

Shire

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

No. 622 - November 2023 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

Have you got a job that needs doing? Go to YOUR LOCAL TRADESPEOPLE section on pages 21-22 to find a local business who can help.

Children's
War Horse Art
Competition Winners
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Shire Community Litter Picks
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Shire Needs Reporters
- See Page 4

Shirehampton Village Meeting

Around a hundred people filled the Public Hall September 28th for Darren Jones's first Village Meeting. Darren wanted to know how we feel about Shirehampton, what we value and what we think needs improving. The meeting was conducted as an open discussion with everyone given the opportunity to have their say.



Most people were concerned about the decline in the High Street and would like to see more independent shops, less litter and better traffic control. Last June concerned parents set up the **Shirehampton Road Safety Group** to monitor speeding along

Station Road and down the **High Street**. They called for volunteers to help the community speed watch gather information to prove that speeding is a real issue here.

Closed shops and rubbish in doorways speak of the decline in the High Street. People have been leaving 'donations' to charity shops in the doorways. This is little more than

unsightly fly-tipping since clothes left this way can not be re-used and must be destroyed.

These are visible signs of wider social problems. **Alison Sowton, Vicar of St Mary's**, said alcoholism

is increasing in the streets. Shoplifting and attacks on shop staff are a serious problem. Vandalism and anti-social behaviour have been increasing.

On a more positive note some people spoke of the ordinary daily measures people are taking to improve our environment and reduce our carbon footprint in response to climate change. Residents love Shirehampton and appreciate its green spaces. They are proud of good primary schools and strong community relations, but everyone wants to halt the decline.

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for the Christmas menu

Shire

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Contributions submitted to: editor@shire.org.uk

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REGULAR EVENTS IN SHIREHAMPTON

COTSWOLD COMMUNITY CENTRE A.G.M

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 2nd November at 17:30.
Everyone welcome.

AVONMOUTH LADIES CLUB

We meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7pm at 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.*

For any information – contact Julia on 0117 982 9390

Diary of Events: Nov - Dec 2023

Tue 7th Nov	– (TBA)
Tue 21st Nov	– AGM (and vote for Charity choice)
Early Dec	– Christmas meal
Tue 5th Dec	– In House Christmas party

Events in our library



Every Tuesday afternoon 3pm – 5pm

Shire's Living Room –

Free soup & bread/tea/coffee/biscuits/board games and a friendly chat.

1st Wednesday of the month 6pm – 7pm

IT Literacy Class –

If you have a Smartphone, iPad, Tablet, or Laptop, but aren't sure how to use it, come along, we're help you!! We're now playing Board Games too!!

1st Wednesday of the month 7:30pm – 9pm

Record Appreciation Club –

Using analogue equipment, we play a classic vinyl album every month and have a discussion afterwards.

2nd Thursday of the month 6pm – 8pm

Family History Group –

We have a team of experts at hand to help you navigate the Ancestry.com website and other online tools and find out more about your family's history.

If you'd like to attend any of the above sessions, either email friendsofshire@gmail.com or phone/text 07943-401575



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
THURSDAY	Bingo 2pm Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm 6:30-7:30pm
SATURDAY	Table Tennis 8pm Coffee Morning 10am-11:30am (2nd of month) Bingo 7:30pm
SUNDAY	Soul Space 5pm-7pm (1st & 3rd of month) Cotswold Christian Community Service 4:45-6pm (2nd of month)

Come along and join in the fun

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

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

DAY	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
MONDAY	Twyford Art Club (except August)	10am - 12noon	Hall
	Yoga	6pm - 7:30pm	Hall
TUESDAY	Music with Mummy (term time only - pre-book)	10am - 12noon	Bradley Room
	Extraordinary Links Parents Group (every 3rd Tuesday)	10am - 12noon	Hall
	Line Dancing	2pm - 3pm	Hall
	Puppy Training	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Hall
WEDNESDAY	Bristol Healing Rooms (every 2nd Wednesday)	11am - 1:30pm	Hall
	Pop-Up Play Village Bristol North (every 3rd Wednesday - prebook)	9:30am - 10:30pm	Hall
	Over 75s Exercise Class	2pm - 3pm	Hall
	Extraordinary Links	3.30pm - 5:30pm	Hall
	Shire Stitchers (every 3rd Wednesday)	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Hall
	Women's Fellowship (every 2nd and 4th Wednesday)	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Hall
THURSDAY	Shirehampton Community Art and Social Group (formerly Sea Mills Art Club)	10am - 12noon	Hall
	Tai Chi	2pm - 3:30pm	Hall
	Model Railway Club	7pm - 10pm	Club Room
FRIDAY	Shire Stitchers (1st Friday of the month)	10am - 12noon	Bradley Room
	Music with Mummy (term time only - pre-book)	10am - 12noon	Hall
	Shire News (last Friday of the month)	4pm	Hall
	Create to Elevate Youth Group	7pm - 10pm	Penpole
SUNDAY	Church of Grace	11am - 5pm	Hall





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



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The *Shire* Community Pages

Bristol Babbers on Bikes!

In July 2023, two local girls, Michelle Armstrong and Zoe Edwards took on the mammoth challenge of riding from St Austell back to Bristol over three days. Over 200 miles in total! Why would anybody do this I hear you ask?! They were part of the fantastic group of people who come together every year to 'Ride for Precious Lives'.

Ride for Precious Lives raises money for the wonderful Children's Hospice South West. Children's Hospice South West provides hospice care for children and families who live in the South West. The hospices are Charlton Farm in Bristol, Little Bridge House in Devon and Little Harbour in Cornwall. The care teams at these hospices look after children and young adults from age 0-21 who have life-limiting or life-threatening conditions from the point of diagnosis. They also support their families.

