

# Meeting Point

*Volume 33, Number 10, July 2009*

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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**Editor by  
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## **From the Editor!**

If you are one of the people suffering from a poor service from BT (like me!), read the article on page 27 which goes some way to explain why.

I am delighted to welcome Sharon Lapworth from Tockington to our team. Sharon and I will be working on the next couple of Meeting Point issues together (her internet is working!). Then I hope that Sharon will take over as editor in the autumn.

I trust that everyone has kept July 11<sup>th</sup> free as there are a number of local events on that day. We have a Coffee Morning, then a B-B-Q at Old Down, Elberton Church Fete, OPTA Fun and Games and a concert at Aust Church in the evening!

*Sue*

### **Our cover this month is by Elaine Thomas**

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

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

# Village People

## Simon Askey and Hannah Cameron

*Pat Thirkettle*

Simon and Hannah bought Ashfield Farm on Pilning Sreet, (many remember it as belonging to Cyril Coward), in 2004. By then it was in a dilapidated state – a gross understatement! So began four years of very hard work that has resulted in a spanking new property, with as low a carbon output as possible, in 2009.

Hannah is the daughter of Don Cameron, of Cameron Balloons, and is a Director of the family business. Simon is a professional balloon pilot, so it's obvious how they met. They first lived in St. Andrews, Bristol, but wanted their children to grow up in the country and thus they moved to Pilning Street, into a caravan, with their son James as a small baby. The first job was to clear the site and it took fifty-one of the large skips (as seen at the Sort It depot) to remove the rubbish! At one time oil had been sold from the site, so there were many oil tanks to remove too. They managed to save one small two storey brick building which was only discovered when the ivy covering it was removed. Otherwise all buildings had to be demolished, and now form the hardcore for the new drive. Planning permission took two years, and was finally granted for a house to cover the site of the original building. They salvaged all they could reuse, including bricks, roof tiles, chimney pots, paving stones, and even a gate with its two stone pillars.

The first building work was on the site of the old dairy, and that is now a single storey dwelling. When it was finished they moved in from the caravan, and have since sold it. Meanwhile, work started on the house. Simon was project manager, and only five people ever worked on it: a builder, his son, a labourer and a carpenter. After the building work was done, Simon completed all the electrics, plumbing and decorating, working fourteen-hour days. I queried how that was possible without previous experience. Hannah said Simon was very practical and had qualified people to inspect the work when finished.

The whole house is heated by a ground source heat pump, which circulates a mixture of water and antifreeze (vegetable extract, which in the event of a leak would be eco friendly) around a loop of 600 metres of pipe buried in the garden. When the liquid travels around the loop it absorbs heat from the ground which is used to heat radiators upstairs and underfloor heating on the ground floor. It also provides hot water. Since 1995, over 40,000 of these units have been sold in Sweden alone, Simon and Hannah received a grant from the Low Carbon Trust towards installation. Solar panels on the roof boost the hot water. However the most important thing is to have maximum insulation in the house, whatever the heat source.

Rainwater is harvested in a 6,500-litre tank, and supplies the loos and washing machine, after it has been filtered. A waste treatment plant uses air pumps to accelerate the digestion process and it is said that the water at the end of the

treatment is drinkable, but Hannah hasn't actually tried it! She has a vegetable garden, not yet in full production as their daughter Stella is only ten months old. The hens eat kitchen waste and produce eggs. They insist that they are not green fanatics, but starting to build a house from scratch gave them the opportunity to use modern technology to cut energy consumption.

Simon now works for Cameron Balloons on design, research and development, and uses the two-storey building as an office. He is still available for commercial piloting, often for film or television. You may remember the James Bond film 'The World is not Enough' when the opening sequence was a balloon chase down the River Thames, Simon was pilot and safety advisor for that balloon stunt. Other appearances have included Emmerdale, Blue Peter and several children's programmes. Hannah has just returned to work after maternity leave, and there is still work to be done on the house. However the worst is over and they look forward to living at Ashfield Farm for several years to come and having more time to meet and make friends in the villages.

## Concert at St Mary's

*Andrew Coombs*

Popular Classics by Mozart and Handel will be a great reason to go to St. Mary's Church in Olveston at 7.30pm on the **18th July**.

The Bristol Concert Orchestra's Chamber Orchestra will perform Mozart's ever-popular Jupiter symphony and Clarinet concerto, with award-winning soloist Nicholas Shipman, as well as Handel's Zadok the Priest sung by St Mary's Church Choir.

This special concert is put on in aid of "The Appeal", supporting the refurbishment of St Mary's Church. The beautiful setting and appealing programme make this an event not to be missed, so book your tickets now, at £7.50 each, by telephoning 01454 617491, or at the door.

## Another Concert for music lovers

Tockington resident Becky Elderton, who has sung with Somerset Chamber Choir for 20 years (since the age of 18), will be in the choir on **25 July** for a spectacular concert at Wells Cathedral including Vivaldi's Gloria, Handel's Dixit Dominus and Charpentier's Te Deum.

The concert marks the 25th anniversary of the chamber choir's foundation and they will be joined by the superb baroque ensemble, Canzona and a fine line-up of soloists, including internationally-renowned soprano Dame Emma Kirkby.

The concert starts at 7pm and tickets are available from 01275 349010.

