

Shire

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

No. 612 - January 2023 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

Have you got a job that needs doing? Go to YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS section on pages 21-22 to find a local business who can help.

Happy
New Year
to All Our
Readers!

Fun Party Streamers - Author:
All-free-download.com

Return of the Legendary Cockle Lady

Lee Worthy was sat having breakfast in a local cafe with a friend. Looking out the window they were reminiscing about the Cockle Lady.

He came up with the idea of having a painting of her where she once sat. He approached his friends **Wayne Harvey** and **Nick Venn** with his idea. He asked Wayne to take it on and make it a reality. The task was now live, contact was made with the owners of **Hair and Beauty Station** that once was **Hawkins News**. Permission was granted to erect it on their property.

We then consulted **Joe Westlake** an artist and resident of Shirehampton. He was given the task of producing this piece of artwork. Measurements were taken, the work was about to commence and we

wanted to set up a group funding page. But a friend of ours and local businessman **Brendan Turner** agreed to fund the project. He had fond memories of the cockle lady. Due to the rough surface of the wall, it became apparent that Joe would need to paint it on Marine Plywood.

If you would like to read more on the history of the Cockle Lady it can be found on www.bristolpost.co.uk and search "Shirehampton Cockle Lady".

Wayne Harvey



Shire Santa Dash

This years Santa Dash took place on Sunday 4th December with over 200 participants. It was started by TV presenter and celebrity chef Briony May Williams.

For photos please go to pages 12 & 13.

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Shire

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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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PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR JANUARY

WELCOMING SPACES

Temperatures are dropping and you might be concerned about the cost of heating your home. Remember there are 80 Welcoming Spaces open across Bristol offering a warm and welcoming space for you to go to. Some are offering advice services as well as community meals, access to computers and free Wi-Fi.

Find your nearest Welcoming Space on the Bristol City Council website: www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/people-and-communities/welcoming-spaces/find-a-welcoming-space?tab=WelcomingSpaces

LATEST CENSUS DATA PUBLISHED

The population of Bristol has grown by over 10 percent in the last decade according to figures from the latest census. The number of people calling the city home has risen by over 44,000 to 472,500. This is higher than the overall increase for England and Wales (6.6 percent), where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million to 59,597,500.

The city is now made up of more than 287 ethnic groups, with almost 19 percent of the population born outside of the UK. There are more than 90 languages spoken throughout the city, and more than 45 religions represented, although more than half (51 percent) of people do not consider themselves to be religious. This is the third highest proportion out of all local authorities in England.

Other key facts from the latest census include:

- Bristol has a relatively young population with more children than people over 65.
- The median age of people living in Bristol is 32.4 (compared to 40.3 in England and Wales).
- There are 191,600 households in the city, up by 4.9 percent (8,900 homes) since 2011.
- 26.7 percent of households have dependent children (51,100).
- Almost 9,500 veterans make up 2.4 percent of the population over 16.

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL SECURE £1BN INVESTMENT TO BECOME NET ZERO

Bristol City Council is entering into a world-first partnership, which will bring in over £1bn of investment to help make Bristol carbon neutral and climate resilient by 2030. Approved by Cabinet yesterday (6 December), the council will enter a joint venture with Ameresco Limited, and Vattenfall Heat UK as an essential subcontractor, to transform the way the city generates, distributes, stores and uses energy.

The ground-breaking venture, known as **Bristol City Leap**, will rapidly increase the scale and pace of investment in low carbon energy infrastructure such as wind energy, solar energy, low carbon heat networks as well as other energy efficiency measures and smart energy systems.

During the first five years of the twenty-year partnership, the private sector will invest at least £424m in a range of large infrastructure projects to reduce Bristol's carbon footprint by Bristol City Council Secure £1BN Investment to help city become net zero 140,000 tonnes. Projects will include a major expansion of Bristol's award-winning Heat Network, providing local businesses and residents with access to reliable, affordable low carbon heat from sustainable sources. Solar panels and low carbon heating systems will also be installed at local schools and the council's social housing will be made more energy efficient with the aim of reducing energy bills.





The partnership will also bring over £61.5m of social value to the city with the creation of over 1,000 new jobs, apprenticeships and work placements during the first five years alone. A Community Energy Development Fund worth £1.5m will be invested into local communities and, in the future, it is hoped that decarbonisation support can be offered to public sector properties such as hospitals and schools to support Bristol's wider efforts to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Lizzi Testani, Chief Executive Officer of the Bristol Green Capital Partnership, said: "Bristol City Leap presents a major opportunity to accelerate Bristol's progress towards its ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030 – bringing infrastructure and major investment to the city. This is a huge partnership for Bristol and due to its scale, ensuring its ability to deliver genuine social value for the city has been a major part of the procurement process. Bristol Green Capital Partnership is really looking forward to working with City Leap to engage communities and businesses to maximise the opportunities for inclusive climate action across Bristol."

To find out more information about City Leap, visit: www.bristolcityleap.co.uk



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The *Shire* Community Pages

Cotswold Welcome Space

As part of a City-wide initiative, The WELCOME SPACE at the Cotswold Community Association has been running since the beginning of November, every Thursday morning, from 10am till Noon. Everyone is invited to come along and enjoy our Warm Place. There's always free Tea, Coffee, and Biscuits. We also provide Hot Soup to take home. We have games to play, books to read, knitting, plenty of company and a friendly place to chat. You can bring your laptop along and use our Wi-Fi if you work from home too. If you know any folks locally who live on their own, do invite them along, we'd love to see them.



© Cotswold Community Association

There are also Welcome Spaces at the Methodist Church, Shire Public Hall, the Library's Urban Living Room (Tuesdays from 3pm till 5pm), and the PBA Hub. The Council website lists all the opening times here: [Find a Welcoming Space](#).

John Hastings



© Jon Saunders

The view from Nibley Road space across the Avon to Pill Creek on a beautiful early December morning taken by Jon Saunders.



