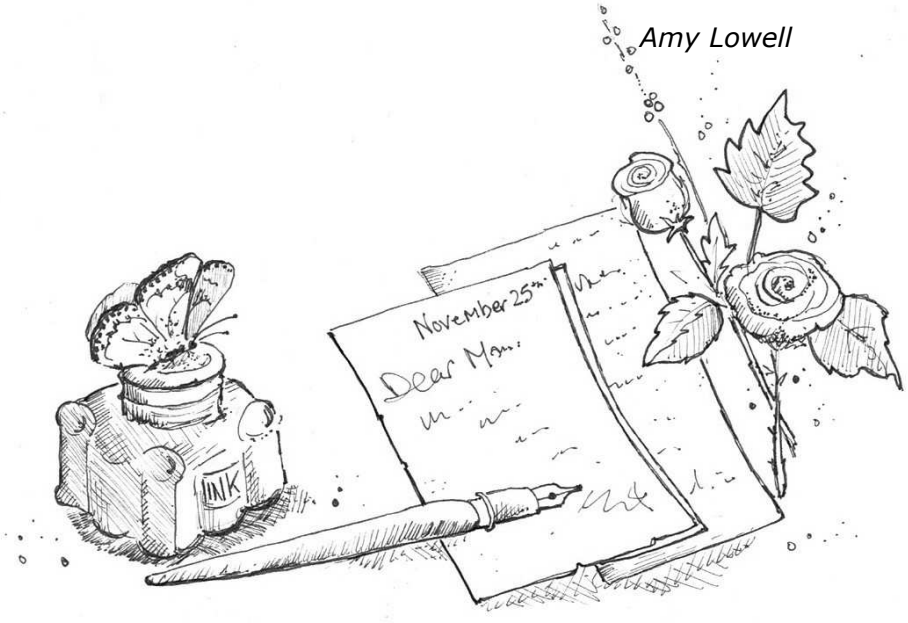
Forward

November 2025

November

The vine leaves against the brick walls of my house,
Are rusty and broken.
Dead leaves gather under the pine-trees,
The brittle boughs of lilac-bushes
Sweep against the stars.
And I sit under a lamp
Trying to write down the emptiness of my heart.
Even the cat will not stay with me,
But prefers the rain
Under the meagre shelter of a cellar window.

Amy Lowell



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

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Editorial

When my family were growing up, I always seemed to be either with the children at the Doctors, or at the Vets with one or other of the menagerie of small animals and pets they kept. I don't suppose things have changed much with families in the village today. What has changed, is that it no longer seems to be a personal relationship with the health professionals.

I'm not complaining about the standard of care, how could I, when my and family members' lives have been saved on more than one occasion, but when recently asked to give my GP's name on a form, I didn't have a clue. Likewise with the Vets, it was always 'Ken the Vet' who was in his surgery or who would turn up if called out at any time of the day or night to tend to an injured or sick animal, whereas now when you call the Vet you are referring to a practice, not a person. So, it felt like another small ending of an era when I heard that Ken had died recently. I'd like to thank Ken's family for sharing with us a précis of the tribute they gave at his funeral, in this edition of 4ward.

I have my own story of Ken's compassion for all animals in his care. He had recently helped our very elderly dog on his way, and I was back in the surgery with the children and another pet, and happened to mention that we were ready to look for another puppy. Ken put his finger to his lips to say not a word and took us into a warm side room where two of the veterinary nurses were delicately bottle-feeding some very tiny black puppies. "It's alright," Ken told the nurses, "it's only Mrs Tymko." Of course, we were totally smitten and immediately offered to home one of them. Eight weeks later little Bella came to live with us, and became my son Nick's devoted companion throughout his teenage years, but never quite got over him growing up and leaving home.

It was only much later that I found out the story. Apparently, the owner of a valuable pedigree female black Labrador had been none too pleased when the bitch became pregnant with a randy farm dog, and as soon as it had given birth, took the clutch of puppies away and dropped them off at the surgery for Ken to euthanise. The nurses were upset, and Ken couldn't bring himself to do it, so he agreed to let the nurses try hand-rearing them, hence the secrecy. Roll on 14 years (where does the time go?), and Bella was in pain and at the end of her life. Nick drove back from wherever he was living at the time, so he could hold her in his arms while Ken gently eased her on her way.

Chris

The Hall Matters, October 2025

We are always happy to try different events, and in the majority of cases they are well supported. Unfortunately, this was not the case for the planned Games Night which included a light meal. We did a fair amount of research, and following on from a successful one a few years ago, felt it was something that would go well. On this occasion the take up was low, and it was decided, with reluctance, to postpone the event. Interestingly after we cancelled the night, a few people said they were interested in coming. This underlines the importance of buying tickets when they become available, as it really helps us to gauge interest levels and plan accordingly.

Our second planned event, An Evening of Magic, really emphasises this point, as we had already invited a Magician to perform. However, it was well supported in the end, even though there was a period when we were concerned that it was not going to be viable. Having said that, it was a great night of illusions and entertainment, with a fast-paced show that delivered a variety of magic and fun. What was really pleasing was to see the younger generation coming to the Hall and getting totally involved with the whole event. Magic!!

During October we have undertaken work in both of the loft spaces; these are above the kitchen / lobby area, and above the small committee room / toilets area. We have increased the depth of the floor beams to 30cm, which will give capacity for the Government's insulation recommendation of 300mm. This will improve our heat retention, thus reducing our carbon footprint. The lofts have also been boarded out to improve storage capacity and to stop items compressing the insulation. Loft ladders have been installed to improve access. As the loft space now has a solid floor, we can turn our attention to the installation of solar panels and battery storage capacity.

