

Shire

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

No. 600 - January 2022 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

Have you got a job that needs doing? Go to YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS section on pages 26-28 to find a local business who can help.

A
HAPPY
NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR
READERS!!!

SANTA DASH IS BACK

This year's Santa Dash on Sunday 5th December was another great success. The "dash" was started by local celebrity Joe Sims (Nige Carter in the hit series Broadchurch). People ran, walked, and pushed babies in buggies to cover the 5km route.

Along the way we were supported by many "Shirehamptonions" by plying us with sweets, drinks and even a lovely warming glass of Port. Cars tooted, music blasted out from houses, people clapped and waved spurring us all on. Many thanks to the great organisers and also the PBA Club for supplying us with a starting point and more importantly a finishing point with a welcome pint at the end.

Ruby Jeans our new Restaurant were also there providing great food to help us "recover". It was also great to see many stalls inside the Club selling their festive goodies. Here's to next year's – so if you haven't yet competed start practicing everyone and join in the fun!

Jill Williamson

More photos on page 6.



SHIRE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

On 5th February Shire will be celebrating 50 years of publication. We will be holding an exhibition at the Public Hall from 10am til 4pm. Please come along to help us celebrate this "icon" of Shirehampton.

For all these years The Shire has been supported by many volunteers – the Committee, Editors, Counters, and Distributors – without whom we would not have survived. As times change the paper has had its ups and downs. We are a non-profit paper and every year we have donated many hundreds of pounds to local good causes, i.e., scouts, dinner club, etc. and due to rising costs and loss of advertisers this is now in jeopardy. Please come along to our celebrations and if you can offer help, please speak to one of our many volunteers. We have invited many local "celebrities" to celebrate with us and a full report of the event will be in the February issue.

Let's make another 50 years!

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Shire

Official address: **The Library, Public Hall, Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol BS11 9TU.**

Please note the Shirehampton Librarian

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N.B. To meet the deadline with our typesetters, all written copy should be submitted by email or to the Library by the **10th of the month** before it appears in print, or it may not be included in the next edition. While advertisements in this paper are accepted in good faith, readers are advised to make their own enquiries and assessment. We request that all adverts are supplied in the correct format and size or there may be a charge should you require artwork to be created. Price on application. Unless otherwise stated, all material appearing in SHIRE is the copyright of SHIRE Publications. Please ensure photographs submitted with articles are cleared for use and permission sought especially when featuring individuals including children. The Shire cannot accept responsibility if photos are published in error where permission for use has been not sought. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Shire. All information correct at time of going to press to the best of Shire's knowledge.

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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 JANUARY

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FACE COVERINGS MUST NOW BE WORN

COVID-19 spreads from person to person through small droplets. Droplets can be picked up from the surfaces they land on if you touch that surface and then your face without washing your hands first. This is why regular hand washing and covering your mouth when you cough and sneeze is so important in reducing the spread of the virus.

The best available scientific evidence is that, when used correctly, wearing a face covering may reduce the spread of COVID-19 droplets, helping to protect everyone.

In England, face coverings must now be worn in shops and shopping centres, in transport hubs and on public transport.

In other indoor settings where a face covering is not legally required, we strongly recommend continuing to wear a face covering, particularly if those settings are crowded, enclosed, lack good ventilation or are places where you may come into contact with other people you do not normally meet.

Please be mindful and respectful that some people may not be able to wear a face covering, and the reasons for this may not be visible to others.

RAPID TESTS AT BRISTOL LIBRARIES

Lateral flow (rapid) testing kits are now available to collect from your local library. From this week, all but two Bristol libraries (Avonmouth and Hartcliffe, which are currently closed) are stocking rapid COVID-19 home testing kits, which are free to collect.

Regular testing, particularly before visiting a vulnerable person or attending an event in a crowded or enclosed space, is strongly recommended to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is quick, easy and helps to identify people who do not have symptoms of the virus but might still be infectious. The test does not need to be sent to a laboratory, meaning you will have a result in about 15 to 30 minutes. Should a result come back positive, please follow the guidelines to self-isolate and book a PCR test via the government website: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

To pick up your rapid COVID-19 testing kit, simply go to your local library and ask a member of staff at reception. Please check the opening hours.



Penlea Court Christmas Lights

VISITING OUR MUSEUMS SAFELY THIS WINTER

Our museums can get busy over the winter period, especially at the weekends and during school holidays.

If you are planning to visit M Shed or Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, please book a time slot in advance to guarantee entry.





Due to their popularity, pre-booking tickets for **Wildlife Photographer of the Year** at M Shed (www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/m-shed/whats-on/wildlife-photographer-of-the-year-2021/) and **Grayson's Art Club** at Bristol Museum & Art Gallery (www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/whats-on/grayson-perry-art-club/) is highly recommended to avoid disappointment.

During your visit, please wear a face covering unless you are exempt. It is now mandatory to wear a face covering in the museum shops but we ask that visitors continue to wear one in all parts of the museums.

Visit the museums website to plan your visit and pre-book tickets: www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/



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The *Shire* Community Pages

Are You a Caring Person?

Do you have a little time to spare each month?

Would you be interested in helping to establish a community support group to help people who are experiencing loss & bereavement?

Many people go through some terribly difficult times when they lose somebody close to them. Some people find it difficult to express how they feel, some are unable to talk about things, some are unsure how to cope through transitions in their life, some feel terribly lonely and isolated.

