Forward

September2025

Autumn Day

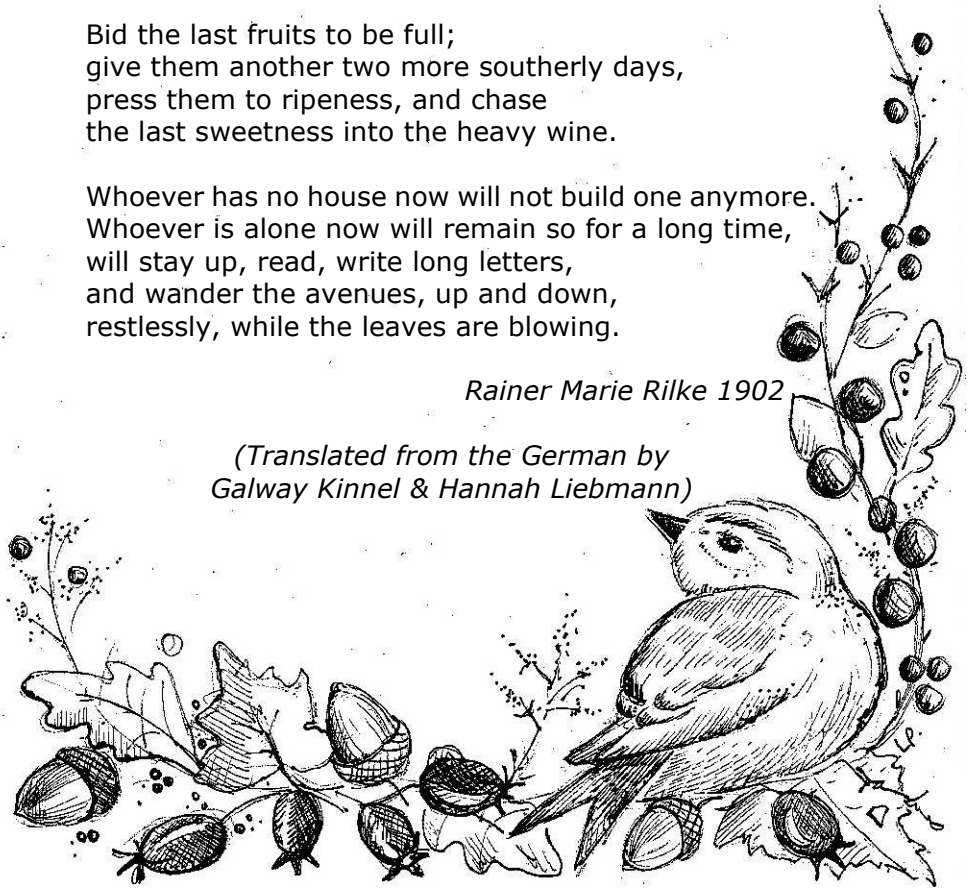
Lord: it is time. The summer was immense.
Lay your shadow on the sundials
and let loose the wind in the fields.

Bid the last fruits to be full;
give them another two more southerly days,
press them to ripeness, and chase
the last sweetness into the heavy wine.

Whoever has no house now will not build one anymore.
Whoever is alone now will remain so for a long time,
will stay up, read, write long letters,
and wander the avenues, up and down,
restlessly, while the leaves are blowing.

Rainer Marie Rilke 1902

(Translated from the German by
Galway Kinnel & Hannah Liebmann)



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

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Editorial

As a sun lover you won't hear me complaining about the long hot summer we have just enjoyed (or endured, depending on your point of view). I know it's been extraordinarily tough for farmers and gardeners, but one reason for my complacency is because I had more or less given up gardening, mainly due to being out of action with knee surgery in the spring.

Best of luck to everyone entering the Village Produce and Craft Show. It's fantastic that it's being revived by Matthew Riddle and his enthusiastic team, and I wish you all every success, but the drought has made growing anything a real challenge. It was always a great community event and an amazing showcase for what could be achieved, even if it did make me feel somewhat inadequate seeing my paltry entries dwarfed in all departments by the prize winners.

I adored the long school holidays as a child; I never wanted them to end, and dreaded the approach of the new term. Not that we went very far, apart from on the annual Sunday School outing to Weston-super-Mare. Perhaps we should revive that activity as well - communal outings are great fun and I'm sure it would go down well with the Elders Luncheon Club if no one else - lunch on the pier perhaps? When my late husband John and I both played for the Ship Crib Team, we once had a team excursion to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain in South Wales. We carried the crib boards with us and sat round at the summit eating our sandwiches and playing a knockout round of crib. I've got the photos to prove it somewhere.

Of course, everything is different these days, but it always surprises me how much my own grandchildren love school, and really look forward to the start of a new term. One of the delights for me of growing old and having retired years ago is that September doesn't herald a return to the classroom or workplace, but for us oldies it means it's time for our holidays and days out. How we all enjoy taking advantage of cheaper prices and less crowded places now the schools have gone back and hopefully the sun is still shining.

With that happy thought in mind, by the time you read this I'll have just returned from a relaxing short break in Cornwall....

Chris

Hall Matters August 2025

August has been a quiet month because we never plan any major activities due to holidays and it also gives the committee a break before we embark on our Autumn programme of events. We closed off July with 'The Summer Bash,' with *The Narwhal Monument* band providing the music, together with Keith's Disco and a delicious pulled pork supper provided by Jons which all went down very well. We did, however, also hold two unexpected events towards the end of July - the semi-final and final of the 2025 UEFA Women's Football Championship. There were ecstatic scenes on both occasions, and the atmosphere in the Hall was tense and then euphoric. Hopefully the Women's Rugby World Cup will be just as exciting, but not so tense! Where possible we will be showing as many of the Cup matches as we can (just watch out for posters and Facebook announcements).

