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

Easter
Fun at Cotswold
Community
Association Coffee
Morning
See Pages 12-13

No. 604 - May 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 20-21 to find a local business who can help.

Sanctioned Vandalism!!!

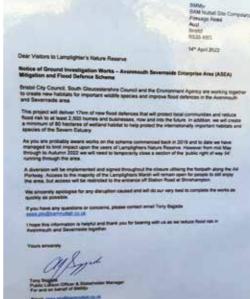
It came as a shock, on this loveliest of days, whilst taking a walk along the Yellow Brick Road, to discover this beautiful tree has been felled. It's the Bristol Whitebeam, a nationally rare tree, it grows wild in the Avon Gorge and nowhere else in the world. There was no consultation, no warning, and apparently no reason (to us, anyway) why this tree should be removed, it's some distance from where the Flood Defence is going to be built. We believe there should be some considerable recompense for this vandalism

Then, on top of this, the footpath is going to be closed from mid May until the Autumn to enable the defence to be built unhindered. The cost of having a member of staff stopping walkers from proceeding when lorries are going back and forth is prohibitive! This means walkers from Shire will have to turn around 200/300 yards from the gate under the M5. Walkers from Avonmouth will have to walk along the Portway instead. I'm not sure the Contractors have taken into consideration the psychological impact this can have on people who use the path for relaxation and wellbeing in general. Only today, I encountered a family with a young girl with Autism, who regards it as the only safe space for her to enjoy.

On top of all the other awful things happening currently, this really is the icing on the cake.

John Hastings, Stephen Judd, Renee Slater and Friends of Lamplighters Marsh







The tree before.



The tree after felling



Close-up of felling.







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SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL

Station Road, near shops

HALL, LARGE AND SMALL MEETING ROOMS FOR HIRE

For availability and bookings contact The Hall Manager 0117 982 9963 www.shirepubhall.org.uk

PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR MAY

COVID UP-DATE

The government has now removed all remaining mandatory restrictions in England. I encourage everyone to continue to follow the well-known precautionary behaviours to protect yourself and those around you. These include:

- getting vaccinated
- letting in fresh air if meeting people indoors, or meeting outdoors
- wearing a face covering in crowded, enclosed spaces

Please continue to do the small things, that collectively, make a big difference.

SPRING BOOSTERS

Everyone who is eligible for a booster this spring is advised to take up the invitation. Those being offered the spring booster include:

- those aged 75 and over
- residents in older adult care homes
- those aged 12 and over with a weakened immune system

If you're eligible for the spring booster, keep an eye out for texts or letters from the NHS inviting you to make an appointment. If it has been six months since having your first booster, simply visit www.grabajab.net for details of walk-in clinics and how to book (https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/covid-19/).

ENERGY-SAVING LED STREET LIGHTING PROPOSALS

Plans to invest up to £12 million to upgrade Bristol's street lighting network aim to cut carbon emissions and energy bills. To make sure local streets are lit up sustainably, the council is considering ramping up its programme to replace 29,000 old street lights with the latest LED lanterns.

The new lighting is projected to save the council around £1.8 million a year in energy and maintenance costs. Upgrading the street lighting network could save almost 13,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide within ten years. It will also help to reduce light pollution as LEDs direct light onto roads and pavements, rather than overhead or into people's homes and gardens. If approved, the rollout of the LED programme will get underway from November 2022 and will be completed over three years. Read the report and find out more at: https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=8840&Ver=4

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES MONDAY Twyford Art Club (except July & August) 10:00am - 12noon 6:00pm - 7:15pm Hall TUESDAY Messy Play Toddlers 9:00am - 11:00am Hall

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

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

FRIENDS OF SHIREHAMPTON LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Church of Grace

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



11:00am - 4:00pm

by the Library Innovation	www.bristol.gov.uk/libraries		
Library Living Room	Tuesday (Weekly)	3:00 – 5:00 pm	Library
IT Literacy Course	Wednesday (Weekly)	6:00 – 7:00 pm	Library
Family History Group	Thursday (2nd Thursday of the Month)	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Library

The Shire Community Pages

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC Cotswold HALL MAY 2022 Centre Bu

The roof works continue to make steady progress at the Hall and, despite the weather, the roofers have soldiered on! Thank you Bob Pitchford for the photographs! Here's a sneak peak at the progress so far:



The Public Hall hosted a marvellous Carnival Disco in February, which proved very popular with the local children! The event was supported by a great disco (thank you DJ SteveDUBS!) and the wonderful decorations were hand-made by Reece Britton and Nicky Keat. A huge thanks to all who supported the event, and the volunteers who helped make the event happen. We are hoping for a similar event in October, so keep your eyes open for publicity!

Shirehampton Public Hall Users, Volunteers and Friends meeting will be held at the Public Hall, Station Road on Friday 27th May at 7pm. This meeting will give you an opportunity to get an update on what is happening in the hall and have a say in its future. The independent Chair is particularly keen to hear from people who attend activities in the Hall. If you want a copy of the agenda, please contact Amanda Parsons Hall Manager bookings@shirepubhall.org.uk.



The **Gardening Volunteers Group** which meets in the Hall garden from 10am on the first Saturday of the month has started meeting once again now that things are growing once more! Everyone is welcome, and bring tools if you can! Contact the Hall for more information if necessary.

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.



Cotswold Centre Bus Stop Dursley Road

The Cotswold Centre committee have decided to lobby the council about the possibility of erecting a bus shelter at the bus stop outside of the Cotswold Centre. The bus stop is used by local elderly and disabled residents a lot of the time.

We have been advised that the cost would be in the region of £35k although we have stressed that a simple shelter would be sufficient. Hopefully this will cost less.

We are currently waiting on a response from the Council. We will, of course keep you updated.



