

Shire

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

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LETTERS FOR SHIRE

We were asked how to get in touch with Shire while the library is closed. Garry Thomas, our postmaster, has kindly agreed to receive letters and keep them for the editor. Letters to the Editor@Shire can be handed in at the Post Office while the Library remains closed.

RETURN OF THE SS GREAT BRITAIN

Former Shire resident David Elkington sent us this wonderful photo of the SS Great Britain making her way upriver in 1970, along with his parents' memories of the day.

Good morning,

I might have a little bit to add to any other contributions you may have received about the return of the Great Britain.

I was not in Shirehampton on the day the Great Britain returned, but my parents who lived on the Portway a few hundred yards down from Horseshoe Bend told me:

...on the evening the Great Britain was due to be moved up to Bristol from Avonmouth a huge crowd had gathered at Horseshoe Bend - and even greater crowds lined the Portway, particularly in the vicinity of Brunel's other great masterpiece - the Clifton Suspension Bridge. Crowds waited on the towpath on the other side of the river, and a special train had been chartered from Paddington to travel down Brunel's Great Western railway to Bristol, and then on to the Portishead line where the train remained stationary to enable the passengers to watch the great homecoming.

Unfortunately, after all the excitement and preparations to witness the event, the tide (I believe) was not ideal and



the arrival was postponed. Sadly, all who had gathered returned home, and the train returned to Paddington. Early the next morning a police car drove down the Portway through Shirehampton waking people up and broadcasting the fact that the Great Britain was on her way up the river from Avonmouth. The crowds hurriedly re-assembled and Great Britain duly passed along the river and around the Horseshoe Bend which

was the trickiest part of the manoeuvre. Crowds had re-assembled too under the Suspension Bridge (minus the train) and in the docks to watch the Ship's return.

With best wishes, and thank you for 'highlighting' this great event.

David Elkington, Shirehampton resident 1937-1970
(Contact details supplied. Ed.)

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Shire

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N.B. To meet the deadline with our typesetters, all written copy should be submitted by email or to the Library by the **10th of the month** before it appears in print, or it may not be included in the next edition.

While advertisements in this paper are accepted in good faith, readers are advised to make their own enquiries and assessment. We request that all adverts are supplied in the correct format and size or there may be a charge should you require artwork to be created. Price on application.

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

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

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SHIRE PUBLIC INFO FOR AUGUST

Since all events are cancelled and there are no ongoing group activities to inform you about, we've decided to make the What's On page a General Public Service Announcement page.

From Friday 24 July, customers are required to wear a face covering in shops and supermarkets and while using public transport.

St Nicholas Market has re-opened.

Bristol Bridge will close to general traffic on Sunday 2 August.

PUBLIC HALL TO RE-OPEN

The Shirehampton Public Hall Community Association Broad of Trustees met and agreed to reopen the Hall from the start of August for the existing users, where they wish to return. The Hall staff will be following an enhanced cleaning regime and there will be new hygiene requirements for users to follow. The world will be a different place for a while and the additional cleaning cost will add a burden to the finances but the Board are very aware of the importance of the Hall to the community and small businesses and we are committed to offer support where we can.

Gail Amphlett, Trustee

LIBRARIES: Which libraries will be open?

From Monday 13 July the Central Library will be open for returns and a Call and Collect service. Books can be reserved over the phone or by email, maximum of five per person (eight for children).

From Monday 10 August Henbury Library will be open from 11am to 4pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays for returns, limited browsing and borrowing, as well as pre-booked computers.

The Central Library is set to reopen to the public on Monday 7 September. Monday to Saturday, 11am to 4pm to browse in a limited area of the library, borrow and return books, and use pre-booked computers.

For information related to RETURNED ITEMS AND LIBRARY PROCEDURES, CHANGES WHEN YOU ARE INSIDE OUR LIBRARIES, PROTECTING OUR STAFF AND CUSTOMERS and our CALL & COLLECT SERVICE please see our website or the email you will receive if you are a Library member.

PARKS:

- We can now work with volunteers over the age of 70 and in the clinically vulnerable category.
- People in these groups must be able to work in a distinct area from others to ensure social distancing is maintained at all times.
- People in these groups must **not** be responsible for handing out, collecting in or cleaning equipment for the group.
- We are still **not able** to allow people to volunteer in parks if they are in the clinically extremely vulnerable category.
- Social distancing of 2m is still in place for everyone and **all other measures remain the same** (max 6 people, avoid sharing tools, do not provide refreshments).

We are still very much sending all volunteers the message that volunteering in parks in a group is absolutely not expected during this time. We know that personal circumstances are unique and we support groups whatever they choose to do. **Please get in touch if you are planning to relaunch activities and have worries or concerns.**

Ella Hogg, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Bristol Parks

SHIRE CRAFT EXHIBITION CANCELLED

Hi to all our crafters, exhibitors and visitors,

It is with much regret that we have, after consultation with our committee and volunteers, decided it will not be possible to put on the craft exhibition this year at the end of October.

With the restrictions that are in place at the moment, even though many of them are being lifted, we did not feel we could make the exhibition easily accessible and safe not only for those visiting but also our host of volunteers and exhibitors who put up, manage the exhibition on a daily basis, then take down and return exhibits to their owners.

We will be booking the Hall for next year in the October school holiday, doors opening on: **Tuesday 26th October 2021 until Saturday 30th October 2021.**

So put the date in your diary and we will look forward to meeting up with you all then. We will be in touch. So take care keep safe and well and keep crafting.

