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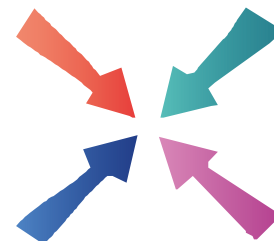
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Meeting Point

Volume 50, Number 4, January 2026

The community magazine for the villages of Olveston,
Tockington, Old Down, Lower Hazel, Awkley, Ingst, Aust, Elberton and Littleton upon Severn

From the Editor

Here we are at the start of another New Year and who knows what it will bring? One thing is certain; there will be plenty of activities, of one sort or another, on offer in or near our villages.

The Making Space for Wildlife initiative is continuing to grow, and this month we hear about their new Wildlife Group. The Parish Players will be busy rehearsing throughout January for their show next month in the Parish Hall. Olveston Parish Historical Society's January meeting, on an unusual topic, sounds very interesting

Further afield – but only slightly – we have some early information about a brand-new Walking Festival to be held for the first time in Thornbury. Although it is a month away, early booking during January is strongly recommended.

From all of us at Meeting Point, to all our readers, we wish you health and happiness in 2026.

Marelin

Cover illustration by the late Ingrid Jeckells

Meeting Point Founded in 1976 by the Anglican and Methodist churches in Olveston, near Bristol.

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Tockington's Hidden History: Washingpool Hill Sheepwash

Martin Gibson and Tony Turnbull

On Washingpool Hill Road, opposite the driveway up to Sheepcombe House (originally Farm), is a low stone wall. Behind the wall is an ancient sheepwash. On either side the road verges are common land, so it is likely that this was used by a number of farms, notably Sheepcombe Farm and Home Farm (opposite Tockington Manor). Sheep would have been ushered into the wash



from the western side of Washingpool Hill Road, and probably exited on the eastern side, but no evidence of an exit point remains. It first appears on a map dated 1844. (At the end of this article is some detailed information on the history of sheep scab.)

There are two water feeds into the sheepwash which travel under the road from Sheepcombe House driveway. The stream provides the water to Tockington Mill Rhine which starts on the Lower Tockington Road. The walls of the wash, which are about 4 feet high, are constructed of part dressed local stone. One imagines that it would have been more practical

to have built a rectangular structure, but for some odd reason there are 5 walls plus the roadside wall. Today, parts of the stonework have been washed away but the majority remain in place. One important stone, however, has fallen into the stream. It is a sluice gate stone, one of two which, when fitted with a metal plate, created sufficient depth of water for the sheep to be thoroughly dipped. Local residents know that the roadway here often floods in times of heavy

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rainfall and it is probable that the sluice gate stone was deliberately knocked over to allow the sheepwash to drain more quickly after its use was discontinued.

Judging by the type of stonework, the map and the history of sheep dipping in this country, it is probable that the sheepwash was built early in the first half of the 19th century. There is historical verbal evidence (Meeting Point) that its use ended in 1944. The roadside wall was constructed by South Glos Council some 20 years ago to prevent cars from sliding off the road into the sheepwash in icy conditions.

Sheep scab is one of the oldest known diseases of sheep and is probably the same as mentioned in the Bible (Leviticus 22,22) and, according to Kirkwood⁴, was also discussed by authors such as Cato (180BC) Virgil, Pleno and Columella. The word "scab" is derived from the Latin scabere, which means to scratch. Despite the fact that the mite is visible to the naked eye it was not identified as the cause of sheep scab until 1809 by Walz.

Dipping by total immersion was not introduced until 1800. This was an arduous task because it was usually done in a tub. Dipping below ground level did not become popular until the middle of the 18th century after the method had been widely used in Australia.

Dr Lesley Stubbings, reproduced in shortened form by kind permission of the National Sheep Association



Rock House Elberton: NGS Openings in 2026

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Is there an end to the Allotment Season?

John Clayton

In November there was an article explaining how one plot holder approaches the winter. Our approach is different.....we consider the cropping of the final courgettes, cucumbers and squash as the virtual end of the season although root vegetables, especially the parsnips, stay in the ground until after the first frost. For this reason, root vegetables are planted together and other crops in different areas from previous seasons.

Plans are made at the beginning of the season. We rotate crops to prevent disease and to allow us to manure parts of the plot each year according to what we will be growing. We don't grow brassicas, making it possible to rest some areas. Some people plant onions and broad beans (sometimes referred to as 'winter deer food') in October, but we do not.

As part of our end of season tasks, we put an agricultural membrane down on all cleared areas of the allotment. This material is rather expensive, but it has lasted for 30 years. It covers the land preventing weeds from growing, allows rainwater to permeate and keeps the soil underneath in an excellent condition for the next season. It isn't pretty, nor does it kill bindweed or couch grass, but it does weaken them and when the membrane is lifted, the earth underneath is in a condition that allows the weed roots to be extracted, but never totally! This membrane is available to allotment holders at a reduced-price from the garden centre.

