

Shire

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

No. 593 - June 2021 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

Have you got a job that needs doing? Go to YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS section on pages 20-21 to find a local business who can help.

May 17
the end of
Lockdown! Let's
enjoy but, please
take care of
everyone!

Return of the Golden-Oldies

The Golden-Oldies Charity would like to record our thanks to the Shire Publications Community Grants fund for supporting our work during the period 1st June 2020 - 31st May 2021. The funding has supported our online service, enabling us to continue providing activities throughout the pandemic, ensuring the sustainability of our charity.

Goldies
live.com



The Project

With all community-based Goldies activities forced to close in March, **hundreds of our beneficiaries - high risk older vulnerable people - became more isolated than ever.** Goldies had to adapt quickly to the change in circumstances with the launch of our first ever digital service. This was a whole brand new way of working for our charity and involved a steep learning curve for core staff. We undertook a 12 week **Digital Solutions training course by CAST**, which supported the rapid development of **GoldiesLive** into a robust, more professional digital service with lots of user feedback and interviews. A full report on this is available on request.

The second challenge was reaching out to older isolated people, from chatting on the phone to our session leaders and participants as we found that many of our existing participants were unable/unwilling to access the internet. As the months progressed, more of our pre-COVID attendees have engaged with the support of family members and carers. With this in mind, in **October** we trialled an advertising campaign on Facebook, specifically aimed at people



aged 45-55 who would likely have an older relative they could support. We are delighted with how well GoldiesLive has been received, in **December 2020 over 4000 people engaged with us online.** Our Facebook pages had a post engagement of over

2600 people and our website had 595 page views. YouTube had 989 video views and, interestingly, 30% were men, a far greater percentage than at community based **Sing&Smile** sessions.

Continues on Page 6.

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Shire

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

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

Contributions submitted to: editor@shire.org.uk

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PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR JUNE

Bristol Moves to Step 3

As of Monday 17 May, people can meet outdoors in a group of up to 30 people, and indoors with six people (or two households). People are also allowed to stay overnight at someone's house who is not in their household or support bubble.

The most significant change comes as the government has announced **that people should make a personal choice** on whether to socially distance from their friends or family when meeting up. We must be mindful that for some people the risks of close contact may be greater than others - **please be kind to one another.**

Other changes:

- holiday accommodation will be open (as groups of up to six or two households)
- indoor hospitality venues such as restaurants, pubs, bars and cafés can reopen with COVID-secure measures in place
- up to 30 people can attend weddings, and legal limits on mourners at funerals have been removed, capacity will depend on the venue
- care home residents can receive up to five named visitors (two at any one time)
- higher education students can return to in-person teaching

Guidance on International Travel

You should not travel to any countries on the red or amber list, unless there are special circumstances, for example for work or medical purposes.

If you are returning to the UK from:

- **a red list country** – you must quarantine in a government-approved hotel. You must take a COVID-19 test on or before day two and on or after day eight of your quarantine
- **an amber list country** – you must self-isolate at home for 10 days. You must take a COVID-19 test on or before day two and on or after day eight of your quarantine
- **a green list country** – you must take a COVID-19 test on or before day two after you arrive. You do not need to quarantine unless the test result is positive

Self-isolation means not leaving home for any reason. If you need help self-isolating, please contact the We Are Bristol helpline 0800 694 0184.

Easing Pressure on Our Hospitals

The NHS is now vaccinating anyone over the age of 38. If you fall into this age group book your appointment by visiting the NHS website or calling 119.

Help the NHS and think before you go to A&E. Even though COVID-19 cases are continuing to decline in our area, hospitals remain very busy.

Ease the pressure by getting the right NHS care for you and your family's needs. **If you think you need medical help but it's not an emergency, speak to your GP or contact NHS 111 by phone or online.** The NHS 111 service is available 24 hours a day and, depending on your need, can connect you to a clinician for a telephone consultation, or book you into a local urgent care service. **You should still call 999 or go to A&E if you have a life-threatening illness or injury.**

Visit the NHS 111 website for more information - www.111.nhs.uk

£500 Grants Available for Eligible Workers

You can apply for a £500 grant if you have lost income due to self-isolating. You must be in employment or self-employment and unable to work from home. You can also apply for the grant if you are caring for a child who is self-isolating.

To be eligible for a Test and Trace Support Payment you must either:

- have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the COVID-19 app
- be looking after a child under 16 years of age who usually attends an educational or childcare setting but is self-isolating on or after 8 March 2021
- be looking after someone under 26 years of age with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who usually attends an educational setting but is self-isolating on or after 8 March 2021

You must also be receiving one of the following: Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit.

If you don't receive one of the benefits, you may still qualify for a discretionary payment. The Department of Health and Social Care has made extra funds available so we can help more people.

Find out more about Test and Trace Support Payments on the Bristol City Council website.



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The *Shire* Community Pages

Cotswold Community Association Back in Business from 17th May

We finally resumed indoor activities on Monday 17th May, with Pilates, Personal Fitness, and Keep Fit classes during the week. We've also resumed our Film Nights, weekly Bingo, and Coffee Mornings.

We intend to start **Breakfast Club** again from **Sunday 4th July**, Government's roadmap permitting. **Note: BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR FILM NIGHTS and BREAKFAST CLUB AT THE MOMENT.** We hope to commence party bookings too from the beginning of July. Please contact the email address or phone number below.

