

# 4~ward

May 2026

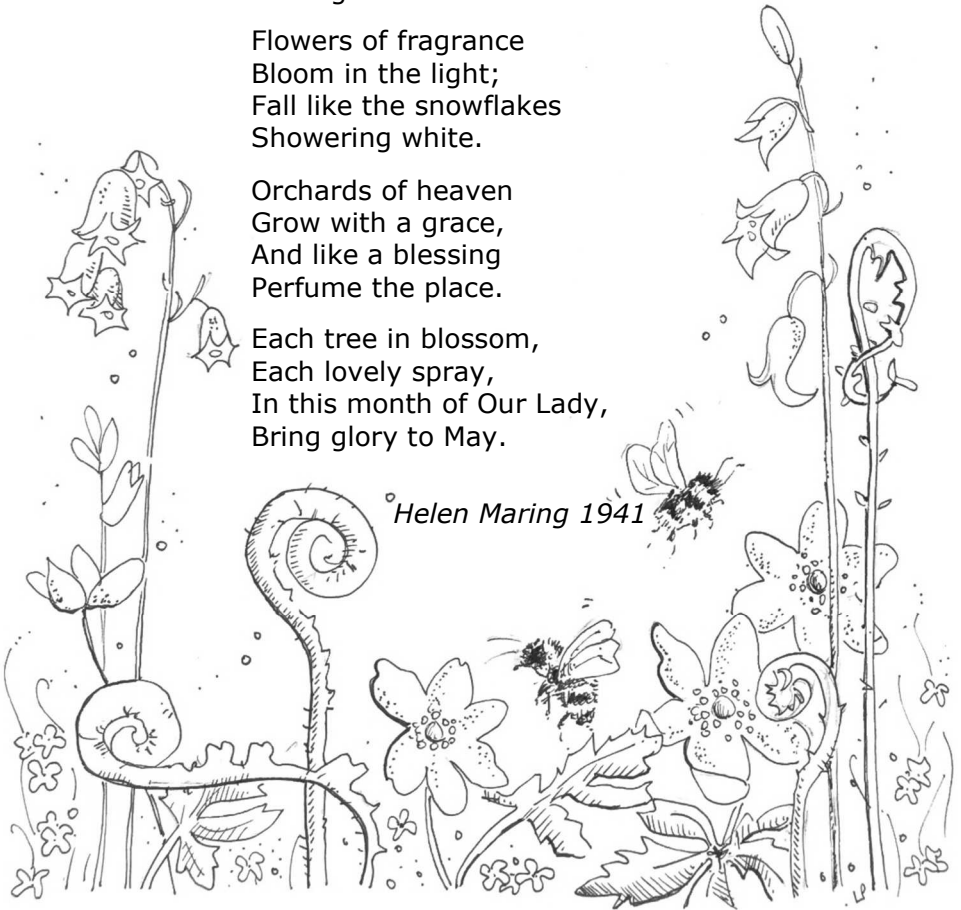
May is so beautiful:  
Orchards are fair;  
Branches of fruit trees  
Make gardens of air.

Flowers of fragrance  
Bloom in the light;  
Fall like the snowflakes  
Showering white.

Orchards of heaven  
Grow with a grace,  
And like a blessing  
Perfume the place.

Each tree in blossom,  
Each lovely spray,  
In this month of Our Lady,  
Bring glory to May.

*Helen Maring 1941*



**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 20<sup>th</sup> of this month.*

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thornburybenefice@outlook.com

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01453 810491 Hilary Grigg



## Editorial



I keep getting asked "Did I enjoy my coach holiday to the WW1 battlefields?" Enjoy is not quite the right word - but I'm so glad I went, it was really interesting, if quite overwhelming at times. The coach took us miles and miles, driving over the vast and rather soulless landscape of northern France where the battles took place. I found the lack of hedges and trees very dispiriting, looking as though the war took place only twenty years ago, not over a century ago. Maybe it's something to do with French agriculture practices, or the climate, or just the season but it did look drab and lifeless.

The tour guide, Mark, was phenomenal! He kept up an almost constant running commentary on where we were and what was actually happening all that time ago on those open fields and woods and hillsides, describing in detail the battles which were fought there, and the huge numbers of young men who lost their lives in those places, and it was that which was so overwhelming. This was broken up by scheduled stops at museums and memorials and places which still had original features such as trenches and tunnels or bomb craters and there was time to explore all these.

In the cemeteries, amongst rows of white headstones, Mark's stories ranged from the big picture down to the personal, as he pointed out graves of individual soldiers ranging from the oldest to the youngest, from the famous to the unknown, from those awarded VCs to one shot at dawn. He took time at the memorials to show us how the index worked and how to find our own war dead. With Mark and a fellow traveller's help I was able to locate the names of all six young men from Oldbury who have no known grave but who are remembered on four different memorials, Arras, Loos, Tyne Cot and the magnificent Thiepval, which overlooks the vast landscape of the Somme.

By contrast to the mostly featureless countryside, the small towns or villages where we sometimes stopped for lunch were bustling lively places. Don't you just love the French! Coach loads of British tourists arriving day after day, and inhabitants resolutely refusing to speak any English, so I gave up the struggle and made do with a coffee and croissant from a patisserie that I could actually point to.

I discovered I didn't much like travelling on my own, it was fine in the daytime with a really full itinerary to keep to, but as soon as we arrived back in the rather soulless hotel everyone disappeared off in their couples and I went to my room on my own wondering what to do for dinner (which wasn't included in the package). I could probably have done with some lighter reading than the Sebastian Faulks WWI novel "*Birdsong*".

