

Shire

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

www.shire.org.uk
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Have you got a job that needs doing? Go to YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS section on pages 28-29 to find a local business who can help.

**Christmas Eve:
Carols on the Green
- See Pages 16-17**

**Avonmouth Football Club
Charity Match - See Page 32**

**A Happy Christmas to
Our Volunteers,
Contributors and
All Our Readers
from 'Shire'.**

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Once again Remembrance Sunday was well supported by our local communities, not only Shirehampton where the war memorial is based at the top of Park Hill, but the surrounding villages too.



© Kathryn Courtney

The local Scout/Cub group, Brownies, Fire Brigade, Avonmouth Sea Cadets and local veterans were in attendance. Reverend Alison Sowton carried out the Remembrance Day service which was a credit to the many armed forces who sacrificed their lives for future generations to live with freedom in a democratic society rather than in tyranny, fear, and a controlled life under power hungry leaders and corrupt governments.

Although **Armistice Day** marks the end of WWI Remembrance Sunday also encompasses remembrance of WWII and other conflicts past and present. We have so many people who continue to sign up to the armed forces - Army, Navy, RAF and other defence organisations - who want to protect not only their family and friends but strangers too, in fact the whole country, and who for that in itself deserve huge thanks and recognition.

Within our own families, our circle of friends, we know someone personally who has died in wars or conflict or even on peace keeping tours or is serving now. Some may see it as a job, some as a career, some may see it as a duty but their bravery and the knowledge that whilst serving in the Armed Forces they could lose their life should always be acknowledged, that they serve King and Country and protect us all for which we all should be thankful.

We only need to look to Ukraine as a reminder that freedom of choice and democracy is being threatened by Russia and how hard the people and their own armed forces are fighting to keep such freedoms for Ukraine. Such bravery knows no bounds.



© Kathryn Courtney

Nothing is ever forgotten and although this eventually becomes our history, we will remember them.

Kathryn Courtney

More photos & Poppies on the Green on pages 22-23.

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Scan for the full Christmas Menu

Events at The Parade in December

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 1 | QUIZ NIGHT Thursday 1st December from 7.00pm |
| 8 | ITALIAN SUPPER CLUB Thursday 8th December from 6.30pm |
| 17 | RUBY JEANS THE PARADE 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY Saturday 17th December |
| 25 26 | CHRISTMAS DAY + BOXING DAY Closed |
| 31 | NEW YEARS EVE AFTERNOON TEA 31st December 3pm to 6pm NEW YEARS EVE PARTY 31st December 8pm till late! |

Shire

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

Contributions submitted to: editor@shire.org.uk

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PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER

COST OF LIVING CRISIS ADVICE

Accessing Food

If you're struggling to afford food at the moment, there are organisations and schemes across the city which can help you. Your local community centre is a really good place to visit to ask about what food services might be available in your neighbourhood or you could email info@feedingbristol.org.uk.

There are a number of foodbanks across Bristol for those who are eligible, with friendly volunteers available to talk about your needs and how they might be able to help:

- North Bristol and South Gloucestershire Foodbank
- Bristol North West Foodbank and Homebank
- South and East Bristol Foodbank

Visit the **Too Good to Go website** (www.toogoodtogo.co.uk/en-gb) to find out how you can buy food from cafés, restaurants and shops at a reduced price, when it hasn't sold in time.

On the **Olio website** (www.olioex.com) you can find people giving away free food to their community

Here are just a few top tips you could follow to help you save money on food:

- plan your meals - buying food for the week helps to cut down on impulse buys
- convenience stores and small supermarkets are often a lot more expensive
- be wary of supermarket deals - we can often end up spending more than usual
- if you can, buy food like rice and pasta in bulk - it is often much cheaper per 100g
- 'reduced to clear' foods can help save money but think about when/how you'll eat them before you buy what you need - buy loose fruit & veg and buy only what you are going to eat.

Cost of Living Support

The council has a **Cost of Living Support web page**: www.bristol.gov.uk/costofliving

It provides advice and guidance on topics including housing, benefits and financial help, employment and skills, mental health and well being, and provides links to useful websites and community organisations. It includes information on the city's network of **Welcoming Spaces** where people can meet up, socialise, keep warm and access support. **There are now 37 spaces open in the city.**

Our **Citizen Service Point**, located at **100 Temple Street, BS1 6AG**, is also on hand if you need help using the council's services or need access to a computer. The opening hours are **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am to 5pm, Wednesday 10am to 5pm**. The service is closed on bank holidays.

You can also call the **We Are Bristol** phone line on **0800 694 0184, Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm**.

Saving Money on Energy Bills

As temperatures drop and energy prices rise many residents are concerned about how much their bills will go up.

Here are just a few tips that may help to reduce your energy bills. You can also check if you're eligible for help at www.bristol.gov.uk/benefits-financial-help

- turn your appliances off standby mode and you could save around £55 a year
- use your washing machine on a 30-degree cycle instead of higher temperatures
- be careful in the kitchen – avoid overfilling the kettle and only boil the amount of water you need
- keeping your shower time to just four minutes could save a typical household £65 a year on their energy bills
- avoid using the tumble dryer and dry clothes outside or on racks where possible to save around £55 a year
- only run your dishwasher when it is full to reduce the amount of water you use.

There is support for people on non-smart prepayment meters too.

From the **beginning of October**, households on prepayment meters should have received vouchers as part of the government's **Energy Bill Support Scheme**.

If you've received a voucher don't forget to redeem it as it's **only valid for 90 days**. If you've not received one contact your energy supplier.

Read this latest blog from the **Centre for Sustainable Energy** (www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2720) to find out more.



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Christmas from all at Ocean



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The *Shire* Community Pages

Cotswold Welcome Space

We've been running our WELCOME SPACE at the Cotswold for the last 2 weeks, every Thursday morning, from 10am till Noon. Everyone is invited to come along and enjoy our Warm Hub, there's free Tea/Coffee and Biscuits, We'll also be providing Hot Soup to take home in future weeks. We have games to play, books to read, plenty of company and a friendly place to chat. You can bring your laptop along and use our Wi-Fi if you work from home too. If you know any folks locally who live on their own, do invite them along.

Can YOU Sing in Bristol Male Voice Choir?

Bristol Male Voice Choir has been singing for over fifty years, entertaining audiences in locations in and around the city as well as going on tour at home and abroad. The choir started life as Filton MVC but changed its name to Bristol Male Voice Choir because its members were joining from many parts of the city and surrounding areas, though not yet from Shirehampton, according to recent figures. The connection with the city is important for the choir; they sang in Canada with our local dignitaries to commemorate the anniversary voyage of Cabot's ship the Matthew; they carried the flag to Bristol's twin city in France, Bordeaux, on a more recent tour to France and Spain and they regularly join with choirs from all over the world competing in the Cornwall international Male Voice choir festival based in Truro.

"I can't sing" is the response sometimes given when the choir invites new members to join. But it soon becomes clear that in fact singing in the shower, at the football, after the football in the bar, with the karaoke, and at parties, is a regular pastime for many undiscovered talents. When visitors drop into the choir's weekly rehearsals they get hooked into the great sound that 50 voices can make. The choir is led by **Jo Scullin** and accompanied by pianist **Clair Hiles**. Their teaching of the music takes new members, non-readers of music and men who didn't know a tenor from a baritone to the point where they produce a two-hour concert of songs which have been entirely memorised. So "I can't sing" becomes "We sing because we love the experience of all those voices around us".

