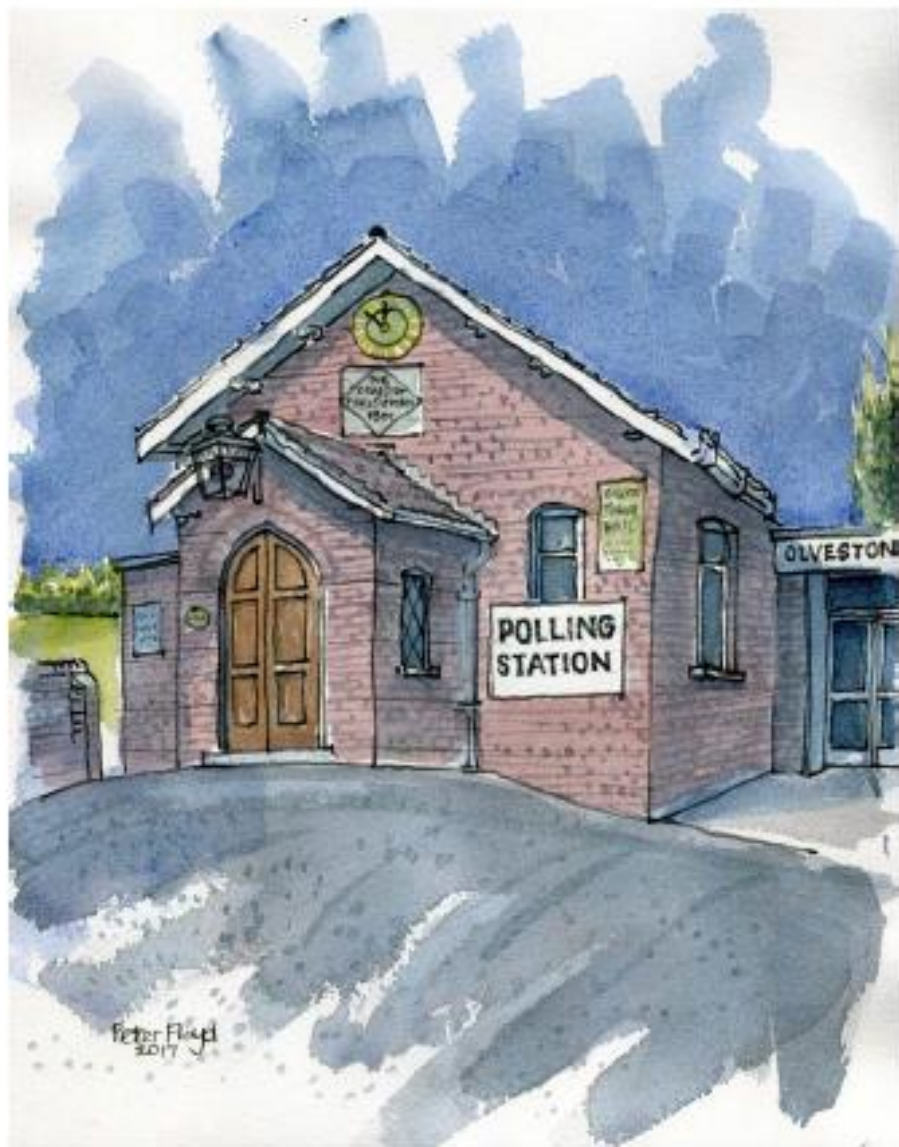
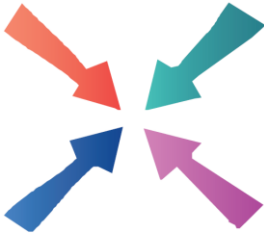


Meeting Point



June 2017



Meeting Point

Volume 41, Number 9, June 2017

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

EDITOR:

Marelin Orr-Ewing
Courtlands
Olveston
Bristol BS35 4DU
Tel: 01454 610081
*meetingpointeditor@
gmail.com*

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

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

ADVERTISING:

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

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From the Editor

I discovered, when I was covering the Editor role a couple of years ago, that things do not 'go quiet' in the summer hereabouts. In fact so many articles have been submitted for this edition that it has been hard finding space for them all.

I have had to summarise details about three different, but very interesting, local drama productions. I was also disappointed not to be able to include the beautiful poster that was sent in to advertise the Banner Festival in St Mary's, Almondsbury. This was actually more to do with my computer skills, or lack of them, so I need to make use of the Olveston Computer Clinic to learn some new techniques on my very old PC.

You will notice that two of the items this month have been submitted by younger readers, giving us accounts of the French visitors from Bréhan over the May Day weekend and the Brownie Pack Holiday back in February. Well done to them.

Marelin

The cover is by Peter Floyd

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

News from St Mary's

Trevor Cook

Ascension Day and Pentecost

Between Ascension Day, (Thursday, 25th May), and Pentecost, (Sunday, 4th June) Archbishop Welby is encouraging all Christians to take part in a global wave of prayer. To this end, St. Mary's is holding a number of events to encourage people to participate and pray during this time.



Ascension Day is a day of prayer at St Mary's, the church open from 8am until 8pm (including the Ascension Day service at 9am). If you can come along, we would love to share some prayerful moments with you. And if you can't make it then, we encourage you to simply pray at home or at work.

