

Shire

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

No. 592 - May 2021 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

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ELECTIONS
May 6th
Don't Forget to Vote!

Shirehampton Public Hall Refurbishment Begins

There hasn't been much activity in the Public Hall over the past year. Covid has cancelled groups and clubs, furloughed staff and kept the Hall mostly closed. Despite this we managed a very well-received remote celebration of The Lark Ascending anniversary last December. Since then we've planted The Lark Ascending roses from David Austin, as you saw in last month's SHIRE, and begun clearing and refurbishing the garden.

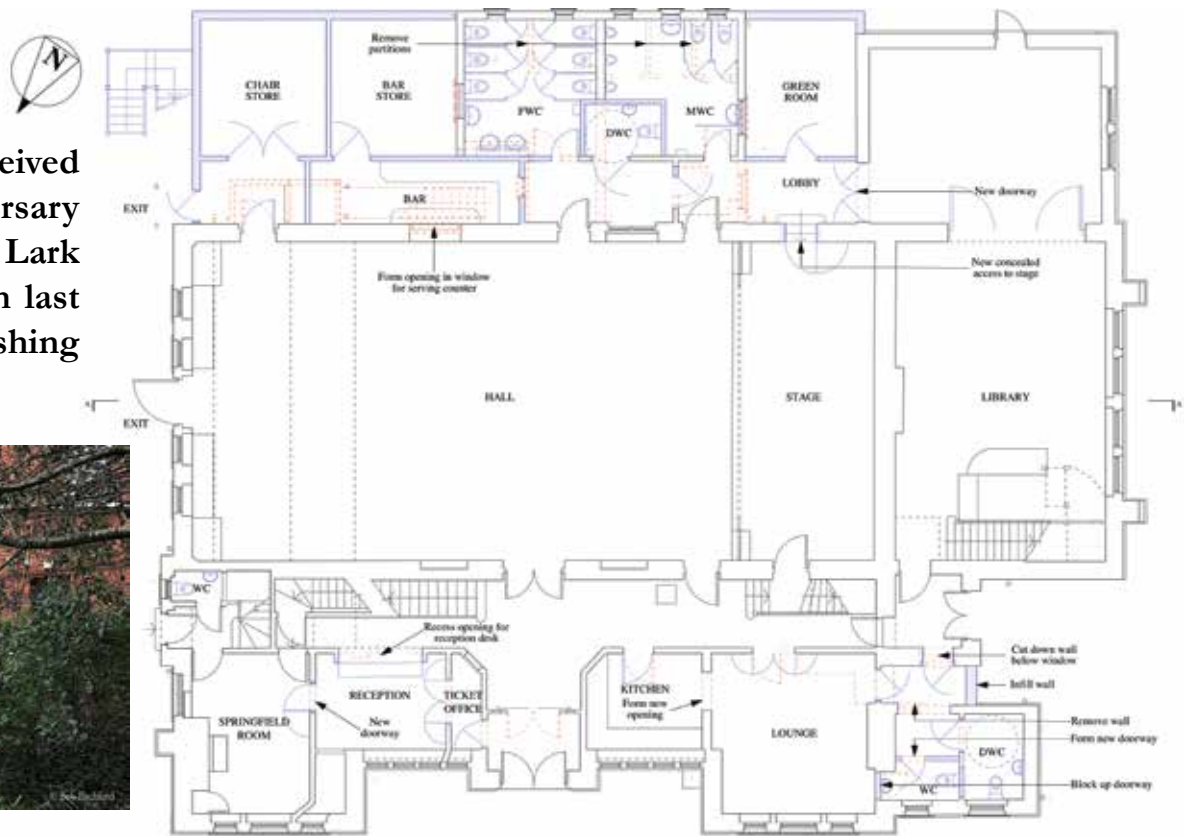
The BIG news is that the long-awaited refurbishment and upgrade of the Hall has at last received planning permission and work should begin soon. The trustees write:



Bristol City Council

is due to completely redo the leaking roof this spring and they are going to upgrade the insulation at the same time. Once that is completed, we have some

Continues on Page 4.



QUENTIN ALDER ARCHITECTS

The Undercroft, 6 Church Road,
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Rev.	Date	Notes	Drawn
C	11.08.20	Revised	VM
B	20.04.20	Revised	VM
A	07.02.19	Revised	VM

Ground Floor Plan Proposed

Shirehampton Public Hall

0 1 2 5m
 SCALE

Figural dimensions take precedence. Check all dimensions on site. Report any discrepancy to Architect. This drawing is copyright ©

Scale	Date
1:100 @ A3	VM
1756.103C	14.02.19

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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'.

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PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR MAY

Reopening

Shirehampton Library is now **OPEN** for **Click and Collect** from 1:00-4:00 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Shirehampton Public Hall will not reopen until the week commencing **17th May at the earliest**, in line with government guidelines.

PBA CLUB reopened its outside area **Saturday 17th April**. The football club has resumed playing and training, the **Zumba** section held their first outdoor session, and the **bowling** section also resumed playing.



Bristol City Council

Bristol Harbour Festival cancelled.

Breaking Bread, Bristol Comedy Garden and the Spiegelent are small scale events that will help a steady reopening. **Monday 21 June is the earliest** that large gatherings will once again be allowed.

The virus remains in circulation, with new strains being identified across the world and in the UK. This means we need to continue to work hard to keep infections low. **Please follow the COVID-secure guidelines in place at pubs, restaurants and shopping.**



Road Closures

To allow businesses to reopen outdoors please note these road closures.

Cotham Hill has closed to give businesses outdoor trading space to support reopening amid COVID-19 restrictions.

Two sections of the road are now closed to through traffic - **Whiteladies Gate to Hampton Lane and Hampton Park to Abbotsford Road**. Loading, deliveries and disabled parking are possible at both ends of the closed sections. The road is fully accessible by foot or cycle.

It joins similar road closures in the **Old City and King Street**, with temporary barriers also being used across the city to create new bike lanes and wider pavements.

For more information, please visit the **COVID-19 Road Changes** page on the council website.

Census 2021

Census 2021 is over – I've missed Census Day so I don't have to do it?