We are all unique individuals and there is no right or wrong way of dealing with the way we grieve. If we can connect with others that have also experienced loss, if we know that they understand the way that we may be feeling, if they are non-judgemental and

a good listener, this could be an absolute blessing and can make the world of difference to help us through a difficult time of change. If this resonates with you, and you are available to give a little of your time every month to help, we would love to hear from you.

We are looking to set up a new **STAR Bereavement Peer Support Group** in Shirehampton for residents across our 4 villages (**Shire, Avonmouth, Sea Mills & Lawrence Weston**). We are in the early stages of setting up this new group and we would welcome you to join our team of helpers.

If you are a good listener, non-judgemental, have empathy, can make a lovely cuppa, enjoy being

part of a team then please come along to our first volunteers open/drop-in meeting on Thursday 13th January between 5.30-7.30pm at Shirehampton Library, Station Road, Shirehampton, BS11 9TX.

For more information, please contact Ash Bearman, Shirehampton Community Action Forum (SCAF) on 0117 982 9963 or email: ash@shirecaf.org.uk

Your reward is that you will be playing a part in making a positive difference to help somebody through a challenging time in their life.

Many thanks

*Ash Bearman, Community Development Officer,
Shirehampton Community Action Forum (SCAF)*

Shire Public Hall, Station Road, Shirehampton,
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Avon RDA Group

We have been working really hard since closing over lockdown to get the Centre back on its feet and support as many people as possible. Now we need your help. Please support our crowdfunder and share it with your networks to help us make it through the winter.

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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.*

SCHOOL DAYS!

Dear Editor,

Please find attached a school photo from 1963-1964 which may be of interest to some of your readers. This is the class of **Mrs Barnes at Shirehampton junior mixed school**. I believe it's around 1963. I am located at the top left of the photo. I can still remember nearly all the names of my fellow classmates.

Regards *Colin Chidgey*



John Eastman, Mervyn Lark, Alan Payton, Steven Rice, Steven Warren, Brian Gregory, Terry Lewis, Paul Emery, Jane Painter, Linda Ham, Pat Kane, Valery Sheppard, Hilary Whitmarsh, Pat Curtoise, Madeline Warren, Rebecca Grant, Caroline Grant, Ann Budd, Peter Davies, Peter Tancock, Renata Hastings, James Marks, Christopher Sage, Steven Pearce.



A THANK YOU FROM PAT CHRISTISON

Dear Editor,

Pat Christison would like to thank all friends and colleagues for all their cards and good wishes through what has been a very difficult year. It was very much appreciated by me and my daughter. Special thanks to Ann (she knows who she is!) for being a good liaison officer and passing on messages.

Thank you all and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Pat Christison (thank you for your kind donation Pat)

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



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

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Twyford House Cricket Club

On 29th November, Coach John Harvey and members of Twyford House Cricket Club presented a cheque for £1050 to Tessa Northcott from The Motor Neurone Disease Association. Thank you again to everyone who donated.



Continued from page 1.



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MUSIC AND MURALS

With regard to the poem in the November issue and the matters discussed by Mrs Waters and Mr Pace, there must be a mural in Shirehampton dedicated to music.

Music has always played an important part in any human community throughout the ages and the earliest villages are no exception to this. It has enhanced community life with dancing in the villages and entertainment from the wandering minstrel. It has also enhanced and inspired the religious services of the early village churches to the present day.

Shirehampton must have had a maypole on the village green in very early times, around which village maidens danced to the sound of a piper or fiddler. And, in pre-Victoria times, the parish church would be filled with parishioners singing lustily, accompanied by the village band, also played country dances for the common folk, probably in the Tythe Barn. The gentry and their wives and adult children would have attended (by invitation) more formal dances at the Elizabethan Manor House or Kings Weston House.

In Victoria times, when bands were banned in country churches and organs took their place, the Vicar and the organist were held in high regard. We must not forget the little boy working the manual bellows, before electric bellows were invented. The congregational singing would be led by the church choir, which sometimes performed in concert. Nowadays, this has expanded into the Area Choir, the numbers being somewhat depleted by the effects of the Covid Pandemic.

Early in the twentieth century, when the general public attended concerts people from the village and surrounding area, would go to the Public Hall to hear these concerts by the Shirehampton

and Avonmouth Choral Society. At one of these concerts in 1920 Vaughan William's now famous Lark Ascending was first performed in public.

The Public Hall has always championed music in the village in all its forms. After World War II and prior to the advent of public television, the local Gilbert and Sullivan Society produced marvellous productions, including The Pirates of Penzance, performing to packed houses. In the 1950s, the 191st scout Gang Shows contained lots of singing by the massed cubs, scouts and rover scouts. Most recently, The Grainger Players have been singing their hearts out for our entertainment in their revues and lately, their pantomimes.

Again, after the war and pre-TV, there was other musical entertainment to be had in the village. Singing songs around the piano was very popular especially at Christmas and even adult carollers in Victoria costume, paraded through the village. Of course, in the forty's young carollers, saw this as a way of adding to their pocket-money at Christmas and went door-knocking in the streets of Shire – especially the Big Houses in Station Road!

There are other singing groups in Shirehampton, but the biggest is comprised of all those people who feel The Green, with their Shire centrefold, for Carols on the Green at Christmastide.