This year, Michelle and Zoe have recruited two other riders, Amanda Belgium and Stacey Tudor. Together they make up The Bristol Babbers on Bikes! This year, the Bristol Babbers will be doing the 200 mile ride in reverse, from Charlton Farm and heading on down to Little Harbour in St Austell. In the run-up they are doing lots of other fund raising events to hit their donation target of £4800. Firstly, on Friday 17th November 2023, The Bristol Babbers will be set up on static bikes at

Asda Cribbs Causeway and they urge you to come along and cheer them on and donate all you can in the process. They will have buckets for cash and card machines for contactless donations.

Charlton Farm has a special place in The Bristol Babbers' hearts as Zoe's son, Callum was diagnosed with Dravet Syndrome at the age of two. Callum is now aged 16 and has faced so many challenges, but Charlton Farm has been there every step of the way providing the most amazing care, family respite and support; their staff, facilities and care are truly phenomenal.

However, these wonderful hospices work on donations alone so the Bristol Babbers would love to see you outside of Asda, Cribbs Causeway on Friday 17th November 2023 (10.30am-4pm) or please use the QR below to give directly to their fundraising page. And finally, please come and cheer off all the 'Ride for Precious Lives' riders from Charlton Farm on Friday 12th July 2024. Thank you.

RIDE
for precious lives
Somerset → Devon → Cornwall

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on Bikes
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SHIRE COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

'DONATIONS' IN DOORWAYS

Shire has received a number of complaints about bags of 'donations' to charity shops being left in shop doorways.

Shops cannot accept the clothes because they may have been contaminated by being left on the street and will have to be destroyed. This amounts to fly-tipping and makes the High Street look unloved and unattractive. So please, if you are trying to do the right thing by re-cycling your unwanted clothes be sure you bring your donations IN to the shops when they are OPEN.

The editors.

FREE WOODEN PALLETS

Shire is delivered to the Public Hall on the last Friday of the month. The pallets it comes on are left stacked beside the front door. Please feel free to take pallets if you can make use of them.

The Editors.

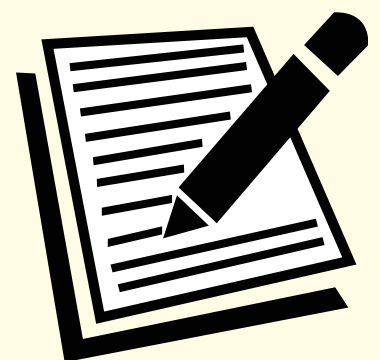
Shire Needs Reporters

Have you recently taken part in a local event you'd like to tell us about?

Is there a local issue you'd like to see more widely discussed?

Or a local story you think should be more widely known?

Why not write a short piece, no more than 500 words, for the *Shire*. Send your story with your name and contact details to editor@shire.org.uk by the 10th of the month.



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LITTER IN SHIREHAMPTON

Many people raised the issue of litter at the Village Meeting. Here are some photos that show just how unacceptable the problem has become along the High Street and outside the Nibley Road shops. One local resident sent in a heartfelt poem asking what we can do about it.



LITTER

Good people of Shire, may I gently enquire
If you're happy with all that surrounds you?
Do you walk round the streets and the pavements
below

Avoiding the bins and their rank overflow
Of poo bags and plastic, old trainers and more.
Sliced ham and foodstuffs the foxes explore,
Foraging and spilling all over the floor.
We all own, or should own, a recycling bin
To guard against food being found on the ground.
Let's use it with care and give a loud cheer
For our village, Shirehampton, which we hold so dear.

Let's be proud of our efforts to keep it pristine
So that people can comment: 'Wow! Living the dream!'

FG



SHIRE COMMUNITY LITTER PICKS

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

Next Meeting: Thursday 16th November

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



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.



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

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

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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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Dunk for Dementia

Following the success of our first Memory Café for dementia sufferers and their carers at the Cotswold Community Centre in Dursley Road it was decided to hold a fund-raising event to raise funds for this worthy cause.

When our Chairman, Dave Parsons, saw the "Dunk for Dementia" event he immediately put himself forward to be the "victim", renaming it "Dunk Dave for Dementia". So, on Friday 6th October he donned his wet suit and sat in a paddling pool and took the barrage of wet sponges aimed at him. Sponge throwers made a donation and £82 was raised. Thank you all who joined in, especially Dave.

Jill Williamson (on behalf of the CCA Committee)



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November	<p>Thurs 2nd 8pm - Karaoke Sat 4th 8pm - Singer TBC Sun 12th 4pm - Singer TBC Weds 15th 8pm - Open Mic Fri 17th 7.45pm - England Vs Malta Sun 19th 6pm - Neil Diamond Tribute Act Mon 20th 7.45pm England Vs North Macedonia Tues 21st 7.30pm - Quiz Night Tues 28th 7.30pm - Bingo</p>
December	<p>Sat 2nd 8pm - Singer TBC Thurs 7th 8pm - Karaoke Sun 10th 6pm - Singer TBC Weds 13th 8pm - Open Mic Sat 16th 8pm - Singer TBC Tues 19th 7.30pm - Quiz Night Sat 23rd 8pm - Christmas Karaoke Tues 26th 4pm - Singer TBC</p>

For more information follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/LifeboatPub

Coles Nursery Cottage Fire

Coles Nursery Cottage was set on fire on the night of September 25-26. Three fire engines attended and the fire was contained in the Shop though houses next door suffered smoke damage. Police secured the site which has seen considerable vandalism since the nursery closed some years ago.



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Cotswold Community Association - Upcoming Events



Cotswold Community Association
Dursley Road, Shirehampton,
Bristol, BS11 9XH
Registered charity no. 1101427
Website: cotswoldcommunity.org
Email: cotsweldca@gmail.com
Phone: 07945-401575

We have another opportunity to hear and see Ian Caskey's fantastic talk about the history of the SS Great Britain. For all those who missed it at the Public Hall in August, it will take place on Tuesday 31st October at 7pm in the Cotswold Hall in Dursley Road, BS11 9XH. Free entry, teas/coffees and biscuits.

On Saturday 4th November, from 10am till Noon, it's our Annual Christmas Craft Fair. Lots of wonderful locally made crafts for your delectation, plus Bacon and Egg Rolls, and teas/coffees too. There may be a couple of tables left, contact Daphne on 07554-642440.

