

Shire

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

No. 614 - March 2023 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.

**JTE
Hub Job Fair**
- Page 16

**Window
Wanderland**
- Pages 11 & 18

Litter Pick On The Cotswold Estate

A group of local residents, including members of the Cotswold Community Association and the Shirehampton Climate Emergency Group, were fed up with the amount of litter which has accumulated over the last few months on the Estate, particularly along the river bank and around the Nibley Road open space.

It's also a problem around the **Hung Road** area where litter has blown down from the **Portway**. Around twenty of us took to the streets and fields and collected over 25 bags of litter in just over an hour. We shall do this on a regular basis as we really don't want this blight on our community.

On top of this, there has been an escalation of **fly-tipping** on, what looks like, an industrial scale, the most blatant example being in lower **Woodwell Road**, where a lorry load was tipped into the middle of the road, in broad daylight! The perpetrating vehicle (see page 4) was captured on camera and identified, however the number plates were changed soon afterwards. The council were

quickly alerted to this and the road was cleared within a few hours, thankfully. If you come across any clear cases of fly-tipping, there is a website to report it, it's usually cleared within a couple of days: <https://bristolcouncil.powerappsportals.com/Waste/reportflytipping-024/> - the council will prosecute if the perpetrators can be identified.



© John Hastings

The Cotswold Community Association have a few litter pick grabbers and other equipment which we're more than happy to loan out, contact either cotswoldca@gmail.com or ring 07943 401575. Ash Bearman, in the SCAF Office, also has equipment for local groups to borrow, and also leads a monthly litter pick on Thursday mornings around Shire (see page 10 for more details). Contact 0117 982 9963.



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More photos on page 8.

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March 2023

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 - SUPPER CLUB - THAI
Thursday 9th March from 6.30pm
 - ST PATRICKS DAY
Friday 17th March from 6.30pm
 - MOTHERING SUNDAY ROAST
Sunday 19th March - Bookings Essential
 - SUPPER CLUB - KIWI
Thursday 23rd March from 6.30pm
 - ALL YOU CAN EAT RIBS
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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 MARCH

NATIONAL HIV TESTING WEEK

People can live with HIV for years before having any symptoms. Testing for HIV is free and easy, anyone in England can order a free HIV test from the free testing website: <https://freetesting.hiv/>

In Bristol, free HIV tests can also be picked up from the vending machines at Watershed and Hamilton House. Rather than waiting weeks for a result, tests can be done in the comfort of your own home with just minutes to wait before finding out your HIV status.

COVID-19 BOOSTER

After Sunday 12 February, it will not be possible to get a COVID-19 booster.

First and second dose COVID-19 vaccinations for anyone who has not completed their primary course of COVID-19 vaccination will still be offered after this date.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS

There are organisations across Bristol that offer help and support to anyone affected by sexual violence and abuse.

Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support (SARSAS) offer free and confidential freephone helpline and live chat service, e-support, counselling, 1:1 support and group work. Visit the SARSAS website (www.sarsas.org.uk/), or call the free SARSAS helpline on **0808 801 0456** or **0808 801 0464**, Monday and Friday from 11am to 2pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6pm to 8pm.

The Bridge offer help after rape and sexual assault. For free and confidential advice, visit The Bridge website (www.thebridgecanhelp.org.uk/), or call the free helpline on **0117 342 6999** available 24/7.

Next Link provide support services, and can help arrange emergency accommodation, for people who have experienced domestic or sexual abuse. Call **0117 925 0680** from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday, or visit the Next Link website (<https://nextlinkhousing.co.uk/>) for more information.

If you or someone you know is or has been a victim of sexual violence and abuse, report it to the police. Information is available on the Bristol City Council Website (www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/crime-and-emergencies/abuse-and-violence). You are not alone!

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

These past few months have been tough for so many as prices of essentials continue to rise.

Remember, you are not alone. If you are struggling to put food on the table or to pay your energy bills, please reach out. If you just need some basic advice around money management and budgeting, please reach out. **You do not need to be in crisis before asking for support, it's better to ask the questions and get advice before you get to that point.** There is cost of living advice and signposting on the Bristol City Council website or you can call **0800 694 0184** for free between 8:30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Don't forget about Bristol's network of Welcoming Spaces too. There are 94 open across the city. They are places for you to keep warm, socialise with others and access support. Find out more and where your nearest one is on the Bristol City Council website: www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/people-and-communities/cost-of-living-support