# Christian Aid Collection 2009

*Pat Thirkettle*

My grateful thanks to all collectors, those who gave generously and those who devoted three hours to counting it all up! The total amount sent to Christian Aid this year was £1925.04. The house to house collection raised £1797.39 and £127.04 came from fund-raising by the Methodist Church. Incidentally, £647.57 from the main collection was gift aided; this will bring in £161.89 more from the taxman. Thank you to all who took the time to fill in the form on the envelopes.

## Thanks

Hannah and Pamela MacLeod would like to thank all their dear friends and neighbours in the Parish for visiting Hannah during her stay in hospital recently but also for all gifts, flowers, cards and good wishes for a speedy recovery when she came home.



## Aust Church Fete

**Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.**

Cakes, Homemade Jams,

Bric-a-Brac, Toys and Plants.

Bottle Stall,

Ice Creams and Teas

Brilliant B-B-Q

And .....China Smashing

**Special games for children**

tractor rides

**Fantastic Raffle Prizes**

There will be something fun-based for Dogs - please bring them on leads ready for agility cup and novelty classes

**Evening - from 6 p.m.**

Rounders, Music, Bar

B-B-Q with the now legendary, "Hot Roast Pork Rounder"

# Music in the Church at Aust

## Shakespeare's Storybook

Sat 11th July 8pm

A storyteller knows that a good story is worth telling more than once. And any storyteller can tell you that each time a tale is told, it may be a little different and a little better than it was before. William Shakespeare was one of the best storytellers in the world and he took popular stories and made them into poems and plays. The audiences in Shakespeare's time knew the stories that he based his plays upon but today we only know the Shakespeare version. Now, some of these stories have been hunted down and are retold by the popular professional storyteller Pat Ryan, with befitting musical accompaniment from Terry Mann and Fiona Larcombe.

Before their concert Pat will be telling stories, tales, myths and legends in Thornbury Library at 10am and Aust Village Hall at 2pm. This is especially aimed at young people, but all are welcome and there is no charge for entry.

Pat Ryan's performance of Shakespeare's Storybook will be at Aust church on Saturday 11th July at 8pm. Tickets are £10 full and £8 concessions, available from Peter or Gina Dobbins on 01454 632306 or directly from the Boar's Head, Aust, or Olveston Stores.

## St Mary's Appeal

*Roly Bain*

It's all systems go on the redevelopment project - work begins on July 13th. It's all very exciting! And there's lots of money coming in - by the end of this month we will have reached our original target of £200,000. So thank you to everyone who has contributed in all sorts of ways. But you may have spotted I said 'original target' - our revised target is now £220,000, as we've had to include a couple of other items, not least the renewing of all the electrics. The extra amount gives us back a contingency fund in case they find anything else! If you've seen the boards that say Target £100,000, that's because we had £120,000 stashed away reserved for building works already.

This is a busy month for the church in terms of events, with a prestigious concert from the Central Band of the RAF on the 8th, the St Swithun's Eve Ball on the 14th, and the internationally renowned Chamber Orchestra from the Bristol Concert Orchestra on the 18th. Don't miss out - do join in!



# OPTA Family Fun Day

**On Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup> 3.00pm – 8.00pm**, in the field behind Denys Court. Just look out for the balloons that will guide you to the entrance.

Olveston Parish Twinning Association will be holding another Family Fun Day on Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>. The general feeling after last year's successful 'Amusement et Jeux' was that this was a great way to spend an English summer's afternoon and, if this year's fun and games are even half as good, we should be in for a super time.

There will be activities for children (and adults!) including skittles, football penalty challenge, croquet, boules, apple-bobbing, face painting and so on. Later there will be games and races, organised for everyone who would like to join in. These are strictly for fun – great for spectators as well as participants!

Tea, soft drinks and cakes will be on sale throughout the event, also a barbeque with burgers and sausages sourced from our local butcher. There will be a bar serving beer and wine for adults. Music will be provided by local musicians. Bring a rug and relax on the grass.

Entry is by programme, which you can purchase in advance from Olveston Stores or The Crusty Loaf, or on the gate on the day. Price £1 for adults and 50p for children. Hand in your lucky programme number on the day for entry into a draw to win a special prize!

For more information ring John or Jan on 612641 or Marelin or Hamish on 610081.

## Almondsbury Gymkhana and Pony Show

**Sunday, 5th July** sees the return of the annual Almondsbury Horse Show in this its 66th year! As usual it promises to be a fun-packed day with something for everyone, from the Dressage and Jumping classes to the Gymkhana for younger riders as well as the ever-popular Dog Show. Every year the Show supports several charities and this year these include St. Peter's Hospice, Riding for the Disabled and Paul's Place. Held as usual at Lower Tockington Lane, Tockington, the gates will open at 9.30am with classes commencing in ring one at 10am. Schedules are available now - enquiries to Hon. Secretary David Smith Tel: 01454 412235.

# Action Medical Research - Salmon & Strawberry Supper

A Salmon and Strawberry Supper and Jazz evening will be held at The Old Vicarage, Olveston, on **Friday, 31 July 2009**, starting at 7.30pm, in aid of Action Medical Research. Tickets are £20 and can be obtained from Richard Harrop - 416927 and Diana Bates - 614145.

# Old Down Neighbourhood Watch

*Roger Hindle*

Our sunny (this year) Summer BBQ will be held at Windmill House on the afternoon of **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July from 1 to 4pm** approximately.

Tickets are £5 per adult with children under 16 admitted free.

The BBQ coals will be available along with salads and desserts. Hotdogs will be available for kids at a minimal cost. BYO meat, and wine if you wish. Tickets will provide a prize draw and there will be a raffle, along with a bottle stall.

