



Meeting Point

Volume 36, Number 6, March 2012

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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From the Editor

TGI March! To blow away any cobwebs we start this month's magazine on a nautical note. Celebrate longer days with an early spring walk. In the Meeting Point area, you may take part in Lenten activities throughout the neighbourhood. Details of Services and Church contact numbers are at the end of the magazine.

Don't miss (among other things) *Me and My Girl*, a wine tasting, food events, a flower show, and a swimarathon to keep that extra weight in check. The clocks go forward on 26th of the month and there's a 'summertime' lunch to mark the day.

Diamond Jubilee events in June are beginning to take shape. They are unveiled inside the magazine. Please read on ...

Our cover this month is a watercolour by John Crossley from his book *Olveston Past and Present*

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.olvestonandaust.com

A life on the ocean wave (Part one)

Peter Grindal - village person *Pat Thirkettle*

Peter Grindal had a country childhood in Warwickshire, but leaving school at eighteen was the beginning of a life at sea. He joined the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth in 1961, studying there for a year, followed by working and living as a junior rating in the frigate of the Dartmouth Training Squadron during a three-month cruise to the West Indies, before joining the Fleet as a Midshipman.

His first ship was the commando carrier *Albion*, an aircraft carrier converted to carry helicopters, landing craft and Royal Marines for amphibious operations, and she took him to the Far East where he was involved in putting down the December 1962 rebellion in Brunei, a British protectorate in Borneo. He spent Christmas Day in his landing craft launching a raid by Ghurkhas on a village believed to be sheltering rebels. The remaining six months of his Fleet training were in a minesweeper support ship, *Woodbridge Haven*, returning to Brunei to support shore operations in a commandeered motor-yacht, hunting pirates off north Borneo, and visiting Hong Kong.

Having been promoted to Acting Sub-Lieutenant, he continued his training with a year of academics (and hockey, cricket and sailing) back at Dartmouth, and then, as a Seaman Officer, with another year of short courses in navigation, engineering, aviation, etc. His training finished at last, he was appointed in 1965 as Navigating Officer of the minesweeper *Ashton* based at Malta, during which time he was promoted to Lieutenant. That was followed in 1966 by two years as Gunnery Officer in the old frigate *Relentless*, a year of which was spent east of Suez including six months on the Beira Patrol, a UN attempt to preventing oil from reaching Rhodesia after Ian Smith's declaration of independence.

He came home to his first command, the 50-knot fast patrol boat *Brave Swordsman*, based at Portsmouth, and operating in Home and Scandinavian waters - usually as "the enemy" in exercises, but also on fishery protection, and as safety craft on the 1969 Round Britain Powerboat Race.

Dragged ashore again, he specialised in Gunnery on a year-long course at HMS *Excellent*, Whale Island, Portsmouth, and then, after six months of training Sub-Lieutenants, he went back to sea as Second Gunnery Officer of the new guided-missile destroyer *Norfolk*, largely engaged in exercises and weapons trials in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean. He was also the

training officer for the ship's Sub-Lieutenants, one of whom was the young Prince of Wales.

He was then appointed to the small anti-submarine frigate *Dundas* as First Lieutenant (second in command), initially enduring a refit at Gibraltar, and then running anti-submarine training in Home waters. He was promoted to Lieutenant-Commander in 1974, and after a six-month Staff Course at the Naval College at Greenwich, and a brief period as Gunnery Officer of the Amphibious Landing Ship *Intrepid*, he became Gunnery Officer of HMS *Sheffield*. She was the first guided-missile destroyer of her class, and spent much of the time on trials which, happily, included Hot-Weather Trials in the Caribbean. Sadly, *Sheffield* now lies at the bottom of the South Atlantic, sunk during the Falklands War, but that was nothing to do with Peter!

An Early Spring Walk (about 1.5 hours)

Rod Williams

Start at the Swan Inn, Tockington. Walk down the road for about 300 yards. On the bend, take the driveway to East Barn cottage (Public Footpath sign). At the gate/stile, cross into the field and follow the grassy vehicle track towards the right hand white and red pole. Enter the next field and continue up the track with a farm over to your right. Look back to take in the view.

Enter the next field and continue up hill on grass with a tall hedge on your right. Enter a narrow path with a low stone wall on your right and proceed through the scout camp-site until you reach the A38 road. Turn left and follow the pavement for about 300 yards until you reach Abbotts' Way House. Turn sharp left and go through a gateway and down a gravel track. Turn right at the entrance to two cottages and follow the path that is outside the right-hand edge of the field. At a rickety stile, pause to take in the vista.

Cross to the left side of a pond and cross a stile. Walk down the left side of the field and 20 yards past the white and red pole, turn right and follow the ditch on your right to the next hedge. Turn left with a hedge on your left and walk 50 yards down to the corner of the field, turn right and follow a hedge on your left for 100 yards to a gap. Turn left and follow the vehicle track down to a stream. Turn left on to a stony track and follow the stream on your right with a wood on your left.

After 300 yards, cross the stream, turn left and follow the left edge of the field towards civilisation again (well, Manor Park). At the kissing gate, enter Tockington Manor playing fields and keep left. At the road, turn left to return to the start.