The songs themselves? The latest songs being learned by the Choir are by Neil Diamond and Coldplay, while the Christmas schedule is the annual revival of traditional carols. Mozart and Bach, Elvis and the Beatles, sea shanties, gospel songs, spirituals and traditional male voice favourites complete the

programme of 2022. If you would like to sample our music and come and hear the choir in rehearsal, they meet at

St Andrew's church, Elm Park, Fulton, BS34 7PS from 7pm to 9.15 pm ever week. Their website is at bristolmvc.org.uk, they're on Facebook, and you can phone Steve on 07776 4447699 or contact him on secretary@bristolmvc.org.uk



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

REGULAR EVENTS

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

*Booking must be made, either by email:
cotswoldca@gmail.com
or leave a message on 07943 401575

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



WHATS ON

SHIREHAMPTON JTE HUB

Hub's Cups Cafe - Every Monday 11-12.30
Drop in advice on jobs, training and wellbeing.

Time to Talk Support Group - Monday's 7.30-8.30pm
Pop in for a chat and any advice.

Dungeons & Dragons Group
Mondays from 5pm - new players welcome

Board Games Group
Tuesdays from 5pm - new players welcome

Shirehampton Movie Nights
Every other Tuesday from 6.30pm
Free for anyone - ask for movie title

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)
Conversation Club
Every Thursday at 12.00

projectcoordinator@jtehubshire.org
www.jtehubshire.org 07305 066478

APPLAUSE FOR THE LITTER PICKERS

Dear Editor,

On Friday afternoon on 28th October I looked out my window and saw a number of children and adults picking up litter on both sides of Walton Road.

What a lovely example to give those children!

As a litter hater myself I thank you and whoever organised it so much. It really lifts ones spirits to see children being taught to care for their surroundings.

Regards,

Sheila Bubb, resident of Walton Road

(See page 12 - The Editor)

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.



CLIMATE ACTION STARTS AT HOME

Dear Editor,

While we all need to pressure our elected representatives to take steps to protect the environment and tackle the climate emergency, we ALL have our part to play. Very often it seems people are hell-bent on doing the exact opposite in their own back yard.

In the part of Shirehampton where I live, the very first thing most people do when they move into

a property is cut down all the trees and cover as much ground as they can with sheds, garages, garden rooms and driveways. It's no good moaning about politicians' actions if as individuals we are all engaged in a race to rip out our own green lungs.

Yours sincerely

(Name and address supplied. Ed.)

CRAFT EXHIBITION 2022

Dear Editor,

Thank you to everyone who supported a successful craft exhibition this year. This is a non-profit making, community event, that created a surplus of £300 this year which is being donated to "Shire" newspaper.

The future of this event, in its present format, is in question. It will be held in 2023, but, will need an influx of new people after that or it will not necessarily continue.

If you are interested in being involved please contact **Ed or Gail** at gail.amphlett@hotmail.com. The first planning meeting for 2023 will be in July.

Thanks again.

Ed & Gail Amphlett (See page 14 - The Editor)



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:

- Improve health and fitness level
- Improve muscle tone and bone density
- Improve mobility and coordination

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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.



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

Email: t.linda1206@gmail.com

www.shirestrong.co.uk



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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)

Getting stuff done can often take a lot of patience and determination, whether you're a local resident campaigning for a cause or a politician supporting a local community. This is especially the case for infrastructure. Seven years is clearly too long to wait for the Iron Bridge to be fixed, and we're still waiting for work to start. That's why so many people turned out for the recent protest to mark seven years since the Iron Bridge was damaged.

As your local MP, I have been doing my bit to champion this issue. Most recently, I raised the delay to these essential repairs with the **Chief Executive of Bristol City Council** and was assured that the money for the works has been ring-fenced. I had been a little bit nervous about that, given the Council is facing a huge deficit in its budget. Progress may be slow, but the money and the desire to carry out the work is still there.

The work on the bridge is going to be outsourced, but the Council has not yet got to the stage of procuring a company. I would like to see this happen as quickly as possible – not least because the cost for the work will increase the longer it is left considering the current situation with the UK's economy.

I know how few Council planning officers there are nowadays, doing the work for the whole city, so they are incredibly busy. But we've waited a very long



© Bob Pitchford

time for this, and it is not a controversial proposal – we just need to get it approved. Rest assured, I'll continue to lobby the Council to prioritise this work until it's completed!

For those of you interested in cycling, I was pleased to recently support the city's bid to the **national 'Levelling Up' fund** to invest in a **new national cycling centre** behind **Henacre Road in Lawrence Weston** (where I lived until I was 12!). The Council has published artist impressions of the proposed centre, showing how it would have multiple purposes: a venue to host competitive track cycling events; a traffic-free space for children to learn how to ride a bike; and opportunities for people and businesses to test ride electric bikes and cargo bikes. We'll have to keep our fingers crossed for the funding!

As ever, if you need my help with a personal issue or have a question you'd like to ask me, you can do so on my website at www.darren-jones.co.uk or by leaving a message with my office on 0117 959 6545. If you'd like to read more about my national work, you can sign up to my monthly e-mail newsletter or join my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/darrenjonesmp. Every month I host a coffee morning and a pub politics and every fortnight I host an online Q&A on my Facebook page – do come along if you'd like to chat.



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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
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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Waste collection days change over Christmas

BRISTOL waste

Over the festive season your waste collection dates are changing.

We will work one bank holiday to get collections back to normal as quickly as possible.

Check when we will be coming to you on the calendar below.

| Your usual collection day | Revised collection day |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mon 26 Dec | Tue 27 Dec |
| Tue 27 Dec | Wed 28 Dec |
| Wed 28 Dec | Thur 29 Dec |
| Thur 29 Dec | Fri 30 Dec |
| Fri 30 Dec | Sat 31 Dec |
| Mon 2 Jan | Tue 3 Jan |
| Tue 3 Jan | Wed 4 Jan |
| Wed 4 Jan | Thur 5 Jan |
| Thur 5 Jan | Fri 6 Jan |
| Fri 6 Jan | Sat 7 Jan |

Normal collections from Mon 9 Jan

🎄 Christmas trees

Put your TREE out with your first wheeled bin collection from Monday 9 January.

You can also take trees to your nearest Recycling Centre – book before visiting at www.recyclingcentrebooking.bristol.gov.uk

↓ Download

Never miss a collection – download your 2023 collection calendar from: www.bristolwastecompany.co.uk/festive

🔔 Don't forget

Garden and bulky waste services pause over the Christmas period.

For top tips and festive hacks visit: www.bristolwastecompany.co.uk/festive

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ANNUAL CONSULTATION LAUNCHED TO HELP INFORM COUNCIL FIVE-YEAR BUDGET

Bristol City Council has a substantial deficit and is in a cost of operating crisis. With some way to go to deliver a balanced budget, views are being sought on savings proposals put forward by Bristol City Council for the city's finances over the coming five years (2023-2028).

The proposed budget warns of a worsening financial challenge ahead. Council leaders warn that if they are to continue to spend on priority areas, the authority must find a mix of additional income and cost savings worth between £37.5 and £87.6 million, - 9% - 20% of the council's core budget - over the coming five years. This will require a major redesign of the council to continue delivering vital frontline services and invest in the areas needed to meet critical ambitions, such as becoming a net zero city by 2030 and delivering sufficient housing for all.

Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol, said: "It's clear that we are currently living through a national cost of living crisis that shows no signs of ending anytime soon. Councils are underfunded and government shows no willingness to act in partnership with city leaders. As a result, we have a substantial shortfall in our funding and we must make the council smaller, do less and focus in on our priorities. A decade of austerity and failing Westminster financial policies have created a situation we cannot entirely shield the city from.

