

Thornbury Magazine

For the community by the community



September 2026

Community Composting
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Thornbury Magazine

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Armstrong Hall Memories

SINCE the opening of The Armstrong in April one of the many pleasures has been the reminiscences of local people who knew the venue in its past glory days when it was home to so many community activities. One intriguing memory was triggered by the showing of *Matilda: The Musical* when a visitor told us that Roald Dahl had visited in the 1970s, having been invited to Thornbury Arts Festival by Diana Hendry, the Artistic Director at the time. He could be an irascible character, but he was really kind to the children who took part in a play based on his book, *Fantastic Mr Fox*. That year was a bumper one for the festival, with a visit from Jon Pertwee who played Dr Who in the early days of the Time Lord series and also Brian Patten the poet.

There is link between Diana Hendry, one of the legendary architects of Thornbury Arts Festival, and a recent guest to The Armstrong, international best-selling author Amanda Prowse. When Diana, who is a poet, moved away, she sold her house in Castle Street to Amanda's family so perhaps she left some of her literary talent there to be absorbed by young Amanda. In June Amanda delivered a brilliant one woman show "A Love Letter to Thornbury" where she explored her love for the town and traced the links to Thornbury in her books. In a pre-show interview, Amanda, who has published more than 30 books which have been translated into dozens of languages, explained that despite not wanting to leave London where she was born, she has come to value Thornbury as home and a place where you can be yourself with no pressures. She feels at home as soon as she reaches The Ship at the top of Thornbury Hill – probably because of working there as a sixth former! She had many memories of the old Armstrong Hall in her youth and cannot believe the "stunningly beautiful, comfortable and opulent" Armstrong is the same place, although the essence of what made it special in the past has been retained. Thornbury, and no doubt some characters from Thornbury, have made their way into Amanda's books and in her novel *To Love and Be Loved* the main character moves from Cornwall to Thornbury to start a new life and gets a job at Thornbury Castle!

Despite being held on the hottest day of the summer when all kinds of stratagems had to be used to cope with the heat (imported fans, paper fans, iced lollies!), Amanda's show went down a storm. She said she was born in London but made in Thornbury and her reminiscences of the transition from the East End to rural Gloucestershire were hilarious and touching, especially her problems with the dialect! A bonus of the evening was a barnstorming rendition of "Don't Rain on My Parade" by Stevie Tate-Bauer-Smith, Amanda's sister-in-law, who has starred in *Wicked* in the West End. Amanda generously gave all of the proceeds of her show towards the funds being raised to renovate the Lansdown Hall and gave every audience member a goodie bag to take home.

Continued on page 3



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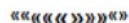
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Continued from page 1

And the show goes on with a wide variety of performances and events in the next few months. Local writers are welcome to an Open Mike Evening on 10 September and on Saturday 19 September we have the Magnificent AK47, a charismatic choir of men who sing like angels and also make you laugh. NTL this month brings *The Misanthrope*, and Comedy Club, an established favourite, returns on 25 September and 30 October. The Pantaloons, a hilarious comic acting group, bring *The (almost) Complete History of Britain* on 3 October and Mike Purnell plays the piano for another Sunday Session in the Foyer Bar on Sunday 11 October. Dancers should get into Strictly mode for the Autumn Tea Dance on 14 October and as ever, half term will be full of activities including a Family Halloween Party on 31 October. See our website for full information about what is happening at The Armstrong and to book events. We would also love to hear any other memories about the Armstrong Hall, so please get in touch!

www.thearmstrong.co.uk. 

NEWS AROUND

Thornbury Choral Society

Our first rehearsal of the season is on Monday 7 September, following the AGM at 7.30pm. This year there are some changes to the start time and venue of our rehearsals, which will be at The Armstrong, Cossham Hall, and will start at 7.30pm. Our new conductor, Gareth Morris, will be joining us and we look forward to welcoming him. He has selected a very interesting programme for the first concert of the season including, Faure's *Requiem*, Durufle, *Quatre Motets* and Vaughan Williams *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* and other Christmas items. The concert will be held at St Mary's Church on Saturday 28 November at 7pm.

We are always looking to recruit new members, particularly tenors, so do come along and see if we are the choir for you. Further information can be found on our website: thornburychoralsociety.org.uk.

Fairtrade in Thornbury

During the refurbishment works at the United Reformed Church, fairtrade goods will still be available, at the monthly stall held at Christ The King Church on Castle Street. The stalls will be held on the following Sundays: 27 September, 25 October, 29 November and on a date in December to be confirmed. On these Sundays, the stall will be open from 9.45 to 10.15am and from 11.30 to 12noon. Depending on the weather, the stall will be outside the church or in the hall, which is accessible from the car park. (Please note that parking is limited). Please text 07564-874221 for any further information or to place an order.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A coffee morning is to be held at Falfield Village Hall on Saturday 26 September from 10am-11.30am. There will be a raffle, Bring and Buy table, books, and cakes. Please help to support this most worthy of causes.

Eastwood Gardeners Club

Following the AGM at the September meeting, we will welcome Harriot Jones whose talk will be "Design and Build an RHS garden". Visitors are welcome. Tuesday 8 September, at Turnberries Community Centre, starting at 7.30pm, doors open at 7pm.