St Mary's Events

Book launch

On **Saturday, March 3rd, at St Mary's church, at 6.30pm**, there will be a launch of a new book of paintings of Olveston and the surrounding area: *Olveston Past and Present*. The illustrations are all watercolours by John Crossley, and there are 53 of them, while the accompanying script by Eric Garrett contains many interesting facts about the history of Olveston, Tockington, Aust and Oldbury. Nibbles will be provided and there will be a paying bar. The launch price of the book is £15 - thereafter it will be more expensive! Copies of John's *Buttonhole Book*, costing £10, will also be available for those who haven't yet bought one, as well as Eric's *History of Olveston School*, costing £8.

It is with great sadness that we have to announce that John Crossley died on 18 February, after the March edition of Meeting Point, with one of the watercolours from his new book on the cover, went to press. The book launch on Sat. 3 March will not now take place. Members of the Meeting Point committee extend their warmest wishes and sympathy to the family and friends of John, a greatly loved member of our community and one whose mischievous sense of humour and fun will remain vividly in the memory.

Lent films

Lent has only just begun so there is still time to join a Lent Group, and there are plenty of opportunities to watch the Lent films, which are on **Tuesdays at 7.30pm in church**. For copyright reasons, we can't tell you the titles, but you can get a leaflet from church or join the Movie Club mailing list (trevoranderson@btinternet.com).

Charity Supper

On **March 10th at 7.30pm**, St Mary's are having another charity supper, this time in aid of the Fisch charity that raises money to help the street children of Iringa in Tanzania. Fish pie will be served and there will be a presentation from the charity. There will also be a paying bar. On this occasion tickets are £5 to cover costs, and there will be a collection for the charity.

Following our last charity supper, we have decided to support Bristol NW Foodbank, a local Christian charity though part of a national organisation, who

provide food for people who have been recommended by statutory organisations. There are boxes at the back of the church which may be filled - they will be collected regularly. There is also a recommended shopping list, credit card size that you can fit into your purse or wallet. Members of the congregation are being encouraged to bring an item each week - it's a good habit to get into! - but do bring as much as you like as often as you like. They and we will be truly grateful.

Parish Players

present

“Me & My Girl”

March 21 - 24 Olveston Parish Hall @ 7.30 pm

Leading Lady Sally Smith is played by Amy SUNDERLAND making her Debut in a major role. She is partnered by Mark Collins in the iconic role of Bill Snibson

Main songs:

*Me & My Girl, Leaning on a Lamppost, Lambeth Walk,
The Sun Has Got his Hat On*

Box Office: John & Judy Jones 01454 613482

Fun Run!

Nicky Browne

The Olveston School Fun run has been revived and is taking place on Sunday 29 April 2012. There are two races, a 1km race in school grounds for younger children and a 5k race around footpaths and bridleways from the school for all ages. The races start at 10.00 am and there will be refreshments available. Entry forms are available from Olveston school or from me.

We are raising money for ARBAN UK who are setting up a health centre in Jheelpur Slum in Bangladesh: www.arban.org.uk

We would also be very grateful for volunteers to help marshal the route. If you can help please contact Esther McLaughlin on 07837 234 949 or Nicky Browne, 07769 171 772; email nicky_rangetiki@yahoo.co.uk

Aust Parish Council matters *Tim Pyper*

austparishcouncil@googlemail.com
tel: 07802 419451

Aust Parish Council has several important current planning matters. One positive one is the proposal by South Gloucestershire Council to create a new facility at Harnhill Quarry landfill site. The proposal is for a set-up to process the waste water from the vehicles that clean road drains. It will clean the water, save the Council a lot of money (as they currently take the vehicles to Wiltshire to empty) and produce harmless compost. Plans have been submitted under number PT11/4009/R3F. The decision may have been made by the time this edition of Meeting Point is published.

The former illegal travellers' site at Greenacres, Aust, is a long running saga, which the Parish Council has been fighting for years: the council fought and won three planning appeals over several years to prevent its continued use as a travellers' site. Permission was then given by South Gloucestershire Council for it to be restored with inert waste to agricultural land, with the hard standing (for caravans) removed. The restoration was supposed to be completed by 21 December 2011, but the owners stopped the contractors' work because they want to keep the remaining hard standing. The Parish Council has been encouraging South Gloucestershire enforcement team to take action to force completion and they have put that in hand.

Several readers have submitted comments on the proposed wind farm at ngst. At the time of writing this, Aust Parish Council has not concluded its views.

Plans for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee include a beacon on Aust cliff. The three villages are likely to run their own celebrations and the Council is keen to support these activities.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in April. Date and time are not yet fixed so please keep an eye on the village notice boards. The regular monthly meeting of the Parish Council in March will be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 13th March at Elberton village hall.

Advance notice ...

**Littleton-upon-Severn Open Gardens Day:
Sunday 24th June 2012 2.00 – 6.00 pm**

Please put this date in your diary!

Olveston Parish Matters

Richard Rogers

(olvestonpc@googlemail.com)

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who responded to the recent questionnaire on the wind farm proposal. Whilst all parties in the debate would have liked an overwhelming response, it is clear from the feedback that there are concerns, and the comments received both for and against the wind farm have been refreshing.