I travelled with Leger Holidays, battlefield specialists, whose pick-up points are conveniently located at motorway services all over the country. A surprisingly large number of my fellow travellers had made repeated trips to the battlefields with Leger, and some had been numerous times. Coincidentally, after I'd booked, I discovered that 4ward's Ruth Riddle had also had a positive experience doing quite a few Leger Battlefield tours about 20 years ago, so they do have long-term expertise in this field. I would certainly recommend the company for the services of the tour guide alone. I'll finish with a war grave inscription from 1917 that Mark pointed out to us:

*Second Lieutenant Arthur Conway Young  
Royal Irish Fusiliers 16th August 1917  
Born at Kobe Japan 9th October 1890  
Sacrificed to the Fallacy that War can end War.*

*Chris*

**Cyril Edward Davey "Eddie." Born 3/7/1942. Died 2/3/2026.**

Eddie's funeral service and cremation took place at Westerleigh Crematorium on 8/4/2026.

We would like to thank everyone for all the flowers, cards, kind wishes and love we have felt at this very sad time. Thank you to everyone who came to say goodbye to Eddie at his funeral with us.

Thank you also to James and the team at the Anchor for a wonderful afternoon remembering Eddie. Also, thanks to everyone who donated to Asthma + Lung Uk.

*Elsie, Martin, Steven and the family*

**A thank you notice**

I would like to say thank you for all my lovely get-well cards, and beautiful flowers and cakes and pies, following my recent knee surgery. They helped so much. It's been a long old haul, but I'm getting there now and have just started driving again.

A very big thank you to Graham and Nelly, I couldn't have managed without them, they have done so much for me.

*Thank you all so much*

*Terrian Bennett - Bryderie Farm, the Naite.*

## On behalf of the Memorial Hall and the Friends of Oldbury School

Both the Friends of Oldbury School and the Memorial Hall would like to thank everyone who came to the Race Night and joined in a very enjoyable, fun evening. People really bought into the event, which generated a great atmosphere.

Thank you to the individuals who bought raffle tickets and for the generous raffle prizes that were donated to the cause.

*Thank you to:*

Audi Mon Motors  
Becs Bakes  
Emma Louise Beauty  
Jo's cakes

Laura Day for the use of a box at  
Chepstow Race Course  
Lorna Page  
Oldbury Community Shop  
Ronnie's Restaurant Thornbury

*We would also like to thank the following Companies who sponsored a race:*

GAP Supplies  
Jess's Groom Room  
Meachin Masonry  
Milbury's Estate Agent

MON Motors  
Oak Leaf Nurseries and Oak Farm  
R & L Carpentry & Building Ltd  
RAM Autos

Our biggest thanks must go to Derek Olive and his helper George, both gave up their time to compère the night and run the tote.

We raised just under £1,900 which is a fantastic result!!

*Thank you once again, to everyone who participated, for their generosity.*

## Oldbury on Severn - Memorial Hall 100 Club Draw Winners

April Draw		
1 <sup>st</sup> prize.	£20	Mandy Rankin
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize.	£15	Chris Jennings
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize.	£10	Chrissie Stewart
4 <sup>th</sup> prize.	£10	Colin Keedwell



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](mailto:aeconibere@hotmail.com) or 01454 413828



**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:-  
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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!**

## Rockhampton Festival, Saturday 20 June from 2pm

Get ready for a day of fab music and lively dancing, in a relaxed family-friendly atmosphere – all topped off with delicious local food and drink. It's everything people love about the Rockhampton Festival! This year's line up is packed with musical gems from across the world. Enjoy the wonderful Welsh lyricism of Eve Goodman, the energetic gypsy Latin and swing of 'The Moscow Drug Club' and the African drumming of Alain Rouamba and Servo Mputu. Add in the traditional energetic dancing of 'Bristol Rag Morris' and wrap it all up with a Ceilidh to end the evening as the sun sets. There's something for everyone – kids' activities, and free music workshops for all ages.

More information and great value tickets with early bird discounts are available from [rockhamptonfolkfest.org.uk](http://rockhamptonfolkfest.org.uk)

## Spring's Here — and so is Cricket at Rockhampton



**ROCKHAMPTON  
SIXES 2026**

Sunday 24th May 2026 @ The Boundary Field

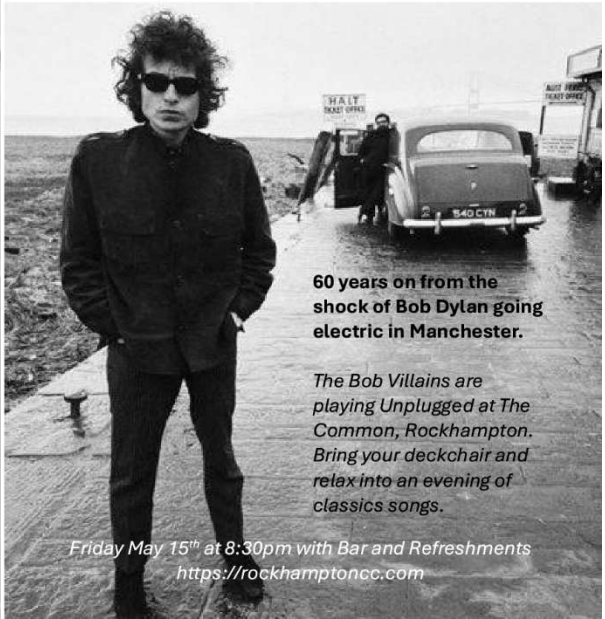
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## 60 years of Judas!

The BOB DYLAN tribute

The Bob Villains



**60 years on from the shock of Bob Dylan going electric in Manchester.**

*The Bob Villains are playing Unplugged at The Common, Rockhampton. Bring your deckchair and relax into an evening of classics songs.*

Friday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm with Bar and Refreshments  
<https://rockhamptoncc.com>

## Thornbury Sailing Club Regatta Returns on 6–7 June



Thornbury Sailing Club is inviting local residents to enjoy a weekend of sailing, music and food as its annual Regatta returns on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June.