Wrong! Every household is required by law to complete the census. Everyone needs to respond as soon as possible to avoid a fine. **If you can't get online**, there are **census support centres** across England and Wales, offering telephone and face to face support. **You can also call our contact centre: 0800 141 2021 in England and 0800 169 2021 in Wales** or go to census.gov.uk and request an access code.

- Your personal information **CANNOT** be shared with anyone
- Census officers will **NEVER** ask for personal information
- Census officers will **NEVER** ask for money on the doorstep
- Census officers will **ALWAYS** carry ID



Clean Air Zone Update

BCC expects government to accept their **Full Business Case for the Clean Air Zone (CAZ)** this spring. The earliest they would implement the CAZ is **October 2021**.

Please visit www.bristol.gov.uk/caz to find out more about our clean air plans.



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The *Shire* Community Pages

Continues from Page 1.

funding in place to make the front of the building robust and beautiful again, including sorting/painting the render, adding some subtle lighting and generally making the hall more welcoming from the outside. We inherited a grant to repair the clock, and that too will be carried out once the roof has been completed

The Railway Club has been very proactive in agreeing to move into the old basement space (previously housing the central heating boilers, which have been replaced with air source heating in the main hall). A survey has been done to check for asbestos down there, and between the club members themselves, with some help from the hall trustees, that space should become much better for them to meet and use. Once the existing room housing the trains/track has been freed up we will be able to create a much more welcoming office space for **Amanda, our Hall manager, and Ash from SCAF.**

Thank You

Thanks to all you very generous hall users, who raised over £7k through the “just giving” fund, we are able to do the first phase of the hall upgrade. Those kind donations, and the matched funding, have made a real difference. There is also a further £13k coming from Bristol City Council “S106” money, which will be useful in some initial works at the hall.

Of course, the “Big Money” will be required to build the main extension at the back of the Hall which will house the new bar and catering facilities. These will make the Hall a more suitable venue for community functions.

We Are Looking for Help in Raising the Money

So if you feel that your employer might be willing to contribute, or that you might have some time yourself to get involved with fundraising, **please do get in touch with Amanda on the normal contact email address.**

We are hoping that the **Community Asset Transfer (CAT)** process will be completed soon – freeing us to deliver the improvements to the hall that have been in planning for several years.

We are now going to be working with the conservation architect, **Quentin Alder**, to apply for **Listed Building** consent for refurbishment of the existing building. **If you would like to know more and possibly get involved do get in touch, and be part of that journey!!**

Email: bookings@shirepubhall.org.uk
web: <http://www.shirepubhall.org.uk>
Twitter: @HallPublic

Warm regards, *SPH trustees and Manager*

Family Announcements

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

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Latest News from 191st Bristol St. Mary's Shirehampton Scout Group

Our leaders have been out and about delivering packs through letter boxes for the Beavers and Cubs. Meetings have been continuing by zoom with the Beavers learning about Chinese New Year, traditions and history, they have also been making some colourful masks. This term they have been looking at the Easter story, as



well as getting into nature making terracotta snails and learning about Spring, discovering how to grow cress without using soil.

The Cubs have been working towards their Astronomy badges, covering planets, stars and constellations. They decorated biscuits to re-create the constellations. At the end of the term, they were treated to a visit (via zoom) from 'Xplore' Science Discovery Centre for a session on rockets with some amazing experiments.

The Scouts have been increasing their general knowledge taking part in 'The Mystery Box' and Kahoot quizzes working in teams and individually.

The leadership team will be meeting next term to discuss returning to face-to-face meetings and we will bring you more news on that when we can.



Please contact our Group Scout Leader by emailing GSL191stbristolscouts@gmail.com for further information on any of our groups.

Beavers Tuesday 5.30 - 6.30pm

Cubs Monday 6.15 - 7.45pm

Scouts Tuesday 7.00 - 8.30pm

Letters to 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.



BE COURTEOUS WHEN LIGHTING A BONFIRE

Letter to Editor,

To the inconsiderate, selfish, thoughtless person who lit a smoky, smelly and long-lasting bonfire in the Woodwell Road/Portway area during the warm and sunny afternoon of Good Friday, I applaud you as you totally upset what should have been a happy and long awaited re-union with our family. Due to the pandemic the last time we were able to see them was on Xmas Eve when we exchanged Xmas presents with them. On Good Friday we had planned an Easter egg hunt in our garden with our grand children followed by an Al Fresco meal later but, shame on you, we had no option but to break the covid rules and retreat indoors to eat, closing doors and windows. Please, please, please if you really need to light a bonfire, do it after dark. Your selfishness upset to a lot of other people.

Name and address supplied.

DISGRACEFUL VANDALISM

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my strong feelings of anger at the damage caused to the huts and tables in the Lamplighters garden on Tuesday evening 6th April.

The manager Paula and her team had worked so hard getting the garden ready for the opening for service on Monday 12th April and then to find they had to start all over again, first remove all the broken glass, then repaint the huts and repair the damaged tables and put everything back in its place. Thanks to their efforts the Pub will still open on the 12th.

I just hope the teenagers who did this understand that because of their actions, the Pub might not have opened, how disappointed some of their parents and family would be after waiting so long for this occasion.

Marilyn Gorry

North Bristol Well Being Choir

Our Farewell to our dear friend Jean Blowen from all the Choir members at The North Bristol Well Being Choir. Thank you to Tessa Good who made all the lovely Yellow Silk Corsages. In memory of our dear friend Jean.





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. Whatever your age or ability I can help:

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- Improve muscle tone and bone density
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Linda x x

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

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

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What SCAF Does for Shirehampton

Shirehampton Community Action Forum (SCAF) is a small, grass-roots community organisation based at Shire Public Hall. We are a registered charity and not for profit company limited by guarantee established in 2001 to work for the benefit of everyone in Shire and *SCAF Needs New Trustees*. We are looking for new Trustees to join our Board. When Coronavirus restrictions are fully lifted the Board will meet every 4-6 weeks on a weekday at Shire Public Hall.

Community Safety Action Group

SCAF supports the **Community Safety Action Group** working in close partnership with the Police, statutory agencies, local organisations & residents. Chaired by our **Beat Manager, PC Mark Blackledge**, this group sets the **PACT (Partners and Communities Together)** for Shirehampton. The current PACT priority is **Anti-Social Behaviour**. Other key areas of work include:

- Regular “walkabouts” in Shire logging everything that needs fixing. We work with our partners to put things right!
- Domestic Violence and Abuse.
- Licensing enforcement – alcohol related crime is a significant issue in Shirehampton.
- Road safety issues – including facilitating public.
- Community litter picks & clean ups.