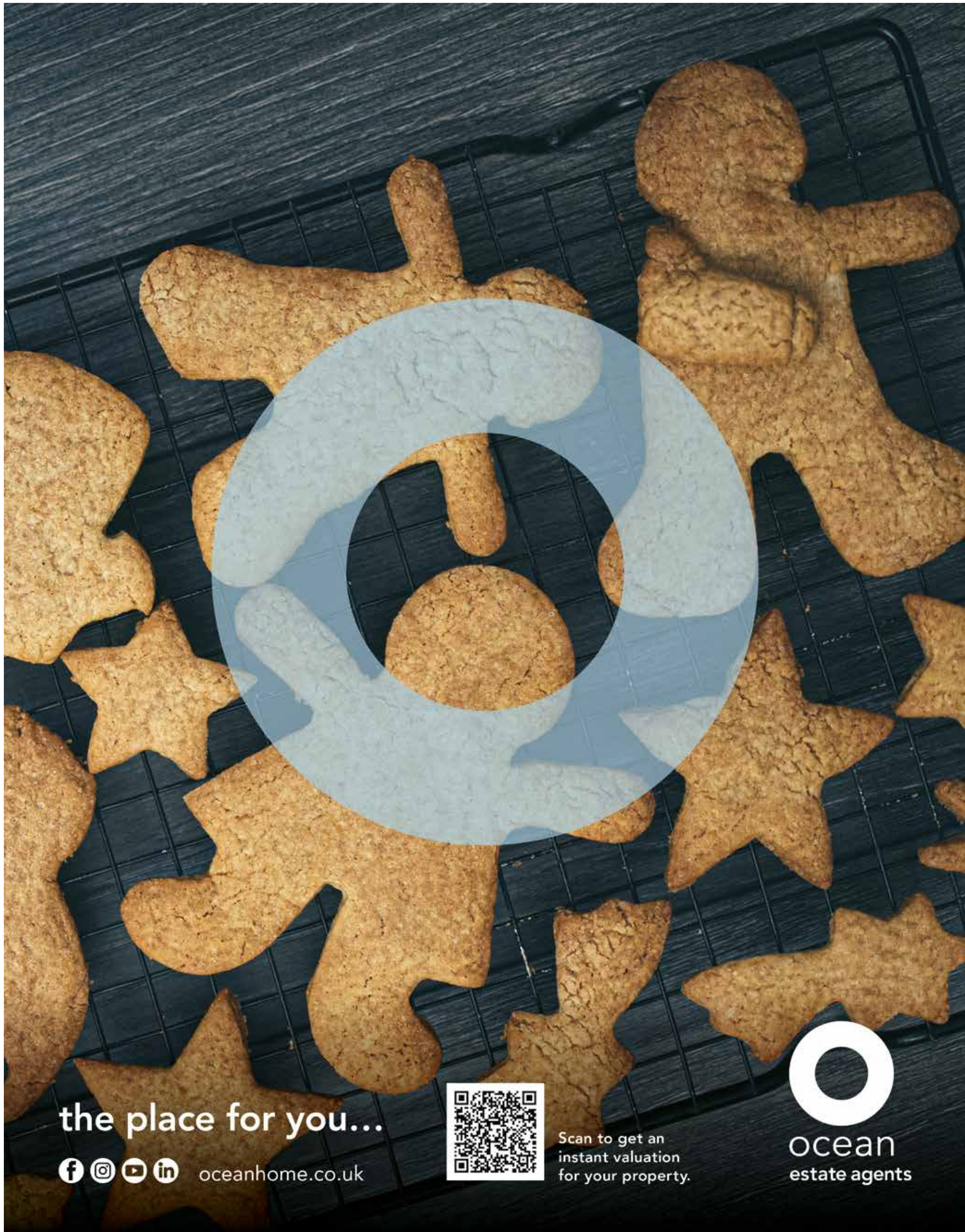
COST OF LIVING DROP-IN ADVICE SESSIONS

A number of organisations are running advice drop-in sessions in venues across the city to support residents during the cost of living crisis.

If you're in need of some housing advice, or guidance on dealing with the cost of living crisis and rising energy costs, visit the Housing Matters website to find out where and when you can drop-in: <https://housingmatters.org.uk/drop-in-sessions/>

Citizens Advice Bristol advice assistants are on hand at several of the city's Welcoming Spaces to provide practical guidance around benefits, money, debt and energy. Citizen's Advice Bristol website can signpost you to specialist legal advice if you need more assistance: www.bristolcab.org.uk/get-advice/cost-of-living/

Changes Bristol provide both online and face-to-face advice sessions to support your mental health and emotional wellbeing. Visit Changes Bristol online for more information on their services: <https://changesbristol.org.uk/support/support-groups/find-a-group/>



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The *Shire* Community Pages

Fly-Tip On Woodwell Road

Woodwell Road was fly-tipped on both sides. The road was blocked completely at one end and partly at the Portway this happened between 2pm and 7.30pm, by persons unknown, in a white flat truck. The truck was captured on CCTV, we need to link this truck it to its owners to help the council investigation.

Does any one have any information about whose rubbish this is? Is it yours? Did you pay someone, if so, who?

It is **illegal and dangerous** to people, animals and wildlife, but also not right if you leave this problem to communities and sites of scientific interest. **It costs the taxpayer!**

Other areas fly-tipped were **Blaise and Leigh Woods**, we don't know if this is the work of the same gang. Illegal tipping is becoming a known organised crime.

We believe the lorry captured on CCTV was sold last year, and was seen in **Penpole Rd** by the **Caretakers House** at 1pm on the same day it arrived at **Woodwell Rd** just after 2pm.

It contained oil which we think was collected from a **Henleaze Road take away** on the Sunday previously.

This lorry has been seen in the area driven by two dark haired men possibly without Bristol accents.

As a community we see more of the difficulties surrounding waste disposal, the expense, the problem

of an eco-mafia, a crime against our environment, it is not right to leave the issue on the community doorstep as much of the cardboard and glass could have been recycled normally.

Please if you have information on this send a message. Please send us any information to Councillor Don Alexander or email carolinepennyp@gmail.com.

Anonymity guaranteed.



Was seen in Penpole Road at 1pm on 31st Jan driven two men with foreign accents. It was also seen collecting oil from a chip shop in Henleaze Road on the Sunday afternoon before.

Dursley Road Bus Terminus

Back in April/May 2022 “Shire” reported that we were speaking to Bristol City Council about installing a shelter at the bus terminus in Dursley Road.

Following consultation with BCC and local councillors it was decided that this would not be feasible due to the lack of pavement space and difficulties with disabled access.

Cotswold Community Centre Committee



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LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR

We especially enjoy spreading community news 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.

LOCAL AUTHOR RESEARCHES THE SHIRE WAR HORSE REMOUNT DEPOT

Dear Editor,

I am researching the **First World War Remount Depot in Shire**. I know that from time-to-time objects from the Remount turn up in people's gardens, e.g., horse or mule shoes. I'd be very pleased if any are found please email richardc.yb@gmail.com or on 07899 041400.

Richard Coates

THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS

Dear Editor,

I should like to thank **Jan** for finding my wallet and returning it to my door intact. I very much regret that in the surprise of the moment I did not offer him a thank you reward, but I have now donated the cash contents of my wallet to charity.

