



# REMEMBRANCE

## - 80 Years Since VE Day and VJ Day

On Sunday 9th November Remembrance Day remembered the fallen of two world wars and those that returned home. It is often said that the war dead are the real heroes who gave their lives for freedom of the then, future generations. However, to anyone who returned, they are heroes too because we wouldn't have democracy, freedom of speech as opposed to suppression and dictatorship. It is those who returned we can learn from as war is a horrific thing to face. Although some never spoke of the atrocities ever again.

This year marked the 80th anniversaries of V.E Day on 8th May and V.J Day on 15th August, that provided an opportunity for the nation to come together to honour and pay tribute to the Second World War generation from across the UK and Commonwealth.

Back in 1945 the Allies accepted the unconditional surrender of German Forces and was signed on

*Continues on page 6.*



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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](mailto:chairperson@shire.org.uk)

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# REGULAR EVENTS IN SHIREHAMPTON

## SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

<b>MONDAY</b>	Twyford Art Club (Except August)	10am-12noon	Main Hall
<b>TUESDAY</b>	The Jolly Melodies Music Company (Term Time) Line Dancing Community Living Room Bereavement Support (1st Tues) Puppy Training	10am-12noon 2-3pm 3-5pm 5.30-7pm 6-8pm	Main Hall Main Hall Library Library Main Hall
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Healing Rooms (2nd Weds) Over 75s Exercise Extraordinary Links (Term Time) Counselling Women’s Fellowship (2nd and 4th Weds) Shire Stitchers (3rd Weds)	10.30am-1.30pm 2-3pm 3.30-5.30pm 6.30-7.30pm 7.30-9.30pm 7.30-9.30pm	Main Hall Main Hall Main Hall Springfield Main Hall Main Hall
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Shire Social Group Healing Rooms Tai Chi Family History Group (2nd Thurs) Model Railway Club	10am-12noon 10.30am-1.30pm 2-3pm 6-8pm 7-10pm	Bradley Room Main Hall Main Hall Library Club Room
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Shire Stitchers (1st Friday)	10am-12noon	Bradley Room
<b>SATURDAY</b>	(Private and Public Functions)		
<b>SUNDAY</b>	Church of Grace	11am-4pm	Main Hall & Springfield

The Hall is also home to Shirehampton Action (formerly SCAF) and Tandem Arts CIC

### 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

### Notice to Our Readers and Contributors

We really appreciate and look forward to receiving your articles for our paper.

Please keep your articles to max 450 words (or consider less if submitting with a large number of photos). Photographs need to be of good quality and resolution for printing.

It really helps keep our community connected. Please note however that the deadline for receiving your articles or advertisements is the 10th of each month.

**Cotswold Community Association**  
Dursley Road, Shirehampton,  
Bristol, BS11 9XH  
Registered charity no. 1101427  
Website: [cotswoldcommunity.org](http://cotswoldcommunity.org)  
Email: [cotswoldca@gmail.com](mailto:cotswoldca@gmail.com)  
Phone: 07943-401575

### Regular Events at the Cotswold Community Centre

<b>MONDAY</b>	Pilates 9.30-10.30am Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm 6:30-7:30pm
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Over 70s Exercise Class 2pm-3pm Film Night 7:30pm (1st & 3rd of month)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Keep Fit 10:30-11:30am Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm Pilates 6:30-7:30pm
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Welcome Space 10am-Noon Bingo 2pm Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm 6:30-7:30pm
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Happy Space 2pm-4pm (3rd of month)
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Coffee Morning 10am-11:30am (2nd of month) Bingo 7:30pm
<b>SUNDAY</b>	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](mailto:cotswoldca@gmail.com)

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and happy Christmas  
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# The Shire Community Pages

## SHIRE ONLINE STORE – Perfect Christmas Gifts!

Ever fancied a mug showing your appreciation of our village, a T-shirt with the Shire logo or fridge magnet declaring your love for Shire? Whether you are stuck for a gift idea or want to treat yourself, take a look at our new online store for a variety of products with the Shire newspaper masthead and other Shire-based designs.



Check it out using the link below or QR code.

The products are produced on demand and shipped direct from the manufacturer.

All purchases will generate funds for the ongoing production and distribution of the Shire newspaper, so every purchase you make will be supporting your local community.

We would welcome any future design ideas – get in touch if there are things you would be interested in seeing in the store. Also, if you have any product design or online selling experience and would like to help out with our store to support the Shire newspaper please do get in touch.

Just some of the items available to buy. Many more available in different styles, sizes and colours. Have fun exploring! Dog not included...



## Puzzle Corner

Shire-doku compiled by Jack Jefferies.

	6						
						7	
	5			7	3	9	1
2					8		
	4				5		
8				5		3	
				8			
	3			1	2	7	9
	1	6		3			2

## Christmas Word Search

Find the following words associated with Christmas.

- SANTA CLAUS
- CRACKERS
- TREE
- SNOWMAN
- CAROLS
- ANGEL
- CHIMNEY
- HOLLY
- ELF
- STOCKING
- DECEMBER
- GIFTS

U	C	A	R	O	L	S	P	E	L	F
R	R	Z	S	Q	R	T	P	L	T	C
S	A	N	T	A	C	L	A	U	S	D
P	C	M	O	J	H	H	M	R	N	E
C	K	P	C	X	I	U	T	H	O	C
D	E	A	K	R	M	J	R	O	W	E
T	R	R	I	A	N	G	E	L	M	M
O	S	T	N	S	E	T	E	L	A	B
W	U	Y	G	R	Y	R	W	Y	N	E
G	I	F	T	S	D	M	U	R	T	R

Solutions on page 8.

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# Personal Announcements

Do you wish to announce a personal or family celebration, marriage or death?

To book contact: [adverts@shire.org.uk](mailto:adverts@shire.org.uk)  
Prices Start from £7.95

## Darren Robert Pople (Percy)



Born 9th November 1965 and sadly passed away 22nd October 2025. He will be sorely missed by Sarah, family and friends. Darren's funeral will be held at Canford Crematorium on Friday December 12th at 3pm. Sarah, family and friends will gather immediately afterwards at Avonmouth Rugby Club, Barracks Lane, BS11 9NG for a celebration of Darren's life. All welcome.

## Alan & Joyce James



Married in St Edyth's Church Sea Mills on 3rd December 1955. Alan and Joyce brought their family of 5 children up in Shirehampton, living with Gran & Grandpa at 73 St. Mary's Road for one year, moving to 28 Bradley Crescent for several years and then 29 Church Leaze until 1974.

They will be celebrating their Platinum Wedding Anniversary on Dec 3rd, 2025.

*"With love & congratulations from their 5 children, 12 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren, with no. 10 on the way."*



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](mailto: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.*

## School Photo Response

'Shire' has received a response to the school photo of a class at Kingsweston House Primary & Junior school dating from 1960, published in our November edition. On the left, the teacher is Mr Baker and on the right of the photo is the Head Master, Mr Mead.



# VOLUNTEER NOTICE

Do you have *Finance, Fundraising, Marketing or Advertising skills*? Would you like to share them with a friendly, relaxed, local group of volunteers producing the Shire! If yes we would love to hear from you!!

As well as the usual 'wordy' people we like to meet and become involved in editing and reporting, we have some tasks that would appeal to the 'number' people in our community. Balancing the accounts, sourcing additional income, working with local businesses, are all areas you could be involved with. This will not only help us at the Shire, but will support the local community and give *you* the opportunity to network, meet new people, develop your skills, and see how the newspaper operates.

If you are interested please get in touch via the editor or chairperson mailboxes (see page 2) - *we'd love to hear from you!*



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

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

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- Improve muscle tone and bone density
- Improve mobility and coordination

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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.



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

Email: [t.linda1206@gmail.com](mailto:t.linda1206@gmail.com)

[www.shirestrong.co.uk](http://www.shirestrong.co.uk)



*Continued from page 1.*

**7th May 1945 at General Eisenhower’s headquarters in Reims, France.** It came into effect at 11.01pm central European time. The people celebrated the end of a 6-year brutal conflict. Despite rationing, neighbours came together for V.E day street parties sharing what food they had. I was told by mum who remembers that day, that my **Uncle Bill** decorated the old oak tree with lights in the street. I won’t reveal the electrical source though. Celebrations went into the night.

VJ Day marked the **end of the Second World War** as the **Asia Pacific war** continued at a pace until **15th August 1945**. It came to a dramatic end when two atomic bombs were dropped on the **Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**. Horrific in itself.



Of course there have been further conflicts around the world since the end of WWII and Remembrance Day is also for the Armed Forces up to the current day.