SCAF Planning Watch & Group

SCAF Planning Watch produces a free weekly Planning Watch bulletin monitoring all planning applications/developments affecting community buildings & facilities, commercial/industrial/business premises in Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston ward.

- We support local residents concerned about new planning applications and large proposed industrial plants/developments in Avonmouth.
- We facilitate public consultations.
- We host housing developers’ presentations at Full Forum Meetings.
- **Shire Planning Group** Meets Quarterly – Jan/April/July October on the 2nd Wednesday of the month 7pm at Shire Methodist Church, to review local planning applications of community interest.

Working with Bristol City Council

SCAF works with BCC on the redevelopment of **St Mary’s Rec AKA Beachley Walk** park & children’s play area. Phase 1 – new MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) Court completed. Phase 2 New Children’s Play Area - scheduled to begin work on 26 April.

Shire Community Plan

SCAF works to deliver the 5 year (2018 – 2023) **Shire Community Plan**.

Projects include:

- **Shire Community Market** – monthly First Thursday, Tithe Barn, High Street, 10-3pm.
- **PCRF Thriving High streets:** working with Sustrans to improve Shire High Street.
- **Community Living Room Project** - Supporting Friends of Shire Library (FoSL) to run free weekly open Library Living Room sessions in Shire Library Tuesday afternoon.
- **Shire Door to Door shopping trips** - FREE weekly door to door shopping/social trips especially for Shire residents aged 60+ in a fully accessible minibus.

SCAF also supports other community groups:

“Shire Greens” Environmental Action Group

Friends of Lamplighters Marsh

These groups work with BCC Parks to improve maintenance and care of our open green spaces, parks and children’s play area. The Greens take part in **Bristol Zoo’s Community Plant Project**, the **RHS It’s Your Neighbourhood Awards**, and look after the **Severn Beach Line Shire Railway Station** “adopted” many years ago. The Friends maintain the **Yellow Brick Road on Lamplighters Marsh** and the **Community Orchard in the Daisy Field** with monthly work days and occasional nature walks.



© Kathryn Courtney

Shire Youth Network

Partnership with **Young Bristol, Oasis Academy Brightstowe, Avonmouth CA, BCC Youth Services** delivering a range of activities and projects for local young people. We hope to take over the management /running of 60 The Ridge – formerly Penpole Residents Association Community building.

Walking Groups

Shire “Nomads” - Free weekly (Tuesday) walking group for the over 55’s, progressive walks up to 5 miles and 3 hours long. The walks are a mixture of town & country routes for advanced walkers who enjoy meeting like-minded people and keeping fit by walking.

Shire “Walkie Talkies” - This is a *Walking For Health* group for the over 55’s providing a free weekly (Wednesday) walks programme. A mixture of town and country routes covering 2 - 3 miles and up to 90 minutes. Aimed at people who are doing little exercise at the moment, but who would like to become more active.

Both these walking groups are led by fully trained and experienced walk leaders.

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee, would like any further information or would like an informal chat about the role, please contact us:

Ash Bearman

Community Development Officer
Shirehampton Community Action Forum
(SCAF), Shire Public Hall, Station Road,
Shirehampton Bristol BS11 9TU

Tel: 0117 982 9963 ash@shirecaf.org.uk

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

PUBLIC HALL RE-OPENING

Following a meeting of the Hall Trustees at the end of March it has been decided that the Hall should not reopen until the week commencing *17th May at the earliest*, in line with government guidelines. This decision has been made largely due to financial constraints - the Hall has suffered enormous financial loss over the past twelve months, and despite furlough ending it would cost the Hall substantially more to reopen sooner in terms of running costs, e.g.. cleaning and administration, than it would to open later in the Spring.

One or two regular user groups have very generously decided to pay their normal room rental throughout the last year despite not being able to utilise the Hall, and to these groups we are eternally grateful. If others wish to do so, or even make a one-off contribution towards the

running costs of the Hall to alleviate the financial pressure we are currently experiencing, please feel free to contact me via this email address: bookings@shirepubhall.otg.uk Any contribution, no matter how small, will make a big difference at this difficult time.

If it is your intention to return during the week commencing 17th May please would you confirm this at your earliest convenience so that appropriate Covid-secure cleaning and administration can be put into place. Once I have your confirmation I will send out the new hire agreements and membership renewals for your completion and return.

My sincere apologies to you all for this inconvenience, however unfortunately this has proved necessary. The Trustees and I are, as ever, extremely grateful to you all for your continued support and patience.

With kindest regards and best wishes to you all.

Amanda Parsons (Hall Manager)

Public Hall Gardens Need Plants!

The Station Road Public Hall garden looks better for a spruce up undertaken by volunteers who spent several Saturday mornings taking out dead branches, cutting back whole trees and dealing with brambles. A litter pick was also necessary, as a large number of beer bottles were hiding in the undergrowth. The aim was to make the garden more inviting, attractive and usable for groups such as the Play Tots and The Bristol Healing rooms and to enhance the view of the garden for passers-by. **NOW we need some plants!**

Can you help with donations from your garden of shade tolerant plants such as hardy Geraniums, Periwinkle, Anemone Nemorosa, Gallium Odoratum, Cyclamen Hederifolium and Lamium Maculatum. Cuttings of plants such as Jasmine, Forsythia, hardy Fuchsias and other shrubs would also be welcomed.

To keep the garden as a great usable space we are looking to set up a gardening task group meeting on the first Saturday of the month starting in June (weather permitting) from 10 till 12 midday, primarily to weed and tidy.



© Bob Pitchford

If you would like to join this small band of volunteers please email Gail.pubhappy@yahoo.com or ring Gail on 0117 982 1879 with your name, telephone number and email.



© Eadyta Lang, Public Hall Trustee





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Tandem Arts Spring Update – Willow Weaving

As we all look forward to the further easing of restrictions Tandem has picked up from where it left off in December. Throughout April we have been working outdoors, in pairs or small groups of six people maximum.

