

Thornbury Magazine

For the community by the community



November 2026

Remembrance
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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: Poppies near Thornbury Leisure Centre. Photograph © Des Harris.

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Looking bright for the next 40 years?

FOUNDED 40 years ago, Thornbury Museum faced an uncertain future earlier this year, but exploring the feasibility of a new location on the site of the Old Bakery Annexe in Chapel Street now offers the exciting possibility of delivering a significantly enhanced Arts Council accredited museum service for the town. Thornbury & District Heritage Trust is working closely with the Town Council and warmly recognises its enthusiastic support for the project.



Although Thornbury and District Museum is officially celebrating its 40th anniversary this month, the idea of creating a museum in the town began another November 40 years before that, with the foundation of the Society of Thornbury Folk – now known as Thornbury Local History and Archaeology Society. One of the new society's five main aims was, when possible, to set up a museum.

In November 1986 the Armstrong Hall Trust allowed the Thornbury Society to mount its first display in the downstairs room at 4 Chapel Street. The exhibition was entitled "One person's lifetime: Mary Bruton, 1890-1984 – Aspects of Thornbury and Oldbury on Severn". It ran for two days and was extremely successful, attracting about 400 visitors.

The following month Thornbury and District Heritage Trust was formed, with the first trustees being three Thornbury Society members – Paul Wildgoose, Vic Hallett and Yvonne Loe – along with Frank Herod from Concern for Thornbury, Town Mayor Mike Manning, and Town Councillor Mike Ball, although the latter two trustees were not representing the Town Council in an official capacity.

By August 1988 the T&DHT had successfully applied to the Armstrong Hall management committee for the use of the whole of 4 Chapel Street as a museum and the official opening of Thornbury and District Museum by Town Mayor Don Pearce took place in October 1988.

The Museum has developed in many ways since then and was the first volunteer-run museum in South Gloucestershire to achieve full registration in 2002, gaining Arts Council England accreditation in 2009, successfully renewed up to the present. The Museum is still run entirely by volunteers and receives financial support from Thornbury

Continued on page 3



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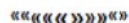
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Continued from page 1

Town Council and South Gloucestershire Council. Opening times are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 1-4pm, Saturday 10am-4pm. Entry is free.

Our collection includes objects, documents, maps and photographs which tell the story of Thornbury and the surrounding district. We display as many items as we can, with some permanent displays and a variety of short-term special exhibitions. There is a computer terminal in one of the exhibition rooms where visitors can consult local census returns and the Thornbury Tithe map. Our website and the associated Thornbury Roots website also contain a wealth of historical information about the town, its streets, buildings and residents.

Children enjoy doing a mouse trail and a 'find the bear' challenge and we are working on producing other similar children's activities. We also host visits to the museum from schools and youth groups and have some handling collections which can be sent out on short loan. The lovely Thornbury Quilt which is part of our collection is on display upstairs in the Town Hall and can be viewed by the public on Wednesdays, during opening hours, and there is a permanent exhibition about the history of the Borough of Thornbury in the entrance area.

As well as producing the exhibitions, planning and delivering walks and talks, manning the custodians' desk, maintaining a Heritage Trail around the town, responding to enquiries about local history and people, our volunteers' time is fully occupied. Rewarding work for our dedicated team of designers, researchers, archivists, receptionists, gardeners, authors, office administrators, sales assistants, curators, painters and decorators, fund raisers, crafters, project managers, public speakers, tea makers, mentors, archaeologists, trustees... 🍵

NEWS AROUND

Thornbury Christmas Lights

This year's Switch-On is taking place on Saturday 21 November from 2-8pm. The switch-on is at 6pm by the pump on The Plain. There will be a community market and also a Love Thornbury vendors market including Christmas gifts, crafts, food and drink. The event is being opened by Panache Steel Band and further entertainment from Songbirds Choir, Thornbury Musical Theatre Group and also local children's dance groups.





Thornbury and Severn Vale

Your Voice is a new series of community meetings held four times a year that create an informal space for conversations between communities, the council, and other key partners such as town and parish councils, Avon Fire and Rescue Service, Avon and Somerset

Police and local voluntary and community groups. Come along to your local meeting on Tuesday 3 November, 6.30pm at Turnberries Community Centre and share your views, ideas, and concerns directly with those who make decisions. You can also send us your questions or request a presentation on a specific subject. Drop in or register for a free ticket if you would like to receive a reminder email two days before the event. The 'Your voice...' meetings started in autumn 2025 as part of an 18 month trial. Find out more on the South Glos council website or email YourVoice@southglos.gov.uk.

Cancer Research UK — Quiz Night

It's quiz time again! The Fish & Chip Quiz Night is back on 28 November at Manorbrook Primary School, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Bring your own drinks, and we will provide the glasses. There will be a raffle and all money collected will go to Cancer Research UK. Tickets are £16.50 per person (including fish and chips). Pay at the door, but please let us know you are coming. We are often full on the night, so book early. Call Gill on 07866 580608 to confirm your reservation.