All activities are in line with government guidelines. This includes temperature taking on entry, hand sanitizer use too, and a one way system on entering and leaving the hall. We will also take your name and phone number for Track and Trace purposes.

We'd encourage you to join our mailing list by emailing cotswoldca@gmail.com or leaving a message on 07943-401575.

The folks of the Cotswold Estate enjoying the first post-lockdown Coffee Morning in the lovely Community Centre garden.



Finally, we'd like to offer our best wishes to one of the oldest friends of the Cotswold, Margo Spicer, and wish her a speedy recovery.

Hope to see you all soon at the Cotswold.

Many thanks,

John Hastings



Cotswold Community Association
Dursley Road, Shirehampton,
Bristol, BS11 9XH
Registered charity no. 1101427

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAY

Pilates 9.30-10.30am

Personal Fitness 6:30-7:30pm

TUESDAY (1st & 3rd of each month)

Film Night 7.30pm*

WEDNESDAY

Keep Fit 10.30-11.30am

Personal Fitness 5:15-6:15pm

Pilates 6.30-7.30pm

THURSDAY

Bingo 2.30pm

Personal Fitness 7-8pm

Table Tennis 8pm

SATURDAY (2nd of each month)

Coffee Morning 10am

*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

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TWO VOLUNTEER DELIVERERS NEEDED

We currently need volunteer deliverers for two of our major roads. Portbury Grove, (plus Portbury Walk,) and Meadow Grove.

Two Shire residents need to retire after many years covering these two streets. If you would like to volunteer to spend around 30 minutes once a month popping the Shire into either road, please contact me on the number listed alongside Distribution on page 2 of Shire.

We rely heavily on our volunteers to keep the Shire paper thriving for our community. I want to thank the two "volies" very much for the time they gave to the paper. Please give it some thought. Help us to keep Shire on the map!

Bobbie Perkins



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.*

LWOOSA & SOOSA 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Dear Editor,

As you may know, the Lawrence Weston and Shirehampton After School Club is the only club in the BS11 area that provides after school care for local families. Sadly, the impacts of the pandemic have hit us hard, as with many organisations, and we are relying ever more on grants and donations. The reality is that we're running at a loss and we fear closing.

We're looking for new ways to encourage funding and attract new families to the after school and holidays clubs and wondered whether you would consider publishing an article? A potential hook is that we're celebrating our 25th year this year.

Thank you,

Alexia, LWOOSA & SOOSA trustee and treasurer

Alexia: In answer to your question, we would love you to do an article for next month's Shire. Could I please ask you to submit it by 10th June (the 10th of every month being our deadline)? Many thanks, Editor

GOLDEN ORIOLE BIRD SONG HEARD IN SHIREHAMPTON

Dear Editor,

I have just come in from walking the dog and as we neared home I heard bird song that was new to me. Having read that a Golden Oriole was heard in the Worcester area I found and played the song I heard which matched exactly the Golden Oriole song, so at 7:20pm, on 16/5/21 a Golden Oriole was heard singing in Shirehampton to be exact in the Hazel spinney situated between Barwick and Sedgewick houses. I went back out to hear and maybe see the bird but heavy rain has silenced all bird song at present.

Regards,

Steve Fell

Not known if the bird is male or female, but male bird shown. To hear it's call go to www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/golden-oriole/



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DONATIONS TO PUBLIC HALL

Dear Editor,

As a trustee of the Public Hall I would like to publicly record the Board's thanks to those who have donated plants. This includes Miles, Lynsey, Bob, Annalise, Younghe, Sue and a lady living in Station Rd. We have a big space to fill, so more plants, especially those that will tolerate shade, would be welcome.

We are trying to form a group of volunteers to undertake basic gardening on the first Saturday in the month, 10-12 midday (weather permitting).

We are also wondering if this would be an opportunity for a plant swap?

If you are interested you are welcome to contact me, **Gail Amphlett on telephone 0117 9821879 or email gailpubhall@yahoo.com**

Regards,

Gail

Family Announcements

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

To book contact adverts@shire.org.uk

Small text box = £10.

Larger picture box = £15.

BETTY FRANCIS BEREAVEMENT

BETTY FRANCIS sadly passed away on April 21st, 2021 aged 101.

She will be sadly missed by her daughters, Julie, Susan, Christine and their families & friends.

SHIRE NEWSPAPER AGM

Shire Newspaper will hold its Annual General Meeting on Monday 9th August 2021 at 5:00 pm.

We hope the meeting can be open to the public this year. Final arrangements for the venue will be published in the August Shire.



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

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

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Linda x x

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

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



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

Email: t.linda1206@gmail.com

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Continues from Page 1.

Some of our most popular sessions over the last 6 months have included ones hosted by leader **Sarita Sood with Bollywood dance movements**; our **Christmas crooners and New Year's party sessions** were particularly appreciated by a great many care homes as well as older folk isolated at home unable to visit family. A new provision started in **February, monthly Welsh language sessions with Sian** are being well received in Wales and new online interactive Zoom sing-alongs for carers' groups have been running since October 2020.



Above: Rachel and Cheryl

Prior to Lockdown our Goldies family was made up of older people who attended our daytime singing sessions in the areas of England and Wales where we were able to fund sessions. Your support has enabled us to reach out to an unlimited audience of new participants through www.goldieslive.com and, in addition, we have created new partnerships with health providers and organizations such as new **Age UK** branches, the **Red Cross** and the **Stroke Association**, which will support the development of new activities in the future.