Thornbury Library

Read to the Beat! It is not too late to join the Summer Reading Challenge – finish your challenge by Saturday 12 September.

Regular children's activities continue with Rhymes and Stories on Mondays, 9.30-10am, and Rhymetime on Fridays, both suitable for children aged 0 to 5 years. On Saturdays, for ages 4 to 11-year-olds, there is Lego Club, 9.30-10.30am.

For adults: "Have You Read...?" is a book group for everyone, this month on Friday 4 September at 2pm. Come and enjoy a book group with a difference; no set novel to read, just drop in for an hour for refreshments and a chat. All crafters are welcome to join the Knit, Stitch and Knatter Group every Wednesday, 2.30-4pm. And if you need help with IT you can book a session with one of our IT volunteers on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings.

Do you enjoy reading but find it hard to visit the library? You are not alone – and we are here for you. Our Home Library Service brings books straight to you. Contact us to get signed up. Tel. 01454 868006 or Email: thornbury.library@osuthglos.gov.uk. Want to access the library seven days a week? Find out more at www.southglos.gov.uk/openaccess.

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Thornbury Community Composting Centre

The Composting Centre is situated at the rear of Thornbury Leisure Centre Car Park on the left-hand side and is staffed by about half a dozen volunteers who keep the site safe and tidy and sort the green waste. Small branches and twigs are used to produce wood chip, which can be collected for just £3 a bag. Compost is also available for £3 a bag.

The volunteers also help to manage Farm Wood, which is adjacent to the site. Logs are cut and split for firewood, which is stored in our drying shed, then bagged in nets once it reaches less than 18% moisture. These are then sold for £5 per net or £45 for 10 nets.



Our income relies on donations from the public when they drop off their green waste, the sale of compost, wood chip and firewood, together with any sponsorship we are lucky enough to obtain. Sadly, when leaving green waste, not everyone leaves a donation. Please note, we can only take cash, as there is no electricity on site so we cannot use a card reader. South Gloucestershire Council stopped our grant in April 2024 and at this moment we are losing approximately £3,500 a year. Our main cost is £300 a lorry load to have the green waste removed. On average we have two loads collected each month, which amounts to £7,200 per year.

We only have sufficient funds to keep the site operating for the next two years. If anyone reading this can help us in any way, either by sponsorship or volunteering or fundraising, please come and see us on a Saturday morning, 9am to 11am, or Wednesday afternoon 1.30pm to 3.30pm. We are a friendly group who desperately need your help.

Thornbury and District League of Friends

Please be our guest and join us for a free coffee or tea and cake on Saturday 5 September, 10am-12 noon in The Armstrong Foyer. The League supports local health and well-being groups in the area with financial grants. Among our 23 recipients in 2025 were Great Western Air Ambulance, Thornbury Wayfarers, Rockhampton Ravens, Severn Area Rescue Association and Jigsaw. We will be inviting applications for 2026 grants in October. If you are involved in a local group, look out for further details in the local press, or contact abates1101@msn.com to request an application form. League members will be at the coffee morning should you require further information.



This month's film

With a Scottish setting, I Swear is the wonderful, true-life story of John Davidson. Diagnosed with Tourette's at 15, targeted as 'insane' by his peers, he struggled with a condition few had witnessed. Campaigning for a better understanding and acceptance of the condition of Tourette's as an adult, he finds his life's purpose and accepts his MBE from the Queen in 2019. Friday 11 September, Thornbury Methodist Upper Hall, doors open 7pm. Members free, guests £6.

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AS September arrives, many of us find ourselves beginning again. Schools reopen, clubs and community groups return, and our diaries slowly begin to fill after the summer months.

At St Mary's and St Paul's, September is also a time when we reflect on stewardship. While the Church of England provides some central support, our local parish churches are sustained almost entirely through the generosity of those who worship here and the wider communities we serve. We are deeply grateful to everyone who already gives so generously, enabling this ministry to continue and our churches to remain houses of welcome for all. They are open not only for prayer and worship, but also as places of belonging. They offer cool spaces on hot days, toddler groups, U3A talks, concerts, cafés, support groups and quiet corners for anyone seeking a moment of peace. They are community spaces in the fullest sense of the word.

As we give thanks for these places, I am also reminded that our local schools are community hubs too. As well as serving as Vicar, I have the privilege of being a governor at our local Church of England schools, and one of the greatest joys of that role is seeing first-hand the care, encouragement and opportunities they offer children and their families every day. Every September, teachers, support staff, governors and volunteers begin another year of nurturing, inspiring and caring for our young people. It is a huge responsibility and a wonderful privilege. Whether prayer is already part of your life or not, I hope you might spare a thought for all those beginning a new school year. And if prayer is part of your life, please join me in praying for our schools, our churches, and for everyone who gives so generously of their time, gifts and resources to help our whole community flourish. May this new season be one of generosity, hope and blessing for us all. ☮

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Now showing at Thornbury Museum!

With tales of firefights, adventure, bravery and romance, this exhibition is based on the life of Hector Maclaine of the 57th Foot in the Napoleonic Wars. Follow Thornbury's very own Captain Sharpe in a true international adventure, with our hero in the Caribbean, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, France, Canada and Belgium.

