

Facing Up to the Climate Emergency

If you're reading this you made it through the summer. *Maybe* by now it's rained enough for the grass to be greening and maybe you're cool enough to forget how uncomfortable, even dangerous, the heat of our new climate can be. So, lest we forgot too much too quickly, the climate groups in the *Four Villages* (Shirehampton, Avonmouth, Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle) have joined together to offer local screenings of the *National Emergency Briefing film on Climate Change*. We've offered screenings on different days to maximise your chances of seeing it. Because it really is important.

This summer we all had a taste of what living with persistent hot weather is like. And we're beginning to see the long-term effects on the environment. **Crops have shrivelled and yields are low. Thousands of acres have burned. Water is scarce.** There will be food shortages this winter and higher prices.

It's important that we understand that this is **the new normal**. There is no way back. Things will only get worse until we **stop burning fossil fuels: no more coal, gas, oil.**

And it's important our MPs understand this, whatever party they belong to. Every one of them, like every one of us, has to be fully and truthfully informed about what is happening. Otherwise how can they defend us against climate change which is **the greatest threat we face**, not only as a nation but as a world?

Renée Slater



Sun setting over Royal Portbury Dock following the Solar Eclipse during the recent extreme heat of the summer.

NEB Local Screenings Notice

There will be several local screenings of the National Emergency Briefing Film on Climate Change in the early autumn so that everyone will have an opportunity to see this important film.

AVONMOUTH COMMUNITY CENTRE
Thursday 1st October - 6:30 for 7:00 – 9:00

SEA MILLS LIBRARY
Saturday 26th September - 7:00 – 9:00pm

SHIREHAMPTON METHODIST CHURCH
Tuesday 13th October - 7:00 – 9:00pm

The last of these will be the **second screening in Shirehampton** and will be followed by an **open discussion of our responses**. Everyone who has seen the film is invited to join this discussion.

All screenings are FREE of charge.

See page 10 for our advert and how to book.

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Shire

We hold regular monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month at 6pm in Shirehampton library. All welcome!

Official address: The Library, Public Hall, Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol BS11 9TU.
Please contact Shire on: chairperson@shire.org.uk

‘SHIRE’ Contact Details
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www.shirepubhall.org.uk

REGULAR EVENTS IN SHIREHAMPTON

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

MONDAY	Twyford Art Club (Except August) Yoga	10am-12noon 6.30-7.30pm	Main Hall Main Hall
TUESDAY	Jolly Melodies (Term Time) Line Dancing Community Living Room Elevate Dance (Primary School Children – Contemporary) (Term Time Only) Bereavement Support (1st Tues) Puppy Training	10am-12noon 2-3pm 3-5pm 3.30-5.30pm 5.30-7pm 7-8pm	Main Hall Main Hall Library Main Hall Library Main Hall
WEDNESDAY	Healing Rooms (2nd Weds) Better World (1st Weds) Over 70s Exercise Extraordinary Links (Term Time) Women’s Fellowship (2nd and 4th Weds) Shire Stitchers (3rd Weds)	10.30am-1.30pm 11am-1pm 2-3pm 3.30-5.30pm 7-9pm 7.30-9.30pm	Main Hall Main Hall Main Hall Main Hall Main Hall Main Hall
THURSDAY	Shire Social Group Healing Rooms Tai Chi Family History Group (2nd Thurs) Pilates Model Railway Club	10am-12noon 10am-1.30pm 2-3pm 6-8pm 7-8pm 7-10pm	Bradley Room Main Hall Main Hall Library Main Hall Club Room & Basement
FRIDAY	Shire Stitchers (1st Friday) Chair Yoga Yoga	10am-12noon 11-11.45am 12noon-1pm	Bradley Room Main Hall Main Hall
SATURDAY	(Private and Public Functions)		
SUNDAY	Church of Grace	11am-4pm	Main Hall & Springfield

The Hall is also home to Shirehampton Action and Tandem Arts.



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 at the Cotswold Community Centre

MONDAY	Pilates 9.30-10.30am Kettlebells 2pm-3pm 5:15-6:15pm 6:30-7:30pm
TUESDAY	Over 70s Exercise Class 2pm-3pm Sing For Fun 3pm-4pm 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	Welcome Space 10am-Noon Bingo 2pm Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm 6:30-7:30pm
FRIDAY	Happy Space 2pm-4pm (3rd of month)
SATURDAY	Coffee Morning 10am-11:30am (2nd of month) Bingo 7:30pm
SUNDAY	Cotswold Christian Community Service Songs of Praise Café 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

Events in our library



REGULAR EVENTS

Every Tuesday afternoon 3pm – 5pm
Shire’s Living Room – free tea/coffee/biscuits/games and a friendly chat.

1st Tuesday of the month 5:30pm – 7pm
STAR Peer to Peer Bereavement Group – Contact Ash Bearman (0117 982 9963).

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.

Every Sunday evening 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Heartfulness Relaxation and Meditation
Email southwest@heartfulness.uk before your first session. All welcome 18+

