

# ALVESTON MAGAZINE

June/July/August 2026

No 560

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by the Churches since 1970



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Or post to 'Alveston Magazine',

1 Beech Close, Alveston, BS35 3NH.

Your Helmet editor is Diane Barnard  
(01454 885793) .

Contact David Moss if you are interested in  
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<u>Edition</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Delivery</u>
<b>Sept/Oct</b>	<b>Aug 1st</b>	<b>Aug 25th</b>
<b>Nov/Dec/Jan</b>	<b>Oct 1st</b>	<b>Oct 27th</b>

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***All Magazine Distributors and  
Contributors - please note:-***

**The printers will now deliver all  
magazines to St Helen's Church a few  
days before the last Tuesday of the  
month.** If those who usually receive a box  
or bag are able, please collect your batch  
from the church from Sunday services - or  
from 10.30 - 12.30 on the last Tuesday.  
Coffee and cake will be available.

**ALL Contributors - Please** send in original art-work and good quality photos and not what has gone via social media or some online storage which compresses the size and will result in poorer quality reproduction. We need it to be at 300dpi. A half page advert needs to be landscape format, and full page 'portrait'.

**We can now be found  
online for reading and  
downloading at  
<https://alvestonmag.co.uk/>**

## METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP – JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

Services are held every Sunday at 10.30 and they take the form of Café Church on the third Sunday in the month.

Details of the preachers during June, July and August were not available when the magazine went to print, but they can be found on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/alvestonmethodist](http://www.facebook.com/alvestonmethodist)

### **Methodist Church News and Events**

#### **Look to the Future**

Just over three weeks ago, we had the joy of celebrating the most wonderful truth that Jesus rose from the dead on what we now call Easter Day, and is still very active in our lives today. However, when you read this, Easter will have long gone, and the focus will be on summer holidays, barbeques and ice creams. If that isn't strange enough, this edition of the magazine is the only opportunity to give advance notice of events taking place in September!

All this reminded me how important it is to look to the future and prepare for it. When we are young, it is so easy to put off joining pension schemes; saving money to buy a property; eating healthily; keeping fit, or exploring faith.

But time goes quickly, and if we're not careful, we can find ourselves looking back and regretting not taking action years ago. It may not be possible to fully rectify mistakes made years ago with our finances or health, but we can come to a full relationship with Jesus at any point in our lives.

Going back to the Easter story, two criminals were executed with Jesus. One of them realised the error of his ways and asked Jesus to forgive him even though he was close to death. Jesus forgave him, and assured him that he would be with him in paradise for eternity.

Just after Easter, I was talking to a friend whose husband had died a few months earlier. She had done everything she could to convince him throughout their 40-year marriage that Jesus is real and a powerful presence in her life. When she realised that he didn't have much longer to live, she tried one last time. He accepted Jesus into his life and his face lit up. My friend had no doubt whatsoever that he had finally discovered peace and joy that is beyond human understanding in that moment and forever.

If you would like to explore the Christian faith and discover the astounding truths about Jesus for yourself, there will be a perfect opportunity to do just that in September when we run another of our very successful Alpha courses. Full details will be in the next edition of this magazine, on our Facebook page and in many other places.

Pete Jones 01454 412912

## Methodist Church News and Events continued

If you are looking to make new friends and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with a cake in good company, **Community Cuppa** is the place to be. We will meet in the church hall on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July from 10.30 to 12.00. A warm welcome is guaranteed, and you will enjoy *'Ian's Intriguing Quiz'*, whether you usually like quizzes or not!

It's never too late to rekindle an interest in craft or learn a new skill.

**Craft and Chat** is the perfect place to do both with like-minded people, and we will be delighted to see you. We will meet on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July, and 20<sup>th</sup> August from 2 to 4pm in the church hall. Even if craft is not one of your interests, you can still join us for a coffee and a chat.

Contact Elaine on 415374 for more details.



### Alveston Methodist Church contacts

Rev Dr Simon Edwards 01454 418176

#### Stewards -

Peter Jones 01454 412912

Pam Jones 01454 412912

Doreen Stears 01454 850453

(Contact steward)

Hall Hire - Peter Jones 01454 412912

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## ST HELEN'S CHURCH NEWS – JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

Our regular service pattern is:

8am

Service of Holy Communion weekly

10.30am

Service of Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

All Age Worship 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday's

**If in doubt just check the church web site:**

<https://www.revsrural.com/alveston/>

### 9AM SERVICES

This year we have added a few new informal services at 9am, all accompanied with breakfast:

First Sunday

**Breakfast** following the 8am service.

Second Sunday

**Messy Church** This service has a flexible start, running from 9 through to 10am.

Breakfast is available for the duration alongside a selection of craft activities based on a biblical theme each month.

The service concludes with a short time of informal worship suitable for the younger participants. Our Facebook page will give you a peek preview of the crafts each month.

Third Sunday

**Alpha** - unpacks the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. It is for anyone who's curious, no matter their beliefs or background. We chat as we eat breakfast together.

Fourth Sunday

**Café Church** - is an informal service over breakfast where we come together to worship and share fellowship. There is an interactive chat with craft activities, as we explore and extend our understanding of God's word and just enjoy being in His presence together. It is ideal for families, teenagers and those who want to follow on from our Messy Church or Alpha sessions. It is open to all and everyone is welcome.