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

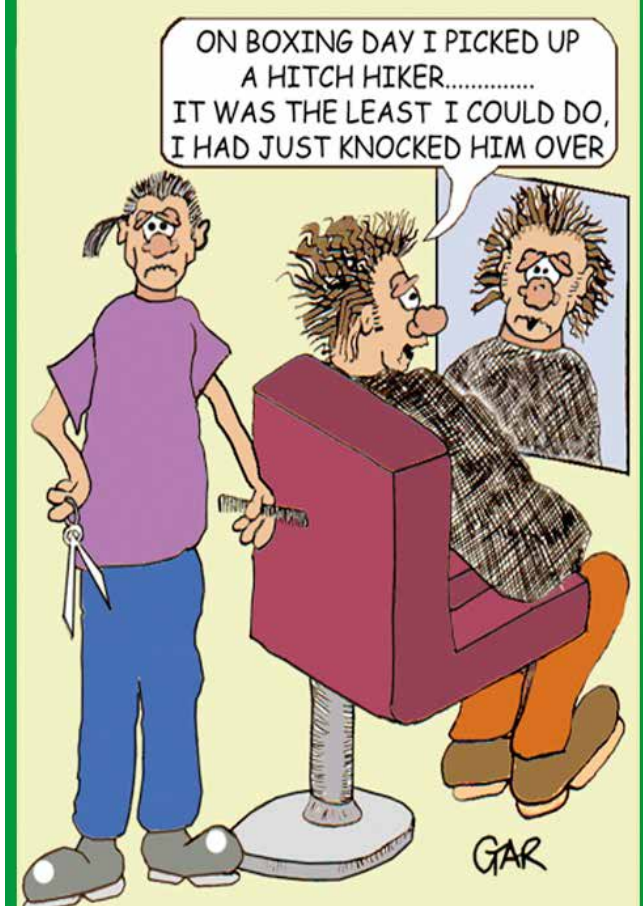
- MONDAY** Pilates 9.30-10.30am
Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm
& 6:30-7:30pm
- TUESDAY** Film Night 7:30pm*
(1st & 3rd of month)
Shire Climate Emergency Group
7:30pm (2nd and 4th of month)
- WEDNESDAY** Keep Fit 10:30-11:30am
Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm
Pilates 6:30-7:30pm
- THURSDAY** Bingo 2pm
Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm
& 6:30-7:30pm
Table Tennis 8pm
- FRIDAY** Trainmaster North Somerset
10-11am (1st of each month)
Contact Sophie on
somersetnorth@trainmaster.co.uk
- SATURDAY** Coffee Morning 10:00-11:30am
(2nd of month)
Bingo 7:30pm
- SUNDAY** Soul Space 12:30-3pm
(1st & 3rd of month)
Cotswold Christian
Community Service 4:45-6pm
(2nd of month)

*Booking must be made, either by email:
cotswoldca@gmail.com

or leave a message on 07943 401575

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

CHICO THE BARBER



Chico the Barber
22 High Street Shireampton



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.

THANK YOU

Dear Editor,

The Shire would like to thank **Shirehampton Womens Fellowship** for their kind donation.

The Shire Team

LITTER PICKER CHAMPIONS

Dear Editor,

As there were a couple of mentions of litter picking in the December issue of Shire it is time to tell you about the **Lower Shire** litter pickers. We are a group of "oldies" who all live in the Lower Shire area between the shops and the motorway. We meet every Saturday afternoon (weather permitting) carrying our sacks and litter picking sticks, wearing our hi-viz jackets announcing on our backs that we

are the **Lower Shire Litter Champions**. Our aim is to clear our local area of litter but it is amazing how much litter accumulates in just seven days. It gives us great satisfaction to see it all clean again after our visits. After our efforts we meet for tea and cakes and have formed a very close friendship. Not only does litter picking tidy the streets it gets us out and about in the area giving us much needed exercise. **If you see us, please give us toot or a wave.**

Christine Chamberlain, Barracks Lane.



© Christine Chamberlain

The Cotswold Community Centre Christmas Lunch was held on Tuesday 13th December



© Cotswold Community Association



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

I am a local Shire resident and a Personal Trainer who can help you to achieve your goals without the need to attend a gym.

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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.



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Scarlet Fever and Invasive Group A Strep

You may have seen in the news that there has been an increase in cases of scarlet fever and invasive Group A Strep (iGAS) in children.

Scarlet Fever

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by **Group A Strep (GAS)**. It is not usually serious but should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of complications and spread to others.

Symptoms include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours the red rash develops, usually starting on the stomach and chest before spreading to other parts of the body.

If you think your child may have scarlet fever:

- contact your **GP surgery or call 111** as soon as possible
- make sure your child takes the full course of antibiotics prescribed, even if they start to feel better during the course
- stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection.

Invasive Group A Strep

If the bacteria causing scarlet fever enters the bloodstream, this can cause invasive Group A Strep. Although very uncommon, there has also been an increase in cases recently.

Contact your GP or call 111 if your child:

- is not recovering from scarlet fever
- is eating less than normal
- has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- is under three months and has a temperature of 38C, or is older than three months and has a temperature of 39C or higher
- feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- is very tired or irritable.

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.

More information on scarlet fever is available on the NHS website: www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/

Stay Well this Winter

It's important to try and stay warm and well this winter.

Cold weather can increase our risk of respiratory infections such as flu and COVID-19 and have serious consequences for our health, especially for our older population and people with underlying health conditions.

- keep your home warm, efficient and safe - try to heat the rooms you use the most to 18 degrees and get heating systems and appliances checked
- keep the warmth in by fitting draught proofing around windows and doors; use draught excluders
- look after yourself and get the help you need
- check in on friends, family and neighbours
- visit one of the **80 Welcoming Spaces open across Bristol** offering a warm and welcoming space for you to go to.

