

Shire

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

**50th
Anniversary
Edition**

No. 601 - February 2022 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

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50 YEARS OF SHIRE NEWSPAPER

1972 - 2022

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'SHIRE' A MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF NEWS & VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY OF SHIREHAMPTON

WELCOME TO 'SHIRE'

As one who travels through, and stays in, most of the towns of this country throughout the year with that travelling career called "Any Questions", I'm happy to see a "Shire" in print, and wish it every success for the future.

DANIEL J. CHURCH, "Any Questions".

I am delighted to hear of the arrival of "Shire" and should like to wish it every possible success. I feel sure that it will be warmly welcomed, and so am all grateful to the Officers and Members of the Administrative and Editorial Board for the work they have done to launch it.

For centuries Shirehampton was a village in Gloucestershire until it became included in the extended boundaries of the City of Bristol. Even then it certainly did not become an urban character which it retains to the present day. The town is now a lively centre, where today people like to see the views on Somerset downs. People is a fine viewpoint across the Severn and over to the Welsh hills. At Langthorpe there is the remains of the old town and the first houses in Hill. The High Street has become a splendid shopping centre. The Tide Barn has taken on a new lease of life as the Elderly People's Club. Twyford House continues to flourish.

"Shire" will, I know, defend the interests of the parish and will bring us all closer together. I am much looking forward to reading the first number.

MARTIN McCLAREN, MP

That there is ever more to have a free local magazine is a welcome news indeed. No mass circulation paper can hope to provide the news of local and regional news which interests a community.

I wish the magazine every success and trust that Shire will play their part by not only welcoming the paper but take an active role in its future by contributing in whatever form may be open to them.

COUNCILLOR JIM O'NEILL.

As a local councillor I welcome this new publication, it will be invaluable in providing information and acting as a discussion forum for all the citizens of our area and so help to make us all feel a part of the community.

COUNCILLOR JOHN ELLIS.

For Professional Instruction.

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How exciting and satisfying it is to be able to celebrate the 50th anniversary of 'Shire' which I think you will agree is quite an achievement for a free local paper run entirely by volunteers.

The very first edition in February 1972 was A4 in size and evolved from a church magazine format. It was the brainchild of Fred Gould of Twyford House Further Education Centre and a committee of

local worthies. Churches and community volunteers were involved. The first editions front page contained comments from local councillors, MP Martin McClaren, the Chief Education Officer, the Public Relations Officer of BCC and David Jacobs who at that time presented Any Questions – all congratulating and welcoming a free community newspaper.

Looking back, I think they would all have been very impressed, surprised even, that the paper is still going and has changed with the times. Anyone wishing to view past editions can do so as they are in binders in Shirehampton library and make fascinating reading – a real social history. Early editions contained recipes, suggestions for creative arts, a women's page, and all the usual reports on church activities, sporting groups, clubs etc, along with profiles of

Continued on page 10.

'SHIRE' EXHIBITION

To celebrate 50 years of Shire publications there will be an exhibition at the Public Hall from 10am til 4pm on Saturday 5th February.

Please come along and help us celebrate this 'icon' of Shirehampton!

Over the last 50 years The Shire has been supported by many volunteers – the committee, editors, counters, and distributors – without whom it would not have survived. We are a non-profit paper but due to rising costs and reduced advertising this is in jeopardy.

Come along to the celebrations, see the successes of the last 50 years and maybe how you could help us thrive for the next 50 years!

The very First Edition of Shire, conceived by Fred Gould from February 1972.

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Shire

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Please note the Shirehampton Librarian

Telephone number is: 0117 903 8570

'SHIRE' telephone numbers for info and advice

adverts@shire.org.uk 07776 170053

treasurer@shire.org.uk 0117 938 1709

Requests for SHIRE by Post 0117 904 3037

distribution@shire.org.uk 0117 982 0478

Internet address www.shire.org.uk

Submit articles editor@shire.org.uk

Advertising adverts@shire.org.uk

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Artwork: Iain Chaffey of Crimson Goose Design

Photographers: Kathryn Courtney, Bob Pitchford

N.B. To meet the deadline with our typesetters, all written copy should be submitted by email or to the Library by the **10th of the month** before it appears in print, or it may not be included in the next edition. While advertisements in this paper are accepted in good faith, readers are advised to make their own enquiries and assessment. We request that all adverts are supplied in the correct format and size or there may be a charge should you require artwork to be created. Price on application. Unless otherwise stated, all material appearing in SHIRE is the copyright of SHIRE Publications. Please ensure photographs submitted with articles are cleared for use and permission sought especially when featuring individuals including children. The Shire cannot accept responsibility if photos are published in error where permission for use has been not sought. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Shire. All information correct at time of going to press to the best of Shire's knowledge.

EDITORIAL POLICY

We welcome contributions for publication in 'SHIRE' but reserve the right to edit any copy received.

Any material published is at the editor's discretion and may also be included on our website www.shire.org.uk unless the copy is clearly marked 'not to be included on the world wide web'.

Contributions submitted to: editor@shire.org.uk

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PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY

TESTING GUIDANCE UPDATE

From 11 January, if you receive a positive result from a lateral flow (rapid) test but have no symptoms of COVID-19, you are required to self-isolate immediately, but do not need to take a confirmatory PCR test. This will help to reduce the spread of COVID-19 whilst ensuring PCR tests remain available for those that need them.

You are still required to get a confirmatory PCR test if you:

- want to apply for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment
- have received a positive day two rapid test result after arriving in the UK from abroad
- are participating in some research or surveillance programmes

Please ensure to register all rapid test results on www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 must book a PCR test. You can book a test through government portal or by calling 119. Tests can be taken at one of our local testing sites or PCR tests can be ordered to your home from www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

CHANGES TO INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL RULES (17 JANUARY)

If you are fully vaccinated, you no longer need to take a COVID-19 test before you travel to England or self-isolate when you arrive.

When you arrive in England, if you are fully vaccinated, you must take either a lateral flow test or a PCR test on or before day two of your arrival. You must book your test before you travel and leave enough time for them to be delivered to your address in England. Visit GOV.UK to find a travel test provider: www.gov.uk/find-travel-test-provider

If you receive a positive result, you must self-isolate immediately. If you get a positive result after choosing to take a rapid test, you must take a free confirmatory PCR test.