Regards, Ed and Gail Amphlett

HELP PREVENT LOCAL OUTBREAKS

People in Bristol are testing positive for COVID-19. There is no vaccine and no cure. We must act now to prevent a local lockdown. Please make sure you:

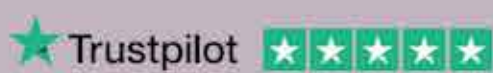
- limit contact with people you don't live with
- continue to work from home if you can
- get tested and stay home if you, or someone in your household or bubble has symptoms
- stay 2m apart from others when out and about
- wear face coverings in shops and on public transport
- wash your hands regularly



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The *Shire* Community Page

News from Shirehampton Group Practice

The last few months have been challenging and difficult times, and our thoughts are with all who have been impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

At **Shirehampton Group Practice**, we have had to drastically alter the way we operate, and our daily working practices have had to significantly change in response to a rapidly changing scenario, and evolving advice and guidance. At short notice, we have had to implement the use of telephone, video and e-consultations whenever possible, manage patients remotely using a range of technologies, change the way that prescription/sick note/administrative requests are handled, and always with the aim of minimising the risk of infection to both our patients and staff.

We still have a number of staff members self-isolating, with others working from home, which brings its own challenges. **We would like to thank all our team for being so adaptive and accommodating to the myriad of changes that have been required, along with all our patients for their understanding and cooperation.**

As lockdown is gradually eased, we are looking closely at our new ways of working, and want to retain those elements that are useful, more efficient and beneficial for all involved. Social distancing and infection control measures are likely to be required for some time, and this does impact on the time taken to see patients and our overall capacity. We will continue to direct patients to **alternative sources of support/advice such as Pharmacists, Social Prescribers, and self-help sites if relevant, and also encourage you to use our eConsult online service.** We aim to continue remote management of patients when this is safe and appropriate, and the new administrative processes will also continue to minimise unnecessary visits to the Practice with the associated infection risks.

There has also unfortunately been a major impact on our local hospitals, and there is now a significant backlog in routine referrals, Out-Patient

appointments, and routine investigations. Hospitals are also utilising remote methods of consulting, so you may have a telephone or video consultation rather than a face-to-face appointment. Your patience and understanding in these challenging circumstances is very much appreciated.

On a positive note, what has been amazing to see is how our **Shirehampton community has pulled together to help each other through these challenges.** The response from all involved has been remarkable and humbling, and we hope this spirit of Community can continue even once this situation has resolved. I am confident all our patients will embrace our new ways of working, and continue to support all our staff and NHS over the coming months. As always, we will continue to work together to provide a safe, caring and effective service.

Dr David Winfield

Senior Partner, Shirehampton Group Practice

MP Update from Darren Jones MP

I know that there are an increasing number of local redundancies. Because of that I have organised an emergency local jobs summit to understand what support is available to you and, where there are gaps, what I need to ask Ministers for on your behalf. In the meantime, if you're affected by redundancy, I've put together a helpful list of FAQs on my website at www.darren-jones.co.uk/workersupport. If you think I can help you in other ways, please do get in touch.

For us in this part of Bristol, redundancies are being felt the most in the hospitality and manufacturing sectors. I will continue to raise this with the Prime Minister and the Chancellor and do all that I can to persuade the Government to bring forward sector-specific support that will help with local employers such as Airbus, Rolls Royce, Nisbets and the many SMEs that supply them.

I've also recently met with teachers at Nova Primary School, as well as other local schools, to discuss plans to restart in September. I know

that many local parents are nervous about pupils returning to school but I want to reassure parents that teachers have been working hard to get this right. We all know how much our children benefit from being at school so I'm hoping, all being well, this bit of our lives will get back to normal from September.

I've also recently worked with Western Power to allocate grants to community groups so that young people have fun and inspiring activities to get involved in this summer. Bristol City Council will



be providing some Summer holiday provision for local pupils, which you can find out about on their website.

I continue to hold online or telephone surgeries, my Facebook Live Q&As and other online events if you'd like to discuss anything with me, and my next virtual coffee morning (via Zoom and Facebook) is on August 15th. You can register for a ticket at www.cafepoliticsaugust.eventbrite.co.uk

For further details, please visit my website (www.darren-jones.co.uk) or my Facebook page (www.facebook.com/darrenjonesmp). You can also contact me on darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk or call the office on 0117 959 6545.

CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR
Shirehampton is in the Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Ward

Your Councillors are:
Donald Alexander – Labour: cldr.donald.alexander@bristol.gov.uk
Matthew Melias – Conservative: cldr.matthew.melias@bristol.gov.uk
Jo Sergeant – Labour: cldr.jo.sergeant@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

Letters to the Editor

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We enjoy spreading community news especially in these strange times. We love to hear from all our readers of both the online and printed versions. Send in your stories to editor@shire.org.uk. Although, if requested, we will not print the name of a letter written to the Editor, we cannot accept an anonymous letter.

Many thanks.



PEDESTRIANISING OUR HIGH STREET

Dear Shire,

In this new normal we find ourselves living in, wouldn't it be a great idea to pedestrianise part of the High Street? It would make the village much safer and more welcoming for shoppers and walkers, giving people space to distance and doing away with the cars speeding just past your elbows on the narrow footpaths! This would really open up the village, and could also provide a space for open-air markets and would be a help to those with buggies or in wheelchairs. For example, if we

pedestrianised from B&M to The George Inn, the current parking would be retained and additional parking could be provided outside The George, helping to also provide for those of us who are less able to walk. The two halves of the village green could be brought together to form a usable green outdoor space for residents, with local traffic diverted north and south around the green.

Cars could easily use the Portway instead of driving through the village. Buses would be trickier, perhaps it would be possible to divert them along

Pembroke Road or only have the High Street pedestrianised between certain hours. It would take a bit of work, but it would be worth it to breathe new life into the High Street, reduce pollution and provide more useable and attractive spaces for all Shire folk! I would be interested to hear other people's thoughts on this, particularly those of you living around the village.