The Parish Council have been awarded £19,740 by the National Lottery to replace the floor in the main hall. This is great news, as we can now use our reserves to carry out further improvements. Our next project is to improve the level of thermal insulation in the roof space above the kitchen/lobby/committee room areas, thus improving our carbon footprint and heat retention. We will also board out the loft space so we have better storage facilities. Drop down ladders will improve access.

Our Autumn programme is progressing well. Our first event is the Wine and Cheese Night on Friday 6th September when you will be able to indulge in a European Wine and Cheese Pairing Experience. Enjoy the aromas, flavours and textures of the wines and cheeses in a fun way, whilst the origins and characteristics of each wine and cheese are explained.

I am very pleased to announce that the Oldbury Produce and Craft Show makes a very welcome return, after many years, on Sunday the 14th September. This is a great opportunity for people to show off their skills in many different fields. Matthew Riddle, Penny Pearce, Amelia Sorrell, Katherine Vowles and their team have done a fantastic job of organising the event and there will be plenty to see, along with refreshments of tea and cakes, and the bar will also be open for all to enjoy. There will also be a Grand Draw with a number of great prizes just waiting to be won. This is a wonderful community event not to be missed.

Marg's next Open Mic Night is on Saturday 20th September. This follows on from the one earlier in the year which was enjoyed by many. I am sure that Marg will be pulling out all the stops to make this one even better. There is also our Autumn series of Friday night line-dancing sessions, starting on the 26th September, followed by 17th October, 28th November, and 19th December.

October has two events planned so far. We will once again be holding a Games Night at the Hall on Saturday 4th October, an event we held a few years ago. This is a social gathering designed for fun and interaction, an evening dedicated to playing a variety of board or card games. If you have a particular game in mind, then please bring it along. A light buffet will be provided and tickets will be on sale via QR code or at the village shop. We are planning a second event on the 18th October which is currently going through the planning stages. Watch this space……. It could be quite 'MAGICAL'!!

Any requests / questions please contact me, *Chris Jennings 07740 934182*

Oldbury Produce and Craft Show

Sunday 14th September 2025

Oldbury-on-Severn Memorial Hall

Public viewing from 3pm, with Prize Ceremony at 4.30pm

Preparations for Oldbury Show are well advanced and it promises to be a great community event. All money raised will be going towards the improvements to The Memorial Hall. Show schedules with entry forms are now out, please email *oldburyshow@gmail.com* if you would like one. Completed forms need to be back by 12 noon on Saturday 13th September.

Entries are invited from any residents, or anyone who has any connection with, Oldbury-on-Severn Parish (Oldbury, Shepperdine, Cowhill and Kington). For example, anyone who attends Oldbury School or Busy Bees or has a connection with The Memorial Hall, the Community Shop or any local business, organisation or service. All items must be grown or hand-made by the competitor.

All items will be offered for sale at the Show with proceeds going to the Memorial Hall (unless the competitor wishes not to, and these will then be marked 'Not for Sale'). Craft and Children's exhibits will not be sold.

Exhibits need to be displayed in the Hall between 9am and 11am on the show day, Sunday 14th September. Judging starts at 11am, and the show will open to everyone at 3pm, with the cups and prizes being presented at 4.30pm by our Show President, Gerry Dyke. During that time exhibits will be offered for sale, giving everyone a really great chance to buy some home-grown vegetables, fruits and flowers, and delicious home cooking.

There will be a Grand Draw, Teas and Cakes, and the Bar will also be open. A great community event awaits!

Matthew Riddle 07877413298

Oldbury "Open Mic"(ish)!

At the Memorial Hall, 20th Sept

Tickets from Shop, or QR links below

Come join in!

Or listen to local musical talent!

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.

VENUE: OLDBURY ON SEVERN MEMORIAL HALL.
Saturday 20th Sept
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 on Severn - Memorial Hall 100 Club
Draw Winners

July Draw		
1st prize.	£20	Jackie Masters
2nd prize.	£15	Allan Taylor
3rd prize.	£10	Jude Illingworth
4th prize.	£10	Roberta Acton

August Draw		
1st prize.	£20	Sam Ingram
2nd prize.	£15	Patrick Mallaghan
3rd prize.	£10	Daphne Howell
4th prize.	£10	Ian Bell

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

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!

Home Energy
Retrofit Case Studies

°Climate Action Thornbury & Surrounding Areas

Presented Online
Wednesday 24th September
7.00pm to 8.15pm

CATSA (Climate Action Thornbury and Surrounding Areas CIC), are a community interest company focussed on making our homes more comfortable and energy efficient.

This online session concentrates on lower cost retro-fit options, as well as tackling challenges such as damp and mould.

We have 3 presentations covering these topics, packed with practical advice, relevant to the real life in South Glos housing. We will be supported by Retrofit West to deliver this informative session.

SCAN ME

To join the event, please goto **https://catsa-cic.org/events/** and follow the sign up instructions.

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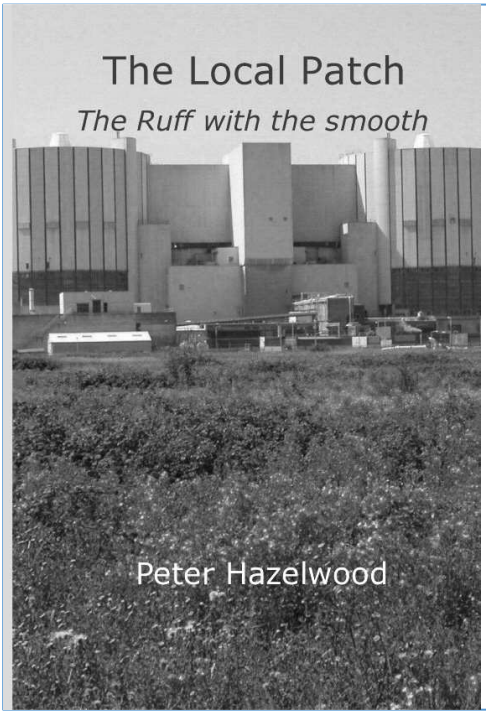

This book documents a local birder's experience during daily visits to Oldbury Power Station. Drawing upon over 30 years of observing the wildlife at this site. *It is a 'warts and all' walk through a year, "With all the surprises, frustrations, delights and even psychological trauma it entails."*

Available in the Oldbury Community Shop for £12.

