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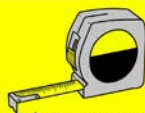
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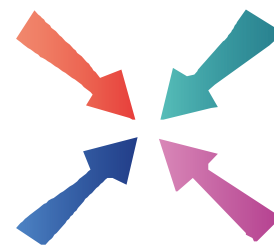
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# Meeting Point

**Volume 48, Number 8, May 2024**

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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to the Editor or Assistant Editor  
by May 6<sup>th</sup> 2024

## From the Editor

As a child I remember being told that cowslips were very rare and was delighted when, occasionally, we spotted them when we are out and about. This month's cover photograph of cowslips in Old Down illustrates how they have – to some extent – come back from being an endangered species. They are a beautiful sight.

In this edition we have got a review of the recent Marlwood's Got Talent evening, which clearly was great fun. Our wildlife correspondent has focussed on slow worms – a rarely seen but very interesting reptile. There is an invitation from our local bowls club and details of several musical events. We also say Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday to a local resident.

At the time of writing, we are experiencing April showers (in fact more like non-stop rain), so hopefully by the time this Meeting Point is published we will be welcoming May flowers.

*Marelin*

*Cover photograph by Les Harper*

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

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



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# Marlwood's Got Talent 2024

Now in its fifth year, Marlwood's Got Talent has become a much-loved fixture on Marlwood School's calendar. It is renowned for being a feel-good, glittery night filled with laughs, joy and happiness, and MGT 2024 did not disappoint as another packed audience turned out on Friday 8th March.

We were delighted to welcome back former pupil and teacher Mr Hulin as a wonderful host for the night. The Marlwood Samba band set the tone from the start with an impressive piece of drumming Samba work. Then it was on to the main event with eleven acts vying to be the MGT winner for 2024. The audience was treated to a wide variety of performances, including cello soloists, vocalists, French horn soloists, drummers, piano soloists and vocal trios. A warm welcome was given to the 2023 Judges' Winner, Akira, and the 2022 Audience Winner, George, who, although not competing for a prize, both returned to their former school to perform at the event. The audience was not only reminded of their musical talents, but also appreciated their willingness to support their former school. The judges later commented on their generosity, and how their kind-hearted and musical efforts meant they were both wonderful role models for all Marlwood pupils.



The team of judges, teachers Mrs Spring, Miss Wheeler and Mr Sargent had the impossible job of picking the winner. However, in the end, Noah Squires won the Judges' Vote, drumming his way through an impressive performance of the Beatles' Come Together. (See left) Caitlin Straw won the Audience Vote with a captivating performance of I don't know how to love him from Jesus Christ Superstar. This was an even more remarkable feat, as this song was a last-minute choice by Caitlin, after her planned duet had not been able to go ahead.

It was also wonderful to see students supporting and encouraging each other throughout the evening, it's not easy to get up on stage and perform in front of a packed hall. And everyone went home buzzing with happiness and a smile on their face, having witnessed yet another special MGT night.



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Caitlin Squires

Special thanks go to local businesses Wolfridge Alpaca, Pizza on the Park, Old Down Country Park, West Country Water Park, Almondsbury Creative, Six o'clock Gin, Tree Tops, The Wave, Thornbury Golf Club, Almondsbury Garden Centre, The Swan Inn and Alveston Community Events who all donated prizes for the raffle. Thank you also to Mr Hulin for giving his time so generously, Annika who donated the beautiful winners' trophies, to Dom, Rob and James who did the lights and sound, Mrs Ferguson for her infinite help, and to all the Friends of Marlwood School (FOMS) volunteers who organised the event, brilliantly led by Kelly J and Claire K. Thanks too to the pupils who supported backstage by pupils; they did an incredible job. MGT really is a fantastic community event, and all monies raised will go towards supporting the school.



Marlwood's Got Talent 2024 performers and judges. Photo credits: Paul Flack

More information about FOMS is on our Facebook page: @Friends of Marlwood School or please email [marlwoodfriends@gmail.com](mailto:marlwoodfriends@gmail.com)



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## Jean Panes' 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday



We send our best wishes and warmest congratulations to Jean for her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Jean was a farmer's daughter and a farmer's wife and has spent almost all her life within a few miles of Olveston. When her husband Charlie retired from farming in 1992, they moved first to Tockington and then to Olveston. During their working lives and in retirement, when Charlie served on the Parish Council for many years, they were both much involved in local social

activities. Sadly, Charlie died in 2007.

Jean has continued to enjoy a happy and healthy sociable life and goes to the Church coffee mornings on her mobility scooter. She also has an impressive 'home-grown' social circle with eleven grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren.

There is an affectionate portrait of Jean and her life in Steve Humphries' book For the Love of Olveston and the photos accompanying this article are from that book.

Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Jean!



## Tockington Cream Teas



Come along for delicious cream teas and cakes on Bank Holiday Monday May 6<sup>th</sup> on Tockington Green, between 2.00pm and 4.30pm.