We are hoping for music as usual and there will be a variety of garden activities for anyone who wants to have a go.

# Parish Players 2010

*Linda Evans*

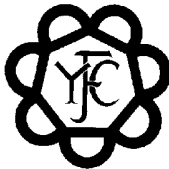
Following the sell-out success of "Oklahoma", the Parish Players have been considering an exciting Production to celebrate their tenth anniversary of presenting published operettas and musicals. Prior to that there were locally written, themed shows that engaged audiences for twenty-five years right up to the Millennium year. The Players then temporarily disbanded.

Restarting with "The Mikado" under the direction of Linda Evans, nine successive West End and Broadway hits followed which have proved very popular with audiences. However they are now pleased to announce their return to Gilbert and Sullivan with the ever vibrant and entertaining "Gondoliers", to be presented from March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 2010. Rehearsals commence Thursday Sept 10<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm, extending to include Mondays from Sept 28<sup>th</sup>.

New members will be needed and will be made very welcome for this challenging production. Details from the Secretary, Felicity Hemmett - Tel: 01454 415979.

# Muck Sale 29th March

## 1<sup>st</sup> Olveston Scouts and Olveston Young Farmers:



When the Chairman of Olveston Young Farmers and the Leader of 1st Olveston Scouts got chatting, they realised they both had a problem – the Young Farmers needed to earn some points for a charity shield they had their eye on and the Scouts needed a mess tent.

“We did a muck sale last year, that raised a bit!” said Phil Ball (YFC). “Do you fancy helping us?” replied Lynda Spratt (Olveston Scouts). Suddenly we had a deal: Scouts advertising and selling, YFC hauling and bagging. In two weeks ads were in papers, posters up in shops, and most of Olveston had had a flyer put through their door. Both sides started bagging up this most valuable commodity!

Two trailer loads and a 10 tonne trailer entered the village fully laden just after 11 o'clock (we had to stop and pick up two bags that had fallen off down the lane, not the nicest of jobs I must admit – must do knots with the Scouts!). The sale began, orders were being distributed around the village, people arriving in cars and filling their spotless boots with two, three bags; one lady said she wanted some but she lived in Surrey and didn't think the kids would put up with the smell on the way back! Door-to-door knocking became the YFC's strategy (and it worked!), while the Scouts loitered around the allotments ...

The wheelbarrows were in full swing by 12 o'clock, both organisations pulling their weight and selling bags to any poor passer-by, garden or no garden.

By 1pm we were all done, uniforms slightly worse for wear and all in need of a bath. Over 130 bags were sold and a staggering £400 raised. A big thank you to the people of Olveston for supporting this event and putting up with the commotion on the day, and thanks also the parents who came and helped.

To put the icing on the cake, the YFC donated their share to the Scouts, which for once left me speechless. Thank you to Phil and his team – their enthusiasm and team spirit were an inspiration to anyone who watched them work. The Scouts were pretty good too!

Same time next year?

Lynda Spratt: 1st Olveston Scouts,

Phil Ball: Olveston YFC



# Elberton Church Fete

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

Please come and enjoy an afternoon at our fete. There will be a cake stall, draw, tombola and children's tombola and lucky dip and a plant stall, cream teas with homemade scones and muffins.

All proceeds to Elberton Church Funds.

# Olveston Preschool

Ever fancied a wardrobe consultation with a top fashion consultant? A bespoke novelty birthday cake? A gourmet dinner party cooked in your home? A portrait of your children or grandchildren? These are just some of the fantastic promises available at the promises auction to be held by Olveston Preschool on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm** in the garden of the parish hall.

Tickets are £5 to include a full barbeque and pudding, bring your own drinks and we will provide the glasses.

To offer a promise or buy a ticket, phone Natasha Harrod on 613642 or email [natashaharrod@hotmail.com](mailto:natashaharrod@hotmail.com) See you there!

# St Peter's Hospice - Garden Party



Sharing the Caring

St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group will be delighted to welcome you to Heneage Court, Falfield to a Garden Party on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July ,2.30pm – 5.00pm (by kind permission of Mrs Durston).

Entrance is £3.00 to include tea and cake. Bring a picnic chair and listen to the music of "The Jan Ridd Trio" and enjoy the beautiful gardens.

# And another Tea at Three

This one is on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at Thornbury Cricket Club (next to the Ship Hotel, Alveston). Please come along and support our local hospice. Enquiries, donations and gifts to Barbara Summerfield on tel 01454 614108.

Please come along and support St Peter's, your local Hospice.

# Thanks

A big thank you from John and Rita Hitchcock for all the letters, cards, enquiries and messages of support and encouragement from so many friends during John's recent spells in hospital and afterwards.

Occasions like this are never fun-times and the warmth expressed helped so much to dispel any gloomy thoughts, both in hospital and on the home front.

*Here's a report of First Olveston Scouts' District Camp a, Marlow. Bucks on 22-25<sup>th</sup> May 2009 written by Henry Biggin and edited by Lynda Spratt, Senior Leader 1<sup>st</sup> Olveston Scouts 01454 632484*

## Scout Camp Report



We rushed home from school on the Friday as we had to catch a bus at 4.30pm to take us to camp. It seemed like a long journey but we had great fun on the coach. We travelled up with 1<sup>st</sup> Almondsbury Scouts, they were really funny, my cousin was there too, he looked different in his uniform!

