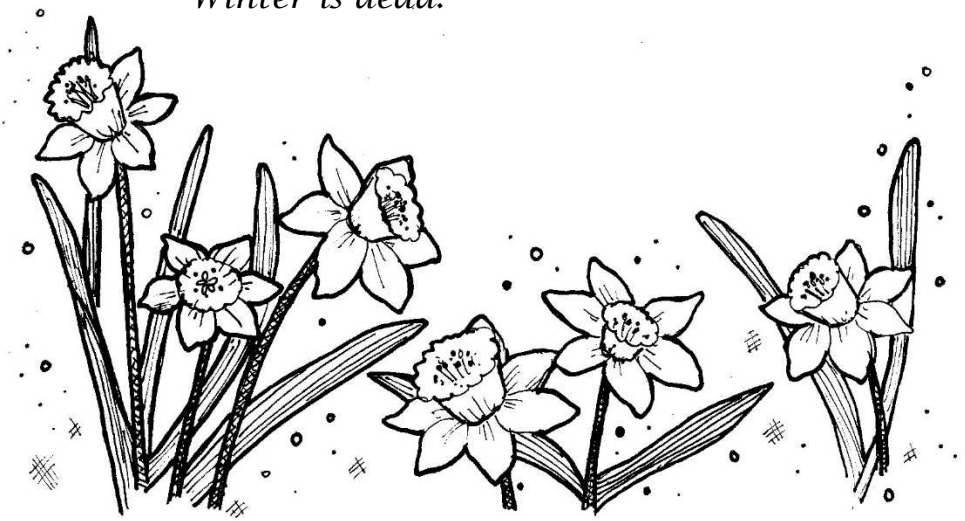
4~ward

March 2025

Daffodowndilly

by AA Milne

She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown;
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
"Winter is dead."



4ward
Community magazine for
Oldbury, Shepperdine, Kington, Rockhampton & Hill

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Editorial

It's very much congratulations all round this month. First up are congratulations to the Community Shop for getting through to the next stage following their nomination for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service, a great achievement. Also, following their recent AGM, the Shop Committee has donated another £13,000 to local good causes and charities. As we have done for many years, 4ward received a very generous donation towards our ongoing printing costs from the Shop, which has been gratefully received. Also, while I'm on the subject, I'd like thanks to our readers from Littleton for their annual donation, which is also much appreciated.

Congratulations also to Chris Jennings and the Memorial Hall committee, who at their recent AGM were able to report a very successful year with the Hall being in almost constant use for a huge range of social activities, with new ventures and more improvements always being planned. Chris paid tribute to everyone who puts so much time and effort into running events, and also to everyone who helped with the recent redecorations.

We would also like to congratulate one of our newest contributors, Alice Bathard, and Olveston Young Farmers, for their very successful 90th birthday celebrations held recently at Thornbury Golf Club. Alice tells us "This was one of the biggest events our club has held in many years, and despite lots of organising, it was certainly worth it on the night." Well done, all of you, and a special thanks to Alice, as we all love reading about your exploits.

We are also feeling pleased with ourselves at 4ward, as we've had lots of positive feedback and comments from readers saying how much they enjoyed our special wedding report in the February edition, especially the double-page spread of photos that readers had sent in. Several people also mentioned that they followed our suggestion and enjoyed seeing those purple suits in glorious Technicolor on the website.

Following a previous recent edition, we've even had an email from the USA!

Hello from the USA.
I just read your magazine that included the story regarding Laura Pashby, Chasing Fog, and looking for Percy's grave. How delightful to get a glimpse of life in your corner of the world!

With warm regards, Narda Gordon

It is always lovely to hear from any of our readers, both near and far – and the USA is most definitely the latter! I wonder if we have any readers who live even further away from our little corner of England? Do let us know!

Chris

Memorial Hall Matters February 2025

February was an important month for the Hall as we held the AGM where both the Treasurer and I presented our reports on the activities carried out over the past 12 months.

The Hall's success has been ongoing, with the inclusion of old favourites such as the Themed Dinner and the joint Race Night with the Friends of Oldbury School. In addition, we have branched out into new ventures such as Oktoberfest and a Wine and Cheese Night, both of which were very well received and will be repeated in 2025.

The Treasurer's report demonstrated just how much the Hall is now being used. Our income for 2024 was in excess of £33,000 with expenditure of a little over £21,000 thus giving a surplus of just under £12,000 - a significant amount I'm sure you will agree. Much of this is due to the hard work put in by the Hall Committee, but it is rewarding to see the enjoyment people are now getting from this great community facility.

The Treasurer also outlined the need to increase our reserves. Currently the Constitution states that we have to have a reserve of £5,000, however, the consensus of the Management Committee is that this is too low and needs to be increased over the midterm to reflect the cost of replacing items or funding major repairs.

We continue to apply for funding, and have been awarded £1,080 (a big thank you to NRS) for new furniture in the lobby area, and we are still hopeful of getting a grant for the work done in the Hall.

Outlined in the AGM were the planned future improvements that include replacing and insulating the dance floor, improving the insulation in the loft space above the lobby/kitchen and committee room, and refreshing the kitchen. These will be done when funds are available.

My report concluded with thanking everyone associated with the Hall, and in particular all the people who have put so much time and effort into organising and running events. We also paid tribute to those in the community who have stepped up to the plate by helping with the decoration of the main hall itself. A tremendous job.

The Six Nations Rugby has featured heavily in February, with some very exciting games; the final few minutes of the England vs France fixture will be remembered for many years to come. We will be screening the England games in March, along with the Ireland vs France fixture, which should be a cracking game of Rugby. Doors open at 2pm. On the final day of the tournament, Super Saturday, we will be screening all three games back to back.

As usual, food (a jacket potato with a choice of filling, a salad bowl, and coleslaw) will be available during the half-time break of the Wales/England match. Please note that you will have to pre-order these (along with your choice of filling) by completing the order sheet behind the bar.