Head over to the council's website (www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/people-and-communities/cost-of-living-support) to get help related to fuel bills, benefits, accessing food and mental health and wellbeing. **You can also call the freephone We Are Bristol helpline on 0800 694 0184 between 8:30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.**

Support for Your Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

The pressures of the cost of living crisis are likely to affect people's mental health, making us feel stressed, anxious or low. Please talk to family and friends about how you're feeling but also check in on people who you think may be struggling. There is also lots of help available from local organisations:

- **Every Mind Matters** (www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/) give expert advice and tips to help you look after your mental health
- **24/7 Support & Connect** is a free **NHS confidential 24/7 helpline** for immediate emotional and practical support – **call 0800 012 6549**
- the **Community Access Support Service** (www.cassbristol.org/useful-information) can signpost to organisations across Bristol for all groups of people and communities – visit the Community Access Support Service website or **call 0117 304 1400**
- **Changes Bristol** run wellbeing groups across Bristol – visit the Changes Bristol website or **call 0117 941 1123**
- **VitaMinds** – **NHS Mental Wellbeing support service** (www.vitahealthgroup.co.uk/nhs-services/nhs-mental-health/bristol-north-somerset-and-south-gloucestershire-mental-health-services/) – visit the VitaMinds website or **call 0333 200 1893** (Mon-Thurs, 8am-8pm; Fri, 8am-5pm; Sat 9am-1pm).

If you start to feel that daily life is getting too much to copewith, you can contact Samaritans (www.samaritans.org/). They offer support 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **0330 094 5717**.

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SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL NEWSLETTER - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SPOTLIGHT ON GROUPS AT THE PUBLIC HALL:

MUSIC WITH MUMMY

At the User Group meeting on Friday 27th May a suggestion was made that a small article be written about regular groups that meet at the Hall. It was hoped that by introducing Shire Paper readers to what we have to offer they would feel part of the Hall community, and maybe even take part in a few activities (if they don't already!).

This month we are showcasing Music with Mummy. Run by Reissa this is a pre-book only session for ages 5 and under, with amazing musical experiences to be had!

Reissa said: "A fabulous new parent and baby group starting up in Shirehampton! Music with Mummy (could also be daddy, grandparent, carer) is a fun and exciting music group for young children. These classes will be held every Tuesday at the Shirehampton Public Hall.

The Music with Mummy programme will take your child on a musical journey from birth, all the way through the pre-school ages. The structured weekly music classes use baby songs and fun activities for children to encourage listening and social skills, so essential not only in music but in all other areas of learning. They will develop a sense of rhythm, which will also help with learning and speech development. Watch your child grow in confidence as they come each week and take part in our small, friendly classes full of music, educational games and fun activities."

If you are interested to find out more, come along to a free taster session which will be held on Tuesday 10th January at the Shirehampton public hall. Please contact Reissa for further details on how to sign up or visit the website. www.musicwithmummy.co.uk/redlandshirehampton/ or Email: mwm.reissaperring@gmail.com



music with mummy
Jolly Babies & Three-Four Time

Shirehampton

Where: Shirehampton public Hall, Station road, BS11 9TX

When: Starting Tuesday 10th January
Time: 10.10am Music with Mummy
10.50am Music with Mummy
11.30am Jolly babies

Price: First session free £24 per term (5 weeks)

If you are interested please contact Reissa on:
mwm.reissaperring@gmail.com or whatsapp:
07921660711

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?!

The Public Hall is very keen to hear from anyone with drive, determination and a flair for listed buildings to join their team of Trustees. 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 9963 or email bookings@shirepubhall.org.uk

The Self-Created Locked Ward

I hate new year's resolutions – absolutely hate them, until it is time to make them. Then I have all sorts of plans. I am adamant that this year I am going to change my life – turn it upside-down – fix it and fine-tune my routine.

This year, however, as I moved into Shirehampton in September, I decided that this would be my new year and that in the middle of an ordinary year (although I don't suppose immigrating counts as an ordinary year), I would start living an extra-ordinary life. I turned to books, this time choosing to listen to an audiobook rather than trying to find time to read a book. I had seen The Locked Ward advertised on social media and quickly Dennis O'Donnell (the author) became my companion on every journey that I undertook in my vehicle and what a journey it has been.

Dennis has taught me about life not only in mental health wards, but as I have walked through his book with him, he has taught me about new beginnings, making me ponder on questions such as "Why do we look at others with so much judgment?" or "Is it true that, but for the grace of God, there goes anyone of us."

My September resolution has spilt over into my life making me more and more conscious of those around me, making me think twice before getting upset about the old man walking down the street, saying silly things, and waving at others, or, getting upset with the lady behind the counter that appears to be agitated. I have learnt to approach each one differently, every time ensuring that, before I judge the person or get upset with the person, to understand that they may be facing a situation that I could never understand.

In November, on a cold and wet Monday morning I ran into the nail bar looking dreadful with no make-up on and I think, just before I took my daughter to school, I may have put a brush through my hair, although I can never be sure. As I walked in on that Monday morning a lady greeted me and started talking to me out of the blue. No judgment regarding my ill-fitting, Monday morning hair and make-up.

No, she just reached out to me and there, in the middle of an ordinary rushed Monday morning, I made a friend who has now become a lifeline to me. As I ponder about this friendship and the way it came about, I know that, should she have judged me on what she saw, she would never have greeted me, let alone have invited me over for tea later in the week and a friendship of a lifetime would have slipped by me and now I wonder, how many friendships have slipped by me because I have been the one forcing myself to live in a self-made locked ward? And how many other friendships have I lost because I have judged others, whether knowingly or unknowingly, and thought maybe they should be in a locked ward.

My hope and prayers are that we will all break free from the locked wards that we have created for ourselves and start experiencing an extra-ordinary life in the midst of another ordinary year ahead.

Happy 2023!

Margaret Swanepoel

High Street Market Full of Christmas Cheer

December kicked off with the High Street Christmas Market with plenty of Christmas cheer in the air enhanced with Christmas music and many market traders wearing their Christmas jumpers and hats. It was the perfect time to start Christmas shopping and there was plenty to choose from including unique, bespoke gifts.