Offers of help and home baked cakes/scones are always very welcome – call Maggie on 01454 610053 or email [tocs.hire@gmail.com](mailto:tocs.hire@gmail.com).

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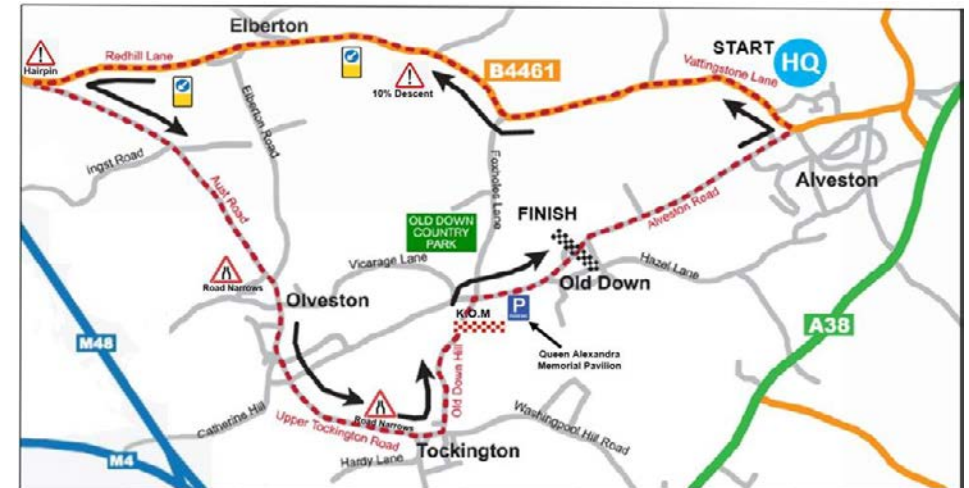


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# Olveston GP Road Race

This cycle race, taking place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024, passes eleven times through the villages of Olveston, Tockington, Old Down, Alveston and Elberton. These details about the event, with timings and suggested viewing points, will help those of you who would like to watch the race - and how to avoid it if that is your preference.



The timetable on the day will be as follows:

- 9:30 – Race organisation team arrive at the HQ which is Marlwood School, Alveston.
- 10:00 – Race warning signs are distributed around the circuit. Although no roads are closed, junctions are shut down by accredited marshals each lap for a few minutes when the race passes that point.
- 10:00 – The Finish area by The Crescent in Old Down will be set up. This will not affect traffic in any way.
- 11:30 – Race participants begin to arrive at Marlwood School for race sign-on. There are 80 elite cyclists taking part in the event.
- 13:00 – Accredited Marshals will move to their positions on each major junction on the circuit. These marshals have police authority to stop traffic with the STOP sign they hold.
- 13:00 – Race stewards and red flag marshals move into positions around the circuit, in particular to assist at marshal points in Olveston and Tockington.
- 13:30 – The race convoy and riders will move out from Marlwood School and the race begins. The race convoy will include several lead vehicles and officials' vehicles which are identified by signage and yellow flashing lights on



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the vehicles. They are supported by motorcycle outrider that warn traffic of the approaching race. Competitors are required to obey the rules of the road and there are race commissaires in following vehicles that can remove riders that do not adhere to this.

13:40 – The riders will be approaching their first ascent of Old Down Hill, which they will go up 11 times in total. This is the best position from which to watch the race. Please do not park on Old Down Hill. There is limited parking available at Queen Alexander Memorial Pavilion (QAMP) which is on the right at the top of the hill.

13:45 – The riders will pass through the finish point for the first time by The Crescent. This is also a good point to watch the race. The race finishes after 10 further laps.

15:00 – This is about the mid-point of the race and there is likely to be a breakaway group a few minutes ahead of the main bunch of riders.

16:20 – Approximate race finish time by The Crescent, Old Down.

There are likely to be several groups of riders that finish over a period of up to 5-6 minutes.

16:40 – Finish area is cleared of riders and return to Marlwood School.

17:30 – Presentation to riders at Marlwood School.

We ask horse riders and pet owners to please be advised of the race, and to take care. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

The race organisers would also like to extend an invitation to local residents to help out on the day as stewards. If you are interested, please contact Brian O'Kelly: [brian.okelly@bristolroadclub.com](mailto:brian.okelly@bristolroadclub.com)

## Thornbury Art Club

Club night Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May. David Johnson 'Moody Seascapes'.  
St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Rd, Thornbury 7.15 for 7.30pm

David will demonstrate a variety of techniques using palette knives, brushes and figures to achieve a wide range of texture and patterns found in seascapes such as water, foam, reflections. Come and watch an artist at work, ask questions and get some tips.

We welcome any visitors or prospective new members, £6 on the door, includes tea and biscuits. For more details visit: [www.thornburyartclub.co.uk](http://www.thornburyartclub.co.uk), [www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub](https://www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub)

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# Thornbury and District Cancer Research UK

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With over 200 types of cancer, valuable research is vital and is the way forward to treating this disease. Ongoing research is being undertaken in Southmead Hospital, The BRI and the University of Bristol, so your donations help fund this.

