

Thornbury Magazine

For the community by the community



October 2026

Landscapes
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Thornbury Magazine

Produced and distributed to over 6,000 households by volunteers
and funded by advertising.

Current issue available online at www.thornburymagazine.co.uk

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Cover: Severn estuary and bridge. Photograph © Robin Silk

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Thornbury in Bloom

THORNBURY in Bloom volunteers worked long hours in the blistering heat to get everything ready for the South West in Bloom judging day on 10 July; watering, dead-heading, trimming and weeding. To combat the weather, a lot of the work was carried out in the early mornings and evenings, but it was still a major exercise to have all the plants at their best for the judge. On top of that, there was the street sweeping and weed removal all along the judging route from the Leisure Centre to the Castle, along Park Road to the Anchor at Morton, then back along Gloucester Road and Rock Street, with a final walk down the High Street. The street cleaning required many hours of patient and dusty work by the TiB volunteers and others, but any number of passers-by expressed their delight and thanks at seeing what was going on.

This year's judge was Jon Wheatley MBE, Chair of South West in Bloom and Vice President of the Royal Horticultural Society, and he faced a packed day in the 30°C heat, judging both TiB and "It's Your Neighbourhood" competition entries; he was certainly kept very busy. The results of the judging will not be known until 8 October, at a ceremony in Torquay, but the judge appeared pleased with what he heard and saw, especially in his chats with the younger members of our town and he commented favourably on the way that the community was involved in the activities throughout the year.

Caring for the plant displays in beds and planters does not stop with the judging, because gardening is a year-round task and the competition is only part of the work of TiB. The first hosepipe ban here in 50 years could have caused problems with watering, but it just meant that watering cans and plenty of willing hands had to be employed. We were allowed the use of a vehicle with a large water tank in it, kindly loaned to us by a local business, which helped enormously with our efforts.

Thanks are due to many local businesses and organisations who have helped with plants, watering and finances. Planting these days has to reflect the need to conserve water, so perennial plants, which need less water once established, have been used this year where possible, and some of these will also continue to provide colour and foliage during the autumn and winter months. 🇬🇧



Photograph courtesy of Thornbury in Bloom. High Street planter, judging day 2026



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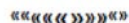
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Hockey Club

Both Thornbury Hockey Club men's and ladies' teams will play some teams in their division three times in the new season. There will be a reduced number of teams in each division below the top divisions. Thornbury Men will play in Bridge 3 which will mean three trips across the Severn Bridge to Cwmbran and Whitchurch. The Ladies will play old rivals Yate, Firebrands Old Bristolians and Westberries, though against lower teams from these clubs, and will renew games against both Dursley and Nailsea. Megan Rigby and Charlotte Covell will jointly lead the ladies, taking over from Mandy McGarry who is having a well-deserved break from leadership duties. Paul Stott continues as Club Chair with the hard-working Steph Staton treasurer. Sarah Lally continues as vice chair. A ladies development team will hopefully play some friendly games having withdrawn from their league because of the distance involved to get to some games. Club training is on a Monday evening at Castle School on the new astro pitch which is the envy of all clubs who played against Thornbury last season. Junior sessions for both boys and girls are between 6pm-7pm with seniors following until 8.30.

New players will be most welcome to join the club in its 61st season so if you would like to return to playing, or maybe see if hockey is for you, then email thornburyhockey@gmail.com or come to training on Mondays. The club would also welcome anyone who is already a qualified umpire or coach who wishes to umpire or coach, to also get in touch via the above. Home clubs have to provide both umpires for home games so with Thornbury men and ladies playing home on alternate Saturdays only two umpires are needed each week. Some friendly games and an opening ladies league game have already been played so the first men's home game in October will be on Saturday 3rd, followed by the ladies' game against Yate 3rds the following week.



Two films this month

1) *Monster* on Friday 2 October. When her young son Minato starts to behave strangely, his mother feels that there is something wrong. Discovering that a teacher is responsible, she storms into the school demanding to know what is going on. But as the story unfolds through the eyes of mother, teacher and

child, the truth gradually emerges.

2) *Io capitano* on Friday 30 October. Seydou, a teenage boy who together with his cousin Moussa, decides to leave Dakar in Senegal and make his way to Europe. A contemporary odyssey through the dangers of the desert, the horrors of the detention centers in Libya and the perils of the sea.

Thornbury Methodist Church Upper Hall is the venue for both films. Doors open at 7pm. Members free, guests £6.

Piano recital with piano-4 hands

Andrew Nesler and Blake Huang will be performing Holst's *The Planets* and the powerful environmentally based 2013 *Sonata for four hands* by Stuart Greenbaum at Alveston Methodist Church on Saturday 3 October at 2pm, under the auspices of Thornbury u3a Music Group. There will be no entry fee, just a charity collection at the end. Tea, coffee and cake will be served. For further information please contact Jos Gregson on 01454 411652 or by email: josgregson@gmail.com.

Thornbury and District u3a

New Members' Welcome Meeting, Friday 23 October from 3.30-4.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Rd, BS35 1DR. This meeting is to welcome new and prospective members of Thornbury u3a. Following a short talk about Thornbury u3a, tea and coffee will be available and some of the interest groups will illustrate their activities. If you have just joined, do come. Please also encourage anyone who is thinking of joining us to come to find out more.

Coffee Morning, Saturday 14 November from 10.30-11.30am at Porch House, Christ the King, Castle Street. Members and non-members are welcome. Some u3a groups will be represented and 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 members with no email address, the Autumn Newsletter will be available for collection.

For more information, visit our website: thornbury.u3asite.uk or contact the membership secretary.

Severn Vale Flower Club

Our Christmas Open Evening will be held on Tuesday 3 November. "A Natural Christmas" is the title of Angela Turner's demonstration. Angela is a National Demonstrator and a floral designer. She has been flower arranging for several years and has also competed at Chelsea, winning gold. This event will be held at Olveston and Tockington Parish Hall. Doors open at 6.30pm for 7.30pm. For tickets and more information call 01453 811089 or 01454 885213.