By the time you read this we will have enjoyed The Whodunit Theatre Group's production of *Dial MP for Murder*, tickets to which were sold out very quickly. I am certainly looking forward to an evening of murder, mystery and suspense!!

March the 22nd sees the return of Keith's Silent Disco, an evening that has, in the past, been well attended, and it again promises to be an extremely enjoyable event. Tickets, as always, are on sale in the village shop.

April will see the return of our Spring Arts and Craft Fair where a number of stalls have already been reserved. This event was so well supported back in November, and we hope to see a repeat of this on 12th April too. Tea, coffee and cake, as always, will be available.

In the evening of the same day, we have Marg's Open Mic Night, which is invariably a popular evening of entertainment.

I would like now to draw your attention to a new event - a Bollywood Evening in April. We are forever trying something different and this is no exception. An evening of Bollywood dance for beginners, and a curry!!

Another forthcoming event, this time in September, is a Produce and Craft Show, which we are looking to re-establish and reinvigorate from a Fayre we used to hold many years ago. This is being outlined by Matthew Riddle elsewhere in the magazine.

As always, if you have any suggestions or questions please feel free to contact me – we are always open to pushing the boundaries of entertainment to new levels!!!

Chris Jennings

Oldbury on Severn - Memorial Hall 100 Club Draw Winners

February Draw		
1st prize.	£20	Chrissie Stewart
2nd prize.	£15	Ian Bell
3rd prize.	£10	Gerald Porter
4th prize.	£10	Doug Mills

Church Road, Oldbury on Severn, S. Glos BS35 1QA
Tel: 01454 501090

Opening hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
9 am to 1 pm

Thursday
9 am to 1:30 pm

Friday
9 am to 3 pm

Saturday
9 am to 2 pm

Sunday
9 am to 1 pm

Teas and Coffees served including Takeaways

For updates check:-
www.facebook.com/
OldburyCommunityShop

Run by volunteers for the benefit of the community

As well as a great range of basics at competitive prices, we stock many local products. These include: fresh veg, meats, ice cream, honey, jams, eggs and cakes.

We also sell newspapers, Hobbs House breads, plus award winning wines & beers.

Come and see. You may be surprised!

Shop Spot

February proved to be a busy month, with our Annual Members Meeting, and an extraordinary Committee Meeting to discuss the 2025 applications for donations.

As advised previously, we have been nominated for the 2025 Kings Award for Voluntary Service, a very prestigious UK award. We are pleased to say that our nomination was well received and we have now gone forward to the next stage, something that all our volunteers should be very proud of. The King's Officers visited the Shop and spent 90 minutes with us, asking lots of questions. They appeared to be impressed with how the Shop has become much more than a grocery service, and is now a central hub for community life in the village. This said, there is no guarantee that we will be successful (many organisations have been nominated multiple times without success).

It was a little surreal that whilst we were meeting the King's Officers, the local MP Claire Young was sitting at the next table having a coffee and piece of cake with a friend. She was very impressed with the Shop's warm & friendly atmosphere, and congratulated us on our nomination.

After another successful year we are very pleased to announce that we are able to make further donations to local good causes and local charities. We received many more applications this year, and we will share over £13,000 to many local beneficiaries. These include the **Memorial Hall** (funding renovations), **Oldbury Primary School** (new equipment), Oldbury **Busy Bees** Nursery (new toys), **St Arilda's Church** (water feed to the new cemetery), plants for the **Village Green**, **4ward Magazine** (help with printing costs), the local **Ukrainian Group** (support for a Hall event to learn more about Ukraine), **Thornbury U16 Rugby Team** (shirts for a Tour), **Marlwood School** (PE camera equipment), Thornbury-based charities and organisations including **PHASE** (working with children in Castle and Marlwood Schools), **JIGSAW**, **Brain Tumour Support**, **St Peter's Hospice**, the **Thornbury Memory Cafe**, **Thornbury Baptist Church** (includes the Thornbury Food Bank and help for furnishing homes for the homeless), the Search and Rescue Service based at Sharpness (**SARA**), the **Great Western Air Ambulance Service** (based in Almondsbury) and finally the local **Thornbury in Bloom** group.

With this year's expected donations, it will bring us close to a total of £75,000 of donations since we opened ten years ago.

We also continue to have people coming forward to join our volunteers. This is very encouraging and an essential part of our success and sustainability into the future. We currently have three young people undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. As always, we provide them with training, but it is not long before *they* are training *us* how to use the till 😂

Thank you all for making the above possible. *Chris Awde*

Oldbury "Open Mic"(ish)!

Welcome to our informal music night!
Come join in or listen to local musical talent across various genres

With performers being singers or instrumentalists playing solo, duo, or in small ensembles

NB. This is a "curated open mic". If performing, add your name to the list on arrival, or message Marg ahead – first come, first served. (Some acts pre-planned.) If you need accompanying, please bring chord sheets – we'll try to help!

VENUE: OLDBURY ON SEVERN MEMORIAL HALL.
Saturday 12th April
STARTING: 8pm (Doors open 7.30pm)

BAR AVAILABLE BEFORE THE START AND DURING THE INTERVAL.
TICKETS £5: Buy online or in the Oldbury village shop using QR code, or link https://bookwhen.com/memorialhall
(Enquiries: Marg 07971 290603)

Oldbury's Sewage System

The village of Oldbury on Severn is served by Wessex Water's vacuum system for removing the sewage uphill to the treatment works. This system has been in use now for many years and has served the village well. With extra houses being connected to it, and wear and tear over the years, it is starting to reach capacity and leaks are occurring in the pumping chambers. This is causing the system, in some areas, to fail when under pressure in very wet weather when the ground is saturated. Several attempts have been made to rectify the system with varying degrees of success. The problem seems to be multifaceted, and to get to the root of the issue and to move forward, the Parish Council called a multidisciplinary meeting, which has now taken place, and included representatives from the Parish Council, Wessex Water, South Gloucestershire Council and the Lower Severn Drainage Board.

