

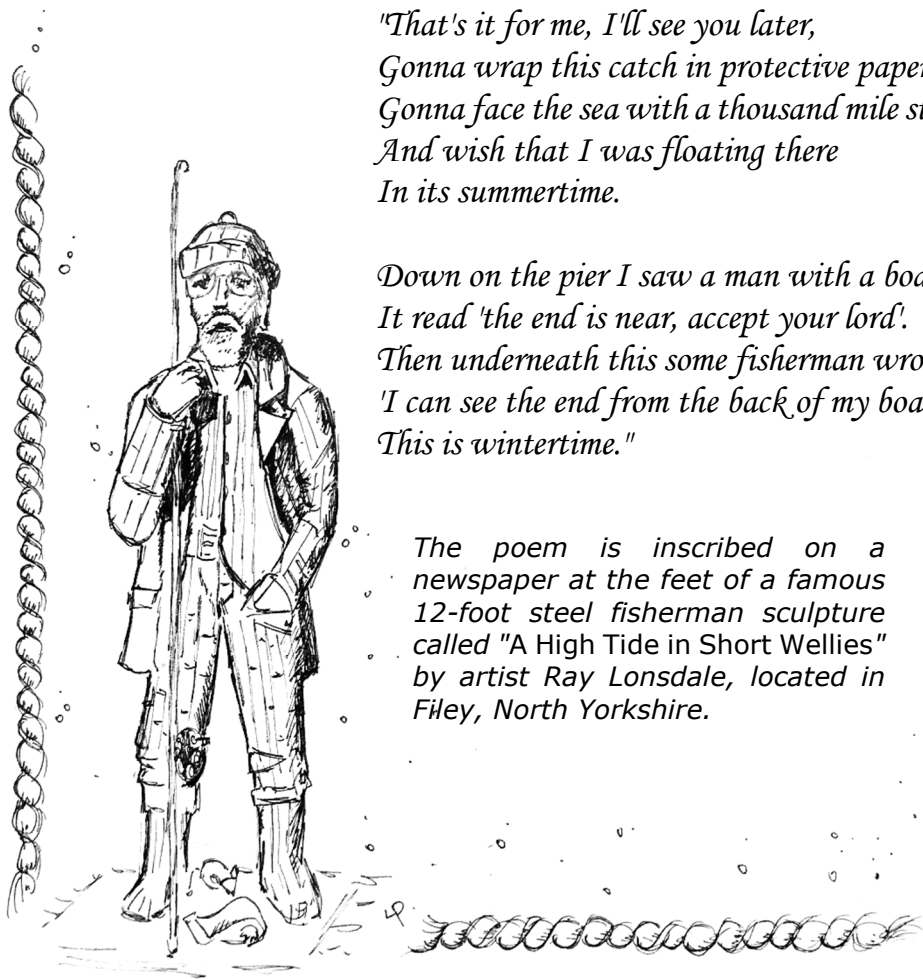
4~ward

August 2026

*'That's it for me, I'll see you later,
Gonna wrap this catch in protective paper,
Gonna face the sea with a thousand mile stare
And wish that I was floating there
In its summertime.*

*Down on the pier I saw a man with a board
It read 'the end is near, accept your lord'.
Then underneath this some fisherman wrote.
'I can see the end from the back of my boat'
This is wintertime."*

*The poem is inscribed on a
newspaper at the feet of a famous
12-foot steel fisherman sculpture
called "A High Tide in Short Wellies"
by artist Ray Lonsdale, located in
Filey, North Yorkshire.*



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

4ward is an independent community magazine and material is published at the discretion of the editor. Produced & distributed by volunteers. Articles for next month's edition should reach the editor no later than 20th of this month.

4wardmag@gmail.com

EDITOR

Chris Tymko,

Fisherman's Cottage, Cowhill, BS35 1QJ.

Tel: 01454 412152

Cover Illustrations

Lorna Page. Follow on Etsy, Instagram & Facebook. Email: four.pages@yahoo.co.uk

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Advertising & Treasurer

Kevin Evans

Tel: 07464 243823 kevincevans1964@gmail.com

4ward Website

www.thornburyweather.co.uk/4ward

Oldbury Community Website

www.oldburyonsevern.uk

Oldbury Memorial Hall

Chris Jennings

07740 934182

cjlj@hotmail.com

Booking Clerk

Peter Orford

01454 415346

pjba2227@gmail.com

Church Contacts

Thornbury & Oldbury

Parish office

01454 281900

www.arildachurcholdbury.co.uk

Mon, Wed, Thurs, 10am to 2pm
thornburybenefice@outlook.com

Methodist

Revd Simon Edwards

01454 418176

www.thornburymethodist.org.uk

simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

Rockhampton

Liz Cullimore, churchwarden

01454 412208

cullimorel@aol.com

Hill

Revd Steve Godsell

01453810294

www.stmarys-berkeley.co.uk

vicar@stmarys-berkeley.co.uk

Christ The King Thornbury

01454 412223

www.ctk-thornbury.org.uk

Morton Baptist Church

01454 413200

Willie Grey

01453 810491

Hilary Grigg



Editorial



The fame of the local glow worms on the church hill is spreading. Completely out of the blue we were contacted by a researcher called Alice from Passion Pictures, wanting to know if they could “borrow” some glow worms to take to London to film with a famous naturalist (who they weren’t allowed to name), and then return them the next day to be released back into the churchyard. We checked their credentials and discovered they had worked with Sir David Attenborough on *Wild London*, and that they had insect specialists advising them. Alice had obtained Revd Joy’s permission, and it all sounded good fun, so we were keen to help.

On Tuesday the rather underwhelming travelling container arrived in the post, just a small freezer box with some coconut compost, small damp sponges, and an air hole – but maybe that IS the glow worm equivalent of a stretch limo?! I’d assembled a small team of volunteer talent scouts, and we met up on the hill at 10.15pm, hoping there’d be plenty of tiny potential ‘stars’ ready to audition. It was the most beautiful evening, with the full moon rising over the church, and casting shadows from the trees. In no time at all, six glow worms, mostly in the lower churchyard, had wowed us with their signature light shows, earning their tickets for London fame and fortune. We then stopped collecting, but stayed out enjoying the cool night air.