Of course, there are areas of the plot which are never covered – where fruit such as raspberries, strawberries and rhubarb are growing. These areas give places for bugs and birds to feed. We try to balance our needs with those of wildlife.





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The Olveston Parish Wildlife Group

Angela Green

Did you know our parish has a Wildlife Group? It's only a small group at the moment, but very active. Last spring and summer we planted wildflower meadows and put up bird boxes. We have some equipment for observing moths and recording bats – fascinating when you can't even see the bats!

In the winter months we don't often meet in person, so what do we do? We have a WhatsApp group, where we post photos of all the different sorts of wildlife we have seen – birds, bees and butterflies, flowers, insects, trees, fungi, hedgehogs – you name it, if its alive we're interested in it. Some of the keener members like to try and identify things we have spotted, but there is no obligation to do that; it's just interesting- and sometimes amazing - to see what is around us.



This photograph and the one over the page were taken within the parish by Jenny Newley. They are of a Turkey Tail Fungus and a Scarlett Tiger Moth

Later in the year we'll be having guided walks led by the highly regarded local naturalist, Ed Drewitt. So, there's plenty to get involved with. If you have an interest in our local wildlife and you would like to join us or find out more then please contact Melinda Evans at msfw@olvestonparishcouncil.gov.uk Cont/....

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You do not need to be an expert, just a person who cares for and has an interest in our local wildlife. We would love to hear from you and have some more members! We will be meeting on:

Tuesday 3rd February at 7pm at Olveston Primary School



You will be very welcome. You can also find further information of the Making Space for Wildlife Group including its Local Climate and Nature Action Plan and Wildlife Recording Project by following this link:
<https://www.olvostonparishcouncil.gov.uk/climate-nature/>



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Buy your Tickets for My Fair Lady

Caroline Brewser

Don't forget - The Parish Players' 2026 production of My Fair Lady is taking place at Olveston and Tockington Parish Hall (Upper Tockington Road BS32 4LQ) at 7.30pm every evening from Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st February 2026 (in February half term) – with an extra matinee performance at 2.00pm on Saturday 21st February.

This well-known and lively show is packed with some of the most famous songs from the world of musicals: 'Wouldn't It Be Lovely?', 'With a Little Bit of Luck', 'The Rain in Spain', 'I Could Have Danced All Night', 'On the Street Where You Live' and 'Get Me to the Church on Time' – to name a few. It's great entertainment for all the family and certain to brighten everybody's winter evenings.

In our production, Cockney flower seller Eliza Doolittle will be played by Julia Taylor, who joined the company last year for 'The Pajama Game', while Dan Phillips returns to take the role of the egotistical professor of phonetics, Henry Higgins. David Proud is sure to leave you with a smile as he steps into the shoes of Alfred Doolittle, Eliza's father. Paul Harrod plays Higgins' kindly friend, Colonel Pickering, while Kate Coyle is cast as Higgins' housekeeper, Mrs Pearce, with Cath Chappel taking the role of Higgins' mother. Paul Dimery plays Eliza's suitor, Freddy Eynsford-Hill, with Anne Leslie as Mrs Eynsford-Hill, and Ray Hale as Zoltan Karpathy. You can also enjoy performances by many other familiar or new faces, including Phil Savage, Cath Purchase, Richard Newley, Kayley Prior, David Beales, Anne Wiseman, Will Elderton, Maddie Burns, Sophie Allsopp-Jones, Ruby Webb, Jane Mitchell, Rachel Jotcham and Brian Brown.



This is the third Parish Players musical to be directed by Heather Collins, following huge success with Brigadoon and The Pajama Game. Chloe Allsopp-Jones is once again our brilliant Musical Director, with skilful choreography by Esther Beales.

Cont/.....

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Tickets for Parish Players productions tend to sell quickly and My Fair Lady is likely to sell out – so don't delay.

Tickets go on sale from Saturday 10th January, initially in person at Olveston Methodist Church Hall, The Street BS35 4DR, between 9.30 and 11.00am, and after that from our Box Office.

New this year: you will be able to place your order online at <https://bit.ly/PPorders> (or use the QR code below), or else call 01454 202011. Prices are the same as last year at £12 Adults, £8 Children and £14 Premium seats.



Dan Phillips and Julia Taylor who play Henry Higgins and Eliza Doolittle



The Parish Players is Olveston's local theatre group, and we stage a musical at the Parish Hall every February. If you'd like to help backstage or front of house, it's not too late to get involved this year. You can contact us via secretaryparishplayers@gmail.com or, alternatively, via our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OlvestonParishPlayers (not for ticket sales).



