

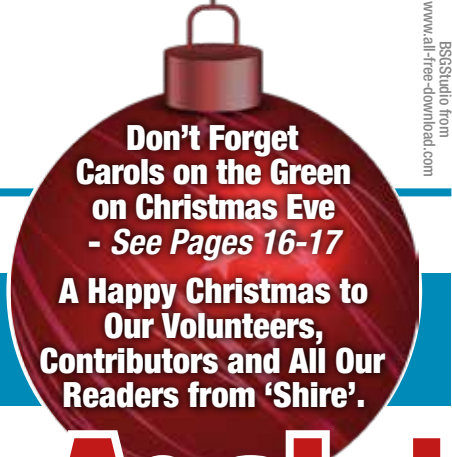
Shire

Your local community newspaper
with news and views from the
Shirehampton area

www.all-free-downloads.com
BSStudio from

No. 599 - December 2021 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

Have you got a job that needs doing? Go to YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS section on pages 26-28 to find a local business who can help.



**Don't Forget
Carols on the Green
on Christmas Eve
- See Pages 16-17**

**A Happy Christmas to
Our Volunteers,
Contributors and All Our
Readers from 'Shire'.**

Arts and Crafts Are Here Again!

For those fed up with supply chain problems and unreplenished supermarket shelves, the antidote was to walk into the public hall during 'craft' week and be greeted by a plethora of colourful, handmade objects in a whole range of materials and textures, a real feast for the eyes and a feeling that we were back on *Planet Normal* after the challenges we've been through in the last 18 months.



It was clear that some crafters were able to make the most of lockdown to get cracking, and with **450 entries** plus the huge array of items in the sales area it was obvious lots had been going on behind the closed doors. There were **fifty exhibitors** including groups (**Brownies and Rainbows**) – always lovely to see the young people take part.

Its impossible to mention individual's contributions but as always lots of quilts big and small, vibrant and impressive, knitted toys of such variety and quality, garments knitted and sewn, baby blankets, the model ship, purses and bags (shopping and cosmetic)

Continues on page 6.

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Christmas Day and Boxing Day	Closed	Closed
Monday 27th - Wednesday 29th	10:00am to 2:00pm	11:00am to 3:00pm
Thursday 30th	9:00am to 4:00pm	11:00am to 11:00pm
Friday 31st	9:00am to 2:00pm	11:00am to 11:00pm
Saturday 1st January	Closed	Closed
Sunday 2nd January	10:00am to 4:00pm	11:00am to 4:00pm

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Shire

Official address: **The Library, Public Hall, Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol BS11 9TU.**

Please note the Shirehampton Librarian

Telephone number is: 0117 903 8570

'SHIRE' telephone numbers for info and advice

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treasurer@shire.org.uk 0117 938 1709

Requests for SHIRE by Post 0117 904 3037

distribution@shire.org.uk 0117 982 0478

Internet address www.shire.org.uk

Submit articles editor@shire.org.uk

Advertising adverts@shire.org.uk

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N.B. To meet the deadline with our typesetters, all written copy should be submitted by email or to the Library by the **10th of the month** before it appears in print, or it may not be included in the next edition. While advertisements in this paper are accepted in good faith, readers are advised to make their own enquiries and assessment. We request that all adverts are supplied in the correct format and size or there may be a charge should you require artwork to be created. Price on application. Unless otherwise stated, all material appearing in SHIRE is the copyright of SHIRE Publications. Please ensure photographs submitted with articles are cleared for use and permission sought especially when featuring individuals including children. The Shire cannot accept responsibility if photos are published in error where permission for use has been not sought. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Shire. All information correct at time of going to press to the best of Shire's knowledge.

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We welcome contributions for publication in 'SHIRE' but reserve the right to edit any copy received.

Any material published is at the editor's discretion and may also be included on our website www.shire.org.uk unless the copy is clearly marked 'not to be included on the world wide web'.

Contributions submitted to: editor@shire.org.uk

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This is a FREE community support service

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MASKS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

COVID-19 is spread through close contact with people who have the virus. People with the virus can spread it even if they do not have symptoms.

When someone with the virus breathes, speaks, coughs or sneezes, they release small droplets containing the virus. You can catch COVID-19 if you breathe in these droplets or touch surfaces covered with droplets.

The risk of catching COVID-19 is highest indoors and in crowded places, such as public transport. **In Bristol, we expect and recommend that people wear face coverings on public transport - unless they are exempt.**

If you take the bus to work, or are hopping on the train to visit friends, please remember to wear a face covering to protect you, the people around you and our frontline workers.

Please continue to do the most you can to reduce the spread of infection as we enter the colder, winter months.

WHY ARE VACCINATIONS IMPORTANT?

Vaccination is the most important thing we can do to protect ourselves and our children against ill health.

- vaccinations prevent up to three million deaths worldwide every year
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- all vaccines are thoroughly tested to make sure they will not harm you or your children
- vaccinations help to protect other people in your community – by helping to stop diseases spreading to people who cannot have vaccines.

Visit the NHS website for more information about vaccinations:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations

SHARE YOUR VIEWS: BUDGET 2022 - 2023

Like many local authorities, Bristol is facing unprecedented financial pressures. The council is expecting a potential budget shortfall of around £23 million due to the pandemic and increasing social care costs.

We would like to hear your views on options for the level of Council Tax next year (April 2022 - March 2023), as well as ways we can save money through looking for opportunities to work more efficiently, drive down costs and generate more income.

All national funding to councils to support local responses to COVID-19 and to help reduce the impact of lost income and increasing costs is stopping. Meanwhile, support is still needed for people who are facing housing, care, mental health and employment crises caused by the indirect impact of the pandemic.

It's important to find a way to protect the services that residents value and continue supporting as many people as possible. To be able to do this, we need your views.

Please complete the Budget 2022 to 2023 survey:

<https://bristol.citizenspace.com/bristol-city-council/budget-2022-2023-consultation/>

The consultation will close on **Friday 17 December**. Information can be provided in alternative formats, including paper copies.

Please email us at consultation@bristol.gov.uk if you require an alternative format or call 0117 922 2848.



Wishing you a happy home this Christmas.

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The *Shire* Community Pages

Update on the Warhorse Fundraising Page Link

As detailed last month we hoped to bring you the link for the Local Giving page organised by Friends of Lamplighters Marsh regarding the purchase and installation of the Warhorse statue within Daisy Field. We now have it, please go to <https://localgiving.org/charity/friends-of-lamplighters-marsh/> to make any donations.



New at the Public Hall - From December!!!

Launch of the Shirehampton Art and Social Club! (formerly Sea Mills Art Club)

10am until midday on Thursdays

All Welcome! Bring art or just come for refreshments and conversation and make new friends!

£2 donation suggested, but not compulsory. All proceeds to the Public Hall.



Shirehampton Public Hall Newsletter - December 2021

The Public Hall hosted the marvellous and ever popular Craft Exhibition during the October half term break. The event was a huge success and the robot theme was enjoyed by many children! Thank you so much to all who took part, the event organisers and everyone who attended.

The **Public Hall** was due to lose the long-standing **Sea Mills Art Club** at the end of November. This group meets every Thursday morning between 10am and midday and has always proved popular with many people, either for art or social interaction (but usually both!). **The Public Hall Manager** has made the decision to take this group under the Hall's wing and run it on behalf of the members, so in **December** it will be reborn as the **Shirehampton Art and Social Group**. New members are always welcome, and much needed, so if you are at a loose end on a **Thursday morning** and would like to bring some art, make new friends and have a laugh, do come along and make yourself comfortable! No need to prebook, just come along and join in the fun! Refreshments are also provided (see above).

