

Shire

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

No. 657 - October 2026 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

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NEW Shire Lives
- Find out about the people of Shire who make a real difference
- See page 9.

Author Talks at the Library
- See page 6.

See Our NEW Puzzle Page
- See page 17.

Are You A Friend of Shire?

Friends are a blessing. They enrich our lives, they share with us, they laugh with us, sing and dance with us, play with us and walk with us on the journey through life. Friends are also a support through challenging times and life at present is quite challenging for a lot of us.

Shire News is no different; there is simply less money about now. Everyone seems to be cutting back and our revenues are falling whilst costs continue to rise; the “perfect storm” for a small, volunteer operation such as ours. That is why we are reaching out to our community to ask you to consider becoming a “*Friend of Shire*” by making a regular donation to help keep us going. This can be done by setting up a regular standing order (details of how to do this are given below.) We have been most grateful for the extremely generous “one of” donations that we have received this year and in the past which have enabled us to keep our heads above water and we will continue to welcome these if you feel unable to commit yourselves to a regular payment.

What Will YOU Receive in Return?

- 1 You and every other household in our community will continue to receive *Shire News* free of charge, produced and delivered entirely by volunteers who live amongst you.
- 2 Your name will be listed in every edition as a “Friend of Shire” in our Friends Section, unless you decide to remain anonymous.
- 3 You will be entitled to a discount of 10% on personal announcements (birthdays, anniversaries, funeral notices etc.) for every £1 of regular monthly donation made (Max. 2 per calendar year).
- 4 You will receive an invitation to our annual volunteers and friends social, with free drinks & snacks.
- 5 If you are not able to support Shire as a volunteer, this is a great way to involve yourself in supporting and building our community. Make no mistake, despite our many problems, Shirehampton and the four villages are a special place to live, work and grow up. Please join us in our work to celebrate that.



© Paul McMillan



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You can set up a monthly standing order using the following bank details:

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A/c name: Shire Publications

Reference: Friends of Shire

If you want to know more about the work that Shire does to report on and celebrate the vibrant life of our community, here is a QR code to access our website with a “Friends of Shire” enrolment document. Alternatively, email adverts@shire.org.uk or call Paul on 07742 804737.



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The Shire Committee

Shire

We hold regular monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month at 6pm in Shirehampton library. All welcome!

Official address: The Library, Public Hall, Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol BS11 9TU.
Please contact Shire on: chairperson@shire.org.uk

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Web address: www.shire.org.uk
Submit articles: editor@shire.org.uk
Sport & Activities: sports@shire.org.uk or 07981 927787
Advertising: adverts@shire.org.uk or 07742 804737
Finances: treasurer@shire.org.uk
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N.B. To meet the deadline with our designer, 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.

EDITORIAL POLICY

We welcome contributions for publication in ‘SHIRE’ but reserve the right to edit any copy received. Articles should not exceed 450 words. 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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REGULAR EVENTS IN SHIREHAMPTON

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

MONDAY	Twyford Art Club (Except August) Yoga	10am-12noon 6.30-7.30pm	Main Hall Main Hall
TUESDAY	Jolly Melodies (Term Time) Line Dancing Community Living Room Elevate Dance (Primary School Children – Contemporary) (Term Time Only) Bereavement Support (1st Tues) Puppy Training	10am-12noon 2-3pm 3-5pm 3.30-5.30pm 5.30-7pm 7-8pm	Main Hall Main Hall Library Main Hall Library Main Hall
WEDNESDAY	Healing Rooms (2nd Weds) Better World (1st Weds) Over 70s Exercise Extraordinary Links (Term Time) Women’s Fellowship (2nd and 4th Weds) Shire Stitchers (3rd Weds)	10.30am-1.30pm 11am-1pm 2-3pm 3.30-5.30pm 7-9pm 7.30-9.30pm	Main Hall Main Hall Main Hall Main Hall Main Hall Main Hall
THURSDAY	Shire Social Group Healing Rooms Tai Chi Family History Group (2nd Thurs) Pilates Model Railway Club	10am-12noon 10am-1.30pm 2-3pm 6-8pm 7-8pm 7-10pm	Bradley Room Main Hall Main Hall Library Main Hall Club Room & Basement
FRIDAY	Shire Stitchers (1st Friday) Chair Yoga Yoga	10am-12noon 11-11.45am 12noon-1pm	Bradley Room Main Hall Main Hall
SATURDAY	(Private and Public Functions)		
SUNDAY	Church of Grace	11am-4pm	Main Hall & Springfield

The Hall is also home to Shirehampton Action and Tandem Arts.



Cotswold Community Association
Dursley Road, Shirehampton,
Bristol, BS11 9XH
Registered charity no. 1101427
Website: cotswoldcommunity.org
Email: cotswoldca@gmail.com
Phone: 07943-401575

Regular Events at the Cotswold Community Centre

MONDAY	Pilates 9.30-10.30am Kettlebells 2pm-3pm 5:15-6:15pm 6:30-7:30pm
TUESDAY	Over 70s Exercise Class 2pm-3pm Sing For Fun 3pm-4pm Film Night 7:30pm (1st & 3rd of month)
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 10:30-11:30am Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm Pilates 6:30-7:30pm
THURSDAY	Welcome Space 10am-Noon Bingo 2pm Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm 6:30-7:30pm
FRIDAY	Happy Space 2pm-4pm (3rd of month)
SATURDAY	Coffee Morning 10am-11:30am (2nd of month) Bingo 7:30pm
SUNDAY	Cotswold Christian Community Service Songs of Praise Café 4:45-6pm (2nd of month)

Come along and join in the fun
For more details and regular updates, join our mail list by emailing cotswoldca@gmail.com

Notice to Our Readers and Contributors

We really appreciate and look forward to receiving your articles for our paper.

Please keep your articles to max 450 words (or consider less if submitting with a large number of photos). Photographs need to be of good quality and resolution for printing.

It really helps keep our community connected. Please note however that the deadline for receiving your articles or advertisements is the 10th of each month.

VOLUNTEER!

Do you have *Finance, Fundraising, Marketing or Advertising skills?* Would you like to share them with a friendly, relaxed, local group of volunteers producing the Shire!

If yes we would love to hear from you!!

If you are interested please get in touch on: chairperson@shire.org.uk

SHIRE ADVICE SERVICE

Free Advice Sessions
Shirehampton Health Centre, Pembroke Road,
Shirehampton
Tuesdays from 10am
To make an appointment call 0117 9515751

Avonmouth Ladies Club

We meet on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday at Avonmouth Community Centre 2.30-4.30pm
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The *Shire* Community Pages

Book Binders at the Cotswold Centre

Shire readers may or may not know that every hard copy of the paper, since its inception in February 1972, eventually makes its way into a binder kept in *Shirehampton Library*. We have just acquired the copies from January 2021 to December 2025 bound, and they are now available to the public. As our usual binder (Bristol Bound) is winding down towards retirement, we were fortunate to learn that members of the *Society of Book Binders* meet on the first Saturday of the month at the *Cotswold Community Centre*, and one of them very kindly agreed to bind the papers for us.



© Judy Helme

The group is entering its third year at the CCA and consists of a mix of amateur hobbyists and professionally trained binders, so mixed abilities and different projects are undertaken.

They range from work on creating new books, repairs, making boxes and gifts or items to sell. The Centre is very suitable as the members (currently 12) have individual tables arranged in such a way that they can talk, share thoughts and ideas and enjoy each other's company as like-minded people. The CCA was described as a 'sanctuary' for book binders and they are extremely happy to be there.

Membership is by word of mouth and binders bring in their own materials and tools, although there is always help available if something has been forgotten! Margaret, Secretary of the Western Region arranges a yearly programme in advance and occasionally a retired book binder will attend to give a talk or instruction.

The binders come from various localities including Gloucestershire and Somerset and because the CCA was in the M5 corridor and accessible by train it was a perfect place to choose for that reason, but also attractive because, and I quote, "you can feel it is well loved".

So well done the CCA for being so inviting and welcoming, congratulations to the Book Binders for the lovely work they do, and thank you from Shire for binding our papers and letting us get to know you.

Judy Helme

New Recycling Containers Roll Out Across The City: Can You Recycle More?

Bristol City Council and Bristol Waste Company are working with an external logistics company to deliver brand new recycling containers to 175,000 homes across Bristol from 7 September into November.

Homes on kerbside recycling collections will receive a **new red bag for plastic and cans**, which is 60% bigger than the old brittle green boxes, and a **new blue bag for card, cartons and paper**. The new bags will also be sealable, reducing litter, and easier to store between collections. Households with missing or damaged brown food bins will have new ones, and black boxes that are more durable won't change.