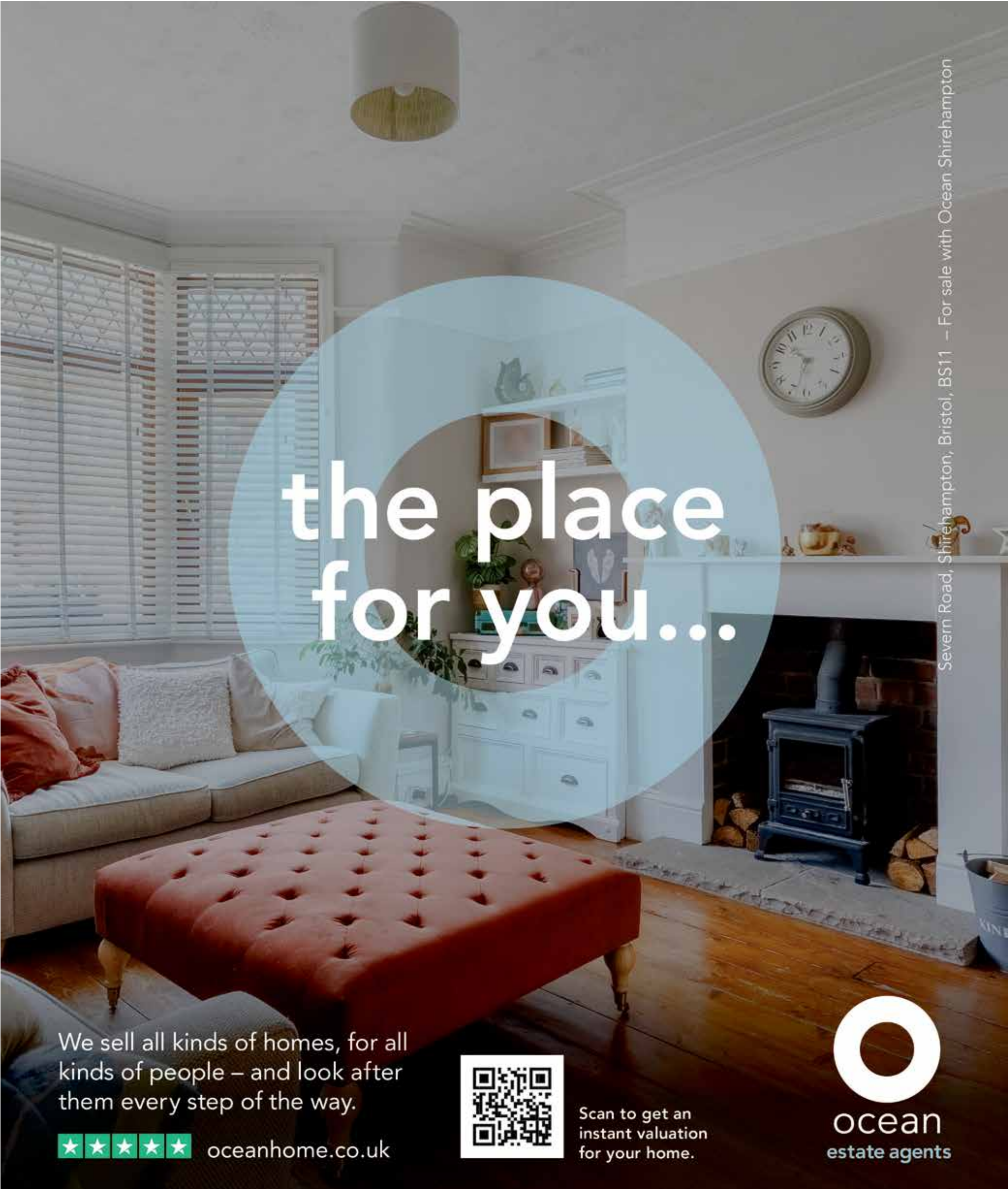
If you’d like to attend any of the above sessions, either email friendsofshire@gmail.com or phone/text 07943-401575

Avonmouth Ladies Club

We meet on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday at Avonmouth Community Centre 2.30-4.30pm
(But not in January & February)
A warm welcome awaits
For information contact Julie on: 07814 183976

SHIRE ADVICE SERVICE

Free Advice Sessions
Shirehampton Health Centre, Pembroke Road,
Shirehampton
Tuesdays from 10am
To make an appointment call 0117 9515751



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The Shire Community Pages

ComUnity Festival

We are looking forward to seeing as many local people as can make it to our next ComUnity Festival. The small number of organisers were reflecting on the development of the festival and are keen to express to all individuals, families, groups and organisations in our community that this ongoing festival belongs to the community, is from the community and for the community.

The generous efforts of this universal participation generate the necessary energy for establishing unity.

The festival on the **12th of September** has dedicated **wellbeing sessions** in the morning from **11am** where there is a mix of **Heartfulness Meditation**, **Reiki healing** as well as an activity exploring our connection to nature.

In the afternoon between **2 and 5pm** we have a couple of **line dancing** groups, a **zumba** group and young performers in parallel with a number of local groups with various activities as well as food and a cafe.

In the evening between **6.30 and 8.30pm** you can enjoy **live music from three local bands**, ages ranging from 14 to 70ish

Come along and join the fun.

ComUnity Festival Shire

FOOD • MUSIC • ENTERTAINMENT • FAMILY FUN • DANCE

MORNING 11-1
Wellbeing Sessions
in Penpole room upstairs

AFTERNOON 2-5
Community groups, Dances,
Activities, Performances,
Food & Cafe

EVENING 6:30-8:30
Live Music, Food & Cafe

LIBRARY 12-4
Activities & Reading with
children

Saturday
12th September
11AM-8.30PM
Shirehampton Public Hall
Adults - £1 Entry
Children - Free
Come and go throughout the day!



Communityfestivalatshire@gmail.com

SHIRE COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Shire Needs You!

Are you looking for something meaningful to fill those spare hours? Hoping to join a rewarding local community group? Do you secretly enjoy knowing the news before it happens?

Why not join the **Shire Newspaper Committee**? We're a relaxed, supportive and friendly team working together to bring an interesting and useful community newspaper to Shire.

We currently have a few gaps we'd love to fill:

Are you a natural salesperson? Have you ever been told you could sell snow to an Eskimo or sand to a camel? If so, you might be exactly who we need! We're looking to expand our advertising base and would love help from people with sales experience or a knack for building relationships. We have many loyal advertisers who support us month after month, but as costs rise, we need to grow that base to keep the newspaper stable and thriving.

Are you a numbers person — or a words person with a secret love of spreadsheets? We have plenty of “word people” involved in Shire (as you'd expect!), but we're keen to strengthen our Finance team. If you have an accounting or finance background, or you're simply good with numbers and enjoy organising things, this could be the perfect role for you. Our current treasurer is looking to explore new challenges, so we'd like to begin skilling up a replacement.

If you're interested in either of these opportunities — or would simply like to know more about what we do — please get in touch via chairperson@shire.co.uk and we'll get back to you.

Come on — join us. You know you want to.

Contribute to Shire

We love receiving your articles and letters for inclusion in Shire.

You can send in material to us at editor@shire.org.uk or, for those who don't use emails, leave your contributions (with a covering note and a telephone number please) in the **Shire box** at **Shirehampton Library**. Thank you!



Puzzle Appeal

Would anyone like to submit Sudoku, word searches, crosswords or any puzzles as our supply has dried up?

.....

Darren Jones MP

Darren Jones's regular “update” is absent from this issue of Shire— taking a break as it does every year for the parliamentary summer recess.

Free Pallets

Free pallets anyone? We have a few left available for collection.

To respond to any of these notices, please contact editor@shire.org.uk

Shire Race Night

Helping to raise funds for the paper!

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER • 7 FOR 7.30
Cotswold Community Centre, Dursley Road.
CASH ONLY • Raffle • BYO Drinks
Sausage and Chips for £2.50 (Bargain!)

Please come along, we would love to see you there. Limited places available so please message if you wish to attend or if you would like more info please contact the editor mailbox on editor@shire.org.uk

Bristol Balloon Festival Takes Off!



© Sarah Matthews

AGM for Avon University Settlement (Community Association)

The Annual General Meeting of this charity which runs the Shire Advice Service, will be held at the Lamplighter's in Station Road, Shirehampton, on Wednesday 23rd September at 6.30pm. We invite anyone who wishes to learn more about what we do and how we have served the community for over a century.

Personal Announcements

Do you wish to announce a personal or family celebration, marriage or death?
To book contact: adverts@shire.org.uk
Prices Start from £7.95

PLEASE NOTE:
Any submitted Personal Announcements or other Notices to the paper may incur a charge and must be accompanied with the submitters' contact details or their submission will not be able to be published.