Colin

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT'S DUE

Dear Editor,

Thank you so much for printing our article about **Shirehampton Primary School's Christmas Fair**. It was a lovely page full of beautiful photographs. Unfortunately, when we sent in our article and photographs we forgot to credit our brilliant photographer **Lisa-Erin Photography**. Please could you include a notice of amendment in your March edition, and if possible could the photographs on your online PDF version of the paper please be amended so that they credit Lisa-Erin Photography?

Many Thanks.

Lucy Bradley (Secretary)

Friends of Shirehampton Primary School

SHIRE COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

PLAYOUT SCHEME

Dear neighbours and friends in Shire. Penpole Avenue is seeking to close our street once a month during the summer for the Children to be able to play out and not worry about the traffic going up and down.

The application we have made is part of scheme called Play Out. The closures would be **Sunday from 2-5 pm on the first Sunday of the month - starting in April.**

The closure would be from **Number 2 Penpole Ave to the junction with The Ridge**. We hope this does not create any major disruption for anyone.

Thank you in advance for your support and consideration for the safety of the residents in our street.

Jan Wilson

TYNINGS FIELD COMMUNITY GROUP

One large plot is available in Tynings Field Community Group for the growing of Veg. There's also an orchard.

We are a smallholding in BS11 9UG. You will also be required to cut grass and work with the team of growers.

Tel 07885 699701.

Caroline Penny

PUBLIC HALL CARETAKER RETIRES

Shire would like to thank Neil for all the help he has given to Shire activities in the Public Hall and wish him well for the future.

The Shire Committee

Family Announcements

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Linda x x

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

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



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High Street Market

The High Street Market opened its doors to 2023 on Thursday 2nd February. Many customers said it was good to have the High Street Market open again after a short break.

For a winter's day that constantly threatened rain, this did not deter the local communities making their visit to this monthly event.

The next **High Street Market** on **Thursday 2nd March** at the **Tithe Barn** will see some additional stalls added to the range they already have with an expansion outdoors.

There will be the **Easter Market** to look forward to on **Thursday 7th April** where arts and crafts, garden games, D.I.Y face painting, along with colouring pictures, crosswords, sudoku and word searches will be available to all ages, yes including adults too. And there will be the **Easter Character Hunt** throughout the High Street. Many of the local shops and businesses will be taking part and all you have to do is find the character names and where they are. You can then return to the Market with completed form to collect your bag of sweets.

On the **Saturday 29th April** there will be a special event taking place at the **Public Hall**, Station Road, Shirehampton, BS11 9TU. "**King Charles III Coronation Celebration**" will be taking place

between **10am until 3pm**. There will be plenty of stalls and activities taking place that day and it will be a great family day out for all ages. Like both our venues they are also disability friendly. There will be an **environmental/nature/royal celebration character hunt** throughout the High Street too.

Volunteers are still needed to join **Shirehampton Markets** in particular for the **Saturday Community Fayres** and special events they run to secure their future. As with many local activities volunteers form an important role within the community.

The High Street Markets take place at the Tithe Barn, High Street, Shirehampton, Bristol, BS11 0DE the first Thursday of every month from 10am until 3pm.

If you want to become a volunteer you can call: 0117 9829963 and leave a message or email: shirehamptonmarkets@outlook.com or leave a message via their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/shirehamptonmarkets



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The Platinum Jubilee Celebration last year.

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Litter Pick On The Cotswold Estate

Continued from page 1.



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SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2023

The new year has filled the Public Hall with new activities such as Music with Mummy, the Model Railway Exhibition, the resurrection of the Stamp Fair and lots of renovation innovations since the completion of the roof! The new Bradley Room (former library staff room) is nearly complete, with new décor, flooring, toilet facilities and soon to have new furniture and a small kitchenette. Many, many thanks to all the volunteers and trustees involved with this, from applying for grants to actual hands-on painting, decorating and DIY skills. Our next project – a new kitchen (we hope!).

I was reminded recently that not everyone can access the internet or social media, so my sincerest apologies for the tardiness of this appreciation, however the **Co-op** has made a substantial donation to the Public Hall during the past twelve months through the generosity of their membership card scheme. A total of **£4333.83** was presented to Hall trustees before Christmas – a huge thanks to all who used their Co-op membership to support us, and also to the Co-op themselves. Your donations mean so much to us.

Were you aware that the Hall is a designation **Warm Space?** Especially on a **Thursday morning**, please feel free to pop in for a cuppa

and a chat with our **Shirehampton Art and Social Group**. You don't need to be arty, or bring any art if you don't want to – just come along for a friendly social!

The **Gardening Volunteers Group** which meets in the **Hall garden** from **10am on the first Saturday of the month** will start 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?!



© Shirehampton Public Hall/Co-operative Group Limited

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

Lawrence Weston & Shirehampton

Out of School Activities

MANAGER (PART TIME)

Reporting to: LWOOSA/SOOSA Voluntary Management Committee

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

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

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

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

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



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Lawrence Weston & Shirehampton

Out of School Activities

BANK PLAYWORKERS

Reporting to: LWOOSA/SOOSA Voluntary Management Committee

Salary: Dependent on age and experience

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

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

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

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The Big One!



© Sarah Mitchell

We learned at the end of January, too late for the February Shire, that the latest attempt to reverse the government's decision on expansion of Bristol airport had failed. The decision was not a surprise, but it IS incomprehensible. BAAN immediately announced it would seek leave to take the decision to the Court of Appeal and opened a crowd funder. Within three days they raised more than the £4,000 needed to seek leave to Appeal.

It's because of climate destroying decisions like this that ordinary people who already do so much to care for our environment are deciding to take action the government **CANNOT** ignore. A broad coalition of Climate groups is organizing **The Big One, a legal, peaceful mass demonstration** of thousands of people at the Houses of Parliament on 21st April.