Residents will receive letters asking them to put out their containers on their usual bin day, ready for the swap. The delivery teams will work with Bristol Waste recycling crews to replace the old containers which will be emptied. Residents are being urged to put out **all their containers – even if they're empty**.

The container change project is part of an ambitious programme to improve recycling rates by 2% and follows Bristol Waste's campaigns 'Slim My Waste' and

'Bindigestion' – encouraging residents to get recycling materials out of the black wheelie bin. It represents a £1.4million investment in the city's recycling and the first of many improvements planned for Bristol over the next few years. The aims are to

- Reduce carbon emissions and the amount of waste sent for incineration
- Free up space in households' black general waste bins
- Conserve natural resources and turn existing materials into brand new items
- Save the city money by reducing expensive disposal fees for general waste
- Generate funds for the city by selling recycling to specialist reprocessing companies, to make into new items. The collected old containers will be repurposed or recycled to make new items.



Ricky Gayfer, Operations Director for Bristol Waste Company, said: "Lots of people don't know that correctly recycled items in Bristol are sold to generate funds for the city. Compare that to general waste from the city's black wheelie bins, which costs Bristol millions of pounds each year in disposal fees."

Sarah Burns, Sustainability and Engagement Manager for Bristol Waste Company said: "We know from our research that over 50% of what's in the average Bristol black wheelie bin is recyclable, like squashed plastic bottles and rinsed yoghurt pots.

Recyclable food waste makes up 26% of the average black wheelie bin."

Shire has asked the Council to clarify what should happen to glass, and we still await a response, but we assume it should keep going in your black plastic box.



We especially enjoy spreading community news and we love to hear from all our readers.

Please, send in your letters and stories to editor@shire.org.uk or deliver to The Library at The Public Hall.

If requested, we will not print the name of a letter written to the Editor, but we cannot accept an anonymous letter.

Many thanks.

LOOKING FOR OLD FRIENDS

Hi folks,

Raising some names here to ascertain if these people are still in the area.

PBA Avonmouth docks: Ron Hodges, Fred Combes, Tony Schaefer, Roger Mooney, Des Villas.

Sea cadets: Les Teague, Jan Francis, Webbie, Edward de Souza, Colin Deacey.

Contact me at kensharp96@gmail.com, phone 07846 339433.

Ken Sharp

A POOR DISPLAY

Dear Shire,

As a resident of Shirehampton I find it extremely sad to see the sorry state of our flower displays compared to our neighbouring areas in Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze, as can shockingly be seen in this photo!

Shire deserves better!

Vanessa Evans



© Vanessa Evans

Personal Announcements

Do you wish to announce a personal or family celebration, marriage or death?

To book contact: adverts@shire.org.uk
Prices Start from £7.95

PLEASE NOTE:

Any submitted Personal Announcements or other Notices to the paper may incur a charge and must be accompanied with the submitters' contact details or their submission will not be able to be published.

A GOOD DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Many congratulations to Teresa and Richard Good.

Married on 14th October 60 years ago.

What a super achievement. Well done.

Our love and special Good wishes from your friends everywhere.



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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.



SHIRE STRONG



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

Email: t.linda1206@gmail.com

www.shirestrong.co.uk

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2026
AT 7pm IN THE MAIN HALL

32 Station Rd, Shirehampton,
Bristol BS11 9TX

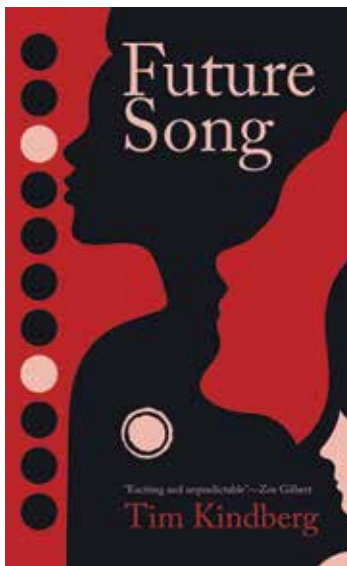
ALL WELCOME

Amanda Parsons (Hall Manager)

Upcoming Talks at Shirehampton Library

We have two upcoming talks this Autumn in Shire Library:

Firstly, on **Thursday 22nd October**, local author **Tim Kindberg** will be talking about his new book *‘Future Song’* – a vision of near-future Bristol as it adapts to climate change. Tim describes the theme as follows: The literature of climate change (‘cli-fi’) is extensive, including **J. G. Ballard’s** *‘The Drowned World’* (1962), **Octavia E. Butler’s** *‘The Parable of the Sower’* (1993) and **Kim Stanley Robinson’s** *‘The Ministry for the Future’* (2020). Now that we are living in the time of actual climate change – and parts of the world have been living with it for much longer – what do books such as these offer us? Can dystopian visions of the future like the first two examples compel us to avoid the suffering they portray? We already know that those two works didn’t. Can the Western, technologically oriented solutionism of Stanley Robinson’s novel inspire us to act, as we surely practically can? Or is literature largely irrelevant, and we should just get on with meeting and discussing and acting communally, riding our bikes and voting for climate action? In this talk I’ll argue that we must also pitch our imaginations



against the political forces of denial, and against the part of ourselves that wants to bury our heads in the sand. That’s the thinking which led me to my recent novel “Future Song”, with its hopeful but realistic perspective on where we are headed and what we can achieve. Just to whet your appetites, a dramatic scene takes place in Shirehampton Cemetery!!

Tim Kindberg (champignon.net) is a writer and digital innovator based in **Bristol** and **Western Kenya**. He has worked as a computer scientist in academia and Silicon Valley. As well as speculative fiction, including his most recent novels *Future Song* and *Vampires of Avonmouth*, he writes fairy tales set in the future, poetry, and sceptical takes on AI and other mass technologies.



Then, on **Tuesday 10th November** at 7pm, **Clive Burlton** will present a talk about **Bristol’s Lost City**. Based on another of his books, this is the tale of the **Bristol International Exhibition of 1914**. The Exhibition was part trade fair and part theme park and was sited near the Cumberland Basin in Bristol. Costing £110m in today’s money it was an extraordinary venture that few local people knew much about until Clive’s book in 2014. The 30 acre site was

host to a roller-coaster; a jungle; massive international pavilions; art galleries; exhibitions of machinery; daily pageants, musical shows and sports events; replicas of Bristol Castle and Drake’s ship Revenge; and an area called Shakespeare’s England. With no public funding, unlike the London exhibitions of 1908 and 1911, it was doomed to fail financially. When WW1 broke out, the exhibition closed and within weeks, the War Office acquired the site and the buildings for use as barracks for volunteer soldiers of the Gloucestershire Regiment and several artillery units.

Clive tells the story of the exhibition from records held in **Bristol** and the **National Archives in Kew**. Well illustrated, the talk explains how the site was transformed from an extravagant exhibition to a barracks and what happened to the site post WW1, during WW2, and brings the story up to date.

John Hastings

Regular Events at Shirehampton Library

Thursdays: Rhyme and Storytime for babies and toddlers 11-11.30 am in the Library.

Saturdays: Lego Club (first Saturday of the month) 10.30-1.30 am in the Library.

NEWS FROM SHIRESTRONG KETTLEBELL CLUB:

Taking on the challenge of Hadrian’s Wall

ShireStrong Kettlebell Club is a small group of enthusiastic members who get together three times a week to work on endurance and strength using kettlebells. Membership is open to all ages and abilities, and once you have received some instruction, kettlebells are surprisingly easy to use and offer enormous benefits.

This month, however, I’m swapping the kettlebells for walking boots to tell you about a very different challenge – my adventure walking **Hadrian’s Wall**.

Hadrian’s Wall stretches for 84 miles from **Wallsend**, just outside Newcastle in the east, to **Bowness-on-Solway**, near Carlisle, in the west. It is a remarkable piece of history and one that has fascinated me for many years.

Some time ago, I decided that I needed a solo adventure – something that would excite me, challenge me and take me outside my comfort zone. Hadrian’s Wall seemed like the perfect choice. The wall itself had always intrigued me, and at **84 miles**, the distance was certainly challenging enough!

The history of Hadrian’s Wall is fascinating. Construction began in AD 122 during the reign of the **Roman Emperor Hadrian** and took around six years to complete. The fact that sections of the wall are still standing almost 2,000 years later is absolutely staggering.

I set off on 28 August in glorious sunshine, carrying a backpack packed with wet-weather gear, water and plenty of snacks. I knew the weather could change quickly, so I wanted to be prepared for whatever the British countryside could throw at me.