The **Remembrance Service** at the top of the hill attracted a huge number of people showing their respects and remembering everyone no matter what their role.

The **Brownies, Guides, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows** and two representatives from **Avonmouth Sea Cadets** stood alongside veterans from the **Armed Forces** of more recent years. Each placed a poppy wreath on the **Cenotaph** with grace and respect. **St. Mary’s Church** did the Remembrance service with high regard to all the armed forces that we should never forget.

*Kathryn Courtney and Photos © Kathryn Courtney*



*Go to [www.shire.org.uk](http://www.shire.org.uk) to view more photos.*

# Can You Recognise Anyone from this School Photo?

## Shirehampton Junior School 1962/1963

This is a recently colourised version of a school class photo from Shirehampton Junior School. The school year is believed to be September 1962 to July 1963. Judging by the clothing, the picture looks to have been taken in one of the colder months, likely over the winter. The teacher is Mr Davis and it's the last year of junior school.



I am hoping to find out more about the people in the photograph. If any readers recognise themselves, brothers or sisters, friends, neighbours or relatives, I would be very grateful to hear from you.

A few of the children have already been identified, thanks to the help of **Candice Alder (née Button)** who kindly spent time looking over the image whilst I made notes.

The names known so far include:

**1st (top) row:** Vernon Jozefowicz (3rd), Michael King (5th)

**2nd row:** Paul Wescott (1st)

**3rd row:** Lynda Price (my mother, 2nd), Pat Laird (5th), Mr Davis (teacher, 6th), Lesley Froom (10th)

**4th (bottom) row - No names known**

If you are able to help, please **contact the editor**, who has agreed to pass any messages on to me.

I do also have another class photograph from an earlier school year that I will happily to share early next year.

Thank you in advance to anyone who can help.

*Alex Wright*

## An Update from Darren Jones MP, Bristol North West

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

Thank you to everyone who joined me in early November for my first *'in conversation with...'* event, where the need to open up opportunities in the arts and culture for the many, not just the few, was the topic of discussion.

I was pleased to be joined by two prominent figures in Bristol's arts and culture scene to discuss the topic: **David Sproxton, the Co-Founder of Aardman Animations** – the studio behind *Wallace & Gromit* and *Morph* – and **Simon Wales, the Chief Executive of the Bristol Beacon** – a charity that not only hosts big city centre performances, but also leads on music education in the West of England.

The event was a great networking opportunity, with many creatives from across Bristol North West gathered together in one room, including a Shire resident who shared with us that he runs an established monthly open mic night for spoken word poets and comedians, called **Riot Act**.

I hope the attendees continued to connect in a dedicated post-event **WhatsApp group** that was set up to hear people's thoughts after the event. This is something new for my events, with the link to the groups only emailed to

attendees. So, please keep a lookout for this if you come to one of my forthcoming events. (Subscribe to my monthly newsletter to hear when the next 'In conversation with...' is announced at [darren-jones.co.uk/contact](http://darren-jones.co.uk/contact).)

With this in mind, my next constituency event is an informal **Winter Social on Saturday, 13th December at 3:00pm**. It will be held in the BS6 area, but it is open to everyone in the Bristol North West community.

There's no agenda or Q&A at this event, just some hot drinks (or something stronger if you want to buy a drink at the bar) and the opportunity to chat with me and meet other people in our local community. To book a ticket, visit [darren-jones.co.uk/events](http://darren-jones.co.uk/events) or call **0117 959 6545** if you're not online.

Finally, on the topic of community spirit, thank you to everyone who helped with the **Poppies on the Green display** and the **Remembrance display at Southmead Hospital** – I hear the latter became a Bristol North West-



wide effort to knit and crochet the 1,945 small poppies and 80 large poppies needed for the installation!

It was a privilege for me to join the **Remembrance Service** in Shire this year, alongside local veterans, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Brownies, Guides, cadets and local residents, to pay our respects to those who have served. ***We will remember them.***

As always, if you need my help or have a question, you can get in touch with me on e-mail at [darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk), by calling my office on **0117 959 6545** or by writing to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

**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](mailto:cllr.donald.alexander@bristol.gov.uk)

Zoë Peat - Labour: [Cllr.Zoe.Peat@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Zoe.Peat@bristol.gov.uk)

Tom Blenkinsop - Labour: [Cllr.Tom.Blenkinsop@bristol.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk)

Website: [www.darren-jones.co.uk](http://www.darren-jones.co.uk)

# Ruby Jeans Partners with Ali Mahal for Festive Evening Dining

*Much-loved Shirehampton curry house returns to restaurant dining in exciting collaboration.*

Two of Shirehampton's most beloved businesses are joining forces this December, as Ruby Jeans The Parade welcomes Ali Mahal back to restaurant-style dining for a special festive partnership.

Ali Mahal, which has served the community for decades and is fondly remembered as a sit-down restaurant before lockdown, will bring their authentic curry dishes to Ruby Jeans' welcoming venue throughout December and into the New Year! — giving locals the perfect excuse to enjoy quality curry.

## A Partnership Born from Community Spirit

The collaboration came about naturally through the friendly relationship the two businesses have shared since Ruby Jeans opened on The Parade. When Ali Mahal converted their restaurant space into the local martial arts studio for Sensai and Ruby Jeans decided to scale back evening service, both saw an opportunity that benefits everyone.

"We're thrilled to be working with Ali Mahal to bring something special to Shirehampton this Christmas," said Mark, Director of Ruby Jeans. "Both businesses are committed to serving our local community, and this partnership allows us to offer extended evening dining during the busiest time of year, whilst giving Ali Mahal the restaurant setting their customers have been asking for."

For diners, it's the best of both worlds: Ali Mahal's beloved curries at takeaway prices, but served in Ruby Jeans' comfortable restaurant setting with full table service, a licensed bar, and no dishes to wash at home.

## What's on the Menu

Ali Mahal will be serving their full range of authentic curries, with prices starting from just £10.95. The menu includes:

**Classic Curries** including the ever-popular Chicken Massala—Ali Mahal's signature dish featuring oriental spices with butter, coconut, almond and cream with their special sauce. Other favourites include creamy Korma, rich and spicy Madras, and the fiery Vindaloo for those who like it hot.

**Biryani Dishes** from £12.95, with options including chicken, lamb, prawn, and vegetable.

**Starters** such as papadoms with dips (£3), onion bhajis (£4.95), and samosas (£4.95).

**Family-Friendly Options:** Mild, non-spicy curries are available for younger diners, with kids' curries (Korma or Massala with steamed rice) priced at £9.95.

All dietary requirements can be catered for, including vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and dairy-free options.

## The Full Ruby Jeans Experience

What makes this partnership special is the complete dining experience. Ruby Jeans' full bar will be available throughout, featuring festive mulled wine, cocktails and a wine and beer selection.

To finish, you can choose from Ruby Jeans' dessert menu, including warm brownie with ice cream, cheesecake, and more—the perfect sweet ending to a spicy meal.



## December Dates

The partnership runs every weekend (Friday to Sunday - 5.30pm to 10pm) throughout December (excluding Friday 26 December).

## Perfect for Groups and Celebrations

Group bookings are warmly welcomed, and Ruby Jeans' function room is available for parties of over 20 people—ideal for work Christmas parties, family gatherings, or festive celebrations with friends.

The venue's family-friendly atmosphere, combined with Ali Mahal's flexible menu options, makes it perfect for multi-generational gatherings where everyone can find something they'll love.

## Booking Information

Tel: 0117 989 8224

Walk-ins welcome, subject to availability, though booking is recommended during the busy festive period.

Ruby Jeans The Parade is located at 3-4 The Parade, Shirehampton, Bristol.

## Puzzle Solutions

If readers wish to submit any other Sudokus, Crosswords or other puzzles for inclusion in future editions of Shire, please send to editor@shire.org.uk

1	6	7	9	5	3	2	4	8
3	8	9	1	2	4	6	7	5
4	5	2	6	8	7	3	9	1
2	9	5	3	7	6	8	1	4
6	4	3	8	9	1	5	2	7
8	7	1	2	4	5	9	3	6
9	2	4	7	6	8	1	5	3
5	3	8	4	1	2	7	6	9
7	1	6	5	3	9	4	8	2

U	C	A	R	O	L	S	P	E	L	F
R	Z	S	Q	R	T	P	L	T	C	
S	A	N	T	A	C	L	A	U	S	D
P	C	M	O	J	H	M	R	N	E	
C	K	P	C	X	I	U	T	H	O	C
D	E	A	K	R	M	J	R	O	W	E
T	R	R	I	A	N	G	E	L	M	M
O	S	T	N	S	E	T	E	L	A	B
W	U	Y	G	R	Y	R	W	Y	N	E
G	I	F	T	S	D	M	U	R	T	R

## Future View

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Peter Irvine NCH AFSHI

# BRISTOL waste



## When's your bin day over Christmas and New Year?

Collections pause on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, so your waste and recycling will change for a few weeks.