Buried in St Mary's Church and a previous resident of Kyneton House, Maclaine is a local legend whose story you do not want to miss! With appearances from Wellington, Soult, Hills, D'Erlon, The Die Hards, William Brooke Jnr and William Brooke Snr, "Hector Maclaine – Die Hard in Spain" is now showing at the Museum in Chapel Street.



William Brooke Snr and Jnr were both army officers, closely connected with the Thurston family of Thornbury. Lydia Brooke (daughter of William Jnr) wrote to the Duke of Wellington and his letters of reply are on display in the exhibition.

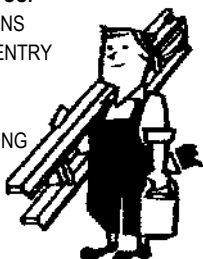
The Museum is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 1-4pm and Saturday 10am-4pm. Entry is free.

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Thornbury Town FC under 10s do it again!

After winning the Hanham minor league spring cup earlier last season, the first official trophy for the team, Thornbury Town Football Club under 10s swiftly added trophy number two in quick succession. They won the Stoke Lane seven a side tournament in June in emphatic style, after winning the three group games without conceding a goal and scoring seven! They won their quarter final on penalties after a 0-0 draw. Then came a 1-0 win in the semi-final, before winning the final 3-1, conceding only one goal throughout the tournament and scoring a hat full! Considering these games are only ten minutes long in these tournaments, scoring like that was impressive. Naturally, the boys were buzzing and what a way to finish off the under 10s season! The management team of James, Phil and Dave cannot wait to get stuck into another season, now as the under 11s – and they are confident and hopeful of more silverware coming the way of Thornbury Town FC. Watch this space...



St Mary's Music Sunday Concert

The next concert at St. Mary's Church will take place on Sunday, 20 September at 4pm. We look forward to welcoming the Thornbury Good Afternoon Choir and their director Sian Wallers. Refreshments will follow the concert. Admission is free and all donations from the retiring collection go to St. Mary's Music.

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Thornbury Celebrates Reopening of Restored Cemetery Chapel

In June the restored Thornbury Cemetery Chapel was officially reopened by Thornbury Town Council, marking the completion of a project to bring the historic building back into community use. The project was made possible through funding received from the Community Infrastructure Levy, helping to restore an important part of Thornbury's heritage for the benefit of the whole community.

More than 30 invited guests gathered to mark the occasion and see first-hand the results of the refurbishment, which has transformed the long-closed chapel into a welcoming space. The highlight of the morning was the official ribbon-cutting by Thornbury's Mayor, Councillor Helen Ball, who declared the chapel open once more.

Guests enjoyed a fascinating and entertaining talk from Meg Wise of Thornbury Museum, who brought the chapel's history to life. Meg shared stories about the origins of the cemetery, which was established after the closure of the graveyard at St Mary's Church at the end of the nineteenth century, as well as the important role the chapel has played over the years. The light and airy chapel will be available to hire for small ceremonies, gatherings connected with burials and the interments of ashes, and for suitable community events. For further information call Thornbury Town Council on 01454 412103. The reopening not only preserves an important piece of Thornbury's history but also creates a welcoming community space that can be enjoyed for years to come.



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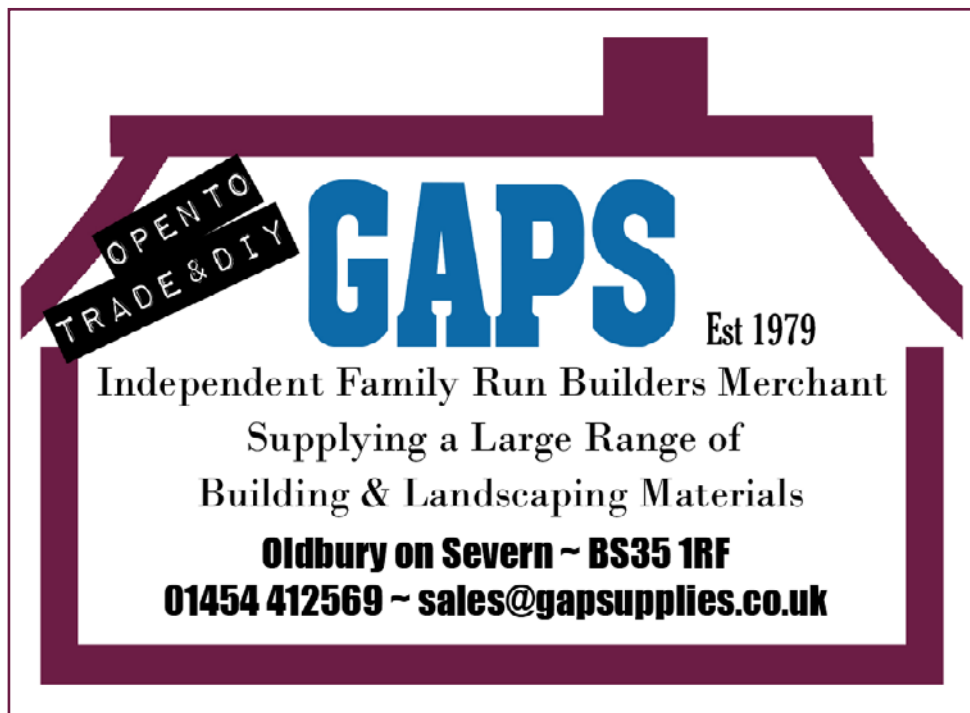
Severn Vale Flower Club

The Club started the new year on a sad note when we lost our Chairman Sally Taylor. Sally has been an inspiration to us all throughout the many years she has been associated with the club. We will miss her enthusiasm and guidance. In May we lost another member of our Committee, Jean McFaggan, who will be sadly missed.