Another member of the production team arrived the next morning to collect the box. He told me that they keep the glow worms in artificial daylight to stop them glowing, and then in increasing darkness for about half an hour before the shoot, which was taking place on Thursday morning with ‘David’. The glow worms would then be driven home to their various locations on the same night, hopefully to carry on glowing until a male came fluttering by. The film is a one-off special about bioluminescence, and it should be available on National Geographic around Christmas 2027.

We were not expecting much in the way of copy for 4ward’s August edition, so it seemed like a good opportunity to showcase some of the poetry we’ve been sent during the year. We have a really interesting and varied selection, so many thanks to our poets for sharing their creativity and talent with us.

We also have an apology to make; in our list of 90th birthday wishes in the July edition we left off Ted Welsh, who turned 90 on the second of August this year. Dear Ted, who was always on the go, is now in a care home in Frampton, near the home of his devoted daughter Liz. There was once a lovely photo of Ted in the Gazette, wading through knee-high floodwater, as he delivered newspapers around the village on the morning after the December 1982 flood - it took more than a bit of Severn water to stop him! Our very best wishes to Ted and Liz, and also to Pete Keedwell who will be celebrating his 90th on 25 August.

Chris

Memorial Hall Matters July

Summer Bash – A Night to Remember

Although it took place back in June, it's worth pausing to appreciate just what a fantastic evening it was. Glorious weather set the tone, Jon Staley's BBQ delivered top quality food, and then came *The Young Funkensteins* with their very first live gig. Many of the band members had performed at the Hall before as *Clusterfunk*, and they were superb.

To round off the night, we screened *England vs Panama* — a perfect finish to a thoroughly entertaining evening.

Oh What a Night – 007 Singers Summer Concert

The 007 Singers treated us to a wonderful Summer Concert, featuring classics including "December 1963 (Oh What a Night)" by *The Four Seasons*. And what a night it was — beautifully organised by Marg, with Marie doing a great job as compère.

The choir grows in confidence with every performance, and Marg continues to stretch them with more ambitious arrangements. My only tiny quibble: the opening number was "Bring Me Sunshine..." personally, I'd have gone for "Singin' in the Rain"!

Thank you, Marg, for your tireless work with the 007 Singers — it really shows.

The concert finished just in time for us to screen *Norway vs England*, a tense match with an atmosphere in the Hall that reflected every nail-biting moment.

It's Not Coming Home...

Our final July event gave us all a chance to dream that 60 years of hurt might finally be over. England were agonisingly close to reaching the final — with about seven minutes of normal time left, hope was very much alive. But Argentina managed to snatch victory, and the wait goes on.

It was wonderful to see so many families at the screenings. That sense of community is exactly what we aim to foster at the Hall. And the community spirit shone again at the end — everyone pitched in to tidy up. As one person said, "I've never seen the Hall tidied up so quickly." A huge thank you to all who helped.

Future Events

We're taking a well-earned break throughout August, but September is already shaping up to be a busy and exciting month.

Oldbury Produce & Craft Show – Saturday 5 September

Details are covered elsewhere in 4ward, but it promises to be another excellent day.

Last Night of the Proms – Saturday 12 September

A brand-new event for us, but one that's iconic for many. With good support, it should create a brilliant atmosphere.

"Doors open 6.45pm for start at 7.15pm. Bar available. Free admission"

Rock the Hall – Wednesday 16 September

Another new addition: we'll be showing "Pulse" the 1995 *Pink Floyd* concert recording. Free entry, bar open — no need to bring your own refreshments.

Line Dancing – Autumn Series

The Autumn line dancing sessions begin on Friday 25 September. To avoid confusion:

- October: last Friday of the month
- November: last Friday of the month
- December: Friday 18 December

As always, I'm happy to answer any questions, and very open to suggestions for future events.

Chris Jennings 07740 934182

Oldbury on Severn - Memorial Hall 100 Club Draw Winners

July Draw		
1 st prize.	£20	Sean Rinaldi
2 nd prize.	£15	Gill Wright
3 rd prize.	£10	Paul Pitfield
4 th prize.	£10	Joy Irwin



New members of the 100 Club are always welcome!
Forms are available in the Shop, or contact Doug Mills or Angela Conibere
at Christmas Cottage or aeconibere@hotmail.com or 01454 413828



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Thursday
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Friday
9 am to 3 pm

Saturday
9 am to 2 pm

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

**Come and see.
You may be
surprised!**

007's Summer Concert

When the 007's summer concert was arranged, it wasn't known there would be another exciting event on the same evening! Accommodation for the football was made by the choir delighting us slightly earlier than planned, as there was to be a showing of the match in the hall, post-concert.

The evening began with Marie, our talented MC, playfully teasing the audience, as only the choir tenors appeared at the start of set one. She suggested that the football had somewhat depleted choir numbers, but we were soon treated to a joyful entrance by the rest of the choir with a rousing and uplifting rendition of "Bring Me Sunshine".

From that moment, the choir continued to brighten the evening with both familiar favourites and magical new songs. Marg, Cath and Heather brought wonderful accompaniment on keyboard, guitar and trumpet, while percussion by Julia, Ann and Hugh added spirited energy throughout.

Audience participation was actively encouraged, and we were spoilt with a lively dance from one member, who certainly showed they had all the moves! Marie's playful MC moments created a fun atmosphere, with laughter and applause echoing around the hall.

Set two continued the musical extravaganza with beautiful harmonies, culminating in the foot-stomping "Do You Hear the People Sing" from *Les Misérables*. The inevitable demand for an encore was answered with a rousing "Shut Up and Dance with Me," a song well suggested by John, and the audience responded enthusiastically.

Once again, this was a thoroughly entertaining and joyful evening — a wonderful prelude to the "match," which also had the right result (although not for the one Norwegian member of the choir!).

Thank you to everyone involved for creating such a memorable and magical evening and I don't mean the football. Jude Bellingham did that! Come on England!

Clare Mardon

OLDBURY ON SEVERN DUCK RACE AND FAMILY DAY

**Supporting JIGSAW Thornbury
and Oldbury-On-Severn Primary**

29 | AUGUST | 2026

Race starts at 1pm from Pullens Green
Bridge, Chapel Road.