If you are aged 4-11, you are invited to register for

ROCK STEADY HOLIDAY CLUB

Monday 30th May till Thursday 2nd June

10am-12 noon -

Shirehampton Baptist Church, Station Road



Drama (We will be working on a drama to perform on Thursday evening)

But if you don't like drama ...

Music (If you can play an instrument, bring it along)

Craft (Painting the scenery for the drama)

Separate group for infants

To register contact Paul & Katy 07743 683684 or rhodespaul360@gmail.com

Blaise Plant Nursery Donations

Blaise Plant Nursery in Lawrence Weston is donating crop plants to over 45 groups across the city who are supporting those most affected by the cost-of-living crisis by growing food for food banks.

The project, to donate 10,000 fruit and vegetable plants, starts this week with deliveries of potato and garlic seedlings and will wrap up at the end of April with other vegetable and soft fruit plant deliveries.

This is the third year that Blaise Plant Nursery has been able to provide these essential donations. The donation scheme was awarded a grant from Bristol City Council to continue in 2021 as the effects of the

third COVID-19 lockdown were felt in communities across the city. The plant donation project has had such a positive impact on communities, that the nursery was awarded another grant in late 2021 to repeat the donation project this year on a larger scale.

Kind regards,

Fay Whitfield

NORDIC WALKING AT KINGS WESTON HOUSE

Saturday, 21 May – a free taster to try out Nordic walking at Kings Weston House from 2 to 3.30pm. We provide the poles; just need to come in clothes and shoes you can walk comfortably in.

Booking via the website below: Nordic Walking Classes and Workshops - Lets Walk Bristol

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nordic-walkingwellbeing-workshop-for-bristol-walk-festtickets-273847183297

DARREN JONES MP

www.darren-jones.co.uk | fb.com/darrenjonesmp | @darrenpjones

A belated Happy Easter to everyone in Shirehampton. For many, this will have been the first Easter bank holiday since 2019 that we've been able to celebrate in person without restrictions. It was great to see so many people at my recent Shirehampton Street Stall. Thank you if you stopped by to say hello or ask a question!

Constituents across Bristol North West have written to me concerned about how they'll pay their energy bills with the cost of food, fuel and other daily necessities on the rise. If you are struggling, you are not alone. We've been working with the Bristol North Citizen's Advice Centre to signpost and offer support and I'll be sending out more advice soon on how to get help. It's great to see the old Alldays being re-opened after so many years but a quick reminder that higher costs are hurting local businesses too. If you can, please try and shop locally to support our small businesses on the high street as much as possible.

Thank you to everyone that attended our virtual Q&A about the Bristol Clean Air Zone in April. If you couldn't join us, you can watch the full video recap on my Facebook page. I've held several events about the Clean Air Zone in the run up to it starting this summer and, using your feedback, I've written to the Council and Government, with a focus on having the Portway removed from the zone. We need to make the air cleaner in Bristol, improve public transport and provide support to Blue Badge holders and others that need to use cars to get around Bristol. That in mind, I also met with the director of First Bus in April to share my concerns about rising bus prices and the wishes of people in

Bristol North West for a more frequent and reliable service. Making transport work in Bristol North West remains a top priority for me and I would love for you to be involved in my campaigns. You can join our North Bristol Transport Group by going to my Facebook page.

Finally, I know many of you have been wanting to help as best you can following the war in Ukraine. My office and I have been helping with visa applications, sponsorship applications and other urgent cases and trying to get the systems here to keep up with the level of generosity in our community. This has been difficult and time sensitive work and so I would like to thank you for your patience if you have not received a reply from our office on other issues as quickly as normal.

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

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

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-iones.co.uk

RHYME TIME

Dear Editor,

We were wondering if you could inform readers that we have restarted our weekly **Rhyme Time** for babies and toddlers? There'll be stories and singing! It'll restart at **Shirehampton Library on Thursday 28th April at 11am** and will run during school term times.

Thanks,

Gordon Rudston, Libraries Supervisor, Avonmouth, Sea Mills and Shirehampton

WORLD EARTH DAY – ST. PETERS HOSPICE AND SHIREHAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Editor,

We work for a local Bristol charity, St. Peters Hospice, and we have been trading in Shirehampton for around the past 37 years. We recently had a World Earth Day shop wide competition.

As the children who attend the local primary schools are the future, we thought it would be a good idea to try and get them to understand the importance of donating and recycling. The children produced around 500 self-portraits for our window displays for World Earth Day.

We were wondering if you might be interested in doing an article based around this community collaboration? We just wanted to spread the word about World Earth Day and the importance of recycling and reusing.

Thank you for printing my letter.

Hayley Williams (Shop Manager)

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.

SHIREHAMPTON JUNIOR SCHOOL 1952/53

Dear Editor,

Some school friends, **Norma Chivers, Margaret Walker and Thelma Taylor** (all maiden names) were looking at this old photograph of us at **Shirehampton Junior School 1952/53**(?) trying to put names to the faces. Can anyone help to fill in the missing names?



All rows left to right. Back Row: Roger Gates, Pauline Knapp, Jill Brown Bridger Hobbs, June Helps, John Coxhill, Kenneth Ross, David Crabb, Derek Bees. Third Row: Ute Redding, Pat Jones, Thelma Taylor, Ann Dyke, Joanne Wooler, Judith Denyard, Joan Bishop, Pat Machin, Pat Northcott? Heather Moody, Pat Pinnock. Second Row: Jackie Parker, Valerie, Lloyd, Marilyn Evans, Audrey Truman, Frances Maby, Dorothy Wilcox, Pam Barker, Carol Gammon, Norma Chivers, Carol Clarke, Margaret Walker, Beryl Williams. Front Row: ?,?,?,? Clifford Johnson? Trevor Keats.