It took about 2 hours to get there, we then had to carry all our heavy stuff (kit) over to our camp, luckily our tents were already up but we had to peg them down. We got moaned at as we forgot to tie the fly sheets to the inner and they looked a bit wonky. Luckily there was no wind or rain forecast.

We had a briefing on the schedule, we were in for a busy time; Jacob's Ladder, Climbing, Dragon Boating (we earned a badge doing that one), Sailing, Rafting, (got wet doing that), Canoeing (the leaders-got wet doing that one), Kayaking, (we all got wet doing that, I was the first to capsizel!)

Whilst we were there we had the District International Cooking Competition, and were there to defend our title; luckily Dean had his chef's hat on (we'd been practising); we cooked Beef Stroganoff with rice. Our leaders were proud with us as our name was called out at the break of camp as the winners.

Then we had to pack up. We had to clean our tent which wasn't very nice, three nights of 13 boys,. wet socks, muddy trousers and two day old towels; mum won't mind - it will take her mind off the missing cutlery and my brother's torch!

We had a great time, the weather was great, and it was really fun, I did lots of things I've never done before.



## Art in a Garden

Grove House Painters thank everyone for their support over the weekend of May 16th & 17th. The weather was not very kind but over 300 people visited and supported the event, buying many pictures and consuming lots of home made cakes and tea. We raised for St Mary's Church Appeal £720 and gave £360 each to the Jessie May Trust and Making the Change. Thanks to everyone, we hope to hold the same event in the future.

# Police Monthly Report for May

A total of 40 calls to police for the month of May.

15 reported crimes which are as follows.

01/05 Theft of a tax disc from a vehicle parked in the Common, Olveston.

07/05 Theft of a pot from a garden in Tockington.

10/05 A vehicle had a rear light smashed in Laxton Close, Olveston.

11/05 Two detached garages were broken into overnight in Tockington and tools and a bike stolen.

13/05 The entry key pad to Oldbury School was damaged overnight.

14/05 Diesel was stolen from a Lorry parked in a secure yard of a company on the A38, Rudgeway.

18/05 A farm name sign was stolen from premises in Kington.

18/05 A dispute between two lorry drivers at the fuel pumps in Aust Services resulted in one of them damaging the other's vehicle.

19/05 Property was stolen from a vehicle parked in Hardy Lane, Tockington. (Please don't leave items in your vehicle).

20/05 A wallet was stolen from a locker at an industrial premises in Aust.

20/05 Drive off type theft of fuel from Aust Services.

23/05 Two vehicles were damaged in Church Hill, Olveston.

24/05 A fence was damaged at the rear of a house in Tockington.

Roger Hopes PC 3404

Neighbourhood Beat Manager

DC 125 Severnvale Phone: 0117 945 5959

NB To report any crime, please phone 0845 456 7000



**Volunteer Centre**

**Thornbury**

Are you a student or someone looking for something worthwhile to do throughout the summer holidays? Call into Thornbury Volunteer Centre at Thornbury Town Hall weekday mornings between 10.30am -12 noon and we will give you a list of voluntary opportunities which are available locally and further afield which may be of interest to you. Everything from helping at a summer play scheme to volunteering at a Green Festival for a weekend. If you are over 16 years of age we may have something for you to do.

If you are unable to call in, please give us a ring on 01454 413392 or email [tdvl@freenet.co.uk](mailto:tdvl@freenet.co.uk).

Let us help you help your local community!

# Thornbury Camera Club

## NEWS

The summer holidays bring a reduction in club meetings, however, two have been planned for July, both outside practical photography days. The first, on the 6<sup>th</sup> July, is a visit to Sharpness Docks and the second on the 20<sup>th</sup>, a visit to Frenchay Common.

In the meantime the club and members are taking part in various external competitions as a club and as individuals.

## TIPS

If you're out and about during the summer you may have the opportunity to take photographs of ANIMALS and PETS.

Capturing wild animals in their habitat is very challenging, patience and knowledge of where to find these animals is needed.

Photographing wild animals in their habitat may not be realistic for most people, but interesting wildlife can be found at Safari Parks, Country Parks and Open enclosures in a Zoo.

Your own pets make interesting subjects, especially if you can get action shots of them outside.

Animals are usually more active around sunrise, and in the late afternoon or early evening; these are the best periods to hopefully get action shots and the light is usually much softer, as you don't want dark shadows. It is also worth checking out feeding times.

For wild animals and Safari Parks use a telephoto lens to get close shots, a tripod or monopod, set your camera on priority AE, practise pictures on f8 and use a high shutter speed to freeze the moment. Adjust the aperture to cope with light and movement.

Regarding the composition, get down to the animal's or pet's level, wait for interesting action e.g. a big cat jumping or yawning, fighting or playing, catching prey or at water holes; try to take their eyes, not their rear end.

When in your garden photographing pets and birds, frame the subject in as natural a setting as possible, choose an angle with a natural background not the neighbour's car or garage or your garden tools and furniture.

Above all be patient and wait till the animal or pet poses in an interesting manner. Here's to a warm and sunny July. Happy snapping!!

A good time to join Thornbury Camera Club would be September when the new season starts at The Old Bakery Annexe on Monday evenings. Call me, Peter Haworth on 01454 612441 for more information.