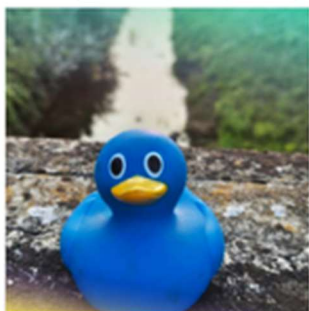
Family-friendly atmosphere
Fundraising games and activities
Food available throughout the day

£5 PER DUCK



BUY YOUR DUCK NOW

Or purchase from The Anchor Inn
and The Oldbury Community Shop



St Arild's Well – 2025 to 2026

St Arild's well in the fields above Kington was in a very sorry, dilapidated and overgrown state in 2025. Dorothy Long decided that something must be done, and so enlisted two locals, Philip Ashford and Andrew Cann, to clear away the vegetation and reinstate the 19th century retaining wall. The clearance was achieved by the time of the annual walk to the well from St Arilda's church in July 2025, and by the end of that summer the wall had been reinstated too.



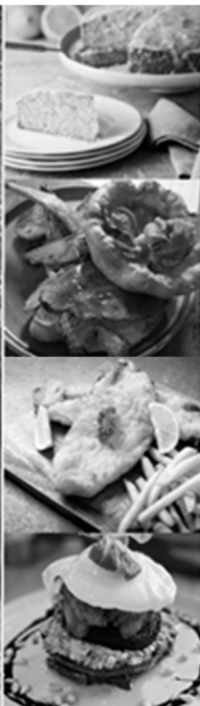
Thus, when a good number of local residents, as well as some visitors from as far away as Falfield, Bristol and even Portishead, proceeded to the well, on 18 July 2026, on a beautiful evening, they were greeted for the first time in years by a clear view of the well.

As has been the recent norm, St Arilda's hymn was sung, and her prayer

prayed at the well, as interested people handled the reddened stones in the stream, with some paddling in a pool below the wall.



*O maid whose bones in Gloucester rest,
By whom all Gloucester folk are blest,
Help us in sorrow here below,
And then the joys of Heaven bestow.*



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Dogs welcome

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Cub Cadet



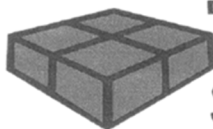


So, yet again the most ancient connection with Oldbury's own local 'Saint' was remembered, honoured and respected. The friendly pilgrims then repaired to the garden of the most welcoming Frosts at Kington, who had prepared an evening feast. This combination of history, faith, local interest, and an expression of local and wider community, is a jewel, and anyone who has not spent the time on a July evening linking into this event has certainly missed a treat.



Look out for it again in mid-July 2027; the location of the well is not visible from any public footpath, so the annual walk is the only legitimate way of finding this most interesting and sacred location, right on our doorstep.

Philip Ashford



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Charity Tea at Meadowside, Oldbury Naite

Sunday 23rd August 2pm - 5pm

Please come and join us, and enjoy cream teas and homemade cakes in my garden at Meadowside, The Naite, Oldbury, BS35 1RU; tea, coffee and squash available. Entertainment kindly provided by the OO7s Choir, leader Marg Abbott.

The vintage tractor run will be setting off around 10.30am after they have finished their bacon butties. Look out for them round and about the lanes, arriving back by 2pm.

This year is raising funds for charities including St Peter's Hospice. Please come and support us and enjoy an afternoon having a good chat with friends and neighbours.

Josie Wilson

Oldbury Cricket Club

*Cricket is a team game. If you want fame for yourself, go play golf.....
Don Bradman*

That's just what Oldbury did. On Sunday they took a day off from cricket and went for a game of golf. The Saturday XI played the Sunday XI and it ended two all. Back with the cricket, they have lost three Saturday league games to Charfield, Painswick and Eastington. In the Charfield game, Charfield batted first and scored a testing 280 runs, and in reply, despite a half century from Hedley Garrett, Oldbury could only muster 120 runs.

Against Painswick, Painswick scored 269 for the loss of 4 wickers. Although Oldbury had good scores of 71 and 43 from Piers Norton and Andy Smith, they ran short of the required total, and ended on 247 for 9. In the third game of the Saturday league fixtures, Oldbury lost out to Eastington. Oldbury batted first and scored 179, and the visitors reached the total for the loss of only 4 wickets, and with overs to spare. Young Ollie Taylor was Oldbury's star player, scoring a half century and taking 2 wickets.

Sunday cricket has fared a little better, as Oldbury have won one and lost one. There was a good win away against the Commoners. Chasing a score of 239 runs, Oldbury easily passed the total, losing only one wicket. Peter Banks and Harry Collins both scored centuries. In their next Sunday fixture, Oldbury went overseas to play The Anchor in Tintern. Oldbury set them a target of 189 runs, and in reply The Anchor scored enough to win comfortably.

Gerald Porter



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Last Night at the PROMS

Showing at Oldbury on Severn Memorial Hall

Saturday, 12th September 2026

Doors Open 6.45pm for start of Proms at 7.15pm

Bar Available

Free Admission



RULE, BRITANNIA! · LAND OF HOPE AND GLORY · POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

MUSIC & CELEBRATION

Oldbury on Severn Village Playing Fields

As some of you may know, I am the Parish Councillor responsible for the playing fields. So, if anyone has any suggestions as to what they would like to see happen down there, please contact me and I will try to help.

Recently we have been donated money by the Whist Drives and the Community Shop, to purchase a defibrillator which will be fixed to the outside of the Pavilion for anybody to use in an emergency. It will be maintained by the Parish Council, who will be running courses to help people to use a defibrillator, as there will now be three in the village. A big thank you to everyone who has supported this.

The playing fields have also received money to pay for new fencing to replace the boarding around the bottom of the tennis court boundary. Mesh fencing has already been purchased, and the plan is to do the work ourselves, but we do need some extra help to fix it. So, if there are any handy people reading this, able to help out on two or three Saturday mornings in September, hopefully starting on Saturday 5th at 9am, please contact me on my mobile.

The Pavilion is a great space, it is used regularly by the Busy Bees and Whist Drives, and by the Parish Council, but it is always glad of extra bookings. There are new toilets and kitchen area, heating at a controllable temperature, and it is kept clean and tidy by our caretaker Lisa. There is plenty of parking, and it's a great location for kids' parties and family gatherings, with a combination of the play area and the tennis courts, and plenty of space to run around.

So, if you have any ideas about how to make more use of it, please let me know, and get involved, and keep the playing fields a place for everyone to enjoy.