The Shirehampton Climate Group is joining with Christian Climate Action to encourage as many people as possible to take part in this inclusive national action. We will demand that the government make good on its promises and take urgent action to reduce carbon emissions **NOW**. *It is so important that we all understand that*

climate change will bring catastrophic changes to all our lives. The Climate Group will be engaging with faith communities in Shirehampton to raise awareness of just how serious the climate situation is. We want to offer opportunities for people to talk together about how they see the climate crisis and the essential transition to a low carbon, fossil fuel free world. We need to imagine that world together.

If you'd like to know more about the April action or the Climate Group you can come to our next meeting Tuesday March 14th or contact us at: m.renee.slater@outlook.com

Renee Slater

Shirehampton Conservation Area Now Adopted

Many of the existing Bristol Conservation Area enhancement statements are hitting their 30th anniversary this year, including that for Shirehampton.



For the last three years we've been working on a revised **Shirehampton Conservation Area Character Appraisal**, including a substantial extension of the boundary of the area. This week we finally got it across the line with the delegated decision signed-off. We're working to have the website updated to include it as a current policy document, and **Pinpoint** and **Know Your Place** will also be amended to reflect the new boundary.

A copy of the newly adopted Character Appraisal can be found on the Council website. The area is significantly expanded, so please take your time in reviewing the new extent as the area has almost doubled since the original 1993 enhancement statement.

Spring into Action for Nature

Saturday 11th March

Please join Bee Happy Shire, Shire Greens & Neighbours for Nature for a

HEDGE PLANTING PARTY

10AM to 12 midday on Penpole Lane where it joins Lower High Street
All Welcome
Tools provided

Let's get Shire Blooming for Nature ☺

SHIRE COMMUNITY LITTER PICKS

Meet 10.30am at Shire Public Hall on the 3rd Thursday of every month & tidy for 1 hour

Thursday 16th March & Thursday 20th April

Contact: Ash Bearman at SCAF on 0117 982 9963 or email ash@shirecaf.org.uk

Nature Notes

I hope these symbols of Spring will do themselves much more justice than my attempts at photography! I popped into the garden to snap my snowdrops, only to see that my little clump of crocuses had bloomed!



© Bobbie Perkins

Other signs of spring have become apparent too! An early walk with the dogs on the river bank recently, resulted in my listening to the matchless song of a newly arrived thrush, and as I walked a bit further, a Robin played his unmistakable chorus too!

The sparrows, tits and jackdaws are enjoying coming to our feeders, with the pigeons and blackbirds hovering up on the ground.

I spotted a pair of feral pigeons on a neighbours roof just a day ago, as they billed, cooed and bowed to each other. The mating followed, was over quite quickly, and they then toddled off, side by side with their heads bobbing in unison!

Fingers crossed we will see an explosion of colour and activity over the next few weeks, so happy nature watching folks!

Bobbie

Yoga Classes

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JTE hub

WINDOW WANDERLAND Shirehampton

Saturday 11th till Monday 13th March 2023

- A fun community event that everyone can join in
- Take part in a unique event lit up by displays in local windows & gardens
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windowwanderland.com



New Move, New Look for Luigi's Barber Shop

You may have noticed that Luigi's Barber Shop has moved to 30 High Street in Shirehampton. "With my original shop the Landlord was putting the rent up and I felt I would have to move to make a decent living'. This shop building came up for sale so I bought it. I am now my own boss with my own shop. It makes my life a little easier because my overheads are a lot lower." said Luigi.

"I have been here, in Shirehampton for over 10 years and I do have a loyal customer base and I'm happy where I'm at. I wanted to stay on the High Street and in the long term I will continue cutting hair and doing a good job just as I have done for the last 10 years or so".

I asked Luigi about the cost of living crisis and the rents being charged for the High Street shop units. "The Landlords are asking too much for the rents pricing many small business out of the market and then there are overheads like gas and electric that

have increased in recent months. All that makes it less appealing for anyone who wants to open a business."

"The thing is, I think I'm lucky as I am in that trade where people will always need to have their hair cut, but for others they are going to find it difficult in the next few months, even years due to the major increases with the cost of living crisis." said Luigi.

And what about the changes in the High Street today, have they been beneficial especially where Bristol City Council is concerned?

"We don't have a big enough store like Asda, Lidl or Aldi to bring customers into the village. I think we've lost a lot of customers to our High Street over the years. The Original Factory Shop brought a lot of customers into the village and now that's gone we don't seem to have that many people shopping in the High Street. Even the latest scheme by Bristol City Council to support and encourage more people to shop local has had very little impact. I don't think that many people knew about it. If you are online then people might see it but if you are of the older generation then they wouldn't know about it. I just don't think the council do what they say they are going to do."

"We need the vacant shops filled rather than the High Street looking empty and derelict and we certainly need a store like Asda or Lidl to get more people shopping in the village" added Luigi.

Kathryn Courtney



They take appointments online as well as walk-in's for haircuts, beard trims, hot towel, skin and face treatments.

Luigi's Barber Shop can now be found at 30 High Street, Shirehampton, BS11 0DL. Telephone: 0117 2390675.

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/Luigis-Barber-Shop/362591760801540

Book appointments online: booksy.com/en-gb/40119_luigis-barbershop_barber-shop_1033813_bristol

© Kathryn Courtney

Drop in for info on how to reduce your energy bills.



Tithe Barn Market

Thursday 2nd March
10 am until 3 pm

Find out about about how to talk to energy companies, and top tips on saving energy and get ready for next winter



Drop in for info on how to reduce your energy bills.



Tithe Barn Market

Thursday 6th April
10 am until 3 pm

Find out about about how to talk to energy companies, and top tips on saving energy and get ready for next winter



Please see the Public Hall and JTE Hub notices for other dates and for information hubs in your local area for Energy Support.

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Saturday April 29th 7:30pm

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Churches in the Shirehampton Area

St Mary's News

Hi Folks!