I would also like to thank Guy Fielding who has offered to help in keeping the patio and the outside of the Hall weed-free. This will help maintain the patio to a good standard!

Turning our attention to November, we have three major events that have always been very popular and very enjoyable:

- ✧ 8th November we have the Themed Dinner, Pirates of the Caribbean. Plans are well in place for a four-course swashbuckling feast, thanks to our wonderful chefs within the village.
- ✧ 21st November is Jan's Quiz Night, always challenging and good fun.
- ✧ 29th November - the return of JTP, a theatre group that performs throughout the West Country and on local radio, known for their comedy and thought-provoking plays. This is their third season with us and their previous shows have been excellent. A two-course supper is included.

As you know, we are closing the hall for two weeks in January to replace the floor. I would like to draw your attention to our opening event on the 31st January. This will have a live band and disco. We have, as a Hall, been very fortunate to be given money for various projects from a number of sources so we want to give something back. All the profits from the ticket sales will be given to charity. We really hope you can support this event so please keep the date free.

Please help us manage these events by booking as early as you can.

Chris Jennings, Chair, 07740934182

Defibrillator at the Pavilion

The Parish Council are currently in receipt of some donated funds, specifically given for the purchase of a defibrillator to be sited at the Pavilion.

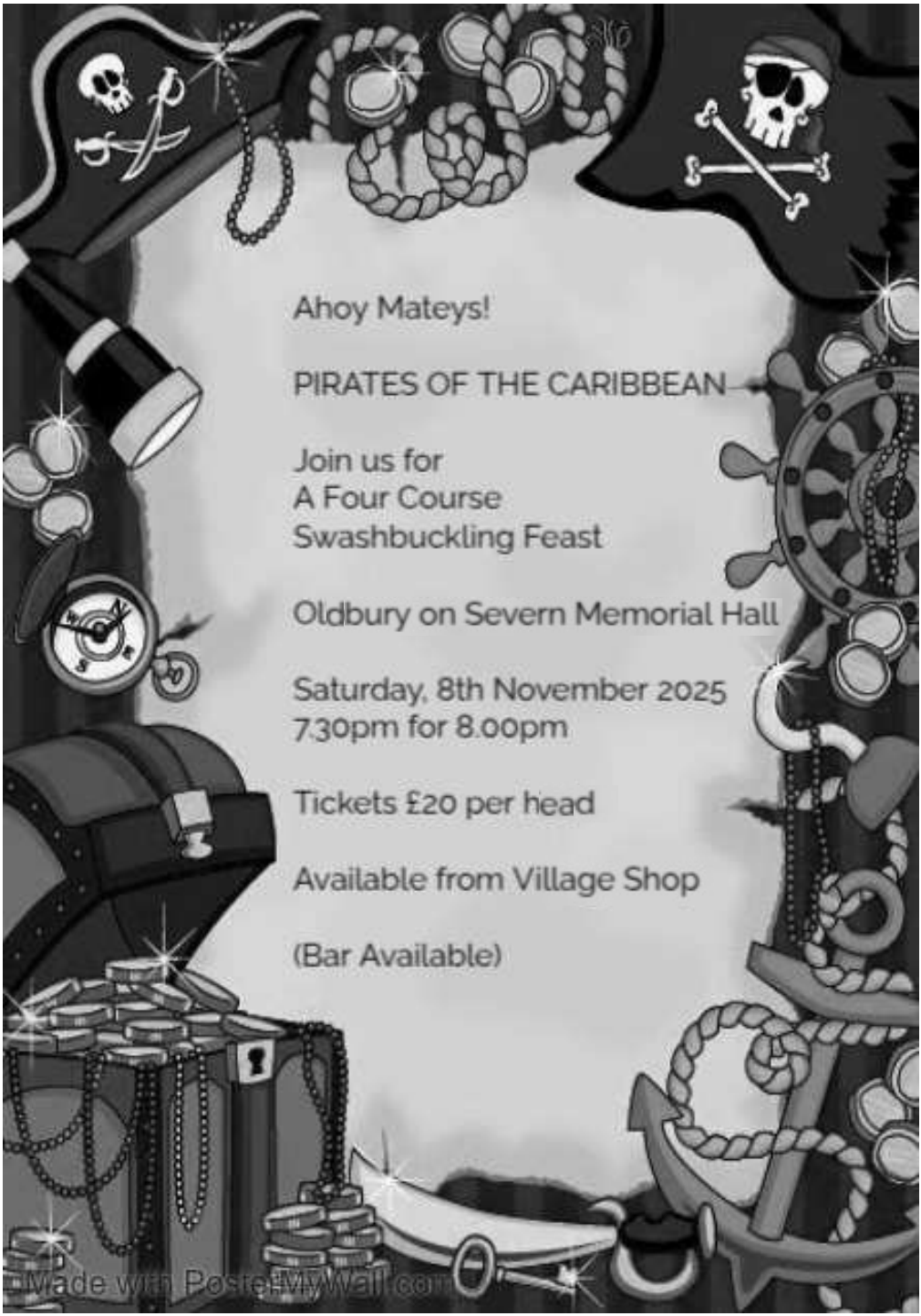
A defibrillator can be most helpful when certain cardiac emergencies arise, and its use is required as soon as possible after the event. We currently have a machine sited at the Community Shop which is very convenient for village use. The chances of a cardiac event occurring is greater when the body is put under stress, which includes exercise, and therefore it would seem prudent to have a defibrillator available at the playing field where sporting activities and social events take place.