Apologies if any of these are wrong. Thelma Tillett (Taylor) (Donation with thanks, Ed)

Weekly classes - just come along -Hello there! Would you no need to book: like to improve your well-Kettlebells are Monday 5.15 - 6.15pm and 6.30 - 7.30pm, being? Wednesday from 5.15 - 6.15pm I am a local Shire resident and and Thursday from 6.30 - 7.30pm at the Cotswold Community Centre. a Personal Trainer who can Message for 1:1 technique session. help you to achieve your goals Bootcamps: Monday and without the need to attend a gym. Wednesday 6.15-7.00am. Whatever your age or ability I can help: Please message for details. Improve health and fitness level Improve muscle tone and bone density Improve mobility and coordination SHIRE Strongfirst Kettlebell Instructor. Specialist wellness coach for perimenopausal and beyond females. Individual programme to suit you, fitness. Hope to see you soon! Linda X X For a free initial consultation in your own home or mine. Telephone: 07875 054 292 Email: t.linda1206@gmail.com STRONGFIRST www.shirestrong.co.uk

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.

A Tribute to Gill Gibson

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Gill. We enjoyed her company, her sense of fun and friendship both at the **Monday sewing group in the Baptist Church**, and at **Shire Stitchers** where she served on the committee.

The Shirehampton Public Hall garden also benefited from her volunteering, She shared her expertise, time and her plants. Given her love of gardening I hope we can do justice to her memory by keeping the garden as lovely as she helped to create.

Baptist Church Sewing Group, Shire Stitchers and The Shirehampton Public Hall

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HIGH STREET:

Ocean Estate Agents

There has always been an Estate Agents in Shirehampton and Ocean have been on our High Street since 2006, having taken over from Rodaway and sons.

Chris Janiak is Branch Manager and despite Covid lockdowns the housing market has remained resilient. "Rental prices have been really high, money has been cheap to borrow. If you are first time buyer looking to buy somewhere, you have the ability to rent or buy and buying seems to be the much cheaper option. So you have high rents, cheap money and lack of supply that seems to keep the market moving."

"We have seen house prices in the four villages area increase by 10% to 15% in six months which seems a remarkably high figure but it seems to be the way it's going. Compared to other parts of Bristol, it still offers good value for your money. There are some investment buyers buying, but in the main it is buyers wanting to buy their first home. It can be difficult to stay, but help is available. There are schemes out there such as government offers towards deposits to buy ISAs. Mortgage lenders are offering 5% deposit mortgages which is relatively low and it's worth speaking to a mortgage broker about this. It's surprising sometimes how much cheaper it is to buy than to rent, subject to having the deposit available and qualifying for a mortgage".

"On the rent side of things there is also a lack of supply. Rent prices have gone up really quickly in a very short space of time. We can help landlords find suitable tenants as well as helping people buy and sell too. We can offer free and independent



mortgage advice and a legal service to help with the whole moving process."

I asked Chris about the Community role Ocean have within the area. "As a business, we always try to give back to the community. We've continued our support with 'Shire Lights' and to the most recent 'Santa Dash', we support the 'High Street Community Market' each month, handing out shopping bags. We've helped 'Poppies On The Green' and also donated a laptop to 'Shirehampton Primary School' to pass onto a family in need. Most recently we've been a drop off point for donations to send to Ukraine."

I asked Chris to tell me a little more about this. "We're after mainly medical supplies, personal hygiene supplies, torches and batteries, also pet food and tinned goods that can last for some time. **Sam**, a colleague of mine, has got a contact for the community who is doing collections in the area that go to a central hub and, from there, it is all loaded onto trucks and taken over for distribution in the Ukraine. We've already done one successful drop off and doing another one this week. Local residents





have been incredibly supportive and we will continue to be a collection point for the Ukrainian appeal". said Chris.

Ocean Estate Agents can be found at 14 - 16 High Street, Shirehampton, Bristol, BS11 0DP. Tel: 0117 9380611. website: www.oceanhome. co.uk/branches/shirehampton-sales email shirehamptonsales@oceanhome.co.uk

Kathryn Courtney

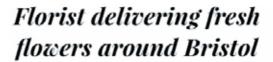
Healthwatch Bristol

Healthwatch Bristol is an independent organisation that listens to your concerns about health and social care services. We collect feedback - good, bad, or just average - on all types of care, such as GPs, hospitals, and mental health services. Information shared with us is confidential: your name and personal details will not be passed on to providers, but your views and experience will be used to help NHS leaders and decision makers improve patient care. We can also provide information and advice about local services.

We would like to introduce ourselves at Healthwatch Bristol as Julie Bird, Bristol's Area Lead for Healthwatch, and Charlie Back, our new Community Engagement Officer. Both of our roles are focused on supporting you to ensure your voices are being heard when it comes to your health and social care experiences.

To share your health or social care feedback with us, visit: https://www.healthwatchbristol.co.uk/share-your-views or please call us on 0117 203 3594.





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SHIREHAMPTON PARK GOLF CLUB



SUNDAY CARVERY

'OPEN TO ALL'







2 COURSES

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A VARIETY OF DESSERTS & TEA/COFFEE

LARGE - £16 REGULAR - £14.50 CHILD - £9

Following on from the huge success of our Sunday carveries amongst our membership base, we would like to extend the invite to the local community!

Using locally sourced meat from Wood's Family butchers in Shirehampton and fresh seasonal vegetables; accompanied with stunning views of the Avon Gorge and Gordano Valley, this is the perfect location for you to spend your Sunday with family & friends.

The Carveries are usually held on alternate Sundays, with sittings at 1pm & 3pm.