However, thanks to our committee and our members we still have a full programme for 2026. Since January we have had some interesting and productive demonstrations and thanks to Kathleen Taylor, our practice classes are well attended with new members joining. At our A.G.M it was decided to cancel our monthly competitions due to the lack of entries.

"On an April Day" was the title of a demonstration given by Andrew Lloyd at our Open Meeting held in April and in May Delyth Price, who has won several awards, gave us a demonstration entitled "Serendipity". Our Competitions Day with refreshments was held in June and everyone enjoyed our afternoon tea held on 13 July. The committee did all the preparations, supplying china mugs and cake stands and members brought flowers in jam jars to decorate the tables. With the yellow tablecloths on it all looked very colourful. Kathleen organised a quiz. Many thanks to all who helped to make it an enjoyable afternoon. We had a Practice afternoon, "Summers Here", in July and in August Christine Ramsey gave a demonstration entitled "Glorious Summer".

For more information about the Flower Club please contact 01454 885213 or 01453 811089.



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Steve Hall will demonstrate impressionistic watercolour mark-making through creating two different paintings, a Landscape and an Industrial Scene. After many years working in the building industry and further education, Steve turned his career towards his first love – painting and then tutoring. For the last 30 years he has developed his own impressionistic watercolour style, influenced by such artists as Edward Seago and John Yardley. During the evening there will be a short break for free tea, coffee, and biscuits, and a chance to socialise. Members free, non-members very welcome – £6 on the door, cash or card.

St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Road, 7.15-9.30pm.

Contact www.thornburyartclub.co.uk or www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub or email publicrelations.tac@gmail.com for more information.



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Wayfinders Art Club Walk

A very interesting walk took place at the end of July, albeit on the warm side as the heatwave continued! After meeting at the Methodist Hall, which was hosting Thornbury Art Club's Summer Exhibition, and led by Chris Bloor, we worked our way via Latteridge Lane and Coppins Well to the cemetery chapel, recently restored by the Town Council. They have done a very good job and on a hot day it was a welcome cool spot to rest and recuperate. Then on via the footpath to St Mary's Church and a quick look at its arboreally inspired columns. Trees being a theme of this walk we looked at many on the way, Chris pointing out features we may have missed. We returned via Castle Street, past the site of the old sycamore in the Glebe field, felled for safety reasons in 2009, whose trunk is now a feature in the Streamleaze play area. Thornbury Museum also has a cross-slice of the trunk. This was a very pleasant, non-strenuous stroll, about two miles on easy surfaces, ending back at the Methodist Hall. Many thanks to Chris Bloor for guiding us.



Write Now!

While the United Reformed Church is closed for refurbishment, the Write Now group will be meeting at the Methodist Church on the first Thursday of the month from 10-11.30am, until December. Topics for the meeting on Thursday 3 September are biscuits, farmers' market, rain forests, woods or hills.

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Alveston Hill cycling and walking improvements

The road-based improvements on Alveston Hill are now complete, and plans for the off-road section of the route are in progress. A small adjustment to the position of a retaining wall which is to be built alongside the highway and a change to the construction approach will reduce disruption on Alveston Hill. The revised design also provides greater flexibility to improve drainage alongside the route. This will help manage surface water more effectively, support the long-term resilience of the path and surrounding land, and reduce the amount of maintenance required in the future. A new planning application will need to be submitted to enable the revised design before work can begin. The changes do not affect the location or overall layout of the path that was consulted on in 2024. As a result, construction of the off-road section is now expected to start in 2027. Further updates will be provided by South Glos Council as plans progress.

Thornbury Town Trust Christmas Gifts

Thornbury Town Trust is a local charity that was formed in 1890 to continue the charitable works of the old borough. A particular 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 for this year. Please submit your application form by Thursday 15 October.

Learn About Dementia

Free event by



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📅 Friday 18th September

11.00 am - 2.00 pm

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2026 Heritage Open Days events

Stories of Police Families revealed



Thornbury Town Hall is opening its doors for Heritage Open Day on Saturday 12 September, with this year's theme of 'Everyday Histories' focusing on the police families who once lived in the building.

Before becoming the home of Thornbury Town Council, the Town Hall was a police station and provided accommodation for police families. Visitors can discover what everyday life was like for these Victorian families and see historic drawings showing how the building was laid out as a home, including living quarters and bedrooms.

With help from Thornbury and District Museum, displays and activities will bring the stories of the Town Hall's former residents to life. Children can create and decorate paper dolls, while the

Council Chamber will offer a glimpse into its former use as a Victorian magistrates court.

Come along and discover the people, families and everyday lives behind Thornbury Town Hall's history on Saturday 12 September from 10am to 2pm. No booking necessary – just pop in and enjoy a free guided tour!