**ARTS & COMMUNITY  
IN THORNBURY**

*A Project to Build a New  
Performance & Arts Venue in  
Thornbury*

*Reg. Charity No. 1120422*

*Founder Patron: Catherine Johnson*

*Company No. 6009419*

*ACT.Thornbury@yahoo.co.uk*

*www.ACTThornbury.org.uk*

## Thornbury's Got Talent

Thornbury and surrounding villages are full of talent! Can you sing, dance, juggle or impersonate Gordon Brown? Do you play the saxophone or the spoons, does your dog do tricks or can you make your grandmother disappear? We are looking for any and every talent to take to the stage in **THORNBURY'S GOT TALENT** on Saturday 24 October 2009 at the Thornbury Baptist Church Hall; so we can find an act to rival Paul Potts, George Sampson or Susan Boyle and raise funds for ACT (Arts and Community in Thornbury).

There will be qualifying heats (with three tame judges!!) in the afternoon with a grand final that evening, where the audience will choose the winners and the judges will give the prizes. If you would like to take part, just provide the details asked for and the TGT organisers will get you up on that stage for your minutes of fame. Go on, you know you want to!

Forms can be downloaded from our website: [www.ACTThornbury.org.uk](http://www.ACTThornbury.org.uk) and must be returned to Mr Tony Domaille at 38 Manor Walk, Thornbury, South Glos BS35 1SP, who can also be contacted via email on [Thornburysgottalent@hotmail.com](mailto:Thornburysgottalent@hotmail.com) and please note that all acts must be appropriate for a family audience.

Why not book the date in your diary now, as it's sure to be great fun, whether you're participating or just cheering everyone on! All proceeds will be donated to ACT's project to build a theatre and arts centre in Thornbury.

***Lyn Bedford, 35 Siblond Road, Thornbury, BS35 2EP***  
***[lynbedford@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:lynbedford@blueyonder.co.uk)***

***01454 884154***

# Broadband Speed

## in the Olveston Area - next steps

*Bernard Amos, Trevor Anderson and Steve Webb*

Following our article in April's Meeting Point, we would like to thank the dozens of local residents who let us know about their experiences with Broadband speeds. To take matters further Steve Webb invited representatives of BT Openreach to come to Olveston, and a meeting took place at the end of May, hosted by Trevor Anderson. We told BT about the wide variations in Broadband speeds experienced by different households in our community, differences which couldn't simply be explained by distance from the exchange.

BT talked us through the factors which affect speed.

They said that **equipment at the exchange** was one big factor. In our area, people can choose between BT, TalkTalk and Orange, each of whom has its own equipment. The speed you get can depend on how good that equipment is, and our own unscientific survey found that a number of people who had switched from BT to one of the alternative providers seemed to be getting higher speeds.

**Distance from the exchange** (Almondsbury) was another key factor, though this was based on the distance along the route of the cable rather than distance 'as the crow flies'. Apparently parts of the cabling in our area use aluminium rather than the more traditional copper wire, and this can lead to poorer broadband performance. BT said it would be uneconomical at this point to replace the cabling. They did say they had checked the main junctions on the route into the villages and there appeared to be no major faults.

**Faults on the line to the individual household** can also affect speed. To see if this was the case here, BT agreed to run a line test on those who had reported the slowest broadband speeds (0.5 Mb/s or less). Subsequent to the meeting, they tested five lines and found that they all 'tested OK'.

BT also told us that **the cabling within your own home** can affect speed. Subsequent to the meeting, BT identified that there was a fault with Trevor's linebox and, when this was replaced with a high speed ADSL adaptor, there was a fourfold improvement in speed (from 0.48 to almost 2.0Mb/s). They recommend that others who suspect an internal problem should contact their Internet Provider and ask for an SFI (Special Fault Investigation) health check. They did say, however, that there may be a charge for this.

Another important issue within your own home is **possible interference from other electrical equipment**. BT kindly gave us some complimentary "I-plates" which are devices you can put into your phone socket which will filter out

electrical interference. We would be happy to lend you one to try (they only take about a minute to fit) to see if this boosts your broadband speed. In addition BT stressed that speeds are also affected by **the way equipment is set-up in the home** - for example, the location of wireless routers, whether all sockets have the correct 'filters' etc. They also pointed out that speed will vary according to the **time of day** simply because the volume of people using the internet does vary considerably.

We are very grateful to BT for coming to see us. It does show that if they are asked for help, they will respond. So the more of us who contact them, maybe the higher our villages may be placed on the priorities for upgrading.

In the medium-term, the next step forward is likely to come if the government implements its goal of forcing telecoms providers to deliver broadband speed of 2 Mb/s, which will involve serious expenditure in upgrading the network. Finally, in the longer-term, the real boosts in speed are likely to come when optical fibre cables are installed, but villages such as ours are unlikely to be at the front of the queue for this technology.

## Cricket Club News

150 Club Winners June:

£50	Dave Buckley
£15	Dave Birtle
£ 5	Tony Lippiatt

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

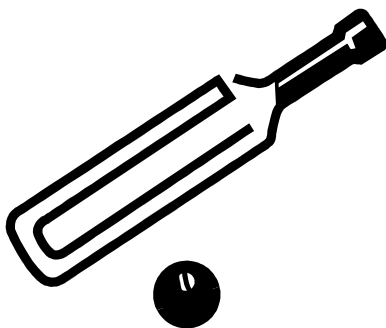
9th	May	Ian Maunder
16th	May	Sylvia Gould
6th	June	Tony Gardner

July Fixtures at The Park:

4th July	2nd XI v Knowle A
11th July	1st XI v Bristol Sri Lankans
14th July	U13s v Patchway (6.00)
17th July	U15s v Frampton Cotterell (6.00)
18th July	2nd XI v Stapleton A
25th July	1st XI v Y.M.C.A.
28th July	Club XI v Benfleet

All matches start at 2.00pm. unless otherwise stated. Spectators Welcome!!