The **Gardening Volunteers' Group** which meets in the Hall garden from **10am on the first Saturday**

of the month is having a rest until the new year. However when it starts again everyone is welcome, and bring tools if you can! Contact the Hall for more information if necessary.

Did you know the Public Hall also has a photocopier in the office which is available for public/user group use? Community rates are 1p per black and white copy, 4p per colour copy – bargain, eh?!

For details on how to support the Hall as a volunteer or Trustee, or to book meeting or party/celebration space, or any other questions, please contact the Hall Manager on 0117 982 8863 or email bookings@shirepubhall.org.uk. You could also visit our website on www.shirepubhall.org.uk.

A Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our users and friends!

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Family Announcements

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Small text box = £10.

Larger picture box = £15.

Jean Pearce

Jean Pearce passed peacefully away in Southmead Hospital on Thursday 28th October aged 77 years.

She will be sadly missed by her family and friends.



We enjoy spreading community news especially at this time and we love to hear from all our readers of both the online and printed versions. Please, send in your letters and stories to editor@shire.org.uk. If requested, we will not print the name of a letter written to the Editor, but we cannot accept an anonymous letter. *Many thanks.*



WE WILL MEET AGAIN!

Dear Editor,

I am writing for a few reasons. Firstly to thank Stephen Simmons for faithfully delivering the Shire to my new home in Horfield each month. He also brings me St Mary's link so that I can keep up with what's going there. As well as reading the church service notes, I like to see what voluntary and hymns Tim Forder will be playing each week.

Secondly, thank you to NAMS0 for the delightful prose WATERS AND PACE. It made me laugh and also made me appreciate the artistic work of Mr Westlake a bit more. They are both very talented poets and painters.

Finally, to those who have loved and missed me and are wondering "Where's Sandra? Haven't seen her for ages" (my ego hopes I've been missed). Well, after having a below knee leg amputation last February, I could not manage to live safely in our 3 bed semi in Chelwood Road.

After being "imprisoned" in the sitting room for about 6 months, we were re-homed in a two bed bungalow with wheelchair access to both front and rear of the property, wide doorways but, more importantly, a lovely wet room! I now have a prosthetic leg and am getting out and about more. So a huge thank you to my wonderful neighbourhood. Keep looking after one another. Sorry I didn't get to say goodbye, but I say adieu as we will meet again!

Regards,

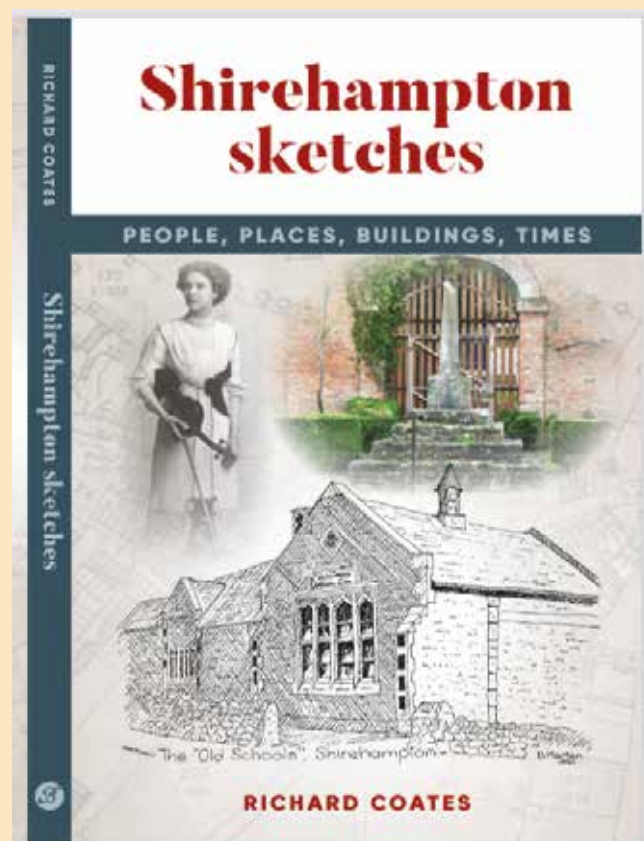
Sandra Neate

SHIREHAMPTON SKETCHES

Dear Editor,

Richard Coates's wonderful new book "Shirehampton Sketches" will be launched at the Shire High Street Christmas Market on Thursday 2nd December 10m-3pm at the Tithe Barn. It is a profusely illustrated collection of 84 short chapters about the history, buildings and surroundings of Shire, and other aspects of local life. Sold in support of Shirehampton Community Action Forum (SCAF).

Ash Bearman



LONGEST DAY

Dear Editor,

My grandad, Hugh Aitchison, was among the Marine Commandos on Sword Beach during the Normandy landings. Rob has recently returned from a Commemoration event in Normandy, with the veterans, which he described as 'awesome'! He proudly stood on Sword Beach too!

Here is his poem:

Longest Day.

Do not call me a hero,
When you see the medals I wear,
Medals maketh not the hero,
They just prove that I was there.

Do not call me a hero,
Now that I am old and grey,
I left a lad, returned a man,
They stole my youth that day.

Do not call me a hero,
When we ran the wall of hail,
The blood the fears the cries the tears,
We left them where they fell.

Do not call me a hero,
Each night I stop and pray,
For all the friends I knew and lost,
I survived my longest day.

Do not call me a hero,
In the years that pass,
For all the real true heroes,
Have crosses, lined upon the grass.

Robin Aitchison



© Kathryn Courtney



Hello there! **Would you like to improve your well-being?**

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- Improve muscle tone and bone density
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Linda x x

Weekly classes - just come along - no need to book:

- Kettlebells are Monday 5.15 - 6.15pm and 6.30 - 7.30pm, Wednesday from 5.15 - 6.15pm and Thursday from 6.30 - 7.30pm at the Cotswold Community Centre. Message for 1:1 technique session.
- Bootcamps: Monday and Wednesday 6.15-7.00am. Please message for details.



For a free initial consultation in your own home or mine. Telephone: **07875 054 292**

Email: t.linda1206@gmail.com

www.shirestrong.co.uk



Continued from page 1.

wonderful gift bags and containers, embroidered crackers, Christmas decorations and stockings, jewellery, fretsaw puzzles, cushions (scatter and pin) the papier mache menagerie, colourful facemasks, pyrography, wall hangings in needle felt and pebble art, stitchwork and fabric, screen print and stencil on canvas, Bargello shopping bag and jacket, cards and ... it just goes on and on.

There were some 'one-off' items such as the flamingo lampshade, a machine cover, the hand-dyed jacket and baby gift hamper, also the Remembrance display, all amazing and wonderful to see. There were also items and potted plants for sale in aid of local good causes, what's not to like!

The challenge this year for children was to search for robots both in the hall and the local shops. **Shire Climate Emergency Group** suggested the robots be made from re-/up-cycled materials and they certainly lived up to the theme. It was good to welcome the **Sea Cadets** this year with their robots.

Then of course we had the added dimension of the **demonstrators**, it is always inspiring to watch the crafters at work - **Pat**, the **Avonmouth Knitting and Crochet group**, **Tiffany, Jane, Sally, Annalise** and also **Kathryn** leading the poppy making for display on the **Green in November**.

The work that goes on behind the scenes is phenomenal to get the show on the road and not just for a few weeks before the event, but all year; planning, debriefing after each exhibition to see what, if anything, needs to change and **Ed and Gail** do a magnificent job, organising and getting their team motivated, and **Jenny's** skill and expertise at setting up is key to the amazing scene that greets the visitors as they enter the hall. So a huge *'thank you'* to all involved, including the providers of refreshments that help make a visit a great social event. Good to see the exhibition back may it go from strength to strength.

