30pm in the church, and this time it's Stew & Dumplings on the menu. As ever it's a maximum of six in a team, and it's £5 a person. If there are places left, ring Roly on 616593 or Debbie Harries on 613273. To be sure of early notification, join the mailing list - email Roly on roly@rolybain.co.uk

Meditation Group

We're starting a meditation group on the second Sunday of the month, starting on Jan 10th. The Revd Patrick Hine from Horfield Parish Church will be leading it, up in the chancel. It's at 7.30pm for just half an hour. Why not come and join us?

The Monarchy and Me

Matthew Riddle has kindly agreed to join us to talk about why he loves the Royal Family. Essentially it's an extended Chat Group which usually meets round peoples' houses but we're expecting rather more this time, so we're meeting in church. Nevertheless, soup and cheese will be served afterwards as always, along with a glass of wine or two. It's all happening on Monday, Jan 11th, at 7.30pm.

Burns Night

Our now traditional Burns Night Celebration at the Vicarage is on Jan 23rd at 7.30pm and once again a splendid haggis will be both served and addressed. Alas no piper this year - she's hung up her pipes! - but otherwise it's much the same as usual with a quiz and whisky tasting. Tickets are £6 and there's a paying bar.

Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is this month, and once again we observe and celebrate it with a Joint Service of Holy Communion with our fellow Methodists. It's on Sunday, Jan 24th, at 10am at St Mary's, and the retired Methodist minister, The Revd David Hardy, will be our preacher.

Candlemas

Our Candlemas Service of Light this year is on Jan 31st at 6pm, led by Sandy Shaw and the Revd Philip Rowe. It will probably be a Communion Service but that will be confirmed nearer the time!

Thank you ...

to all those who supported the Salvation Army Concert this year. The princely sum of £720 was raised towards their priceless work. We hope they'll be back again next year - it was their best yet this time round. £277 is going to the Childrens' Society plus the proceeds from the Christingle Service, so thanks again to all those who came to the Toy Service: those who brought so many

such wonderful toys and those who donated money. You have all been very generous.

Skint?!

Don't forget in these dark post-Christmas weeks that if you're in desperate need of some money, smallish grants are available to help you out if you need a new washing machine, new football boots for the kids, or whatever. Talk to Roly in strict confidence (616593), or Nita Slaytor (612675)

Royal British Legion

Poppy Appeal 2015

'We will remember them'



From Stan Bradburn

As the local organiser for Severn Beach, Pilning and Olveston, I would like to thank everyone concerned for their magnificent efforts in helping to raise the grand total of £7327.52 for this year's appeal.

Special thanks go to Mrs Rose Brown and the ladies' section of the RBL as well as all the many house-to-house collectors who turn out year after year to help this very worthy cause. Thank you all once again.

St Peter's Hospice

Winter Warmer

Lunch

St Peters Hospice Severnside Support Group would be delighted to welcome you to the **Methodist Church Hall, Thornbury on Wednesday 27th January at 1.00p.m** to our Winter Warmer lunch.

This will be Cottage Pie and Crumble followed by tea/coffee – and a vegetarian option will be available.

Tickets are priced at £8.00 per person and are available from the Town Hall in Thornbury, from 5th January 2016.

Please come along and support St Peters, your local Hospice.



Aron is the Winner!

The Editor is delighted to announce that Aron Saunders, aged 10, sent in the first correct answer to the **A + MERRY + XMAS = TURKEY** Christmas Prize Puzzle, so he won the £10 Editor's Prize. He sent this picture of himself with part of his blackboard as the evidence that he got it right.

See page 33 for Jan Winter's latest brain-teaser.



The Evacuees

**by Year 5 children at Olveston Primary School,
adapted by Jeremy Bonney**

Review by Judith Gundry, School Governor

On Thursday 26th and Friday 27th November at 6pm we were treated to a wonderful production of this play.

The story tells of a group of London children who were evacuated to the countryside for their safety at the beginning of World War II in 1939.

The plot is revealed by two children from the present day who discover past letters and poems which reflect the excitement, fear and danger experienced by young children at that time.