In addition, the Shire has received the following thank you from the Golden-Oldies Charity as follows:

Dear Editor,

Thought you might like a little update on the work Golden-Oldies Charity have undertaken over the last 12 months, please see our attached report.

Thank you again for the kind donation of £125 in May 2020; you've helped us to continue providing our fun activities online – completely free of charge – during the Covid pandemic.

Wishing you and the Shire Community Grants team all the best, fingers crossed we can soon return to face to face activities in Shirehampton.

Kind regards,

Emma Shearman, Fundraising Support Officer

How the Grant has been Spent and Shire Community Grants Recognised as a Funder

£125 was awarded to the Golden-Oldies Charity to support the continuation of the Goldies Charity throughout the Covid pandemic, the grant has supported the cost of providing our twice weekly sing-along groups online which are provided completely free of charge to our participants.

Golden-Oldies were delighted to receive funding from **Shire Publications Community Grants** and have advertised the grant as a supporter on our website. We look forward to a return to Sing&Smile in the community, particularly our Shirehampton session, which we hope to see early Autumn, pending the lifting of social distancing restrictions.

Thank you again for your support.

SHIREHAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Year 2 have been very busy this term reading our new class text 'A Bear Called Paddington'.

We started off with learning all about how marmalade sandwiches are made and gave our teachers some very clear instructions on how to make a delicious marmalade sandwich, making sure the teacher didn't make any silly mistakes such as putting the bread together the wrong way! We are now looking at how marmalade is made and will be writing an explanation text to explain the process. In DT we have also been on a tantalizing taste adventure! We had a go at blind taste-testing food, with food kindly donated from the local Co-op. It was very interesting as there were some foods some of us were 100% positive we didn't like the taste of; however, once blind taste-testing them they discovered that they actually liked them! It was great fun and we used adjectives such as sweet, sour, crunchy and mild to describe all the

different foods. We are looking forward to designing and making our own wraps later this term.



© Shirehampton Primary School

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL AGM

Subject to Covid 19 regulations, we hope to host a Shirehampton Public Hall AGM in July. Please come along! Everybody is welcome!

We want to make this meeting as interesting and lively as possible. We're pleased to let you know that Judy Helme will give a very interesting talk about the Hall history. It is truly fascinating how much has been happening at the Hall over the last century. We are planning to show you the first building works completed inside, talk about our successes, plans and challenges. Trustees will also give you the latest update on finance, our roles and many others. We want to give this building a new lease of life and make the Hall welcoming, safe and vibrant. If you want to help us on this journey, please drop us an email. Contact details are below. Any help will be greatly received!

For more information on the AGM, please contact us on
bookings@shirepubhall.org.uk or
shirehamptonpublichall@gmail.com

For the latest updates on the AGM, please follow us on: Shirehampton Facebook page, look up www.shirepubhall.org.uk website, drop us an email or call the Hall on 0117 9829963

Shirehampton Public Hall AGM
Venue: Shirehampton Public Hall
7th July 2021, 19:00

Warm regards,

Edyta Lang, Trustees and Hall Manager



**KEEP
CALM
AND
Become a
School Governor**

WANTED - New Governor for Shirehampton Primary School!

Our hard working Governors are looking to add a Co-opted Governor, who is currently outside of the school community, but can complement and contribute their skills to our existing team of parent Governors and school staff.

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First Community Spring Fayre As Lockdown Eases

On Saturday 24th April, warm temperatures and sunny weather made St. Mary's Church Spring Fayre a very welcome change in light of previous lockdowns due to the Coronavirus. For many, it was something to look forward to after a year or more in isolation.

This community event may have seen social distancing and masks worn but this did not deter people from enjoying themselves. Many remained in the family and friends' bubbles. Coffee and teas were sold in the doorway of the church and a number of stalls were set up in the church yard. This included toys, knitwear, home goods, art, books, DVDs, CDs, plants and cakes. The most popular was the cake stall which wasn't a surprise because the selection being sold looked very appetising along with the homemade marmalade.

Chairs were also placed in the courtyard so people could sit down and enjoy a cuppa. It was a chance to catch up with friends at a safe distance outdoors within a safe environment. This made a huge difference for many sharing news and a laugh or two in a relaxed atmosphere.

Being the first community event held in a long time we all look forward to many more in the future and returning to some sort of normality whilst trying to stay safe.

Article and Photos © by Kathryn Courtney

(Please note some photos had people removing masks for their photographic moment.)





Foodbank Support for those in work

Low income, plus unexpected expenses, debts, sickness, changes of circumstances or furlough can lead to food poverty even if you are in work

The Foodbank is here to help

To access a referral, speak to Citizens Advice confidentially
Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm - 0808 2082138

Once you have been referred you can collect your food parcel from one of our outlets,
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Saturday mornings will also be an option for collection if you work during the week

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Bristol Home Library Service



The Bristol Home Library Service is looking for volunteers who are willing to visit isolated people in the Avonmouth area to deliver a monthly supply of library books.

When normal service resumes, volunteers will be able to enter reader's homes and stay for a chat but at present, dependent on when libraries are open, we are providing a non-contact doorstep delivery service to ensure everyone remains safe.

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

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OFFICE OF DARREN JONES, MP

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Darren's staff are now working from home. Darren has taken this decision as a precaution not because of official government advice.

This means we will be a little slower at responding to post and telephone calls due to re-direction. We will otherwise continue as normal but please bear with us, especially if we too suffer illness within the team in the coming months.