The Whist Drive group have been most generous, and have not only suggested buying a second defibrillator, but have given a substantial donation towards its purchase. We are now asking if there are any Parishioners who would like to put some money into the fund to enable the purchase to take place. The approximate cost of the purchase would be around £2,000 plus installation. The Parish Council is aware that these machines are no good if people don't know how they work, and are looking to provide training in basic life support and use of the defibrillator in the New Year.

It has been suggested that any funds donated over the cost of purchase and installation should be ring-fenced and spent on training and maintenance, however the Parish Council is committed to maintaining these machines long term for the use and wellbeing of Parishioners and visitors to the Parish.

Thank you in anticipation for your support, and thank you to the Whist Drive for their generosity.

Sheila Bedford



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Line Dancing at the Memorial Hall

Friday's @ 7.30p.m. for 1 hour

26th September
17th October
28th November
19th December

£6.50 per session

Bar Open from 7.00 p.m.

Drop in anytime

FRIDAY, 21st NOVEMBER 2025
7.30pm

OLDBURY ON SEVERN
MEMORIAL HALL

TEAMS OF 4 To 6 PEOPLE
(60 People Max)
£3 PER HEAD (Cash Only Please)
TICKETS FOR SALE IN THE VILLAGE SHOP

BAR AVAILABLE

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, 6th December, 2025
10.00am to 1.00pm
Oldbury on Severn Memorial Hall
(Mulled wine and mince pies,
teas/coffee/cake available)

A very exciting morning shopping event
of handcrafted, homemade, home baked,
one of a kind treasures made by local talent.

'HOT GOSSIP'
CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

FRIDAY, 5TH DECEMBER 2025
3.00pm – 5.00pm

OLDBURY ON SEVERN
MEMORIAL HALL
TICKETS: £10
(On sale in the Village Shop)

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

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

Come and see. You may be surprised!

Dear Editor,

A letter in Praise of the Community Shop

I feel I really must send a letter for 4ward to thank two ladies who were working in the Community Shop on Friday, September 12th. We had been having lunch at The Anchor and were just leaving when we found that we had a flat tyre. The Customer Help Line for our Car Insurance had just changed and we were unable to get through.

We repaired to the shop for help, and they offered to look up the new number online for us. And then, oh, what a refuge was the shop while we waited. Although it was nearly closing time, we were kindly allowed to purchase cups of tea, ice cream, and books to read in the interval. The welcome and sympathy we received helped to reduce the anxiety (we are both in our 80s), and I am sure that they stayed open for some time after they should have closed. So, thank you, thank you, Volunteers, for your friendly hospitality.

Signed, two elderly travellers in trouble.

Oldbury on Severn - Memorial Hall 100 Club Draw Winners

October Draw		
1st prize.	£20	Jackie Jackson
2nd prize.	£15	Chris Prince
3rd prize.	£10	Charmaine Shenton
4th prize.	£10	Karen Awde

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Oldbury on Severn Memorial Hall

presents

The Journeyman Theatre Company

Three AWARD WINNING short plays

Saturday November 29th

Doors open at 7.00 pm

includes a 2-course supper

Ticket price £15

Available from the Community Shop

Bar available

Memorial Hall Event tickets

'The QR code might not work, but tickets are available at the shop!'

Christmas Concert

The 007s – Oldbury on Severn Singers

Enjoy an evening of
"Songs from Stage & Screen, Christmas Songs, and more"
featuring our very own local choir!

VENUE: OLDBURY ON SEVERN MEMORIAL HALL.
Saturday 6th Dec
STARTING: 7.30pm (Doors open 7pm)

BAR AVAILABLE BEFORE THE START AND DURING THE INTERVAL.
TICKETS: £8 (free to under-12's)
Buy online or in the Oldbury village shop using QR code,
or link https://bookwhen.com/memorialhall
(Enquiries: Marg 07971 290603)

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Oldbury Cricket Club

My only complaint with Dickie Bird is that he requires a degree of certainty that is almost neurotic; just like the man who has to keep going to the front door to make certain that he's locked it……. Mike Brearley.

For all those who play and watch cricket, Dickie was a legend and I'm sure that some memories of him would have cropped up at Oldbury's annual dinner. This was held at Tockington Manor School on Saturday 27th September, and was attended by members of the club and their partners. Good food, a drink or two, lively speeches, and the presentation of the annual awards ensued. Player of the year award for the 2025 season was Tom Pullin, Junior player was Ollie Taylor, and Clubman was Ian Senior.

There was a vote of thanks for all players and non-players who helped with running the club, and also for Charlie Keedwell, and his helpers with the upkeep of the ground. Despite a very dry summer it really looked good and played well throughout the season.

The works required to repair the damages caused when the club was broken into are now virtually complete. Thanks go to everyone who has expedited the requirements to enable the repair works to be completed promptly.

The cricket club AGM is likely to be held in December, and details of this will be posted when a date has been fixed.

Gerald Porter

Severn Vale Crib League 2025/2026

The cards always look different when it's your turn to play them: loaded with subtly different possibilities …… Alastair Reynolds.

The season has started well for The Shipwrecked as they have only lost one of their opening five matches. On the other hand, Sporting Oldbury have only won one match. Their losses included being well beaten by the Shipwrecked in the local derby. Although, on the night, two of the pairings were evenly matched at five all, it was Sporting Oldbury's third pairing who crashed out five nil that caused the damage – say no more! Both teams have outstanding games that need to be played, so November could be a busy month, and hopefully it brings a change in fortunes for Sporting.

Gerald Porter

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.

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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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Hill & Rockhampton WI

Report of Meeting – 14 October 2025

Jill welcomed and introduced our speaker for the evening, Larry Couchi, Chairman of the Thornbury Branch of the Royal British Legion, who would be talking to us about the work of the Legion.