A full and frank discussion took place, with each group stating the problems, and what has been done, so far, to rectify them. There is water leaking into the pumping chambers and Wessex Water has been resealing the manhole covers and lining the pumping chambers. This is being done when there are large amounts of water around so that the leaks can be clearly identified. The worst areas are Featherbed Lane and Westend. Wessex Water has also been supplying tankers to clear the pumping chambers when they become flooded, and they attend as soon as possible when a fault has been detected.

If you find that you have issues with your sewerage system, the number to call is *0345 6004600* or submit an enquiry to *wessexwater.co.uk* online. Meanwhile the Parish Council will closely monitor planning applications to ensure adequate drainage is available for surface water, Wessex Water will continue to maintain the system as and when required, and the drainage board will ensure that the land drains taking surface water are kept clear. We ask everyone to ensure that their surface water drainage systems are adequate and do not drain into the sewage system, and request that land owners prevent any run-off from their fields from flowing onto the roads.

We hope that by working together we can keep the system running efficiently and effectively. Thank you all for your help.

Sheila Bedford, Chairman of Oldbury Parish Council

Oldbury Produce and Craft Show 2025

The Memorial Hall is planning to stage a Produce and Craft Show on Sunday 14th September. There will be competitions for flowers, vegetables, cooking, photography and crafts, and a children's section as well. We are putting together a working group now to plan the event and if anyone would like to help please do contact me on *07877413298.* Thank you.

Matthew Riddle

A WARM WELCOME

Central Pook is a hidden gem nestled in the beautiful hamlet of Northwick.
Surrounded by countryside we are situated in the heart of the Severn Estuary with access to a variety of cycle routes and walks.
We are a bespoke café serving breakfast brunch and lunch along with our homemade cakes, savoury bakes and amazing coffee.

FISH AND CHIP FRIDAYS

Every Friday we serve hand battered Fish and Chips, lunchtimes and evenings with takeaway available

SUNDAY ROAST

Join us for a traditional home cooked Sunday lunch, available in two sittings 12.30 or 2.30 takeaway available

Dogs welcome

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8.30am to 4pm and 5.30pm to 8pm
Saturday
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Sunday
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ARMSTRONG ARTS GROUP

THORNBURY SWING BAND
Saturday 22 March at 7.30pm
at Marlwood School, Alveston,
performing in the Drama Hall

Thornbury Swing Band plays swing, jazz, instrumental and vocal numbers from the 1930s right up to modern times – with a line-up of saxophones, trombones, trumpets, male and female vocalists, and supported by a rhythm section of bass, guitar, keyboard and drums. None of the band members receives any income for performing. Money raised by the band is donated to good causes in the local area.

"Making money for good causes."

Tickets £15 from *AAGThornbury@gmail.com* or *01454 850933*

"Crafts, Coffee & Cake"

raising funds for

Cancer Research UK

between **10am - 2pm** on **Saturday 5th April** in **Falfield Village Hall**

Come with your children/grandchildren and have fun together. There will be the opportunity to make Easter nests; decorate biscuits; paint eggs; create a spring garden; plus several other Spring/Easter themed creative activities!

A bit of background: on 19th July I'll be setting off from Penrice Castle on The Gower to "Walk, Jog, Run" 100km (an organised UltraChallenge). I definitely won't be running, but I am aiming to 'walk, jog, refuel' straight through!! I've decided, in order to give me extra focus through this madness, to fundraise for Cancer Research UK because it is "*the world's leading independent cancer charity dedicated to saving lives through research, influence and information*" and, quite simply, because I know too many friends who are, or have been, affected by this disease.

PHONE LOUISE WRIGHT ON 07800776998 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

Hill & Rockhampton WI

Report of Meeting – 11th February 2025

Our speaker for the evening was Christabelle Tymko who, with the able assistance of Graham on the computer, talked about Salmon Fishing in the Severn. Her father, Tom Jones, started fishing in the 1940s and was later joined by his brother Vic and helped out by Jack Hopkins. Their fisheries were at Whale Wharf and Cowhill. Eventually Christabelle and her husband took over, but gave up in 1984 as the reduction in salmon stocks meant the business was no longer viable.

In our area, where the river is at its widest before flowing into the Bristol Channel, putcher fishing was the main method to catch salmon. Rows of putchers were made in the winter months from local withies, which were then attached to frameworks of posts and rails called Salmon Weirs. Some were extremely tall, which showed quite clearly how high the tidal range of the Severn really is. The short film from the 1970's showed a young Chris riding her pony Pancho bareback along the bank to help Jack Hopkins's collect the catch.

Graham remembered helping out, putting in the fishing at the beginning of the season. It was very hard work, but a lot of fun, pushing a flat bottomed sledge loaded with putchers down the mud. A lot of cider was drank!

The next part of the film featured 72-year-old Colin Cook from Purton who was an expert lave net fisherman. The lave net is a Y-shaped wood structure, with a net between the two arms. These fishermen had to have a very intimate knowledge of the river and be able to recognise changes in ripples which denoted the presence of a salmon. They would then lower their net and scoop the salmon up, if they were lucky. Colin caught two salmon on the day of filming and got really excited, calling out to the camera man to keep up!

The final part of the film was from further up-river, at Waterend near Longney, where the Severn starts to narrow. Here drag net fishing was practised by Anselm and David Browning. This involved at least four men, one in the boat pulling the net out into the river, one on the bank drawing the net up to the winder, where two others pulled the net into shore along with any salmon. They had a very good catch on the day of filming and Anselm can be heard exclaiming over and over again "Well I never, well I never"!