It took around two days of walking before I really began to see substantial sections of the wall, but when it finally appeared, it was incredible. Seeing the ancient stonework stretching across the landscape gave me a real sense of the history and scale of what I was undertaking.

Of course, walking 84 miles is not without its challenges. Some of the climbs were particularly demanding, and by the end of each day my feet and legs were certainly making their feelings known! There were times when I wondered quite what I had let myself in for. But one of the great pleasures of the walk was meeting so many like-minded people along the way. I met walkers

from all over the world, each with their own reasons for taking on the challenge.

Although my legs and feet ached, every difficult climb and tiring mile was worth it. There is something very satisfying about setting yourself a challenge, stepping outside your comfort zone and discovering that you are capable of more than you perhaps thought.

For me, the walk was about much more than simply covering 84 miles. It was about having an adventure, meeting new people and proving to myself that you are never too old to take on a new challenge. Perhaps the biggest lesson I took from my adventure is that you don’t have to feel completely confident before taking on a new challenge. You may surprise yourself with what you can achieve. Whether it’s starting an exercise class, trying something you’ve never done before or simply pushing yourself a little further than usual, don’t let fear hold you back. We are all capable of more than we sometimes believe – and sometimes the greatest adventures begin when we step outside our comfort zone.

Linda Thorne

Ground Source Heat Pumps for Shirehampton Cemetery?

During the summer a survey from *UWE Research Team* was asking how people would feel about potentially installing ground source heat pumps in cemeteries. They have been looking at the potential for *Shirehampton Cemetery* with the nearby beneficiary being *Shirehampton Primary School*. It is important to note that this a research project with no action or impact being made.

The subject is far more in depth than first anticipated hence the interview with **Katie McClymont** being split into two parts, with a further article on the findings of the survey to follow. It is worth clarifying that Shirehampton Primary School have not been approached directly at this stage.

“The current phase is a pilot study, designed to gather the initial evidence needed to support a preproposal for a larger, research project. Should follow-on funding be secured, the full project would run for approximately 24 months.

“We have now reached a sufficient number of responses for the data to be useful and happy to share our findings with you once completed.” said Katie McClymont.

I addressed concerns raised on social media about disturbance to the peace of the cemetery and the effect it would have on the graves.

“We completely understand and share these concerns; they are central to what our research is exploring. It is very important to stress that this project does not

involve any installation, excavation, or physical work whatsoever. We are studying the hypothetical potential of cemetery land to host ground source heat pump pipes. Any calculations are being done entirely at a desktop level. The question of disturbance – practical, ethical, and emotional – is precisely what we are trying to understand, which is why community views like yours matter so much to us.”

Why has Shirehampton Cemetery been chosen?

“Shirehampton Cemetery was selected as a pilot site for two practical reasons: its regular shape, which makes energy calculations more straightforward, and its close proximity to Shirehampton Primary School, which makes it an ideal case study for exploring whether energy generated could heat a neighbouring community building. It is important to note that spaces allocated to individual graves would not be included in any measurements, only paths and green verges.” said Katie.



© Kathryn Courtney

I asked if this could this expand to other cemeteries.

“Potentially, yes. However, only if the pilot demonstrates it is both technically feasible and socially acceptable. One aim of the project is to use spatial data to map cemeteries across England and assess how many are located near community buildings such as schools, libraries, and parish halls. So Shirehampton is the starting point for what could become a much broader national picture. Any expansion would involve its own community consultation processes.”

Part 2 of this interview will be printed next month so we can all understand the logistics of cemeteries possibly being used as a ground source for heat pumps in the future.

Kathryn Courtney

Spear Comes to Avonmouth

The *Social Justice Hub at St Andrew's Church in Avonmouth* is about to add another dimension to its work, with the advent of *Spear Bristol North West*, a charity which provides a free, six-week coaching initiative for 16-24 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and is designed to help these young people facing barriers to secure sustainable work or education.

St Andrew's church has been able to offer space for this work by building a mezzanine above our church hall, accessible by stairs or lift. The fundraising and project management has been overseen by the Bristol **North West Foodbank** operated from our premises, and the initiative has been supported by local industry.

The centre at Avonmouth will be working in partnership with the **Clifton hub at Christchurch**, and **Matt Smith** will be managing it with **Keilah Cadogan** as a coach. Matt will be building partnerships with local organisations who might refer young people, as well as recruiting local volunteers to support the work, by perhaps acting as interviewers, for instance, and generally interacting with participants to help them with socialising skills.

Keilah as coach will focus on working with local referrers and help the young people to become engaged

and involved in the project. She and Matt will run the training sessions and give support.

The programme structure is 6 weeks of intensive coaching, followed by 12 months support. Activities include CV and cover letter preparation, interview training and practice, application support and development of soft skills such as confidence, motivation, resilience and communication.

Over 70% of participants enter work or education and remain there a year later. Evaluation by the **DWP** found that completing the programme increased the likelihood of employment by 25% compared to peers who did not take part.

The hub will start operating in November, so young people of the qualifying age group who are currently out of work or education



© Spear

can apply by contacting Matt directly on 07348 727992 or emailing matthew.smith@spearbristolnorthwest.org.uk. These same contact details apply to any adults who would like to find out more about volunteering – full training and support will be given.

Judy Helme

An Update from Darren Jones MP, Bristol North West

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

Parliament is back in session after the summer recess, and while I'm no longer in the Cabinet of this government, I'm as busy as ever as I work from the backbenches to proudly represent my constituents in Bristol North West.

There are advantages to not being a government minister. For one thing, I've had much more time over the summer holidays to spend with my wife and kids. It also means I'm less tied to **London**, which is great, as I much prefer being in **Bristol**! And I'm no longer bound by 'collective responsibility', whereby the decisions made by the Cabinet are binding on all members of the government. Collective responsibility had also prevented me from signing petitions calling for the government to change its policies – as a minister, I would have been petitioning myself otherwise!

This means I can now support more campaigns that matter to me and my constituents. Take, for example, the campaign for a national screening of a film that highlights the climate crisis, called **People's Emergency Briefing**. About 90 constituents have written to me over the past few months about this film, with many asking me to support the call for the government to hold a national televised screening. I had the opportunity to watch the film for the

first time at a constituency event that I held in early September in Westbury Park. About 170 constituents joined me for this screening, which was followed by an interesting discussion on the issues raised with **Dr Alix Dietzel** from the **University of Bristol**.

I thought the film was excellent – a factual account of the threats we face, but not in an alarmist way. So, I am happy to share that I have now signed the petition calling for a national screening. Films like this are important to inform the public, and the government does need the support of the public to keep our plan to reach **Net Zero by 2050** on track. But on the world stage, I want to assure you that the government is already doing more to tackle climate change, with the **Foreign Secretary, Ed Miliband**, leading the charge to persuade other countries to cut emissions faster.

In other local environment news, several constituents have been in touch about a **proposed data centre in Avonmouth**, raising concerns about its energy and water consumption. (Data centres are basically giant



© Darren Jones/Houses of Parliament

computers that get very hot, and so they need water for cooling.) The good news is that the proposed data centre in Avonmouth has been designed to be powered by energy generated from burning waste that cannot be recycled. Furthermore, I've been told the proposed data centre would use a 'closed loop system', which means the water inside the data centre would be reused, keeping its water needs low. It's right that we develop these technologies in line with our climate commitments, which is a red line for me. On energy and water consumption, I think the developers for the data centre in Avonmouth are doing a good job to strike this balance.

As always, if you need my help or have a question, you can get in touch with me on email at darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk, by calling my office on 0117 959 6545 or by writing to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Shirehampton is in the Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Ward

Your Councillors are:

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

Zoë Peat - Labour: Cllr.Zoe.Peat@bristol.gov.uk

Tom Blenkinsop - Labour: Cllr.Tom.Blenkinsop@bristol.gov.uk

Labour Members' Services Office: 0117 922 3827

CONTACTING YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Shirehampton is in the Bristol North West Constituency

Darren Jones Phone: 0117 959 6545

Email: darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.darren-jones.co.uk

Do You Park at Waverley Road Car Park? You May Need to Pay in Future

You may have come across the **City Council of Bristol (District Off-Street Parking Places with Charges) (Part One) Order 2026**.

One of the proposals in this order was to introduce parking charges at the Waverley Road car park, near the Health Centre.

The Council placed a public notice in the Weekend Post for 4-6 September, on page 46, confirming that these charges will go ahead with effect from **5 October**, despite local objections. Some of the key points in the Order include special provision in the car park for medical permit holders (permits, to be applied for by the Health Centre, are £5 a year) and business permit holders (permits are £280 a year). The usual

exemptions apply to bikes, motor bikes and disabled persons' vehicles. There will be facilities for charging electric vehicles.