Judy Helme

All photos by and © Bob Pitchford.





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Santa Tour 2021!



Santa will be visiting Shirehampton again this year, and he and his helpers want to make sure nobody is missed.

Avonmouth Projects Group are happy to announce that Santa will once again be touring the local villages of Avonmouth, Shirehampton, Sea Mills, Coombe Dingle & Lawrence Weston this year. With the help of local businesses and residents, we have been able to organise our regularly scheduled visit from Santa.

To help raise funds, and ensure this is sustainable, we will also be **selling Christmas Trees in Avonmouth village throughout December** – we'd really appreciate you considering us when buying your Christmas tree this year. They're reasonably priced, we're all volunteers, and all the money goes back to funding our events. We're even opening a **Winter Wonderland on your doorstep!** We're going to be located just beside the **Portway** – check our Facebook and website for details/prices.

Santa will be visiting Shirehampton on **Saturday 18th December**, and we hope you get the chance to meet Santa and perhaps receive a gift from him. We want to ensure everybody is as safe



© Avonmouth Projects Group

as possible, so please wait patiently and we will make sure everybody gets a chance to see Santa. Last year we distributed over 1700 gifts in the local area, and expect this to increase again this year, so apologies if Santa takes longer to arrive than expected.

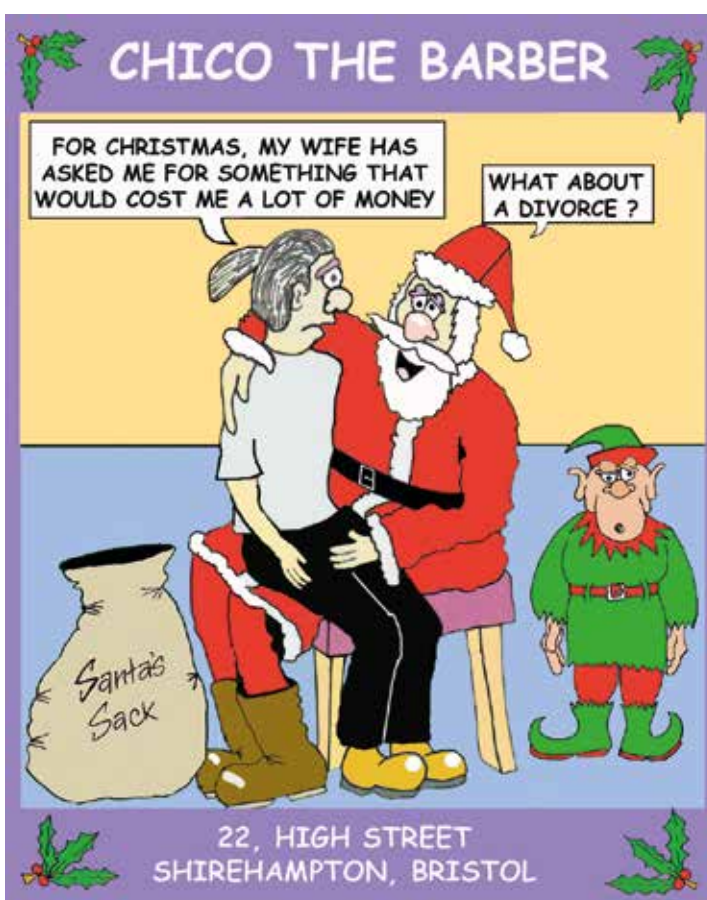
Santa had this to say... *"Ho Ho Ho! I can't wait to visit Shirehampton again this year. The children were so well behaved and I hope they all track where I am this year so that they don't miss me. After the huge turnout we had last year, I've picked some stops I like to call "Santa Stops" which I will be hoping to see you at. I have some special gifts to give out and look forward to seeing you all soon!"*

The exact route Santa decides to take will be published on our website and our **Facebook page** in the week prior to the tour, so make sure you keep an eye out. Whilst we have previously tried to stop whenever we see a child, Santa has decided that due to the vast number of people last year we should have dedicated **"Santa Stops"** – so find your nearest one and meet us there!

www.apgic.uk

www.facebook.com/AvonmouthPG

Avonmouth Projects Group CIC



W

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Thank you and happy holidays!



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Your usual collection day	Revised collection day
Mon 27 Dec	Wed 29 Dec
Tue 28 Dec	Thur 30 Dec
Wed 29 Dec	Fri 31 Dec
Thur 30 Dec	Tues 4 Jan
Fri 31 Dec	Wed 5 Jan
Mon 3 Jan	Thur 6 Jan
Tue 4 Jan	Fri 7 Jan
Wed 5 Jan	Sat 8 Jan
Thur 6 Jan	Mon 10 Jan
Fri 7 Jan	Tues 11 Jan
Mon 10 Jan	Wed 12 Jan
Tue 11 Jan	Thur 13 Jan
Wed 12 Jan	Fri 14 Jan
Thur 13 Jan	Sat 15 Jan
Fri 14 Jan	Mon 17 Jan
Mon 17 Jan	Tues 18 Jan
Tue 18 Jan	Wed 19 Jan
Wed 19 Jan	Thur 20 Jan
Thur 20 Jan	Fri 21 Jan
Fri 21 Jan	Sat 22 Jan



DOWNLOAD

Never miss a collection – download your 2021/22 collection calendar from:
www.bristolwastecompany.co.uk/festive



DON'T FORGET

You can take trees to your nearest Recycling Centre.

Garden and bulky waste services pause over the Christmas period.

For top tips and festive hacks visit:
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Normal collections
from Mon 24 January



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www.darren-jones.co.uk | fb.com/darrenjonesmp | [@darrenpjones](https://twitter.com/darrenpjones)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION. PLEASE READ.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Darren's staff are now working from home. Darren has taken this decision as a precaution not because of official government advice. This means we will be a little slower at responding to post and telephone calls due to re-direction. We will otherwise continue as normal but please bear with us, especially if we too suffer illness within the team in the coming months.

We are maintaining a COVID-19 FAQ page on Darren's website at www.darren-jones.co.uk/coronavirus. You can also register for Darren's e-mail updates at the bottom of the home page at www.darren-jones.co.uk. Updates will

also be provided on Darren's Facebook page, which you can follow at www.facebook.com/darrenjonesmp.

If you have symptoms or concerns related to COVID-19 you should firstly visit the NHS website

at www.111.nhs.uk. If this doesn't answer your question, or if you don't have access to the internet, you should call the NHS on 111. Please do not go to your GP surgery or A&E in person if you think you might have COVID-19 symptoms (i.e. a dry cough, temperature and/or sore chest).

For further updates please visit the NHS website or Darren's FAQ page.

Many thanks,

Patrick Tettmar

Communications Officer

Office of Darren Jones MP

Member of Parliament, Bristol North West

CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Shirehampton is in the Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Ward

Your Councillors are:

Donald Alexander – Labour: cll.donald.alexander@bristol.gov.uk

John Stephen Geater - Conservative: Cllr.John.Geater@bristol.gov.uk

James Scott - Conservative: Cllr.James.Scott@bristol.gov.uk

Conservative Members' Services Office: 0117 922 2746

Labour Members' Services Office: 0117 922 3827

CONTACTING YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Shirehampton is in the Bristol North West Constituency

Darren Jones

Phone: 01179596545

Email: darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.darren-jones.co.uk

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Teresa Cox



Adam Lenik



Jess Duncan



THE GREEN PAGES

CLIMATE NEWS FOR DECEMBER:

“The World is Worried...”

COP26 is ending without having done enough to “keep 1.5 alive”, the goal the conference had set itself. True, delegates managed to agree to phase out coal, restrict methane emissions, and try to prevent illegal deforestation – all encouraging measures. But the best they could do about finance to support developing nations in adapting to climate change was to agree to return to their so-far unfulfilled promises NEXT year.