March is here at last so Spring is in the air and the extra hour of light in the evening means Winter is behind us! Well, we are well and truly into the season of Lent which leads us onward to that wonderful Festival of Easter in early April. I can picture already in my mind the sight of Daffodils decorating the church.

First of all I must tell you what a wonderful **Winter Concert** was given by the **West Bristol Concert Band** at the end of **January**. It was no doubt the best Concert they have ever given, reminiscent of professional Brass Bands like the **Grimethorpe Colliery Band**. The music was such that it was bound to have suited all tastes. Do I hear a rumour they may come again later in the Summer? I sincerely hope so!

Trinity College, Stoke Bishop invites you to an evening celebration on **Worship - Teaching - Ministry - with Guest Speaker - Mike Palavachi**. This will be held in **St Mary's, Stoke Bishop, on Wednesday 8th March 2023**. Doors open at **6.30pm for 7.00pm Start**. This is a **free event**, please book your tickets on - www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/493745665577.

Mothering Sunday this year falls on the **19th March**. There will be no **Rise and Shine** service that day, but at **10.00am** we welcome you to our **Cafe Church service**, so please come to this very informal and relaxed service.

Now as promised last month - here are the details of the **Lent Sessions** provided by the **Avonside Mission Area churches**. They all start with **Refreshments at 7.00pm** followed at **7.30pm to 8.45pm for discussion and discipleship**.

1st March - St Peter's, Lawrence Weston

8th March - special event hosted by Trinity College at St Mary's, Stoke Bishop (please see above)

15th March - St Edyth's, Sea Mills

22nd March - St Mary's, Stoke Bishop

29th March - St Mary's, Shirehampton

Palm Sunday this year falls on the **2nd April**, when we celebrate the arrival of **Jesus into Jerusalem** on the back of a donkey and palm leaves were spread out on the road before him. **Palm Crosses** will be distributed as usual during the morning service.

From **Monday 3rd to Wednesday 5th April**, step into our time machine at **St Mary's Church** and experience the **Biblical world of Jesus** - journey with him through our interactive and sensory **Easter**



Maze! This is open **10am - 1pm** on the **Monday and Tuesday**, where you can explore this world on a more reflective level and get refreshments during those times too. The **Wednesday opening is at 3 - 6pm**, providing a livelier session to give children and families the chance to explore this world in interactive and sensory ways - just drop in and discover tunnels, twists & turns and much more, again with refreshments available.

There is **no 11am Holy Communion Service** at St Mary's on **Thursday 6th April** as we will be attending the **Maundy Thursday service at Bristol Cathedral**.

Now my March piece of stupidity - here it comes. Question: What do you call a jacket that's on fire? Answer: A Blazer!!

'Bye for now!

C.M.E.

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CHICO THE BARBER

MY NEIGHBOUR IS SO INCONSIDERATE HE HAD THE NERVE TO KNOCK ON MY DOOR AT 3am IN THE MORNING! IT WAS LUCKY I WAS STILL AWAKE AND PRACTISING MY BAGPIPES

CHICO'S BARBER SHOP, 22 HIGH STREET SHIREHAMPTON, BRISTOL

Shirehampton Baptist Church News

There are several important days in March, among them Saint David's Day, Saint Patrick's Day, Mother's Day and March 20th marks the start of the Spring Season in the Northern Hemisphere.

Most Churches in UK observe **Mothering Sunday** which has been celebrated since the Middle Ages when people went back to their home or **Mother Churches** on the **fourth Sunday in Lent**.

We in the **Non-Conformist Churches** usually mark the Day, and in **Shire Baptist** we give a small bunch of flowers to every lady in the congregation.

We will pray, thanking **God** for our own mothers and also for mothers who are struggling due to poverty, sickness or violence.

During **March** our **Rock Steady Club** will be working on drama, music, art and a puppet show for our **Easter Open Evening** on **March 23rd**.

Any one of Primary School age would be welcome to come along (There are still some roles). Parents are welcome to stay and have tea or coffee together while the children prepare.

The next **'Songs of Praise Cafe'** will be **March 12th**. You will be most welcome and we always have an interesting programme. **Joan Call** will continue telling us about her amazing time in **Uganda** and we will learn about a charity or favourite book and sing a few chosen songs not forgetting refreshments.

Our next **Life Cafe** will be on **Thursday March 30th, 10:30am to 12 noon**. Do join us for drinks and delicious cakes, why not bring a friend.

It has been good to see some younger folk at our **Sunday Morning service**. This is a big encouragement to those who have served for many years but are getting older. We meet every **Sunday at 10:30am** and there is a **Zoom Bible study at 4:30pm** Why not join us one Sunday. You will be given a warm welcome.

Trust March will be a good month for us all.

We meet at 4:45pm until 6pm at the **Cotswold Community Hall, Dursley Road** and **Rock Steady club** meets in our Church building every **Thursday term time 3:30pm to 4:30pm**, **Life cafe** in our Church building.

Love and prayers from **Shirehampton Baptist Church, Station Road**. Contact phone 07743 683681 or email rhodespaul.360@gmail.com

Hello from Shire Methodist

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

We will hold **Morning Worship** each Sunday in our church building from 11am. The first Sunday is planned to be a guest preacher, the second is **All-Age Worship**, the third is **Holy Communion**, and the fourth will be a more informal event with coffee and conversation.

As well as welcoming everyone to our **Morning Worship**, we would love to welcome you to any of the events hosted by our **Jobs, Training and Enterprise Hub**. You may be interested in the **free movie nights** that are held every other **Tuesday evening** or the **weekly board game evenings**, also held on **Tuesdays**. There are many opportunities for volunteering your time and skills at the Hub, to help people in our community. We'd love to hear from you.

Our **Welcome Space** is still open every **Monday and Thursday from 3.30pm until 8pm**. Come along to save a bit of money on your heating, use our electricity to charge your phone, have a snack, just relax or join in a craft activity.

