

Shire

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

No. 621 - October 2023 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

Have you got a job that needs doing? Go to YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS section on pages 20-21 to find a local business who can help.

**Bee Happy
Shire Bulb Planting
Party**
Sat Oct 21 - See Page 9
**'How can Shirehampton
become climate resilient?
- a discussion'**
Tue Oct 10 - See Page 8
**Shire Community Litter
Picks**
Thu Oct 19 - See
Page 5

Liberty for Shire's Warhorse

Following a number of years tethered to a fence in Tynings Field, whilst the project faced delays, our beautifully crafted Warhorse has finally found freedom in its new home in the Daisy Field. The site of the sculpture, originally the vision of *Diane Gait* and created by *Jason Baggs*, overlooks the Avon, Pill Harbour and the lower level of the Daisy Field. It was sited there so as to be visible from as wide an area as possible, including the Portway, the railway and Pill Harbour.

John Hastings began the unveiling ceremony by introducing a number of eminent people with local connections who came to join a large crowd of Shire residents and folk from much further afield to witness the culmination of the Warhorse project.

Our local **Sea Cadets**, dressed immaculately in uniform and led by their **Commanding Officer Alison Fowler** formed a moving guard of honour at each corner of the sculpture. Other cadets helped with stewarding duties and with handing out programmes; their smartness, efficiency and helpfulness was much appreciated by all. First to speak was **Stephen Judd**, who gave an address about the creation of **The Lamplighters Marsh Nature Reserve** and its extension later into **The Daisy Field**. Stephen stressed the great benefits of spaces like this, not only for nature, but also for the health and well-being of local people, particularly during the horrors of the COVID pandemic. Next to speak was **Pete Insole** who told us about his involvement in



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Continues on pages 11-13

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Upcoming Events
October 2023

5	QUIZ NIGHT Thursday 5th October at 7.00pm (Every 2nd Thursday of the Month)
12	CURRY CLUB - ONLY £9.95 WITH A RUBY JEANS LOYALTY CARD* Thursday 12th October from 6.30pm (Every 2nd Thursday of the Month)
20	OPEN MIC NIGHT Free entry - book a slot to play
27	STEAK NIGHT - £25 Sirloin Steak with Fries and Greens.
28	HALLOWEEN BISCUIT DECORATING - £5 Friday 28th October from 2pm - 4pm
28	ALL YOU CAN EAT RIBS - £20 Friday 28th October from 5.30pm

2 FOR £12 COCKTAILS
YOGA AND WELLNESS SESSION
Every Monday and Thursday from 9.10am
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Shire

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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.*

Diary of Events: Oct - Dec 2023

Tue 3rd Oct	– (TBA)
Tue 17th Oct	– (TBA)
Tue 7th Nov	– (TBA)
Tue 21st Nov	– AGM (and vote for Charity choice)
Early Dec	– Christmas meal
Tue 5th Dec	– In House Christmas party

For any information – contact Julia on 0117 982 9390

Events in our library



Every Tuesday afternoon 3pm – 5pm

Shire's Living Room –

Free tea/coffee/biscuits/games and a friendly chat.

Every Wednesday evening 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 here to help you!!

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 Zumba 7:30-8:30pm
THURSDAY	Bingo 2pm Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm 6:30-7:30pm Table Tennis 8pm
SATURDAY	Coffee Morning 10am-11:30am (2nd of month) Bingo 7:30pm
SUNDAY	Soul Space 4pm-6:30pm (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) Yoga	10am - 12noon 6pm - 7:30pm	Hall Hall
TUESDAY	Music with Mummy (term time only - pre-book) Extraordinary Links Parents Group (every 3rd Tuesday) Line Dancing Puppy Training	10am - 12noon 10am - 12noon 2pm - 3pm 6:30pm - 8:30pm	Bradley Room Hall Hall Hall
WEDNESDAY	Bristol Healing Rooms (every 2nd Wednesday) Pop-Up Play Village Bristol North (every 3rd Wednesday - prebook) Over 75s Exercise Class Extraordinary Links Shire Stitchers (every 3rd Wednesday) Women's Fellowship (every 2nd and 4th Wednesday)	11am - 1:30pm 9:30am - 10:30pm 2pm - 3pm 3.30pm - 5:30pm 7:30pm - 9:30pm 7:30pm - 9:30pm	Hall Hall Hall Hall Hall Hall
THURSDAY	Shirehampton Community Art and Social Group (formerly Sea Mills Art Club) Tai Chi Model Railway Club	10am - 12noon 2pm - 3:30pm 7pm - 10pm	Hall Hall Club Room
FRIDAY	Shire Stitchers (1st Friday of the month) Music with Mummy (term time only - pre-book) Shire News (last Friday of the month) Create to Elevate Youth Group	10am - 12noon 10am - 12noon 4pm 7pm - 10pm	Bradley Room Hall Hall 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

Bank Holiday Fun at the Community Centre

Monday 28th August saw another Fun Afternoon at the Cotswold Centre, Dursley Road. The weather was kind and we were able to play and chat in the garden as well as enjoy two dramas by some of the children who just practised on the day.