Some of us walked all the way to **Glasgow** to make sure the politicians recognize the strength of feeling on Climate in this country. Here in **Bristol** many of us joined the **Global Day of Action March from College Green on November 6th**. Others kept Vigil on College Green through the night of **November 11th** while delegates struggled to make progress on difficult issues as the conference drew to a close.

Issues are difficult because the carbon emissions causing **Climate Change** are the inevitable product of our way of life which is based on ever-increasing consumption of Earth’s finite resources. The simple, and possible, solution is to reduce carbon emissions by consuming less. Governments and corporations are worried about their GDP and their profit margins. They will have to do the heavy lifting to get to zero carbon, but each of us is called upon to do whatever we can to **reduce** our individual carbon footprint by consuming less.

Gandhi said, *“The earth has enough to satisfy everyone’s legitimate needs but not anyone’s greed.”*

So we might ask ourselves as we prepare for Christmas what ‘enough’ - enough trips in petrol-driven vehicles, enough clothes, enough gifts, enough food and drink – would look like. We might consider the idea of having only as much as we really need, a ‘dignified sufficiency’ of the good things this earth provides. Our beloved planet has ‘enough’ to meet our real needs. We are called on to **know** what those real needs are.

May we all have a Happy Christmas as we hope for a 1.5 future.

Renee Slater



© Hilary Bond



© Hilary Bond



© Hilary Bond



© Sarah MacDonald

Earth Vigil... 8:00 am after 12 hours on College Green.

SHIREHAMPTON CLIMATE EMERGENCY GROUP

Has resumed meetings in the Cotswold Community Centre, Dursley Road, BS11 9XH. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7:30pm.



IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE, DO COME AND JOIN US!



© Hilary Bond

Community Support Service

If you are self isolating due to Covid 19, SCAF can help.

We can do essential shopping & pick up your prescription for you. This is a **FREE** Community Support Service.

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or Email ash@shirecaf.org.uk

See our advert on the next page for more details.

Nature Notes

Every season has its own individual beauty. But it does seem to be Autumn that provokes the most comments regarding the colours that herald the dramatic approach of Winter.

I took this photo very recently at the **Sneyd Park Nature Reserve**. My dogs love being walked there, and you have the choice of a meandering exploration of the extensive wooded area, both up hill and down, or the open area alongside the Portway and river. On this particular walk



© Bobbie Perkins

I spotted a wildlife pond nestling amongst the shrubs very near the outer fencing. It had been given a natural bit of fencing all around to protect it, (and possibly curious youngsters), and although I didn't detect any movement in it, I imagine it would be teeming with life early next year.

I'll be sure to check it out!

I was given an interesting article by a friend the other day, which highlighted the threat of ticks. We are all familiar with the need to check our cats and dogs and other mammals such as our hedgehogs aren't we? But this article was concerned with the terrible effect ticks have upon our much loved bird life! There is a dedicated charity in Sussex that helps afflicted birds, and their advice is that if you find a poorly bird who looks lethargic, with closed eyes, and difficulty keeping its head up, they could need immediate and expert help from a Wildlife Centre. They can remove ticks and give necessary meds.

It may never come your way but at least we can be aware.

Happy Autumnwatch folks!

Bobbie

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WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER: WILLOWBROOK

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WEDNESDAY 15 DECEMBER



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL TO CADBURY GARDEN CENTRE

Pick up from 9am – Return 3pm

(We will be running 2 minibuses)



These trips are organized by SCAF especially for Shire residents Aged 60 +

Lawrence Weston Community Transport (LWCT) are providing this door to door service in a fully accessible 13 seater minibus

COST = FREE!

Booking on a first come first served basis. Please book your own trips, you can book to go on all of them, but no block bookings will be accepted.

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TO BOOK CONTACT LWCT ON 0117 329 4647

Another Successful Display for Poppies On The Green

Thank you to everyone who painted or knitted poppies for this year's 'Poppies On The Green' and also helped to put up and take down the display for another year.

This year we held 'painting poppies' sessions at the **Cotswold Community Centre, High Street Market, Craft Exhibition and Shire's Community Room** based in the local library. We had people of all ages, families and young children painting plastic poppies as well as getting some of the paint on themselves! Luckily all washable. I believe one or two people will be visiting the display on **The Green**, trying to find the poppies they painted.



Once again red and purple poppies were included along with painted white birds representing white doves and peace. The main display is on **The Green** with smaller displays at **Shirehampton Railway Station and the Daisy Field**. You would have found the poem '**The Longest Day**' written by **Robin Aitchison** (see page 5) displayed at each location.



We also had a small display at the local Craft Exhibition that showcased our silhouette soldiers Reg and Les, as well as samples of art work by the local school children, poppy flowers and a poppy wreath to showcase the work of volunteers.





© Kathryn Courtney

Feed back has been extremely positive. "Another beautiful display for Remembrance Day. Well done Shirehampton." "Well done everyone. I drove past this yesterday and it looks fantastic." "It looks lovely so pleased that the Community will remember them, who fought that we have the freedom to live in this beautiful country."

Next year we want to do a bigger display and, in order to achieve this, we need more volunteers to help run our 'painting poppies' sessions as well as putting the displays together. Please email us at: poppiesonthegreen@gmail.com, or message us via our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/poppiesonthegreen or leave a message on 0117 982 9963 if you can help us in the future.

In the meantime, Ash and I would like to thank Val Lloyd, Ruth Morris, Tracy Zehtabi, Robin Sykes, Juliet Le Feuvre, Katherine Birth, John Hastings, Georgina Lloyd and Reenie for your 'behind the scenes' help this year.

Kathryn Courtney



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Shirehampton Primary School

At Shirehampton Primary School, Year 5 have had a spectacular start to the academic year. Troublesome Tudors has been our termly topic and the children have been learning about the gruesome truths of the Tudor period. A visit from a theatre workshop allowed the children to step into the shoes of mighty monarchs and learn more about their lives.

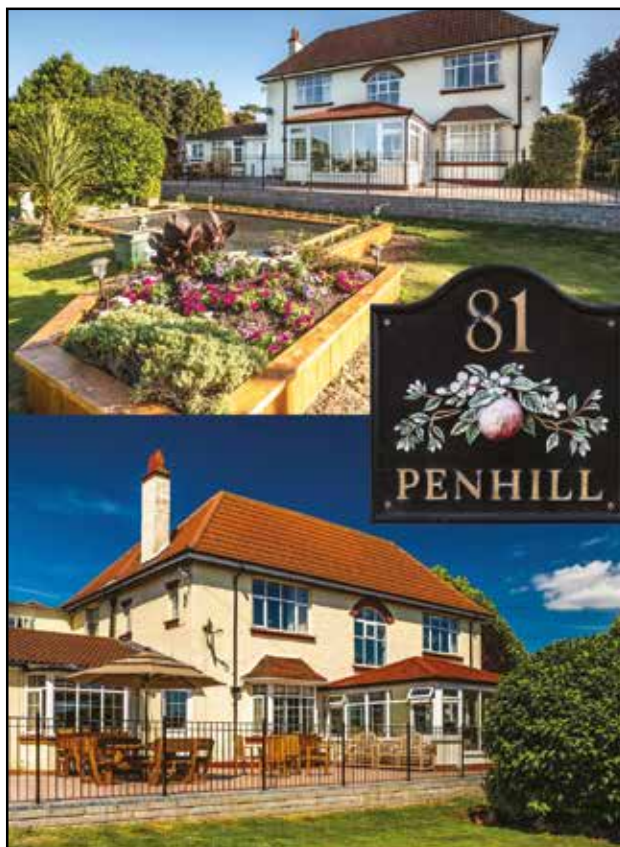
Some other highlights have been making (and eating) rocky roads, a whole school trip to Avon Valley and super sprouting science experiments



© Shirehampton Primary School

using potatoes. Our pupils have done a fantastic job at getting back into the swing of school after a long summer holiday and two tricky years of COVID learning experiences. We are so proud of them every day!