Following interviews in January, the Parish is pleased to announce that Mr Adrian Baxter has agreed to become the new councillor. Adrian has lived in Olveston for several years with his young family, and is already known to those with pre school children and at the Allotment Society.

Details on how the parish is to celebrate the Jubilee are coming together, and one interesting proposal is to hold a themed garden competition, including categories for the way that households decorate their porches or windows for the Jubilee weekend, so get your thinking caps on, while the Parish Council and Jubilee Committee work out how to organise and judge it!!!

In a similar vein, February's Parish Council meeting will be hearing from parishioners who would like to create some lasting tributes to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee, but there is still time for you to have any ideas. One memento could be a commemorative mug for every child under 11 (i.e. up to Year 6) who lives in the Parish. To do this successfully (as it includes those too young for Toddlers; several early years providers; the primary schools in the area; and those that actually go to school outside the parish) the parish needs to get some idea of the numbers involved, and to try and ensure that no-one misses out. Please could you therefore email or write to the Parish Clerk with address details and numbers to register.

The Parish Council has also been approached about dangerous parking around Olveston School particularly at the beginning and end of each school day. The Council could arrange for parking restrictions to be put in place and policed, and is looking with South Gloucestershire Council and the school into the possibility of a lollypop person to assist crossing 'The Street' near the White Hart, so that parking can be better spread around the village, but really it is an issue for parents themselves. Please park safely as far from the school as possible to ease the congestion for school buses, and if possible avoid Elberton road around 9am and 3.30pm.

Finally work on the Parish Plan is continuing, so if you are interested in helping or have any comments on any of the above, the Council would welcome your written or emailed opinions.

Ofsted Commends Forest Session at Stepping Stones

Gill Powell

In September 2011 Stepping Stones moved from Olveston Methodist Church Hall to Elberton Village Hall to acquire outside space. Now there is not only a lovely natural garden and concrete area for the children to play in, but also a Forest session which is held on a Wednesday in the attached woods.

The session is run from a 'base camp' in the woods and activities include collecting woodland items, digging, making potions, investigating and exploring. This is one of the areas which prompted Ofsted to award such a good report.

Other areas which Ofsted classed as outstanding were partnership with parents and the children's safety and behaviour: "All children are highly valued, treated as individuals and shown respect. As a result they have high levels of self-esteem, learn to value each other and behave very well".

Please visit the Ofsted website to view the full report. If you would like any more details about Stepping Stones in general or our 'Woodland Wednesday' session, please contact Gill Powell on 07853173221.

Calling all local ladies! Celebrate International Women's Day

Join Cath Purchase and Mandy Welsman at a Get Together for International Women's Day on Thursday 8th March, 9.15 – 12 noon, at Tockington Chapel, Tockington Green. Come and enjoy tea, coffee and cakes, stalls, raffles, pampering and much more, with a children's corner to keep the little ones amused. Share in local women's achievements from beauty treatments to novelty cakes. Proceeds from the morning will go towards Oxfam's effort to help women worldwide build a better future for their families.

If you are a member of the Meeting Point Community and feel you can contribute to this event by: baking cakes, providing a raffle prize, sharing your skills, please contact Mandy: mandywelsman@yahoo.co.uk.

To find out more about this and other events: www.oxfam.org.uk/womensday
And remember ... woman carry out 66% of the world's work but earn just 10% of the income [Oxfam fact].



Action Medical Research

is holding two events in March.

Both will be held at the Almondsbury Old School Hall:

Thursday March 8th 2012 Charity Bridge Drive 7.30 pm prompt £7.50
including refreshments

Sunday March 25th 2012 Summertime three course lunch 1 p.m. £16.50

Contact Richard Harrop (01454 416927) Hazel House, Old Down,
Tockington, Bristol BS32 4PL e-mail harropshazelhouse@gmail.com

OLVESTON PARISH TWINNING ASSOCIATION



The Great Olveston Wine Challenge is calling!

Yes, another year, another Wine Challenge... Friday 30th March at 7.30pm in
The Parish Hall, Tockington.

This year we have a new guest wine buyer to pit your taste buds against. We challenge you to test your knowledge of wines - and your ability to drink them! You will be served a selection of wines, each one hiding its identity under a plain label, and all you have to do is match the wine to one of the printed descriptions on your answer sheet. It's a great evening for the wine connoisseur, the novice and indeed those who are out for a fun evening with friends.

Tickets cost £12 each (or £10 for OPTA members) to include all the wines and some tasty nibbles. Tables are set out for groups of 12. You can book as a group or take pot luck - let's face it, we live in a village so you are bound to know someone there. Tickets sell very quickly so to make sure of your place, please call Emma on 07812 719948.

Olveston Parish Hall AGM

Geoff Chappell

Tel 615806

I have had the privilege of being Chair of the Management Committee since 2008. During that time many improvements have been carried out transforming the building for user groups and the wider community. Thanks to the efforts and support of the whole committee, the Hall is now secured for future generations to benefit from and to enjoy. We are very proud of what has been achieved.

Unfortunately we have two committee members standing down this year due to other commitments; ideally we would like a committee of 11 made up from individuals and representatives from user groups, The Committee would be delighted to welcome any new members prepared to join their team to ensure the continued success of the Hall.

You are all welcome to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Olveston Parish Hall Management Committee to be held at the Hall on Monday 26th March at 7.30 pm, followed by a glass of wine and cheese with biscuits.