"In my recent **State of the City address** I promised the people of Bristol that we would do our best to support the city through this crisis but that we can't pretend to hold off all of the hardship. If we are to continue to meet our statutory obligations including providing housing, delivering care for the elderly and disabled, creating school places and helping people through the cost of living crisis, we are going to have to let go of some of the things we've fought hard to protect over the past six years.

"There is still plenty we will continue to do. Our priority of building a city of hope and ambition remains. We've built the foundations of a resilient city that has the ability to overcome these challenges and the potential to support communities to prosper. We will actively work with all partners, locally, regionally, and nationally, including other councils, to reshape local government to fit the model forced onto us by government."

The Council is seeking views on proposals to raise additional income and cut costs to help inform its budget planning before a final decision is made by all Bristol councillors in February 2023.

Those taking part in the consultation will be asked to show a preference for the rate of **Council Tax and Adult Social Care Precept*** to be charged from **April 2023**. Participants will also be asked for their views on a number of proposals for reducing costs, a number of which will not be consulted on again before a final decision is made in February. Every 1% increase in Council Tax or Social Care Precept in 2023/24 would raise £2.5 million that would otherwise need to be found through additional savings or efficiencies.

Proposals for reducing costs and generating further income amount to £46 million over the coming five years. The current worst case forecast for the budget gap during this period stands at £87.6 million. Further difficult decisions may be required in February 2023 and beyond to bridge the estimated £41 million gap remaining. Further proposals may be required, and additional consultation could follow.

Since the council passed its current budget in March 2022, there have been significant changes on a national and global stage that are having a direct impact on the authority's financial forecasts, resulting in an estimated £3.4 billion in additional costs for councils in 2023/24, rising to £4.5 billion in 2024/25. Nine in ten councils nationally expect budget shortfalls next year and we're no different.

"This consultation sets out the full scale of the challenge we face. We cannot borrow our way out of this situation. We have carefully built-up savings that are available should we need them, and we may have to use these to bridge gaps in our finances, but these must be paid back. The only sensible and sustainable route forward is to shrink as a council, something we predicted would be necessary in 2018, and focus our limited resources where they're needed most.

"Residents and businesses have the opportunity to share their view on these proposals now and will also be asked for input during future consultations on some proposals that have yet to be fully worked up. I urge everyone to take part in this conversation to help inform our approach and the decision that needs to be taken in February next year."

The consultation will be open until midnight on Friday 23 December and available online via the council's website: www.ask.bristol.gov.uk/budget-2023-24

You can request alternative formats of this document by contacting the Consultation and Engagement Team on consultation@bristol.gov.uk or by calling 0117 922 2848.

* Social Care Precept is an additional charge that councils may be permitted to add on top of the Council Tax increase to help pay for social care. The government decides each year how much, if any, Social Care Precept councils can levy.



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Climate Action in Bristol

November was a busy month for Climate activists. COP 27 began on the 6th and some people from Shirehampton joined Christian Climate Action in daily vigils in support of the Egyptian Human Rights COP27 Coalition and all the activists and human rights campaigners imprisoned in Egypt.

We joined the hundreds of people who attended the **Day of Action** mass meeting and march organized by the **Bristol Climate Justice Coalition** on **November 12**. **Jonathan Dimpleby** spoke powerfully about the devastation climate change is causing in Africa right now and there were speakers from many branches of the Coalition. It was a colourful and good-natured demonstration, but there was a deep sense that government was doing

far too little to reduce the carbon emissions which are causing climate change.

The rally was also in support of the campaign to stop airport expansion. People from Shirehampton had joined in peaceful demonstrations outside the **County Court** earlier in the week. **The High Court** was sitting in Bristol to consider the final decision on expanding Bristol Airport. We were there to remind the decision makers that a **huge majority of local**

people are opposed to expansion. We understand the damage expansion will cause not only to the environment but, crucially, to the possibility of achieving the government's legally binding targets to reduce carbon emissions by 2030.

Shirehampton Climate Emergency Group will hold it's last meeting for 2022 on Tuesday December 13th at 7:30 pm in the Cotswold Community Centre. This will be a social meeting with mince pies and a chance to talk about what we would like to do in the New Year to reduce climate change. Do join us!

Renée Slater



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Nature Notes

I was lucky enough to join a group of fellow nature watchers a couple of weeks ago. With our very knowledgeable leader, Ed Drewett, we took a walk along what is affectionately known as The Yellow Brick Road to catch sight of the birds that are there.

As I mentioned last month how few birds were to be seen further up the riverbank where I live, I didn't expect to be as astonished as I was by the tremendous variety that awaited us all! Lamplighters Nature Reserve did not disappoint.

On entering the reserve from the pub end, we saw mostly jackdaws, crows and the like, and as it was early morning they were busily hunting above us for food. The further along we walked, the smaller the birds became. There were great tits, blue tits, goldfinches, dunnocks, and even a green finch was spotted. And many others besides. At one point we all gasped at seeing a sparrow hawk pursuing a goldfinch! Happy to report the goldfinch got away.



The sheer numbers of birds taking advantage of the generous amount of seeds and fruit still available on the reserve was truly wonderful. Ed explained that due to the lack of rain earlier in Spring, the trees had been able to produce and retain a lot more of their bounty as the flower heads had not been ripped away from the trees, and so much more survived. As well as seeing the reserve birds, we were able to watch the wading birds across on the other side of the river. There were red shanks and curlews, which looked amazing through the binoculars, and that made my day.

The picture this month was just an impulse. I nearly crushed it as I walked the dogs the other day, so quickly picked it up and decided it might make a nice addition to this month's effort! Aren't the colours beautiful?

Happy nature watching folks!

Bobbie



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Community

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25 DECEMBER 2022

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FRIENDS OF SHIREHAMPTON LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

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



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

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

News from 191st St. Mary's Shirehampton Scouts

At the end of September Beavers and Cubs from the 191st Scout group went on hikes with their groups taking part in a litter pick around Shirehampton as they went. As well as helping to clean up the roads, parks and green spaces in the local area, their hard work will go towards their Environmental conservation badges.

Thank you to the parents/carers who were able to go out and help.

(Your efforts were appreciated. See letter on page 5 - The Editor.)



© 191st St. Mary's Shirehampton Scouts



© 191st St. Mary's Shirehampton Scouts



© 191st St. Mary's Shirehampton Scouts



© 191st St. Mary's Shirehampton Scouts

Work on Portishead Line to Begin

West of England Combined Authority has announced that the long-awaited reopening of the train line between Bristol and Portishead has been given the green light for works to get underway. Planning permission and necessary environmental consents have been granted by the approval of a Development Consent Order. This follows the additional funding agreed in July by the West of England Combined Authority, led by Metro Mayor Dan Norris, and North Somerset Council for the reopening and makeover.

“This is a project long in the making and undoubtedly there will be more bumps in the road. However, this important thumbs up keeps us firmly on the right track, and means the hard work of physically bringing this rail line back to life can begin. This is a really important project that will see communities in south Bristol and across our city reconnected to Portishead and help in our vital quest for net-zero”

Metro Mayor Dan Norris, West Of England Combined Authority Leader

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SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2022

Wishing All Our Friends, Members and Users a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

Did you know the Public Hall also has a photocopier in the office which is available for public/user group use? Community rates are 1p per black and white copy, 4p per colour copy – bargain, eh?!