We have been making easy beginners projects, objects for the home or garden, such as bird feeders, hearts and balls from willow. The cold weather spell

has slowed things down a little so the project may well continue into May. No previous experience is necessary and all materials are provided. **Donations are welcome to help cover cost and to support the survival of Tandem Arts' base at the Shirehampton Public Hall, but there is no set price until normal operating will resume later in the year. It is envisaged that all these sessions continue to take place outdoors, either at the Shirehampton Sailing Club or in the garden of the Shirehampton Public Hall.**

Did you know the **Shirehampton Sailing Club house** can now be hired for suitable activities? Contact info@shiresc.co.uk for more information.



Email Annelies: tandemarts2@gmail.com if you are interested in having a go at weaving with willow during the month of May.

WE'RE OPEN - PBA RE-OPENS

On Saturday 17th April we opened our outside area to old and new customers. The staff were keen to get back under the new leadership of Stewart, our new bar manager.



Our new Bar Steward Stewart, pulling the first pint on the opening.

When restrictions were lifted for outside sports the football club resumed playing and training. It was great to see so many children back on site with committed coaches and parents. It just brought our site back to life!

On 13th April the Zumba section held their first outdoor session and everyone was excited to finally exercise with friends and fellow "Zumbaians".

The **bowling section** also resumed playing and it was just great to see so many smiles on people's faces in glorious sunshine. What a fabulous pastime, seeing friends, taking in the sun, playing some sport

and having fun! Obviously, this was all done in accordance with COVID policy and social distancing.

The future looks positive for the club which has been a part of the community for over 40 years. We intend to keep it within the community for another 40 years!

The club has recently changed direction in that it is now managed by **Trustees and Volunteers** who are looking to bring about a **Community Asset Transfer** which will involve a new lease and hopefully some funding from various sources and charities to update our facilities.

We plan to utilise our site much more by providing space for daily activities and evening and weekend fun. We have recently helped a partner organisation **Learning Partnership West** secure some **Bristol Port Funding** for local children to enjoy supervised play activities in the holidays and we would love to provide a community kitchen to encourage great food on site made by local people learning all about health and wellbeing. That's in our future plans which we would like to consult you all on.

Becoming a charity has made a statement to **Bristol City Council** about our intentions for an amazing community asset for generations to come, they have encouraged us in this direction, but we won't forget our past and our soul.



Socially distanced Zumba at the club.



Football training.

We know that the celebration of life is a real feature of the PBA and we will still be putting on great music, holding weddings, parties, Christenings, Wakes, into the future. Or maybe you might wish to just come along for a quiet drink in our lounge and enjoy the site which has lovely views overlooking the river, meet old friends, reminisce, chat and laugh....

We look forward to seeing you all soon to help us build something special for our community.

Shirehampton High Street

NOW OPEN

We have waited a long time for non-essential shops, hairdressers, barbers, hospitality and gyms to open since lock down began last winter and at long last restrictions are being slowly lifted with our very own High Street opening up again from 12th April.

It is really important to support our individual shops and businesses on our High Street. One or two independent shops have remained open as essential business and some have managed to transfer temporarily online to try and maintain income and that has not been easy for anyone. However nothing beats face to face sales, a bit of banter, being able to pick up goods and produce to take home with you immediately or getting a hair cut or sharing a cuppa outside your favourite coffee shop with your family/friend bubble.

Without our independent shops we would have no High Street. We are lucky to have **Choice Carpets, Super Saver Store, Woods Family Butchers, Beau's Bouquets, Staddon Pet Supplies, Nightingales and the Discount Shop** to name but a few. We can each help our High Street and shop

local, moving towards a vibrant shopping area for our community once again. We have new businesses opening up despite the pandemic, starting out on a new adventure and your support will help them become a permanent feature on our High Street.

On the first day of re-opening I spoke to some of the shop owners and staff about opening their doors once again to their customers. **Luigi from Luigi's Barbers** said "I am over the moon to be open again and it gives everyone a chance to get their hair cut. It's wonderful really. I really hope there are no more lock downs and we can continue cutting hair" whilst **Sarah from the Super Saver Store** confirmed "It's been amazing this morning, in fact fantastic to open that shop door again. We've been very busy and it's been good to see our customers, they have been wonderful. They have missed us and we have missed them. I hope we can get back to some sort of normal and that our customers and the community continue to support us and the High Street now and in the future."

Lorraine from Elite Hair and Beauty was pleased to be back. "It feels amazing to be finally back to work. Everyone is trying to book in their hair appointments and wanting to come in the first week. I have opened an extra Tuesday to help with demand. Everyone is happy to see each other and hopefully we are now turning a corner. My hope for the



© Kathryn Courtney

future is that we stop lives being lost to Covid-19 and with new shops now opening in the village, it will help towards the recovery of our previously devastated High Street". Meanwhile **Claire is the manager of Break Charity Shop** "It's been a very hectic morning with customers happily shopping. I hope it continues as it keeps me in a job and the same applies to other shops on the High Street too. Come along and see me and don't forget to drop in your donations too".

Please remember hands, face, space and follow the Covid-19 safety guidance with each shop. For Hair & Beauty, Barbers and hospitality venues such as **The Lamplighters**, you will need to phone and make bookings. It's been a long time since our last hair cut or drink down the pub but please stay safe everyone.

Kathryn Courtney



© Kathryn Courtney

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MAURICE PRICE: A Life on the Tugs

Maurice went to school in Avonmouth and later Portway where at the time the boys' school was just a collection of huts and was very cold in the winter. He left school when he was fifteen and went to work for a printing firm but it wasn't for him, he wanted to join the merchant navy. Maurice started work as a deck boy for C. J. King tug in October 1955 but never did join the Merch. He rose up through the ranks becoming second mate then mate and finally captain when he was nineteen, the youngest skipper in the fleet.

His Mother didn't want him to go to sea, and he also started dating me, but most of all he loved the job, and so he stayed. It wasn't all good, the hours were long and he could be called out day and night. Sometimes I didn't see him for days; he worked, ate, and slept on the tug.