Deryck Huby and Don Riddle were the last two putcher men in this area, fishing at Hayward Rock. Originally the putcher fishing season ran between April 15th and August 15th, but the Environment Agency brought in restrictions to protect fish stocks and changed the start date to June 1st in the late 1990's which is when they gave up. We were saddened to learn

at the meeting that Deryck Huby had died just before Christmas at the great age of 98. Christabelle told us that Deryck had loaned a putcher he had made for the Countryside film that was also shown. She also proudly showed us her putcher made in 2022 for a charity fundraiser by Kevin Knapp from another famous local salmon-fishing family.

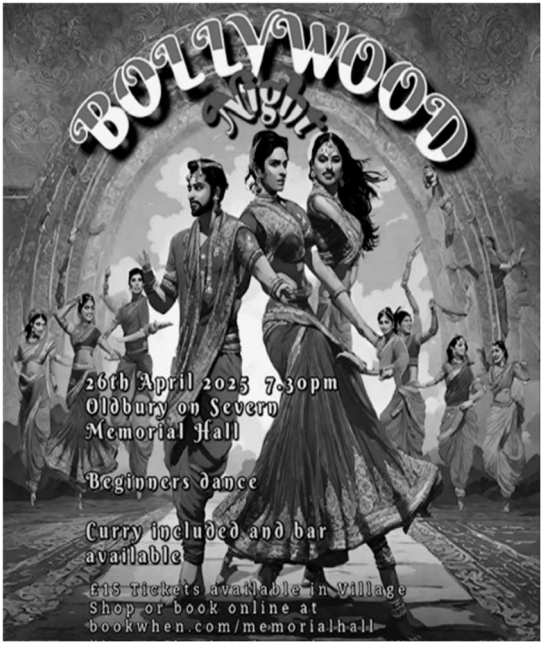
Now, all forms of salmon fishing, whether putcher, drag net, lave net or rod and line, in the Severn estuary, are strictly prohibited by the Environment Agency to allow stocks to recover.

Carole Dyke gave the vote of thanks for an insightful and interesting talk. After the talk, the February Draw for the winners of the Rockhampton 100 Club was made:

Rockhampton 100 Club
February Draw Winners

Sophie Hook
Henry Hook
Victoria Barker
Tina Mitchell-Skinner

Ann Jones, Secretary, Hill & Rockhampton WI



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A Mystery Solved!

Do you remember the very dry summer of 2022 and the grass fire that swept across the church hill and threatened the church on Saturday 13 August? It was only saved by the brave actions of a couple visiting the church at that very moment, who with enormous presence of mind rushed out to protect the building with the fire extinguishers, and the prompt arrival of the fire brigade. The exact cause of the outbreak in three places alongside the Cowhill road has always remained a complete mystery - two theories being banded about were spontaneous combustion or wanton vandalism of persons unknown driving or biking past.

Finally, I can solve the mystery and report that the fires were started completely accidentally, and those responsible would have had absolutely no idea that they were the cause of what happened and were thus entirely innocent.

Walking down the church hill in a rare bit of sunshine in late February this year I got into conversation with a couple of fellow walkers. When they realised I was a local, one asked if he could he share a story with me. The two friends are regular visitors to this area and usually park off the road at the entrance of the Stock Lane bridleway on Kington Road. On the afternoon of Saturday 13th August, it was another warm, sunny and breezy summer's day. The friends had parked up in their usual spot and were just about to set off on their walk when they saw two vintage tractors driving fairly speedily towards them from the Kington direction. They stood back watching as the tractors drove by, accelerating as the gradient increased towards the crest of the hill, which caused sparks to fly out from the top of the exhaust pipes. The walkers watched in horror as the sparks landed on the verge, then fanned by the breeze, ignited the tinder-dry grass verge and within seconds flames were spreading out and starting to engulf the hedge. The walkers immediately phoned the fire brigade and were actually still on the phone when they realised the same thing was happening on the other side of Cowhill as the tractor drivers, completely oblivious to what had just happened, once again were causing sparks to fly as they accelerated their tractors up to the top of the Church Hill. Two more fires broke out, one in the hedge alongside the road and the third one, which endangered the church, when the grassy tump at the very top of the hill was set alight.

Still, all's well that ends well. The church was saved and fire brigade did a brilliant job, along with local farmers, in putting out the grass and hedge fires. The only real casualties were two pollarded ash trees on Kington Road and one of a pair of very old fastigiate yew trees in the church yard.

Chris Tymko

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2025 – Time for a New Church Electoral Roll

This is the year when EVERYONE gets dumped off the Electoral Roll – and so everyone also needs to make a definite decision to come back on again. It happens in the Church of England every six years. Whereas for five years the Electoral Roll is revised annually by our Electoral Roll Officer, in this sixth year, the roll is dissolved, and we must all re-apply and re-commit ourselves.

That's the quick way of explaining it. If you want a detailed and clear legal breakdown of exactly how it works, you can find it at:

https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-resources/church-representation-rules

If you manage to wade through all the details of the process, and also understand them, it will leave you with admiration for the person in your church who has been brave enough to become the Electoral Roll Officer!

Electoral Roll application forms are available in all benefice churches and when completed should be returned to the Benefice Office. Please call the office [*01454 281900*] with any queries, or chat to one of our churchwardens.

The United Benefice of Thornbury with Oldbury and Shepperdine

Refresh!

A service for ALL ages at St Arilda's Church starting with refreshments at 3pm.

Sunday 2nd March
Waste Not, Want Not!

Sunday 6th April
Finished?

Sunday 4th May
Showers of Blessings!

Church Services for March 2025

St. Mary's Thornbury

2nd 10.30am
Holy Communion

5th 7.00pm
Ash Wednesday
Service of Ashing

9th 10.30am
All Age

16th 10.30am
Holy Communion

23rd 10.30am
Holy Communion

St. Arilda's Oldbury

2nd 3.00pm
Refresh!