There was lots of humour and lively banter as the children became accustomed to their strange surroundings. A thoughtful, poignant note was introduced at the end when the parents of one family died in the London Blitz.

Every child in the class was involved in this uplifting production. The acting was superb, and the scenes were interspersed with some delightful songs.

It was obvious throughout that the children really enjoyed performing this play and they are extremely proud to have raised over £900.00 towards the Syrian Children Refugee Fund, a cause which mirrors the traumatic conditions of 1939.

This was a fitting climax to the end of their class topic on War and Peace.

The audience really enjoyed it and the children will remember it forever!

Tickets for Parish Players' "Annie"

Tickets for "Annie" will go on sale in just a few days' time, on **Saturday 9th January, 9.30 – 11am, at Olveston Stores**. This delightful family show is being presented by Parish Players during half-term week on the nights of **Wednesday 10th to Saturday 13th February**, at the Parish Hall, Tockington, curtain up at 7.30pm.

Annie and her orphan companions are played by children from Olveston and surrounding villages. The role of Annie is shared by dedicated 11 year olds Niamh McBride and Aggie Barnes. Isobel Lambie is thrilled to be cast as Molly.



Phil Savage leads the Players as billionaire Oliver Warbucks who wants to adopt Annie. Sian McBride plays Miss Hannigan, the scheming Matron of the Orphanage. Her co-conspirators, Rooster and his girlfriend Lily St Regis are played by Ray Hale and Amy Sunderland. Their dastardly plan is thwarted by Grace Farrell, Warbucks' loyal secretary played by Lesley Clarke, and Mike Belsten, cast as Drake, Warbucks' stalwart English butler. In addition, there are lots of cameo roles, including that of Franklin D Roosevelt and his cabinet team!

This year Mike Chappel is making his debut as Stage Manager and Cath Chappel, in charge of the Wardrobe, completes the strong family involvement. Meanwhile, Keith Richards, Brian Brown and Rod Williams have been burning the midnight oil to create stunning sets that contrast the opulence of the Warbucks Mansion with the poverty of Hooverville.

Chloe Allsopp-Jones returns as Musical Director to conduct the memorable musical numbers such as "*Maybe*", "*Tomorrow*", "*I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here*", "*N.Y.C.*", "*Easy Street*", "*You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile*" and "*I don't need anything but you*" with Choreography arranged by Jill Harris. Once again, our star Director, Linda Evans, is in charge of pulling together the whole show and so you can expect a hugely enjoyable evening.

After 9th January, tickets may be obtained by phoning the Box Office on 01454 202011. But don't dither! Tickets traditionally sell very fast.

Prices: £10 for adults, £7 for children (£12 for Premium seats).

Parish of Olveston Design Statement

Richard Lloyd, Parish Vision Group

We are fortunate to live in a parish with a high quality environment. Each of the three main settlements – Olveston, Tockington and Old Down – has a distinctive character, and the older parts of Olveston and Tockington have been designated as Conservation Areas because of the concentration of buildings of historic and architectural interest.

The Parish of Olveston Design Statement was produced in response to community concerns about the design of new buildings and their “fit” within the local environment. It was published in 2004 and includes guidelines for new development to ensure that development and change enriches rather than erodes the character of the Parish. The Statement was produced through a consultation process including a community questionnaire and an exhibition, and copies were provided to all households at the time.

Specifically, the Statement was written for:

- **the community**, to encourage interest and involvement in the future development of the Parish, and greater care over building alterations which do not require planning permission
- **planning applicants**, to help ensure development proposals are in keeping with the special character of the Parish
- **the planning authority and the Parish Council**, to inform advice and decisions on planning applications
- **the highways authority**, to encourage a more sensitive approach to highway works.

The document was endorsed by South Gloucestershire Council and is a material consideration when the Council is determining planning applications. It has also been used successfully in evidence at planning appeals.

The Statement was reviewed as part of the process of producing the Olveston Parish Vision 2015. It is still a valid document and the design principles remain widely supported.