### Normal bin day

Thur 25 Dec  
Fri 26 Dec  
Mon 29 Dec  
Tue 30 Dec  
Wed 31 Dec  
Thur 1 Jan  
Fri 2 Jan  
Mon 5 Jan  
Tue 6 Jan  
Wed 7 Jan  
Thur 8 Jan  
Fri 9 Jan  
Mon 12 Jan  
Tue 13 Jan  
Wed 14 Jan  
Thur 15 Jan  
Fri 16 Jan

### Festive bin day

Mon 29 Dec  
Tue 30 Dec  
Wed 31 Dec  
Fri 2 Jan  
Sat 3 Jan  
Mon 5 Jan  
Tue 6 Jan  
Wed 7 Jan  
Thur 8 Jan  
Fri 9 Jan  
Sat 10 Jan  
Mon 12 Jan  
Tue 13 Jan  
Wed 14 Jan  
Thur 15 Jan  
Fri 16 Jan  
Sat 17 Jan

Back to normal from Mon 19 Jan

## 🎄 Christmas tree collections

Put your tree out with your first wheelie bin collection from Tuesday 13 January.

You can also take trees to your nearest Household Reuse and Recycling Centre or search online for local charities offering collections in your area!

## ↓ 2026 collection dates

Download your 2026 collection calendar from [bristolwastecompany.co.uk/festive](https://bristolwastecompany.co.uk/festive)

## 🔔 Don't forget...

Garden waste collections and paid bulky waste services pause from Monday 22 December to Monday 26 January 2026.



👉 Scan me!

For more info and festive tips, visit  
[bristolwastecompany.co.uk/festive](https://bristolwastecompany.co.uk/festive)



**BRISTOL  
OWNED**



Bristol Waste is a Bristol City Council Company

# Autumn Years Dementia Respite Care at Lawrence Weston Community Farm

This peaceful and well-loved community asset is a fantastic setting in which to hold such a group. Walks around the animal pens are a regular feature of the activities on offer, especially when the farm’s favourite sow finally delivered a litter of piglets, following a “phantom pregnancy” last year. Daddy Pig, from Co. Down, Ireland was called upon to provide the necessary and Mummy Pig was duly served. The litter of five was doing well when Shire visited on *October 20th*, although news had been deliberately withheld to avoid a swarm of well-wishers descending when Mum and offspring needed peace and quiet.



Today was the group’s **Open Coffee Morning**; activities on offer included a quiz, crosswords, puzzles and my personal favourite, musical bingo. It involved a singalong and who doesn’t love a singalong? The process involved **Naomi**, the group leader, playing songs and the group identifying them so we could mark them off on our bingo cards. Of course, as soon as someone got the song they would burst into a hearty rendition, other folk then catching on and joining in the chorus of voices. As a result, it took a bit longer than planned but **WHAT FUN!**

The group had held its first birthday celebration the week before and there is a plan to hold a “**Carols with the Animals**” singalong at the farm on the morning of **December 15th from 11:00-12:00**. All are welcome.

*Paul McMillan and Photos © Paul McMillan*

Here’s a link for information on Autumn Years:  
[www.autumnyearscommunitycare.com](http://www.autumnyearscommunitycare.com)



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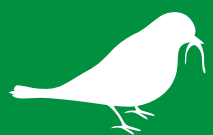
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# THE GREEN PAGES

## CLIMATE NEWS

As I write this *Cop30 is opening in Brazil*. Cop is the United Nations' annual climate summit; nearly 200 countries gather to negotiate and make decisions about tackling climate change. In *Paris in 2015* the nations agreed to undertake carbon reducing measures that would keep rising global temperatures below 1.5 degrees and thus avert the worst consequences of global warming.

The UK hosted **Cop26 in Glasgow in 2021**. Several people from Shirehampton joined a pilgrimage walk to Glasgow to support our government's efforts to "KEEP 1.5 ALIVE". Even then we saw that while wind and solar power were gaining ground and fossil fuels were declining a great deal more needed to be done by government if we were to keep to a rise of 1.5C.

**The news from Cop30 is not good.** We have to acknowledge that we have failed to limit global warming: **carbon emissions are in fact increasing.**

We see the catastrophic consequences of that failure to reduce emissions in the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa. And there will be more such storms.

But what can we do? 'Just Stop Oil', of course. But much as we reduce our individual carbon footprints we know that real change can only come from government action to support green industries against the hugely powerful and wealthy fossil fuel industries. For each of us perhaps now is the time to "tell the truth" about climate change, huge and frightening as that truth is.

Not a very cheerful message as we approach Christmas. But we are also coming to the end of this year, preparing for the Solstice and the return of the sun and light. It is a time for new beginnings acknowledging the reality of what's happening to our climate and what we need to do.

RS

## Fight Fly-Tipping and Keep Britain Tidy!

**Bristol Waste Company and Bristol City Council** are teaming up with **Keep Britain Tidy** with a new campaign to crack down on rogue waste carriers, or 'white van' operators.

Fly-tipping costs councils across England **millions of pounds every year in clean-up costs**, draining money that could otherwise be spent on essential local services. Bristol City Council actively investigates anyone who illegally handles or dumps rubbish.

Bristol Waste Company and Bristol City Council are supporting Fight Fly-tipping with a local campaign for the people of Bristol to protect themselves and their communities from falling for a **#RubbishDeal – low-cost, unlicensed services** offered on **social media** by organised waste criminals.

There are **3 simple steps** to avoid a **#RubbishDeal**:

1. Ask for a waste carrier registration number.
2. Check it on the Environment Agency's public register at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers> or call 0300 065 3000.
3. Check you'll get a receipt



© Bristol Waste Company and Bristol City Council

There is no excuse for fly-tipping. In Bristol, there are lots of ways to dispose of waste. We have three household reuse and recycling centres, which residents can visit for free. The Council also offer bulky waste collection services, and the city has a range of reliable, licensed private waste carriers.

People should report fly-tipping using FixMyStreet - [https://fixmystreet.bristol.gov.uk/?filter\\_group=Flytipping,Street+cleansing](https://fixmystreet.bristol.gov.uk/?filter_group=Flytipping,Street+cleansing)

Anyone caught fly-tipping could be charged with a criminal offence and receive a fine of up to £50,000.

For more information on proper waste disposal, how to manage household recycling and more, visit <http://bristolwastecompany.co.uk>



© Bristol Waste Company and Bristol City Council

## Nature Notes

As my recent attempt at celebrating the eclipse of the Sun was, if I'm honest, not the amazing shot I wanted, I thought this month's effort just might be a suitable replacement!!



© Bobbie Perkins

This was the scene last October 22nd from our side window at just after 8 o'clock in the morning. I had scurried back to the bedroom muttering something like 'please cloud stay away' as I raced around headless chicken-like before everything disappeared!

I have been under the weather a little so this has to be my offering for now, but I seriously hope it passes muster!

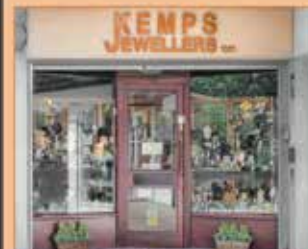
*Happy nature watching folks!*

Bobbie

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# History Man

## A profile of John Barbey of Kings Weston House

*John Barbey*, the current leaseholder of *Kings Weston House*, has come a long way. Born to a family of successful garment manufacturers in Pennsylvania, he moved to California at the age of nine, migrated with his family from there to French Switzerland, then moved to France and from there to England before returning to San Francisco to work as a campaigning journalist for 30 years. John has travelled all over the US in search of the perfect place to live, but finally, aged 60 and weary of the tumult of journalism, decided to base himself in Europe.

An unapologetic Anglophile with familial roots in **England's West Country** as well as **Italy, Scotland and Ireland**, he lived in London for several years before finally moving to Bristol and Kings Weston in 2015, becoming the leaseholder of Kings Weston House and its four acres of land four years later. He has since dedicated his 'retirement' to restoring, maintaining and operating this historic gem as a going concern.