We are maintaining a COVID-19 FAQ page on Darren's website at www.darren-jones.co.uk/coronavirus. You can also register for Darren's e-mail updates at the bottom of the home page at www.darren-jones.co.uk. Updates will also be provided on Darren's Facebook page, which you can follow at www.facebook.com/darrenjonesmp.

If you have symptoms or concerns related to COVID-19, you should firstly visit the NHS

website at www.111.nhs.uk. If this doesn't answer your question, or if you don't have access to the internet, you should call the NHS on 111. Please do not go to your GP surgery or A&E in person if you think you might have COVID-19 symptoms (i.e. a dry cough, temperature and/or sore chest).

For further updates please visit the NHS website or Darren's FAQ page.

Many thanks,

Office of Darren Jones MP

Member of Parliament, Bristol North West

Safer Roads for Bristol with Roll Out of the 'School Streets' Pilot

Plans for car-free pick up and drop offs during the school run are being rolled out at two schools in Bristol.

Bristol School Streets is expanding. The project involves opening roads to pedestrians and cyclists by closing them to motor traffic at the start and end of the school day, encouraging more active commutes by making it easier to walk, cycle and scoot to the school gates. The new restrictions, which are being implemented temporarily initially to pilot the scheme, went live on Wednesday 26 May.

For more information on the pilot scheme, please visit travelwest.info/projects/bristol-school-streets

CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Shirehampton is in the Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Ward

Your Councillors are:

Donald Alexander – Labour: cllr.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

Bristol's Museums and Archives are Open

All visits must be booked in advance and pre-booking is now open. Entry is still free, although donations are always welcome.

Library Opening Times

From May 17th Shirehampton & Sea Mills Library is open for call & collect, book bundles, returns & reservations only.

Shirehampton Library:

Mondays 1-5pm, Wednesdays 1-5pm,
Thursdays 10-2pm and Fridays 1-5pm

Sea Mills Library:

Mondays 10-2pm, Tuesdays 10-2pm,
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Avonmouth Library remains closed.

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Gov.UK Scam Email

We have been informed of an email claiming to be from Gov.UK, advising that a number of National Insurance Numbers have been disabled following reports of fraudulent activity. The email states that if you are the recipient of such an email then your "NIN" as they call it has been disabled and you must reactivate it on the attached document.

If you receive one of these emails, please DO NOT follow the instructions and DO NOT click on the red (Start Now) button, but delete the email immediately



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Cows Mooove into their New Stoke Park Estate Home

A group of cows have been welcomed to Stoke Park Estate as part of the city's continuing drive to address the ecological emergency declared by Bristol last year. Following the success of grazing goats at this historic park and garden alongside the M32, 20 cows arrived 11 May to help care for the landscape through conservation grazing. Made up of Shetland, Hereford, British Blue and Holstein cows, the herd will improve the biodiversity of Stoke Park and provide a more sustainable and natural way to manage the land.

Cattle can often get to places that machinery cannot and they also help stop the spread of scrub and invasive, more dominant plant species. This allows other plants, including wildflowers, to thrive, which will encourage insects, which in turn provide food for

birds and mammals. Wildflower grassland is not only a beautiful landscape to enjoy, but a rich habitat for many species including butterfly and bee populations.

A whole host of wildlife will also make a cowpat their home - more than 250 species of insect can be

found in or on cattle dung in the UK and these in turn provide food for birds, badgers, foxes and bats. The cows came to Stoke Park Estate from a local farm in Frampton Cotterell and are checked daily by the herdsman and park rangers.

Last year's **One City Ecological Emergency Strategy** unveiled a 10-year plan to protect wildlife, ecosystems and habitats in the face of the rapid decline in wildlife locally and globally. **Among its objectives was a commitment for at least a third of land in Bristol to be managed for the benefit of wildlife by 2030.**



Original Image Courtesy of © Bristol City Council Newsroom.

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Churches in the Shirehampton Area

Shirehampton Baptist Church

It was a sad day when, due to the Pandemic, the Churches had to close their doors and stop their weekday activities. However, Church Leaders of all denominations rose to the challenge by providing services online and Zoom. Although second best, it has been good to watch services and connect with people from other parts of Britain and abroad via Zoom.

Our Church has proved Zoom to be a means of keeping in touch with one another, sharing news and praying together. **Once a month we hold a service in the Church building and the next one will be Saturday, May 29th at 11.15 am.** Our Minister Paul Rhodes sends out short Bible messages via email six evenings a week, also providing news of our members and those from other countries where the **Baptist missionaries** and the **Barnabas Trust** are bringing practical and spiritual help to parts of the world suffering from wars, poverty and Corona Virus.

We trust that we will be able to give more information regarding our activities in next month's Shire. **The Church building is open on Thursday mornings from 10.00 am until 12 noon** for prayer, either on one's own or with one of our members. It is a lovely building and provides a place of peace to be still, reflect and pray.

We will all welcome to be free of the restrictions of this latest lockdown but will not forget those who have suffered loss in so many different ways and those who have also helped us through these difficult days.



© Bob Pitchford

We, as a Church, pray for the village and are glad to be of any help. Our contact number is **07743683684**.

Greetings from all at Shirehampton Baptist Church, Station Road

St Mary's News

Hi Folks! On Sunday, 9th May, we were honoured to have The Right Rev. Vivienne Faull - Bishop of Bristol - to preside and preach at our 10.30 am Holy Communion service. The church was well filled with social distancing measures in place. We were left feeling uplifted and joyful to have shared this special service together.