The same evening, at 7:30pm, it's **Race Night**, come along and enjoy what's always a fun-packed evening, and maybe win a couple of quid too. Hot food available, bring your own drinks.

Also see out advert on page 2.

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Climate Resilience in Shirehampton

Our climate is warming much more quickly than expected. Last September was the hottest September on record. While we were hoping to limit warming to 1.5 degrees centigrade by 2030 we find we are already 1.4 degrees warmer than in pre-industrial times. We have reached the danger zone. Instead of increasing its efforts to reduce carbon emissions or help us prepare for the extreme weather ahead the government has rowed back on its net zero targets. This summer's fires, floods and heatwaves are a foretaste of what we can expect in the pretty near future. And it's going to be up to us to prepare for what's coming.

The **Climate Emergency Group** invited climate activist and researcher **Nikki Jones** to help us think through what we here in **Shirehampton** can do to become more climate resilient. About 20 people, most local but several from further afield, turned up to hear her and offer their concerns, questions and suggestions.

Nikki asked us to imagine how we would respond to the kind of extreme weather events we are likely to see by 2030: Extreme heat – temperatures up to 47 degrees for several days; extreme cold – like the *'Beast from the East'*; severe storms – with destructive winds. What will prolonged periods of extreme weather mean for our daily life?

There will be disruption to power supplies, to water supplies, to food supply chains, to all transport. We won't be able to rely on help from elsewhere. So what measures can we begin to put in place **NOW** that would help us deal with what we'll be facing?

There were many suggestions:

Community messaging will be really important in all of these scenarios so perhaps we should set up local neighbourhood communications networks like WhatsApp and think about how we would maintain contact with local radio or neighbours who might be in need.

We will need to identify and publicise local *'places of refuge'* from heat or cold, high winds, heavy rain or

flooding. We'll need to equip our own households with emergency stocks of food and water. Perhaps we should set up neighbourhood tool banks so we know who to call on if we find we need a chain saw or a shovel.

We could have talked on for hours. This was an interesting but daunting exercise. It began to bring home what some of the real time, daily life impacts of climate change will be. If you want to know more, look for **The Bristol Resilience Strategy - Bristol City Council** www.bristol.gov.uk.

R. Slater



Nature Notes

This Red Admiral posed beautifully for me a few weeks ago. I had taken some friends down to the Daisy Field near the station to see the superb 'War Horse' memorial.



We then went down to see what was visiting the pond at the bottom of the slope. It was fairly quiet, but there were one or two dragonflies zipping about. Then I spotted the butterfly resting upon the nettles. As I am so used to creeping up as slowly and inconspicuously as possible to a subject, and then watching it shoot off, I was so chuffed to get as close as this without the little beauty doing a disappearing act!

With all the somewhat unseasonally warm autumn weather, I, like most of you, have been really enjoying the Spring and summer flowers deciding to come alive again in the garden. A real bonus as the daylight hours shorten.

Happy nature watching all. Bobbie

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Passengers can get on or off at existing bus stops (over 1,800) as well as at a number of easy to reach places, and then connect to major bus and rail services.

WESTlink is an **on-demand bus service** which doesn't have fixed routes or timetables. Passengers can use WESTlink to connect with major bus and rail services as well as local destinations such as shops, hospital appointments, or to meet up with friends. Seats are easily **booked by app, phone, or website** up to 24 hours in advance or on the day when you want to travel. WESTlink will work out your closest pickup and drop-off locations based on where you and other passengers are going at the same time.

If booking by phone, an operator will take your booking and payment, or you can give cash to the driver. The phone operator will tell you where to meet your bus.

Booking with the app enter your pickup and drop-off addresses, choose the ride that works best for you and tap book ride.

The app will also notify you of the vehicle's arrival time and allow you to track the bus in real time.

The bright green WESTlink mini buses are easy to spot and feature comfortable seats, wheelchair access and spaces for passengers with push chairs or folding bikes.

Passengers can get on or off at existing bus stops or transport hubs to make an onward journey or at virtual bus stops created an easy to reach places like local landmarks.

Book on-demand buses to travel at a time that suits you. WESTlink services go where they're needed and run without a set timetable.

I recently booked a trip for 5 of us from Lansdown Park and Ride, north of Bath, to Hawkesbury Upton at 10am. The bus was waiting when we got there. I'd also booked a pick up at 3:15pm from Tormarton, having completed our latest leg of the Cotswold Way walking route, and again the bus arrived on time. You can use Bus passes or pay £2 each (cash) on the bus.

Shirehampton is in the **Future Transport Zone** which covers most of **North Bristol**. However, the **South Zone** stretches as far as the **Portway Park**



and Ride and you can book a bus to take you to most places in **North Somerset**, including **Portishead, Clevedon, Weston**, and east to **Axbridge, Chew Valley, Midsomer Norton, Radstock**, and villages south of **Bath**. Give it a try, you can only book 24 hours or less in advance, but it's well worth it.

Funded by the Department for Transport, WESTlink can be booked through the website: <https://travelwest.info/westlink/> or on the phone by calling 01174578561 charged at local rates.

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An Update from Darren Jones MP, Bristol North West

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At the end of September, Shire residents congregated in Shire Public Hall for my inaugural Village Meeting. With such a strong sense of community in our village, people were undeterred by the rain and filled the hall in a way that I haven't seen for a constituency event since the Brexit debates!

The Village Meetings came about as a follow-up to an interesting Constituency Assembly that I held earlier this year, in which 50 people from across Bristol North West were selected to take part based on area, age, gender, race and other demographics to reflect the constituency as a whole.

The Constituency Assembly revealed distinct differences in how people from different areas in Bristol North West feel about where they live. That's why I'm taking this village-by-village approach to talk to constituents about the problems they're facing and what would make the biggest difference to their communities. (See www.youtube.com/@darrenjonesmp for more about the Constituency Assembly.)

The latest results of my online survey were used as a jumping-off point for the Village Meeting discussion, and it seemed people in the room largely agreed with the findings.