You can find more detailed information about the proposed payment regime and the exemptions in the Post and, for example, at <https://directlocalbristol.co.uk/bristol-news/bristol-parking-charges/>. Details of charges for other traffic are understood to be as follows: the period covered by the Order is between 8am and 6pm, seven days a week, and the first hour will be free. Drivers will then pay £1.50 for up to two hours, £3 for up to three hours and £4.50 for up to four hours.

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Alex Maidment – a Quiet Superhero

Alex Maidment is a quiet superhero. The support she offers to many parents, children and families in Shire and the surrounding areas, both professionally and personally, rests upon qualities and skills that go unsung, in an area of life that goes unsung.

After growing up in **Plymouth**, Alex moved to **Bristol** in 2012, eventually settling down in Shire in 2013, where she lives with her husband **James** and 2 children **Arlo** and **Finn**, who both attend the local Primary School. Alex currently works as a **Community Early Years Practitioner**, supporting families with babies and young children. Alongside Health Visitors, her role involves running the **Baby Hub**, carrying out post-natal home visits, completing 1-year reviews, baby massage and offering general support with things such as sleep and introducing solids.

Alex lives by the mantra “it takes a village to raise a child”, and since having her own children has immersed herself in helping to create a community where families offer vital support to one another. Alex has been described as the fifth emergency service more than once, helping with childcare in the holidays, school drop off and pick up when families are struggling or traffic means people are delayed getting to school from work. She listens with no judgement, defaults to seeing the best in people and is a winning combination of calm, informed and present around small children that is hard to come by.

It might not sound like much, but then the work of raising young children is largely invisible, undervalued and often attracts criticism. Many people will know Alex from her time working in early years childcare at **Snapdragons Nursery**. In a world where big personalities, drive and measurable achievements fight for attention, Alex is grounded, generally unflappable and generous with her time. She is a huge support and friend to many parents who are navigating this time of life.

As well as her informal superhero status Alex volunteers as an **Infant Feeding Peer Supporter**. In the first few weeks and months of a child's life, the person you really need to show up is a calm, knowledgeable woman who can make sure Mum and baby are both getting what they need. Following the birth of her first son **Arlo**, 10 years ago, Alex herself attended a feeding support group in **Brentry** and found the support there invaluable, not just in terms of infant feeding advice but also the moral and emotional support of meeting other parents going through similar experiences. There she met **Debbie**, who lived in Lawrence Weston at the time. Together they decided to start a group locally to serve families in **Shirehampton and Lawrence Weston**. After receiving the relevant training from **Barnardo's**, they set up a group in Lawrence Weston 9 years ago, which continues to meet on **Thursday Afternoons at Ambition Centre**, supporting local families in all aspects of infant feeding.

Alex now also uses her knowledge and skills as an Infant Feeding Peer Supporter to volunteer as part of the team at **St Michael's hospital**, where she works on the postnatal ward, primarily helping Mums and babies with feeding concerns. In this role she works alongside midwives to identify how to help Mums who have specific concerns around feeding but also is generally there as a support to all the new families on the ward.

Alex is also currently **Chair of the Friends of Shirehampton Primary School (PTA)**. Another voluntary role that she has been doing for five years now. As part of the committee, she helps to organise fayres in Summer and at Christmas, sourcing ice



cream vans and negotiating with **Father Christmas** for a visit. The team arrange cake sales, film nights, Halloween discos, Easter egg hunts and many other activities that children and families can enjoy, but that also help to raise vital funds for the school. Behind the fun is the admin, and as Chair Alex fills one of the vital, required roles, without which the organisation could not function.

The important thing about being a hero is being a human. Alex seems to just do what Alex does, independently of any ego. We are very grateful for everything she brings to the village.

Rita Brookesmith and Lucy Bradley, with thanks to Alex Maidment

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THE GREEN PAGES

We Have To Work Together

Back at the beginning of September our local MP, *Darren Jones*, hosted a screening of the *National Emergency Briefing* film. That was a very welcome step towards keeping us informed about the *Climate Emergency*, but the discussion afterwards left many of us disheartened because it showed just how difficult it is for government to balance the competing demands of our society: welfare, education, housing, health, defence – with the needs of the environment.

The government wants to respond to the climate emergency by engaging in mitigation: taking measures to reduce carbon emissions to reach what is called ‘net zero’. Net Zero is a situation in which carbon emissions caused by human activity stabilize so that global warming stops increasing. But the global consensus on achieving net zero is weakening so government is also concentrating on adaptation: helping us learn how to live with the effects of a dramatically changed climate.

Of course, despite living through the scorching summer, watching the wildfires, seeing the dreadful floods in Nepal, not everyone acknowledges that global warming is causing these extreme weather events. Not everyone will be in favour of more green energy: wind farms and solar farms, electric cars and heat pumps, retrofitting and changing building regs.

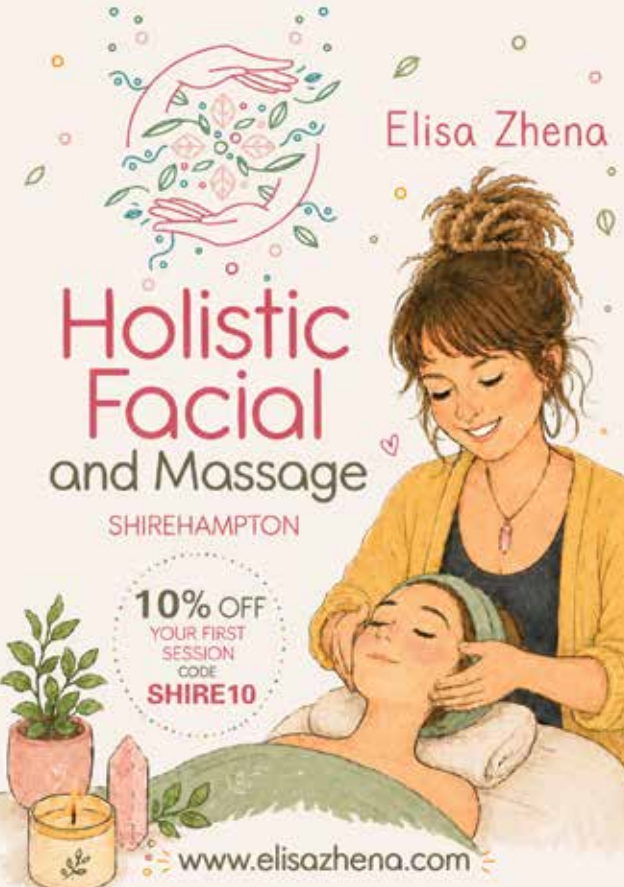
In a democracy government can only act with the consent of the people. That is why the National Emergency Briefing is so important. Everyone must know the **truth** about Global Warming and Climate Change if we are to choose action to reduce its effects.

If you haven’t seen the film already we’ll be showing it again:

Tuesday 13 October Methodist Church Hub, High Street, 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

There will be an open discussion of responses to the film and what we do next. Everyone who has seen the film is welcome.

Renée Slater



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October Allotment Diary 2026

October is another exciting month down on *Myrtle Hall Council Allotment*, with the sun still shining and allotmenters busy scurrying around, harvesting their remaining tender vegetables.

Autumn is with us, and it is time to consider tidying, weeding and preparing for winter planting. The summer crops have thinned out, but not all quite gone, with an abundance of green tomatoes still to ripen in the remaining sunshine, some bright yellow, determined sunflowers still reaching for the sky, and lavenders continuing to flower.

October is also the month of the **pumpkin** with some beauties to behold, and **Halloween** fast approaching on 31st. The pumpkin (*Cucurbita*) is a fascinating hardy winter squash, often planted in July, with many different varieties. Evidence apparently shows that the cucurbita was cultivated between 7000 and 5500 BCE in Mesoamerica, whilst wild species of cucurbita, and the earliest domesticated species, are native to north America.

The English word pumpkin comes from the 17th century word pompion, which may come in a roundabout way from the Greek pepon via Latin, Italian and French. Alternatively, it may have been helped along by the Massachusett word pohpukun when introduced by the Wampanoag people to the English Pilgrims at Plymouth Colony. Whatever its origin, the cucurbita is a very colourful, orange addition to any allotment and any plate.

Pumpkin fruits are actually a type of berry. The seeds, fleshy shells, leaves and flowers can all be eaten, either boiled, steamed, stewed or roasted. A fine accompaniment to any Sunday lunch, a delicious soup as a winter warmer, or a scrumptious pumpkin pie.