© Kathryn Courtney

There were Christmas trees, a selection of Christmas wreaths and plenty of plants to choose from for the home and garden. There were also bird boxes and garden ornaments too. The **fishmonger** found he was selling out of stock fast with people buying fresh fish to freeze as part of Christmas Day and Boxing Day meals. **FairBite** was doing good trade too with fresh and tasty fruit and vegetables. Bread and cakes soon sold out and orders for Christmas Hampers were being taken by **Ruby Jeans**.

There was knitwear, glass decorations, greeting cards and calendars infused with wild flower seeds that

could be planted into pots and garden beds once initial use expired. Candles, gift boxes, jewellery, homeware, teas, children's clothes, toys and plenty of gift ideas. Hot food was on offer throughout the day with **Food By Sophie and Kottu Hut**. **The Market Kitchen** was kept busy where cakes and mince pies were available for patrons buying a hot or cold drink. This forms part of our community ethos where you can meet up with family and friends for a cuppa, cake and plenty of chat to catch up on.

Father Christmas popped in for a couple hours or so to do a spot of Christmas shopping and buy a gift for **Mrs Christmas** too. He was happy to chat with people, old and young alike and some young children who usually see Father Christmas in his grotto wanted their photo taken with him. Father Christmas handed out chocolates whilst wandering around and even many of the market stall holders wanted their photo taken with him. Before he left Father Christmas wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

The **High Street Market** will be opening its doors again on **2nd February 2023** and future markets will be held on the **first Thursday** of each of the following months throughout the year.



© Kathryn Courtney

"We'd like to thank everyone for their continued support for our High Street Markets and Community Fayres this year. Without our volunteers, market traders and customers, we would not have community markets and fayres for all to enjoy. You are also supporting small local business, some of whom are fair trade, eco friendly and re-use, breathing new life into old items. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you soon with our new look High Street Market." said Ash Bearman.

For more information about Shirehampton Markets go to: www.facebook.com/shirehamptonmarkets or send an email to: shirehamptonmarkets@outlook.com

Kathryn Courtney

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191st Bristol
St Mary's Shirehampton

Sections we currently run at the Scout Hut, St Mary's Road, Shirehampton during term time are as follows:

BEAVERS Age 6 to 8 years
on a Wednesday 17:30 to 18:30

cubs Age 8 to 10.5 year
on a Monday 18:15 to 19:45

SCOUTS Age 10.5 to 14 years
on a Tuesday 19:00 to 20:30

You may not be aware but Scouting runs entirely on volunteers. These volunteers help by sitting on the Executive committee and running a section. We are keen to keep the workload we ask of our volunteers manageable and the only way we can do this is by having a strong community of volunteers backing the 191st.

If you would like to volunteer to be part of our Leadership team, Executive committee, or any other assistance you can give or if your child would like to join one of our sections please contact us at the email address below.

GSL191stbristolscouts@gmail.com



Community-Owned Local Projects Lead the Way to a Greener Future

2022 was a disappointing year for our Climate. Cop 27 failed to deliver the necessary commitment to reduce carbon emissions. The government has turned a blind eye to the reality of climate change and its catastrophic effects.

But there IS some good news. The Bristol Energy Cooperative switched on the solar roof at the Bottle Yard Studios and work is beginning on the Lawrence Weston onshore wind turbine, set to be the biggest in the country. These are community-owned local projects driven by local people, but they will have a national impact.

We are all finding ways to reduce our energy bills by reducing our energy use. To help us with this the Shirehampton Climate Emergency Group (SCEG) and the Community Action Forum (SCAF) will be organizing an Energy Advice morning in the new year. We'll be inviting the Bristol Energy Network, C.H.E.E.S.E (Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Survey Experts), and

local tradesmen who can answer questions about what you can do to reduce energy use AND make your homes warmer.

Shirehampton Climate Emergency Group wants to support local climate initiatives of all kinds so we'd like to know about what YOU are doing to reduce energy use and still keep warm. We'll be meeting again on Tuesday January 10th in the Cotswold Community Centre, Dursley Road, at 7:30pm. *Do join us!*

Renee Slater

Bramble Clearing and Pond Preparation for New Look Daisy Field

The Daisy Field is a green space you may have missed whilst driving along the Portway to work, home or trips away. It is part of Lamplighters Marsh, being a site of Nature Conservation Interest and a Local Nature Reserve. It's history has been mixed from grazing land to the 'Remount Station' which was set up during WWI to import, train and send horses on active service. It was even a landfill site until 1976 when it was grassed over.

In 2015 Friends Of Lamplighters Marsh was formed, being a volunteer group made up by local residents. In a way they are guardians of the area. They maintain and enhance this community open green space throughout the year. Work days are usually a couple of hours mainly on a Saturday to clear away brambles, buddleia and other invasive plants to protect unusual habitat and wildlife. FOLM as they are known also organise walks during the summer with experts including Steve England and Ed Drewitt.

On Saturday 3rd December the work party consisting of eight volunteers were clearing away

long grass and brambles from the many saplings that had been planted in the Daisy Field in 2021. Where the wooden bench sits at the top of the slope, you now have a view of Pill with the dreadful brambles having been cleared away. Armed with cutting equipment John H, Stephen, John K, Ed, Vick, Renée and Juliet showed great enthusiasm in clearing away the undergrowth and even cleared the area where a new pond will be installed in 2023. The cold and grey skies did not dampen their spirit and they made great inroads.

Preparations for the installation of a small pond began at the Daisy Field on 7th December with the Parks Department help. Lining with clay was the next stage on the 9th December with work expected to be finished sometime in January. Along with the War Horse statue being installed in the Daisy Field in 2023, it certainly will be a busy year for FOLM.

For more information about FOLM please go to: www.facebook.com/groups/1508854592747931 or <https://folm.wordpress.com> or you can email: friendsoflamplightersmarsh@gmail.com

Kathryn Courtney



© Kathryn Courtney



© Kathryn Courtney



© Kathryn Courtney

Nature Notes

I was in the right place at the right time at last! I took this picture on a visit to the zoo, just before the final day they would be open on the Clifton site.