Indoors there was lots of food – tea, scones, cakes, and hot dogs - and the craft activity was making bunting. Many thanks to all who helped to make it happen – **Bridget** and her team in the kitchen, **Daphne** inspiring the craft, **Paul** training the drama participants and all who came and made it such a happy occasion.

The event was run by the **Cotswold Christian Community** – Christians from the various churches in the area – who also host a **Songs of Praise Café** at the **Cotswold Community Centre** every **second Sunday** of the month from 4.45-5.30pm. All are welcome to join us for this and suggestions for

favourite hymns can be made to **Lyn** on 0117 982 6455. The December event will be a **Christingle** – you may like to put the date in your diary – **10th December**.

Lyn Morton on behalf of the group.



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October

Thurs 5th 8pm - Karaoke
Sat 7th 8pm - Matt Reynolds
Weds 11th 8pm - Open Mic
Fri 13th 7.45pm - England vs Australia
Tues 17th 7.45pm - England vs Italy
Sat 21st 8pm - Emily Storm
Tues 24th 7.30pm - Quiz Night

November

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

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

SHIRE DOOR TO DOOR SHOPPING TRIPS 2023



PICK UP FROM 9AM UNLESS STATED

**WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER: SPECIAL 9-3PM
BURNHAM-ON-SEA**

**WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER:
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WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER: WILLOWBROOK

WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER: NAILSEA

WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER: YATE

WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER: PORTISHEAD

**WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER:
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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.



SHIRE STRONG



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

Email: t.linda1206@gmail.com

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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.

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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 19th October**

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

Summer Afloat!

The Weather did not stop us getting on the water!

A good number of qualifications and advancements have been gained throughout the summer, including First Aid, Swim Tests, and lots of Paddle sport.



A Guard of Honour at the Warhorse unveiling while other cadets helped with stewarding duties.

As summer turns to autumn our parade night boating draws to a close, but there are plans for boating during the October half term.

Our **autumn/winter programme** has lots of interesting topics for the cadets to learn and enjoy as well as gaining transferable qualifications. We are happy to be back to parading two nights a week with **Seniors and Juniors on a Monday evening** and **Senior cadets only on Thursday evenings**. Both evenings 18.45-21.15. We are actively recruiting for Junior Cadets 10-12 yrs and Senior cadets 12-18 yrs. **Taster evenings** are offered and a warm welcome awaits new members. We really do offer a great adventure!

Contact details: email avomouthseacadets@gmail.com Tel: 0117 982 3938 - Parade nights only.

We are always looking for new team members for our trustee board. Do you have business skills that could be useful to a small trustee led charity? The commitment can be as small or big as you can allow, we would love to hear from you! Please email chair@avonmouthseacadets.org

Did you also know that our venue can be hired? If you are looking for a venue with off street parking to run courses or meetings etc. please email chair@avonmouthseacadets.org for more details.

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Shire Needs You!

Over the years Shirehampton has lost many of its shops, businesses and amenities so don't let us lose our free local newspaper!

We are looking for new blood to join our dedicated team to ensure we continue to have this valuable asset to the village. All you need is a computer/laptop and the ability to put together an interesting "read" from the many articles/e-mails we receive every month from residents of Shirehampton and the surrounding area.

If you are interested please come along to one of our informal meetings which we hold the first Monday of the month.

Email for more details, contact one of the following with your name and contact number:

editor@shire.org.uk



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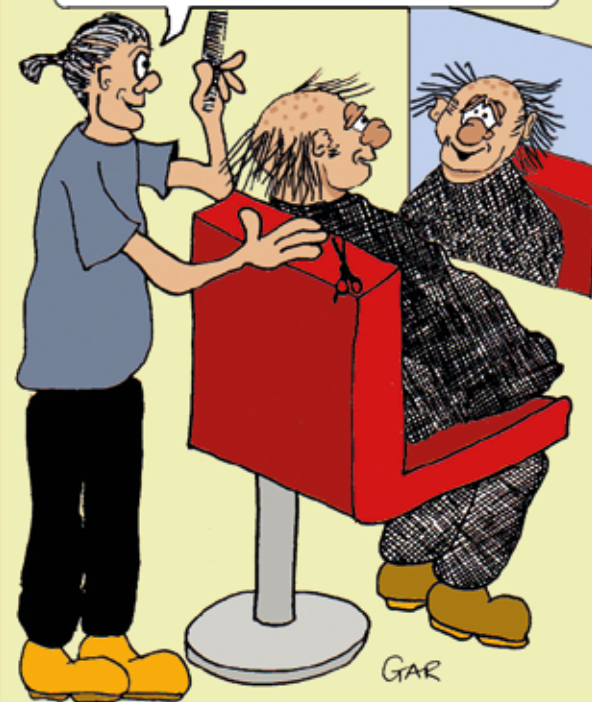
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CHICO THE BARBER

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THE WORLD IS GETTING WARMER

Early September and we are having a heat wave, set to break records for highest September temperatures ever. But not something to celebrate, especially when people are dying in little reported but catastrophic floods in central Spain, in Greece, in Hong Kong.