Larry started his talk by briefly telling us of his life in the RAF, and that the ethos of the services was teamwork, so that you knew you could always rely on the person next to you to do their job. He explained that on leaving the Services environment, the veteran immediately felt the loss of comradeship and direction, with a lack of understanding of the civil environment which often lacked the "can do" attitude of the Services, leading to feelings of loneliness and isolation. The Royal British Legion offers that comradeship and understanding to all former members of any branch of the Services, as well as financial aid, access to training courses, and employment support via the Military Covenant. They promote veterans and their capabilities to the civil environment, as well as offering individual personal support to the veteran or members of their families.

The Legion came into being in 1921 as an amalgamation of four charities under Earl Haigh. The poppy that is made in their factories in London and Scotland represents Remembrance of all the fallen in all conflicts right up to the present day. He confirmed that the only year since World War One that Britain was not involved in a conflict was 1968.

The Thornbury Branch works with the Castle School, and is affiliated to the Cadet Units, as well as working with GP surgeries, looking after the Remembrance Garden, and attending funerals of veterans who have passed with no family. He was delighted to receive the poppies that members had knitted and crocheted for sale on their stall. The sales period will be from October 31st.

Our next meeting will be on 11th November, which will also be our AGM.

Ann Jones, Hill & Rockhampton WI Secretary

Winners of the October Rockhampton 100 Club Draw were:

Jennie Gray;
Mr and Mrs Ivor Isaac,
Richard Childs;
Tony England.

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Refresh!

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

Sunday 2nd November
Don't Forget!

Sunday 7th December
Follow the Star!

Sunday 5th January
Epiphany Party

An informal time together in church for all ages – bring your own picnic food; hot drinks / squash provided.

Pre-loved Books for Sale!

Until end of November at St Arilda's Church, open daylight hours every day.

There is a great selection of both fiction and non-fiction, including trains, military, aeroplanes, crafts, history, nature, & SO much more!

Simply donate ANY amount to St Arilda's in the box, & choose ALL the books you want!

Church Services for November 2025

St. Mary's Thornbury

2nd 10.30am
Holy Communion

9th 10.30am
Remembrance Day
Civic Service

16th 10.30am
Holy Communion

23rd 10.30am
Holy Communion

St. Arilda's Oldbury

2nd 3.00pm
Refresh!

9th 6.00pm
Remembrance Service with Choir

16th 6.00pm
Evening Prayer

23rd 6.00pm
Evensong BCP

St. Mary's Shepperdine

Open as a place of pilgrimage and prayer.

For details phone *01454 260316*

No Regular Sunday Service During Winter Months

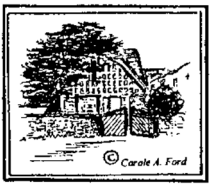
St. Oswald's Rockhampton

Please check locally

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

23rd 10.30am
Holy Communion service

30th 10.00am
Benefice Communion Service, Church Hall



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*

St Arilda's Churchyard

"This time of year is often called the season of remembering. As the leaves fall and the days shorten, we find ourselves pausing to give thanks — for loved ones no longer with us, for those who gave their lives in service and sacrifice, and for the faithfulness of God that carries us through every season. In the church, we mark this in many ways — from quiet moments at our All Souls and Remembrance services, to the hope-filled light of Advent and Christmas.

Our churchyards, too, are places of deep remembrance. They are not just spaces of stone and grass, but of love, stories, and connection — reminders of the generations who have gone before us. Here at St Arilda's, we're grateful for our beautiful churchyard and for the care so many take in tending it.

As part of caring well for this shared space, our churchyard regulations have recently been updated, in line with national guidance. New copies are available in the porch at St Arilda's. Some of these updated or reasserted guidelines will be reviewed by the PCC in the coming weeks, and a few changes will take effect gradually as we move toward Spring 2026. These include:

- No planting of hardy or woody-stemmed bushes or shrubs, such as rose bushes or lavender (though soft perennial flowers remain very welcome).
- No artificial flowers or ornaments, except Christmas or Remembrance wreaths, which will be removed once they begin to wear.
- Removal of temporary wooden memorial crosses where a stone memorial is now in place.

Many of these guidelines have long been part of our local and national churchyard regulations, but in the coming year we'll be putting them into practice with a little more care and consistency. Our hope is to maintain a space that is safe, peaceful and beautiful — a place of remembrance and reflection that will last for generations to come.

After such a dry summer, you may also notice some soil being moved onto historic graves as we work to keep the ground level and safe for walking.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Revd Joy — her details can be found on the church noticeboard."

Blessings, Revd Joy Ludlow
Priest-in-charge, United Benefice of Thornbury and Oldbury with Shepperdine. 01454 419229

Byrdsong Chamber Choir Concert Report

"*Through the Ages*" on Saturday 4th October

"Byrdsong" began in 2012 as an informal group of friends who enjoyed singing together. They are mainly from the Usk area, performing both sacred and secular music. Numbers have now grown to 16 members, led by Martyn Jones their Musical Director who conducts, plays the piano if needed, and also composes. He has a wide knowledge of seven centuries of music and tells us about it before each song so we learn a lot from this.

The title "Byrdsong" recognizes one of their favourite composers. William Byrd (1543-1623), was an English Renaissance composer and a pupil of Thomas Tallis who was organist at Waltham Abbey, but later became a "gentleman of the Chapel Royal" with the younger Byrd. In 1575 Tallis was given a 21-year monopoly to print music jointly with Byrd, who had a wide interest in music, including even the popular music of those times.

They collaborated to write music for church services, song collections, music for psalms and anthems, and music for viols. Their music exhibited typically English characteristics.

