

Shire

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Merry Christmas to all our readers
and volunteers from your local
community newspaper with news and
views from the Shirehampton area

No. 623 - December 2023 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

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

Sign Up for this
Years Santa Dash
- See Page 6
Avonmouth Projects Group are
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2nd-10th to Help Raise Funds
for a Santa Stop in
Shirehampton on Dec 18th
- Go to: www.apgcic.com
or www.facebook.com/AvonmouthPG

Poppies On The Green Display Makes An Impact In Shirehampton

Once again, the organisers for 'Poppies on The Green' have made an impact locally with their latest display that was placed on The Green, Shirehampton with the help of volunteers.

Each year local communities within the four villages area join in the 'painting poppies sessions' that were held at the High Street Market, Shirehampton Craft Exhibition, the Community Living Room, Cotswold Community Centre, and St. Mary's Church. Red and purple poppies were painted by young children, right through the generations to 80 years plus. This Community Display has grown and this year over 800 painted poppies have been added to the main display.

This year also sees the addition of two silhouette soldiers, Paddy and Bill, joining Reg and Les. All served in the armed forces during WWI or WWII and lived in Shirehampton. Several High Street shops and businesses were chosen to showcase a window display each - this involvement will hopefully expand next year, - to be part of "Poppies On The Green" event, whilst volunteers from Shire Greens have also added a display at Shirehampton Railway Station

Remembrance coverage continues on pages 16-17.



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for the Christmas menu

Shire

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EDITORIAL POLICY

We welcome contributions for publication in 'SHIRE' but reserve the right to edit any copy received. Articles should not exceed 500 words. Any material published is at the editor's discretion and may also be included on our website www.shire.org.uk unless the copy is clearly marked 'not to be included on the world wide web'.

Contributions submitted to: editor@shire.org.uk

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REGULAR EVENTS IN SHIREHAMPTON

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Domestic Abuse/violence: Call **Crimestoppers** to report anonymously on **0800 555 111**. Go to thisisnotanexcuse.org for further info/help/support.

Help in your area – Bristol: Next Link: www.nextlinkhousing.co.uk. **0800 4700 280**. Crisis support and safe temporary supported housing for women and children experiencing domestic abuse and advice on sexual assault or rape.

Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership (KBSP): www.bristolsafeguarding.org/communities/support-for-bristol-residents. A collection of people and organisations in Bristol working to end all types of violence and abuse against women and girls and domestic and sexual violence against men.

BRI - IDVA Service: **0117 342 1495 / 1496**. Advisers provide support for male and female victims including crisis intervention, risk assessment and advocacy. 9am -5pm daily, Monday to Sunday including bank holidays.

Southern Arc: www.southern-arc.com **0117 353 3853**. Local support service for people affected by domestic abuse living in Arncliffe, Knowle West, Bishopsworth, Withywood, Whitchurch Park or Headley Park.

Northern Arc: www.northern-arc.com **0117 982 2495**. Local support service for people affected by domestic abuse living in Southmead, Lawrence Weston, Avonmouth, Henbury, Sea Mills and Shirehampton.

Survivor Pathway: www.survivorpathway.org.uk An online resource for anyone wanting to know more domestic abuse support services in the South West.

Events in our library



Every Tuesday afternoon 3pm – 5pm

Shire's Living Room –

Free soup & bread/tea/coffee/biscuits/board games and a friendly chat.

1st Wednesday of the month 6pm – 7pm

IT Literacy Class –

If you have a Smartphone, iPad, Tablet, or Laptop, but aren't sure how to use it, come along, we're help you!! We're now playing Board Games too!!

1st Wednesday of the month 7:30pm – 9pm

Record Appreciation Club –

Using analogue equipment, we play a classic vinyl album every month and have a discussion afterwards.

2nd Thursday of the month 6pm – 8pm

Family History Group –

We have a team of experts at hand to help you navigate the Ancestry.com website and other online tools and find out more about your family's history.

If you'd like to attend any of the above sessions, either email friendsofshire@gmail.com or phone/text 07943-401575



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

REGULAR EVENTS

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

Come along and join in the fun

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

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

MONDAY	Twyford Art Club (except August) Yoga	10am - 12noon 6pm - 7:30pm	Hall Hall
TUESDAY	Music with Mummy (term time only - pre-book) Extraordinary Links Parents Group (every 3rd Tuesday) Line Dancing Puppy Training	10am - 12noon 10am - 12noon 2pm - 3pm 6:30pm - 8:30pm	Bradley Room Hall Hall Hall
WEDNESDAY	Bristol Healing Rooms (every 2nd Wednesday) Pop-Up Play Village Bristol North (every 3rd Wednesday - prebook) Over 75s Exercise Class Extraordinary Links Shire Stitchers (every 3rd Wednesday) Women's Fellowship (every 2nd and 4th Wednesday)	11 am - 1:30pm 9:30am - 10:30pm 2pm - 3pm 3.30pm - 5:30pm 7:30pm - 9:30pm 7:30pm - 9:30pm	Hall Hall Hall Hall Hall Hall
THURSDAY	Shirehampton Community Art and Social Group (formerly Sea Mills Art Club) Tai Chi Model Railway Club	10am - 12noon 2pm - 3:30pm 7pm - 10pm	Hall Hall Club Room
FRIDAY	Shire Stitchers (1st Friday of the month) Music with Mummy (term time only - pre-book) Shire News (last Friday of the month) Create to Elevate Youth Group	10am - 12noon 10am - 12noon 4pm 7pm - 10pm	Bradley Room Hall Hall Penpole
SUNDAY	Church of Grace	11 am - 5pm	Hall

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



Wishing you a cosy and happy Christmas from all at Ocean Shirehampton.

   
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The *Shire* Community Pages

SHIRE COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

WARD MEETING

Shirehampton Community Action Forum (SCAF) hosted the Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Ward Meeting in November.