On Saturday 25th April we held our Spring Fayre in the Churchyard (see page 8), on what turned out to be a wonderfully warm and sunny Spring Day. In the space of just two hours we were able to raise the magnificent sum of just over £900 towards our much-needed church funds. Thank you to all who supported us in this way - we are incredibly grateful to all those who took the time to make, bake and celebrate with us.

We're looking forward to re-opening the church for our **Tea and Coffee Mornings** with the easing of restrictions. It has been suggested that, to begin with, we will only be open on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at our usual times of 10:00 am until 12:00 noon**. Details will be confirmed nearer the time via our noticeboard, Link, website and social media.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to your Parish Church as soon as possible.

Now, how about a finishing joke? Here we are - What type of horses go out at night? Answer: Nightmares!

Bye for now! C.M.E.



© Bob Pitchford



© Ian Harding

Hello from Shire Methodist

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

Restrictions are continuing to lift and we plan to begin meeting again in person in June for Morning Worship on Sundays in our church building. Please contact us to check the arrangements.

In the run up to the recent elections, we joined a **prayer relay** with many other churches in our city. We took the baton from Woodlands Church, near Bristol University, who had prayed through the night and we passed the baton onto E5 Church in Stokes Croft. The prayer relay was centred on praying for our city: for peace and prosperity. Our church members used WhatsApp to share our prayers through words, emojis, photos and videos. We particularly prayed for people experiencing poverty and homelessness; for racial harmony; our healthcare services; trust to be rebuilt between society and the police; refugees and asylum seekers; education settings; an end to food poverty especially child food poverty; people with addictions and/or mental health challenges; healing of our planet; wisdom for voters; and those in local

government to be compassionate to the poorest and most marginalised. We felt really encouraged by joining with other churches to pray.

In addition to prayer, we have been taking action to support our community. We have continued to work hard on writing grant applications to be able to open our **Jobs Training and Enterprise Hub** in the near future. **Revd. Patrick Stonehewer and Vick Crane** were delighted to be invited to our local **Co-op Distribution Centre in Avonmouth** to collect a cheque, which will support the running of the Hub. It was great to be able to build a relationship with Co-op who shares our mission to **Support Our Community**. We are very much looking forward to opening our Hub to the community, perhaps starting



with a **Jobs Fair**. Co-op may even donate some food, which we know will entice people to come and visit!

Many additional support services appear to be lessening as the restrictions ease. However, all the churches in Shirehampton continue to hold our community in prayer, and will do our best to respond to any concerns and needs. Please don't hesitate to contact us on the numbers below:

St Mary's Church 0117 9077026

Shire Methodist 0117 924 8407

Shire Baptist 07743 683684

St Bernard's Roman Catholic 0117 982 3380

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

Everyone at Shire Methodist

Hello from St Bernard's

Details of weekday Mass times are on the website. Sunday Mass 9am at St Bernard's and 11am at Our Lady of the Rosary, are continuing. Social distancing and other rules are still being applied for now.

www.olorsb.org.uk



©St Bernard's

In May we were invited to pray for and celebrate the wonderful work of 'Mary's Meals' (marysmeals.org.uk). They provide nutritious meals every school day for 1.8million children in 19 countries.

'Laudato Si' week from 16th May: learning from global visionaries and community leaders, bringing the words of the encyclical to life's all around the world, uniting in prayer to protect our common homes and vulnerable communities, and create a sustainable future. Though this event will have happened by the time you read this, it will be worth looking back to see what has been achieved. 'Laudato Si' is the Pope's 2015 encyclical. His words have helped Catholics better understand that 'everything is connected', and put millennia of Catholic teaching in the context of today's ecological crisis and climate emergency.

Bristol Healing Rooms

"Bristol Healing Rooms" are delighted to be able to inform you that, we will be holding a Healing Room session at the Public Hall on Wednesday, June 9th, and plan to continue throughout the rest of the year, every 2nd Wednesday.



"Bristol Healing Rooms" are part of the **Healing Rooms England and Wales**, and are members of the **International Association of Healing Rooms**. We know that physical, spiritual, and emotional health are closely connected. Bristol Healing Rooms are staffed by volunteers who come from across the churches in Bristol and usually belong to their own local church's pastoral ministry team.

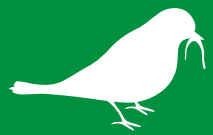
Don't just take our word for it, come along and join in on **Wednesday 9th June** at the **Shirehampton Public Hall**; we would love to see you.

With every blessing from all our volunteers.

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TWO YEARS AND COUNTING

The Shirehampton Climate Emergency Group has been going for TWO years now! We came together at a public meeting about the threat of global warming and climate change on May 14, 2019. Around forty people were at that meeting and continue to support our mailing list. A smaller group has been active over the last two years. We wanted to educate and inform ourselves about what we could do to mitigate climate change. We invited speakers on local sustainable energy provision to our open meetings, we had a stall outside the Coop once a month over the summer of 2019, we liaised with other local climate groups and supported citywide climate action. In March 2020 we organized a large public meeting on flood defences in Shirehampton. And just two weeks later the first lockdown was announced! From March 2020 until now we've been unable to meet together in person and forbidden from joining in collective actions.



© Vick C

And now while Covid continues to be the top story in the media, climate change has been making itself felt. April was the coldest April on record with frost almost every night. It was also one of the driest Aprils: it only rained once that whole month. These are examples of the changes in our normal weather patterns that can be traced back to changes in global temperature. Anyone lucky enough to have a garden will have noticed the effects of this extreme weather.