Those not able to attend the concert missed a treat on the afternoon of October 4th, but we recognize that some were involved with the Thornbury Arts Festival at that time. Some of the music was from France and Germany, and by Anton Bruckner from Austria. The choir enjoy singing at St Arilda's. They love the church, but the setting of small churches and halls in general suits chamber music well, and the singing was beautiful. The choir give only a few concerts each year; these are held in South Wales and Gloucestershire, and nearer home at the Usk Choral Festival.

There were no charges for tickets, but they asked only for donations towards St Arilda's, and also for the choir funds. We thank them for their generosity, and for all their hard work rehearsing their pieces. We hope they can come again next year. We have ample space for more in the audience and hope that more music lovers will join us for a rare and lovely experience next year.

Meg Adnams

Mini-Fete and Harvest "Refresh!" Service 2025

Following the Benefice Line Dancing in Andrew's barn on the Friday night, and the "Byrdsong" Concert in St Arilda's on Saturday afternoon, the Oldbury congregation still found enough energy to run a mini-fete before the all-age family–centred "Refresh!" Harvest Festival during the afternoon of Sunday October 5th.

There was a bottle stall and chocolate tombola, Tim and Peter Riddle ran the crazy golf, Sophie Mardon organised 'Splat the Rat' and Rebecca Hyde generously sold some of her homemade earrings. We had a huge number of pre-loved books donated, and the book stall will remain in the church until the end of November to gather more donations for church funds from visitors. If people were exhausted by all that, they could enjoy tea and home-made cake!

NB The Refresh Notice board in the photo looks like it has missing letters because red doesn't show up!

Thanks to everyone who supported the fete by coming on the day, but also by donating such a lovely array of raffle prizes, and bottles and books for the other stalls, and by buying raffle tickets. The total raised came to almost £800.

A short Harvest Festival Refresh! Service followed. Amelia Sorrell had taken up the theme of the "Lost Sheep" in the video, and made some handsome sheep, which the children made party hats for to celebrate the return of the lost one! While this activity was happening the adults had a short discussion led by Revd Joy, before the children showed off the sheep and hats, and we concluded our service outside, thanking God for his gifts that we are so grateful for, including the amazing view across the Severn.

Meg Adnams

Dr Kenneth Gradwell MA Vet MB MRCVS

a family tribute

Died on 23rd August 2025, aged 67 years.

Kenneth was born in Galway in Ireland in 1958, the eldest of five children born to George and Joan FitzGerald Gradwell. Shortly after his birth Robert and Joan moved to Dublin, and then to England in 1960, but Ireland remained a key part of the whole family's life.

Quiet, focused and studious, even at a very young age Kenneth displayed a deep affiliation with animals, and his discovery of the James Herriot books about life as a rural vet cemented his resolve to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. While still at school he augmented his prodigious academic studies with learning to play the cello but Kenneth remained laser-focused on his intent to be a vet, and on leaving school he was accepted into the highest-ranked, most-demanding, and longest veterinary course of the time, at Cambridge University. Kenneth jumped into university life with the same drive and focus he had displayed at school – embracing the wider university life with as much zeal as he did his studies.

After Cambridge Kenneth first moved to South-East London, where he distinguished himself through his dedication to his patients, a tireless work ethic driven by a true vocation, and a continued thirst for knowledge, driven in part by the joy of learning and in part by his dedication to do his absolute best for the animals in his care. After London, Kenneth moved to a small village near Leighton Buzzard, where he worked for a local mixed veterinary practice broadening his experience with large animal and farm veterinary work, before relocating to Thornbury in the mid-eighties to work alongside Geoff Doran at the Coppins Veterinary Practice, becoming a partner in the business a few years later, and taking it over in 1999 on Geoff 's retirement.

In Thornbury and the surrounding area Kenneth found a community and life that he took to from day one. Not long after moving to Thornbury Kenneth met Amie, in whom he found a true soulmate, and devoted partner. They were married 36 years ago in 1989, characteristically with Kenneth doing last-minute calls to check on animals on his way to the church … and with a horse creating mild havoc in pride of place at their reception!

He quickly became a fixture of the local community, every bit as much at ease with the farming community as with the local pet owners and the local "equine set". Outside of work he was finally able to properly develop his passion for horses and had space to keep his own, and he finally got to explore a long-standing interest in flying. After receiving a half hour beginner flying lesson from Amie as a birthday present, Kenneth was hooked and set his mind to qualifying as a pilot.

All of these are facts – a chronology of a life of focused and tireless service to the animals in his care, and the community he embraced as his own … but that is not Kenneth's legacy.

He had a passion and true vocation for his work, such that he never truly took time off, and regardless of the circumstances NEVER turned a client away or left an animal untreated.

His kindness and compassion was unreserved, unlimited and unquestioning – but not just for his patients. Kenneth was universally known, among the people who met him, for those traits alongside a patience and natural connection, unusual empathy, and disarming humility that often belied his academic and professional expertise and experience … combined with a gentle but ever-present and insightful wit to give him a great, if understated, charm. He was 100% reliable, unfailingly kind, and truly generous by nature.

Kenneth was an incredibly intelligent, skilled and gifted man. He was renowned as an extraordinarily good and professional veterinary surgeon. As a man who prided himself that he never stopped learning, he was also an extremely effective mentor who took great pride in, and was much beloved by, the people he worked with.

His family and friends will remember Kenneth as a quiet and reserved man, who enjoyed the company of others – and who, with an audience, would blossom into a hugely entertaining raconteur, with a monologue for every occasion. If it is true, the greatest compliment you can pay an Irishman is to say he is a character – and nobody who ever met Kenneth would say he was anything but a true character, the life of which few of us are lucky enough to know. He will be greatly missed.