We especially enjoy spreading community news and we love to hear from all our readers.

Please, send in your letters and stories to editor@shire.org.uk or deliver to The Library at The Public Hall.

If requested, we will not print the name of a letter written to the Editor, but we cannot accept an anonymous letter.

Many thanks.

From a Weekend Away to Calling Shirehampton Home

We recently moved to Shirehampton and are really excited to be part of the community.

We first discovered Shirehampton in January and fell in love with the village within a couple of hours! Everyone was so friendly and we were really impressed by the nature here. We had a coffee at Ruby Jeans, spoke with some locals and met lots of friendly dogs along the way! Everyone made us feel really welcome.

Elisa will be opening her holistic practice just a 5-minute walk from the High Street—offering holistic facial with massage.

Elisa & Ben

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:

- Improve health and fitness level
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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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Lawrence Weston Community Market Celebrates a Fantastic First Birthday

Lawrence Weston Community Market celebrated its first birthday on *Saturday 1st August* at *Ambition House*, and what a celebration it was! Blessed with glorious sunshine throughout the day, visitors enjoyed a fantastic community atmosphere as they browsed the wide variety of stalls, entertainment and delicious food on offer.

To mark the occasion, free birthday cupcakes – including a gluten-free option – were generously baked by **Katz Kitchen** and enjoyed by visitors of all ages. Children had great fun taking part in a **scavenger hunt** around the market, with everyone who completed the challenge receiving a prize.

Entertainment was provided by the talented **“Purely The Music”**, whose live performance created the perfect soundtrack for the celebrations. Visitors were also spoilt for choice with refreshments, thanks to **Sav's Ice Cream Van** and **Sapori-Alforno's American-style food truck**, serving delicious wood-fired pizzas, freshly cooked pasta, loaded fries and other tasty treats throughout the day.



Katz Kitchen.

Our fantastic traders also enjoyed a successful day, with stalls including **Loulou's Photography Pop-Up**, **Face Painting** by **Kelly**, **Purple Ness Creations**, **Misty Gems**, **Faye's Creations**, **Sweet Moments** and **Nibbly's Cutting & Etch 3D** proving particularly popular with shoppers, alongside many other wonderful local businesses.

The market committee – **Katie, Kat, Dani and Beulah** (all volunteers) – would like to thank everyone who attended, supported our traders and helped make our first birthday such a memorable occasion. It's incredible to think that what began just one year ago with only 15 stalls has grown into a thriving monthly community market, bringing together local businesses, talented makers and residents in the heart of Lawrence Weston.



American style dining.



The “Men in Sheds” workshop, offering a range of their beautiful and practical creations.



Since launching, the market has gone from strength to strength, regularly welcoming between **300 and 600 visitors** each month. It has become a much-loved community event, providing a platform for local businesses, artisans and charities while giving residents a friendly place to meet, shop and enjoy everything the local community has to offer.

We have also been incredibly fortunate to have the continued support of **Ambition Lawrence Weston** for providing such a welcoming venue, both indoors and outdoors, helping our market grow month after month.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to our next market on Saturday, 5th September, and continuing to support our wonderful local community. Here's to another successful year!

The Market Committee

Photos © The Market Committee and Paul McMillan

Let's Support Shirehampton Public Hall

This historic lovely Grade 2 building is in the process of being handed over to the *Shirehampton Public Hall Community Association*, from the City Council. This process will be completed in 2032, after which the Association will be totally responsible for general maintenance and running costs of the Hall.

Some major improvements have already been made, in no small part due to the work of the former Chairperson, **Norman Routledge**. But to move forward **the Hall needs help** to improve its income to help pay for improvements and running costs. How do we market the Hall to the wider community? Any fundraising ideas, or help with IT and social media?

We are also looking at how the Hall can become more **energy-efficient** by repairing windows and improving the insulation in the toilet area (a 1950's add-on), which hopefully will reduce costs as well as our environmental impact. For this, the Hall needs **hands-on help** from volunteers with the smaller tasks like gardening and

such routine maintenance as wielding a paint brush or banging in a nail.

Our **open day on September 26th** is an opportunity to welcome the community to see what has been achieved already and help with ideas of how the future could look. And, aware that **energy-saving** is an issue for all households, we are inviting experts to share their knowledge on what can be achieved in private homes, especially older properties.

Please join us to see how, together, we can make the Hall a vibrant centre for the whole community.

Ed Amphlett & Photos © Bob Pitchford



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

Your Councillors are:
Donald Alexander – Labour: cllr.donald.alexander@bristol.gov.uk
Zoë Peat - Labour: Cllr.Zoe.Peat@bristol.gov.uk
Tom Blenkinsop - Labour: Cllr.Tom.Blenkinsop@bristol.gov.uk
Labour Members' Services Office: 0117 922 3827

CONTACTING YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
Shirehampton is in the Bristol North West Constituency
Darren Jones Phone: 0117 959 6545
Email: darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.darren-jones.co.uk

Supporting Science Education: Surplus Glassware Donation to Oasis Academy Brightstowe

The *School of Physics at the HH Wills Building* has recently supported local science education through the donation of surplus laboratory glassware to *Oasis Academy Brightstowe*.

As part of ongoing efforts to responsibly repurpose equipment, a collection of unused but serviceable scientific glassware – including beakers, flasks, and measuring cylinders – was identified within the department. Rather than allowing these items to remain in storage, the team arranged for their collection by Oasis Academy Brightstowe, a secondary school committed to enhancing STEM learning opportunities for its students.

The project was coordinated by **Darren Burke**, Logistics Hub Manager in the University of Bristol’s School of Physics, who oversaw the identification, organisation, and transfer of the equipment to ensure it could be put to immediate use in the classroom.

This initiative not only reduces waste within the University but also provides valuable resources to support practical science teaching in the local community. Access to quality laboratory equipment is essential in helping students engage with science through hands-on experimentation, building skills and confidence in subjects that are critical to future careers.

Azi Mann from the science department of Oasis Academy Brightstowe expressed their appreciation for the donation, highlighting the positive impact the materials will have on classroom learning and the ability to deliver more engaging experiments across the science curriculum.

The collaboration reflects the University’s continued commitment to sustainability, community engagement, and widening participation in STEM education. By redistributing surplus materials where they can have meaningful impact, the School of Physics is helping to inspire the next generation of scientists.

Darren Burke



L to R: Chris Wragg and Darren Burke, University of Bristol and Azi Mann of Oasis Academy Brightstowe.

Restricted Access to Portway

The *Portway section of the A4* will be closed in both directions for resurfacing work on weekday nights **until 26 October**, meaning that drivers will need to follow a diversion during these periods. There will be night-time closures *each weeknight between 9pm and 5am* between Hotwell Road and Sylvan Way until **2 October**, and from Sylvan Way to Park Road from **5 to 26 October**. The route will reopen at weekends and the overnight closures will be delayed or postponed for special events (e.g. at Ashton Gate Stadium).