The meeting is an opportunity for the **Four Villages in the Ward – Avonmouth, Shirehampton, Sea Mills and Lawrence Weston** – to meet to share concerns and learn about local services. There were presentations from the **Carers Support Centre, Shire - Dementia Aware Village, Bristol Dementia Action Alliance, and Changes Bristol**. They offer free support groups for people with dementia, for carers, and for wellbeing.

For more information, please contact Ash Bearman (SCAF) Tel: 0117 982 9963 Email: ash@shirecaf.org.uk

APPEAL!!!

Shire paper desperately needs a new deliverer for a part of Old Quarry Rd and all of Old Quarry rise.

Approx 47 houses. If you live in or close to this part of Shire, can you consider helping us by become one of our volunteers. The numbers covered are 62 to 90 and a few more which I will check out. Such a round would take about 20 to 30 minutes. Please contact me, Bobbie Perkins, on 07811 385385 if you are interested.

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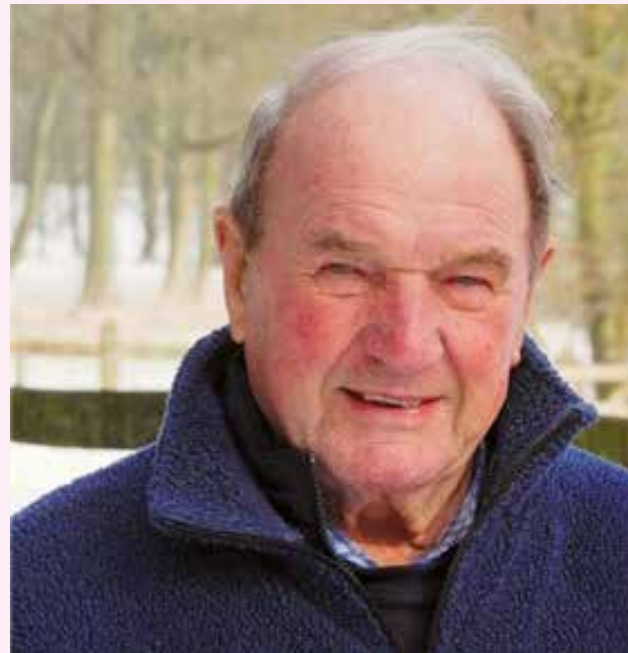
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Ken McCulloch



Ken McCulloch, who was born in **Avonmouth** and lived most of his life in Shirehampton, sadly passed away on 26 September 2023, aged 96.

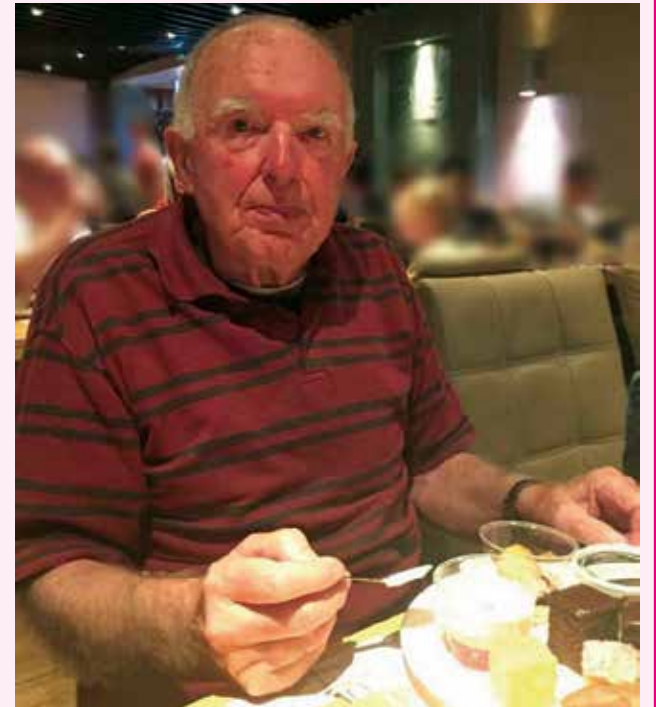
His daughter, **Lauren**, would like to express her heartfelt thanks for all the lovely cards and messages of condolence that she has received, as well as the generous donations to **Alzheimer's Research UK**.

He will be greatly missed by his friends and family.

James O'Riordan

"Jackpot Jim"

12/1/33 to 26/10/23. 90 Years.



Jim came to Bristol in the 1950's from **Clonmel, Southern Ireland** and worked throughout his life as a painter and decorator. Married to **Grace** for 53 years, they had one child, **Deborah**. Often seen in the bookies having a flutter and using the old **Rising Sun** pub before it closed and a frequent visitor to all the shops in Shire where he was well known.

Will be missed by all his family.

Daughter Deborah, son-in-law Nick, grandchildren and great grandchildren

Avonmouth Bowling Club; Closure of City & Port of Bristol Bowling Club



We are so sorry to see the Bristol Port Bowling Club has decided to not continue playing bowls at the PBA, a loss to our community of bowlers in the Bristol area.

Bristol Port was our friendly, local rivals and we enjoyed many bowls tours together, organised by **Liz and Gill**, all friends together, picking up the coach at **Nibley Road**, coffee from **Diane** if the coach was late and all playing bowls together and enjoying the time away. Very fond memories of these trips away.

Bristol Port organised fund-raising nights, skittles, great memories of **Gordy's** quizzes, **Brian's** golf, and even beetle drives. (Yes, we know we are supposed to be adults), wonderful jams and chutneys to buy. Great times remembered by all.

We, at **Avonmouth Bowling Club** would like to say thank you **Bristol Port Bowling Club** for the fond memories and great friendships made along the way.

If anyone is interested in continuing their bowling or thinking about giving bowls a go, please visit our green alongside Avonmouth Rugby Club in Barracks Lane. Our season will start again in March/April of next year although arranging social events at the club throughout the winter season.

We enjoy spreading community news especially at this time and we love to hear from all our readers of both the online and printed versions. Please, send in your letters and stories to editor@shire.org.uk.

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

Many thanks.