Best wishes,

Donal Lucey

Shire Needs an Advertising Manager

Shire depends on its advertisers to cover its costs and right now we need a new advertising manager. This involves keeping in touch with our advertisers, by phone and email. If you can spare two or three hours a month, are able to use a spreadsheet and can do email, this may be a job for you.

We are all volunteers at Shire. Any money left after the printers are paid goes to support local community organizations like the Dragon Club, the Scouts or the Men's Social Club. So you can see, looking after the advertisers is very important! If you're looking for work you'll get useful transferable skills and something to put on your CV. If you're retired

you'll have an opportunity to work in the community and contribute to Shirehampton village life.

If you think you might be interested please email Dorothy Jenner at adverts@shire.org.uk or call Shire enquiries on 07580 776 199.

The Editor

Shire Needs a New Deliverer

To deliver just 46 papers on the following streets! Can you help?

Beachley Walk, Old Barrow Hill and St. Tecla Close. This round would take about 20 to 30 minutes once a month.

If you are free on the last weekend of each month and want to help us, please contact me by email: distribution@shire.org.uk or call 0117 982 0478.

Bobbie Perkins, Coordinator.

Wanted - New Governor for Shirehampton Primary School!



Our last advert for a Governor placed in The Shire has resulted in a vacancy being filled.

However our hard-working team of Governors is still looking for another Co-opted Governor to contribute their skills to the School's Governing Body. Many of our existing Governors are also parents and staff at the School and we are therefore looking for a committed individual who is currently outside of the School community to complement the team. No previous experience required; training provided.

For further information, please email the Clerk to the Governing Body - elizabeth.jahn@bristol-schools.uk.



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Linda x x

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- Bootcamps: Monday and Wednesday 6.15-7.00am. Please message for details.



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Email: t.linda1206@gmail.com



Churches in the Shirehampton Area

St Mary's News

Hi Folks!

How are you all coping with this Coronavirus? As I write these notes in July, the Government has lifted a number of restrictions and it is hoped that if everyone keeps to the rules, we will avoid a further spike of this very dangerous disease. It hardly seems true that the original lock down was imposed before the clocks went on to British Summer Time and here we are, having passed the longest day and the nights are gradually getting darker again!

Back on **Sunday, 12th July** we took part in a socially distant **ASMA Tea Party**. Its aim was to hear stories from across the Mission Area and to pray that God will transform hearts and lives. How did it work? Well, we joined in small groups in gardens and logged into a Zoom meeting, or logged in individually. Here we were able to enjoy a time of prayer and listen to inspiring stories. We then prayed as a group about what we had heard. It was one way of maintaining contact and I am sure it was appreciated by all who took part.

You will have noticed that we opened for **Private Prayer on Monday 6th July** from 11.00 am until 12.00 noon, and will continue to do so on **Mondays and Thursdays from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon** until further notice. At the time of writing it is unclear when we will open for Sunday worship but hope to do so by August, once we have a clearer understanding of how we can safely ensure good hygiene and social distancing in church with more people present. The intention is to start with

only one service on Sunday at 10.00 am. Current guidelines state there can be no singing and only bread can be taken for Communion. There will be no Kids' Klub Service and you are encouraged to bring your children with you to the 10.00 am service - you may wish to bring with you a soft toy or paper and crayons in case they become restless, as our toy area at the back of church will not be available to prevent the risk of cross-contamination. There will be **NO COFFEE/TEA** served after the service.

Unfortunately, we are going to have to put up with several changes to normal. The plastic chairs will be used and spaced out to create acceptable social distancing, though family groups will be able to sit together. There will also be a one-way system for people to access the church and leave. Entry will be via the West Door next to the Churchyard path and the exit will be via the South Door near the Choir Vestry into Pembroke Road. **Please DO NOT enter or leave the church by any other route.** There are arrows on the floor to assist you



and there are hand sanitising stations at our entry and exit points.

There will be no more Coffee Mornings for a while, partly due to the fact that our team of volunteers are mostly shielding/self-isolating or unwell at present, plus it adds more complexity to who we may put at risk through cross-contamination.

It has been heartening to see some positives that have come out of our current situation, particularly the offers of help we have received from members of the public, which is much appreciated. We shouldn't forget all those who have had to work throughout this pandemic in Shirehampton - at our grocery shops, the health centre, pharmacies, the care workers, the teachers, the funeral directors, bank and the utility workers and refuse workers, to name but a few. So many people have been working in these areas and behind the scenes to help each and every one of us, so **THANK YOU!**

Now to close with a topical subject - Jesus can wash away sins - but during this pandemic you've still got to wash your hands!

'Bye for now.

C.M.E.

Hello From Shire Methodist

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

We have been carrying out a detailed risk assessment over the past couple of months and may be open for Sunday Morning Worship at 11am by the time you are reading this news! Please check our website, Facebook page or give us a call to check what is happening. There will be many procedures in place to keep everyone as safe as possible, in line with guidance from the government and the Methodist Church, while COVID-19 continues to affect our communities.

We are aware that the majority of our members and friends will probably not be ready to return to our church building at present. We will continue to offer support through a variety of ways, e.g. via WhatsApp messaging, Zoom, phone calls, email, YouTube and information through the post.

There are many interesting reports that, while people have been faced with the challenges and uncertainty of the pandemic, many have turned to prayer and have tuned into a church service (online of course), perhaps for the first time in their lives. As church buildings re-open, we will be pleased to welcome visitors who are curious about finding out more about the Christian faith.