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INSPIRING WOMEN

# Olveston and Tockington WI.

The Mumbleys Hill Group of Women's Institutes are having their spring gathering in Olveston Parish Hall and entertainment will be provided by the sea shanty singers the Severn Whalers.

The speaker at our May meeting will be Pam MacLeod, who will be telling us about holistic therapies.

The regular monthly Stitching, Walking and Book groups are also taking place.



Olveston and Tockington WI meet at 7.30pm at the Parish Hall. Usually this is on the second Tuesday of the month. If you would like to join us, please contact Angela Green on 01454 615222. Scan the WI QR code to find out more about joining the UK's largest women's membership organisation.

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## Alveston Repair Café

Peter Waller



It always amazes me when I see the range of items which are brought to the Alveston Repair Café. At our most recent event, together with the usual selection of lamps, radios and knives to sharpen, we had two model elephants, a foot pump, a pair of salopettes, an illuminated globe and a miniature model boat. Of the 58 items brought to us, we repaired 23 and retained 15 to work on later. We were able to give repair advice on a further 14 items. The level of chatter in St Helen's Church as people enjoyed coffee, tea and cakes showed that everyone was enjoying the event

Our next Repair Café is on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

## T'hornblowers Spring Concert

Wednesday 22nd May 7.30pm United Reform Church

Enjoy a free concert - donations welcome for church upkeep. Come and meet our happy band. We practise weekly 7pm -9pm at the URC and would love new members to join. No auditions, and great fun for returning players and early-stage improvers.

See What's On for details or contact Heather: 01454 414711 or [platt\\_8@hotmail.com](mailto:platt_8@hotmail.com)

## Thornbury Choral Society

On Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, Thornbury Choral Society will be performing a concert of English music conducted by Steven Kings. This will be held at St Mary's Church Thornbury at 7.30pm.

The programme consists of works by Benjamin Britten "Rejoice in the Lamb", two compositions by Vaughan Williams "Five Mystical Songs" and "Benedicite" and settings of Psalm 86 and 148 by Gustav Holst.

Tickets are £18 (pre-booked) £20 (on the door) £5 (students) cont/.....

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## Monday Movie Club

Everyone is welcome in St Mary's, Olveston on May 6th. The Movie Club is held on the first Monday of every month (summer excluded) and there is no entry fee or membership needed. Refreshments, tea, coffee, wine and beer are available. The Monday Movie Club is a true community event.

'In the midst of a traditional story-telling framework, this film also flirts with fantasy – a fox-girl played by a contortionist who may or may not be real and may or may not work as a dramatic device but gives the film a textural richness.

Luke, an independent young man with Down's syndrome, is forced to live in a care home after his elderly mother dies. He struggles to settle there, both frustrated at having his wings clipped by its rules, and unimpressed by his new house mates. His disappointment with his new home soon turns to wonder when Luke discovers a way out and begins to explore the surrounding countryside.

When he is caught sneaking out by Pete, a troubled youth who tends the gardens at the home, the two strike up an unlikely rapport: Pete covers for Luke and in return Luke helps Pete clear the garden. On one illicit excursion to the adjoining field Luke discovers a young girl in desperate need of his help'.  
IMDB.

Doors open at 7pm and the film starts at 7:30pm.

*Under the terms of our licensing agreement we are not permitted to name the film.*

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# Oveston Parish Councillor - Steve Ritchie



I was born in Portsmouth in 1959. During my childhood I moved around a bit, spending around six years in the West Midlands during the late 1960s before landing in Portishead in 1972. I live in Tockington with my partner Mandy, her daughter Freya, and our dog Odin. I have one brother and one sister, both younger than me and who both live in North Somerset. *Left: Steve pictured with Odin*

After finishing school in Portishead in 1975 I had a short spell working in a local factory before securing a more permanent job. I've always wanted to work with maps and plans and fully intended to do a cartographic surveyor's apprenticeship with the Ordnance Survey. My parents took me to Southampton in 1975, where I attended a full day interview and testing process. Unfortunately, the Ordnance Survey didn't have any suitable spaces for that skill that year, so I stepped sideways and went to work in Bristol City's planning department.

After a few years with Bristol, I moved across to what was then Woodspring District Council (now North Somerset DC). Both positions involved handling the Councils mapping arrangements and map-based record keeping, After what was almost eleven years of local authority work, I left the Council in 1985 to work for Tarmac Homes and later Beazer Homes in a planning capacity and covering the southwest and south Wales areas.

