

Shire

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

No. 624 - January 2024 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

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HAPPY
NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR
VOLUNTEERS
AND
READERS

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Author: Petr Kratochvíl

FAREWELL TO THE CRAFT EXHIBITION

As the author of The Canterbury Tales, Geoffrey Chaucer is accredited as saying 'All good things must come to an end' and sadly that is the case for this lovely local institution which has kept going in the Public Hall since the early 1970s, although most people remember it in its present format from the late 1980s when Helen Brandt took over the organisation, followed by Pat Davidson and Gail and Ed (who did a double stint!). Like Chaucer's famous work, you could almost liken the exhibition to a pilgrimage for the hundreds of exhibitors over the years in the manner in which the crafts have evolved along the way, reflecting changes in fashion and purchasing habits. What hasn't changed is the sheer dedication and skill of local crafts people who keep traditional ways alive.

This year has seen an amazing array of skills, far too many to list, along with the demonstrators who give their time to share what they have learned. The jungle theme which included a treasure hunt for our younger visitors was amazing. The number of different interpretations and media was breath-taking and it was good to see the efforts of the 34th Rainbows and Brownies who made snakes and young individuals who embraced the theme. So important to encourage our young people to be creative and maybe in the future set up an exhibition themselves!

There are many memories of past stalwarts of the exhibition both as exhibitors and helpers and I was delighted to see a quilt made by the late Joanna Pickett on display, finished off by Gail, and so appropriate that she should have a presence in the final event. Many regulars will recall her spinning dog hair and knitting beautifully soft garments with it.



© Kathryn Courtney



Continues on pages 12-13.

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Shire

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We welcome contributions for publication in 'SHIRE' but reserve the right to edit any copy received. Articles should not exceed 500 words. 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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REGULAR EVENTS IN SHIREHAMPTON

Events in our library



Every Tuesday afternoon 3pm – 5pm

Shire's Living Room –

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

1st Wednesday of the month 6pm – 7pm

IT Literacy Class –

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

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

Record Appreciation Club –

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

2nd Thursday of the month 6pm – 8pm

Family History Group –

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

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



Cotswold Community Association
Dursley Road, Shirehampton,
Bristol, BS11 9XH
Registered charity no. 1101427
Website: cotswoldcommunity.org
Email: cotswoldca@gmail.com
Phone: 07943-401575

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAY	Pilates 9.30-10.30am Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm 6:30-7:30pm
TUESDAY	Film Night 7:30pm (1st & 3rd of month)
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 10:30-11:30am Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm Pilates 6:30-7:30pm
THURSDAY	Bingo 2pm Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm 6:30-7:30pm Table Tennis 8pm
SATURDAY	Coffee Morning 10am-11:30am (2nd of month) Bingo 7:30pm
SUNDAY	Soul Space 5pm-7pm (1st & 3rd of month) Cotswold Christian Community Service 4:45-6pm (2nd of month)

Come along and join in the fun

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

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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

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





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The *Shire* Community Pages

Shirehampton Group Practice is Changing...

It is hard to miss the news that the NHS is under strain with demand for primary care services at the highest level ever. Unfortunately, we are no different in Shirehampton and demand often outstrips our capacity. We are very aware of the frustrations caused by not being able to get a timely appointment, with the clinician you want to see, and often being asked to call back later as 'we have no appointments available'. We have therefore decided it is time for change, for our patients and our surgery, and have been working hard on ways to improve access to our service.

From 1 February 2024, all GP appointments will be requested through the online e-consultation service which is accessed through our website.

Please do not worry if you would not be able to use an online form, for whatever reason - **you will still be able to call or visit our reception team**, who can complete the form on your behalf.

We have been offering the **e-consultation service** for over 2 years now. This has been working really well for many of our patients, but those who are not using it can sometimes be at a disadvantage.

By asking everyone to use the e-consultation service, this will ensure that all patients have an equal level of access.

The benefits to everyone will be:

- No more waiting in the phone queue at 8.30am
- All requests reviewed/triaged by a GP-led Care Navigation Team
- Patients directed to the right clinician first time
- Those with the greatest need can be prioritised
- You can request to see a specific clinician and let us know your availability
- Receive trusted self-care advice and signposting.

Using the e-consultation form you can request a GP appointment (urgent and non-urgent), ask us a medication query or other administrative question. Our **GP-led Care Navigation team** will be checking these throughout the day and you will receive a response via your preferred method (text, email or phone call). Your request will be allocated to the most appropriate team member, for example, GP, advanced nurse practitioner, nursing team, physiotherapist, pharmacist, or admin team. This will mean that patients can get an appointment and/or advice in the quickest way and those patients with the greatest need can be prioritised.

Please be assured that our reception team will still be available at the front desk and the telephone lines will remain open during our usual hours.

We are grateful for your continued support and thank you for your patience as we go through these changes.

The Partners and Staff

Shirehampton Group Practice



ROUGH SLEEPERS TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY SUPPORT WHEN TEMPERATURES DROP

St Mungo's outreach workers are providing additional emergency support to people who are sleeping rough in Bristol in freezing temperatures. During severe weather additional accommodation and support will be made available across the city so that nobody has to sleep on the streets during extreme weather.

Members of the public are being urged to:

- Dial 999 if someone needs emergency help.
- Encourage anyone they see rough sleeping in Bristol to call **0117 4070330** to speak to the **Outreach team**. Or call on their behalf if they are not able to call themselves.
- Remember that www.streetlink.org.uk is not an emergency service – **St Mungo's** does not get the referrals immediately so it's best to use **0117 4070330** when the severe weather response is activated, except in cases where **999 emergency services** should be contacted.