An awesome example of one of Nature's iconic creatures. **Jock**, the magnificent silverback, with one of his offspring looking down on him! Perhaps contemplating an assault on dad for a bit of playful fun!

I believe their move to **Wild Place** just up the road will provide a wonderful back drop for us to view them in a more spacious habitat.



Meanwhile, here on the riverbank, the number of visitors of the feathered kind are gradually growing. At the time of writing the sparrows have started to return to the back garden, so the seed feeder will once again come into its own. The jackdaws have discovered the fat balls, and the blue and great tits are enjoying the nuts.

My gold finches were rather absent for a few days recently, which did worry me, but happy to report they are popping in and out again now.

There have been one or two sightings of a green woodpecker close to where we are, and this morning on my way back home with **Russ**, my collie, I got a close encounter with a beautiful female blackbird, who flew from one side then the other of the path I was on, without flying right away.

Let us hope that the winter doesn't prove too harsh, either for us or our fascinating wildlife, and that Spring really isn't too far away!

Happy nature watching folks!

Bobbie

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Shire Santa Dash 2022

The event took place on Sunday 4th December and was started by Bristolian TV presenter and celebrity chef Briony May Williams (right).





Churches in the Shirehampton Area

Baptist Church News

2022 has been a year when plans which were put on hold during the Pandemic are now in action.

Firstly - The start of a **drama group for Primary School children**. We also include games, craft and music. We meet every **Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30pm** at our **Church in Station Road**. Parents are welcome to stay and enjoy coffee and a chat. At the end of every term there is a parents evening where parents, friends and others can see what the children are working on. In **October** they presented "**The Fiery Furnace**", a story of heroic bravery. The Christmas dramas were based on the visit to the shepherds and looked at a contemporary Christmas Day.

Secondly - Our minister **Paul Rhodes** has been leading assemblies in **Shirehampton Primary School** and also a drama class in the lunch hour every **Thursday**.

Thirdly - **The Life Cafe** opens on the **last Thursday of the month**. Lovely home-made

cakes and a chat with old and new friends. Hope to see you at our next one on 26th January.

Fourthly - Some changes in the **Cotswold Christian Community service**. It is now **The Songs of Praise Café**. We meet in the same venue, **The Cotswold Community Hall, Dursley Road at 4:45pm to 6:00pm** followed by refreshments.

Our **November** meeting saw the conclusion of the talks about **Paul's** first Missionary Journey and **Margaret Wilkins** told us about the work of **Scripture Union** and her experiences working for the Mission. Margaret is 93 and plays the keyboard for our favourite songs. She has been organist at **Redland Parish Church** for many years.

We enjoyed some drama performed by two little sisters and their grandma and a poem composed and delivered by **Carol Gazzard** on **Remembrance Sunday**.

Our next **Café** will be on **January 8th**.

Our **Carol and Christingle** service held on **December 11th** was one both young and old enjoyed. It was held in the **Cotswold Community Hall**.

Shirehampton Baptist meet every **Sunday, 10:30am** in our building in **Station Road** and for **Bible Study on zoom, 4:30pm**.

We as a country have just ended a very unsettled year with more to come if the forecasts are right. Jesus did not promise Christians an easy life. In Johns Gospel Chapter 14. He offers Peace which no amount of money can buy. May we find that inward peace which He gives to all who trust in Him and let us pray for Peace on Earth as we enter 2023.

We trust you will all keep warm and well. We are here to help where ever we can.

A Truly Happy New Year from Shire Baptist

Contact: 07743 683684
rhodespaul.360@gmail.com

News from St. Bernard's

<https://olorsb.org.uk>

We had a lovely celebration at St Bernard's for Father Francis' 40th birthday. He was presented with a beautiful birthday cake, and he continued the celebrations with a special party organised by the congregation at Our Lady of the Rosary. Thank you everyone for all your hard work and organising skills.

New Year Mass times:

31st Dec - 6pm OLOR

1st Jan - 9am St Bernard's and 11am OLOR

<https://olorsb.org.uk> - for all further parish information.

Wishing everyone a warm, peaceful & joyful Christmas and a hopeful & happy New Year.

St Bernards



St Mary's News

Hi Folks!

May I wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year! We wish for peace in the Ukraine and pray that the terrible war taking place in their country will soon be brought to an end. The loss of life by both the Ukrainians and Russians is absolutely horrendous - so many families left grieving for lost loved ones.

Now, on a happier note I am pleased to say that our **Christmas Fayre** was well attended and it was a pleasure to see the **STOMP dance group** perform. Thank you to everybody who came and supported us which also led us to see many faces whom we hadn't seen before. It was a very joyous occasion and the soup and mince pies sold in the Churchyard proved very popular.

Back in November the **Cameo Orchestra** held a Concert in St Mary's to support the cost of the construction of the **War Horse Statue** which is to eventually be displayed in the **Daisy Field**. The church was almost filled to capacity and the Orchestra played a programme of light music, which included music from Musicals such as South Pacific,

the Sound of Music, Westside Story, Carousel to name but a few. The Conductor, **John Johnson**, and members of the Orchestra were very impressed with the acoustics in the church as many of their venues are often much smaller churches or halls.

On **Sunday, 1st January**, there will be **NO SERVICE** at St Mary's as we have been invited along with our friends within the **ASMA Group** to join the 10.00 am Service at St Mary Magdalene, Stoke Bishop. This is a family type service which includes **Holy Communion** followed by Tea and Coffee in the church afterwards.

However, on the afternoon of **New Year's Day**, **Rev Alison** and **Derek** would love to welcome you

all to the **Vicarage** for soup, cake and company from 2.00pm till 6.00pm at **No.8 Priory Gardens**.

The **"Goldies" singing session** this month is at **10.30 am on Wednesday, 4th January** and will be held in **The Tithe Barn**. For a £2 fee you can sing your hearts out with songs from past eras. It is now being led by **Shelley Cox**.

On **Friday, 6th January**, there will be a **Mid-winter Concert** held in **St Mary's at 6.00pm** when **Shelley Cox**, who has a magnificent Alto voice, will be singing to the accompaniment of a pianist on our **Boudoir Grand Piano**. Tickets are £5.00 at the door. This is the first time this concert has been held at St Mary's so **Shelley** would very much welcome your support.