WORKING AT THE SHIREHAMPTON REMOUNT DEPOT

Dear Editor,

I was interested in the film about the horse memorial at Shirehampton. My parents came to the village in 1915. They had both been working in France and when the war started their employer, who was a racehorse trainer, and an American, decided to return to America. My parents decided not to go with him and came to England instead. They married in London and decided to move to Wincanton because there was a racecourse and Dad hoped he might be able to find work there. His life had only been with horses, he had travelled to many racecourses all over Europe as head lad, so that was work he was familiar with. He

had no luck finding employment because of horses being needed for the war, so my parents decided to move to Shirehampton because of the many horses being landed at Avonmouth docks. He enlisted in the army there and eventually was involved in the training of the horses many of which were wild. He went to France as part of what would be known now as logistics. Unfortunately, a couple of years after fighting there he was gassed during one of the battles and was returned to England to recuperate. He was ill for a long time as you can imagine.

He spoke a great deal to my eldest brother about the war (three of my brothers were in the second war). It was terrible enough seeing the thousands of men

being killed but you can imagine how he felt about the horses being killed after he had worked with them most of his early life. My parents lived in Shirehampton for the rest of their lives. My father, John Shields, died in 1951 and my mother, Alice Shields, in 1975. All of my brothers and sisters were born in Shirehampton. I am the last and the youngest of my siblings still living!!! A young 88-year-old and living in Scotland. I hope that this is of some interest to you and adds some local information to the story.

Tess Davis

LITTER PICKING - MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR ENVIRONMENT!

Dear Editor,

In the last edition of Shire, the rising issue of litter in the area was highlighted (with a particular emphasis on the overflowing bins around the village). Having recently been involved in a couple of litter picks in the area it seems as though the problem of litter on the streets is not going away! Each of the litter picks mentioned lasted for about an hour and covered roughly one street, and on each occasion, we filled a bin bag to its capacity!

As a family we often go out for a litter pick over the weekend. It is nice for a few weeks to notice the improvement of the area. Our girls (aged 4 and 7) are usually (relatively) keen to go and are very aware of the impact that litter can have on the environment.

They have recently signed up for **Bristol Waste's Little Big Tidier campaign** and have just received loyalty cards in the post. They will use this to record every pick that they take part in and after completing 6 picks will receive their own litter picking kit. We find going for litter picks is a nice family activity, we get to spend



© Bob Pitchford

time together outdoors, look after our local area, see instant (although, sadly, not permanent) results, and it is a chance to talk about the environmental impact of littering and the many wider issues associated with it. This ongoing conversation we hope, will have a lasting impact on the children's ethical decision making throughout their lives.

I wonder if any other families or individuals would be interested in meeting up for some family litter picks in the area on the occasional weekend? We know our children would enjoy having some friends to help them! If a few of us can make even a relatively small impact, it will help care for the area, and give it the opportunity to be as beautiful as it can be for all to enjoy.

The Bradley Family



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Linda x x

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



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

Email: t.linda1206@gmail.com

www.shirestrong.co.uk



CHICO THE BARBER



CHICO THE BARBER 22 HIGH STREET SHIREHAMPTON

Its NOT TOO LATE to Sign Up for the SANTA DASH!!!

Christmas is now on its way and in Shirehampton one of the first festive activities taking place is the Santa Dash on Sunday 3rd December. This annual fun event is organised by Shirehampton Christmas Illuminations and includes a Christmas Craft and Gift Fayre, as well as food, refreshments and Christmas music.

The Santa Dash is a 5km run, jog or walk around Shirehampton and open to all ages wherever you may live. Join in with family, friends or be a solo entrant. Entry fee includes a Santa suit and a finishers medal. Fingers crossed the weather will be kind all that day and it all starts at 11am.

"We are a very small committee, and this year has been especially difficult for us. The Santa Dash is a major event for us and funds raised go towards the Christmas lights you see as you walk or drive through Shirehampton's High Street.



We are also in need of new volunteers to join us on the Illuminations Committee to ensure the Christmas Lights are turned on again next year. If you think you could spare a few hours every few months to help us with our fund-raising efforts please get in touch. We also need some volunteer marshals to join us for this year's Santa Dash and be at vital points on the route to point people in the right direction. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing many of the local communities taking part in the Santa Dash and wish everyone a Merry Christmas from Shirehampton Christmas Illuminations". said Chloe.

Entry fee for the Santa Dash (including suit) is £12 Adult Aged 18 and over, £8 Child Age 6-17 £5 Child Age 5 and under. To sign up go to: www.entrycentral.com/shire-santa-dash

Sign ups can still be made on the morning of the event at the PBA Sports and Social Club in Nibley Road, Shirehampton which is also the venue for this family fun event.

You can contact Shirehampton Christmas Illuminations via email: shirechristmasilluminations@outlook.com and check out their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/shirechristmasilluminations

Kathryn Courtney

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- Sun 10th 6pm - John Godwin
- Weds 13th 8pm - Open Mic
- Sat 16th 8pm - Mike Walsh
- Tues 19th 7.30pm - Quiz Night
- Sat 23rd 8pm - Christmas Karaoke
- Tues 26th 4pm - Billy Driscoll

Christmas Opening Hours

- Christmas Eve 11am - 11pm
- Christmas Day 12pm - 2pm
- Boxing Day 12pm - 10pm
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Dunk A Donut for Bristol Dementia Action Alliance

I met up with Lisa Dicker at the latest 'Dunk A Donut' event that was being held at the PBA Sports And Social Club. She is the Community Engagement Officer for Bristol Dementia Action Alliance that was set up over ten years ago.

BDAA was founded ten years ago by Tony and Barbara Hall. Barbara had been diagnosed with dementia and they wanted to do something to help other people and link in with other local and national organisations.

The Alliance has grown from strength to strength and one of the main things they provide are dementia aware activities and events. In Bristol five thousand people have a dementia diagnosis but there are many others who haven't been diagnosed yet. Dementia affects the whole family and the BDAA want people to be more aware of how they can make a difference in their loved one's lives and to know that there is help available.