There will also be a prayer trail in the church from Ascension Day until Pentecost for anyone to drop in and use. This will be interactive and suitable for all ages.

At Pentecost there will be only one service in the church, at 11am, as we celebrate the church's birthday. The congregations from all the different service times will get together and people are warmly invited to stay on for a Pentecost lunch afterwards in church.

Quiet Day and walk

On Saturday 3rd June there is to be a Quiet Afternoon at Compton Greenfield from 1pm to 4pm contemplating the gifts of the spirit. In the morning, there will be a reflective walk from St Mary's to All Saint's, Compton Greenfield starting at 10am and reaching All Saint's in time for a light lunch and the Quiet afternoon. Please let Lesley Clarke know if you are interested in walking (613804).

Fête

Scheduled for the 10th June, St. Mary's will join with Olveston School to make this a happy and entertaining day for both young and old.

Quiz Night

Our next quiz night is on **June 17th**. Max 6 in a team. Tickets £5 per person, bookings in advance to Debbie Harries on her email oboe-debbie@live.co.uk

New Vicar

Consideration is being given to re-aligning the offer to create a permanent position and the post re-advertised on this new basis. Prayers required.

Champagne Ball

On **8th July** St. Mary's Champagne Ball will take place. Tickets are available now from Julia Johnstone, telephone **07966 302762**. (Apologies from me for getting the number wrong last month!)

Olveston Summer Fair - June 10th



The Olveston Summer Fair is happening on the 10th June between 2pm and 4.30pm. Stalls will be in Olveston School playground and hall and in St Marys Church and grounds. Entrance is £1 for adults and children are free.

There will be plenty to do including pancakes, cream teas, plant stall, BBQ serving hotdogs and burgers, a bar for a nice refreshing glass of Pimms, as well as lots of games and activities for the children.

The poster has been designed following a competition in Olveston School. The theme this year was their favourite book character or author. The competition was won by Jamilla Bullock.

We hope you can join us for an afternoon of fun and games.

St Peter's Hospice - Tea at 2.30

St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group would be delighted to welcome you to Tea at 2.30pm on Friday 16th June (by kind permission) at Thornbury Cricket Club at the top of Alveston Hill. Teas will be available between 2.30pm and 4.00pm. Raffle, Books, Stalls.

Entrance £2.00 to include tea, coffee and cake. Please come along and support St Peter's, your local Hospice.

Tockington girl strides ahead at the London Marathon

Joanna Walker



A huge round of spontaneous applause echoed around the hall at Tockington Manor School, when Headmaster Stephen Symonds announced that Year 8 pupil Dalis Jones came 6th in the U'13 girls London Mini Marathon just behind the GB Number 1 runner. Dalis led the pack for most of the three mile course but was overtaken by five very strong runners near to the finish line, completing the race in 17 minutes 30 seconds, a fantastic achievement just 29 seconds behind the winner who broke the course record.

Deputy Headmaster Jonathan Jones, who is also Dalis' father, said "We are immensely proud of Dalis. She has had a fantastic cross country season and this really is the icing on the cake." Dalis is the Gloucestershire League CC Champion, the Gwent League CC champion and the National CC Silver Medalist. She is also the National Prep Schools Cross Country Champion 2017.

Washingpool Hill Residents' Association.

Martin Gibson (Secretary WHRA)

Towards the end of 2016, the residents on the lower part of Washingpool Hill were becoming increasingly anxious about the volume and speed of traffic on the Hill, together with worries over what appeared to be the dangerous way in which coaches often parked outside Tockington Manor School.

The concern was so great that every one of the nine property owners on the lower part of Washingpool Hill eagerly signed up to form a properly constituted Residents' Association.

Washingpool Hill Residents' Association (WHRA) declared a mission statement: 'to ensure the safety of all users of Washingpool Hill by seeking traffic calming measures on the road in an aesthetically pleasing manner.'

Members were aware of traffic problems throughout Tockington and Olveston but it quickly became clear that Washingpool Hill was the start of a 'rat run' from the A38 to the Severn Bridge all the way through the villages. Bearing in

mind that this road is unclassified, with many blind bends and single track sections, it seemed illogical for the speed limit to be 60 mph – not just unsafe, but extremely dangerous.

The scope of WHRA's aspirations was therefore extended to include discussion about the whole traffic scene in Tockington and Olveston. Consideration was even given – and is still ongoing – to the possibility of a professional and independent study of traffic.

There are indications that the coach-parking problem outside Tockington Manor School is at least under review and might possibly be resolved in the not too distant future. In the meantime, WHRA will continue to press for action on resolving road safety.

Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the May draw, held on 4th May 2017 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	554	Mrs B Kingscott, Almondsbury
£75	602	Mrs V Brazell, Olveston
£25	378	Mr N Dawes, Olveston
£25	297	Mrs J Dickens, Aust
£25	260	Mrs P R Kerrison, Olveston
£20	592	Miss J M Davies, Olveston
£20	339	Mrs M Shurmer, Olveston
£20	290	Mrs M Griffith, Olveston
£10	449	Mr & Mrs G Chappell, Olveston
£10	179	Mrs J Davis, Olveston
£10	485	Mrs S Lyons, Ingst
£10	220	Mrs E Screen, Rudgeway
£10	380	Ms L Cottam, Newcastle
£10	212	Mr J Mason, Tockington

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

Banner Festival

St Mary's Church, Almondsbury
Friday 23rd – Sunday 25th June 9am – 8pm
Please come to view 65 beautifully homemade banners.