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Welcome to The Armstrong

SINCE opening in April our lovely venue has had many people pass through the doors to attend an event, watch a film, listen (and dance) to a great variety of music or just enjoy a drink in our delightful Foyer Bar. If you have not yet set foot over the threshold, we have some good news. You can now pop in between 10am and 12noon on Wednesday and Thursday when one of our friendly and knowledgeable stewards will give you a tour, answer any questions you may have and provide you with information on booking a show or hiring our venue. If you knew the old venue you will be thrilled by the changes and if it is your first visit you will be delighted to find such a great facility on your doorstep.

October is full of enticing events and activities, starting on 3 October with the hilarious and critically acclaimed Pantaloone Theatre Company who will be bringing their blockbuster show **The (Almost) Complete History of Britain** to The Armstrong. This will be history not quite as you know it as the Pantaloons take you on a breathless race through the entire history of Britain in under two hours. Following on the heels of earlier successful Armstrong Sessions in the gorgeous Foyer Bar, on Sunday the 11 October at 7pm, **Piano Mike** will be performing hits from Billy Joel, Elton John and other classic favourites. Joining him will be solo vocalist **Gina Rose** who will offer hits through the decades, including ABBA, Fleetwood Mac and Shania Twain. Please join in – extra mics will be available!

It is into the Strictly season so put on your dancing shoes for the **Autumn Tea Dance** on 14 October, held in the Cossham Hall from 2pm. Local dance callers, Belinda and Peter will take you through your steps with other dance enthusiasts in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

As for half term activities, look no further than The Armstrong for amazing family entertainment for all ages. Starting with **Rock the Tots** on Wednesday 18 October at 11am, Steph and Craig bring spooky tunes combined with bubbles, puppets and comic turns – all with a Halloween theme and suitable for children aged 0 to 6. On Thursday 29th at 10am, there will be a Halloween Family Yoga Session and on Friday 30th at 11am, Richard Welsh will bring his unique **Wow Bubble Show for Kids** and their families. Be amazed as Richard performs some wonderful bubble tricks and creates bubble sculptures. There will be plenty of silliness and interactive activities. Then, as the climax to a week of scintillating spookiness, head for the **Family Halloween party** on the afternoon of 31 October with lots of fun and games, dressing up and general hilarity – with a spooky twist!



For full details and how to buy tickets for these events and many others in October such as weekly Line Dancing sessions and The Thornbury Clothes Swap on 9 October, visit our website: www.thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on. 📍

Photograph by Richard Walsh, The Wow Bubble Show

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Contact us for more information.

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Bonfire Night

One of Thornbury's biggest and brightest community events is set to return this autumn, with the annual Thornbury Roundtable Charity Fireworks Display taking place on Saturday 7 November. The much-loved event will once again bring the community together for an

evening of fireworks, entertainment, food and family fun, with all proceeds going towards supporting local initiatives in Thornbury and the surrounding areas.

Gates at the Mundy Playing Fields will open at 5.30pm, giving visitors plenty of time to enjoy the atmosphere and explore the variety of vendors attending the event, including food stalls and a fully stocked bar. The evening's programme begins with a special children's quiet fireworks display at 6.30pm, followed by the lighting of the bonfire at 7pm. The spectacular main fireworks display will then light up the Thornbury sky from 7.30pm. The party will continue after the fireworks, with Party Peeps returning to host their popular Foam Party, bringing plenty of party bangers and high-energy entertainment to round off the evening.

Those planning to attend are encouraged to book early. Early bird tickets will be available until 9 October, with reduced prices of just £7.50 for adults and £4 for children. Organisers are advising people to secure their tickets early to avoid disappointment. Our main sponsor this year is Go2 Storage, with Thornbury Roundtable offering a huge thank-you for their generosity and support in helping to keep the event going strong.

The annual fireworks display is more than just a great night out. Every ticket purchased, every drink enjoyed and every volunteer shift completed helps support charitable causes and local initiatives that make a difference across the Thornbury area. So wrap up warm, bring the family and get ready for another unforgettable night of bangs, booms, bonfires and bubbles. If you are interested in volunteering for this year's event, please email us at thornbury@roundtable.org.uk. For more details about the event, ticket information and volunteering opportunities, visit Thornburyrt.co.uk.

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Join us on Tuesday, 27 October from 7.15-9.30pm to watch Barry Herniman paint a Coastal Scene in watercolour, full of colour and vibrancy. Barry loves to travel with his sketchbook, capturing scenes, whether it be his beloved landscapes or the buzz of the city. His favourite medium is watercolour with the fascination of its transparency and movement as colours mingle and unfurl on the paper.



Part way through the demonstration we will have a short break for free tea, coffee, and biscuits. This will give us an opportunity to chat with members, visitors and the artist. Come and join us to learn, socialise, and enjoy an evening of art, whether you are just starting out or looking to refine your skills.

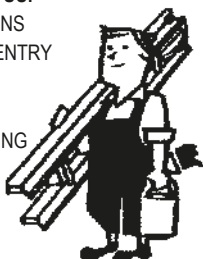
If you are interested in joining the Club, our membership secretary, Pat, will be on the door to give you more information, or else contact us below.

Members free, non-members very welcome – £6 on the door, cash or card. St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Road. Free parking on-site. Contact www.thornburyartclub.co.uk, www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub, or email: publicrelations.tac@gmail.com or phone 01454 414433 or 07776 271010 for more information.

The Painting Studio Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday between 1.30 and 4.30pm. The Outdoor Sketching Group meets on the second Saturday of the month.

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Thornbury History Society – Visit to Dr. Jenner's House

by Stan Morrissey

BACK in March we had a speaker on Edward Jenner (see our website for a talk report: www.thornburyhistory.org.uk). This was well received and being offered a group tour of his house in Berkeley, we arranged a visit.

This happened just as our fine summer was coming to an end and we were greeted on the day with grey clouds and rain spots. Undeterred, fifteen of us assembled in Berkeley for what proved to be an interesting and informative session (plus tea and cake). Our talk had been about Jenner himself, but here we learned more about his house, with an introductory talk and a free roam around its rooms.

“The Chantry” is an imposing 18th century house with outbuildings, now occupied by the Jenner museum. It has several rooms furnished as Jenner would have known and others dedicated to museum displays. The mixture works as it seems like a house you could live in, though the scullery kitchen being outside could be a deterrent.