The survey results for Shire revealed that about 4 in 5 residents view the area as a village – no surprise to

me! – and about half are 'happy' or 'very happy' about where they live.

But the survey also revealed problems. When people were asked which words best describe the area they live in, the top five responses for Shire were 'declining', 'rundown', 'characterful', 'historic' and 'dirty'. This led to a lively discussion in the room about the poor state of the high street, with empty shops and littering in the village, with one constituent saying it's getting harder and harder to have pride in Shire when the bins are overflowing. The swell of feeling on this issue of reinstating pride in Shire by cleaning up the village saw the hall break out in a round of applause.

I will be following up on actions from all the Village Meetings in the weeks and months to come, and welcome further input from you on how we can work together to solve these problems.

Moving on to a problem facing people across the constituency: access to NHS dentistry.

At the start of October, I gathered dentists from across Bristol North West, NHS managers and Bristol public health leaders for a dental summit to see what more can be done locally to help improve access to NHS dentistry.

The dentists agreed we need more funding for urgent care, with some calling for an expansion of 'stabilisation clinics', in which NHS dentistry is offered over a couple of months for people without a dentist to stabilise their oral health. They said stabilisation clinics can help to prevent the need for repeat urgent care appointments – and we all know that prevention is better than cure. There were interesting discussions on how van-based mobile clinics in community settings, such as outside a GP practice, could be useful for more stabilisation clinic work.

If, like me, you weren't familiar with stabilisation clinics, it's worth noting you can ask for this by phoning NHS 111 – the same number that you call for urgent care appointments.

There's a lot more work that needs to be done on dentistry, but I feel the summit unearthed some interesting ideas that warrant further investigation. More to come!

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 @darrenpjones

CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Shirehampton is in the Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Ward

Your Councillors are:

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

CONTACTING YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Shirehampton is in the Bristol North West Constituency

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



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Have Your Say on Portway Proposals

People who live or travel along the A4 Portway in Bristol are being encouraged to give their views on a series of designs that have been drawn up to allow buses to move more quickly through traffic along the route and make cycling and walking safer and more enjoyable.

The council ran an early engagement exercise last summer to find out what issues people face when travelling along the **north western section of the A4 Portway**. This feedback has been used to create proposals for how the route could be improved, including introducing a 24-hour bus lane on both sides of the road along most of the route, widening narrow pavements that are shared by pedestrians and cyclists, and reducing the speed limit in places from 50mph to 40mph.

The scope of the A4 Portway project starts at the **M5 flyover**, it travels along the A4 passing the **Avon Gorge** and onto **Hotwell Road** to the **Jacob's Wells Road roundabout**, then along **Anchor Road**, and up to **Explore Lane**.

Councillor Don Alexander, Cabinet Member for Transport, said: "Throughout the first round of early engagement, we found that bus users wanted to feel more connected to the north of the city with

more frequent services to more areas. Many were in favour of longer operating times for the **Portway Park & Ride** service and thought bus lanes would make buses more reliable overall. People who walk or cycle along the route raised issues of narrow shared spaces on pavements, the quality of the surface, and the speed of traffic.

"In response, we've put together a series of proposals that answer many of these concerns. This consultation is a further chance to be involved in the process and have your say."

Views can be given through an online survey which is running until Sunday 12 November 2023.

To find out more and complete the survey, visit www.bristol.gov.uk/A4Portway23 or come along to a drop-in session.



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CHILDREN'S WAR HORSE COMPETITION

Competition entries closed on 30th September and on the following Thursday 5th October, entries were taken by Jill, one of our long-serving editors, to be reviewed and judged at the Cotswold Community Centre Warm Space on Dursley Rd. It proved to be difficult when it came to judging the entries, partly because of the range of ages of the entrants; all entries had been numbered and everyone present was asked to simply vote for one.

I received the results with a note that everyone particularly liked **Briar Rose Maynard's** entry, who included our **High Sheriff of Bristol** with her sword in her drawing but, because of her age, the drawing was understandably not as technically proficient as those of the older children. I decided then that it was only fair that we widened the scope of the prizes to include a category of "Best Young Entrant". Two other entries were commended by the judges and I decided it was only fair to include those amongst the prizes.

Here is the final prize list, taking into consideration the first round of voting and the additional recommendations made by the judges, along with the value of the prizes in **National Book Tokens**, which can be spent on a range of items in most bookstores, nationwide.

- 1st prize, Amelia Carroll, age 8, St. Bernards School, Year 4. (£25)
- 2nd prize, Ismael Darbo, age 8, Cotham Gardens Primary School, Year 4 (£20)
- 3rd prize, Thomas Sylvester, age 10, St. Bernards School, Year 6. (£15)
- Best Young Entrant, Briar Rose Maynard, age 5, Stoke Bishop C of E Primary School (£25)
- Commended, Delta Tudor, age 8, Cathedral Primary School (£10)
- Commended, Adelaide Tudor, age 10, Cathedral Primary School (£10)

Briar Rose's parents sent in a photograph of her with the Warhorse, and kindly gave permission for us to use it. **Ismael Darbo's** parents also submitted a photograph of Ismael proudly holding his entry before taking it down to the library. We are delighted at Shire that they and other local children showed interest in the remarkable period of village history, which we have recently commemorated with the beautiful sculpture that now stands in the **Daisy Field** for us all to enjoy, and also took the trouble to submit entries in our competition. By the time this edition appears, the prize vouchers will have been delivered to schools for presentation to the children.

We at **Shire** hope that our local children will continue to show an interest in their local community and in their local paper which does what it can to distribute news and promote the life of the village, but we can only share that news if we know about it. If you've got something that you want to tell us about, please get one of your adults to submit it on your behalf to editor@shire.org or leave a paper copy, addressed to "Editor @ Shire" in the Shire tray in **Shirehampton Library**. We can't



2nd prize: Ismael Darbo, age 8.



Best Young Entrant: Briar Rose Maynard, age 5.



1st prize: Amelia Carroll, age 8.