Monday Movies in Olveston: June

Trevor Anderson



Greetings to all readers from the Movie Club Team in Olveston. Our popular spring programme continues with two highly-rated, recently released films.

Everyone is welcome (you don't need to be a Movie Club member) and there is no need to book. Admission is free, although a donation at the end towards expenses is always welcomed and appreciated.

MONDAY MOVIES *(1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7.30pm)*

Mon 5 June: A five-year-old Indian boy gets lost on the streets of Calcutta, thousands of kilometres from home. He survives many challenges before being adopted by an Australian couple. 25 years later, armed with only a handful of memories and an unwavering determination, he sets out to find his lost family and finally return to his first home. *(2016, Cert PG)*

Mon 19 June: The true story of the forbidden love of King Seretse Khama of Botswana and Ruth Williams a white woman from London. It caused an international uproar when they decided to marry in the late 1940s just as apartheid was being introduced into South Africa. It was a decision that altered the course of African history. *(2016, Cert 12)*

CHILDREN'S MOVIE CLUB *(Mondays at 10.00am in the school hols)*

No school holidays in June, so no films. *Boo,,,)*

All the films are shown in **St Mary's Church, Olveston** and doors open 30 minutes before the start. Refreshments are available at all the shows, plus licensed bar in the evenings and popcorn and soft drinks in the mornings.



We make no charge for entry, but we do value and appreciate a small **donation** at the end towards expenses if you have enjoyed the evening.

Summer Break: MONDAY MOVIES will be having a well-earned Summer Break from **July to September**. But no worries - we will be recommencing in October. **CHILDREN'S MOVIE CLUB** will continue as usual over the summer

Local Landlord - Phil Biddle *Pat Thirkettle*

Phil Biddle, landlord of the Fox Inn, Old Down, is indeed local: born in Alveston, educated for one year at Thornbury Grammar School before moving to the brand new Marlwood Comprehensive School for the rest of his education. After school he worked at the Cranbrook TV shop in Thornbury High Street, which more recently housed Hard Pressed for Time; incidentally, as they have moved to St Mary's Precinct, the old Cranbrook sign is now back in evidence.



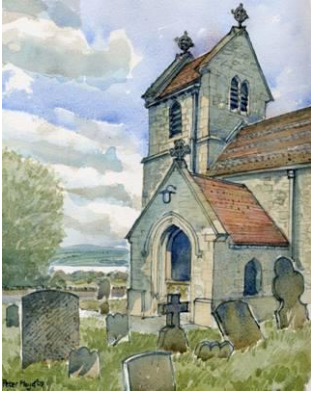
After twelve years he decided to travel the world, from Australia and New Zealand via the Cook Islands to Mexico and the United States. This took nearly two years and of the seven who started out on the trip, Phil and a friend were the last to come back. Back home he stayed with his brother in Thornbury and met his future wife Lynn, a near neighbour. They married in 2007 and Phil became father to Lynn's three children, and he has just become a grandfather.

Various jobs followed until in 1999 they decided to buy a pub, so Phil spent a year at the White Hart, Littleton learning the ropes. In 2000, the Fox came up for sale and seventeen years later business is booming. It was a bit of a financial struggle at first; they had to extend the dining room and add a family room and new toilets. The kitchen had a much needed refurbishment and today is home to three full time chefs. Later the interior was redecorated and refurnished and he now employs fifteen people locally.

It is a Freehouse, an increasing rarity these days, which offers the chance for Phil to serve whatever he likes. It is mostly a drink orientated pub with a wide variety of local beers, yet today food accounts for fifty percent of the turnover compared with ten percent originally. Most of the beers and food are sourced locally.

Phil and Lynn divide their time between living upstairs and their duplex in Portishead Marina. Their daughter Jessica runs the bar and other members of the family have helped in the past and may again, so Phil no longer needs to be hands on full time. Life is good; the family Biddle have no intention of moving on, and look forward to welcoming you at the Fox.

Littleton Open Gardens



Littleton-upon-Severn

Sunday 18th June 2017 2pm – 6pm

Come and visit our Open Gardens at Littleton upon Severn from 2pm until 6pm on Sunday 18th June. Various gardens will be open and there will be lots of easy free parking. In addition there will be a number of stalls where you can buy foods 'Made in Littleton', plants, and have a go at a Raffle. Traditional Village teas will be available in the Village Hall and our Church, St Mary de Malmesbury, will be open.

Entrance will be £4 (children free) with all proceeds going towards essential repair work to the Church and the Village Hall.

Make a note in your diary and join us for a lovely summer family day out

OLVESTON PARISH TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Visitors from Bréhan!

Anna Shrimpton (age 10)

On Saturday 29th April 37 people, including 10 children, who live in Bréhan in Brittany (twinned with Olveston) came over to stay at some of our houses for the weekend! They all came off the coach at our school and there were welcome speeches, drinks and a tour of the whole school for the children. The families then departed to their hosts' houses and spent most of the day there or visiting local places. Our guests were the people whose house we stayed at in Brittany last year. In the evening, the Seevaratnam family came to our house with their French family to have dinner and then we all went to the White Hart to play skittles. Both the French and the English children loved it. Some of the other families and guests from OPTA were there too.