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Olveston Parish Historical Society

Wed 7th Jan 2026, 7.30pm Olveston Methodist Church

Jenny Newley



Dowlais Ironworks

GKN is a globally successful local aerospace company with its roots going back to the Dowlais Iron Works near Merthyr Tydfil. The company name, GKN, derives from the amalgamation in the early 1900s of different companies: the Dowlais Ironworks owned by the Guest family, the Patent Nut & Bolt Company owned by Arthur Keen, and Nettlefolds Ltd, makers of wood screws (some of which you may still have in small boxes in your shed, workshop or garage). Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds became GKN in 1982 when it moved into the aerospace sector. GKN factories at Filton and Western Approach, Severn Beach, are nowadays internationally significant manufacturers and assemblers of aircraft wing components.

But this all started with an ironworks near Merthyr Tydfil, founded in 1759. The owners appointed John Guest as manager eight years later. He took over the company, which was dramatically expanded in the next century by his grandson, John Josiah Guest, partly thanks to his relationship with Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Dowlais Ironworks provided iron for his Great Western Railway and also supplied iron rails to burgeoning railroad companies in the USA, Germany and Russia. Lady Charlotte Guest, John Josiah's wife, kept a very close eye on the company accounts and described a contract made in 1844 to supply 50,000 tons of rail to Russia as "the largest contract of the kind

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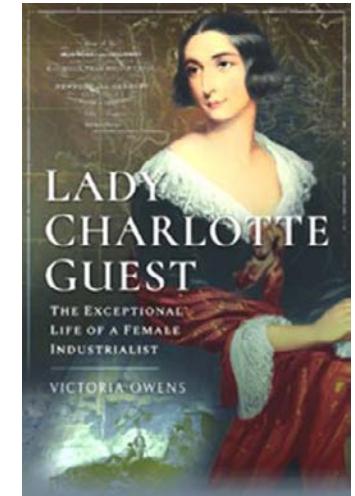
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ever made.” As a result of the railway-led boom, Dowlais had, by 1845, become the largest ironworks in the world.

On 7th January, Dr Victoria Owens will tell us more about Lady Charlotte Guest who, for three years, on the death of her husband in 1852, headed up this company. Under her management, Dowlais became the world's largest manufacturing company.



She wasn't an obvious candidate for such a role. Her aristocratic Lincolnshire family had looked on with dismay, nineteen years earlier, when, at the age of 21 she had married the wealthy Welsh ironmaster of Dowlais. Her family was somewhat impoverished but Charlotte, who had had a brief flirtation with Disraeli, seems genuinely to have married John Guest for more than access to his wealth. Theirs was a real partnership. She increasingly acted as his assistant at the ironworks and together they started building schools for the workers' children. Charlotte, in particular, invested enormous energy in building good-quality schools and a library for local people.

She embraced her life in Wales, becoming very knowledgeable about the company's business and learning Welsh in order to be able to speak to the workforce (not difficult for someone who had already studied French, Italian, Latin, Greek, Arabic, Hebrew and Persian!). She associated with leading Welsh literary scholars and she so took to the Welsh language that she translated a collection of medieval Welsh stories, which she published in seven volumes as The Mabinogion and which became hugely popular.

Seven years after the last volume of The Mabinogion was published, Charlotte's husband, John Josiah, died. She was then a young widow of 40 - and, incidentally, the mother of 10 children. She took up the reins at the ironworks at a difficult time. She had to negotiate strikes and a slump and stand up to other foundry owners. She managed to stabilise the business so that it could be handed over to her eldest son and the works manager, leaving her free to start a new life.

Come along on 7th January to hear more about this amazing woman. Victoria won the 2021 Wales Book of the Year Non-fiction Award for her biography of Charlotte Guest. Copies will be available to buy, should you wish.

The new year is a time to be inspired! This talk is open to all - everyone's very welcome. Non-members pay £3 on the door (by cash, or cheque to OPHS - no cards, please). Free refreshments. www.olveston.com/historical-society

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January's Movie

Have you been a devoted fan of the Sunday night TV series? Have you then been to the cinema to watch the films? Are you keen to see the final film in the series? Well, it's here to see in St Mary's on January 5th.

Set in 1930, we follow the upper crust family and all the social problems faced by these classes. Divorce, blackmail, public scandals, financial ruin, planning for the future, together with everyday events like horse racing and mixing with the royals. Takes your breath away! The film follows the paths, and there are quite a few, carved out by its predecessors and which, in turn, have made it into a global phenomenon. Comfort watching at its very best.

Everyone is welcome to attend and there is no entry fee, though donations are always welcome. The venue, as always, is in St Mary's church. Doors open at 7pm and the film starts at 7:30. There is tea and coffee available as well as a licensed bar. Under the terms of our licensing agreement, we are not permitted to name the film



Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church

Our Saturday Coffee mornings in Olveston Methodist Hall ended in December, due to a decline in numbers. We would like to thank everyone who has attended and supported the coffee mornings in the past.