While the road is closed, the **signposted diversion** will go from the city centre, via Park Street, Whiteladies Road, and the Downs on the A4018 and then onto A4162 and in reverse, and buses using the Portway will also be diverted. For properties on The Portway, including Bristol Manor Farm Football Club, access will be managed by marshals at the closure points. There will no impact for pedestrians and cyclists using Portway, however.

For access concerns or issues, email the contractor, Taylor Woodrow, at swbristol@taylorwoodrow.com or call their emergency number at 07825 327922. Changes to bus routes and bus stops are available at the TravelWEST website, journeyplanner.travelwest.info. Changes to closure schedules and other updates are notified on the Bristol on the Move website, bristolonthemove.com/construction-update/a4-portway-weeknight-resurfacing-works.

Rob Andrews



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Shirehampton Library

Death Café

Autumn 2026 dates

- 14th September 7pm – 9:30pm
- 26th October 7pm – 9:30pm
- 23rd November 7pm – 9:30pm

Tea, cake and conversation about death and dying

- Space to ask questions, share experiences, listen to others
- No agenda, no set topics
- Free to attend



SHIREHAMPTON'S UNSUNG HEROES

CELEBRATING THE SPECIAL PEOPLE OF SHIREHAMPTON THAT HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE TO OUR VILLAGE!

In Memory of Gerry Bessell

Gerry Bessell was born in *Sea Mills* on the *29th of October 1937*. His mum and dad were *Lillian and Ernest Bessell* and he had two younger sisters, *Margaret and Mary* whom he got on well with.

Gerry attended **St. Bernard's Catholic School** and then later went to **St. Brendan's College**. He enjoyed his school years and became head choir boy at **St. Bernard's Church** until he left school and began his successful working career.

He began working for **BOCM** and then spent his two



years of National Service with the **Royal Navy** which was a highlight of his career. Gerry always spoke fondly of his time in the Navy. He was on the Flying Fox for a while, then he spent two years in **Plymouth at Devonport**. Gerry loved every minute.

After being discharged he returned to his administrative role at BOCM and then went to work for **Spillers** for a little while.

Gerry met his wife **Sue** in 1959 at a dance in the Victoria Rooms and Sue remembers their first date. "We met on the centre under the clock, where everybody met in those days and then we went to the **Gaumont cinema**," said Sue.

They married on the **29th of September 1962** and had two sons, **Andrew born in 1963** and **Peter in 1967**. Gerry changed his job and began working for "*Food Brokers*" and the family lived in Bournemouth, Poole, and then Cardiff. At one point they considered moving to Canada as Gerry's sister lived there but eventually moved back to Bristol, **Shirehampton, in 1983** to be close to Gerry's elderly parents and where his job as a salesman covered the South West & Gloucestershire.

Gerry was a keen gardener, growing his own vegetables and flowers and in later years tended to flowers only. He knew the different names of the plants, even the Latin names.

Gerry enjoyed playing chess, - a board could be seen on the living room table when I met with Sue - he passed on his love for the game to his grandchildren, but his main passion was painting, mainly watercolours, he was very good at boats and ships. He's printed and sent Christmas cards to over 100 people every year for 24 years, adding that personal touch.

Gerry belonged to **Twyford Art Club**, where he enjoyed painting and made a lot of friends. He loved reading, he enjoyed watching rugby, and he played for **Bristol Saracens** for about five years.

Gerry loved being part of Shirehampton's community. He was **Chairman of trustees at the Public Hall** and was very proud of the fact that he managed to get the council to agree to replace the roof.

Gerry was also a member of the **Rotary Club of Clevedon**, as well as **Bristol Savages** and **Bristol Severn Siders**. He ran quizzes and helped raise money for charities.

He was a very good *Father Christmas* at the children parties held by the Public Hall and he was **Shirehampton Markets** first Father Christmas at their first **High Street Christmas Market** where everyone young and old loved meeting Father Christmas. Gerry certainly loved the role.

Even though Gerry's health began to deteriorate he remained an active member of the local community. He had a heart attack in 1999 followed by a quadruple heart bypass. He had two hip replacements, fought various chest infections and then another heart attack in 2023. In 2025 Gerry was diagnosed with prostate cancer and died peacefully at home on **23rd June 2026** surrounded by family.

Sue had so many good memories together with Gerry it was difficult to choose one, but I along with many others, we will remember his love for life, he was great



company, a good listener, very sociable. Gerry was very much a people person. He could light up a room upon his arrival and had a wonderful sense of humour. One thing very few people knew, was that he was a writer and earlier this year became a self-published author after sixty years, publishing his collection of poems entitled "*Down Memory Lane*" that was given to family and close friends. A lasting memory for all and never to be forgotten.

Kathryn Courtney

Do you know someone who quietly goes above and beyond for Shirehampton?

A volunteer, organiser, supporter, or all-round good neighbour?

We want to tell their stories. Let's celebrate the people who make our village great.

Contact us on: editor@shire.org.uk

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THE GREEN PAGES

Resist the Drought!

This summer has seen an unprecedented stretch without rain and many of us have watched in despair as our gardens have turned brown and crispy. We know that future summers are going to be hotter and drier; so how do we stock our green areas to resist drought and feed wildlife? If we look around, nature can teach us what will work.

In August, in the middle of the long, dry stretch, **Penpole Lane Pollinator Park** and **Pembroke Avenue Community Garden** have splashes of colour attracting the bees and showing us what to plant more of. At Penpole Lane, **White Gaura** has thrived, nodding its head in the breeze, and the cherry tree thicket is spreading further. At Pembroke Avenue, the lavender is still flowering and both parks have rosemary growing strong.

The ‘messy garden’ approach has benefited Penpole Lane Pollinator Park plants. The long grasses have shielded roots from the scorching sun and limited evaporation. We found Birds’ Foot Trefoil nestled under long grasses and insects like crickets and grasshoppers living their best lives in the jungle.

Looking ahead, neat gardens with bare earth and closely cropped lawns are going to demand more water than our environment will allow or than we can possibly store in water butts. Take a look now—what is working in your green space?

And come along to join the Bee Happy Shire Team, nurturing green spaces for everyone in Shirehampton:

PENPOLE LANE POLLINATOR PARK, first Friday of every month, 10-11am

PEMBROKE AVENUE COMMUNITY GARDEN, second Saturday of every month, 10-11am Everyone is welcome!

Jo Stokes



Wild Scabious and White Gaura.

Nature Notes



This rather untidy creation was created by a very diligent little feathered friend, who managed, bit by bit, to build this cosy cushion inside a bird box in our garden. The dimensions are about 4 or 5 inches square I reckon, and the entry hole on the front of our box about 1 inch!! Such wonderful and dedicated work by nature’s inhabitants.