Shirley Burnard



On November 14, 2023, my dear neighbour, Shirley Burnard, passed away peacefully in her home. She had retired after many years with Norwich Union (now Aviva) by the time I moved next door in 2002.

Her great joy was a **Staffordshire Bull Terrier** called **Beth** and dog walkers would find her walking along the riverbank every day. She had two more Staffies after Beth and the photograph above is of her and **Bruce**, her last Staffie, before her eyesight began to fail and she had to sadly give up both dog and walks. However, her other great love was gardening and she had an abundance of apples and raspberries, together with many flowers in the garden until her vision finally prevented her from venturing outdoors.

I know just how much Shirley appreciated her 'Myrtle' neighbours for their great kindness to her over the years so many thanks to you all.

We will miss you, dear Shirley.

FG (Thanks for the kind donation: Editor)

24 Shirehampton High Street, Bristol, BS11 0DL



0117 9823210 paul@woodfamilybutchers.com 0779 2998829

We especially enjoy spreading community news and we love to hear from all our readers of both the online and printed versions.

Please, send in your letters and stories to editor@shire.org.uk.

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

Many thanks.



LOST AND FOUND

Dear Editor,

A Shire reader has found a wallet containing some money; unfortunately there are no contact details in the wallet for the reader to contact anyone but she would like to return this wallet as there is money in it.

Could the person who has lost the wallet please contact editor@shire.org.uk with a description of the wallet and contents so that we can then contact the Shire reader.

Thank you.

Editor

THANK YOU ROGER

Dear Editor,

We would be grateful if you could post a thank you letter to our old next-door neighbour on the Cotswold Estate, **Roger Durbin**, who regularly walks our little white dog, **Pickle**. Roger, who had taken in many rescue dogs over the years, sadly lost his last dog, **Pip**, on Boxing Day 2019. When the Covid lockdown came in March 2020, Roger offered to take Pickle out for walks which we were happy to accept. Since then, we have moved house but Roger continues to take our dog out on daily walks and can be often seen around the Cotswold Estate, river bank area and the Daisy Field, in all weathers!

Thank you Roger, we're very grateful.

The Golders

Community Learning West FREE Courses

Learn to cook tasty dishes and how to save energy (gas & electricity) when you cook. Cook together in a small, friendly group and either eat what you cook on the day or take enough home for the family/your household. Get a FREE slow cooker and more energy saving devices!

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SHIRE COMMUNITY LITTER PICKS

Meet 10.30am at Shire Public Hall on the 3rd Thursday of every month & tidy for 1 hour
Next Meeting: Thursday 18th January

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

Personal Announcements

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

To book contact: adverts@shire.org.uk

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**Cora Ann Hallett (nee Huckson)
21/11/33 – 26/10/23. 89 years.**



Cora lived in Shirehampton all of her life. As a young lady she was a member of Twyford House and enjoyed amateur dramatics and functions at the Public Hall.

She qualified as a nursery nurse working in children's homes in Bristol. She married her beloved Jack at St Mary's Church on 26/10/57

Cora enjoyed belonging to many local clubs over the years and loved to dance. She worked as a dinner lady at Shirehampton Infants school and delivered *The Shire* well into her 70's.

She spent the last 3 years as a much loved resident at Penhill Residential Home.

She will be greatly missed by her family and her faithful friend Annette.

Daughters Jane & Lorna, son in laws Gerald and Les, grandsons Tom, Elliott and Ollie.

"Night night Nan-Nan" - Elijah, Izzy and Lily

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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 2024

I'm very pleased to announce that there will be a Window Wanderland taking place in Shirehampton, over the weekend of Friday 23rd until Sunday 25th February 2024. The focus will be on households and neighbourhoods again this year, though we'd welcome any businesses who'd like to put up a display, of course.

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

several other events happening in the area at other weekends during the Winter months so there'll be plenty to enjoy in other suburbs too.

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 workshop with **Tandem Arts** at the **Public Hall**, who can help with lots of ideas for displays.

For more information, and if you'd like to participate, take a look at the website: www.windowwanderland.com/event/shirehampton-2024/ and also on the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/729500492040264/>

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: shirewindowwanderland@gmail.com

Many thanks

John Hastings



SHIRE DOOR TO DOOR SHOPPING TRIPS 2024



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WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY: IMPERIAL RETAIL PARK

WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY: NAILSEA

WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY: CLEVEDON

WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY: PORTISHEAD

WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY: THORNBURY

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ENERGY HELP DESKS

With the weather turning so cold I just wanted to share a few things with you.

The **Energy Price Cap** (the amount of money that a company can charge you for electricity and gas) has fallen which is good news but last year we were paying an artificially lower amount for our energy because the government put protections in place for householders. And this year we're not going to get the £400 (£67/month) energy support we got last year.

If you use **prepayment meters** and haven't topped up much over the summer, the standing charge will come off in one go when you top up. For example from 1st June to 1st October that would be £36 for Gas and £72 for electricity in Bristol so make sure you know it's coming if you haven't topped up for a while.

If you or anyone in your household is considered **vulnerable** due to age, medical needs, disabilities, mental health or accessibility needs you can register for the **Priority Services Register** with both **National Grid and your energy company**. Give them a call or register online to let them know you might need some extra support here and there.