From the Registers of Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church

September 25th Celebration of the life of John William Buckley

September 28th Baptism of Ethan Peter Sawyer and Emma Matilda Sawyer



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Action at the Armstrong

Since the last bulletin in the October magazine, work has continued non-stop on the renovation of the Cossham Hall and the creation of the new bar, kitchen and foyer. Significant milestones have been the completion of most of the internal walls, insulation of the foyer roof and installation of most of the cables and main pipes. The next stage, starting in November, was the installation of the new bar and kitchen and the final roof repairs to the Cossham Hall including the restoration of the vaulted ceiling.

All of this has been made possible by Maggie Lansdown's generous gift of £1.25m in memory of her mother, and after much persuasion, she has given her permission to call the main hall the Lansdown Hall in recognition of her invaluable support, without which this project would have been impossible. Maggie has visited to see progress and meet the team and was impressed by their enthusiasm and commitment to the project. The whole venue will be known as The Armstrong in honour of Frank Armstrong's generous legacy to the town more than 50 years ago.

The focus for the Armstrong Team now is on raising awareness and support in the community along with raising the vital £1.1m needed for the renovation of the larger hall. This will be needed for the provision of new flooring and roof insulation, as well as installing a greener and more efficient heating system. So several of the team have been out and about gathering support and giving out information and contact details. The Armstrong had a stall at Love Thornbury's Vintage Car Event on October 18th and at the Christmas Lights Switch-On event on November 15th. The response from the public has been very positive and many thanks go to Thornbury Christmas Lights Association for donating the proceeds of the day to help with funds for The Armstrong project.



Phase 2 is vital for the future of The Armstrong: we need to provide the large space to bring back the community activities which have been lost due to closure and provide a fitting arena for the talented drama and musical groups, including Thornbury Arts Festival, which have given the town such joyful delights over 50 years.

It is hoped that the Cossham Hall and Foyer will be in operation in early Spring so if you belong to a community group which needs a home, or if

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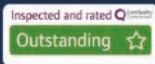


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you are planning a show, a concert, an exhibition or a private event in 2026, please get in touch with the marketing team via the website. Please spread the word and look at the website to access information about how to help and how to donate. Watch social media for updates and sign up on the website to receive the monthly newsletter. So, head to www.thearmstrong.co.uk to find out all you want to know about this exciting project.

Meanwhile we have this message from Joel Dommett, one of the UK's leading comedians and TV personalities who grew up in this area and actually performed on the stage of the Armstrong Hall when he was young.

"Performing at the Armstrong was unforgettable and I'm so excited that Thornbury now has this incredible space back, ready to inspire the next generation of talent,"

St. Mary's Music

The popular monthly concerts held every third Sunday of the month at St. Mary's Church, Thornbury (BS35 1HQ) resume on Sunday, January 18th, when we shall host The Bristol Chamber Choir.

As usual, the concert begins at 4.00pm and lasts approximately an hour. It will be followed by refreshments. Admission is free and donations go to St. Mary's Music. We look forward to seeing you at this event.

News from Carnival Committee



The Thornbury Carnival Committee has recently announced that there are currently no plans for a 2026 event. Speaking recently on behalf of the Committee, Liam Williams said:

I've been involved with the Carnival since 2018 and have been Chair since 2019. It's a community event that I've been proud to be a part of and, in particular, I'm proud to have led such an incredible group of volunteers that make Carnival happen. However, the last two or three years have demonstrated that there doesn't appear to be an appetite for this kind of event any longer and certainly not one that requires an entry fee to be paid. We have therefore collectively decided to step down from running the event and offer someone, or a group of people, the opportunity to come forward and consider how it might be brought back in the future. I am committed to sharing all the information we have and giving anyone interested a full briefing in order that they can make informed judgements. If anyone would like to register an interest in taking the Carnival on, please email: chairthornburycarnival@gmail.com.



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Dressing of A Tudor Queen for Court by Lady Samantha



Lady Samantha is an historical gown maker who specialises in the Tudor French Court gowns worn at the English Court during the reign of Henry VIII. She is also an Events organiser and organises days at Sudeley Castle and Hever Castle for people who wish to wear her historical creations.

Her presentation demonstrates the dressing of a Tudor Queen getting ready to be presented at Court and explains the different layers and pieces that make up a Tudor Court gown from 1535. During her presentation she covers the different fabrics, fibres and colours of Tudor England, she also talks about the personal habits and day to day living of the Tudors.

This is then followed by what is usually a very lively questions and answers session.



The event takes place at Porch House, Castle St., Thornbury on Saturday 24th January at 7.30pm.
Tickets £15, drink included,
AAGThornbury@gmail.com or 01454 850933

T'hornblowers

T'hornblowers is an adults' intermediate level windband in Thornbury. Have you played a brass or woodwind instrument for a while, but don't feel ready for the main music groups? Did you play when you were young? Could you be inspired to take it up again?