The exhibits include Jenner's personal possessions and many oddities, including a bone from a whale washed up in the 1770s which was unearthed from under the lawn. Vaccination is obviously the main theme and there are many examples of posters and documents showing the opposition that it generated at the time, such as people thinking they risked being turned into cows. Conversely it shows how thousands of lives have been saved through Jenner's work leading to the total eradication of smallpox throughout the world.

Outside, as the sun had returned, we were able to explore further. The decorative gardens include a cottage garden planted with medicinal and culinary herbs which were widely used in Jenner's day. Most are still familiar; though medicinal properties have been largely disproved, who can resist a spot of rosemary or thyme? There is also a large vinery, complete with an ancient vine so presumably home-made wine was on the menu. Also of course there is the Temple of Vaccinia, a rustic hut used by Jenner to provide free vaccines to the poor, a very early example of welfare. This was formerly 'at risk' but was restored this year.

Both the Chantry and the Temple are Grade 2 listed and a recurring problem in running this amazing museum is the need for regular repairs and the lack of money to carry them out. Although The Temple has been restored, there are obvious signs of defective walls on the house.

If you have not visited this fascinating museum before, or not for a while, we can thoroughly recommend it. 📍

Photograph of The Chantry courtesy of the Jenner Museum

Poppies

The Thornbury Poppy appeal is looking for new collectors to help with this year's campaign. We need volunteers who can do two-hour slots at four locations in and around Thornbury during the period 24 October to 11 November.



If you can support the appeal and raise funds for veterans and military families, please get in touch with the RBL appeal organiser, Kevin Arnold, at 5306arnol@armymail.mod.uk or text 07971 319737.

St Mary's Music

Sunday 18 October is the next Third Sunday Afternoon Concert at St. Mary's Church, Thornbury. Our guests will be NotaBene, a small *à cappella* ensemble, based in Bristol. They perform a wide repertoire of music ranging from medieval part songs to arrangements of present-day pop classics. I am sure we shall find their programme enjoyable.

As usual, the concert starts at 4pm and is followed by refreshments. Admission is free and there is a retiring collection, the proceeds of which go to St Mary's Music.



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This month's "**Have You read...?**" Book Club is on Friday 2 October at 2pm. Come and talk about books and have a cuppa. This is a book group for everyone, with no set novel to read.

All crafters are welcome to the **Knit, Stitch and Knatter Group** which meets every Wednesday, 2.30-4pm. Come along and meet some fellow crafters and get started on that project!

Need help with IT? Book a session with one of our IT volunteers – Wednesday afternoons at 2pm, 3pm and 4pm and Thursday mornings, 10am, 11am and 12 noon.

For children aged 0 to 5 years there are **Rhymes and Stories** every Monday, 9.30-10am and Rhymetime every Friday, 9.30-10am. In addition, you can now **Stay and Play** after these events, every Monday and Friday from 10-11am.

Lego Club is every Saturday, 9.30-10.30am, suitable for all children aged 4 to 11 years to create their own masterpieces and display them in the library.

Special event! During half-term there will be a **Craft Drop-in** on Wednesday 28 October between 10am-3pm.

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Harvest Day at Winterbourne Medieval Barn

Permission to host an October fayre in Winterbourne was granted by King Richard II in 1393 to Blanche de Bradeston, heir of Sir Thomas de Bradeston who commissioned the Barn to be built in 1342. The Trust is delighted to still be upholding that tradition nearly 700 years later.

Join us on Sunday 11 October, 11am-4pm, for the feel of a traditional village harvest fayre from days gone by. There will be entertainment for all the family including Winterbourne Down Border Morris, live music, wandering children's entertainers, and (of course) ferret racing! With a range of artisan and craft stalls and displays, traditional games, and special activities for young children as well. Excellent food and drink available all day. Assistance and well-behaved dogs on a lead are welcome.

There is free car parking at Winterbourne Academy (BS36 1JL) with free shuttle buses to and from the Barn all day. Fold-up buggies and wheelchairs can be taken on the bus.

Book tickets in advance to minimise queues on the gate. Early bird prices are £5 adult, £1 child for bookings before 4 October. The gate price is £7 adult, £2 child. Book online at Ticketsource or via www.winterbournebarn.org.uk.



Winterbourne Medieval Barn, Church Lane, Winterbourne BS36 1SE.



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An enchanted orchestral evening

"Paris by night", an evening of romantic music played by the Bristol Ensemble, will take place on Saturday 24 October at 7.30pm in the Cossham Hall. The concert captures the soul of the City of Light, with music by Debussy, Satie, Poulenc and others. Come and join us for a dream of an evening. Tickets cost £25 from AAGThornbury@gmail.com or 01454 850933.

Cancer Research UK

Our Autumn Fair for will take place on Saturday 17 October, 10am-1pm at St.Helen's School, Alveston, BS35 2QX. We will have a craft table, Christmas cards, Christmas gifts, local honey, jams, pickles and cakes for sale, along with our tombola. Of course, there is always tea/coffee and cake! We look forward to seeing you there. For more information, please call 07707 159645.

Eastwood Gardeners Club

We will be welcoming back Nick Wray to talk on the *Effects of Climate Change on our Gardens*. Given the weather conditions this year, this is a highly relevant topic. Tuesday, 13 October at 7.30pm at Turnberrie's, Bath Road, Thornbury. Doors open at 7pm. Visitors are welcome.

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Guys and Dolls

From 28 to 31 October Thornbury Musical Theatre Group will be performing *Guys and Dolls*, written by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows, a musical which the group last performed in 2002. Directed by Jacqs Graham and ably assisted by Bev Pepall, this is sure to be a crowd pleaser. Musical Director Roger Winter is working with the cast to make the very best of the wonderful music and lyrics by Frank Loesser which include the notable songs "Luck Be a Lady," "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat," and "Adelaide's Lament". The band, comprising nine members, will certainly enhance this production in the wonderful Olympus Theatre. Added to this, Ella Jones is once again putting the cast through its paces with her fabulous choreography. The cast of 36 is one of our largest to date, including 16 new members who have joined the group.