9th 6.00pm
Holy Communion

16th 6.00pm
Evening Prayer

23rd 6.00pm
Evensong BCP

St. Mary's Shepperdine

No Regular Sunday Service During Winter Months

Open as a place of pilgrimage and prayer.

For details phone *01454 260316*

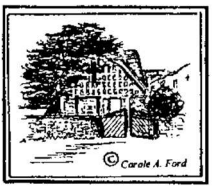
St. Oswald's Rockhampton

Please check locally

Liz Cullimore churchwarden 01454 412208 or 07876352680 email cullimorel@aol.com

23rd 10.30am
Holy Communion service

30th 10.00am
Benefice Service with Baptisms
St Mary's Hall, Eastbury Rd, Thornbury



Catholic

Christ the King, Thornbury.
Sunday Mass
9.00am
10.30am

www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk

Holy Cross, Wotton Under Edge
Saturday
(vigil Mass) 5.00pm

Morton Baptist

Morning Service
Every Sunday
at
10.30am

See https://mortonbaptist.org for details

Thornbury Quakers

Chantry Community Centre on Castle Street

Sunday
10.30am

Further details contact Sheila Waters on *07738495776*

Christian Comment

I remember being taught about "acronyms" when I was at school – a special type of abbreviation formed from the initial letters of other words that are able to be pronounced together as a word themselves. The actual word "acronym" isn't one I use very much, but acronyms themselves are a different matter entirely - they seem to pop up everywhere, and some become so familiar that we almost forget that is what they are.

Acronyms such as NASA, ASAP and LASER (all from the 1950s) are now almost classics, but it seems as if each generation produces a new set of acronyms – by necessity this was especially true back in the early days of text messages when they were limited to just 160 characters. Acronyms are undeniably very useful for expressing an idea concisely; if we have a "FOMO when our friends go SCUBA diving without us, because YOLO!", it is certainly much less longwinded than us having a "fear of missing out when our friends go self-contained-underwater-breathing-apparatus diving without us, because you only live once!" It definitely helps though if the meaning is standardised and universally known – embarrassing stories exist of people not realising that LOL means "Laughing Out Loud" (either humorously or ironically) and, having wrongly assumed that it meant "Lots Of Love", using LOL when relaying sad news, such as about a bereavement!

As a Christian, some of my most-loved acronyms are ones that remind me of what God has done for me, or which give me helpful or encouraging reminders of how to follow Jesus. A really useful one is a definition of the biblical concept of God's 'GRACE' towards us. Remembering it as "God's Riches At Christ's Expense" explains really well how God's grace is the freely given gift of all His blessings as we spend our lives walking with Him, but that it is not something *we* can ever buy or earn by 'trying to be good' - it is only because Jesus gave His life in our place that we can be with God.

Also helpful is 'JOY', that reminds us of the order in which the bible advises us to prioritise within our lives – "Jesus, Others, Yourself". As an acronym JOY almost becomes a three-letter summary of Luke 10 v 27: "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind. Also, love your neighbour the same as you love yourself.*"

My favourite example is actually one where the acronym has nothing at all to do with the meaning it reminds me of! It is however a word that I come across quite often, in everything from street names to nature programmes to garden ornaments. Each time I see it, and most especially when times are tough, it feels like an encouragement directly from God reminding me that He is generous, loving, faithful, and completely trustworthy, and that I should always live every part of my life as a FROG – Fully Reliant On God!

Ruth Riddle

Mount Pleasant Farm and Forestry, Rockhampton.

Geoffs Treees Special end of season Tree, Shrub and Hedging Sale. Many items at about half normal price.

Free Paulownia(Foxglove Tree) 1.5 metres high for every customer spending £75.00 plus VAT.

Full range of Native trees and Shrubs approx.1.5- 2 metres high £17.00 each plus VAT eg . Silver Birch, Oak, Hornbeam, Wild Cherry, Hornbeam, Hazel, Rowan. Smaller cheaper ones also available.

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All these prices apply until end of March and ONLY on production of this advert.

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Appointment Essential before visiting,
Please e mail glmpff@gmail.com

Closure of Thornbury & District Museum

[*Published 20 February*] It is with deep regret and sadness that we announce the possible closure of the Thornbury & District Museum.

This unexpected turn of events follows an email on the 3rd of February from the Chair of the Armstrong Hall Trust (AHT) to our chairman, informing us that our lease, that expires next January, will not be renewed.

This decision came as a shock and was made without prior consultation or explanation and no consideration for the process that needs to be followed when dissolving a museum that is accredited by the Arts Council England.

Since we received that email, the Museum Trustees have been working tirelessly to influence the decision and find a solution, to that end, the AHT have now formed a working party to retrospectively find out more about what is needed to retain a museum in the Town. Whilst this initiative is welcomed, it is not a solution, and we still feel our long-term future is in doubt.

Thornbury & District Museum has been a cornerstone of our community for nearly forty years, offering invaluable services and preserving the rich history of our town. This action by the AHT means that our beloved museum could soon close its doors, ending an era of education, cultural enrichment, community engagement, and with the potential loss of a large collection of historic items, records and photographs.

Rest assured we will continue to robustly explore every option in the hope of securing a future for the Museum. In the meantime, we cherish the memories and achievements of nearly four decades of service to the community.

We would welcome any support that impresses on the Armstrong Hall Trust and the Town Council how much the museum is a valuable asset. Besides providing the Town with a creditable museum service, it helps the Town Council to achieve the objectives in its Strategic Plan i.e. its commitment to support the community, and by providing volunteering opportunities.

If the museum does not have a sustainable future it will have to close and along with it additional attractions such as:

- The Heritage Trail
- Thornbury Roots and other similar websites in the district
- Walks and talks around the Town
- Presentations to local groups
- Support to local schools
- Involvement with the community excavation at Lower Hazel
- Satellite exhibitions in the Town Hall
- Support to the Arts Festival

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters, visitors, and volunteers who are part of our journey. Your dedication and passion make the Thornbury & District Museum a treasured institution.