On **Monday, 30th January, at 7.30pm**, the **Bristol West Concert Band** will be holding their **Winter Concert** in **St Mary's**. Tickets are £5.00 or £3.00 concessional. This is always a popular event, so I'll see you there.

Now to end, I must tell you about the man that stole a Calendar on New Years Eve. He got 12 months!

'Bye for now!

C.M.E.

St. Mary's Church Christmas Fayre and a Visit from Father Christmas

Christmas isn't Christmas without a Christmas Fayre and a visit from Father Christmas. With temperatures plummeting on Saturday 3rd December there is the sound of Christmas music on the High Street and upon arrival there is the welcome sight of a hot chocolate stall and a soup stall of potato and leek soup on offer outside the church.

Moving inside, the church is packed. Plenty of people enjoying a cup of tea, cup of coffee and plenty of chat. The stalls attract a constant stream of customers. There is the fundraising raffle and the lucky numbers stall where you could win anything from bottles of drink to accessories and toys. The cake stall is proving to be a big hit with shoppers. There is knitwear, toys, games, sweets, books, Christmas decorations, some made of wood, slate drink coasters and gift ideas too.

In search of Father Christmas I find him in his grotto and a queue of excited children awaiting their turn to meet him and tell Father Christmas what they would like as a gift. One young boy wanted a helicopter for Christmas. Much to the relief of his mum and Father Christmas it was not the real big ones!

Thank you to Father Christmas & his Elves for making the grotto sparkling & full of Christmas magic. Will see you again next year.

Kathryn Courtney



© Sarah Macdonald



© Sarah Macdonald

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 hearing on a daily basis.

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



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Shire Jobs, Training and Enterprise Hub at the Methodist Church

Lots of activities have been happening since I last wrote about the Hub, New courses, continuing courses, afternoon games and evening films alternate Tuesdays continue. Hub's Cups the drop-in Jobs club is now on a Monday, you are welcome to pop in after 11am, but our Project Coordinator, Darren is available only after 1pm as he's doing a welfare rights course. So we've extended the time we are open after 1pm. Alternatively call him on the number below for an appointment.

We've been busy preparing for the cold weather with our warm Welcome Space now open 3.30 till 8pm Mondays and Thursdays. Craft and/or chill, plug in your phones, company, games and food also available. Our new sessional worker is supporting these events. Thank you to BCC, Quartet Community Foundation, Bristol Methodist District and Nisbets for the additional funding that made this possible.

Our Community Fridge has also started with the help of the Co-op here in Shire! If you need food please pop-in Mondays to Thursdays, Penpole Avenue (white doors) Shirehampton Methodist Church. Likewise, if you have spare in-date food please bring it along or call on the number below! Darren usually posts a photo of what's available each day.

Community Learning (BCC) has more courses starting in the New Year, designed to help folks with

finding jobs and up-skilling. Keep an eye out for these on social media. Some Hot Desking space is also available Mondays and Thursdays for those otherwise having to work at home in the cold weather!

Please look out for posters, banners on the High St/ Penpole Ave and Social media for up-to-date information on all our activities. Twitter and Facebook: @shirejtehub and Instagram: Shire JTE

Email: projectcoordinator@jtehubshire.org to register interest in any of the above, or for a one-one appointment to discuss your needs.

Also Tel. 07305066478 or check the Website - <https://jtehubshire.org/>

Rev'd Pearl Luxon

Farewell to Avonmouth Genealogy Group

It is with great sadness that after 27 years we have finally had to make the decision to close our history group. Just as the first lockdown hit in 2020, we reached our 25th anniversary but were unable to celebrate – when we reconvened in Autumn 2021 our numbers were significantly depleted as a result of illness and lack of mobility of some of our members, which meant we would not have sufficient funds to pay for speakers in the long term. Sadly, no younger people seem interested in joining family history groups because they think everything can be found online (not true!). We struggled on until Tuesday 22 November 2022 when we held our final meeting with a fish and chip supper and quiz.

We have every reason to be proud of our achievements. To mark the Millennium we produced two 'Mouthful of Memory' books recording

memories of Avonmouth from early in the 20th century and ordered several reprints such was the interest. We have lots of indexes of church records

(St Andrew's and the Congregational Church) census records, directories and various sundry indexes such as Confirmation Records, a small number of church magazines, and in our archives we hold a number of the Bristol Port's 'Tideway' magazines which have also been name indexed. We also have photo archives.

If anyone has an interest in Avonmouth family history I am very happy to check our indexes, just email me on juliethelme@aol.com. Also, if there are any local events where it would be appropriate to bring our archives, again please contact me. In the meantime, a huge thank you to all our past and present members, some with us from the beginning, who have kept the group functioning, vibrant and interesting. You know who you are and it has been a pleasure sharing this fascinating hobby with you.

Judy Helme



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An Update from Darren Jones MP, Bristol North West

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

As I write this update, the World Cup is in full swing, but a little closer to home we've had our own good news. I first chipped in to support our own football club in Shire back in January 2021, with a letter to Bristol City Council highlighting the need to invest in local sporting facilities following the long demise of other community facilities, such as the swimming pool, the youth centre and the Robin Cousins Sports Centre. Last summer, with planning permission at a standstill, I wrote another letter to the Council in which I shared my admiration of the club's ambition to progress through the leagues of grassroots football. To do that, we needed to update the grounds to include better lighting and a visitors stand. I'm thrilled to share that the club's application has now been approved – a great result!

I know that some local people had concerns about development on the edges of the Kingsweston estate and the impact of lighting on the natural environment. Having spoken with Shire FC about their proposals and liaising with relevant stakeholders as part of the planning permission, it was agreed that the club has suitable mitigations to limit the impact of the proposed changes. Experts agreed that the impacts of the development were outweighed by the benefits of having a good quality and well-used local football club.