All the above provide ample images for a gifted muralist to use to fill one of the blank walls of Shire. I hope it is not too long to wait for this to happen.

Gil Osman



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 each month)
Shire Climate Emergency Group 7:30pm (2nd and 4th of each month)
- WEDNESDAY** Keep Fit 10:30-11:30am
Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm
Pilates 6:30-7:30pm
- THURSDAY** Bingo 2pm
Kettlebells 6:30-7:30pm
Table Tennis 8pm
- FRIDAY** Create to Elevate Workshop 7-9:30pm (2nd & 4th of each month)
Contact Tom on 07455 956826 for more details.
- SATURDAY** Coffee Morning 10am (2nd of each month)
- SUNDAY** Cotswold Christian Community Service 4:45-6pm (2nd of each 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 maillist by emailing cotswoldca@gmail.com

CLIMATE CAFÉ

SHIREHAMPTON METHODIST CHURCH

SATURDAY 22nd January
10:30 – 12:00

Has COP done enough?
What more must we do now?
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HIGH STREET MARKET CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS ONCE MORE

It was good to see the High Street Christmas Market thriving once again and three new stalls were taking part with a Christmas theme or gift ideas. Fond Memories Ltd were selling handmade wooden Christmas decorations, The Punching Pickler were selling their tasty pickled shallots along with cheese, chutneys, pates and hampers whilst Red Tree were selling cherry stone body heat pads to ease all those aches and pains.

R&V Crafts were selling hand made toys where hippos and Father Christmas were popular and JuLeS4U were doing brisk business with their jewellery stall. The unique stall J. Krafts were selling their creative handmade gift boxes that you won't find on the high street and Mivart Colour brought along their colourful glass window decorations. There was chocolate, honey, bread, cakes, tea, hot food to eat in or take away, as well as our ever popular fishmonger, the City Garden Shop, clothes & accessories with the Textile Treasury, gifts, bags, upcycled gift ideas, candles and wax melts.

Father Christmas made a very special visit to the market handing out chocolates to customers, stall holders, volunteers and surprising several young children. He also did a bit of Christmas shopping before having a glass of alcohol free mulled wine, a mince pie and some cake.

The book, 'Shirehampton Sketches' by local author Richard Coates was launched at the Christmas Market and is now available for sale from SCAF based at Shirehampton Public Hall. The book was snapped up by shoppers, with many bought as gifts for loved ones. Christmas jumpers were worn

by stall holders and volunteers, whilst Christmas music could be heard throughout the day to enhance the festive community atmosphere.

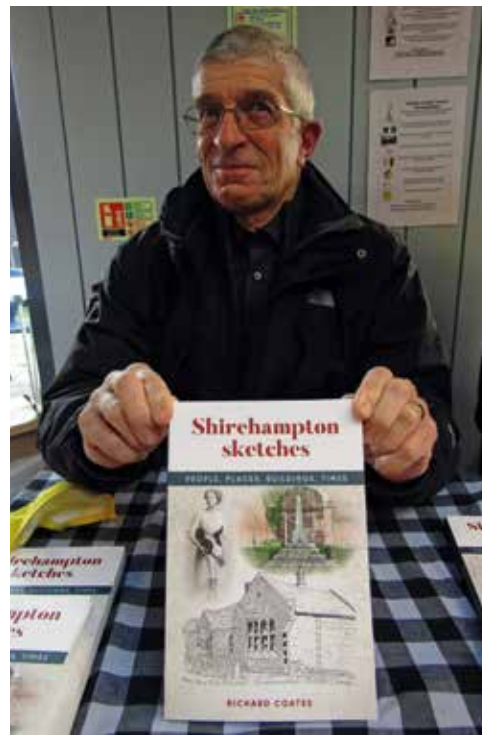
Shirehampton Markets Management said. "We'd like to thank everyone for their continued support for our High Street Markets, our volunteers, our stall holders for placing their faith in us, Father Christmas, Richard Coates, Pembroke Road Garage, St. Mary's Church staff/volunteers, our local High Street Co-op for their kind donation to enhance the Christmas festivities, Ocean Estate Agents for handing out shopping bags, and SCAF for their continued support."

"Masks/Face coverings are now mandatory, unless you are exempt. We



will always try and make our markets a safe, enjoyable, community event where smiles and laughter still happen despite this 'covid-19 age'. We look forward to seeing you all again on **Thursday 6th January** with our first market of 2022."

Article and all photos by © Kathryn Courtney



Shirehampton Public Hall Newsletter

Happy New Year everyone! Let's hope 2022 brings more cheer, laughter and hope. At the Public Hall we are making a number of building improvements and renovations this year. To begin with the much needed and long-awaited roof works are to commence the first week in January.

This is intended to be a 12-week project; however, the delicacy and expanse of the roof means this job could overrun. Apologies in advance for any disruption this may cause to our users or the users of the library. These works are absolutely long overdue, so we thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

We have a couple of new groups joining us this new year. Welcome, welcome to the **Tree of Life Church** each 1st Friday of the month from 6-10pm and **Cycletots**, 9.15-10am on Sundays (prebooking essential). Good luck to both groups!

A full list of our activities is listed on our website and below. Do come along and join in and make new friends! It will be a great start to the new year!

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?!

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 You could also visit our website on www.shirepubhall.org.uk.