Residents can view the Design Statement on the Community Website – olveston.com and on the new Parish Council Website – olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk. Do have a look.

Olveston Parish Council will be seeking confirmation from South Gloucestershire Council that the Statement remains a material consideration in determining planning applications alongside the emerging South Gloucestershire Policies, Sites and Places Plan. This Plan is due for completion in 2016 and will provide the policy context for decisions on planning applications in our Parish.

OLVESTON PARISH TWINNING ASSOCIATION



OPTA Annual Quiz

Friday 5th February Parish Hall, Tockington

- Doors open 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start.
- Teams of 4 (max)
- £5 per person to include assorted refreshments.
- There will be a bar serving beer, wine and soft drinks.

This is always a very popular event, so please can you ring Noel on 01454 614099 to reserve your table?

OPTA News and other upcoming events:

2016 is an important year for us since it is the **20th Anniversary** of the first Twinning Visit between Olveston and Bréhan. As well as our usual fund-raising events we hope to celebrate this anniversary year with a number of other events and activities.

In the meantime we can announce two important dates for your diaries:

- The **Great Olveston Wine Challenge** will be held in the **Parish Hall on Friday April 15th**.
- We have been invited to Bréhan for the 2016 twinning visit from **Friday April 29th to Monday May 2nd**.

More information will follow in future editions of Meeting Point.

Aust Parish Matters

Tim Pyper (austparishcouncil@googlemail.com)

The first parish council meeting of 2016 will be on 11th January at 7.30 pm in Elberton Village Hall. This is the meeting at which the draft budget and provisional precept for 2016/17 will be discussed.

One of the items you will have seen in your council tax demand last year, and previous years, was a special services charge made by South Gloucestershire council. During the year, the PC discovered that this was levied to cover the cost of cutting a small area of grass in Aust and a hedge on Passage Road. It was noticed that the verge and hedge were not being trimmed, and South Gloucestershire council has agreed to drop that payment. Your council tax bill for next year will therefore be a little less than it was last year.

Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

150 Club Winners December 2015:

£50 Harry Kitchen
£15 Pete Jackson
£5 Andy Phillips

New Year Bonus Prize: Bill Finch

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

14th November Mike Rowen
21st November Reg Purchase
28th November Reg Purchase

Following the recent A.G.M., there have been a number of changes to the Club Officers.

Simon (Sam) Gould has retired from the post of Club Chairman. Simon has served on the Committee for as long as most of us can remember and has most recently been the driving force behind the Club achieving 'Club Mark' status, Thanks Sam for all you have done.

The Officers for 2016 are:

President: Roger Rowen
Vice-Chairman: Reg Purchase
Treasurer: Tony Gardner
1st XI Captain: Mike Rowen

Chairman: Andy Rowen
Secretary: John Peplow
Fixture Secretary: Simon Higgs
2nd XI Captain: Jake Lansdown

Happy New Year to one and all from everyone at Old Down Cricket Club: let's hope for a sunny & successful 2016 season.



Swim Teams Needed !



The **Rotary Club of Thornbury** are once again holding their annual **Swimarathon** weekend at the Thornbury Leisure Centre on the evenings of **4th, 5th and 6th March 2016** and are hoping to better the success of previous years.

We need your help! Please enter a team!

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!



For 2016 we are delighted to be able to support 2 Bristol charities, **Jessie May Children's Hospice** and **The National Eye Research Centre** as well as local charities and good causes. Over £12,000 was raised in 2015 through the Swimarathon and this year we're hoping that even more teams will be taking part in this family event.

If you fancy entering a team and taking the plunge, please do not hesitate to contact Derek Baker by email: swimarathon@thornburyrotary.org or mobile: **07984 949827**.

Team entry forms, sponsorship forms and posters are available at: www.thornburyrotary.org/swimarathon

Aladdin

The Thornbury Musical Theatre Group will be performing 'Aladdin' at the **Armstrong Hall** in Thornbury from **Wednesday 10th to Saturday 13th February**.