President Biden may think “*Nobody can deny the impact of the Climate Crisis,*” but unfortunately, our government seems able to. No one there seems concerned about what this record-breaking heat wave is telling us and we might ask how concerned we are ourselves. The **September 9th March for Fairer Buses** was very sparsely attended even though we know that affordable, reliable public transport is essential if we are to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels meet our net zero emissions targets. It is also essential that we stop airport expansion. **Bristol Airport** is to expand by two million passengers a year, despite advice from the government’s own **Climate Advisory Committee**, and massive local opposition from the North Somerset planning decision, local MPs, surrounding councils, and the nearly 9,000 people who objected in writing to the proposals, to say nothing of the thousands who marched against it!

And so... “About 40 people braved one of the hottest September days on record on Saturday September 9th for a pilgrimage from **Bristol Cathedral** to Bristol Airport. **Reverend Jonnie Parkin, Canon Missioner and XR member**, blessed the walkers before they set off. The focus of the pilgrimage was prayer and witness. There were several stops along the way to give thanks for sun, water, weather, and all the goodness of the earth. **All Saints Church Long Ashton** and **St Katherine’s Church Felton** provided shelter from the heat and refreshments along the way. Many of the pilgrims were keen to mark the end of the pilgrimage by praying peacefully

inside the airport itself but were prevented from entering by airport staff. They chose to claim the roundabout just outside as sacred ground instead.”

Here in Shirehampton **Ruth Whiter**, from the **Climate Emergency Group** offered a **Sustainable Fashion** morning on **23rd September**. We know that the UK sends millions of tons of discarded clothing to landfills in **Ghana** and **South America** destroying their local fashion industries and creating serious pollution. So, we thought we would have a morning about re-using, repairing, up-cycling the clothes we have and making them last longer. We had some expert seamstresses and textile artists there to help. We were there to encourage one another to do whatever WE can locally to reduce our contribution to one of the biggest polluters and contributors to global warming: fashion. We really are concerned.

R.Slater



© Ruth Whiter

Shirehampton Climate Emergency Group

'How can Shirehampton become climate resilient? - a discussion'

led by Nikki Jones

Climate Activist, founder of Avon Needs Trees and Save Water to Save the Tnym

Tuesday October 10th 7:30pm

**Cotswold Community Centre
Dursley Road Shirehampton BS11 9XH**

ALL WELCOME



Every Flower Counts

Saturday 21st October

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

Bulb Planting Party

10AM to 12 Midday on Penpole Lane
where it joins Lower High Street

All Welcome
Tools Provided

Let's get Planting for our Pollinators



Nature Notes

Apologies for not leaving a report last month folks, but I managed to delete the draft not once but twice!

So here goes with the third attempt!

A few weeks back I was about to open the conservatory door to the garden with **Russ**, my collie, close on my heels. I stopped just in time as I had spotted something lying on the path beneath my bedroom window. It wasn't moving, and for a few seconds I couldn't quite make out what it was. Russ was very alert straight away, so I knew I had better keep him inside.



It was a sparrowhawk!

I hustled Russ back in doors and then slowly opened the door to the garden. I could then see it was a bird that was lying prone on the path, so very still and on its back, with its wings spread right out to each side. Thinking the worst, I moved outside and saw a slight movement! The hawk then started its struggle to right itself! Next thing, it was up on its feet and having turned its head and spotting me, and having recovered from the battering it had somehow received, was up and away in a flash! I saw it clear the garden wall with inches to spare, and head for the nearest tree to finish its recovery. Keep your eyes peeled folks. You never know what might visit your garden!

Happy nature watching, Bobbie

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An Update from Darren Jones MP, Bristol North West

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

Bristol North West is made up of a number of historic villages, each with its own identity and charm. Retaining such a strong sense of village life in the suburbs of a major city isn't something that is commonplace elsewhere in the UK. It makes me proud to be Bristolian.

That's why I've launched a new campaign to cultivate and celebrate the charm of village life across Bristol North West. And where else could I start the Village Meetings than right here in Shire – *the village that my family and I call home.*

The Village Meeting would have probably taken place by the time you read this. (It was held on the evening of 28th September.) Thank you if you took the time to pop along. If you missed it, there's still time to contribute your views to the online survey, which you can find at darren-jones.co.uk/villages.

In my next column, I plan to reveal the new village motto for Shire – as decided by your views in the Village Meeting and the online survey, to create a motto that Shire residents can be proud to own. Local primary school children will then use the slogan to create a flag for the village. (If you're a teacher in a local primary school and eager for your class to be involved, please email me on darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk)

I'm staying in the ward for the next two Village Meetings, heading to Lawrence Weston on the morning of 30th September, then under the bridge to Avonmouth on the morning of 14th October.