The carved pumpkin was first associated with the harvest season generally, but over time has become an emblem of Halloween. Originating from an Irish

myth about a wicked man called 'Stingy Jack' or 'Jack o'the Lantern', his soul was doomed to walk the earth forever, with only a small light inside a hollowed-out turnip, the original carved vegetables being turnips or swedes.

***“Double, double,
toil and trouble;
Fire burn, and
cauldron bubble.”***
– William Shakespeare,
Macbeth

On All Hallows' Eve (Halloween) the carved pumpkin lantern reportedly scares away evil spirits when the dead walk the earth on that night. So be sure to have your carved Jack o'Lantern pumpkin on your doorstep in Shire on 31st October to keep everyone safe from these sad wandering souls!

Other folklore associated with the pumpkin include Cinderella and her fairytale carriage, the head of the headless horseman in Sleepy Hollow, and Jack Pumpkinhead in the Oz books.

Other fruits ready for picking this month are big round juicy apples, and if you are lucky a few late blackberries to make a delicious apple and blackberry crumble (my favourite) or pie.

Seeds to plant: Garlic cloves, broad beans, overwintering onions, chamomile and oregano

Jobs to do: harvesting tender crops like runner beans, courgettes, pumpkins and squash; planting overwintering crops; improving soil with well-rotted manure or green manure; bed preparation by clearing weeds to reduce disease and pests; and protection of vulnerable crops and soil from frost by covering them with cloches, mulch or fleece

Wishing you all a sunny, cheerful and safe October from the growers at Myrtle Hall.

Diane and Jasmin (and Photos ©)



Enriching Shire's Natural Environment

This month *Bee Happy Shire* planted an Oak sapling at *Penpole Lane Pollinator Park*. The tree was a generous donation from a local resident and will hopefully provide a habitat and shade for many years to come. Even as a sapling, an Oak tree can provide food and a home for many types of wildlife. For instance, acorns are beloved by Woodpeckers and Jays; I wonder if we'll get any visiting birds from the nearby Penpole Woods?

Bee Happy Shire will be holding a Seed Planting Party at Penpole Lane Pollinator Park on Saturday 31 October, 10 - 11am. Everyone is welcome, although please note that the uneven ground is not suitable for people with limited mobility. Come and help us plant wildflower seeds and enhance Shirehampton's nature for years to come!

More information can be found at the Bee Happy Shire Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/beehappyshire> and at <https://shirehamptonaction.org.uk/events>.



THE ARTS IN SHIREHAMPTON

'S Wonderful! A Nostalgic Evening of Jazz, Blues and Swing

A wonderful time was had by all who attended the Ian Towers Duo concert at the Cotswold Community Centre on Friday 11th September. Ian Towers, who sings, plays keyboards and leads various choirs in Bristol, was accompanied by Catherine Herring on drums, and the Duo were also joined by the outstanding singer Sallyann Scragg, daughter of Community Centre stalwart and event organiser Jan Flook.

The set list extended from the Ink Spots to Frank Sinatra, from Chuck Berry to Queen, and from Mozart to Bob Marley. The enthusiastic audience sang along to most of the numbers, and the dance floor came alive on such belters as 'You Never Can Tell', 'Proud Mary' and 'Walk of Life'.



Ian and Catherine are regulars in This Is Your Musical at the Bristol Improv Theatre in Clifton on the third Friday of the month (<https://improvtheatre.co.uk>), and you'll find more information on Ian's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/iantowerspianist.

Rob Andrews & Photos © Rob Andrews



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Shirehampton Art and Craft Exhibition 2026 28th - 31st October

Shirehampton Public Hall, Station Road BS11 9TX

We are delighted once again to invite you to the annual *Shirehampton Art and Craft Exhibition*. Celebrating the creativity and talents of our local artists and craft people. Pictures from talented local photographers will be on display for the first time this year which will be a welcome addition to the exhibition. This is a chance to admire their work, meet fellow art and craft enthusiasts and to show your support for the remarkable artists around us. Local groups will be exhibiting such as *Avonmouth Art Group*, *Twyford Art Club* and *Needles Lawrence Weston*.

This is a chance to buy a handmade gift or card for someone special this **Christmas**. Enjoy a slice of homemade cake and a cuppa in our cafe and meet up with family, friends and neighbours. There will also be a special children's craft table with fun activities for our young visitors to enjoy.

Entry is free and everyone is welcome.

Whether you love art, enjoy crafts, fancy a piece of homemade cake or simply want to come along and support your local community, we would love to see you.

INDIAN SUPPER NIGHT

Late night exhibition opening

Thursday 29th October from 5pm-8pm

Due to popular demand we will once again be holding our Indian supper night. Enjoy a delicious Indian dish supplied by Ali Mahal. Vegetarian option will be available. A licensed bar will be available, serving wine, beer and soft drinks.

For more information about the Exhibition and the purchasing of tickets for the Indian Supper email us on shirehamptonexpo@gmail.com or call 07831 635063



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© Katherine Birth



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Shirehampton Art & Craft Exhibition 2026

Wed 28th Oct - Sat 31st Oct
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Death of a Showgirl

SMAD (Sea Mills Amdram) advertised this performance at the Rock, Lawrence Weston, in the August edition of Shire and I was intrigued to see what was on offer, especially as it was written by 16 year-old *Catriona Pearce*, who played the part of said showgirl.

It was a very enjoyable production in which the audience was transported back to 1922, learned the background of each character and were invited by a process of deduction to work out which one was responsible for the murder (of course they all had a motive). Before the revelation of the guilty party we were treated to a 1920s style cabaret and I must say the costumes were wonderful, the choreography most impressive and the singing joyful.

Well done all involved in SMAD for giving up their time and talents and providing some good wholesome entertainment. In addition some of the proceeds from ticket sales went to the charity **Hope Against Suicide**. The good news is that they will be performing at the same venue in **December** (*details will be in Shire*) but this time free of charge, and it is the pantomime **Snow White**. I for one will be booking a seat.

Judy Helme

Down On The Farm: Where Lawrence Weston's Little Moments Make Big Memories

There's never a dull moment down on the farm — and Lawrence Weston is all the better for it. If you've looked out across the farm recently, you may have noticed some new faces settling in. The latest arrivals have wasted no time making themselves at home, and watching them explore, play and grow has quickly become one of the highlights of the week.



There is something wonderfully calming about farm life. Perhaps it's the animals going about their business, the buzz of the bees, or simply having somewhere to stop, breathe and enjoy the outdoors. Whatever the reason, the farm reminds us why places like this matter so much to our community.

And while the animals have been settling in, the bees have been working overtime. Their efforts have paid off, with fresh honey now available from the farm shop, alongside plenty of other local produce in the freezers. If you're planning a visit, remember to bring a little money—you may well leave with rather more than you intended!

Purple fingers and happy memories

Late summer has given us the perfect excuse to get out among the hedgerows. Blackberry picking has been a particular favourite, and it seems you can't pick a handful without someone remembering their own childhood adventures.

For some of us, scrumping meant sneaking apples and plums, playing outside until nearly dark and returning home with purple fingers—and absolutely no regrets.

Those memories have sparked plenty of laughter

and storytelling. It's a lovely reminder that the simplest activities can create the biggest connections. A blackberry can be more than just a blackberry—it can transport someone straight back to childhood.

A feast for the senses

Our sensory sessions have provided another chance to slow down. Fresh lavender, rosemary and mint have been picked from around the farm, filling the room with familiar scents and giving everyone the opportunity to pause and enjoy the moment.

In a world where we are constantly rushing from one thing to another, these quiet moments of calm are worth their weight in gold. And then there are the chickens ...

The real stars of the show have developed a cheeky habit of wandering over to investigate whatever is happening. Crafting? They're interested. Chatting? They're listening. Tea break? They're definitely coming over. They've become unofficial members of every activity—although **Sarah** remains slightly less enthusiastic! Let's just say her relationship with the chickens is still a work in progress.

The heart of Lawrence Weston

What makes the farm special isn't simply the animals or produce. It's the people: the conversations sparked over blackberries, shared childhood stories, the smell of fresh herbs, the sound of laughter and the inevitable appearance of a mischievous chicken.

These are small moments, but together they make something much bigger: a community.

So here's to muddy boots, purple fingers, buzzing bees, happy memories—and, of course, chickens causing trouble. We wouldn't have it any other way.

Autumn Years CIC (and Photos ©)

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Shirehampton High Street – Use It or Lose It!