3rd prize: Thomas Sylvester, age 10.



Commended: Delta Tudor, age 8.



Commended: Adelaide Tudor, age 10.

always print everything we get because of limited space in the paper but, if we haven't got it, then we definitely can't print it. Thanks again to everyone who entered and to those of you who won, enjoy spending your vouchers. Thanks also to **Jill** for organising the judging and to the lovely folk at the **Cotswold Warm Hub** for their judgement and recommendations.

Jill Williamson and Paul McMillan

Shire Community Newspaper

Get Kids Going!

Hi, I'm Dan Clifton, chairman of the Port of Bristol Sports and Community Hub, on Nibley Road. (Some of you will know us as the PBA). You may have seen the article about us a few months back in Shire, which explained the transition from club to community hub and registered charity and the work that we do in supporting local people and families.



One of the charities close to my heart is “**Get Kids Going!**”, a sports and mobility charity for disabled children and, as some of you will already know, I've decided to push myself and run the **London marathon** in April next year to raise money for this fantastic charity. To add to this challenge, I've now decided to also run the **Paris half** marathon in March and the **Bristol half** in May.

Those of you who know me will be aware that I'm a little on the large side, so a lot of training will definitely be needed to complete the runs and I will be giving it my all to raise money for “Get Kids Going!”. Over the last 2 years I've put in a lot of time and effort to help others locally and beyond and to help our great community asset, **The Port**

of Bristol Community Hub, to stay open, but this will definitely be my biggest challenge yet. For most of my life I've put others first and tried to help as many people as possible; by taking on this challenge and asking you for your kind donations we will be able to help this amazing charity to provide sporting opportunities for disabled kids.

I have set up a **Just Giving page** to enable any of you who would like to donate to the charity and support my run, to do so easily. If I can raise my £2000 target, it would be an amazing feeling and a huge personal achievement for me, knowing that something I have done will help provide specialist wheelchairs for children to help them compete in sports. In my eyes, this is a huge thing for children and will help them immensely in enjoying their chosen sports.

Can I finish by giving a huge thanks to **Steve Winter of Winter Tiling and Bathrooms**, who has kindly offered to sponsor all my running gear.



© Dan Clifton

Thank you so much everyone: please donate on my Just Giving page. Here's the link: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/daniel-clifton-1694190235854> or go to the Just Giving website and search for Daniel Clifton.

Dan Clifton, Port of Bristol Sports and Community Hub

Ocean is Officially 40!

We can hardly believe it – we've been helping Bristol move home for 40 years!

Our Managing Director Paul Harris started the business in October 1983, with the first Ocean Estate Agents office on Gloucester Road in Bishopston.

Ocean was started with a determination to shake up estate agency, challenge the stereotypes, and above all else make the process of buying and selling homes as smooth and stress free as possible.

40 years on and we've grown a little – our **Bishopston office** is still proudly there, but we've now got **11 local offices across Bristol** (including one in **Portishead**) too.

We may be bigger, but our independent spirit and commitment to doing things a bit differently to provide the highest level of service to our customers is constant.

And we're still very much a family business. Our fantastic team of nearly 200 employees, spanning a diverse mix of ages and backgrounds from across Bristol (including a second generation of the

Harris family) – all make sure we stay as energetic and willing to try new things as we've always been.

We're also just as in love with this incredible city as we were back then. Bristol has changed a lot in 40 years, but it's remained an amazing, culturally rich, individual, and exciting place to live and work – we can't wait to see how it will look in another 40.

Cheers Bristol!

Love Ocean

Thanks, Andy

(See our advert on page 3).



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Churches in the Shirehampton Area

Hello from Shire Methodist Church

We hold Morning Worship each Sunday in our church building from 11am. You might be reading this in time to find out that our Harvest Festival will be on 29th October (don't forget to put your clocks back), led by our new minister Revd Martin Slocombe. This will be followed by a light lunch and a Church Council meeting. We will have a collection for the local Foodbank and for the Methodist Centre which supports people experiencing homelessness, poverty and other challenges.

In November, the first Sunday is led by a guest preacher, the second is All-Age Worship and will start at 10.50am because it is Remembrance Sunday, the third is our Church Anniversary (if memory is correct we'll be 150 years old!) and we

will share in Holy Communion led by our minister Revd Martin Slocombe, and the fourth is a more informal event with coffee and conversation.

Our Hub has many events which happen in our building on weekdays: films, games, benefits and

www.shiremethodist.org/

www.facebook.com/shiremethodist/

jobs advice, support groups, (for more info see the adverts below and page 17) and a community fridge for which we are particularly grateful to the local Coop and local bakery for their contributions.

If you are unsure where we are located, our building is opposite Boots, Lloyds Bank and the Job Centre on the High Street. The entrance is on Penpole Avenue. There are three doors; the most accessible entrance is the white door a little way up the road. Please ring the doorbell if the door is shut!

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

Everyone at Shire Methodist

Welcome to SoulSpace



SoulSpace Bristol meets at the Cotswold Centre in Shirehampton on the first and third Sunday each month from 5 till 7pm.

We are exploring what it means to be followers of Jesus through sharing food, reflecting on life and the bible, breaking bread together and praying for one another and our community.

Anyone is welcome to join us and if you would like to know more, please email Rachel on rachelhaig@hotmail.com

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Book here!

SECOND STEP

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 healing on a daily basis.

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



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A Warm Hello from St Mary's

Hi Folks!

Sorry I have not been with you for the last two months but I have been extremely unwell. Thankfully I am on the mend now. Thanks must go to Eleanor our Administrator and Rev Alison for stepping into the breach and keeping you all up to date with the news during my absence.

On the last day of September we held our **Autumn Fayre** inside and outside the church building. It was a jolly affair and we were able to welcome a goodly number of people. Thank you for your support!