Shirehampton Public Hall Activities

MONDAY	Twyford Art Club (except July & August) Yoga	10:00am - 12noon 6:15pm - 7:30pm	Hall Hall
TUESDAY	Messy Play Toddlers Line Dancing Puppy Training	9-11am 2pm-3pm 6:30pm-8:30pm	Hall Hall Hall
WEDNESDAY	Bristol Healing Rooms (every second Wednesday) Pop-Up Play Village (every 3rd Wednesday) Over 75s Exercise Class Extraordinary Links Model Railway Club Shire Stitchers (every 3rd Wednesday) Women's Fellowship (every 2nd and 4th Wednesday)	11am-1:30pm 9:30am-1:30pm 2-3pm 3:30-5:30pm 7-10pm 7:30-9:30pm 7:30-9:30pm	Hall Hall Hall Hall Club Room Hall Hall
THURSDAY	Shirehampton Community Art and Social Group (formerly Sea Mills Art Club) Tai Chi Grainger Players	10am-12noon 2pm-3:30pm 7:30-9:30pm	Hall Hall Hall
FRIDAY	Shire Stitchers (1st Friday of the month) Playtots Shire News (last Friday of the month) Tree of Life Church (from January 2022 - 1st Friday)	10-12noon 10-11:30am 4pm 6-10pm	Springfield Hall Hall Hall
SUNDAY	Cycle Tots (from January 2022 - term time only) Church of Grace	9:30-10:30am 11am-2pm	Hall Hall & Springfield

Shirehampton Community Garden

The Shirehampton Community Garden is going from strength to strength!!! We are delighted to announce that with the help of SCAF, we have secured a grant which will enable us to get custom designed raised beds for the garden, as well as a number of other things in the coming months.

We also had some kind residents donate 4 tonnes of soil this month which will fill the raised beds nicely! We have enjoyed seeing people use the garden, and have planted bulbs that will brighten up the planters in the spring. On the **15th of January** we will be having a **Community Day** in the garden to fill the raised beds, and we would love people to come and join us for that. If you have a wheelbarrow, a spade,

or any spare plants, do bring those along too, as we plan to put the beds into place and fill them with soil. We would love to see you there around **10:30** for lots of gardening fun! In the meantime, do go down and enjoy the garden, and if anyone has anything to donate, or would like further information about the Community Day, get in touch by sending an email to shirehamptoncommunitygarden@gmail.com.

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191st St Mary's Scout Group



Congratulations to the 5 Cubs from 191st St Mary's Scout group who were recently presented with their Chief Scout Silver award. The Chief Scout Silver award is the highest award a Cub can receive.

The awards were presented by the District and Deputy District Commissioners. Well done to all the Cubs and for your hard work to achieve this award. We are pleased to announce that the Beavers will be starting back up again in January. Meetings will run on a Tuesday from 5.30 to 6.30pm.

If you are able to offer any help at any of our section meetings or on the Executive committee, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact GSL191stbristolscouts@gmail.com for more details.



© 191st St Mary's Scout Group

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Teresa Cox



Adam Lenik



Jess Duncan

From Your Local MP

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

I wish everyone in Shirehampton and across our constituency a happy new year! This time, last year, the world's first vaccinations were being administered down the road at Southmead hospital. This past year has been hard for us all, and I would like to pay tribute to the resilience, generosity and care shown by everyone in Bristol throughout this pandemic. The new year is a time for optimism, and I am excited about the promise it brings. I know many of us are concerned about the new variant. But I am confident we will rise to this challenge, just as we have done before.

As I write this before Christmas, there are many things that we do not know about the **Omicron variant**. But we do know the most important things that we can do to stop its spread. By getting your booster vaccination, wearing a mask in public spaces and self-isolating if you have

COVID symptoms, you can help protect our community in Bristol. In Parliament, I will continue to lobby the Government to ensure that no one is financially penalised for doing the right thing to protect others, including businesses that have had to adapt again.



© Office of Darren Jones

Thank you to everyone that joined me at the **Shirehampton Public Hall** earlier in December. We held our first in-person **Christmas Coffee Morning** since 2019, and it was great to chat with so many of you about issues from public transport in Shirehampton to national questions on climate change. Together we raised over £100 for the **Bristol North West Foodbank**, which has been doing incredible work throughout the year. Thank you to **Amanda and Reece** at the Shirehampton Public Hall for accommodating us all!

Many of you shared feedback about your experience of dental care in Bristol with me earlier in November. It's clear that right now it's too difficult to get registered as an **NHS Dental Patient** in Bristol, with many people forced to contact several dentists before joining the waiting list. Our survey results also raise questions about value for money and wait times for treatment. Our dental practices in Bristol work incredibly hard, and I've supported them in Parliament to get them support packages during the pandemic. However, I think it's time for the Government to get serious about funding NHS dental care, and that is something I will be working on this year.

As usual, if you need my help or have a question, I'm running surgeries and regular fortnightly catchups on Tuesday on Facebook. Please get in touch through my website darren-jones.co.uk darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk or call the office on 0117 959 6545.

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

Your Councillors are:

Donald Alexander – Labour: cldr.donald.alexander@bristol.gov.uk

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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THE GREEN PAGES

CLIMATE NEWS FOR JANUARY 2022:

A NEW YEAR and I hope we've all had a much-needed break after the persistent and vocal concern about Climate Change that filled the months leading up to the COP conference. We are not able to say that the conference has done anything like enough to mitigate the effects of Climate Change, but we need to stay hopeful and be grateful for the progress made on deforestation and phasing out coal. Perhaps the most important step was the decision to meet again in ONE year to review promises and implementation.

