

ALVESTON MAGAZINE

September/October 2026

No 561

Newsletter for Alveston Parish, produced
by the Churches since 1970



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Send to alvestonmag@gmail.com

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
advertising (revsrural@gmail.com).

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

Alveston Magazine Dates 2026-27		
We plan to deliver on or soon after the LAST Tuesdays prior to the months of news. The deadline is the 1 st of the previous month.		
<u>Edition</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Delivery</u>
Sept/Oct	Aug 1st	Aug 25th
Nov/Dec/Jan	Oct 1st	Oct 27th
Feb/March	Jan 1st	Jan 26th
Apr/May	Mar 1st	March 30th
June/July/Aug	May 1st	May 25th

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 artwork 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'.

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICARAGE — HARVEST 2026

I remember walking home from Primary School with friends, all of us singing 'We plough the fields and scatter' at the top of our voices. Growing up in the centre of Bristol, Harvest was a great time, even though the countryside was only a few miles away, and the true meaning of Harvest was a little vague. It was something we celebrated happily in Primary School, but forgot by the time we reached secondary school.

But today, the joy of harvest is even waning in the countryside. Harvest Festivals used to be one of this village's most popular services, but now...?

This year, my dream would be to revive this festival. Our ever-changing world is fragile; we need to reconnect with God's creation. Harvest festivals give us a chance to have fun, sing some wonderful songs together, honour farmers and share a meal, as we remember those in need by bringing tins for the food bank.

So please reconnect with Harvest this year and come and help us make Harvest Special. Bring a tin for the food bank, some food to share and join the

HARVEST CELEBRATION AT ST. HELEN'S CHURCH, ALVESTON 4 PM ON OCTOBER 4TH

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever"
(Psalm 136:1).

Rev. David Moss, Vicar of North Severnside

St Helen's Church contacts
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

Church Warden -
Gail Lowe 07949 920851



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ST HELEN'S CHURCH NEWS – September and October 2026

Our regular Sunday service pattern is:

8am Service of Holy Communion weekly
9am Breakfast Church Services (see below)
10.30am Service of Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays
All Age Worship 2nd and 4th Sunday's
Wed 11am Service of Holy Communion preceded by Informal Bible Study

If in doubt check the church web site: <https://www.revsrural.com/alveston/>
St Helen's Harvest Festival Service – Sunday 4th October at 4pm
(followed by a 'Bring and share' tea).

9AM BREAKFAST SERVICES

If you haven't come along to one of these informal services then we would love to see you. On the first Sunday breakfast is served around 8.45am following the 8am service.

On the remaining three Sundays Breakfast starts at 9am but the services following varying slightly. The Second Sunday is our Messy Church session, aimed at young families but all are welcome, craft activities and simple teaching are good whatever age we are! On the third Sunday there is an informal discussion group unpacking different aspects of the Christian faith. While the fourth Sunday is a mix of these two, craft, discussion and teaching suitable for all ages based on a specific theme. What is the same for all is they are relaxed 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 on page 3.

Coffee Cake and Chat – Tuesdays 10.30 to 12 noon weekly,
First Tuesday of the month we raised funds for a nominated charities:
In September we will be supporting the wonderful local charity **Made a Mark Charity | Making memories for bereaved children**, while in October we will be supporting the national charity McMillan World's largest Coffee Morning.

Samaritans Purse – once again we are delighted to be supporting this project by being a collection centre for Shoebox donations. The National Collection Week this year is scheduled for November 16–23. Shoeboxes will be available in the church for a few weeks before.

Art Group - will reconvene on 4th September following their summer break continuing to meet weekly on Fridays between 10 and 12 noon.
ALSO - **Alveston Fringe** the Art Group will be joined by Stroke Support Group and a couple of other groups/craftpersons for their exhibition in St Helen's Church - 13 & 14 November, 10-4 pm. Refreshments available free entry
Please contact Anne Harrison for further details 07796-227922.

4@4 – will resume their monthly concerts on **27th September** with a Film Music Programme by Thornbury Chamber Players.
25th October is Wooden Tubes! There is no charge but there will be a retiring collection. Refreshments are served. Chris (Chris@cheesetoasties.com)

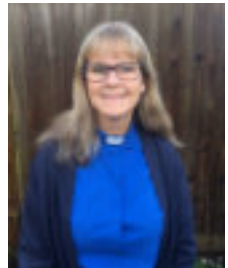
Methodist Church Worship – September and October

10.30	6 th September	Team Ministry
10.30	13 th September	Pete Jones – Climate Justice Service
10.30	20 th September	Rev Sharon Lovelock – Harvest Café Church
10.30	27 th September	Niall Briggs
10.30	4 th October	Rev Dr Simon Edwards – Holy Communion
10.30	11 th October	Christine Stones
10.30	18 th October	Pete Jones – Café Church
10.30	25 th October	Miriam Sitch

Methodist Church News and Events

Exciting News!

Rev Sharon Lovelock will share pastoral oversight of Alveston Methodist Church with Rev Dr Simon Edwards from 1st September. In working together, they will have a greater presence in the village, and be able to provide better pastoral care to our steadily growing church family & support to our outreach activities.