Anyone is welcome to come along and give us a try. We are here for the sharing of music, friendship and a warm sense of belonging. Music within the community, for the community

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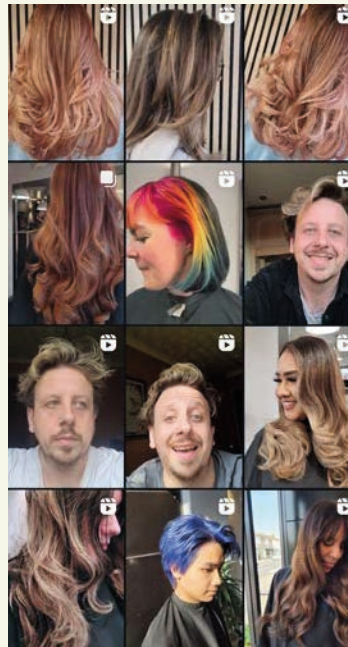
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Thornbury Art Club

New members always welcome

Thornbury Art Club members are a diverse group, brought together through the love of art and creativity. We enjoy meeting up to share ideas and techniques. Many find this a refreshing alternative to on-line learning. Our membership and activities are thriving. If you get a buzz from being arty and creative, then maybe we're the club for you?



Annual membership is just £46, which includes:

- Monthly evening Club Nights when a variety of professional artists will visit to demonstrate their art skills and style. During the tea break we can catch up with each other, chat to the artist about materials and techniques plus items for sale.
- Our monthly Saturday morning Outdoor Sketchers Group is very popular. We meet and sketch at different venues then socialise over tea and coffee in a local cafe. We try to car share where possible.
- Saturday Workshops with a professional tutor (additional fee).
- Members can display their work in Club Exhibitions and our Art in the Community programme.

We hold weekly Studio Groups on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Here you can enjoy painting and crafting with others, learning and sharing skills and tips. This is an additional £79 per year but includes refreshments. Both groups are currently full, but we hold a waiting list. Non-Members are welcome to visit during our studio hours to see what we are up to and to ask about memberships in person.

Our club is open to everyone, regardless of artistic experience or medium. Some of our members just paint for fun, while others are successfully running their own art businesses. Come and give us a try, we're always keen to have new members.

To find out more, visit:

www.thornburyartclub.co.uk, www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub, email publicrelations.tac@gmail.com

Details of our January Club Night are over the page.....



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Tuesday 27th January Club Night.



For our opening night in 2026, we have a water-soluble oils demonstration by Valérie Pirlot. This will be a landscape, as Valerie loves to capture the great outdoors 'alla prima'. In fact, often she has been invited to paint live events such as weddings, parties, fairs, circus shows and music festivals such as Glastonbury. Valerie is a member of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters and a founding member of The British Plein Air Painters group. Her teaching will encourage us to paint with freshness, confidence and spontaneity and will include tips for plein air painting. Valerie aims to depict the essence of a subject in a few well-placed

brushstrokes. It should be a captivating evening.

We'll have a short break during the evening for free tea, coffee, and biscuits. This will give us an opportunity to catch up with each other and say hello to our visitors. There will be some time to chat to the artist and ask questions. Don't miss this fantastic chance to learn, socialise, and enjoy an evening of art, whether you're just starting out or looking to refine your skills. If you're interested in joining the Club, our membership secretary, Pat will be on the door to give you more information, or else contact us below.

Members free, non-members very welcome - £6 on the door, cash or card. 7.15 for 7.30pm until 9.30pm. St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Rd, Thornbury, BS35 1DR. Free parking on-site.

Thornbury Orchestra

Our next concert will take place on Saturday, 17th January at 3.00pm in the Drama Hall at Marlwood School, Alveston. The music will include Sir William Walton's Henry V Suite, Cesar Franck's Symphony in D minor and Emmanuel Chabrier's Espana. As always, the concert will be in aid of a charity based in or around Thornbury. Tickets, available on our website or at the door, are £10 for adults, with children free. For more details contact: 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,

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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, visit: www.thornburyorchestra.org.uk

A Note from the Severn Vale Village Agent

The Lions Club Message in a Bottle is a simple but effective way for people to keep their basic personal and medical details where they can be found in an emergency on a standard form and in a common location – the fridge. Message in a Bottle helps emergency services personnel save valuable time in identifying an individual very quickly and knowing if they have any allergies or take special medication.

Paramedics, police, fire-fighters and social services support this Lions life-saving initiative and know to look in the fridge when they see the Message in a Bottle sticker, which is supplied. The initiative provides peace of mind that prompt and appropriate medical assistance can be provided, and next of kin/emergency contacts can be notified. You can pick one up locally in Thornbury at the Lions Bookshop or Age UK.