The rules are different if you are not fully vaccinated. Please check the latest travel guidance on www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-to-england-from-another-country-during-coronavirus-covid-19

Other countries may have different requirements. Please ensure that you check the travel advice for the country that you are returning from before you travel on: www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL ACTIVITIES

MONDAY	Twyford Art Club (except July & August) Yoga	10:00am - 12noon 6:15pm - 7:30pm	Hall Hall
TUESDAY	Messy Play Toddlers Line Dancing Puppy Training	9-11am 2pm-3pm 6:30pm-8:30pm	Hall Hall Hall
WEDNESDAY	Bristol Healing Rooms (every second Wednesday) Pop-Up Play Village (every 3rd Wednesday) Over 75s Exercise Class Extraordinary Links Model Railway Club Shire Stitches (every 3rd Wednesday) Women's Fellowship (every 2nd and 4th Wednesday)	11am-1:30pm 9:30am-1:30pm 2-3pm 3:30-5:30pm 7-10pm 7:30-9:30pm 7:30-9:30pm	Hall Hall Hall Hall Club Room Hall Hall
THURSDAY	Shirehampton Community Art and Social Group (formerly Sea Mills Art Club) Tai Chi Grainger Players	10am-12noon 2pm-3:30pm 7:30-9:30pm	Hall Hall Hall
FRIDAY	Shire Stitches (1st Friday of the month) Playtots Shire News (last Friday of the month) Tree of Life Church (from January 2022 - 1st Friday)	10-12noon 10-11:30am 4pm 6-10pm	Springfield Hall Hall Hall
SUNDAY	Cycle Tots (from January 2022 - term time only) Church of Grace	9:30-10:30am 11am-2pm	Hall Hall & Springfield

FRIENDS OF SHIREHAMPTON LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Library Living Room	Tuesday (Weekly)	3:00 – 5:00 pm	Library
IT Literacy Course	Wednesday (Weekly)	6:00 – 7:00 pm	Library
Family History Group	Thursday (2nd Thursday of the Month)	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Library



Happy 50th anniversary!

Wishing The Shire a very happy 50th anniversary – from all the team at Ocean Shirehampton.

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The *Shire* Community Pages

Tell Us How To Help Shirehampton High Street Recover

From September to November 2021, we engaged with businesses and residents to understand what improvements are needed on Bristol's priority high streets and to gather ideas on the type of events and activities people would like to see.

To help ensure funding is put to best use, we now need more detail on the improvements and activities people have told us they would like to see. If you live near, visit, or work on Shirehampton High Street, please share your views in the online high street recovery survey or register for an online focus group running during **January and February**.

Shirehampton is a priority high street.

Visit www.bristol.gov.uk/highstreetsrecovery for a summary of what people have said about each high street involved the survey and to share your views in the online survey or register for an online focus group: www.bristol.gov.uk/business-support-advice/high-street-improvements

FREE WEEKLY DOOR TO DOOR SHOPPING TRIPS PROGRAM

These trips are organized by SCAF especially for Shire residents aged 60+. Lawrence Weston Community Transport (LWCT) are providing this door to door service in a fully accessible 13 seater minibus. **COST = FREE!**

Booking on a first come first served basis. Please book your own trips, you can book to go on all of them, but no block bookings will be accepted.



To book contact LWCT on 0117 329 4647.

**WEDNESDAY 2 FEBRUARY:
ABBEYWOOD RETAIL PARK** (ASDA, B&M, Pets at home, Poundland, Matalan)

**WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY:
PORTISHEAD**

**WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY:
CHEPSTOW GARDEN CENTRE**



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KINGS WESTON ACTION GROUP: IRON BRIDGE UPDATE

We understand the Bristol City Council have been working on a new planning and Listed building application for the Iron Bridge over Kings Weston Road. The previous application, to remove, restore, and raise the damaged bridge, with the addition of very long approach ramps was withdrawn last year after receiving strong objections over the appearance and impact the new structures would have on the historic environment.



We understand that following our flagging-up of the existing access issues, and highlighting that there was no legislation that required the ramps, the Council has sought further legal advice that now supports our position. We understand that the new application will omit the access ramps, but there is still the intention to raise the level of the bridge over a metre above its existing height. We expect this to come with the need for significant civil engineering works to the existing abutments. When a new application is registered we'll let everyone know.

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PHILIP BOLWELL

We would like to let you know that Philip Bolwell, a former well known and loved resident of Shirehampton, sadly passed away on **3rd January 2022**. If you would like further details about his upcoming memorial service on **11th March**, please contact us at julia.spensley1@gmail.com



We enjoy spreading community news especially at this time 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.*



SCHOOL DAYS TOO!!!

Dear Editor,

Last year I was tidying up some of my old photos and found this one from Shirehampton Junior school. It would have been taken late 1960. I had handwritten the names of my classmates on the envelope. I had a nice moment down memory lane. I remember going with some of the students to ballet classes, girl guides and young farmers, back in the day! I also remember the swimming



lessons and how awfully cold it was getting out of Shire pool! I used to live in Station Rd. I still visit the area when I can get back to Bristol as my 92 year old mum, one of my sisters, my nephews and families are still living in Bristol. I am in my early 60's now and living in Australia with my family.

I just thought it would be great to discover what happened to any of my old school friends and thought some may still be living in the area and find this photo amusing. I can recall most of these people very vividly and their lovely personalities. I remember going to ballet classes with Vicky at Miss Milton Taylor's School of Dance! I also recall I sent an anonymous Valentines card to one of the boys in the top row! They were special times when we would walk or ride our bikes to school, play at each other's houses on weekends and life seemed very happy and carefree.

Kind regards, Barbara Monteath (nee Kelle)

Top Row: Gary Forder, Andrew Bahn, Michael Thomas, Derrick Hone, Adrian Husher, Garry Buck. **4th Row:** Paul Thomas, Kevin Nichols, Philip Widger, Russell Slee, Alan Mountain, Graham Freeman, Kevin Smith, Paul Spence, Robert Armstrong, Nicholas Jelfs. **3rd row:** Caroline Butt, Lorraine Derrick, (Me), Beverly Hawksby, Victoria Culverwell, Janet Collins, Karen Wiltshire, Susan Beer, Deana Jenkins, Dawn Matthews. **2nd row:** Catherine Wills, Eleanor Beattie, Julia Smith, Sara Greening, Lynette Merry, Mr. Hall, Ruth Taylor, Susan Tar, Kim Morgan, Sharon James, Lorraine Edwards. **1st row:** Carol Graham, Mark Anthay, Christopher Early, Paul Guest, Michael Whitcombe, Sheila Bromfield, Karen Broom.

A NICE SURPRISE!

Dear Editor,

After responding to your [the Editor's] email I started to read the January edition you had kindly attached, to see a face I knew exceptionally well. My wife of 50 years!

Jane (nee Painter) is in the photo supplied by Colin Chidgey of Shire Juniors. Third row up, third in.

What a coincidence! Thanks again.

Regards, Ray Bounsall, Melbourne

CRY OF THE FERRYMAN

Dear Editor,

Although I haven't lived in Shirehampton, where I was brought up, since 1965, it still holds many memories for me. I was recently looking through past editions of the Shire Newspaper, and in edition 534 I came across an article about Pill Ferry which mentioned "possibly humorous memories" of the ferry. Ah yes...humorous memories.