Miss Zara Topham and Miss Katherine Meloy



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Happy Christmas

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

1. *The First Nowell*

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a Star
Shining in the East beyond them far,
And to the Earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night,
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same Star
Three Wise Men came from country far,
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the Star wherever it went.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

The Star drew nigh to the north-west,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

2. *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls shall receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas Angels
The great glad tidings tell,
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel.

3. *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King,
Peace on Earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With Angelic host proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
*Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the ever-lasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
*Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and Life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild, He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of Earth,
Born to give them second birth
*Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

4. *While Shepherds Watched*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

"Fear not", said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds,
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
To you and all mankind.

"To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line,
A Saviour who is Christ the Lord –
And this shall be the sign.

"The Heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the Seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of Angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song –

"All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease."

5. *O Come All Ye Faithful*

O come all ye faithful,
Joyful and Triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem,
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels:
*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

God of God,
Light of light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb!
Very God
Begotten, not created
*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exaltation,
Sing all ye citizens of Heaven above:
'Glory to God
In the Highest'
*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

6. *Silent Night*

Silent Night, Holy Night
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child,
Holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glory streams from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiance beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus Lord at thy birth
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

To all our readers

CHRISTMAS EVE • 7:30PM

7. *Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love thee Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay,
Close by me forever, and love me I pray!
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

8. *Good King Wenceslas*

All:
Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about
Deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night
Though the frost was cruel
When a poor man came in sight
Gath'ring winter fuel.

Men and Boys:
“Hither, page, and stand by me
If thou know'st telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?”

Women and girls:
“Sire, he lives a good league hence
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence
By St Agnes' fountain.”

Men and Boys:
“Bring me flesh and bring me wine,
Bring me pine logs hither,
Thou and I shall see him dine
When we bear him thither.”

All:
Page and monarch forth they went,
Forth they went together,
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.

Women and Girls:
“Sire, the night is darker now
And the wind blows stronger.
Fails my heart, I know not how,
I can go no longer.”

Men and boys:

“Mark my footsteps, good my page,
Tread thou in them boldly.
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.”

All:

In his master's steps trod
Where the snow lay dinted.
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing.

9. *Once in Royal David's City*

Once in Royal David's City
Stood a lowly cattle-shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for a bed.
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

For He is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day like us He grew:
He was little, weak and helpless;
Tears and smiles like us He knew.
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in Heaven above;
And He leads His children on,
To the place where He is gone.

10. *The Holly and the Ivy*

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown
*The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The Holly bears a blossom
As white as the lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Saviour.

The Holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.

**Carols on the
Green is an ALL
WEATHER event.
Please come
prepared.**

The Holly bears a prickle
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas day in the morn.

The Holly bears a bark,
As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.

*The Holly and the Ivy
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The Holly bears the crown.*

11. *We Three Kings*

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we travel afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star,
*O star of wonder, star of night
'Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Melchior: Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again –
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign...
O star of wonder...

Caspar: Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship to God most high
O, star of wonder...

Balthasar: Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom,
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O, star of wonder...



**We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy New Year**

**Good tidings we bring to you and your kin
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year!**

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AND OUR COMMUNITIES JOIN TOGETHER TO REMEMBER

Remembrance Sunday and the community did not forget. St. Mary's Church, Brownies, Guides, Cubs & Scouts were not present this year due to safety issues concerning Covid-19. Three local Merchant Seamen gave a short reading and one played the Last Post. Poppy wreaths were also laid at the memorial and I also met an ex-serviceman who wore his grandfather's medals as well as his own for service in Iraq and Afghanistan.



We will always remember those who gave their lives during **WWI and WWII**, as well as those caught in recent conflicts; they all deserve our respect, along with those who safely returned home. The community gave a round of applause at the end of the event, not only for the three gentlemen who stepped in to do the short service, but also for the remembrance of the many too.

This year marks the centenary of the **Royal British Legion** which was formed **15th May 1921**, bringing together four organisations under one name, The National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers, The British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers, The Comrades of 'The Great War' and 'The Officers' Association. For one hundred years, the Royal British Legion has been supporting Service men and women, ex-serving personnel and their families, with their work continuing way into the future.

The first ever **Poppy Appeal** was held in 1921 and the poppies sold out immediately. Having raised over £106,000 in that first year, the money was used to



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help WWI veterans with employment and housing. Since then the British Royal Legion has been helping the Armed Forces community and their families. Every time you buy a poppy, each penny you give counts, no matter how small or large the amount.

The poppy is a symbol of Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future as well as representing those who lost their lives on active service. It also honours the contribution of civilian services and the uniformed services which contribute to national peace and security and acknowledges innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism.

The Poppy Appeal also helps fund services like the **Battle Back Centre** where wounded, injured and sick service men and women go for their individual recovery program. They also support several other charities from fund raising, welfare to **The National Memorial Arboretum of Remembrance**.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.

Kathryn Courtney



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Churches in the Shirehampton Area

St. Bernard's Church News

Hello from us all at St Bernard's church.

As always there are details about our Mass times and also Our Lady of the Rosary, on the website: olorsb.org.uk

We were delighted to welcome Father Francis Ezennia as our parish priest, at the beginning of November. We look forward to getting to know him, and many of us had that opportunity recently when we had our coffee and cake after Mass. It would be great to continue providing refreshments after Mass once per month.

We had a wonderful farewell party on 24th October, for Father Cosmas. The party was held in the school hall at Our Lady of the Rosary, and it was a fine event. The room was packed and, after funny and heartfelt speeches, we tucked into a wonderful array of food. Everyone was so generous with the food that they cooked and brought. And we should say a big thank you to the group of parishioners who organised the event so well. Father Cosmas I'm sure will have felt very happy and touched by all the good wishes he received.

Also can I highlight this link below?
It's really important to remember the communities around the world who are threatened by the climate change. Support, prayers and donations are always needed.

Climate Crisis Appeal | CAFOD

<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Climate-Crisis-Appeal>



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Shirehampton Baptist Church

This December we will be able to enjoy our Christmas Festivities we missed last year, thanks to Covid. We in Shire Baptist are looking forward to welcoming you to our building to share our Christmas services:

November 28th is the first of four Sundays of Advent when Christians reflect on the birth of Christ and await His Second Coming. The candles on the Advent Wreath symbolise Hope, Love, Joy and Peace and are lit in that order.

Sunday 19th of December is a Christingle Service at 4pm. At 6 30pm Carols by Candle Light, and our Christmas Day Celebration starts at 10am.

The Christian community welcomes all to a Christingle Service on Sunday December 12th at 5pm at the Cotswold Community Hall in Dursley Road. It was greatly enjoyed two years ago

and people from all the churches and the Community will be taking part.

On December 24th we hope all the village will turn up on the Green to sing the well known carols. This year, our Minister Paul Rhodes will lead the singing. Bring the carol sheets in this month's Shire and your candle in a jar or torch. We start at 7pm and finish at around 9pm.

We in Shirehampton Baptist you a Very Happy Christmas and may we know the message the angels sang to the shepherds: Peace on Earth, Good Will to all Men for unto you is born a Saviour Christ the Lord. (Luke Chapter 2 verse 14)



© Bob Pitchford

Our great new website is www.shirehamptonbaptistchurch.co.uk which contains all our news, upcoming events and lots more. Do have a look.