Tony Gardner 07889 727729 [www.olddowncricketclub.co.uk](http://www.olddowncricketclub.co.uk)



# AGE 'STEPPING OUT'

## Nail Cutting Service for the over 50s

*Concern*

Age Concern has been aware for some time of the need for an accessible nail cutting service for older people. Following a national campaign it has become evident that older people are not served well by the Health Service, who have consistently tightened their criteria for free nail cutting over the past ten years, and that the private sector is often too expensive for older people on limited incomes. Often when PCTs withdraw foot care services, they suggest to clients that they should ask relatives, friends or neighbours to cut their nails for them. This suggestion makes many older people feel angry, disappointed and let down by the NHS. Older people are the main users of foot care services, so cuts in services affect them more than any other group of people - an example of indirect discrimination.

Lack of quality foot care services leaves people housebound, isolated and depressed and increases the risk of falls. In particular, the most disadvantaged older people, who cannot afford to pay for private treatment to just get their toe nails cut, are forced to go without and suffer discomfort and pain.

Research undertaken by Age Concern England has revealed that one third of people over the age of sixty have mobility problems caused by problems related to their feet, and many of those issues would be helped by regular toenail cutting. If these figures were to be translated into a South Gloucestershire context we could assume that well over 15,000 older people suffer from these difficulties.

Age Concern South Gloucestershire has taken the decision to start our own nail cutting service which we are calling '**Stepping Out**'. We have been offered the services of a qualified practitioner who will run nail cutting clinics for us at specific venues, three mornings per week. At present we are still determining where those clinics might be established, though we have agreed to run from the Coniston Community Centre in Patchway, and the Shopmobility premises in Yate on alternate Wednesdays. We are aiming for a service that covers at least **twelve venues** and runs for five mornings per week, or more if viable.



Treatment is by appointment only and clients will need to ring us on **01454 858750** for an appointment to be arranged. We will have to make a charge for the service of £10 per visit, to cover our costs.

Do you think that this service would benefit your community and could you suggest a possible venue that we could use? I am very conscious of the cost of providing this service and will need to keep the hire cost of venues down if we are to maintain the client charge within affordable levels.

I would welcome any older person who wished to discuss their nail cutting needs with me, so that we can try and accommodate them in some way.

I would be pleased to consider holding a special local event to cut toenails, and perhaps provide other services such as free benefits advice on the same day, if your Council felt it would be supported.

Please contact Peter Iles, Chief Officer, Age Concern

34, St Mary Street Thornbury, BS35 2AT, Telephone 01454 857754

Email: [co.ageconcern.southglos@thornet.co.uk](mailto:co.ageconcern.southglos@thornet.co.uk).

## Cowboy Builders

Are you unhappy with your builder?

Do you think the work he's done is not up to standard?

Do you suspect you may have been ripped off?

Have you received a quote which appears too good to be true?

Is your builder very hard to contact and rarely turns up?

Is there someone you'd like us to investigate?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes – we'd like to speak to you. Even if it happened a few years ago – we're interested.

Ricochet produce Cowboy Builders for Channel Five, fronted by Melinda Messenger and Dominic Littlewood.

Please contact us on: 01273 224 800 or email: [consumeraffairs@ricochet.co.uk](mailto:consumeraffairs@ricochet.co.uk)

For consumer advice on this or any other consumer matter, please contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

# Trading Standards Advice

## West Country Residents Warned to Avoid Cowboys

As the switchover to digital television has now started in the West Country, South Gloucestershire Trading Standards are warning residents to be on their guard against cowboy contractors looking to make a fast buck.

The switchover is expected to be completed throughout the South West by August this year.

In the last twelve months, advice service Consumer Direct has received scores of calls from South West residents who believe they have been targeted by cold-calling rogues offering unnecessary upgrades or charging exorbitant fees.

According to Digital UK, the independent not-for-profit organisation, which is leading the switchover, most households will not need a new aerial, but may need a 'set top' box to plug into the television. Some TVs already have a digital box already inside (often called an Integrated Digital TV or iDTV). More information can be found at [www.digitaluk.co.uk](http://www.digitaluk.co.uk) or by calling 08456 50 50 50

Residents who believe they may need a new aerial are urged to use contractors who are 'Registered Digital Installers' (RDIs) and display the digital tick logo – this means they are approved and security-checked with the relevant qualifications and insurance.

A full listing of RDI installers in the West Country can be found at [www.rdi-lb.tv](http://www.rdi-lb.tv). If householders cannot find a local RDI installer, they are advised to look for an installer registered with the Confederation of Aerial Industries (CAI) Plus scheme or the Independent Digital Standards Commission (IDSC).

Here are some top tips to follow when upgrading or replacing your aerial:

- Think very carefully before agreeing to have work done by an aerial installer who calls without an appointment and fails to show identification
- Look for an aerial installer carrying the 'digital tick' logo first
- If you can't find one, look for a member of the recognised trade bodies (CAI or IDSC)
- If you do decide to go for an alternative, ask family and friends to recommend installers with a good track record and get written quotations for the work from at least two contractors
- Before work starts, agree the price, payment arrangements and start/finish dates
- Don't pay for work upfront

Further advice and information on all consumer issues is available by calling Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 or visiting the website at

[www.consumerdirect.gov.uk](http://www.consumerdirect.gov.uk)

# Thornbury Junior Library

Summer Reading Challenge 2009 from Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July

**Quest Seekers: The adventure starts here!**



The Summer Reading Challenge in libraries

There's a magical challenge awaiting you in the library this summer. Sign up to become a Quest Seeker and as you read collect the stickers (some are smelly scratch and sniff ones) to complete your poster. Read 2 books to receive a moving image Quest Seeker membership card and sticker. If you read 4 books you can claim a bookmark and surprise prize. Read 6 books and complete the challenge for a medal, certificate and free DVD hire voucher.