The next day we got up very early to go to Bowood House and Gardens. All the French people, including some English, went on the coach and the others followed in their cars. It took a while to get there but it was worth it because Bowood was so much fun. There was a vertical death slide, high ropes,

trampolines, a soft play and even somewhere to have our lovely picnic. Some adults visited the historic house too. On the way home, we also went to Lacock and saw some of the houses where Harry Potter was filmed.



Later on everyone went to the Parish Hall for some dinner and dancing! We also had music from a ukulele band. The dinner was a huge feast with lots of different foods and the children all got an Easter egg! It got very late but me and Emily were still slowly eating the remains of the potato salad. Mmmm. Soon we went home but a lot of people stayed very late!

The next morning we went back to the Parish Hall to wave our guests goodbye. Then we all went home very tired but very happy! We look forward to seeing everyone again next year when we go over!

Old Down Cricket Club

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

150 Club Winners May 2017:

£50 Ian Maunder
£15 Diane Grosvenor
£5 Mike Rowen

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

15/04/17 Paddy Gardner
22/04/17 Helen Barnett
23/04/17 Russell Knight
04/05/17 Neil Cross

Fixtures at The Park June 2017 (1.30pm Start)

03/06/17 1st XI v Bitton
10/06/17 2nd XI v Bradley Stoke
17/06/17 1st XI v Hanham
24/06/17 2nd XI v Midsomer Norton

Up the Down!!

Litter Pick

The next litter pick will be at 1pm on Saturday 3 June, starting at the Parish Hall car park. Please join us if you can.

1st Olveston Brownie Pack Holiday

Beth, Eleanor, Josie, Anna, Emily and Skye

On the evening of Friday 3rd February we caught an epic train from Chepstow to Birmingham New Street. A kind lady moved her seat so we could all sit together. We were divided into two groups – Mini Eggs and Chocolate buttons - and all the leaders were given chocolate bar names. Once we arrived at Birmingham we walked to Trefoil house, where we were staying and Nicole was there to meet us with all our luggage. We were soon ready for bed and the Brownies all slept together in one room.

On Saturday we got up and had breakfast and then walked through the Bull Ring to Think Tank Science Museum where we spent most of the day. First we played in the science garden with different machines and water games. Skye's coat fell in the water and got soaked! We also went to see Chitty Chitty Bang Bang which was in a special exhibition upstairs and spent a long time in the Kid's city gallery where we pretended to work in a doctor's surgery and weighed a real baby.

After a long walk back to Trefoil house we were ready for tea which was yummy pasta and sauce followed by 'create your own pudding' with angel delight, fruit, marshmallows and cake. We then made friendship bracelets and had our hair brushed and plaited.

On Sunday we packed up and caught the train to Cadbury World, where we learnt lots of things about chocolate. We had cups of melted chocolate with toppings of our choice, went on a train through a chocolate wonderland and saw a 4D chocolate movie!! We had a bit of a rush to catch our train at the end but soon we were safely on our way home.

Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church

A big thank you to everyone who came and supported our 'Cream Teas at Tockington' on Easter Monday. We raised £601.72 for the Christian Aid East Africa Crisis Appeal.

From the Registers of St Mary's, Olveston

May 7th

Baptism of Florence Joanna Thurston daughter of Nicholas and Charlotte Thurston.

Thank You

Grace Roberts and family would like to thank everyone for all the cards, gifts and kind words of support you have given us after the passing of Ray. We were so overwhelmed by the number of friends and family who joined us at Aust Church for the celebration of Ray's life and managed to join us for a chat at the White Hart. Comforting to know he had so many friends.

Thank you so much for the kind donations which raised almost £300 for Dementia UK and British Heart Foundation.

1st Olveston Brownies need your help

Jane Sawyer , Maggie Spooner and the Brownie Team.

1st Olveston Brownies are fundraising by recycling clothes, shoes and bed linen. We are aiming to fill a large shed full of recycling by July, and hoping to divert textiles from entering landfill sites.

We would be most grateful for donations of your old, worn out, damaged or unwanted clothes, uniforms, baby clothes, coats, wellies, old handbags, hats, old swimwear, shoes, boots and belts. Sheets, towels, and duvet covers, but NOT duvets, cushions or pillows.

Place donations in bin liners or plastic bags, sealed, and bring to Brownies, pass to a Brownie member or leave in the courtyard of The Wesley Rooms in Tockington, opposite the Swan Inn. Alternatively email jane@prologue.co.uk if you would like it collected!

So - have a spring clean and help us fundraise! Many thanks for your support.

Thank You

Janet Rawles

I would like to say a very sincere thank you to all those who sent me get well cards and good wishes during my recent illness. They are very much appreciated. Thank you.

Vegetable Matter

Chris Bolton

Marelin knows I have an allotment in Olveston and she asked if from time to time I would contribute some reflections for Meeting Point readers on matters vegetable, as it were. Since she kindly agreed to take over as Editor from me, I was hardly in a position to refuse, was I? On the other hand, she probably didn't realise what an amateur she was approaching.

So I'm not well placed to offer expert ideas or observations of my own. However, I do of course have many expert neighbours on the allotments, so my thinking is that I will use it as an opportunity to chat with some of them and see if, at the same time as getting some tips for myself, I can garner something interesting to write about.