The popular event, at the club's Oldbury-on-Severn site, brings together sailors from across the region for two days of racing on the Severn Estuary.

This year's regatta will also host the Yachting World Day Boat Open, with invitations extended to sailors from numerous local sailing clubs, promising competitive racing and a colourful spectacle on the water.

Racing takes place during the daytime, with fleets of dinghies launching from the club slipway and competing on the estuary as the tide allows.

Spectators are warmly welcome to come along and watch the action from the shoreline or from the clubhouse balcony, which offers scenic views across the Severn and an excellent vantage point for following the racing.

### Live Music and Hog Roast

The celebrations continue on Saturday evening, when the regatta shifts from racing to entertainment.

From 7pm, visitors can enjoy live music from the *Port of Bristol Sea Shanty Crew*, bringing traditional maritime songs to the waterfront, alongside lively sets from the local 'Narwhal Monument' band.

The evening will also feature a regatta hog roast, giving sailors, visitors and local residents the chance to enjoy food, music and a relaxed social atmosphere by the estuary.

Places for the hog roast at 6pm can be booked in advance via the Thornbury Sailing Club website. <https://www.thornburysc.org.uk/event/1229543>

### A Spectacular Setting

Thornbury Sailing Club has been part of the local sailing community for over 75 years and is known for its unique tidal sailing on the Severn Estuary.



With panoramic views across the river and a welcoming clubhouse overlooking the water, the regatta weekend offers a great opportunity for visitors to see the club in action and experience the excitement of estuary sailing.

*Sue Leat*

THORNBURY



SAILING CLUB

# REGATTA AND YW DAYBOAT OPEN 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

Open to Club Members, Family, Friends and Guests from the Community

## **‘HOG’ ROAST and salads**

(or vegetarian option)

Serving Hog Roast at 5.30pm.

\*Ticket Adult £15, School age Child £8

\*Adult ticket price includes a £5 donation to

**‘PORT OF BRISTOL SHANTY CREW’**

raising funds for ‘The Teenage Cancer Trust’

The evening concludes with local band:

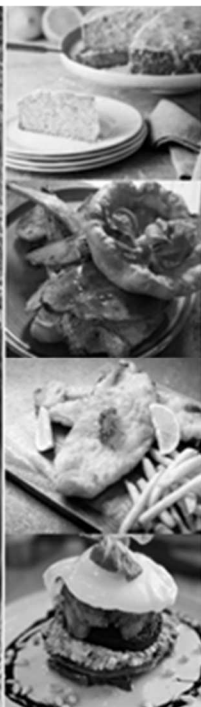
**‘NARWHAL MONUMENT’**

\*Adult ticket £7 for entertainment only (no food)

Sailing starts at 10.25am Saturday and 11.05am Sunday with refreshments on sale from the Boat Shed.

Bar open each lunch time. You may wish to bring a chair.

.....  
***Tickets for evening meal and entertainment are for sale on  
Thornbury Sailing Club website  
or purchased from Oldbury Village Shop.  
Final booking date Monday 1st June.***



#### A WARM WELCOME

Central Pook is a hidden gem nestled in the beautiful hamlet of Northwick. Surrounded by countryside we are situated in the heart of the Severn Estuary with access to a variety of cycle routes and walks.

We are a bespoke café serving breakfast brunch and lunch along with our homemade cakes, savoury bakes and amazing coffee.

#### FISH AND CHIP FRIDAYS

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

#### SUNDAY ROAST

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Dogs welcome

#### OPENING TIMES

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8.30am to 4pm and 5.30pm to 8pm

Saturday  
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Sunday  
10am to 4pm

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# UKRAINIAN-BRITISH AFTERNOON



AMATEUR COMEDY SKITS  
& SHORT PLAYS!



UKRAINIAN CAKES,  
TREATS & TEA!

*9<sup>th</sup> MAY*

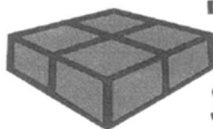
*Doors Open at 2:00pm*

*Show Starts at 2:30pm*

Oldbury Village Community Hall

Donation: £8

All proceeds to support  
Elderly People (75+)  
in Ukraine, Kharkiv



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GL13 9DA



## THORNBURY Chiropractic CLINIC

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## **SPANISH NIGHT at the Memorial Hall**

**Saturday 16th May from 7pm until 11pm**

**Hola!!** Join us for a Spanish Evening at Oldbury on Severn Memorial Hall  
Sangria, Paella, Flamenco Dancing, and much more.

### **Gracias!!**

An evening of Spanish entertainment bringing Mediterranean warmth, flavour and socialising to a local setting.

Oldbury on Severn Memorial Hall are delighted that *The Bristol Flamenco Guitarist* has agreed to perform with his Spanish guitar. This is your chance to try a few Spanish dance moves with choreography from Natasha. Spanish food (paella) and a glass of Sangria are included in the price. Bar available. Potential Matadors and Flamenco dancers in full dress are most welcome. Tickets - £18 per head - are available at Oldbury on Severn Village Shop or online via the link:- [bookwhen.com/memorialhall](http://bookwhen.com/memorialhall)



### **Recruiting for "Investment Group 1"**

We are part of Thornbury U3A, which is an organisation of interest groups for retired people (<https://thornbury.u3asite.uk/welcome/>) and we are recruiting for our investment group.

You do not need to be a financial expert, just have an interest in investing. The joining fee is £250, and the monthly subscription is £50 - so we are dealing with real money - which we invest in a portfolio of shares. Our meetings are structured and lively as well as hard-headed when it comes to voting on buying and selling.

We meet at 10am on the second Wednesday of the month in Tockington Methodist Hall, followed by lunch in the Swan across the road for those who wish to partake.

To learn a bit more, please send me a text or email and we can arrange a telephone call. If you are still interested after that, the best way forward is for you attend a meeting as an observer and decide if it is for you.