John has always had a keen interest in architecture and the restoration of historic house interiors, including during his years in California. In Britain, his favourite building is **Castle Howard in Yorkshire** (like Kings Weston House, part-designed by the architect and dramatist **John Vanbrugh**) and if he had to return to any period it would be the late 17th and early 18th centuries, the period when Kings Weston House took much of its current form.

It's all a far cry from the garment manufacture on which his family's wealth was built (the Barbey family had interests in diverse fields, owned a significant portion of eastern Pennsylvania, and at one point even brewed a very well-regarded beer). Counting **Thomas Jefferson** and **Pocahontas** among his ancestors, John

was considered a 'black sheep' and almost completely disinherited by his family, but continues to plough his own furrow and pursue his chosen path.

Anyone who has looked inside Kings Weston House will appreciate the painstaking care and devotion that has gone into keeping the property immaculate and true to its original sumptuous appearance. Since taking on the lease of this magisterial mansion, however, John, together with his business partners **Josh and Katty Garcia**, has had to overcome immense struggles to keep the business afloat, not least a seriously defective roof, windows that needed replacing and an ongoing and highly expensive issue of water ingress.

Despite these trials and tribulations, John valiantly persists in his mission, having recently obtained permission to install a lift for the disabled and with plans to expand the café. The funding for all this comes from operating the house as a top-notch wedding and events venue and as a location for filming.



© Rob Andrews

Now 80 years old, John has no plans to move on. He 'adores' Shirehampton and is respectful of the local community; as he puts it: 'I've had a remarkably charmed life, but am at "the last act" and wanted to make some good of it all.'

**So let us salute John Barbey's invaluable contribution, not just to the local landscape but to the country's national heritage.**

*Rob Andrews*



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## Meet the leading ladies of cosy crime!

Hear bestselling cosy mystery writers Debbie Young, Jean Burnett and Frances Evesham quizzed by Jayne Chard at **Shirehampton Library**, **Thursday 11th December**, **2.30 to 3.45pm**.

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SHIREHAMPTON LIBRARY

# A Warm Welcome to Yogashire - Inclusive Yoga in Shirehampton

Hello everyone! I'm Catherine, and I'm really happy to introduce Yogashire — a friendly yoga space here in Shirehampton.

Yogashire began as a simple wish: to create a welcoming place where people could connect — with themselves, with others, and with a sense of ease in body and mind.

After years of practising yoga, I wanted to offer something **rooted in warmth, community, and a genuine love for movement and mindfulness.**

My own yoga journey began 17 years ago while living and working in India. I still remember my first class — it felt as though every cell in my body had awakened around an ocean of deep inner calm. That sense of grounding and expansiveness continues to inspire my practice and teaching today.

Classes at Yogashire are inclusive and open to everyone — whether you're new to yoga or have been practising for years. Each session offers the opportunity to **challenge the body and calm the mind** — from beginners' courses and energising flows that build strength and flexibility, to restorative sessions that invite rest and release.

I'm also excited to be introducing classes for new mums, as well as some community park yoga sessions when the weather gets warmer — so look out for those!

Many people come to yoga for its physical benefits — greater strength, flexibility, and balance — but the most powerful changes often happen within. Yoga helps calm the nervous system, ease tension, and nurture a sense of wellbeing that extends far beyond the mat.



© Catherine Stefanini

For class times and bookings, visit [www.yogashire.com](http://www.yogashire.com) or follow @yogashirebristol.

*I look forward to welcoming you soon*

*Catherine Stefanini*



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Like many, the Shire is operating in a **difficult financial environment** and with **production costs of £1,800 per month** we are very reliant on local businesses via advertising to produce this treasured local asset. For any businesses out there that would like to be featured in the Shire, we have lots of options available from full page ads to a mention in the classified sections, and even the opportunity to sponsor an edition or become a 'friend of Shire'. Please reach out to us through the **chairperson** or **advertising mailboxes** (see page 2) to discuss options - we'd be happy to hear from you. Our rates are very competitive, and you get to highlight your business via our distribution network to 5000 properties including homes, selected High Street shops, cafés, community hubs and sports

clubs in **Shirehampton**, as well as community hubs and sports clubs in **Avonmouth, Lawrence Weston and Sea Mills**.

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For those who advertised with us previously who are considering coming back, you are most welcome. We know that times have been hard but we keep our prices down to the very bare minimum, aiming to break even with a tiny bit put aside into our small reserves for when hard times hit, as they have done recently."

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# CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Christmas Eve • 7:30pm

## Happy Christmas to All Our Readers

*Carols on the Green will be taking place on Christmas Eve at 7:30pm on the Green in Shirehampton. You attend at your own risk. It is an outdoor event so please come prepared for the weather!!*

It's a great local tradition to meet for carol singing on Christmas Eve but it does cost money for us here at the Shire to arrange the brass band, staging and print the words. We would really appreciate any spare change that you could donate to support us with this. There will be a collecting bucket on the night for any coins, or please feel free to use our just giving link.

£1 or 50p from everyone that attends would make all the difference and help us to continue to publish the community news of Shire into the coming year.

Scan QR code below or use the link below.



<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/shire-publications2026>

### 1. The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,*  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a Star  
Shining in the East beyond them far,  
And to the Earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night,  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,*  
Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same Star  
Three Wise Men came from country far,  
To seek for a King was their intent,

And to follow the Star wherever it went.  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,*  
Born is the King of Israel.

The Star drew nigh to the north-west,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,*  
Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,*  
Born is the King of Israel.

### 2. O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin  
Where meek souls shall receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas Angels  
The great glad tidings tell,  
O come to us, abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

### 3. Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King,  
Peace on Earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With Angelic host proclaim  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
*Hark! The herald angels sing*  
*Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the ever-lasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
*Hark! The herald angels sing*  
*Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and Life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild, He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of Earth,  
Born to give them second birth  
*Hark! The herald angels sing*  
*Glory to the new-born King.*

### 4. While Shepherds Watched

While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.

"Fear not", said he, for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled minds,  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
To you and all mankind.

"To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line,  
A Saviour who is Christ the Lord –  
And this shall be the sign.

"The Heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,  
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the Seraph, and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of Angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song –

"All glory be to God on high  
And to the earth be peace;  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease."

### 5. O Come All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful,  
Joyful and Triumphant  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem,

Come and behold Him,  
 Born the King of Angels:  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*Christ the Lord!*  
 God of God,  
 Light of light,  
 Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb!  
 Very God  
 Begotten, not created  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*Christ the Lord!*  
 Sing, choirs of Angels,  
 Sing in exaltation,  
 Sing all ye citizens of Heaven above:  
 'Glory to God  
 In the Highest'  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*Christ the Lord!*

## 6. Silent Night

Silent Night, Holy Night  
 All is calm, all is bright,  
 Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child,  
 Holy infant so tender and mild.  
 Sleep in heavenly peace.  
 Sleep in heavenly peace.  
 Silent night, holy night,  
 Shepherds quake at the sight.  
 Glory streams from heaven afar,  
 Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia  
 Christ the Saviour is born!  
 Christ the Saviour is born!  
 Silent night, holy night  
 Son of God, love's pure light  
 Radiance beams from thy holy face  
 With the dawn of redeeming grace.  
 Jesus Lord at thy birth  
 Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

## 7. Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
 The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.  
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
 The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.  
 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
 But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
 I love thee Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
 And stay by my side until morning is nigh.  
 Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay,  
 Close by me forever, and love me I pray!  
 Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
 And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

## 8. Good King Wenceslas

**All:** Good King Wenceslas looked out  
 On the feast of Stephen,  
 When the snow lay round about  
 Deep and crisp and even.  
 Brightly shone the moon that night  
 Though the frost was cruel  
 When a poor man came in sight  
 Gath'ring winter fuel.

### Men and Boys:

"Hither, page, and stand by me  
 If thou know'st telling,  
 Yonder peasant, who is he?  
 Where and what his dwelling?"

### Women and girls:

"Sire, he lives a good league hence  
 Underneath the mountain,  
 Right against the forest fence  
 By St Agnes' fountain."

### Men and Boys:

"Bring me flesh and bring me wine,  
 Bring me pine logs hither,  
 Thou and I shall see him dine  
 When we bear him thither."

**All:** Page and monarch forth they went,  
 Forth they went together,  
 Through the rude wind's wild lament  
 And the bitter weather.

### Women and Girls:

"Sire, the night is darker now  
 And the wind blows stronger.  
 Fails my heart, I know not how,  
 I can go no longer."

### Men and boys:

"Mark my footsteps, good my page,  
 Tread thou in them boldly.  
 Thou shalt find the winter's rage  
 Freeze thy blood less coldly."