Sharon also has pastoral oversight of Zion United Church at Frampton Cotterell and works across Bristol and South Gloucestershire encouraging discipleship and evangelism in new and traditional settings.

And that is not all! Early in August, a young man called **Shubz** was appointed as a Church and Community Worker at Alveston Methodist Church to significantly increase our mission and discipleship activities.



Shubz became a Christian just over two years ago in very unusual circumstances. He felt so compelled to read the Bible that he devoured it from cover to cover in a week! The impact was so profound that he left a good job to do a course at a local theological college, and will be going to university to start training as Methodist minister in just over a year.

He now wants everyone else to experience the life-changing love of Jesus, and will be with us 2 days a week until the end of next August - initially concentrating on leading the Alpha course starting in September. Details of this can be found on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/alvestonmethodist

And there is more! Over the last six months, seven of our church family have trained to become Worship Leaders. The fresh ideas and creativity that they brought when several of them led their first service together on 2nd August was a real joy.

We have a stall at the Village Fair on Saturday 5th September and will be delighted to share with you how we are **'Building for the Future'** - in terms of people, community and our premises.

Pete Jones 01454 412912

Alveston Methodist Church contacts

Rev Sharon Lovelock 07887 694355
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

Community Cuppa will be held in the church hall on Saturdays 19th September and 17th October from 10.30 to 12.00. If you have never been, you are missing a real treat of fine coffee and tea, wonderful cakes from a local baker and lots of laughter. 'Ian's Intriguing Quiz' has become a fun feature of the event and shouldn't be missed!

Craft and Chat is taking a break in September, but will be returning reinvigorated on **Thursday 15th October** from 2 to 4pm in the church hall. Even if craft is not one of your interests, PLEASE pop in for a coffee and a chat. Contact Elaine on 415374 for more details.

Air Cadets: Adventure, Skills and Confidence

Young people looking for adventure, confidence and new skills are invited to find out more about the RAF Air Cadets. The Air Cadets offers teenagers the chance to try activities far beyond the classroom, including flying, gliding, leadership training, first aid, sport, music, STEM, cyber and community service. Cadets make new friends, build self-belief and gain practical skills that can help them in education, employment and life.

It is not just for those interested in aviation or the Armed Forces. At its heart, the organisation helps young people become confident, capable and responsible members of the community. Local squadrons also welcome adult volunteers. No military background is needed—just enthusiasm, reliability and a willingness to support young people.

Anyone interested in joining as a cadet, becoming an adult volunteer or finding out more should contact The Officer Commanding 2392 (Thornbury) Squadron at oc.2392@rafac.mod.gov.uk



Memory Lane

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

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Chris, Bristol

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4@4 monthly Concerts at St Helen's Church at 4pm

27 Sep 2026 Thornbury Chamber Players – Film music programme.

25 Oct 2026 Wooden Tubes

Chris (Chris@cheesetoasties.com)

U3A - Recruiting for Investment Group 1

We are part of Thornbury U3A, which is an organisation of interest groups for retired people (<https://thornbury.u3asite.uk/welcome/>) and we are recruiting for our investment group.

You do not need to be a financial expert, just have an interest in investing. The joining fee is £250, and the monthly subscription is £50 - so we are dealing with real money - which we invest in a portfolio of shares. Our meetings are structured and lively as well as hard-headed when it comes to voting on buying and selling.

We meet at 10am on the second Wednesday of the month in Tockington Methodist Hall, followed by lunch in the Swan across the road for those who wish to partake.

To learn a bit more, please send me a text or email and we can arrange a telephone call. If you are still interested after that, the best way forward is for you to attend a meeting as an observer and decide if it is for you. On a personal note, I find membership prompts me to keep up with economic and investment-related affairs at home and abroad and provides a thoroughly enjoyable forum for discussing them.

Bill Woodruff 07801 106750 investment1@thornburyu3a.org.uk

St Mary's Thornbury - Music

Our 3rd Sunday afternoon concert will be held at St. Mary's Church, Thornbury (BS35 1HQ) at 4.00pm. on Sunday, September 19th

We look forward to welcoming the **Thornbury Good Afternoon Choir** and their director Sian Wallers

As usual the concert will be followed by refreshments. Admission is free and the retiring collection goes to St. Mary's Music.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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THORNBURY AND DISTRICT LEAGUE OF FRIENDS (TADLOF) are holding a FREE coffee/tea and cakes morning on Saturday, 5th September, 10am-noon at The Armstrong in Thornbury.

The League of Friends support local health and well-being groups in the area with financial grants. Among our 23 recipients in 2025 were Great Western Air Ambulance, Thornbury Wayfarers, Rockhampton Ravens, Severn Area Rescue Association and Jigsaw.

We will be inviting applications for 2026 grant giving programme in October. If you are involved in a local group, look out for further details in the local press in at that time, or contact abates1101@msn.com to request an application form.

TADLOF members will be at the coffee morning and happy to help if you require any further information.

Please be our guest and join us on 5th September in the surroundings of the welcoming Armstrong Foyer.

Thornbury Musical Theatre Group's next musical "**Guys and Dolls**" runs from Wednesday 28th to Saturday 31st October.