On a personal note, I find membership prompts me to keep up with economic and investment-related affairs at home and abroad and provides a thoroughly enjoyable forum for discussing them.

*Bill Woodruff 07801106750*

*investment1@thornburyu3a.org.uk*



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## Rockhampton 100 Club

Winners for April  
were:

1. Gareth Fisher
2. Brian Woodward
3. Chris Child
4. Nichola Dunn

## **Hill & Rockhampton WI**

### **Report – April Meeting**

Before introducing our speaker, Jill asked us to take a minute to remember Sheila Jones, a past President who had died recently. Sheila was a remarkable needlewoman, her skills ranging across tailoring, quilting and lace making.

Our speaker for the evening was Rachael Pilling. Rachael works for the Wildlife and Wetland Trust at Slimbridge, and her fascination was with our little pollinators. She is passionate about these little critters who do so much for us in both gardens and horticulture. Her main advice was not to be too tidy.

Bees are very charismatic creatures who need plants in late winter and early spring when they start to emerge from their preferred nesting places in holes in the ground. There is one Queen in each nest who will produce the eggs that will turn into the worker bees – all of which are female. Males have one function only.

Many people now have bee hotels in their gardens, and these are ideal for leaf-cutter bees and mason bees.

Wasps have a similar life cycle to bees, not all are stingers, but they must provide meat for their young to survive. Wasps are defensive and territorial but live for less than a year. They can actually recognise human faces, so if you do accidentally annoy a wasp – watch out!

After Racheal's enthusiastic and inspiring talk, we had a short break for tea and biscuits before discussing Institute business. There were four apologies for absence. Jill explained that Avon Federation can now claim Gift Aid, and to make this easier, had standardised the cost of events for both members and non-members.

The National Federation of Women's Institutes is part of a coalition of over 130 charities, community groups, and faith organisations, joining in "A Million Acts of Hope", a new UK-wide campaign highlighting everyday acts of kindness and community connection. There is a week of action from 13th to 20th May, so on 12th May, will include sharing a cup of tea with a neighbour. Our speaker then will be Helen Baker, Colour Analyst and Personal Stylist.

*Ann Jones, Hill & Rockhampton WI Secretary*

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Office also at Well House, The Chipping, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, GL12 7AD

# Refresh!

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



**Sunday 3rd May  
Everyone's Invited!**



**Sunday 7th June  
Called to Care**



**Sunday 5th July  
Shining Brightly**



## Open Mic Night

The latest "Hot Ticket" event in the Village Memorial Hall was the Open Mic Night where a maximum capacity audience was treated to a smorgasbord of musical talent by fourteen acts. The familiar faces participating included Nick & Ali, Hugh, Polly, Sophie, Deb & Geri with *TripleUKe*, and they delighted all present.

Outstanding performances by newcomers to the "mic" included Bobby with his soulful voice, Emily's haunting singing accompanied by her guitar, and Isla, playing saxophone, with Rachel and Tom. There was a mix of instruments and music, old and new, well-received by a very enthusiastic crowd. Song writing skills were also well evidenced, as some artists performed their own compositions.

New to the stage was the rear view of Alex, professionally videoing for posterity, causing many smiles from acts as they tried desperately to ignore the lens, often only a few inches from their faces. The rapturous finale of a couple of Beatle and Monkees hits, with dancing and clapping, raised the roof. Who knew I would leave with "*Banbury Jig*", Marg's own composition, premiered with her Quartet, as my earworm. Thanks to all participants and to Marg, for arranging such an enjoyable event.

Clare Mardon

# Church Services for May 2026



## St. Mary's Thornbury

## St. Arilda's Oldbury

## St. Mary's Sheppertine

## St. Oswald's Rockhampton

**3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am**  
Holy Communion

**10<sup>th</sup> 10.30am**  
All Age Service

**17<sup>th</sup> 10.30am**  
Holy Communion

**24<sup>th</sup> 10.30am**  
Holy Communion

**31<sup>st</sup> 8.00am**  
Holy Communion

**3<sup>rd</sup> 3.00pm**  
Refresh!

**10<sup>th</sup> 8.00am**  
Holy Communion

**17<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm**  
Evening Prayer

**24<sup>th</sup> No Service**  
*See Sheppertine*

**31<sup>st</sup> No Service**

*Open as a place  
of pilgrimage  
and prayer.*

*For details phone  
01454 260316*

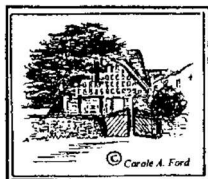
**24<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm**  
Evensong BCP

Please check  
locally

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

**26<sup>th</sup> 10.30am**  
*Holy Communion  
Service  
Rev David Powe*

**31<sup>st</sup> 10.00am** Benefice Service St Mary's Hall



## Catholic

## Morton Baptist

## Thornbury Quakers

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

[www.ckk-thornbury.org.uk](http://www.ckk-thornbury.org.uk)

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

Morning Service  
Every Sunday  
at  
10.30am

See  
<https://mortonbaptist.org>  
for details

Chantry  
Community Centre  
on Castle Street

Sunday  
10.30am

Further details contact  
Sheila Waters on  
07738495776

## Christian Comment

Abridged from Bishop Rachel's Easter Sermon 2026, Gloucester Cathedral.  
*Readings: Acts 10:34-43 and Matthew 28:1-10*

*What a mess!*

The conflict across what we call the Middle East, and its far-reaching impact across the world, is such a mess. And there is mess and devastation and injustice in so many places of conflict and suffering across our world. And as leaders continually flex their muscles of might, I find myself repeatedly saying 'What a terrible mess'.

And over the past weeks, I have frequently heard people use the word 'terrifying': How terrifying that we live in a world in which leaders unleash their power to destroy and gain and diminish. How terrifying that we live in a world in which leaders with power have seemingly exchanged our rules-based way of operating for a narrative of 'might is right.'