This traditional pantomime of the famous Oriental rags to riches tale has jokes galore, provides ample opportunity for audience participation, slapstick and a vibrant mix of singing and dancing - a perfect pick you up for mid-February, suitable for all ages.

The refreshingly new script, written by Alan P. Frayn, is a laugh-a-minute and adds another dimension to the great panto classic. Join Aladdin as he falls in love with the beautiful Princess, seeks out his fortune and returns to claim her hand in marriage. Along the way, Aladdin will shirk his duties in the laundry, hide from a dodgy pair of policemen, overcome the trickery of a deceitful "Uncle" and benefit from the powers of the genie of the lamp. When all seems lost, along comes the good Spirit to right all wrongs, ensuring a happy ending.

Performances start at 7.30 pm nightly and there will also be matinees at 2.30 pm on the Friday and Saturday. Tickets are bookable online at www.tmtg.org.uk. £12 Adults, £10 Concessions and a family ticket for 4 costs £36. Group discounts of 10% can be arranged via our Box Office for 10+ seats. For enquiries call Angie at the Box Office on 07516 270140. Tickets are also available at Lisa Costa Residential Sales and Lettings at 53 High Street, Thornbury from the beginning of January.

For more information about 'Aladdin' and our group generally, take a look at www.tmtg.org.uk or contact us by e-mail at membership@tmtg.org.uk. You can also follow us on Facebook.

Jan's Jan Puzzle

Jan Winter

$$1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5 \ 6 \ 7 \ 8 \ 9 = 100$$

Put in plus, minus, multiply and divide signs to make this sum correct. You can use brackets to avoid ambiguity.

On this occasion there is more than one way of doing it!

Help others in your community:

Start 2016 with a Resolution

Now that Christmas is just a happy memory, getting out and about in your local area and helping others less fortunate than yourselves is a good way of banishing those winter blues. Finding ways 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.

There are many reasons that people give for volunteering. For some, volunteering can be a route to employment, or a chance to try something new which may lead to a career change. For others, volunteering appeals because of its social benefits, meeting new people and making new friends.

On top of this, many people volunteer for a variety of other reasons: a desire to make a difference to the lives of others, feeling valued, having quality time away from work or a busy lifestyle.

Thornbury Volunteer Centre can provide you with information and support on volunteering opportunities in the local area which best suit your needs, skills 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 and differing amounts of available time. These opportunities vary between 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.

Volunteering is a valuable experience that benefits all parties.

If you would like to find out more please contact Thornbury Volunteer Centre on 01454 413392; email mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk ; visit our website on www.volunteer-thornbury.co.uk; follow us on twitter: @thornburyvc or Facebook: thornburyvolunteers. Alternatively, call into the office at Thornbury Town Hall between 10.30am-12 noon Monday to Friday. We look forward to meeting you.

Thornbury Library

www.facebook.com/sgloslibraries

LOOKING FOR OPENING TIMES, SERVICE INFORMATION OR CONTACT DETAILS? SEE OUR WEBSITE www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries

We re-open for 2016 on Saturday 2 January

DOWNLOAD THE LIBRARIES WEST APP - manage your library account on the go.

WHICH WERE YOUR FAVOURITE READS OF 2015?

We'd love to know which books you enjoyed reading in 2015. Your choice could be any book – fiction or non-fiction – and doesn't have to be a recent publication. Speak to our friendly staff at Thornbury Library, and let us know the author(s) and title(s) of the book(s) on your Favourite Reads of 2015 list. Alternatively, email us at: Thornbury.library@southglos.gov.uk with "Favourite Reads of 2015" in the subject line. Closing date: 31 January 2016. We'll let you know readers' book choices in a later issue of this magazine – participants' names will not be printed. We look forward to hearing your choices!

Part of South Gloucestershire Council's #Time4Reading campaign to get everyone reading. www.southglos.gov.uk/time4reading

LOW COST COMPUTER SCHEME

Are you aged 65+, registered disabled, on a low income or an unpaid carer?