According to his wishes Ken's funeral service took place at the Catholic Church of Christ the King on Monday 1st October 2025, and he was buried in Thornbury Cemetery, Kington Lane.

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Thornbury Christmas Lights Switch-On
Saturday 15 November in Thornbury High Street
Festive Market/Funfair/Entertainment from 2pm–7pm
Lights Switched On at 6pm

Join us in Thornbury to celebrate the start of the festive season with a day full of fun entertainment, and holiday spirit for the entire community.

The event will feature a festive market running from 2pm until 7pm. Visitors will have the chance to explore a variety of stalls offering seasonal goodies, handcrafted gifts, and delicious treats, making it the perfect opportunity to start your Christmas shopping early.

There will also be funfair rides and live local entertainment available throughout the afternoon, providing fun and excitement for all ages. The highlight of the day, the switch-on of Thornbury's Christmas lights, will be at 6pm by the Pump.

www.mythornbury.co.uk/xmaslights

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The Blackout Curtain and The Tablecloth

When you downsize you have to do a lot of clearing out. I'm downsizing... therefore I'm doing a lot of clearing out! One day recently, I attacked the cupboard under the stairs. At the very back, the last thing to be dragged out, was one of my Mother's old blackout curtains. After the war, when it was no longer needed for its original purpose, I remember it being relegated to the boot of the car, to be used for any dirty covering job that you wouldn't give to a nice, clean, good car rug. So, there it was, in all its dirty, holey, coarse, dark-maroon glory. Sentimental hoarder that I am, I announced *"Can't get rid of this, it's 80 years old. It's a historic article. A treasure from the past".*

After being washed twice and rinsed in Comfort, it quite improved. Yes, but if I keep it, what will I do with it? It didn't take me long to decide to make a throw. Hummmm…… but it is very dark and dour and needs something with it to brighten it up. What do I have to go with it to give it a lift? YES – the TABLECLOTH.

For a wedding present, a German friend gave me a tablecloth, which unfortunately I didn't really like very much and never used! It didn't go with anything in my home but although I didn't like it, I never had the heart to part with it. So, it has spent multiple decades at the bottom of the tablecloth drawer. It has both rust-coloured and orange-coloured flowers, with green leaves, on a cream background, and goes very well indeed with the dull old blackout curtain. Both fabrics have been cut into a total of 244 patches to make a throw. I've really enjoyed the hours spent sewing these important pieces together by machine and hand. It's double-sided and measures about 150cm x 110cm.

My friend Renate, who gave me the tablecloth, was born in Berlin in 1940. While my Mother was hanging up her blackout curtains during the Bristol air raids, Renate was living in Berlin with her Mother and Grandmother. Father of course, was at the 'front'. I won't relay the horrors of the stories which she and her family told me about life in Berlin at the end of the war. She came to England when she was nine. We were introduced by a mutual friend in the 60's and became great friends from then on, sharing many, many, happy times over the years, for which I am so grateful.

To me, the blackout curtain represents six years of German and English conflict, hatred and sorrow. The tablecloth represents six decades of a German and English happy, warm, and precious, friendship.

Renate taught me to sing the carol 'Silent Night' in German one Christmas many years ago. We sang 'Silent Night' at her funeral in December 2021. God bless Renate, God bless Germany, God bless the United Kingdom and may we all have silent nights.

Tess Sullivan

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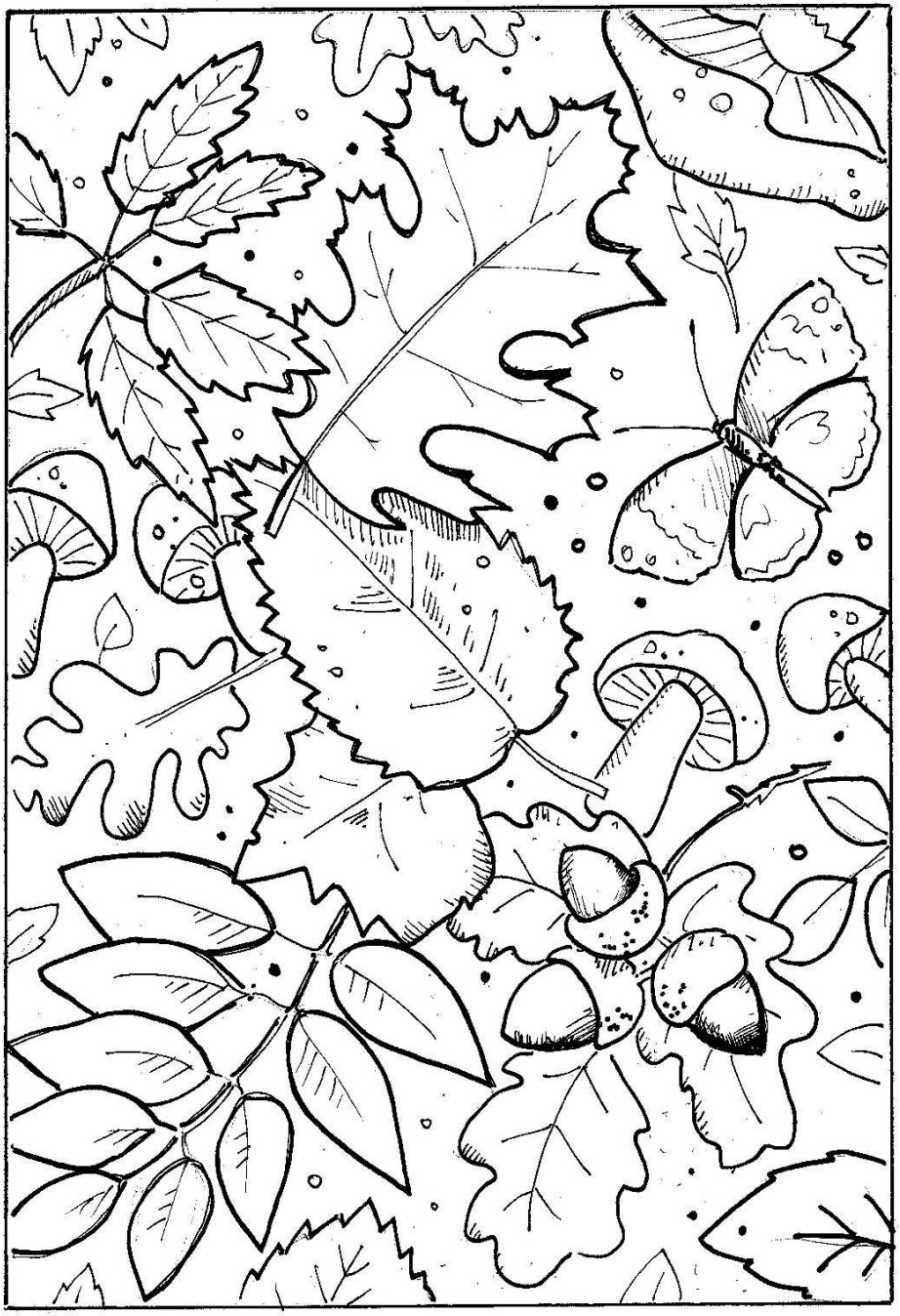
Colouring (for young or old!) kindly created for us by Lorna Page