You get 160 pages and over 97,000 words!
Plus, a detailed map of the site and some lovely line-drawings.

'*The Local Patch; the Ruff with the smooth*' by Peter Hazelwood

As an avid reader myself, I have read lots of books about the authors' relationships with their local nature. These especially concentrate on the stand-out, extraordinary, moments they have had. This is enjoyable to read, but I feel that it misses something. In fact it misses about 95% of the time, when it seems to be future anticipation alone that keeps the nature watcher stepping out of the front door.

So, I wanted to redress this imbalance and give a fuller picture of what it takes to be a 'Local Patch' birder – in particular, it takes a lot of dedication. The book concentrates on one year walking around the Oldbury Power Station and its surrounding area, from Shepperdine to Oldbury-on-Severn. The year is 2023, which was not selected by anything other than that I started writing daily then. It is a typical year of my 30 years of birding at the site on the Severn estuary, with some incredible finds, lots of surprises and a lot of cold, wind and rain!

But there is something else I wanted to capture in the book, and that is the wonderful diversity of wildlife that exists in this area. My main target is birds, but I also record animals, insects, plants and even fish. I wanted to record what is still around, before it disappears, as I have a fear that there is a general slow degradation of the environment that weighs heavily on the natural world. The book documents what is around at a particular moment in time, which can then be referenced in the future, as changes in the area take effect.

I supplement the commentary with descriptions of some of my most amazing finds, and also try to answer the question that I often get asked, but find it difficult to answer in a short sentence, '*Why do you visit the same place every day and how did you end up there?*' Read the book to find out!

Pete will be in the Shop on Saturday 20 September around 10am and will be available for book signing.

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A SERVICE FROM PLANNING TO COMPLETION

Oldbury Cricket Club

Cricket needs brightening up a bit. My solution is to let the players drink before the game, not after. It always works in our picnic matches…….
Paul Hogan

Oldbury, at times, have certainly taken on the Paul Hogan plan, with varying degrees of success. However, in August, Oldbury's strategy worked well and they had good Sunday wins against The Commoners, Old Oldbury players, Hillesley, Hawkesbury, Berkeley Hunt and North Nibley. In the game against Old Oldbury it was good to see the likes of Mike Nichols (capt.),'pole dancing' Nige Hopkins, Ian Knapp, Bill Pearce, Jim Noad, and Sam Nichols playing for The Oldies, and showing that they had lost none of their skills of yesteryear. A fine half-century by Giles Smith for Oldbury saw the them ease past the 183 runs set by The Oldies. An enjoyable game played in true Paul Hogan picnic style.

Oldbury also played well in their Saturday League fixtures and finished off the month in fine style with a comfortable win over the league leaders, Hawkesbury Upton. Batting first, Oldbury scored at a brisk pace throughout their 40 overs, setting Hawkesbury a target of 309 runs. Half centuries from Tom Pullin (55), Lee Griffiths (80) and Piers Norton (50), and good support from the rest of the team enabled them to set such a challenging score. Chasing a big total, the Hawkesbury openers started steadily, but could not keep up with the required run rate. When wickets stated to fall, Hawkesbury decided to shut up shop and play out the game for bonus points, and they ended with a score of only 118 for the loss of 5 wickets. A week later Oldbury had a convincing league win, away against Stinchcombe Stragglers.

Sad to say that by the time you read this all the Saturday League and Wednesday evening fixtures will have finished for this season. A couple of Sunday fixtures remain, including the much-awaited games against Old Down Estate and the President's XI which are to be played on 31st August and 14th September respectively. Both of these games will be good to watch so come along and enjoy some entertaining cricket, and join in the picnic.

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.

FISH AND CHIP FRIDAYS

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

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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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Severn Vale Crib League 2025/2026

Woe to he who checkmates his opponent at last. Only to discover that they have been playing crib. ……. Jedediah Berry

The 2025/2026 crib league is due to commence on Monday 1st September. This year's format will be slightly different to the 2024/2025 season in that all the league fixtures will be completed in the months up to the Christmas break, and the KO competitions will be carried out in the New Year.

We welcome back The Shipwrecked to the league, who will be replacing Rockhampton who have dropped out.

Gerald Porter

Natasha Johnson: *Zumba Gold* and *Strong and Stable*

Thursday morning classes
at Oldbury Memorial Hall

I have very much enjoyed opening classes here in the village, supporting the Hall and providing fun classes to serve the community! You have all been so very lovely, and I'm delighted to say that I'll be starting back on Thursday 4th September.

I do need a little help filling spaces, as classes need to be a minimum of ten people, partly for a better atmosphere, but also to be able to keep the classes open all year round. So, if you could possibly let people know in the village, but also anyone nearby who might benefit from joining our fantastic classes, I'd be very grateful.

Mobile: *07810068722* Email: *hello@natashajohnson.co.uk*

Here are the booking links for these Thursday sessions:

9am Zumba Gold:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thurs-9am-zumba-gold-in-oldbury-on-severn-tickets-1361239466889?aff=oddtdtcreator

10.15am Strong & Stable:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thursday-1015am-strong-stable-at-oldbury-on-severn-tickets-1361241141899?aff=oddtdtcreator

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Hill & Rockhampton WI
Report of Meeting - July 29th 2025

Our July meeting was a rather upside-down affair as we met on the 29th of July rather than our normal second Tuesday of the month.