The main points being:

- Energy will still be expensive this year despite price cap drop
- Standing charges will have built up on prepayment meters if you haven't topped up for a while
- Let **National Grid** and your energy company know if there's anyone vulnerable at home
- We can use less energy at home by using things for less time and at lower temperatures and by draughtproofing so our expensive hot air stays in the home for longer.

I also wanted to share some info from **CSE (Community Strategy for Energy)** about energy vouchers for **Bristol residents** who are struggling financially, on a means tested benefit or a low income. They have pre-payment meter vouchers and shopping vouchers for those with a credit meter.

Householders can complete this **self-referral form**: <https://form.jotform.com/231784206916359> or if you are applying on their behalf - **client-referrals**: <https://form.jotform.com/231792487720362>. There is also the option for further support if this is needed on the form. CSE also have funding for heating if the system is broken and needs a repair or replacement, please use the same forms for this.

If householders are not able to apply online they can call our freephone number: **0800 082 2234**.

For more information go to:
www.bristolenergynetwork.org

Rachel Moffat (Co-ordinator), Bristol Energy Network

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Churches in the Shirehampton Area

Greetings from Shirehampton Baptist Church

January, named after the ancient Roman God of beginnings and endings, is usually depicted as having two faces; one looking to the past the other to the future. We in Shire Baptist are grateful for the blessings of the past year and look with hope to the future.

It has been good to see several new people attending our **Sunday Morning Services** including children. The days of large Sunday Schools are long gone but children who come on a Sunday are well catered for. There is a crèche and a class for children during the sermon.

From **January** we will be holding **All Age Services** on the **fourth Sunday** of each month. 10.30 am.

The **Rock Steady Club** for Primary School children meets during School term time and will be preparing their **Easter** drama as well as games,

music and craft work. They meet in our building in Station Road 3.30pm to 4.30 pm. Parents are welcome to stay.

The **Songs of Praise Café** has been well attended and we welcome all to join us for this informal time. The next meeting will be **January 14th**, 4.45pm to 6pm at the Cotswold Community Hall. Dursley Road.

The next **Life Café** held in our building, Station Road will open on **January 31st** 10.30am to 11.30am. Do come and enjoy our home-made cakes and the company.

Another new venture to be held in our building is the **Gold Project** which is a **Discovering the Bible Course** every **Monday from January 8th**, 2.30pm. It is hosted by **David Ball** from **Saint Peter's Church** and is a combination of personal study, regular group meetings and application to life.

As we wish each other a **Happy New Year**, our great desire is for a peaceful World. Our daily prayer is that which Jesus taught his disciples;

Your Kingdom come,

Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 6 Verse 9

From all at Shirehampton Baptist love and prayers.

Christingle at the Cotswold

Once again a lovely group of people, young and not-so-young, gathered at the Cotswold Community Centre in Dursley Road to mark the advent season with a Christingle service on 10th December. The idea is that each person makes a Christingle – an orange with a red ribbon round it, 4 cocktail sticks with sweets and raisins and a candle. Does this sound a little strange for a Christmas preparation?

It is a lovely way to think about the real meaning of **Christmas** – that **God** who made the world (orange), still loves it and all people, and that is why **Jesus** came and died (red ribbon). Our food grows through the seasons (4 cocktail sticks with fruit and sweets) – and we think about the fruit of God's spirit which grow in those who love him – love, joy, peace etc. The candle reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world – we thought about the darkness, and sadness, in the world and how Jesus wants to bring light into the darkness and how each one of us can bring love, joy and peace to those around us. Would not the world be a better place with such qualities? Other fruit of God's spirit

are patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control – just imagine!

We sang carols, had readings, including a 2 part drama by children, prayers and finished by singing *"Peace to you"* with the lights out and candles lit. This was followed by lovely refreshments provided by **Bridget** and **Carol**. Very many thanks to all who prepared the various items for the Christingle and took part – it was a lovely community event.

Lyn Morton on behalf of the Cotswold Christian Community



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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.



Hello from St Mary's

Hi Folks!

A Happy New Year to you all and let us pray for a peaceful one in this very troubled world. Have you taken your Xmas decorations down? Well, you still have time, as the last day of Christmas is 6th January and signifies the beginning of Epiphany.

The Epiphany season is a special date for many Christians as it is when we celebrate how a star led the Magi, also known as The Three Kings or Wise Men, to Bethlehem to visit the baby Jesus after he was born. It is also the time when Jesus was baptised by John when a voice from heaven declares Jesus to be God's beloved Son.

Now onto our diary - The first "Goldies" singing session of the new year is at 10.30 am Wednesday, 3rd January in the church. All are welcome to come and sing favourite songs from the past.

On Monday 29th January, we welcome the West Bristol Concert Band back to St Mary's for another of their splendid performances. It commences

at 7:30pm and tickets are available on the door - cost is £5 and £3 concessions. Refreshments will be provided during the interval. Don't miss this opportunity to listen to some very fine music!

Finally, our Churchwarden, Anne Ford, would like to thank the Manager & Staff of our Co-op Shop for the generous donation of oranges, from which we made Christingles for the lovely service in December in aid of The Children's Society. Thank you for all who attended any of our Christmas services and events.

We wish all of you a Happy New Year!

Before I go, have you heard this joke? Question: Did Eve have a date with Adam? Answer: No, just an apple. They get worse as I get older!!

Bye for now! C.M.E.