If that's not enough Thornbury Library is holding **FREE** activities for each exciting Quest stage but you must obtain a ticket from the Library.

**Patrick Ryan—international storyteller-Saturday 11 July 10.00-11.00**

**admission is FREE (suitable for ALL children and adults)**

Pat Ryan tells folk tales, wonder tales, myths, legends, riddles, rhymes and proverbs.

This event kindly arranged by Peter Dobbins; Music in the Church at Aust. Visit their website at [www.aust.music.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.aust.music.btinternet.co.uk)

**Thornbury Carnival**

Look out for us at the Carnival on **Saturday 4 July!!**

**Thornbury Library Committee**

You are welcome to attend the next meeting on Wednesday **22 July at 7.30pm**. Entry is by the back door on St Mary Street.

There are also events planned for August; more details next month.

# Bogus Trading Standards Officers

This bulletin is intended to raise awareness of the presence of suspected rogue traders who are posing as Trading Standards Officers offering to arrange rebates for unsatisfactory paving services.

A number of suspicious incidents have been reported in South Wales where male suspects are calling at addresses unannounced claiming to be from local Trading Standards Services.

Target addresses have had work done on driveways by other rogue traders and the bogus Trading Standards Officer highlights the poor quality of the work. This person then invites the resident to pay a significant cash deposit (in one case £900) as an 'admin fee' with a promise that it will be returned along with the balance of the original money paid to the rogue trader.

This is clearly a scam. South Gloucestershire Trading Standards would like to advise residents that legitimate Trading Standards Officers:

- **Will normally make an appointment to see a resident;**
- **Never take cash from consumers;**
- **And are always in possession of their local authority identification, which can be verified by contacting the relevant local authority.**

If you would like to report a scam or would like further advice on this or any other consumer issue, please contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

## From the Registers

### **Marriage at Tockington Church**

On 19<sup>th</sup> May between Sara Price and Guy Wootton.

### **Baptisms at St Mary's, Olveston**

On 24<sup>th</sup> May:

Poppy Harriet, daughter, and Charlie Jack, son of Bruce and Helen Newman.

Olivia Merryn, daughter of Matthew and Jennifer Thomas.

On 7<sup>th</sup> June: Alfie Scott, son of Matthew and Jessica Stephens.

### **Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church**

#### **Olveston Church.**

On June 9<sup>th</sup>

Cremation at Westerleigh Crematorium followed by, at Olveston Methodist Church, A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Renee Collinge.

# Yours faithfully

*Aust Evangelical Church*

“There will be a lot of sad people in heaven...”

Yes, it made me stop and read more too! The quote is taken from a tabloid headline after the death of Jade Goody. I didn't get to read it all because I was sitting at the poolside, supposedly watching my son's swimming lesson; instead, I was reading someone else's paper whilst they were too! From what I could gather, the speaker was trying to take a positive approach to Jade's death. After all, as was suggested, if heaven is a sad place and not much fun, Jade Goody would cheer people up and make them laugh. Perhaps you agree. Maybe you are challenged or now confused! How do you imagine heaven? Do you even believe that there is such a place?

My problem is that my perception of heaven doesn't tie in with that one. I find myself disappointed with the pain, sadness and hurt in the world; I'm looking forward to heaven! Am I the only one? Do people really see it as an even worse version of Earth? I hold to my faith, believing the word of John in my Bible:

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.*

Revelation 21 verse 4

What a place! I can't imagine that any of us haven't experienced some pain, perhaps the loss of someone we love or a physical illness. No hurting of any kind, no tears, not ever! Not a world of death from famine or stabbing; a place of total peace and freedom. That's my view of heaven. Compared to our present home on Earth, where hate and terror, fill the news, I find it far more appealing, don't you? I tend to think of the very best things about my life (they still outweigh the mountain of worse bits), yet even with all of this I know that there is more; a space that can only be filled by God. As each of my days pass and I grow more trusting in Him, those tastes of heaven become more apparent, like gentle raindrops on parched grass. But in heaven I will be drenched and I see myself swirling around under a waterfall of God's love.

Perhaps you haven't really thought much about heaven, or perhaps you have dismissed it because you struggle with the consequences of believing it exists. Worse still is the thought that if heaven is real, then does that mean hell is too? Whatever your thoughts on Jade Goody, maybe it's time to ponder these things and what you are going to do about them before you pass away. Going to heaven isn't an opportunity to be missed; eternity is a very long time.