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Hot Fingers Jazz Band

Hot Fingers take you on a musical journey spanning over twenty years: starting with ragtime, moving through the red-hot jazz and low-down blues of the twenties, and into the sophisticated swing and crooners of the thirties, taking in the “French Coffee House” sound of Django Reinhardt, comedy “hokum” and jump jive and Latin rhythms along the way. These multi-instrumentalists weave together the musical history of their songs along with tales of



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life working along the road. The event is on Wednesday, 2 December 7.30pm at the Cossham Hall, Chapel Street. Tickets cost £20 from AAGThornbury@gmail.com or 01454 850933. For details, see <http://www.hotfingers.co.uk>.

Thornbury Choral Society

The first concert of the new season will be held at St. Mary's Church on Saturday, 28 November at 7pm. Please note the earlier starting time.

This will be the first concert directed by our new Musical Director, Gareth Daffydd Morris. Gareth is a tenor with the Welsh National Opera, a prominent soloist and the conductor of the Tabernacle Morriston Choir. The programme will include Faure's *Requiem*, *Quatre Motets* by Duruflé, *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by Vaughan Williams, and several other Christmas pieces. The soloists are Claire Hampton (Soprano), Philip Lloyd-Evans (Baritone), accompanied by Jeffrey Howard (Organ).

Tickets are £18 (advance booking), £20 (at the door) and £5 (under 18s) and are available from 16 November from society members, Horders stationers, or tickets@thornburychoralsociety.org.uk. We look forward to seeing you at this event.

Road works in Streamleaze

As part of the A38 and Alveston Hill project to improve walking and cycling routes, work has started in the Streamleaze area and is due to last until 14 December. This includes resurfacing part of the road, replacing the existing speed bumps with a new speed table, installing a pedestrian crossing at the junction with Rock Street and improving the footpaths. Engineering drawings showing the planned improvements can be found on the traffic management page of South Glos Council's website.

While the work is being carried out, two-way temporary traffic lights will be in place overnight from 8pm to 6am from the Rock Street junction to just before Tyndale View. During the works controlled by the two-way temporary traffic lights vehicles will be able to travel through the works area and a footpath will remain open on one side of the road for pedestrians and cyclists.

This area of Streamleaze will need to close to vehicles completely overnight on the following dates: 2 to 6 November, 9 to 13 November and 7 to 11 December. During these full overnight closures vehicles will not be able to travel through the closed section of road. Motorists are being asked not to park within the signed area at any time for the duration of the project.

Some early evening and early morning bus services will be diverted. More information is available on the First Bus website at <https://www.firstbus.co.uk/bristol-bath-and-west/news-and-service-updates/current-issues?page=0>.

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Tour Guide (1281): To provide engaging, informative, and welcoming guided tours for museum visitors

Visitor Experience Volunteer (1280): To create a welcoming, friendly, and engaging environment for all visitors.

Tea Server (1269): Helping to serve tea and cakes at support meetings.

First Aiders (1203): To provide first aid services for members of the public during the events, should anyone become ill or have an accident.

Woodland Management (1219): Clearing bracken, paths, chopping wood & cutting back undergrowth.

For more information about volunteering opportunities, please register via our website:

www.volunteer-thornbury.co.uk

You can also view opportunities on:
X, Facebook and Instagram posts

Schools Roundup

Marlwood School

The Friends of Marlwood School are hosting a fun-filled evening of horse racing on Friday 20 November, from 7pm until late. Come along and enjoy an evening of friendly competition, with the opportunity to place bets on the night or buy a horse in advance and cheer it on to victory. There will also be a bar, food and a raffle with prizes to be won. Tickets are just £3 per adult and everyone is welcome. Join us for a great community evening and support Friends of Marlwood School at the same time.

Tickets are available now from <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/annual-gala-7146>

Thornbury Picture House – *Benediction*

Written and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Terence Davies, *Benediction* explores the turbulent life of WWI poet Siegfried Sassoon. The writer and soldier was a complex man who survived the horrors of fighting in the First World War and was decorated for his bravery but then became a vocal critic of the government's continuation of the war when he returned from service. His poetry was inspired by his experiences on the Western Front and he became one of the leading war poets of the era. Adored by members of the aristocracy as well as stars of London's literary and stage world, he embarked on affairs with several men as he attempted to come to terms with his homosexuality. At the same time, broken by the horror of war, he made his life's journey a quest for salvation, trying to find it within the conformity of marriage and religion.

Friday, 13 November. Doors open 7pm. Thornbury Methodist Church Upper Hall. Members free, guests £6. For more information about membership visit www.thornburypicturehouse.org.



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Remembrance Day Service

There will be a civic service at St Mary's Church on Sunday 8 November, 10.30-11.30am, with representation from local services including the Royal British Legion, local Scouts and Guides, cadet services and others. A minute of silence will be observed, timed as closely as possible with the National Silence at 11am.

At St Arilda's Church, Oldbury, a Remembrance service with choir will be held from 6-7pm. All are welcome.



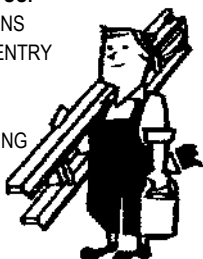
"Lest we Forget"

After the Remembrance Parade and civic service, join us at The Armstrong for a special afternoon of remembrance, reflection and community. Enjoy a finger buffet lunch with friends, family and members of the local community. The event is from 12noon to 3pm and tickets are £12 per person, including lunch (pre-booking required), or if you wish to just pop in for a drink, this is fine too, at no charge – donations are welcome on the day. The bar will be open to all, providing an opportunity to stay, socialise and share time together following the morning's commemorations.