If you want any further information on any of these services then either just pop along or take a look at our website <https://www.revsrural.com/alveston/> or contact one of those listed in contacts for the church in this magazine on page 7. We are also on Facebook - - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/248834895152770>

**Coffee Cake and Chat** – Tuesdays 10.30 to 12.30 weekly

**Charity Coffee Cake and Chat** – First Tuesday of the month supporting nominated charities:

June- [Face2Faceparkinsons.co.uk](https://www.face2faceparkinsons.co.uk) – a support group for people suffering from this illness

July – Friends of Friendless Churches

August –TBC

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**St Helen's Art Group** meet on Fridays between 10 and 12 noon weekly.

All abilities are welcome.

Their last session in the summer term will be 24<sup>th</sup> July and they will reconvene on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Contact Anne Harrison if you want more details: 07796-227922.

Why not come along to any of our events and meet some new people in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

**4@4** – will resume their monthly concerts in September.

### **St Helen's Church Kitchen and Bell Tower Projects**

Over the last two years we have undertaken two large projects, the Organ renovation and a new Air Source Heat pump system. This year we are looking to build a new kitchen and repair and improve the ringing chamber for the church bells so they can be rung to their full capacity.

Over the next few months, we will be raising funds for these projects so please keep an eye out for our fund-raising events and come along and support them. Donations to the projects will also be gratefully received. Please contact Rev'd David Moss [revsrural@gmail.com](mailto:revsrural@gmail.com) for further information.

#### **St Helen's Church contacts**

[www.revsrural.com](http://www.revsrural.com)

Rev David Moss 01454 415190

#### **Licensed Lay Minister -**

Tracey Black (And for children's activities) 01454 417660  
[Tracey.lynne.black@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Tracey.lynne.black@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **Church Warden -**

Gail Lowe 07949 920851



# Memory Lane

*“ It’s hard losing someone. The pain doesn’t really ever go away.*

*But the setting here is so lovely and green, calm and peaceful, it helps.*

*We can’t bring them back but when we’re among those trees they feel less far away.*

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Chris, Bristol

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## A SUMMER ECO TIP

Taste the benefits of seasonal and local food. Make plans to source locally grown foods that you can add to your diet/shopping list throughout the seasons.

Produce grown locally is picked at the peak of its ripeness and will be full of flavour, tasting better than the produce that has been imported and travelled thousands of miles.

Or you can even take on an allotment or dig up some garden and grow your own - especially with rising prices due to international events.



There are a few farm shops around, and the farmers market in St Mary Centre is held on the first and third Thursdays of every month, from 9AM TO 1 PM.

## **Don't turn your home into a gold mine. Burglars are targeting households for gold, jewellery, cash and will steal whole safes.**

- Keep high-value gold, jewellery and currency with your bank or a specialist secure storage company,
- If kept at home, ensure high-value items are stored in a suitable safe supplied and fitted by a company approved by the Master Locksmiths Association,
- Ensure your home is secure by locking doors and windows, installing an alarm, CCTV, security and a smart doorbell,
- Keep photographs and a description of items of sentimental value,
- Be wary of unexpected callers and if you're suspicious, tell the police by calling 101,
- Take care with what you share on social media, some posts may unintentionally reveal that your house may be empty,
- Register valuables on [www.imobilise.com](http://www.imobilise.com) so that if we recover your property, we can return it to you.

Further crime prevention advice can be found on the Avon and Somerset Police website by visiting: [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/crime-prevention-advice/](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/crime-prevention-advice/)

To report information to Avon and Somerset Police directly, you can:

- Call 101
- Report [online](#) via the relevant web form ([www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/))
- Visit your local police enquiry office

To find out more about your local neighbourhood policing team and their priority areas, visit this webpage: [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/)

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**Rossini**  
**Petite Messe Solennelle**

Conductor - **Steven Kings**  
Piano - **Christopher Williams**  
Harmonium - **Edward Dean**

Saturday, 16th May 2026 at 7.30pm  
St Mary's Church, Thornbury BS35 1HQ

**Ticket prices**  
Tickets £18 (pre-booked) £20 (on the door) £5 under 18  
Available from members,  
or tickets@thornburychoralsociety.org.uk  
and from Holders Stations (from 1st May)



## Thornbury Orchestra - Concert on 13 June 2026 - Berkeley

Our next concert will take place on Saturday, 13 June 2026 at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Berkeley. Tickets, available on our website or at the door, are £10 for adults, with children free. The music will include Brahms's Variations on a Theme of Haydn, Dvorak's Symphony No 4 and Bizet's Petite Suite d'Orchestre. The concert is in aid of the Jenner Museum, Berkeley. For more details, contact info@thornburyorchestra.org.uk.

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

## OCTOPUS DRAMA GROUP – 'MURDER AT THE MARGATE MAJESTICA'

Rehearsals are in the final phases for Octopus Drama Group's new murder mystery comedy play 'Murder at the Margate Majestica' which will be performed at Christ the King Church Hall, Castle Street, Thornbury from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June.



Written and directed by Paul Harrod, the play is a mixture of classic 'Agatha Christie' whodunnit sleuthing with traditional British farce and is set to be a very entertaining evening, going by the fun we are having in rehearsals.

The Margate Majestica is an English seaside hotel where chaos is constant, and nothing quite adds up, with eccentric guests, clashing egos and a cascade of misunderstanding. How and why will the murder take place? Can you spot the clues and avoid the inevitable red herrings?! Join us for an evening of fast-paced, playful intrigue - packed with physical comedy, visual gags and sparkling dialogue.