Movies at St Mary's: March *Trevor Anderson*



Movies at St Mary's Church Olveston are proving very popular. Everyone is welcome, refreshments are available and admission is FREE. There are now three programmes to suit all tastes:

Monday Movies (on the first Monday of the month) are recent releases and popular classics. **Monday Movies Extra** (on the third Monday of the month) are quality non-mainstream and foreign films. **Children's Movie Club** (on Monday mornings outside term time) are films for children of all ages. there are two films this month. Doors open at 7.00 and there's a licensed bar and soft drinks.

MONDAY MOVIES: Mon 5th Mar, 7.30pm

Orson Welles steals the show in this stunning thriller set amid the ruins of post-war Vienna. One of cinema's undisputed masterpieces. *Cert PG*

MONDAY MOVIES EXTRA: Mon 19th Mar, 7.30pm

A charming and intimate portrait of a small primary school in rural France and its inspirational teacher. Winner of numerous awards. *Cert PG*

For copyright reasons, we can't name the films here, but you can see posters and leaflets in church. You can also join the **mailing list** and get quarterly Newsletters and updates: contact trevoranderson@btinternet.com or 613279



The Garden Line

From articles (1991-2) by *Cecilie Turton*

March is one of the busiest months of the year, but don't be too eager, the last two weeks of this month is quite soon enough to plant seeds. Those with a heated greenhouse can certainly start earlier. Make sure all seed trays are pots are perfectly clean. A good seed compost is essential. Do not plant seeds too deeply; use an old flour sieve for covering lightly. When transplanting, remember to hold small plants by the seed leaves or cotyledons; fine hairs on the stems are easily damaged and causes disease or damping off.

Because they resent root disturbance, I shall put seeds of Ipomoea Heavenly Blue into large pots of good compost, three to a pot, keep in the greenhouse until the end of June then place pots against trellis or in shrubby borders. If the summer is warm these plants will be a glorious sight.

Inspect your dahlia tubers and spray with tepid water to encourage new shoots. When 3" - 4" long remove with a sharp knife, discard lower leaves and pot shoots in good compost. Keep in a warm greenhouse or garden frame. This way you can extend your collection of dahlias.

Remove bulbs from pots that have been growing indoors and plant out into the garden. Snowdrops that have become overcrowded can be lifted and transplanted, making sure they are planted at the same depth they were previously. Gladioli can be planted about the end of this month, 4" deep in well drained soil in groups 6"- 8" apart.

I enjoyed growing Tomato Gardeners Delight last year and although the fruits are small the flavour was good and a plentiful crop was produced. Pot plants and keep in a warm greenhouse until late May then place outside in a warm sheltered position or tuck pots in your flower border, not forgetting to keep watered and fed.

In the vegetable garden, plant seeds of White Lisbon onions for salads, early potatoes too, but beware of late frosts and keep cloches handy to cover if necessary. There is still time to plant round-seeded peas. Complete shallot planting as soon as possible. A good row of parsley is always useful and a sprinkling on the edge of the flower border can look attractive.

At the risk of repeating myself, don't be too eager, better a bit late than never.

Olveston Parish Historical Society

Wednesday, 7th March 2012, 7.30pm

Olveston Methodist Church, the Street, Olveston BS35 4DR

The Greatest Catastrophe in Recorded History: The Black Death of 1348-50

It's frightening to wonder how our local villages were affected by the Black Death. We don't know how many people died; we don't know whether they knew it was coming and tried to take precautions. We know that Bristol was badly affected.



Historians now think that over 50% of the population of Europe was killed by it. It affected rich and poor, town and country, men and women, adults and children. They had no reason to believe it would stop until everyone was dead.

All aspects of life were affected. Trade, agriculture and the economy generally were obviously badly hit. But the psychological impact of the plague was huge too and its effects can be seen in the art and architecture of the time.

Tom James is a retired history professor who has published books on the Black Death, contributed to BBC Radio 4's '*This Scepter'd Isle*' and advised Melvyn Bragg and Bettany Hughes about this period in history. He will give us an illustrated and wide-ranging talk on the multiple impacts of the Black Death.

The meeting is open to all. Just turn up. You'll be very welcome! Visitors pay £2 on the door. Details of the society at: www.olveston.com.historical-society

Friends of St Mary's

The prize winners in January's draw, held on 11th January 2012 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

£150	398	Mrs. G. Crossley, Tockington
£75	369	Mrs. E. Screen, Rudgeway
£25	413	Mr. R. Lloyd, Tockington
£25	234	Mrs. G. Bowen, Awkley
£25	408	Mrs. B. Phillips, Patchway
£20	312	Mr. A. Maunder, Newquay
£10	296	Mrs. B. Binns, Alveston

Plans for the Parish Diamond Jubilee Celebrations ...

Plans are under way for a Jubilee Celebration Day. A steering committee has been formed by local people, with the backing of the Parish Council, who felt that we could not let an occasion like the Queen's Diamond Jubilee go unmarked in our Parish. We have discussed plans for a whole day of fun and activities designed to appeal to everyone. The idea is to be as inclusive as possible, to encourage you to come and stay for the whole day. Charges will be kept to a minimum with lots of free activities, so that families with children will find it affordable. There will be a rolling programme of events, which are designed to draw the community together for a day of entertainment.