If I can help you in any way, please contact me on:



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With Christmas a distant memory and the long dark nights stretching out in front of you, why not consider volunteering in your local community? Not only will you improve your health and happiness but by giving just an hour a week of your time you can make a huge difference to those that you help.

There are many reasons why people volunteer. For some, volunteering can be a route to employment, or a chance to try something new which may lead to a career change. For others, volunteering is a chance to meet new people, make new friends, make a difference to the lives of others and give you a purpose.

Thornbury Volunteer Centre can provide you with information and support on volunteering opportunities in the local area which best suit your needs, skills



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and time available, whilst making sure that you find volunteering an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. We are contacted regularly by groups and organisations that are seeking to recruit volunteers from all walks of life, levels of expertise (from none to highly skilled) and time available.

Age, gender or disability are not barriers to volunteering. Anyone, who is able to spare some time, from an hour a week to once a month or just on a one-off basis, would be warmly welcomed by someone in the community.

Volunteering is a valuable experience that benefits all parties.

To find out more please contact Thornbury Volunteer Centre on 01454 413392; email; mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk website; www.volunteer-thornbury.co.uk; twitter; @thornburyvc or Facebook; [thornburyvolunteers](https://www.facebook.com/thornburyvolunteers).

Get Fit for Spring with Thornbury Wayfinders

Was this one of your New Year resolutions? Well, come and take part in our brand-new Walking Festival – Step into Spring which will take place from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd February 2026.



You can choose from three different walks each day – easy, moderate or strenuous. There will be something to interest everyone – two history walks, a tree walk, a foraging walk led by environmentalist Steve England, a walk to visit the Alpacas and a walk over the Tytherington Ridge. On the strenuous side, two linear walks will involve taking a bus to the start and a longer walk will explore the boundaries of the parish of Thornbury.

We will be launching the event on 2nd January when you will be able to sign up for the walks by scanning the Ticketsource QR code on our leaflets which will be in Thornbury Library, the Museum, shops, pubs and cafes or on our posters which will be displayed around Thornbury and surrounding towns and villages. Or..... you can visit our website: www.thornburywayfinders.uk

There will be a maximum of 20 tickets per walk so early booking is advised. Let's get walking into 2026!



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Cop 20 to Cop 30

Last November, 2025, COP 30 was held. In December 2014, COP 20 took place. The principal goal of the conference 20 was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit the global temperature increase to 2 degrees

Celsius above current levels. At 2025's conference the intergovernmental panel on climate change remembered that it had recommended in COP20 that developed countries must reduce emissions by at least 25% below the 1990 level by 2020, which has not been achieved. It is now recognised that limiting global warming to 1.5C requires huge, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas tare of mother nature emissions to reach net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050. At COP30 hopes that countries would commit to end use of fossil fuels and halt deforestation were once again dashed after opposition from petrostates. Key countries such as US and India were absentees from the conference

Globally extreme weather in the form of floods, hurricanes, wildfires and drought cost over 2,300 billion in 2024, hitting low-income and vulnerable countries the hardest. Thousands of people die as a result every year .These weather extremes continue as I write. Deforestation of the Amazon (including in Brazil where COP30 was held) continues at a fast rate.

COP30 set a new target to triple the finance for climate adaptation. It falls to the wealthy nations to finance the poor. In an era of trade wars and tariffs, negotiators also agreed for the first time to hold discussions on how trade policies can help or hinder climate action. Against the backdrop of the Amazon, nature may also see some advances in conservation by including a new fund for tropical forest conservation. Indigenous peoples and other local communities were recognized like never before.

By the end of COP30, 119 out of 194 countries attending and representing 74% of global emissions had submitted new national commitments. However, they will collectively deliver less than 15% of the emissions reductions required by 2035 to hold global temperature rise to 1.5C. The United Nations analysis suggests that the world remains on course for at least 2.5% degrees C of warming between now and 2050 . A central and politically charged issue was how the world would address the continued use of fossil fuels which is the root cause of the climate crisis. No conclusion was reached.

Whatever the twists and turns of climate negotiations, the economic transition is slowly underway, but the question is how fast will it be and who will benefit? Now is the time for countries to go into action and fulfil their promises.

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Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in the December draw, held on 4th December 2025 were:-

| Amount | Number | Name |
|--------|--------|-------------------------------|
| £150 | 509 | Mr P Floyd, Old Down |
| £75 | 495 | Mr & Mrs M Gibson, Tockington |
| £50 | 582 | Mr B Amos, Olveston |
| £25 | 568 | Mr J Mayes, Tockington |
| £25 | 194 | Mr J Brown, Olveston |
| £25 | 628 | Mrs D Poulton, Olveston |
| £20 | 503 | Mrs S Farr, Olveston |
| £20 | 510 | Mr P Floyd, Old Down |
| £20 | 157 | Mr B Farr, Olveston |
| £20 | 658 | Mr A Phillips, Olveston |

If you are not yet a member and wish to join the lottery, please telephone Andy Phillips on 01454 614890 or email andisp28@hotmail.co.uk.