The tug was to travel light to Avonmouth ready to dock a ship in the morning. Maurice was mate at the time but had permission to take me for a trip down the river. Just past the Horseshoe Bend we saw the Campbell steamer coming toward us loaded with passengers, all waving, and ablaze with lights. I thought she looked beautiful and said so. Maurice gave a gasp and said a few inches closer and we would have collided. Not so lucky on a cold November night on the tug Sea Prince. They were waiting to dock a ship called the Cato. The tug went to take hold, got too close and there was a collision. Maurice, who was mate at the time, tried to slip the rope but the tug capsized. Underneath the tug he had to kick his legs and hope to surface away from her, which he did but as he surfaced the fifteen year old deck boy grabbed at him sending him under again. He was lucky to survive. Not so lucky was the engineer who went down with the tug. She is still somewhere in the channel.



too was not all plain sailing as a wire snapped as they swung her in the channel and had the other wire snapped she would have been swept away on the tide: she needed very careful handling!

C.J. King branched into longer tows and Maurice did several trips away. The first was to Ireland during the troubles when, as he said, there were bollards everywhere, pub toilets had no roofs, they had been blown off, and he was so nervous he couldn't wait to get back on board. He did trips to Spain and Portugal and Scotland but another memorable time was when the tug was called to rescue some cadets on a Norwegian sailing ship. The ship was the Christian



Radich (which I believe was used in the television series The Onedin Line). Her back up engines had failed and they were off Lands End with no food or fresh water. When they reached her the cadets were up in the rigging and on deck cheering. After towing her in to Falmouth for stores they then towed her all the way home to Trondyke. Coming home they had to travel part of the way through the fjords because the sea was so rough.

Maurice towed the Royal Yacht Britannia to Bristol with the Queen on board. He was reprimanded by a member of her crew for looking at the Queen through binoculars but in all honesty he was more interested in the ship, a real beauty he said, and had no idea her majesty was on deck.

Over the years Maurice made some very good friends, who have remained so, although given all the pranks they played on each other it's amazing. It was a difficult decision when he decided to leave this job he loved and all his mates but he wanted to go in to business with his brother. I know though that many a time he hankered after his old life on the tugs.

Sadly Maurice became ill in June last year and passed away recently. He will leave a huge void in so many lives and will be greatly missed.

Kind regards,

Pauline Price

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AVONMOUTH SEA CADET UNIT NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of Avonmouth Sea Cadet Unit will be held virtually, via Google meets, for TSS Enterprise, Avonmouth Sea Cadet Unit, Station Road, Shirehampton, BS11 9XA at 1930 hrs on Wednesday 5th May, 2021, to transact the following business.

If you wish to attend, please request meeting log-in details from:

The Secretary; Mrs. Clare Waggett c/o TSS Enterprise,
Avonmouth Sea Cadet Unit, Station Road,
Shirehampton, BS11 9XA

email: Avonmouthseacadets@gmail.com • Tel: 07972 376194

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Opening address or comments by President or Chairman.
3. Minutes of the last AGM for adoption.
4. Matters arising from those Minutes.
5. Unit Chairman's Report.
6. Commanding Officer's Report.
7. Treasurer's Report and adoption of accounts.
8. Election/Re-election of the Unit Management Committee (UMC)* (either en bloc or individually, plus new nominations).
9. Any Other Business

All newly elected UMC members will be required to undergo the safe recruitment process, including a check with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), complete a P1 form – application to join Sea Cadets which includes a Trustee Declaration indicating that they know of no reason why they cannot become a charity trustee, and attend an Adult Induction Course within 9 months of joining

Note - Any Other Business – Items of Any Other Business will only be considered if they are proposed and seconded in writing to Mrs Waggett at least 24 hours before the meeting.

05.04.2021



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Pilates 9:30-10:30am

Personal Fitness 6:30-7:30pm

TUESDAY (4th)

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

FRIDAY

Keep Fit 10:30-11:30am

SATURDAY (2nd of each month)

Coffee Morning 10am

*Booking must be made, either by email:

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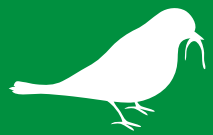
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CAMINO TO COP 26

We haven't been hearing much about Cop 26 lately. Covid and vaccines have dominated the news agenda for weeks, but Climate Change will not go away just because we have stopped talking about it. Now the UK is preparing to host COP 26, the UN Climate Change Conference, in Glasgow in November.

COP stands for **Conference of the Parties**. The Parties are all the countries which signed the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1994**. Back then it was agreed that we had to keep global temperature from rising more than 1.5 degrees Celsius if we wanted to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. That's how long the United Nations has been trying to get the nations of the world to agree on realistic means of reducing the carbon emissions which are driving

global warming and climate change. Burning fossil fuels is the main source of carbon emission. And we have not managed to reduce our carbon emissions anything like enough to meet our mandated targets.

COP 26 is an important opportunity for the UK to demonstrate what it is doing to reach net zero emissions as soon as possible. We know we must finally give up polluting energy systems: phase out petrol and diesel engines, transition to zero carbon transport, increase our use of renewables and energy storage. And, to make all this possible, we must accelerate the green transformation of the financial system.

People are preparing for COP now because the decisions taken there will affect all our futures. The Camino to COP will be a pilgrimage of Climate Witness organized by faith communities throughout the UK. Some people will walk from London to Glasgow to join the conference. They will be engaging with local communities along the road. Some people will walk from Bristol to Birmingham to join the main march.



© John Hastings

SCEG on Daisy Field



© Leonie Hastings

SCEG on the Green

It is so important that everyone knows how serious the threat of climate change is and also that we CAN still take action to prevent the worst. That's why COP 26 is important. Members of the Shirehampton Climate Emergency Group joined in a first preparatory walk to COP through Shirehampton Village in April trying to raise awareness and get people talking about the Conference.

Renée Slater

Eight & Counting

I opened the run yesterday morning and the ganders didn't come out as usual. I knew something was happening and I knew what too, as the same had happened the year before. The goose had been sitting on her eggs for exactly 28 days, and sure enough, there was chirping coming from under her. I didn't know this was going to become a little bit of a 'goose Odyssey'.



© Gianna Colligiani

I thought everything was going to run smoothly, just like last year. But no! Anita and Vicky, two volunteers at the Tynings Field, were with me when we finally caught sight of one, then two, then four cute goslings. Unlike last year though, two more adult females now share the run with the older mother, and they are not happy about the new brood.