Happy nature watching, folks!!

Bobbie



People’s Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle
Sea Mills Library, 26th Sep, 7.00pm

Avonmouth
Avonmouth Community Centre, 1st Oct, 6.30pm

Shirehampton
Shirehampton Methodist Church, 13th Oct, 7:00pm

FREE Film screening and discussion, with extra activities and information.

www.nebriefing.org

16



Could this be your way to make a difference?

We’re looking for volunteers.
We connect local people and ideas to make Shirehampton fairer, safer, friendlier and more vibrant.

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- Join a friendly, local team.
- Help make Shirehampton a place where everyone can belong and thrive.
- Give around 5 hours a month and create real change on the ground.
- Get support and training if you’re new to volunteering.

On the fence? Message our co-chair Ludo on 07545637812 or email chair@shirehamptonaction.org.uk for a friendly, no-obligation chat.

A D V E R T I S E H E R E

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Keeping Bristol Shipshape: Sea Cadets Rid Bristol Harbour of Litter

On Wednesday 5th August, *TS Enterprise (Avonmouth Sea Cadets)* took part in *Sustainable Hive's Fishing for Change initiative*. Fishing for Change is a collaborative project with *Sevenside Community Rail Partnership, Bristol Community Ferries* and *SeaCycler*. It aimed at improving the *Bristol Floating Harbour* area through litter picking on the water and on the dockside.

The cadets met their guide for the day at Shirehampton train station and travelled into Bristol Temple Meads, learning about rail safety and taking in the views of the River Avon along the way. Once in Bristol they headed to the harbourside and boarded one of the instantly recognisable yellow Bristol Ferry boats.

"The views from the ferry were very familiar as we do our rowing and power-boating training from late spring through to mid-autumn in the area. Of course, we enjoyed being passengers this time!" said Petty Officer (SCC) **Alison Harrington** who led the trip.

The group then started the clean-up on the dockside before they boarded SeaCycler, a fishing boat made from recycled single use plastic, to continue from the water. At the end of the clean-up, the cadets sorted and weighed the collected litter for recycling and completed a report.

The unit's First Lieutenant (second in command), Petty Officer (SCC) **James Skuse** said "The Fishing for Change project has collected 293kg of litter so far and we added nearly another 11kg to the total. Nearly 8kg of this was fortunately recyclable material. We

found the obvious glass bottles and fizzy drink cans but the more unusual items included a toy helicopter."

"All Sea Cadet units across the country regularly take part in community events in the areas we serve but as users of the Bristol Docks, we felt it important that while we take home our own litter, we should do our bit to improve the environment for everyone." added PO Harrington.

The Sea Cadet programme is very varied from aviation to engineering and catering qualifications in addition to those based on the water. Petty Officer (SCC) **Christopher Batt** said "The Junior Sea Cadets (who are aged 10 to 12) also take part in the Sea Cadets' **Earthshot Challenge**. Inspired by the Earthshot Prize launched by **Sir David Attenborough** and **Prince William**, juniors take part in specially created environmental modules. There will, therefore, be a double benefit for the Junior Sea Cadets that took part in the trip. These fun modules encourage juniors to take part in activities and discuss the environmental issues we are currently facing, and help them to see that the small changes we make today can help build a better future for our planet."



If you want to join the unit or support us you can find out more at www.sea-cadets.org/avonmouth.

Christopher Batt, Petty Officer (SCC), Avonmouth Sea Cadets



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Ambition Lawrence Weston Community Garden

This beautiful garden was formally opened on June 27th. The following week, I met up with *Eric Swithinbank*, who co-ordinates the volunteer group, meeting every Tuesday, from 10.30-12.30. This is what Eric told me as we toured the garden.

“In 2024 when the building was opened, funding was secured from **OVO Foundation**, for the garden. The top area was seeded with wildflowers and the area at the bottom was just what was in the seed bank, but bumblebees and hoverflies are enjoying the teasels and ragwort. Initially it was all for nature, but parcels have been taken back for a lawn area, so people can maybe sit and picnic and **Bristol Dementia Action Alliance**, who hold their memory café at the centre, have a “nostalgia bed” for attendees, who nominated plants that evoked strong memories.

“The people in the surrounding flats may not have gardens, so we would love for them to come out and use this space. Since we put the picnic benches out, people come and have lunch. The more ownership we can hand over to the community, the better: we are always here to support them doing the work with tools and advice, but we want it to come from them, with space for people, balanced with space for nature.

“The apple trees were donated by **Thatchers**, along with a few bottles for the opening event! Starting at the bottom, there’s a winding path through the meadow to the wildflower area. There are seating areas, raised beds for veg growing and then formal borders. Although it’s a big area, it’s quite easy to manage; the meadow area

gets scythed every autumn and the volunteers enjoy that! The **Men in Sheds** team have been great too, helping make the beds etc. There’s a lot of diversity in the flora, but it’s hard to keep the lawn going because the soil is poor and rubbly, but the wildflowers love it. The totem pole near the lawn was created by **Community Climate Action**. There’s a feature made from the stump of a Poplar tree, felled for the building works, and some logs and wildflowers; there’s some benches nearby that give a sense of seclusion and calm.

“There’s also a group of home school volunteers and some pupils from **St. Bede’s** did some bulb planting, but more volunteers are always welcome, of all ages; I love coming and pottering with the volunteers. It’s developing, it’s full of life, you can hear things buzzing around. There’s loads of nature in **Lawrence Weston**, part of the green corridor in **Northeast Bristol**. Future plans include a Cob Roundhouse for workshops.”

Eric is passionate about his work; If you’d like to join him, contact: Email: contact@ambitionlw.org Phone: 0117 9235112 Or: message us through Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn

Paul McMillan in conversation with Eric Swithinbank
Photos ©: Paul McMillan and Jane Nelson



Eric Swithinbank



Community Orchard by Thatchers.



Wildflowers thrive.



The bees love it as much as Eric and his volunteers.

A D V E R T I S E H E R E

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Join Shirehampton High Street Market's 7th Anniversary Celebrations!

Has it really been seven years since Shirehampton Markets opened their doors to the High Street Market?

Its first market opened on **5th September 2019** at the **Tithe Barn**, where it was held for more than six years before moving in April this year to **Shirehampton Methodist Church/Hub** on the corner of the High Street and Penpole Avenue.

Ash, Katherine and Kathryn remain the Market Management Team that has steered all the High Street Markets and events through Covid, the continuing cost of living crisis and changing to a new venue. And with the help of their dedicated volunteers each month, together they make a winning team.

September sees some welcomed changes for the continued success of the High Street Markets. There will be **new food stalls** joining the market where you'll be able to pop in and enjoy breakfast with a difference, take a tea break to enjoy a cuppa and a piece of cake, and later in the day stay for lunch with a choice of three street-food stalls, all of which you can share with family and friends including conversation and plenty of community spirit.