This is the second year for 'Dunk A Donut' that is now an annual event that happens every October. Tony and Sam are the originators of the event and this year Lisa joined the team and put a twist on 'Dunk A Donut'. "I suggested that we could dunk people and anyone could nominate their boss, teacher, family member or friend as 'dunk the donut' to get more people involved. Unfortunately, I have been nominated by my family and earlier you saw me being dunked in water! It was cold and a bit of a shock and my daughter threw an additional bucket of water over me so I'm not babysitting tonight, (laughing) but it was worth it as it was for a good cause. All those pennies collected in sponsorship go towards the running of this small charity organisation".

I asked Lisa what other activities she was involved in "At the moment we are doing a project in Shirehampton. We want to Shirehampton the first dementia aware

village in Bristol, so it's very exciting. It is a pilot project and once we get it right, we will roll it out to other villages. Many of the High Street retailers have signed the pledge to say that they want to improve the experiences of dementia just by changing signage, by being more aware of the challenges that people have and how they can help. One of the first things people stop doing is going shopping and being involved in their community because they don't think they can, as they are not understood and we want to change that. We just want to make places accessible and welcoming for everybody".

"We do dementia awareness sessions for anyone who asks. We work with the police, GP surgeries community groups. We run a 'Memory Cafe' in Shirehampton the third Friday of each month at the Cotswold Community Centre and a 'Happy Days Cafe' in Westbury too. It's for people with dementia, their carers and their loved ones. It just gives you a space where you know you're not going to be judged, relax, have fun and be with other people on that journey as isolation can be a killer."

If you would like to volunteer for BDAA or want further information check out their web site: <https://bdaa.org.uk>, Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Bristoldaa, email office@bdaa.org.uk or call 07741 142701.

Kathryn Courtney



Shirehampton JTE Hub

Cleanslate will be attending the Shirehampton JTE Hub every Monday between 11am and 12.30pm. They will be offering a free money guidance service for anyone on a low income which aims to help spot savings and ways to boost finances. They will also be able to arrange energy, food and data vouchers if needed.

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Churches in the Shirehampton Area

Hello from St Mary's

Hi Folks!

Christmas is just around the corner and after the 21st of the month the shortest day will have passed, and the dark nights will once again start to very slowly draw out! But let us enjoy Christmas first, as I have quite a bit to write about this month.

Back in November our **All-Souls' Day Memorial Service** scheduled for a Thursday evening was hastily postponed because of Storm Ciaran, causing problems all over the country. It was held a few days later on the Saturday and **Rev Alison** conducted a very moving service with the names of lost loved ones called out during the prayers.

Our church is open every morning of the week, with **coffee mornings** mostly between 10am - midday. Please note there is no coffee morning on Thursdays as we hold a **Holy Communion service** at 11am, though you are welcome to call in with any enquiries. During the colder months, we are open for longer on Fridays (10am - 2pm) and hot soup will be available after midday. So, if you are struggling to keep your home warm, or would simply like some company, you can find a warm space and a warm welcome at **St Mary's**. We have a toy corner, so we are equally welcoming to the youngest members of the community.

We have lots of services and events taking place in December and would love to welcome you to these:

7.30PM SATURDAY, 2ND DECEMBER: St Mary's will be host to the **Gospel Generation Community Choir** performing a Concert *Let's celebrate together*. Tickets are £5 with £3 concessions and under 16s free. These can be obtained at the door on the evening of the Concert.

ADVENT SUNDAY, 3RD DECEMBER:

8.30am Rise and Shine breakfast and service for youngsters and their parents

10.30am Sung Eucharist service

4pm Christingle Service: If you haven't been before I will give you a clue - it will include oranges and candles. Still puzzled? Then come along and satisfy your curiosity!

10.30AM WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER: "Goldies" singing session in the church. Come along and sing some popular songs from the past!

10AM - 12PM SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER: **Christmas Fayre** both inside and outside the church building. You will be able to purchase Crafts, Toys, Cakes & Bakes and have fun with Games and Tombola - and there will also be a special Christmas Visitor, so please let families know about this event!

SUNDAY, 10TH DECEMBER:

8.30am Rise and Shine breakfast and service for youngsters and their parents

10.30am Holy Communion service

2.30pm Shirehampton Area Choir Christmas Concert performance in church. Refreshments will be available during the interval. Admission is free, but a retiring collection will be held. All monies raised will be given to the Bristol Northwest Food Bank.

MONDAY, 11TH DECEMBER: There will be no Tea & Coffee available as a **school Christmas service** takes place in church.

7PM WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER: **The Spirit of Christmas service** will be held in the church which will include the *Story of Christmas* together with Carols and Refreshments after the service. This will be our main carol service, and everyone is welcome to come along to hear why Christmas is celebrated. We hope you can enjoy a Christmas tree display too.

SUNDAY, 17TH DECEMBER:

8.30am Rise and Shine breakfast and service for youngsters and their parents

10.30am Holy Communion service

TUESDAY, 19TH DECEMBER: **Christmas Movie Pop-up Afternoon**, time to be confirmed. Details will be available nearer the time, so please check our noticeboard, website, and Facebook page.

7PM THURSDAY, 21ST DECEMBER: **The Longest Night service**, when there will be **Readings, Prayers, and Carols**. This service acknowledges the pain, loss, and anxieties of life that many of us live. In the midst of struggle, we find hope in the **Christ Child**... a service of light in the midst of darkness.

CHRISTMAS EVE - SUNDAY, 24TH DECEMBER:

No Rise and Shine service

10.30am Holy Communion service

4pm Family Crib Service - which will include the **Great Bethlehem Bake Off!!!!** As always, please come dressed as a character from the nativity if you would like to.

11.30pm Midnight Mass service - the real beginning of Christmas to many.

CHRISTMAS DAY

10am Christmas Holy Communion service: Please note this is an earlier time than our usual Sunday services. All are welcome and you will have time to get back home to see to the Christmas Dinner!!