On **Sunday, 8th October** we held our **Harvest Festival Service**. This was a Family Service followed by a short Holy Communion. Our young people were involved and performed a Puppet Show relating to the fruits of Harvest. Our Leader **Amy Boucher** worked hard with them to produce it. **Stomp Dance Group** performed a very energetic dance display. **Rev Alison's** sermon was based on Grapes and the vineyard and the children were encouraged to actively assist her in her talk. The day concluded with a **Bring & Share Lunch** in the church. If you would like to join us in lively worship come along on the fourth Sunday of the month when we usually have our most informal service.

Looking ahead, **Wednesday 1st November** is "**Goldies**" singing session at 10.30 am. Come and join them for a sing-along and a cup of Tea or Coffee.

At 7.30 pm on **Thursday 2nd November** we shall be holding a service for "**All Souls' Day**" when we

remember family members and friends who have died. This service replaces the previous Memorial Service. The names of passed loved ones will be read out during the prayers. Forms are available at the back of the church to complete with your loved ones' names and place in a collection box so a list of names can be prepared. This service will be a time to name loved ones, pray together and hear the promise we find in Jesus.

Sunday, 12th November is Remembrance Sunday. Our Service will commence at 10.00am in the church when the **Roll of Honour** bearing the names of those from the parish who sacrificed their lives in war, will be read. We will process through the village up to the **War Memorial on Shirehampton Park** for the 11.00am **Act of Remembrance** and two minutes silence. Following this, you are welcome to proceed to **Shirehampton Cricket Club**, who have kindly agreed to open the Club for Tea and Coffee - we are extremely grateful to them for this kindness.

On **Saturday 2nd December** the **Gospel Generation Community Choir**, with live band, are



holding a '**Let's Celebrate Together**' concert from 7.30pm at St Mary's Church. Tickets are £5 adults, £3 concessions (OAP/Unwaged/Student) and U16's are free. People can buy tickets on the door or online on their website.

Shirehampton Area Choir will perform the following week at 2.30pm on **Sunday 10th December**. We look forward to sharing details of other services and events during December in next month's Shire.

Now for my silly yarn! Question: Why did the Scarecrow win a Nobel Peace Prize? Answer: He was outstanding in his field!! (Rev Alison just said this was corny when she read it)!!

Bye for now. C.M.E.

Greetings from Shirehampton Baptist

Tempus Fugit - November already. However the autumn months are busy in the churches of Shire and thoughts are already turning to the Christmas season.

On **September 24th** Shire Baptist celebrated **Harvest** with traditional Harvest hymns and a video reminding us of those suffering from famine, poverty and wars. Our minister in his message reminded us of **Joseph** whose God-given wisdom saved **Egypt** and surrounding nations from famine. The food gifts went to the local food bank.

The **Rock Steady club** has increased in numbers this term and they are now preparing for their **Carol Service** where they will be doing drama, music and dance. Some children prefer to do art and are working on props for the dramas as well

as producing a Rock Steady calendar. For more information use Contacts below.

On **Remembrance Sunday November 12th** we will remember members of the **Armed Forces** who have lost their lives on duty since World War I and pray for peace on Earth.

The next **Cotswold Christian Community Songs of Praise Café** is also on **Sunday November 12th**. We meet in the Cotswold Community Hall, Dursley Road from 4:45- 6pm. All are welcome to this informal gathering.

Our **Cotswold Carol Service** is on **December 10th** at 5:30pm in the same venue as above. Do come along to enjoy home-made cakes, drinks and a chat.

Our minister **Paul Rhodes** has been taking school assemblies in **Shirehampton Primary School** and also a **Drama Club** in the lunch hour.

We meet at our church building Station Road every Sunday morning at 10:30am and on zoom at 4:30pm for **Bible Study**. All are very welcome.

Love and prayers for all in our village and beyond.

From all at Shirehampton Baptist Church.

Contacts: 07743 683684, rhodespaul360@gmail.com

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The Arts in Shirehampton

In Tandem with Shire Inspire

It was a joyful occasion to launch Shire Inspire in October with a taster window made possible by the contributions of local artists Joyce Peacock, Betty Marten, Sarah J Trigg and Annelies Egli.

We hope you've had a chance to look at the display; if not, do not worry there's much more to come, this year and the next.

Shire Inspire is all about working in the community to offer exhibition space to local creatives and to encourage engagement with the arts.

Postmaster Garry Thomas is pioneering the initiative which came out of the **Window Wanderland** project back in March this year. He is happy to showcase local creative talent and is very much looking forward to hosting a broad variety of work in different styles and media.

Sarah J Trigg, local artist and co-organiser of Shire Inspire will be the first to take an exhibition slot during **November and December**. "Shire Inspire will give us all the opportunity to enjoy local creative talent and give locals the chance to purchase the work of local artists, all whilst supporting our post office. I'm especially looking forward to running art competitions for local groups and schools. If you could help us with this do get in contact."

We are now fully booked covering most if not all of 2024. If you would like to showcase your work in the future and have not already contacted us do send us an email: shireinspire@gmail.com



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Sea Mills Flower & Craft Show Makes a Welcome Return

I somehow missed last year's event but made up for it this year. I admit I am a big fan of Sea Mills Flower and Craft Show. It gives the chance for locals to showcase their artistic creative skills and gardeners and allotment holders to showcase the fabulous fruit, vegetables and flowers they have grown. The event did not disappoint. I was asked if I could judge the photography section and it was not an easy task. The talent that was presented to me was high. I wished I could make them all winners but that was not possible and I hope more people will enter the Photography Competition next year



©Kathryn Courtney

The event took place at the **Sea Mills Methodist Church** on **Saturday 2nd September** and it was an enjoyable welcoming afternoon with plenty going on. There were stalls selling cakes and savouries, candles and melts, quilts, toys, sweets, plants, hand made crafts. The **Shynee Ladies** were doing dance demonstrations, **Storm Force Ten** singing Sea Shanties and **Bishopston Ukulele Band** all performing at different times in the garden areas of the venue.

part of their demonstration and it was well worth every minute seeing this happen. This family event is a must for everyone and put together by local community volunteers. Their hard work paid off and they provided a well organised, entertaining, fun event for all and I for one am looking forward to the **2024 Sea Mills Flower and Craft Show**.