Each month there will be a minimum of **ten food stalls** offering a variety of hot food, cheese, chocolate, cakes, savouries, honey, jams, pickles and more. Additionally, there will be a varied selection of gift stalls, craft stalls, books, jewellery, personal care, homeware, wood crafts, and guest stalls

Don't forget our **'Arts, Crafts and Conversation'** activity which will include a couple of 'Painting Poppies' sessions for the 'Poppies On The Green' display. There will also be guest musicians appearing at various markets providing 'music whilst you shop'

and community stalls providing help, information and advice from local community projects to keeping warm over winter to health and wellbeing information.

Join the High Street Market on **Thursday 3rd September** and help them celebrate their 7th Birthday/Anniversary (see our advert on page 11) where celebration cake is included and shared with special guests, volunteers, market traders and customers. Let's make it a day to remember!

Make Market Day your Treat Day! Without you, customers, and the continued support of the Four Villages communities, there would be no High Street Market. Continue to shop local, support small businesses, our markets and of course our High Street shops.

The High Street Market is open on the first Thursday of each month from 9am until 2pm at Shirehampton Methodist Church/Hub, High Street/Penpole Avenue, BS11 0DY.

Kathryn Courtney & Photos © Kathryn Courtney



Kathryn, Katherine and Ash with the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Jos Clark at the first market in 2019.



Photos from the recent High Street Market.



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Community Shares Riverside Memories to Shape Future Flood Defences Along the Avon

Local residents have been sharing memories and ideas to help shape new flood defences along the Avon as part of the *Avon Riversides 2100* project.

On Wednesday 17 June, Bristol-based artists **Ramona and Claudia** hosted a craft picnic at **Café on the Square** in **Sea Mills**, followed by a session at the **Morning Meet Up** at **Cotswold Community Centre** in **Shirehampton** the next day.

People discussed how they use the riverside, what they value most, and how it could be improved. Their ideas will help inform plans for future flood defences. Avon Riversides 2100 is a long-term project to better protect homes and businesses from flooding up to the next century, while also improving riverside spaces from Shirehampton and Sea Mills through central Bristol to **St Anne's** and **Crew's Hole**.

At the sessions, participants added stories and memories to a map of the area, highlighting their connections to the river. Some recalled the ferry between **Pill** and the **Lamplighters pub**, which gave people an extra

half-hour at the end of an evening out. Others spoke about local wildlife, the changing tides, and childhood memories of fishing before school.

These stories underline the Avon riverside's importance as both a natural environment and a shared community space. Inspired by the conversations, participants created imaginative river creatures using materials from a "craft



buffet". The designs will be turned into stencils by local artists **Sophie and Rob from Graft**, who will lead graffiti workshops in schools. Pupils will use them to create a sailboat flag, to be unveiled at a future project event.

These creative activities are part of wider community engagement, giving people of all ages a chance to shape the project and the design of the flood defences. A formal public consultation on the initial conceptual designs is expected later this year.

Find out more at www.avonriversides.co.uk or contact avonriversides@bristol.gov.uk



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Lawrence Weston & Shirehampton Out of School Activities

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- Support year-end accounts and reporting
- Ensure we meet Charity Commission requirements

If you have experience in finance or accounting and want to make a real difference locally, we'd love to hear from you.

Why join us?

You'll be part of a friendly, committed team making a genuine impact for children and families in Lawrence Weston and Shirehampton. The role requires a commitment of around 4-6 hours per month and full support will be provided.

Interested?

Get in touch at admin.soosa@lwoosa.co.uk

Churches in the Shirehampton Area

Hello from Shirehampton Methodist Church

We hope you have enjoyed the warm sunny days and found somewhere cool to be when the weather has been a bit too hot. At our *HUB* we have been enjoying family cooking sessions, some summer crafting and 3D printing demonstration and sharing in an afternoon tea. As we look forward to September we continue with our usual offers of support with our *Hub Coordinator, Clean Slate, Housing Matters* and *Family Hub Navigator*. The next visit by the Family Hub Navigator, *Muna*, will be on *Monday 21st September 10-12am*.

We are also looking forward to starting a **cooking course** from **Monday 14th September** – the main aim will be on using seasonal fruit and vegetables and trying out different recipes that are tasty and budget-friendly. You are invited to **come along at 2.30pm** when we will chat about what everyone would like to cook the following week – it could be someone’s favourite recipe or some new ingredients people would like to try. The **following Monday at 2.30pm**

we will cook the chosen food. All ingredients will be supplied by us. Please pop in to the Hub beforehand with any questions you might have.

Our pattern of **Worship Services** is changing slightly from September with the first Sunday of each month the service being at 3pm and generally all the other Sundays are continuing at 11am. However, in October our **Harvest Service** on 18th October will be at 3pm.



We are an inclusive church welcoming and affirming every person.

May God’s peace and love be with you all during September from everyone at Shire Methodist.

Greetings from Shirehampton Baptist Church

Contact: www.shirehamptonbaptistchurch.co.uk

After the summer break our weekly activities will re-start, the following being:

Rock Steady, a club for Primary School children. They meet every **Thursday term time** in our building in Station Road **3:30-4:30pm**. The children enjoy drama, music, games and craft. Parents and carers are welcome to stay. Now is a good time to start. Just bring your child and see the fun.

The Life Café did not open in August but opens on **September 24th, 10:30-11:30am**. It takes place on the last Thursday of the month at our church building. All are welcome to join us for a drink and cakes.

The Songs of Praise Café did not meet in August. In **July Lyn Morton** told us about the **Girls’ Brigade** organisation and her involvement in it. As I am writing

in August hopefully we will be holding a picnic on the Green by the river opposite Evenlode Gardens. All are welcome. Our next Songs of Praise Café will meet on **Sunday September 13th, 4:45 pm**, at the Cotswold Community Hall, Dursley Road. We are a group of Christians of various denominations who welcome all to join us during this informal time.

We wait in hope for a new pastor and look forward to letting you know when our wait is ended.

September is the month when some children of the village will be starting schools. We wish them well.

Love and prayers from all at Shirehampton Baptist Church.

St Mary’s

w: stmarysshire.org
t: 0117 907 7026
e: stmarysshirehampton@outlook.com

No article this month from St. Mary’s, see their regular activities below.

Sundays	8:30	Rise & Shine on 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month
Sundays	10:30	Holy Communion Service Worship for All on 4th Sunday (including baptisms)
Monday	10:00-12:00	Coffee Morning
Tuesday	10:00-12:00	Coffee Morning
Wednesday	10:00-12:00 10:30	Coffee Morning Goldies (1st Wednesday of the month)
Thursday	11:00	Holy Communion
Friday	10:00-14:00	Coffee Morning to midday. Welcoming space with hot food from midday to 14:00
Saturday	10:00-12:00	Coffee Morning

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.