This month I talked to my immediate neighbour Jerry Harding, who really is an expert, with a passion for organic cultivation of vegetables and a deep knowledge derived from professional experience. I noticed that he was planting some seeds in a separate little bed, so I asked him what they were. Turned out they were brassicas for transplanting later on. What I found interesting was his explanation of their destination.

Elsewhere in the plot, Jerry showed me his broad bean plants, springing up enthusiastically like everybody else's. He explained to me that the half-moon shapes that were being removed from their leaf edges (and even more extensively from mine!) are due to the ravages of weevils, but that they were not going to cause any serious problem for the bean plants.



However, unlike my beans, his are planted in double rows, each with plants in two parallel lines a few inches apart. The reason for this is that when the beans are finished and the foliage has been removed, Jerry will leave the roots to rot in the ground, and transplant his infant brassicas into the corridor between the two lines where the broad beans had been.

Evidently, in his experience the bean roots will have fixed enough nitrogen to benefit the brassicas. So I will watch those plants with great interest. Only trouble is, watching the plants on Jerry's plot always makes me feel very inferior!

Caretaker Needed

Can you help Olveston School? We are looking for a part time caretaker to contribute towards the security and day-to-day upkeep of the school premises, including cleaning, minor repairs and maintenance. For further details please contact Nicola Hemming, 01454 613299. *The school is committed to safeguarding and all appointments are subject to appropriate vetting, including an enhanced DBS check.*

Haven Memory Café

Memory Cafés are a fast-expanding resource for the benefit of people with dementia and their carers. Haven Memory Café will be opening this month in Thornbury United Reformed Church, Chapel Street, to complement the existing Memory Café in Thornbury Methodist Church. Its launch will be in the URC on Friday 23rd June from 10.15 – 11.45am, then opening fortnightly in the URC on the first and third Friday mornings in the month from 7th July, alternating with the one on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the Methodist Church.

On 23rd June there will be a short introductory session explaining what we plan to offer. The Mayor of Thornbury, who represents the Town Council on the steering group, will perform the Official Opening on Friday 7th July. A leaflet with further information will be available in local churches, the Town Hall and other information points. If you are caring for someone with memory problems, dementia or Alzheimer's, both of you will be very welcome to come along.



Olveston Methodist Hall
Monday 2pm to 4pm, Wednesday 10am-12pm, Friday* 7pm-9pm

We are celebrating three years of service to the community. I would again like to thank Olveston & Tockington Methodists, Olveston Parish Council, our stalwart volunteers and you the visitors and users. We would like to keep helping you so we need more visitors and more volunteers.

We are a very relaxed group and each session is generally led by the issues or questions you raise at the time. Have you ever wanted to know how to do something particular or thought there must be an easier way to perform a task on your computer or tablet? We have helped people capture music from old LPs, fixed virus infections, helped people create a letter, create and write their own blog, connect with old friends abroad, update their SatNav - to name but a few.

So why not come along and bring the trickiest problem you can muster especially on a Friday night! * The subject focus for Friday Sessions in June will be Facebook and general e-safety.

For more information contact Adrian Baxter on 01454 617108 (work number)

“Curious Works & Stately Lodgings” - The Art of Thornbury Castle

A NEW exhibition at Thornbury & District Museum, Chapel Street



Part of a heraldic design created for Thornbury Castle in 1854

A Grand Design

In about 1507, one of the highest ranking and richest men in the country began altering his manor house at Thornbury in order to create a fortified, palatial residence. Edward Stafford, Third Duke of Buckingham, already owned eleven castles and thousands of acres of land spread out around England and Wales but decided to build Thornbury Castle as his power base. It was strategically placed to give him good access to most of his properties, while still allowing him to attend the King's Court in London when required.

Although the defensive parts of the castle seemed to hark back to medieval times, the new residential accommodation incorporated many features of the latest style, taking inspiration from the recently erected Richmond Palace, built by Henry VII.

Downfall

Buckingham did not live to complete the works. Perceived by Henry VIII as a threat to the throne, the duke was tried for treason and everything he owned was taken by the Crown. The scroll pictured above, which reads “Nat: 1477. Decap: 1521”, spells out his fate. Born (Latin: *Natus*) in 1477, he was beheaded (Latin: *Decapitatus*) in 1521.

Aftermath

King Henry granted many of the estates to his own followers but he held on to Thornbury Castle, perhaps because of the quality of the impressive building, with its beautiful gardens and three nearby hunting parks. The king’s surveyors had reported that, ‘*The south side is fully finished with curious works and stately lodgings*’ – here the word ‘curious’ meant skilfully made or rare. We have chosen this phrase for the name of our exhibition.

Princess Mary (later Mary I) stayed at the castle for about eighteen days in 1525, attended by a huge entourage of two to three hundred advisers and servants. Similarly King Henry VIII stopped at the castle twice on royal progress. The first time, in 1535, he was also accompanied by Queen Anne Boleyn and his first minister Thomas Cromwell. In 1554 Mary I returned the castle to the Staffords, but they could not afford to maintain it.