Tide Table: Inward Rocks, River Severn
November 2025

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Moon	Sunrise	Sunset
Sat 1	3:12 AM GMT / 7.58 m	10:12 AM GMT / 3.00 m	3:48 PM GMT / 7.98 m	10:48 PM GMT / 2.58 m			7:04 AM GMT	4:42 PM GMT
Sun 2	4:26 AM GMT / 8.19 m	11:17 AM GMT / 2.45 m	4:55 PM GMT / 8.82 m	11:48 PM GMT / 1.97 m			7:06 AM GMT	4:40 PM GMT
Wed 5		1:35 AM GMT / 0.79 m	6:56 AM GMT / 11.42 m	1:59 PM GMT / 0.62 m	7:18 PM GMT / 12.02 m	Full Moon	7:11 AM GMT	4:35 PM GMT
Fri 7		3:13 AM GMT / 0.16 m	8:21 AM GMT / 12.83 m	3:36 PM GMT / 0.04 m	8:43 PM GMT / 12.95 m		7:15 AM GMT	4:32 PM GMT
Sat 8		3:59 AM GMT / 0.17 m	9:04 AM GMT / 12.92 m	4:23 PM GMT / 0.07 m	9:26 PM GMT / 12.72 m		7:17 AM GMT	4:30 PM GMT
Sun 9		4:46 AM GMT / 0.40 m	9:47 AM GMT / 12.53 m	5:09 PM GMT / 0.34 m	10:12 PM GMT / 12.04 m		7:18 AM GMT	4:29 PM GMT
Wed 12		7:14 AM GMT / 2.01 m	12:25 PM GMT / 9.63 m	7:46 PM GMT / 1.99 m		Last Quarter	7:24 AM GMT	4:24 PM GMT
Fri 14	2:18 AM GMT / 8.24 m	9:26 AM GMT / 2.75 m	2:54 PM GMT / 8.36 m	10:08 PM GMT / 2.49 m			7:27 AM GMT	4:21 PM GMT
Sat 15	3:36 AM GMT / 8.10 m	10:41 AM GMT / 2.65 m	4:08 PM GMT / 8.42 m	11:19 PM GMT / 2.32 m			7:29 AM GMT	4:20 PM GMT
Sun 16	4:43 AM GMT / 8.37 m	11:47 AM GMT / 2.36 m	5:09 PM GMT / 8.80 m				7:31 AM GMT	4:18 PM GMT
Thu 20		2:22 AM GMT / 1.73 m	7:36 AM GMT / 10.51 m	2:39 PM GMT / 1.65 m	7:54 PM GMT / 10.70 m	New Moon	7:37 AM GMT	4:13 PM GMT
Fri 21		2:57 AM GMT / 1.73 m	8:10 AM GMT / 10.83 m	3:14 PM GMT / 1.63 m	8:27 PM GMT / 10.88 m		7:39 AM GMT	4:12 PM GMT
Sat 22		3:32 AM GMT / 1.77 m	8:43 AM GMT / 10.95 m	3:49 PM GMT / 1.64 m	9:00 PM GMT / 10.86 m		7:41 AM GMT	4:11 PM GMT
Sun 23		4:07 AM GMT / 1.84 m	9:15 AM GMT / 10.87 m	4:26 PM GMT / 1.72 m	9:32 PM GMT / 10.64 m		7:42 AM GMT	4:10 PM GMT
Mon 24		4:43 AM GMT / 1.96 m	9:47 AM GMT / 10.60 m	5:03 PM GMT / 1.85 m	10:06 PM GMT / 10.27 m		7:44 AM GMT	4:09 PM GMT
Fri 28	12:14 AM GMT / 8.68 m	7:34 AM GMT / 2.68 m	12:42 PM GMT / 8.66 m	8:04 PM GMT / 2.56 m		First Quarter	7:50 AM GMT	4:06 PM GMT
Sat 29	1:15 AM GMT / 8.30 m	8:30 AM GMT / 2.72 m	1:48 PM GMT / 8.40 m	9:03 PM GMT / 2.53 m			7:51 AM GMT	4:05 PM GMT
Sun 30	2:26 AM GMT / 8.21 m	9:31 AM GMT / 2.59 m	3:01 PM GMT / 8.50 m	10:05 PM GMT / 2.32 m			7:53 AM GMT	4:04 PM GMT

Johnny Coppin – *All on a Winter's Night*
With Dik Cadbury and Paul Burgess
Wednesday 17 December at 7.30pm
at Olveston and Tockington Parish Hall,
Upper Tockington Road, Tockington, BS32 4LQ

ACTION ARTS GROUP

With his special Christmas show, Johnny Coppin, one of England's finest singers and song writers, a member of *Decameron*, presents a feast and rich mix of traditional carols and new songs, together with stories and folklore.