In 1990 the state of the economy resulted in me being made redundant, followed sharply by my setting up my own architectural business which kept me fully occupied until I finished working in 2022. During my self-employed 30+ years I absolutely loved meeting thousands of clients, meeting their animals and nosing around their properties.....in a professional way of course! Working totally on recommendation I produced plans and building specifications for the vast majority of these customers and in a lot of cases watched their projects being built. My earlier experience and working relationships with planners around the area proved most useful to me. Moving to Tockington 4 years ago, and then retiring, left me with quite a bit of spare time and it was suggested I investigated becoming a local councillor. So

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here I am, learning about the Parish and all its goings-on, plus meeting so many very interesting residents. Hopefully I can make some small contribution to Council business as I learn more about our beautiful Parish and the people residing in it. If you have any local concerns which you think the Parish Council may be able to assist with, please get in touch at [steve.ritchie@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:steve.ritchie@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Green Force



**Do you know what WRAP is?** WRAP was established as a not-for-profit company in the UK in 2000 and it became a charity in 2014. WRAP is a climate action group working around the globe to tackle the causes of the climate crisis and give the planet a sustainable future. It now works in 40+ countries across six continents with governments, business and citizens to

create a world where resources are sourced and used sustainably. 45% of global greenhouse gas emissions can only be tackled by changing the way products and food are consumed. Making this change will also tackle biodiversity loss and reduce water stress. That's why WRAP is endeavouring to transform our food and textile systems, to eliminate plastic pollution and to increase recycling.

This wide approach aims to develop a circular economy which has three primary principles: 1) to design out waste and pollution 2) to keep products and materials in use and 3) regenerate natural systems. Only by integrating all three in a concerted approach can a fully circular economy be achieved.

Rethink..... We consume and own more than we need by 25 billion tonnes a year, eg idle cars and empty offices. Reduce..... Every product and every system needs to be rethought with a focus on how to reduce its environmental impact. The investment community is moving to help. Reuse..... To do more with less. A particular area of concern is fashion. Consumers now buy 60% more clothes than in 2000 but keep each garment half as long. This involves sharing, reusing, repairing, and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible.

Have you thought of examining your possessions as summer approaches? Every adjustment makes a positive contribution to reducing climate change.



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## News from St Mary's

Debbie Harris



### Plant and Produce Sale

Sunday May 12th 11.15am,  
following the morning service.

Come and buy your summer plants and maybe a pot of jam or chutney!

All donations very welcome!

### Quiz Night

We will be holding a quiz at St Mary's on Saturday June 1st 7.30pm  
Tickets £7 per person which includes a light supper. Paying bar available.  
A maximum of 6 people per team.

To book a team contact Debbie on [oboe-debbie@live.co.uk](mailto:oboe-debbie@live.co.uk)

## From the Registers of St Mary's

Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup>

The funeral of Ted Addis

Monday March 25<sup>th</sup>

The funeral of Stan Bradburn

Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup>

The funeral and burial of Beryl Pitcher

## Thank You

Allison, John, and their families would like to thank everyone who sent lovely cards of sympathy and flowers on the sad passing of their dear father Eric Garrett. Also thank you to everyone who attended Eric's celebration of life service. £1,289 was kindly donated and has been forwarded to Olveston Parish Historical Society and Olveston United AFC in memory of Eric.



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## Journey Back to the Future

Fantastic news! Thornbury Musical Theatre Group is coming home. TMTG is back performing in Thornbury for the first time since Covid struck, with their 2024 concert.

Join mad scientist Professor How and his friend Arti as they 'Journey Back to the Future' on a time travelling quest to save Musical Theatre. This musical adventure takes you back in time as you experience songs from TMTG's past musicals - from the 1960s through to the 2010s. As Professor How and Arti journey back to the future, we are introduced to contemporary musicals exploring different genres such as Jukebox and Rock and Pop Musicals. Our musical adventure features the voice of Colin Baker, the sixth Dr Who, giving some time travelling advice. From Calamity Jane to Cats; Fiddler on the Roof to Fisherman's Friends; Half a Sixpence to Hamilton; and Oklahoma to Only Fools and Horses. There are songs for everyone to enjoy, from toe-tapping showstoppers to moving love songs. This concert has something for all ages and stages. Why not come along with your friends and family to discover whether our duo can save Musical Theatre, and enjoy being entertained through song and dance? We look forward to seeing you there.

Friday 31st May and Saturday 1st June, with 2.30pm and 7.30pm performances on both days at Thornbury Methodist Church upstairs hall.

Tickets £10 plus booking fee from [www.tmtg.org.uk/tickets](http://www.tmtg.org.uk/tickets) or at Box Office from 1st May at *Lisa Costa Estate Agent, 53 High Street, Thornbury.*

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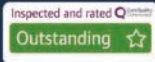
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# Slow Worms

Paul Godwin

As the seasons move from spring into summer, many of us will be working on our allotments and in our gardens. It is there that there is a reasonable chance that you will come across a slow worm, especially if you have compost bins or have created areas for wildlife with long grasses and shelters for mammals or reptiles. In the UK they are a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, where it is an offence to kill, injure or sell them. Its numbers are on the decline and as such in the UK it is a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

At first glance they look like a snake, but they are not, they are a legless lizard. Why legless? In the UK the slow worm is our only legless lizard, but around the world there are many. What is common to these lizards is that they all have elongated bodies, burrow and live in long grasses. So, through evolution they have discarded their legs. There are three main characteristics which distinguish a slow worm from a snake: it blinks, snakes do not have eyelid, it does not have a pronounced neck, its head does not seem distinct from its body, it has a notched rather than a forked tongue and has to open its mouth to release its tongue where a snake does not.