To Book, please email housemanager@spgc.uk or call 0117 982 2083. Further Information regarding the dates/booking of the Carveries can be found at www.spgc.uk.

Please note we operate a smart casual dress code, which can be viewed at www.spgc.uk





0117 982 2083

WWW.SPGC.UK

PARK HILL, SHIREHAMPTON, BS11 OUL



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Shirehampton Office

Call: 0117 938 0611

Mail: shirehamptonsales@oceanhome.co.uk



Bedroom semidetached house

9 Dingle Close, Sea Mills, Bristol BS9 SOLD





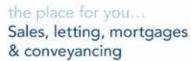


A lovely semi detached family home is set in a quiet crescent, close to the shops and amenities of Stoke Bishop and good transport links into and out of the city. The house is well presented throughout and has a great garden, ideal for families.

This home has been snapped up - we have buyers who missed out looking for similar houses in the area.

EPC - C







Bedroom townhouse

Old Barrow Hill, Shirehampton, BS11 Guide price £375,000





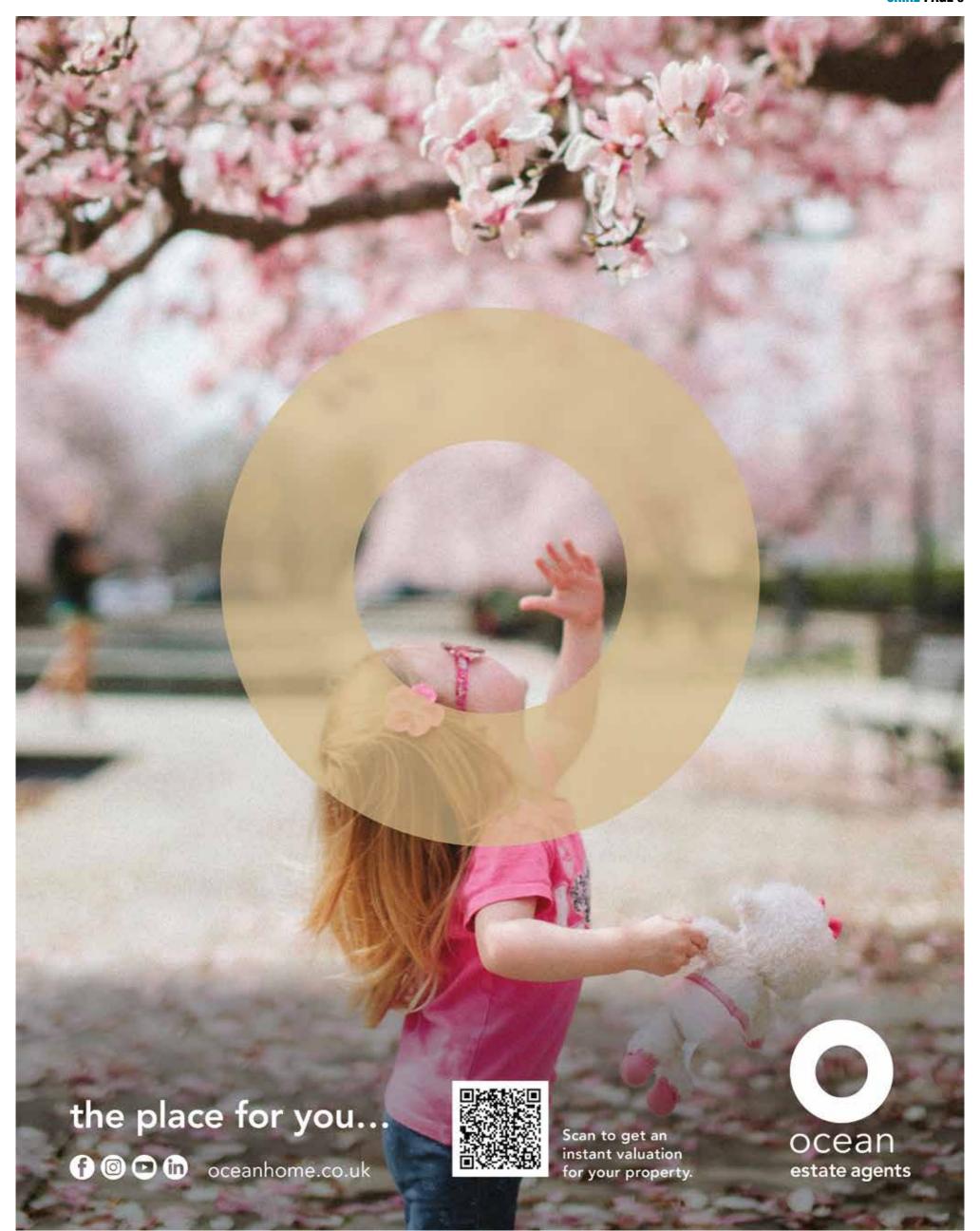
This smart 3 storey townhouse offers flexible and versatile living, with a large open plan kitchen/ dining/family room, and doors that open to the 50ft garden.

Located just off the High Street, close to local shops, as well as the train station, and the Park & Ride. The property also has off road parking and garage.

EPC - tbc







Churches in the Shirehampton Area

St Mary's News

Hi Folks!

This month we think of all the schoolchildren slogging with their school work, prior to taking their exams in June. The majority of them have been under great strain, not having had proper schooling for the past two years because of the Covid19 infection. They deserve all the support and encouragement we can give them and wish them all well.

The 2nd day of the month is the **Spring Bank Holiday Monday** and St. Mary's will be closed for the sale of Teas and Coffees; however we will reopen again on **Wednesday, 4th May**.

Wednesday, 4th is once more the first Wednesday of the month when the "Goldies" meet together in the church for their monthly "sing-along". It is a real treat to hear them singing away and thoroughly enjoying themselves. Why don't you come along and try it? The session starts at 10.30am.