QVSR Bristol Seafarers Centre

I have recently started volunteering at the *Seafarers Centre at Portbury dock*, a place I did not know existed until very recently. A small self-contained building just inside the port gates on the Portbury side of the docks is there to support the sailors of both Portbury and Avonmouth.

The centre is a place that sailors from around the world can come to relax and have some time away from their ship, playing pool or using the karaoke

machine. They use the Wi-Fi to speak to their families and they can also exchange money so they can buy items locally, including Sim cards for use on the next element of their journey.

Often, if the sailors have time, they are keen to explore the local facilities. Many wish to go into Bristol to see the sights and 'get some food', others go shopping for their next journey.

As you will be aware, the Portbury dock is not well served with public transport and having a volunteer on site who can help with **transporting** the sailors during their shore leave is an asset that supports the centre manager – on my last shift I collected sailors from Avonmouth, brought them back to Portbury



© Janet Wilson



© Janet Wilson



© Janet Wilson

and then returned some to the shops in Avonmouth and Gordano so they could enjoy food that was not 'ship food'.

The Centre is seeking to grow its **volunteer support**, so if you think you can offer a couple of hours a week or make a monthly commitment of a few hours to this local resource, please fill in the form at www.qvsr.org.uk/volunteer-opportunities.

Specifically, the centre is seeking people who have an interest in the maritime world and are happy to speak with the sailors when in the centre and would feel confident to use the 8-seater vehicle and transport people around.

See www.qvsr.org.uk/qvsr-bristol or, if you would like to speak to the centre manager to find out more, call 01275 374 895.

Janet Wilson

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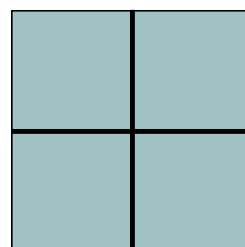
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Sport and Activities IN SHIREHAMPTON

Avonmouth vs Bitton AFC Saturday August 1st

Avonmouth welcomed Bitton, a team that finished just outside last season's play-off places, for the season's opener. Avonmouth did reach the play-offs, losing on penalties in the semi-final against Wells City, a team that *"The Mouth"* had beaten home and away in the league. Manager **Ash Bennett** and his new assistant **Mark Read** have set the play-offs as their target for this season. Could they get off to the best of starts today?

The **u11's**, who were mascots at today's game, start their season on **September 6th away to Saltford**, the first home game coming on **September 20th in the cup v Stoke Lane Athletic**. We wish the youngsters much joy and success in the coming season. Their senior clubmates made quick work of edging ahead. In the fourth minute a poor clearance by the Bitton keeper, who slipped and fell as he played the ball, was intercepted just inside the centre circle and played forward to **Kyle O'Donovan**. Kyle turned and seeing the keeper now on his feet but well off his line, struck a sublime chip over his head which sailed into the net to give Avonmouth the lead. The remainder of the half was competitive, both sides creating chances but failing to convert them. The second half continued in much the same vein, Bitton managing to breach Avonmouth's defence in the 50th minute, but the linesman's flag for a correct offside call ensured that *"The Mouth"* hung onto the lead. In the closing minutes of the game, Kyle O'Donovan was very close to putting the result

beyond doubt, the Bitton keeper doing well to prevent the ball from going through his legs and into the net.

1-0 is how it finished, Kyle O'Donovan deservedly receiving the **Man of the Match** award, not only for his winning goal but for a towering all round performance.

Avonmouth's next home game was on **Saturday 15th August** against **Hellenic League Premier Division team Fairford Town**, in the **F.A. Vase**, in which Avonmouth won 4-3 on penalties.

If you fancy an evening floodlit game before the weather turns, the u18 team take on AEK Boko on Monday 7th September, kick-off 19.30.

Why not make your way down to Avonmouth Rd, enjoy a drink and a snack from the well-appointed club house and cheer on your local team?

Paul McMillan & Photos © Paul McMillan



Avonmouth's u11's on mascot duty.



Not just a goalscorer; in the fifteenth minute, Kyle O'Donovan rises at the near post to preserve the lead that he had given his team.



Kyle O'Donovan, Man of the Match for a dominant all over the pitch performance.



Synchronised celebration from Avonmouth supporters as Kyle's chip sails into the Bitton net.



Bitton keeper Teddy Maggs foils Kyle O'Donovan's attempted nutmeg.

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Shirehampton's Winning Start to the New Season

Shirehampton faced the daunting prospect of playing their *first six games of the season away from home*, as the cricket season continues at *Penpole Lane*. I'm delighted to report that they are facing this challenge head on, recording a *3-0 victory against Welton Rovers* on Saturday August 1st, *Harry Pegler* opening the scoring on 41 minutes, *Louis Snailham* doubling the lead in the 61st and *Ryan Radford* putting the game to bed in the 64th with the third.



A trip to **Bitton** followed on Tuesday 4th. With the game poised at 1-1 at half time through a Louis Snailham equaliser, a thrilling second half saw Shire falling behind twice more, Louis Snailham equalising once again in the 61st and **Ciaran Wall** slotting home for 3-3 in the 74th minute. Six minutes later, after

great work in the box by Ryan Radford, **Oscar Sealey** pounced to drive home the winner. The **Man of the Match** award went to Louis Snailham, who pulled his team back into contention twice and created the platform for this epic victory.

The club's first home game is on Saturday September 5th, the return match with Welton Rovers, kick off 15.00. The club would very much appreciate your support and judging by the first two performances of the season, you could be in for a feast of football.

Paul McMillan

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Twyford House Trilogy

Our first game of the trilogy is the 1st's outing at *Clevedon* on Saturday 18th July. Here are some extracts from *James Connell's* post-match interview:

"We fielded first...**Clevedon** got **245**, with a good innings from their overseas (**Khayyam Khan**) with a 94. Well bowled to **Alex Quinn**; took three, Bolts (**Chris Bolton**) I think took three..... Unfortunately, the wicket changed a little bit in the second innings and we probably could have batted better. We were **85 all out**, so not great. We bounce back next week against **Downend** at home. *Up the House!*"



Clevedon turned out in force to support the club's Charity Community Day.

On Monday 20th July, the club's **Under-18's** played local rivals **Stoke Bishop** at Coombe Dingle. The House's bowlers did well, limiting Stoke Bishop to **124 in this 20-over match**.

After a tiring evening in the field, Twyford's batting line-up **posted 87**, so Stoke Bishop took the win in this entertaining match.