Nevertheless, over the past year many of us turned to individual environmental projects. People did private litter picks, created ponds and wildlife meadows, planted pollinator friendly flowers. We supported the national **Bee-Friendly campaign** with the **Ridge Community Garden Project** and we are planning an **Autumn Bulb Planting** event there. We took part in **Bristol's One Tree Per Child** initiative, helping to plant nearly a thousand trees in the Daisy Field. All these efforts will help restore the environment, encourage and protect biodiversity, and build resilience to climate change.



© Vick C

Climate Change was, rightly, an issue in May's local elections. **Bristol Green Capital Partnership** organized on-line hustings, asking each of the candidates for Bristol Mayor and for the West of England Authority about their plans for a sustainable green recovery. And Climate will continue to be an issue over the next few months in the lead-up to the **UN Climate Conference - COP26** - in November. The world will be watching the government and its climate and nature commitments and here in Shirehampton we will continue to do what we can to keep Climate Change in the forefront of our minds.

Renée Slater



© Vick C

Climate activists chalk the streets with reminders to vote for the planet in the local elections



© Vick C



© Vick C

Nature Notes

As promised, two views of our glorious apple tree close by on the riverbank. Such a lovely sight! And the apples aren't bad either!!



© Bobbie Perkins

Lots of little things have been happening around here these last few weeks. Not least, the arrival of the fully fledged starlings. How I love these babies. They are so bold and clever. They follow the adult and pick up on everything they see, from looking for their own food to having a quick bathe in the water feature. I have just watched a family of four chicks on our wall with mum/dad, chasing up and down, flapping their wings for attention and then noticing the food dish and trying it out! So cute, so



© Bobbie Perkins

full of life, learning where to go before they are on their own.

We have seen and heard Canada geese passing over, buzzards calling from way up high, hedgehogs feeding in our front garden courtesy of a borrowed wildlife camera. (Thanks again Mary!).

I watched a blue tit foraging on the leaves of our large rose bush recently, then scooting across the grass to our young cotoneaster tree.

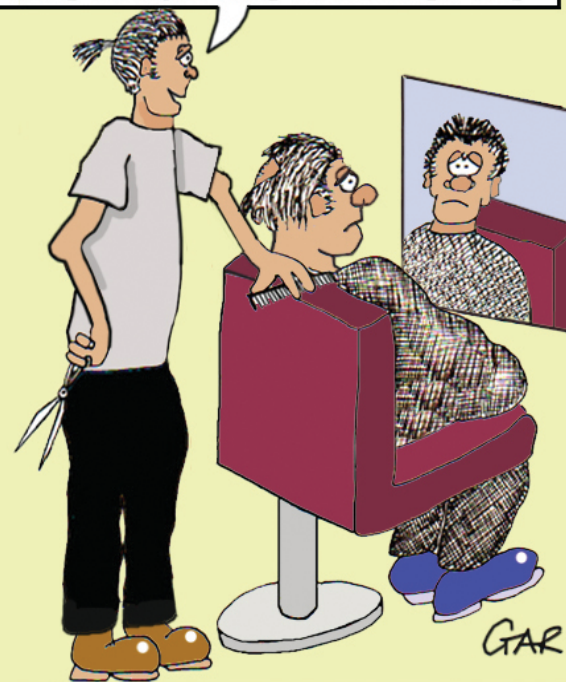
A real treat a fortnight ago was a wee bird scurrying around in the aforementioned rose bush. I grabbed the binoculars and it turned out to be a willow warbler. Mind you, I had to memorise what I was looking at, then go get my 'British birds' book!! Think I was right! A lovely time of year for sure.

Happy nature watching folks!

Bobbie Perkins

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Tynings Field News

In the July 2011 the field was young and Caroline and Jim Penny set about work with a small handful of people dedicated to their task. They petitioned the Council, planted tiny fruit trees that were donated by residents of Shire and some were purchased but all were dwarfed in the landscape. Then on cold weekends we cut brambles up to sunset until we finally called in a ploughman to help. In the Spring we dug up grass until our hands froze, 4 days a week, every week. We laid the hedge in February and wassailed in January and attained awards. These pioneers turned a plain grassy field into a place of productivity.



© Caroline Penny

Like a field of dreams over the years, people will arrive if you build the pitch and the hard work is done so the growers keep coming.

Tynings Field is independent of council allotments and is a member of Social Farms and Gardens. Now 10 years on, it is buzzing at Tynings Field Community

group, the bees collect pollen from the orchard blossom and things begin to grow and hatch. We had a successful month of work with the Good Gym runners on bramble clearance to allow more wild flowers to grow and clear an area for a bench in the thicket. The orchard is soon to reach full bloom with vipers bugloss, oxeye daisy and corncockle en masse which are now part of our wildflower meadow, some of which were kindly donated by Bee Friendly members in Shire. One of our members has planted two new fruit trees. Member Nick repaired the chicken coop roof which was storm damaged. We are still looking for someone to make the bench from the logs of wood we have in the field. Do you have the skills and want to showcase your work?



© Caroline Penny

We are very grateful to receive a £400 donation grant from the **Coop Community Fund** towards the field. In September we are opening our gates to the public once more as a **Get Growing Trail Day**. Lockdown brought few challenges and it meant that the field provided a safe haven while other sites were closed. Footfall is heavier now which is not so good for the animals. Most of our members work in other jobs so we always need more help from volunteers to assist in maintaining the field and cutting the grass. You are always welcome! Here is a place you can keep yourself fit and grow vegetables almost free of charge. A full April moon is a sign of a good harvest year ahead. Why not spend some time helping out here this summer?