SPOTLIGHT ON GROUPS AT THE PUBLIC HALL:

CREATE TO ELEVATE

This month we are showcasing the youth group at the Hall, **Create to Elevate**. **Tom Bradley**, a local resident and dedicated **Youth Leader**, said:

We started 'Create to Elevate' in the summer of 2021 and have had a few volunteers come and go while trying to establish a group. It initially started at the Cotswold Centre and moved to the **Public Hall in the spring of 2022**. The concept of the group is to provide a space for those between the **ages of 12 and 15 to consider the reality of the world they are growing up into**; the constructive and destructive social forces we are all immersed in, and the perception of themselves, their peers, and the community. We use creative arts including music, visual art, and scenario discussion to help us explore abstract concepts. We are hoping to learn about the connection between

self-development and community development – how these two are interdependent processes.

For a group of this nature to work, it seems crucial to have trust and constancy established between the 'animators' (adults overseeing the group) and the rest of the group. It is an ongoing learning process, and we are early into it, but we hope it provides a much-needed service in the community and is practically useful on many levels. The programme is inspired by the **Junior Youth Empowerment program** created by the **Ruhi Institute** and the group is sponsored by the **Bristol Baha'i Community**.

If you are interested in helping or taking part or curious to know more, please contact Tom – 07455 956827

The Public Hall is very keen to hear from anyone with drive, determination and a flair for listed buildings to join their team of Trustees. For details on how to support the Hall as a volunteer or Trustee, or to book meeting or party/celebration space, or any other questions, please contact the Hall Manager on 0117 9829963 or email bookings@shirepubhall.org.uk Also, please visit our new website at www.shirepubhall.org.uk

Ages 12-15 Great Inspirations

Create to Elevate

Explore your potential, use your creativity to enhance understanding and find purpose.

Next session: **Fortnightly Friday 7:30pm**

Location: Shirehampton Public Hall
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BS11 9TX

Contact: tom@purelythemusic.com 07455 956 827

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Shire Craft Exhibition 2022

Here we are again, another Autumn half term, another craft exhibition and as always it did not disappoint. Who would believe that such a local event could be bursting with so much amazing skill and artistic imagination. All the usual favourites were to be found in an abundance of media including pottery, yarns, fabric, paper, wood, paint, dried flowers and leaves, the list could go on. The ways in which these basic materials were translated into beautiful decorative and/or useful items was mind blowing.

The **quilters' challenge** was 'Holidays'; the **children's project** was to find mythical creatures, poppies were painted for the **Remembrance display on the green** and there was a vast array of quality gifts to be purchased at bargain prices – what more could you want.

As always it was great to see the demonstrators of different crafts hopefully inspiring others to get involved. You could enjoy knitting, crochet, tree ornaments, pyrography, papercraft, spoon carving and lovely to see the return of marquetry. Thank you to all who shared their crafting skills and secrets.

If you visited the exhibition for the first time or have been coming for many of its 40 years, there is a more serious consideration if you want it to continue. Over the decades it has been a non-profit making celebration of craftspeople in the local area and has been organised by a core person or couple ably assisted by a team of other volunteers. The profile has changed in that the items not for sale have reduced and the demand for items to purchase has increased, and if selling their work enables craftspeople to continue then that is a positive trend. However the issue is that key organisers are getting older and continuity of planning is required. Should the exhibition continue in its current format or be replaced with a shorter sales orientated event?

The current team will do one more exhibition so if you wish to see it continue in its current format beyond 2023, volunteers are required to carry out

specific tasks, working alongside the current key people (**Ed and Gail Amphlett**). These tasks include core organisation, tabulating all the entries and creating labelling, publicity coordination ideally expanding the online presence, and a team of younger, fitter people to set up and close down (an hour for each task). So over to you, but in the meantime we must thank the great team led by Gail and Ed who have produced yet another spectacular event this year. As always we must thank **Jenny** for her vision in displaying the items to greatest effect, and Sue and her team for serving refreshments all week. If you want to be involved in ensuring the continuation of the exhibition please make contact now on gail.amphlett@hotmail.com

Thank you.

Judy Helme

(See the letters page on page 5 for another wonderful photo.)



From the Outside, Looking in

Routine. That is what I need and have in my life. Get up, get dressed, take my partner to work, come home, take my kids to school, then one cup of coffee, a phone call to mom, another cup of coffee. Start the washing machine, buy the groceries.... routine, routine, routine.

From the outside, looking in, it may seem so monotonous, boring even. If somebody had to stand outside our house, between the leaves that have fallen, the wetness that is always around in Bristol, the beautiful Christmas lights and the loneliness that surrounds you when you look in from the outside, they would most certainly think that my life is one endless do-over. I, however, have become accustomed to my routine and in my routine, I find security and peace. From the outside looking in, it is a cold place, but on the inside, it is a warm home, with laughter and, at times, tears. Familiar smells and a soft blanket when cuddling on the couch, brings a calmness that I suspect looks like a life of boredom from the outside, but is pure bliss here, on the inside.

On my drive to fetch my partner from work yesterday, always driving the same road (the routine gives me great satisfaction) I noticed that I was looking into other people's homes, not from a cold and wet place, but from the comfort of my vehicle, looking through the rain, into the cold, and through the windows of other people's homes. It has become very evident since moving to the UK, that here in my new country people do life differently, very few have thick heavy curtains to keep the world out, no, these new friends of mine live with their lives open, inviting you to share their lives with them.

I noticed through the big windows, that inside these homes it may look like a boring, monotonous home, but when you peer deeper (while waiting for the traffic light to change colour), you see the mom bringing the dad a cup of tea while the kids are in their rooms, possibly doing what kids do. The fire is burning, and the Christmas lights are shining. I don't see a coldness and a hardness, but I see routine. Maybe every family has a routine, whether it be a precise one, a semi-structured one or even for some, no routine is their routine. One thing is for sure, standing in the cold, outside, looking in, you may think that boredom and monotony is what life is about, but inside, in the warm and comfort of a routine, it sure is exactly what routine brings, security and comfort.

May your routine over this Christmas time include boredom and monotony to the outside but bring you peace and security on the inside.

Margaret Swanepoel

SHIRE SANTA DASH 2022

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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...

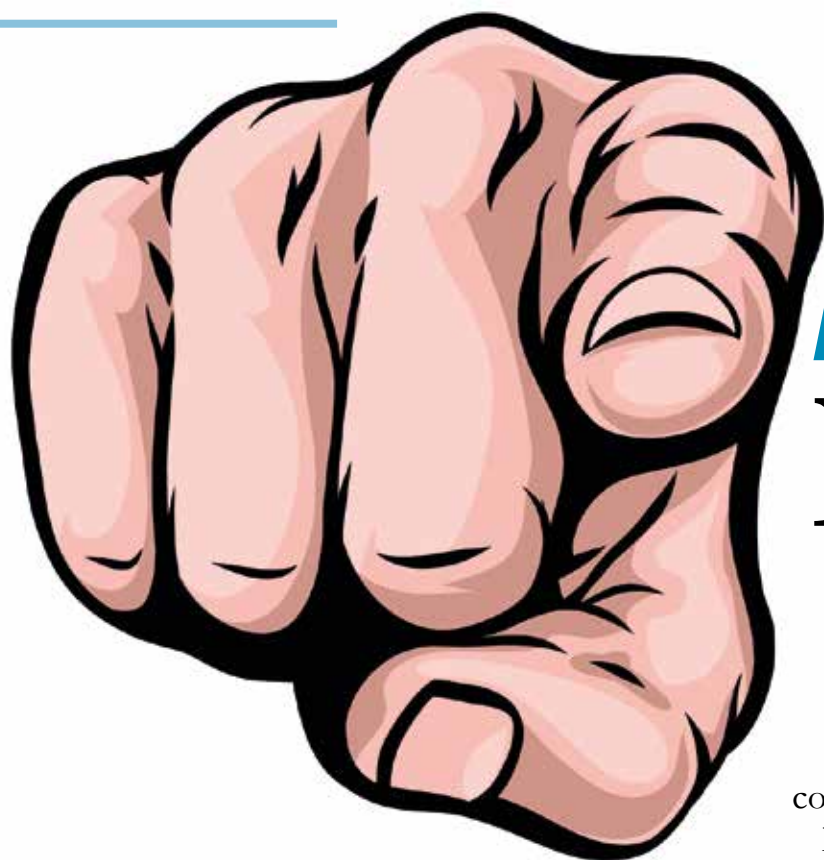
Caspar: Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship to God most high
O, star of wonder...