What a terrible and terrifying mess.

But perhaps it was not so different just over 2000 years ago, as we recall the events in Jerusalem of that very first Holy Week. In the narrative leading up to Christ's crucifixion that first Good Friday, we encountered the power of the religious leaders and that of the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate – And soon the outworking of God's promises through Jesus Christ seemed to disintegrate into a terrible and terrifying mess.

Remember Christmas and the promises of peace? Remember Christ's ministry of powerful miracles, and his teaching about a different way of being – proclaiming the power of the Kingdom of God? Everything had been looking so hopeful when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey - there had been cheers and the waving of palms. There had been joyous expectation that Jesus Christ would exercise his God-given might and power, and right the wrongs of injustice and bring in a new regime.

Yet so quickly after Jesus's celebration of Passover with his friends, came the terrible mess of betrayal, arrest, and that unjust wielding of power as the nightmare unfolded. Soon Jesus is strung up on a cross to die and we hear his voice crying out 'My God, my God, why have you abandoned me', and it is terrifying. Most of Jesus Christ's followers have run away in fear or denied even knowing him, as the power of God seems to have been defeated by the power of broken humanity.

But suddenly into that place of powerlessness comes the power of Almighty God – An earthquake and a rolling back of the stone from the tomb, and an angel appearing saying, 'Do not be afraid'.

In a place of mess, powerlessness and terror, the women's fear gives way to joy as he greets them and echoes the words of the angels: 'Do not be afraid'.

That earthly misuse of power and 'might is right', has not had the final word – and amazingly neither even has the power of death. And we are told that the women fall at the feet of Jesus Christ as they worship him.

*And what of us on Easter Day 2026?*

Last week I was struck by the incongruity of two different scenes of power on the same day, and both on American soil. On the one hand, a President openly speaking of his power and might and his intention to bring Iran back to the Stone Ages where, he said, they belong. And then on the same day those scenes and commentary from Florida as we saw the power of human skill and the power of a rocket as we watched the launch of Artemis II.

Today, in a world in which we see the mess of broken relationship, close at hand and far away, we are invited to hold fast to the hope that one day all will be made new, and death and evil will never have the final word. In our brokenness and sin, as well as in our goodness and beauty, our God of love offers us mercy and forgiveness and relationship restored – And one day, there will be no more pain, no more tears, no more dying – and the Kingdom of God will be powerfully brought to completion through the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Over the past three years I have visited Jerusalem several times. I make no apology for all that I have said and written over the years – and I will go on using my voice to name and challenge the mess, including the occupation of Palestine, the violence, and the misuse of power such that hope seems absent.

And if it's not too contrived, perhaps I might dare to redeem the words of a President by expressing my longing for all people to be brought back to a Stone Age – to a time when a stone was rolled away from a tomb, proclaiming the power and mystery of God's love, hope, and life beyond our imagining, and more powerful than even death itself.

On this Easter day, amidst the mess and terror of our world, may we hear the angels saying 'do not be afraid', and let us once more return to the song of the Christmas angels singing 'Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth', as in this Eucharist we stretch out our hands to receive Christ's love and forgiveness in bread and wine, and once more confidently proclaim that God's 'is the kingdom, the power and the glory'.

*Alleluia Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!*

*The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester +*

## **Returning by Popular Demand**

**Monday 11 May at 2pm at St Mary's Church, Castle St, Thornbury**  
**Dr Carolyn Morton (former head of Forensic Science at UWE Bristol)**  
**"Poisons"**

The feedback from those that attended Dr Morton's talk early last year on DNA was so positive, that she has kindly agreed to return with another fascinating talk within the realms of Forensic Science.

The Thornbury U3A talks are open for all U3A **Members\*** to attend, and are free, with no booking required.

Tea and coffee is served from 1.30pm.

Parking is limited to street parking.

\* U3A annual **membership** is £6. See: <https://thornbury.u3asite.uk/welcome/>

**Thornbury Choral Society Spring Concert**  
**Saturday 16 May at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Thornbury, BS35 1UE**

We are performing the *Petite Messe Solenne* by Rossini.

This will be the final performance of our conductor Steven Kings, who is retiring after twenty-one years. He has been an inspirational conductor and brought the choir to new musical heights. We thank him for his hard work and enthusiasm, and wish him well as he follows new musical pursuits.

Tickets are priced at £18 (pre-booked) £20 (on the door) & £5 (under 18s) and are available from members, or [tickets@thornburychoralsociety.org.uk](mailto:tickets@thornburychoralsociety.org.uk) and from Horders (stationers) from May 1st.

**St Mary's Music Third Sunday Concert**  
**Sunday 17 May at 4pm at St Mary's Church, Thornbury, BS35 1UE**

Our next Afternoon Concert will feature the Organist David Bednall. David is well known for his exciting performances of romantic and contemporary music and his interest in improvisation brings a fresh approach to this repertoire.

David has given recitals in many prestigious venues both in this country and in Europe. He is recognised as a leading Choral composer of his generation and is the Choral Director at Clifton Cathedral and conducts several choral ensembles, including the Bristol Chamber Choir who performed at our Sunday concert in January. We look forward to welcoming him again.

As usual the concert will be followed by refreshments. Admission is free.

The proceeds of the retiring collection go to St Mary's Music.