Christmas Fayre for All the Family

St. Mary's Church in Shirehampton held their annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 9th December and it was a busy. The local dance group STOMP did several dance displays with a Christmas theme and even encouraged their audience to take part. The local Vicar Alison and one dad took up the gauntlet and thoroughly enjoyed taking part. There was also some carol singing, Father Christmas was in his Grotto meeting children and parents alike. The youngest were certainly fascinated by him.

Local people had stalls within the church which included books, wood crafts, arts, knitwear, toys, cakes, jams, chutneys and plenty of gift ideas. You could also pick up your reindeer food in time for Christmas Eve. Two ladies were serving up hot

chocolate with plenty of cream, marshmallows and sprinkles and there was also the Christmas raffle with plenty of prizes to choose from.

Kathryn Courtney

Photos © Kathryn Courtney (Unless Noted)



An Update from Darren Jones MP, Bristol North West

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

Many people hope to grab a bargain in the January sales – and sometimes we all need an excuse to get out of the house after being cooped up over Christmas!

Whilst the marketing campaigns for the sales at the big chain stores will see their profits rise, **small businesses** can find footfall at this time of year drops. The same pattern emerges in the frenzy of Black Friday in late November. In response, **the first Saturday of December has been designated ‘Small Business Saturday’**, to shine a light on supporting the independent shops that are vital to our communities.

To mark **Small Business Saturday 2023**, I visited some of the oldest independent shops in **Bristol North West: Wood Family Butchers in Shire**, where the current proprietor is only the fourth butcher to own the shop since 1805; **Henleaze Garden Shop**, which has been passed down three generations of the same family since it opened shortly after the end of the Second World War; and **W H Mogford & Son in Westbury-on-Trym**, which opened in the 1860s. Incredible!

Paul Wood, the owner of the butchers, told me that although footfall has reduced in recent years, his online business via **Facebook and Instagram**

is going strong. That’s all well and good, but it was clear from talking to Paul that it’s the face-to-face interaction with his customers that keeps him going, despite the long hours he works.

The results of my village survey show how the relationship between the people working in our local shops and customers is reciprocated. From about 400 responses, about three quarters said they shop locally in the area they live in, of which, more than one in five said they know the staff ‘well’ or ‘very well’. Paul also spoke about the decline of the high street in Shire, with several stores now left empty and the current shops lacking the variety needed to sway people from heading into town or to Cribbs Causeway.

A desire to have more independent shops is something constituents are telling me loud and clear in the village survey: this is the most popular answer, by far, for what people would most like to see where they live. Our high streets should offer more than shopping, with easy access to essential services, such as banking, too. The **closure of the Lloyds branches in Shire and Horfield** in November



© Darren Jones

followed the **closure of NatWest and HSBC branches in Westbury-on-Trym** in August. And now, it has been announced that **Barclays in Westbury-on-Trym** will be closing in February, too. This will leave only one bank and one building society across all of Bristol North West: **Lloyds and Nationwide, both in Westbury-on-Trym. This isn’t good enough.** Banking hubs – where people can access banking services in one store, no matter who they bank with – offer a sensible solution to the problem. Currently, there are only 20 banking hubs across the country.

As always, if you need my help or have a question, please get in touch on darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk, call the office on 0117 959 6545 or visit; www.darren-jones.co.uk For the latest updates, follow me on social media: fb.com/darrenjonesmp [@darrenpjones](https://twitter.com/darrenpjones)

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

Your Councillors are:

Donald Alexander – Labour: cldr.donald.alexander@bristol.gov.uk

John Stephen Geater - Conservative: Cllr.John.Geater@bristol.gov.uk

James Scott - Conservative: Cllr.James.Scott@bristol.gov.uk

Conservative Members’ Services Office: 0117 922 2746

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CONTACTING YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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Darren Jones Phone: 01179596545

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Singing in Harmony

You often see articles in the press claiming that “Singing is good for you”. Yes it is – and the ladies of the 9 to 5 chorus will tell you that it’s also fun! We don’t just enjoy singing our favourite songs and learning new ones, we also take great delight in entertaining other people. It’s wonderful to see people’s faces light up as they recognise a song from their younger days.



We always welcome new members – there’s no audition other than a brief private chat to see which voice part would suit a new singer best. Every new member can learn at their own speed and we encourage members to join in a performance as soon as they feel able: no-one has to learn the whole repertoire overnight! And ladies who have experience of singing in a choir are more than welcome to come along and perhaps try out a different part from the one they usually sing.

We enjoy social events, too: cream tea in a member’s garden was one of the highlights this year, and an earlier garden party included a “fancy hat” competition (above). We’ve had a beetle drive and a skittles session, too – very appropriate, since we rehearse in the skittle alley at the PBA.

Jenny Wood, Musical Director of 9 to 5

Singing improves your posture and increases your oxygen intake. Learning to breathe properly is a basic singing technique. That helps the brain; so does learning things by heart. And being part of a supportive social, and sociable, group is good for you, too.

The chorus meets every **Tuesday morning** throughout the year at the **PBA in Shirehampton**. However, only a few of the members actually live in Shire. Singers come from as far afield as **Nailsea, Churchill, Downend and Chipping Sodbury** to sing with the group. And that’s about the same area that the chorus covers in performing for pensioners’ meetings, WIs, and at residential and care homes.



The ladies of the 9 to 5 chorus singing at a residential home in Yatton.