We met at the village hall at 6pm, and headed off in what was supposed to be a sedate convoy, but which ended up with everyone disappearing in different directions. Anyway, we reached the A38 and headed towards Gloucester, turning off just before Quedgeley, through the pretty village of Hardwicke, which now seems to be surrounded by the large new estates at Quedgeley. We crossed the canal, passed the imposing gates of Elmore Court, and reached our destination of Barhouse Farm and *Wholly Gelato*.

In the farmyard we were given a talk on how the family came to move to the farm in the 1970s, and the changes made to the breeding of their cattle from pure Friesian to more robust cattle that still gave top quality milk. Like many farms they have needed to diversify, and whilst a couple of Holiday Lets brought income during the summer months, they needed something to provide an income throughout the year. It was at this time that their daughter suggested using the high-quality milk from their herd to make Gelato.

After some experimentation, the first batch was ready for sale. The line of customers wanting to try was right around the farmyard. A huge success. Then along came Covid, which could so easily have killed off the fledgling enterprise, but once people were allowed to exercise, they sold their product at the farm gate using an ingenious long-handled paddle to hand over the tubs and take payment.

By word of mouth their gelato became better known, and they were asked to make a presentation to Gloucester North Services, whose ethos of buying local produce fitted very well with that of *Wholly Gelato*. This went very well and the Services, both North and South, have become their largest customer.

As well as selling to visiting customers, and supplying the Services, a new venture of a Coffee and Gelato Café at Gloucester Quays has taken off. The description of the pancakes with gelato and a cappuccino sounded very tempting. After a taster of the vanilla, chocolate, pistachio and strawberry gelati, which were all truly delicious, we left to wend our way home.

We had no meeting in August as that is our holiday month. Our next meeting will be on 9th September when we will be trying our hand at making felt animals, this will be led by Geri Worcester.

Ann Jones Hill & Rockhampton WI Secretary

Oldbury Pumping Station Tours for Heritage Open Days 2025
Wednesday 17 September. Tours at 10.30am and 1.30pm.
Meet at LSIDB Car Park, Oldbury Lane, BS35 1RF

Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board (LSIDB) are opening their doors to the public for the first time as part of the Heritage Open Days festival, on Wednesday 17th September 2025!

Enjoy a free guided tour of the Oldbury Pumping Station from our Civil Engineer James Thomas, and take a look at our working service yard, where you'll find various large pieces of LSIDB's operational machinery on display. These huge vehicles are used to manage over 570km of water-courses throughout the region and are a sight to behold.

Oldbury Pumping Station still retains its original charm from when it was built in the 1970s, with the fifty-year-old control panels still in working order. Oldbury Pumping Station protects 3,600 acres of local land from flooding and pumps up to 2.1 cubic metres of water per second. Watch in awe as thousands of cubic metres of water flows into the Rhine, as our engineers demonstrate how the pumps work. As part of a £10m refurbishment scheme, Oldbury is scheduled to be transformed into a more efficient station, so this is the ONLY chance for the public to see it working in its current state.

We will host two tours on Wednesday 17th September 2025, the first from 10.30am to 11.30am, and the second taking place from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. There will be free refreshments available, and a Q&A session with our engineers and Board members during the tour.

Please meet in the car park at the front of the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board, Waterside Buildings, Oldbury Lane, Oldbury-on-Severn, Bristol, BS35 1RF on Wednesday 17th September.

Call Vicky Bailey on *01454 413340* or
email: *vbailey@lowersevrnidb.org.uk* for more details.

Refresh!

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

Sunday 7th September
Starting Now!

Sunday 5th October
Harvest & Mini-Fete

Sunday 2nd November
Don't Forget!

St Arilda's Church Harvest Mini-Fete!

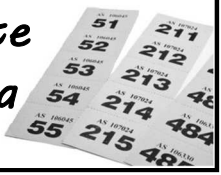
Sunday 5th October 2-3pm at St Arilda's

Refreshments!

Preloved Books

Bottle Stall

Chocolate Tombola



[If anyone is kindly wishing to donate bottles or draw prizes etc, please see inside the back cover of this magazine for more details. Many thanks!]

Church Services for September 2025

St. Mary's Thornbury

7th 10.30am
Holy Communion

14th 10.30am
All Age Service

21st 10.30am
Holy Communion

28th 10.30am
Holy Communion

St. Arilda's Oldbury

7th 3.00pm
Refresh!

14th 8.00am
Spoken Holy Communion

21st 6.00pm
Evening Prayer

28th
No Service
See Shepperdine

St. Mary's Shepperdine

Open as a place of pilgrimage and prayer.

For details phone *01454 260316*

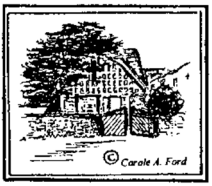
28th 6.00pm
Harvest
Evensong BCP

St. Oswald's Rockhampton

Please check locally

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

28th 10.30am
Holy Communion service



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

Many of you will remember Thomas Powe, formerly of Thornbury, who led and preached at last year's St Arilda's Carol Service. Thomas is progressing with his ministry and was ordained in June as a curate by Bishop Rachel in Gloucester Cathedral. He is currently serving at St Paul and St Stephen's Church in Gloucester. A curate is a newly ordained minister who does a period of supervised training in parish ministry, usually lasting three to four years. This phase is important for gaining practical experience in preaching, pastoral care, leading services, and being part of the wider church community.

Matthew Riddle

Reflecting on his first month in ministry, Thomas updates us from Gloucester:

> Since becoming the curate at St Paul and St Stephen, I can only describe it as an incredible privilege. Within my first two weeks, I've been to my first PCC meeting, saw a wedding rehearsal, preached my first sermon, and attended a deanery synod meeting.
>
> Wearing a collar takes some getting used to. I have already stopped traffic in Gloucester; someone came up to me and asked if I was religious. Another person also spoke to me and asked if I was a real vicar or going to a party dressed as one.
>
> I am learning a lot with my training incumbent, and am beginning to see the work of the Holy Spirit in my congregation. The conversations are truly remarkable and the opportunities to listen are awe-inspiring. I believe I am doing what I feel God has called me to do and I wait with anticipation for what God will lead me to next in my curacy. I know there will be ups and downs but I know that God is always beside me.
>
> My training incumbent and I discovered we both have a painting of the story of Jesus at the well with the Samaritan woman. In my Church I am learning that sometimes in ministry we need to sit by the well and restore our strength through Christ.