We now have a successful community fridge in our building. We have surplus food for free, from shops

including our local **Co-op** and **Redland Bakery**. Come along on **Mondays to Thursdays** if you would like some bread, fruit or veg.

We are looking forward to the **Articles of Faith Exhibition** being held at **Victoria Methodist Church on Whiteladies Road** throughout **March**. This is an exhibition from the widely acclaimed **Methodist Modern Art Collection** with artefacts from other faith traditions.

See www.vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk or more information. This will be a fascinating chance to consider where the paths of Christianity and other faiths meet regarding themes such as hope, suffering, justice and peace, life and death, and compassion.

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

Everyone at Shire Methodist



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

REGULAR EVENTS

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

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

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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The Jobs, Training and Enterprise Hub at Shire Methodist Church

The Hub has been very busy lately. There is our next Jobs Fair on 28th March - look for details on our poster and social media. On top of our core work around helping people prepare for or find work, we have started regular Hot-desking slots for people who prefer to 'work from home' somewhere warmer or who need Wi-fi etc.. We always had this offer in our work, but now it is on regular slots in the week. There are still family activities in the School holidays and evening clubs for board games or gaming Dungeons and dragons, plus the fortnightly films.

Bristol City Council via Quartet and Nisbets have been generously funding the warm Welcome Spaces on Monday and Thursday afternoons 3.30 - 8pm with crafts, food, hot drinks, films/ TV and mobile phone charging etc. The Welcome Spaces were intended to run till the end of the first week of March, but we now have some additional funding from Bristol City Churches Fund so watch this space for further opening hours and check Facebook, or Instagram. Community Learning (BCC) has more courses starting coming soon, designed to help folks with finding jobs and up-skilling. Keep an eye out for these. There was a wonderful Christmas Community Lunch where over 60 people had a

free meal. The Job Centre provided presents and essential household goods free too.

Another success since the Autumn has been our Community Fridge. Most days when we are open the Co-op in Shire, the Bakery, still called Redland, provide food that would otherwise be thrown out that is still in date. While this food is free and for anyone and indeed it will take good food from any source including households. The week before I wrote this however over 100 people popped in for such food. There is no referral needed, but we do ask that people take no more than they need. We have most goods on a trolley but we also have use of a large fridge freezer provided courtesy of Nisbets

funding that also paid for the additional equipment we needed for Christmas lunch and the Welcome Space. Come and find the Community Fridge, Monday to Thursdays and ring the bell if the white double doors are not open. Finally, there is a new partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau, who have been training our Coordinator Darren, in Cost of Living Advice. Please do pop in if you need help with this and if you are unsure whether you may be entitled to other benefits or allowances.

Please look out for posters, banners on the High St/ Penpole Ave and Social media for up-to-date information on all our activities. Twitter and Facebook - @shirejtehub and Instagram - Shire JTE

Email: projectcoordinator@jtehubshire.org to register interest in any of the above, or for a one-one appointment to discuss your needs.

Also Tel. 07305066478 or check the Website - <https://jtehubshire.org/>

Revd Pearl Luxon

Job Fair
Tuesday March 28th
11am - 1pm

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THE METHODIST CHURCH,
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Shirehampton JTE Hub

Every Thursday 3pm - 5pm
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Want to volunteer?
If you're interested in becoming a Wellbeing Group facilitator, please email:
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For more information contact:
changesbristol.org.uk
0117 941 1123

SCAN ME

An Update from Darren Jones MP, Bristol North West

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

Bristol City Council has had to pass a difficult budget this month. Once again, the council grant from Westminster to Bristol does not cover the rising costs of pay energy and service delivery. Because of that, we've seen another increase in council tax – not just to pay for council services, but to pay for social care, police and fire services, too.

It has also meant that the Council has had to raise money in other ways, including by expanding **car parking charges to council-owned car parks that are currently free**. For us in Shire, which means the car park behind the **GP surgery** will see parking charges introduced from the autumn. I understand these new charges will be £1 an hour, unless you're a **Blue Badge holder**.

I don't want to see this happen, and I tried to stop it from being introduced. But the perhaps understandable response I got was: what cut would you like to make elsewhere? Libraries? The parks maintenance budget?

Looking ahead, I have written to the Council to request that a review is undertaken in a year's time to assess any negative impacts caused by introducing the charges and to see whether the decision can be reversed.

In other transport news, I met with **Doug Claringbold, the Managing Director of First Bus in the West of England**, in late January. In

the meeting, I quizzed him on the problem of 'ghost buses'; demanded to know if **Bristol North West** has drawn the short straw in being handed the fleet's oldest buses; raised constituents' concerns about unfair bus fares; and asked him if franchising buses is the answer. If you'd like to watch the interview, you can watch an 8-minute highlights video that is pinned to the featured content on my **Facebook page: fb.com/darrenjonesmp**

One of the key outcomes from the meeting was an assurance that we'll see **improvements** to the reliability and punctuality of the **3 and 4 bus services from April**. Doug put this down to the success of the driver recruitment campaign, meaning the services that were cut in November could be reintroduced in April, and because First Bus is introducing new technology that will enable them to better timetable services.

It sounds promising. But, before I toot my horn in celebration, I want to put this claim to the test. On **1st March**, I'm launching a campaign in which I'm



© Darren Jones, MP

asking constituents to log expected and actual bus arrival times for journeys starting from bus stops in Bristol Northwest. Let's see if the data shows things can only get better from April onwards! Please help spread the word and start logging your journeys at www.darren-jones.co.uk/bus

Lastly, the **old nursery on Station Road** has had a new planning application submitted for 18 houses, 3 apartments and a 56-bed care home. I know that many local residents have been keeping a close eye on the redevelopment of this large plot of land in the village. If you'd like to be more involved, I recommend joining the **Shirehampton Planning Group**.