Climb the tower at St Mary's Church

On 12 September the church tower will be open to visitors, offering a unique view of the River Severn and the surrounding countryside. On the way to the top visitors can learn about the church bells in the ringing room and view the clock mechanism. The climb involves 133 uneven stairs and it is quite a work-out to reach the top! Children under 8 years old are not allowed up the tower. The tours are free, but booking is essential and subject to weather conditions. To book your tour please email thornburybenefice@outlook.com.



or call 01454 281900. Tours run from 1-4.30pm. St Mary's only opens the tower to the public once a year, so please seize this special opportunity to experience the view from the top!

Refreshments will be available and the Mothers' Union will be running a plant and produce stall. There will be handicraft items for sale and some free craft supplies. The church offers wheelchair facilities, but unfortunately the tower does not.

Additionally on Saturday 12 September, St Mary's Church will welcome participants of Ride and Stride, an event in support of Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, starting from 10am. If you would like to be involved or would like further information about Ride and Stride, that can also be found on the Benefice website.

Chantry Community Centre tours



The Chantry building at 52 Castle Street dates back to Tudor times, with Georgian and Victorian additions. It was bought by the Community Association 60 years ago this year as a community and arts centre for the town. Come for a tour and learn more about its history on Saturday 12 September, 10am to 1pm. Pre-booking is not required. Tours last around 40 minutes.

Servants' lives at Thornbury Museum

With this year's national annual celebration of heritage focusing on ordinary working lives, the museum is mounting an exhibition: "You Rang M'lud? – In the Servants' Hall", investigating the lives of domestic servants in Thornbury and the surrounding area, from the big houses and Thornbury Castle to more humble households where a maid or perhaps a gardener might be employed.



Find out about the hierarchy of the servants' hall and the duties of those employed there, follow the lives of some of the people in service and discover some shocking facts about Thornbury Mop Fairs and the hiring of agricultural labourers. The Museum is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 1-4pm, and Saturdays 10am-4pm, and entry is free. The exhibition will continue after the Heritage Open Days festival finishes.

Bells, buns and a band

by Jane Marks

WHAT a day it was! A real red-letter day for Thornbury. Some people were up and out before daybreak busying themselves with erecting arches and flags and various other item to decorate the town. It was Monday 2nd September 1872 and everyone was excited.

Signs were put up all around the town, one read "Welcome" in huge letters and Mr. Michael, a wine and spirit merchant in the High Street, had a huge notice in large blue letters, surrounded by foliage and flags, across the whole double frontage of his premises that said, "Science still her march keep on". There were plans in place to illuminate many houses at night with gas jets arranged into the shape of stars as well as many other "brilliant devices". Mr. Pendley, a pyrotechnist from Wotton-under-Edge, had organised a wonderful firework display. Well before ten in the morning, the Tockington Band were in their splendid uniforms and preparing to lead what turned out to be a huge crowd from The Swan public house all the way to the end of the High Street.

What could possibly be the reason for all this excitement? Why did most of the shops close early that day and why were large crowds gathering the length of the High Street? It was to welcome the first ever train to arrive at Thornbury station. It was reported at the time that there was scarcely standing room at the station such was the crush of onlookers when the first passenger train "glided slowly into the station". Among the one hundred passengers who had come from Bristol was the Mayor of Thornbury, solicitor Mr. John Crowther Gwynn. As the train pulled in the band struck up with "See the conquering hero comes", while the bells of the parish church could be heard ringing

Continued on page 22



Continued from page 21

out. Mr. Crowther Gwynn was then "...handed in to a carriage and drawn in triumph by the inhabitants to the Swan Hotel where his worship received the congratulations of some of the principal inhabitants of the town". However, this was not the end of these festivities. Between twelve and one o'clock, upwards of six hundred children marched to the railway station. Accompanied by their teachers, the town's schoolchildren, along with the younger inmates of the workhouse, were in for a special treat. Such excitement as they all boarded the eighteen carriages for the free ride to Yate, the fourpenny return tickets having been paid for by public subscription. After a brief stay in Yate, they returned to Thornbury for a run about in a nearby field owned by Mr. Scarlett, another local solicitor. They all enjoyed a "substantial tea" which included delicious plum cake made by Thornbury baker Mr. Vowles.

This special day was not over yet. Still to come was Mr. Pendley's marvellous firework display with many of the houses illuminated with gas-lit stars! A good time was had by all, including "numbers of rustics" who had "not until yesterday seen a locomotive", as reported in the *Western Daily Press*. A red-letter day indeed!

The railway in Thornbury continued to take passengers until June 1944. The line then continued for the use of coal and freight for another 22 years up to 20th June 1966, when it finally closed. 📍

Photograph courtesy of Thornbury and District Museum.



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Thornbury & District Stamp Club Open Evening

Thornbury has a small group of stamp collectors who meet at the Chantry on set Fridays between September and May who are keen to welcome new members.

We meet to view and discuss a variety of stamps and, occasionally, other collectables. It is only for a couple of hours but we can guarantee you will always learn something in the meeting. Why not give it a try? This coming season we are planning some exotic trips to Samoa or the Seychelles and next year a trip to the West Indies or the Falklands.

Visiting societies provide additional variety and surprises. Club members also provide miscellaneous titles for other meetings.