Returning to the history of our village, I was proud to take part in the unveiling of the Shirehampton Warhorse statue at The Daisy Field in mid-September. The 2-metre horse statue, made entirely of horseshoes, honours the 300,000 horses that passed through Avonmouth and Shire during World War I, when Britain's war effort relied on horses to transport soldiers and supplies. Shire was home to one of the country's largest Remount Depots, where horses and mules that had been purchased overseas and shipped to Avonmouth were trained for war service. It's a remarkable part of Shire's heritage, and the statue will help this knowledge to be passed down to future generations.

Ending on some personal news, I'm thrilled to have joined Labour's frontbench to serve as Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury. In this role,



© Darren Jones/Houses of Parliament

I'll be holding Ministers to account on how they spend money on health, education and other public services. I want to reassure you that this change in national role does not affect any of the local services that my team and I provide for constituents, nor the events we host.

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: [@darrenjonesmp](https://fb.com/darrenjonesmp)

CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Shirehampton is in the Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Ward

Your Councillors are:

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

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Darren Jones Phone: 01179596545
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Liberty for Shire's Warhorse

Continued from page 1.

researching the history of **The Remount Depot** in conjunction with the staff and children of **Avonmouth Primary School**. It was a fascinating project for the adults and children and it has given us a much better understanding of that period of Shirehampton history. It certainly provided an answer for puzzled local residents who for many years had been unearthing horseshoes in their vegetable patches and flower beds. **Darren Jones** then spoke of his pride as a local lad in sharing this significant event with his local community in his capacity as their representative at **Westminster**. He spoke of the importance of strong community engagement and a sense of belonging which he shares with the people of the **Northwest Bristol Constituency** which he represents. As the onlookers waited patiently for the Warhorse to be unveiled, the last to speak was **Peaches Golding**, the **Lord Lieutenant of Bristol** representing **King Charles III**. She began by passing on the best wishes of the Sovereign before giving a moving account of the realities faced by horses and men during the war and then pointed out the view over the Avon to **Pill** where many horses crossed by ferry to see out their days in the fields of **Somerset**.

Next came the much-anticipated unveiling which proved to be a little more difficult than anticipated. The weight of the cover, a little damp from the preceding rain, made it tricky to lift and it became stubbornly snagged on our horse's ears! With a flash of inspiration, Peaches Golding raised her ceremonial sword and managed to help free the cover and finally, to much applause, the Shirehampton Warhorse was freed from its shroud. **Alison Sowton**, the **Vicar of St. Mary's** began her moving blessing by referring to the horse's shyness in revealing itself! Alison referred to the horrors suffered by horses and people during the **First World War** and called for peace and harmony and an end to conflict and division. I know that we have heard these calls many times before but, for me at least, Alison's quiet and moving blessing made in this setting and amongst local

residents and friends had a special resonance which will live long in the memory. Finally, there was community singing of *"Only Remembered"*, adapted by **John Tams** for the **Warhorse stage production**. **Tina Biggs**, of **Shirehampton Sailing Club**, accompanied on the violin as **Paul McMillan** led the singing.

During and at the conclusion of the Daisy Field proceedings entry forms were distributed for the children's art and writing competition. A reminder that entries should be left in the **Shire Newspaper tray** in **Shirehampton Library** no later than **Saturday September 30th**. Many people then retired to the hospitality provided by our Sea Cadets at their HQ on the banks of the Avon. Once again, the cadets were attentive, efficient and polite as they greeted their guests and helped to clear tables. Many thanks to **Richard Smith and family** for staffing the galley with charm and good humour.

This was a momentous day in Shirehampton history, celebrating and remembering not only our past but also who and what we are now as a community. As a very new member of that community, I can only say how proud and honoured I felt to have been part of it. Here's wishing our beautiful Warhorse a long and happy future in its new home.

Paul McMillan, Friends of Lamplighters Marsh



The vision of Diane Gait and created by Jason Baggs.



John Hastings of Friends of Lamplighters Marsh hosted the unveiling ceremony.



Continues over the page.



Stephen Judd talked about the creation of the Nature Reserve and The Daisy Field.



Peaches Golding, the Lord Lieutenant of Bristol representing King Charles III.



Darren Jones, MP of Northwest Bristol.



© Bob Pitchford



Pete Insole on researching the history of The Remount Depot.



Our Local Sea Cadets led by their Commanding Officer Alison Fowler.



Paul McMillan and playing violin Tina Biggs, of Shirehampton Sailing Club.



Alison Sowton, the Vicar of St. Mary's gave the blessing.



© Kathryn Courtney



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Diane Gait and Jason Baggs were interviewed for BBC and ITV local TV.



© Kathryn Courtney



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Alison, Darren and Peaches admiring the Warhorse statue.



© Bob Pitchford

Churches in the Shirehampton Area

Greetings from Shirehampton Baptist

In October autumn comes into full swing, often described as “Nature’s last hurrah before the bleak winter months.”

During the summer school holiday **Rock Steady** met for two days and managed to produce a **Passion Play** which was enjoyed by parents and friends.