As always, if you need my help or have a question, please get in touch on darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk, call the office on 0117 959 6545 or visit www.darren-jones.co.uk. For the latest updates, follow me on social media: [fb.com/darrenjonesmp](https://www.facebook.com/darrenjonesmp) or [@darrenpjones](https://twitter.com/darrenpjones)

CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Shirehampton is in the Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Ward

Your Councillors are:

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

CONTACTING YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Shirehampton is in the Bristol North West Constituency

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

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WINDOW WANDERLAND

This year's Window Wanderland takes place from 11th March to 13th March from 6pm until 9pm each night in Shirehampton. It originally featured local residents doing their own designs displayed in their front windows but this year Shirehampton Window Wanderland is expanding.

They are working with several local artists - **Annelies, Juliet & Sarah** - who will work with local schools and groups as well as individuals who will contribute to our **High Street shops and business window designs** to make the area as bright and welcoming as possible, following the footsteps of **Shire Christmas Illuminations**.

Some shops will feature daytime themed designs and others will have night time **Window Wanderland** designs shining brightly on our very own **High Street**.



There will be opportunities again for **workshops** providing ideas and materials for all people and families who'd like to participate in this year's event. You don't have to be artistic, just an idea that can be turned into reality for your home windows.

In the meantime, there are workshops taking place **every Thursday from 3pm until 8pm** at the **JTE Hub** based at the **Methodist Church** that faces the High Street in Shirehampton.

You could be helping with the High Street window art which will be a hive of activity or just need advice for your own home window design. This is an event to bring our community and High Street together.

"After the cold and dark of Winter we all need cheering up a bit. I am hoping that our artwork will brighten up our high street and make people smile. I also hope the publicity will bring people from other parts of Bristol to enjoy it too." said **Juliet Le Feuvre**.

Whilst **Sarah Trigg** said "Our community and our High Street are really worth celebrating and this is a brilliant, creative way to do it. I hope loads of people feel welcome to contribute and many more have fun spotting all the art."

Meanwhile **Annelies Egli** concluded: "This project is a great opportunity for local creatives to collaborate and share their ideas and experience with one another and the public. I hope that this one off event will light the way to future events and exhibitions which bring together, showcase and celebrate local talent."



You can still sign up for Window Wanderland in Shirehampton by going to: www.windowwanderland.com/event/shirehampton-2023/

AVONMOUTH LADIES CLUB

We meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Avonmouth Community centre (but not in Jan and Feb).

We listen to a variety of speakers, as well as having occasional outings.

A warm welcome awaits.

Diary of events March – May 2023

7th March - Beetle Drive

21st March - Maya to Mini eggs (Hugh Evans)

4th April - British sign language (Louise)

18th April - Bring and Buy (Charity Auction)

2nd May - 'Israel' (Rachel Haig)

For any information – contact Julia on 0117 982 9390



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The Strange

An original story by Gil Osman

A summary of the story so far - Many long years ago in early human history, when the Age of the Nomadic Hunter-Gatherer was coming to an end and the wandering tribes were looking for a more permanent existence, a settlement, or village, was established on the site of the present Shirehampton. It was a brutal, savage, and lawless society, steeped in fear and superstition based on ignorance.

The villagers feared strangers. Remaining nomads who sought shelter and food from the village were turned away with threats and violence. Thus the village became self-isolating, with no knowledge of the outside world.

This led to all kinds of problems for the inhabitants. The village was plagued with epidemics of contagious or infectious diseases which spread like wildfire throughout the overcrowded houses, and decimated the population, so that village numbers grew very slowly. The villagers had no currency; trading took place by means of bartering for goods and services.

Chapter 9

There are two parallel storylines: that of **The Strange, their parents and their own children; and that of the Hunter who became the first Chieftain of the village.**

The Strange were twins of hideous appearance whose parents lived outside the village proper, at the edge of the nearby woods. The parents had been banned from living in the village, because of their grotesque babies. The babies would normally have been killed soon after birth, because of their hideous appearance, but their parents were feared by the villagers, because the wife was a herbalist from a long line of village herbalists. Her husband helped her in the preparation of potions. He was also a member of a collective of crop farmers.

They kept their recipes secret, which meant to the ignorant villagers that they had 'magical powers' believed to be derived from the evil spirits in the woods. The parents had threatened to bring down a curse on the whole village if the babies were harmed.

Later, in adulthood, The Strange, in turn, had their own twins, who seemed perfectly normal, until it was discovered that they had no speech or hearing. They were referred to as Boy and Girl by the villagers.

When the village children found out that Girl and Boy were deaf and dumb and told their parents, those villagers, who originally wondered why the children of The Strange were perfectly formed human beings, now said that it was a punishment from the gods for practising the 'black arts' and being in league with the evil spirits in the woods.

Abnormalities and birth defects were common amongst the village infants owing to generations of inbreeding. Initially, mother and child were summarily killed, having been 'cursed by evil forces', so the births were kept secret and infanticide was the 'solution' to the problem. The Strange were the worst example of genetic abnormality ever born in the village.

The Hunter was the son of an affluent family and blessed with remarkable abilities. He grew to be the tallest and strongest man in the community; the best hunter, who could run faster and throw a wooden spear further than anyone else and lift the heaviest rock. Unfortunately, he was spoilt as a child and became a conceited and arrogant young adult, who, although

admired for his appearance and abilities (especially by females), was feared, but not liked. He was born in the same year as The Strange, unlike The Strange, in contrast the villagers believed that The Hunter's parents must have been blessed by the gods to have been given such a son.

He always hunted alone, as other hunters were too slow for him and he despised them. One day during a hunt, he sighted a huge stag, which he chased deep into the forest and killed and then carried it on his broad shoulders back to the village. On the way back he began to hear the whisperings of the evil spirits and became afraid. He nearly discarded his prize in his haste to return to the safety of the village.

Nobody else could have lifted such an animal - the largest ever seen. At the resulting venison feast he was declared the first Village Chieftain by acclamation, without a vote.