It has also been great to hear how the World Cup has been good for business for community pubs. With rising energy costs, this is a difficult time for all small businesses, so it's great that people have been heading to their local pubs to watch the matches. I'll be bringing Pub Politics to Shire on 19th January and, in addition to a wider discussion on local and national issues, I plan to speak with the pub's owners about the difficulties that they're facing. (Head to www.darren-jones.co.uk/events for details of how to book a ticket for Pub Politics.)

And finishing off this hat-trick of good news, a date has finally been set for the planning application to fix the Iron Bridge to go in front of the planning committee. After a seven-year wait, the plans are set to be reviewed on 21st December. Regular readers will know that I have lobbied repeatedly for the Council to make these essential repairs. We still need the planning application to be approved, but since these are not controversial plans, the road ahead looks clear for the bridge to finally be restored!

Finally, my family and I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. It is a privilege to represent my home area as your Member of Parliament, and I will continue to work hard as your voice in Parliament and your champion in Bristol with whatever challenges and opportunities 2023 brings.

As always, if you need my help or have a question, please get in touch on darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk, call the office on 0117 959 6545 or visit www.darren-jones.co.uk.

For the latest updates, follow me on social media: fb.com/darrenjonesmp or [@darrenpjones](https://twitter.com/darrenpjones)

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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SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

MONDAY	Twyford Art Club (except July & August)	10:00am - 12noon	Hall
	Extraordinary Links Parents Group (every 3rd Monday)	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Hall
	Yoga	6:00pm - 7:15pm	Hall
TUESDAY	Messy Play Toddlers	9:00am - 11:00am	Hall
	Extraordinary Links Parents Group	10:00am - 12noon	Penpole
	Line Dancing	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Hall
	Puppy Training	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Hall
WEDNESDAY	Shire Stitchers (1st Wednesday of the month)	10:00am - 12noon	Hall
	Bristol Healing Rooms (every 2nd Wednesday)	11:00am - 1:30pm	Hall
	Pop-Up Play Village Bristol North (every 3rd Wednesday)	9:30am - 1:30pm	Hall
	Over 75s Exercise Class	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Hall
	Extraordinary Links	3:30pm - 5:30pm	Hall
	Shire Stitchers (every 3rd Wednesday)	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Hall
	Women's Fellowship (every 2nd and 4th Wednesday)	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Hall
THURSDAY	Shirehampton Community Art and Social Group (formerly Sea Mills Art Club)	10:00am - 12noon	Hall
	Tai Chi	2:00pm - 3:30pm	Hall
	Model Railway Club	7:00pm - 10:00pm	Club Room
	Grainger Players	7:30am - 9:30pm	Hall
FRIDAY	Stay & Play (formerly Playtots - Term Time Only)	9:30am - 11:00am	Hall
	Shire News (last Friday of the month)	4:00pm	Hall
	Tree of Life Church (1st Friday of the month)	6:00pm - 10:00pm	Hall
	Create to Elevate Youth Group (2nd & last Fridays)	7:00pm - 10:00pm	Hall
SUNDAY	Church of Grace	11:00am - 4:00pm	Hall

The Public Hall is also home to Shirehampton Community Action Forum (SCAF) and Tandem Arts (Portway Room).

FRIENDS OF SHIREHAMPTON LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

These projects are delivered in partnership with Bristol Libraries and are funded by the Library Innovation Fund.



Library Living Room	Tuesday (Weekly)	3:00 – 5:00 pm	Library
IT Literacy Course	Wednesday (Weekly)	6:00 – 7:00 pm	Library
Family History Group	Thursday (2nd Thursday of the Month)	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Library

All these activities have been well-attended over the last six months and the Friends very much want to continue offering them. BUT we need more volunteers to help keep these sessions staffed. A couple of hours every month would go a long way to keeping these activities running. If you can help contact Friends of Shirehampton Library (FoSL) at friendsofshire@gmail.com.



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War Horse Celebration Concert

One word – three syllables – FAB-U-LOUS! - if I may echo the words of Strictly's Craig Revel Horwood – as I can think of no better way to describe the Cameo Orchestra's concert on Saturday, 19 November at St Mary's Church to raise funds to build the War Horse statue here in Shirehampton.



The **Cameo Orchestra** are a 27 strong Bristol orchestra based in **Warmley** and they often perform gigs to raise money for local causes. Straight into the concert they opened up with very recognisable music such as **George Gershwin's** 1930s jazz-inspired number "**Summertime**" which transported me to hazy, lazy sultry summer evenings. More popular familiar tunes followed from **Rodgers & Hammerstein's** Broadway musical "**Oklahoma**" and they got us swaying to Rodgers' melodic "**Edelweiss**"! Also fitting for the theme of the evening were some beautiful and majestic military-themed music such as **Holst's** "**The Marching Song**" and beautiful and passionate music from the musical **Miss Saigon** set in the **Vietnam War**. For me though, the most moving part of the concert was a medley of

famous **World War I** "**Music from the Trenches**" - well known songs sung by the troops that everyone would recognise from films and old newsreels.

St Mary's Church has fantastic acoustics which made the concert all the better. I learnt that evening that the **War Office** considered **Shirehampton** an ideal place to bring all the horses before they were to be shipped off to the front from the docks in **Avonmouth** and Shirehampton had by far the largest remount depot in the country.

On that evening I purchased this card (right) of a group of young WW1 soldiers – with their horses – who were based at the **Remount Depot** in Shirehampton circa 1915. This photo really touched me seeing these young, happy lads before going to war who did not know their destiny – or that of the horses either!



I now look forward to the unveiling of the **War Horse statue** which is anticipated to be in the spring/early summer. The statue has been made entirely out of horse shoes (so hopefully it will bring Shirehampton a lot of good luck!). The organisers are planning a military parade and hopefully a WWII flyover plus there may possibly a **Royal** presence too! It should be brilliant.

Vanessa Evans



Wreath Making

On Wednesday 7th December, a group of four of us joined a wonderful workshop where we had the opportunity to create a beautiful Christmas wreath. Mine is now cheerily decorating my front door! As four friends looking for something festive to do together, this Tandem Arts event at Shirehampton Public Hall was a perfect way to spend some quality time together and have a bit of fun.