When I went back that evening to lock all the geese in their run for the night, one of the females had attacked one of the goslings, which was now lying on his back, in the pouring rain. I was sure it was dead, so I just put it in my pocket and spent the next few minutes building a barrier around the hatch where the mother and goslings would spend the rest of the night. All of this with the indispensable help of my daughter and partner who had a hard time keeping the furious, hissing ganders at bay during the whole process.

Once at home, we realised the gosling was not dead, and my daughter Morgan nursed it back to life. As I know geese imprint really quickly (remember Konrad Lorenz?!), we decided to try and get the mother to accept it again the next morning. However, in the time we'd been away from the mother, there were now six brothers and sisters to share the increasingly

less adequate motherly down. In spite of this crowd, the mother seemed to welcome the gosling we were bringing back. But again, that was not to be. When I went back a couple of hours later, the gosling was lying in a corner of the hatch, shivering and covered in blood. Mum had had a change of heart.



© Gianna Colligiani

Back to Morgan and the water bottle. In the meanwhile, another two more goslings had hatched. It's now eight in all. Seven in the loving care of their mum. The other one... well the little reject managed to survive its second misadventure in the end and is now a guest in my house.

And in the nest, there are three more eggs still to hatch, so who knows?

Gianna Colligiani

Nature Notes

This pear tree grows wild on the riverbank. It has all the character of a discarded pip that has managed to put down roots so many years ago, and steadily battled past the seasons all on its own, with no pruning, no one talking nicely to it, and generations of people passing by without noticing it. Until..... 'wow!' they say. 'Look at this lovely blossom! Who would have thought such a funny little tree could produce such beautiful flowers!' Several weeks later, the bounty from these flowers becomes apparent.

Further along the same stretch of river bank is a large apple tree which is already crammed with flower buds. Its gorgeous display will fill this space in next month's Shire.

As well as the rapid growth in flowers, trees and other flora, the rapid increase in animal activities as Spring has arrived is astonishing as always.

Friends of mine and I have been placing dog hair gathered from grooming our dogs onto the hedge



© Bobbie Perkins

that runs along our garden. One friend has a Husky, whose undercoat is very lush and incredibly soft. Another has a very similar coat too, so the birds have taken full advantage of this extra luxury for their chicks! Every strand has been taken over the last few weeks. Jeff and I have been able to watch from indoors as the goldfinches and great tits have

taken the most of what was on offer. Such a nice feeling to help with something so simple.

The pair of blackbirds mentioned last month have started nesting in the hedge next door. So hope we get to see the babies when they fledge!

Pretty sure there is a pair of sparrows in there too!

I am happy to report that the buzzards are frequently seen soaring overhead. Good to have them back. Although the crows aren't at all impressed!!

I have been putting out hedgehog food every night after dark. We were the grateful and excited recipients of a purpose-built hedgehog house at Christmas from our daughter's family. It's sitting close under the hedge, sheltered from the worst of any bad weather, so we hope to get a hibernator later this year. We've seen one deposit of hedgehog poo on the grass, so fingers crossed!



© Bobbie Perkins

Happy nature watching folks!

Bobbie Perkins

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Photo Collage of Herons on the Riverbank near the PBA. Mum is feeding the young with an Eel. How the Heron can catch an Eel is beyond me!!!



© Bobbie Perkins

Shire Greens Need You!



As we slowly emerge from lock down it means we all get a little more freedom to shop, join in local activities and gradually reconnect with our family and friends whilst staying safe and following guidance to keep the coronavirus at bay.

Shire Greens are a small local group of volunteers who have been working together for over 17 years. They are a sub-group of **Shirehampton Community Action Forum (SCAF)**. I spoke with Ash Bearman to find out more about the group.

“Shire Greens are a small environmental action group dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of open green space in Shirehampton. We have been an active partner with **Bristol City Council** in looking after and enhancing **Lamplighters Marsh**, now a

designated **Local Nature Reserve** and the **Daisy Field** where we planted a **Community Orchard in 2005**. We have sponsored hedgerow/bulbs and wild flower planting and intergenerational seating projects depicting the **Shire Remount Depot in WW1**. A few years ago we successfully started a new group - **Friends of Lamplighters Marsh (FoLM)** - to take on specific guardianship of this area.”

“Main projects for Shire Greens include looking after the flower planters on **Shire Railway Station** which we adopted 10 years ago and which is part of the **Severn Beach Line** project entered into the annual **Royal Horticultural Society It’s Your Neighbourhood**. There is also the **Community Plant Project with Bristol Zoo** and new projects coming in spring 2021 which include working with the **BEE Happy Shire Project**.”

“We are looking for more volunteers to become part of **Shire Greens**, as our enthusiasm grows for plants and flowers to bloom and enhance our village. Hours and activity times vary and everyone is welcome. We have some exciting projects coming and it would be good to have new people to join our volunteer group. You don’t have to be an expert gardener, just an interest in making our green spaces colourful, vibrant, cheerful and welcoming. We are looking forward to the **Calendula (Marigold) project**, improving the **Grove Leaze** grassland area and our **New Street Scene** project this year so there is plenty to do and look forward to” Said Ash.



Come rain or shine Shire Greens get on with their activities.

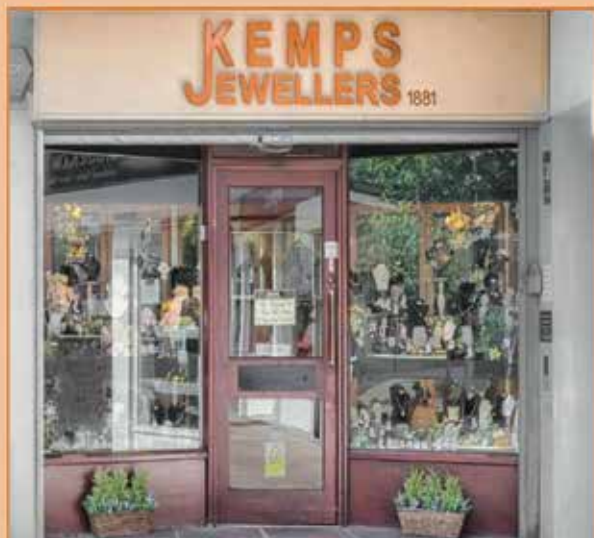
So if growing vegetables, fruits, flowers and shrubs has helped you pass the time during lockdown and inspired you to grow more at home, step forward and find out more about **Shire Greens** and how you can volunteer. You can contact our Chairperson Renee Slater via email: renee.slater@blueyonder.co.uk or Ash Bearman at SCAF via email: ash@shirecaf.org.uk or telephone: 0117 982 9963.