If you have an allotment or garden, slow worms are very beneficial as they eat slugs and snails. This is a very good reason not to use pesticides, however, as a slow worm which eats a poisoned slug or snail, will in turn be killed. Slow worms are on the menu for other animals such as household cats, badgers, hedgehogs, and some birds such as the magpie, and they also fall prey to us as we 'tidy' our allotments or gardens. They can be disturbed in our compost piles or severely injured or killed when we cut our grass. So, we need to take great care by checking none are in the grass when we cut it and ensure we minimise any disturbance to its burrowing sites in compost bins, soil edges, grassy mounds and piles of logs and stone. In winter they may be hibernating there and in summer and autumn raising their young.

Slow worms do have several defence mechanisms. They can freeze still, and they can move quickly despite their name. If those tactics fail, then they defecate. Their 'poo' smells nasty enough to deter many predators, but their final strategy if all fails is to shed their tail. The tail then carries on moving around for some time keeping the attention of the predator whilst the slow worm makes an exit. Their tail will regrow, but it will be shorter, and they can only shed a single tail, so this is the last line of their defence.

They breed in May. Their mating ritual can last for up to 10 hours and is actually quite aggressive where the male bites the back of the female and once gripped they entwine coiling together. So, if you see this in May they should be left alone. In August or September up to 12 baby slow worms will be born. Not as eggs, as many other reptiles, but as hatchlings up to 4 cms long.





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Within the female they are born as eggs, but they hatch in the body. This is a process called ovoviviparous. Slow worms are also long lived. In the wild they can live for 20 to 30 years and grow up to 50cms long.

There are many things that we can do to protect this reptile, for example we can stop using pesticides, including weed killer. We can also encourage them to live in our allotments or gardens by creating some habitats which we will leave alone and not disturb. In summer slow worms enjoy areas or habitats that retain heat, and you can create these areas where they can shelter with



piles of stones or logs, mounds of cut grass, rubber backed carpet or sheets of corrugated iron. They are absolutely harmless to us, and we can benefit from their presence. Whilst allotments or gardens are not the only place you will find slow worms, they are very important refuges.

So go on and 'Make Some Space for Slow Worms'.

*Above: A slow worm found in my compost bin in early April this year.*

## Thornbury Choral Society

On Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, Thornbury Choral Society will be performing a concert of English music conducted by Steven Kings. This will be held at St Mary's Church Thornbury at 7.30pm.

The programme consists of works by Benjamin Britten "Rejoice in the Lamb", two compositions by Vaughan Williams "Five Mystical Songs" and "Benedicite" and settings of Psalm 86 and 148 by Gustav Holst.

Tickets are £18 (pre-booked) £20 (on the door) £5 (students)

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## Bowls Big Weekend

Come and try lawn bowls at Olveston and District Bowls Club, Old Down (next to Olveston FC). Have a go, there is a free taster session Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 10am – 12pm.



This is a sport for all ages and all abilities. Play for fun or competitively. It is not expensive, and it is very sociable. The only requirement for the day is that you wear flat-soled shoes.

Contact: [odbcsevretary@gmail.com](mailto:odbcsevretary@gmail.com) [www.bowlsolveston.co.uk](http://www.bowlsolveston.co.uk)

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# Aerospace Bristol

*A Volunteer*

In September 1964, I found myself being driven on to Filton airfield to start a five-year undergraduate apprenticeship with the British Aircraft Corporation (BAC). My home for the next 12 months would be Barnwell Hall, a YMCA run hostel in what had previously been the Officers' Mess for RAF Filton. This was my pre-university year, and the training course offered a great opportunity to get some actual engineering related experience before going off to study.

After qualifying with an engineering degree from Cambridge, I returned to Filton for the fifth year of the apprenticeship, just as the first Concorde (prototype 002) was being assembled in the Brabazon Hangers. This was a truly exciting time to be there. I worked in various staff departments and found myself on the runway for 002's first flight on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1969, before joining flight testing in Fairford for the next few months. After several years with BAC and once the decision had been made to build no more Concorde, I moved to the mining industry. I remained fascinated to watch Concorde successfully in service until the final flight in 2003.



*Bristol Boxkite*

In the 1990's a group of enthusiasts had formed the Bristol Aero Collection Trust (BACT) which had begun to collect examples of Bristol's aviation history since the first flight of the Bristol Box kite in 1910. Their collection was initially displayed at Kemble airfield near Cirencester. In 2014, following receipt of a Heritage Lottery Grant and the gifting by BAE Systems of a substantial area of the old RAF Filton site, including three hangers, the announcement was made that a museum would be created, with the last Concorde to fly as its centrepiece. The BACT collection had been moved from Kemble to the Brabazon Hanger on the Filton site (in 2012), where numerous volunteers continued working on the exhibits for the new museum. This was named Aerospace Bristol, which opened in 2017. With more than 100 years of Bristol



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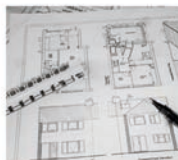
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aviation history, Concorde was in a new custom designed hanger, (see left), and the BACT exhibits in the old World War 1 RAF hangers.