Tandem Arts had another Christmas wreath making workshop at Shirehampton Public Hall on Friday 16th December at 7pm and at a charge of £10 with all materials provided and great company it made it a memorable experience.

None of us had any previous experience and it was a great success.

Lets hope they do it again next year!

For more information email tandemarts2@gmail.com or check out www.facebook.com/theportwayroom

Josephine Robinson



© Josephine Robinson

Yellow Brick Road

Many folks are aware that the footpath has been closed at the M5 Bridge end since May, due to Flood Defence Works, which has meant that no one has been able to walk through to Avonmouth from the Lamplighters since then. Well, we have good news - the contractors, who received lots of criticism after the removal of our beloved Whitebeam Tree, have been doing their utmost to make access available before Christmas, have created a diversionary path, very close to the original one, for the last 50 yards, leading up to the new floodgate.

There was a delay, as the path should've reopened in October, but this was due to having to do specialised repair work to the fuel pipelines (see photo). By the time you read this, the path should be open, which will mean folks from **lower Shire** and **Avonmouth** can resume their favourite walk along



© John Hastings

This photo shows where a temporary footpath has been put in opening up the Yellow Brick Road.



© John Hastings



© John Hastings

the **Yellow Brick Road**. Folks from the other end can do the round walk along the path and back through the **Daisy Field**.

The opening up of the path will inevitably mean more litter in the area, sadly, but there is the Beach Board outside the Lamps (see photo) with litter pickers and black bags, for anyone to do a litter pick. Go on, it's great fun!

John Hastings



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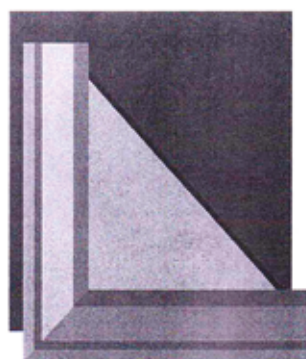
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SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON



City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

A highlight of the clubs' year is always the Annual Presentation Evening when success in competitions during the season is recognised and rewarded with the giving of trophies and prize money. Runners up receive engraved medals and never to be forgotten are those who took part and made it all possible. This year's event was something of a departure from previous seasons in that it was on a Sunday evening and combined with a Quiz Night and American Supper, and it all took place in the Ballroom at the PBA Social and Sports Club. Thirty three bowlers, family and friends came to receive or witness the presentations made this year by a founder member of the club, Paul Bywater - he was there in June 1970 when it was decided that a bowling club, based at The Port should be formed.

First to be presented was the **Club League Trophy** and the **Club League Cup**, received by **Bill Hatherall** on behalf of the double winning **A.N.Other** team. Runners up in each - **Nomads**, captained by **Charlie Maby** and runners up medals were presented to him and his team for each of the competitions. **David Hinksman** received the **Presidents Cup** in recognition of being **Club Champion**. This trophy is presented annually to the winner of a 21 shot game between the winner of the **Men's** and the **Ladies Four Wood Singles Competition** in the previous season. David beat

Carol Green in a very closely fought contest to take the trophy this year. **Brian Crawley** was one of the recipients in the presentation of the next two trophies - **The Jack Ashton Triples** and the **Two Wood Pairs**. With **Ray Cook** and **Derek Jones** he won the Jack Ashton Triples and his partner in success at the Two Wood Pairs was **Alan Coulstring**. Runners up were **Graham Neale**, **Dee Crawley** and **Ken Davies** in the Jack Ashton Triples and in the Two Wood Pairs **Dave Chilcott** and **Phil Cormack**.

There is one trophy that nobody wants to receive and that is the **Wooden Spoon**. This is presented each year to the team finishing bottom of the **Monday night league**. This year's reluctant recipients were **Three of Each**. The first half of an excellent **Gordon Dimond Quiz** followed the presentations. 35 questions across a broad spectrum of subjects before the **American Supper** and raffle, then 36 after it. It was a real test for the teams of four trying to find the answers but when the final question was asked and answers given there was a winning team, all from **Severn Beach** and called appropriately **Beachers**. **John and Kath Bartlett**, **Paul Watton** and **Carol Green** on 60 correct answers took the prizes. In second place, just one correct answer behind were **Graham and Marilyn Neale**, **Phill Chard** and **Adrian Mace**.



Brian Crawley, Ray Cook and Derek Jones receiving the Jack Ashton Triples Trophy from Paul Bywater - standing behind them.

The club was sad to hear of the passing of **Tony Gardiner**, a friend from the **Bristol Arrow Club** who came on club tours and breaks over a number of years.

There is much to look forward to in the months ahead including **Sunday Evening Social** events and in **March 2023** - the **Winter Bowling Break** at **The Toorak Hotel** in **Torquay**.



A.N. Other — who did the league and cup double in season 2022.

For further information about the club and its activities please call David Hinksman on 07932 387217



Paul Bywater presenting Jack Ashton Triples runners up medals to Graham Neal, Dee Crawley and Ken Davies.

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Shirehampton Primary School

Shirehampton Primary School's Early Years have starred in a 'Wriggly Nativity'!

The children had worked so hard practicing the songs, the actions and learning lines to put on the festive showstopper. The songs were groovy, uplifting, and got everybody in the mood for Christmas and the festive celebrations ahead. **The Nursery** kicked us off welcoming everybody to the show, and had their time to shine as the **'Twinkling Stars'**. Reception made up the rest of the Nativity with beautiful angels, sparkly stars and dancing animals, with Mary and Joseph even performing a solo. The children were all super stars and put on a magical Christmas performance. Oscars watch out-here we come!

The children in **EYFS** have continued to have a festive run up to Christmas with our annual Christmas dinner, our Christmas class parties and even a trip to the Panto. It has been a wonderful term in Nursery and Reception at SPS, and it has been lovely to celebrate the children's success with lots of festive cheer.



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