It is thought that they removed and sold roof tiles, lead, window glass and many structural timbers to raise money to repair Stafford Castle. Much of the remaining structure of Thornbury Castle then slowly fell into ruin, although a section near the inner gateway was kept habitable for the steward. In the 1850s the castle was restored by the Howard family.

The legacy of Buckingham’s ‘Grand Design’ survived him. Thornbury Castle is described as one of the finest examples of Tudor domestic architecture in the country.

Our new exhibition

The exhibition looks at some of the finer points of the building’s architecture and how this magnificent residence was adorned in Tudor times. Did aspects of Buckingham’s lifestyle and the running of his great household contribute to his downfall? It comments on the mid-19th century restoration and shows how Thornbury Castle has been represented in art and photography over the centuries.

Free entry to this exhibition and to the rest of our local museum, run entirely by volunteers. Open to all: Tues to Fri 1 - 4pm, Sat 10am – 4pm.

Tel: 01454 857774 email: enquiries@thornburymuseum.co.uk
www.thornburymuseum.org.uk

Thornbury Open Gardens

Sunday 2nd July, 3pm onwards.

Don't miss the chance to visit a series of five lovely gardens in Thornbury - centred on the award-winning garden at Pound Cottage, Church Road opposite St Mary's Church. Relax as you wander from one garden to another with a cold drink or a glass of wine if you like, for the all-inclusive fee of £5. Just turn up at the gate from 3pm onwards for a perfect Summer treat! All proceeds will go to the Armstrong Hall Redevelopment Project (Phase 1).

June puzzle

Jan Winter

Can you fill in this square using each of the digits 1 to 9 once each? This will make three calculations going across the three rows and one more in the final column.

$$\square - \square = \square$$

×

$$\square \div \square = \square$$

=

$$\square + \square = \square$$

Solution to May's puzzle

Take one coin from the first pile, two from the second, three from the third and so on up to ten from the tenth pile. You know how much this would weigh if all the coins were genuine. Since a forged coin weighs one gram more than a real one the weight of the collection will show which pile was forged – for example if the coins weigh 5 grams too much the forged coins were the ones in the fifth pile.

Aust Parish Council Matters

Tim Pyper (austparishcouncil@googlemail.com)

Aust Parish Council Annual Meeting

The annual meeting took place on Tuesday April 11th at Elberton Village Hall.

Katie Scaife, of the Forgotten Landscape Team, gave us an interesting talk about the programme. The project is a study to increase knowledge about our part of the Severn Valley below the 10m contour line from Avonmouth to Berkeley. Projects so far include the registration and survey of old orchards, surveys of the great crested newt and water vole populations, and taking of oral histories. There have also been training and educational events throughout the area.

Plans include proposals, subject to the necessary permissions, to make a 'feature' of the former Aust Ferry Ticket Office, for a Victorian styled bench to be placed at/near Littleton Pill or on Littleton Green, and three toposcopes, probably at Woodwell Meadows, Whale Wharf and Littleton Green. Another plan is to create a circular walk between the two Severn Crossings. They would like to found a community orchard and are looking for a site that could accommodate six to eight trees

The Council also presented its report for the year and we received a report from Councillor Riddle about the progress made by South Gloucestershire Council. Full copies are available on the village website, so I won't repeat them here; but if anyone would like a copy, please let me know.

Aust Parish Council has a new Chairman

Mike Hawkins, having served as chairman for 10 years, has decided to retire from that role – although he will continue as a Councillor. At the Council meeting on 9th May, the Council noted his valuable contributions – of which more will be in Meeting Point next month. The Council elected Catherine Collinson as the new chairman and Steve Meredith as vice chairman. More information on these changes next month.

Parish Matters



Richard Rogers (clerk@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The April Meeting of Oveston Parish Council welcomed two new members - Catherine Offer and Martin Gibson, both of whom have lived in Tockington for many years. There is still one vacancy, and the Parish Council would like to hear from anyone interested in applying (particularly those from Old Down, whose residents are currently not well represented).

Thank you to all those 73 parishioners who attended the Annual Parish Assembly held on 2nd May 2017. Amanda Deeks, Chief Executive of South Glos Council opened the evening with a presentation on the reasons for having a Metro Mayor, and why parishioners should exercise their vote on May 4th. Richard Lloyd then updated the meeting about walks around the Parish and guidance Map Boards. The meeting also reviewed the Parish Accounts, and heard from Parish Councillors of the achievements in the last year and the plans for the forthcoming 12 months. The meeting built on some of the core themes from the Parish Vision and the Oveston Parish Steering Group, discussing Housing, Communications and above all Traffic & Parking. Further details of the meeting can be found on the Parish Council website in the 'Annual Parish Assembly 2017' folder.

Oveston Parish Council has now arranged its own Contractor to keep Tockington Green trimmed instead of South Glos Council, and would welcome any feedback regarding this change. ROSPA Playsafety have completed the Annual safety check on the three play areas (look for reports soon on the parish website). The Old Down play area has been cleared for another year, although further and terminal decline is indicated. The Parish Council undertakes regular safety checks, but would welcome feedback from any users who find damage or safety hazards.

The Parish Council would like to thank Sally Worster for taking over responsibility of the Tockington Tardis from Claire Ackland. The Tardis is used for book swapping, and more importantly as a collection point for non-perishable foods donations to the local food bank. A list of required items is regularly kept updated in the Tardis, for anyone wishing to donate.