Tickets costing £10 can be purchased at Rosie & Rex gift shop, 32 High Street, Thornbury from Monday to Friday between 9am – 4.30pm and Saturday from 9am – 4pm. Performances start at 7.30pm. For those wanting a programme please bring cash. Bar facilities on site.  
www.octopus-thornbury.co.uk

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## NEWS FROM the ALVESTON Women's Institute (WI)

**March meeting - LIVING WITH THALIDOMIDE** Mandy de la Mare, born in 1962, is one of 460 or so babies to survive after mothers were given the drug Thalidomide to alleviate symptoms of morning sickness. Mandy was born without arms but by the age of 3 she was using her feet like hands.

Minimal compensation was awarded when she was young and there was little support. It was 50 years before the Government made a payment to the Thalidomide Trust to be shared between those still living. Mandy brought along a doll created by the BBC's 'Call the Midwife' when they tackled a Thalidomide storyline with help from the Thalidomide Society, of which Mandy is on the Board of Trustees. Despite now having lost her sight she runs a social group on Zoom and is a member of a local church and WI.

Mandy shows that whatever life throws at us, staying positive and not giving up invariably helps us find a way through.

### **April meeting - COMPLEMENTARY TREATMENTS** Jeanne Long

Jeanne Long is a lady of many talents, founder of The Reiki Council and Happy Handbag, nana to 15 - and a Member of Mensa! Her aim was to make us aware of the myriad complementary and alternative therapies that work alongside conventional medicine, whilst informing us of potential pitfalls along the way. We were asked to name as many therapies as we could. Among them were Reflexology, Reiki, Acupuncture, Aromatherapy, Homeopathy, Alexander Technique, Kinesiology, Bowen, Hypnotherapy, Naturopathy - and many more.

In the UK, anyone can set themselves up as a practitioner. Most therapies are not regulated - there is no legal requirement to hold formal qualifications, meet specific standards or join a professional register, so it is important for us all to carefully consider who we entrust with our health and welfare. However, if we have found an alternative practitioner who works for us, then do continue with them.

Jeanne has been practicing and teaching Reiki, a Japanese energy healing technique, for over 20 years and is a founder member of the Reiki Council. There is now a Government backed register - the Complementary and Natural Healthcare Council (CNHC).

So far 'Happy Handbag' has given out 4,497 filled handbags and 2,748 items of clothing. Jeanne works with the Nelson's Trust, Avon & Somerset Police Bluestone Bristol Project Special Unit for women in trouble and Night Angels in Gloucestershire. In 2023 she received the British Empire Medal "for charitable services to disadvantaged people in Bristol, Gloucestershire and Swindon". Contact with the Palace has continued, and she recently received a beautiful handbag from Queen Camilla, filled with practical items for ladies, which she now takes with her to talks.

The information on the next meeting is in the Events listed in the notices pages in the middle of this magazine.



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**Monday 1 June –  
Sunday 7 June  
2026**

Volunteers' Week is an annual UK-wide campaign held from the first Monday in June to celebrate and recognise the contributions of volunteers. The campaign highlights the diversity and unity of volunteer work across the UK and celebrates the spirit of volunteering that enriches communities each year.

Thornbury Volunteer Centre aims to build support from all members of the Thornbury and district community by showcasing volunteering opportunities and inspiring positive change.

As well as helping others, volunteering has been shown to improve volunteers' wellbeing, it's human nature to feel good after helping someone out. Volunteering can also help you gain valuable new skills and experiences, and boost your confidence.

Want to volunteer but don't know where to start? Chat to Thornbury Volunteer Centre and let us know what you're interested in, we have local volunteering opportunities to suit all levels of commitment, experience, time availability with each contributing to many different causes.

To contact Thornbury Volunteer Centre you can call in to our offices in Thornbury Town Hall, open 10.30am-12 noon Monday – Friday, no appointment necessary.

Alternatively visit our website at [www.volunteer-thornbury.co.uk](http://www.volunteer-thornbury.co.uk) and search our database of volunteering opportunities, follow us on Facebook, Instagram or X: /thornburyvolunteers or drop us an email at [mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk](mailto:mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk)

We look forward to hearing from you.



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TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE  
CLUB NIGHT.

THORNBURY  
*Art Club*

Tonight's demonstration is by fine artist Colin Davies who will paint a seascape in acrylics – 'Crashing Waves'. Colin works in a rich, expressive style applying generous amounts of paint using a 'swift, tumultuous sweep of a palette knife'. This is then fine tuned with detailed brushwork. Colin left his Head teaching career behind to become a professional artist and tutor in 2019.

During the evening's demo, we will have a short break for free tea, coffee, and biscuits. This will give us an opportunity to chat with members, visitors and the artist. Come and join us to learn, socialise, and enjoy an evening of art, whether you're just starting out or looking to refine your skills. If you're interested in



joining the Club, our membership secretary, Pat will be on the door to give you more information, or else contact us below. Members free, non-members very welcome - £6 on the door, cash or card. 7.15pm until 9.30pm. Venue: - SMCH – St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Rd, Thornbury, BS35 1DR Free parking on-site. For regular events see the diary on page 20. For more information contact:-



[www.thornburyartclub.co.uk](http://www.thornburyartclub.co.uk)      [www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub](https://www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub)  
or email [publicrelations.tac@gmail.com](mailto:publicrelations.tac@gmail.com)



## 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Organ Recital



Thornbury's [United Reformed Church](#) has achieved its 200th year!

To celebrate, it is to hold an [organ recital](#) by renowned Musical Director and organist [Simon Lole](#). For over 30 years he has worked as a professional church musician, as a composer, arranger, vocal coach and Music Producer. He is in great demand by well-known artists and has directed many TV and radio broadcasts such as "Young Chorister of the Year", "Songs of Praise" and Radio 4's "Daily Service."