During the day that followed, the villagers wondered at the stupid mistake they may have made. Was this conceited show-off a suitable person to be their first leader, they asked themselves.

To be continued...

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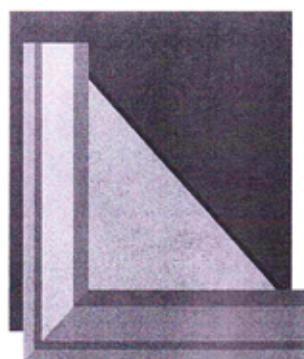
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SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON

City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

There will be plenty going on at the club during the month of March.

With the outdoor season just over a month away, the first game at home, to Bristol St. Andrews on April 15th really needs to be played in order that all is ready to welcome the season's first visitors once again to enjoy rolling woods on the green.



© David Hinksman

Bowling in Torquay March 2022.

The Green Keeper will be busy working on the green, making sure it is at a level where bowling on it will be pleasurable. A small army of volunteers from club members will do all the jobs that need to be done around the green to make it safe and a joy to be at.

The City and Port Club has a green with pleasant surroundings and importantly a large free car park, many other clubs in the area do not provide this facility or have such pleasant surroundings.



© David Hinksman

Howard Surman and David Hinksman with John Smallwood and Joe Hardwick at Olveston in July 2022 ahead of their City and County Pairs match.

Before the first woods of the outdoor season are bowled there is a special and much looked forward to event - The 'Winter Bowling Break'. Early in March around thirty bowlers, family and friends will head south down the M5 to Torquay to spend five nights at the splendid Toorak Hotel.

Indoor bowling on the hotels four rink arena for two hours each day is only a part of the story. There is lots of time to enjoy all that the hotel has to offer and to explore Torquay and the surrounding area.

Ten pin bowling night and a bus ride to Brixham is all part of this great week, some folk go for a ride on a steam train and a trip on a boat.

This year's Start of Season Meeting will be on Tuesday March 14th at 8.15pm in the Ballroom at the main Social and Sports Club. It will be an Extraordinary General Meeting because some important issues need to be agreed by the membership and appointments made since the AGM need to be ratified.

Free Trial sessions will once again be on offer this year, up to three of them before deciding if bowling is the game for you. If the answer is yes, membership is available without delay, and free coaching sessions will be provided.

Each new bowler will receive a copy of the 'Bowls England Guidance for New Bowlers' book which is an excellent publication that covers not only the basics of bowling but also rules of etiquette whilst on the green.

There will once again be sessions of bowling for children and young people and hopefully a Junior Section can be formed as a result.

Both Men's and Ladies Leagues will be underway by May and the club has teams in both of them. Bill Hatherall will once again be Men's Captain and Mary Lomas has taken over from Gill Hinksman to be Ladies Captain for the coming season.



© David Hinksman



© David Hinksman

Top: Bowling at West Blackwell — August 2022 — the large oak tree in the background to the left is of historical interest.

Above: This plaque refers to the Large Oak tree — it's been there since 1945.

The club has a good number of entries in County Competitions once again this year, both City and County of Bristol also the Gloucestershire Association. For the first time the City and County has included ladies, and the club has an entry in the Ladies Pairs - Mary Lomas and Lynn Burand.

For further information about the club and its activities please call David Hinksman on 07932 387217 for further information or to book a free trial session.

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SHIRE STRONG

We are a small club on 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.



Sally Coulstring is our Member of the Month.

Kettlebells are easy to use once you have had some instruction and have **enormous benefits**. It has been a busy month at Shire Strong. We've all got back into the swing of training. Sessions and have been well attended, with an influx of new members - **Annabel Stewart, Rachel George, Anita Werrett, Chelsie Harding and Kelly Emery**.

Bootcamps continue through the winter and take place at **Lamplighters Marsh** on a **Monday and Wednesday at 6.15am!** It's been a tad chilly I have to say. On the plus side we have seen some lovely sunrises. Spring is definitely on its way.

Our **Member of the Month for January is Sally Coulstring**. Sally comes to kettlebells and bootcamp, sometimes training twice a day. A well-deserved award. On receiving her award Sally said: "I wanted to improve my fitness and wellbeing. I had considered joining a gym - however I am so glad I joined Linda's team instead. Both Bootcamp and evening classes have varied activities and are always fun. It is great to be part of a very friendly, strong and inspirational group of lovely people".



New members: Rachel George and Kelly Emery.



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Twyford House Cricket Club

TWYFORD HOUSE CRICKET CLUB, PENPOLE LANE

Spring is in the air and the new cricket isn't far away! At Twyford House CC we have cricket for all and new players are always warmly welcomed.

Our lady's team have been playing indoors during the winter and recently came top of the North Bristol Indoor softball Cricket League. Such a great achievement with many of our squad having only joined in the past year. This summer our lady's team will be playing softball and hardball cricket!



We continue to provide cricket for boys and girls from age 5 upwards. We also run four adult Saturday sides so plenty of opportunity to get involved and enjoy such a wonderful inclusive sport.

If you are interested in joining then please contact Gary Ball or Kelly Armfield at Twyfordhousecricketclub@gmail.com

Bristol's New Arena

The new YTL Arena Bristol, being built in the Brabazon Hangars next to the former Filton airfield, is expected to open towards the end of 2025 or early 2026. Arena goers will be able to get to and from the venue by train, public bus, shuttle bus, walking and cycling, and will be able to park in the arena's car park.

To help Councils prepare for the arena opening, and the thousands of people who will be travelling to the new venue on a regular basis, we are asking about how people travel in the area and their parking needs.

The arena travel and parking survey is available at www.southglos.gov.uk/arenaparking until Monday 6 March.

To request paper copies of the consultation information, email transportservices@southglos.gov.uk or call 01454 868009.

To find out more about the YTL Bristol Arena go to www.ytlarenabristol.co.uk.

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