Guys and Dolls is a classic musical romantic comedy set in 1950s New York City. It follows two main pairs: a high-rolling gambler who bets he can charm a straight-laced missionary, and a long-suffering showgirl who desperately wants to marry a floating craps game organiser. Gambler Nathan Detroit tries to find the cash to set up the biggest craps game in town while the authorities breathe down his neck; meanwhile, his long-suffering girlfriend and nightclub performer, Adelaide, laments that they have been engaged for fourteen years. Nathan turns to fellow gambler, Sky Masterson, for the dough, and Sky ends up chasing the straight-laced missionary, Sarah Brown, as a result. *Guys and Dolls* takes us from the heart of Times Square to the cafes of Havana, Cuba, and even into the sewers of New York City, but eventually everyone ends up right where they belong.

Performances will take place at The Olympus Theatre on the WISE campus in Filton at 7.30pm Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 October, then a matinee at 2.30pm and an evening performance at 7pm on Saturday 31 October. Don't gamble on missing out – roll the dice on a fantastic night of music, romance and laughter. Tickets are available from www.tmtg.org.uk.

Thornbury Local History and Archaeology Society

Did you miss us over the summer? We have topped up our suntans and are back for a new season, with a variety of talks, free refreshments and our extensive loan library. Meetings are at St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Road, on the second Tuesday of the month, beginning at 7.30pm and lasting about 90 minutes with a refreshment break. Become a member for just £12 (all eight talks) or pay a visitor fee of £3.50 per talk. The biggest bargain you will find locally.

Our 2026/27 programme covers a variety of topics:

13 October	The Americans in Bristol in WWII, by Oliver Davey
10 November	Gloucester and the slave trade, by Tony Condor
8 December	A History of this Society, by Meg Wise (plus Christmas refreshments)
12 January	Die Hard in Spain: Hector Maclaïne, by Ben Mallett
9 February	Woodchester Mansion, an unfinished masterpiece, by Liz Davenport
9 March	Update on the Alveston archaeological dig and other local discoveries, by Aaron Girdlestone
13 April	The Cotswold Canal Trust, by Louise Nicholson
11 May	A Blue plaque tour of Gloucestershire, by Andy Mellor

For more information see our website: www.thornburyhistory.org.uk.

Strictly Come Galliard

by Jane Marks

UNLIKE everyday movements, for centuries dance has been shown to be a wonderful way to express emotions, release energy or simply take delight in movement itself. Having grace, harmony and beauty it can also be spontaneous, rhythmic and even athletic whilst also delighting those who do not or cannot dance themselves.



Maybe it is the tango, foxtrot, rumba, paso doble, American smooth or maybe the cha cha cha that takes your fancy today; perhaps a waltz or a quick step is what will get you on to the dance floor. Certainly, taking part or simply watching others, the popularity of dancing with a partner has grown in recent years, in no small part because of the TV dance competition “Strictly Come Dancing” which has recently returned for a 24th season. We may well gasp at the complex moves, incredible lifts and spins of the professionals and celebrities on our TV screens, but hundreds of years ago, many courtly dances involved equally dramatic moves. Enthusiasm and passion for dance is by no means a new phenomenon.

Around 1518, mainly in Europe, there was a most bizarre event that was known as a dancing plague. It seems that people became compelled to dance for no apparent reason, trance-like, for days on end. Later, a chronicle from the 1600s reported a “terrible disease called St Vitus’ dance, in which men in their madness began to dance day and night until finally they fell down unconscious and succumbed to death.”

Nearer to home, Tudor dances fell mainly into two types: courtly dances for those at the royal court and wealthy high-born households, or the country and folk dances for those of the lower peasant class. Many of the folk dances from all those years ago have survived to this day, Morris and Maypole being two of the most familiar.

The Tudor court dances seem to have been rather lost in the mists of time, although they were very well documented at the time. These dances would have been a feature of special celebrations in wealthy and well-connected society. The young, athletic King Henry VIII was well known for his grace and deftness when taking part in popular dances of the day. The Pavane was a slow and processional dance in which courtiers would like to publicly show off their heavy court robes as proof of their wealth and position. The Allemande was a graceful, more flowing and ‘romantic’ dance allowing couples to hold hands and walk and turn gracefully in close proximity. The Galliard was a much more lively and energetic dance that was full of very complex footwork, hops, skips and quite high jumps.

The dance known as La Volta was quite another thing altogether. Very intimate in its style, it was considered scandalous, described as “lewd and unchased”, generating

much disapproval on religious and moral grounds. Objectors claimed that “They sieze each other in lewd places”. It was considered to be “dangerous to decorum and physical wellbeing.” Nevertheless, it is reputed to have been a favourite with Queen Elizabeth I. La Volta was based on the Galliard steps and it was with Robert Dudley, the Earl of Leicester, that Elizabeth I is said to have danced the Galliard. Whether or not she actually danced La Volta with Dudley is open for discussion, but a painting showing her doing just that would have us believe so.



All in all, not a great deal has changed over all the years, apart from the fact that that in Tudor times they tended to wear rather more clothes than their modern counterparts! Keep dancing! 🟩

TADLOF Grant-Giving Programme 2026/7

Thornbury and District League of Friends have celebrated five very successful years of community grant awards and support. Also, since the closure of Thornbury Hospital at the end of 2018, we have continued to support the Outpatients in St Mary Centre. Last year a record total of almost £30k was granted to local charities including SARA, GWAAC, New Start Debt Advice, BRACE, KRUNCH SW, Rockhampton Ravens and Thornbury's two Memory Cafés.

TADLOF encourages local organisations to apply for a grant towards any wellbeing or health-related project supporting our charitable aims for which our financial assistance might be needed. We welcome your interest and will consider all requests carefully.

The 2026/7 programme will operate as follows:

7 October – 9 November: Grant applications to be submitted
9 November: Last date for grant application submission
13 November: Announcement of grants awarded

Please contact Andrea for further information, email: abates1101@msn.com.
We always need more active members to help us put on future events, so if you are interested in assisting in any way please contact Paul, email: paul.wilkinson53@outlook.com.

We look forward to another rewarding year of supporting health and wellbeing in our local community. For news of future events/updates please see our facebook page.