Set in the vibrant streets of 1950s New York, Guys and Dolls is a timeless Broadway musical filled with romance, comedy, and unforgettable songs. The story follows charming gambler Sky Masterson, who makes an unlikely bet that leads him to the straight-laced missionary Sarah Brown, while long-suffering showgirl Adelaide waits for her fiancé, Nathan Detroit, to finally tie the knot. As love, luck, and laughter collide, the characters discover that taking a chance on each other can be the biggest gamble of all. Featuring beloved songs including "Luck Be a Lady," "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat," and "Adelaide's Lament," Guys and Dolls is a heartwarming celebration of love, friendship, and second chances that has delighted audiences for generations.

Performances are at 7.30pm Wednesday 28th to Friday 30th October, then a matinee at 2.30pm and an evening performance at 7pm on Saturday 31st October at The Olympus Theatre on the WISE campus, New Road, Bristol, BS34 8LP.
Tickets are available from www.tmtg.org.uk

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In **MAY** the Alveston WI had our usual annual opportunity to vote whether we agree on the **campaign topics** that have been voted on by all members nationally. This year the two issues the WI is going to take forward are action on women's homelessness and accessible public toilets facilities to promote dignity, health, and social inclusion.

For our meeting in **JUNE** **Rob Jones** returned, this time to recount the amusing and entertaining trials and tribulations of raising a toddler and triplets while most of his peers were settling into a quiet retirement. After IVF, at the same time as Rob retired as a police officer, his wife gave birth to a daughter. A year later three more eggs were implanted with 'no chance' of them all taking. However, they soon had 4 under the age of 3! Apparently, although one child was born 18 months before the triplets, they are in fact time-lapse quads as the eggs were fertilised at the same time. Norland Nannies college obligingly sent a variety of very capable students for their placements. Now, as the 4 are teenagers, Rob and his wife have a totally different set of challenges. Rob, a natural raconteur, had us all in fits of laughter.

JULY - It is estimated that over 100 children are bereaved of a parent every day in the UK. **'Made A Mark'** was founded in 2018 in memory of Mark Knapp, much-loved husband of Keri, and father of their two young children, who died very suddenly and unexpectedly in hospital. Keri, who grew up and still lives in Alveston, spoke of how it quickly became apparent that there was no outside support for their children at this time, so the family founded the charity to provide memory boxes to relevant organisations, such as hospitals and



Keri with our WI President, Chris. And the much loved teddy that won the competition for a special toy

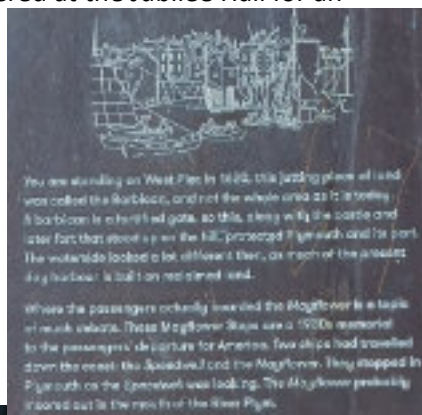
hospices, and professionals to help support children dealing with significant bereavement. The boxes include identical toys so that the child has one and one goes with the parent, and age specific books to help children better understand their loss. 'Made A Mark' is run entirely by family and volunteers, relying on fundraising and donations to continue their work, for which there is more demand than they can meet. Their dedication and commitment are remarkable and inspirational.

For more see madeamark.com. Email madeamarkcharity@yahoo.com

At the end of **July** a significant number of our members joined an Applegate's coach trip for a boat tour of **Plymouth** Harbour and free time to shop, eat and explore. And in **AUGUST** we will have gathered at the Jubilee Hall for an afternoon tea.



At Taunton Dean services en route.
And still smiling at the end of the day



Plymouth has lots of history if you choose to wander from eateries and shops (most didn't). This can be seen in statues, plaques, a trail round the 'Hoe' and depicted, amongst other things, on various fundraising lighthouses.



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



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Hope - A Short Story

The water bird was calling his mate. Calling and calling with the most melancholy hoot, as the setting sun dipped toward the mountain tops, turning the waters of the Loch a deep crimson. The sky above flushed with glorious colours of red and orange, looking for all the world as if it was on fire. Tongues of flame slowly spreading across from horizon to horizon, milking the original blue for all it was worth almost saying "It is my turn to shine now, so move aside" as it slowly covered the vast heavens with this amazing technicolour.

The water bird continued to hoot. A sound that echoed around in the stillness, full of hope, broken only by the faint lapping of the water. He was eventually rewarded by a flapping of wings as his mate returned with a crop full of fish, and stroked his neck with her beak as she landed feet first, throwing up wavelets of water as she did so. She paddled to the bank where she disgorged her full crop. Her

partner hungrily ate his fill, and she dispatched the leftovers very quickly.