Coming up in February

Concert: The Nostos Trio

The United Reformed Church,
Chapel Street, Thornbury, BS35
2BA on Saturday, February 28th
at 7.30 pm.

Tickets £25 students £10 under
10s free from
AAGThornbury@gmail.com.

Interval drinks. Profits will be
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More details next month.....

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Yours Faithfully

*Revd. David Moss
St. Mary's, Olveston*

When midnight arrives, fireworks light up the night sky with bright colours, welcoming new hopes and opportunities. People celebrate the new year in different ways. Some host parties, dance, enjoy delicious food, watch fireworks, or spend time with friends and family. It is a joyful time to come together, have fun, and maybe share a kiss at midnight with a loved one.

Many New Year's traditions began long ago. Making resolutions at the year's start is a Babylonian tradition. Creating loud noises with fireworks began as a way to chase away evil spirits in pagan customs. In England, people share pork and minced pies for good luck; in Japan, temple bells ring 108 times to cleanse away worldly desires. Even though these customs differ, they share a hope for renewal.

The idea of renewal is also central to the Christian faith. God is understood as a God of new starts, new beginnings, and new years. Christians see this season as a time to celebrate and begin again. However, starting over can sometimes be difficult. Faith teaches that God forgives when we are sorry, but our mistakes can hurt others, making it harder for them—or for ourselves if we have been hurt—to offer forgiveness.

As the year begins, we can try a fresh approach focused on happiness and personal growth. One option is a 'kindness trial,' where we try to forgive those who have hurt us. This may open doors to new opportunities and help restore or renew friendships.

Happy New Year! I say this to myself as much as to you. Let us resolve to be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to one another, just as Christ forgave us. (Ephesians 4:32.)

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Church News

ST MARY the VIRGIN, OLVESTON

| | | | |
|----------|-----------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Jan 4th | 10am 6pm | Holy Communion No Service | Rev David Lloyd |
| Jan 11th | 10am 6pm | Morning Prayer - Choir Holy Communion | Rev David Lloyd Rev David Lloyd |
| Jan 18th | 10am 6pm | Morning Prayer (Christian Unity week celebrated with Methodist Church) Communion service to celebrate Rev David Bone's ministry - Choir | Janet McBride Rev Ann Lloyd |
| Jan 25th | 10am 6pm | Holy Communion - Choir Reflective Evening Prayer | Rev Ann Lloyd Janet McBride |

First Sunday of the month during term time, **Messy Church** 9am.
 Every Saturday (term time) 'REFRESH', 4.30-5.30 - Fun, relaxed church.
 Every Wednesday, Holy Communion, 10am.
 NB Clergy may change.
Contact: Rev David Moss, 01454 415190, mossds@gmail.com

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

| | | | |
|----------|------|----------------|----------------|
| Jan 11th | 10am | Holy Communion | Rev David Moss |
| Jan 25th | 10am | Morning Prayer | Trevor Cook |

Contact: Trevor Cook, 01454 618442
Church Wardens: Jenn Dickens 632312 and Jon Burnett 633835

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

| | | | |
|----------|--------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Jan 12th | 7.30pm | Plough Monday | Rev David Lloyd & Judith Heybyrne |
| Jan 25th | 9am | Holy Communion | Rev Ann Lloyd |

Contacts: Judith Heybyrne 616725 **Church Wardens:** Catharine Gunnery 413225 and Cheryl Meredith 411065



The Cottage, Hortham Lane,
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ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

| | | | |
|----------|-----|------------------------------|----------------|
| Jan 11th | 3pm | Evensong | Rev David Moss |
| Jan 25th | 3pm | Evensong with Holy Communion | Rev David Moss |

Contacts: Tracey Black 417660 and Tim Pyper 416422 /07802 419451

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

| | | | |
|----------|------|---------------|--|
| Jan 4th | 10am | Tock Ch | Morning Worship led by Rosemary Clews |
| Jan 11th | 10am | Olv Ch | Morning Worship led by Ken Loxon |
| Jan 18th | 10am | St Mary's Olv | Service of Christian Unity led by Janet McBride |
| Jan 25th | 10am | Olv Ch | Covenant service with Communion led by David Deeks |

Contact: Rev Dr Simon Edwards 418176
Simon.edwards@methodist.org.uk

THE VINE House of Prayer, Pilning Street, Awkley BS35 4HL

Meeting at 11am every Sunday and on the 1st and 3rd Weds at 2.30pm.
Contact: 01454 612084, thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLD DOWN

Services at 6.30pm every Sunday. All are welcome.
Contact: Neil Mobbs, cnmobbs@hotmail.com

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH Service 11am every Sunday

LITTLETON EVANGELICAL CHURCH Service 5.30pm every Sunday
Contact: esther@thebamfields.co.uk