The museum site was exactly where I had been living back in 1964, although the old Officers Mess was outside of the perimeter and had been demolished to make way

for the new link road between Rolls Royce and Cribbs Causeway. I applied to be a volunteer for the new museum and was accepted as a Community Speaker which has involved travelling to deliver talks about the new museum to groups such as car and aviation clubs, history societies, Rotary, Probus etc. Recent talks have widened the subject matter to include the history of Concorde and of RAF Filton.

Volunteers are also required to meet and greet the visitors and tell them something about the exhibits, so I also joined the Visitor Experience team which volunteers seven days a week alongside salaried staff who look after ticketing, retail and maintenance activities. In 2023 there were over 100,000 visitors from all over the world and we enjoy hearing many fascinating stories from those with aviation related experiences.



Other volunteers work on restoring and maintaining the exhibits, with a team in the Conservation Hanger particularly focussed on showing young people some of the practical skills that might encourage them along STEM pathways to a career in the engineering industry.

Opportunities for people to join the team can be found on <https://aerospacebristol.org/volunteer>. We look for a passion for aviation and an enthusiasm for engaging with our visitors, with or without any direct aviation experience.



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## May in Thornbury Library



Thornbury Library is pleased to present tea and cake with local author Joanna Toye on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

Tickets are £5.00 (non-refundable) with refreshments included. Pop in and talk to a member of staff or visit:

<http://SGlibraries.eventbrite.com>

Enjoy a free hot drink in the library on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am-4pm. Use the computers or use your own iPad, phone etc. (Wi-Fi available) Read a book, a newspaper, browse the shelves, enjoy a communal puzzle - or just relax.

Please tell your Ukrainian family, friends, and colleagues, about Zoya, a Ukrainian teacher, who will be in the library every Monday at 4pm to share stories, reading, etc, from Ukraine.

Lego Club. Listen to a story or some poems, then create your own Lego masterpieces and display them in the library for your family and friends to see. Every Saturday 9.30am Free.

Rhymetime. Every Monday and Friday 9.30am-10am. Free.

Have You Read...? A book group for everyone. Come and enjoy a reading group with a difference! No set novel to read. Just drop in for an hour for refreshments and a chat. Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2pm-3pm

Computer Support 1-1. Book a session with our computer volunteer for IT and digital support. Every Thursday 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am

### STAFFED TIMES

Monday: 9.30am-5.30pm  
Wednesday: 9.30am-5.30pm  
Thursday: 9.30am-5.30pm  
Friday: 9.30am-5.30pm  
Saturday: 9.30am – 12.30pm

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## Looking Forward to June

### Thornbury Orchestra Concert on 8th June in Berkeley

Our next concert will take place on Saturday, 8th June 2024 at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Berkeley. Tickets, available on our website or at the door, are £10 for adults, with children and concessions free. The music will include Elgar's Enigma Variations, Sibelius's Symphony No 7 in one movement, "Larva", a short piece by Tom Green and Mendelssohn's "Son and Stranger" overture. The concert is in aid of Jigsaw, a charity based in Thornbury supporting families with children and young adults aged up to 25 who have additional needs or disabilities. For more details, contact: [info@thornburyorchestra.org.uk](mailto:info@thornburyorchestra.org.uk).

### Thornbury and District Cancer Research Fish & Chips Quiz

Our Fish and Chips Quiz will be held at Manorbrook School, Park Road, Thornbury, BS35 1JW on Saturday 15th June 2024.

Please arrive by 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Ticket price is £15 per person and can be obtained from *Gill Blackborough* on 07866 580608. Contactless will be available on the night and there will also be a raffle. Our usual Quiz Master Tony Flintoff will be in charge. Maximum 6 per team. All proceeds going to Cancer Research UK.

Please bring your own drinks. We will provide glasses, cutlery and condiments.

### Hansel and Gretel - An Opera on the Green, Rockhampton



Immerse yourselves in the magic of opera with Opera in a Box! Join us for a delightful performance of Hansel and Gretel, written by Humperdinck, sung in English, perfect for audiences of all ages. Experience an

unforgettable afternoon of opera that will leave you spellbound!

The production takes place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 2.30pm on Rockhampton Village Green, Rockhampton, GL13 9DX. Tickets – Adults £20, under 18 £10, under 10 free. Tea and cake available to buy. For open air comfort bring chairs and *somewhere to put a drink!*

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## Octopus Drama Group



Octopus Drama Group's forthcoming production is the comedy play 'Birthday Club', which will be performed in Christ the King Hall in Castle Street, Thornbury from 12th to 15th June at 7.30pm. Written by Phil Olsen and directed by Abi McManus, 'Birthday Club' promises to be a real hoot!

Five women, each with their own story, get together to celebrate their birthdays every year. They celebrate, commiserate and support each other as they hilariously attempt to negotiate their way through their own respective issues with relationships, work, divorce, childbirth and kids and whatever else life throws at them.