I first moved to Shirehampton 20 years ago. Back then the High Street was thriving with three banks, Woolworths (where the boarded up gym is), a nice boutique, electrical shop, newsagents and card shop, to name but a few businesses that have sadly gone. There are however still quite a few businesses on the High Street today and some shops I frequent almost weekly.

With competition from supermarkets and online shopping, our High Street, like so many across the country, has declined. This is so sad as any High Street is the heart of a community. I do consciously try and buy some products locally such as meat from the **butchers** which is competitively priced and so much nicer than the supermarket. If they don't have anything in stock they will take orders.

There is also the brilliant **Nightingale's Discount Store** which seems to sell everything under the sun. Having recently taken up art, I've been able to find a lot of art materials in there. It's good that another

bakery, **Parsons**, have opened in place of the excellent Redland Bakery, later Shirehampton Bakery, which is a positive sign.

I would urge people of Shire to come to the High Street occasionally and help get it revived – it's the community that helps keep it going. Have a wander around the **Polish shop** and try out some of eastern European food, have a cappuccino in one of the **cafés** or buy a **take away** from one of the many eateries.

As long as there are still businesses there is hope, and the Shirehampton businesses do need our support.

Vanessa Evans



Happy 7th Birthday, Shirehampton Markets!

The High Street Market celebrated their 7th birthday on Thursday 3rd September with the **Lord Mayor of Bristol, Yassin Mohamud**, being a special guest to cut the celebration cake and see the workings of the local community market. He met volunteers and market stall traders that make this monthly market special and welcoming to everyone. He also gave a short speech to a captivated audience.

"It's wonderful to see you all here as we celebrate another milestone for Shirehampton's High Street Market. Since the market opened on the 5th September 2019, they've faced many challenges, as have the local businesses. COVID, cost of living crisis, finding new venues, and the struggle facing also the high street businesses. But through it all, you have kept the market going.

This market is about much more than shopping. It's about friendship, community, support local businesses, and giving people a place to come together. A huge thank you to all, volunteers and stallholders.

Your hard work, loyalty, and commitment makes this market what it is. You truly are a market family. Thank you to your wonderful customers too.

Without your continued support, none of this would be possible. And finally, I would like to thank you all, especially **Market Team, Methodist Church and Hub team**, especially **Miriam and Mary**, for welcoming to all of you and us and becoming such valued members of your market family. Here,

through many more years of friendship, you've made a successful market. That's your mission. And again, thank you everyone and enjoy the celebration," said the Lord Mayor of Bristol.

Celebration cake was shared. Local author **Tim Kindberg** did a book signing of his latest book *"Future Song"* as well as his first book *"Vampires Of Avonmouth"*, and **Sarah Warren** provided live music that day. (Tim will be giving a talk at the **Public Library** on **Thursday 22nd October**, see page 7.)

The High Street Market launched its **'Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Take Away'** where you can stay and enjoy a breakfast with a difference, lunch, and then buy a take away for dinner that night. **Food By Sophie, Gourmet Warriors** and **The Tippy Waffle** were your food choices for the day and October will see new Street Food offerings at the next market on **Thursday 1st October**, alongside a few more new indoor stalls. **Shop, Eat and Enjoy**. Don't forget you can get your regular cuppa and cake from the **Market Kitchen**. **Make Market Day Your Treat Day**.



The High Street Market takes place the first Thursday of each month for 9am until 2pm at Shirehampton Methodist Church/Hub, High Street/Penpole Avenue, BS11 0DY. For more information go to: www.facebook.com/shirehamptonmarkets.

Email: shirehamptonmarkets@outlook.com or telephone: 0117 9829963.

Kathryn Courtney @ Photos © Kathryn Courtney

Churches in the Shirehampton Area

News from St Mary's

w: stmarysshire.org
t: 0117 907 7026
e: stmarysshirehampton@outlook.com

Our apologies that our September article just missed the submission deadline – we had some summer news we wanted to share, which we will include now instead. It has been a particularly exciting time for us as we had two separate invitations to London in recognition of the community work we do here.

Firstly, **Rev. Alison Sowton** was invited by our MP, **Darren Jones**, along with others in the ward, to **11 Downing Street** for an event held on 30th June. The event was hosted by Darren and included a welcome from **Rachel Reeves**, who was the **Chancellor of the Exchequer** at the time. Alison recounts that it was fascinating walking into the building, seeing the Artwork displayed and discovering more about the history of the place and was thrilled and thankful to have been invited.

Then in July, our **Youth Minister Amy Boucher** was nominated by Bristol Diocese to represent **St Mary's** and attend **Lambeth Palace** to meet the **Archbishop of Canterbury** for a celebratory afternoon tea and conference called 'Recognise' – a time dedicated to the recognition of individuals across the country who have contributed in many ways to youth and children's work. Amy was nominated for the dance project 'ConfIDANCE' that she runs as part of her Youth Minister role in Shirehampton. It was encouraging to hear so many positive stories of youth and children's work and it has been great to see so many children and young people

flourish in Shire over her 16 years of working with them. We always have space for new dancers to join us, see our website for details if you're interested in dance, youth clubs, pop-up events or any other youth activities we run.

Our **Harvest Festival** took place on September 27th and we collected non-perishable food items for **Bristol North West Foodbank**. We collect Foodbank donations at our collection point every day, so it is possible to pop in and bring donations whenever the church is open – we are open every morning 10am to midday for coffee mornings (except Thursdays, when we open for a Holy Communion service from 11am) and until 2pm on Fridays. The Foodbank would be very grateful for more donations especially as the last quarter of the year is always their busiest.

The **Goldies** session is on **Wednesday 7th October** from 10:30am – if you are curious about this, please come along and give it a try. Come along to meet new people and enjoy familiar music from the decades, whether you prefer to sing, move, or simply listen. It is not a choir, so there is no expectation that you should sing.

We are holding a **Ceilidh** event on **Saturday 17th October**, 7pm-10pm, when you can enjoy an evening of music, dancing and laughter. A caller will guide you through all dances, so you're sure to have a great time whether you are a complete beginner or a regular ceilidh-goer. Refreshments will be provided and tickets are £5 each, payable at the door please, by cash or card.

Our annual **Pop Up Glow in the Dark Party** is on **Tuesday 20th October** 6pm-7:30pm. There will be lots of disco light, music and glow in the dark fun. This is suitable for primary school children and their families and we ask that a responsible adult stays for the whole event with their children. Please wear neon colours and any extra glow sticks or neon & light up accessories. This is a free special event.

Looking ahead into early November, our **All Souls' Service** takes place on **Sunday 1st November** at 4pm when we remember lost loved ones. You are most welcome to this very moving service. If you would like your loved ones' names to be included in our prayers, please call into church to pick up a form which will be available a few weeks before or send an email to office@stmarysshire.org with the relevant names.

With best wishes from St Mary's Shire.

Shirehampton Baptist News

Contact: www.shirehamptonbaptistchurch.co.uk

October is a lovely month with Autumn at its best and the added bonus of an extra hour in bed.

Our weekly activities are well on their way. **Rock Steady**, a club for children of primary school age, meets every Thursday in term time in our church building, Station Road, 3:30-4:30pm. The children enjoy drama, music, craft and games. Parents and carers are welcome to stay.

The **Life Café** opens on the last Thursday of each month, this month on October 28th. All are welcome to come and enjoy a drink, some cake and a chat.

The next **Songs of Praise Café** is on Sunday October 11th when our speaker will be a Messianic Jew. Well

worth hearing. Last month **Mair** gave a talk on **John Newton**, the man who wrote the words to the song 'Amazing Grace', which is still well known. We enjoyed our picnic by the riverside in glorious weather.

It has been good to welcome some new people in our **Sunday Morning Service**. We meet every week at 10:30am, but remember Summer Time ends on October 25th. A warm welcome awaits you.

Until next time, love and prayers from all at Shirehampton Baptist Church.

BRISTOL HEALING ROOMS are in Shirehampton every second Wednesday of the month.

Don't miss this opportunity to drop in between **11am and 1pm** at the **Shirehampton Public Hall, Station Road**, to be prayed for in the name of Jesus. AS IT WAS IN THE GOSPELS! We have many stories of healing on a daily basis.

Jesus heals today as He did during His time on earth.



24 Shirehampton High Street, Bristol, BS11 0DL



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SHIRE PUZZLE PAGE

Welcome to Shires NEW puzzle page. Many thanks for these puzzles which have been created by Elijah Freeman. Please find the solutions on page 23.

Wordsearch:

Find these words on the theme of Shire. Going left, right, up, down or diagonally.