Ian Knapp
Mobile: 07803047900

For Pavilion bookings please go to the Parish Council website.



Duck Race

**Anchor Inn
Oldbury**

**August 29th
Starts Pullens
Green Bridge
1pm**

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Saturday 5th September, 3pm

A Great Community Event, Grand Draw, Teas, Bar

Please email oldburyshow@gmail.com to get an entry form

Please support the Show by entering some of the classes and come along at 3 pm to buy locally grown produce and homemade cookery in aid of the Memorial Hall improvements.

Prizes and Cups at 4.30 pm.

Church Services for August 2026



St. Mary's Thornbury

2nd 10.30am
Holy Communion

9th 10.30am
All Age Service

16th 10.30am
Holy Communion

23rd 10.30am
Holy Communion

30th 8.00am
Holy Communion

30th 5.00pm

Benefice Service, Church Hall, Thornbury



St. Arilda's Oldbury

2nd 3.00pm
Refresh! Picnic

9th 8.00am
Holy Communion

16th 6.00pm
Evening Prayer

23rd No Service
See Shepperdine

30th No Service



St. Mary's Shepperdine

*Open as a place
of pilgrimage
and prayer.*

*For details phone
01454 260316*

23rd 6.00pm
Evensong BCP

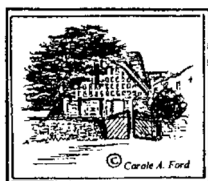


St. Oswald's Rockhampton

Please check
locally

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

23rd 10.30am
*Holy Communion
Service
Rev Rob Axford*



Catholic

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

www.ctlk-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

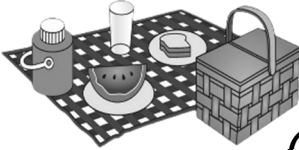
Chantry
Community Centre
on Castle Street

Sunday
10.30am

Further details contact
Sheila Waters on
07738495776

Refresh!

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



Sunday 2nd August Picnic and Praise

*(An informal time together,
outside if weather allows.
Please bring your own picnic
&/or a little food to share.)*



Sunday 6th September On the Road



St Arilda's Mini Fete and Raffle held on Sunday 5th July

Thanks to everyone who supported the fete by buying or selling raffle tickets or donating prizes, and thanks to our helpers and everyone who made it up the hill on a hot summer's day to join in the games and enjoy a cream tea or a slice of cake. At least it was cool and shady inside the church! We raised just over £1,100 including donations, which we think is a record amount. Don't forget that there are still some great pre-loved books for sale in the church for the rest of the summer!

Chris Tymko

Pilning Flower Show 2026

Saturday 29 August from 2.15pm at St Peter's School, Pilning

This traditional village show takes place at St Peter's School, Bank Road, Pilning on the Saturday of the August Bank Holiday weekend. Competitions spread over 74 classes are free, and open to anyone to enter on the Friday evening, or on the Saturday morning before 10.45am. The show opens to the public at 2.15pm, admission is just £1 for adults, 50p for OAPs, and children go free. Enjoy homemade refreshments, the displays, raffle and charity auction. All funds raised go to local charity 'Moments'. Please visit the show's website www.pilningflowershow.co.uk for all the details.

In Memory of Maria Louise Willcox

9th May 1970 – 26th June 2026

A May baby, Richard and Julie's first child. Affectionately nicknamed Lucy by Mum and Dad. Maria was born into a farming family, growing up in Shepperdine or The Shire as we affectionately call it! Surrounded by the things she loved. Her family, friends, farming, horses, dogs, garden, music, travel and of course flowers, all of which were at the core of her existence.

Andrew and Maria had the beauty of living in a farmhouse which created plenty of room to take in people who needed either a place to stop for a few nights, or in one case five years! Always an open door, a cup of tea, or something stronger, Maria had a gift in helping and supporting others, which meant their family extended to welcome some very interesting people from all over the world, Canada, Ireland, Denmark, Latvia and many more local. They were always made to feel welcome and just fitted in and many experienced Maria's crazy parties that still get fondly spoken about to this very day!

She was so talented too. A capable and knowledgeable horsewomen, a florist and businesswoman. She stood by her morals and was never afraid to stand up for what was right. Fearless and brave. She was beautiful, always looked stunning, she enjoyed fashion and dressing for an occasion. She loved to laugh and truly loved life. She was and will be forever young.

We would like to thank everyone for their support for Maria and our family over the last three years and especially in the last month. Cards, texts, meals, cakes, and lots of offers of help. We have such an amazing community, the outpouring of love for Maria has been incredible. She will be missed forever, she touched so many lives.

Andrew, Lauren, Charlie, Julie, Lorna, Rich and families.

Maria is a beautiful kaleidoscope.

Everyone who looks into it sees a different pattern.

If you turn it slightly, the image changes.

What one person sees is not quite what another sees.

Yet the miracle of it is that the patterns are not random.

They all come from the same pieces of beautiful coloured glass, the same light, the same hidden arrangement at its centre.

That is perhaps one of the greatest gifts that she will leave behind.

Not a single picture, but hundreds of them.

Not one image, but a thousand beautiful patterns carried in the hearts of those who knew her.

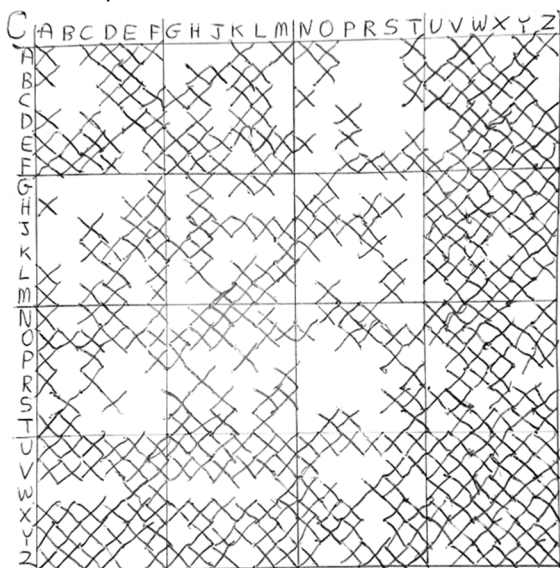
She is our beautiful kaleidoscope.