©Kathryn Courtney

To find out more please check out their FaceBook page: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064316607065

Kathryn Courtney

The entertainment was certainly delightful and in some cases fun. Three members of Storm Force took part in dancing with the Shynee Ladies as



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Break Charity Shop

Break Charity Shop has become very much part of the fixtures and fittings on our High Street. You never know what treasures you may find in this shop and at a low cost too especially with the cost of living crisis taking hold.

Holly Hayward has been the **Manager** for the Shirehampton branch of Break Shop since **February 2023** and has been a familiar face in our local village for over four years working in retail.

“I chose to work in retail as I am very much a people person. I’ve always been friendly and outgoing and like getting to know people. It’s really good for me to be working locally. I am a single mum of one, I have my own health conditions and it’s close to where I live. The High Street provides jobs for many people living in Shirehampton and the surrounding area and it’s important for our local economy”

“Every day is different. We rely on donations and stock rotation, but a typical day is getting the clothes out onto the rails, filling our shelves with ceramics, books, CDs, toys and more and regularly updating our shop window displays. I love interacting with our customers and letting them know they are welcome and can come in for a chat.”

“Like everyone on the High Street we are all facing challenges at the moment and it is important for



everyone to keep shopping locally and help keep many of our shops in business. Buying from a local shop contributes a proportion staff wages, keeps a roof over our head, puts food on the table for our families. Without a High Street or local businesses our whole community would be seriously affected, especially the elderly, disabled and those unable to go further afield for shopping. Our local economy will fail and it doesn’t help with high rents being charged by landlords.”

Volunteers are needed to help run the shop and dropping off donations to the shop has had it

problems in recent weeks, being left outside the shop to the elements only for them to be ruined and binned.

“The best time to drop in donations is quarter past nine until three in the afternoon, Monday to Saturday, we take everything except baby equipment. That was my choice due to health and safety. For instance a car seat, I don’t know if its been in an accident. I don’t want to put a baby in a pram and it collapses. I don’t want that on my head.”

“And yes we do need volunteers for our shop. People can come in and see me and have a chat about the hours they would like to do. You can stack the shelves, you can hang clothing, I will show you how to use the till. And you’ll be meeting our customers. You will become part of a team”. Said Holly.

You can find Break Charity Shop at 11A High Street, Shirehampton, Bristol, BS11 0DT. Break web site is: www.break-charity.org

Kathryn Courtney

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Happy 4th Anniversary to Shirehampton Markets

Shirehampton Markets celebrated its 4th Anniversary at the 7th September High Street Market. This is quite an achievement having faced Covid lock downs and becoming an online market during that time. The cost of living crisis and high interest rates continue to affect us all, especially those buying their own homes. The continued support of our Market Traders and our customers shows how much the High Street Market and seasonal Community Fayres are needed, providing a source of items that are not available on our High Street.

We were pleased to have **Graft** join our **September market** offering a three hour workshop which was both interesting and popular. Everyone had the opportunity to do stencil art that they could take home with them. Graft are producing some wall art that will be appearing on our very own **High Street**, starting with **Andrew Pinn's Optometrist wall**.

As you may have noticed the High Street Market has expanded with outdoor market stalls added to the High Street with the help of a grant from the **City Centre and High Streets Recovery & Renewal Programme** funded by **Bristol City Council** and the **West of England Combined Authority's Love Our High Street Project**. It also enabled the purchase of market equipment that allows Shirehampton Markets to support start ups and new business to become a part of the High Street Market with opportunities to advertise events in local publications and online too.

Is it too early to mention Christmas? Shirehampton Markets will be running two Christmas events this year. The first is the **Autumnal Christmas Fayre** at **Shirehampton Public Hall** in Station Road on

Saturday 18th November from 10am until 3pm with plenty of Christmas flavour from food to crafts as well as activities for children and the young at heart to take part in. Father Christmas will be on hand to greet families that day, so make sure you take along your Christmas lists.

Two weeks later the **Christmas High Street Market** takes place at the **Tithe Barn**, High Street, Shirehampton on **Thursday 7th December** from 10am until 3pm with the Christmas theme throughout. Father Christmas may be off duty that day as he always attends the market for his last minute Christmas shopping. However he is always happy to chat with children, parents, grandparents and have their photo taken with him.

Watch out for the new web site for Shirehampton Markets www.shirehamptonmarkets.org.uk where you can keep up to date with news, information and much more including the need for more volunteers to join the **Seasonal Community Fayres** that are held 3 times a year on a Saturday.



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I look forward to seeing many of you at the next High Street Market on Thursday 2nd November at the Tithe Barn. You can also email Shirehampton Markets at shirehamptonmarkets@outlook.com if you have any questions and need more information.

Kathryn Courtney

Join Avonmouth Sea Cadets

It was one of the last summer days when I met up with Terri Booker, Unit Management Team Chair Trustee, to catch up on Avonmouth Sea Cadets happenings at their latest fundraising event.



The past year has not been kind with many challenges that they continue to work through. The most devastating was the flood that caused untold water damage to the group's main building and left it unusable for over six months. The ceiling, floor and electrics needed to be replaced and it's been a struggle with fundraising to get the main building fixed. The insurance company and local builders and traders have been good, getting the building back in order and recently the **Sea Cadets** have been able to move back into the main venue. Before that the staff and cadets had to make use of the smaller office building for training purposes and **Terri** has been full of praise on how they adapted to the change

"We've had a good season of boating this year. We've had a few qualifying with power boating, paddle, and a lot of swimming as well. We've also had a few recreation nights where we all go down to **Portishead**, they all have a good swim and we make sure they are safe in the water. We are planning on doing a weekend of training at the unit where our

cadets come on board Friday evening, sleep over and then Saturday morning go down to **Bristol centre** and do a full day boating out on the water doing paddle and power boating. They'll come back in the evening for food and watch a movie then the next day they might be boating again or be doing other qualifications that they need to progress further in the unit." said Terri.