Thomas Powe

Sat 13 Sept
- 1pm - Tower Tours for Heritage Open Day
  Stalls and refreshments available

Sun 14 Sept
- 10:30 All Age Service
- 11:30am - Come and Sing Workshop
- 6pm - Come and Sing Concert

Mon 15 Sept
- Setting up of flower festival
- 11am - Holy Spaces Reflection

Tues 16 Sept
- 11am - Holy Spaces Reflection
- Flower Festival Opens!
- 3pm - Live music performed

Wed 17 Sept
- Flower Displays all day
- 11am – Midweek Communion with Holy Spaces Reflection.
- 3pm - Live music performed

Thurs 18 Sept
- Flower Displays all day
- 11am - Holy Spaces Reflection.
- 3pm - Live music performed

Fri 19 Sept
- Flower Displays (10am–1pm)
- 11am - Holy Space Reflection
- 7:00pm "The Gesualdo Six Concert"
  (Doors open 6:00pm - Castle school front car park available to use)

Sat 20 Sept
- Flower Displays all day
- 11am – Holy Spaces Reflection.
- 3pm - Live music performed

Sun 21 Sept
- 10:30am – Holy Communion &
- 12noon - Flower Festival Open
- 3pm - Live music performed
- Evening – Festival Closes

St Mary's Music Concert

'The Gesualdo Six'
Friday 19 September at 7pm at St Mary's Church Thornbury

The internationally acclaimed vocal group '*The Gesualdo Six*' are in concert at St Mary's Church in Thornbury for one night only!

Tickets are £17, and are available to buy online at *ticketsource.co.uk /stmarysmusic* or from St Mary's Church, or from Horders Stationers.

Please note that the concert is now at 7pm, a change to the time previously announced.

St. Mary's Music and the Autumn Festival
Saturday 13 to Sunday 21 September at St Mary's Church

Starting on September 13th, St Mary's Church in Thornbury will hold an Autumn Festival entitled "A WEEK of FLOWERS and MUSIC".

On Sunday, September 14th, there will be a "Come and Sing" event giving everyone [18+] a chance to join an engaging afternoon of music-making. No prior experience with choirs needed! We'll be working on one of classical music's best-loved and best-known pieces, Fauré's Requiem - a wonderful showcase of St Mary's church's acoustics. Registration is at 11.30am and the rehearsal begins at 12 noon. The day ends with an informal concert at 6pm. Bring your own lunch, but refreshments will be available during the afternoon.

The flower displays will be open for viewing:

Tuesday to Thursday	from 10am till 6pm
Friday	from 10am till 1pm
Saturday	from 10am till 6pm
Sunday	Open for the service at 10.30am and close at 5pm.

Please see opposite for further details of these and other Festival events.

Ride & Stride

On **Saturday 13 September**, why not come and join our benefice Ride & Stride Walking Group as we walk between all four of our churches! It's a fun day out, and a great way to explore the area and visit beautiful churches.

St Mary's, Shepperdine

Arrive: 10am

Preparing to set out on the walk.

Depart: 10.30am

Walk ~ 3.5 miles

St Arilda's, Oldbury

Arrive: 12.15pm (*estimated*)

A time to eat lunch.

Depart: 1pm

Walk ~ 2.2 miles

St Mary's Thornbury

Arrive: 2.15pm (*estimated*)

Refreshments served.

Depart: 3pm

Walk ~ 1.5 miles

St Paul's, the Hackett

Arrive: 3.30pm (*estimated*)

Simple service. [Revd Tom Keates]

Chris Bloor will be leading the route. Revd Joy will join us on the walk from St Arilda's to St Mary's, Revd Helen Hill from St Mary's to St Paul's, and Revd Tom Keates will take a simple service at St Paul's at the end. Please contact the office on *01454 281900* to join us or simply turn up at any point.

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Birthdays

Fundraising Tea at Meadowside, Oldbury Naite, on 17th August 2025

Our charities this year were St Peter's Hospice, Guide Dogs for the Blind, and Winston's Wish. We raised £3700. Thank you all so much for coming and supporting us. We had 26 vintage tractors which went on a run around Littleton after having bacon butties and a visit to the White Hart. Thank you Ollie and Mark, you did a grand job.

So many people to thank, our fabulous choir who entertained us all the afternoon, always smiling Ian and team for marques, tables and chairs, my tea ladies and all the people who made cakes, I couldn't do it without your help. Thanks also to Ivor for fabulous ice creams and to Lisa and Jo for serving them - they were very busy - also to Margaret and Mary for doing a super job selling raffle tickets. Also big thanks to daughter Linda and granddaughters Charlotte and Lauren for all their help and support.

Josie Wilson

Rainfall

	June	
2025	**2024**	**2023**
45.0mm	42.0mm	27.0mm
1.77″	1.65″	1.06″
	July	
2025	**2024**	**2023**
56.5mm	92.0mm	105.0mm
2.22″	3.62″	4.13″

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Saturday 13th September
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or facebook at *facebook.com/bristolandavonfhs*
or contact: *fhfair@bafhs.onmicrosoft.com*

Thornbury Arts Festival

The curtain goes up for Thornbury Arts Festival this autumn, with a programme of music, comedy and drama running over two weekends.