A Tale of the Unexpected - Patterns Hiding in Plain Sight

Despite my word-based hobbies such as proofreading 4ward magazine, and doing my daily Wordle (my only “one-liner” – CHURN – was entirely thanks to me remembering that my husband had mentioned the word on the previous day, and thinking it would make a good and unusual starter!), I have always had a deep fascination with mathematical and statistical patterns too. In an idle moment as a passenger on a motorway journey in May, I looked at the number plates on passing vehicles, and wondered about all the different combinations of the final three letters, which, unlike the first two letters, which have geographical significance, are officially “random”. The Government’s own *INF 104* PDF leaflet states: “*The current vehicle registration format was introduced on 1 September 2001. It consists of:*

- 2 letter memory tag (these refer to the region in the country where a vehicle is first registered)
 - 2 numbers (these tell you when it was issued)
 - a space and 3 letters chosen at random.”
- I and Q are not generally used as letters, so there are $24 \times 24 \times 24 = 13,824$ possible random three-letter groups.

By this stage I realised I was so interested that I needed to begin recording the groups I saw, but that it would be best to start at a more manageable scale. I decided to begin with just the three-letter groups starting with A, B and C, and drew out three 24×24 grids in a notebook. If I see e.g. “COW” I turn to the C-grid, go across to the 14th column for O, and then down to the 21st row for W, and mark an **X** in that spot. I began recording in mid-May this year, and soon had lots of three-letter groups in my grids... but the emerging patterns were definitely NOT the expected random scatter! Instead, the UVWXYZ rows and columns were largely thickly marked, but



in some other grid-areas **Xs** were much sparser. This general pattern was similar in all three grids, but with specific quirks in each. Why had I noted so few CB_ or C_G number plates for example, when I had already seen all possible CV_ and C_U?

Some (offensive) combinations might not be issued, and others may have been bulk bought by e.g. a company at the other end of the UK to match their name, but I have no definitive answer. I look forward to starting the X Y and Z grids soon, to see if similar patterns emerge!

My “starts with C” grid as of 17 July 2026

Ruth Riddle

Holiday Dreams

Perhaps one day I'll go to France
And around the Eiffel Tower will dance
Or may-be I will go to Spain
To watch the rain fall on the plain.

Of course I could go to Switzerland
To climb a mountain - make a plan
To travel down Australia way
And see a kangaroo at play.

New Zealand I see there in my dream
With its grass of verdant green
Some tropical islands too I see
Now could that be the place for me?

Holland with its fields of flowers
America's sky scraper towers
Or Africa's fine game reserves
I wonder, would I have the nerve?

On second thoughts I think I'll stay
On England's shores I'll spend my days
To foreign parts my thoughts may roam
But I'll spend MY holiday at home.

Audrey Knapp

Changing Times

I remember oh yes I remember
All those days long since gone by
When blackberries were thick on the hedgerows
And there was never a cloud in the sky

When primrose grew wild by the wayside
Whilst we all made a daisy chain
The cowslips looked like a carpet
And it never seemed to rain

Folks whistled and sang as they wandered
Along the country ways
No one ever seemed in a hurry
Ah! Those were wonderful days

But sadly our world is changing
All packaged and plastic and clean
No frolicking now in the hayfield
All the work there is done by machine.

Everything now is computerised
People's attitude, not friendly, but cold
Have the sun's rays really got cooler
Or is it just me getting OLD!

Audrey Knapp

A Farming Lament

There once was a farmer who devoted his life
To raising a family, and keeping his wife.

He worked every hour that there was in a day
In order his bills and taxes to pay.

He seldom saw a doctor, never claimed any dole
To be a useful citizen, was always his goal.

But government decided, his best's not enough
We'll tighten the laws, make farming real tough.

This country doesn't need you, we'll import from afar
Put a quota on your products, and VAT rate your car.

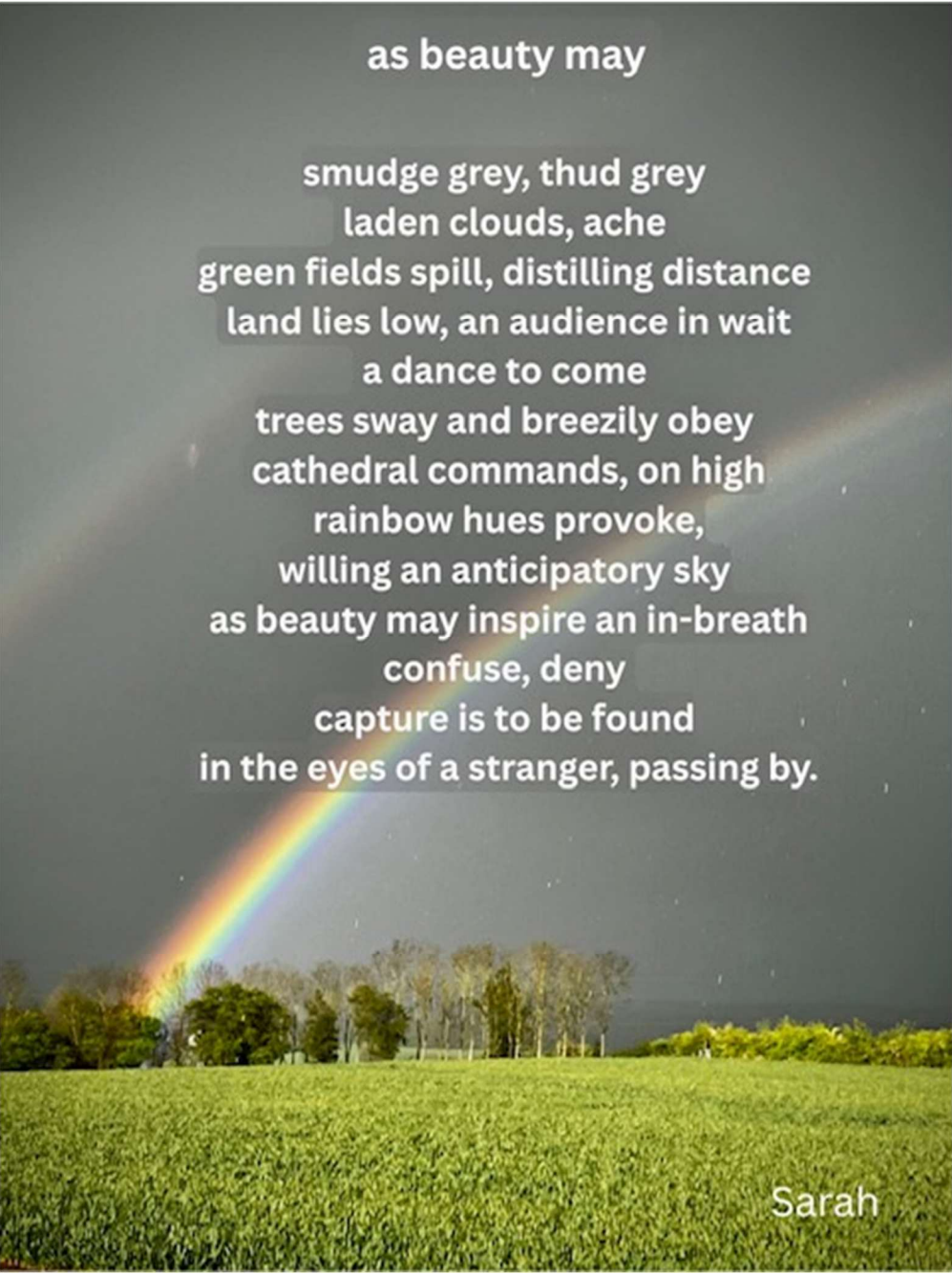
You'll then get a visit from the great N. R. A.
Who'll leave you instructions, that will cloud up your day.