9 to 5

Ladies' Harmony Chorus



Visitors are welcome at **9 to 5** rehearsals and we are always looking for new members. If you love to sing, especially if you enjoy singing in harmony, come along to a meeting. You can come to rehearsals for free and only start paying a membership fee if you decide to join. We meet on **Tuesdays, 11.00 am to 1.00 pm** at the Port of Bristol Sports and Community Hub, Nibley Road, Shirehampton BS11 9XW.

9 to 5 perform regularly throughout the year in and around Bristol – and as well as performances and rehearsals we make sure we have fun at various social events.

Contacts: Chorus Director Jenny Wood on:
jennybari@blueyonder.co.uk or 0117 3305095

Chairlady: Mary Preece on:
maryprece2000@yahoo.co.uk

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Continued from page 1.

As had become a feature of the exhibition, a comments book was available and this year we asked for memories of past exhibitions. There isn't enough word space to quote everyone but here are some examples which sum up how important the event has been for so many people.

“... Dick dressing up as either a cowboy or Indian and going round the shops to get people to come in”, “...amazing... incredible skill, love the stuff made out of recycled plastic from the beach” “my first recollection was the colourful display of amazing quilts...” “wonderfully gifted people, sorry to see you go” “so many happy memories” “over the years made many friends, shared skills and ideas, it's an escape into something different...” “I'll miss the people, laughs and meetings and my house full of glue and endless crafts ready to go. Such a lovely week but the work to get there is enormous so Ed and Gail deserve a restful year...” “disappointed something so visibly beautiful with a long history is having to close...” “I have loved the Craft Exhibition for ever,.. a unique event that keeps ‘community’ in mind. All the creativity and company will be missed. All the hard work is certainly appreciated, a big ‘Thank you’ to you all...” “I joined in 1989, fairly new to Shirehampton and I wanted to get to know more people. Later on I helped run the tea stall for several years, a great opportunity to catch up with all the local gossip”

Quotes from Gail and Ed to the following questions:

So what was best about running the exhibition?

“Helping people celebrate their crafting by ensuring they get an audience. Seeing the interchange between the makers and the visitors. The generosity of volunteers delivering publicity, lugging out screens etc, stewarding, making cakes. It is credit to the **Public Hall board** that they allow this event which causes disruption to some of the regular users.”

What will we miss? “Being part of something that is special for the community and the fellowship and friendship that this has bought.”

How important? “Some of the exhibitors are undertaking their crafting in isolation. They often don't know people who share their passion. The exhibition gives them an opportunity to celebrate their work, gain inspiration and ideas from others.

For local craft groups it is a “shop window” allowing them to show case their work and encourage people to join. The **Shire Stitches** patchwork group started from conversations at the event over 30 years ago and is still thriving. For the visitors there is joy in seeing their neighbours' efforts and meeting up and chatting in a space where there is time and home-made cake). Some of the visitors come 2 or 3 times during the week to meet others and ensure that they haven't missed anything.”

The future? “We are sad this is coming to an end in the current format. We do have a great team but the core administrative and organisational work of communication, booking in entries, sorting out the labelling, and publicity is time consuming and time sensitive. We have tried for a couple of years to hand this on to new blood, so far without success.

It may change to a shorter event, with various groups being responsible for different elements. It could widen it brief to include Art and photography.

Someone with an understanding of computer programmes may be able to design a booking in system that is simple and less time consuming.

The event has evolved over the last 30 years and change can be invigorating and positive and we hope this will be the case. The local community has shown support and interest in the event so for it to remain in some form would be great.”

So this more or less sums up this report but it must end by saying **how much we appreciate the input from so many wonderful people**, some no longer with us – characters who have enriched the event and made us feel that life can be good and positive if you have lovely friends, are willing to share your talents and remember that in this ‘digital’ age, we still have digits on our hands that can, together with a creative imagination, be put to brilliant use!

JH





TANDEM ARTS AND SHIRE INSPIRE 2024

Welcome to a new year which, for Shire Inspire at our local post office will be a whole year of changing exhibitions of works by local artists.

During November and December we've had the opportunity to admire Sarah J. Trigg's evocative watercolours. Often depicting local, familiar scenes they draw attention to the beauty that is surrounding us here in Shirehampton. Even in a mundane traffic jam, we can be touched by the sublime, if only we lift our eyes for a moment, beyond the car in front. These paintings help us breathe a little bit more deeply and help us find stillness and connection within. To see more of Sarah's work you can visit her website www.sarahjtrigg.com

During January and February, Annelies Egli will fill the window with a selection of pieces which are part of a series she calls 'Celtic Fringes'. The artefacts were fabricated from various types of plastics which she collected from many beaches in Cornwall, the West of Ireland and the Hebridean Islands of Scotland, between 2017 and 2019. More information is available to read in the window.





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A Busy November at Avonmouth Sea Cadets

We attended two Remembrance Parades this year. One Sunday 12th November in our local community, Shirehampton, remembering those who served in the two world wars and all conflicts since.

We are always so proud to support our local community at this time of year. The following week we attended the Patchway Remembrance Parade and service at Scott's Park.

We then attended the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 18th November at Shirehampton Public Hall. Our recruitment stand situated just inside the main entrance. It was encouraging to see the interest that was shown by a number of young people.

As a small registered charity we know particularly how great it is to have local support so again this year we chose to support the local Foodbank, Bristol North West Foodbank. Our Commanding Officer Alison Fowler went along with Cdt 1st Flynn to deliver the parcel of goodies donated from all the ships company. They were given a tour and information about how many people and families are helped each week. It was great to know that we were helping to make a difference.