Rock Steady is a club for primary school children. It is held every Thursday school term time in our church building, **Station Road**, 3:30pm - 4:30pm. The children enjoy games, crafts, puppet making, music and drama. Parents are invited to stay. For more information see Contacts.

The **Next Life Café** will open on **October 26th**, 10:30am - 11:30am, in our church building. We invite you to come and enjoy **Zhyan’s** delicious cakes - why not bring a friend?

On **August 28th** the **Cotswold Christian**

Community ran another successful **Fun Day**. We were blessed with fine weather, plenty of food and games.

The **Songs of Praise Café** will meet on **October 8th** at the **Cotswold Community Hall**, Dursley Road, 4:45-6pm. All are welcome to this informal meeting.

We are encouraged to have some young families attend our Sunday morning service. Their children are well looked after by our capable and lovely **Katy**, our minister’s wife, and her helpers. We enjoy sharing each other’s week over a cup of coffee after the service.

Paul Rhodes, our Minister, will be taking some morning assemblies this term at **Shirehampton**

Primary School and a drama class in the lunch hour. Last term the parents enjoyed a modern version of the parable *‘The Prodigal Son’* - although in this play it was the prodigal daughter.

All are welcome to our **Sunday Morning Service** at 10:30am, held in our church building a **Zoom Bible study** at 4:30pm. No Zoom on the second Sunday of the month.

To be able to meet as Christians to worship God is a privilege, we Britons enjoy. Not so in many other countries. Let us not take it for granted. Psalm 122 vs 1-2 says “I was glad when they said unto me - Let us go into the house of the Lord”. The church’s doors are still open to welcome you - but above all God is.

Contacts: 07743 683684, rhodespaul360@gmail.com

A Warm Hello from Us All at St Mary’s

As I write this, we are basking in the heat of a late summer heatwave, the seasons though are preparing for change. The leaves have started to release in readiness to protect the tree through autumn and winter. If they were to cling on, they would risk damaging the whole structure. As they fall, they make way for new growth and life.

I have just celebrated the first anniversary of my arrival in Shirehampton. My husband, **Derek**, and myself feel so happy to be a part of this community. I have learned much about the heart of the people of Shire and the many connections you all have with **St Mary’s**.

As the season moves on, I wanted to let you know about some of the services we have planned. We will be holding two services that will help us remember our loved ones and give thanks for their lives. The first will be held on the day churches across the land celebrate **All Souls’ Day** on **Thursday 2nd November**, at 7.30pm. This service will be a time to name loved ones, pray together and hear the promise we find in Jesus. If you would like to add the names

of those you love, please come in to church during October where we will have a place for you to leave your loved ones’ names. Our second service will be on the **21st of December**. *“The Longest Night”* is for those who find the noise and glitter of **Christmas** too painful to bear. This service is a time to sit, reflect, hear words of comfort, and sing quietly amidst candlelight.

If you would find it helpful to join with others to support one another through loss, then we will be holding our second **Bereavement Journey** course starting in mid-October. Do please contact St Mary’s Church office for more details.



Please keep your eyes on our Facebook page, website, and noticeboard for all the details of upcoming fairs, pop up events and the many chances to celebrate the Christmas season together.

Looking specifically at October, **Goldies** meet at church at 10.30am on **Wednesday 4th October** to enjoy music over the decades. You are also warmly invited to our 10am joint service on **Sunday 8th October** when we hold our **Harvest Festival**. This will be a lively, all-age worship celebrating God’s gifts together and all are welcome. Please note there is no separate Rise & Shine service that day. We ask for donation items for the Foodbank or cash for a discretionary fund to support families in crisis.

Join us on the journey. Come as you, are all are welcome.

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Shirehampton Hub at the Methodist Church

Things are going very well at the Shire Hub - for Wellbeing, Jobs, Training and Enterprise. We also welcome our new Minister Revd Martin Slocombe.

A new event is the 'Death Cafe' where we will listen and learn from each other and share experiences and perhaps learn to face our own mortality. At a Death Café people, often strangers, gather to eat cake, drink tea, and discuss death. Death Cafés are dedicated to encouraging discussion about death and dying in a relaxed environment – a welcome opportunity to ask those awkward questions you always wanted to ask.

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- **Hub's Cups** the drop-in Jobs club is on every Mondays, you are welcome to pop in after 11am, till 12.30pm.
- **Darren** is also available for a chat around **Cost-of-living issues** on Mondays and Wednesdays. He can also help with job seeking and job readiness by appointment, call him on **07305 066478**.
- Our **Community Fridge and Pet food bank** is continuing and is now a regular feature Monday to Thursday inc. Thank you to all the local shops that help with this venture! It is intended to reduce waste. If you have spare in-date fresh, or sealed tinned/ packet food or Pet food, please bring it along or call on the number below! If you need food please pop-in Mondays to Thursdays, Penpole Avenue (white doors) at **Shirehampton Methodist Church**. There are no restrictions, except please do not take more than you really need, so it goes further. Darren usually posts a photo of what's available each day on social media.