I was in the Lamplighters with a friend from Bristol. Closing time - 10.30pm in those days - was approaching, but I knew we could get an extra half-hour in Pill. As we waited for the ferry, we both felt a need to relieve ourselves before boarding, and stood at the water's edge in the dark, adding to the river's flow. As the boat approached a cry rang out: "Lady on the slip". The ferryman (Tom Payne?) had spotted a female passenger emerging from the kiosk at the top of the slipway. We hurriedly put ourselves back in order and decorum was preserved - and we both still remember that stern nautical warning: "Lady on the slip". I wonder how many times it needed to be issued during the life of the ferry.

Ken Thomas



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

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Linda x x

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

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



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Window Wanderland 2022 - Get Involved!

I'm very pleased to announce that there will be a Window Wanderland taking place in the Four Villages of North West Bristol - Avonmouth, Lawrence Weston, Sea Mills, and, of course, Shirehampton, over the weekend from Friday 25th till Sunday 27th February 2022.

Window Wanderland is a phenomenon which started in Easton in 2015. It is designed to inspire communities to set up fun, local, all-people-friendly, window-display-based walking trails then share them with the world. Come out and see your neighbourhood in a new creative light! There are currently 17 other events happening in the area so we certainly didn't want to miss out.

We will also have access to materials via the Children's Scrapstore and can supply some if asked. There will also be the opportunity to attend a couple of workshops with Annelies Egli of Tandem Arts, who can help with lots of ideas for displays. More information will be available when you sign up.

For more information, and if you'd like to participate, go to the www.windowwanderland.com/event/4-villages-2022/ and also on the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/events/1001303470211641/

There will be lots of information circulating the area via schools and community groups during the next few weeks. If you'd like to display a poster or have some flyers to distribute in your street and get the neighbourhood involved, email: 4villageswindowwanderland@gmail.com or look at the Facebook page: <https://fb.me/e/35ZIMtcSI>

Many thanks, John Hastings



Previous Window Wanderland displays.

Friends of Shirehampton Library Courses

As mentioned in the January edition of Shire, we have now bought the necessary computer equipment, and the classes will be starting in early February.

The **IT Beginners Classes** will be weekly, starting on **Wednesday 2nd February from 6pm till 7pm**. We will have a structured programme, and operate on the basis that you have no familiarity with a computer at all. We will show you the very basics, powering on, using a keyboard, how to create an email address, write an email, look online at government and council services, how to use Google, how to shop online, look at Utilities comparing websites (very important), make the best use of Social Media, view the BBC iPlayer and stream videos, etc. Don't be afraid if you've never used a computer before, we shall hold your hand and guide you through gently.

The **Family History Group** will be on a monthly basis and start on **Thursday 10th February from 6pm till 8pm**, in Shire Library. We will have a team of experts who will show you how to start tracing your family history. Again, we will have several laptops for your use.



If you are interested in either the Family History or Computer Courses, or are willing to be involved in helping to run these courses, please email friendsofshire@gmail.com or leave a message on 07943 401575 to book a place.

By the way, these courses are absolutely free.

John Hastings - Friends of Shirehampton Library

Friends of Shirehampton Library Activities

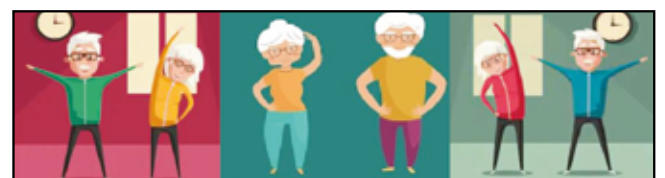
Library Living Room	Tuesday (Weekly)	3:00 – 5:00 pm	Library
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Contact:

Sarah Bradley
0117 9070680

sarahexerciseclass@hotmail.com

Christmas Cheer



After last year's cancellation and the looming threat of another lock-down, it was with great relief that the Cotswold Community Association was able to hold its Christmas lunch event this year, thanks to a very generous donation from the John James Foundation.

The meal was a real success with everyone greatly enjoying the food and company. With crackers pulled, pudding consumed, and coffee drunk, the exchange of festive greetings, albeit muffled

through mask, rang loud and clear. Fingers crossed for an uninterrupted full calendar of events for the coming year.

Frontline Services to be Protected from Council Cuts

Protecting frontline services is the priority for Bristol City Council.

As councils up and down the country face unprecedented financial pressure, Bristol Mayor, Marvin Rees, has renewed his pledge to prevent cuts to services much valued by citizens.

Libraries, children's centres and social care programmes such as **Better Lives** will all be protected from saving proposals. Instead improving how the council is run by reducing costs and creating greater efficiency are the focus for bridging the budget gap.

The scale of the financial challenge was announced in November and since then the council has worked hard to come up with savings proposals to mitigate it. During this time, it also received the annual determination of funding to local government which reduced the gap from £23.1m to £19.5m for 2022-23.

A raft of proposals will go to **Bristol's Cabinet Meeting in January** and the Cabinet will then make a recommendation to **Full Council** for the annual budget meeting in **February**.

Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol said: "Every local authority in the country is facing the same problem as demands on public services grow, and available funding from central government shrinks. We promised to do all we could to prevent cuts to frontline services, and that's why our savings proposals first and foremost are focused on reducing our own internal council management costs. Despite challenges, we will continue to focus on building a city where nobody is left behind, has a modern mass transit network, affordable homes for all, the high-quality services our citizens expect, and at the same time, drives a diverse economy that provides jobs for all and tackles the climate and ecological emergencies."

Avonmouth Ladies Club

Our meetings will resume in March

We meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at Avonmouth Community Centre.

Our diary of speakers/events have yet to be arranged.

Meeting dates as follows:

Tuesday 1st March
Tuesday 15th March
Tuesday 5th April
Tuesday 19th April

A warm welcome awaits.



Cotswold Community Association
Dursley Road, Shirehampton,
Bristol, BS11 9XH
Registered charity no. 1101427