# Church News

## ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Jul 5	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe & Mr Robert Gooding
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe & Mr Robert Gooding
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong with Choir	Mrs Janet McBride
Jul 12	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
Jul 19	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Breakfast Club Summer Celebration	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong	Mr Denis Jones
Jul 26	8am	Holy Communion(BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Fourth Sunday-	Rev. Roly Bain
	6pm	Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev. Philip Rowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

**The Rev Philip Rowe**, 01454 613223; email: [office@stmaryssevernside.org](mailto: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](http://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

Jul 5	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Jul 12	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Jul 19	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Jul 26	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev David Bone

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

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

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

Jul 5	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole
Jul 19	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield

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

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Jul 12	9am	Matins	Mr Don Streatfield
Jul 26	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

## OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Jul 5	10am	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr Jonsin Lee Junior Church in the Wesley Rooms
	6pm	Bishopton Ch. .	United Service with Holy Communion led by Rev. Audrey Standhaft
Jul 12	10am	Olveston Ch	All Age Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney. The Breakfast Club will join us later
	6pm	Tock Ch..	Evening Worship led by Rev Oluyemisi Jaiyesimi
Jul 19	10am	Tock.Ch. .	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev. Iesinga Vunipola
	6pm	Daldry Gdn...	Evening Worship led by Rev Audrey Standhaft
Jul 26	10am	Tock Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle
	6 pm	Olveston Ch.	Evening Worship led by Rev Tom Hall

**LIGHT LUNCHESES:** Thursday 2nd July at 12.15 in the Tockington Wesley Rooms.  
To book your lunch please ring 612112.

**NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP:** This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 15th  
July. To book your lunch please ring 416528

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

**COFFEE MORNINGS:** Sats 10.30 - 12 noon in the Olveston Methodist Hall. -  
except 11<sup>th</sup> July when it will be in Tockington Chapel . Please bring items for the  
Harvest Fayre and receive a free cup of coffee.

Contact : Rev Iesinga Vunipola, 01454 412269; [Iesinga@hotmail.com](mailto:Iesinga@hotmail.com)

## THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

We meet in a relaxed, manner for worship, prayer and conversational Bible studies incorporating Communion, normally Sunday at 10.30am and Monday and Wednesday 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 letterbox 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](mailto:thevine_awkley@hotmail.com)**

## THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Jul 5	6.30pm	Martin Taylor
Jul 12	6.30pm	Rev. Colin Lewis
Jul 19	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies
Jul 26	6.30pm	Paul Ashford

Each Thurs 7.30pm- Prayer Time

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

## AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Family Worship 11am Evening Worship 6.30pm

For more details, please phone 632564.

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

Contact 01454 613305 **[www.bcfnet.com](http://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](http://www.quaker.org.uk)**

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



# Diary Dates for July 2009

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	Body Tone Exercise Class '	7.30-8.30	PH
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30	OST MH
4 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Coffee Morning Thornbury Carnival Charity Quiz-Olv Sports & Social Club Olveston Preschool	10.30-12.00 12.30 7.30pm	MH PH
5 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Open Gardens Olv & Tockington- Olv Scouts Almondsbury Gymkhana & Pony Show	1-4.30	
6 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club-Practice	1.30pm	AH
7 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers Royal British Legion Women -Boat Trip Wigan Girls-10th	10.00-12.00	WR
8 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Body Tone Exercise Class Central Band of the R.A.F. Royal British Legion-Men	7.30-8.30 7.30pm 7.30pm	PH St M DGCL
9 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group St Peter's Tea at Three Th. & Dist. Flower Club-Demo 'Wait & See'	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30 2.30 - 5pm 7.30pm	OST MH TMH
11 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Coffee Morning Old Down B-B-Q see p 13 Elberton Church Fete at Village Farm Music in the Church at Aust OPTA -Fun & Games'	10.30-12.00 1 - 4pm 8pm 3.00-8-00pm	Tock Ch AC
12 <sup>th</sup> Sun	St Peter's Hospice Garden Party	2.30-5pm	Heneage
14 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers Royal British Legion Women -Bingo Women's Institute- Choosing & using Herbs Aust Parish Council	10.00-12.00 7.30pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR DGCL PH EVH
15 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club Summer Lunch Body Tone Exercise Class	12.00 7.30-8.30	AH PH
16 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30	Ost MH
18 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Thornbury Junior Library Coffee Morning Bristol Chamber Orchestra Concert	10.30-12.00 7.30pm	MH StM
21 <sup>st</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers	10.00-12.00	WR

22 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	Body Tone Exercise Class Olveston Parish Council	7.30-8.30 7.30pm	PH AP
23 <sup>rd</sup> Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group Th. & Dist. Flower Club- Practice Fun in the Sun	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30 7.30pm	Ost MH TMH
25 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Coffee Morning Aust Church Fete Charity Quiz -Olv Sports & Social Club	10.00-12.00 2.00pm	MH
26 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Marlwood School Car Boot Sale	9.30-1pm	
28 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Tockington Toddlers Fibromyalgia Support Group-Summer Supper Olveston Parish Council	10.00-12.00 7.00-9.00pm 7-30pm	WR AMH AP
29 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Body Tone Exercise Class	7.30-8.30	PH
30 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Baby & Toddler Group	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30	Ost MH
31 <sup>st</sup> Fri	Salmon & Strawberry Supper	7.30pm	Old Vic.

## Looking ahead to August

15 <sup>th</sup>	Music in the Church at Aust		
29-31	Old Down Country Fayre		
31 <sup>st</sup>	Cream Teas Wesley Rooms		

**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; **CCCCP** – 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; **Ost** – Olveston Stores; **OV** – Olveston Vicarage; **PH** – Olveston Parish Hall; **StM** – St Mary's Church, Olv.; **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.olvestonandaust.com](http://www.olvestonandaust.com). If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: [meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com](mailto:meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com)

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