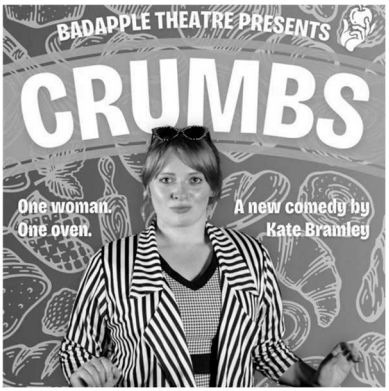
Visit *www.thornburyartsfestival.org.uk* for full details of events and tickets.

SWING FROM PARIS
Friday 26 September 7.30pm, Porch House 11 Castle St, BS35 1HA
Price: £18.00

Swing from Paris are an acclaimed all-string jazz quartet of violin (Fenner Curtis), guitars (Andy Bowen and Sam Hughes) and double bass (Tomasz Williams), inspired by the music of the 1930s, 40s and 50s from Benny Goodman, Charlie Christian, and Artie Shaw, to Django Reinhardt, Stephane Grappelli and the master of tango, Astor Piazzolla.

Their Parisian-flavoured jazz and gypsy swing has been delighting audiences for more than 15 years, and is performed at major jazz festivals.

CRUMBS
Saturday 27 September 7.30pm, Porch House 11 Castle St, BS35 1HA
Price: £18.00



Badapple Theatre presents a comedy, clowning, and live baking sequel to its groundbreaking hit show *The Daily Bread*.

Crumbs follows the life and times of an ex-TV baking show host who has recently been "let go" from a high-profile programme under dubious circumstances. She claims she was moved on for "being too old for television" but is there more to the story?

Now trying to re-style herself within the fast-paced and cut-throat world of influencers and social media millionaires, we follow her hilarious slips and trips in her live baking show as she tries to keep the lights - and the oven – on, in the face of almost certain doom.

This is a one-person show from the pen of Kate Bramley (York Theatre Royal / Badapple Theatre) so expect much comedy, AND baking for the audience to taste at the end.

JAMES DOWDESWELL
Friday 3 October 7.30pm, Porch House 11 Castle St, BS35 1HA
Price: £18.00

James headlines comedy clubs around the UK, having turned professional after winning the Jongleurs New Act of the Year Award in 2000. His comedy is erudite, off-the-cuff, and clean.

He has appeared on numerous TV shows, including the BBC's Russell Howard's Good News, and Extras, as well as presenting World Cup Round Up for Sky Sports.

Having grown up in the Anchor in Oldbury-on-Severn, he has become a leading comic on the subjects of beer, wine, and pubs, and wrote *The Pub Manifesto: A Comedian Stands Up for Pubs*, which was published in 2018 by CAMRA Books (Campaign for Real Ale). He is now fast becoming known as the Craft Beer Comedian.

Lesley Smith and Dr Gareth Williams: NELL GWYNNE & CHARLES II
Saturday 4 October 7.30pm, St Mary's Church Castle St, BS35 1HQ
Price: £18.00 [*NOT SUITABLE FOR UNDER-18s*]

Lesley Smith makes a welcome return,, in a costumed portrayal of Nell Gwynne, mistress of Charles II, accompanied by her husband, Dr Gareth Williams, in the role of the "Merrie Monarch".

Some believe Nell was only known for being the king's favourite, other than for selling oranges. But she was a victory for English womanhood, showing great courage, and against all the odds became a star of the London stage, as well as beloved of the King of England.

Lesley, a medical historian, is known for her entertaining and informative monologues, appearing as a variety of historical characters. In 2022 she delighted a festival audience here, in the role of Anne Boleyn.

This time she will star in a double bill with Gareth - an internationally renowned authority on Vikings and Anglo-Saxons - who will feature as one of Britain's most colourful monarchs.

Charles II was 12 when civil war broke out between his father, Charles I, and Parliament. He fought on his father's behalf before being forced into exile, later being restored and crowned in 1661. After years of austerity, he was determined to restore stability and teach England to enjoy itself again, leading by example!

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

Tide Table: Inward Rocks, River Severn

September 2025

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Moon	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 1	2:00 AM BST / 8.27 m	8:45 AM BST / 3.00 m	2:25 PM BST / 7.90 m	9:12 PM BST / 3.12 m			6:23 AM BST	7:56 PM BST
Fri 5		1:00 AM BST / 3.04 m	6:47 AM BST / 8.13 m	1:32 PM BST / 2.90 m	7:09 PM BST / 8.69 m		6:29 AM BST	7:47 PM BST
Sat 6		2:03 AM BST / 2.39 m	7:33 AM BST / 9.10 m	2:28 PM BST / 2.20 m	7:52 PM BST / 9.77 m		6:31 AM BST	7:45 PM BST
Sun 7		2:55 AM BST / 1.67 m	8:13 AM BST / 10.16 m	3:16 PM BST / 1.48 m	8:31 PM BST / 10.87 m	Full Moon	6:32 AM BST	7:43 PM BST
Mon 8		3:40 AM BST / 0.99 m	8:51 AM BST / 11.18 m	4:00 PM BST / 0.84 m	9:09 PM BST / 11.83 m		6:34 AM BST	7:40 PM BST
Fri 12		6:23 AM BST / 0.16 m	11:27 AM BST / 12.30 m	6:42 PM BST / 0.33 m	11:50 PM BST / 12.11 m		6:40 AM BST	7:31 PM BST
Sat 13		7:05 AM BST / 0.61 m	12:12 PM BST / 11.60 m	7:26 PM BST / 0.83 m			6:42 AM BST	7:29 PM BST
Sun 14	12:37 AM BST / 11.17 m	7:50 AM BST / 1.27 m	1:02 PM BST / 10.62 m	8:14 PM BST / 1.50 m		Last Quarter	6:43 AM BST	7:26 PM BST
Mon 15	1:32 AM BST / 10.05 m	8:42 AM BST / 2.03 m	2:01 PM BST / 9.56 m	9:14 PM BST / 2.19 m			6:45 AM BST	7:24 PM BST
Fri 19		1:20 AM BST / 2.12 m	6:29 AM BST / 8.63 m	1:51 PM BST / 2.10 m	6:56 PM BST / 9.20 m		6:51 AM BST	7:15 PM BST
Sat 20		2:21 AM BST / 1.55 m	7:25 AM BST / 9.40 m	2:44 PM BST / 1.55 m	7:46 PM BST / 10.03 m		6:53 AM BST	7:13 PM BST
Sun 21		3:09 AM BST / 1.10 m	8:10 AM BST / 10.20 m	3:28 PM BST / 1.14 m	8:29 PM BST / 10.80 m	New Moon	6:55 AM BST	7:10 PM BST
Mon 22		3:49 AM BST / 0.84 m	8:49 AM BST / 10.89 m	4:05 PM BST / 0.92 m	9:07 PM BST / 11.39 m		6:56 AM BST	7:08 PM BST
Fri 26		5:53 AM BST / 1.30 m	11:06 AM BST / 11.12 m	6:07 PM BST / 1.39 m	11:23 PM BST / 10.90 m		7:03 AM BST	6:59 PM BST
Sat 27		6:23 AM BST / 1.65 m	11:39 AM BST / 10.53 m	6:38 PM BST / 1.74 m	11:56 PM BST / 10.17 m		7:05 AM BST	6:56 PM BST
Sun 28		6:55 AM BST / 2.08 m	12:12 PM BST / 9.77 m	7:13 PM BST / 2.18 m			7:06 AM BST	6:54 PM BST
Mon 29	12:31 AM BST / 9.32 m	7:32 AM BST / 2.57 m	12:49 PM BST / 8.94 m	7:53 PM BST / 2.67 m			7:08 AM BST	6:52 PM BST
Tue 30	1:12 AM BST / 8.44 m	8:16 AM BST / 3.07 m	1:34 PM BST / 8.12 m	8:44 PM BST / 3.14 m		First Quarter	7:09 AM BST	6:49 PM BST