On **Saturday, 7th May**, we hope for fine weather as it is the day of our **Spring Fayre** when you will be able to purchase Crafts, Gifts, Cakes, Tea and Coffee etc. If the weather is fine, we hope to have some of our stalls in the Churchyard, so please put the date in your diary and keep an eye open for activities taking place outside.

On Sunday, 15th May we are delighted to welcome to our Sunday Service Bishop Lee, who is the

Bishop of Swindon. He will lead our worship and preach to us. Following the service, we will hold our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. We changed our previously planned date in April to accept an invitation to join the other Mission Area Churches at a joint Holy Communion service held at St. Mary Magdalene, Stoke Bishop.

Tuesday 17th May is the date of our monthly session of **Messy Church**, which takes place between **3.30pm and 5.00pm**. Again, a gentle reminder that if you require Refreshments to please inform the Church Office by the previous Friday - 13th May. Thank you!

Please note that Monday, 30th May IS NOT THE SPRING BANK HOLIDAY. It has been moved to Thursday, 2nd June which is the beginning of the Platinum Weekend when we celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's seventy years on the Throne. The whole country will be celebrating this momentous event! As that Thursday is now a Bank Holiday, there will be NO 11am HOLY COMMUNION on that



day! We also get an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3rd June, so we expect to be closed for our coffee morning that day.

One final thing to say grateful thanks to our friends at the **Baptist Church** for inviting us, and our friends at the **Methodist Church**, to join them at their **11.00am Good Friday service**. Not having a permanent Priest at St. Mary's has not been without its challenges, though we have been blessed with help from several retired clergy and clergy at St. Mary Magdalene Stoke Bishop and others, and I am pleased to say that the vacancy is being advertised in the **Church Times**. We pray for a suitable candidate who will continue to spread the Gospel in the parish and preserve our well-loved and honoured traditions, whilst also bringing with them fresh ideas.

Now the final, final thing is this - What do you call a bird that goes to church? Answer: A bird of prey!!!

Bye for now!

C.M.E.



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NEWS FROM ST. BERNARD'S Church

Hello from St Bernard's

As we enter Spring, we're looking forward to restarting the Children's Liturgy of the word, during Mass. This is aimed at children 4years and above, so come along

and enjoy some good stories and activities.

If you're unable to get to church, you might want to watch Mass Live from the cathedral at: cliftondiocese. com/live-mass

All of St Bernard's & Our Lady of the Rosary information can be found at: olorsb.org.uk

Have a happy month of May.



Palm Sunday Mass and **Procession**

It was a beautiful Spring Sunday to start the Palm Sunday Mass and procession.





BRISTOL HEALING ROOMS 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.



Baptist News

Although Covid is still with us, the lifting of restrictions has enabled us to put into action plans which have been on hold.

On Thursday March 31st we held our first Life Café in our building. This was well attended and the display of cakes baked by our member **Zhyian** were a sight to be seen and tasted good as well, We will be holding these **Coffee mornings** on the last Thursday of the month, from 10am **till 12noon**. Do come to enjoy the refreshments and make friends.

Plans are being made for our Holiday Club, running from Monday May 30th to Thursday June 2nd. There will be drama music and painting scenery with a separate group for infants. For more information contact Paul and Katy on the number below.

By the time you read this, we will have held our Easter services, on Good Friday a joint service with **Shirehampton Methodist** was held at our building at 11am, a time to remember when **Jesus** died for the sins of the world. On Easter Sunday we celebrate His resurrection and victory over sin and death, On April 10th we will have held our Songs of Praise Café at the Cotswold Community Hall, Dursley Road. Some of us who have visited **Germany** to see the Oberammegau Passion Play will share their experiences with talk, pictures and music. The Passion was first performed in 1634 due to a vow made by the villagers that, if God spared them from the Bubonic Plague sweeping the region, they would perform a Passion Play every ten years, According to tradition, they were spared. Apart from a few cancellations including the Pandemic, the whole village performed the Passion and it is a very moving experience.

Our next meeting will be in the same venue on Sunday, May 8th at 4.45pm. This cafe is run by members of all the churches in the area where we enjoy a cuppa and a cake with a varied programme of short talks and favourite hymns. You are very

We are glad to be living in a country where we can worship freely but sadly there are many countries where Christians are persecuted and often have to meet in secret. This is a liberty we must never take for granted.

Love and prayers from Shirehampton Baptist Church.

Contact Number 07743 683684

Easter Hats and Coffee Morning Fun

Easter bonnets and hats were part of yet another successful coffee morning held at the Cotswold Community Centre in Dursley Road on Saturday 9th April. Everyone who arrived had to pick a raffle ticket out of a tub and then match it to an Easter Egg that was on the Easter table. It was a free Easter egg for everyone and that was a lovely surprise.

An extremely large Easter egg was put up for raffle but the winner donated it back for auction with monies going towards the **Ukraine Disaster Fund** where many gave generously that morning.

There were Easter biscuits, Easter cakes, Simnel cake and Hot Cross Buns with plenty of tea and coffee. There was also an **Easter Hat competition with Claire winning first prize** and being presented with a flower display made by **Beau's Bouquets**.

Dave Parsons, Chair of the **Cotswold Community Association** said: "The event was a huge success, all the 60 plus folks who attended had a wonderful time; many had hardly ventured out since the start of the pandemic, and it was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends. We raised the amazing total of £450 for the Ukraine Disaster Fund at the **Coffee Morning and Bingo Night** and are so grateful to the community for their contributions. This is on top of the £500 the Cotswold Community Committee recently decided to donate."