Contact number 07743 683684.

Hello from Shire Methodist

www.shiremethodist.org/ • www.facebook.com/shiremethodist/

The season of advent, preparation for Christmas, has arrived again. This year we're reflecting on the issue of homelessness as we journey towards Christmas. Each day through December, we'll be encouraged to think about particular bible verses and their connection with homelessness. This is particularly to highlight the importance of the Bristol Methodist Centre, which offers shelter, sanctuary and support to people who are homeless, vulnerable and excluded. Please contact us if you'd be interested in finding out more about these reflections, or about the Bristol Methodist Centre.

Stephany, Project Coordinator for our Jobs, Training and Enterprise Hub, will be hosting three events before Christmas, under the name "Hub's Cups Café: Job Club", between 10.30am and noon on Tuesday 23rd November, Thursday 2nd and Tuesday 14th December. These are free, informal events to pop into for information, advice and confidence building. They're for anyone in Shirehampton and surrounding areas, who is out of work, or interested in getting a different job, or setting up their own business, or training for a new career or job. Please let us know if you're interested in participating or helping out. We're looking for volunteers who can help everyone feel welcome. Perhaps you might even have job-coaching experience that you'd like to share.

In December, we're planning to hold Morning Worship in our building on every Sunday except Boxing Day when we'll join with our friends at Horfield Methodist Church. Most of our services will begin at 11am, the Boxing Day service will be at 10am, and the timing for our Carol Service on 19th December is still to be confirmed. On Christmas Eve, there's a Messy Christmas event at 4pm at Horfield Methodist Church for children and their families and Midnight Communion from 11.30pm, which can also be accessed on Zoom if you have access to the internet. We are still considering whether to meet on Christmas Day morning. The pandemic continues to make some of our plans a bit uncertain so please check with us before coming along to avoid disappointment.



The local Climate Emergency Group has recently hosted a couple of Climate Cafés for anyone to come along to on Saturday mornings in our church building, which we have been pleased to support.

We continue to have a cautious Covid-19 risk management plan in place in our church building. Face coverings, social distancing, use of a one way system, track and trace and sanitising are still encouraged. Many additional support services appear to be lessening as the pandemic restrictions ease. However, all the churches in Shirehampton continue to hold our community in prayer, and will do our best to respond to any concerns and needs. You can contact us on the numbers below:

St Mary's Church 0117 9077026

Shire Methodist 0117 9248407

Shire Baptist 07743 683684

St Bernard's Roman Catholic 0117 982 3380

May God's peace be with you all during this season of Advent and Christmas.

Everyone at Shire Methodist

'Hub's Cups Café' - Jobs Club



Please come and join us for a coffee & chat, to see what we can do for you.



We are bringing opportunities to *THIS* area.

When:

Tuesday 23rd November

Thursday 2nd December

Tuesday 14th December

10:30am - 12:00noon

Where:

at Shirehampton Methodist Church, BS11 0DL
(Opposite the Job Centre, white door on Penpole Avenue)

Please contact Steph: 07305 066 478

ProjectCoordinator@JTEhubshire.org

St Mary's News

Hi Folks!

December is here and I don't know which I am looking forward to most - Christmas or the evenings drawing out! You know how much I look forward to the warm weather and the light nights. Anyway, let's hope Covid 19 doesn't interfere or spoil your Christmas in any way shape or form.

December is a busy month, with lots going on for the **Advent Season**, so a list of our events and services are noted below. Please note that our **Rise and Shine services continue except for Sunday 26th December and Sunday 2nd January**.

Wednesday 1st December 10:00 to 11:00 am - Golden Oldies session in the church, so come along and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee whilst you enjoy your singalong!

Saturday 4th December 10:00 to 12:00 noon - Christmas Tree Sale in the Churchyard. Here is a chance to pick one up locally at a reasonable cost, so please put the date in your diary. We will have a very special person visiting us as **Santa** will be in his Grotto during this time. Please do bring your children and grandchildren to meet him and also let any other families with children know that **Father Christmas** will be with us.

Sunday, 5th December 10:30am - Holy Communion Service to be followed at **4:00 pm** by our **Christingle Service**. Christingles will be already prepared for distribution. As we may have more than usual people in attendance it might be wise to wear a face mask.

Sunday, 12th December 3:00 pm - the combined Shire Area Choir & Church Choir will be presenting a "**Christmas Singalong**" conducted by **Tim Forder**. Entrance is **FREE**, but a retiring collection will be taken for those who wish to make a contribution towards the work of St Mary's in the parish.

Tuesday, 14th December 3:30 pm until 5:00 pm - Messy Church. If you are coming and require refreshments, please let someone know at the church by the previous **Friday, 10th December**. Thank you!

Saturday 18th December - a group from the church will be singing **Carols to raise funds for Christian Aid**. This year it will be **INSIDE THE CHURCH** not in the Churchyard as in previous years and Tea & Coffee will be available from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon. Hopefully this will encourage more folks to come in and join in the singing whatever the weather decides to throw at us!

Sunday 19th December 10:30 am - Holy Communion Service and at **6.00 pm** we hold our **Service of Nine Lessons & Carols** and then you realise that Christmas is as good as here. All are welcome, but please wear a face mask if you are not exempt, as we may be busy.

Friday 24th December is of course **Christmas Eve** and we hope to hold our usual **Crib Service at 4.00 pm**. Adults and children are welcome to come dressed as Nativity characters. Perhaps again as this service will be busy it might be wise to consider wearing a face mask. Later on, at **11:30 pm**, we will be holding our service of **Midnight Mass**. The climax of the whole **Christmas Celebration** has at last arrived.

Saturday is Christmas Day and our **first Mass of Christmas will be held at 10:00 am** and all will be welcome. Please note the time of this service, to allow sufficient time for those turkeys to be cooked



whilst at the service and for Christmas Dinner to be served on time!

On **Sunday (Boxing Day) at 10:00 am** there will be a **Said Holy Communion Service** (please note there is no Rise & Shine Service today). This is a joint service for people living in the Avonside Mission Area, as the parish churches of Avonmouth, Lawrence Weston, Sea Mills and Stoke Bishop will be closed that day. We will gladly welcome you to St Mary's Shirehampton!

St Mary's will be closed from Monday, 27th December to Saturday, 1st January (both dates inclusive).

Sunday 2nd January 2022 normal services return - i.e. **Holy Communion at 10.30 am**, except there will be no Rise & Shine service on this day.

We wish you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Now, after all that - Why do you never see Santa in Hospital? Because he has Private Elf Care!

Bye for now.

C.M.E.



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Learn the steps and stay in time
One step forward and two behind

A Peaceful Christmas?

As the commercialism of Christmas is added to Covid uncertainty, the idea of a peaceful holiday period might seem unreasonable. But it might still be possible... with a bit of help.

As it becomes more acceptable to talk about **mental health issues**, so a wide range of approaches to our well-being are becoming more popular. Yoga and Tai Chi are already available at Shire's Public Hall, for example.

On **Monday December 13th**, they will be joined by **Reiki: or the Usui System of Natural Healing**, to give it its full title. Not so much a therapy as a self-help method, Reiki reconnects us to our natural ability to heal ourselves and find some inner peace.

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An Introduction
to
Reiki Healing

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL
Penpole Room

Mon 13th Dec 2021, 7.30 to 8.30 pm **£7**

Please book: **Dr Keith Beasley** PhD Reiki Master-Teacher

keith@keithbeasley.co.uk 0117 239 5047

Reiki is not a massage, so no undressing required. The session will include demonstrations, so that you can feel the effects for yourself. Having recently moved to Shire, **Reiki Master Keith Beasley** is keen to offer his over two decades of experience in teaching this simple, yet powerful, technique.