As you saw in December some of us from our local Climate Group (Shirehampton Climate Emergency Group) joined in an Earth Vigil to mark the close of COP. A few of us kept vigil in the run-up to Christmas. We stood on College Green from 11:00-1:00 every Saturday in December to

remind ourselves that hope is still possible as we come together in community to repair our damaged Earth.

Meanwhile, SCEG hosted its second Climate Café in late November. I was unable to be there but one of our group, George Okenfold, wrote:



"On Saturday morning, 20th November, Shirehampton Climate Emergency Group (SCEG) held its second Climate Café in the Methodist Church Hall.

Everyone agreed it was a great success with a couple of dozen visitors and friends dropping in and, more often than not, staying to socialise, talk over climate matters and catch up with local issues.

The children who came were entertained with arts and crafts, giving their mothers the chance to relax and enjoy a cup of tea and cake.

The Climate Café will take a break now for Christmas until January 22nd. We look forward to seeing you then!"

As George says our next Café will be on **January 22nd** and we hope many of you will come (see our advert on page 7).

We can't afford to forget about the Climate Crisis.

RS



SHIREHAMPTON CLIMATE EMERGENCY GROUP

Has resumed meetings in the Cotswold Community Centre, Dursley Road, BS11 9XH. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7:30pm.



IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE, DO COME AND JOIN US!

Nature Notes

I know not everybody likes snails, but when I spotted this little charmer tucked up in one of my super fragrant roses, I had to take a snap! It's a pretty tall shrub, so it had a bit of a slog getting there! How it missed the vicious thorns we will probably never know!



© Bobbie Perkins

The change in the weather recently has resulted in a sharp rise in demand for bird food around the garden. We are now seeing a robin, starlings, sparrows, great and blue tits, and jays too! Not to mention the ever-hungry wood and feral pigeons, jackdaws and crows.

All have a place in nature, so we try to be generous whatever the species we see outside... within reason!!

The foxes we spot after we have put a few scraps out, are looking very healthy, which is good news.

Needless to say, the Niger seed out front is disappearing at a rate of knots as the gold finches descend in great numbers each day! I will never tire watching them drop daintily down through the branches one after the other each day, and then there's the morning after a stormy night, when I've forgotten to replace the feeder in time for their breakfast, and go haring out in my dressing gown!!

Bobbie



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Bee Happy Shire Bulb Planting Party

On Saturday 6th November BEE Happy Shire held a bulb planting party on The Ridge in Shirehampton. If you live in the area, you most probably saw people with gardening tools digging up pieces of grass and filling them in again that morning, even with the threat of rain looming. Volunteers planted over 900 bulbs including daffodil and narcissi mix, giant crocus, snowdrops, anemones and grape hyacinths.



© Kathryn Courtney

"SCAF has supported the BEE Happy Shire Project from the beginning. We have discussed different projects for the benefit of the bees and pollinators including various planting community events. We have also paid £123 for the bulbs from our SCAF Community Plans Funds" said Ash Bearman.

"Bee Happy Shire was set up in Autumn 2019 to turn Shirehampton into a 'Pollinator Friendly Village'. All our pollinators are in decline and any small part we can play to help them in the urban environment is important. Our first Planting Party was planned for the 4th April 2020 but it was cancelled because of Covid-19. Instead, we sent out seeds to local residents, to plant their window boxes, planters or gardens with pollinator friendly wildflowers. This was a great success, over 80 square meters' worth of wildflower seeds was sent out, and the results can be viewed on Bee Happy Shire's Facebook group" said Sara Cech-Lucas, founder of BEE Happy Shire.

"This was our first event and between us all we planted 900 bulbs in one hour. The plan is to create a long flowering season from the snowdrops in late January followed by crocuses, daffodils to anemones and grape hyacinths that flower through until May. This will give our pollinators a flying start in 2022."

"We welcome anyone to join our Bee Happy Shire Facebook group and volunteers to help us plant Shirehampton with flowers that will provide food for pollinators from January through to December as well as making the village a ray of colour during the seasons". said Sara.



© Kathryn Courtney



© Kathryn Courtney

The Ridge will certainly look colourful next year. You can find out more information and how to join up their BEE Happy Shire via the facebook www.facebook.com/groups/564573427747094

Kathryn Courtney



© Kathryn Courtney



© Kathryn Courtney

OCEAN IS NOW CARBON NEUTRAL

At Ocean we have always strived to ensure that our actions have a positive impact on both our customers and our wonderful city.

As part of our ongoing efforts, we recently focused our attention on our impact on the environment and we are delighted to announce that we are now carbon neutral.

In order to begin this process, we needed to work out what our overall carbon footprint actually was. So, in 2021 we completed a full and comprehensive 'carbon audit' of all of the companies that form the Ocean Property Services Group. You can read

the full report in our blog here https://bit.ly/OceanBlog_CarbonNeutral

By far, Ocean's biggest impact on the environment was shown to be our electricity usage

(50.9%) and secondly our gas (31.9%). We therefore immediately reduced our overall impact by 50% by switching to electricity generated purely by renewable sources. We have also switched our gas to being created predominantly from anaerobic digestion of food waste.