## **“Life influenced by our River Severn” An ongoing saga - Back to the River**

Leaving Gloucester lock, back into the downward flow of the river, care had to be taken not to let the barge be swept across the stream. From here, another nine, or more, hours' passage lay ahead against the current. Past the old Gloucester quay and on up the narrow, twisting Eastern arm, known to us as the "Parting", with a hand stood look-out on the bow, alert and listening, a blast on the siren at each bend to warn any approaching craft of our presence, and that we were keeping to the starboard side of the channel. Under Westgate, and Black bridges, hazards when the winter floods were running. Onward, rounding the "Globe" turn, and eventually, leaving the tar works and jetty to our right, entering the broader river proper. Sometimes, if lucky, we might carry a spring flood tide, pushing us on as far as Tewkesbury. This reach, up to, and beyond Ashleworth, was my steering length. The quicker I learned, the easier for the other two. The river and surrounds from here on to Stourport are very scenic. Past Wainlodes hill, and the entrance to the old Combe Hill canal (for Cheltenham), Haw bridge, and on to Upper Lode lock below Tewkesbury. Quite a big lock this, so we waited for the 'tail end Charlie' before locking up. Past Tewkesbury abbey, the entrance to the Warwickshire Avon, and under Mythe bridge. A long run then, up to Worcester and Diglis locks, rounding Sand Point and its shallows, and passing picturesque Upton-on-Severn with its distinctive church tower, with copper cupola on top. So many interesting sights, but to enumerate them all would require more space, and patience, than I possess. Proceeding on we entered the parting before Diglis locks, the water stained red from the silty outflow of the River Teme. After locking up again, the run through Worcester is quite spectacular, the green shrouded river banks, with the beautiful cathedral towering over all. Pleasure boats, rowing skiffs, and swans completed the postcard scene.

Worcester bridge, with its many stone arches, a very real hazard with the river in flood, carries a main thoroughfare across the river here. Carefully passing through an arch was like going through a short tunnel. People often leaned over the parapet to watch such feats of navigation, or to wave as we approached, and passed below. On one awful occasion, in November, a bunch of lads skylarking on the bridge actually threw fire-crackers down on to the tank-tops, obviously unaware of what we were. Luckily, someone was on deck at the time to swiftly kick them overboard. My imagination ran riot as I thought of one hundred and fifty tons of high-octane petrol igniting under the main bridge near a city centre.

A couple of decades later, I and my wife took some friends on a river trip, long after commercial traffic had ceased, and I was able to show them the

gouges, and grooves in the main arch stonework where our barges had scraped, and squeezed through when water levels were high.

Once through, we pressed on, under the railway bridge, and past the racecourse, and on up to the next lock at Bevere. We called it 'Camp Lock', after the nearby pub, which was handy if we had to wait for the lock. I always felt that as the river narrowed and became more winding, so it became even more picturesque.

Above Bevere to starboard we passed the mouth of the River Salwarpe, and the entrance to the disused Droitwich barge canal. Earlier, and for many years, these barges, known as the 'Wich' barges, carried salt down to Gloucester, and Sharpness for export across the world. Our next stop was Holt Fleet lock, with its village and two riverside pubs, one being a large hotel which put on regular shows, and entertainments. A very popular venue at weekends and holidays for many West-Midlanders, then, and now. On a later trip, I went ashore here with mate from a Harkers barge one evening, and for the first time in my life, became 'staggeringly' drunk.

Live and Learn!

*George Woollard*



*Worcester bridge from upstream. River at Summer level with low water level.*

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## **Severn Vale Crib League 2025/2026**

*Has fortune dealt you some bad cards? Then let wisdom now make you a good gamester..... Francis Quarles*

Fortune and wisdom were both in play when Sporting Oldbury played out their last game of the season against the Shipwrecked. In a very keenly contested match the Shipwrecked came out on top with an 8-7 victory. The result of the league KO competition will be issued in 4ward's June edition.

Sad to hear that John Bax has died. John played for many years with both Rockhampton and the Shipwrecked. A quiet man, but a real gentleman, and a skilful card player who enjoyed playing crib, bridge and whist.

*Gerald Porter*

## **Oldbury Cricket Club**

*Indian all-rounder Ajit Agarbar had five consecutive ducks against Australia which earned him the nickname the 'Bombay Duck'.*

The cricket season for Oldbury got underway with a team selection game (The Oldbury Ashes) and a friendly against Rockhampton. This was in preparation for the Village Knock Out Competition opening round, away against Frampton. In this game Oldbury opened brightly, reaching close on a hundred runs for the loss of only 3 wickets, when 6 ducks interrupted the field of play. The team then added no more than 40 runs to their score and waddled off back to the pavilion, leaving the home side a meagre total to chase. Frampton set about it and got the required runs in under twenty overs.

The season gets into full swing in May with both friendly and league fixtures.

*Gerald Porter*

## **Oldbury-on-Severn Produce and Craft Show Saturday 5th September 2026 in The Memorial Hall**

Plans are now well advanced for the show later on in the year. Thank you to those who have already offered to help; more help would be welcomed, especially for the show day itself. The list of classes will be published soon via the Oldbury Parish Facebook Page and the Oldbury Parish Website.

There will be plenty of classes, some **new** this year, to cover vegetables, flowers, fruit, cookery, handicrafts, and art, as well as a range of children's competitions. We are also looking for donations and sponsorship of prize money for the main classes, and for raffle prizes for the Grand Show Draw.

We are hoping a good number of the exhibits will be donated so that they can be sold to those who attend, and all money raised will again go towards the ongoing Hall improvements. If you can help out in any way, please do let me know on 07877413298. Thank you.

*Matthew Riddle*



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**Mark Bennett - Stand Up Magician**  
**Friday 15 May at 7.30pm at The Cossham Hall,**  
**Chapel Street, Thornbury, BS35 2BJ**



Mark Bennett owns a Comedy & Magic Theatre, so he knows how to entertain any audience with quick funny lines and audience participation. His comedy is in the style of a stand-up comedian, with original magic and humour, making a perfect combination. Mixing stand-up comedy with magic, he will keep everyone laughing and on the edge of their seats.