South Gloucestershire Council have teamed up with an IT provider to offer a range of low cost, professionally refurbished starter computers at special discounted prices to eligible residents and registered UK charities. Prices start at £90 including Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2010 plus a 12 month return to base warranty. To find out if you are eligible and for more details visit www.southglos.gov.uk/goonline or enquire in person at Thornbury Library.

BOOKSTART BEAR CLUB STORYTIME AND RHYMETIME – FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS AND BABIES

From Monday 4 January we'll be back and ready for fun on Mondays 2.15pm-2.45pm and Fridays 11-11.30am. Nappy-changing facility available, breast-feeding welcome.

Rogue Traders in South Glos

South Gloucestershire Trading Standards would like to reiterate the warning given recently to residents to be **extra vigilant** when dealing with unexpected callers at the front door.

Officers are aware that rogue traders are currently operating in the area and are offering to carry out, amongst other things, roofing work and tree services. It would appear that special offers are being made to those of retirement age to entice them into agreeing to work being undertaken.

Rogue trading incidents such as these are also **linked to distraction burglaries**, so we would ask that residents please look out for your neighbours, family and friends as well and report any suspicious activity.

There are a number of steps residents 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 possible, try to deal with them through a window or use a door chain.
- Ensure your front and back doors are closed and locked if your attention is elsewhere.
- If you agree to work you are afforded cancellation rights by law, and these should be given to you in writing. It is a criminal offence not to provide these in certain circumstances.
- If you are unhappy or feel intimidated by the visitor – shut the door and call the police.

If you think you or someone you know has fallen victim to a rogue trader, please contact senior Trading Standards enforcement officer Neil Derrick immediately on 07801 200104 or 01454 864565.

For advice on this or any other consumer issue, contact the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06 or visit their website www.adviceguide.org.uk.

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the December draw, held on 3rd December 2015 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	564	Mr P Haworth, Olveston
£75	364	Mr R Newley, Olveston
£25	287	Mrs A Harley, Alveston
£25	425	Mrs S Fairhead, Oldbury-on-Severn
£25	374	Mr P Savage, Olveston
£20	560	Mr B Amos, Olveston
£20	178	Mrs B Morgan, Tockington
£20	570	Mr R Lloyd, Tockington
£10	217	Mrs J Hahn, Olveston
£10	166	Mrs E Dobson, Rudgeway
£10	476	Mrs A Harley, Alveston
£10	440	Mrs C Black, Thornbury
£10	360	Mr T E J Roper, Fernhill
£10	395	Mr T McLeavy, Olveston

If you are not yet a member and wish to join the lottery please telephone Andy Phillips on 01454 614890.

Alveston Gardens Association



Richard Lloyd's presentation on

"English Terrestrial Orchids"

will take place at



7.30pm in Alveston Jubilee Hall on Monday 4th January 2016.

All welcome, visitors £2. Full programme on www.alveston.org

Yours Faithfully

Rev Roly Bain, St Mary's Olveston

Déjà vu

Last February I wrote advising you that I was convalescing following an operation and now I find myself doing the same! If all went well, I had an op the week before Christmas removing various unwelcome lumps and foreign bodies, as well as having a blood transfusion because my blood levels were half what they should have been. Increasingly, I'm a wreck! But, contrary to what a number of people have suggested, there's no reason why it shouldn't happen to me. It reinforces my long-held belief that God has no favourites: just because I'm a priest doesn't mean I won't be ill nor that I'll get preferential treatment, divine or otherwise! I'm fortunate that the medical people are on the case, that we have the National Health Service, and that there are plenty of people who care for me. There is also the comforting platitude that we all use: there's plenty of others worse off than me.

My problems pale in comparison to the ongoing grief of the parents of the 20 year-old killed on his bike down at Aust in November, or the father wrongly accused of abusing his daughter, or the young mother desperately fighting breast cancer. I took a funeral last month of a man aged only 67, and there was only me and the undertaker there. He had died back in June, and they had been trying ever since to find or contact a relative or even a friend, and none was forthcoming, so his funeral was a less than fond farewell – an anonymous man who yet must have had a history and a story to tell. We did the brief service with commensurate dignity, but it was what they used to call a pauper's funeral at the unpopular hour of 9.30am. His name was John – that's all we knew.