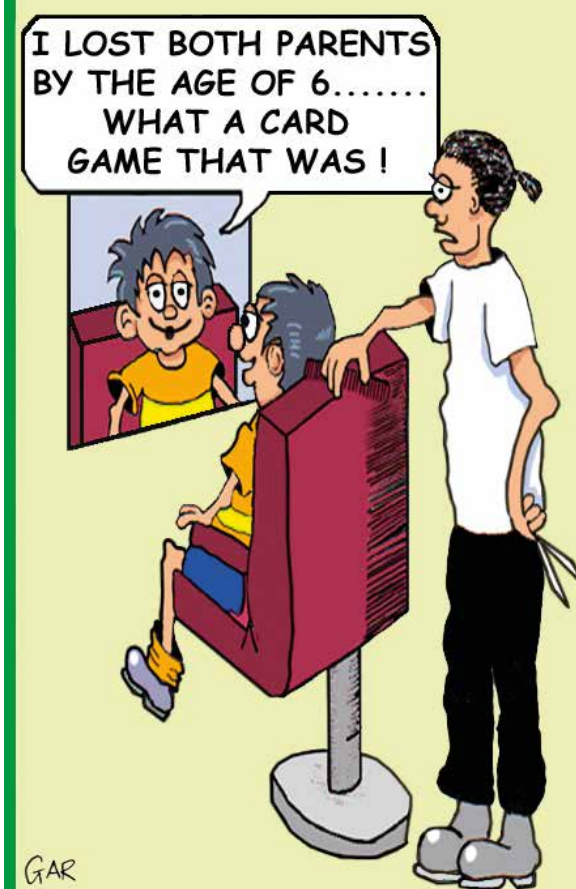
REGULAR EVENTS

- MONDAY** Pilates 9.30-10.30am
Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm
& 6:30-7:30pm
- TUESDAY** Film Night 7:30pm*
(1st & 3rd of each month)
Shire Climate Emergency Group
7:30pm (2nd and 4th of each month)
- WEDNESDAY** Keep Fit 10:30-11:30am
Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm
Pilates 6:30-7:30pm
- THURSDAY** Bingo 2pm
Kettlebells 6:30-7:30pm
& 6:30-7:30pm
Table Tennis 8pm
- FRIDAY** Create to Elevate Workshop
7-9:30pm (2nd & 4th of each month)
Contact Tom on 07455 956826
for more details.
- SATURDAY** Coffee Morning 10am
(2nd of each month)
- SUNDAY** Cotswold Christian
Community Service 4:45-6pm
(2nd of each month)

*Booking must be made, either by email:
cotswoldca@gmail.com
or leave a message on 07943 401575

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

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Carols on the Green

THANK YOU to all our readers who came to Carols on the Green despite Omicron and very wet weather! Colin Chidgey trudged through the mud to put up our stage, Phillip Sims brought the Concert Band to play for us and Reverend Paul Rhodes led the singing. We are so grateful for their help in making sure the Carols could go ahead. It was wonderful to see so many of you coming together to wish all of Shirehampton a Happy Christmas and a better New Year.

All of us at Shire

All photos taken by & © Bob Pitchford



Shirehampton Public Hall Newsletter

Happy New Year everyone! Let's hope 2022 brings more cheer, laughter and hope. At the Public Hall we are making a number of building improvements and renovations this year. To begin with the much needed and long awaited roof works are to commence the first week in January. This is intended to be a 12 week project, however the delicacy and expanse of the roof means this job could overrun. Apologies in advance for any disruption this may cause to our users or the users of the library. These works are absolutely long overdue, so we thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

We have a couple of new groups joining us this new year. Welcome, welcome to the **Tree of Life Church** each 1st Friday of the month from 6-10pm and **Cycletots**, 9.15-10am on Sundays (prebooking essential). Good luck to both groups!

A full list of our activities is listed on our website and in the Shire paper (see page 2). Do come along and join in and make new friends! It will be a great start to the new year!

Did you know the Public Hall also has a photocopier in the office which is available for public/user group use? Community rates are 1p per black and white copy, 4p per colour copy – bargain, eh?!

For details on how to support the Hall as a volunteer or Trustee, or to book meeting or party/celebration space, or any other questions, please contact the Hall Manager on 0117 9829963 or email bookings@shirepubhall.org.uk. You could also visit our website on www.shirepubhall.org.uk

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

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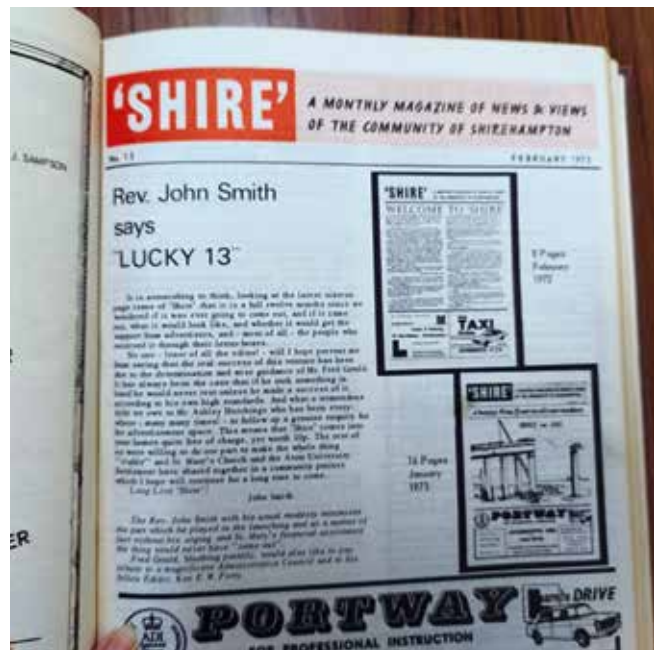
Continued from page 1.



local people. Cartoonists have emerged at various times over the years, Bill Downs and Philip Squire being two memorable ones. Local poets have also been inspired to share their muse with readers.

Some very well-known Shire people have been involved over the years with the production – some have sadly died, others moved away or retired but it's their commitment in the early days that have contributed to the continuity of the paper. It wouldn't be fair to name them as some would inevitably be left out so look at the old copies and you'll see for yourselves.

The A4 magazine format continued until July 1975 when it then became a newspaper as we know it today.



One year on... the 1st Year Anniversary Edition.

Special anniversaries were marked and reported on, 5th, 10th, 25th (when some of the committee members were interviewed on Roger Bennet's Radio Bristol programme), 30th when plaques were presented to Joyce Daniels, Jean Archer and Marion Robathan for long service to the paper, and the 40th anniversary when an exhibition and party was held in 2012 at the Methodist Church Hall.

Shire on the web commenced in 1999 and current issues can be viewed online.

The paper has reported on so many changes in the village over the years. The loss of iconic buildings for instance, the prefabs, old Portway Schools (both upper and lower) Swimming baths, Savoy, old health centre, Cotswold Centre when it was a tin hut, and on the positive side new buildings put up such as a new Cotswold Centre, Health Centre, Portway School now Oasis, Jim O'Neill House, the building and later closure of the Robin Cousins sports centre and of course many more homes.

Special events have been reported on including the opening of the Public Hall garden in 2000, Prince Edward's visit in 2003, the centenaries of the Public Hall and Library in 2004, Any Questions



Clockwise from Top Left: 2nd Year Anniversary; 5th Year; 20th Year; 10th Year Anniversary Editions.

being broadcast from the hall in that same year, a plaque to commemorate the world premiere of 'A Lark Ascending' in the hall, a blue plaque in honour of Sir Robert Stephens on 34 Priory Rd in 2006 to name but a few.

Shire has sponsored community events over the years including exhibitions of art and craft and photography, a Shire directory and currently Carols on the Green which is very well supported. At one time the paper was also available on tape for visually impaired people but that no longer exists. Shire by post is administered by Sue Husher who ensures all ex pats who pay a subscription receive their copy each month. The numbers are decreasing because of the online availability but it is still a valuable service for many who like to keep their links with the village.