Risca Male Choir
Saturday 20 September at 7.30pm
at Christ the King Church, Castle St, Thornbury

It all began in 1970.

Founded in 1970, Risca Male Choir has established an enviable reputation, with its diverse performance styles and trendsetting programmes. Competition successes have included gaining the Male Choir of the Year, winning the Welsh Choral Challenge Shield at the National Eisteddfod, claiming the bronze medal from the Malta International Choral Competition, and being Male Choir winners of the International Choir Festival of Jersey, amongst many more.

They have travelled extensively to perform in Europe and the USA. Besides presenting many pieces by contemporary Welsh composers including Beowulf and Grendel, classical composers Verdi and Beethoven have also featured in their repertoire.

This entire concert will be a heartwarming and uplifting performance; in an additional item, soloist Aaron Holmes sings, accompanied by Nigel Davies.

Tickets £15 from *AAGThornbury@gmail.com* or *01454 850933*.
Drinks will be available to buy.
Any funds made will go to the local foodbank.
For further information, the choir has a detailed and fascinating website:
www.riscamalechoir.co.uk

Thornbury Choral Society - Resumption of Rehearsals

Rehearsals for the new 2025/26 season of Thornbury Choral Society begin on Monday, September 8th at 8.00pm, preceded by the AGM at 7.30pm.

As usual, rehearsals will be held at the United Reformed Church, Thornbury.

We shall be preparing for our concert on November 29th when we shall perform Handel's wonderful Oratorio "*The Messiah*".

If you are interested in becoming a member, please do come and join us at our "Welcome Evening" on Monday, September 15th at 7.30pm.

For further information please visit: *www.thornburychoralsociety.org.uk*

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Nature Notes

Nature can surprise us in unexpected moments and I was carrying a load of shopping up the garden path when an a very unusual and brightly coloured 'butterfly' flew in front of me and perched on some flowers just outside my back door. I dumped the shopping on the path, fumbled for my phone and just managed to take a photo of its unusual markings before it flew off revealing bright orange underwings, looking even more exotic. Inside, with the shopping safely put away, I looked it up and discovered it was a day-flying Moth called a Jersey Tiger.

From "*Butterfly Conservation*":

"Resident and a suspected immigrant. Well established along the south coast of Devon and Dorset, extending inland to the edge of Dartmoor. Also found on the Isle of Wight, Sussex, Kent, and recently from parts of London, with a few records elsewhere."

Since then, I've seen another one in my garden, and heard about other sightings in Oldbury, so it's very good news, with many species of butterflies and moths in decline, to see something actually increasing.

PS: I quickly did a '15-minute butterfly count' of the butterflies in my garden, so that I could include the Jersey Tiger in my submission to "The Big Butterfly Count" so it's now officially recorded as present in this area.

August seems to have been the best month for Glow Worms in our area. Andrew, our church warden, told me he had seen one or two, and sometimes three, up at the church most nights, but August 12th for some unknown reason seems to have brought them out. David and Kerra, my neighbours from Cowhill, who live at Garden Cottage, saw one in their garden, seven whilst walking up to the church, and four in the church yard, and on the very same night, Nick McCulloch from Pullens Green House, (off Chapel Rd, but not far from the church hill as the crow and winged insects fly) emailed to say for the first time ever he had ten glow worms in his orchard, counting ten that night, and still seeing some later in the month.

Chris Tymko

Update from The Armstrong

The end of June was an exciting time for the Armstrong Hall Project. The keys were passed from the *Armstrong Hall Trust* to *Thornbury Community and Arts* as the new tenants. This marks a monumental step forward in the plans to re-open The Armstrong as a community arts hub in Thornbury.