**All:** In his master's steps trod  
 Where the snow lay dinted.  
 Heat was in the very sod  
 Which the Saint had printed.  
 Therefore, Christian men, be sure  
 Wealth or rank possessing,  
 Ye who now will bless the poor  
 Shall yourselves find blessing.

## 9. Once in Royal David's City

Once in Royal David's City  
 Stood a lowly cattle-shed,  
 Where a mother laid her baby  
 In a manger for a bed.  
 Mary was that Mother mild,  
 Jesus Christ her little child.

For He is our childhood's pattern;  
 Day by day like us He grew:  
 He was little, weak and helpless;  
 Tears and smiles like us He knew.  
 And He feeleth for our sadness,  
 And He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him  
 Through His own redeeming love;  
 For that Child so dear and gentle  
 Is our Lord in Heaven above;  
 And He leads His children on,  
 To the place where He is gone.

## 10. The Holly and the Ivy

The holly and the ivy,  
 When they are both full grown,  
 Of all the trees that are in the wood,

The holly bears the crown  
*The rising of the sun*  
*And the running of the deer,*  
*The playing of the merry organ,*  
*Sweet singing in the choir.*

The Holly bears a blossom  
 As white as the lily flower,  
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
 To be our sweet Saviour.

The Holly bears a berry,  
 As red as any blood,  
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
 To do poor sinners good.

The Holly bears a prickle  
 As sharp as any thorn,  
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
 On Christmas day in the morn.

The Holly bears a bark,  
 As bitter as any gall,  
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
 For to redeem us all.

*The Holly and the Ivy*  
*When they are both full grown,*  
*Of all the trees that are in the wood,*  
*The Holly bears the crown.*

## 11. We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are  
 Bearing gifts we travel afar  
 Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
 Following yonder star,  
*O star of wonder, star of night*  
*'Star with royal beauty bright*  
*Westward leading, still proceeding,*  
*Guide us to thy perfect light.*

**Melchior:** Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
 Gold I bring to crown him again –  
 King forever, ceasing never  
 Over us all to reign...  
*O star of wonder...*

**Caspar:** Frankincense to offer have I;  
 Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
 Prayer and praising, all men raising  
 Worship to God most high  
*O, star of wonder...*

**Balthasar:** Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
 Breathes a life of gathering gloom,  
 Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
 Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.  
*O, star of wonder...*

## Finale

We wish you a merry Christmas  
 We wish you a merry Christmas  
 And a happy New Year

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin  
 We wish you a Merry Christmas  
 And a Happy New Year!

Churches in the Shirehampton Area

# News from St Mary's Church

December is a busy month at St Mary's with plenty of services and events. All are welcome. We are open for Coffee Mornings every day 10am - midday (to 2pm on Fridays) except on Thursdays when we hold our 11am Holy Communion Service.

**WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER:**  
**10:30 - 11:30am Goldies** - come and enjoy songs from the 50's onwards. This is a lovely way to gather for some social interaction.

**SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER:**  
**10am - 2pm Christmas Fayre** with the theme 'A Wonderful Christmas of Oz' - featuring lots of stalls, refreshments, games, tombolas, Christmas bargains, dance performances and more.

**SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER:**  
**10:30am Sung Eucharist Service** - our most traditional service of the month  
**2:30pm Shirehampton Area Choir Concert** - come and enjoy this special Christmas performance. A retiring collection will be made in aid of St Mary's Church. Mince pies and mulled wine will be available during the interval.

**MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER:**  
Please note there will be no coffee morning today, due to a service taking place at church.

**SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER:**  
**8:30am Rise & Shine "Mary's Munchies" Breakfast** - please join us for a time for food, friendship, fun and faith.  
**10:30 am Holy Communion Service**  
**6pm Carol Service** - carols by candlelight. Mince pies, mulled wine and hot chocolate will be available after the service.

**TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER:**  
**4pm Christmas Movie Pop-Up** - showing a Christmas movie with a snack bar, board games and more. This is a free event for children, with an adult per family please.

**WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER:**  
**6 - 7pm Carols by Disco Light.** Grab your flashing headbands, funky Christmas jumpers and accessories and join us for a remixed versions of classic Christmas

carols! Light refreshments served after the service. This event is suitable for all ages.

**SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER:**  
**10:30am Carol Singing** in support of Christian Aid - inside St Mary's.

**SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER:**  
**8:30am Rise & Shine "Rooted"** - an interactive Bible exploration with coffee and breakfast pastries.  
**10:30am Holy Communion Service**  
**7pm The Longest Night Service** - a simple, quiet service, with readings, prayers and carols.

**CHRISTMAS EVE - WED 24TH DECEMBER:**  
**4pm Crib Service** - 'The Joy of the Nativity with the Fun of the Zoo' - a nativity play for all the family - come dressed as your favourite Nativity character and join in the fun.  
**11:30pm Midnight Holy Communion** for Christmas.

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**10am Christmas Holy Communion Service** - please note the earlier start time.

**SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER:**  
**10:30am Communion for Everyone** - joint ASMA service at St Mary's Shirehampton - with thanks to Rev Duncan Jennings for leading this service.

Please note that the church will be closed from 26th December to 2nd January (except for Sunday 28th December). The church will re-open on **3rd January for its Coffee Morning from 10am**. Our first **Welcoming Space for 2026 is on Friday 9th January until 2pm**, with hot lunches served from midday. There is no charge for lunch, though donations are welcome.

If you would like to leave flowers in our **Memorial Chapel**, please ensure this is done before Christmas Day. We are open every morning of the week. If you are unsure of times, it is worth checking beforehand

[www.stmarysshire.org](http://www.stmarysshire.org)

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

if we are open - you can contact us on **0117 907 7026** (please leave a message if there is no answer) or email us on [office@stmarysshire.org](mailto:office@stmarysshire.org)

St Mary's wishes you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas. Thank you to everyone who has helped the church in any way in the past year. Merry Christmas to you!

BRISTOL HEALING ROOMS are in Shirehampton every second Wednesday of the month.

Don't miss this opportunity to drop in between **11am and 1pm** at the **Shirehampton Public Hall, Station Road**, to be prayed for in the name of Jesus. AS IT WAS IN THE GOSPELS! We have many stories of healing on a daily basis.

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



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# Hello from Shire Methodist Church

[www.shiremethodist.org](http://www.shiremethodist.org) • [www.facebook.com/shiremethodist](https://www.facebook.com/shiremethodist)

We hold Morning Worship each Sunday in our church building (usually) from 11am. Please note there is no morning service on 21st December. The first Sunday in December is led by a guest preacher. The second is All-Age Worship and will be a Christingle Service. This will be a joyful occasion where we receive an orange with a candle in it, representing Jesus as the light of the world. On the third Sunday (21st) we will have our Christmas carol service at 3pm. Our Christmas Morning Service is at 10.30am on Christmas Day. Our fourth Sunday will be led by our Minister, Reverend Martin Slocombe.

The national Methodist Church's Advent and Christmas theme this year is *"Gifted"*. We are thinking of 3 areas of gifts. 1. We believe every person is a gift, made with love by God. 2. Our church community is a gift: people can feel a real sense of belonging and we can share our resources with our local community, e.g. via Shirehampton Hub. 3. Jesus is the ultimate gift.

On the theme of gifts, on 30th November, we will be collecting gifts at our morning service for

Turnaround Bristol. This is a charity (previously called Bristol Methodist Centre) that journeys alongside and offers compassionate, practical support to people experiencing homelessness and those who are vulnerable. You can find out more at [www.turnaround.org.uk](http://www.turnaround.org.uk)

We are looking forward to joining the Christmas Playing Out Session on Penpole Avenue from 3pm on Sunday 7th December. We will have refreshments in our car park if the weather is kind. We would love

you to join us. There's been talk of a fire pit and possibly a snow machine.

Our Hub has many free events which happen in our building on weekdays from Monday to Thursday: games, benefits and jobs advice, support groups, and a community fridge. You can keep up to date with what's on by looking at [www.facebook.com/ShireJTEHub/](https://www.facebook.com/ShireJTEHub/) or <https://jtehubshire.org/>

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

*May God's peace and love be with you all during December.*

*Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.*

*Everyone at Shire Methodist*

## Shirehampton Baptist Church News

[www.shirehamptonbaptistchurch.co.uk](http://www.shirehamptonbaptistchurch.co.uk)

The first Advent candle will be lit at our morning service at 10:30am at our church building, Station Road. It is a time when Christians prepare their hearts for the birth of Jesus Christ and wait for His Second Coming. The candles symbolize Hope, Love, Joy and Peace and are lit in that order. All are welcome to join with us.