Our building renovations have continued over the lockdown period and we are delighted with how the layout is looking. We have three smart new toilets! The renovations have been carried out with money from the **Port Resilience Fund** so that we can host a new **Jobs Training and Enterprise Hub**

as soon as we are able. We hope this will be a great asset to our community particularly at the current time when many people are being laid off work and perhaps having to learn new skills and even starting their own businesses. As a church family, we feel that opening our building in this way is a reflection of God's love to our community in a practical way.

We hope that the pandemic eases soon so that we can begin to welcome back the organisations who regularly use our premises. We send warmest greetings to everyone who normally uses our facilities, in particular the **Dragon Club, Shirehampton Weight Watchers, the Shire Newspaper team**, and guests to our **Saturday Bacon Butty Mornings and Monday Afternoon Teas.**

May God's peace be with you all during August.

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Shirehampton Baptist Church News

Will life ever be the same, we wonder as we emerge from Lockdown. It's too early to tell. But as we regain our lost freedoms I think we will appreciate them all the more.

On **July 6th** churches were allowed services inside their buildings. **Our first service was on July 12th at 4:30 p.m.**

We adhered to government rules of hand washing, social distancing and no singing. Singing plays an important part in our services but we can listen to hymns and songs by the use of DVDs and CDs and follow the words on a screen.

Lockdown has made us more aware than ever that the Church is not the building but a community of believers and followers of Jesus Christ. God is not limited to any one place and we can pray anywhere and receive talks and services in our homes via You Tube, radio, television and Zoom. When we do meet again inside our building we can be grateful for this freedom unlike many Christians in some countries who meet together at their peril.

As we look back at the last few months there will always be the sadness of all who have died and of some who are still suffering physically and emotionally. We trust we will always be a Church that is available to offer help and to share God's love in our village.

Come September we hope to give news of our services and activities.

We in Shirehampton Baptist send our greetings to all Shirehampton News readers.

Mair Blandford



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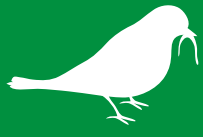
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THE GREEN PAGES

Back to Work for Friends of Lamplighters Marsh

It's been a good few months since Lamplighters Marsh has seen volunteers working hard to keep the area tidy and safe for all to view, but Saturday 4th July saw a working group of volunteers descend on one area in particular with social distancing in mind.

John Hastings, an active member of FOLM, said:

"There were a number of fires at the M5 end of the Yellow Brick Road at the end of May and several large areas of brambles were burnt. There was a lot of debris underneath and rubbish which had been there for many years. We've cleared the area to enable Bristol Council staff to clear the burnt out residual brambles and allow the areas to regenerate and, hopefully, thrive in the way the rest of the nature reserve is doing.

"With social distancing in mind it didn't feel too different as we tend to spread out a bit along the footpath anyway and we often tend to be in family groups too. But those on their own were always in view as we always have to ensure we act safely."

I asked John how important was it to keep Lamplighters Marsh tidy and looked after? "Very important. Not only Lamplighters Marsh but the Daisy Field too. There has been a surge in the number of people using the area. We've been working with Bristol City Council's Parks Department to ensure the area is maintained, both with their staff and our monthly volunteer sessions, and people now feel more comfortable and safe when enjoying their walks. We are keen to get the local population, particularly children and young people interested in nature, and there is a huge abundance of it in the reserve. We would like to engage more with schools and youth groups and this will be high on our agenda, post lockdown."

For locals, the area has been a godsend during lock down becoming a place for daily exercise and escape from the four walls of home but has there been a downside to this and what can people do to help FOLM?

"Of course, with the increased number of visitors, this has meant more litter, so we would urge people not to drop litter when walking along, or anywhere else for that matter. A number of volunteers walk through the area every day, and take a plastic bag with them to pick up rubbish or dog mess. It would be fantastic not to have to do so. The area looks fantastic at the moment with so many wildflowers and an empty crisp packet or plastic bottle in the middle of these is so disheartening."

If you want to join or find out more information about FOLM you will find them on Facebook or email: friendsoflamplightersmarsh@gmail.com

Kathryn Courtney



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KEEP WALKING, KEEP CYCLING, KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

The Severn Ride and Stride project is delivered by SevernNet and Sustrans and is funded by Highways England. It aims to get more people walking and cycling in the Severnside and Avonmouth area and surrounding communities.

NATURE NOTES

This beautiful lady is the mother of the three hoglets featured last month. (Apologies for extra footage!). As far as I know, all is well with this family, and I expect the babies have established their own territory now.



We had the sadness of a young fox mysteriously dying a couple of weeks ago. It was seen early one morning running out of the hedgerow, then quickly going back when it was spotted by dog walkers. Then a body later that day only just hidden in the undergrowth would seem to have been the same creature. Looked healthy too, so very sad.

On a much happier note, I recently startled a young heron out of a tree just a few yards from me, as I emerged from the hawthorn tunnel on the towpath. It flapped its way off the branch and soon gained control with its huge wings, and effortlessly glided down onto the edge of the river, out of sight! A really nice encounter to start the day.

Further back from the tunnel a few days later, I had a chat with a young robin. It was hunting for food on the towpath, and as the dogs and I approached, it flew up onto the PBA fence. Thinking it would probably fly off, I slowed a little, and happily it stayed put and watched me ease past, say hello, and move on! It then resumed its foraging. Robins have a reputation for their tolerance of humans don't they? I hope to see it again.

The weather has been pretty kind to our wildlife this Summer I feel, so let's hope there is plenty left to enjoy.

Happy nature watching all!