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Teresa Cox



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Churches in the Shirehampton Area

Hello from St Bernard's www.olorsb.org.uk

Details of weekday Mass times are on the website. Sunday Mass 9am at St Bernard's and 11am at Our Lady of the Rosary, are continuing. We were able to celebrate Easter together, a joy, though still in limited numbers due to current restrictions.



The children of the parish have been able to start their preparation for **First Holy Communion**. The wonderful catechists (people helping the children

prepare) have managed to organise a programme of learning for the children. They plan to celebrate their First Holy Communion in **June or July, after Corpus Christi, a feast day**, when in the past there would have been a procession through the streets, though this no longer happens, and I suspect we may not even be able to process around church at the moment. The teenagers of both churches are

hoping to start their confirmation programme in June, if some restrictions are lifted. Application forms are available.

We continue to have an area in the entrance to St Bernard's church, where **donated items for the Food Bank can be left**. Please keep the work of the foodbank in your prayers and keep supporting them in any way you can.

'Be faithful in small things, because it is in them that your strength lies' **Mother Teresa**

Shirehampton Baptist Church

Welcome to May, the start of Summer.

Easter came late this year and once again the lockdown restrictions prevented the United Church March of Witness. We in Shire Baptist were glad to be able to hold our Good Friday Service in the Church Building and we celebrated Easter Sunday on Zoom.

The month of May contains two important dates for Christians. **Thursday May 13th is Ascension Day** when Christians celebrate the ascension of Jesus to heaven and **May 30th, Pentecost Sunday**, marks the coming of God's Holy Spirit to dwell in the followers of Jesus giving them the power to obey Christ's command to preach to all nations.

The first **Alpha course** went well and plans are being made to start another. It really is a very good way of discovering the Bible's vital truths and their relevance to 2021 society.

We hope those of you who received the **Good News Paper** through your doors will have read it. We would appreciate feedback either by some from our Church or by the contact number below.

Our Church building is open every Thursday and we welcome all to come in for a chat or to pray on your own in the Church,

We are gradually moving to life as it used to be, but will it ever be the same? Who knows? One piece of good advice comes from The Sermon on the Mount



© Bob Pitchford

found in Matthew's Gospel where Jesus says, *"Do not be anxious for tomorrow for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own troubles be enough for the day."*

Greetings from all at Shirehampton Baptist Church

Contact number: 07743683684



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Hello from Shire Methodist

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We celebrated Easter with worship from home and a few socially distanced walks to watch the sun rise; some atmospheric photographs were shared as evidence! We were grateful to have Palm Crosses delivered to us to help us reflect on Holy Week. These little gestures help us feel connected with one another and less isolated. We decided this year to make our Easter cross more accessible to our local community and invite anyone who wanted to add flowers as a sign of prayer or thanksgiving. We plan to continue this in future years.

We are reaching the end of our first eco-church audit. We are planning to use our results to make some changes to our small garden area to make it more environmentally friendly and to encourage each other to be more aware of the impact of our lifestyle choices on God's creation. **We were delighted to hear that Easter Monday was Great Britain's greenest day so far in terms of electricity generation: 60 percent was generated by wind and sun.**

We have been working hard at writing grant applications to be able to open our **Jobs Training and Enterprise Hub** in the near future. Encouragingly we have secured a very helpful grant to support us over the next few years to offer this much-needed resource to our local community.

We do not plan to hold **Morning Worship** in our building until June at the earliest. Until then our Worship will continue to take place every Sunday via Zoom with our brothers and sisters in Christ from **Horfield Methodist Church**. Anyone with the internet, a mobile phone or a landline can join. **Please contact us if you would like to receive an invitation.** We support each other by keeping in touch by phone, letter, email and WhatsApp. **Revd Patrick Stonehewer** records weekly reflections that you can watch on his YouTube channel or our facebook page. We continue to pray for each other, our local community and our world.

All the churches in Shirehampton are holding our community in prayer, and will do our best to respond to any concerns and needs.



Please don't hesitate to contact us on the numbers below:

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Shire Baptist 0117 982 8238

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Until COVID-19, our sessions were extremely well attended and we would get up to 30 or so participants every week. This year, due to the lack of activity young people have had we are guaranteeing cricket will take place regardless of the weather. If it is a nice sunny day we will be holding our sessions at Twyford House Cricket Club, Penpole Lane. Alternatively, if we know it is going to rain we will head indoors to St Bede's College sports hall.

I hope that's enough information but if you require any more, please feel free to drop me a line. If there are any community groups that would like free cricket delivered on their behalf too, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you.

Masoor Khan
Gloucestershire Cricket Board
Masoor.Khan@glosccc.co.uk



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City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

After months of uncertainty about what would be possible in season 2021 – Bowling is back. At the end of March the long awaited directions came from Bowls England and those directions allow bowling to take place in controlled and limited numbers from April 12th. There is a further lifting of restrictions on May 17th and after June 21st all restrictions will be removed. All of this is subject to change should the UK Government decide it to be necessary.

This year's start is well ahead of last year when the first woods were not bowled until June 16th. **The first friendly game of this season will be at home to Bradley Stoke on Sunday May 2nd.**

Safety is paramount and the club will follow guidelines issued by Bowls England to create a safe space in which to enjoy bowling once more – lots of sanitizer will be in evidence on and around the green.

The club is ready to start bowling again. A lot of work has taken place both on the green and around it since the end of last season. In March a major repair was carried out on the Portacabin used as changing rooms. **ReeceR Space Ltd**, who supplied the building six years ago, worked for two days to almost rebuild what was a building in very poor condition. It is now made of much stronger material, looks very good and should last for many years to come.

Lots of essential work at the green is done by club volunteers and the club is grateful to them all for what they have done and continue to do.

Bowling is a unique sport in that although it has a set of rules that need to be followed it can be played in many ways. Whether you are looking for a relaxing afternoon in the sun gently rolling woods on the green or being in a competition, matching your skill against that of others and hopefully winning a trophy, bowling really is a sport for all.