Cossham Hall will be open throughout the afternoon, featuring a small exhibition kindly provided by Thornbury Museum, remembering local heroes and their stories. We will also be joined by local poet Julie Wiltshire, who will share poetry inspired by remembrance and reflection. Everyone of any age is welcome – and there will be colouring for the children. To book tickets go to the What's On page at www.thearmstrong.co.uk.

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Model Railway Exhibition

The Thornbury & South Gloucestershire Model Railway Club is delighted to announce its 58th Annual Exhibition, taking place over the weekend of 21 and 22 November at Turnberries Community Centre, Bath Road. Whether you are a lifelong railway enthusiast, a keen modeller, or simply curious to see what can be achieved in miniature, there will be plenty to see and enjoy.

Our exhibition will feature 19 visiting layouts covering a variety of scales, locations and periods, from railways of the past to more modern scenes. With trains running through detailed landscapes, stations and towns, there will be something to capture the imagination of visitors of all ages.

For some, the exhibition will be a chance to relive memories of railways from years gone by; for younger visitors, it offers an opportunity to discover how Britain's railways have changed over the years and how today's railway compares with those of the past.

As well as the layouts, there will be five traders offering a range of model railway items, equipment and accessories, as well as other displays. It is also a great opportunity to meet fellow enthusiasts, exchange ideas and perhaps find inspiration for your own modelling project. And after all that browsing and train watching, refreshments will be available throughout the exhibition.

Exhibition opening times are 10am-5pm on Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sunday. Admission is £8 for adults and £3 for children aged 5 to 16. A family ticket (two adults and two children) costs £18.

Make a date in your diary and come along for a great day out. Whether you are interested in steam, diesel or modern railways, detailed modelling, railway history – or simply enjoy watching trains – our 58th Exhibition promises something for everyone. For further information, including details of the layouts, traders and societies attending, please visit: www.tsgmrc.co.uk/exhibition-information/. Why not call in and visit us on your way to the switching on of the Thornbury Christmas Lights?

THORNBURY Art Club

November Club Night

Our November Club Night on Tuesday, 24 November, 7.15-9.30pm, is going to be extra special this year, featuring a 1940's themed Murder Mystery. Admission will be limited to members only, as spaces are limited. There will not be the usual afternoon group meeting due to this event.

The Painting Studio Group meets regularly every Tuesday and Thursday 1.30-4.30pm and the Outdoor Sketching Group meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 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.

Eastwood Gardeners Club

We will be welcoming Verity Prior who will give a demonstration of Wreath Making. Tuesday, 10 November at 7.30pm at Turnberrie's, Bath Road, Thornbury. Doors open at 7pm. Visitors are welcome.

Fireworks Display



The annual Bonfire Night community event organised by Thornbury Roundtable Charity takes place on Saturday 7 November. Gates at the Mundy Playing Fields open at 5.30pm when visitors can enjoy the atmosphere and explore the variety of vendors' stalls, which include food and a fully stocked bar.

The programme begins with a special quiet fireworks display for children at 6.30pm, followed by the lighting of

the bonfire at 7pm. The spectacular main firework display will light up the sky from 7.30pm and afterwards the evening will be rounded off with some high-energy entertainment from Party Peeps, who will be organising their popular Foam Party. Wrap up warm and bring the family to a night of bangs, booms, bonfire and bubbles.

All proceeds will go towards supporting local initiatives in Thornbury and the surrounding area. For more details and ticket information visit [Thornburyrt.co.uk](https://thornburyrt.co.uk).



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Duke of Edinburgh Awards

It has been another exciting year at Thornbury Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Centre (TOAC) with groups completing Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Young people complete four sections – volunteering to help others, a physical activity, learn a skill, and complete an expedition, and for gold, do a five-day residential activity.

Our current groups are involved in a wide range of activities. They have been volunteering in the local community helping people from young to old, including the Scouting Association, sports teams, charity shops and old peoples' homes. Physical activities range from individual and team sports, martial arts, climbing and dance. They are also developing a wide range of skills, varying from playing instruments, cooking, drawing, singing, photography, first aid, to acting and drama. Expeditions over the last year have been to the Forest of Dean, Mendips, Exmoor, Black Mountains, Lake District and Dartmoor.



The awards help young people build confidence, teamwork and resilience, and can help with future opportunities and adventures. At TOAC, we can work with small groups to match specific needs, and are keen to help those who might not otherwise have the opportunity. We are very experienced and purely voluntary to keep costs relatively low and can arrange to cover the costs, if needed. We will be starting a new entry for Bronze and Silver levels in November. If you are interested, please contact us at toacdofe@gmail.com.



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Bus service connecting Thornbury to Southmead Hospital

A new 535 bus service is now running between Thornbury and Southmead Hospital and also connecting young people to South Gloucestershire and Stroud College at Filton twice a day. The 535, which is funded by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (WECA) and South Gloucestershire Council, is currently allowing passengers free travel while the service is registered.

The service begins at Rock Street, from 7.30am on weekdays and runs through Almondsbury to Gipsy Patch Lane before heading to Bristol Parkway Station and then onto Southmead Hospital. It also stops at SGS College twice a day, in line with the college day's start and finish times. There are four services a day, with the last bus leaving Southmead Hospital at around 7.15pm. The final timetable is still subject to minor changes, but once those changes have been made the timetable will be available on the TravelWest website.