The initial phase will focus on revitalising the Cossham Hall and creating a brand-new modern foyer and bar, hopefully ready for use in the winter season 25/26, and we are glad to confirm that funding for this initial phase has been secured. There was immense activity during the last week of June clearing the Cossham Hall, the kitchen (so many plates, so many glasses!) and the bar, and storing everything in the Armstrong Hall so that building work could start on July 1st. It was an enormous task and thanks go to all the willing volunteers who helped. On Sunday 29 June there was an open day to see the complex before the transformation – many memories came flooding back for those people who had been regular visitors and users of the halls, and for others it was a chance to hear about the good things to come. After this, the builders moved in and the transformation work began!

Project leader Chris Roberts gave an update in August:
"*The renovation works which began in July are progressing well. The old foyer and bar area have been stripped out and the ceiling removed from the Cossham Hall, ready to be replaced by a more energy efficient solution, while retaining the vaulted panelling to maintain the acoustic benefits. The works will continue, with the expectation of completion by December*".

A highlight in August was a visit to the site by Maggie Lansdown, the generous benefactor who has made Phase One of the renovation possible. She saw the progress already made, met some of those involved in the project and heard of the future plans. Maggie's local connections were catalysts for her involvement, and it was really good to thank her in person.

Meanwhile, as the builders transform and renovate, there is a hive of activity in the teams planning for the re-opening and management of the Cossham Hall and the bar and foyer. One group has been visiting other venues in the region to research prices, programmes, management and the role of volunteers in the new organisation – many will be needed! While it has been very encouraging to learn from these successful venues such as *The Subscription Rooms* at Stroud, *The Memorial Theatre* at Frome and *The Goods Shed* at Tetbury, it has also become clear that *The Armstrong* compares well in terms of space and flexibility so the outlook is positive. There will be many opportunities for community involvement and active support, one of which will be the help required to clear, redesign and plant the outside space once the builders have cleared the site. Fundraising for Phase Two, the renovation of the Armstrong Hall itself, is also a vital and ongoing task during Phase One to ensure the whole scheme is completed.

So, watch this space and social media for further news about the project to bring this landmark venue back to life. If you are interested in helping in any way, whether through fundraising, volunteering, or contributing expertise, please contact the team at *hello@thearmstrong.co.uk* or go to our website *www.thearmstrong.co.uk* to sign up for a regular newsletter.

Alveston Local History Society
4th Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in Alveston Methodist Church

We very much welcome visitors and newcomers.

September 24th Aaron Girdlestone will update us on "*The Dig at Lower Hazel Alveston*".

October 22nd Dr Michael Whitfield will talk about "*Handel Cossham and the story of Cossham Hospital*".

November 26th Clive Burlton will bring films on "*Christmas Traditions*".

Admission for non-members is £5 at the door.
We serve refreshments half way through the meeting!

Thornbury & District PROBUS Club is at Thornbury Golf Club

The Thornbury and District PROBUS club still meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month, but now enjoys lunch at Thornbury Golf Club.

We are actively seeking new members who are keen to widen their friendship base and spend an hour or two in good company with some excellent food. You don't need to be a retired professional or a retired businessman, in fact you don't even need to be retired, although it is useful.

Our members come from all walks of life, and we complete the lunch with a speaker or presentation, on a wide range of subjects. *Yanks in Bristol* by Oliver Davey is next up on September 3rd, and in the pipeline, we have *Life in the Shadow of a Dictator*, *Artificial Intelligence*, *Life as a Church Warden*, *History of Hearing Aids*, *Rolls Royce*, *Engineering at Southmead Hospital* and many more.

If you are interested, and would like to find out more about us, please contact Stan Rodliffe (*0777 4725274* or *stan.rodliffe@gmail.com*) or locally in Oldbury, Steve Wright (*0792 5801552* or *steve3110@gmail.com*). If you want to try it out, then you could join us as a paying guest to experience one of our lunches and talks.

September in Thornbury Library

Summer Reading Challenge
The reading challenge finishes on the 13th September.
There is still time to join up or finish until 13th September - finish to get your medal and certificate!

LEGO Club. **FREE Every Saturday 9.30–10.30am**
Create your own LEGO masterpieces and display them in the library for your family and friends to see.

NEW! – "Rhymetime and Stories". FREE Every Monday 9.30-10am
(Still Rhymetime, but with a little story as well!)
(*open at 9.30 for Rhymetime only*)

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

For Adults:

"Have You Read…?" Friday 5th September 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.
EXTRA: This month will also feature local poet **Julie Wiltshire** who will be here to talk about her poetry.

****Author Event** Gareth Williams – Saturday 27th September 2pm**
Come and listen to Gareth discuss his latest book '*The Impossible Bomb.*' Discover the fascinating story behind the race to create an atomic bomb. Tickets £5 from Eventbrite *sglibraries.eventbrite.com* or Thornbury Library.

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*

Calendar Dates for Oldbury

6th	Sep	Sat	Wine and Cheese night, Memorial Hall
26th	Sep	Fri	Line Dancing, Memorial Hall 7.30pm
13th	Sep	Sat	Ride & Stride, starting from Shepperdine at 10.30am
14th	Sep	Sun	Produce and Craft Show, Memorial Hall
17th	Sep	Wed	Oldbury Pumping Station Tour, 10.30am & 1.30pm
20th	Sep	Sat	Open Mic night, Memorial Hall
4th	Oct	Sat	Games Night, Memorial Hall
5th	Oct	Sun	Mini Fete, St Arilda's Church, 2pm – 3pm
17th	Oct	Fri	Line Dancing, Memorial Hall 7.30pm
18th	Oct	Sat	Watch this space…….
28th	Nov	Fri	Line Dancing, Memorial Hall 7.30pm
19th	Dec	Fri	Line Dancing, Memorial Hall 7.30pm

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

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

Offers of ***bottles****,* ***books*** *and* ***raffle prizes*** *for the Church Fete welcome! Please contact Chris Tymko on 412152 regarding* ***books*** *and* ***raffle prizes****.*

Matthew Riddle can pick up ***bottles*** *locally between Monday 29 September & Saturday 4 October – please contact 07877413298 to arrange collection.*

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