Join us at our Open Evening on 4 September at the Chantry, 7.15pm for 7.30pm, for more information on the club and our events. You will be most welcome.

We meet at The Chantry, Castle Street. Contact the Club Secretary, Martin Elliott, Tel. 0117 969 808, or Chairman, Carlton Jones, Tel. 01454 260517 for more information. The current programme is on our website: <https://thornburystampclub.mystrikingly.com/>.



Epic bike ride for charity

In July, Andy, Scott and Nigel from NRS Oldbury, completed a 500 mile cycle challenge, riding a triplet bicycle from Oldbury-on-Severn Power Station to Sizewell Power Station in Suffolk and back, in just over three days. The sight of three people on one bike generated a huge amount of interest, especially in London. Riding a triplet bike was physically challenging, especially uphill, even for these experienced solo cyclists. Congratulations to the three riders, who raised more than £3,100 for JIGSAW Thornbury.

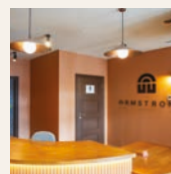
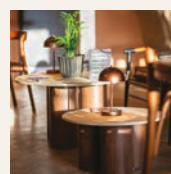
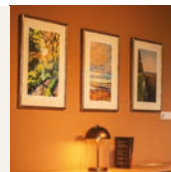
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Thornbury Foodbank

Thornbury Foodbank belongs to the North Bristol and South Gloucestershire group of nine foodbanks, who are in turn part of the Trussell Trust network of foodbanks throughout the UK. We are supported by a very committed group of volunteers and we are open all year round apart from the week between Christmas and New Year.

Foodbanks provide emergency parcels of food to match the numbers in a family as short term assistance to help them through a difficult time. Individuals who find themselves in food poverty should contact a Referrer – their social worker, housing provider, schools, doctors, Citizens Advice, or anywhere providing services relating to benefits, such as South Gloucestershire One Stop Shop – who will assess their need and issue a voucher, if appropriate. Up to three vouchers can be fulfilled in any six months. Any further help will depend on the individual's ongoing situation. We aim to provide clients with the help and support they need to be in a better position in the longer term, so that they no longer need to use a foodbank. We are open to clients for parcel collection on a Friday afternoon at Thornbury Baptist Church. Volunteers who can refer clients to other organisations for help with financial advice, mental health services, etc. are also available.

We receive regular donations from our local community. Occasionally, we need to draw stock from the North Bristol warehouse if our stock runs low, and we also send any excess items we have to them. Stock levels throughout the group are currently low, so we would encourage people to give when they can. Collection points can be found in Tesco, the Co-op in Badger Road, or at Thornbury Baptist Church every Wednesday between 9.30 and 11am. Further information at Foodbank – 2026 – Thornbury Baptist Church. Thank you as always for your continuing support.



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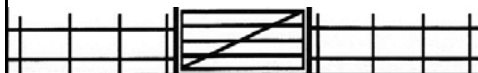
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Killer Sudoku, TM024 by AJW

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 contain 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 34



4			24		9			23			
15	20			16		14			5		
				12					12		
						27	18	15			
19	12										
	16	13	25		14			8			
				7						17	
				14		9	12				
20				5							

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

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September at Winterbourne Medieval Barn

Heritage Open Day, Sunday 13 September, 1-4m. Free access to the Barn and St Michael's Church, with friendly volunteer guides on hand to help.



Talk: The Bayeux Tapestry, a New Interpretation, Tuesday 15 September, 7pm. Coinciding with the Bayeux Tapestry's return to England for the first time in nearly 1000 years, Prof Benjamin Pohl looks at how and where this tapestry was intended to be viewed. The talk is also available live-streamed on zoom. Book on Ticketsource.co.uk

Perry and Cider Tasting, Friday 18 September, 7pm. Gloucestershire producers Bushel+Peck make high quality cider and perry from unsprayed apples and pears in traditional orchards and local gardens. This evening focuses on perries, with a few ciders, and is held in the magnificent Medieval Barn. Book on Ticketsource.co.uk. www.winterbournebarn.org.uk.

Thornbury Castle Tour

Join us to discover why there were so many beheadings! Why was the visit to the castle of Henry VIII and Ann Boleyn so important? Why is the castle rated as one of the seven best Tudor buildings in the country? In addition, what are the hidden secrets of the castle? The event, which is suitable for children aged 12 years and over, will take place on 24 October at 10.30am and is in aid of the British Heart Foundation. Tickets cost £15 per person from the British Heart Foundation shop, 16 St Mary Street.



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Thornbury Musical Theatre Group – Guys and Dolls

Set in the vibrant streets of 1950s New York, *Guys and Dolls* is a timeless Broadway musical filled with romance, comedy, and unforgettable songs. The story follows charming gambler Sky Masterson, who makes an unlikely bet that leads him to the straight-laced missionary Sarah Brown, while long-suffering showgirl Adelaide waits for her fiancé, Nathan Detroit, to finally tie the knot. The musical is a heart-warming celebration of love, friendship and second chances that has delighted audiences for generations.

As love, luck, and laughter collide, the characters discover that taking a chance on each other can be the biggest gamble of all. Featuring beloved songs, including “Luck Be a Lady”, “Sit Down, You’re Rockin’ the Boat” and “Adelaide’s Lament”.