The church will be **closed from Tuesday, 26th to Saturday 30th** (both dates inclusive). This means there will be **no Holy Communion on Thursday, 28th December**.

10AM SUNDAY, 31ST DECEMBER: Joint **ASMA Holy Communion Service** to which you are all invited.

The next day is **New Year's Day**, when the church will again be **closed as it is a Bank Holiday**. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2024!

St Mary's wishes you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas and we pray that 2024 will bring health, security, and peace to all. Thank you to all who have helped the church in any way in the past year, we couldn't open our space to the community in the way we do without all of you.

Now for a Christmas yarn! Question: What did Joseph tell people when they asked how Mary and baby Jesus were doing after the birth? Answer: Both are in a stable condition!

'Bye for now.

C.M.E.

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Greetings from Shirehampton Baptist

The first Advent candle will be lit in many churches on December 3rd. During the four Advent Sundays Christians prepare their hearts to remember the birth of Christ and to wait for his Second Coming.

The candles symbolize **Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace** and are lit in that order.

Another Christmas tradition which has become popular is the **Christingle**. On **December 10th** the **Cotswold Christian Community** will celebrate Christingle at the **Cotswold Community Hall**, Dursley Road at 5pm.

We trust many will join us in this lovely service enjoyed by adults and children.

Another Christmas celebration we are looking forward to is our **Carol Service at Shirehampton Baptist Church** led by members of the **Rock Steady Club** at 6pm on **December 17th**. Last

year the room was filled with families and friends followed with refreshments.

The **Christmas Eve Carols on the Green** at 7pm will be led by **Lyn Morton** of the **Alfa Christian Community**. This is an opportunity for the whole village to gather to sing Carols and we trust reflect on their message.

During December we will be distributing the **Good News Paper** to every home in the village. We trust many will read it and find hope and light.

The themes of Advent Hope, Love, Peace and Joy are universal in the human experience. 2023 has had more of its share of wars, violence, injustice, floods,

earthquakes, and hunger for millions of people. The message of the Angels to the Shepherds was, Peace on Earth, Good will to all people, this is the longing and prayers of us all.

We remember all who will miss the presence of a loved one this Christmas and may we all find Hope, Love, Joy, and peace which comes from the one whose birth we celebrate.

Happy Christmas!

MB

We invite all to join us at Shire Baptist on Sundays at 10:30am and our Christmas services December 17th 6pm and Christmas morning 10am. Contacts: 07743 683684 or rhodospaul360@gmail.com

Hello from Shire Methodist Church

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

We hold Morning Worship each Sunday in our church building from 11am. Please note there is no morning service on 17th or 31st December. The first Sunday in December is led by a guest preacher, the second is All-Age Worship. On the third Sunday (17th) our carol service at 3pm is led by our minister Revd Martin Slocombe, who will join us again to lead our Morning Worship at 11am on Christmas Eve. Our Christmas Morning Service is at 10.30am on Christmas Day, after which there is a free Christmas lunch for people in our local community organised by our Hub Project Coordinator, Darren. Please let us know if you wish to attend the Christmas Day lunch.

Our Hub has many events happening in our building on weekdays: films, games, benefits and jobs advice, support groups, and a community fridge, for which we are particularly grateful to the **Co-op and local bakery** for their contributions. If you shop at the Co-op and have a blue membership card, you can donate money to a local charity every time you shop. Our Hub is a charity which you can nominate. We would love you to choose to donate to us - it costs you nothing and you earn money to spend at the Co-op every time you shop. If you

have the Co-op app, you can choose a local charity by tapping on the community icon on the bottom right of the screen. If you don't have the app, you can choose a local charity by logging into the website. If you want any support with the app or website, please call into the Hub for help.

If you are unsure where we are located, our building is opposite Boots, Lloyds Bank, and the Job Centre on the High Street. The entrance is on **Penpole Avenue**. There are three doors; the most accessible entrance is the **white door** a little way up the road.

Please ring the doorbell if the door is shut!

Christmas and Advent can be a time of mixed emotions for all of us. We welcome you to come along to our services whether you are happy or sad or anywhere in between. For **Christians**, Christmas is a time of hope, which is what we all need. It's also a time when we pray for peace on Earth, to which surely, we can all say Amen ("I agree"). During Advent, our Church is following the Methodist Church's Christmas campaign "*Out of the Ordinary*", encouraging us to scratch beneath the surface this Christmas. We are all invited to experience how the wonder of God's love is revealed in the ordinary:

- ◆ 2,000 years ago, a seemingly ordinary birth (of Jesus) changed the world.
- ◆ Each day, ordinary acts of kindness can break through to the extraordinary

You can find more information here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/outoftheordinary/>

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

Wishing you a very Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Everyone at Shire Methodist

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

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

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



**HEALING
ROOMS
BRISTOL**

An Update from Darren Jones MP, Bristol North West

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

This month has seen lots of pomp and circumstance. From the start of a new session of Parliament – the last before the next General Election – with the King's Speech in the House of Lords, to the annual Acts of Remembrance.

Each year, I rotate between the Remembrance Sunday service in Shirehampton, Westbury-on-Trym and the City Centre. This year, on Sunday 12th November, it was my honour once again to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of the people of Bristol Northwest during the city's annual Act of Remembrance at the City Centre service.

In Shire, we recently celebrated our village's important role in WWI with the unveiling of the Shirehampton Warhorse statue – something that we should all be proud of and make sure that the stories of this history are passed down to our children.

It has also been lovely to see a return of Poppies on the Green and the post box toppers in Shire to mark Remembrance Day. I want to thank the many people and groups that contributed to these creative acts of remembrance.

We can certainly be proud of the strong sense of community spirit in Shire.

There are some, however, who seem set on spoiling our peaceful village life. Several Shire residents have contacted me recently about a group of youths who are making them feel unsafe. They have witnessed youths clambering over garage roofs and throwing fireworks.

My team has raised the matter with Avon and Somerset Police, and they've confirmed there has been an increase in anti-social behaviour in Shire of late. The police have increased patrols in the area and are now liaising with the local community and schools to identify the individuals involved – although, it is worth noting that they are thought to be coming from surrounding areas.