His organ recital comprises: Entrée Pontificale - Enrico Bossi, Prelude and Fugue in C Minor – J.S. Bach; Choral Prelude: "O Mensch Bewein" J.S. Bach, Suite du Second Ton – Jean Guilain; Theme and Variations – Hendrik Andriessen; Prelude on "East Aklam" – Francis Jackson, Crown Imperial – William Walton; Meditation on "Annie Laurie" – Simon Lole, Toccata in G – Theodore Dubois



The performance takes place at The United Reformed Church, Chapel Street, Thornbury, BS35 2BA on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 7.00 pm. Tickets £20 from [AAGThornbury@gmail.com](mailto:AAGThornbury@gmail.com) or 01454 850933

**St. Mary's Music** - The next Third Sunday Afternoon Concert at St. Mary's Church, Thornbury (BS35 1HQ) is on **Sunday June 21st at 4.00 pm**

We are delighted to welcome the **Phoenix Recorder Orchestra** as our guests on this occasion. The orchestra was founded in 2003 and mostly consists of players from the South West. They play a wide range of repertoire on a full range of recorders, ranging from the tiny garklein to the contrabass which blend to a beautiful rich sound. They are directed by Michelle Holloway, who is a recorder tutor at the Birmingham Conservatoire and the National Youth Recorder Orchestra.

The **July 19th** concert will feature St. Mary's Choir. The programme will be a mixture of choral pieces and also vocal and instrumental items performed by choir members.

The concerts will be followed by refreshments. Admission is free and there is a retiring collection, the proceeds of which go to St. Mary's Music.

We look forward to seeing you at both these events.



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## NOTICE BOARD

### The following groups and organisations meet regularly

St Helen's Pre-school Little Stars at St Helen's School: Mon-Fri 8:50-15:30  
Pilates, Zumba and other fitness classes - contact Sam on 07977632003  
Amateur Radio Club, Chantry: Wed 7:30pm (secretary 07765892447)  
Thornbury Chamber Players: Methodist Church: fortnightly Thurs 7:45-9:45  
Sharon Phillips School of Dancing, contact 07989652780  
Climate Action Thornbury & Surroundings see [www.sustainablethornbury.org](http://www.sustainablethornbury.org)  
St Helen's Church Coffee, Cake and Chat 10.30am to 12.30pm every Tuesday.  
St Helen's Knitting Group – 2nd Wednesday of each month, 2pm- 4pm at Church. For further information please contact 01454 616725  
St Helen's Church Art Group – Fridays 10am-12 noon, all abilities welcome. Further information please contact Anne Harrison on 01454 885532.  
Thornbury Orchestra Wednesdays 7:45 – 9:45, St Helen's Church.  
[www.thornburyorchestra.org.uk](http://www.thornburyorchestra.org.uk)

Scouting:- Beavers Thursdays from 5.30pm - 6.30pm  
Cubs Tuesdays from 6pm - 7.30pm  
Scouts Fridays from 6:30pm to 8pm

THORNBURY ART CLUB - Tues 3rd and every Tues. Thornbury Art Club, Tuesday Painting Studio Group, SMCH, 1.30-4.30 pm. Tel. 01454 414433  
Thurs 5th and every Thurs. Thornbury Art Club, Thursday Painting Studio Group, SMCH, 1.30-4.30pm. Tel. 07776271010  
(SMCH – St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Rd, Thornbury, BS35 1DR)

### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

- Meets for Coffee and Chat on the 2nd Wednesday of the month 10 am at the Swan Pub in Thornbury. Monthly meeting is on the last Sunday of the month 12.30 pm at the Wheatsheaf Pub in Thornbury.

### ALVESTON COMMUNITY EVENTS

Please like and follow us on Facebook  
[www.alvestoncommunityevents.co.uk](http://www.alvestoncommunityevents.co.uk)

### Eastwood Gardeners' Club

**June 30th** - Penny Dommett will talk about growing cut flowers

**July 14th** - Robert Champion will talk about Hardy Fuchsias. Robert will probably bring plants for sale.

These meetings will be at Turnberrie's in Thornbury. Meetings start at 7.30pm, doors open at 7pm.

Visitors are welcome, £5, cash please.'

### SOME EVENTS HAPPENING IN JUNE

Mon 1st 7:30 Alveston Gardens Association - The Restoration of Hestercombe Gardens - David Usher - JH  
Tue 2nd 2pm Northavon Dolls House Club - 01454 501901 - AMH  
Mon 8th 7:30 Alveston WI - Triplets - Rob Jones - JH  
Thursday 18th - 2pm Craft n Chat - Elaine, 01454 415374 - AMH

### SOME EVENTS HAPPENING IN JULY

Mon 6th 7:30 Alveston Gardens Association - Elevation of Flowers - Nick Wray - JH  
Tue 7th 2pm Northavon Dolls House Club - 501 901 for details - AMH  
Mon 13th 7:30 Alveston WI - Made a Mark - Kerry Vizard - JH  
Thursday 16th - 2-4pm Craft n Chat - Elaine, 01454 415374 - AMH

### SOME EVENTS HAPPENING IN AUGUST

Tue 4th 2pm Northavon Dolls House Club - 501 901 for details - AMH  
Alveston WI - summer trip and members get together  
Thursday 20th - 2-4pm Craft n Chat - Elaine, 01454 415374 - AMH

AMC = Alveston Methodist Church; AMH = Alveston Methodist Hall; JH = Jubilee Hall;  
SMCH = St Mary's Church Hall, Thornbury.