This season the club has entries in both **The Gloucestershire Bowling Association** and in the **City and County of Bristol Association Competitions**. The Ladies have also entered the **Top Club Competition** which is organised nationally.

Ken Davies will play **Keith Boyland of Bristol St. Andrews** (away) in the **Champion of Champions** whilst **David Hinksman** has a home draw against **John Smallwood of Olveston in the GBA Four Wood Singles**. In the **City and County Pairs**, **Charlie Maby and Dave Chilcott** are away to **Scott Avery and his partner of GB Britton** whilst **David Hinksman and Ken Davies** have a home draw against **Gareth Hall and his partner, also of GB Britton**.



© David Hinksman

The Portacabin Before...



© David Hinksman

...and After

Both Ladies and Gents Leagues are due to start in May and the Ladies have entered the **Inter Club Competition** which they will play late in June.

The club has a new lady bowler – **Pam Marriott** has joined from **St. Andrews and Kildare**.

For further information about the club and how to join please call David Hinksman on 0117 9082713.



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No experience is necessary as full training and ongoing support is provided. So, if you are over 18 and have a little time free to support people in your local area, contact Janice Walsh at janice.walsh@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk or call 07714 898 558.

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Shire Colts Junior Football Club - Return to Football

Everyone at Shire Colts is looking forward to welcoming back our 250 plus children to training and matches. We know from the number of contacts we've had asking when we're restarting that

SHIRE COLTS JFC



Founded 1978

lots of our children are eager to get back to kicking a football with their friends. Whilst our respective youth leagues have been cancelled, we have a number of friendly matches arranged for our year groups, along with training sessions from our Football Association-qualified coaches, so there will be plenty of football for everyone. In order for a safe return, as a Charter Standard club we've made sure we're abiding by all Football Association Covid-related guidelines, including regular disinfecting of footballs and equipment, and a deep clean of our Sea Mills clubhouse.

Due to the lockdown we unfortunately had to postpone our popular presentation evenings, and our usual social events, but we will hopefully be able to make arrangements later this year if restrictions continue to be relaxed. The club recognises that it's been a difficult time for all our families and supporters, probably the most challenging in our forty three year existence, so we'll be starting regular food bank collections to help those less fortunate.

As our leagues have finished, it's a great time to join the club, as we're able to welcome new players in all our age groups from under sevens to under sixteens. We're also looking for sponsors for next season. If you're interested in joining us, or sponsoring the club, please contact us via our club website www.pitchero.com/clubs/shire. Ross Burnham (Chairperson).

Shire Sailing Club Get on the Water in 21

Following the easing of COVID restrictions Shire Sailing Club members were able to go sailing for the first time this year on 3rd April. The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) have put together a comprehensive set of COVID guidelines on how to sail as safely as possible. The members followed the RYA recommendations to the letter. One of the arrangements that reminded the older members of the earlier days of sailing at Shire was that due to the need for social distancing we could not change in the clubhouse. To keep a proper distance from each other we had to change in our cars. Even the challenge of changing in the car didn't put too much of a downer on a good day's sailing which was enjoyed by all who took part.



Lydney rowers launch at Shire

Work on clearing the Shire slip of mud continues to take place every Saturday morning (tide times permitting). This enables club members to keep sailing, visitors to launch other craft (canoes £5, fishing boats £10 etc.) and it ensures that the emergency services have access to the river at Shire.

The club also welcomed a visit from the canoeing section of **Lydney Sailing Club** this month. They rowed five canoes up river on the incoming tide up to **Bristol Docks** and returned in time to catch the falling tide before it left the end of the slip. It's always great fun to sail or paddle under the **Clifton Suspension Bridge**. It must be one of the most beautiful bridges in the world and is seen at its best from a small craft on the river.

We may be called a sailing club but we also welcome members with all types of river and sea craft from canoes to small RIBs.



Sailing at Shire (M5 bridge ahead)

If you'd like to get your boat on the water at Shire or would like to keep it in our compound please contact us at info@shiresc.co.uk

You can also call in on us any Saturday morning for a chat or any day we are sailing (see the club notice board opposite the **Lamplighter Pub**). When we are sailing members may have less time for a chat, but will be happy to take your name and contact details so that we can have a chat later.

If you don't have a boat but would like to join still please talk to us. We can get you on the water with a member in their boat or if you are RYA qualified in one of the club boats.

We look forward to more local people joining the club.

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Shirehampton Cricket Club



Are you interested in playing cricket this summer ?

Shirehampton Cricket Club is pleased to confirm that a full programme of cricket is returning to The Park, Penpole Lane this summer after lockdown. That's one local news item that we have eagerly awaited to announce.



New Players and Members are very welcome to join our popular community club.

We field two Saturday teams with the 1st XI competing in the **Senior Division of the Bristol & District League**. The fixtures begin on **Saturday 1st May** and training sessions are held every **Tuesday night at 6:15pm** throughout the season. From junior beginner to experienced senior – if you are enthusiastic, want to improve your game and willing to enjoy yourself – please get in touch so we can talk cricket.

You can find all our club information at www.shirecc.net and www.facebook.com/shirecc or you can contact us via email to shirecc.social@gmail.com with any questions.

Don't delay in contacting us so we can introduce ourselves and get you prepared for this summer of cricket and many more summers to come.

We are always welcoming new players as well as others who just want to enjoy the social side or contribute to the management of their local club off the field. We would like to hear from you if you're able to volunteer some time to help us with the upkeep and general running of the club.

If you don't play but fancy a Saturday afternoon outdoors why not visit us to take in a match as a spectator within our pleasant surrounds at one of Bristol's finest cricket grounds. Our excellent pavilion facilities will be available offering a friendly, welcoming and sociable atmosphere whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines.

We look forward to seeing you very soon at **The Park, Penpole Lane, Shirehampton**

League Fixtures (1pm Start) at Shirehampton CC this month

Sat 1st May	1st XI v. Keynsham
Sat 8th May	2nd XI v. Bristol Aces
Sat 15th May	1st XI v. Coalpit Heath
Sat 22nd May	2nd XI v. St George Valley
Sat 29th May	2nd XI v. Carsons & Mangotsfield

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