As we move towards the end of the year, we will hold our Awards and Presentation evening, which recognises cadets' achievements throughout the year. The evening was held on Thursday 14th December and, this was also our last parade night of the year. We will reopen on Monday 8th January 2024 and there will be a new cadet intake on Monday 15th January 2024. If you have a son/daughter interested in joining Sea Cadets, aged 10-18yrs, please contact the unit on: avonmouthseacadets@gmail.com

As 2024 begins, we will also be looking for volunteers to join the trustee team to help strengthen the unit management team. Do you have some transferable skills that would help? For more information, please email: chair@avonmouthseacadets.org

We would like to wish everyone a Happy, peaceful Christmas and New Year!



© Avonmouth Sea Cadets

The Passing of a Legend

On Thursday 16th November, 2023, hundreds of people gathered in Shirehampton to bid farewell to a much loved and respected local man – Geoff Williams. Many people knew him from his long service as a Police Sergeant in Southmead. His kindly, yet firm approach was so appreciated and influenced so many for good.

The current Chief Constable was stationed at Southmead when she was a Constable and has said how kind Geoff was to her in her early years in the force. She attended the funeral in uniform and arranged for the impressive Avon and Somerset Police Mace Escort to lead the funeral procession and be pallbearers. The Mace Escort is made up of serving police officers, undertaking these duties voluntarily in their free time and they wear extremely smart Victorian style uniform.

Geoff's main passion was rugby and he appreciated the role sport can play in helping young people develop many life skills including teamwork and responsibility and provide exercise, activity and friendship. He was responsible for setting up Southmead Rugby Club in the 1980s and was still its President at the time of his sad passing on 27th October at the age of 76 after a short illness. The club provided a striking floral tribute in the shape of a rugby ball at the funeral.

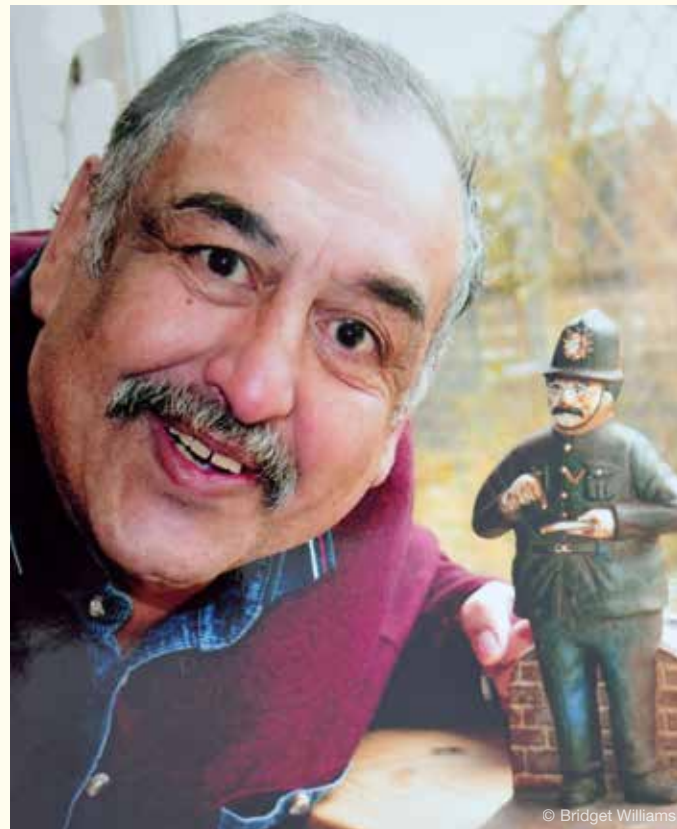
At least 3 guide dogs (with their people) also attended the funeral, a testament to Geoff's superb support

of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association – he was Chairman of the Bristol Association for many years. Geoff worked for the Bristol Drugs

Project when he retired from the police and was a committee member of the Bristol branch of the National Association of Retired Police Officers. In their obituary online they said that "he was always willing to help and advise and nothing was too much trouble".

Those would also be the thoughts of the very many who knew him as a friend and neighbour. A gentle giant, kind, friendly, laid-back and unflappable. His wife Bridget and family were blessed to have him and we extend our deepest sympathy to them all. His granddaughter, Charlotte, spoke very movingly of him at the funeral service at

St Mary's Shirehampton. The church was packed, with nearly 500 people, and relayed outside to the crowd of over 100. One word which cropped up frequently at the service and in tributes online was "legend" – not many are worthy of that title, but surely Geoff was, and he will be very sadly missed.



© Bridget Williams



© Maria White



© Southmead Rugby Club



© Bob Pitchford

Shire Santa Dash 2023



On Sunday the 3rd December 2023, Shirehampton Christmas Illuminations held the annual Santa Dash. Although the weather was slightly on the wet side, it did stop long enough for the runners to enjoy the route. Our fastest runner did it in 19 minutes 13 second (Please see our winning male, female and child in the photos).

We were lucky to have **Darren Jones** open the race and to all the amazing stall holders that provided us with a great **Christmas Market**.

Thank you to the **PBA** for hosting again this year and to **Go Greek** and **Wood Fired Pizza** for providing us with delicious hot food.