Bobbie Perkins



E-Vehicles Coming to a Showroom Near You

We're coming out of lockdown worrying about wearing masks and wishing we still had clean air and quiet streets and meanwhile the Arctic is burning. The worst forest fires ever are melting the perma frost and the Met Office tells us that the record breaking 38 degrees centigrade in Siberia would have been "almost impossible without human greenhouse gases."

Some of us have been taking part in **No Going Back** actions hoping to remind drivers that unnecessary journeys cause serious air pollution and add kilos of carbon to the atmosphere every time we drive. We've also been finding out about **Electric Vehicles**. There are new showrooms in Bristol for electric mo-peds, bikes and scooters and there is a second-hand electric car dealership in Shepton Mallet so there ARE fossil-fuel-free transport alternatives increasingly available for all ages and at all budgets. Some people even find that as they use their petrol driven cars less, they 'need' them less.

We can all change our habitual ways of doing things like getting to work or doing the shopping,

and working from home is, of course, zero carbon! But we need a lot of support from government. We need many more accessible charging points for electric vehicles. But we also need government to understand that **Climate Change is a real and present danger, far greater - can you imagine? - than Corona virus. We need government to at least implement the recommendations of its own Committee on Climate Change.**

You may not be able to ride an E-bike or E-moped but there must be one simple thing each of us can do now. **I can write to my MP and to ministers urging them to take the Climate Emergency seriously. So can you.**

R. Slater

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SHIREHAMPTON RE-OPENS

New Shopping Experience in Our High Street

We have all needed to adjust to the new way of shopping and it is imperative we do our best to support our local High Street and business.



Marta Pokorska works at the Continental Food Plus which, being an essential shop, remained opened. Marta says: "The most difficult thing was to keep our personnel, who are front line workers, calm. We meet a lot of people in our shop. It was scary to begin with as not much was known about the Coronavirus. Staff were reassured and



received training on the guidance rules set out by the Government. Social distancing is one of the most important things for us and the customer to follow as we are a small shop and we want to keep everyone safe." Only 5 people at a time can be in the shop and we now have a screen in place at the counter to keep us and the customer safe. We also ask people to pay for their purchases by card if they can".

Vickie Nightingale owns and runs two businesses in the High Street with her husband **Tony, A Nightingales Electricals** and the newly opened **A. N. Discount Stores Ltd.**

"With our electrical shop we allow 2 customers in at a time whilst with our discount store we allow 5 people. Our own experience is some customers don't adhere to the 2 metre social distancing rule and it is difficult to remind them of this. Some

don't understand the rules or are simply confused. Our difficulty at the moment is getting screens put in place at our counters and getting card machines installed so people can also pay for their shopping by card if they wish. It's a painful waiting game as many shops are making changes to make the work place safe for all" says Vickie.

Amy Parkin owns Beau's Bouquets. "We moved into new premises next door to Ocean Estate Agents the week before lock down. It was scary as we had to shut our doors before we had the chance to establish ourselves here. We started doing flower sales and free local delivery online with contactless payment to keep trading and we added plants and compost deliveries so people could do some gardening during the wonderful weather we were having. It's good to be back, we value our customers. Only 3 people are allowed into the shop and we have distance and one way markings on the floor. The door is left open and we do ask customers not to touch items unless they are going to buy them." Amy told me.



Jan March manages the Super Saver Store. "It was horrible closing the shop and I missed our customers but re-opening I realised how important this shop was to the community. People are buying more cards than ever just in case we go into lock down again. On the whole people have been very good taking on board the rules with the one way system and only 4 people in the shop. Social distancing with some is difficult to get to grips with and everybody has to use hand sanitizer that



we provide before entering the shop. That seems to be the one challenge and we have to remind customers despite signage" said Jan.

Overall it is very important to follow the rules set out by each shop to keep everyone safe during the pandemic and at the time of going to print it has just been announced that masks must be worn in shops from the 24th July.

For updates go to: www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance In the meantime please be kind and patient whilst out shopping.

Kathryn Courtney

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Ruby Jeans Coffee Shop

Mark Pummell took over Ruby Jeans Coffee Shop in November 2019. Both he and his partner Liv are locals living in Shirehampton and have recently welcomed their little daughter, so they are now getting to grips with parenthood.

Their combined experience in hospitality makes them a perfect team for Ruby Jeans. Mark has been involved in hospitality since the age of 12, from school to University. In the past ten years he's worked in catering doing weddings, corporate events, restaurants and cafes. Liv worked for a professional baker in Auckland, New Zealand and then moved on to working in restaurants and corporate kitchens, being the chef in several of them. Liv now runs the Lavender and Lime Bakery that is part of the High Street Market.

"My aim is to make Ruby Jeans a community environment for the local community. Being the new owner the regulars wanted to know more about me and I have to say they have been very welcoming."

"I want to keep it a coffee shop during the day and open on a regular basis in the evening. A type of bistro feel. We've already had a curry night and a Mexican night both highly successful and each had a nice buzz to it. This may be a small place which has its perks and we have plans for the future but will continue with themed nights for the moment" said Mark.

Before we had heard of the Coronavirus and lock down Mark began opening up the shop on a Sunday which locally became known as 'Soup Sunday.' "All the food that is served at our themed



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nights and the soups is 100% Liv. She makes the most amazing sauces and each week she makes a different soup which is mainly vegetarian and sometimes vegan. Food is her passion and we like to give our customers great food experiences."

Sometimes you will find the Lavender and Lime Bakery cakes making an appearance at Ruby Jeans and it is here I ask Mark about the possibilities of a 'free from' selection in the shop. "We do get requests from customers and it is a bit of a balancing game. We've had requests for tea cakes which we have bought in but they go off pretty quickly and if you don't sell them then you have waste. As a business I don't want to produce waste for environmental reasons and also financially; it's not cost effective. Liv loves to provide the free from option but you have to balance this up as there are only a few people who will buy due to their dietary needs. We want to give people options but we've got to balance that with making money from our produce."