The paper is paid for by the advertisers and any sundry donations so any surplus of income over



expenditure has, for the past few years been ploughed back into the community in the form of grants to local organisations. Sadly, due to Covid our advertising revenue has dropped, and no surplus has been available for grants.

The process of producing Shire has obviously changed from that first issue thanks to technology but we can still accommodate contributors who don't 'do' computers and prefer to put their articles in the library or Post Office for collection.

Our grateful thanks must go to the rota of volunteer editors (currently Sarah, Renée, Jill, Jackie, Bill, and Fiona) who collate the copy on their duty month and send it to our designer who then has contact with the printers. The design process for Shire has changed over the last 10 years from a manual copy paste exercise with physical paper articles to a much more streamlined online task. This process was handed on from Stuart Richards to Mary Cook



Just a few more of the many now bound issues of Shire available to view in the library.

who redesigned the layout and developed Shire into the full colour paper that we have today. This bright and cheerful look of the Shire is now being maintained and improved by our designer **Iain Chaffey** on a monthly basis.

When the papers are delivered to the Public Hall, we have our worthy band of volunteers counting, bundling and distributing the **5000 papers** locally and this team is headed up by **Bobbie (with help from husband Geoff)** and **Bill**. Other volunteers include our **Chairperson (Renée)** **Treasurer and Advertising Manager (Ed)** and **Secretary (Judy)**.

We also have our two **resident photographers, Bob Pitchford and Kathryn Courtney** whose expertise is much appreciated. After all, how impoverished the paper would be without photographs to accompany many of the articles. Kathryn also writes pieces related to local businesses and events.

Shire is truly a community project and I hope you will agree a very worthwhile one. Without blowing our own trumpet (although come to think of it why not?) we provide a voice for Shire and surrounding area, keep people informed, provide a forum for local views, help with family history queries and getting people back in touch with each other. We also share in the ups and downs in the life of the village. So, if you feel you'd like a piece of the action by volunteering in one of the many capacities, let us know, we'd be happy to have you come on board. Please come to our **Golden Celebration** (details on the front page) and be further enlightened!

Judy Helme



Shire @ 50 Community Links with Shire Newspaper

I moved to Shire from London over 40 years ago. Two days after moving in, a copy of SHIRE appeared in our letter box. I was about to dismiss it as junk, but was very pleased to find it was produced by the local community, and had lots of information about the neighbourhood we had just arrived in.

After many years as a regular reader, I volunteered to get more involved with the paper, and joined its **Management Committee**, and for a time was one of the panel of members, who each edited a single issue on a rotating basis. A year or so later, the **Treasurer** resigned, and I somewhat reluctantly agreed to step into her shoes. It was 20 years before I handed over to my successor.

the **Craft Exhibition**, which is still running. In 1999 it was one of the first community newspapers to go on-line, at www.shire.org.uk. The paper was one of the sponsors of **Shire2000**, which organised many events to mark the Millennium. The paper made a profit every year that I was Treasurer, and as a result was able to **distribute more than £49,000 in grants** to local community groups over a 20 year period.

I realised from the beginning that it was **essential that we provided a service** that was valued not only by our readers, but also by the local businesses who advertise in SHIRE. The paper has now run for 50 years and has only missed 2 months printed editions in all that time. The two editions were missed at the height of the lockdown 2 years ago, but even then an on-line version was produced.

From the beginning of my involvement with SHIRE I was very impressed by how many local volunteers contributed to its success. Apart from the printing, every aspect of the paper, from writing, editing, and distribution, has been done by **volunteers for 50 years**. I would like to pay particular **tribute to the 'unseen army'** of people who deliver copies of the paper to their neighbours every month.

David Thomas

40 years ago

40 years ago
 In March 1972, the second edition of 'Shire' was published and was rather different from this issue 40 years on. It was an A4 sheet of 12 pages but contained useful information about community life.
 As you will see the front page had an article by Cllr Jim O'Neill on how local government worked. Ken Perry who many will remember running community education at Teyford House, described the facilities for adult education that were available on a wide range of subjects. The churches in the area gave details of their services and other activities, and Ivor Hayes wrote on behalf of the Friends of Portway School explaining how money they raised was spent for the benefit of the pupils. So far the content of the paper reflects the mix of news and information we have now but one change is 'The Home Page' which we no longer have but was obviously relevant to our 1972 readers. This included a recipe for Kedgeree by Cary Forster - domestic science teacher at Portway (ah memories!) - an item on flower arranging and a message from the then MP's wife Mrs Nancy McLean commending the paper for including the Home Page. Space was devoted to

Calling all future-gazers!

Are you aged between 7 - 10?
Can you imagine what Shirehampton will be like in 40 years time?
 Then enter our 'Shire of the future' competition and your imagination could make you a winner!
 Shire newspaper is 40 years old this year and the people who set it up in 1972 must have found it difficult to imagine what life would be like in 2012.
 The internet wasn't invented, there were only three TV channels and music was sold on vinyl records - no tapes or CDs, let alone downloads!
 Shirehampton would have looked very different too - from the way people dressed to the cars they drove, the shops and buildings in the High Street, the stories in the papers.
 As we celebrate 40 years of Shire newspaper, we want young people in the village to imagine what Shirehampton will be like in 2012.
 What sort of buildings or vehicles will there be and what will people will be wearing or doing?
 You should create one image which can either be a 'doctored' version of an existing image, or something totally new.
 The competition is open to any young person living in Shirehampton or attending one of the schools in the village.
 There will be three age categories with prizes awarded for each, as well as an overall prize for the judge's favourite entry of them all. The categories are:
 1) Primary - Years 3-6
 2) Secondary - Years 7-9
 3) Tertiary - Years 10-11
 All submissions must be relevant to the village and/or community of Shirehampton.
 All entries should be emailed to edit@shire.org.uk including your name, date of birth, home address and school as well as a contact telephone number or email address for a parent/guardian.
 The closing date for entries is 5pm on Friday 6th April and the winner will be announced during a special reception at the 40th anniversary exhibition on the evening of Friday 27th April.
 A selection of the entries will be displayed at the exhibition and the winners will be published in the June edition of Shire newspaper.

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25th, 30th and 40th (plus 1 month) Year Anniversary Editions.



The 40th Anniversary Exhibition of Shire

Please enjoy these photos from the 40th Anniversary Exhibition held in 2012.

Thank you to Stuart Richards for supplying these photos of the 40th Anniversary exhibition taken by & © Bob Pitchford.



Lord Mayor, Councillor Geoffrey Gollop and his Lady with James Harris, Shire Chairperson during the time of the 40th Anniversary.



Lastly a massive Shire thank you to our printers and especially all our advertisers over the years for your support and custom. We really couldn't have done it without you!

From all of us at Shire.

Next issue we will have photos from the 50th Anniversary Exhibition being held at the Public Hall on Saturday 5th February. Open from 10am to 4pm. All welcome.