Regardless, we will continue our activities and open the Museum as normal for the time being.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support during this challenging time.

UPDATE [*21 February*] from the Thornbury & District Museum Facebook page:

The Museum Trustees had a constructive meeting with the Armstrong Hall Trust Working Party this afternoon.

We are not out of the woods yet but between us we are exploring some viable options that might keep the museum open.

Thanks for your support, we will keep you updated with any developments.

Thornbury & District Museum

St Mary's Music
Sunday 16 March at 4pm
St Mary's Church, Thornbury

We shall be entertained by *NotaBene,* a Bristol based *a cappella* group. They sing a wide variety of musical styles from medieval partsongs to modern jazz and pop settings.

I am sure this will be a really enjoyable afternoon concert, with something to suit all tastes, and we look forward to seeing you there.
The concert will last about an hour and will be followed by refreshments.

Admission is free, but there will be a retiring collection, with all profits from this going to the Music Fund of St. Mary's Church.

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Funeral Notice

Robin Pitman died 12 February 2025 at his home in Bath, aged 80.
A celebration of his life will take place at 2.15 pm on Thursday 20 March 2025 at the Memorial Woodlands, Earthcott Green, Alveston, B35 3TA.

All his friends are welcome.

Email to the Editor

Hello from the USA.

I just read your magazine that included the story regarding Laura Pashby, Chasing Fog, and looking for Percy's grave. How delightful to get a glimpse of life in your corner of the world! Is there any possibility to receive your magazine on a regular basis?

With warm regards, Narda Gordon

Thornbury Arts Festival needs YOU!

New helpers are needed to ensure Thornbury's long-running arts festival continues to thrive.

Live music, comedy and drama have entertained audiences in the town and surrounding area for more than 50 years, together with a wide range of guest speakers. Comedian Alfie Moore, poet Pam Ayres, former ITN political editor John Sargeant, and the BBC's former chief news correspondent Kate Adie, are just some of those who have been brought to Thornbury by the team running the annual festival.

All the organisers are volunteers, who use their spare time to find acts, liaise with them or their agents, book venues, arrange publicity and, at the events, look after the performers and welcome audiences. The team involved is small, and with some committee members retiring, there is a need to replace them.

At least four more people are required, including someone to become treasurer. Whoever takes on that particular role does not have to be a qualified accountant, just someone who knows their way around a spreadsheet and can sort out what money comes in and goes out.

Anyone of any age with enthusiasm for the performing arts is welcome. Meetings are usually held once a month, but more often as each festival approaches. As well as the main festival, there are also other events which come under its umbrella - the Thornbury Eisteddfod for young performers, the Severn Vale Art Trail, and a production by the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School for local primary school children.

Anyone interested should email *nancynorth@icloud.com* for more information.

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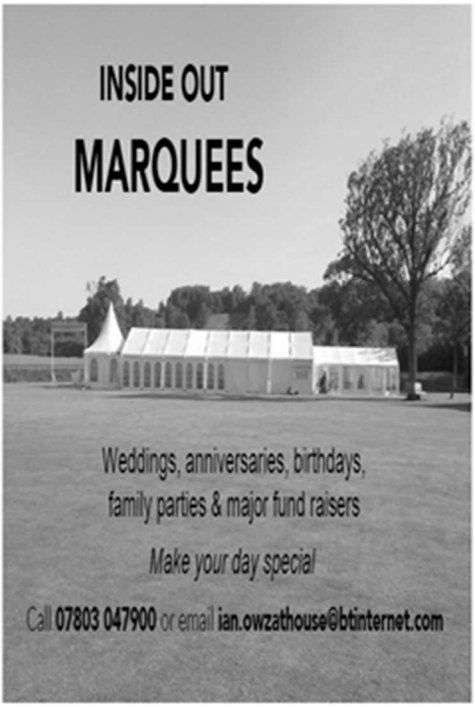

Oldbury Power Station

Oldbury Power Station has been part of Oldbury for over 60 years and the twin towers have dominated our landscape throughout this period. But how much do we know about the life of the power station and how it has helped sustain our energy demands over two generations? Over the next few months we plan to produce a number of articles that will, hopefully, answer many of your questions. While considerable progress has been made in the decommissioning process, there are many more milestones to complete and we plan to keep you informed of the progress being made and other interesting activities that take place within the curtilage of the site.

The legacy of Oldbury Power Station: A journey through time

Oldbury Power Station stands as a testament to the evolution of nuclear energy in the UK. Its story began in 1961 when construction commenced, marking the start of a significant chapter in the nation's energy history.

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The early days: Construction and commissioning

Oldbury was one of the pioneering power stations to use Magnox reactors with pre-stressed concrete pressure vessels, a departure from traditional steel vessels. A pressure vessel is a container designed to hold gases or liquids at high pressure. This innovation was a leap forward in nuclear technology. Reactor 1 achieved criticality (this means that the reactor reached a state where a nuclear chain reaction becomes self-sustaining) on September 18, 1967 and began generating electricity on November 9 of the same year. Reactor 2 followed in April 1968.

Decades of service

For 44 years, Oldbury was a cornerstone of the UK's electricity supply, operating efficiently and contributing significantly to the national grid. Over its lifetime, it generated approximately 137.5 terawatt-hours (TWh) of electricity, enough to power a million homes for over 20 years. The station's operational life extended 19 years beyond its original design life of 25 years.

The end of an era

On February 29, 2012, Oldbury Power Station was officially shut down. The decision to close Reactor 1 was made on economic grounds, allowing the site to generate an additional 7.4 TWh of electricity and £350 million in income for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). Reactor 2 had already been shut down on June 30, 2011. All high-level waste, including spent nuclear fuel, was removed, and the reactors were fully defueled by 2016.