***British Summer Time ends on Sunday 25 October and
the clocks go back one hour.***

Killer Sudoku, TM025 by AJW

Rules. The objective is to fill the grid with numbers from 1 to 9 in a way that the following conditions are met: each row, column, and nonet contains each number exactly once. The sum of all numbers in a cage must match the small number printed in its corner.

Solution and helpful hints on page 40



9	15			10		12	11	
	16	12	13					23
11			7	13	20			
		11				16		
11			10		17			
12	18	13		11			11	
		5			8		18	15
11		9	11		20			
							6	

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_sudoku

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Getting about in Thornbury

Over £4 million in funding from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority has been confirmed to help people get around by walking, wheeling (using a mobility scooter, wheelchair or pushchair), or cycling in South Gloucestershire. Following previous consultations where residents' views have shaped the designs and plans, a range of improvements have been finalised. These will be funded by the Mayoral Combined Authority, with South Gloucestershire Council now planning to begin construction later this year.

Improvements in Thornbury include:

Making it easier to walk, wheel and cycle along Gloucester Road by creating new shared walking, wheeling and cycling paths. Existing traffic islands will be replaced with new pedestrian crossings and side road junctions will be made easier to cross. Bus stops will be made more accessible.

Creating a safer route to schools along Park Road, including Castle School, Manorbrook Primary School and St Mary's Primary School.

This includes new zebra crossings, safer crossings at junctions and new 'School keep clear' markings. Speed bumps will reduce vehicle speeds, and entry to Tilting Road will be restricted.

Widening and resurfacing of Streamside Walk, for safer walking and wheeling away from traffic. Direction signs will also be installed across Thornbury to help people connect with local destinations using walking, wheeling and cycling routes.



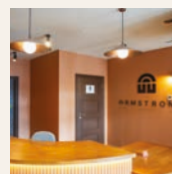
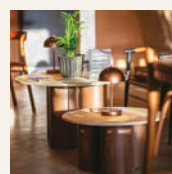
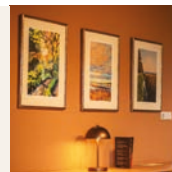
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Thornbury Town Trust – Christmas gifts reminder

This local charity was formed in 1890 to continue the charitable works of the old borough. One practice that began in 1660 and continues today, is the giving of gifts to people in need at Christmas time.

If you are resident in Thornbury, on low income and receiving means tested benefits, you may be eligible to receive some of our limited funds. For an application form, please contact Sally Bertram, Clerk to the Thornbury Town Trust at sallytowntrust@gmail.com, or write to Sally Bertram, c/o Thornbury Town Hall, 35 High Street, Thornbury BS35 2AR, giving details of your financial and household circumstances. Please note, even if you have received a gift before, you will need to re-apply this year. Please reply by Thursday 15 October.

Thornbury Lions

During the last decade the Lions Club has donated over £500,000 to many local good causes. However, they are now in urgent need of new members to help keep their fund-raising Bargain Bookshop in the St Mary Centre open.

Anyone who is interested in joining is invited to drop in at Hawkes House between 10am and 12 noon on Saturday 3 October for coffee and a chat with Lions members.

A large advertisement for MSAVERY ROOFING. The background is a photograph of a house with a roof under construction, showing scaffolding and a partially tiled roof. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, serif font.

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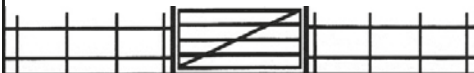
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Thornbury Fun Palaces

Come along to join in with a free, community-powered celebration of creativity, culture and connection activities on Saturday 3 October, from 11am to 2pm. The event will be spread across various locations in the St Mary Centre, the High Street and at the Leisure Centre.

Expect a fun, welcoming atmosphere where local people come together to share, learn and enjoy a wide mix of activities. Fun Palaces is open to everyone, all ages and all abilities and is about everyone having something to share and everyone having something to gain. You might discover a new hobby, learn a skill, meet someone new or simply have a go at something you have never tried before.

More information from thornburyfunpalaces@jigsawthornbury.org.uk.



O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
To-morrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.

From the poem "October" by Robert Frost



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A notable Thornbury timepiece

by PM

IN the grass just outside the wall around St Mary's Church is an unusual sundial. Most sundials are vertical, with a pointer, the gnomon, which when the sun is out, casts a shadow onto a flat plate, the dial. This particular one is an analemmatic sundial and lies horizontally. It is part of Thornbury's Heritage Trail, created by Thornbury and District Heritage Trust as a millennium project. It was designed by Stephen Daniels and reflects the spiritual and secular aspects of the church and manor over the centuries.



Locally produced clay tiles were used for the hour markers, laid out in an elliptical shape, with more tiles for the central date line, which is marked out with the months of the year on either side of a central line, June at the top and October at the bottom. It also bears the words "Time – Hours for man, Eternity with God".

The sundial works by someone standing with one foot each side of the central line at the current date point and counting the hours from the central 1 o'clock tile, with the person's shadow as the pointer. The time displayed is solar time rather than Greenwich Mean Time, which in Thornbury is 10 minutes ahead. So if you are near the church when the sun is shining, try it out! ☀

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AS I write, builders are doing their thing in the two-hundred-year-old Thornbury United Reformed Church. We are embarked upon a rejuvenation of our beloved home. We want it to continue to be a place of prayer and worship but also a wonderful meeting place for so many within our community. To make hospitality and welcome work well, there are some things that need to be updated, replaced and added. The main space that many of you will appreciate from events, services and concerts over the decades is not changing much. But the halls, kitchen, toilets, heating and lighting will improve dramatically. You can see the story unfolding on our website: www.thornburyurc.org.uk.

Having the builders in is hardly a recipe for calm silence and minimal upheaval. It is not a way of never spending money either. But it is, for a church, a reminder that we never really are the finished version of who we can be. A building left untouched for centuries will, in the end, become one we struggle to call home. We will find it increasingly uncomfortable or unsuited to the needs no original builder ever imagined.

I think that is true for me as well, and I think for us all. We change as time flows along and as the world around us changes. Relationships begin, flourish, falter, recover, end. Work and interests, friends and family, community and nations refuse to stand still.