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...

Finale

**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!**



Shire Needs You!

Over the years Shirehampton has lost many of its shops, businesses and amenities so don't let us lose our free local newspaper!

We are looking for new blood to join our dedicated team to ensure we continue to have this valuable asset to the village. All you need is a computer/laptop and the ability to put together an interesting "read" from the many articles/e-mails we receive every month from residents of Shirehampton and the surrounding area.

If you are interested please come along to one of our informal meetings which we hold the first Monday of the month. Email for more details, contact one of the following with your name and contact number:

chairperson@shire.org.uk or editor@shire.org.uk



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Ward Community Meeting

Shire attended the Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Ward Community meeting in November. The Four Villages meet quarterly to discuss issues that affect us all. In November there were presentations from Bristol Energy Network and Lila Connect.

Most of you will have seen Lila Connect working in your road installing new 'full fibre cables' for internet connection. Lila calls this 'future-proofing' because new internet technology - "Voice over Internet Protocol" or VoIP - will eventually replace all current landlines. After December 2025 all telephone connections will be over the internet. You can Google "future of landline phone service" to find out more about this transition, and what it will mean for you.

Bristol Energy Network wanted us to know that they are offering training to help people save energy at home or to become Energy Champions who can advise friends and family with up to date energy knowledge. They will teach simple but effective DIY measures that could keep your home warmer and reduce your bills.



HOUSING: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
with CHAS Bristol

Damp & mould? Anti-social behaviour? Disrepair? Landlord harassment? What are your rights, what are your Landlord's responsibilities, and what are your options to get things put right?

Come along to this in-person session for a presentation, discussion, and t1 session with a Housing Advice Caseworker.

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Third Thursday of the month
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1 - 2:30pm

For more info on support groups, visit our website
southmead.org/wellbeing/social-prescribing or telephone 0117 950 3335

CHAS BRISTOL
Housing Advice Service

Lawrence Weston & Shirehampton
Out of School Activities

OPERATIONS MANAGER (PART TIME)

Reporting to: LWOOSA/SOOSA Voluntary Management Committee

Salary: £14,560 per annum (£25,480 FTE)

Hours: 20 hours per week (with growth and funding, hours to increase)

Place of Work: The Rock Community Centre Lawrence Weston (flexibility to work from home)

Purpose of the Role: To manage the staff responsible for the day-to-day running of the after school clubs and playschemes and to support the welfare of the children and their families. Must be qualified to Level 3.

For more information and a full Job Description please contact us at: admin.soosa@lwoosa.co.uk

Lawrence Weston & Shirehampton
Out of School Activities

GROUP DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (PART TIME)

Reporting to: LWOOSA/SOOSA Voluntary Management Committee

Salary: £13,312 per annum (£29,120 FTE)

Hours: 16 hours per week (with growth and funding, hours to increase)

Place of Work: The Rock Community Centre Lawrence Weston (flexibility to work from home)

Purpose of the Role: To plan and deliver on a strategy for long-term growth and development of the Group and to develop, implement and maintain a fundraising strategy ensuring the Group's sustainability.

For more information and a full Job Description please contact us at: admin.soosa@lwoosa.co.uk

Lawrence Weston & Shirehampton
Out of School Activities

BANK PLAYWORKERS (LEVEL 3)

Reporting to: LWOOSA/SOOSA Voluntary Management Committee

Hours: After School Club (term time):
Monday to Friday 3:00pm – 6.00pm
Holiday Playscheme: Hours as arranged

Purpose of the Role: As part of a team, to assist in the delivery of creative play opportunities which meet the needs of individual children, and to maintain a safe, secure and fun environment. To plan activities and workshops for holiday Playschemes.

For more information and a full Job Description please contact us at: admin.soosa@lwoosa.co.uk

Lawrence Weston & Shirehampton
Out of School Activities

TRUSTEE

Reporting to: LWOOSA/SOOSA Voluntary Management Committee

Hours: 3 – 6 hours per month approx depending on level of involvement
Monthly Committee Meeting (1.5 hours approx.)

The Trustee role is a voluntary position that helps oversee the running of the charity. As part of the Board of Trustees you will provide sound governance, strategic oversight, guidance and support to further the Charity's aims and objectives. We are looking for a range of skills and experience including (but not limited to) Business Development, Finance, Technology, Marketing/PR/Communications and Charity Sector experience.

For more information and a full Job Description please contact us at: admin.soosa@lwoosa.co.uk

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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

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

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Churches in the Shirehampton Area

Hello from Shire Methodist

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

We look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas in December, and to Advent, a time of preparation and hope before Christmas. We will be reflecting on climate justice on the Sundays in Advent and how this links with many bible verses from the book of Isaiah, which are traditionally read during Advent. The Methodist Church is also running an Advent campaign that "There is room" (in contrast to the well-known line in nativity plays that, "There was no room in the inn!") We want everyone to know that anyone is welcome in the Methodist Church. We strive to be an open, inclusive, welcoming bunch of people: There is room!

We plan to continue holding **Morning Worship** each Sunday in our church building from 11am, except on **Christmas Day** when we will begin at 10.30am. The first Sunday is planned to be a guest preacher, the second is **All-Age Worship**, the third is our **Carol Service** led by Reverend **Patrick Stonehewer**, and the fourth will be our **Christmas Day celebration** also led by Reverend Patrick Stonehewer.

As well as welcoming everyone to our Morning Worship, we would love to welcome you to any

of the events hosted by our **Jobs, Training and Enterprise Hub**. You may be interested in the **free movie nights** that are held every other **Tuesday evening**. There's also a **board games evening** every Tuesday between 5pm and 8pm, you can pop in for the duration or a short time. We often have cheese toasties and everything is provided for free. We are always looking for more volunteers to help us make the Hub as welcoming and useful a resource for the community of Shirehampton as possible.



Darren, our Hub Project Coordinator, and his brilliant team of volunteers will be hosting Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day. Free to anyone who would benefit from this whether you are a struggling family or would otherwise be alone at Christmas. Please get in touch if you'd like to come along. The best ways are to email Darren on projectcoordinator@jtehubshire.org or call or text 07305 066478 or just pop into the Hub.

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

Everyone at Shire Methodist

Baptist Church News

During the October School Half Term week our minister and helpers ran a Holiday Club where nine children took up the challenge to produce a drama in three days. Rock Steady Club meets every Thursday from 3 30 to 4 30pm. They prepare a drama which they perform every term. Other activities include games, music and craft. Parents are welcome to stay. To learn more contact rhodespaul.360@gmail.com

November 27th is the first Sunday in Advent, the four week season before Christmas, a time of reflection and preparation for the birth of Jesus and anticipation of His second coming. This is especially true in liturgical worship but we Baptist observe Advent maybe in a more informal way remembering the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.

Another Christmas tradition which many churches observe is the **Christingle**. On **December 11th** the **Cotswold Christian Community** will once again hold a Christingle at the **Cotswold Community Hall Dursley Road** at 5pm All invited.