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday, 14 November 10.30am-2.30pm at Thornbury Baptist Church where you will find a wide variety of local crafts, gifts and decorations. The church café will be serving refreshments and light lunches. All proceeds go to Project Possible. For more information, contact suemdunn@virginmedia.com.

The next issue will be the combined December/January one.
Contributions to linda.thornton@thornburymagazine.co.uk
by 1 November please



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Special Services at St. Mary's Church

There are three special services at St. Mary's Church between the beginning of November and Christmas. The first of these is a Memorial Evensong for All Souls, when we give thanks for family and friends who have died. This service is on Sunday 1 November at 6pm.

On 29 November, we celebrate the start of Advent, looking forward to Christmas, with the Festival of Light, a beautiful candlelit service. This service also starts at 6pm and will be followed by mulled wine and refreshments.

The annual service of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday, 20 December at 6pm as we celebrate the Christmas season. Again, mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service.

Do come and join us at one of these special services. You can be assured of a warm welcome. For further details contact www.thornburybenefice.org.uk.

Fairtrade in Thornbury

During the refurbishment works at the United Reformed Church, fairtrade goods are still available, at the monthly stall held at Christ The King church on Castle Street. The next two stalls will be held on Sunday 29 November and Sunday 13 December. The stall is open from 9.45-10.15am and from 11.30-12noon. Depending on the weather, it will either be outside church or in the hall, which is accessible from the car park. Please note that parking is limited. For any further information or to place an order please text 07564 874221.

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Boys Take on Pen y Fan

by Charlotte Skipp

THE Under 11 Thornbury Town Falcons took on an incredible challenge in the summer, in memory of Harry Pickford, raising an amazing £2,000 for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) charity. Inspired by their coach, Phil Pickford, who has taken part in numerous fundraising events alongside Matt Lansdown to support the NICU charity, the boys wanted to do something themselves to make a difference. The challenge was particularly special to the team as they wanted to raise money in memory of Harry, Phil and Jemma's son and the brother of one of their teammates and coaches.

With plenty of determination and team spirit, ten boys took on the challenge of climbing Pen y Fan, collecting sponsorship from family, friends and supporters along the way. The group certainly were not given easy conditions. On what was probably the wettest and windiest day of the school summer holidays, the boys, accompanied by their families, set off to conquer the mountain. Despite the challenging weather, every single one of them successfully reached the summit. Showing fantastic determination and teamwork, the whole group completed the climb both up and down in under two hours.



But the boys were keen to make sure that everyone in the team had the opportunity to be involved. A raffle was also organised, allowing team members who were unable to take part in the climb to contribute to the fundraising effort. The combination of the Pen y Fan challenge and the raffle resulted in a truly fantastic achievement, with the boys raising an incredible £2,000 for the NICU charity. It was a brilliant example of what can be achieved when a group comes together for a cause that means so much to them. The boys showed courage, determination and plenty of team spirit throughout the challenge, while their families and supporters played a huge part in helping them reach their fundraising target.

The fundraising journey reached another special moment on Saturday 19th September, when the boys proudly presented their £2,000 cheque to the NICU charity at the Thornbury Town first-team match. The boys were also delighted to take on mascot duties for the match, proudly wearing their charity T-shirts as they represented the cause that had



brought everyone together. It was a fantastic way to celebrate their achievement and give the boys the opportunity to see the impact of all their hard work, determination and fundraising. Congratulations to all ten boys and everyone who supported the events. Raising £2,000 is a fantastic achievement, and the money will help support the important work of the NICU charity, while keeping Harry's memory at the heart of the team's efforts. 📸

“Et tu, Brute?” ... some traitorous tales

by Jane Marks

“WHEN our actions do not, our fears make us traitors” (Lady Macduff, *Macbeth*) and there have been many traitors through the centuries. Traitors tend to fall into two types: those with political or national aims to overthrow a government and take up arms against their own country, or in a more personal way, break a promise to a friend or be disloyal to family. On a more trivial level, being a traitor has become a source of popular entertainment and it has been estimated that more than 14 million viewers tuned in to the BBC’s “Celebrity Traitors”. These game-playing contestants function in a very similar way to the spies and traitors of the real world. They survive by pretence and lies, embedding themselves in a group, becoming trusted and believed to be a ‘Faithful’.



In the real world, traitors, both men and women, have been around from the earliest of times, betraying their country or a friend, violating a trust or aiding an enemy. The Bible revealed Judas Iscariot’s betrayal of Jesus, giving us a universal symbol of betrayal. In 44BC, Roman senator and erstwhile friend and supporter of Julius Caesar, Marcus Junius Brutus joined the assassination plot, Shakespeare



later writing the famous line, “Et tu, Brute?” in his 1599 play.

In more recent times during the Second World War, American-born William Brooke Joyce broadcast Nazi propaganda beginning with the famous line “Germany calling” in a plummy British accent, earning him the nickname Lord Haw Haw. Postwar, he was convicted of high treason and sentenced to death in 1945. Also during WW2, Dorothy O’Grady was frequently seen lingering around a restricted military area near Sandown on the Isle of Wight. Claiming each time that she was looking for her lost dog, she became the first British citizen to be condemned to death under the Treachery Act of 1940. The sentence was commuted on appeal and she was imprisoned for nine years.