If you have doorbell or dash cam footage or CCTV that may help to identify the youths, please report it online at www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/anti-social-behaviour or call 101.

Ending on more joyful news, I'm happy to invite you to join me for my annual Christmas Coffee Morning!

I know they say you shouldn't talk about politics at Christmas, but how about a friendly chat with your MP over a cup of coffee and a tasty mince pie?

The Christmas Coffee Morning will be held 10:30am-12:00pm on Saturday, 16th December in a venue in Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle. (The venue details will be shared with registered attendees.) Unlike my Village Meetings, this event is not area-specific and all constituents from across Bristol North West are warmly invited to come.

To RSVP for the event, please visit www.darren-jones.co.uk/events or call my office on 0117 959 6545.

I hope to see you there, but in case you cannot attend, let me take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As always, if you need my help or have a question, please get in touch on darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk, call the office on 0117 959 6545 or visit www.darren-jones.co.uk. Please note, to give my hardworking team a well-earned rest during the holidays, my office will be closed after 22nd December until 2nd January. If you have an urgent matter to raise during this time, you can still reach me by emailing the usual address. For the latest updates, follow me on social media: [fb.com/darrenjonesmp](https://www.facebook.com/darrenjonesmp) @darrenpjones

CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Shirehampton is in the Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Ward

Your Councillors are:

Donald Alexander – Labour: cll.donald.alexander@bristol.gov.uk
John Stephen Geater - Conservative: Cllr.John.Geater@bristol.gov.uk
James Scott - Conservative: Cllr.James.Scott@bristol.gov.uk
Conservative Members' Services Office: 0117 922 2746
Labour Members' Services Office: 0117 922 3827

CONTACTING YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Shirehampton is in the Bristol North West Constituency

Darren Jones Phone: 01179596545
Email: darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.darren-jones.co.uk



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Happy Christmas

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

1. *The First Nowell*

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

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

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

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

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

2. *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

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

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

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

3. *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

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

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

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

4. *While Shepherds Watched*

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. *O Come All Ye Faithful*

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

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

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

6. *Silent Night*

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

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

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

To all our readers

CHRISTMAS EVE • 7:30PM

7. *Away in a Manger*

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

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

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

8. *Good King Wenceslas*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Men and boys:

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

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

9. *Once in Royal David's City*

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

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

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

10. *The Holly and the Ivy*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11. *We Three Kings*

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

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

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

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



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

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



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St Mary's Scout Group

On Wednesday 8th November we held our group bonfire for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. To make it a more family orientated event, we also invited along parents and carers.

Thanks go to the Scouts who set up the bonfire, whilst **Hawkeye** and **Jakala** took charge of cooking the hot dogs. As the food was cooking, **Bumblebee**, our **Assistant Beaver Leader**, led the campfire singsong. The children then enjoyed toasting their own marshmallows on the fire to make smores.

During the evening, we invested 10 children across the 3 groups. We were delighted to also welcome and

invest two new leaders. **James 'Akela' Ashton** will be taking over the running of the **Monday night Cubs** group in the new year and **Dan Curtis-Vowles** who will be our new **Assistant Beaver leader**.

We were grateful that the weather stayed dry. Thank you to all the parents and carers for coming along and sharing your photographs with us.



© St Mary's Scout Group



© St Mary's Scout Group



© St Mary's Scout Group

Halloween in Shirehampton

I went in search for Hallowe'en moments in Shirehampton and met **Elsie** and **Bonnie** who were dressed in their Hallowe'en finery whilst out with their gran. They posed quite happily in front of the **Redland Bakery** Hallowe'en themed window designed by **Kay Welsford**.

Bianca Blue also had an impressive Hallowe'en window design and **Sarah** from the **Super Saver Store** was photographed in her own Hallowe'en outfit outside the shop. The **Co-op** continued with their own Hallowe'en theme with **Lori**, **Lesley** and **Carol** being joined by two new companions. The local High Street never disappoints and who knows what next year will bring?

Kathryn Courtney



© Kathryn Courtney



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Continues from page 1.

and a new "Poppies On The Green" display has been added to the Daisy Field this year by the War Horse Memorial with the help of Friends Of Lamplighters Marsh.

Feedback has been extremely positive with one gentleman saying "Thanking everyone involved. The display is great memoriam to all" as he was passing by on the Tuesday morning when the display was being set up and another stopped his van and shouted across the road to say "What a great job you are doing. Respect to you all."

"Thank you's go to everyone who has painted poppies, and Juliet Le Feuvre, Kay Welsford, Jess Martens, Ruth Morris, Sally Ann Matthews, John Hastings, Karen & Russell Pinson, Marilyn Gorry, Paul McMillan, Ray Dixon, Jo Sargent, Mary Page, Chris Martens Andy, Diane, Vietta, Peter, and Claire. It is certainly a display that will always need community involvement and volunteers". said Ash Bearman, Community Development Officer and one of the organisers of this annual event.

To find out more information about Poppies On The Green please go to: www.facebook.com/poppiesonthegreen or email: poppiesonthegreen@gmail.com

Kathryn Courtney



FoLM Warhorse Art Competition

Following the opening ceremony of the Warhorse Sculpture in the Daisy Field, Shirehampton in September, Shire News held a Children's Art and Writing Competition for children of primary school age, the results of which were published in the November edition of Shire. Simultaneously, children in Avonmouth Primary School, where the Warhorse study began, were doing work on the history of the Remount Depot. Sadly, they were unable to meet the deadline for submissions to The Shire competition, so it was decided that The Friends Of Lamplighters Marsh would sponsor an entirely separate competition purely for the children of Avonmouth Primary School.

We received five wonderful entries, which were judged by local artist, Betty Marten. They are all fantastic, so we decided to award all five children £10 book tokens, which were presented in school assembly. Avonmouth Primary School has a particular interest as some of the Remount Huts were on the grounds of the current school property. During the First World War more than 300,000 horses passed through Avonmouth on their way to the Western Front. Shirehampton was the scene of Bristol's own War Horse drama as over 5,000 horses at a time occupied the fields around the village.