In the meantime the sunset was slowly fading and night was taking over, washing the heavens with tiny pin pricks of silver. A huge full moon had appeared, throwing cold waves of light across the Loch, weaving its way through the bullrushes that grew along the edges with profusion, playing with the dark brown tips as the night breeze bent them in various directions. The wind was now picking up, ruffling the feathers of the two water birds. The tips of their wing feathers catching the moonlight making them sparkle with life, an iridescent show of silver/white. They slowly paddled across to the opposite bank where they climbed out and settled down for the remainder of the night. Mr and Mrs, full of hope for the following day that there would once more be plenty of fish in the Loch, because recently it had been devoid of any sustenance for them, and they had to fly out to sea to find meals for the day.

---Jane T

Pilning Flower Show 29th August 2026

This traditional village show takes place at St Peter's School, Bank Road, Pilning on the Saturday of the August Bank Holiday weekend. Competitions over 74 classes are free and open to anyone to enter on the Friday evening or Saturday morning before 10:45. The show opens to the public at 2:15, admission just £1 for adults, 50p for OAPs and children go free. Enjoy homemade refreshments, the displays, raffle and charity auction. All funds raised go to local charity 'Moments'. For all the details please visit the show's website www.pilningflowershow.co.uk.

***Your local Cancer Research committee would like to give a huge
Thank You to all those who shopped at Tesco on Saturday May 23rd.***

***Your generosity amounted to an amazing £674, which helps fund
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Outdoor Sketching Group
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THORNBURY
Art Club

Tuesday 22nd September Club Night. Steve Hall will demonstrate impressionistic watercolour mark-making through creating 2 different paintings: A Landscape and an Industrial Scene

After many years working in the building industry and Further Education, Steve turned his career towards his first love – painting, and then tutoring. For the last 30 years he has developed his own impressionistic watercolour style, influenced by such artists as Edward Seago and John Yardley.

Come and see Steve at work. It should be a fascinating evening.

Part way through the 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 as 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 'Noticeboard' on page 20.

For more information contact:- www.thornburyartclub.co.uk
www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub or email publicrelations.tac@gmail.com

EASTWOOD GARDENERS' CLUB

Tuesday 8th September, Harriot Jones will talk about her 'Design and Build an RHS Garden'

Tuesday 13th October, Nick Wray will talk about 'Effects of Climate Change on our Gardens'

Both meetings are at Turnberrie's in Thornbury and start at 7.30, with doors opening at 7pm. Visitors are welcome, £5 cash please.'

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

St Helen's Church Coffee, Cake and Chat 10.30am to 12.30pm every Tuesday.

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

Scouting:- Beavers Thursdays from 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Cubs Tuesdays from 6pm - 7.30pm

Scouts Fridays from 6:30pm to 8pm

THORNBURY ART CLUB - Tuesday Painting Studio Group, SMCH, 1.30-4.30 pm.

Tel. 01454 414433

Thursday Painting Studio Group, SMCH, 1.30-4.30pm. Tel. 07776271010

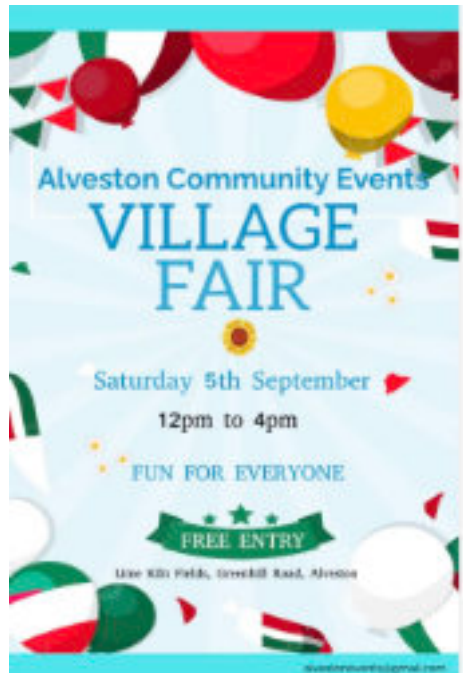
(SMCH – St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Rd, Thornbury, BS35 1DR)

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Note change – RBL now meet on 2nd Saturdays in Tesoro Lounge on the High Street. Breakfast for anyone ever in HM forces and their family and supporters

ALVESTON COMMUNITY EVENTS

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SOME EVENTS HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER

Tue 1st 2pm Northavon Dolls House Club - Jenny Parfitt 07833 316861 - AMH
Mon 7th 7:30 Alveston Gardens Association - Paul Green talking about Dark and Desirable - JH
Mon 14th 7:30 Alveston WI - Pilgrimage to Montserrat – Rev David Moss - JH
No Craft n Chat - Elaine, 01454 415374
Wed 23rd 7.30 Alveston Local History Society - Gloucester and the Atlantic Slave Trade - Tony Conder - AMC. Visitors welcome £5 at the door.

SOME EVENTS HAPPENING IN OCTOBER

Mon 5th 7:30 - Robert Bryant talking about Gardens here and there - JH
Tue 6th 2pm Northavon Dolls House Club - Jenny Parfitt 07833 316861 for details - AMH
Mon 12th 7:30 Alveston WI - Julian Trust, (now 'Alongside')- Vera Sanders - JH
Thursday 15th - 2-4pm Craft n Chat - Elaine, 01454 415374 - AMH
Wed 28th 7.30 Alveston Local History Society - Take Hedgehogge Lard - Malcolm Watkins - AMC. Visitors welcome £5 at the door.