Tickets £15 from [AAGThornbury@gmail.com](mailto:AAGThornbury@gmail.com) or 01454 850933

**Thornbury in Bloom Annual Bring and Buy Plant Sale**  
**Saturday 16 May 9.30am-1pm outside Thornbury Town Hall, High St**

Our annual fund raiser depends on generous donations of your spare plants, then plenty of customers looking to find bargains or unusual and interesting new plants. Donations should be brought to the stall on the morning of the sale from around 8.30am or, if not possible, dropped off at T&J Owen, florists, on The Plain. Please include descriptions so we know what they are.

Then please come and buy! Email: [thornburyinbloom@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thornburyinbloom@yahoo.co.uk)

**Thornbury u3a Coffee Morning**  
**Saturday 30 May 10.30-11.30am at Alveston Methodist Hall,**  
**Wolfridge Ride, BS35 3RA**

Thornbury and District u3a is holding a coffee morning in Alveston Methodist Hall. Members and non-members welcome. Representatives of some u3a groups will be happy to answer questions. There will also be refreshments.

Please do come along to meet other people and have a coffee and chat. For further information visit our website <https://thornbury.u3asite.uk/> or for membership enquiries please email [membership@thornburyu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@thornburyu3a.org.uk)

**An Evening of Jazzzzz**  
**featuring Marvin Muoneke**  
**Gifted Jazz Singer-Songwriter and Trumpeter**  
**Saturday 13 June at 7.30pm at The Cossham Hall,**  
**Chapel Street, Thornbury, BS35 2BJ** [Brought by Action Arts Group.]



His bass-baritone voice has been referred to as rich, deep and smooth. His style is heavily influenced by the likes of singers such as Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holliday. He has performed in Paris and many London theatres, including the London Palladium. Bringing the sounds of mid-20th century jazz to modern listeners of all ages, Marvin possesses a rare and beautiful presence that can light up any audience.

Tickets £15 from [AAGThornbury@gmail.com](mailto:AAGThornbury@gmail.com) or 01454 850933

# SPANISH NIGHT

**Saturday, 16th May**

**Oldbury on Severn Memorial  
Hall**

**Doors Open 7.00pm  
Starts 7.30pm**

**Spanish Dance  
(Choreography by Natasha)  
Spanish Guitar (The Bristol  
Flamenco Guitarist)  
Spanish Food & a glass of  
Sangria (Included in ticket  
price)  
Bar available**

**Tickets: £18 per person  
Available online using  
the QR code below or  
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<https://bookwhen.com/memorialhall>

**Dress: Informal but Matadors and  
Flamenco dress welcome!!**

**Octopus Drama Group – ‘Murder At The Margate Majestica’  
Performances from Wednesday 10 to Saturday 13 June at 7.30pm  
in Christ the King Church Hall, Castle Street, Thornbury**

Octopus Drama Group are proud to present an original new murder mystery comedy that combines classic 'Agatha Christie' whodunnit sleuthing with traditional British farce. Written and directed by Paul Harrod, who joined our membership last year, '*Murder at the Margate Majestica*' promises to be an amusing evening.



Welcome to the Margate Majestica - an English seaside hotel where chaos is constant, and nothing quite adds up. '*Murder at the Margate Majestica*' serves up eccentric guests, clashing egos and a cascade of misunderstanding.

As there is seating for only 75 people where the performances take place, in the charming 15th century Christ the King Church Hall, tickets are usually in demand, so do try and get your tickets soon to avoid disappointment.

Tickets costing £10 will go on sale on Saturday 2nd May at Rosie & Rex gift shop at 32 High Street, Thornbury. The shop will be open Monday to Friday from 9am–4.30pm, and Saturdays from 9am–4pm, except Bank Holidays.

For those wanting a programme please bring cash on the night.

There is plenty of parking nearby, and bar facilities on site.

*[www.octopus-thornbury.co.uk](http://www.octopus-thornbury.co.uk)*

**Thornbury Orchestra Concert in Berkeley  
Saturday 13 June at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Berkeley**

Tickets, available on our website or at the door, are £10 for adults, with children free. The music will include:

Brahms's *Variations on a Theme of Haydn*

Dvorak's *Symphony No 4*

Bizet's *Petite Suite d'Orchestre*.

The concert is in aid of the Jenner Museum, Berkeley. For more details, contact:

*[info@thornburyorchestra.org.uk](mailto:info@thornburyorchestra.org.uk)*

The orchestra was founded in 2002 and draws players from across South Gloucestershire and beyond. We rehearse regularly in St Helen's, Alveston and normally give two or three concerts a year, all in support of local charities. We are always keen to hear from interested players and currently have a number of vacancies. For more details, please visit our website

*[www.thornburyorchestra.org.uk](http://www.thornburyorchestra.org.uk)*

## Love or Hate Technology?

The more aged I get, the more I am beginning to hate technology. From the early days of MS-DOS I gradually learned to become 'PC literate' and took it to be part of life.

*For those who don't remember, DOS (Disk Operating System), primarily MS-DOS, was the dominant, text-based operating system for IBM PC-compatible computers during the 1980s and early 1990s. Released in 1981, it was a command-line interface (CLI) that required users to type commands to manage files and run software, rather than using a mouse or graphics.*

As time advanced, so did technology, Microsoft and WORD came on the scene which relieved us from MS-DOS which could be very turgid at times.

Back then I was much younger, and could keep up with the somewhat limited advances of technology. It seems to me, now that I am passing my mid-80's, that either I am getting dumber or there is a distinct technology leaning away from what is good for the elderly!

In recent years I find that I am regularly inadvertently pressing a wrong command which completely banjaxes my laptop. This is sometimes only limited and at other times totally disastrous! Now, this I can live with, as I've learnt in latter times to not press anything asked, unless I'm sure of the consequence, and if I'm not, then I don't hit the button.

I have, as I say, learnt to live with all this, but what really gets to me is how they keep changing technology and words. These days, when I have got used to certain words in PC data, I suddenly find that I can't find those. When I then delve into things, I find that all that happened is that they have exchanged the word for another. Equally, everything is more complex now, and it is becoming the bane of my life, and I'm wondering if there are any other poor souls out there that suffer as I do?