**Please Note** Do continue to pass on annual programmes and details of future events (deadline 1st of the month preceding publication) but now to [Alvestonmag@gmail.com](mailto:Alvestonmag@gmail.com)

## BUZY BEEZ

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Or Vicky 07837 875126

No need to book

## Alveston Local History Society

NEXT MEET ON

SEPTEMBER 23RD -  
'GLOUCESTER AND THE  
ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE'

7:30 IN THE ALVESTON  
METHODIST CHURCH

## Bristol Care Homes appoints Hills Waste Solutions

**Leading care home provider Bristol Care Homes has appointed Hills Waste Solutions as its recycling and waste management partner, on an initial two-year contract. Bristol Care Homes' sites at Almondsbury, Thornbury, Horfield and Fishponds will be serviced from Hills' Avonmouth depot.**

Enock Ebbah, Bristol Care Homes Sustainability Manager said: *"Our partnership with Hills Waste Solutions is a pivotal step toward achieving our long-term Net Zero goals. By leveraging real-time waste data and a waste-hierarchy-led approach, we are significantly enhancing our recycling efficiency."*

Caroline Wilde, Divisional Director - Commercial & Industrial at Hills Waste Solutions said: *"Bristol Care Homes' decision to partner with Hills demonstrates their strong commitment to progressing towards net zero. We are proud to welcome them alongside the growing number of care home operators who trust us to support their sustainability goals. Our team will work closely with theirs to ensure full compliance, drive continuous improvements in recycling performance, optimise waste management efficiencies and help reduce carbon impacts across their operations."*

Tula Welsh, Sales Manager at Hills Waste Solutions commented: *"The management team at Bristol Care Homes can utilise Hills' customer portal, which gives them real time data about their bin weights, sustainability metrics, and real-time collection updates, helping them to track progress and make informed decisions."*



Rich Crocker, CEO, Bristol Care Homes summarised: *"Working with Hills Waste Solutions fully aligns with our short and long term aims of our waste management processes, reducing waste wherever possible, increasing our recycling opportunities and considering the impact we have on the environment through carbon footprint reductions."*

Pictured left to right: Alex Chew, Business Development Manager and Tula Welsh, Sales Manager (both Hills Waste Solutions). Enock Ebbah, Sustainability Manager; Rich Crocker, CEO & Alexandra Grozea, Marketing Manager (all Bristol Care Homes) at Bristol Care Homes' Glebe House site in Almondsbury.



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## WOLFRIDGE ALPACA WIN CHAMPION SMALL BREEDER AT NATIONAL ALPACA SHOW

Wolfridge Alpaca Stud is celebrating standout success at the **British Alpaca Society National Show 2026**, with all eight alpacas entered achieving a placing — alongside winning the prestigious Champion Small Breeder title.

Top results included: 2nd Place: Sibillini, Fraser; 3rd Place: Rubin, Flossie, Lyra

Owners Craig Hyslop and Katriona Hyslop said: *“Eight alpacas, eight placings — we were absolutely delighted. But to then win Champion Small Breeder, against such strong competition, is a huge moment for our farm.”*

A highlight was Wolfridge Fraser, who secured 2nd place in the Black Junior Huacaya Male class — a firm family favourite, named by the couple’s son after himself!

The success was supported by volunteers Nic and Mick Dore, with Mick playing a key role taking alpacas in to the show ring alongside Craig.

Back in Alveston, the team at Wolfridge Alpaca Barn, located on the A38, kept their visitor attraction running smoothly through a busy, sunny weekend. Open Tuesday to Sunday (10am–4pm), Wolfridge Alpaca Barn is a popular local destination, offering breakfast and lunch, barista coffee, homemade cakes, afternoon teas and craft workshops. Alpaca experiences - where you can meet some of the prize-winning alpacas! - craft workshops and afternoon teas must be pre-booked online via the website.

Following their show success, the farm is also welcoming enquiries for alpaca sales and stud services, with Craig available to advise prospective owners and breeders.



PHOTOS: Volunteer Mick Dore with Wolfridge Fraser (2nd), Prizes won by Wolfridge Alpaca in BAS National Show 2026, Wolfridge Alpaca Show Team 2026, Wolfridge Alpaca stand and pen.

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# People's Emergency Briefing

[www.nebriefing.org](http://www.nebriefing.org)

## THORNBURY

Hosted by **CATSA & St Mary's Church**

Film screening and discussion with Claire Young  
(Thornbury & Yate MP)

Cossham Hall, Thornbury  
4<sup>th</sup> June 2026. 7pm



Register your FREE place:

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## HAWKINS HIDE ALLOTMENTS

First of all, we have some vacant plots, so if you're interested in an allotment do contact Graham Smith, the clerk of the Parish Council on [clerk@alvestonpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@alvestonpc.co.uk)

**Permaculture** is one of those things I have been peripherally aware of for a while without actually properly trying it out - fair warning there. The word permaculture comes from the words "permanent agriculture" and its basically a holistic approach to growing. It sprang up during the 1970s, probably a product of both the oil crisis and counter culture. There are no fixed rules. Its about working with nature rather than against it.

Some very familiar words came up when I started looking into it, such as no-dig, companion planting, green manures, compost, mulching. It looks like I've been writing about permaculture for years.... who knew?



Permaculture uses perennial crops more than perhaps we usually do on an allotment. Although off-hand I can think of the following perennial allotment crops; fruit trees, rhubarb and soft fruit, asparagus, jerusalem artichokes, Welsh onions, herbs. I keep coming up with more.