Johnny is joined by Paul Burgess on fiddle/recorders and stories, and Dik Cadbury on guitars and vocals. There will be offerings from the latest joyous collection and release "*Midwinter Live in Concert*" and much-loved material from his previous four Christmas albums:

"*West Country Christmas*", "*Keep the Flame*",
"*A Country Christmas*" and "*All on a Christmas Night*".

A sumptuous evening of new songs and old favourites, with original and traditional songs/tunes from Britain and beyond.

Licensed bar. Doors open at 6.45pm. Tickets £20
email *AAGThornbury@gmail.com* or call *01454 850933*

Thornbury Round Table Fireworks - Mundy Playing Fields
Saturday 8 November from 5.30pm

Gates open 17:30, Kid's Display 18:30, Bonfire 19:00,
Main Fireworks 19:30, Party Peeps Entertainment 20:00.

Tickets: Adults £9.50, Children (under 12) £4.50, Under 2s FREE
On the gate: Adults £11, Children £6
Each year the Thornbury Round Table runs the annual town fireworks event in order to raise funds for local good causes and charities.
Book your tickets.
https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thornburyroundtable/

Christmas Craft Fair - Thornbury Baptist Church
Saturday 15 November, from 10.30am-2.30pm

30+ stalls selling a wide variety of quality gifts and Christmas decorations made by local crafters. The popular church café will be serving teas, coffees and cakes, as well as light lunches.

All proceeds go to Project Possible (*projectpossible.org.uk*) which supports hospitals, schools, children's homes, work with street children and abused women, etc. throughout the world.

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Thornbury Choral Society
November Concert
Saturday 29 November at 7.30pm
at St Mary's Church, Thornbury

Handel's "The Messiah"

The Choral Society are rehearsing for their Autumn concert when they will perform Handel's wonderful oratorio, "The Messiah" at St. Mary's Church, Thornbury (BS35 1HQ).

The soloists are Laura Curry (*soprano*), Frances Gregory (*alto*), Rhys Batt (*tenor*), and Edmund Saddington (*bass*). The choir will be joined by the *Thornbury Camerata*, and will be conducted by Steven Kings. Tickets are £18 (pre-booked)/£20 (on the door) and £5 (under 18s). They are available from *tickets@thornburychoralsociety.org.uk* or from members, and from Horders Stationers, High Street, from November 17th.

We do hope you will come and support this event,

Thornbury Rotary Network
Annual Charity Christmas Market
Saturday 29 November, 10am-2pm
at St Mary's Church Hall

Thornbury Rotary Network are pleased to announce this year's Charity Christmas Market! Raising much-needed funds for OTR (a mental health charity for young people) and Children's Hospice South West.

They have a new venue this year (St Mary's Church Hall) and the addition of a BBQ, special guest Santa, and fun activities for the kids, as well as the previously-loved Christmas Choir, mulled wine, and mince pies.

Join them for some Festive Fun and Christmas shopping on Saturday 29th November from 10am - 2pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Road, Thornbury, BS35 1DR

www.thornbury-rotary-network.org.uk
Email: *ThornburyRotaryNetwork@gmail.com*

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Saturday	9.30-12.30
Sunday	OPEN ACCESS

*Except Bank Holidays

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AUTHOR EVENT
J E GASH

Saturday 8th November 2pm

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Rhymetime — **Fridays 9.30-10**
Suitable for all children 0-5

Lego Club — **Saturdays 9.30-10.30**
Suitable for all children 4-11

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Calendar Dates for Oldbury

1st	Nov	Sat	Charity Talk, Sailing Club, 2pm
8th	Nov	Sat	Annual Themed Dinner, Memorial Hall
9th	Nov	Sun	Remembrance Service at St Arilda's with choir. 6pm
21st	Nov	Fri	Quiz Night, Memorial Hall 7.30pm
28th	Nov	Fri	Line Dancing, Memorial Hall 7.30pm
29th	Nov	Sat	JTP Theatre group, Short Plays & Supper Memorial Hall 7.30pm
5th	Dec	Fri	Hot Gossip, Memorial Hall 3.00pm to 5.00pm
6th	Dec	Sat	Christmas Craft Fair, Memorial Hall 10.00am to 1.00pm
6th	Dec	Sat	007s Singers, Christmas Concert, Memorial Hall 7.30pm
19th	Dec	Fri	Line Dancing, Memorial Hall 7.30pm
2026			
31st	Jan	Sat	Live band and disco
5th	Sep	Sat	Oldbury Produce and Craft Show

OVCC Film Show, second Friday of month, Memorial Hall, doors open at 7.15pm

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

The Luncheon Club Christmas meal will be on Tuesday 25th November.
(No meal in December, start again in January.)
Meet at 11.45am in the dining room, lunch served at 12noon.
Many 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

Rainfall

September		
2025	**2024**	**2023**
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