I knew the **Avonmouth Unit** was in need of additional Trustees, in particular someone who could take on fundraising responsibilities and wanted to build on adding more Sea Cadets to the unit.

"Fundraising has been a huge challenge and we are in need of a **Fundraising Trustee** as well others to fill the gaps within the **Board of Trustees**. I find myself filling those gaps at the moment. Anyone interested can email at: avonmouthseacadets@gmail.com for further information and we can then arrange a meet up to discuss things further".

"Although our unit is now in a stable position we would like to add to our Sea Cadets numbers. It is an



amazing experience and new skills can be learnt. It's not marching all the time. There is mountain biking, climbing, orienteering, boating, kayaking. You can go offshore on a tall ship, and how many fourteen year olds do you know that have qualifications in power boating? There is so much we have to offer. Cadets can work up through the ranks with the possibility of becoming an instructor. We've had several cadets join the **Navy** and they do return from time to time to give talks". Terri concluded.

Avonmouth Sea Cadets are based in Station Road, across from **The Lamplighters**. There is a **junior section** for ten to twelve years who meet on a Monday evening from 6:45pm until 9pm and a **senior section** for thirteen years to eighteen years old who meet on a Thursday night at the same time. They also get involved with local community activities.

For more information about becoming a volunteer trustee or joining the Sea Cadets, go to their website: www.sea-cadets.org/avonmouth FaceBook page: www.facebook.com/avonmouthseacadets or email: avonmouthseacadets@gmail.com

Kathryn Courtney

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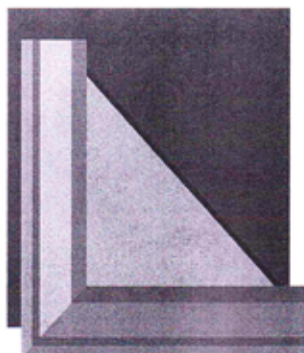


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SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON



City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

Sunday September 24th the City and Port of Bristol Bowling club played its last ever game, on four rinks, at Greenbank. It was a sad occasion both on the green and beyond it amongst people with memories of the club in better times.



The last ever team to represent the City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club - at Greenbank on September 24th.

After more than fifty years and thousands of games of bowls closure became inevitable when the green deteriorated to a point where it became unplayable and members understandably decided that there was no future at the club --- many of them decided to move to other clubs --- sadly, some have stopped bowling altogether.

The final game was very enjoyable and City and Port did manage to win a rink and draw another. But friendly games are all about being on the green and enjoying the pleasure of bowling and the company of other bowlers. Bristol Greenbank were excellent hosts, the weather was good so all went well for the historic final game.

Howard Surman was captain for the final game and he, together with host captain **Graham Godfrey**, ensured that all fourteen City and Port bowlers who attended took part in the gameHoward Surman, **Stephen Ash, Adrian Mace, David Hinksman, Bill Cook, Dee Crawley, Gill Hinksman, Phill Chard, Bill Hatherall, Ray Cook, Brian Crawley, Shirley Callaghan, Sally and Alan Coulstring.**

During its 53 years the club and individual members did many things as well as the routine playing of bowls from April until September each year.

Summer Tours started quite early in the club's history but in more recent times there were fifteen between 2004 and 2022. Organised originally by **Pat**

Warren and **Lis Davies** then by Lis Davies alone until her final one at **Sidmouth in 2019** they have always been something to look forward to and to enjoy. Anyone who went on tour with Lis will remember her signature "*Hello Bowlers*" every day of the tour.

In 2016 Lis, having done all the preparation and planning leading to the first visit to **Eastbourne**, fell ill and Gill Hinksman picked up the baton to ensure the tour went ahead and what a tour it was.

There was a return to Eastbourne in 2022 --- this time organised by **Mary Lomas** and her tour committee. It was twice postponed before going ahead and being a great success.

As well as the Summer Tours there has been for many years a **Winter Bowling Break**. In recent years this has been at the **Torquay Leisure Hotels** in March. Organised by Dee Crawley and Gill Hinksman it has provided club members and friends from other clubs with a break ahead of the new season and the chance to try the indoor game and much more, all within the hotel complex.

There have also been some great days out --- including one to the **Royal Household in Windsor**. There will be more about these in the next edition of Shire.

The club received some sad news on **September 27th** when the passing of long time bowler --- and skittler --- **Ken McCulloch** was announced. Ken was 96 and hadn't bowled in recent years, but will



The clubs last ever Summer Tour --- July 2022 at Eastbourne.



The visit to The Royal Household Bowling Club on September 18th 2013.



Tea time at The Royal Household.



Who is holding shot? Last ever game but one at Yatton on September 13th.

be remembered for the many years he did enjoy bowling and being a big part of the **Hits and Misses** team on Monday evenings.

The City and Port of Bristol Club is sadly no more but if you would like to try bowling, there are other clubs in the area. If you would like to find a club where you can try bowling --- the outdoor season starts again in April 2024 --- call David Hinksman on 07932 387217 --- for information about your nearest club.



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21st Century Careers at Shirehampton Primary School

This year for theme week the pupils at Shirehampton Primary School have been thinking about careers in the creative and media industries. We always really want to inspire our children to be all they can be, to encourage them to be aspirational with their future plans and to think wider about the opportunities open to them. This of course involves working hard to reach a goal!

All children across the school from nursery to year six were involved in activities - our youngest children learnt about jobs they might know already, including dentists, gardeners and hairdressers and also learnt some new ones!

In key stage one, children enjoyed finding out about different careers in the arts and liked imagining what they could achieve in the future. We particularly enjoyed finding out about careers in the movies and on TV!

Our oldest children explored a range of media and creative career opportunities at the BBC! Finding out about careers in front of and behind the cameras. We also learnt about different routes to these careers and the qualifications we might need.

For our finale event at the end of the week, we came dressed up as what we might like to be when we grow up! We had doctors, builders and environmental scientists to name but a few! What a fantastic, aspirational group of pupils we have!! Who knows where these bright, focussed children will end up one day, watch this space...



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