© Caroline Penny

ENRICHING WOODLAND AT TYNINGS FIELD

Good Gym paid us a visit and assisted in clearing brambles to plant more wild flowers in the orchard; with team members Lee and Caroline, they made enough space without disturbing the hedgerow.

By clearing a space behind the edible hedge which the community planted 6 years ago, light now streams in on the nut trees and so we are asking for contributions of bulbs and donations of wild flower seeds for planting here.

Many thanks,

Caroline Penny




© Caroline Penny

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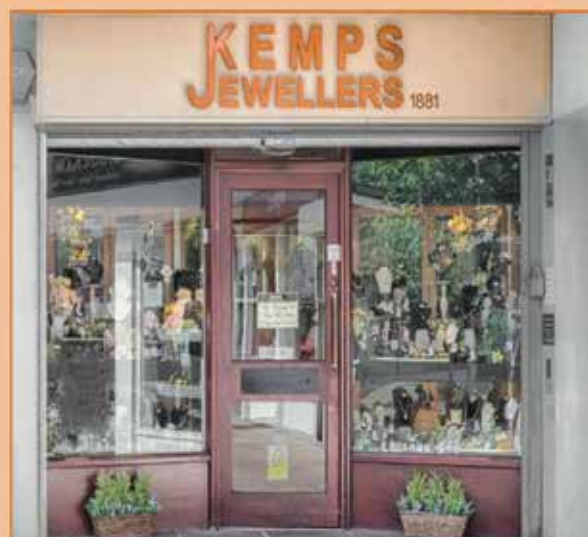
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Severnside Flood Defence Project Is Well Underway

Photos of Environment Agency at work on Flood Defences from © ASEA Flood Defence and Ecology Mitigation Newsletter

The Avonmouth Severnside Enterprise Area (ASEA) Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defence Project, has issued its latest Progress Report, May 20th. The project, the biggest of its type in the West of England, covers an extensive area, stretching from Aust in the north to Lamplighters Marsh in the south.



Above: Raising the outfall structure at Cake Pill. Below Left: Ongoing flood defence work at Severn Beach North. Below Right Installation of concrete flood defence wall at Aust Wharf Road.

Since the beginning of the year, and despite the challenges of Covid-19, they have made substantial progress delivering flood protection.

In the north of the project area, they are installing a flood defence wall at **Aust Wharf Road** and expect to complete this work by this winter. They have installed a new filter drainage system at **Passage Road** and are constructing ramps to cross the road. Improvements to existing earth embankment flood defences are in progress from Passage Road to **New Passage** and will be completed in autumn 2022. They are also working at **Cake Pill outfall** to raise the structure and expect to complete this section of work in the summer.

Work has also begun on **Lamplighters Marsh** where a new earth bund is being built to protect the **Severn Beach Railway Line**. As work proceeds we may find that local footpaths in Lamplighters Marsh are temporarily closed but the finished project will include footpath improvements.

The project managers have engaged with local communities in the areas in which this important work is taking place. They have met with members of local parish councils and with Friends of Lamplighters Marsh at online meetings to provide an overview of the scheme. Local groups have had



Flood Defence Area taken 4th Feb 2021.

the opportunity to express any concerns and provide their thoughts on the ongoing works.

To engage further, the project is setting up a **Community Forum** to provide a channel of communication between the project team and representatives of resident, business and community groups. They will also be launching a new **Environment and Economic Forum** to provide an opportunity for major employers and other organisations in the area to engage further in the project.

A new, dedicated **ASEA** project website will be launching shortly. This will have all the most up-to-date news on project progress as well as other information, and general details such as the ecological, economic and flood defence benefits that will be realised when the project is complete. A key purpose of the flood defences is to enable the mix of industrial and former industrial areas and vacant sites in ASEA to become viable for commercial development and generate 12,000 new jobs by 2026. You can find out more about this potential opportunity by visiting the ASEA project website.



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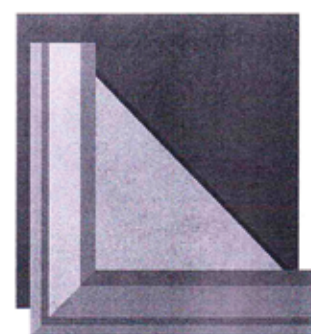
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SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON



City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

Monday April 12th was the day that bowlers at the City and Port of Bristol Club had waited for and were ready to make the most of when it came - a return to the green - bowling was back!!

First to bowl woods on the green this season were **Charlie Maby, Dave Chilcott, Ken Davies and Bill Hatherall.**

May 5th with another home game, this time against **Page Park.** Games were and will continue to be played under current **Bowls England Guidelines.**



First day bowling - April 12th. Ken Davies is bowling and Dave Chilcott waiting.

Day two and **Ladies Captain Gill Hinksman** arranged a gentle roll up for all lady members of the club. The response was great; twelve ladies took to the green to bowl their first woods of the season on a much improved green from last year. New members **Bob Morgan and Graham Neale** rolled up the following day and by the end of the first week more bowlers had enjoyed a roll up than they did in all of season 2020. The ladies returned on the following two Tuesdays and the total number rose steadily as more and more bowlers decided that the time had come to polish the woods and bowl them.