Next we'll send you some-one with health and safety in mind
Who will have a snoop round, and loads of trouble will find.

The nature conservancy, then stick in their oar
And the S. S. S. I. give a knock on your door.

So Mr Farmer, how's that for your fate
You'd better throw in the towel, and live on the state.

Audrey Knapp



as beauty may
smudge grey, thud grey
laden clouds, ache
green fields spill, distilling distance
land lies low, an audience in wait
a dance to come
trees sway and breezily obey
cathedral commands, on high
rainbow hues provoke,
willing an anticipatory sky
as beauty may inspire an in-breath
confuse, deny
capture is to be found
in the eyes of a stranger, passing by.

Sarah

"I Had a Dream Too"

I had a dream too—
not shouted from steps,
but whispered beneath my ribs
when the world felt too loud.

I dreamed of skin
being just skin—
not warning, not weapon,
not why someone wouldn't listen.

I dreamed of voices
not being ranked
by how smooth,
how soft,
how close they sounded to power.

Of names not swallowed by silence,
cultures not erased
to fit comfort.

I dreamed difference wasn't danger—
that colours danced,
didn't clash.

That we could belong
without shrinking.
That every language
could build a bridge.

That freedom didn't need
to be begged for in dreams,
because we woke up
already free.

A Castle School pupil

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A Nonsense Verse

Wither the weather near here
And whether the weather is near no fear.
For rain it might, and you'll lose all sight
Of the view from the pier
But never mind if it's sunny the fish will bight
Then the view will be fine from here.
Time to sit and admire a view so dear
Whilst stoically quaffing a pint of beer.

Ian Bell

Tit For Tat And A' That

A question came to my mind today
It stayed there and wouldn't go away.
Like an irritating tune one wants to hum less.
Allowing one to go on and better things address.
Have I given as much to you as you to me?
Simple enough but for me a question most key.
For I have enjoyed a wealth of happiness from you
But can I honestly say there has been equal for you to?
Does the question really matter to any great degree?
Is it necessary for the world to know and life to see?
I think not as what has and will always matter,
Is what we feel ourselves not the peripheral scatter.
For me I hope that I have given on a good reciprocal.
So, you can on this agree as a fact unequivocal!
Then Burns would have given an answer to that
By saying for all that it's tit for tat.

Ian Bell

Morning Dew

Heralding the morning after night for me and you
A glistening diamond bauble shining bright and new
Holding firm on an impossible leaf angle as if by superglue
Announcing its radiance for any or all to view
How does such a miniscule thing stand out so bright
Glistening like a diamond in the morning light
A jewel produced by nature at the start of day
Telling all that another phase of time is on its way
Offering the pleasure of simplistic beauty to see
Letting us know how good life is for you and me.

Ian Bell



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Is This All It's Going To Be?

Looking up at the sky.
Wondering why.
The universe so vast.
Is this it, the last?
Are we the only ones?
A singular fault from which nothing else comes?
How can it be, there must be more.
If that's not true, then what's it all for?
A singular coincidence that life formed here.
Nothing else living other than this small whirling sphere!
Did God throw the dice?
Did he say "That'll do, that's nice!"
Whether you go for God
Or some other omnipotent bod,
Is it really all a throw of the dice?
Is our time on this uncaring earth the price?
Can all this vastness be just a random thing?
Does that answer have a truthful ring?
For I see a vastness that has a scientific cohesion.
It follows rules and parallel reason.
Do we stand all alone; does that really make sense?
Is this all for nothing with no other planned events?
Surely it must be an extreme and involved experiment?
If not then life is nothing but an impediment.
We have evolved with advanced intelligence.
Is it really just a lone experiment or coincidence?
If so why anything at all?
Why evolve such wonders to achieve only a fall?
I call to life and all mysteries to foresee
Echo's the question – "Is that all It's going to be?"

Ian Bell
10.03.2016.

Perspective

News at Six – He died.
Retrospective, impact, mourning.
Headline – She is gone.
Passed away, famous, long career.

Yet also today:
Born! Future artist, scientist,
sporting star, leader...
No press frenzy, just new birth joy!