We have chosen **Monday 4th June** for the celebrations, as this is a Bank holiday.

The day will start with a **carnival procession** from the playground in Olveston to the Parish Hall in Tockington. Everyone who enters the carnival will receive a commemorative Jubilee medal as they arrive at the hall.

Ready for the arrival at the Parish Hall will be a **Jubilee Fayre** – stalls and activities to keep you busy during the afternoon. Again, there will be something for everyone. There will be lunches available, made with fresh local produce, so no need to worry about feeding the family as they enjoy the fun and games.

According to the wishes of the official Queen's Jubilee Charter we will be embracing everything active.... so during the afternoon there will be **sports** to both watch and join in – **a netball demonstration and knockout match, five-a-side football competition, short rounders for families and groups, quick tennis, a tug of war competition** and much more. Tockington Manor School have kindly offered to host the games as they have plenty of room and excellent facilities.

Also, for those budding engineers or, more likely, those hugely competitive people out there, we are planning a **Soapbox Derby**. This will be a race for home-built pedal cars over a course from Olveston to Tockington. As this will involve pre-planning and build time, if you would like to enter a team, or would like more details, please contact Kevin Wood kevin.wood@prepit.co.uk 01454 617615.

Continued overleaf

Cream teas will be served on The Green in Tockington during the afternoon for those who wish to sit and catch up with friends and family. There will be an **exhibition of historic photographs, documents and memorabilia** stretching back over the history of the Parish during the reign of our Queen, in the Methodist Church for you to browse through.

Late afternoon to early evening there will be **music and entertainment** provided by local musicians, singers and bands in the Village Hall. From about 7.30pm there will be a **family Barn Dance** or Ceilidh with a break at half time for a **Hog Roast**. There will be a bar and snacks at the hall.

For teens and young people there will be a separate marquee where **local bands**, singers and performers can play and spend time with friends.

At the end of the evening people can join the final celebrations with the **'lighting of the beacon'**. We will gather at Tockington Manor School where a giant bonfire will be lit to mark the Jubilee celebrations. There will be similar beacons around the country all linking up with a trail of light.

This celebration has been designed to involve the whole community. We would like all the schools, pre-schools, uniformed groups and organisations in the Parish to be involved in some way.

We would appreciate your help and support. We need good organisers, cooks, marshals, handymen. and helpers. Please come along and get involved in the fun. Our meetings are open to all and to check out the date for the next one please look at the Olveston and Aust website www.olvostonandaust.com

If you cannot make this meeting but are interested in your group or organisation being involved in the Jubilee Celebrations Day, then please ring Nikki Clarke on 614099 for more details.

The Jubilee Celebration Day committee are focused on celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and any funds that may be created will be given to creating a lasting memorial in her name.

Dorothy Stoppard *writes*

“Thank you people of Olveston who have sent 90th birthday cards, signed them, delivered them and welcomed me into the village over the past twenty eight years. It's been a great time, and my late husband enjoyed his retirement here in your friendly community.”

Best wishes, Dorothy Stoppard

Who really lives in Olveston Vicarage?

The Churchwardens

Priest, clown, father, football fan, fisherman, author, all-round good chap? Yes, all of these and more. This is Roly Bain; as a clown he shares his love of God by telling poignant stories and juggling. In St Mary's church, he does much the same, making us laugh at ourselves.

Roly doesn't '*come with the furniture*' at St Mary's. He is employed by the PCC (Parochial Church Council), as our Focal Minister, (or Curate in Charge) of Olveston Parish church, which is supplementary to his Clowning Ministry. He lives in Olveston Vicarage and works with Philip Rowe, Priest in Charge of Olveston and Aust, Almondsbury and Compton Greenfield.

You could ask, as they did about the Romans, "*What did Roly ever do for us?*" Well, Roly is very much a part of the community which he lives in, loves and serves. He is hugely admired by the congregations of St Mary's and by members of the community who come across him in The White Hart, at Funerals or Baptisms, at social events and major services at St Mary's. He's there when you need him and we feel privileged to have him living amongst us.

Roly has energised and brought new life into YOUR village church. He is at the leading edge (and beavering away in the engine room) of the huge range of social and sharing activities recently nurtured in St Mary's Olveston - including concerts, exhibitions, conferences, the film clubs, talks, suppers and events with schools, youth and voluntary organisations. We now have a joint Summer Fete with the school. The Church building is used far more often than in the past, and that's only the beginning! Roly is open to new ideas from anyone (not only from church members), no matter how wacky those ideas may be. If you want to understand better what he does, stop and ask anybody who has been recently bereaved, read one of his books or who goes to church. Or you could have a look at his website.

Of course, he doesn't come free, we have to pay him. Could we do without him? It is up to you to decide whether the village would be a much poorer place if he were not there in the Vicarage doing his stuff.

Thornbury U3A 2012

Thornbury University of the Third Age continues to be a thriving group within the local community. The term 'university' may appear a little misleading as there is no accreditation or validation and there are no assessments or qualifications to be gained. It is purely a self-help organisation for people no longer in full time employment that provides educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a very friendly environment.