Tandem Update

Did you know that Tandem Arts had its third birthday last October? Thank you for your goodwill and support which manifested in so many different ways over the past few years. My hope for 2022 is to be able to carry on building an increasingly stable and sustainable base for this local facility offering low cost, creative learning opportunities.

Springtime lockdown last year made us work outside in the beautiful garden of the Shire Hall. We made plant supports, bird feeders, hearts and midsummer wreaths all from willow. This may well resume this spring.

Summers have always been rather quiet and last year in particular there was a lot of catching up to be done after repeated lockdowns and restrictions on mobility. Autumn saw a first 5 week course in printmaking/lino cutting which turned out to be popular and which continues into this year with a regular 'drop in' session on Tuesdays.

Mondays go back to mainly textile crafts such as felting and weaving. Keep your eyes open for a free (family) craft event on Feb 12th at the Shirehampton Public Hall. All welcome.

All photos & artwork © of their respective creator.



Email Annelies on tandemarts2@gmail.com if you would like to join the mailing list or check out Tandem's FB page www.facebook.com/theportwayroom





CLIMATE NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2022:

It's been a dark and dreary start to 2022. Many of us have found the ongoing uncertainties posed by Omicron stressful and dispiriting. But there have been some small, local but encouraging gains on Climate Change.

We read in January's Shire that **Ocean Estate Agents are now carbon neutral**. Congratulations to them! They calculated their carbon footprint and reduced their overall carbon impact by switching to power generated by renewable sources. We could all do something like that. **Climate Hero Carbon Calculator** will assess your carbon footprint with a short online test and give you suggestions on how to reduce your impact. We also see local institutions taking steps: four local Libraries have been fitted with solar panels and battery storage units which will generate about 40% of their on-site electricity.

On the other hand, my snowdrops haven't come up. For the last twenty years they have been up and in flower by the end of December. Not this year. And I learn that snowdrops "truly dislike warm winters." You can't grow them in Florida or California. Our exceptionally warm December when average temperatures in southern areas were up to 2 degrees C warmer than average for the month has meant no snowdrops in my garden this spring.

Increasingly we see the effects of Climate Change in small things all around us.



© Bob Pitchford



© Bob Pitchford

It's good to be reducing our own private carbon footprints, but there has to be a **huge COLLECTIVE response if we are to reach zero carbon in the next 8 years**. That can only come with decisive political leadership.

WHAT CAN WE DO? We have to let our leaders know that we expect them to show that leadership and that we will hold them to account electorally if they fail.

Renée Slater

CLIMATE CAFÉ

SHIREHAMPTON METHODIST CHURCH

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10:30 – 12:00

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SHIREHAMPTON CLIMATE EMERGENCY GROUP

Has resumed meetings in the Cotswold Community Centre, Dursley Road, BS11 9XH. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7:30pm.



IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE, DO COME AND JOIN US!

Nature Notes

This was the view from one of our windows in the first week of January. A breath-taking sunrise, with a vivid reflection in the rising river. I posted this shot on a Facebook page called 'A view from my window', and the response from people around the world who also follow this page was astonishing!



© Bobbie Perkins

It's great to get lucky and be in the right place at the right time! Another right place right time happened today, an hour or so before I sat down to do these notes. Jeff was busy at the kitchen sink, as usual, and called me out to see that a male sparrow hawk had swooped into the tree where the goldfinches feed!! I sprang into action of course, because much as I wanted to see this fellow, I certainly didn't want my wee friends getting caught! And was he beautiful! Luckily for me and my visitors, he was unlucky today!

We have seen blue tits and great tits coming into the back garden to eat the peanuts, and sparrows, pigeons and the crow families taking advantage of the birdseed.

Jeff thought he spotted a wren in our nest box out front, as it flew out. Possibly it had taken shelter there from the cold night or was just hoping to find some insects for breakfast. The wren is another great favourite of mine. As the days get longer, we can anticipate the return of Spring can't we? I certainly feel it's not too long to wait!

Happy nature watching all.

Bobbie



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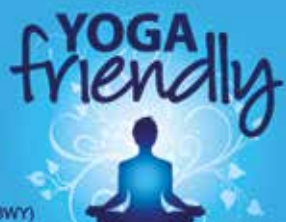
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07776 321 989 suzi@yogafriendly.co.uk



Churches in the Shirehampton Area

St Mary's News

Hi Folks!

A belated Happy New Year from me as for some unknown reason my January Newsletter was not published, despite being submitted by the print date. (Editor: Sorry, must have been missed in the Christmas rush!) I am at last enjoying the approach of the light evenings, which are now quite noticeable in February. Summer is on the way!!!

The first item this month is to report that the **Shirehampton Area Choir Practices** resume on **Tuesday, 1st February at 6:45pm** and will be held in the Church. The choir will be rehearsing **Stainer's Crucifixion** which is to be performed at **2:00 pm on Good Friday (15th April)**. The Choir is desperately short of Choristers since the Covid19 Pandemic, particularly men who can sing either Tenor or Bass. If this appeals to you, please come along, your support will be very much appreciated. Just turn up and see our **Musical Director - Tim Forder**.

Coffee Mornings have returned once more after the Christmas break on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00am to 12:00noon**. We are also hoping to open every **Saturday morning for Tea and Coffee** at the usual time, **10:00am to 12:00noon**, since additional volunteers have come

forward. So, when you are doing your weekend shopping you now have somewhere to rest your feet for ten minutes and take a little refreshment! There may be times we are unable to open for this, depending on how things go.

Messy Church this month is on **Tuesday, 15th February from 3:30pm until 5:00pm**. Come along all you youngsters who enjoy Messy Church, and encourage some of your friends to come and join you! Again, a reminder if you require Refreshments to let someone at the Church know by the previous **Friday - 11th February**.

Candlemas is to be celebrated on **Sunday 30th January at our 10:30am Holy Communion Service**, although the actual date of **Candlemas is on Wednesday 2nd February**. Some of you will



©Bob Pitchford

be asking what is Candlemas? Well, it is a Festival commemorating the occasion when the Virgin Mary, in obedience to Jewish Law, went to the Temple in Jerusalem both to be purified 40 days after the birth of her son Jesus, and to present the young baby to God by his thankful parents. Some people also take down their Christmas decorations at this date instead of at Epiphany in January.

Lent this year begins on **Ash Wednesday, 2nd March**, and a **Lent Course** is planned on **Wednesday evenings** throughout the season of Lent. These will be held in different nearby churches in our area. Full details of when and in which churches will be published in the March edition of St Mary's News.

This yarn is the one I had planned to publish last month - Why was the silent little church Happy? Answer: Because it had just won the "no bell" peace prize!

Bye for now! C.M.E.P

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Shire Baptist News

February, known in Wales as Y Mis Bach, the little Month.