Kathryn Courtney

























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

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 5:15-6:15pm

& 6:30-7:30pm

Table Tennis 8pm

FRIDAY Trainmaster North Somerset

10-11am (1st of each month)

Contact Sophie on

somersetnorth@trainmaster.co.uk **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

The Cotswold Community Association are pleased to announce that we shall be hosting a talk on The History of the Cotswold Estate by local historian, Ken Edwards, on Tuesday 3rd May at 7pm at the Cotswold Centre, Dursley Road, Shirehampton, BS11 9XH. All welcome!

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Stainer's Crucifixion

On Good Friday at St Mary's Shirehampton, this oratorio was performed by the Area Choir to mark the final hour of Jesus on the cross.







This was the first time we have been able to give a Good Friday rendering of sacred music since Easter 2019 due to Covid. We are grateful to the people who came to listen and were touched by their comments on its quality and how moving it was. Special thanks to musical director and Tenor soloist Tim Forder, Duncan Jennings on the organ, Steve Simmons Bass soloist, Chris Eynon and Trevor Hearn; also the choir who gave up their time to rehearse and the new members we have welcomed into our fold. In September (date to be arranged) we will start rehearsals for our Christmas concert, new members welcomed. Further details in Shire nearer the time.

Judy Helme

The Strange An original story by Gil Osman

any, many long years ago, in primeval times, there stood a small settlement or village of twenty-two houses where Shirehampton village green now stands. It had no name, but was merely referred to as 'The Village'. The villagers' homes were very primitive, consisting of wattle-and-daub panels for the walls, bound together by beech-twine and supported by poles. The roofs, also supported by poles, had layers of hay, straw and fern on top of the wattle-and-daub panels, to keep the rain out and the heat in during the winter.

This long period in history was one of great change. It saw the end of the wandering hunter-gatherers and the beginning of the settled tribes. Some of the young male villagers kept up the tradition of the hunter, while older men, less fleet of foot, turned to animal husbandry, raising domesticated grazing animals (cattle, goats, sheep) which they tended, as a group of farmers, on local grassland.

Each single-roomed house had a fire in the centre, with a hole in the roof to let the smoke out. Everyone knew how to create fire by using flint to make a spark to ignite tinder, but generally the fire

was kept permanently going by using the embers and tinder every morning. Every house had some shelving made by the village wood-worker, where the clay cooking pots (this was pre-Iron Age) and wooden utensils were kept and food was out of the reach of scavengers.

The houses were scattered higgledy-piggledy about the village area, except for one, which was set apart from the others, at the edge of the local woodland. This was the house of 'The Strange'.

(To be continued)



THE PBA Community And Sports Hub

NEW OPENING TIMES

Mon 9am-11pm

Tues 9am-11pm

Wed 9am-11pm

Thurs 9am-11pm

Fri 9am-Late

Sat. 9am-Late

Sun 9am-11pm

The PBA Community and Sports hub is an inclusive, local community Charity, with its facilities on the banks of the River Avon, in Shirehampton village, Bristol. You don't need to be a member anymore, however a loyalty card has its many perks. Come on down and join us. With 8 acres of land and buildings the PBA is home to a range of sports teams, clubs, has a bar, ballroom, function rooms, a kitchen and is available to hire out for weddings, parties, business events, wakes, Christenings etc. For more information on bookings, prices and availability, please contact us.

Don't be a stranger, we are here to help! Come pick up a free packed lunch - no questions asked!

Fitness Classes

Tuesday

Zumba 7pm-8pm Legs, Bums & Tums 8pm-8:45pm

Thursday

Children age 5+ Dance Classes with Fusion Dance Academy 5

Every Wednesday It's BINGO TIME! 7.30pm start.

CONTACT

- **** 0117 982 3927
- ✓ info@pbaclub.co.uk
- Nibley Road, Shirehampton, Bristol,

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WHATS NEW?

Our new chairman Daniel Clifton and the new committee took over on 13th January 2022.

SINCE THEN WE HAVE SEEN MANY CHANGES TO THE CLUB:

- · Free hot meals for children during half term
- · Free packed lunches for children during term time
- New loyalty card scheme

NEW FOOD HOURS & MENU:

- Monday Wednesday we are open from 9am for tea coffee and toasties. Serving alcohol from 11am, evening menu served from 4pm - 8pm.
- Thursday Friday we are open 9am 2pm for tea, coffee, cooked breakfasts, breakfasts rolls & toasties . Serving alcohol from 11am, evening menu served from 4pm-8pm.
- Saturdays 9am 12pm cooked breakfast, breakfast rolls & toasties. Bar open from 11am, evening menu served from 12pm-8pm
- Sunday lunch menu served from 12pm-6pm. Roast on certain Sundays of the month.

WE NOW OFFER FOOD 7 DAYS A WEEK
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & SPECIAL EVENTS

We have regular live entertainment on a weekend at the club. Please pop in and take a look at our regularly updated events board or check out our facebook page.



CLIMATE CHANGE MAY 2022

Back at the beginning of April, the Shirehampton Climate Emergency Group hosted a talk on Climate Finance; Batteries, Buses and Bogs: the role of Banks in the net zero transition. Ludo Tolu, an environmental economist and former civil servant, told us that we would need up to six times the current investment to achieve the necessary transition to net zero carbon. So the question is, what incentives do big financial institutions have to invest in a green economy and what stops them from investing?

This is THE Important Question!

We've all seen the latest IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report. It makes clear that Climate Change is a MUCH more serious and immediate threat to us than the war in Ukraine and current fuel prices.

On April 4th Antonio Guiterrez, UN Secretary General, responded to the report saying:

"...most major emitters are not taking the steps needed to fulfil even these inadequate promises [to reduce carbon emissions].

Climate activists are sometimes depicted as dangerous radicals.