Performances are 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 at The Olympus Theatre on the WISE campus, New Road, Bristol, BS34 8LP.

Great seats are available, but not for long. Do not gamble on missing out! Roll the dice on a fantastic night of music, romance and laughter and book your tickets today – before Lady Luck deals the last hand. Tickets are available from www.tmtg.org.uk.

Come and chat with the Thornbury Lions

We exist primarily to help serve the needs of our local community and we also provide help more widely with other Lions Clubs across the world.

We raise funds through running our Bargain Bookshop in the St Mary Centre in Thornbury with the help of a fantastic group of volunteers. Over the last 10 years or so we have been able to support good causes with donations totalling over £500,000.



BUT we are now only a small group of just 11 men and women and to keep our Bookshop open we need to encourage more like-minded people to join our Lions Club as it is our Club which runs and manages the Bookshop. If our Lions Club should close, then so too will the Bookshop and so will the support we continue to give locally to many deserving causes.

If you think you might be interested, just drop into Hawkes House in the St Mary Centre between 10am and 12 noon on Saturday 3 October and have a chat with the Lions members who will be there. We will even buy you a coffee!

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Common sayings with a nautical origin

"Eating like a trencher man": *Eating everything in sight.* At one time, food in the Navy was served on square plates made of thick slices of coarse bread, known as trenchers. A sailor who was very hungry might eat the trencher as well as its contents. The shape of the trenchers also gave rise to the expression **"A square meal"**.

"Up the creek without a paddle": *To be in a difficult or hopeless position.* In the time of Lord Nelson, the entrance to the Royal Navy Hospital in Portsmouth was via Haslar Creek. Wounded sailors being taken there to recover or die were said to be "Going up the creek".

"Nailing your colours to the mast": *Showing your intention to hold out until the bitter end.* In nautical battles in the days of sail, the colours (flags) would be lowered as a mark of submission. A ship with its colours nailed to the masts or to remnants of the rigging if the masts had been destroyed by enemy gunfire, meant that the captain had no intention of surrendering.

"Ship shape and Bristol fashion": *Ready to go.* From the reputation that the Port of Bristol had for preparing ships for sailing in good order.

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

Solution for Killer Sudoku TM024

Helpful hints:

All the numbers within a nonet add up to 45.

There are only two ways of making 5 in two cells (1/4 or 2/3) and only one way of making 7 in three cells (1/2/4).

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WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

- Tue 1** School term 1 starts.
 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, also Tue 8th and 15th. £10. Turn up or contact vickislade1@outlook.com or 07516 999384. Newcomers welcome.
 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.
 Town Council, Climate and Nature Committee, TH, 7.30pm.
- Wed 2** 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.



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- Wed 2** Thornbury and South Glos Amateur Radio Club, CCC, 7.30pm, every Wednesday. www.tsgarc.uk or email secretary@tsgarc.uk.
Continued 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.
 Sustainable Thornbury, Hawkes House, 7.30pm, 'Green Drinks', every 1st Wednesday. Contact: CATS@sustainablethornbury.org.
 Thornbury and District Probuc 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 Wednesdays 16th and 30th. Gill Dunkley 07414 817010 or gill@dunkleysfh.co.uk.
- Thu 3** 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 ministerthturc@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 4** Rhymetime, TL, 9.30-10am, every Friday (except Bank Holidays).
 North Bristol and South Glos Foodbank, TBC, 1.30-4pm, every Friday.
 Sequence Dancing classes, beginners and improvers, MCH, 6-8pm, 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, Open Evening, members one frame each. Carleton 01454 260517 or Martin 01179 696808.
- Sat 5** 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 and District League of Friends, coffee morning, TA foyer, 10am-12 noon.
- Sun 6** Thornbury Rambling Club meets RSCP, 9am every Sunday. Details: Sue 01454 413924 or Frances 07793 666972 or www.thornburyramblers.org.uk.
- Mon 7** 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). Tel. 01454 868006 or go into the library for information.
 Thornbury Table Tennis Club, CS Sports Hall, 7-9.30pm, every Monday and Wednesday. Open to all. For further information Tel. 01454 854790.

- Mon 7** Volunteer Centre, TH, open Monday to Friday, 10.30am-12 noon.
Continued Thornbury Choral Society, AGM and first rehearsal of the season, CH, 7.30pm.
 Thornbury Camera Club, TCC, 7.30pm, Judging of the Three Way Battle.
 Contact secretary.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com.
- Tue 8** Thornbury Memory Café, MCH, 10.15-11.45am. Sue Rowley 01454 412941
 or Karen Cole 07810 436581.
 Town Council, Full Council Meeting, TH, 7.30pm.
 Eastwood Gardeners Club, TCC, 7.30pm, AGM followed by talk, "Design and
 Build an RHS Garden", Harriot Jones.
- Wed 9** T'hornblowers Wind Band, improvers band, CH (until end 2026), 7-9pm, every
 Wednesday. Heather Platt 07886 007101 or platt_8@hotmail.com.
 Thornbury u3a Investment Group 1, Tockington Methodist Church Hall, 10am,
 2nd Wednesday every month. Contact: investment1@thornburyu3a.org.uk.
 Volunteer Fair, St Mary Centre, 9am-1pm.
- Thu 10** Royal British Legion Coffee and Chat, The Swan, High St, 10-11.30am,
 2nd Thursday every month.
- Fri 11** Thornbury Picture House, film, / *Swear*, TMC Upper Hall, doors open 7pm.
 Members free, guests £6.
- Sat 12** 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.