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury

Mass on Sundays at 9.00 and 10.30am
Contact: 01454 412223, <https://ctkandholycross.org.uk>

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury

Contact: Chris Willmore, chriswillmore@blueyonder.co.uk

THORNBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Services are every Sunday at 10.45am

Diary Dates for January:

Information believed to be correct at going to press.

| | | | |
|----------|---|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Thurs | New Years Day Bank Holiday | | |
| 2 Fri | Haven Memory Café, every 1 st and 3 rd Friday | 10.15-11.45am | URC |
| 3 Sat | Park run every Sat | 9am | MPF |
| 4 Sun | Litter picking | 10am | OPH |
| 5 Mon | Monday Movies | 7pm | StM |
| 6 Tues | Citizens Advice every Tues Thornbury Art Club painting studio Every Tues | 10-12pm 1.30pm | TTH SMCH |
| 7 Weds | Table tennis every Weds Olveston Parish Historical Society Octopus presents Cinderella until Sat 10th | 7pm 7.30pm 7.30pm | OPH OMC CtKH |
| 8 Thurs | Coffee Shop every Thurs Thornbury Art Club painting studio Every Thurs | 9.30-12pm 1.30pm | StM SMCH |
| 9 Fri | Tockington Community Café | 10-12pm | TMC |
| 10 Sat | Coffee morning | 10-12pm | OMC |
| 12 Mon | Severn Vale Flower Club Demo | 2pm | SMCH |
| 13 Tues | Thornbury Memory Café every 2 nd & 4 th Tues A talk by Jo Richardson, a space station astronaut. | 10.15-11.45am 7.30pm | TMCH OPH |
| 15 Thurs | Thornbury Farmers Market | 9am | |
| 17 Sat | Thornbury Orchestra Concert | 3pm | MSch |
| 18 Sun | St. Mary's Music, The Bristol Chamber Choir | 4pm | StMT |
| 22 Thurs | Magic Makers Company: ALADDIN until Sat 24th | 7.30pm | OPH |
| 24 Sat | AAG: Dressing of a Tudor Queen for Court by Lady Samantha | 7.30pm | PHT |
| 26 Mon | Severn Vale Flower Club: Practise | 1.30pm | SMCH |
| 27 Tues | Thornbury Art Club: Club night | 7.15pm | SMCH |

Looking forward to February:

Sunday 1st & 8th - Snowdrop Garden opening 11am at Rock House, Elberton
 Tuesday 3rd - Olveston Parish Wildlife Group meeting, 7pm at OPS
 Weds 18th - Sat 21st - My Fair Lady 7.30pm (2pm Sat matinee) at OPH
 Saturday 28th - Concert: The Nostos Trio 7.30pm at URC

KEY: **AMC** - Alveston Methodist Church, **AMH** - Alveston Methodist Hall, **AOSH** - Almondsbury Old School Hall, **AVH** - Aust Village Hall **CS** - Castle School, **CTK** - Christ the King, **DGCL** - Daldry Gardens Community Lounge, **ECVH** - Easter Compton Village Hall, **EVH** - Elberton Village Hall, **FVH** - Falfield village Hall, **JHA** - Jubilee Hall, Alveston **LVH** - Littleton Village Hall **MSch** - Marwood School **MPF** - Mundy playing fields **OC** - Oasis Church, Old Down, **ODE** - Old Down Estate **OMC** - Olveston Methodist Church, **OMH** - Olveston Methodist Hall, **OPH** - Olveston Parish Hall, **OTF** - Olympus Theatre Filton **OPS** - Olveston Primary School **PHT** - Porch House, Thornbury **QAMP** - Queen Alexandra Memorial Pavilion, Old Down **RHVH** - Rockhampton village hall. **StH** - St Helen's Church, Alveston. **StHSc** - St Helen's School **StM** - St Mary's Church, **StMB** - St Mary's Berkely **StMT** - Thornbury St Mary's Ch, **SMCH** - St Mary's Church Hall Thornbury, **TGC** - Thornbury Golf Club, **TCC** - Turnberries, **TMC** - Tockington Methodist Church, **TMCH** - Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, **TTH** - Thornbury Town Hall, **URC** - United Reform Church **LVH** - Littleton Village Hall (below)



Contact details for any clubs or organisations in the Meeting Point area can be found in the Meeting Point Directory on the community website: www.olvestonandaust.com. If you would like to update your organisation's details, please email: meetingpointsecretary@olvestonandaust.com

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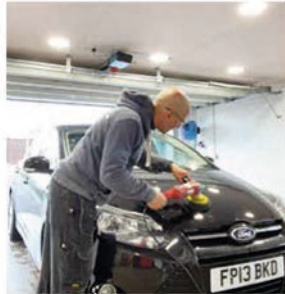
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