- **Hot-desking** at the Hub is an option for small businesses or for those working from home.
- The **Memory Café** has now moved to the **Cotswold Community Centre** meeting the third Friday of the month at 2pm for those living with dementia and their carers.
- We are also having a **Stakeholder event** - for all those who are interested or who have supported us - come and share your views about the Hub and have some refreshments on **24th October 12-2pm**.

Shire JTE Hub, The Methodist Church
Penpole Avenue, BS11 0DY

Hub's Cups

Mondays 11am - 12.30pm

Job seeking? Need help with your CV?
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Email projectcoordinator@jtehubshire.org
or pop in for a chat. All services are free to all
however donations are appreciated.

Please look out for posters, banners on the High St/Penpole Ave and Social media for up-to-date information on all our activities. Twitter and Facebook - @shirejtehub and Instagram - Shire JTE. Email: projectcoordinator@jtehubshire.org to register interest in any of the above, or for a one-one appointment to discuss your needs. Also Tel. 07305066478 or check the Website - <https://jtehubshire.org/>

Revd Pearl Luxon

BRISTOL HEALING ROOMS are in
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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.

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The Arts in Shirehampton

The Strange

An original story by Gil Osman

(Previously: The new Chief's House is being built to honour the new and first chief of the Stone Age village, which stands on the present site of Shirehampton. During the week that this is happening the Chief forms an advisory group of village elders will discuss all village matters in future and come to an agreement (the Chief having a veto, if necessary). He lays out his plans for a water-conservation system and a large group of young men from the hunters to protect the village and help the Chief to restore law and order. All this happens in the week it takes to build the Great Chief's House)

Chapter 14

Ever since the Chief's recent appointment, after killing the Great Stag and the ensuing celebrations, his father had been urging him to take a wife from among the young women of the village and begin a family dynasty, with a young male heir becoming the next Chief after his father's death. At the end of the house-building week he did just this and moved in with his new bride to the Chieftain's House, which was the talk of the village and a source of wonder and awe.

The new Chief's House was the largest and most advanced house in the village and the only one providing privacy for just two people; all the other houses were crammed with relatives and offered no privacy at all. The Chieftain and his new wife welcomed this huge space all to themselves, where they were able to develop a private relationship away from prying eyes and, within a week, they had fallen deliriously and deeply in love with each other.

The Chieftain did not know what was happening to him. He had never experienced such emotions before in his life, but he had the freedom within their married privacy to allow these powerful emotions to take over and develop such a deep relationship with another human being. He was a different person and

everyone noticed the difference, especially his father who was very pleased.

Within another week or two his wife was pregnant with their first child, which increased their happiness enormously. However, the Chieftain still retained his fierce and gruff appearance in public, trying to not let this facade slip. Little did his public know how he behaved like a little boy when alone with his wife.

His wife continued to meet regularly with her long-term childhood girlfriends, but now in the huge private space of the Chieftain's House, when he was out and about on village business. As girls always do, they would discuss their relationships with husbands and boyfriends, but no matter how much her friends

pressed her, the Chief's wife would not reveal any intimate details of the relationship. She would only say that in private he was a very gentle, caring, and loving man. Her girlfriends could hardly believe it!

When the great doors at the front and back of the Chieftain's House were put into place by the Chief himself (or by two ordinary men), the young couple were cut off from the rest of the world and could relax and enjoy each other's company. She would delight in teasing him. For example, she would hide his spear under some hay. He would chase her around the large chamber, pretending he could not catch her. Then he would catch her and force her (by tickling) to tell him where the spear was. Then, after making love, they would fall asleep in each other's arms. The Chief's wife was a very intelligent woman and they would spend much time together discussing what happened at village meetings and she would make her own comments and give her own views and volunteer her own ideas. The Chieftain's wife was so friendly and had such a pleasant personality that she was universally liked by all the villagers.

(to be continued)

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Oasis Academy Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

On the weekend of 23 & 24th September, several young people from Oasis Academy Brightstowe, Thomas, Harry, Kieran and others embarked on their Duke of Edinburgh award bronze expedition over the Mendip hills.

After weeks of planning, the weekend finally arrived. They started at **Winscombe rugby club**, after checking their tents and cooking equipment, off they set. A couple of wrong turns and 8 hours of hiking later, when **Thomas** and **Kieran** arrived at the campsite in **Cheddar**, **Harry** had the tent up ready.

They all enjoyed a fun evening of Manhunt, tag and touch rugby finishing with a game of cards before the torches were switched off.

On Sunday morning the tents were packed away, and they set off at 9.30am for another long day. They saw some amazing scenery, including, from a distance, **Glastonbury Tor**. After a 3km detour, they finally got themselves back on track and we were happy to see them arrive back safe, albeit very tired.

Thanks, Harry, for the blister plasters! Thank you to the teachers and staff for giving up their weekend.

You should all be so proud of yourselves.