Following the audit results, we have also instructed Carbon Footprint Ltd to offset our total CO2e emissions to zero. We've done this through supporting a UK Tree Planting Project. With this, Carbon Footprint Ltd also plants trees in the Amazon as part of their Tree Buddying initiative.

Paul Harris, Managing Director says, "We are proud to say that this is not 'greenwash', we are learning and adapting as quickly as possible. We are by no means satisfied with offsetting our carbon and leaving it there. This is the start of our journey to improve how we operate to reduce the impact our business has on the environment and our society."

Lawrence Weston Community Farm



The farm is following current Government guidelines on Covid-19. We ask that everyone wash their hands on arrival and observe social distancing with other visitors, staff and volunteers. Please check in using the NHS Track and Trace App. Please do not come to the farm if you feel unwell or are experiencing other symptoms of Covid-19.

Farm Tots

Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30am • £2.50

Help feed the animals. For under 5s and their carers. Drop in most Wednesdays. Please check Facebook for any changes.

Walking Group

Wednesdays 2 - 3:30pm • FREE

Improve your health and meet new people by joining our free, friendly, weekly walking group. If coming for the first time, please arrive at 1:45 to sign up.

NEW Woodland and Orchard Club

Thursdays 10 - 11:30am • FREE

Come and spend time outdoors, making friends, learning new skills and having fun. Together we will look after the farm's orchard and woodland. We'll prune, coppice, weed, harvest and nature-watch. No prior knowledge necessary.

For more information call Amy on 0117 938 1128 or email amy@lwfarm.org.uk

Gardening Group

Fridays 11 - 12:30pm • FREE

Interested in getting involved in gardening on the farm? Come along Fridays to help with our gardens. Call Amy 0117 938 1128 or email amy@lwfarm.org.uk for more details.

Farm Hands

Saturdays and Sundays • FREE

Local 8 - 11yr olds can come and help look after the farm.

If you are interested in any of these activities or need an application form for Farm Hands then please contact Helen on 0117 938 1128 or helen@lwfarm.org.uk

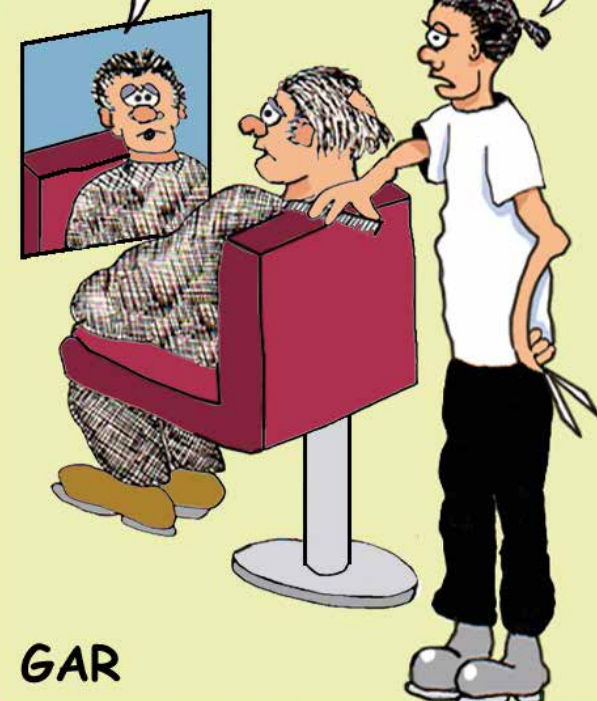
Volunteering

If you'd like to help look after the animals or maintain the farm please contact Ian on 0117 938 1128 or ian@lwfarm.org.uk. Come and meet new people and have fun outdoors.

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Churches in the Shirehampton Area

Shirehampton Baptist Church

Happy New Year from all at Shirehampton Baptist Church. We trust you were able to enjoy the Christmas festivities. It has been good to share the Advent Season in our Church building and on Zoom

During January we hope to continue to meet each Sunday and on Zoom at 10:30am and at 4:30pm for a Bible study on Zoom. The Cotswold Christian Community will be meeting on Sunday January 9th, 4:45pm at the Cotswold Community Hall, Dursley Road when we will continue with the Video on Prayer, we come from several different churches but you do not have to belong to any particular church or maybe just curious about the Christian Faith, as you will be welcome. We also provide refreshments.

Our Church building will be open for private prayer or you are welcome to ask for someone to pray for you or someone you know.

A small group meet on Zoom every Thursday at 11am for prayer, We share this time with friends from Lawrence Weston Baptist Church when we share one another's topics for prayer.

Do visit our website which will keep you up to date with our news. Ours is a friendly, caring fellowship and we welcome and provide activities for children during the main part of the service. There may be someone who once belonged to a church but for some reason has not been for many years.

Why not make a New Year's Resolution to return to a Place of Worship.

We trust that all in Shire will be virus free and send our love and prayers.



© Bob Pitchford

Our great new website is
www.Shirehamptonbaptistchurch.co.uk
 Contact number 07743683684

Hello and Happy New Year from Shire Methodist

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

Writing this in early December, it's hard to predict what January and 2022 will bring!

We plan to hold Morning Worship each Sunday in our church building from 11am. We'll continue to have a cautious Covid-19 risk management plan in place in our church building. Face coverings, social distancing, use of a one-way system, track and trace and sanitising are still encouraged. The pandemic continues to make some of our plans a bit uncertain so please check with us before coming along to avoid disappointment.