The list below shows the extremely varied nature of the groups on offer to members for the £6.00 annual subscription or £10.00 for two people at the same address. Members can join as many groups as they choose, although in some cases there may be a waiting list. They may also need to pay the costs, if any, of materials, a contribution towards the cost of refreshments and if required, the hire of premises. The majority of meetings are held during the day and some in the home of the group leader.

Archaeology Architecture Armchair Music Art Appreciation
Aspects of 20th Century Astrology Astronomy
Ballroom and Social Dancing Bird Watching
Book Groups (2): the modern novel / fact and fiction Bridge (3)
Church visits Cinema Classical Studies Computer Club Concert visits
Cooking for one / husbands Country Dancing Cycling
Discussions Drawing (3)
Family History Financial Planning French Book Club French Conversation
French WD40
Garden visits Gentle Exercise German (2)
History (The Tudors) History (The Stuarts)
Indoor Bowls Investment Clubs (2) Italian
Jazz Appreciation
Latin Lip Reading Lunch Clubs (2)
Mah-jong (2) Maths Music
Opera Our Living Language
Painting Photographic Play-reading Plodders Poetry Appreciation
Recorders (3)
Science & Technology Scrabble (2) Short Slow Rambles Spanish
Table Tennis (3) Tai Chi Theatre & Opera visits Travel & Tourism
Walking Wine Clubs (3)

Further details can be obtained from the Membership Secretary, Penny Withers: 01454 632315 or email: davidjohnwithers@02.co.uk

Information can also be obtained from the website: www.thornburyu3a.org.uk

Marlwood School Events:

Community Lecture Programme

Thursday 8th March: Don Cameron, Cameron Balloons, Bristol:

“Ballooning”

Don Cameron will cover the beginning of the modern hot air balloons, the first modern hot air balloon in Western Europe, the “Bristol Belle”, why Bristol has become the world capital of balloons, long-distance ballooning adventures and the wonderful world of special shape balloons. Free admission **Thursday 8th March 2012** 7.30 pm – 9.00pm The Learning Resource Centre, Marlwood School

Car Boot Sales

Our first car boot sale of the year will be on **Saturday 31st March** from 1.30 pm until 3.00 pm (with setting up from 1.00 pm). Sales will then continue to take place on the last Saturday afternoon of the month until September. Cars £5. Vans £7.50. Buyers' entrance is free.

Thornbury Memory Café

Thornbury Memory Café opens on March 13th. If you, or someone you know, have problems with your memory (whether or not this has been diagnosed), then this could be the place for you.

A memory café is not a clinic. It is a social get-together for people who are having difficulties with their memory, and for their friends and carers. Here you will meet others with a shared problem. Sometimes there will be a short talk, sometimes a social event, optional activities, or just an opportunity to chat. It is a new venture, run by Thornbury people for people in our area. Give it a try. You will be made very welcome. We hope you will tell us how you would like the Memory Café to develop – what you like about it as well as how it could be improved.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from 10.15 to 11.45 in the Methodist Church Hall just off the High Street. There is no charge. We look forward to meeting you. Any queries to Audrey Green 412619

Food news!



**Totally- Locally will be held on Tockington Green on
Saturday 3rd March 9.30-12.00**

Thornbury Food Fairs 2012

Penny Skinner

I hope all those who attended enjoyed our last event of 2011. It was a real success with lots of food, gifts and foodie gifts, and a really good crowd bringing local people and out-of-town visitors together. Great to see the town so vibrant and busy!

So here we are again with the dates for this year. The spring market will take place on 24 March on Castle St between 10 am and 2 pm. This brings all the regular stallholders together, with local meat producers, bakers and brewers being joined by newer stalls including a 1940s coffee shop and fresh teas.

For those organized souls, here too are the rest of the dates for the year: Spring - 24th March, Summer - 23rd June, Autumn - 8th Sept, Christmas - 8th Dec. On 8th December there will be a combined food and gift fair. Anyone who wants to have a gift or craft stall, please contact Penny on 01454 858007.

Spring Colour Goes On Show

Thornbury will be all of a bloom this month with the annual spring flower show. The show is organised by Thornbury Horticultural Society and will be held at the Armstrong Hall, Thornbury, on Saturday 24th March 2012 at 1:30pm. Our show is open to anyone to enter. There will be a plant sales table and refreshments.

Schedules for the Spring Flower Show are available from T & J Owen Florists, The Garden Shop, Thornbury Town Hall, Thornbury Library and on our web site: www.thornburyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

Never Let me Go at

Thornbury Picture House

Adapted from the 2005 novel by Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let me Go* is the dystopian tale of three children who spend their early childhood at a seemingly idyllic English boarding school. As they grow into young adults, they start to appreciate the strength of their feelings for each other while at the same time trying to prepare themselves for the haunting destiny that awaits them. A thought-provoking film that lingers long after the closing credits. Filmed at various locations in the UK, including Clevedon Pier.

Friday 16th March in the Cossham Hall starting at 7.30pm. £5 on door for non-members.

Thornbury Museum News: The Whale and the Workhouse

Have you seen the Littleton Whale yet? Well, it's obviously not the whole whale! That would be pushing out the walls of our tiny museum. We have part of the whale though. Come and see which part it is.