Soon after this interview was completed, as a Country we went into lock down. Ruby Jeans Coffee

Shop became a take away, much to the delight of locals. Mark even stepped up to the community spirit to offer 'Ruby's Rations' providing essential foods such as freshly baked breads, eggs, milk, butter, sugar, flour and other baking ingredients which you could order online. These products continue to be sold at the coffee shop as well as take away drinks, sandwiches and cakes. At the time of going to print no date has been set for Ruby Jeans to be a sit down coffee shop once more and it will be something we will all be looking forward to.

And what about the future of Ruby Jeans? "Anything can happen and we are going to get bigger and brighter. We have plans and as long as people keep buying from us we will be here for quite some time to come" said Mark.

You can find Ruby Jeans Coffee Shop on Instagram, Google and Facebook: www.facebook.com/rubyjeanscoffeeshop. You can also order food items online at: www.rubyjeans.co.uk

Kathryn Courtney

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SHIREHAMPTON RE-OPENS Continued

The New Way of Getting a Haircut

How many of us were relieved that at long last our 'lockdown hair' could now be sorted out?

I spoke with **Lorraine Douglas of Elite Hair and Beauty** and **Luigi from Luigi's Barber shop** about re-opening and the new way of working in their High Street salons in Shirehampton.



©Kathryn Courtney

"Locking the doors on the 23rd of March was a sad day for everyone, not knowing when we would all be returning to normality again. Little did we all know the Coronavirus would have such a big impact on our lives," says Lorraine.

"We are members of the National hairdressers and beauty federation which has been helpful in guiding many businesses back to work. The most difficult thing is being told to keep conversations to a minimum! But we've put a risk assessment in place to keep everyone safe.

"We have created a one way system by adding a new doorway on the ground floor and in order to comply with safe distancing rules two hairdressing stations have been removed from the main front salon, and we have expanded the business by opening up the first floor area to incorporate a much larger safe work space for hairdressing services.

"We have provided information in the window areas explaining the protocol to keep you safe on your visit. On entry we ask clients to agree to a temperature check. We ask that they sanitize their hands and we take their contact details. Clients must wear masks or face coverings and staff are also provided with PPE."

Meanwhile at the Barbers Luigi describes changes to how he works. "The guidance rules have been easy to put in place with customers. It's just informing them in advance so they know how to attend their



©Kathryn Courtney

appointment. What has been difficult is dealing with demand. Everyone would like a haircut straight away but there's not enough hours in a day.

We have made a few changes to how we work. We are now working on an appointment only basis. You can book online using an app called Booksy or come in the shop where we will be happy to book you in ourselves.

We ask all customers to wear a mask and use hand sanitizer, either their own or one we have in our shop, when entering and exiting the shop. Staff also wear masks. All this protects ourselves and our customers." Said Luigi.

Both Lorraine and Luigi would like to thank all their customers for their support and patience and agreed "it's great to be back at work again."

Kathryn Courtney

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If You Don't Need It Don't Buy It

The coronavirus and lock down since March this year has seen all of us venturing into uncharted waters. No sooner had lock down been announced than the supermarket shelves were cleared as soon as they were filled. Panic buying set in and jokes about toilet rolls were everywhere.

We saw the headlines on TV and in the newspapers about it. We saw videos being shared online where key workers were not able to shop and the elderly found their usual items gone before they'd even reached the supermarket. Even paracetamol and calpol were scarce.



Supermarkets set up times for elderly, vulnerable and key workers to shop and set aside priority home delivery slots for online shopping. Local groups began setting up help pages and food packages for home delivery by volunteers. Acts of kindness came from everywhere.

It took a good couple of months before you could easily pick up items you wanted at the supermarket and even then in some cases items were restricted.

However one range of essential products were constantly out of stock and some are still difficult to get hold of at the time of going to print. This is the **Free From range of food**. I am one of many people in this country who has to follow - **and this is not down to choice - a dairy free and gluten free diet due to medical reasons**. The Free From range of products is a godsend for me with bread, pasta, soya milk, free from cheese, gluten free flour, dairy free spread and more. Yet during this time of

lock down "The cupboards were bare." It was a nightmare for me and others who really needed these food items from the shelves or the freezer.

Some people were buying this range "just in case they needed it because they couldn't find their usual products". The unfortunate thing is this had a knock on effect for me and people like me. I cannot eat the usual food my family eats as it will make me ill, and I mean ill. We may be in a minority but there are other people of all ages in the same boat as me. I count myself lucky as I had friends on the lookout for me whilst they were out shopping picking up Free From items for me when they could and leaving them in the porch as I was also shielding my mum. Without their help I would be facing food dilemmas.

All I ask is IF lock down happens again please try not to buy something you don't need. Leave it on the shelf for someone who really needs it. This can make all the difference to a child or elderly person who has food allergies, intolerance or a medical condition to keep in check. Thank you.

Kathryn Courtney

Sixteen New Affordable Homes in Shirehampton

Alliance Homes has just completed its development of 16 new affordable homes in Shirehampton.

The Old Stables development on Pembroke Road in Shirehampton Village comprises a mix of 16 modern one- and two-bedroom flats for affordable rent. The complex build involved the conversion of a former office block into 10 flats, in addition to six brand new flats built on what was vacant and underutilised land.

The homes were built in partnership with contractor Speller Metcalfe, with Bristol City Council providing more than £500,000 of match-funded money on top of a similar amount from Homes England to help fund the project.