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Climate Fashion Repair Café

Shirehampton Climate Emergency Group held their Climate Fashion Repair Café at the Public Hall on Saturday 23rd September. It attracted many people to visit and call in to see what was happening. Every stall had an environmentally friendly theme which included ways to repair clothing and knitwear, tie dye your own clothing and a swap shop table of clothing. Some of the things you could easily do from home and even clothes swap between friends and family.

Tandem Arts were recycling items for their crafts, Bristol Energy Network and the Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Survey Experts (C.H.E.E.S.E.) Project, Bristol were on hand for information and advice on how to keep our homes warmer and draft free with winter just around the corner. Poppies On The Green were also doing a two hour painting poppies session and there was homemade cake and refreshments on offer too.

Renée is a member of the Shirehampton Climate Emergency Group and I asked her what the event was all about?

"Today has been about climate and climate resilience and we know from Oxfam statistics the UK buys more clothes than any place else in Europe. It then sends more clothing to recycling, which is not recycled but shipped abroad and because it is acrylic and plastic fibres it becomes an everlasting source of pollution in places like Ghana. We also learn from 'Oxfam Second Hand September' that two tons of clothing that we have bought, the whole process will give off more carbon emissions than over 700 round the world flights. The fashion/clothing industry, is one of the 3 biggest polluters and makes more carbon than aviation and shipping combined. Though I haven't said any of this to anybody there are little notices around and the point is to get people to stop buying, to keep the clothes they love and keep on wearing them this will help reduce carbon emissions" said Renée.

I spoke with Georgie who was doing the tie dye table: "I brought in a few of my old t-shirts for

people to try out tie dyeing for themselves. It's really easy to do. I've been using a pack that I bought and it came with all the dye colours needed and squeeze bottles to help with precision dyeing. Once you put the dye on the fabric you then have to wait for about six hours before rinsing it off and then putting into a cold wash on its own because you don't want the colours to run onto other clothing and that's pretty much it. The idea is to find different ways to keeping your clothes for longer and think of different ways to upcycle them such as tie dye, using patches, putting sparkly things on them, whatever you choose and potentially lengthen the life of your clothes".

Tracey was on hand from C.H.E.E.S.E and explained what they do: "We do thermal surveys in your home so every room is surveyed individually and we're just looking for where those drafts are. Drafts are uncontrollable and allow cold air where it shouldn't. It completely different to ventilation and the drafts need to be stopped in their tracks. Our surveyors, although it's not professional advice, are able to recommend solutions and things that people should be looking at. It could be something simple like putting silicone round a window, draft proofing a door and things that can be easily fixed by you. We also give you the fully recorded visual and audio room by room. If you did need a contractor, you've got a bit more information to go to them with. It gives you a bit more power to say 'this is what I need'"

I asked Renée would they be doing this event again? "That depends on volunteers. I think it has to be a community endeavour. We've put this on to show people what it could be but everybody has to get behind it."

Kathryn Courtney



Timber Shivering Fun at Shire Sailing Club's Pirate Day

On Saturday 23rd September, the day dawned with the promise of pleasant and balmy weather for Shire Sailing Club's second Pirate Party, an event which the club hopes will become a new annual tradition in Shire. (You may remember that the party had to be postponed from its original July date due to the forecasts of thunderstorms and high winds) Undaunted by this setback, the members of the club set about rescheduling the event and were rewarded with good weather and a good turnout with adults and children, many dressed in colourful pirate costume, making their way down Station Road or along the banks of the Avon to the club's riverside HQ opposite the Lamplighters pub.

The enticing smell of a barbecue wafted through the air as folk queued to book their river trips on the club safety boat, before donning their colourful buoyancy aids and climbing on board. One of the guests boarding said that they had lived in **Shirehampton** their whole life and it was the first time they had been on the river. We hope that they enjoyed their new perspective of Shire, viewed from the **River Avon**.

Children and adults alike enjoyed the side stalls, staffed by volunteers, including **Kostya** and **Dasha**, teenagers from **Ukraine** and club members, with badge making and other traditional games. There was a cake stall, with lashings of delicious homemade cakes, and the barbeque was in full swing too, making a brisk trade in hot dogs and burgers, catering for both meat eaters and for vegetarians. There was also a treasure hunt, much enjoyed by the children.

As mentioned previously, many folk had taken the trouble to dress up in pirate attire and entered the fancy dress competitions for adults and for children, before settling down to enjoy the singing. The club had assembled a motley crew of shanty/songs of the sea singers, accompanied on the violin by club member **Tina**, comprising the **Club Commodore, Angus**, shipmate **Fiona** and **Paul**, a shipwrecked **Geordie Londoner**, washed up on the *Shores Of Shire* only last September. Paul's grandchildren **Lucy** and **Ismael** helped to lead the children's set before the motley crew began their own set. It was good to

hear many of the guests joining in the fun, with lusty renditions of the choruses. Children and adults then enjoyed the free options of healthy or naughty snacks of fruit or chocolates, provided for them as a thank you for making the day a special one for the club.