A little before WW2, in the 1930s, five elite students studying at Cambridge University were recruited by foreign powers. Their fervent beliefs led them to penetrate the very highest levels of British intelligence and the Foreign Office giving them the opportunity to steal thousands of sensitive documents. Philby, Maclean, Burgess, Blunt and Cairncross became known as the Cambridge Five and between them they managed to leak huge amounts of intelligence and secrets as Soviet spies. One way or another most of the five evaded prosecution and whole affair was considered a terrible intelligence failure.

Maybe one of the best remembered traitors, especially at this time of year, is Guy Fawkes, who with his expertise in explosives from his military days, was chosen by the other conspirators to set the fuse in the cellars under the Houses of Parliament. When the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 was discovered by royal guards Guy Fawkes was taken to the tower of London where he was interrogated and tortured. All the conspirators were eventually caught, tried and sentenced to death for treason and on 31 January 1606 they were all executed.



Whatever your feelings about all these enemies, betrayers, turncoats and backstabbers may be – would you have been cunning enough to work out who were the traitors and who were the faithfuls among those TV celebrities without any help? Would you be a traitor or a faithful? 🕒

Thornbury in Bloom

WE recently signed the Royal Horticultural Society pledge on water conservation, called Mains 2 Rains. Amongst other measures, this is essentially an undertaking by us to use rainwater instead of tap water wherever possible, for watering our plants. With the consequences of climate change, the UK is looking at a potential shortfall of 6 billion litres of water per day by 2056, so we shall be doing our bit to avoid a very serious future water shortage for us all. Despite a hosepipe ban in the Bristol Water area it will be some time before river and reservoir levels return to pre-drought normal. Thornbury in Bloom is fortunate in having a mobile reserve of 500 litres of water, in a van kindly loaned to us by a local donor. That reserve has been used to fill watering cans during the ban, because our perennial plants, which form a significant part of our plantings this year, still need some watering even after they are well-established.

The RHS urges everyone to use only peat-free compost and we have been doing so for some time. However, we shall be checking with our suppliers that they are growing their plants without the use of peat. Although there have been reservations about peat-free compost not being so good at retaining water, mixing the compost with normal topsoil helps to correct that and adds minerals into the mix.

The gardener's jobs continue almost all year, and Autumn planting started at the end of September, ready for blooms in the Spring. A scheme for tulips in the High Street planters will result in a graduation of colour from white to dark purple, whilst the boats, the new "35 bed" and the planters on railings will all be receiving attention. 🌷



Free events at Thornbury Library

Join us for an illustrated talk with SAS veteran Mark 'Splash' Aston on Saturday 7 November at 2pm. Tickets cost £5, which includes refreshments, and are available from the library or on Eventbrite: www.sgloslibraries.eventbrite.com. Please note that tickets are non-refundable.



Our regular events for children and adults continue, with Rhymes and Stories at 9.30am on Mondays and Rhymetime on Fridays, also at 9.30am. Both are followed by Stay and Play from 10-11am. Lego Club is every Saturday, 9.30-10.30am.

"Have You Read...?" is on Friday 6 November at 2pm. This is a book group with a difference – no set novel to read, just drop in for an hour to chat about books and enjoy some refreshments. The Knit, Stitch and Knatter Group meets every Wednesday, from 2.30 to 4pm. If you need help with IT, book a one-to-one session with one of our IT volunteers. These sessions take place on Wednesdays at 2pm, 3pm and 4pm and on Thursdays at 10am, 11am and 12noon.

The library is staffed on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10am-5pm and on Saturdays at 9.30am-12.30pm. Open access (unstaffed hours) is every day, 8am-7.30pm. Induction is essential to make use of this facility. To find out more about this service see southglos.gov.uk/openaccess.

You can contact the library by email: thornbury.library@southglos.gov.uk or by phone: 01454 868006.

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Spud and Sparkle Night

JIGSAW Thornbury is inviting the local community to join them on Saturday 21 November at The Armstrong, 6.30-9.30pm, for Spud and Sparkle, an evening of food, quizzing, laughter and community spirit, with the event being planned and hosted alongside JIGSAW's amazing youth volunteers. Guests will be treated to a delicious jacket potato supper with a choice of toppings, alongside a programme of fundraising games and competitions. In keeping with the theme, everyone is encouraged to add a little sparkle to their outfit – whether that means sequins, glitter or simply a touch of something shiny. The event promises to be a relaxed and welcoming evening where people can come along with friends and family, or attend on their own, meet others and enjoy being part of the community. Visit www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk to book. Tickets cost £22 person – from 14 years old up.

The evening will give local young people the opportunity to take an active role in organising and running a community fundraising event, helping them to develop confidence, teamwork, communication and customer service skills while gaining valuable, real-world experience. The young people have been involved in planning the evening and are working with local quiz master James, who is supporting them to develop and deliver the quiz and helping them build the skills and confidence they need to put on the event.

JIGSAW's community fundraising events are about much more than raising money. They create opportunities for people to come together, make connections and support the life-changing work of JIGSAW Thornbury, while giving young volunteers meaningful opportunities to learn, grow and thrive.