In the midst of so much that can become chaos, we look for things that last and endure; the focus for our trust and devotion. A church building, even ringing to the sound of the builders, remains a beacon and a sign to say that God is real, that Jesus lived and died and rose again for us, and that the Spirit of God is as busy in the world working goodness as ever. 🌱

We are always looking for new volunteer deliverers to provide cover when regular deliverers are unavailable to do their rounds. If you would like to help and are willing to deliver to any part of Thornbury please contact Mary Wright, email: circ.admin@thornburymagazine.co.uk



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Conflicts begun and ended in October

The most famous conflict – and with the arrival of the Bayeux tapestry in London on loan from France, currently the most topical – was the Battle of Hastings, fought on **14 October in 1066**. Harold II, the last Anglo-Saxon king of England, was defeated and killed by the Norman-French army led by William, Duke of Normandy, who was later crowned King William I.

On **23 October 1642**, the Battle of Edghill, the first major battle of the English Civil War, was fought between King Charles I and the Parliamentarians, led by Robert Devereux, 3rd Earl of Essex.

Much further from home, on **19 October 1781**, the British General Cornwallis surrendered to George Washington at Yorktown in Virginia, bringing the American War of Independence to an end.

The Second Boer War began on **12 October 1899** with the invasion of the British South African territories of Cape Colony and Natal by the Boers. Boers were Afrikaans-speaking farmers of Dutch descent living in the South African Republic, (also known as Transvaal) and the Orange Free State who wanted to maintain their independence and to preserve their way of life. An influx of English-speaking people known as 'Uitlanders' following the discovery of gold in Transvaal led to further tension and ultimately, war.

Although it did not begin or end a conflict, the Battle of Balaclava in the Crimean War was fought on **25 October 1854**. It inspired Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade". Tennyson himself died on **6 October 1892**.

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WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

- Thu 1** Thornbury Art Club, Thursday Painting Studio Group, SMCH, 1.30-4.30pm. 07776 271010.
Farmers Market, St Mary Centre, 9am-1.30pm. 01454 888822.
Ballroom and Latin dance classes, beginners and improvers, MCH, 7-8.30pm, every Thursday. 01454 415346 for further details.
Computer Support 1-1, TL, 10am, 11am and 12noon, every Thursday. To book a session: thornbury.library@southglos.gov.uk or 01454 868006.
Krunch Senior Youth Club, school years 9 -11, TCC, 6.30-8pm, every Thursday. Admission £1. penny@krunch.org.uk.
Write Now! MCH (until end 2026), 10-11.30am, 1st Thursday every month. Contact ministerththurc@gmail.com or ring 01173 305598.
Sensory Play Group for children 12 months to 5 years with additional needs, JIGSAW, St Mary Centre, 10-11.30am, every term-time Thursday. £3 per child. www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk.
Just Sew It, CCC, 6.30-9.30pm, every Thursday. £6. Carrie 07753 236095.
- Fri 2** Rhymetime, TL, 9.30-10am, every Friday (except Bank Holidays). Followed by Stay and Play, 10-11am.
North Bristol and South Glos Foodbank, TBC, 1.30-4pm, every Friday.
Sequence Dancing classes, beginners and improvers, MCH, 6.30-8pm, fortnightly, Fridays. 01454 415346 for further details.
"Have You Read?", open book club for everyone, TL, 2-3pm.
Haven Memory Café, SMCH (until end 2026), 10.15-11.45am. Sue Walton 07794 370903.
Thornbury & District Stamp Club, CCC, 7.15 for 7.30pm, visit from Cheltenham. Carleton 01454 260517 or Martin 01179 696808.
Thornbury Picture House, film, *Monster*, MCH, doors open 7pm. Guests £6.
- Sat 3** Little Stars Drama Group, MCH, 5-7year olds 9.15-10.15am, 7-12year olds 10.30am-12noon, every Saturday. Caroline 07890 869263.
Thornbury parkrun, weekly, 9am, Mundy Playing Fields, 5k (just over 3 miles). All ages and abilities welcome – walk, jog or run. thornbury@parkrun.com.
LEGO Club, TL, 9.30-10.30am, every Saturday. No booking required.
Thornbury Litter Busters, meet at The Swan, 9.30am every 1st Saturday of the month for a group litter pick. thornburylitterbusters@gmail.com.
Thornbury Hockey Club, CS, 10am, Men v Whitechurch 6ths.
The Pantaloons, *The (Almost) Complete History of Britain*, TA, 7.30pm. Tickets £18 from thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on.
Thornbury u3a Music Group, Piano recital with piano-4 hands, Alveston Methodist Church, 2pm. Free entry, charity collection.



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- Sat 3** Fun Palaces, Town Centre, 11am-2pm. Celebrating local culture and creativity, *Continued* with workshops, games and demonstrations.
Thornbury Lions Club, Hawkes House, 10am-12noon, drop in for coffee and a chat about joining the Lions.
- Sun 4** Thornbury Rambling Club meets RSCP, 9am every Sunday. Details: Sue 01454 413924 or Frances 07793 666972 or www.thornburyramblers.org.uk.
- Mon 5** Over 60s Tea Room, TH, 10am-3pm every Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays). Hot drinks 50p, homemade cake 50p a slice.
Rhymes and Stories, TL, 9.30-10am, every Monday (except Bank Holidays). Followed by Stay and Play, 10-11am.
Thornbury Table Tennis Club, CS Sports Hall, 7-9.30pm, every Monday and Wednesday. Open to all. For further information Tel. 01454 854790.
Volunteer Centre, TH, open Monday to Friday, 10.30am-12 noon.
Thornbury Camera Club, TCC, 7.30pm, Dean Packer, "Quiet Horizons".
Contact secretary.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com for more information.
- Tue 6** Thornbury Art Club, Tuesday Painting Studio Group, SMCH, 1.30-4.30pm. 01454 414433.
Citizens Advice sessions, TH, 10am to 12noon, every Tuesday. No appointment needed to see an advisor.
Thornbury Town Band rehearsals, Alveston Methodist Church (until end 2026), 7.30-9.30pm, every Tuesday. info@thornburytownband.co.uk
Tuesday Group Drop-in, JIGSAW, St Mary Centre, 10-11.30am, every term-time Tuesday for parent carers, with or without their children. Free, donations welcome for refreshments. www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk.
Thornbury Men's Shed, 6 Eastland Rd, 9am-5pm, every Tuesday and Thursday. Contact 01454 414834 or thornburymensshed@gmail.com.
Family Café, TBC, 10am-12noon, with soft play for toddlers, every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. office@thornburybaptistchurch.co.uk or 01454 419118
Youth groups, TBC, Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays, for different age groups. office@thornburybaptistchurch.co.uk or 01454 419118.
Northavon Dolls House Club, Alveston Methodist Church, 2pm, every 1st Tuesday. New members welcome. Contact Mrs V Craig 07577 161092.
Walking Well, gentle walks approx. 1¼ hours, every 1st and 3rd Tuesday. Meet outside MS charity shop, St Mary Centre, 10am. Sign up via www.southglos.gov.uk and search for 'walkingwell'.
Thornbury & District Museum open 1-4pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and Saturday 10am-4pm. Free entry.
Circle Dancing, MCH, 6.30-8.30pm. £10. Turn up or contact vickislade1@outlook.com or 07516 999384. Newcomers welcome.