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

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Or Vicky 07837 875126

No need to book

Alveston Local History Society

SEPTEMBER 23RD -

'Gloucester and the Atlantic Slave Trade' Tony Conder

OCTOBER 28TH - 'Take Hedgehogge Lard' - (Remedies and treatments long before the NHS) Malcolm Watkins

7:30 IN THE ALVESTON METHODIST CHURCH

Visitors welcome £5 at the door.



NRS Power Station team complete epic coast to coast charity cycle on a triplet bike!

In July Andy, Scott and Nigel from NRS (Nuclear Restoration Services) Oldbury successfully completed an epic 500 mile charity cycle challenge. They rode from Oldbury-on-Severn Power Station via Buckingham Palace to Sizewell Power Station in Suffolk on a triplet bicycle (called Scarlett) with 'Bob' the support trailer. They raised money for local charity JIGSAW Thornbury.

The cyclists arrived at Sizewell to a warm welcome from colleagues, who were waiting to congratulate them on completing their incredible challenge. Whilst there, the team were treated to a well-earned full English breakfast, giving them the opportunity to refuel after their overnight effort. Although the original challenge was to cycle to Sizewell, they decided to ride back to Oldbury, turning the ride home into an additional bonus challenge to raise even more money and inspire further sponsorship.

They were welcomed back to their starting point with an incredible crowd of NRS team members and JIGSAW young people and staff. The supporters cheered them as they finished off the challenge by riding under the fantastic banner that the team made especially to signify their momentous achievement! The challenge has raised more than £3,100.



There is still time to support the team and help them raise even more for JIGSAW Thornbury.

Sponsor their incredible challenge at www.justgiving.com/page/oldbury-wellbeing-group-2.

JIGSAW stands for 'Joining In, Growing Support, Awareness and Wellbeing'. JIGSAW Thornbury is a charity that works with all children and young people aged 0-25 years, with additional needs or disabilities, and their families - with or without a diagnosis. They currently support families living within postcodes beginning BS, BA and GL by providing friendship, support, compassion and fun, along with innovative services that empower them to connect, fit in and thrive. They say "Everything we do is driven by the passion of our staff and volunteers".

As well as being life changing for the young people and families they assist, the services are invaluable for the wider community. They enhance inclusion by helping everyone understand the challenges that those with additional needs face – and the unique strengths and qualities they bring.

Community Hero Winner at the Thornbury Town Mayor Awards 2025.

15/17 St Mary Street, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2AB Tel: 01454 567508
For further information please contact: community@jigsawthornbury.org.uk
www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk Registered charity number: 1172953

Thornbury Volunteer Centre are organising a Volunteer Fair

Wednesday 9 September 9am-1pm in St Mary Shopping Centre

Visit the information stands of local organisations who are seeking volunteers, ask questions, and find out how you can help.

Hallowe'en (All Hallow's Evening) falls on 31 October.

This is the night before All Hallows' Day (or All Saints' Day) on 1 November. The next day marks All Souls Day on 2 November. Thus, Hallowe'en marks the beginning of Hallowmas season (or Allhallowtide), a three-day period in the Western liturgical calendar that is dedicated to remembering the dead.

Those remembered by the Church include saints, martyrs, and faithful Christians.

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A note from the Severn Vale Village Agent



The Great Landline Switch: What It Means for You

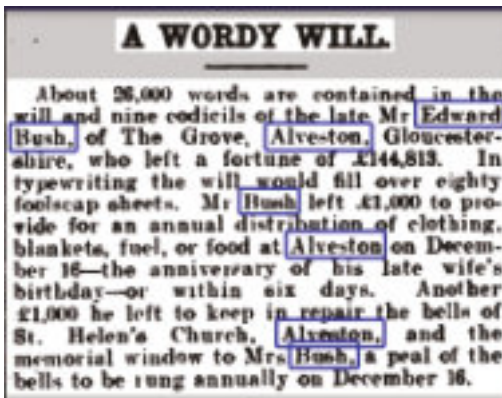
By **January 2027**, all traditional landlines will be replaced with a new digital system. For most people, the change will be simple.

However, there are a few important things to be aware of.

- digital phones **will not work during a power cut**. This means it's wise to have a **mobile phone or backup solution** for emergencies. If you have no mobile signal and are registered as a vulnerable person, providers are required to offer free "resilience solutions," such as battery backup to ensure you can call during a power cut
- If you have a **personal alarm, fall detector, or telecare device**, contact your phone provider as soon as possible. These systems may need updating to keep working., —they can check your equipment and provide extra support if needed.
- be cautious of scams, this is a free service. Contact your provider directly with any questions.

If you would like more information or help registering as vulnerable, please contact me T: 07880 344460 and leave a message or email elizabeth@wern-org-uk Elizabeth

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This item made it into newspapers all over the country. Edward Bush had already been a major benefactor for the village. Hence the Bush Room in the Jubilee Hall. The length of his will apparently was a record breaker.