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- Sat 12** Heritage Open Days events: Town Hall tours, 10am-2pm; St Mary's Church tower open 1-4.30pm (booking essential); The Chantry, Castle Street, tours, 10am-1pm; Thornbury Museum, exhibition on life in the servants' hall.
- Sun 13** Winterbourne Medieval Bar, Heritage Open Day, 1-4pm. Free access to the Barn and St Michael's Church, with volunteer guides on hand.
- Mon 14** Severn Vale Flower Club, Demonstration, Kathryn Delve, "Flowers My Way", SMCH, 2pm. Visitors £6.
Thornbury Camera Club, TCC, 7.30pm, Jeremy Fennell: Street and documentary photography around Bristol and beyond. Contact secretary.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com for more information.
- Tue 15** Town Council, Open Spaces Committee, TH, 7.30pm.
Talk: "The Bayeux Tapestry, a New Interpretation", Prof Benjamin Pohl, Winterbourne Barn, 7pm. Also live-streamed on zoom. [Ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk).
- Thu 17** Farmers Market, St Mary Centre, 9am-1.30pm. 01454 888822.
Town Council, Planning Committee, TH, 7.30pm.
- Fri 18** 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, 7.15 for 7.30pm, Brian Purcell: Samoa. Carleton 01454 260517 or Martin 01179 696808.
BRACE Dementia Research, "Learn about Dementia", free drop-in event, CH, 11am-2pm. Short talks and advice from various bodies. Refreshments.
Perry and Cider Tasting, Winterbourne Barn, 7pm. [Ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk) to book.
- Sat 19** 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.
- Sun 20** St Mary's Music, SMC, 4pm, Good Afternoon Choir. Admission free, donations to St Mary's Music.

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- Mon 21** Thornbury Camera Club, TCC, 7.30pm, Peter Haworth, Lucky Dip and ARPS
Panel: Images with meaning. secretary.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com.
- Tue 22** Thornbury Memory Café, MCH, 10.15-11.45am. Sue Rowley 01454 412941
or Karen Cole 07810 436581.
Thornbury Art Club, Club Night, SMCH, 7.15-9.30pm. Steve Hall,
impressionistic watercolour mark-making. Non-members welcome, £6.
- Wed 23** Severn Valley Quilters, SMCH, 7.30pm. AGM. Speaker Sally Ablett.
Alveston Local History Society, Alveston Methodist Church, 7.30pm, Tony
Condor "Gloucester and the Atlantic Slave Trade". Visitors welcome, £5.
- Thu 24** *The Misanthrope*, an NTL screening, TA, 7.30pm. tickets from
thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on.
- Fri 25** 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.
Comedy Club, TA, 7.30pm. £12, adults only, thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on.
- Sat 26** Meet your Town Councillors session, TH, 10am-12.30pm. Tea, coffee and
biscuits available. Last Saturday every month except August and December.
Community Café, JIGSAW, St Mary Centre, 11am-1pm, every last Saturday.
Thornbury Hockey Club, CS, 10am, Ladies v Old Bristolians.
Macmillan Coffee Morning, Falfield Village Hall, 10-11.30am.
- Sun 27** Thornbury Royal British Legion, The Wheatsheaf skittle alley, 12.30pm, last
Sunday of every month. All welcome.
Fairtrade stall, CKC, 9.45-10.15am and 11.30-12noon, last Sunday every
month (until end 2026). Text 07564 874221 for information or to order.
- Mon 28** Severn Vale Flower Club, Practice Class, "Up and Down", SMCH, 1.30-
3.30pm. Members £4, visitors £6.
Thornbury Camera Club, TCC, 7.30pm. for more information contact
secretary.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com.
- Wed 30** Thornbury Magazine distribution.

OCTOBER

- Fri 2** Thornbury & District Stamp Club, CCC, 7.15 for 7.30pm, visit from
Cheltenham. Carleton 01454 260517 or Martin 01179 696808.
- Sat 3** Thornbury Hockey Club, CS, 10am, Men v Whitchurch 6ths.
The Pantaloons, *The (Almost) Complete History of Britain*, TA, 7.30pm.
Tickets £18 from thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on.
- Sun 11** Mike Purnell, piano, at "The Ultimate '3 in 1' Music Night", TA, 7-9pm. Tickets
from thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on.

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- Sun 14** Autumn Tea Dance, TA, 2-4pm. Tickets £10, thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on.
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.
28-30 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.
Sat 31 Family Halloween Party, TA, 2-4pm, Tickets £8. thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on.

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.

All contributions for the **October** issue to **Pauline Montgomery** by **1 September** and for the **November** issue by **1 October**, also to **Pauline Montgomery**. *Please note that it is important that copy is sent by the deadline to the correct editor to ensure inclusion.*

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.
- MORTON BAPTIST CHURCH:** Horse Lane, Lower Morton:
 Services every Sunday morning at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome.

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