2022 is now well on its way but it's good to reflect on the Christmas festivities when we were able to enjoy being with family and friends, and to attend the Carol and Christingle services in our village churches. A large crowd came to Carols on the Green. This is a lovely Shire tradition as it brings all the village together to sing and discover the Good News contained in the carols. This time it was led by our Minister Paul Rhodes.

We continue to meet on **Sundays** at our **Church building, Station Road** at 10:30am and on **Zoom for Bible Study** at 4:30pm. Our next meeting at the **Cotswold Community Hall, Dursley Road** is on **February 13th** at 4:45pm. All are welcome to these meetings.

Our **Minister Paul Rhodes** takes assemblies at **Shirehampton Primary School** and is rehearsing a play with the **Drama Club** on the **Bible Story**

about Joseph. The children are enjoying these sessions. All being well we hope to hold a **Holiday Club for Juniors in the Easter Holidays.**

Our Church building is open for **private prayer on the second Thursday of the month.** You may want a place to sit quietly or to talk or pray with someone. There is no pressure.

Going to a Church Service for the first time maybe from a long absence can be scary but be assured



© Bob Pitchford

we are all ordinary people who love and follow Jesus Christ.

Do look at our new Web Site for up-to-date news. We send our love and prayers and a Covid free month.

From Shire Baptist Church, Station Road

Website:

www.Shirehamptonbaptistchurch.co.uk

Contact number: 07743 683684

Hello from Shire Methodist

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

We plan to continue holding Morning Worship each Sunday in our church building from 11am. We'll continue to have a cautious Covid-19 risk management plan in place in our church building. Face coverings, social distancing, use of a one-way system, track and trace and sanitising are still encouraged; we also recommend using lateral flow tests. The pandemic continues to make some of our plans a bit uncertain so please check with us before coming along to avoid disappointment.

Many of our members and friends have continued to appreciate the support we are offering each other via WhatsApp, phone calls, letters and emails. This has been particularly welcomed during times of loss and illness. Many of us have had pets who have been a wonderful support to us, particularly during the stress and isolation of the pandemic. Sadly, a number of us **experienced pet bereavement** last year. Having a **supportive group** to talk to about our loss, pray for us and reminisce about our dear pets

was a real comfort. We are a church that welcomes well-behaved dogs. We thank God for all he has created, including the wonderful animal kingdom.

Many additional support services appear to be lessening as the pandemic restrictions ease. However, all the churches in Shirehampton continue to hold our community in prayer and will do our best to respond to any concerns and needs. You can contact us on these numbers.



© Bob Pitchford

St Mary's Church 0117 9077026

Shire Methodist 0117 9248407

Shire Baptist 07743 683684

St Bernard's Roman Catholic 0117 982 3380

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

Everyone at Shire Methodist

JOBS TRAINING & ENTERPRISE HUB AT SHIREHAMPTON METHODIST CHURCH

The Hub continues to offer a Job club cafe on a fortnightly basis. Drop in for a coffee on 11th February and 25th February and discuss your needs with Stephany or one of our volunteers.

Courses running soon include **Digital skills** (using computers, tablets, internet, etc.) delivered by **Community Learning** and a **Taster course by Weston college**, this is tailored according to your particular needs.

It's exciting that we now have a super website launched - www.JTEhubShire.org - do take a look!

We are looking for volunteers with limited availability or commitment. We need a couple of hours alternate Tuesdays for the Job Club, mostly helping with tea and coffee, setting up etc. Or we could do with some leaflets delivered approximately monthly.

We are planning for a **Launch of the Project - 22nd February from 12:30pm** - if Covid guidance

allows. Tickets are free and available on Eventbrite. Light refreshments will be available.

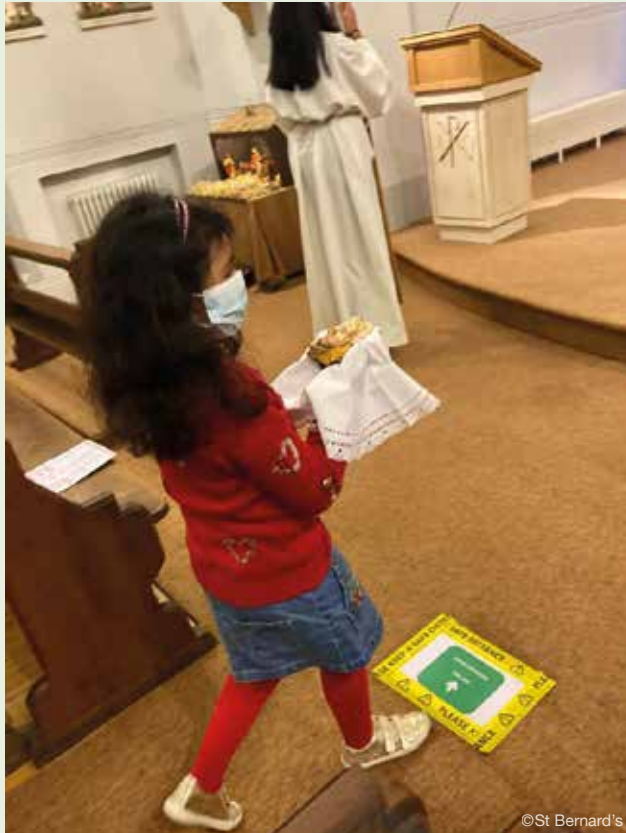
To discuss any matters regarding the project, or your needs please contact Stephany on projectcoordinator@jtehubshire.org, call 07305 066478 or come along on alternate Tuesdays.

Pearl Luxon - Management Group

News from St. Bernard's

Happy Near Year to everyone.

We managed to have a delightful carol service on 12th December, with Katie Robson accompanying us on the organ. We finished the afternoon off with mince pies and mulled wine, to warm us all up. The church had been beautifully decorated, so it was a perfect way to continue the Christmas preparations.



We now look forward to the year ahead, with the children of **St Bernard's First Holy Communion** programme starting on **8th February at 5:30**, culminating in their celebration on **Saturday 11th June**. Our **Lady of the Rosary** programme starts **10am on 12th February**, then celebrating on **18th June**.

All of the parish news can be found at:
olorsb.org.uk



When I were a lad in Shire (A Local Folk-Song)

When I were a lad in Shire,
I'd sit upon The Green.
Me 'eart were all afire,
A-waitin' for my Jean
She'd stroll along from Portway School
And turn me into a blushin' fool.
When I were a lad in Shire
When I were young and green.

When I were a lad in Shire,
A-courtin' we would go.
I took my Jean to Penpole,
Me faithful dog in tow.
I took off me coat; she took off 'er 'at;
We sat on the grass an' kissed an' that.
When I were a lad in Shire,
A lot then I didn't know.

When I were a lad in Shire,
I went to the old Savoy.
I took my Jeannie wiv me
'An a mate a mine called Roy.
We sat in the back in the one-an'-nines,
But I couldn't read between the lines.
When I were a lad in Shire,
When I were a innocent boy.