Another Christian tradition is the Christingle Service. We welcome all to join us at the Cotswold Community Hall, Dursley Road at 5pm. This is run by the Cotswold Christian Community who meet at our Songs of Praise Cafe on the second Sunday of

each month at 4:45pm but the Christingle will start at 5pm December 14th.

On Sunday 21st December we shall be holding our Carols by Candlelight service at 6pm in our building Station Road, and on Christmas Day we will meet at 10:30am.

We meet every Sunday in our building at Station Road at 10:30 am and extend a warm welcome to those who wish to join us.

Rock Steady, a club for children of Primary School age, meets every Thursday term time at 3:30pm in our building at Station Road. The children enjoy drama, craft and music. We remember those who have lost a loved one this year. The first Christmas without them can be very hard.

*May we all find love, joy, hope and peace which comes from the one whose birth we celebrate.*

*Greetings from all at Shirehampton Baptist Church*

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# Poppies On The Green

To think that 'Poppies On The Green' began in 2018, the display has come a long way. What started as a small display has grown year by year and now has a new addition - 'War Horse' - complete with its own poppy saddle which was an idea by Ash Bearman of Shirehampton Action.

'Painting Poppies' sessions this year added around another 500 plastic poppies in red and purple to the display. Thank you to the **Cotswold Community Centre, St. Mary's Church, The Living Room, Shirehampton Art and Craft Exhibition** and **Shirehampton Markets** for hosting these sessions and thank you to everyone who painted the poppies at these venues.

The display went up on **The Green on Tuesday 4th November**. This year the 'War Horse' was the latest silhouette addition to the display. A huge thank you to **Sally and Ian Knowlson**, who made a great team, for making this. I wonder what the next silhouette will be?

Thank you also to **Robin Sykes** for providing the plastic poppies, **Tracy Zetabi, Peter Warn** and **Paul McMillan** for preparation, **Nick Morrell** and Paul for transporting the displays to The Green, **Kim, Ann and Jan** for helping put the display up and to **Rose Cafe** who kept us going providing teas and coffees throughout the time it took to put the display up.



'Poppies On The Green' is run by **Ash Bearman** and **Kathryn Courtney** and is one of many activities under the umbrella of **Shirehampton Action**.

We are always in need of volunteers to help put up the 'Poppies On The Green' display in November and then take it down and help pack away the display for another year.

We are also looking for local organisations and schools to help make the poppies and paint them for 2026, having their own 'painting poppies' sessions and then drop them into Shirehampton Public Hall to be added to the displays. We also need volunteers to help with repairing the poppies too.

For more information check out their Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/poppiesonthegreen](https://www.facebook.com/poppiesonthegreen) or email: [poppiesonthegreen@gmail.com](mailto:poppiesonthegreen@gmail.com) or call: 0117 982 9963.

Kathryn Courtney and Photos © Kathryn Courtney



Go to [www.shire.org.uk](http://www.shire.org.uk) to view more photos.



# The Arts in Shirehampton

## Shirehampton Art and Craft Exhibition Showcases Local Talent

The Shirehampton Art and Craft Exhibition showcased plenty of local talent from the four villages area the last week of October at Shirehampton Public Hall.

The organisers were **Katherine Birth**, **Rachel Matthews** and **Rebecca Hodgson** from 'Twyford Art Group' and **Kay Welsford** from 'Shire Inspire' who began organising this event from late January. This year they have stepped up their game with exhibits and inviting local artists, crafters and groups to take part.

The exhibition opened with a preview launch on the Tuesday evening with invited guests and the **Lord Lieutenant of Bristol, Peaches Golding**, officially opening the event. She gave a short speech after being introduced by Rebecca.

Katherine accompanied the Lord Lieutenant around the exhibition talking about the artists' and crafters' exhibits and there were some that caught her eye. Peaches Golding was impressed with **Shirehampton Primary School's** art submissions. The *upside-down giraffe* was another. Kay Welsford's art was an eye catcher too. The one that became a favourite not only with Peaches but with many of the visitors to the exhibition over the following four days was a piece of art called 'Wonder' by **Sarah Trigg**. Votes submitted from the public made this the **overall winner of the Shirehampton Art and Craft Exhibition**.

**Lord Mayor of Bristol Heny Michallat** also attended the launch alongside special guests, artists/crafters and family. It was a great night for a sneak preview.

The Exhibition also had craft tables which included **Trym Wood Crafts**, **Roseness Handmade Crafts**, **Needles Lawrence Weston**, **J Krafts**, **Rachel Hodgkinson**, **Ann G's Crafts**, **Gill Dix**, and **Gail Amphlett**. There was also a late night opening on Thursday 30th October with the option of a Jamaican Supper that was provided by **Food By Sophie**.

As well as a children's art corner there were also activities being run by **Sally Knowlson** and **Poppies On The Green**. There was plenty of refreshments and cakes available over the four day event too.

And what were the highlights for me? Apart from the aforementioned 'Wonder' by Sarah Trigg, there was a collection of *several small birds*, 'Clevedon Pier and Balmoral', the 'Fox' dressed up in top hat and tails, 'Emanuel' which was rather striking, the owl collection of pictures and the 'Fox' by **Sarah Birth** that was cross stitch. In fact there are too many to mention and all very talented.

*I am certainly looking forward to next year's event.*

For more information about Shirehampton Art And Craft Exhibition go to [www.facebook.com/ShirehamptonArtAndCraftExhibition1](http://www.facebook.com/ShirehamptonArtAndCraftExhibition1) or email: [shirehamptonexpo@gmail.com](mailto:shirehamptonexpo@gmail.com)

Kathryn Courtney and Photos © Kathryn Courtney



Go to [www.shire.org.uk](http://www.shire.org.uk) to view more photos.

# Cosy Mystery Panel At Shirehampton Library

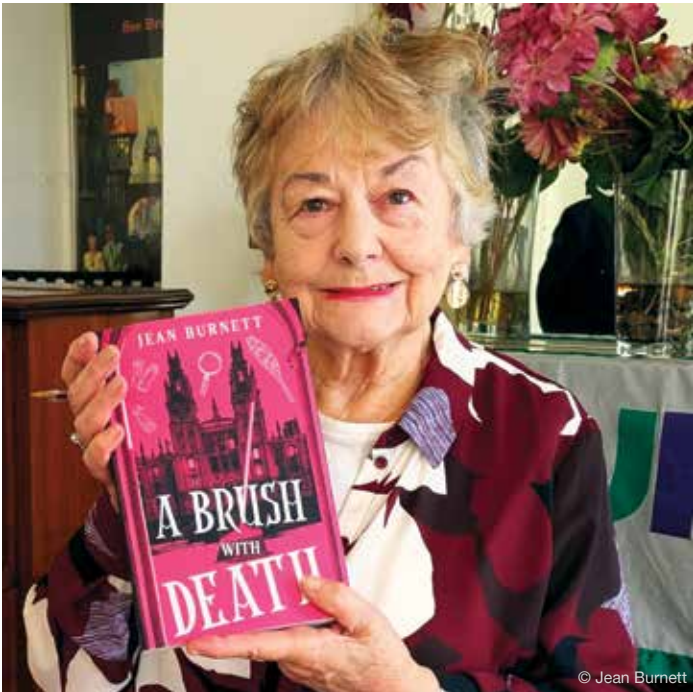
## From Cotswold Villages to Seaside Secrets: Meet the Leading Ladies of Cosy Crime

Who doesn't love curling up with a cosy mystery book? Since Agatha Christie's day, the cosier end of crime fiction has been tremendously popular. Luckily, several bestselling writers in the genre live on Bristol's doorstep! Meet *Debbie Young*, *Frances Evesham* and *Jean Burnett* at Shirehampton Library on *Thursday December 11th at 2.30pm*. They'll be grilled by fellow cosy mystery writer and TV producer *Jayne Chard*. Enjoy a cuppa and sparkling conversation at this free event organised by the Friends of Shirehampton Library.

Playing a very active part in the community of the Cotswold village of **Hawkesbury Upton** has inspired **Debbie Young's** three series of cosy mystery novels, which she writes in a hut at the bottom of her Victorian cottage garden.