Zoning is probably more applicable to gardens than allotments. You "zone" your garden to grow the plants that need the most attention from you closer to the house, slightly further out you grow the ones that don't need quite so much, graduating out until the plants that need very little from you are grown furthest away. An allotment would definitely be the furthest-out zone.

Annnndddd.... that's all I'm going to write, as mentioned before I have already written about lots of the other things that are part of permaculture. No point repeating myself. I started off not sure that permaculture is that relevant to an allotment but as mentioned earlier we may already grow a number of perennial crops. It doesn't preclude annual growing and its certainly a lower-maintenance way. Something to think about anyway.

Happy Growing, Alison.

If you are interested in taking on an allotment please apply by contacting the Alveston Parish Clerk, Graham Smith using [clerk@alvestonpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@alvestonpc.co.uk)

If you would like more information about the allotments before applying please contact [alveston.allotments@gmail.com](mailto:alveston.allotments@gmail.com)





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## **Alveston Defibrillator Working Group.**

Over a decade ago, the Alveston community came together to do something incredible. Through personal donations, cake sales, local events, and training sessions, residents raised funds to install two life-saving Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in the village. Since 2014, these devices have been quietly standing by—ready to save lives when it matters most.

The current AEDs are now over 10 years old and reaching the end of their service life. Part replacement has become a problem, at the moment the AED at Thornbury Cricket Club is unavailable and replacement pads not expected until July.

To ensure reliability in an emergency, they must be replaced with modern, up-to-date models.

These devices are critical in cases of Sudden Cardiac Arrest, where every second counts.

Survival chances drop by up to 10% per minute without defibrillation

Emergency services can take vital minutes to arrive. A nearby AED can double or even triple survival rates

Our AEDs have been used around 5 times in the last 2 years. They are truly making a difference.

A dedicated team of four local volunteers regularly maintain the AEDs—checking batteries, pads, and ensuring they are always ready for use.

Their commitment keeps these devices operational, but now the equipment itself needs replacing.

We are raising funds to:-

Replace both AED units with modern, reliable models

Upgrade cabinets if needed

Ensure continued accessibility and readiness

Every pound raised goes directly towards keeping these life-saving devices available to our community.

This campaign continues the spirit of what Alveston achieved back in 2014—when neighbours came together to protect one another.

Let's Do This Again - These AEDs have already saved lives.

Now it's our turn to make sure they can continue to do so for years to come.

### **How You Can Help**

We have applied to the Parish Council for help in funding this project.

We have set up a 'GoFundMe' page – <https://gofund.me/b254a8bd5>

£1 donation from every household in Alveston would provide enough funding to replace at least one AED for the village.

Support any fundraising events advertised locally.

Contact us at [alvestondefibs@gmail.com](mailto:alvestondefibs@gmail.com) for any more information. Thank you.



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## A two-part monologue by John Bassett



### Mad Jack and the Severn Bore and The Fearless Navigator

In 1955, Colonel John Fleming Churchill became the first man to surf the Severn Bore. Known as **Mad Jack**, he was a champion archer, commando and bagpipe player with a fearless spirit, leading his men into battle with his claymore sword. He rode a motorbike across Burma, escaped from prisoner of war camps and played his bagpipes up Vesuvius. John Bassett tells this gripping monologue, which is thought provoking, poignant and funny.

In his second monologue, **The Fearless Navigator**, John looks at the life of Howard Blackburn, who in 1899, sailed single handed across the Atlantic from Gloucester Massachusetts to Gloucester England, despite the previous loss of his fingers through frostbite.

The performances look at remarkable men who made history by overcoming different kinds of adversity.

Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm at the Cossham Hall. Tickets £10 from [AAGThornbury@gmail.com](mailto:AAGThornbury@gmail.com) or 01454 850933



You will, hopefully, be aware that the ALVESTON VILLAGE FAIR is to be held, as is now usual, on the first Saturday in September.

Ordinarily we would be able to include the schedule for the competitions within our pages, but as we are going to print the team have been unable to confirm their plans. So please look out for them on the village social media pages, and in due course you will be able to prepare for - and enter - whatever art, craft and gardening competitions they decide upon.

## KEEP THE SHOW !

What Show? The Thornbury Horticultural Society's Flower and Produce Shows are held every March (Spring Show) and August (Summer Show). This year we have had to cancel both the Spring and Summer Shows because there are not enough people to organise them. We have been very well supported by volunteers on the day of previous shows, and we are very grateful for their support. Over the years we have had wonderful support from traders, shop keepers, Thornbury Library, St. Mary's Precinct, Oldbury Power Station, local garden centres to name a few. However, many supporters are now in the Autumn of their lives.

Come and join us and keep the tradition of Flower Shows in Thornbury alive. We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2026 at 2.00 p.m. in the Slymbridge Room in The Chantry in Castle Street. At this meeting a whole new committee will be elected, or the reluctant decision will be made to close the Society.

Interested in getting involved? We would love to see you at our AGM.

For more information, contact:

Jackie – [jackiebee@thehive.me.uk](mailto:jackiebee@thehive.me.uk) or Rachel – [rachelwebb96@icloud.com](mailto:rachelwebb96@icloud.com)



### ALVESTON - COURVILLE-sur-EURE

On 21<sup>st</sup> August, **Alveston Twinning Association** will welcome members of Courville sur Eure's Twinning for the 39<sup>th</sup> exchange weekend. Our committee has planned a time full of events for us to enjoy.