To close out with an example, albeit slightly on the periphery, I was in Cabot Circus car park last week. Those who know will remember it is a non-paying car park, in that it is done by QR Code. Now this was my first time there, and when I came to the 'get me out' point I hit the buffers. I was trying to use my phone to sync and set the QR Code up but with some difficulty. Suddenly, a young lady with her son stopped and asked if I was having trouble and I said I was. She then proceeded, with my approval, to use my phone to sort it all out, and pay up, so that I could leave. As I told her at the time, she had saved an old man and made him very happy.

The bottom line of all this, is that the obvious thing would be to stay away from PCs, mobile phones, and associated items. However, most of us who are still active know that we can't do that, and therefore must continue to suffer the consequences of technology's impact.

*Ian Bell*

Colouring (for young or old!) kindly created for us  
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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!



**May 2026**

Day	High		Low	High	Low	High	Phase	Sun rise	Sun set	Moon rise	Moon set
<b>Fri 01</b>			3:18 AM BST 1.20 m	8:23 AM BST 10.69m	3:39 PM BST 1.14 m	8:42 PM BST 10.81m	Full Moon	5:42 AM BST	8:34 PM BST	8:56 PM BST	5:05 AM BST
<b>Sat 02</b>			3:56 AM BST 1.14 m	9:00 AM BST 11.08m	4:14 PM BST 1.20 m	9:18 PM BST 11.15m		5:40 AM BST	8:35 PM BST	10:10 PM BST	5:22 AM BST
<b>Sun 03</b>			4:30 AM BST 1.19 m	9:36 AM BST 11.23m	4:47 PM BST 1.34 m	9:53 PM BST 11.24m		5:38 AM BST	8:37 PM BST	11:21 PM BST	5:45 AM BST
<b>Mon 04</b>			5:02 AM BST 1.30 m	10:10 AM BST 11.14m	5:18 PM BST 1.52 m	10:26 PM BST 11.07m		5:36 AM BST	8:39 PM BST		6:15 AM BST
<b>Sat 09</b>	12:54 AM BST 8.75 m		8:09 AM BST 2.54 m	1:21 PM BST 8.26 m	8:32 PM BST 2.83 m		Last Quarter	5:27 AM BST	8:47 PM BST	2:43 AM BST	11:27 AM BST
<b>Sun 10</b>	1:47 AM BST 8.16 m		9:02 AM BST 2.77 m	2:22 PM BST 7.76 m	9:28 PM BST 2.97 m			5:26 AM BST	8:48 PM BST	2:59 AM BST	12:44 PM BST
<b>Sat 16</b>			2:29 AM BST 1.20 m	7:53 AM BST 11.09m	2:57 PM BST 0.98 m	8:14 PM BST 11.44m	New Moon	5:16 AM BST	8:57 PM BST	4:26 AM BST	9:18 PM BST
<b>Sun 17</b>			3:23 AM BST 0.76 m	8:37 AM BST 11.88m	3:49 PM BST 0.66 m	8:58 PM BST 12.14m		5:15 AM BST	8:59 PM BST	4:57 AM BST	10:48 PM BST
<b>Sat 23</b>	12:59 AM BST 10.30m		8:21 AM BST 1.27 m	1:32 PM BST 9.59 m	8:47 PM BST 1.78 m		First Quarter	5:07 AM BST	9:07 PM BST	12:29 PM BST	2:13 AM BST
<b>Sun 24</b>	2:03 AM BST 9.47 m		9:19 AM BST 1.71 m	2:41 PM BST 8.87 m	9:48 PM BST 2.13 m			5:06 AM BST	9:09 PM BST	1:47 PM BST	2:26 AM BST
<b>Mon 25</b>	3:14 AM BST 8.90 m		10:24 AM BST 2.00 m	3:53 PM BST 8.50 m	10:55 PM BST 2.27 m			5:05 AM BST	9:10 PM BST	3:03 PM BST	2:37 AM BST
<b>Sat 30</b>			2:46 AM BST 1.84 m	7:57 AM BST 9.94 m	3:08 PM BST 1.88 m	8:16 PM BST 10.13m		5:00 AM BST	9:16 PM BST	9:10 PM BST	3:49 AM BST
<b>Sun 31</b>			3:28 AM BST 1.78 m	8:36 AM BST 10.30m	3:47 PM BST 1.88 m	8:54 PM BST 10.48m	Full Moon	4:59 AM BST	9:17 PM BST	10:16 PM BST	4:17 AM BST

# FREE EVENTS AT THORNBURY LIBRARY IN MAY

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Friday	10am-5pm
Saturday	9.30-12.30
Sunday	OPEN ACCESS

\*Except Bank Holidays

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2pm

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## Calendar Dates for Oldbury



	May		Women's 6 Nations Rugby. Memorial Hall
9 <sup>th</sup>	May	Sat	Ukrainian-British Afternoon, Memorial Hall 2pm
16 <sup>th</sup>	May	Sat	Spanish Inspired Evening. Memorial Hall
6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>	June	Sat/Sun	Thornbury Sailing Club Regatta. Sailing Club. Day & Evening
20 <sup>th</sup>	June	Sat	Rockhampton Festival. From 2pm
5 <sup>th</sup>	Sept	Sat	Oldbury Produce and Craft Show. 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](mailto: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*



	March		
	2026	2025	2024
	33.0mm	13.0mm	141.5mm
	1.30"	0.51"	5.57"



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THORNBURY

CQC rating

**Outstanding** ☆

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- Wheelchair cars available for all.
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- Automated care plan system.
- In-house physiotherapist.
- Idyllic garden & grounds.
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- Great daily activities.
- Nutritious fresh meals.
- And much, much more.



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