But God cares just as much for John as he does for me and for all those other people who suffer hugely, and those who wonder why. There is no answer to the question 'why?', apart from medical, factual and practical ones. Better to ask or exclaim, 'Why not!' Why not me? I can't think of a good answer to that! And I have found, as many have done before me, that in my greatest moments of need, there God is found at his most profound. At my loneliest moments, God is there at my side. But he's also there at my greatest moments, when he is so easily forgotten or ignored as well as in the humdrum rituals and routines of our daily lives. And he's there in the healing touch of the surgeon's scalpel, and in the warmth of this community in which we live. Perhaps a good New Year's Resolution would be simply to look out for him more often than we do, not just as an emergency measure; and to constantly look out for those who surround us, so that no one ends up like John.

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Jan 3	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe Rev A Lloyd & Rev P Rowe Mrs J McBride
Jan 10	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship with Choir Breakfast Club Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd Mr D Jones & P Harrod Breakfast Club Team Rev David Bone
Jan 17	8am 10am 3.45 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion with Choir Back to Front Evensong	Rev David Bone Rev Philip Rowe Paul Harrod Mr Denis Jones
Jan 24	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Christian Unity Holy Communion Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev David Bone Revs D. Bone & D Hardy Rev Philip Rowe
Jan 31	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Candlemas Communion with Choir	Rev Ann Lloyd Mrs Janet McBride Rev P Rowe & Sandy Shaw

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 Chancel

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

Morning Prayer 8.30am daily ex. Wed

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Jan 10	5.30	Holy Communion.	Rev Ann Parker
Jan 24	5.30	Evening Service	Rev Ann Parker

Focal Minister: Rev Ann Parker, 01454 632329

e-mail annatdibley@btinternet.com

Church Wardens: Jon Burnett 633835 & Jenn Dickens 632035

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Jan 3		No Service	
Jan 17	9.00	Holy Communion	TBA

www.alveston.org/alveston/sthelens-church-alveston

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Jan 10	9am	Matins	Sandra Edgerton
Jan 11	7.30	Plough Monday	Rev Ann Parker
Jan 24	9am	Holy Communion	TBA

www.alveston.org/alveston/sthelens-church-alveston

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Jan 3	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch St Andrews	Morning Worship led by Mr Tim Lansdown Evening Worship led by Rev Jane Ashplant
Jan 10	10am	Olv. Ch	Morning Worship led by Mrs Margaret Hilton
Jan 17	10am	Tock. Ch.	Annual Covenant service led by Rev Pete Brazier
Jan 24	10am	St Mary's.	Week of Christian Unity Service Preacher Rev David Hardy
Jan 31	10am 6pm	Tock. Ch. St Andrews	Morning Worship led by Rev Pete Brazier Circuit Taster Service

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wed. 13th Jan
To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP meets at 12.15pm in the Swan on Thurs 21st Jan. To book please ring 613241 or 612112

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

PRAYER MEETINGS Tuesdays 9.00-10.00 in Olv. Methodist Church.

HOUSE GROUP Thurs 21st Jan at 10.30am at 7 The Green Olveston

THE OLVESTON COMPUTER CLINIC Olveston Methodist Hall

Monday 2-4pm Wednesday 10-12 Friday 7-9pm

Ring 07833 354672 or 07957 433091 for further information.

CONTACT: Rev Pete Brazier Tel 01454 418176,

e-mail 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

Jan 3	6.30pm	Martin Taylor
Jan 10	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Jan 17	6.30pm	Ed Stewart
Jan 24	6.30pm	Tony Ward
Jan 31	6-30pm	Munir Din

Each Thurs at 7.30pm Prayer & PraiseTime

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

For more details contact Ann Roberts 632564.

e-mail ann.roberts@bylanes.co.uk

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury -

Sun 8.30am Mass 11.00 Family Mass

Monday-Friday Daily Mass at 10am

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: Roger Howell at rogerhowell2@talktalk.net 01454 415035