Ruth Riddle



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Tide Table: Inward Rocks, River Severn

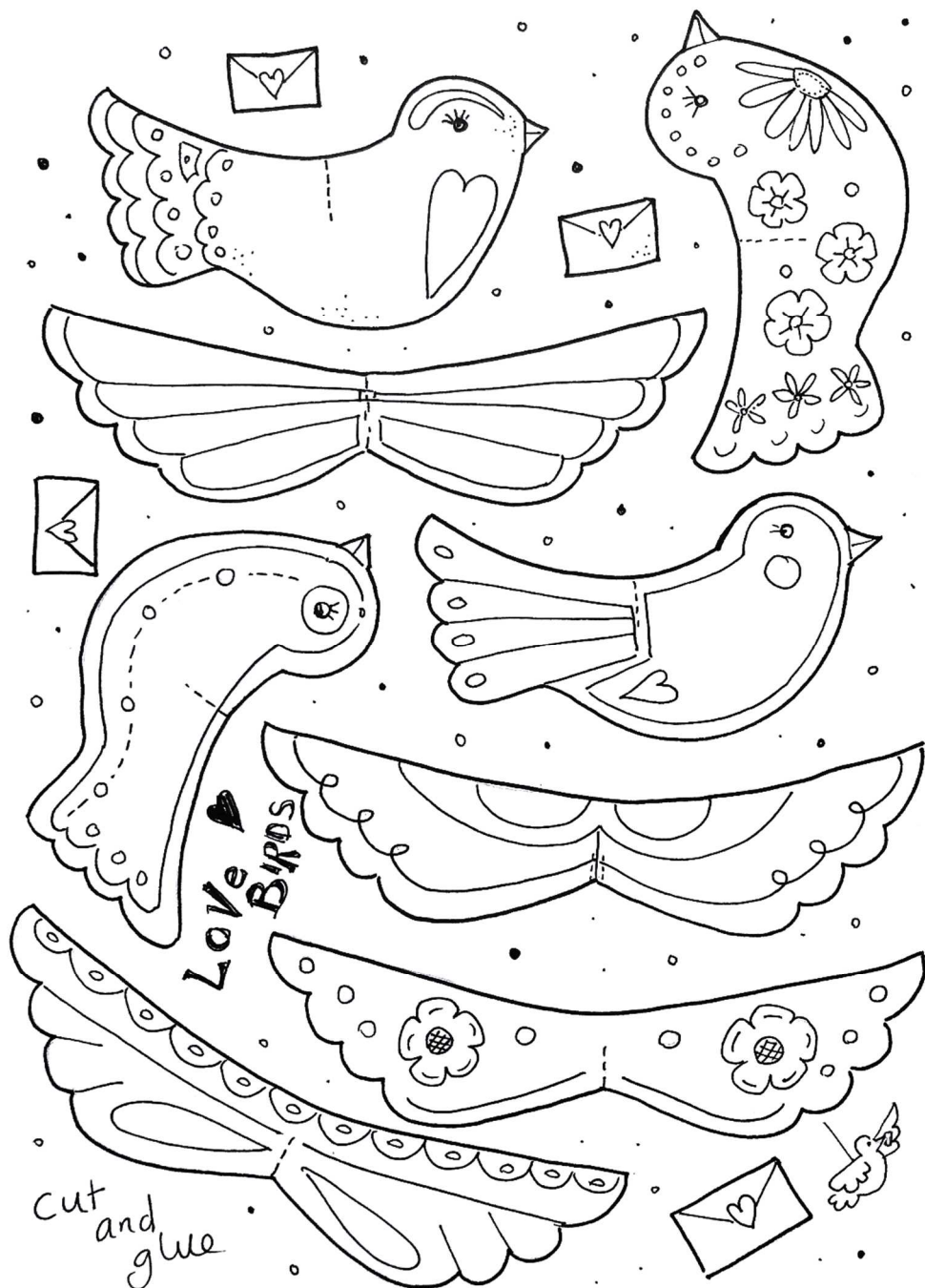
Warning: actual high or low water can occur 30 minutes or more before or after predicted times. Discrepancies are caused by local geography and weather conditions; not to be used for navigation purposes!



August 2026

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Phase	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Sat 01		5:17 AM BST 1.22 m	10:19 AM BST 10.89 m	5:33 PM BST 1.24 m	10:35 PM BST 11.19 m		5:33 AM BST	8:59 PM BST	9:58 PM BST	8:40 AM BST
Sun 02		5:53 AM BST 1.05 m	10:52 AM BST 11.02 m	6:09 PM BST 1.11 m	11:10 PM BST 11.23 m		5:35 AM BST	8:57 PM BST	10:09 PM BST	9:56 AM BST
Thu 06	1:15 AM BST 10.19 m	8:24 AM BST 1.71 m	1:41 PM BST 9.77 m	8:45 PM BST 1.90 m		Last Quarter	5:41 AM BST	8:50 PM BST	11:18 PM BST	3:25 PM BST
Sat 08	3:12 AM BST 9.03 m	10:15 AM BST 2.51 m	3:46 PM BST 8.83 m	10:52 PM BST 2.52 m			5:44 AM BST	8:46 PM BST		6:08 PM BST
Sun 09	4:25 AM BST 8.73 m	11:32 AM BST 2.67 m	5:02 PM BST 8.81 m				5:45 AM BST	8:44 PM BST	12:50 AM BST	7:09 PM BST
Wed 12		2:40 AM BST 1.37 m	7:46 AM BST 10.39 m	3:08 PM BST 1.31 m	8:10 PM BST 11.02 m	New Moon	5:50 AM BST	8:39 PM BST	5:06 AM BST	8:40 PM BST
Fri 14		4:25 AM BST 0.21 m	9:22 AM BST 11.84 m	4:45 PM BST 0.31 m	9:43 PM BST 12.31 m		5:53 AM BST	8:35 PM BST	8:02 AM BST	9:08 PM BST
Sat 15		5:08 AM BST -0.04 m	10:06 AM BST 12.14 m	5:27 PM BST 0.16 m	10:26 PM BST 12.45 m		5:55 AM BST	8:33 PM BST	9:24 AM BST	9:19 PM BST
Sun 16		5:48 AM BST -0.00 m	10:48 AM BST 12.08 m	6:05 PM BST 0.27 m	11:08 PM BST 12.18 m		5:57 AM BST	8:31 PM BST	10:44 AM BST	9:31 PM BST
Thu 20	1:23 AM BST 9.74 m	8:12 AM BST 2.11 m	1:47 PM BST 9.18 m	8:30 PM BST 2.37 m		First Quarter	6:03 AM BST	8:23 PM BST	3:47 PM BST	10:51 PM BST
Sat 22	3:17 AM BST 7.93 m	9:43 AM BST 3.33 m	3:50 PM BST 7.68 m	10:16 PM BST 3.40 m			6:06 AM BST	8:18 PM BST	5:47 PM BST	
Sun 23	4:31 AM BST 7.45 m	10:53 AM BST 3.66 m	5:06 PM BST 7.47 m	11:38 PM BST 3.54 m			6:08 AM BST	8:16 PM BST	6:29 PM BST	12:21 AM BST
Fri 28		3:35 AM BST 1.68 m	8:50 AM BST 10.25 m	3:52 PM BST 1.56 m	9:05 PM BST 10.79 m	Full Moon	6:16 AM BST	8:05 PM BST	8:06 PM BST	6:26 AM BST
Sat 29		4:13 AM BST 1.21 m	9:22 AM BST 10.93 m	4:30 PM BST 1.12 m	9:38 PM BST 11.42 m		6:17 AM BST	8:03 PM BST	8:17 PM BST	7:43 AM BST
Sun 30		4:50 AM BST 0.86 m	9:54 AM BST 11.45 m	5:06 PM BST 0.82 m	10:11 PM BST 11.84 m		6:19 AM BST	8:01 PM BST	8:29 PM BST	9:01 AM BST
Mon 31		5:26 AM BST 0.66 m	10:28 AM BST 11.75 m	5:42 PM BST 0.69 m	10:45 PM BST 11.98 m		6:21 AM BST	7:59 PM BST	8:42 PM BST	10:21 AM BST