See the above advert for details.



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SHIREHAMPTON COMMUNITY ACTION FORUM: Walkie Talkies FREE Walks Programme



2 – 3 Miles up to 90 minutes

Shirehampton Walkie Talkies were formed in 2012

We are Partnership Shirehampton Walkie-Talkies Level 3 Walking Group in association with SCAF. If you are looking to join a fun, friendly group of social walks, our group is for you. The walks are aimed at people aged 55+ and are suitable for anyone able to walk for an hour+ without stopping. We meet every Wednesday morning in Shirehampton at various times and starting points depending on Buses or Trains.

The walks are varied with some local and further afield. We like to stop for at a café and Toilets after walks when possible. Please bring money for refreshments and travel costs.

We will try to set and maintain a pace which they feel is appropriate for the group and route. **IF YOU FIND IT IS TOO FAST** please **SLOW DOWN** at a pace that is comfortable for you. You should be able to walk and talk, but feel a bit warm with slightly elevated breathing.



- Please DO NOT walk in front of the Walk Leader
- Dress appropriately for the weather and wear suitable supportive footwear
- Start each walk slowly, building up speed.
- Slow down towards the end of each walk
- Walk to increase breathing but not to exhaust
- Drink plenty of water bring a bottle of water & any snacks you may need
- Do not walk if you feel unwell.
- Remember any necessary medication e.g. inhaler

All walkers walk at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety.

Our routes are mostly designed to allow break-out points where anyone not wishing to complete the walk can leave at or near a bus stop (after advising a Walk Leader).

On some walks it is not possible to safely leave the walk and this is shown with the words NO EXIT as a warning.

A walk leader may refuse to allow you to walk if we consider you to be at risk!

Wed Dec 1st – City walk to St Mary Redcliffe Church

Starts: 9:55 am

Starting Point: Park & Ride Bus Stop, Station Road

Buses: 902 Portway Bus

Details: Bus to City Centre, walk to St Mary Redcliffe Church, before returning to Centre via Bathurst Basin, and Merchants Quay.

Take care busy traffic crossing main roads.

Wed Dec 8th – Chepstow

Starts: 9:30 am

Starting Point: Shirehampton Green

Buses: 3 or 4 then T7 Severn from Bus Stop H Cribbs Causeway

Details: 10:25 Bus (25min ride). Walk around the Historic Old Town of Chepstow. Stay as long as you like. Buses run on the hour.

Catch return bus before 4pm, passes invalid after 4pm.

Wed Dec 15th – Harbourside Circular

Starts: 9:55 am

Starting Point: Park & Ride Bus Stop, Station Road

Buses: 902 Portway Bus

Details: Walk from Merchants Road around Harbourside passing wildlife and gardens to centre and back to Merchants Road via SS Great Britain.

Some steps - Choice to leave halfway at Centre.

Wed Dec 22nd – Avonmouth Village to Yellow Brick Road

Starts: 10:00

Starting Point: Tithe Barn

Bus: N/A

Details: Walk down to Avonmouth Village then cross over road to walk along Yellow Brick Road.

May involve steps to Village.

Wed Dec 29th – Kingsweston Estate**Starts:** 10:00**Starting Point:** Tithe Barn**Bus:** N/A**Details:** Circular walk around the estate hopefully cafe open!**Muddy in places, many dogs off lead.****Wed Jan 5th – The Downs****Starts:** 10:00**Starting Point:** Shirehampton Green**Bus:** 4**Details:** Walk to Sea Walls for views of Avon gorge and Leigh Woods opposite. Pass the Goats Gully where feral goats help protect the gorge's rare plants.**NO EXIT.****Wed Jan 12h - Baracks Lane****Starts:** 10:00 am**Starting Point:** Tithe Barn**Buses:** N/A**Details:** Walk along Barracks Lane to Lawrence Weston Farm. Optional visit Farm. Continue walking to Kingsweston House for coffee or catch bus from Long Cross.**Easy level walk, slippery slope up to Kingsweston House. Many dogs off lead.****Wed Jan 19th – Top of Blackboy Hill to Clifton Village****Starts:** 9:30 am**Starting Point:** Shirehampton Green**Buses:** 3 or 4**Details:** Walk to Clifton Village via the Observatory, Coffee in the Village then walk to Clifton Down for bus home or down to Anchor Road Park and Ride Bus stop.**Take care crossing Busy Roads.****Wed Jan 26th - Portishead Lakes and optional Battery Point****Starts:** 9:25**Starting Point:** Park & Ride Bus Stop Station Rod**Buses:** 902 Portway and X3**Details:** Walk to lakes from High Street. Walk up to Battery Point and down to Harbourside.**Some slopes, Muddy and Slippery to Battery Point.****Wed Feb 2nd - Coombe Dingle to Blaise****Starts:** 10:10**Starting Point:** Shirehampton Green**Buses:** 3 or 11 to Coombe Dingle**Details:** Bus to Coombe Dingle. Walk through Coombe Dingle Car park to follow gentle sloping paved path past Lily ponds up to Blaise Cafe for coffee.**NO EXIT Some Slopes, many dogs off lead.****Wed Feb 9th - Ashton Court Estate****Starts:** 9:55**Starting Point:** Park & Ride Bus Stop, Station Road**Buses:** 902 Portway Bus then X3 or X4**Details:** Long pleasant walk down to Ashton Court for coffee. Then 902 home from Merchants Road. There buses from Bower Ashton to Hotwells if preferred.**NO EXIT Dogs off lead.****Wed Feb 16th – Greville Smythe Park Snowdrop walk to Create****Starts:** 9:55**Starting Point:** Park & Ride Bus Stop, Station Road**Buses:** 902 Portway Bus.**Details:** Walk around the park, hopefully snowdrops are out. There are display boards with the History of the park. Riverside Garden Centre or Create Centre for Coffee.**Some slopes around park, there is an easier walk on a lower level.****Wed Feb 23rd - The Downs to Westbury on Trym Via Hyatt Baker Hall****Starts:** 10:00**Starting Point:** Shirehampton Green**Buses:** 3 outward return 11**Details:** Walk through Hyatt Baker Halls, University Sports Ground and Canford Lane Cemetery to Westbury on Trym for coffee.**Some steps down to Hyatt Baker Halls.****Contacts: Ash Bearman (Development Worker)****SCAF (Shirehampton Community Action Forum)****0117 982 9963 • email ash@shirecaf.org.uk****Barbara Franco – Walk Leader 07942822609***Ruby's Beauty Room*

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SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON



SAILING CLUB NEWS:

Oars Out at Shire

As the sailors at Shirehampton pack their dinghies away at the end of the 2021 sailing season, the rowers are getting their oars out to get on the water in the Gig, Brigstowe.



© Shire Sailing Club

A gentle row to get started.

This year has been a quiet sailing season for Shire in two ways. Not all our experienced sailors made it back onto the water after the two lockdowns and, as the green energy people have been telling us, there has not been a lot of wind about this year. The club did attract members new to sailing during the year. A small advantage of the light winds was that we were able to run regular sessions where those new sailors were able to get on the water.

Interest in Gig rowing at Shire continues to grow. The club's plan is to run a couple of **rowing sessions one day per weekend**, tides permitting, throughout the winter. **Members Bristol Gig Club (BGC)** have continued to provide us with great support in developing our rowing. The latest support they have given is to provide **Cox Training** for Shire members. So, with luck, the club should have its own group of coxes ready to go some time in 2022.

The Club's committee is now on the lookout for **local sponsors** to help develop the club's rowing section. Currently we have the plastic Gig on loan from BGC. Our aim is to get our own Gig, maybe another plastic Gig or even a wooden one. We need a wooden Gig if the club is to take part in formal Gig Racing.