(Here from the Northern Daily Telegraph, Published Wednesday, 6 January 1909)

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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, clerk of the Parish Council - clerk@alvestonpc.co.uk

Mulching What a summer! I didn't enjoy the really hot weather (37 degrees is a bit much) but the 26-28 degrees I have enjoyed. Unfortunately the allotment hasn't enjoyed it so much. Some of the plants have; the cucurbits (cucumbers, courgettes and squashes) have loved it and the beans recovered after a bad start. But generally its required a lot of watering to keep everything going. Me, I've often gone down in the morning before work rather than the evening as its been so much cooler then.

I talked about watering a few years ago so I thought I'd talk about covering the ground instead. If you mulch the soil, you can feed the soil, shade the plant roots and retain water, depending upon what you use.

Black plastic obviously won't feed the soil and its also not permeable so it won't let the rain through. However it does shade the soil and prevent weeds growing so if you've got an empty bed you know you're not going to get to, it can be well worth putting some black plastic over it and pegging it down or weighing it down with stones. If its really dry I would water before covering so that the soil should be a bit softer when you come to uncover it.

Cardboard also shades the soil and prevents weeds until it breaks down - when it does feed the soil because its made from wood pulp. Use corrugated cardboard and remove all labels and tape. Its best watered and covered with plant matter, if you've got it, to help it break down. The plant matter will also help weigh it down.

Both black plastic and cardboard are great coverings for empty beds but what about beds containing plants? Manure is absolutely the best stuff to cover your ground with. It will feed the soil, shade it and help retain water. Unfortunately we have not managed to source manure to be delivered to the allotments but we have sourced some lovely compost which is the next best option. (Compost from recycled material is available at the allotment, by the entrance, for £5 a barrow load). I've been putting grass cuttings around sweet potatoes. Grass cuttings get soggy when piled up (so layer with corrugated cardboard) so why not spread it on the soil? It will help keep moisture in and will feed the soil.

Another technique that I didn't mention in the article about permaculture is the "chop and drop" technique. Chop spent plants at the base, don't collect them and add them to your compost, just drop them on the soil to decompose and feed the soil directly. They'll act as a mulch as well to keep the soil moist and reduce weeds. Its probably not a good idea for perennial weeds which will just regrow but could work for annual weeds as well. The ideal time for this is at the end of the season when you are clearing beds. Just chop the plants off and leave them in place.

Happy growing, Alison

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

STOP, HANG UP, CALL 159

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How it works

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What does it cost?

The cost of calling 159 will vary according to your phone provider. In many cases this will be the same as a national rate call. Please ask your provider for details.

Some thoughts on the fascinating subject of **BIRD MIGRATION** – based on some facts from the Guinness world records (<https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/news/2023/1/the-record-breaking-bird-that-flew-from-alaska-to-australia-731576>)

Most birds take flight at some time in their lives to discover a reliable source of food, start a family, or to survive the changing seasons. Some migrations are short, others travel across vast distances. A missed turn can prove fatal. We occasionally hear of 'twitchers' in vast numbers descending on an ordinary garden or an outpost of these isles in order to record a new species for their tick list. I always feel sorry for these birds, lonely, blown off course, unable to find a mate and the right food, only to be gawped at and disturbed by odd humans.

In 2022 a five-month-old bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) took an unexpected turn. The 5G satellite tag on its lower back showed it set out from Alaska on 13 October and continued to the Australian state of Tasmania for 11 days and one hour without landing once for food or rest. 8,435 miles, about a third of the planet's circumference. This broke the record for the longest non-

stop migration by a bird. (Or, I would suggest, the longest recorded. Who knows what un-tagged birds get up to?) A previous record set by this species was 217 miles less. Arctic terns (*Sterna paradisaea*) regularly fly greater distances over the course of a year from their breeding sites north of the Arctic Circle to Antarctica and back, covering as much as 50,000 miles, the longest bird migration overall, but they occasionally touch down.

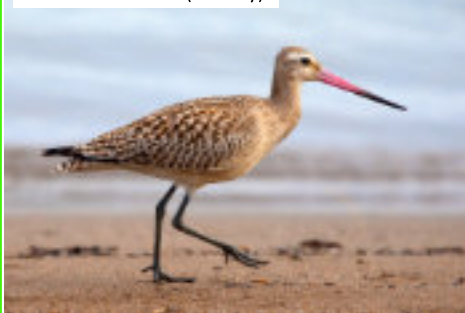
Some birds drastically alter their bodies and metabolism by shrinking the size of their internal organs, quickly gaining weight, and burning through fat reserves, barely sleeping. Godwits make place for energy-rich fats by absorbing 25% of the tissue that forms their digestive tract, liver and kidneys through autophagy (“self-eating”), allowing the body to recycle parts of itself as required. They can also make their hearts & chest muscles bigger mid-flight to provide more energy and oxygen to these areas. Eric Woehler of Birdlife Tasmania said the bird probably lost at least half of its body weight during continuous day and night flight.