The **Carols by Candle Light Service** will be at the **Baptist Church, Station Road** on **Sunday December 18th** at 6:00pm. Our **Christmas Day service** on **Sunday the 25th** at 10:00am will also be in our Station Road Church. **On Christmas Eve there will be Carols on the Green** led by the new **Vicar of Saint Mary's**.

The themes of Advent - Hope, Peace, Love and Joy - are themes universal in the human experience. Our prayer for a world full of injustice, oppression, violence, war and hunger is the prayer Jesus taught us "Your Kingdom come on Earth as it is in heaven". May we all find the Joy, Hope, Peace and Love which comes from the one whose Birth we celebrate.

We meet every Sunday at 10:30am and at 4:30pm on Zoom. Contacts 07743683684 rhodespaul.360@gmail.com

Happy Christmas from all at Shire Baptist Church, Station Road



St Mary's News

Hi Folks!

Christmas time is always busy for families and so it is for St Mary's. I have quite a lot of information for you this month.

On Thursday, 20th October, we held Rev Alison's official Installation service. It was conducted by the Bishop of Bristol - the Rt. Revd Vivienne Faull, and we were honoured to have the presence of The Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Bristol. During the service Rev Alison received the Keys to the church and the Holy Oils and was required to toll the church bell. The Service was followed by a Celebration Buffet Supper.

Our Advent and Christmas services and events are as follows:

Saturday, 3rd December – the Christmas Fayre will be held in both the church and Churchyard from 10.00am until 1.00pm. This is a fund raising and social event. We are expecting a visit from a special visitor who wears a red suit!

Sunday, 4th December - 8.30am Rise & Shine; 10.30am Holy Communion Service; 4pm Christingle Service. The Christingle is a symbol made of an orange, representing the whole world. A red ribbon tied around the orange is a symbol of Jesus' love and sacrifice to save humankind. It is an interesting Service and is family friendly. All donations raised in aid of the Children's Society.

Wednesday, 7th December – 10.30am "Goldies" singing songs from the past in The Tithe Barn.

Sunday, 11th December - 8.30am Rise & Shine; 10.30am Holy Communion Service; 2.30pm 2.30pm Shirehampton Area Choir Annual Christmas Concert. A collection will be taken at the end of the Concert and all proceeds will be given to the work of Shire Newspaper in the community.

Tuesday, 13th December – please note there will be NO COFFEE served in church due to services taking place that morning. 3.30pm - Messy Christmas from 3.30pm until 5.15pm, including performances by the Stomp Dancing Team.

Wednesday, 14th December - 6.00pm Spirit of Christmas service. Hear the Christmas story retold. Sing carols by candlelight and let the wonder of the season fill you. After the service Mulled Wine, Hot Chocolate and Mince pies will be served.

Saturday, 17th December - 10.30am Carols and Christmas music inside the Church to raise funds for Christian Aid. Please come in and join us! Tea & Coffee will also be available.

Sunday, 18th December - 8.30am Rise & Shine; 10.30am Holy Communion Service; 6.00 pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols. Stay for Mince Pies and Mulled Wine or Hot Chocolate.

Wednesday, 21st December - 6.00pm The Longest Night Service. This simple service, a mixture of readings, prayers and carols, 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.

Christmas Eve - 4.00pm Crib Service. Adults and children are invited to dress as a Nativity character.

11.30pm - Holy Communion, known to many as Midnight Mass. All are welcome

Christmas Day - 10.00am Holy Communion Service for Christmas. Please note this service is 30 minutes earlier than usual in order to allow attenders more time to get home for Christmas Dinner!

St Mary's will be closed throughout the week reopening on Tuesday 3rd January, 2023.

Sunday 1st January (New Years Day) – 10.00am Communion for Everyone Service at St Mary Magdalene, Stoke Bishop. The ASMA churches are all joining into this one service and we thank all at Stoke Bishop for their invitation. Everyone is most welcome!

In future on every 4th Sunday of the month there will be a **joint All Age service** starting at 9.45am. Both congregations can come together to worship in a family friendly service (roughly 1hr long). Stay for refreshments after the service and get to know more members of our Church family.

This winter as a church we, like everyone else, are working out how best to offer you all a truly warm welcome. Our regular **coffee mornings** will be shared between the **Church and the Tithe Barn**. Both venues will have the same smiling faces and we look forward to welcoming friends old and new of all ages. **The revised times and locations are:**

| DAY | TIME | WHERE |
|------------|-----------|------------------|
| Mondays | 12pm-2 pm | Tithe Barn |
| Tuesdays | 10am-12pm | St Mary's Church |
| Wednesdays | 10am-12pm | Tithe Barn |
| Fridays | 10am-12pm | Tithe Barn |
| Saturdays | 10am-12pm | St Mary's Church |

MID-WEEK SERVICES

| | | |
|-----------|------|-------------------------------------|
| Thursdays | 11am | Holy Communion Service at St Mary's |
|-----------|------|-------------------------------------|

We will return to the church building every day in 2023 once the weather turns warmer.



We wish you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas and pray that 2023 will bring health, security and peace to you. Thank you to all who have helped the church in any way in the past year, or who have helped others in the community during challenging times.

Now for a Christmas joke to blow away the winter blues - Who is Santa's favourite Singer? Answer: Elf-is Presley!!

'Bye for now!

C.M.E.

Seasons Greetings from the Vicarage

It has been such a joy to move to Shirehampton. A wonderful community dealing with tough times. We have witnessed the change of an era as we said goodbye to our Queen. We are daily facing the fallout of an economic crisis and the ever-present task of changing our lives to respond to the climate emergency.

At Christmas we celebrate Jesus breaking into a world that was dealing with oppression fear and poverty.

He came to show us the extraordinary love of God.

His love brings challenge, hope and peace. He knows our struggles and walks alongside us.

I pray this Christmas you will encounter the love and hope and peace of the Christ Child.

We offer you all a warm welcome at St Mary's. Come and join us on the journey...

Blessings Rev Alison

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

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

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



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POPPIES ON THE GREEN

Once again Shirehampton Community Action Forum (SCAF) and Poppies On The Green provided a display for Remembrance Sunday on The Green in Shirehampton. The soldiers Reg and Les were guarding the area once more and the poppies made out of plastic drinks bottles were painted by volunteers at the various Painting Poppies sessions in the area, whilst some painted the poppies at home for inclusion in the display. A donation of knitted poppies was also included.

Sadly, I was unable to help the day the display went up due to a family emergency but **Ash Bearman** from SCAF, who has been involved in this project

from day 1 in 2018, did a fantastic job along with volunteers who turned up that day and did the display proud. **Without them there would not**

be Poppies On The Green. A huge thank you to you all.

Thank you's also go to **Amanda Parsons, Kelvin Smith, Sherralee Parton, Redland Bakery** (2 staff members took up the challenge of poppy painting!), **Shirehampton Markets, Shirehampton's Craft Exhibition,** and everyone who painted or knitted poppies for the display. **Here's to next year.**

Kathryn Courtney



Avonmouth Sea Cadets Have Been Busy, Busy Throughout the Summer!

Avonmouth Sea Cadets have had an amazingly busy summer! Cadets have been gaining qualifications in Rowing, Powerboat and Paddle sport whilst out on the water and our Junior Cadets spent a fun day at Chippenham Sea Cadet Unit where they were able to get out on the water, and in it!

OC Charlotte having completed her bronze wings for Aviation was selected for the **Silver Wings Aviation Course** and passed with flying colours. Few cadets are selected for the Aviation Courses as numbers are very limited. We are very proud of her achievement.

We were very lucky to have a visit from **Bristol Port Police Dogs** and their handler. Cadets enjoyed a very informative evening and the dogs enjoyed all the attention they received from the cadets and instructors.