1. Avon
2. Cotswold
3. Daisy
4. Lamplight
5. Lark
6. Penpole
7. Pill
8. Portway
9. Severn
10. Shire
11. Weston

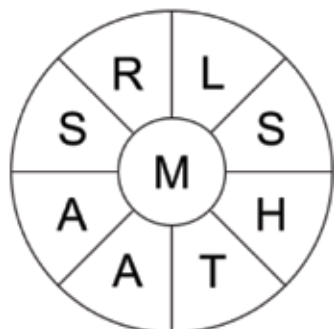


Word Wheel:

Make as many words as you can of 4 or more letters. Each word has to feature the central letter. There is one 9 letter word, with a hint below.

HINT: Shirehampton has this land feature in its SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)

Easy: 16 words
Medium: 20 words
Hard: 24 words



Equation Square:

Fill in the numbers 1-9 in the empty spaces without any repeats. Operations are done left to right and up to down. 2 and 3 have been filled in already so cannot be used.

	-		x		=	8
+		x		+		
	+		/	2	=	6
x		+		-		
	x	3	-		=	-6
=		=		=		
13		45		-3		

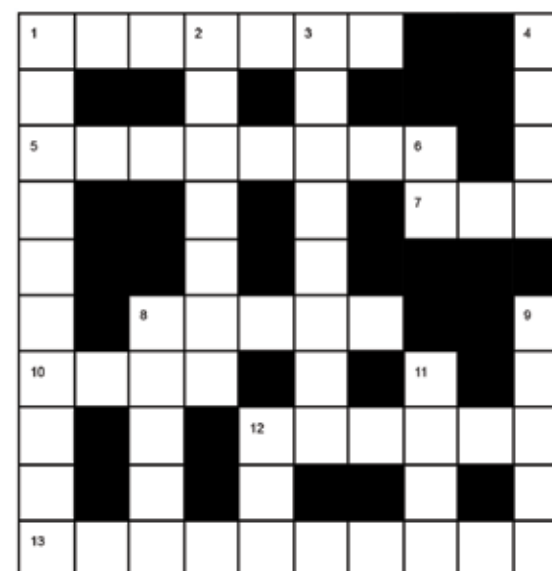
Brainteaser of the Month:

Rhyming couplets: Each pair of clues gives two words or phrases that rhyme.

Clues:

1. Cardinal direction / Produces inflection
2. Medical radiation / Annual celebration
3. Vehicle space vendor / Illegal lender
4. Restaurant delivery / Aerial carnivory
5. Paris tourist site / Hero's gift of flight

Crossword:



Across:

- 1: Closely tied neural links; or route for walking
- 5: Italian cheese
- 7: Unrefined metal
- 8: With 9 down; 1993 film about witches; or 1971 song by Focus
- 10: Celestial body
- 12: Glasgow football club founded 1887
- 13: 1976 Billy Joel album; or entry barriers at some venues

Down:

- 1: Herb used in tea and oil
- 2: Suffix meaning a large farm settlement
- 3: Downright; total
- 4: Tool for clearing leaves
- 6: Yes, opposite
- 8: Father of the Simpsons
- 9: With 8 across; 1993 film about witches; or 1971 song by Focus
- 11: Keyboard abbreviation
- 12: Mathematical function for adjacent triangle side divided by hypotenuse; abbreviation

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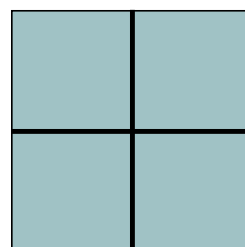
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Sport and Activities IN SHIREHAMPTON

Avonmouth Bowls Club Finals, 2026

Avonmouth Bowling Club’s finals were held over the weekend of 5th & 6th September. There was a great turnout of spectators and a BBQ kept everyone fed all day. We had two fantastic days of weather and bowling to match. In the ladies’ competitions, *Emma Johnston* beat *Shelley Belton* in the Elda Rice Trophy. Emma also became the inaugural winner of the new ladies’ points competition, beating *Julie Looker* in the final. In the men’s, *Andrew Mead* retained his 2 woods crown, beating *Andy Simm* in a very competitive final. Andrew also won the 4 woods title after finishing runner-up last year, beating newcomer *Ian Weaver* in the final. *Paul Stacey* won the men’s points competition, beating *Lennie Lennox* in a high-quality final.



Emma Belton (right) takes the ladies' points title against Julie Looker. Paul Stacey, organiser of this year's in-house competitions, congratulates both.

In the mixed singles, **Phil Belton** brought Emma’s winning run to an end. After numerous changes of leader, Phil finally came out on top to win his first title. On to the pairs, Andrew continuing his winning run; alongside Andy Simm they defeated **Dale Burns & Dave Curtis** in the men’s pairs. In the final game of the weekend, Dale won his first title alongside Vice-President **Neil Watkins**, as they beat Lennie & Emma in the mixed pairs.



Dale Burns and Neil Watkins (left) win the mixed pairs title against Lennie Lennox and Emma Johnston. Andy Simm “photobombs” the party!

We are always looking for new players to join us. We are a friendly, welcoming club; during the playing season we meet on Tuesdays for a “roll up” session, where new members can give it a try, with existing members on hand to coach. Thursday evenings are set aside for league games and on Sundays we generally play friendlies. Friday nights are social nights in the cosy clubhouse and bar, with bingo or a quiz, a well-stocked, keenly priced bar and a convivial atmosphere. The playing season is over now, but social evenings continue through the winter. At only £10 per year, social membership is a steal, and you can still have a go on the green if you fancy giving the game a try.

2026 COMPETITIONS		
	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
ELDA RICE	EMMA JOHNSTON	SHELLEY BELTON
LADIES POINTS	EMMA JOHNSTON	JULIE LOOKER
MENS 2 WOODS	ANDREW MEAD	ANDY SIMM
MENS 4 WOODS	ANDREW MEAD	IAN WEAVER
MENS POINTS	PAUL STACEY	LENNIE LENNOX
SINGLES MIXED	PHIL BELTON	EMMA JOHNSTON
MENS PAIRS	ANDY SIMM & ANDREW MEAD	DALE BURNS & DAVE CURTIS
MIXED PAIRS	DALE BURNS & NEIL WATKINS	LENNIE LENNOX & EMMA JOHNSTON

Our new season will start in April next year with a Tuesday evening roll-up for those who want to give it a try. Look out for details in the March edition of Shire. If you want to join us for social evenings over the winter, you are very welcome too.

For more information: Email
avonmouthbowlsclub@outlook.com OR
Phone 07804 791855

Paul Stacey, edited by Paul McMillan

Moments of Truth

There’s a primitive conception that truth is success; that winning proves the point. We see it in the judicial duel, that survived in vestige form, into the twentieth century. Two parties – or their champions – would settle their legal case simply by fighting. It had the advantage that judgement and punishment were one. Justice and success could also be equated and that fear that haunts the modern mind, that evil might triumph over the good, wasn’t there.



It was a Panglossian world where whatever happened, should happen; with no gulf between is and ought.

Where the warrior aristocrats weren’t in charge, those who laboured to build and to nurture were less pleased with the thieving, enslaving and wrecking, and formed a notion that there was a good that was separate from the outcome; that might isn’t always right. From that starting point they could, in imagination, form systems of what should be that detached themselves from reality, and assume a sardonic distance from the lives they actually led; guiding their actions by how they stacked up against some abstracted ideals in defiance of their context.

In fencing, we allow ourselves to recapture that primitive truth: that union of worth and efficacy, but no-one is robbed or enslaved. The truth is the truth of art and science but not in abstracted opposition to existence; as existence itself. We taste moments of truth in a context of a code of courtesy, triumph without guilt, defeat without shame, a conclusion without finality.

That is why we fence or do any sport if we are true to its spirit.

John Robde

THE CRICKET SEASON IS OVER; How Did Our Clubs Fare?

Shirehampton C.C. (Bristol and District Cricket Association Div. 1)

It is safe to say that Shire did not have the best of seasons, winning 6 and losing 9 of 18 fixtures, with 3 cancelled or abandoned, finishing 9th of 10. Along with *Keynsham*, they will play next season in division 2.

With the last round of matches on 29th August cancelled and all teams awarded 6 points, Shire did not have the opportunity to save themselves on the final day. It was the results in round 17 the previous week that had sealed Shire's fate, Shire losing at **Failand** to **Bristol C.C.** whilst relegation rivals **Timsbury's** home game ended in a 52-run victory over bottom club *Keynsham*.

We hope that the club will regroup in division 2 and push on for promotion next season.

You can follow the club on:

Facebook: shirecc
X: ShirehamptonCC
Instagram: shire_cc



© Paul McMillan

Lewis Mason strikes in Shire's win v Bath on July 4th.