Tina concluded proceedings by thanking everyone for their attendance and reminding people that they were always looking for new members to help keep alive the long tradition of sailing on the Avon, from their clubhouse in Shire. A telephone number and link to the club website is shown below; the club would be delighted to hear from you.

Tel: 07596 560202

Email: info@shiresc.co.uk

Angus C, Commodore (Edited by Paul McMillan)



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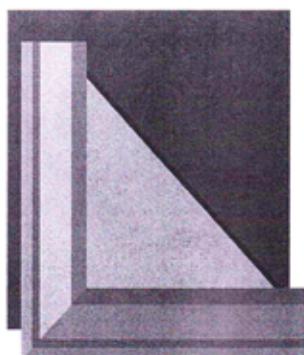
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SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON



City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

After fifty years of bowling on the green in Nibley Road, Shirehampton and three years prior to that sharing Avonmouth Bowling Clubs original green, the City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club will close at the end of the season.



Paul Bywater has been a member of the club from when it was founded in June 1970 until closure at the end of this season.

The worsening state of the green over the past season and a half has caused immense dissatisfaction amongst members and visiting bowlers alike. One visiting bowler earlier this season was heard to say --- this is not a bowling green.

Toward the end of this season the green reached a state whereby it was no longer playable and the remaining home friendly fixtures were switched to playing away.

The problems started in 2022 when financial support from the main club ceased, although support in other ways continued and they made clear that they wanted to see bowling continue at the club. The current green keeper could no longer be afforded without support from the main club so an affordable alternative was found by the



The last Mens League game --- at Bristol Arrow on August 17th. Note ladies of both sides on the green --- allowed only in Division Four of the Bristol and District League.

main club. Unfortunately, from that point the green deteriorated, members have become dissatisfied and many of them decided well before the end of the season to find another club for 2024.

An EGM was held on August 21st so that members could be made aware of the situation and be given the opportunity to cast a vote in favour of continuation or closure. The result of the ballot was overwhelmingly in favour of closure.

This was a decision made by the bowling club without pressure to close from the main club, who would like bowling to continue at what would be a greatly improved green. Any suggestion that the bowling club has effectively been thrown out --- is incorrect.



Club League game between the top two teams --- Nomads and Three of Each on August 28th. Mike Porter --- second from the left has bowled club league for forty years.

Present at the EGM was Paul Bywater who was also at the meeting in June 1970 when it was decided to form a bowling club based at the port. The club was formed and developed very quickly --- sharing a green in Avonmouth and buying woods for members to bowl with using money granted by the main club. In the first year they had thirty members and were playing friendly games, joining the league and arranging social events.

In 1973 the main club said yes to installing a green adjacent to the main club building. It cost £7500 and was ready to play on in 1974. A further £2000 was spent on the green surround and fence.

The famous David Bryant once played on the green --- for Redland Green in a Cup Match --- his team didn't want to play because the green wasn't good at the



The very last Ladies League game --- at Canford on August 25th. Jill Hinksman is delivering a wood.



The Cup Final between A.N. Other and Three of Each on August 31st.

time --- but David stepped in and declared --- it's the same for both sides. They played --- and Redland won.

More about how the club developed, and was successful in the next edition of Shire.

A look back at season 2023 and despite problems with the green there were some positives and one notable first --- Flo Grimes became the first lady President.

The majority of mixed friendly games were played thanks in no small part to Lynn and Nick Burand who worked hard to find a team each week.

Ladies League Captain Mary Lomas and Men's League Captain Bill Hatherall both worked hard to put teams out through their respective league seasons and both achieved some great results on occasions.

From the last edition of Shire --- a picture of Brian Crawley receiving rhubarb as a raffle prize --- The Ardagh club has been running since 1926 --- is currently unsure about its future but has traditions --- unusual raffle prizes being one!!

Closure of the club does not affect the Winter Bowling Break in Torquay in March 2024 --- we are all looking forward to it.

Do you maybe have memories of the bowling club in years gone by? If you do please share them with me and I will include them in a later edition of Shire.

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



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Cotswold Community Association Welcome Space on Dursley Road

On Thursday 31st August there was a special treat when we welcomed Rob and Sophie Wheeler of "Graft" who are responsible for some of the lovely Murals in the area. They demonstrated how to create a background of different colours on A4 sized board using spray paint. We then used various stencils to create our own unique artwork, which we were able to keep. Some people seemed a little tentative at first but once they'd seen the results achieved by others they were eager to have a go themselves.

"I never thought I had any artistic ability and am still struggling to draw a realistic stick person" said **Dave Parsons CCA Chair**, "but even I was able to create something which I was proud of."

We are very grateful to **Rob and Sophie** for coming along and making this activity such fun for everyone.

It's always lively at the **Cotswold Community Association Welcome Space** held every **Thursday morning** between 10am-noon. You can enjoy the various activities which include, craftwork, stone painting, games of different types or just a chat with old or new friends.

Everyone is welcome to this happy place to enjoy the company of others with free coffee/tea and biscuits. Don't be shy a warm welcome awaits.



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