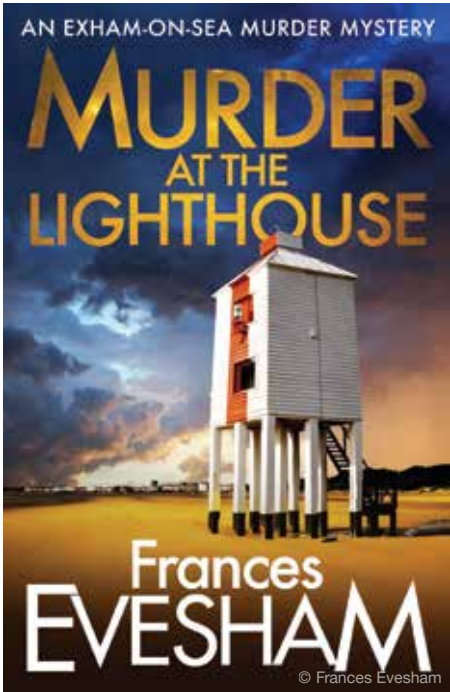
**Frances Evesham** collects poison recipes in her spare time. She likes to cook with her head full of murder – fictional only, she hastens to add. Frances has written seven mysteries set in Exham-on-Sea, which may or may not bear some resemblance to a real Somerset town.



After travelling the world, **Jean Burnett** took a job at **Bristol University**. Academic life gave her the backdrop to her brand new series. As any student will tell you, degrees can be murder.

**Jayne Chard** is a multi-award winning TV producer. Her credits include three feature films and the BBC's flagship brand *Silent Witness*. Her debut novel, **More Than Murder**, is the first book in the **Julia and Frankie Mystery Series**.

**FREE: Meet the Cosy Ladies of Crime at Shirehampton Library on Thursday December 11th at 2.30pm**





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# Repair Cafe

*Testimonials from Repair Cafe visitors.*

This is *Beatrice*. Tired & torn which isn't surprising as she has sat on my bed for 46 years & survived 2 Staffies and numerous house moves. She was made by my friend *Brigitte's* mum and given to me for my 18th birthday.

I decided to take Beatrice to one of the **Repair Cafe meetings** just to ask if anything could be done to repair her dress. I spoke to **Sue** who was sure something could be done. **Annelies** took a photo of her and unbelievably sourced material for her dress. Sue took Beatrice with her and within two days let me know she was doing well after the operation to give her a new eye complete with lashes and repairs to a split on her face. Within the week I was invited to collect her from Sue's house where she was sat in the window watching the passers-by.

With brand new dress & trousers and beautiful new lace on her pinny and cap, she was once again as lovely as when I first saw her! Thank you so much Sue!



Beatrice before...



...and after!

Hi, I just want to say thank you for doing such a fantastic repair job on my mum's jumper. It's better than I could have imagined and I can't wait for winter now to wear it!



At the next Repair Cafe on the 20th of December why not come with your family and try making a God's Eye to hang on your tree or try other great ways to recycle old wrapping paper and cards to make extra Christmas decorations

**REPAIR CAFE DATES FOR NEXT YEAR:**

- 24th of January 2025
- 28th of February 2025
- 28th of March 2025
- 25th of April 2025
- 23rd of May 2025
- 27th of June 2025.

*We're looking forward to seeing you there.*

If you have any ideas or repair skills you would like to volunteer we would love to hear from you. Email [shirehamptonrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:shirehamptonrepaircafe@gmail.com)

*Annelies Egli and Photos © Annelies Egli*



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# Getting Creative for Halloween in Shirehampton

## Spooky Spectacle Lights Up Barracks Lane



Halloween in Shirehampton was extra special this year thanks to the incredible display on Barracks Lane, opposite Nova Primary School. Local resident, *Sadie*, once again transformed her home into a spooky wonderland, delighting children and adults alike.

The display featured skeletons, giant spiders, and bubbling cauldrons complete with eerie smoke effects. Sadie says she loves seeing the joy it brings to the community: “It’s my way of giving back. Watching the children point and smile on their way to school makes it all worthwhile.”

The decorations didn’t just brighten up the school run—they encouraged families to visit on Halloween night. This year, Sadie handed out over **150 gift bags** to excited trick-or-treaters, making it one of the most popular stops in the village.

And the fun doesn’t stop there—plans for next year’s display are already underway! If this year is anything to go by, Barracks Lane will be the place to be when October rolls around again.

Nick Rose

# Shirehampton Bakery Gets Into the Spirit of Things!

*Shirehampton Bakery* had the witch Hallow'een display in their window done by talented local art and crafter *Kay Welsford*. Inside there were some creepy visitors adorning the cake displays as well! They also ran a pumpkin design competition for local children and Kay made them a reality for the two winners.

I also visited *Shirehampton Social Club's* annual Hallow'een Party on **Saturday 25th October**. The room was well decorated and I was surrounded by ghosts, ghouls, witches and Wednesday Adams.

Article & Photos © Kathryn Courtney. Art © Kay Welsford.





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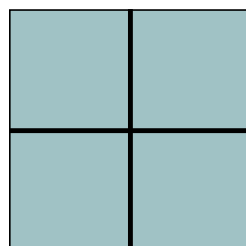


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# Sport and Activities IN SHIREHAMPTON

## U14 Football; Port of Bristol Girls v Ashton Girls Sunday 9th November 2025

This being *Remembrance Sunday*, the girls and officials lined up before the match, hands on shoulders and heads bowed. To hearty applause, the girls took their positions on field and Port's captain Chloe kicked off. This is the girls first season in *Division B*, having won promotion as runners up last season. The girls also won the *2024 tournament*.

Port have run a girls' team for 5 years now, birthday girl **Chloe** having been amongst the few to join the club as an under 10. It was a full year before enough girls had been recruited to form a full team, so Chloe and her teammates first year was dedicated to training. Great progress has been made since then, the girls growing together and forming the close bonds that make it a special team to be a part of.

Rather than a full report on the match, I've settled on a pictorial of some of the highlights with brief captions and a summary at the end.

Before today, Port had won two and drawn one of their six matches in their new division, not a bad start as they get to grips with the higher standard. There were a lot of goals today, **Ziva** bagging 5 of Port's 6 goals. Last season, Ziva and **Zarra**, Port's other tricky wing-forward, scored 75 goals between them. **Ashton** however rattled up 9 goals today, but this is deceptive, as they scored 3 of them in the last 3 minutes of the match. Ziva rightly had the last laugh though, scoring Port's 6th with almost the last kick of the match. A great way to sign off.



Ashton equalise; 1-1.



Ziva fires in the opening goal.



Ziva poised to strike again.



Port's Bella slots home the fourth goal.



Happy Birthday to Team Captain Chloe.



Ziva, Player of the Match with FIVE GOALS.



Port of Bristol u14 girls.

If you are interested in joining this great group of girls, or any other of Port's teams here's the link: <https://www.portofbristolfc.co.uk/> OR Follow the club on Facebook at: Port of Bristol Youth

# Boys Rugby; Under 12

## Avonmouth OBRFC v Clifton RFC

### Sunday 2nd November 2025

We at Shire are always delighted when we are invited to cover a match at our local community rugby club. There is always a warm welcome for those who wish to share in what this friendly, inclusive family centred club has to offer. This is the first time that Shire has covered a boys match and we were interested to learn about the further progression into contact rugby at this age group. We consulted the *RFU* regulations for information and discovered the following:

Girls and boys separate at this age group. As far as rules of play are concerned, teams are 12 a side maximum, pitch size is not more than 60m x 43m (normally half a full sized pitch), there are 20 minutes in each half, there are 5 players in a scrum, there is no limit on numbers contesting for the ball including in the maul and ruck and the hand off below the armpits is now allowed. The boys are already used to full contact tackling, the tackle and hold element having been introduced in the u9 age grade.

It was a keenly fought and tightly contested game; **Clifton** gained the upper hand early on with the first scores, but **Avonmouth** fought back with great spirit, fiercely contesting scrums, passing the ball swiftly out along the back line and putting in some crunching tackles. The points for and against began to rack up, it was very easy to lose count and I duly did. No matter, the result is not the point of playing the game at this age grade. It's all about fostering youngsters' love of the game, keeping them active and engaged and continuing their development in a world where community is everything.



Harrison goes in hard to disrupt an attack.



Ollie kicks off for Avonmouth.



Haris fends off a low tackle.



Captain and scrum-half Sully feeds the ball to his back line.



Omar plays the ball out as he crashes down to a great tackle.



Elliot goes over in the corner for Avonmouth.



Joint captains Sully and Elliot.



Clifton go over for a try.