These animals were cared for by over 1,000 soldiers and in 1916 one of these was Charlie Day who wrote letters home describing life at Shirehampton. Together with Charlie's great nephew and Bristol Old Vic, in 2013 Local Learning worked with Year 6 at Avonmouth Primary School using Charlie's letters to explore life at Shirehampton in the First World War. Year 6 created a fantastic roaming drama, *Their Lives Beneath Our Feet*, which they performed on the site of the Shirehampton Remount Depot to parents, carers, and the wider community. Here's a link to the fabulous video of the event: www.locallearning.org.uk/ww1/avonmouth-andshirehampton/

Interest in the Warhorse Sculpture has spread around the area, and the Platform, an award-winning rail education scheme that works with schools to empower young people in accessing the railways, is planning to take groups from the wider area to visit the Daisy Field, and really put it on the map.

John Hastings, Friends of Lamplighters Marsh



The Rain Fails to Dampen Remembrance Sunday

The rain didn't keep the crowds away for Remembrance Sunday on 12th November. Many were prepared with umbrellas to pay their respects to all. The Avonmouth Sea Cadets, local Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts, and Veterans were all in attendance and St. Mary's Church led the service at the Cenotaph at the top of Park Hill. And poppy wreaths were laid to remember the fallen.

This year marks the **80th Anniversary** of the end of the **'Battle for the Atlantic'** that began in **September 1939** and ended in **May 1943**. This was an extremely important corridor for **Britain** not only for food supplies, raw materials, but also artillery, troops, and equipment. If this trade route was cut off by the **Germans** with their U-Boats and ships with air support, then there would have been serious consequences for Britain.

The **Merchant Ships** had to be protected but great losses at the beginning of the war were proving a challenge with the U-Boats and Ships prowling the Atlantic. The **Canadian Navy and Airforce** escorted the merchant ships and by May 1941 a transatlantic

convoy system was in place. This would consist of several columns of ships totalling up to 60 at any one time. With the sinking of the German battle ship, **Bismark** that same month, the Americans also began escorting the merchant ships across the Atlantic, so began the demise of Germany's strength in this area.

By the Autumn of 1943 the German ships and U-boats retreated with an Allied victory in the Atlantic along with the opening of the Mediterranean for essential traffic later that year. There was also a significant reduction in shipping losses allowing unchallenged control of Atlantic sea-lanes.

Kathryn Courtney



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© Bob Pitchford



Unite to Survive

You probably don't know about the UNITE TO SURVIVE climate protest that took place in Bath at the end of October. Climate groups from all over the Southwest gathered in late autumn sunshine and mild autumn air. It was a festive occasion. Greenpeace and Christian Climate Action, Extinction Rebellion and Friends of the Earth, BAAN and Surfers Against Sewage, Kidicle Mass and Families for a Future, doctors in scrubs and scientists in long white lab coats... hundreds of people of all ages and every walk of life came together to beg our leaders to acknowledge there IS a climate crisis.

The **Climate Choir** led the march and stopped to sing on the lawn in front of the **Royal Crescent**. Tourists and shoppers stopped to watch. This was a joyful but also sombre event. Those of us taking part, including people from both the **Shirehampton and Sea Mills climate groups**, were encouraged and supported by being together with so many others who realize what climate change means for all of us now. And you could see that people passing in the street are beginning to share our grief and concern.

As the critic and philosopher **John Berger** said:

"Demonstrations don't just demonstrate something to people in power....they also demonstrate something to the people gathered on the streets. Those people come to realise they are not merely individuals with limited power... but [they] have a common fate and a common opportunity."

We are all beginning to understand that we need to come together in our effort to reduce our use of fossil fuels and mitigate the effects of climate change we already experience. In the **Climate Emergency Group**, you will find people who share your concerns, your fears and your hopes for our climate and our future. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month and our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 12 December 7:30 at the Cotswold Community Centre, Dursley Road**. You'll be very welcome.

R. Slater



© Mark Bagott



© Mark Bagott



© Mark Bagott

Nature Notes

This marigold plant decided that as Summer was still about, it would present me with this startling flower about a month ago. It sits in a far from attractive pot at the side of our home, along with all my other 'gone over' plants!



© Bobbie Perkins

However, a while ago as I came home from walking the dogs, I happened to glance down at it to say hello! (as you do), and there was this tiny, rather beautiful snail enjoying the sunshine.

So I thought it was worthy of a wider audience.

As I mentioned last month, there have been plenty of other flowers, and still are, which are gracing other spots in the garden too. Who knows whether there will be another bloom to grace this paper next month??

On another note, we have been pleased to see long tailed tits in the tree out front, happily merging with my beloved gold finches, and a nearby friend was ecstatic to tell us that she had a lesser spotted woodpecker perched in her garden recently. At the moment we are feeding sparrows, a solitary but frequent Robin, several jackdaws (which I really like too), and of course the ever hungry but good at hoovering up pigeons!

I am sure that when the weather does decide that it's time for winter to make an entrance, we will see the food disappearing at a much faster rate!

I can't wait! Happy nature watching folks,

Bobbie

Shirehampton's First Pollinator Park Wins Bee Bold Award

Shirehampton Community Action Forum (SCAF) and Bee Happy Shire have won one of this year's BEE BOLD Awards. Bee Bold is an ambitious initiative created by Metro Mayor, Dan Norris, that is funding pollinator-friendly projects in the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) area.

WEST OF ENGLAND
Combined Authority



© Kathryn Courtney

The award will allow us to create **Shirehampton's first Pollinator Park**, where bees and other pollinators can find an all-year-round feast – we will plant wildflowers, shrubs and trees that will flower from **January through to December**.