Iain Lock, Director of Investment at Alliance Homes, said: "The completion of this project is a fantastic achievement for everyone involved.

"We know there is demand for more affordable housing in and around Bristol, so it's great to have delivered both much needed affordable homes for this area and real placemaking value to the local neighbourhood."

Mark Eaton, Living Manager at Speller Metcalfe, added: "We have worked particularly closely with the local community on this scheme due to work

being undertaken above the existing Job Centre, and are delighted to be able to successfully handover a project which immediately benefits local residents."

Don Alexander, Bristol City Council councillor for Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston ward, added: "I welcome these homes which will ensure that people in desperate housing need can have somewhere safe and secure to live in the fantastic Shirehampton Village. The Mayor has committed to 800 affordable homes every year to tackle Bristol's housing crisis. Smaller developments like this integrate those new homes into existing communities".



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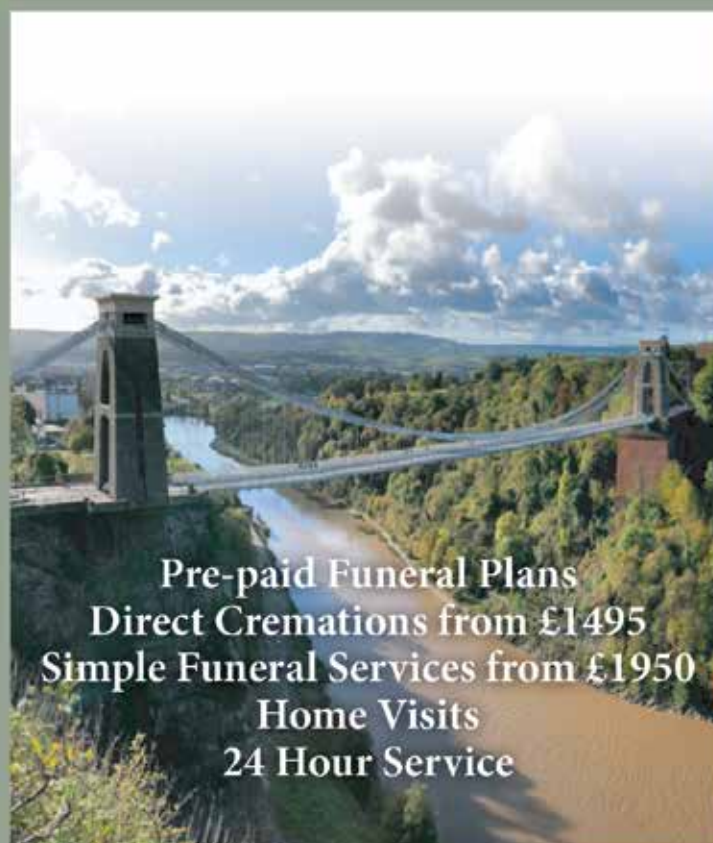
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DRAW BIG WITH TANDEM

Tandem has signed up as an organiser for the Big Draw Festival this year and would like to invite local people of all ages and backgrounds to take part from the planning stage right through to October when The Big Draw Festival happens world-wide every year. The 'Big Draw' celebrates its 20th anniversary this year with the theme 'A Climate of Change'.



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Draw is eager to help showcase mindsets and actions that proactively support positive symbiosis between people and the Earth. So this is a great year to bring your community together, draw, explore, get out and about, kick start a new creative you and be part of **The World's Biggest community of drawing enthusiasts!**

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For full information visit www.thebigdraw.org

Drawing really can be for everyone and thinking outside the box is allowed indeed encouraged! Have you ever thought of drawing with water? With river mud or yarns? We can run many different sessions (bearing in mind Covid security at all times) in different locations throughout October and would love to have your feedback and ideas. To hear more, have a chat or become involved contact **Annelies on tandemarts2@gmail.com**

ZUMBA FUN IN THE SUN

As with everything when Lockdown occurred our Tuesday evening Zumba class ceased. We kept in touch through our "WhatsApp" sharing dance videos and chatting to each other.

But it's not the same "dancing" on your own in your living room so when restrictions were lifted an off the cuff comment "I'd even do it on the

grass" got us thinking – Why Not? So here we are every Tuesday, social distancing Zumba. It's boosted our morale and wellbeing. We only hope we can get back inside before the weather breaks!

If you would like to join in, we meet at 7pm Tuesdays at the PBA Club. Or alternatively contact Elaine on 07895608135 for more details.

Jill Williamson



Brin's 90th Birthday



A lovely sunny day dawned on July 16th for Brin Chilcott's 90th birthday. His friends and neighbours gathered safely to help him celebrate an amazing milestone!



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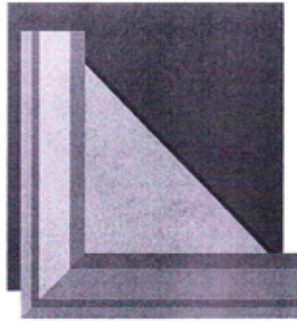
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Shire published these photos in the June on-line edition, but we thought we'd print them again for everyone to enjoy. (Ed.)

Dursley Road VE Day Celebrations

Last year we held a Street Party in Dursley Road, and had planned to hold one in June this year. Clearly, this was a non-starter, due to recent events. However, a few residents felt we should celebrate VE Day and, very quickly, the idea took hold.

We have a close-knit community now in the street, and old and young all pulled out the stops to make it a very special day. All the houses had bunting displays, and tea, cakes, and scones were in abundance. Roll on the next Street Party, who knows, maybe on VJ Day!!!