Our biggest thanks go to every single person who ran, donated and volunteered. There were in the region of 400 runners this year. Without all your continued support, these events would not go ahead and the lights would not be turned on.

We look forward to another year of fundraising and welcome as many new members as possible to help achieve more events and reach our goals.

Thank you and we hope you all had a great Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

Shirehampton Christmas Illuminations

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Climate Justice

I started this last December when it was very cold, though 2023 had been the hottest year recorded.

COP28 was going on in Dubai and as the conference opened we took part in Christian Climate Action's vigil for COP on College Green to encourage the conference to agree Loss and Damages payments to countries most impacted by Climate Change.

Climate Justice needs to be defended here at home as well, so some of us were among the 27 local people sitting outside the Crown Court on December 4th in pouring rain to defend the Juries' right to acquit according to their conscience.

WE know this is an emergency; the government's advisory committee on climate change knows it; but our government seems not to know. So your Climate Emergency Group is planning more local action for the New Year so that we all keep the Climate Emergency in mind.

We'll be having another REPAIR and SWAP morning in the Public Hall, Saturday 27 January 10:00-12:00 with more ideas and help with sustainable fashion. We also need to keep local resilience in mind as we too are experiencing the severe weather effects of climate change so we hope to offer a talk about local flood resilience measures soon.

We meet the second Tuesday of the month 7:30 pm. Venues may vary so for more information: m.renee.slater@outlook.com
All are welcome.

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Shirehampton Primary School

Shirehampton Primary School's Nursery and Reception classes have been working hard over the last few weeks preparing their nativity play.

This week, they put on an amazing performance of the 'Bossy King' in which they had to learn songs, actions and lines. It was brilliant to see the children, aged between 2 and 5, enjoying the chance to showcase their learning to their families. It really got the children and adults into the Christmas spirit!

Michele Daniels, Office Manager, Shirehampton Primary School



© Shirehampton Primary School

Nature Notes

The date is Dec 13th, and the picture below is the remnants of my once abundant bushy rose in the front garden, taken on that day as I arrived back from walking the dogs!! Not the prettiest example I grant you, but another significant reminder of what is occurring on this planet of ours.



© Bobbie Perkins

On a lighter note, we have been lucky enough to have a greater spotted woodpecker visiting the tree outside our front gate on a fairly regular basis. He hasn't kept us awake with any night time hammering I'm glad to say!!

The tits, sparrows and goldfinches are here on frequent visits to the seed holders, whilst the jackdaws and crows are ravishing the nuts.

We have had a wood pigeon eating berries from a shrub in the front garden, and a blackbird across the grass in a neighbours bird friendly shrub.

So happy to help!! Happy Christmas all, Bobbie

Climate Fashion Repair Cafe

**Saturday 27th January
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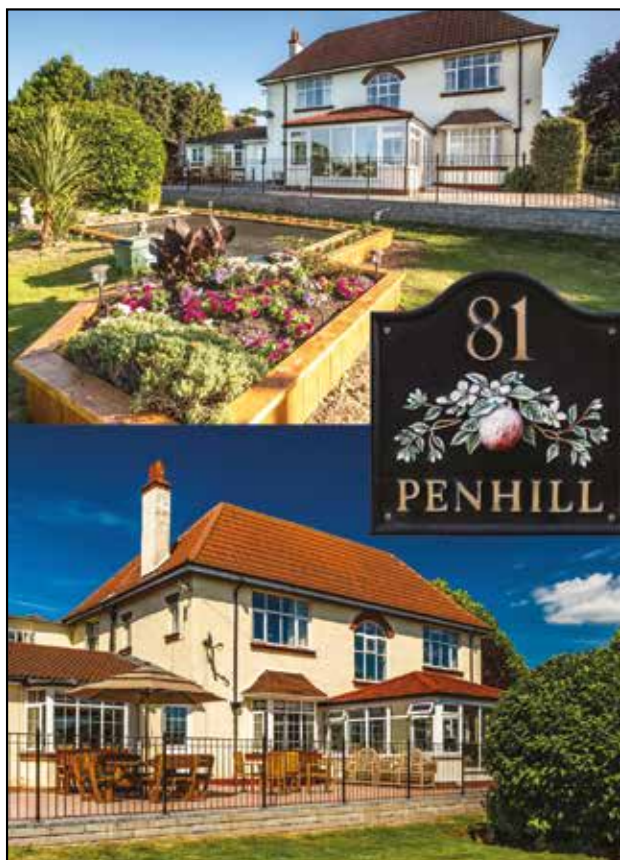


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Shirehampton Markets Share the Christmas Spirit

This year Shirehampton Markets ran two Christmas events. The first was the Autumnal Christmas Fayre at the Public Hall on Saturday 18th November, Father Christmas had his own Grotto and his trusty Elf Jan helped him that day as he had so many children meet and chat with.

For them it was an extremely busy time but thoroughly enjoyable for all. Before leaving they met the fayre stallholders and had their photos taken with the dynamic duo. They found a great selection of stalls on offer and were very impressed with the gift selection and a marzipan fruits workshop by Tracy from Chatty Crafts. Ruby Jeans The Parade did the barbecue that day.

The second event was the High Street Christmas Market held at the Tithe Barn in Shirehampton on Thursday 7th December. Despite the rain and wind there were plenty of stalls to choose from with lots of gift ideas. The ever popular advent calendars and knitted Father Christmas made their appearance.