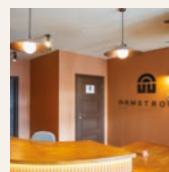
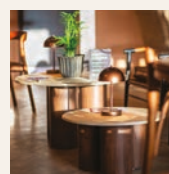
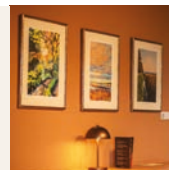
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Art of Thornbury

Arising from this year's Art Festival comes a new pamphlet *The Art of Thornbury*, showing the locations where art is on public display. This is the first of a series of pamphlets showing just how much Thornbury has to offer. Free copies are available at the Town Hall and Museum.

Other planned titles include:

A Night Out – where to eat drink and be merry

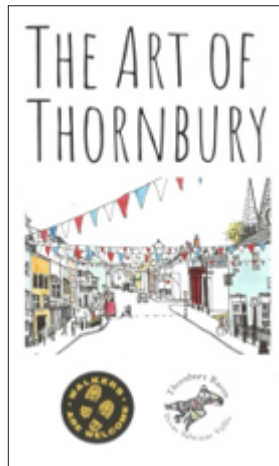
Cakes To Kebabs – where to go for coffee, cakes and much more

24 Signs – A “Spot the sign” trail around town

Stranger Thornbury – Another trail route

Inside Thornbury – Premises and businesses of interest

Make Do and Mend – where to go to get your stuff mended or buy cheap goods.



These will be issued shortly – Sponsors are invited.

Alveston Fringe Art Exhibition

A local group of artists will be exhibiting their works at St Helens Church, Alveston on 13 and 14 November, 10am-4pm. Also in attendance will be the Stroke Support Group, a variety of craft stalls and Clay Away ceramics. Thornbury Blowers will provide musical entertainment. Entry is free and refreshments will be available.

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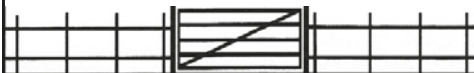
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Killer Sudoku, TM026 by AJW

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



5		10		13		14	17	
15		13	29		20			
6						12	7	
21	21						23	6
				13				
7			8		25			8
	11			11				
13	11	19			15		11	
		6				15		

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

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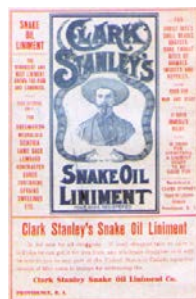
North Bristol Bathroom Showroom

Quack cures and snake oil

by JEM

S CAMS seem to be something of modern times. We hear frequent warnings to be wary of being duped and swindled but in fact there is really nothing new about cleverly worded advertisements giving the vulnerable false hope and considerable financial gain for unscrupulous criminals.

For thousands of years, when many believed the world was flat and stars were holes in the sky, there was little difference between genuine medical cures and sharp practice. Not all the strange cures and treatments were deliberate swindles and scams. Many were, but sometimes it would have been extremely difficult to tell which was which. One famous scam in the US in the late 1800s gave its name to any fake cure-all and was a sales gimmick from the outset. Clark Stanley, a quack doctor, produced his "Snake Oil Liniment" claiming it cured virtually all known aches and pains. With ingredients such as turpentine, beef tallow and a chemical compound found in chili peppers, of course it cured nothing, but sold widely for over 20 years. The scam was eventually exposed in 1916 and Stanley received a hefty fine. However, strange cures were around much earlier this.



Pilula Radii Solis Extracta was the invention of a London self-taught alchemist Lionel
Continued on page 32



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Continued from page 31

Lockyer in the 1600s. He claimed that he had trapped the rays of the sun inside a pill that would cure leprosy, plague, cancer, gout, and much more. In fact these pills contained only herbs from a local market, causing violent vomiting and diarrhoea. Nevertheless, Lockyer made a vast fortune from the sale of these pills. The 1700s saw James Morrison, a merchant of London, produce a *“Hygeian Vegetable Universal Medicine”* that promised to cure virtually everything. But his pills were the cause of much illness and many deaths were recorded, most likely due to the main ingredient, gamboge, a highly toxic plant resin. There were many more such quack remedies, pills and potions through the years that did no good and frequently caused great harm. That is not to say that alongside all this there were many genuine and serious breakthroughs in medicine, pathology and of course vaccination. However, right up until and during Victorian times there were many dubious yet well-used cures for a wide range of conditions. Arsenic was one of the most popular remedies for anaemia, small amounts of strychnine were given to alleviate constipation, chloroform for hiccups, smoking tobacco to help with asthma and belladonna for colic.



In the United States in the early 1900s a new product, produced by the Liquid Ozone Company in Chicago, became one of the most notorious scams of the century. *Liquozone* was marketed as liquid oxygen and a patent medicine, claiming to cure a huge range of ailments and diseases. Promoted as a water-based product infused with “free oxygen” it was advertised as being “safe, natural and scientifically advanced” but was eventually exposed in 1905 to be “a notable swindle, selling under false pretences and by means of deliberately fraudulent advertising a product of practically no therapeutic value”.

Much closer to home and hopefully never intended to defraud the public, one of Thornbury’s chemists in the early 1900s, Mr James Spencer Palmer, advertised a product that may have slightly over-described its properties. In his High Street shop he produced his *“Celebrated Hair Wash”* which sold “*entirely on its own merits...one of the best preparations in existence*”. He claimed that one lady was “*quite bald at Christmas*” and after only fifteen months’ use of his hair wash had a full head of hair.