The whale is part of our special 25th birthday exhibition. The original idea for the exhibition was to highlight 25 items from the collection that are rarely seen. And there are certainly 25 highlighted items. But our volunteers got a bit carried away and brought lots of other exciting things out of the store, so now we have an exhibition crammed full of good things! The Silver Jubilee Exhibition is on until the end of April so pop in for a browse before all these goodies go back into the store.

Our bookshop – which is chock-full of great books and things for children and adults alike (lots of ideas for presents!) – is now selling Tony Cherry's new book about the history of the Thornbury Workhouse from 1836 to 1871. At £10, not only is it a good read but it's a bargain, given the amount of work which has gone into it. We're particularly grateful because Tony is generously donating all proceeds from sales of the book to the museum. So, find out how the poor of Thornbury and the surrounding villages were treated in the nineteenth century and support your local volunteer-run museum financially at the same time!

Free entry for all, to all parts of the museum (although donations are very welcome!). Opening times: Tuesday-Friday 1-4pm, Saturday 10am-4pm. The Museum is in Chapel Street, between The Armstrong Hall and The Wheatsheaf. Tel. 857774 or email enquiries@thornburymuseum.org.uk
www.thornburymuseum.org.uk

Friends Of St Mary's

Hi everyone, Very nearly Spring again with renewed vigour & life & new ventures for us all.

Very poetic don't you think? Well it's with this feeling of adventure & energy that we would like to announce another Friends of St Mary's endeavour.... We are holding a very special Auction of Promises in the autumn so two whole seasons to prepare.... We'll give you more details of venue, date & times over the coming months but in the interim if you feel that you would like to come along; donate an auction item or be on hand to help with the preparation or the night please give Carol a ring on 01454 613389. Thanks ! and Watch this space.....

From the Registers of St.Mary's Olveston

16th January Cremation at Westerleigh Crematorium followed by
Thanksgiving service at St Mary's Olveston for
John Munro Kerr. Interment of ashes on 22nd January

Litter Picking 3rd March

Please meet at the Parish Hall car park at 1.00pm on Saturday 3rd March for a Litter Pick. Everything will be provided. Rod Williams, 612850.

Old Down Cricket Club

150 Club Winners February:

£50 Andrew Rowen £15 Bhavin Radia £5 Angus MacDonald

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

14th January Dave Buckley 28th January Simon Gould

Up The Down!!

Tony Gardner 07889 727729

Yours Faithfully

*Joe McHugh,
Christ the King Church, Thornbury*

Lent – a Time of Renewal

Lent is a time to renew our understanding of communion and to deepen our relationships of love with God and our neighbour, remembering that our neighbour is the whole of humanity. In a sense we are also neighbour to all living creatures and to the whole environment in which we live our lives. When St Paul calls us to be reconciled to God, that has an effect on the way we relate to people and the world. In that renewal of our relationships we will be more truly ambassadors for Christ.

The observance of Lent is something we do together. We are not a group of individuals, each privately trying to work out his or her own relationship with God and others. We are a community of people, recognising that our identity as individuals comes about because we belong to a community and we face up to our responsibilities to God and to others.

All of us are together on this journey through Lent to unite ourselves with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection. The journey is signposted by prayer, fasting and alms giving. We are called to be generous in all three areas.

Please give time for prayer and make Lent a time of self denial so that we may be free from the slavery of consumerism and grow in sensitivity to the needs of others, especially the poor and the forgotten members of society. By observing these Lenten activities we will be faithful to the Gospel and we will strengthen our bonds of communion with God, the Church, our brothers and sisters and the whole creation.

Women's World Day of Prayer

On Friday March 2 over 3 million people world wide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a form of service prepared by Christian women in Malaysia. There will be a service at Tockington Methodist Church at 10.15 am to mark this special international and interdenominational day.

For general information, see the WWDP website: www.wwdp-natcomm.org

Church News

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Mar 4	8am	Holy Communion	Rev Philip Rowe
	10am	Holy Communion	Rev P Rowe
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong with Choir	Mr D Jones & Rev R Crew
Mar 11	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Canon David Sansum
	10am	Morning Worship with Choir	Mrs Ann Lloyd
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Prayer and Praise	Aust Evangelical Ch. & Rev P. Rowe
Mar 18	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
	10am	Family Service	Rev H Webb & Mrs J McBride
	6pm	Evensong	Rev Roly Bain
Mar25	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Fourth Sunday	Rev Roly Bain
	10am	Breakfast Club	Breakfast Club Team
	6pm	Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Rev P Rowe & Rev D Bone

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

Contacts:

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

Rev Roly Bain for Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals 01454 616593.