Cheryl, Kathy, Emily, and Abbie started Birthday Club five years ago primarily as a support group to help their friend Jennifer, who had recently been diagnosed with cancer. With Jennifer recently passing away, they find themselves with an opening for a new member. However, it's not easy to join Birthday Club as it is a very exclusive group. A potential new member, Sarah, is finally introduced to the group, but first she must make it through the strict "interview" process and agree to abide by the eight rules of Birthday Club before being considered an official member.

Gradually, one by one, each group member begins to reveal their own 'personal demons' as the group endeavour to support and advise each other in a variety of questionable and unorthodox ways. However, when it is accidentally revealed that one of them has been 'liaising' with another's husband, the vodka finally hits the fan.

The question is, will Birthday Club survive or will Rule Number Five end it forever?

This hilarious, poignant and heartwarming play touches on life struggles and situations with which anyone can identify...a real laugh therapy! However, 'Birthday Club' is more than a play, it's a party! And everyone is invited to join the fun.

Tickets go on sale from Saturday 4 May and can be purchased at Rosie & Rex gift shop in Thornbury High Street between 9 am - 5 pm, Monday to Saturday.

Tickets cost £8.00. Please note that the performance is suitable for those 16+.

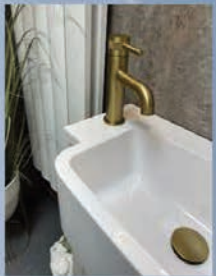
Get your tickets soon to avoid disappointment as there is limited seating available due to the performance being set in an intimate 'in the round' theatre space.

To make your evening even more enjoyable, Christ the King Hall has plenty of parking nearby and bar facilities on site.





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# Yours Faithfully

*St Mary's Church, Olveston  
Revd. David Moss*

This year, Rogation Sunday is 5th May. Rogation is an ancient church festival - days devoted to asking for God's blessing on agriculture and industry. In times past on Rogation Sunday the normal Sunday Service would be suspended, and the Vicar would walk with his parishioners around the parish boundary marking out the area for which they were responsible asking God's blessing on the land, animal and livestock singing the following song:  
*"So we come in expectation, For the Spirit of God to bless  
Land and plough and all who labour With prosperity, joy and rest;  
'Til Creation, Church and Nation Come to know His loving best."*

The demise of Rogation Sunday came about with industrialisation and the move of people from the countryside to the city. However, in the light of increasing global warming, church and community are beginning to ask whether this ancient festival should be revived. Please try the following reflections.

**Give praise for nature.** Go and stand in your garden or somewhere outside. What can you see in nature? Can you find something with each of the colours of the rainbow? Can you hear anything?

Think about all the wonderful things that God has created for us.

Blessed are you Lord God of all creation,  
We give you thanks for the colours and sounds of nature, the beauty of trees and flowers, of birds and every living thing.

**Give praise for seed.** Take some seed (or bulbs) in your hand. What do they look and feel like? Plant your seeds (or bulbs) in the hole and cover them over with soil.

Think about how seeds spread and grow. How can we be seed sowers for Jesus?

Blessed are you Lord God of all creation,  
We give you thanks for the seeds that grow on good soil, for the flourishing of your creation and the sustenance you provide for us.

**Give praise for the harvest.** Look at the variety of food you have in your kitchen or garden. What is your favourite thing to eat and why?

Think about how lucky we are to have so much food available. Think about those who go hungry and go without.

Blessed are you Lord God of all creation  
We give you thanks for all that you have provided for us, for all that feeds and nourishes us in body, mind, and soul.



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# Church News

## ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

May 5th	10am 6pm	Holy Communion Evensong	Rev David Lloyd Rev David Lloyd
May 12th	10 am 6pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Rev Ann Lloyd Rev David Bone
May 19th	10am 6pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Janet McBride Rev Ann Lloyd
May 26th	10am 6pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd Janet McBride

Every Saturday in Term Time, 'REFRESH', 4.30-5.30 - Fun, relaxed church for families, all welcome. Every Wednesday, Holy Communion, 10am. NB. Clergy may change.

**Contact:** Rev David Moss, 01454 415190, mossds@gmail.com

## CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

May 12th	10am	Morning Prayer	Trevor Cook
May 26th	10am	Holy Communion	Trevor Cook

**Contact:** Trevor Cook, 01454 618442

**Church Wardens:** Jenn Dickens 632312 and Jon Burnett 633835

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

May 12th	9am	Morning Prayer	Rev Ann Lloyd
May 26th	9am	Holy Communion	Tracey Black

**Contacts:** Tracey Black 417660 and Tim Pyper 416422 /07802 419451

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**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON**

May 12th	9am	Morning Prayer	Judith Heybyrne
May 26th	9am	Holy Communion	Judith Heybyrne

**Contacts:** Judith Heybyrne 616725  
**Church Wardens:** Catharine Gunnery 413225 and Cheryl Meredith 411065

**OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH**

May 5th	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by David Bainbridge
May 12th	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship led by Howard Wilson
May 19th	10am	Tock Ch	Morning Worship led by Terry Palmer
May 26th	10am	Olv Ch	Morning Worship by local arrangement

**Contact:** Rev Dr Simon Edwards 418176,  
[simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk](mailto:simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk)

**THE VINE House of Prayer, Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL**

Meeting at 11am every Sunday and on the 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 2.30pm.