We are still being promised clearer skin, whiter teeth, thicker hair and slimmer bodies. Can we believe it all? Surely, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is! 📌

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News from The Armstrong

We are delighted that alongside Sanderson Weatherall, the building surveyors for our renovation, The Armstrong is a finalist in the Insider SouthWest Property Awards 2026. Our venue has been shortlisted for the Sustainable and Social Impact Award. This category highlights “projects that have shown a strong commitment to making a significant, positive social impact on their local community and area”.

There are now reception mornings every Wednesday and Thursday from 10am to 12noon to welcome visitors, answer any questions, take bookings and provide a Box Office service for our upcoming events. This month we have the multi-talented Peter Gill on 10 November, with his one-man historical play, *Meet Tommy Atkins*, exploring the life of a British soldier through World War I and beyond. On Sunday 8 November, in collaboration with the British Legion and Thornbury and District Museum, The Armstrong will offer hospitality and a warm welcome to those involved in Remembrance Day events. National Theatre Live returns on 19 November with the much-acclaimed *Golden Boy*, Clifford Odets’ knockout American classic which has received many accolades – a wonderful opportunity to see great theatre in a local venue at a fraction of the London ticket prices. Watch out for AAG’s presentation of Michael Lunts’ show, “Tongue in Cheek” when Gilbert and Sullivan meet Tom Lehrer and also for Jigsaw’s Spud and Sparkle Quiz Night on 21 November. Our regular Comedy Night returns on Friday 27 November with a festive vibe and free mulled wine.

December will be a wealth of Christmas festivity at The Armstrong, including a wreath-making workshop, the return of the fabulous Bristol Concert Wind Band, a Christmas concert from the fabulous Songbirds, a children’s Christmas show, Mrs Claus List and for the first time, a New Year’s Eve Party featuring the amazing Ride the Edge band.

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WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

- Sun 1** Thornbury Rambling Club meets RSCP, 9am every Sunday. Details: Sue 01454 413924 or Frances 07793 666972 or www.thornburysramblers.org.uk.
Memorial Evensong for All Souls, SMC, 6pm.
- Mon 2** Start of School Term 2.
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, Sam Bailey (Curly Red Sam),
Contact secretary.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com for more information.
- Tue 3** 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.
Northavon Dolls House Club, Alveston Methodist Church, 2pm, every 1st Tuesday. New members welcome. Contact Mrs V Craig 07577 161092.
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.
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. Also 10th and 17th. Turn up or contact vickislade1@outlook.com or 07516 999384. Newcomers welcome.


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Tue 2 Severn Vale Flower Club, Christmas Open Evening, Olveston & Tockington
Continued Parish Hall, 6.30 for 7.30pm. Demonstration, Angela Turner "A Natural Christmas". 01453 811089 or 01454 885213 for tickets.

Your Voice, Thornbury and Severn Vale, public meeting, TCC, 6.30pm.

Wed 4 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.tsgarc.uk or email secretary@tsgarc.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, 4pm every Wednesday. Also Thursdays, 10am, 11am, 12pm. 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 Probosc 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 18th. Gill Dunkley 07414 817010 or gill@dunkleysfh.co.uk.

Thu 5 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.



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- Thu 5** Sensory Play Group for children 12 months to 5 years with additional needs,
Continued 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 6** 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.
- Sat 7** 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 Lions Club, Hawkes House, 10am-12noon, drop in for coffee and a
 chat about joining the Lions.
 Thornbury Hockey Club, CS, 10am, Men v Bristol/UWE Development.
 "SAS, Sea King Down", talk by Mark Aston, TL, 2pm. Tickets £5.
 Roundtable Fireworks display, Mundy Playing Fields, gates open 5.30pm.
 Children's fireworks 6.30pm, bonfire lighting 7pm, main display 7.30pm.
- Sun 8** Remembrance Sunday. Civic service, SMC, 10.30-11.30am. Remembrance
 with choir, St Arilda's Church Oldbury, 6-7pm.
 "Lest we Forget", TA, 12noon-3pm, an afternoon of remembrance, reflection
 and community. All welcome. Lunch optional, £12 (but must be pre-booked).
- Mon 9** Thornbury Camera Club, TCC, 7.30pm. For more information contact
secretary.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com.
 Thornbury & District League of Friends, closing date for receiving grant
 applications. For more information contact abates1101@msn.com.
- Tue 10** Thornbury Memory Café, MCH, 10.15-11.45am. Sue Rowley 01454 412941
 or Karen Cole 07810 436581.
 Thornbury Local History Society, SMCH, 7.30pm, Tony Condor, "Gloucester and
 the Slave Trade". Members free, visitors £3.50. Refreshments included.
 Town Council, Full Council meeting, TH, 7.30pm.
 Eastwood Gardeners Club, TCC, 7.30pm, Verity Prior with a demonstration of
 Wreath Making. Visitors welcome.
- Wed 11** Thornbury u3a Investment Group 1, Tockington Methodist Church Hall, 10am,
 2nd Wednesday every month. Contact: investment1@thornburyu3a.org.uk.
- Thu 12** Royal British Legion Coffee and Chat, The Swan, High St, 10-11.30am,
 2nd Thursday every month.
- Fri 13** Thornbury & District Stamp Club, CCC, 7.15 for 7.30pm. Members' recent
 acquisitions. Carleton 01454 260517 or Martin 01179 696808.
 Thornbury Picture House, film, *Benediction*, MCH, doors open 7pm. Guests
 £6.
- 13-14** Alveston Fringe Art Exhibition, St Helen's Church Alveston, 10am-4pm.
- Sat 14** Thornbury Art Club, outdoor sketching group, 2nd Saturday every month.
www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub or publicrelations.tac@gmail.com.