Achievements and innovations

The site exceeded its generation targets in its final years, with 2003/2004 being its highest output year at 3.726 TWh. The station's reactors contained over 52,000 fuel elements and drew cooling water from the River Severn.

A legacy of safety and excellence

Throughout its operation, Oldbury maintained an impressive safety record, going over two years without a lost-time accident. The site also achieved the longest periods without trips, with Reactor 1 operating continuously for 823 days and Reactor 2 for 743 days. To this day, the workforce's commitment to safety and excellence underpins all work on site.

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Cultural impact

Oldbury's legacy extends beyond just its technical achievements. In September 1977, it hosted the British Monopoly championships, and episodes of Doctor Who and Blake's 7 were filmed on-site, adding a unique cultural dimension to its history.

Oldbury site's story serves as a reminder of the advancements in nuclear technology and the importance of sustainable energy solutions. The dedicated workforce and innovative practices at Oldbury have left an indelible mark on the UK's energy landscape, ensuring that its legacy will be remembered for generations to come. The current annual budget for the site is approximately £23m.

Sharon Fry and Chris Jennings from NRS (Nuclear Restoration Services)

Olveston Young Farmers

On Saturday 22nd February, Olveston young farmers held a dinner dance to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the club. Current and past members, as well as other local rural people, dressed up for our night of celebration, with a total of 150 people attending the event held at Thornbury Golf Club.

Following the 3-course meal, the raffle took place, with many excellent prizes kindly donated by local businesses. Shortly afterwards, the DJ started, and the party began! This evening was an excellent opportunity to also have a look at some of the old club cups and yearbooks, with our oldest one dating back to 1985 which featured some of our current members' families! We also had on display our club tablecloth which is signed by all past chairmen, including my own Grampy who was chairman in 1958. Our club has now been running for 90 years, which is an excellent achievement, especially as we see generations of young farmers putting their all into the club. This was one of the biggest events our club has held in many years, and despite lots of organising, it was certainly worth it on the night.

Looking on into the Spring, we are coming up to Pre-Rally and Rally, which are competition days against other clubs within the county. These competitions include stock judging, farm businesses management, dancing, auctioneering, and much more. We also continue to fundraise for our club, as we introduce Lambing Bingo this month. If you would like to participate, please contact the club by emailing:

olvestonyfc@gloucestershireyfc.co.uk

Alice Bathard, Chairman

Tide Table: Inward Rocks, River Severn

March 2025

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Moon	Sunrise	Sunset
Sat 1		3:24 AM GMT / 0.51 m	8:28 AM GMT / 12.21 m	3:46 PM GMT / 0.06 m	8:49 PM GMT / 12.32 m		6:55 AM GMT	5:50 PM GMT
Sun 2		4:05 AM GMT / 0.01 m	9:08 AM GMT / 12.81 m	4:27 PM GMT / -0.28 m	9:29 PM GMT / 12.70 m		6:53 AM GMT	5:52 PM GMT
Thu 6		6:50 AM GMT / 0.85 m	12:07 PM GMT / 10.87 m	7:15 PM GMT / 1.34 m		First Quarter	6:44 AM GMT	5:59 PM GMT
Fri 7	12:33 AM GMT / 10.27 m	7:40 AM GMT / 1.63 m	1:04 PM GMT / 9.70 m	8:09 PM GMT / 2.19 m			6:42 AM GMT	6:01 PM GMT
Sat 8	1:34 AM GMT / 9.20 m	8:43 AM GMT / 2.39 m	2:11 PM GMT / 8.65 m	9:21 PM GMT / 2.89 m			6:40 AM GMT	6:03 PM GMT
Sun 9	2:47 AM GMT / 8.38 m	10:08 AM GMT / 2.85 m	3:30 PM GMT / 8.02 m	10:55 PM GMT / 3.10 m			6:37 AM GMT	6:04 PM GMT
Mon 10	4:09 AM GMT / 8.10 m	11:42 AM GMT / 2.71 m	4:51 PM GMT / 8.04 m				6:35 AM GMT	6:06 PM GMT
Fri 14		2:53 AM GMT / 1.25 m	7:51 AM GMT / 10.70 m	3:12 PM GMT / 0.96 m	8:10 PM GMT / 10.78 m	Full Moon	6:26 AM GMT	6:13 PM GMT
Sat 15		3:26 AM GMT / 1.02 m	8:27 AM GMT / 11.25 m	3:43 PM GMT / 0.85 m	8:45 PM GMT / 11.22 m		6:24 AM GMT	6:15 PM GMT
Sun 16		3:56 AM GMT / 0.93 m	9:02 AM GMT / 11.55 m	4:12 PM GMT / 0.87 m	9:19 PM GMT / 11.40 m		6:22 AM GMT	6:17 PM GMT
Fri 21		6:28 AM GMT / 2.02 m	11:46 AM GMT / 9.32 m	6:47 PM GMT / 2.40 m			6:10 AM GMT	6:25 PM GMT
Sat 22	12:04 AM GMT / 8.96 m	7:08 AM GMT / 2.52 m	12:28 PM GMT / 8.51 m	7:31 PM GMT / 2.93 m		Last Quarter	6:08 AM GMT	6:27 PM GMT
Sun 23	12:50 AM GMT / 8.20 m	7:59 AM GMT / 3.02 m	1:23 PM GMT / 7.77 m	8:30 PM GMT / 3.38 m			6:05 AM GMT	6:29 PM GMT
Mon 24	1:56 AM GMT / 7.58 m	9:10 AM GMT / 3.35 m	2:43 PM GMT / 7.31 m	9:49 PM GMT / 3.54 m			6:03 AM GMT	6:30 PM GMT
Fri 28		1:20 AM GMT / 1.73 m	6:40 AM GMT / 10.26 m	1:48 PM GMT / 1.14 m	7:04 PM GMT / 10.70 m		5:54 AM GMT	6:37 PM GMT
Sat 29		2:11 AM GMT / 0.93 m	7:24 AM GMT / 11.48 m	2:36 PM GMT / 0.41 m	7:45 PM GMT / 11.81 m	New Moon	5:52 AM GMT	6:39 PM GMT
Sun 30		3:57 AM BST / 0.26 m	9:05 AM BST / 12.47 m	4:20 PM BST / -0.12 m	9:26 PM BST / 12.62 m		6:49 AM BST	7:40 PM BST
Mon 31		4:40 AM BST / -0.20 m	9:46 AM BST / 13.07 m	5:03 PM BST / -0.39 m	10:07 PM BST / 13.01 m		6:47 AM BST	7:42 PM BST