Over 38 years, half of them have seen us travel to France and we have experienced their hospitality, and we have been taken to some wonderful places - Paris, Versailles, Le Mans, Epernay, Luce (Leonardo De Vinci' Home) and various chateaux, always including fantastic gastronomic events including Wine and Champagne tastings.

The alternate years have been hosted in Alveston, and we have taken them to Buckingham Palace, Warwick, Beaulieu, on the West Somerset Railway, Windsor Castle, Lacock, Cheddar and Weston Super Mare - savouring "Fish and Chips" at the end of the Pier.

Next Year, 2027, Courville have invited us to France for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We are extremely proud to have continued for so long. However, it is with great sadness, but both here and in France that following that visit the Association will close. We are sure that with the very strong bonds families have friendships will remain and visits between families will continue.

## The Armstrong Update

When this magazine pops through your door The Armstrong will have been open for business for 6 weeks, bringing back a much-loved venue for use by the community. In late March, two launch nights gave many local businesses, neighbours and local groups a first look at the transformation of the The Armstrong with its welcoming new bar and Foyer and the sympathetically renovated Cossham Hall. In the first week of April, many more people had their first visit during Tea and Tours events, and the reaction was very positive and appreciative. Many hours were spent by the team of volunteers learning the arcane mysteries of running a modern bar and cellar while others cleaned chairs, assembled furniture, and equipped the kitchen ready for the first night of Thornbury Arts Festival.

On the preceding night, a party was held for everyone who had been part of this huge project. Maggie Lansdown, our generous donor who made this possible, came to cut the ribbon and more than 100 volunteers joined together in an evening of joyful celebration. David Walker-Cornes, one of the trustees of Thornbury Community and Arts, observed that volunteers had contributed over 100,000 hours worth of work which had made this project possible and achievable. It demonstrates what a united and committed local community can do with sufficient patience and tenacity along with the sharing of a wide range of skills and talent.

A very special mention must go to Jill and Steve Dimond who have been and continue to be an inspiration to all the team involved in the long and often difficult journey.

As for the Thornbury Arts Festival, it proved to be just the right event to open the venue and was an outstanding success. Alfie Moore played to a full house and all other events were excellent, especially the Churchfitters on the closing night who left everyone wanting more of their marvellous music, humour and crazy instruments.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April saw the first of The Armstrong Sessions in the Foyer Bar, a glorious sing-a-long to the musicals led by Sophie Kingston and Friends. There were many other events during April and May, including the launch of a monthly Cinema Club, Family Film Club, National Theatre Live screenings, in addition to half-term family fun with reptiles, virtual reality and yoga. The second of the Armstrong Sessions featured an evening of poetry with local writer, Julie Wiltshire, and JTP Theatre brought a new play, It's What Matters, to the Cossham Hall, the first theatre event to tread the boards since the re-opening. There is so much already in the diary and much more planned, so check regularly with social media, the press, and above all the website to keep in the loop and take the opportunity to enjoy so much entertainment and community activity ON YOUR DOORSTEP! One highlight will be a fundraising evening on June 25<sup>th</sup> when local best-selling author, Amanda Prowse, will talk about growing up in Thornbury and how the town features in her books. What's more, we already have an offer from local restaurant, Tesoro Lounge for a 20% discount on a pre-show meal on presentation of your Armstrong ticket.

Our first rolling art exhibition on the walls of the Foyer features the work of local artist Richard Edwards from Surroundings. If you would like to feature your work, please contact The Armstrong to be part of the showcase: [helo@thearmstrong.co.uk](mailto:helo@thearmstrong.co.uk)

Be part of the Armstrong community and don't miss any of the exciting programme by going to: [www.thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.thearmstrong.co.uk/whats-on)



## ALVESTON GARDENS ASSOCIATION, MARCH MEETING

**Our speaker from Alveston was Pam Forrest, giving a talk about 8 French chateaux and their gardens.** They ranged in size from those such as Gizaux, with limited plans and budgets, up to those such as Chenonceau with 1.3 million visitors. None of these were new and many were located in the Loire Valley or one of its tributaries. **Gizeaux**, to the north of the Loire, had been occupied by the present owners for the last 13 years but prior to this it was empty. The family invested all their savings to make it habitable and used crowd funding to restore the Grand Salon and French and Italian galleries. As yet there was little to admire in the grounds and woodlands were sold.

After the original **Azay le Rideau** chateaux burnt down in 1516 the new chateau was built over the river Indre, a tributary of the Loire, by Giles de Berencourt. Tourists flock here because of the wonderful reflections of the chateau in the river but neither the house nor grounds live up to its 3 star Michelin rating.

**Chateau Beau Regard**, close to the Loire, and built by Jean de Their, has a wonderful Renaissance style portrait gallery, with hundreds of portraits of kings, queens and popes, in the house built in 1624. In the gardens there was an exhibition of trees associated with different European kings and queens, including a Persian silk tree on the Queens Walkway.

**La Lude**, on the smaller River Loir, was constructed in 1457 in the Renaissance style, but the garden featured the English style. It was on a grand scale and the flowers were in muted pastel shades.

**Chateau Roche Courbon** was built by a Huguenot in the 17<sup>th</sup> century close to the coast at la Rochelle. It was allowed to go into ruins by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and then was fully restored by Paul Chenereau in 1920. For the last 20 years the piles below the lake have failed to shore up the lake so there is a marsh. Cascades are still there but not operational and terraced plantings have not had sufficient water in the last few years.