At the end of the game I spoke briefly to joint captains **Sully** and **Elliot**, asking them what they love about their club and the game. Sully has been with the club for 7 years, ever since he was eligible to join **Tots Rugby**. His reply was a single word, *“Community”*. Elliot has been at Avonmouth for 3 years and his reply was equally brief, **“Everything.”** I realised that the boys were keen to get into the clubhouse for their post-match lunch, but I felt strongly that their single words were genuinely and strongly felt. Put them together and you summarise what lies at the heart of this club: *“Community is Everything.”*

Paul McMillan and Photos © Paul McMillan

For information visit the club website: [pitchero.com/clubs/avonmoutholdboys](http://pitchero.com/clubs/avonmoutholdboys) or search Facebook for Avonmouth Old Boys RFC.

# SPOTLIGHT ON FAMILIES AT THE PARKRUN

## - Running for Fun and Friendship

*Kings Weston Junior parkrun* is a free, fun, and friendly weekly 2k event for juniors (4 to 14 year olds). It has been running every Sunday since 2015, taking place at *Kings Weston Estate*.

I chatted with **Robin Phillips**, an enthusiastic runner who has been attending the parkrun with his family since it began just over 10 years ago. Robin and his family were friends with the people who founded the event, so they were some of the first to run the trial run a week before the official run. Robin has “always been running”. In 2011 he participated in **Ashton Court parkrun**, the first parkrun in all of Bristol. He has taken part in **The London Marathon**. His wife also participates in ultra marathons.

The event displays a variety of people all working together to keep it running. It is run entirely by hard working volunteers who dedicate their Sunday mornings to the family event. There are often teens volunteering for their **Duke of Edinburgh Award**. The run itself is attended by children, parents, grandparents and even ex-runners.

Children have the opportunity to receive awards for their hard work and commitment to the parkrun. But the rewards aren't just for runners, volunteers too can win their very own t-shirt after volunteering 25 times.

**Arabella Phillips**, Robin's daughter, has been attending parkruns with her parents since she was in a buggy as a young child. She joins in at the Kings Weston Junior parkrun every week, either with various friends or on her own. She decides what part she wants to play each week. Sometimes she scans barcodes, sometimes she walks instead of runs. Whether it's running or marshalling, she always has a great time.

Because the event is a run and not a race, the atmosphere is very relaxed. It's not just a parkrun; it's also a social event. It's a great way to get out, see some

friends, socialize and speak to people. There's always the opportunity to make some new friends along the way.

As the winter draws closer, spending time outdoors becomes even more important. It's tempting to stay inside throughout the cold weather. That's why Kings Weston parkrun is so beneficial for so many. Getting some fresh air and daylight in such a beautiful location can be a game-changer to your weekly routine. The volunteers are very welcoming, and everyone is always kind. It was amazing to see so many children in particular having fun in the great outdoors.

For more information visit: [parkrun.org.uk/kingsweston-juniors/](http://parkrun.org.uk/kingsweston-juniors/)

*Sylvie Dunn*

*Photos (except family's image of Arabella) © Sylvie Dunn*



Robin and Linda Phillips with Frezi.



Arabella



# Blind “Groundhopper” Visits Avonmouth F.C.

*John Stancombe lives in Oulton Broad, in Suffolk. As a result of a genetic condition, he has been totally blind for 18 years. This has not in any way diminished John’s passion for and dedication to following grass roots football.*

On **Saturday October 11th**, John made his way to Avonmouth for his **1883rd visit to a “non-league” ground in 15 years**. On the day before, John had travelled to **Pontypool** to notch up his 1882nd ground, visiting **Goytre F.C.** for the visit of **Chepstow**. He then stayed overnight in Cwmbran and travelled to Avonmouth on Saturday morning. After the game, he travelled back to Oulton Broad via Bristol, Paddington, Liverpool Street and Ipswich, where he took the 10:15pm to Oulton Broad, arriving a little before midnight. That is a daunting journey for anybody travelling alone, but John has a level of courage and positivity that drives him on to follow his passion, whatever it takes.

I was lucky enough to meet with and chat to John in the clubhouse, before the game against **Devizes Town**. I also accompanied him to his seat in the stand and gave the pre-match commentary until **Club President Dave Rowley** was able to join us. John wanted to know everything, so that he could get a picture in his head; what colours were the teams wearing, how exactly was the stand laid out, where was it situated and where was he seated in relation to the pitch were just a few of the things that John

wanted to know. It was an honour and a privilege to be able to relay this to him as best as I could, before taking up my position to take photos.

This is what Dave Rowley said to John in a follow up email to thank him for his visit after the 1-1 draw with top of the table Devizes Town:

“I know you were disappointed with the game quality but that was probably down to my lack of match feedback quality and I think I will stick to assessing refs as a coach! I hadn’t realised just how difficult commentating on a game is....Very best wishes to you and your **Groundhopping** exploits.”

All credit to clubs like Avonmouth for making John and others like him so welcome. Grass roots football is the lifeblood of the game that people like John love so passionately; without it, the stars of the future would not have the chance to play, to be nurtured and to grow their ability, love of and dedication to the “beautiful game.”

As reported in the last edition of Shire, Avonmouth picked up a creditable point against the league leaders. Here’s **Josh Pearce** opening the scoring for “The Mouth”

*Paul McMillan and Photos © Paul McMillan*



John Stancombe, epic groundhopper with Club President Dave Rowley.



The prolific Josh Pearce gives Avonmouth the lead.

## Pilates

This January I’m excited to be starting two *new classes at Shirehampton Public Hall on Thursdays, in Pregnancy Pilates and Mixed Ability Pilates*. This September I began an evening mixed ability class at Avonmouth Community Centre, with a lot of my students coming from Shirehampton and wanting more Pilates locally, so starting the New Year with further sessions at the newly refurbished Shirehampton Public Hall seemed a great idea.

The **Public Hall** is a beautiful building, with a long history, it is now newly refurbished, has a new heating system, the hall flooring has been waxed and polished and entrance way flooring replaced, with a modern intercom system. If you’ve never tried Pilates come and join us with a **New Year fitness reboot** in this fabulous venue, free taster classes available. Pilates is great for strengthening the core muscles, improving posture and alignment, mobilisation of the joints, flexibility, and focus on connection to the breath so



great for wellbeing. I’m pleased to be bringing Pilates to the other classes for health and wellbeing at the hall, and being part of a new chapter in the building’s long history. For further information and to book go to **www.pilateswithsylvia.com**.

*Sylvia Hunt*

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# Fencing: The Things Change Doesn't Change

The picture is of a *Visconti* or "*pistol grip*" handle; not everyone's idea of a sword but then, most people's idea of a bicycle was once a penny-farthing.

There are similarities between swords and bicycles; each is a delivery system that transfers human intentions, as expressed through the body, to a distant, external effect.

Bicycles and swords are inanimate; neither of them moves themselves except under gravity. More accurately, they are part of delivery systems. The rest is us. Our bodies provide the power and our will sets them going. That means, like the pedals and handle bar of a bike, the nubs, hooks and surfaces of that weird looking handle respond to our bodies, as our bodies respond to us. Mastering the bicycle isn't enough, understanding how it works is useless unless our bodies are used in a way that works them - sword or bicycle.

So, understanding how your body works and getting it used to working properly lets you ride your bicycle like it lets the fencer hit without being hit - the difference is someone is trying to stop us doing the latter; as if you were riding in a very rough cycle race where making you fall off was the aim of the game.

That skill goes back further; to managing the emotions and perceptions in the fight - and influencing those of the opponent.

It's that mastery that's the point of sport to a large extent - at least to me. Our palaeolithic selves are

happy doing, facing up to and overcoming problems. Someday, cars will drive themselves, AI drones will fight our wars. Maybe we'll be neutrally linked to those drones and feel we are flying but we'll never be as good as the robots because we have human qualms. It's the managing of that human nature that gives us point and purpose. Without it, like the computer in the Sci-fi classic film, *Dark Star*, we have nihilism.

You aren't a problem; you are the most fascinating puzzle you will ever try to know and fencing or any other sport, can help you come to know it

*John Rohde*



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# Father Christmas Visits St. Peter's Hospice

On the evening of 4th November, Father Christmas made a special visit to St. Peter's Hospice in Shirehampton to meet as many boys and girls he could and spread a bit of early Christmas joy. Also with him was *Sarah The Elf* to help him give out gifts that evening.

Two families were also in the shop eagerly awaiting **Father Christmas's arrival** and he was greeted with cheers.

The children loved chatting with Father Christmas in his **Grotto** and telling him how good they had been this year. Of course Father Christmas asked each child what they wanted for Christmas, with plenty of choices told to him.

The shop had on offer mini Christmas cakes and hot chocolate to drink. There were plenty of happy smiling faces that evening. A great way to kick off Christmas

I am sure Father Christmas will make another visit to Shirehampton soon.

*Kathryn Courtney*



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