Severn Bore – Spring 2025

Date	Day	Newnham	Severn Bore Inn	Minsterworth Church	Stonebench	Over Bridge	Tide (m)	Prospect
March								
2	Sun	08:34	09:27	09:34	09:49	10:09	9.8	***
3	Mon	09:11	10:04	10:11	10:26	10:46	9.7	***
30	Sun	08:32	09:25	09:32	09:47	10:07	9.9	***
		20:53	21:46	21:53	22:08	22:28	9.8	***
31	Mon	09:11	10:04	10:11	10:26	10:46	10.0	****
		21:31	22:24	22:31	22:46	23:06	9.7	***
April								
1	Tue	09:50	10:43	10:50	11:05	11:25	9.7	***

The bore can arrive up to 20 minutes early or 30 minutes late depending on prevailing weather conditions. Tide heights are for Sharpness Dock.

It is not looking like a good year (spring or autumn) for the Severn bore. The best bore for the whole year likely to be on the morning of 31st March.

St Peter's Hospice – Coffee Morning
Saturday 29 March at 10am at Falfield Village Hall

St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group would be delighted to welcome you to their Spring Coffee Morning.
Homemade Cake stall, Books, and Raffle.
Entrance £3 to include tea/coffee and cake.
Please come along and support St Peter's,
your local hospice, and celebrate the start of Spring.

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March in Thornbury Library

Enjoy a free hot drink in the library!
Available **Monday**, **Wednesday**, **Thursday and Friday 10.30am - 4pm.** Use the computers or your own iPad, phone etc. (Wi-Fi available). Read a book or newspaper, browse the shelves, enjoy a communal puzzle or just relax!

LEGO Club. **FREE Every Saturday 9.30–10.00am**
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.

Rhymetime. **FREE Every Monday and Friday 9.30am-10am**
(open at 9.30 for Rhymetime only)

"Have You Read…?" Friday 7th March 2pm-3pm A book group for everyone. Come and enjoy an open book group with a difference. No set novel to read. Just drop in for an hour for refreshments and a chat.

Computer Support 1-1 Every **Thursday**: **10am**, **11am**, & **12pm** slots. **Book** a session with our computer volunteer for IT and digital support.

Staffed Times		**Open Access (Unstaffed)**
Monday:	10am - 5pm	Every day: 8.00am – 7.30pm
Wednesday:	10am - 5pm	Induction essential
Thursday:	10am - 5pm	*Please note: A 15-minute lapse will occur between staff closing time and Open Access starting.*
Friday:	10am - 5pm	
Saturday:	9.30am - 12.30pm	
Rhymetime 9.30-10am (Monday & Friday) - special opening time for this event only.		

For more information on any of the above, please contact us by dropping in to Thornbury Library, or email *thornbury.library@southglos.gov.uk* or phone: *01454 868006* or visit our website: *www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries*

The Armstrong Arts Group is delighted to present
Knights of Magic:
A Spectacular Evening of the Magical Arts.
Saturday 5 April at 7.30pm
at Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Thornbury

ARMSTRONG ARTS GROUP

The Bristol Society of Magic, founded in 1921 and one of the UK's oldest and most revered Magic Societies, is bringing its wonder-full annual stage show to Thornbury. Starring "*The Great Baldini*", one of the most talented magicians in the West Country and fresh from the central Bristol run with the KNIGHTS OF MAGIC, they combine illusion, mentalism, manipulation, escapology and much, much more. Prepare to be amazed!

Tickets £15, £5 for under 15s. Interval tea and coffee.

Calendar Dates for Oldbury

9th	March	Sun	England vs Italy 6 nations 2.15pm, Memorial Hall
15th	March	Sat	Super Saturday – All 6 Nations matches, Memorial Hall
22nd	March	Sat	Silent Disco, Memorial Hall
12th	April	Sat	Spring Arts & Craft Fair, Memorial Hall 10am to 1pm
12th	April	Sat	Open Mic Night, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
26th	April	Sat	Bollywood Night, Memorial Hall
16th	May	Fri	Quiz Night, Memorial Hall 7.30pm
14th	Sep	Sun	Produce and Craft Show

OVCC Film Show, second Friday of month, Memorial Hall, doors open at 7.30pm

If you have any more local events that you would like to include in this diary, please email the magazine at **4wardmag@gmail.com**

Oldbury Elders Luncheon Club
Meet at 11.45am in the dining room, lunch served at 12noon,
on the last Tuesday of the month.
Thanks to Mark Sorrell and the team at the Anchor.
Any enquiries to Janet Astle *07747 198878*

Oldbury Whist Drives, first and third Saturdays

of the month, at 7.30pm in the Westmarsh Lane Pavilion.

New players always welcome!
If anyone would like to learn the game or brush up on their skills, please feel free to contact me - Matthew Riddle - 07877 413 298 matthewriddle1967@googlemail.com

The Jazz Club, first Wednesday of each month.
Memorial Hall, 7.30pm to 9.30pm
(*Not June to August inclusive.*)

Rainfall

January		
2025	**2024**	**2023**
129.0mm	68.5mm	175.5mm
5.08"	2.70"	6.91"

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