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



Rockhampton Cricket Club: A Busy Summer of Cricket

Rockhampton Cricket Club has enjoyed another busy and successful month, with around 60 matches played across the club during July. Thanks to the recent spell of sunny weather, fixtures have been able to go ahead with very little interruption, giving players, families and supporters plenty of cricket to enjoy.

With matches often taking place up to six days a week, the club would like to give special thanks to the ground staff, whose hard work has kept the wickets and outfielders in excellent condition on both the Common and Boundary Field pitches. Their efforts have helped make such a full programme of cricket possible.

There were also plenty of performances to celebrate in the first three weeks of July, with notable wins for the Rockhampton CC Juniors U13, U15 and U17 sides, the Ravens Girls U11 team, and the Seniors 1st, 3rd, Oilers and Midweek teams.

Senior Home Fixtures in August

Supporters are warmly invited to come along and enjoy the following senior home fixtures. For other fixtures, including junior matches, please visit:

<https://rockhampton.play-cricket.com/Matches>

Saturday 1 August

2nd XI v Great Rissington CC 1st XI	— The Boundary Field, 1pm
4th XI v Randwick CC 1st XI	— The Common, 1pm

Saturday 8 August

1st XI v Tewkesbury CC 2nd XI	— The Boundary Field, 1pm
3rd XI v Huntley CC 1st XI	— The Common, 1pm

Saturday 15 August

2nd XI v Chipping Sodbury CC 2nd XI	— The Boundary Field, 1pm
4th XI v Stone CC, Glos 1st XI	— The Common, 1pm

Saturday 22 August

2nd XI v Newent CC 1st XI	— The Boundary Field, 1pm
3rd XI v Parkend CC 1st XI	— The Common, 1pm

Saturday 29 August

1st XI v Tetbury CC 1st XI	— The Boundary Field, 1pm
4th XI v Painswick CC 3rd XI	— The Common, 1pm

Sunday 30 August

2nd XI v Slashings — Natalie's Charity Match	— The Common, 1pm
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Monday 31 August

Rockhampton CC Ravens Women v RCC Sixes Tournament	
	— The Boundary Field, 1pm

Hill & Rockhampton WI Meeting Report – 17th July 2026

What a glorious afternoon for our visit to Frog Lane Flower Farm. We were greeted at the gate, tucked away just below Nibley Church, by one half of our pair of hostesses, Sarah Corston. We gathered under a shady area and heard from Sarah, and Margie Hoffnung, about how they met and came to start up Frog Lane Flowers. Sarah had been a GP in London, but had met Margie in Tetbury. Margie was a qualified horticulturalist who had worked for several prestigious gardens including Highgrove.

Their love of cut flowers, and horticulture in general, led them to give up their jobs to start up on their own. Frog Farm Flowers provides in-season flowers and foliage to local florists, wholesalers and private clients for weddings, funerals, parties and events. They can provide buckets of flowers on a DIY basis or create specific, seasonal bouquets and wreaths. Although not truly organic, they do not use any chemicals on the garden.

We were then at liberty to wander between the flower beds containing annuals, perennials and some very tactile grasses, as well as the most amazing display of Dahlias. Every colour and shape you could imagine. With the garden being on the slope of the Cotswold escarpment, we were also able to take in the amazing views, right across the Severn Vale to the Welsh mountains. As we walked around, we were warned to be careful where we put our feet, as Sarah and Margie's nemesis, the Field Voles, had been busy making tunnels and gorging on bulbs. They had called in the local council's pest controller, unfortunately he was unable to do anything as Field Voles are a protected species. When they started out, rabbit-proof fencing going down at least half a metre under the soil had been installed, however that week a cunning rabbit had been seen in the field. How it got in they are still investigating.

As the sun rose higher and got hotter, we withdrew to Margie's beautiful home for refreshing minted water and cakes. Sarah gave us a demonstration of how to put together a bouquet on the twist, which was later auctioned, and purchased by Ann Rogers, with the proceeds going to *The Nelson Trust*, a local charity providing services to vulnerable people. At the end of the visit, most of us were feeling tired and sleepy from the hot weather, but it was a glorious afternoon spent in beautiful surroundings with good friends.

August is our holiday month, so our next Meeting will be on September 8th, at 7pm at Rockhampton Village Hall, when our speaker will be Sully Sullivan from Great Western Air Ambulance. We will be holding a Bring and Buy stall to support them.

Ann Jones, Secretary H&R WI

Calendar Dates for Oldbury



15 th	Aug	Sat	Patronal Walk from St Mary's, Thornbury, Leaving at 10am, to St Mary's, Shepperdine, arriving around early afternoon
23 rd	Aug	Sun	Charity Tea at Meadowside, Oldbury Naite 2-5pm
29 th	Aug	Sat	Duck Race, Anchor Inn 1pm
5 th	Sept	Sat	Oldbury Produce and Craft Show. Memorial Hall
12 th	Sep	Sat	Last Night of the Proms. Memorial Hall
16 th	Sep	Wed	Rock the Hall. Memorial Hall
3 rd	Oct	Sat	Open Mic Night, Memorial Hall

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 - 07877413298
matthewriddle1967@googlemail.com*



	June	
2026	2025	2024
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2.95"	1.77"	1.65"



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