Our Jobs, Training and Enterprise Hub, plans to host more events during the week:

Our next Hub's Cups Café: Job Club is planned for Tuesday 11th January from 10:30am until noon. This is a free, informal event to pop in to for information, advice and confidence building. We've had lots of representatives from various organisations join us so far who can offer you information. These include: YTKO offering free support helping you set up your own business; Bristol Community Learning offering free training courses; The Carer's Support Centre; CMT Services offering free courses such as forklift training; and Home Instead who employ local people who can offer care work. The café is for anyone in Shirehampton and surrounding areas, who is out of work, or interested in getting a different job, or setting up their own business, or training for a new career or job. Please let us know if you're interested in participating or helping out. We're looking for volunteers who can help everyone feel welcome. Perhaps you might even have job-coaching experience that you'd like to share.

Our Jobs, Training and Enterprise Hub is also planning to host a FREE Digital Skills course, which will be delivered by Community Learning over 4 weeks, starting on Thursday 27th January, 10am until noon. You'll be able to learn and improve your skills in emailing, using the internet, e-safety and completing online forms and applications. If you are aged 19 or over and have few or no formal qualifications, please contact us to find out more or contact Community Learning by emailing Suzanne.gaffney@bristol.gov.uk or by phoning/texting 07887 451776. There may also be an opportunity to loan a laptop or other IT device and get data by joining this course!

We've also launched our website: take a look at www.jtehubshire.org

Many additional support services appear to be lessening as the pandemic 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. You can contact us on the numbers below:

St Mary's Church 0117 9077026

Shire Methodist 0117 9248407

Shire Baptist 07743 683684

St. Bernard's Church News

On Tuesday 30th November we welcomed Fr Francis Ezennia as our parish priest, at his induction mass in St Bernard's church. It was a warm and joyful occasion with 4 priests concelebrating mass.



© St. Bernard's Church

[www://olorsb.org.uk](http://www.shire.org.uk) -for all other parish news.

We wish you a peaceful and happy New Year, full of love and care for each other, and our wondrous planet.



© St. Bernard's Church

Afterwards we had tea & cake, whilst chatting to some of Fr Francis' parishioners from his previous church, who had travelled all the way from Horley, Surrey. He had been with them for almost 5 years. We feel very fortunate that Fr Francis has joined our community, and look forward to getting to know him.

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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Friends of Shirehampton Library

The Friends of Shirehampton Library was set up in early 2019 after Bristol City Council Library Services went out to all 27 libraries, looking for ways of involving the local communities more, with the hope that some "Friends of Libraries" group evolve from the consultation. Well, even though Shire Library is one of the lesser used libraries in the city, a group of us were determined that it should be supported in every way possible.

Since then, we've created **Shire's Living Room**, which meets every **Tuesday from 3pm till 5pm**, when the library service is shut. All folk are welcome to come along for a friendly chat, a cuppa and a biscuit, play a board game, do a jigsaw etc. – at least 50 people have participated in this since it started.

We had two hugely successful evening sessions before the lockdown, an **Introduction to Family History**, using the **Ancestry** website, which was then free via the Library Internet. We also had a talk on the **History of Kings Weston House with Norman Routledge**, the former owner, to which 40 people crammed into the library. We had more talks planned with local authors, but these were scuppered by Covid.

However, we had successfully applied for monies from the **Libraries Innovation Fund** before the lockdown, have now received them, and are in the process of purchasing some laptops, a printer, projector, and other peripherals. This equipment will be used in early 2022 for a new **Family History Group**, with expert help for folks to learn how to do their own family background research.

One of our remits was to help reduce **"Digital Exclusion."** This means providing help and access for folk who may never have had the opportunity to use a computer before. So, we shall be running courses for beginners in using a computer: how to turn one on, access the internet, create an email account, send an email, access Council and Government services, safe online shopping, viewing TV and/or streaming services etc. This will be available for people of all ages, from 4 to 94!!

If you are interested in either the Family History or Computer Courses, or are willing to be involved in running these courses, please **email friendsofshire@gmail.com** or leave a message on **07943 401575**. It's also our **Annual General Meeting** at 6pm on **Thursday, 6th January 2022 in Shire Library**, all are welcome to attend and find out more about the project.

St. Mary's Church Christmas Fayre

On 20th November St. Mary's Church held their Christmas Fayre to raise funds for the Church. There were plenty of stalls to choose including books to toys, raffles, lucky dips, hand crafted wooden display items to homemade marmalade and cakes. They were also selling Christmas trees that could be pre-ordered for collection in December. The event was well supported by the community of all ages.

On the Saturday 4th December Father Christmas made a visit to the local church to set up his Christmas grotto for the young children. There was also the matter of collecting the festive Christmas trees that had been ordered 2 weeks before. Monies raised from the sale of the Christmas trees went towards the church funds. As well as tea and coffee on offer there was also mulled wine and mince pies too that morning.

As with all events we tend to forget that many are fund raising for a particular charity or cause and for almost two years each have been scaled back or not happened at all due to the 'Covid-19'. It is good to see that now, people are gaining confidence in attending these events or even shopping in the High Street and that their support does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated. All we can do is make sure

each person stays safe, respects personal space and wear masks where they can so community activities can be attended once more.