Finally came the first game against another club since season 2019; on **Sunday May 2nd Bradley Stoke** were welcome visitors to the green. This was followed on **Wednesday**



Ladies bowling on day two. Marion Brailey bowling and Shirley Callaghan waiting.

All friendly games are mixed; ladies and gentlemen combining to form rinks and results are much less important than enjoying the game and meeting like-minded people in pleasant surroundings. Mixed friendly games will continue on **Wednesdays and weekends until the first weekend in October.**

In the May edition of Shire there was news of major repairs to the Portacabin used for changing. The next building in need of repair and ultimately a replacement is the **Ladies**

Hut. This wooden building came to the green from the **Granary at the Port in 1983. Bomber Daley** recalls it being dry but full of dust, gathered at its previous location. He also remembers going to Yate to hire a JCB which was used to prepare the site that the hut was going on. Repairs have been carried out



The next project - The Ladies Hut!

to keep it in a usable state for this season but plans are being made to replace it with a more modern and purpose-designed structure.

The club is always looking to recruit new members and, once again this year, free try bowling sessions are available with all equipment and instruction supplied. Why not come along and give bowling a try? To book an initial session, please call David Hinksman on 0117 9082713.

Bowling really is for people of all ages. In other parts of the county, young children have taken up bowling and in a relatively short time been seen playing in competitions. Why not here? Later in June it is hoped to see a small group of young children bowling on the City and Port Green using very small woods designed for use by young people. Hopefully they will be the first of many and many will go on to be successful bowlers.

SHIRE SAILING CLUB NEWS: Shire Sailors Welcome Rowers and Paddlers into their Ranks!

It's a sad fact that even before COVID struck, many sailing clubs across the country were finding it difficult to attract new members. However, at the same time rowing and paddling sports were becoming more popular.

For some years the **Shirehampton Sailing Club** has welcomed the owners of powered craft, which are no longer than 17ft, as members. They are able



Paddling at Shire.

to launch their boats from the club slipway for fishing trips or cruises up the river Avon or out into the Bristol Channel. Unfortunately, for enthusiasts of speed, the speed limit on the river means that Shire is not the place to be launching speedboats.

To give rowers and paddlers the opportunity to practice their sport on the tidal part of the river Avon, the existing members of the club have now decided to welcome rowers and paddlers into membership. This change began during the last couple of months when new rowers and paddlers asked to join the club. Come and join us to bolster core numbers of rowers and paddlers that the club already has.

The club has a full programme of sailing, rowing and paddling events which run from March to November. During the next month there are five dates when we're on the water:

SAT 22 MAY – SAIL, ROW OR PADDLE

Arrive 14.00 for 16.36 HW (High Water)
Finish 6.30pm

SAT 5 JUNE – SAIL, ROW OR PADDLE

Arrive 14.30 for 16.54 HW
Finish 7pm

SAT 12 JUNE – SAIL, ROW OR PADDLE

Arrive 19.00 for 21.28 HW
Finish 10pm

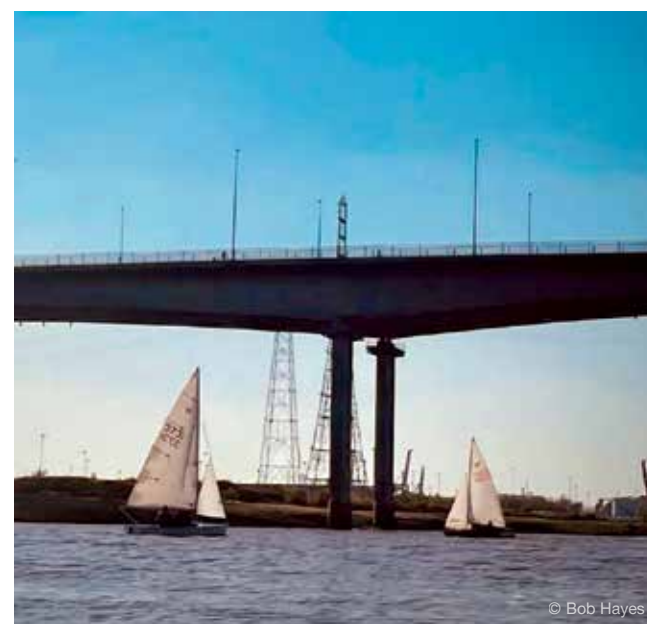
SUN 20 JUNE – FATHER'S DAY SAIL

Arrive 13.30 for 15.57HW
Finish 6pm

SAT 26 JUNE – TWO EVENTS

Breakfast Canoe Trip - Arrive 08.00 for 09.08 HW
Finish 12pm

Evening Sail - Arrive 19.00 for 21.24 HW
Finish 10pm



© Bob Hayes

Shire sailing with clear a blue May sky over the Avon Bridge.

As part of the club's development into rowing, starter sessions with the **Bristol Gig Club** which is based in Bristol Docks are being arranged. If you would like to come along to one or more of these, please also contact us on info@shiresc.co.uk. These sessions will be free of charge.

If you'd like join the club, join in with one of these events or would like to get your boat on the water at Shire to sail, row or paddle, please contact us at info@shiresc.co.uk. You are also welcome to contact the club or if you'd like to launch a small powered craft for a cruise or fishing trip.

Also, if you're looking for somewhere to keep your boat (provided it's no longer than 17ft), we currently have spaces in our boat compound.

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Life Before iPads...

Does anyone remember playing games with dandelions and daisies in their childhood? Blowing dandelion puffballs and making daisy chains?



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