- Sat 14** 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, 9-11am. Family members and supporters welcome. Thornbury Community Permaculture Project, Alexandra Way Care Home, gardening, 9.30-11.30am, 2nd Saturday every month. For details: tcpp@sustainablethornbury.org. Thornbury and District u3a, CKCH, 10.30-11.30am, Coffee Morning. Thornbury Hockey Club, CS, 10.30am, Ladies v Westberries 5ths. Christmas Craft Fair, TBC, 10.30am-2.30pm.
- Mon 16** Thornbury Camera Club, TCC, 7.30pm, Martin Edwards, "The Modern Dinosaur" and "A History of Photography in Ten Pictures". For more information contact secretary.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com.
- Tue 17** Town Council, Open Spaces Committee, TH, 7.30pm.
- Thu 19** Farmers Market, St Mary Centre, 9am-1.30pm. 01454 888822.
- Fri 20** Haven Memory Café, Tudor House Care Home, Cleve Wood Road (until end 2026), 10.15-11.45am. Sue Walton 07794 370903. Friends of Marlwood School fundraiser: Horse Racing Evening, Marlwood School, 7pm. £3 per adult.
- Sat 21** 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, Ladies v Old Bristolians 4ths. Christmas Lights Switch-On, The Plain, 6pm. Model Railway Exhibition, TCC, 10am-5pm. Also Sun 22, 10am-4pm. Tickets £8 adults, £3 children (5-16 years), £18 family (2 adults, 2 children).



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- Sat 21** JIGSAW Spud and Sparkle Night, TA, 6.30-9.30pm. Jacket potato supper, *Continued* games and competitions. Tickets £22 per person (14 years and upwards).
- Mon 23** Thornbury Camera Club, TCC, 7.30pm. For more information contact secretary.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com.
- Tue 24** 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, special Club Night: 1940s Murder Mystery. Club members only. No afternoon Painting Studio this week.
- Wed 25** Thornbury Magazine distribution.
Severn Valley Quilters, SMCH, 7.30pm. Christmas Social Evening.
Alveston Local History Society, Alveston Methodist Church, 7.30pm, Andrew Mellor, "John Nevil Maskelyne, Gloucestershire's Master of Magic and Mystery". Visitors welcome, £5.
- Fri 27** 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.
- Sat 28** 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, Men v Whitchurch 6ths.
CRUK Fish and Chip Quiz Night, Manorbroke Primary School, 7.15 for 7.30pm. £16.50 per person. Gill 07866 580608 to book.
Thornbury Choral Society Concert, SMC, 7pm. Advance tickets £18, on sale from 16 November, or £20 at the door, £5 under 18s.
- Sun 29** Thornbury Royal British Legion, The Wheatsheaf skittle alley, 12.30pm, last Sunday of every month. All welcome.

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Sun 29 Fairtrade stall, CKC, (until end of 2026), 9.45-10.15am and 11.30am-12noon.

Continued Text 07564 874221 for more information or to order.

Festival of Light service for the start of Advent, SMC, 6pm.

Mon 30 Severn Vale Flower Club, SMCH, 1.30-3.30pm, Practice Class, "Christmas is Coming". Members £4, visitors £6.

Thornbury Camera Club, TCC, 7.30pm, Oliver Bennett – Photographic Projects: Bristol Temple Meads Station and Gordano Motorway Services.
Contact secretary.thornburycameraclub@gmail.com for more information.

DECEMBER

Tue 1 Circle Dancing, MCH, 6.30-8.30pm. £10. Also 8th and 15th. Turn up or contact vickislade1@outlook.com or 07516 999384. Newcomers welcome.

Wed 2 Hot Fingers Jazz Band, CH, 7.30pm. £20, AAGThornbury@gmail.com or 01454 850933.

Fri 4 Almondsbury Primary School Christmas Fayre, 6-8pm.

Sat 5 Thornbury Hockey Club, CS, 10am, Ladies v Yate 3rds.

Mon 7 Severn Vale Flower Club, SMCH, 1.30-3.30pm, Practice Class, "Tis the season". Members £4, visitors £6.

Sun 13 Fairtrade stall, CKC, 9.45-10.15 and 11.30-12noon.

Sat 19 Thornbury Museum closes at 4pm for its winter break, re-opening on Tuesday 2 February 2027.

Sun 20 Lessons and Carols service, SMC, 6pm.

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All contributions for the combined **December/January** issue to **Linda Thornton** by **1 November** and for the **February 2027** issue to **Pauline Montgomery** by **1 January**. Please note that it is important that copy is sent by the deadline to the correct editor to ensure inclusion.

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

Solution for Killer Sudoku TM026

Helpful hints:

All the numbers within a nonet add up to 45.

There is only one way of making 29 in four cells (5/7/8/9).

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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