AC Oliver was selected to be the **Lords Lieutenants Sea cadet for Bristol** for this coming year. A cadet is selected from each of the cadet forces and they attend a variety of functions with the Lord Lieutenant throughout the year. An excellent cadet, Oliver will be a good ambassador for the Sea Cadets. His inauguration was on **1st November**; this was a special evening for him and his parents. We are so proud of his achievement and wish him every success in the role. As far as we know only two other cadets from Avonmouth have had this honour and it is quite fitting that OC Oliver is pictured with **Lt Cdr (SCC) Jason Kinghorn** who held the post himself in 1989 as a Cadet whilst at **Avonmouth**.

As the nights draw in we will now be looking to complete specialisations, proficiencies and the cadet

training programme through the winter months. The **Junior Cadets** enjoyed a training day on **22nd October**, working on some of their modules in the morning, enjoying a Halloween themed afternoon with apple bobbing, dressing each other as mummies and a doughnut eating race, and rounded the day off with pizza, popcorn and a film.

We will be attending the **Annual Remembrance Service in Shirehampton** this year and also the following week at **Patchway**. Both are traditions we are happy to reinstate post restrictions lifting.

We currently have places for **Junior Cadets 10-12yrs** and **Senior Cadets 12-18yrs**, our next intake will be **Thursday 12th January 2023** and we look forward to welcoming any young people that would like to join.

As always there is always room for adult helpers, committee members and uniform instructors. Avonmouth is an up-and-coming Unit with a lot to look forward to. If you would like to be part of a friendly welcoming team, please do get in touch.
For both cadets and adults in the first instance contact avonmouthseacadets@gmail.com



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Four Popes Buried in St Mary's Churchyard

By Richard Coates

There are four Popes buried at St Mary's – not on a one-way ticket from the Vatican, but there is a small Roman Catholic connection anyway. They are in one brick vault close to the corner of the churchyard where the alley from the High Street meets Pembroke Road. It's topped with a massive slab, and it used to have an inscription but it's now illegible.

Richard Shackleton Pope was one of 19th-century Bristol's most influential architects, born in 1792. At first he worked mostly in the classical style, and he was responsible for designing some of the best-known buildings in the city. They include **St Mary on the Quay** (now Roman Catholic) church on Colston Avenue, the **Royal Western Hotel** whose façade is still standing near the Council House, the **old gaol** (now gone), probably **Vyvyan Terrace** in Clifton, and certainly a huge dockside warehouse, now the **Arnolfini**. He could also "do" Gothic, as in the **Buckingham Baptist Chapel** in Queens Road, Clifton, and **St James's Priory Roman Catholic church** in the city centre. He had no known commissions in Shire.

These Popes were not celibate – at least, not all of them. The other three in the grave are all Richard's children: **Richard Tyrrell**, **Thomas Shackleton** and **Sarah Lawrence Pope**. In the 1871 census

they are all aged between 30 and 40, all unmarried and living with Richard Shackleton in what the census unhelpfully calls "The Village". I haven't been able to identify the house for sure, but it must have been near **The Wylands** before the present house was built.

Richard Tyrrell was a medical student, then a surgeon, who was no longer practicing in 1861 or 1871 – perhaps ill health was a factor, since he died aged 41 in 1873. He was the first Pope in the grave, followed by his 92-year-old father in 1884. Thomas was an architect like his father, and spent some of his working life in practice with him. Together they created **Gloucester Street in Clifton** and the arches for culverting the river Frome in the city centre. By himself Thomas was a church restorer, but he also designed what is now **Canyng Hall of Bristol University** in Whatley Road. He moved to Clifton, then Westbury Park, but died and came to St Mary's



The Pope Tomb.

for the last time in 1909. Their sister Sarah lived in Westbury in later life but was buried here in 1903, having previously lived with and looked after the old man, who seems to have been bereaved quite young. His wife Susan was living in 1838, but is not recorded as buried here. Where Richard and Susan were at the 1841 census is a mystery. Richard was a widower in 1851.

Richard Shackleton Pope may have been gifted and versatile, but he wasn't the most popular of Bristol's architects in his time. He was one of the two district surveyors for the city, and he is widely thought to have used his position to the advantage of his own practice, notably when he won the competition to design the **Assize Courts** in Small Street in 1867.



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The Strange

An original story by Gil Osman

(Previously: The discovery by the villagers that the Twins are deaf and dumb and the villagers' reaction. The naming of them: Girl and Boy. The glade in the woods where they spend most of their time. The Strange, in reality, being quiet, introverted and gentle beings who would harm no one - far from the monsters they were portrayed as by the villagers)

Chapter 8

Boy and Girl, after being shunned by the villagers, made their home among the animals. Their parents, The Strange, who were ageing rapidly, were quite happy about this and were pleased that Girl and Boy were also happy. They were content to see their children at night, when they returned home for a meal and to sleep.

Every morning, before they went to the woods, Girl and Boy would perform some chores for their parents. The Strange would spend their days pottering about the house and repairing where necessary and tending their secluded garden, finding both very satisfying occupations. Then they would prepare the evening meal for everyone.

When Boy and Girl first tried to make friends with the animals they had no success. The animals were frightened of humans - and with justification. Humans were generally noisy in their speech and their movement, crashing through the undergrowth and disturbing the peace of the forest. Humans meant them great harm - even death.

Girl and Boy were different; they were very quiet in their movements and uttered not one sound. The animals were perplexed by this and became inquisitive.

The twins could sit for hours without moving, except for their eyes. This would create an aura of quietness and calm around them and encourage the more adventurous animals to prod Boy and Girl

with their snouts, but with no reaction. Eventually, the animals treated them as they did the trees and the rocks. They ignored them and began to play, graze and watch their young as normal. It was then that Girl and Boy would make subtle movements, which made the animals stop what they were doing. When there was no further movement, the animals recommenced their activities.

Thus, by degrees, the animals were lured into an acceptance of the Quiet Ones and knew that they meant them no harm, until, eventually, Boy and Girl could move about among the animals quite normally without the slightest consternation.

One day, a young boy was out with his father training to be a hunter, when he strayed off the well-beaten hunter track and crept noiselessly through the undergrowth practising his stalking skills. He suddenly became aware of animal sounds ahead and slowed to a stealthy crawl. He stopped and, parting the bushes, stared in utter astonishment at the scene in the glade before him.

He recognised Girl and Boy from their description and age (even though he had never seen them before). Boy was sitting cross-legged on the grass stroking a mother wild dog, while her puppies were frolicking about in front of them. Girl was running around the glade trying to catch some young rabbits, who delighted in teasing her by jumping away just as she thought she had caught one. The rabbit parents looked on in pride at their offspring's skills, while Girl beamed with pleasure. Other animals watched the scene or fed themselves and their young.


Just then an animal noticed the young intruder and, in a trice, the glade emptied and not a sign of human or animal was left. The young boy heard his father calling in the distance and made his way towards his parent's voice. He then excitedly related what he had seen and soon it was the talk of the village. The young boy could never find his way back to the glade.

How could the Twins have created this animal/human paradise the villagers asked themselves? They seemed to have magical powers like their parents, The Strange, but their powers seemed to be good powers (from the gods?), whereas the powers of The Strange were bad powers from the evil spirits in the wood. The villagers were perplexed.

The twins continued to live their idyllic existence in the forest with no more disturbance.