Article and all photos by © Kathryn Courtney



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SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON

City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

With no Club Competitions in 2020 there was no finals week-end and sadly no Presentation Evening. But this year there was a very good finals week-end and The Presentation Evening was back.

Friday 19th November saw the return of the event which first took place at the club in the late 1970s and has been a big part of the club's year ever since.

Before presenting trophies and medals to competition winners and runners up the **Retiring President, David Hinksman** thanked everybody who entered this year's competitions without competitors there would be no finals and no Presentation Evening. He then made presentations to winners and runners up in all but two competitions. **Lorraine Holmes** presented the **Sid Holmes Handicap Trophy** to **Ken Davies** and the runners up medal to **Howard Surman**.



Ken Davies receiving the Sid Holmes Handicap Trophy from Lorraine Holmes.

David Hinksman was himself a winner, **Lis Davies** presented the **Men's Four Wood Trophy - Edney Cup**, to him and he then presented **Dave Chilcott** with who he had an epic final with the runners up trophy.

Nomads, captained by **Charlie Maby** did a famous double, winning both the **Club League Cup** and **The Club League Trophy**. **Hits and Misses** Captained by **Dee Crawley** were runners up in both competitions.

There is a new name on the **Ladies Four Wood Trophy**. **Carol Green** in her first season as a bowler was successful in her final against **Flo Grimes** who received the Runners Up Trophy.

The one thing that nobody wants to win is **The Wooden Spoon**, awarded to the team finishing bottom of the **Monday Night League**. This year's recipients were **Three of Each**, Captained by **Lynn Burand**.



Two Daves - Chilcott and Hinksman who played the closest of games for the men's four wood singles title.



The Nomads - Captained by Charlie Maby - who did the Monday night League and Cup double.



The Trophy that nobody wants to win - The Wooden Spoon - was presented to Lynn Burand - Captain of Three of Each.

Other trophy winners were **Nick Burand, Phil Cormack** and **Ken Davies** in the **Jack Ashton Triples**, runners up **Bob Morgan, Derek Jones** and **Bill Hatherall**. **Dave Chilcott** and **Bill Hatherall** won the **Men's Pairs** with **Mike Porter** and **Ken Davies** runners up. **Bob Morgan** and **Sandra Rees** were successful in the **Mixed Pairs** with **Mary Lomas** and **Ken Davies** winning the runners up medal.

The evening was about much more than trophy presentations. Excellent vocalist **Dave Dean** was there to entertain and even encourage a few people to dance to the music he made. There was a great buffet and a very big raffle. In all a very good and enjoyable event.

The **Bowls Club AGM** was held on **October 21st** and saw **Lis Davies** re-elected to the post of **Chairperson**. **Bill Hatherall** will continue as **Treasurer** and **Men's League Captain**. **Phil Cormack** is once again **Fixtures Secretary**. **Gill Hinksman** remains as **Ladies League Captain** and **Ray Cook** as **Wednesday afternoon Captain**. **David Hinksman**, having held the office of **Club President** for three consecutive terms of three years did not seek a further term but has instead taken on the role of **Acting Secretary** until the start of season meeting in **March**. His final act as president will be presenting trophies on **Presentation Evening**. He remains as the **Men's Delegate to The Gloucestershire Bowls Association** and **Flo Grimes** will continue as **Ladies Delegate**.



Ken Davies, Phil Cormack and Nick Burand won the Jack Ashton Triples.



Dave Chilcott and Bill Hatherall receiving the Men's Pairs Trophy from President David Hinksman



And there was dancing too. Singer Dave Dean is on stage.

The second **Sunday Evening Social** event of the season was an excellent **Gordon Dimond Quiz** on **December 5th**. The 100 questions were broken down into sets of 10 questions on a wide range of subjects ranging from sport to mathematics to geography. Two teams of four gave the same number of correct answers so a tie break was used and the winners were the **Rustic Trailer Trash - Howard Surman, Carol Green, Paul Watton and Gill Gibson** each team member received a bottle of wine from the quizmaster.



Gordon Dimond who devised and presented the quiz on December 5th.

The next Sunday evening social will be on **January 23rd** and it will be an evening of skittles, table skittles and mini-golf starting at **7.30pm**.

So - what is **Spoons** – it's a novel game of bowls involving the use of playing cards, teams that change every five ends and thanks to **Leatherhead Bowling Club**, Spoons was played at the City and Port on **Sunday August 15th**. There was a winner Ken Davies and there was a feast of strawberries, scones, jam and cream. Another winner was Gill Hinksman she won the Spider that preceded the games.

Looking ahead the **2022 Winter Bowling Break** will be in March at the **Toorak Hotel in Torquay**.



Quiz Champions - Paul, Howard, Carol and Gill.



Carol and Sue with the flowers they were presented with for the work they did - with husbands Charlie and Dave - on the garden around the green throughout the season.

A Happy New Year to all who take an interest in the club see you in 2022.

For further information about the club and its activities please call David Hinksman on 0117 9082713 or 07932387217.

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Window Wanderland 2022!

There will be a Window Wanderland in Shirehampton and the other villages in the area on the weekend of 26th, 27th, and 28th February 2022. There was a great uptake when we had the last one two years ago, let's aim to increase the number this time. We're looking for local schools to actively participate this time, and businesses too. There will be a full update in the next edition of shire so keep your eyes peeled. In the meantime, here's a taste of some of the windows created in the event from 2020.



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