Dog Fouling is always a problem and needs to be reported to the South Glos Dog Warden (01454 868000). If you walk a dog, even one belonging to

someone else, you are responsible for clearing up after it. Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act of 1996, anybody who lets their dog foul land open to public access and does not clear up afterwards can be given a fixed penalty notice. If you get such a notice, you have to pay a £50 fine within 14 days. Otherwise, you could be prosecuted and might be fined up to £1,000. It can also be an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to allow large amounts of dog faeces to build up in your garden. It is no longer necessary to separate dog waste from other types of household waste - but the absence of a dog waste bin or litter bin is not an excuse to leave your dog's waste behind, please take it home.

Dramatic Productions

This edition of Meeting Point is so full that there is not space to give full coverage to the dramatic productions that are on offer this June in Thornbury and Itchington. Here are some basic details, plus important contact information, if you are interested in attending any of these performances.

Funny Money

Octopus present this very funny farce by Ray Cooney from Wednesday 7th June to Saturday 10th June at Christ the King Church Hall (Porch House), Castle Street, Thornbury. Tickets are available priced £7, and £6 for concessions, from Chappell and Matthews on the High Street or Karen on 413783, or you can order them on-line from www.octopus-thornbury.co.uk.

Under Milk Wood

The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School has included Thornbury in its West Country tour of Dylan Thomas' 'Under Milk Wood' on Saturday 17th June 2017 at 7.30pm in the Armstrong Hall. The performance is part of a series of events to raise funds for the Armstrong Hall Redevelopment Project (Phase 1). Tickets £14 (under 18s £10) can be obtained from Thornbury Town Hall or by phoning 01454 412272.

The Merry Wives of Windsor

The Festival Players bring Shakespeare's The Merry Wives of Windsor to Gate Farmhouse, Itchington, BS35 3TA on Sunday 18th June 2.30pm. Gates open at 12 noon for picnics; bring your own low backed chairs and rugs. Adults £15, Under 15s £9.50. from www.crbo.co.uk/merrywives or 01454 413318. In aid of Combat Stress (www.combatstress.org.uk)

Swifts

Trevor Cook

I was encouraged to write more about birds because the magazine can now offer full colour photographs, so it will be disappointment for some that I write about a little brown bird

However, I make no apologies because I love to see and hear the Swifts and as I write, in early May, I am waiting daily for their arrival. For me the Swift is the stunt flyer of the bird world, cutting through the air like small new moons.



Arriving at the beginning of May they are easily recognisable as a dark brown bird apart from a pale white chin (but look all black in the sky). However from a distance, it is the crescent shape that will immediately tell you it's a Swift.

You will not see them perching for they never land except to build a nest and raise their young. It is said of the juveniles that once they fledge it will be two years before they touch land again.

Actually they will never touch the ground, except by accident, because they are unable to take off from the ground!

The best place that I know to see them is at their roost in the Old School Hall in Olveston and they can be seen there throughout the summer, diving into or launching themselves out from under the eaves. They are particularly noticeable after the young are born and fledged when the young ones tear after the adults literally screaming for food. For me it is one of the most evocative sounds of high summer

By the end of July and into August the show is over and the birds set off back to Africa where we hope that as many will survive to brighten up our summer skies next year.



Memorial Service for Roger Ford



A Memorial Service for Roger Ford was held on Saturday 13th May in St John's Church, Aust.

Yours Faithfully

Paul Harrod

St. Mary's Church, Olveston

One of my favourite sections of the Bible takes place after Jesus' death and resurrection. It is an account of when the disciples were starting to spread the message of Jesus - and were facing strong opposition.

The Pharisees are discussing how to stop these Christians. Their response will be violent, and some are suggesting having the disciples executed. But then one of their number, a man called Gamaliel, says a very surprising, but incredibly insightful thing. He tells them not to even bother trying to stop the Christians. Why is that?

"If their purpose is of human origin, it will surely fail. But if it is from God, you will never be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves resisting God." (Acts 5: 38-39)

Whether you believe in God or not, it is an historical fact that the Christian church has grown from a handful of frightened, uneducated fishermen and tax collectors, to a global movement of over 2 billion people that has lasted two millennia. There are more Christians alive today than at any other time in history.

On June 4th all the local churches will celebrate Pentecost - which was when the disciples and their earliest followers received the gift of the Holy Spirit. It was actually a brief moment of respite before the persecution and attacks from secular and religious authorities continued.

We are amazingly fortunate to have the freedom to attend worship - or not to. Many of you might strongly object to what I am writing, but I will not go to prison for doing so, or fear for my life. Yet of the 2 billion plus Christians across the globe, hundreds of millions in large parts of Asia, Africa and the Middle East are suffering active and persistent persecution.

In a rural area, many of our churches have small congregations. It is easy to lose sight of the fact that we are part of a growing, global Church. So, this Pentecost, may I encourage you to remember your fellow believers across the world who are suffering - and also to be thankful that we live in such a wonderful part of the world and have a freedom denied to so many others.

If you are not a regular part of a church, then I can assure you that you'll get a warm welcome at each and every church in Severnside! Maybe you could come along and ponder those words of Gamaliel, and decide for yourself what it is, or WHO it is, that sustains the global Church?