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- Tue 6** Thornbury Community Permaculture Project, Alexandra Way Care Home, BS35 1LA, gardening 9.30-11.30am every Tuesday, also 2nd Saturday every month, 9.30-11.30am. For details: tcpp@sustainablethornbury.org.
Continued Town Council, Staffing Committee, TH, 7.30pm.
- Wed 7** Creative Wellbeing, activities for parents and carers, JIGSAW, St Mary Centre, 1-2.30pm, every term time Wednesday. Free, donations welcome for refreshments. www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk.
 Lipreading classes for deaf and hard of hearing people, TCC, 1.30-3.30pm, every term time Wednesday. Mary Hall lipreadingmary@yahoo.com or 07790 283939 for details.
 Krunch Junior Youth Club, school years 6-8, TCC, 6.30-8pm, every Wednesday. £1 admission. penny@krunch.org.uk.
 Thornbury and South Glos Amateur Radio Club, CCC, 7.30pm, every Wednesday. www.tsqarc.uk or email secretary@tsqarc.uk.
 Thornbury Brush and Pencil Art Group, SMCH, 2-4pm, every Wednesday. Informal painting group. Marion Reeve 07759 945388.
 Knit, Stitch and Knatter Group, TL, 2.30-4pm, every Wednesday.
 T'hornblowers Wind Band, improvers band, CH (until end 2026), 7-9pm, every Wednesday. Heather Platt 07886 007101 or platt_8@hotmail.com.
 Computer Support 1-1, TL, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm, every Thursday. To book a session: thornbury.library@southglos.gov.uk or 01454 868006.
 Sustainable Thornbury, Hawkes House, 7.30pm, 'Green Drinks', every 1st Wednesday. Contact: CATS@sustainablethornbury.org.
 Thornbury and District Probus Club, lunch at Thornbury Golf Club, every 1st Wednesday. Iain Graham 07968 215756 or iain.graham@protonmail.com.
 Let's Sing to Remember, SMCH, 1.30-3.15pm. Also Wednesday 21st. Gill Dunkley 07414 817010 or gill@dunkleysfh.co.uk.
- Thu 8** Royal British Legion Coffee and Chat, The Swan, High St, 10-11.30am, 2nd Thursday every month.
- Sat 10** Thornbury Art club, outdoor sketching group 2nd Saturday every month. www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub or publicrelations.tac@gmail.com.
 Dads and Kids, fun craft morning for Pre-school and KS1 children and dads and grandads, SMCH, 10am-12noon, 2nd Saturday every month, term-time.
 Thornbury Veterans Breakfast and Support Group, 2nd Saturday every month. Tesoro Lounge, 9-11.30am. Family members and supporters welcome.
 Thornbury Hockey Club, CS, 10am, Ladies v Yate 3rds.
- Sun 11** The Ultimate '3 in 1' Music Night, TA, 7-9pm. Piano Mike, vocalist Gina Rose and a singalong karaoke. Tickets £8, thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on.
 Harvest Day, Winterbourne Medieval Barn, 11am-4pm. Ticketsource or www.winterbournebarn.org.uk for tickets.
- Mon 12** Thornbury Camera Club, TCC, 7.30pm, Laura Pearce, "Story/Narrative – Narrative Photography". secretary.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com.
 Severn Vale Flower Club, SMCH, 2pm, Demonstration, Selena Derham, "Circles and Spheres". Visitors £6.
- Tue 13** Thornbury Memory Café, MCH, 10.15-11.45am. Sue Rowley 01454 412941 or Karen Cole 07810 436581.
 Thornbury Local History Society, SMCH, 7.30pm, Oliver Davey, "The Americans in Bristol in WW2". Members free, visitors, £3.50.
 Town Council, Finance and General Purpose Committee, TH, 7.30pm.
 Eastwood Gardeners Club, TCC, 7.30pm, Nick Wray, "The Effects of Climate Change on our Gardens". Visitors welcome.

- Wed 14** Thornbury u3a Investment Group 1, Tockington Methodist Church Hall, 10am, 2nd Wednesday every month. Contact: investment1@thornburyu3a.org.uk.
Autumn Tea Dance, TA, 2-4pm. Tickets £10, thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on.
- Thu 15** Farmers Market, St Mary Centre, 9am-1.30pm. 01454 888822.
Thornbury Town Trust, closing date for applications for grants. Contact sallytowntrust@gmail.com.
- Fri 16** Haven Memory Café, Tudor House Care Home, Cleve Wood Road (until end 2026), 10.15-11.45am. Sue Walton 07794 370903.
Thornbury & District Stamp Club, CCC, 7.30pm, Dealers Evening.
Carleton 01454 260517 or Martin 01179 696808.
- Sat 17** Peace Vigil on Thornbury High Street, 10.30-11am, 3rd Saturday every month.
We are a small, friendly group, please feel free to join us at any time.
Thornbury Hockey Club, CS, 10am, Men v South Gloucs 2nds.
CRUK Autumn Fair, St Helen's School, Alveston, 10am-1pm.
- Sun 18** St Mary's Music Concert, SMCH, 4pm, with a capella ensemble NotaBene.
- Mon 19** Thornbury Camera Club, TCC, 7.30pm, Internal Competition Round 1. Contact secretary.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com for more information.
- Tue 20** Town Council, Climate and Nature Committee, TH, 7.30pm.
- Fri 23** End of School Term 1.
Thornbury and District u3a, SMCH, 3.30-4.30pm, New Members Welcome Meeting.
- Sat 24** Tour of Thornbury Castle, 10.30am. Tickets £15 from the British Heart Foundation Shop, St Mary Street.
Concert, "Paris by Night", Bristol Ensemble Orchestra, Ch, 7.30pm. Tickets £25 from AAGThornbury@gmail.com or 01454 850933.