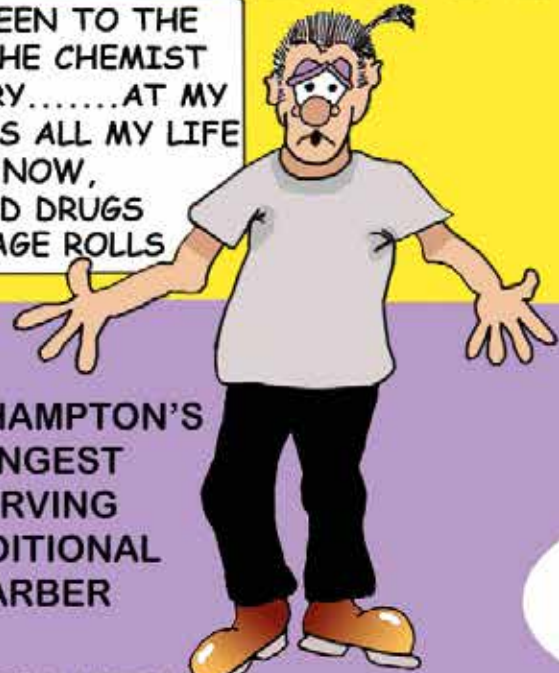
(to be continued)

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Anniversary Card from THE King

Sue and Gerry Bessell met at a dance in the Victoria Rooms, Clifton in 1959. We were married on 29th September 1962 in the Pro-Cathedral, Clifton and celebrated our Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 29th September 2022.

It has been a great honour to receive a congratulatory card with good wishes from H.M. King Charles III and Queen Camilla in recognition of this very special occasion.

We moved back to Bristol in 1983 and have lived in Shirehampton for the last 40 years. We have been blessed with 2 Sons and 4 Grandchildren during our long and happy marriage.

We are very grateful for all the supportive friends and neighbours that we have around us here today”



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St Mary's Shirehampton

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

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

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

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

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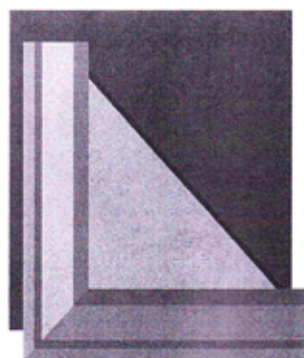
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SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON



City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

Season 2022 was one of change, some memorable occasions and lots of bowling. There was a full programme of mixed friendly games Ladies and Men's Leagues both back to competitive formats, county competitions and Monday Night League.

There was a highly enjoyable **Summer Tour** based at **Eastbourne in July**. Twice postponed it was great that it was at last able to go ahead in 2022.

There was a major change at the club when, after 25 years of dedicated service, **Lis Davies** stood down from her final role as club chairman. She was thanked on **August 31st** at the **Two Wood Pairs competition** when presentations were made to her by current members on behalf of the club. Past members known to Lis were present at the presentation ceremony to make it a truly memorable occasion.



The first Sunday evening social evening of the close season — skittles at the PBA on October 16th.

David Hinksman took on the role of Chairman and his position was ratified at the **AGM on October 25th**. The Chairman thanked the twenty nine members who attended the meeting and everybody who had made a contribution to the club in any way during the season. A period of silence was observed in memory of **Gill Gibson** who passed away in March.

Officers and captains for next season were elected ---- **Bill Hatherall** will continue as **Treasurer, Men's League Captain** and **delegate to the City and County Of Bristol Association**. **Phil Cormack** will continue as **Fixtures Secretary**. **Flo Grimes** continues as **Safeguarding Officer** – with David Hinksman and **Women's Delegate to the GBA**. **Mary Lomas** will be **Ladies League Captain** succeeding Gill Hinksman who stood down ahead of the AGM.

Gill was also **week-end coordinator** through season 2022 but there will be a Captain at week-ends in 2023. **Lynn Burand** has taken the job on and her husband **Nick** is going to be captain on Wednesdays --- taking over from **Ray Cook** who stood down after many seasons of working hard to find three or four rinks each week from April until September. She was pleased that in her final season eight of the sixteen games played were won and she didn't cancel a game.



© David Hinksman

Bowling at Redland Green on September 3rd.

We decided to return to playing in whites below the waist for all afternoon friendly games in 2023 now that pandemic precautions are no longer necessary.

The meeting ended without a President, Secretary, Competition Secretary or Health and Safety Officer being nominated for election. But in the days that followed **Stephen Ash** agreed to take on the role of **Secretary** and Gill Hinksman the role of **Competition Secretary**. These appointments will be ratified at the **Start of Season Meeting** in March.

Looking forward ---- there will be a series of Sunday evening social events through the winter and in March another **Winter Bowling Break** in Torquay --- something to look forward to.

The club would like to thank everyone who took an interest in it during this year and hopes that the interest will continue into 2023.

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

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Cyclocross Comes to Kingsweston

October saw the Kingsweston Estate hosting the exciting sport of Cyclocross for the first time.



This event was organised by Bristol CX, a local cycling club, with the help and support of Bristol City Council and the Kingsweston Action Group. It formed part of the Western Cyclocross League calendar, complementing other events in Bristol (Netham Park and Stoke Park), Cheltenham, Stroud, Winchcombe and Frome. The activity itself can be considered to be a cross between road cycling and mountain biking, with the bikes looking more like road bikes to the casual onlooker. Such steeds are not as robust as mountain bikes hence it is not uncommon to see riders dismounting and carrying their bikes when the going gets tough.

The course used both the main field of Kingsweston Estate, circling around the trees and hugging the bushes, before the challenge of climbing up through the woods and crossing into Shirehampton Park. The course crossed back into the Estate by the Shirehampton Road car park, with the riders having to negotiate some barriers requiring dismounting to pass through.

The event drew participants from as far away as west Wales and of all ages. Over 30 were under 12 years old, making it a great activity for families and people of all abilities. The racing was well received by the visitors to the estate with the organisers ensuring that those exercising or dog walking were inconvenienced as little as possible. A lot of thought went into the design of the course including marshalled crossing



points. As well as drawing a sizeable contingent of spectators, many dog walkers stopped to watch the racing and were very complimentary about the organisation and choice of venue.

The location was praised for its stunning views of the features of Avonmouth, the River Severn and South Wales, as well as the great selection of beverages and cakes supplied by Morgan's Coffee House.

Winners of the events included Bristol based ex-professional cyclist Si Richardson taking first place in the Seniors (23-39 year olds), with local based winners dominating the other categories, in particular the Women's races.

Feedback from the general public and regular visitors to the estate was very positive with some suggesting that more use of both Shirehampton Park and the Kingsweston Estate should be made with such interesting events.

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Avonmouth Football Club Charity Match

Avonmouth Football Club will be holding a charity football match featuring a select eleven of Bristol City legends on Sunday 11th December at their Avonmouth Road ground, kick off 1.30pm. Everyone from the local community is invited to meet their well-known footballing favourites.

The match has been organised to support the **Bristol Mind Charity** and local children's organisations and all donations collected on the day will be given to charity.

The event will also show off the developments undertaken by the football club in recent years with the addition of new dressing rooms, social club extension, the installation of pitch lighting, and the construction of footpaths and patios to improve access for the community.

The lights will be formally switched on during the game.

These extensive developments have been made possible by the generous support of **Enovert & Ibstock, the Port Resilience Fund, Suez Communities Trust, Football Foundation, John James Charitable Foundation, and National Grid**. This generous funding has enabled the club members, with the support of many local people, to ensure the developments will satisfy entry to higher football leagues and provide great facilities for the wider local community.

The event is also being supported by the **Avonmouth Projects Group CIC** who will have their Santa grotto open on the day. With Christmas trees available to purchase the occasion will provide a great opportunity for families to start their Christmas festivities early.

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