But the truly dangerous radicals are the countries that are increasing the production of fossil fuels.

Investing in new fossil fuels infrastructure is moral and economic madness."

Unfortunately **OUR** government's new energy strategy has simply ignored the report, choosing to **EXPAND** fossil fuel development when we **KNOW** that continuing to burn fossil fuels will bring disastrous climate change ever closer. The strategy says nothing about reducing our dependence on

fossil fuel by, for example, insulating our homes to prevent heat loss and ever higher heating bills.

The Secretary General has appealed to us all:

"But all of us can do our part.

We owe a debt to young people, civil society and indigenous communities for sounding the alarm and holding leaders accountable.

We need to build on their work to create a grassroots movement that cannot be ignored.

I am appealing directly to you:

Demand that renewable energy is introduced now - at speed and at scale.

Demand an end to coal-fired power.

Demand an end to all fossil fuel subsidies."

Sorry, due to printing deadlines we were unable to include an advert for the Climate Café which was held on Saturday 30th April at 10am-12noon where we discussed the role of fossil fuels on climate change and what we can do to reduce our use of them. Perhaps some of you were there. Next time I'll tell you about the ideas and actions we could take to reduce some of those demands.

Renée Slater

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

"What we do in the next 3-4 years will determine the future of humanity"

Prof. Sir David King 23rd September 2021

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CHANGE THE WORLD

This card has been produced by individuals who are concerned about the inaction of our leaders.

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,
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EVERY FLOWER COUNTS

Left alone to flower you may find clover, eyebright and daisy flowers blooming, all providing a feast of nectar for our hungry bees and other pollinators.

LET IT GROW

Plantlife's No Mow May campaign has been adopted by Bee Happy Shire and Bristol Council's Parks department to LET IT GROW on The Ridge amenity are. Please come and see all the flowers blooming for pollinators on The Ridge in May.









A rather dramatic and emotional event three days ago ended well thankfully! A neighbour came to the door with a beautiful baby blackbird in a small fishing net. It had landed in the garden of another neighbour after presumably just fledging. The startled neighbour miraculously scooped it up in said net, and then another neighbour asked if it could shelter in our back garden, as the visit had not gone unnoticed by the resident cats in the neighbourhood. With our completely enclosed rear garden and high walls, it seemed the safest place near its nest site.



I was very concerned, however, as I have two dogs of my own, plus my son's dog who is currently lodging with us! How to avoid any of them sniffing out the trespasser!

As luck would have it, I needn't have worried. Over the next couple of days, we saw nor heard anything of the wee mite. We assumed it had managed to fly out. However, we soon became aware that was far from the truth. On day three, as I was about to take the dogs out for a walk, I heard a strange bird call close to my side gate. You guessed it! The chick was hiding under the winter cover which housed our garden chairs!

Disturbed by our closeness, it erupted from underneath and flew towards the corner of the conservatory, then bolted across the lawn and disappeared behind the water feature. What to do? Throw some dry mealworms down I thought. This scared it again and it ended up with a short flight back across the garden, then, full of panic, made its last and final attempt to fly over the 6ft. wall and made it!! I checked outside after a few minutes and found no evidence of it. The parents had been coming into the area, especially the mate, so fingers crossed, all ended well for that chick who really wanted to survive!!

Happy Nature watching!

Bobbie





TYNINGS FIELD NEWS

The field is recovering from the winter weather as the sun moves heavily in the sky towards summer and the soil temperature rises. Luckily the only damage was to one of the greenhouses. Caroline was out in the storm making sure things stayed put.

The Geese and chickens are relaxed and happy this year, they have been managed well by **Caroline** and new member **Jeremy** and, as a result, we have had goose eggs and many chicken eggs for sale this year which are popular for the local people to enjoy. Nearly all of the vegetable plots are well underway with cultivation and planting up. We have welcomed some enthused members who are keen to start work.

The orchard is in spring bud and we were donated 7 new, unusually tiny apple trees on various rootstock from **Forest of Avon** with varieties such as Underleaf, Worcester Cross and Ashton Bitter grafted onto rootstock from the old **Long Ashton Research Centre** (now closed). The **National Fruit Collection** which is growing in the orchard after 12 years is well established but needing

updating. Caroline and **Ed and Vicky** have also planted at least 20 new hazel and crab apple trees in the orchard and hedge. We await what summer will bring us, such as a bounty of vegetables, fruit and eggs and an area of wild flowers.

We have one small to medium plot area left which needs starting ASAP. Would you like to join in a collective of growers working with one goal, living off the land and keeping it local? What is required of members? You would need to participate in group workdays a few times a year on maintaining the field and orchard, and time on your plot to cultivate and grow vegetables, usually one day a week.

WILD BIRDS

Where is the Robin,
Who shot the Robin?
I said the Sparrow
With my bow and arrow.
I shot the Robin.



Lawrence Weston Community Farm

Please do not come to the farm if you feel unwell or are experiencing other symptoms of Covid-19.



Knit and Natter

Tuesdays 10am-12pm • £3 NEW!

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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.

Woodland and Orchard Club

Thursdays 10-11.30am • FREE

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

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 9381128 or helen@lwfarm.org.uk

Chelsea Fringe 2022

Saturday 21st May

We will be participating in the **Chelsea Fringe Festival, with Bristol Food Network**. We'll be selling freshly made farm soup and will have bedding plants, fruits, herbs and vegetable seedlings for sale. More details to be confirmed soon....

Volunteering

If you'd like to help look after the animals or maintain the farm please contact Ian on 0117 9381128 or ian@lwfarm.org.uk. Come and meet new people and have fun outdoors.

Tynings Field Golden Eggs

At Tynings Field Community we always eat well. Our chickens are well cared for by experienced people.