© Shire Sailing Club

Brigstowe on her way down river.



© Shire Sailing Club

No wind left today guys!

If you are interested in any club activities, or in supporting the club please contact us by email on info@shiresc.co.uk; or phone on Shirehampton Sailing Club 0117 973 5000; or WhatsApp groups ShireSailing2020 or ShireRowing2021

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City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

It started out as the 2021 Winter Bowling Break but, due to restrictions made necessary by the pandemic, ended up being the Bowling Break and happily took place from October 3rd – 8th at the splendid Toorak Hotel.



© David Hinksman

Indoor Bowling at the Bowling Break in October.

Twenty nine people, bowlers, family and friends made their way to **Torquay on Sunday October 3rd** for a highly enjoyable five days of not only indoor bowling but much more, including **Ten Pin Bowling**, a night at the theatre, use of the wide range of facilities offered by the hotel group and the chance to explore Torquay and the surrounding area. Explorers were seen in Dartmouth, reached by steam train and boat. Others made great use of the number 12 bus to Brixham and returned by ferry to Torquay, enjoying a great view of the cruise ship **Queen Victoria** at anchor in Torbay en-route. Riding on the Land Train or simply walking around the harbour and enjoying the views was all part of a great holiday in Torquay. There was entertainment and bingo each night, and for some a few hands of cards and friendly banter.

But it was a bowling break and from Monday until Thursday there was a two hour game each day against other visiting clubs on the hotel's excellent



© David Hinksman

It's always busy at indoor bowling!!

four rink arena. The week started with a win against **Penfields** who came from **Wolverhampton** and are predominantly **Crown Green Bowlers**. Tuesday's game was against **Century** who came from **London** and were very keen and competent bowlers. Wednesday and Thursday saw games against **Wellington** who travelled the short distance down the M5 to Torquay.



© David Hinksman

Ten Pin Bowling – very much a part of the week.

Ten Pin Bowling Night has become very much a part of the bowling week. It's always great fun and everybody can join in. For many it's the only time in the year that they do. There were winners, but the big winner was a fun and enjoyable night.



© David Hinksman

Is that a strike!!

On Wednesday evening there was a short coach journey to **Babbacombe** to see **Super Stars 2021** --- an excellent and highly enjoyable variety show at the **Babbacombe Theatre**.

Thursday evening presentations with something for everybody, but the main prizes went to the highest



© David Hinksman

Howard Surman collecting his prize for being top man bowler at the bowling break. Behind him – organisers Dee Crawley and Gill Hinksman.



© David Hinksman

Sandra Rees receiving her prize for being top lady bowler at the bowling break.

scoring man and lady from the week's bowling and this year it was a rather surprised **Howard Surman** and **Sandra Rees**. **John Tooze** was highest scoring man at Ten Pin Bowling and **Gill Hinksman** highest scoring lady. **Shirley Parker** made presentations to **organisers Dee and Gill** on behalf of all who enjoyed another successful break in Torquay.

In **2022** it will revert to a **Winter Bowling Break in March**.

The first social event of the close season was a **Beetle Drive** on **October 31st**, attended by 35 bowlers, friends and family. The winner and this year's **Beetle Champion** was **Bill Hatherall**. The next social event is a quiz at the **PBA Social and Sports Club** on **Sunday December 5th** starting at 7.30pm.

In the next edition ---- news from the **AGM** and the presentation evening plus a look back at the club's first ever game of **Spoons**.



The Annual Beetle Drive.



© David Hinksman

Playing Spoons on August 15th. Eventual winner Ken Davies is on the left of the picture.

For further information about the club and its activities please call David Hinksman on 0117 9082713 or 07932387217.

The club thanks everybody who has taken an interest in it during 2021 and wishes everyone a good Christmas and a Happy 2022.



Cotswold Community Association
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REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAY	Pilates 9.30-10.30am Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm Kettlebells 6:30-7:30pm
TUESDAY	Film Night 7:30pm* (1st & 3rd of each month)
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 10:30-11:30am Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm Pilates 6:30-7:30pm
THURSDAY	Bingo 2pm Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm Kettlebells 6:30-7:30pm Table Tennis 8pm
SATURDAY	Coffee Morning 10am (2nd of each month) Bingo 7:30pm (2nd of each month) Quiz 7:30pm (6 weekly)
SUNDAY	Breakfast 9:30-11am (1st of each month) Cotswold Christian Community Service 4:45pm (2nd of each month)

*Booking must be made, either by email:

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For more details and regular updates, join our mail list by emailing cotswoldca@gmail.com

News From ShireStrong Kettlebell Club

We are a small club of enthusiastic members who get together 3 times a week to work on our endurance and strength using kettlebells. Membership is open to all ages and abilities. Kettlebells are easy to use once you have had some instruction and have enormous benefits.

During **November**, members of the club are taking part in **2 challenges**. The first is a **6 week fat loss challenge** where we aim to encourage participants to make small changes to their diet in order to improve their body composition. It may surprise you to know that this has very little to do with weight but is more to do with converting fat to muscle by exercising regularly and eating a healthy diet. The aim is to show that even small changes in lifestyle can have a positive impact on health and wellbeing. The winner will be announced in December.

The second is the **100 squat a day during November challenge** to raise much needed funds for cancer research. This is going well although there are some achy legs. If you see someone squatting their way around the High Street it's probably one of the **ShireStrong** members!

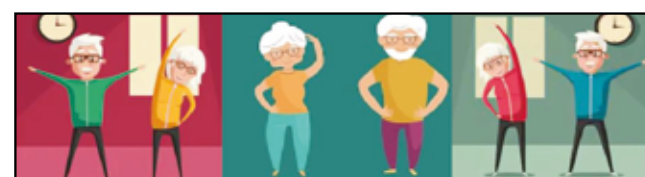
During October and November we have welcomed **Marie Young, Paula Vincent, Sharon Burgess** and **Alison Harrington** to the club. Welcome ladies.

Twyford House Cricket Club



Twyford House Cricket Club's Under 13's team would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to all the sponsors of their recent floodlit games and to everyone who donated money via raffles and other donations. The total amount raised for Motor Neurone Disease was **£1050**.

A big thank you too to Coach John Harvey for arranging all the floodlit games. If you are interested in playing next season, please contact John on 07906 598 773.



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Are you looking for a fun daytime social group? Why not join the Goldies Sing&Smile session in Shirehampton at St Mary's Church on the High Street? Goldies takes place on the 1st Wednesday of every month from 10.00-11.00am led by Maggie. Come along for some festive fun and Christmas crooners on 1st December.

At Goldies we chat and laugh with friends whilst singing-along to the hits of the 50s onwards, with artists such as Sir Cliff Richard, Tom Jones, Elvis, Dusty Springfield, Petula Clark and many more. Goldies is not a choir, you don't have to be able to sing to join, just love music and socialising.

Goldies Sing&Smile sessions are open to everyone, but particularly aim to reduce isolation with older adults. We ask for a £2 donation to attend.

When forced by Covid to close all sessions, Goldies looked to the internet, Facebook and YouTube to bring its fun sessions to people in their homes. Popular Wales-based leaders **Rachel**

Parry and Cheryl Davies lead the twice-weekly sessions under the www.goldieslive.com banner, with people joining from their homes across the United Kingdom. These will continue through to next Spring.

The Charity is always looking to recruit new session leaders and volunteers, currently with vacancies in Bristol and South Gloucestershire, and to hear from organisations who work with older isolated people. Visit the website: www.golden-oldies.org.uk, call the office on 01761 470006 or email events@golden-oldies.org.uk for more information.



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