Father Christmas again called in to do a bit of Christmas Shopping and spent time chatting and having his photo taken. He also gave out chocolate sweets. He also sought some advice from the Bristol Energy Network to keep the draughts at bay and ways to cut down on his bills by doing some simple tweaks. Christmas music continued until the doors closed at 3pm.

"We would like to thank Ocean Estate Agents, Shirehampton for providing the chocolate selection boxes given out by Father Christmas in his grotto and the main Co-op store for providing our mince pies for our Autumnal Christmas Fayre. And Redland Bakery, Shirehampton who donated jam and cream split doughnuts when they found out our regular cake maker was out ill." Said Ash Bearman from SCAF.

"And we mustn't forget to thank our volunteers, market stall holders, High Street and local

shops/businesses for displaying our posters as well Shire Newspaper, The New Bridge, Direct Local, Super Saver Store, Bristol City Council, High Street Resilience Fund, JTE Hub, West of England Authority, Chatty Craft Bristol, Tithe Barn (St. Mary's Church) and Shirehampton Public Hall for being part of our story this year and support in various ways. This is Community Spirit at it's best along with continued support from you, our customers. Without you all we would not have community High Street Markets and Community Fayres".

Shirehampton Markets is in need of volunteers for 2024, to help set up the Community Seasonal Fayres first thing on a Saturday morning from 8am for a couple hours and packing away again from 3pm for an hour or so. They also need a volunteer to help with the arts and crafts sessions for about two or three hours on a Saturday, as well as someone to help put out signage for both our Community Fayres and High Street Markets.

For more information please contact direct: shirehamptonmakets@outlook.com or via FaceBook: www.facebook.com/shirehamptonmarkets

Kathryn Courtney

© All Photos Kathryn Courtney



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SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON



City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

Since the decision to close the club was made there has been a lot of activity at the green to dispose of all the equipment necessary to running a bowling club. This is not only equipment directly relative to playing the game of bowls, but also a lot of catering equipment and items to maintain the buildings and green area.

On **October 31st** there was a members only sale day which saw catering equipment finding new homes. But the sale of bowling equipment has been a different story, with interest from other bowling clubs in the Bristol area and beyond. Thanks go to the clubs who have bought items. Thanks also to **Avonmouth Bowling Club** for their kind words in the December edition of Shire.



Members only sale day in the pavilion at the club on October 31st 2023.

The **City and Port Club** once had a strong link to the Avonmouth Club. When it was decided to form a bowling club based at the port in 1970 a green share was agreed between the two clubs and while that existed (1970-1973) there was also an arrangement whereby players were interchangeable when there was a shortfall in numbers. In **September 2014** a club open day became an afternoon of fun and fancy dress and some of the dresses were very fancy. There was bowling but it was all for fun and it's doubtful that anyone took very much notice of the score.

Club Summer Tours started in the early 1980s and by the end of the decade were an established part of the club's annual programme of events. Between 2004 and 2022 there were fifteen tours at ten

different places. The final one was at **Eastbourne in 2022**. City and Port Tours were for many years the envy of many other clubs in the area and a number of individual bowlers from other clubs became regular tourists over the years. One such bowler is **Gordon Dimond** who provided tour quizzes and organised bingo sessions en-route to and from the destination. His contribution to club tours and also club social events has been tremendous over many years.

Between 2009 and 2018 the club had five special days out. The first of these was to **Windsor Great Park in June 2009**. It was a wonderful and memorable day out with time to explore Windsor before going on to



Pat Warren, Pat Gould and Joan Curtis enjoying the sun in the park at Windsor before the game against Windsor Great Park — June 2009.



An early & maybe first club summer tour at Bournemouth in 1984.



Having fun bowling in fancy dress September 2014.

bowl on six rinks whilst the parakeets flew amongst the trees and big aeroplanes flew overhead. A good afternoon was followed by hospitality in the **York Club** and a rendition of the club song by the hosts. So good was it that some City and Port Bowlers were reluctant to leave!! Organised by **Gill Hinksman**, it was all a great success.

If you have memories of the City and Port of Bristol Club please call David Hinksman on 07932 387 217.

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Christmas Lunch at the Cotswold Centre

It was with very great pleasure that we were able to host another Christmas Lunch at the Cotswold Community Association this year.

With a very generous grant from the **John James Foundation**, we asked **Bristol Manor Farm Social Club** to provide the lunches for all our guests (plus several others who required a home delivery) and a very festive time was had by all. **Santa** also paid us a welcome visit with presents for everyone.

The **Cotswold Community Committee** would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy 2024, and thank all the many visitors we've had over the last 12 months, and hope to see you in the New Year.



Shirestrong Kettlebell Club

Seasons greetings from Linda at ShireStrong! We are committed to inclusivity, welcoming members of all ages and abilities. If you've ever been curious about kettlebells and their benefits, they are accessible and incredibly rewarding with the right guidance.

On **December 2nd**, members of **ShireStrong** embarked on our annual **Christmas party**, taking a break from our usual training. **Clubhaus**, a delightful café and restaurant at **Welsh Back**, played host to our festivities. Run by **Paige** and **Jade**, who used to manage the café at **Kingsweston House**, provided a warm and festive setting for our gathering. The evening was a delightful departure as members dressed for a night out. The food and service was impeccable. Our final training session for 2023 was on **December 21st**, after which we'll take a well-deserved break until **January 3rd**.

On behalf of **ShireStrong Kettlebell Club**, I extend heartfelt wishes to everyone for a *Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2024*. *Linda Thorne*



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