Verger: Mrs. June Robbins, 01454 617491

www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 2.45pm in the Church

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

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Mar 11	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Mar25	10.am	Morning Prayer	Rev David Bone

Hon. Curate: Rev David Bone, 01454 614601

Church Wardens: Janet Ford, 01454 633300 Terry McLeavy 633680

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Mar 4	9am	Matins	Rev David Pole
Mar 18	8am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

11Mar	9am	Matins	Rev David Pole
25Mar	9am	Holy Communion	Rev David Pole

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Mar 2	10.15	Tock Ch	Service for Women's World Day of Prayer
Mar 4	10am	Olv. Ch	Church Anniversary Service led by Rev. Martin Broadbent
	6pm	Olv. Ch	Evening Worship led by Rev. Peter Mortlock joined by congregation of St Andrew's .
Mar 11	10am	Olv. Ch.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Sandy Williams. The Breakfast Club. will join us later in the service
Mar 18	10am	St Mary's.	Mothering Sunday Service
Mar25	10.00	Tock. Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: Meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 14th March. To book your lunch please ring 416528

TOCKINGTON LUNCHEON GROUP meets at 12.15 in the Swan Tockington on Thursday 15th March To book your lunch please ring 613241 or 612112

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

CONTACT: Rev Sandy Williams tel 07841 752 941,
Sandy.williams48@btinternet.com

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

We meet in a relaxed informal manner for worship, prayer and conversational Bible studies incorporating Holy Communion. Sundays at 10.30 and Monday and Wednesday at 7.30pm. We also visit other Churches so please check our notice board or contact

Mike and Barbara Matthews tel 07512 917229 or e-mail
thevineawkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Mar 4	6.30pm	Paul Ashford
Mar 11	6.30pm	Bristol Evangelical Male Voice Choir Speaker Paul Ricketts
Mar 18	6.30pm	Brian Miller
Mar 25	6.30pm	Courtney Harris

Prayer Time every Thurs 7.30

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

Paul Ashford, 07774 110814 or email: 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

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury -

Sat Vigil Mass 18.00 Sun 8.30am Mass 11.00 Family Mass

Tel 01454 412223 www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Meeting for Worship Sundays 10.30-11.30: The Hanover Room, The Chantry, Castle St. Wheelchair accessible. Children welcome with prior notice.

Local contact: Ben & Candia Barman 01454 412603

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

Diary Dates for March 2012

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

1 st Thu	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-1.30 9.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OS+ MH
3 rd Sat	Coffee Morning Litter Pick Quiz night	10.30-12.00 1.00pm 8.15	MH PH AP
5 th Mon	Monday Movie Open Mic. at the White Hart .	7.30pm 8.30pm	StM
6 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Eastwood Gardeners Club Matthew Wilson	9.30-11.30 7pm	WR AH
7 th Wed	O.P.H.S-Black Death	7.30pm	MH
8 th Thu	Get together Women's World day of prayer Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers Ballooning -Don Cameron Marlwood Sch Charity Bridge Old Sch. Hall Alm.(AMR)	9.15-12.00 9.00-12.00 2.00-4.30 7.30-9.00pm 7.30pm	Tock OS+ MH
9 th Fri	Th Rotary Club Swimarathon-11th Preschool Quiz & Supper	8pm	AP
10 th Sat	Coffee Morning Coffee Morning Th. WEA course Roman Britain Charity Supper	10.30-12.00 10.30-12.00 10.00-4.30 7.30pm	AVH MH Chy StM
13 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Women's Institute Aust Parish Council meeting	9.30-11.30 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR PH EVH
14 th Wed	Royal British Legion Men	7.30pm	DGCL
15 th Thu	Thornbury Farmer's Market Coffee Shop Beat Surgery Olveston Toddlers	9.30-1.30 9.00-12.00 10.30-11.30 2.00-4.30pm	OS+ OS+ MH
16 th Fri	Film 'Never Let Me Go'	7.30	CH
17 th Sat	Coffee Morning Th Craft Fair at rear of Swan High St.	10.30-12.00 10.00-3.00	MH
19 th Mon	Monday Movie	7.30pm	StM
20 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	9.30-11.30	WR
21 st Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club Demonstration Jazz at the White Hart Olveston Me and My Girl 'til 24th	2.00pm 8.30pm 7.30pm	AH PH

22 nd Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OS† MH
24 th Sat	Coffee Morning Th. Food Fair Castle St. Spring Flower Show Fascinating Rhythm & Dursley Male Voice Choir At Marlwood School	10.30-12.00 1.30pm 7.30pm	MH AH
26 th Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club Practice P.Hall management Ctee AGM	1.30pm 7.30pm	AH PH
27 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Olveston Parish Council Meeting	9.30-11.30 7.30pm	WR AP
28 th Wed	Severn Valley Quilters	7.30pm	CH
29 th Thu	Coffee Shop Olveston Toddlers	9.00-12.00 2.00-4.30	OS† MH
30 th Fri	OPTA Wine Challenge	7.30pm	PH
31 st Sat	Coffee Morning Car Boot Sale Marlwood School Quiz night	10.30-12.00 1.30-3.30pm 8.15	MH AP

Looking ahead to April

3 rd -7 th	Northavon Youth Theatre		AH
20 th -29 th	Th. Arts Festival		
29 th	Olveston School Fun Run		

KEY: **AC** Aust Church; **ACR** – Almondsbury Church Rooms; **AH** – Armstrong Hall; **AMC** – Olveston Methodist Church; **AMH**- Olveston Methodist Hall; **AP** – Alexandra Pavilion; **AVH** – Aust Village Hall; **CCCP** – Castle Court Car Park; **CH** – Cossham Hall; **Chy** – Chantry; **DGCL** – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; **EVH** – Elberton Village Hall; **MH** – Olveston Methodist Hall; **OMC** Olv Meth Ch **OS** – Olveston School; **OS†** – 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. If you would like to update your organisation’s details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com

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