John Hastings



© John Hastings

SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON

City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

The 2020 bowling season should have started with a visit to Bristol Arrow on Easter Sunday April 12th. But, due to the Coronavirus that didn't happen and instead it was June 16th before a very limited start to the season was made. On that day Charlie Maby and Dave Chilcott arrived at the green around mid-day to enjoy a two hour roll up session under very strict guidelines issued by Bowls England, with UK Government approval. Since then there have been other roll up sessions and this will continue until late September. All Bowling Club Members are eligible to bowl in this way. There will be no friendly or competitive games against other clubs this season. All County and National Competitions have been cancelled.

With no visiting bowlers and only a limited amount of bowling being played between club members you might conclude that little or nothing is going on at the club. That is not the case. Work on the green, its surroundings and buildings, has continued so as to keep everything in good order in readiness for when something like normal returns. The green keeper has continued to work to keep the green in top condition and volunteers from the bowling club have been there to keep the green surround in order, the buildings clean and to carry out repairs where they have been needed. **The club is grateful to those people who have made a contribution.**



Bowlers bowling for the first time this season due to the pandemic on June 16th.

One consequence of the virus is cancellation of this year's Summer Tour to Eastbourne at the end of August. Not only doubts about the Langham Hotel being open but also the possibility that Bowling Clubs on the tour schedule could be closed to visitors made cancellation inevitable. **But - good news - it will all happen in 2021.**

The only previous visit to Eastbourne was in 2016 - a very enjoyable tour taken on by **Jill Hinksman** when **Lis Davies** was very unwell. East Sussex

was a lovely place to bowl with lots to see and do when not bowling. Eastbourne has a Sheiks Pier - very grand and well worth a visit for tea and cake. Brighton just an hour away by bus - the Brighton Doughnut - not edible - was well worth a go. On this you went a long way up in the air and had wonderful views of Brighton and the surrounding area. Deck chairs in Brighton are also very good when the sun shines.



The Doughnut at Brighton in 2016.

So - when did Summer Tours start at the City and Port of Bristol Club?

Well - in 1984 **Pat Warren** and **Syd Dixon** organised the first one and it was to Bournemouth. A full coach of 48 bowlers --- mainly from the PBA but with a few friends from other clubs set off for a week of bowling and fun. Fancy dress Friday was established and continued for many tours after that.

In the next edition - how the tours progressed from that first one - see how many more there have been and where they have gone.

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



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In Memory of Michael Antill

We would like to give a big 'thank you' to the Revd Dr Andy Murray and Rev Fran Brealey for the beautifully arranged celebration for Mike's funeral and to all who attended the service held at St Andrew's, Avonmouth on the 3rd of March 2020. Special thanks too for the compassion shown by the carers and St Peter's Hospice nurses. Also to the PBA club who gave us the use of the hall for the wonderful buffet supplied by Tess Good and her husband Richard.

Donations raised reached a superb amount of £745 - thank you all.

*With love and appreciation from wife
Carole and family*

(Thank you for your kind donation, Ed.)

Shirestrong Kettle Bell Challenge

'During the month of June 17 members of the ShireStrong kettlebell club took part in a kettlebell swing challenge for charity. Each member made a commitment to swing a kettlebell 3,000, 5,000 or 10,000 times during the month. To get that into perspective, to swing a kettlebell 10,000 times you would need to complete 333 swings per day for 30 days. Quite a challenge. Everyone chose a charity and asked friends and family for sponsorship. Each person completed their part of the event and in total 136,180 swings were completed.

The total raised was £5054. Notable charities to benefit are the Bristol NW foodbank in Avonmouth with £1043, The Nicola Corry Support Foundation with £1,000, Group B Strep with £1556, Dementia UK with £610 and St Peters Hospice with £555.

For information about kettlebell classes and bootcamps please contact Linda at ShireStrong on 07875054292 or by e-mail at t.linda1206@gmail.com



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Space for Peace, Time to Smell the Roses

There is a garden, tucked away in Shirehampton, that is part of the Quiet Garden Movement. You would be most welcome to come and sit here, take some time out and rest in the presence of the sights, smells, sounds, feel and sometimes taste of nature.



Most of us know it's a good idea to stop and rest sometimes – but most of us also have a tendency

to not really do that! When we “rest” we usually watch or listen to something or do some other activity such as reading or doing a puzzle. These are all good, but many people are discovering that to really stop and look and listen to all that is around in nature is very good for us.



The Quiet Garden Movement aims to offer access to outdoor space for peace, restfulness and the opportunity to reflect and perhaps pray. Many faiths encourage this. Jesus told his followers to: ‘Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest’ (St Mark’s Gospel 6v31)

We occasionally organise “Quiet days” or “Quiet afternoons” but you would be welcome to come on your own or with a few friends to spend time in our garden at other times and take advantage of the opportunity to sit in peace and quiet. Please contact us via e-mail on info@alfacc.org.uk or phone 01179826455. There are 8 different permanent places to sit in.

We also run activities here training adults with learning difficulties in gardening and woodwork - so it is not always quiet! That is why we ask you to contact us to arrange a suitable time to visit. If you would like to pop in any Wednesday afternoon between 2-5pm you could join us for tea, scones, cake and a chat. We will be doing this in the garden for the time being when weather permits and will put a notice on our notice board at the house - **Fulligrove House, Woodwell Road** - near the railway bridge on the river side of the Portway - when we feel it is time to have indoor gatherings again.

If you would like more information on the Quiet Garden Movement or our charity please visit www.quietgarden.org or www.alfacc.org.uk. Daily images from the garden are posted on Instagram (search for **alfacc_2020**) and Facebook (search for **ALFA CC**).



We look forward to welcoming many of you to the garden here – but if not, please take time to stop and smell the roses in other places.

Lyn Morton

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