A goose egg makes a broken Omelette or a simple scrambled egg with homegrown spinach.

If you would like to try our local fresh eggs, give us a call. Or if you would like a vegetable plot, we have just one area available.

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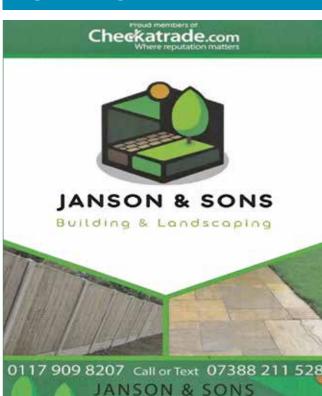


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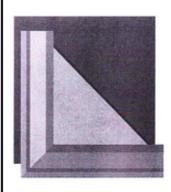
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SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON % . A . A . M.

City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

Mothering Sunday March 27th saw 28 bowlers and families set off for another highly enjoyable Bowling Break at the Toorak Hotel in Torquay.



The Bowling Break in Torquay March 2022.

Not only two hours bowling each day from Monday to Thursday on the four rink arena within the hotel complex but much more, including an evening at the **Babbacombe Theatre** to see the very entertaining and colourful Starlight Show and an evening of **Ten Pin Bowling** on the four lane facility in the hotel's games room. For those who enjoy a game of **Bingo** there was a session each evening and entertainment to follow in the splendid **Starlight Room**.

There is always plenty of time to explore Torquay and the surrounding area; the Model Village at Babbacombe, others headed for Paignton, the steam hauled train to Kingswear and onward by ferry to Dartmouth. From there you can take an enjoyable cruise on the River Dart including seeing Agatha Christie's House. Some bowlers visited the picturesque village of Cockington, while others headed to Totnes to see the South Devon Steam Railway.

The bowling started well with a win against **Devizes** on Monday morning. Tuesday's opponents were local club **Kingsteighton** who proved to be a harder proposition, winning by nine

shots overall. The final two games of the week were against **Wellington**. On Wednesday the game was very close; Wellington won by just two shots but on Thursday their winning margin was much greater. However, bowling is not all about the result; it's about the enjoyment of meeting other bowlers and exchanging tales of bowling from other places.

Thursday evening presentations were made by organisers Dee Crawley and Gill Hinksman and everybody went away with something. Captains for the week, Bill and Ray Cook, David



First day bowling — Ken Davies and Alan Coulstring on the green.

Hinksman and Howard Surman were first to be thanked. The highest winning rink for the week was Howard Surman who was also top individual man, Dave Chilcott, Ken Davies and Janet Reed, who was also top individual lady. Ray Cook made a presentation to the organisers, on behalf of the bowlers and their families, for all the hard work that goes into organising the break.

Ten Pin Bowling followed later in the evening which was well supported and great fun as usual. **Irene Whitfield** and Ken Davies were this year's winners.



Gill Gibson who sadly passed away in March seen here doing something she enjoyed. Selling raffle tickets at last seasons Finals Weekend.

It was with great sadness that the club heard of the passing of Gill Gibson, at home on March 14th. Gill was booked to be on the Bowling Break which she enjoyed so much last October. She was for many years a bowler at Avonmouth but joined City and Port about three years ago and has been a very keen and enthusiastic member who, amongst other things, loved doing the raffle and encouraging people to have a go at it. She will be very much missed by all who knew her.

Junior bowling will return on **Wednesday 4th May at 6pm**. All children and young people are welcome.

The club is taking part in the **Bowls Big Weekend** with an open day on Sunday May 29th at a time to be advised. Come and have a try at bowling!

The **Big Band Night on Thursday April 7th** was a great success but more about it in the next edition of Shire.

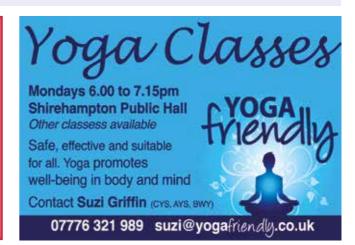
For further information about the club and its activities please call David Hinksman on 07932 387217.



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News from ShireStrong Kettlebell Club

We are a small club of enthusiastic members who get together 3 times a week to work on our endurance and strength using kettlebells. Membership is open to all ages and abilities. Kettlebells are easy to use once you have had some instruction and have enormous benefits.

During the past month the members of the club have concentrated on their technique for the kettlebell swing aiming to improve their technique and, by doing this, swinging a heavier bell. The kettlebell swing is a full body exercise that works almost every part of your body. Swinging a kettlebell will also strengthen many muscles very quickly, improve balance and posture and burn calories and fat.

New members this month are **Louise White** and **Vicky Willshire** who are really enjoying their journey so far.





Member of the Month, Clare O'Shea.

The Club Member of the Month for March is **Clare O'Shea**. Clare attended all but 1 of the sessions during March and incorporated this with changes to her nutritional habits.

If you are interested in joining our supportive and friendly club then please don't hesitate to get in touch. Tel: 07875 054 292. Email: t.linda1206@gmail.com or go to www.shirestrong.co.uk



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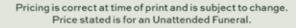
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Charity Head and Beard Shave

There was a charity Head and Beard Shave at the Avonmouth Tavern on Saturday, 2nd of April to raise money for Young Minds. Tom Warren, who started growing his hair and beard at the start of the first lockdown 2 years ago, volunteered to have a complete head and beard shave for the charity.

So far, over £2000 has been collected and pledges are still coming in. We would like to thank Ange from the Avonmouth Tavern for hosting the event, Tom Warren for volunteering, Chico for doing the cutting and shaving, Chappy for supplying and cooking chicken wings for people to buy for the charity and, of course, all the people who donated so generously.

Here are some pictures from before, during and after.







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