© Kathryn Courtney



© Kathryn Courtney

The project's first on-site **Planting Party** was held on 21st October, when we planted over 100 kilos of spring-flowering pollinator-friendly bulbs. Next up on our Planting Timetable is a **small orchard** of heritage fruit trees, in December, then in the spring we will host another Planting Party for our **Mini Wildflower Meadow**, please watch out for your invitation in the **Shire newspaper** and **SCAF** publicity – please come and join in the fun in April 2024.

Every flower counts - we wish **Penpole Lane Pollinator Park** to act as a 'Library' for our community, where we can see all the plants that can feed and shelter our pollinators and be beneficial for all our urban wildlife.

Sara Cech-Lucas

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Mon 1 Jan	Wed 3 Jan
Tue 2 Jan	Thur 4 Jan
Wed 3 Jan	Fri 5 Jan
Thur 4 Jan	Sat 6 Jan
Fri 5 Jan	Mon 8 Jan
Mon 8 Jan	Tue 9 Jan
Tue 9 Jan	Wed 10 Jan
Wed 10 Jan	Thur 11 Jan
Thur 11 Jan	Fri 12 Jan
Fri 12 Jan	Sat 13 Jan

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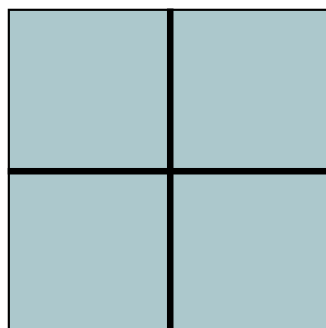


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SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON



City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

There have been some big and remarkable days at the club in recent years and one of these was on Sunday September 13th, 2015, when not only did the first Presidents Day take place but also the new club shirts were launched and seen on the green for the first time. Until then men wore white shirts and club ties and ladies wore white tops.



The first Presidents Day and Club Shirt launch September 13th 2015.

The decision to change to a club shirt was made earlier in the year and there followed a process of design approval at club and county levels before the shirts could be ordered from **Cotswold Bowls**. The **Bristol Port Company** sponsored the first order for shirts and consequently the Port Company Logo appeared on the right sleeve for several years. **Gill Hinksman** guided the design application through and then took measurements from members to enable her to place the initial order. This process was over several months hence the reason for the launch taking place in the final month of the 2015 season.

David Hinksman was **Club President** when this event took place, and he organised four further **Presidents Days** during his three terms of office.

Presidents Days are fun events, starting always with a spider and a good bottle of spirit for winning it. There were barbeques and for these thanks must go to **Bill Cook** and **Brian Crawley** who alternated in producing an excellent barbeque when Presidents Day came along, wonderful memories and great burgers.

Another memorable occasion came on a Monday afternoon in **July 2016**. It was on the **25th** that the counties of **Gloucestershire** and **Somerset** came to the green to compete for the **Small Cup**. Bowling on six rinks this was a big game numerically as well as importance to both counties and the prestige of hosting it to the City and Port of Bristol Club. The sun shone on what was a very fast green that day and some excellent bowling was seen. Somerset won the game by 129 shots to 109.



Action during the County game on Monday 25th July 2016.



After the inter – county game on 25th July 2016.

When the bowling ended there was a two-course meal provided by the City and Port Club. Speeches were made and thanks given by both counties and some tokens of appreciation were presented to members of the host club who worked so hard to make the event the success it was.

Events such as this are full of ceremony and tradition. Before the game started David Hinksman as Club President formally handed the green over to the **Gloucestershire President Roy Walker** so that he could play his opposite number from **Somerset Lionel Slatter** that afternoon. The green was thankfully returned at the end of the game!!

The club was all men until the early 1980s, the picture below was taken around 1982/83. Do you recognise yourself or anyone else in it?

Although the club has closed there will be a **Winter Bowling Break** early in **March 2024** at the **Toorak Hotel in Torquay**. Organised by **Dee Crawley** and Gill Hinksman it will have all the events that previous breaks had including four games of indoor bowls, ten pin bowling and lots of time to use all that the hotels have to offer and explore Torquay and the surrounding area.

There will be lots more memories in the next edition of Shire including a fancy-dress day and those summer tours.

The club would like to thank everyone who has supported it this and in previous years and wish them a Good Christmas and a Happy 2024.



This is the club in 1982 or 1983. By this time ladies had joined the men.



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NEWS FROM SHIRESTRONG KETTLEBELL CLUB: Strength in Unity and Endurance in Action

Hello from Linda of ShireStrong! It's been a while since I last shared an update, but I'm thrilled to be back, albeit under slightly different circumstances. Life threw a curveball my way as my dear Mum experienced a stroke and is currently undergoing rehabilitation in the hospital. I have spent time visiting her and supporting her in her recovery. Thankfully she is doing well and should be able to return home soon.

For those of you unfamiliar with our club, let me reintroduce us. We are a close-knit group of enthusiastic individuals who gather several times a week to harness the power of kettlebells, fostering endurance and strength. The beauty of our club lies in its inclusivity; we welcome members of all ages and abilities. If you've ever wondered about kettlebells and their benefits, rest assured, they are accessible and incredibly rewarding once you receive some guidance.



© Linda Thorne

I am immensely proud to share the news of a recent triumph that four of our members – **myself, Lucy Steeds, Suzie Atkins, and Jo Robertson** accomplished. We took on the challenge of the **Great North Run**, the world's largest half marathon on the 20th of September 2023. Not only did we complete the race successfully we also raised £1280.00 for **Dementia research**, contributing to the ongoing fight against this devastating disease.

We have set our sights on another significant challenge. Several of our club members, including Lucy, Suzie, Jo, and myself, have eagerly registered for the **Bristol Half Marathon** in May 2024. As we embark on this journey, we are well aware of the importance of strength training in preparing our bodies for the demands of long-distance running.

Strength training offers a multitude of benefits that are particularly advantageous for runners and strength training can make a substantial difference to your performance and overall well-being: including Enhanced Endurance, Faster Recovery, Increased Bone Density & Boosted Metabolism.

If you're reading this and contemplating joining our club, I encourage you to take that first step. Regardless of your age or fitness level, there is a place for you at ShireStrong.

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