The **famous Chateau de Chenonceau** was built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when Diane de Poitiers lived here. After the death of her paramour, Henry II, it was his queen, Catherine de Medici, who lived here with her family and Diane was sent away. The chateau includes a bridge spanning the Cher. Today the gardens are filled with 130,000 bedding plants ranging from the spring bulb selection through to the wider summer range of roses and pastel shades of bedding plants.

**The chateau or villa built by Beatrice Rothschild was spectacular. It was named after an ocean liner, the Isle de France**, and the different levels of the garden represented the decks of a ship. Even the gardeners wore sailor suits! There were 9 individual gardens in this estate in the south of France on Cap Ferat. Near the top of the slope was the French garden with its musical fountains. The exotic garden near the summit had cacti, aloes and rarities such as the lion tail plant.

36 Coming down in sequence were the Japanese, Provencal and Spanish gardens.

The latter had a wonderful display of large yellow and white daturas skirting the stone walls and edged by pink and red begonias. The house is now a museum and it is difficult to compare it to the chateaux further north.

The final garden **Villandry**, close to the Loire, was probably the most famous in France. An American scientist, Ann, met her Spanish scientist husband, Joachim Carvallo, in Paris. With a legacy from her father they bought & restored the chateau before starting their famous project of using Renaissance gardener's drawings to recreate the stylized gardens, such as the love garden and the cross garden, full of magnificent topiary. Next, they constructed 9 vegetable parterres combining fruit trees and roses with appropriate vegetables in a dramatic style which is very popular today. There were diagrams to show the planting style for each parterre. In the house every room held a dramatic display of flowers.

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## THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE OF THE FOREST OF DEAN - Dr Ray Wilson

**In March Alveston History Group** heard about The Forest of Dean. Between the River Wye and the River Severn in Western Gloucestershire, this is one of a few ancient woodlands. It covers over 110 square kilometres of mixed woodland, and before 1066 was used as a Royal Hunting Forest to protect wild boar and deer. Later it became important for timber for the navy, iron mining, and charcoal production. Romans exploited iron ore in the forest. The forest has a rich geology with saucer shape of strata of sandstone, coal and limestone. Puzzle Wood was formed by natural geological erosion and ancient ore mining, creating a landscape of deep gullies, hidden caves and moss-covered rock formations known as 'scowles'.

It became a statutory forest in 1831 and was taken over by the Forestry commission in 1923. Freeminers were traditional coal, iron and stone miners of the forest given recognised rights to work the land, granted by King Edward 1 in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century in return for fighting in his campaigns against the Scots. They had free access to mine coal, iron ore, and stone within the forest. From 1838 outsiders could buy up Freeminers rights.

This was dangerous work, with disasters such as flooding and roof falls, poor ventilation from working in narrow seams. This improved when electricity and pumps were introduced in the 20<sup>th</sup> century enabling trucks to be winched up.

The Forest of Dean has hundreds of old iron ore, coal and stone workings, with many early 19<sup>th</sup> century tramways connecting them to the Rivers Wye and Severn. Dr Wilson then went on to talk about 'Findall chimney' remains. This was the shaft to main workings of the mine for ventilation. Coleford Whitecliff furnace was a late 18<sup>th</sup> century coke fired blast furnace which was unsuccessful in its attempt to use coke to smelt iron ore. In 1880 Cinderford Iron Works was built in with a tall chimney, boilers, engine house and railway wagons to service the works. Princess Royal colliery and Flour Mill colliery connected for combined operations and transport, producing 600 tons of coal daily by 1906. Flour Mill colliery still survives; it now restores locomotives.

Railway systems were developed to transport coal and Iron ore to Lydney docks, starting as horse drawn tramroads, in 1864 it evolved into steam powered with the Great Western Railway. Hay Hill tunnel was a historic 1,083-yard, horse drawn tunnel completed 1810. It was once considered to be the world's longest railway



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tunnel, carrying coal, iron ore and stone to the River Severn. The Lower Lydbrook viaduct was built in 1872-1874 to span the valley at Lower Lydbrook, it was demolished in 1965, leaving only earthworks and piers today.

The Severn and Wye railway from Lydney to Lydbrook opened in 1810, and Bixlade branch line of ¾ mile tramway blocks are still in evidence today. The Coleford-Monmouth railway opened 1883 with steep gradients and sharp curves. The stone and brick Coleford railway bridge remains.

Good quality stone quarried at Bixhead was transported with coal to the main railway line at Cannop. Cannop Ponds were two man-made reservoirs created in the 1820s in the Forest of Dean to supply water to a waterwheel at Parkend Ironworks downstream and collieries.

Lydney harbour was a vital port to export coal and iron from the forest and fuel was transported to Bristol and the West country by small coastal vessels. A quarter of a million tons of coal per year passed through Lydney.

A canal from Sharpness took ships 16 miles into Gloucester docks, with a steam swing bridge operating for 80 years. From 1879 the Severn railway bridge connected the Forest of Dean coalfields directly to Sharpness docks but it was brought down in 1960 when 2 vessels collided in fog and knocked down 2 columns, and a gas pipe on the bridge caused a fire. The bridge was demolished in 1967 as unsafe and uneconomical to repair, leaving towers from the railway and swing bridge by the canal.



Speech House, built in 1676, was one of 6 lodges for the keeper of the forest, now exists as a hotel but still hosts court meetings. Newnham Gas Works is now converted into a house. From 1895 high street printer Wharfedale Press in Newnham included a steam operated Wharfedale machine, and it later evolved into Severnside Press, now a B&B.

The Forest of Dean is now a destination for recreation, with walking and hiking, cycling, history and heritage. There are visitor centres and memorials to lost miners killed in local accidents and floods.

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