Twyford House C.C. (West of England Premier Cricket League Bristol and Somerset)

Twyford House had a decent first season at this level, finishing 5th of 10, winning 7 and losing 7 of 18 matches, the remainder cancelled, abandoned or tied. They finished above *Clevedon*, the team they lost heavily to on 18th July, as reported in the September issue. Well done to the club for a solid first season at this level. The firsts also reached the final of the *Bristol Midweek T20 tournament*, defending the title they won last year. Sadly, they were unable to hang on to the trophy, losing to *Chipping Sodbury* on a rain-affected evening at Penpole Lane.

In ladies' softball Div. 2 South West, the club were champions. Hearty congratulations to the women on a superb season. The club's junior sides had lots of fun too, way too much to report here, but the club's social media pages can tell you all about it, so take a look at:

Facebook: Twyford House Cricket Club
X: TwyfordHouseCC
Instagram: twyfordhousecc

Paul McMillan



© Paul McMillan

Chris Sherring with a stumping against Chipping Sodbury in the winning opening fixture of this year's T20. Ironically, Chipping Sodbury had the last laugh, defeating defending champions Twyford in the final.

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Avon Youth League, u12 Football: Port of Bristol Green v Shine Saints Juniors

To set the context for this contest, *Port of Bristol* have three teams playing in this 9-division league, *Purple* in Division 1, *Green* in Division 4 and *White* in Division 8. *Shine* also has three teams, *Juniors* being their highest place team in Division 4, with *Colts* in Division 7 and *Youth* in Division 8. The task for Green today was for them to match the challenge of the best that Shine could offer.



Shine’s Tom and Port’s Freddie (Player of the match) battle for possession whilst goalkeeper Jamie readies for a strike.



Shine’s Harry about to clear over the bar before Freddie can pounce on a rebound off goalkeeper Jamie.

Shine have recruited four new players this summer and the match proved to be fiercely contested, with many outstanding individual performances from both teams. Here are some photos, which tell the story far better than words.



Chippenham Town Junior Premier League teammates Arthur and Ismael go head-to-head for their respective Sunday teams.



Port’s keeper Louie pulls off a spectacular fingertip save from Eddie’s fierce left foot, edge of the box drive, otherwise destined for the top corner.



Port’s William keeps up the pressure on the Shine goal.



Shine’s Harley pounces to score for the visitors.



Freddie sows panic in the Shine defence.



Ismael, with a simple tap in from winger Alejandro’s sublime cross, to extend Shine’s lead.



United by the love of our beautiful game; Port of Bristol Green and Shine Saints Juniors.

So, an opening day away win for **Shine Saints Juniors** but also plenty to take from this match for **POB Green**. The boys showed skill, character and a never say die attitude; there will be better days ahead. **Freddie** was named player of the match; he was a constant threat and hugely unlucky not to put away one or two. Better news for their **Division 1 clubmates**, who pulled off an impressive **3-1 away victory at Bitton Youth**. Thanks to the boys of both teams and to the coaches for a thrilling display of junior football at its best and for the exemplary way in which they held and conducted themselves, setting a fine example that some of our Premier League stars would do well to follow.



Shirehampton F.C. v Welton Rovers



On the 1st August, Shirehampton kicked off their 75th anniversary season with a trip to *Midsomer Norton* and pulled off an impressive **3-0 victory** against today's opponents. Shire's next four games were also away as Twyford House C.C. closed out their season at Penpole Lane. Shire won two of them, so three wins from five. Since that opening day win, *Welton* had lost their manager, so they arrived at Penpole Lane on Saturday September 5th without a permanent leader.

Ten minutes in, Shire opened the scoring, **Louis Snailham** firing low into the bottom left corner from the right edge of the box. Shire pressed forward at every opportunity and in the 32nd minute were rewarded with **Oscar Sealey** firing in another long-range stunner from the right. 2-0 at the break, the home team looking comfortable and **Kieran Webster** mostly "unemployed" in the Shire goal. What he had to do, he did well, distributing intelligently to his teammates.

The game was a little tighter in the early stages of the second half, Shire's manager **Liam Greening** an animated figure in the technical area, urging his team forward. Welton could not hold out for ever and just over 20 minutes into the second half, **Ciaran Wall** drilled a beautifully placed, low, close-range shot past two defenders, the ball sneaking under the diving keeper and millimetres inside the left-hand post. **3-0**.

The rout began in the 75th minute, substitute **Scott Bamford** rising at the left corner of the six-yard box, to meet a cross, directing a superb, flicked header over the challenging defender, beating the goalie, positioned on his near post, dropping over the line and bouncing into the far corner. **4-0**.

The torment was not over; in the 81st minute, **Ryan Radford** powered in from the left and struck a drive that scorched into the centre of goal, just under the crossbar. **5-0**. With only two minutes left to play Ryan, did it again, still from the left but this time beating the keeper low down on the near post. **6-0**.

If "they thought it was all over", it wasn't; with almost the last kick of the game, Welton's **Billy Ransome** beat Kieran Webster on his left post for a small consolation. That's how it ended. The 4th win in 6 for Shire and up to 7th in the table. At the time of writing there were six



Louis Snailham (out of frame) opens the scoring, Ciaran Wall and Ryan Radford backing up.



Ciaran Wall strikes for a 3-0 lead.

more games to go in September, with the first game of October against **Calne Town** on Saturday 6th October at 3pm. The club would very much appreciate your support as they try to avenge their early season defeat at Bremhill View.

Paul McMillan & Photos © Paul McMillan

Footnote: On 9th September Welton Rovers were pleased to appoint ex-player **Matt Williamson** as their new manager. We wish Matt and the boys the best of luck for the remainder of the season.



Ryan Radford (out of frame) fires over the keeper for the 5th.



Ryan Radford (out of frame) fires Shire into a 6-goal lead with Scott Bamford backing up.

Shire Puzzle Page Solutions

Equation Square:

8	-	6	x	4	=	8
+		x		+		
5	+	7	/	2	=	6
x		+		-		
1	x	3	-	9	=	-6
=		=		=		
13		45		-3		

Word Wheel:

Solution: Saltmarsh

Crossword:

P	A	T	H	W	A	Y			R
E			A		B				A
P	A	R	M	E	S	A	N		K
P				P	O		O	R	E
E			T		L				
R		H	O	C	U	S			P
M	O	O	N		T		C		O
I		M		C	E	L	T	I	C
N		E		O			R		U
T	U	R	N	S	T	I	L	E	S

Brainteaser of the Month:

Solutions:

1. South and mouth
2. X-ray and birthday
3. Car park and loan shark
4. Takeaway and bird of prey
5. Eiffel Tower and superpower

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The Crowley Cup

The Crowley Cup was created as a charity game by *St Brendan Old Boys RFC*. It was held on 1st August in support of one of St Brendan's players, *David Crowley*, and his family. The match was named in honour of the Crowley family and, most importantly, David's mother, *Janice Crowley*, who is sadly going through Stage 4 cancer.

Days like today remind us that rugby is about so much more than what happens during the 80 minutes on the pitch. Yes, there is competition, determination, and pride in wearing the club jersey, but there is also something far greater: the sense of community that brings people together when they need each other most.

It was incredible to see such a large turnout at the **Portway Rugby Development Centre**. Players from St Brendan Old Boys RFC and **Old Reds RFC** came together, alongside friends, family members and supporters, all united for one important cause.

The Crowley Cup was not simply about who won or lost. It was about standing as a rugby community that looks after every player from their club whether they are current or retired. It was about showing that they are not alone and that they have an entire community behind them. Thanks to the generosity of everyone involved, we are proud to say that the event raised in the end an amazing **£1,500 for Macmillan Cancer Support**. This money will help support people living with cancer and their families, providing vital care, guidance and reassurance during difficult times.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this day possible: the players of both clubs, the organisers, volunteers, referees, supporters, friends and family members who attended and donated. Every single person who contributed helped make the Crowley Cup such a memorable and meaningful occasion.



Most importantly, we want to send our love, strength and support to Janice Crowley and the entire Crowley family. Janice, this day was held in your honour. The turnout, the generosity and the spirit shown by everyone here are a reflection of how much you and your family mean to this community and the St Brendan's family. The Crowley Cup showed us what can happen when people come together for something bigger than themselves. It showed the true spirit of rugby: respect, unity, friendship, and never leaving one of your own behind.

We hope that this is only the beginning of a tradition that will continue for years to come, raising money, bringing people together and supporting those who need it most.

David Crowley, with the permission of the rugby charity committee

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