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

Diary Dates for January 2016

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

2 nd Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
3 rd Sun	Bingo every Sun at Sports & Social Club	7pm	
4 th Mon	Computer Clinic every week Monday Movie A. G. A. Orchids	2.00-4.00pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	MH StM JH
5 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00	WR DGCL
6 th Wed	Beat Surgery Computer Clinic every week Holy Communion at Daldry Gardens Table Tennis O.P.H.S. Charles 2 nd	10.30-11.15 10.00-12.00 2.30pm 7.00-8.30pm 7.30pm	OS+ MH DGCL PH OMC
7 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15	OS+ MH
9 th Sat	Tickets for 'Annie' on sale Coffee Morning Coffee Morning Dumplings Quiz	9.30-11.00 10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00 7.30pm	OS+ AVH MH StM
10 th Sun	Meditation Group	7.30pm	StM
11 th Mon	Matthew Riddle 'Monarchy'	7.30pm	StM
12 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café W. I. Emma Slade Aust Parish Council	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR DGCL TMH PH EVH
13 th Wed	Table Tennis	7-8.30pm	PH
14 th Thu	Coffee Shop S. Gos Ladies Lunch Club in Almondsbury Olveston Toddlers	9.00-12.00 12.15 1.45-3.15	OS+ OSH MH
15 th Fri	Thornbury Picture House 'I Wish'	7.30pm	CH
16 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
18 th Mon	Monday Movie Extra	7.30pm	StM
19 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00	WR DGCL
20 th Wed	Severn. Vale. Flower Club Table Tennis Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	2pm 7-8.30pm 8.30pm	AH PH

21 st Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Thornbury & District Flower Club	9.30-1.30 9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15 7.30pm	OST MH TMH
23 rd Sat	Coffee Morning Young Musicians' concert Burns Night	10.30-12.00 2.30pm 7.30pm	MH CH OV
25 th Mon	Severn. Vale. Flower Club	1.30pm	AH
26 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Olv. Parish Council meeting	9.30-11.30 10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45 7.30pm	WR DGCL TMH AP
27 th Wed	St.Peter's Hospice lunch Table Tennis Alv. Local History Soc	1pm 7-8.30pm 7.30pm	TMH PH AMC
28 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-12.00 1.45-3.15	OST MH
30 th Sat	Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	MH
31 st Sun	Aust Quiz Night at Boar's Head	7.30pm	

Looking ahead to February

5 th	O.P.T.A. Quiz	7.30pm	PH
10 th -13 th	'Annie'	7.30pm	PH

KEY: **AC** Aust Church; **AH** – Armstrong Hall; **AMC** – Alv Methodist Church; **AMH**- Alv Methodist Hall; **AP** – Alexandra Pavilion; **AVH** – Aust Village Hall; ; **CH** – Cossham Hall; **Chy** – Chantry ;**CS** Castle Sch.CTK Christ the King **DGCL** – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; **EVH** – Elberton Village Hall; **LVH** Littleton Village Hall **MH** – Olv.Methodist Hall;**OMC** Olv Meth Ch **OS** – Olv. School; **OST** – Olv. Stores; **OV** – Olv Vicarage; **PH** – Olv Parish Hall; **StM** St Mary's Church, Olv.; **StMA** Almondsbury Church **SMH** St Mary,s Ch. Hall Thornbury **StMTSt Mary's Thorn** **TCh** Tock Chapel ; **TBCh** - Thornbury Baptist Church; **TMH** – Thorn. Methodist Hall; ; **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

Advertisements Neither Meeting Point, its editor, nor management committee accept any responsibility or give any guarantee in case of any dispute or claim as to quality, condition or delivery of commodities or services advertised in this magazine. It is not to be taken that publication implies recommendation. It is always advisable to check prices when ordering goods or services.

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the editor or Meeting Point magazine.

Copyright Meeting Point 2016. Copyright remains with the author(s) and Meeting Point. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without the prior permission of the copyright owners.

Meeting Point is printed by **Bristol Business Centre**.