When I were a lad in Shire,
I lost my darlin' Jean.
And everywhere I went in Shire
My girl an' Roy was seen,
Right there in the village an' up in the park
An' down by the riverside after dark.
When I were a lad in Shire,
When I were young and green.

NAMSO (Gil Osman)

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

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

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



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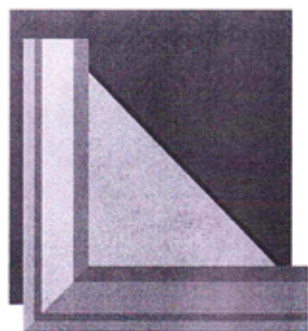
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If you are interested please come along to one of our informal meetings which we hold the first Monday of the month.

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

chairperson@shire.org.uk or editor@shire.org.uk

SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON



City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

In less than three months time the 2022 bowling season will be underway at the City and Port of Bristol Club. Bristol St. Andrews will be the first visitors of the season on Sunday April 17th. The first Wednesday afternoon game will be away at Page Park on April 20th. After that there will be lots of bowling to enjoy, friendly and competitive, through to late September.



Ken Davies on the left with Dave Shaw who he beat on his way to the Bristol Section Final.

Mixed friendly games, ladies and men together in teams, will be played most Wednesday afternoons and at week-ends, whilst the **men's and ladies Bristol League** games are played on evenings during the week. The **Club League** is played on Monday evenings.

Season 2021 saw some firsts, some successes and proof that new bowlers can win trophies. It was the first season when ladies were permitted to play in the men's league team, up to three per game, play they did and their contribution was invaluable. **Junior Bowlers** were seen on the green for the first time. Children and young people came and enjoyed the Tuesday/Wednesday sessions but the club also provided sessions for children who came to the club to enjoy the **Summer Holiday Play Scheme**. One young bowler, **Cameron Norris** wanted to carry on bowling so he joined the **City and County of Bristol Indoor Club**, enjoys indoor bowling and is doing well. The game of **Spoons** was played at the green for the first time in August, great fun.

The seasons big success story was **Ken Davies** progressing to the **Bristol Section Final of the Champion of Champions Competition**, beating some strong opponents along the way and only losing in the end to **Graham Hudd of GB Britton** and he went on to win the competition overall in a county wide final at **Bishops Cleeve**.

Carol Green started bowling part way through the season, practiced a lot and played not only friendlies but also league games. She entered the **Ladies Four Wood Singles** competition and won it to become the **Ladies Club Champion** and will now play in this seasons **Champion of Champions Competition**, that's real first season success.



Carol Green, in her first year as a bowler won the Ladies Four Wood Singles Trophy making her Ladies Club Champion and she will now play in this years Champion of Champions Competition which is run at County Level.

The club will be well represented in this year's **County Competitions**, both the **Gloucestershire and City and County of Bristol Associations**. The **Men's League Team** has entered the **GBA Two Rink Competition** and the **Ladies** will play in the **Inter Club Competition**. Individually, **David Hinksman** will play in the **Champion of Champions**, the **GBA Four Wood Singles** and partner **Howard Surman** in the **City and County Pairs**. Ken Davies has entered the **GBA Four Wood Singles** and will partner **Bill Hatherall** in the **City and County Pairs**.

The game of bowls is known as the sport for all because it can be played by people of all ages, abilities and sexes. It is ideal for family participation and provides many benefits including healthy outdoor activity, the learning of a new skill and making new friends. **The club runs try bowling sessions from May onwards, why not come and try, bring friends and family, you could be the next first season trophy winner!!**



The Ladies Hut has been at the green since the early 1980s and the club is hoping to replace it with a modern wooden structure.

For further information about the club and its activities please call David Hinksman on 0117 908 2713 or 07932 387217.

NEWS FROM SHIRESTRONG KETTLEBELL CLUB

Happy New Year from everyone at ShireStrong.

We are a small club of enthusiastic members who get together 3 times a week to work on our endurance and strength using kettlebells. Membership is open to all ages and abilities. Kettlebells are easy to use once you have had some instruction and have enormous benefits.

It's a new year with new beginnings and aspirations. You may have decided that you need to lead a healthier lifestyle. I have some small ideas below that may help:

- Drink a glass of water before a meal. It will help to make you feel fuller as you eat.
- Reduce your portion size. If you normally eat from a large plate, reduce the plate size. Eat slowly until you feel 80% full.
- Eat healthy proteins, fats and carbohydrates and aim to illuminate as much processed food as possible.
- Do not ban certain foods especially if you like them. Banning foods will just make you crave them more. There is no reason why you can't enjoy the occasional treat.
- Try to stick to healthy snacks such as fruit, vegetables, healthy dips rather than chocolate, biscuits and sweet fizzy drinks.
- Try to plan your meals for the week.
- Get more active to burn off excess calories you don't lose through diet alone. Start small - as little as 5 minutes a day can make a difference – and work up to more. Importantly find something you like doing and get some support from family and friends or join a supportive community to encourage you on your way.



Our annual Christmas party celebrations at Hideaway in Sea Mills.

During 2021 I am very proud to announce that members of ShireStrong raised an amazing £3000 for charity including £1200 for MacMillan Cancer Support and £1700 for cancer research UK.

If you are interested in joining our friendly club please don't hesitate to contact me for a free initial consultation in your own home or mine. Telephone: 07875 054 292 or Email: t.linda1206@gmail.com or go to: www.shirestrong.co.uk

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Shire Memories

Many congratulations and huge pats on the back of all the (mainly) local volunteers who have kept the SHIRE paper going for so long. It has obviously played a big part in the life of many inhabitants but also many industries across Bristol.

I was living in Westbury Park when I had to downsize after my divorce, and intended to stay there, but financially this was a problem until a friend said to me "Why don't you try Shirehampton?"

Unbelievably I had never heard of Shirehampton even though it was in walking distance.

When I finally moved, I did feel disorientated as in those days it seemed as if most local people around me had been born and gone to school in the village. This was one of the reasons I got involved with the group who ran the newspaper every month,

covering both the local news information and the advertising that brought in the money to print and deliver more than enough copies to every house in Shire. I was with them dealing with the 'ads' for about 10 years, so **thanks to all the other voluntary workers who helped me feel more and more at home** in a place I had never heard of, and so many many thanks to all those volunteers who made SHIRE what it is today.

Val Jenkins



Avonmouth Sea Cadets

Congratulations to Shire Community Newspaper on their 50 years of publication. Avonmouth Sea Cadets would like to thank you for all the support we have received from your newspaper over the years. We ourselves will be celebrating our 80th year this year and look forward to sharing via your newspaper the events we have planned.

Along with everyone else the Sea Cadets has been subject to the guidance and regulations during Covid, but are hoping to be out and about in our local community during the months ahead.

We are urgently looking for volunteers to join us. There are a number of roles that volunteers can get

involved in, general helpers, committee members or uniformed volunteers.

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