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- Sun 25** British Summer Time ends. Clocks go back one hour.
Thornbury Royal British Legion, The Wheatsheaf skittle alley, 12.30pm, last Sunday of every month. All welcome.
- Mon 26** Thornbury Camera Club, TCC, 7.30pm, Mervyn Reed, "Safari". For more information contact secretary.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com.
Severn Vale Flower Club, SMCH, 1.30-3.30pm, Practice Class, "Halloween". Members £4, visitors £6.
- Tue 27** Thornbury Memory Café, MCH, 10.15-11.45am. Sue Rowley 01454 412941 or Karen Cole 07810 436581.
Thornbury Art Club, SMCH, 7.15-9.30pm, watercolour demonstration of a coastal scene by Barry Herniman. www.thornburyartclub.co.uk.
- Wed 28** Thornbury Magazine distribution.
Severn Valley Quilters, SMCH, 7.30pm. Speaker Janet Haigh.
Craft Drop-in, special half term event, TL, 10am-3pm.
Alveston Local History Society, Alveston Methodist Church, 7.30pm, Malcolm Watkins, "Take Hedgehog Lard". Visitors welcome, £5.
- 28-31** TMTG, Guys and Dolls, The Olympus Theatre, WISE campus, Bristol. Wed, Thu, Fri 7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm and 7pm. www.tmtg.org.uk for tickets.
- Thu 29** Town Council, Planning Committee, TH, 7.30pm.
- Fri 30** Parkinson's Support Group, CCC, 11am-2pm. Coffee 11am, lunch (optional) from 12noon, last Friday every month. Sally Derham 07443 332150 or sally.derham@outlook.com.
Thornbury & District Stamp Club, CCC, 7.15 for 7.30pm, Members – Letter N. Carleton 01454 260517 or Martin 01179 696808.
Thornbury Picture House, film, *lo capitano*, MCH, doors open 7pm. Guests £6.
Comedy Club, TA, 7.30pm. Adults only. £12. thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on.

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- Sat 31** Meet your Town Councillors session, TH, 10am-12.30pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits available. Last Saturday every month except August and December. Thornbury Hockey Club, CS, 10am, Ladies v South Gloucs. Family Halloween Party, TA, 2-4pm, Tickets £8. thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on.

NOVEMBER

Mon 2 Start of School Term 2.

Tue 3 Severn Vale Flower Club, Christmas Open Evening, Olveston & Tockington Parish Hall, 6.30 for 7.30pm. Demonstration, Angela Turner "A Natural Christmas". 01453 811089 or 01454 885213 for tickets. Circle Dancing, MCH, 6.30-8.30pm. £10. Also 10th and 17th. Turn up or contact vickislade1@outlook.com or 07516 999384. Newcomers welcome.

Sat 7 Thornbury Hockey Club, CS, 10am, Men v Bristol/UWE development. Roundtable Fireworks display, Mundy Playing Fields, gates open 5.30pm. Children's fireworks 6.30pm, bonfire lighting 7pm, main display 7.30pm.

Sat 14 Thornbury and District u3a, CKCH, 10.30-11.30am, Coffee Morning.

Venue abbreviations: **CCC**-Chantry Community Centre, **CH**-Cossham Hall, **CKCH**-Christ the King Church Hall, **CS**-Castle School, **MCH**-Methodist Church Hall, **SMC**-St Mary's Church, **SMCH**-St Mary's Church Hall, **SPC**-St Paul's Church, **TA**-The Armstrong, **TBC**-Thornbury Baptist Church, **TCC**-Turnberrie's Community Centre, **TH**-Thornbury Town Hall, **TL**-Thornbury Library, **TLC**-Thornbury Leisure Centre, **TMC**-Thornbury Methodist Church, **URC**-United Reformed Church.

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All contributions for the **November** issue to **Pauline Montgomery** by **1 October**, and for the combined **December/January** issue to Linda Thornton by **1 November**. Please note that it is important that copy is sent by the deadline to the correct editor to ensure inclusion.

6	2	5	8	9	1	3	7	4
3	9	8	7	4	2	1	6	5
1	7	4	5	6	3	9	2	8
4	6	9	2	7	8	5	1	3
8	3	2	9	1	5	6	4	7
5	1	7	6	3	4	8	9	2
7	5	1	4	8	6	2	3	9
2	4	3	1	5	9	7	8	6
9	8	6	3	2	7	4	5	1

Solution for Killer Sudoku TM025

Helpful hints:

All the numbers within a nonet add up to 45.

There is only one way of making 11 in four cells (1/2/3/5).

CHURCH SERVICES

ANGLICAN: St Mary's Parish Church and St Paul's, The Hackett: Service every Sunday, 9am at St Paul's, 10.30am at St Mary's. Please see, Facebook or website www.thornburybenefice.org for up to date information.

BAPTIST: Gillingstool, Family Service 10.30am. Tel. 01454 419118.

METHODIST: High Street: Sunday Morning Service 11am.
Wednesday Shoppers' Service 11am. Tel. 01454 418176.

ROMAN CATHOLIC: Christ the King, Castle Street: Mass Sundays 9am, 10.30am.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH: Chapel Street: Family Morning Worship Sunday 10.45am.
Please see website or Facebook for up to date information.

QUAKERS (SOCIETY OF FRIENDS): Meetings for worship every Sunday 10.30am, The Chantry, Castle Street. Tel. 882356.

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