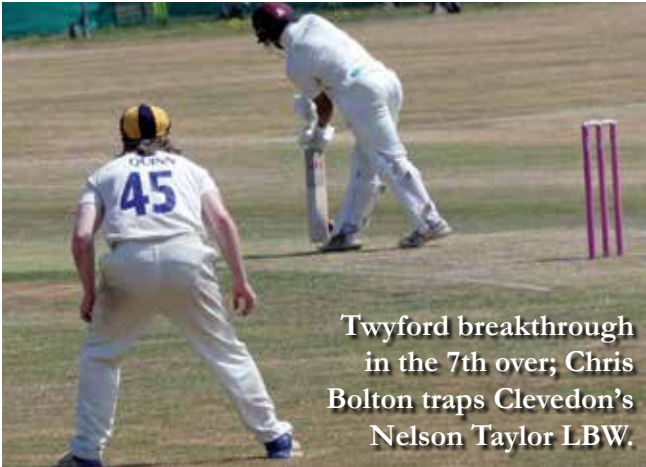
Frank looks on as the first wicket falls.



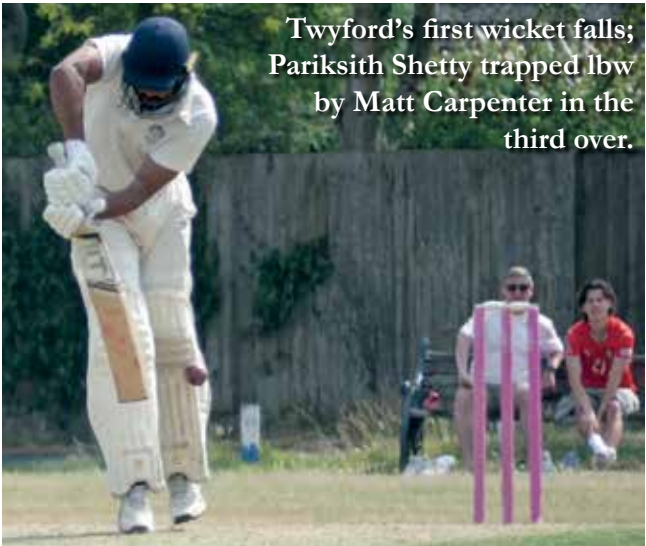
He doesn't know it yet, but Jack is about to trap the batsman LBW.



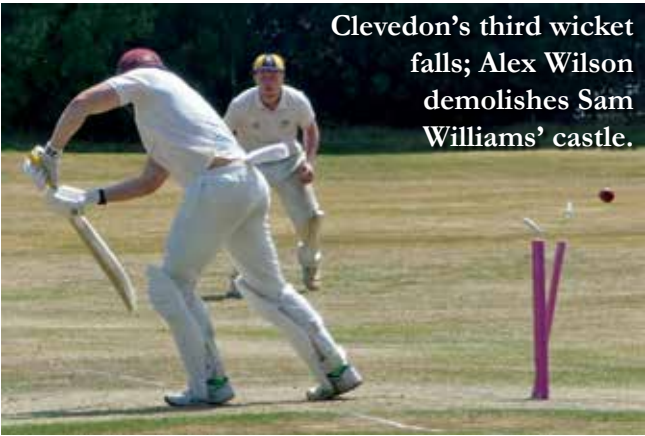
Eddie scores Twyford's last runs.



Twyford breakthrough in the 7th over; Chris Bolton traps Clevedon's Nelson Taylor LBW.



Twyford's first wicket falls; Pariksith Shetty trapped lbw by Matt Carpenter in the third over.



Clevedon's third wicket falls; Alex Wilson demolishes Sam Williams' castle.



Alex Quinn strikes out for the boundary.



Sam Toohey with Twyford's last run.



Nathan and Eddie.



Eddie sends one down.

On Sunday 2nd August the **u13's**, hosted **Stoke Bishop**, posting **95 for 5** in their twenty overs. Stoke Bishop's reply saw them over the line in the 19th over, posting **100 for 5**.

So, no wins for **The House**, but a glorious feast of cricket across the age groups. To quote from the club's Facebook page strapline: *"Let's just say we enjoy ourselves!"*

Facebook: Twyford House Cricket Club, Paul McMillan (and photos ©), U13 photos by © Bob Pitchford



Jacob flicks one over the keeper.



Jacob and Louis racking up the runs.

Cut to the Action

What is, just getting it; that sense that we -know-? It's the platonic sense of recognition but we needn't regard it as some sort of recollection of a pre-mortal state.

It's an aesthetic sense; like a tune that can be played from the bare notes in many ways but is recognisable as music in just a few of them.

When we fence, we act and it's an action as reaction to a complex context, impossible to analyse in the instant available.

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It's resolution of self into act that is the "zone" athletes speak of. It's the Zen of fencing, the Yoga of action of the Bhagavad Gita.

That's why we train, why we study and strive; not for prizes or plaudits but sublimation.



© John Rohde

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Lawn Bowls – It's for Everyone

For almost 50 years the *City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club* bowled on the green created for them at the *PBA Social and Sports Club* in Nibley Road, Shirehampton. The club was founded in 1970 by a group of men working at the port in Avonmouth. For the first four years they shared a green with *Avonmouth Bowling Club* on the site where Avonmouth Football Club plays today. The club grew in size and by the 1980s ladies were playing as well as men. By the mid-1980s the membership was capped at 120, specifically 80 men and 40 ladies—it really was that popular.

I joined the club in 2006 and by that time the membership was around 70. In the years that followed numbers continued to decrease and as a result the club was unable to play so many games or compete at so high a level as it had done in earlier years. Great efforts were made to keep the club afloat by finding new members, including a drive to attract juniors, but after some initial success interest faded and any hopes of a junior section disappeared. By 2023 membership was around 30 and at the end of that season the difficult decision was made that the club should close.

The general misconception that to be a bowler you have to be retired and old was a major reason for the club's demise—younger people simply would not give bowling a try. But the truth is that you can become a bowler at any age—in fact, the earlier the better. Many successful bowlers in the United Kingdom are young people.

Close to home, the club in **Congresbury** has a number of excellent young bowlers, while the county of **Gloucestershire** promotes bowling for people of all ages and includes an academy for young bowlers, some of whom have progressed to achieve great things in the world of bowling. Representing the county and, for some, even your country is achievable for those who want to learn to play the game to a high enough standard.

Playing bowls keeps you healthy in both mind and body. During an average game you will bend more

than 40 times, swing your arm more than 40 times to deliver a bowl weighing more than three pounds, and walk approximately 1260 metres—and all in the open air. People with disabilities are not excluded. The club at **Olveston** has special equipment and qualified coaches ready to help disabled people become bowlers.

And then, there are the social benefits: making new friends and being part of something that is worthwhile.

There are currently **over 20 clubs in Bristol** and a little beyond in South Gloucestershire—all looking to welcome new bowlers to their green. The nearest club to Shirehampton is **Avonmouth**.

To find a club or find out how to make contact with one please ring David Hinksman on 07932 387217.

David Hinksman



© David Hinksman

Anyone for bowls?

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