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Jun 4	8am 11am 6pm	No Service Morning Worship No Service	Rev Ann Lloyd
Jun 11	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion(BCP) Morning Worship with Choir Severnside Songs of Praise at St Helens Alveston	Rev Helen Webb Mr Trevor Cook Rev David Alderman
Jun 18	8am 10am 3.45 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion with Choir Back to Front Evensong	Rev Ann Lloyd Rev Philip Rowe Paul Harrod Mr Trevor Cook
Jun 25	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Fourth Sunday Evensong(BCP) with Choir	Rev Ann Lloyd Mrs Janet McBride Rev Philip Rowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

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

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 except 4th Weds when it is at Olveston Methodist Church

Morning Prayer 8.30am daily excl. Wed

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Jun 25	10am	Holy Communion	Rev. Ann Parker
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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

Jun 4	9am	Morning Prayer	Mrs Tracey Black
Jun 18	9am	Holy Communion	Rev James Harris

Contact Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Jun 11	9am	Matins	TBA
Jun 25	9am	Holy Communion	TBA

Contact Mrs Tracey Black 01454 417660

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Jun 4	10am	Tock. Ch..	Morning Worship led by Mr Trevor Cook
Jun 11	10am 6pm	Olv. Ch. St Helens./ Vic. garden	Morning Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney Severnside Songs of Praise led by Rev David Alderman with Thornbury Town Band
Jun18	10am	Tock. Ch	Morning Worship led by Mr Niall Briggs
Jun 25	10am	Olv Ch.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Pete Brazier

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wed. 14th June.
To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP meets at 12.15pm at the Swan Tockington on Thurs 15th June. To book please ring 613241

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

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

BIBLE STUDY Thurs 8th June 10.30 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 01957 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

Jun 4	6.30pm	Ed Stuart
Jun 11	6.30pm	Phil Moulden
Jun 18	6.30pm	Terry Wood
Jun 25	6.30pm	Alan Tarling

Each Thurs at 7.30pm Prayer & Praise Time

For further information please contact Jenny Parfitt jennyparfitt@gmail.com

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 rog3er2@gmail.com 01454 415035

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

Diary Dates for June 2017

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

1 st Thu	Thornbury Farmers Market Coffee Shop	9.00-1.30pm 10.00-12.00	OS+
2 nd Fri	Thornbury Carers Support Group Computer Clinic every week 'A Night at the Movies'	1.00-3pm 7.00-9pm 7.30pm	Chy MH AH
3 rd Sat	Coffee Morning 'A Night at the Movies'	10.30-12.00 7.30pm	MH AH
4 th Sun			
5 th Mon	Computer Clinic every week Monday Movie	2.00-4pm 7.30pm	MH StM
6 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning R.B.L.(Women) Meal (TBA)	10.30-12.00	DGCL
7 th Wed	Computer Clinic every week Table Tennis	10.00-12.00 7.00-8.30pm	MH PH
8 th Thu	Election Day Coffee Shop Olveston Playgroup	9.00-12.00 9.30-11.30	OS+ MH
9 th Fri			
10 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning Village Fete Church & School	10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00 2pm	AVH MH
11 th Sun	Sevenside Songs of Praise at St Helen's Alveston with Th. Town Band	6pm	
12 th Mon			
13 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café W.I. Aust Parish Council	10.30-12.00 10.15-11.45 7.30pm 7.30pm	DGCL TMH PH EVH
14 th Wed	Table Tennis	7.00-8.30pm	PH
15 th Thu	Thornbury Farmers Market Olveston Playgroup Coffee Shop	9.00-1.30pm 9.30-11.30 9.00-12.00	MH OS+
16 th Fri			
17 th Sat	Coffee Morning Burger Quiz	10.30-12.00 7.30pm	MH StM
18 th Sun	Littleton-on-Severn Open Gardens		
19 th Mon			

20 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00	DGCL
21 st Wed	Table Tennis Jazz at the White Hart Olveston	7.-8.30pm 8.30pm	PH
22 nd Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Playgroup	9.00-12.00 9.30-11.30	OS+ MH
23 rd Fri			
24 th Sat	Coffee Morning at Olv Methodist Hall	10.30-12.00	
25 th Sun	Aust Quiz Night at Boar's Head	7.30pm	
26 th Mon			
27 th Tue	Friends of Daldry Gardens Coffee Morning Memory Café Olveston Parish Council	10.30-12.00 10.30-11.45 7.30pm	DGCL TMH AP
28 th Wed	Beat Surgery Table Tennis	10.30-11.15 7.00-8.30pm	OS+ PH
29 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Playgroup	9.00-12.00 9.30-11.30	OS+ MH
30 th Fri			
Looking ahead to July			
1st	Thornbury Carnival		

KEY: AC Aust Church; AH – Armstrong Hall; AMC – Alv Meth. Ch.; AMH- Alv Meth. 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.Meth.Hall; OMC Olv Meth Ch OS – Olv. School; OS+ – Olv. Stores; OSH Old Sch. Hall Alm; PH – Olv Parish Hall; StM – St Mary's Church, Olv.; StMA Almondsbury Church StMTSt Mary's Thorn TCh Tock Chapel; TBCh - Thornbury Baptist Church; TMH – Thorn. Methodist Hall; ; WR – Wesley Rooms. URC United Reform Ch Th

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

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