Short-tailed shearwaters and mutton birds can land on the water and feed. Godwits die if they land on water because they don’t have webbed feet so can’t take off. Falling onto the ocean from exhaustion or bad weather means the end. Most godwits migrate to New Zealand, but this one made a 90-degree turn to land on the shore of Ansons Bay, eastern Tasmania. Experts are hoping that this record flight will highlight the importance of better understanding animal migrations, the navigational strategies employed by these birds, and what can be done to preserve the environments where they do finally stop to feed.

A few years ago we holidayed with a group from A Rocha, the Christian Eco organisation that runs Eco Church, on Bardsey Island off the coast of Wales. Scientists there monitor Manx Shearwaters, noisy puffin-like birds that mate for life and return each year to the same burrows from spending our winter in South America, especially Argentina. It’s a good job they don’t need a passport. The babies get left behind when parents fly off, being too fat to leave the burrows. Once they have lost the required amount of weight they find their own way out to southern lands, then back the following spring. Truly amazing. And a good reason for doing what we can to avoid polluting the seas by using environmentally friendly cleaning products and not pouring waste chemical products and paints down drains.

Diane Barnard

Bar-tailed Godwit (Pixabay)



Young Manx Shearwater (D Barnard)





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www.bristolensemble.com

The concert takes place at The Cossham Hall, Chapel Street, Thornbury on Saturday 24th October at 7.30pm.

Tickets £25 from AAGThornbury@gmail.com or 01454 850933



TONGUE IN CHEEK

Gilbert and Sullivan meet Tom Lehrer, in a feast of musical satire, served up by Michael Lunts.



Actor, pianist and singer Michael Lunts pays tribute, with his tongue firmly in his cheek, to those masters of satirical song writing, Gilbert and Sullivan and Tom Lehrer, who had more in common than you might think.

Hilarious send-ups include “The Ruler of the Queen’s Navee” and Lehrer’s setting of all the elements of the Periodic Table to the tune of “I Am The Very Model of a Modern Major General.”

An experienced expert in his field, Michael’s expertise is known throughout the UK. Expect a torrent of patter and a sprinkling of satire alongside some memorable memories for a wonderful evening.

The performance takes place at the Cossham Hall, Chapel Street, Thornbury on Saturday November 14th 7.30pm.

Tickets £20 from AAGThornbury or call 01454 850933

Fundraiser for the Jessie May Trust.

Alveston Local History Society

The Berkeley Castle Project 2005-2019

Speaker: Professor Stuart Prior (22 April 2026)

The Berkeley Castle project was a 15-year archaeological research and excavation program by the University of Bristol in partnership with the Berkeley Castle Estate.

The focus of the project attempted to pinpoint and understand changes in the landscape and settlement from Anglo-Saxon minster to Norman feudal castle.

Berkeley sits in a low-lying watery landscape midway between Bristol and Gloucester, previously a wetland with a 13th century watercourse.

History tells us the Kingdom of Hwicce had been an early Anglo-Saxon Kingdom around the Gloucestershire and Worcestershire area, established in 577 AD. Its name derived from 2 tribes, Anglo and Saxon. Traditional healers were called witches. This pagan territory was then Christianised in the late 7th century. The Hwiccan princes Eanfrith and Eanhere were connected to early Christian presence in the region which later became the site of Berkeley Castle. The next known rulers were Oshere and Osric.

Deerhurst (pictured on the right) in Gloucestershire also features Anglo-Saxon history, there are carvings, masonry, and jewellery including a 9th century ring now stored in Berkeley castle.



There were several Roman settlements around Berkeley and various Roman materials have been found including pottery. Excavation of the local Jenner museum garden found early Roman burial and Roman plaster from a building. In a ditch nearby was found a posthole – originally for a gatepost on a timber building. Also found were a spoon and silver vessels.

The project excavation area of Berkeley Castle included the Orchards and Gardens, the boundary of the Anglo-Saxon ditch surrounding the Minster, and the old road from Ham was an old track across the fields to a ferry crossing.

In the Butterfly gardens was evidence from the Anglo-Saxon period when a 'pudding' stone from the mill was found under the tearoom.

Excavations in Nelme's paddock, next to Berkeley Castle, revealed a sequence of defensive boundary ditches where pottery fragments, clay pipes, a coin of King

Edgar 959-75 and a possible Anglo Saxon 'Astel', a pointer or page turner used by scribes of the 8-9th century. Also found was a Whetstone pendant from 8th and 9th century and lots of sceattas (silver) Anglo-Saxon coins. Against a wall in Nelmes paddock human remains and skeletons were found dating back 500 years or more. There was evidence of scurvy in children 1-4 years old.

The dig successfully located a long-lost medieval monastery underneath the castle grounds where both monks and nuns were housed. A legend recorded in old chronicles says that Earl Godwin in the early 11th century placed a handsome young nobleman or men in the nunnery and impregnated the nuns. The King, or authorities, then broke up the religious house as a moral failure. The minster site and its stone materials were later used to build the foundations of the castle.

The Norman house at Berkeley castle refers to the 12th century core structures built by Robert Fitzharding, a wealthy Bristol Merchant, around 1153. It could have been built on an old Anglo-Saxon cemetery.

A rare 8th century Anglo-Saxon gold ring had been formerly found on the site, possibly in the 18th century.