**Contact:** 07512 917229, [thevine\\_awkley@hotmail.com](mailto:thevine_awkley@hotmail.com)

**THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN**

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**Contact:** Neil Mobbs, [cnmobbs@hotmail.com](mailto:cnmobbs@hotmail.com)

**AUST EVANGELICAL and LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCHES**

**Contact:** [esther@thebamfields.co.uk](mailto:esther@thebamfields.co.uk)

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**Contact:** Chris Willmore, [chriswillmore@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chriswillmore@blueyonder.co.uk)

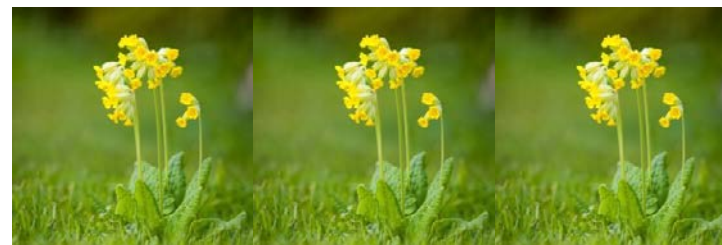
# Diary Dates for May

Information believed to be correct at going to press.

1 Weds	Table Tennis every Wednesday	7pm	OPH
2 Thurs	Elections - Police and Crime Commissioner Thornbury Farmers Market 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday Coffee Shop Good Afternoon Choir, every Thurs Thornbury Art Club, Thursday Studio	7am/10pm 9 am 9-12 pm 1-3 pm 1.30 pm	OPH StM URC SMCH
3 Fri	First Friday Community Café. Haven Memory Café. Every 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	10-12 10.15	TMC URC
4 Sat	Park Run, Mundy Playing Field every Sat	9am	
5 Sun	Tortworth Lake open with refreshments	10-6pm	
6 Mon	Bank Holiday Tockington Cream Teas on the Green Monday Movies	2-4.30pm 7.30pm	StM
7 Tues	Over 60's Coffee Morning every Tuesday Citizens Advice every Tuesday 10-12 Macular and Low Vision Group Thornbury Art Club, Tues Painting Studio WRBL	10-12pm 10-12 10.30 1.30pm 7.30pm	DGCL TTH TMH SMCH DGCL
9 Thurs	Coffee Shop Thornbury Art Club Thursday Studio	9-12pm 1.30pm	StM SMCH
11 Sat	Coffee Morning at Olveston Methodist Hall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sat Thornbury Choral Society Concert	10-12pm 7.30pm	OMH StMT
13 Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club	2pm	SMCH
14 Tues	Thornbury Art Club, Tues Painting Studio Olveston & Tockington WI	1.30 pm 7.30pm	SMCH OPH
16 Thurs	Thornbury Farmers' Market Coffee Shop Thornbury Art Club, Thurs Studio	9am 9-12pm 10-12pm	StM SMCH
17 Fri	Haven Memory Café,	10.15am	URC

21 Tues	Thornbury Art Club, Tues Painting Studio	1.30pm	SMCH
22 Weds	T'hornblowers Spring Concert	7.30pm	URC
23 Thurs	Coffee Shop Thornbury Art Club, Thurs Studio	9-12pm 1.30pm	StM SMCH
25 Sat	Coffee Morning	10-12pm	OMH
27 Mon	Spring Bank Holiday		
28 Tues	Thornbury Art Club, Tues painting Studio Thornbury Art Club Night David Johnson - Mood Seascapes	1.30pm 7.30pm	SMCH SMCH

KEY: **AMC** - Alveston Methodist Church, **AMH** - Alveston Methodist Hall, **CS** - Castle School, **CTK** - Christ the King, **DGCL** - Daldry Gardens Community Lounge, **EVH** - Elberton Village Hall, **OC** - Oasis Church, Old Down, **OMC** - Olveston Methodist Church, **OMH** - Olveston Methodist Hall, **OPH** - Olveston Parish Hall, **QAMP** - Queen Alexandra Memorial Pavilion, Old Down, **StM** - St Mary's Church, **StMT** - Thornbury St Mary's Ch, **SMCH** - St Mary's Church Hall Thornbury, **TCC** - Turnberries, **TMC** - Tockington Methodist Church, **TMH** - Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, **TTH** - Thornbury Town Hall, **URC** - United Reform Church **LVH** - Littleton Village Hall



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

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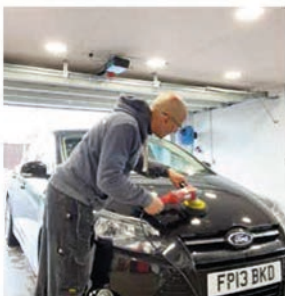




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