Moyle's map of 1544 depicts the historic roadway leading to the castle, and excavations revealed the physical remains of two Tudor houses near a medieval barn structure. A Donjon or keep from the 12th century surrounded the castle. Civil war deposits show that in 1645, Parliamentarians seized the castle and a musket ball in the wall of the church still survives. A defensive ditch was built around the castle where lead musket balls and pistol shot were found.

Iron Age settlement remains were also found with flint tools and human bone fragments deep beneath the Victorian flowerbeds.

The dig revealed that the site of Berkely Castle was occupied from the Roman period, through the Dark Ages and into the English civil war, 1,500 years of continuity. The Berkeley lineage traces back to the 9th Century.

Artefacts from the site are to be found at the Berkeley town museum.

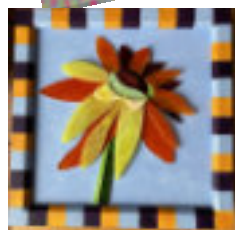


ALVESTON MOSAIC GROUP OPEN MEETING

You're warmly invited to the Alveston Mosaics Open Afternoon on Monday 14th September, from 2–4pm at Alveston Methodist Church. Come along to see the beautiful and creative mosaic work produced by the Alveston DIY Mosaicers, meet the makers, and find out more about the group. Whether you're curious about the craft, thinking of joining, or just fancy a relaxed afternoon with tea, cake, and colourful art, we'd love to see you there!



Contacts for the group are Rosie Clark (email rosie.clark02@gmail.com) or Jos Gregson (email [josgregson@gmail.com](mailto:josggregson@gmail.com))
Some examples of the group's work are shown here.



ALVESTON GARDENS ASSOCIATION – MAY MEETING

Our speaker for the May Meeting was Andrew Hocking talking about Selva, a ski resort in the Italian Dolomites. He visited in the summer months and found wonderful displays of alpine plants. Using cable cars, he and his partner reached elevations up to 3,100 metres on Mount Sasso Longo. Walking down made it possible to find some elusive plants such as *Physoplexis comosa*, with its lilac flowers, *Campanula cochlearifolia*, with its blue bell like flowers, and masses of white orchids.

Another spectacular view of alpine flowers was from Walkenstein Castle: specifically purple clematis alpina and white shaggy dianthus alpina. From the old train track, built by Russian prisoners of war, and then up the Col Raiser by cable car, he saw patches of alpinas flowering: blue *Gentiana verna* and *Gentiana acaulis*, yellow *Pulsatilla apiifolia*, and yellow poppies, as well as blue *Paederota bonorata*. Also here were rare *Leontopodium alpinum* (edelweiss) and pink and white *Potentilla nigra*.

In another area, he found a dwarf shrub, *Salix reticulata*, with bright yellow catkins when visiting in Spring. The alpine meadows around Selva had blue *Globularia cordifolia* and pale vanilla and burnt vanilla orchids. Close by were colchicums, mauve *Primula farinosa*, and *Geranium sylvaticum*. At this altitude were mauve asters, blue *Thlaspi rotundifolium*, and white androsace, the rock jasmine. Pink *Saxifrage caeruleum* and the thistle, *Carlino acaulis*, were also found in this area.



Outside the mountain hut at Huez were aconitum (very poisonous), rhododendrons and *Polemonium caeruleum album*. Coming down from this elevation Andrew spotted martagon lilies and then orange lilies. 'The photography was splendid in clear sunshine and we saw pink longer -stemmed flowers when we surveyed the whole mountain range'. Andrew was on a serious trekking adventure as he used the spectacular via ferrata with helmet on one high altitude trek. It was an inspiring talk about a subject he knows very well.

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September in Thornbury Library

Lego Club Create your own LEGO masterpieces and display them in the library for your family and friends to see FREE Every Saturday 9.30-10.30am

Rhymes and Stories FREE Every Monday 9.30am-10am (open at 9.30 for Rhymes and Stories only)

Rhymetime FREE every Friday 9.30am-10am (open at 9.30 for Rhymetime only)

FOR ADULTS:

“Have You Read...?” A book group for everyone Friday 4th September 2pm Come and enjoy a reading group with a difference! No set novel to read. Just drop in for an hour for refreshments and a chat

Computer Support 1-1 Book a session with our computer volunteer for IT and digital support
Wednesdays 2pm, 3pm, 4pm
Thursdays 10am, 11am, 12pm

Knit, Stitch, and Knatter Group Every Wednesday at 2:30 – 4pm
All crafters welcome! Come along and meet some fellow crafters and get started on that project!

Home Library Service Your library delivered to your door!
A friendly volunteer brings books straight to your home. Choose your favourite or let us pick for you. Audiobooks, Large Print, Fiction, and Non-Fiction all available! Contact us today to sign up, because everyone deserves a great book!

STAFFED TIMES

Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri 10-5, Sat 9.30-12.30

Rhymetime 9.30-10 (Monday and Friday) special opening time for this event only.

OPEN ACCESS (Unstaffed hours)

8.00am – 7.30pm Everyday

Induction essential

Please note: A 15-minute lapse will occur between staff closing time and Open Access starting

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Don't forget to use those businesses which advertise herein and tell them that this is where you saw them.



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