

Shire

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

No. 590 - March 2021 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

Have you got a job that needs doing? Go to YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS section on pages 21-23 to find a local business who can help.

The Co-op Local Community Fund - See Page 4
Say Healthy with Active Steps - See Page 10

As with all of us this has been a very difficult year and unfortunately it has also affected your free local paper "Shire". Things have slowed up and sometimes we struggle to find content whether it be personal stories, club news or other items of interest to the community. So if you have any articles let's have them to share with your fellow "Shirehamptonions". We all need uplifting during this pandemic so let's have your experiences.

YOUR SHIRE NEEDS YOU!

If you run a local club, e.g. football, scouts, brownies etc what is your vision for the future when we can either get back to normal or we have to re-evaluate our way of living. Obviously over the past year because of COVID many young people have not been able to join clubs, move on from one to another so we need to know your plans to carry on. Clubs and youth activities are a big part of our community so we need to keep them going.

Please try to limit your articles to 500 words and including photos would be great!

Did you know Shire celebrates its 50th year next February?

Can you remember your first impression of the paper? Did you contribute to the "birth" of our local community paper? Let's hear your stories. Let's keep it going for another 50 years!

Thanking you in anticipation.

WANTED - New Member for the Shire Admin Team

Shire's treasurer has had to stand down due to ill-health and so we are re-organizing the way we manage advertising and finance. We need someone to join a small admin team overseeing advertising, helping with invoicing and in general supporting the acting treasurer.

If that could be you and to find out more, please contact Ed Amphlett on: ed_amphlett@hotmail.com

The Editor

Shire Community Grants

Usually at this time of year we invite grant applications from community organizations so we can return any profits we may have made to the community. This year Shire too has been hit by Covid. Our advertising revenues are down and like many of you, we have had to dip in to reserves to meet our commitments.

We have no surplus to offer.

Thanks to you, our many loyal advertisers, we are managing to break even each month. We will continue to produce and deliver the paper throughout lockdown. We are very proud of the support so many of you continue to show us through what we know are hard times for everyone.

Shire really is a **Community** newspaper and we are deeply grateful to all of you - readers, advertisers, contributors - who help make Shire happen each month. We very much hope we'll be able to offer grants again next year.

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Shire

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distribution@shire.org.uk **0117 982 0478**
Internet address **www.shire.org.uk**
Submit articles **editor@shire.org.uk**
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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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SHIRE PUBLIC INFO FOR MARCH

Bristol City Council

February saw the roll out of community surge testing in some parts of the city to help scientists and public health officials learn more about the mutated COVID-19 variant found in Bristol and South Gloucestershire. The variant, first found in Kent, is classed as "of concern", because it shares changes found in the South African variant that is being looked for elsewhere in country. The response to our community surge testing programme has been excellent.

Our rates of infection are continuing to fall, which is promising, but they are still high. Many of us are feeling the fatigue of lockdown, but we must continue to pull together and adhere to the guidance to get Bristol back up and running.

Vaccinations for Over 70s and Clinically Vulnerable

Appointments are currently available for people who haven't yet been vaccinated against COVID-19, and who are:

- over 70 years of age
- clinically extremely vulnerable and of any age (this means you've received a letter at some point asking you to shield due to a health condition)

You no longer need to wait to receive an invitation letter if you're in these groups. Getting vaccinated is your best protection against the virus, and the NHS is encouraging all eligible people to make a vaccination appointment without delay.

If you would like an appointment at a doctors' surgery close to where you live, please call your local GP practice to discuss your options or visit your practice website .

If you would like to book an appointment at Ashton Gate stadium or one of the pharmacy locations, please use the national booking system online or call 119 free of charge between 7am and 11pm.

You can find out more about vaccine safety and effectiveness at our website: COVID-19: Mass vaccination - Healthier Together (bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk).

Organising a Funeral During Lockdown

If you have sadly lost a loved one and are planning a funeral, please work with the Bristol City Council crematoria service to reduce cases of COVID-19.

Current government lockdown restrictions allow 30 attendees at funerals. However, in order to facilitate social distancing in our chapels at South Bristol Crematorium and Canford Crematorium, we will only be permitting 20 attendees at funerals. This limit applies both indoors and outdoors, and does not include anyone working as part of the service.

We recommend that anyone organising a funeral should ask their funeral director about available

third-party streaming options, so you can record and memorialise the service for family and friends who are unable to attend.

These measures are the result of thorough risk assessments by our staff to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and ultimately allow restrictions to ease as soon as possible. **For further guidance on lockdown restrictions at cemeteries and crematoria please visit our COVID-19 webpage: www.bristol.gov.uk/births-deaths-marriages/coronavirus-covid-19-and-funeral-services**

Lawrence Weston Community Hub Plans

Plans for the new Community Hub at Lawrence Weston have been submitted to Bristol City Council

Planning. You can see and comment on the plans on the **Bristol City Planning Portal**.

Satisfaction with Council Rises Again in Quality of Life Survey

Citizens share thoughts on city life every year. The council's Quality of Life survey is sent to randomly selected households in Bristol and has taken place each year for 21 years. A record 5,000 people responded this year, with citizens aged 16 and over answering over 70 questions to produce

more than 200 indicators on topics such as health, lifestyles, community, local services and living in Bristol. Satisfaction with Bristol City Council's performance is at its highest level in more than 10 years, according to the latest results for the city's Quality of Life survey.

Shielding Programme Extended

You may have seen the news (17 February) that the **shielding programme is being extended until 31 March** and more people are being added to the shielding list. Factors such as ethnicity, deprivation, body mass index or BMI and underlying health issues are now being taken into account. We estimate that this will include approximately 7,000 more people in Bristol.

If you are asked to shield, you will have wider access to support, and prioritisation to vaccination. We will be in touch with people in the next few weeks. In the meantime, the **We Are Bristol free helpline is there if you need help Mon - Fri 8.30am to 5pm and Sat & Sun 10am to 2pm. You can call on 0800 694 0184.**



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The *Shire* Community Pages

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

I think a huge thank you is in order for the distribution volunteers that have been so generous and uncomplaining throughout the last year. With the exception of the months when it became impossible to offer a printed copy, everyone has supported the task of keeping the Shire popping through the letterboxes all over our village.

On behalf of myself and the committee thanks go to the counters, the drivers and the people of Shire village who pound the streets every month. I think you are all amazing, and so do the incredible editors and committee officers who provide our impressive 'monthly'! Give yourselves a big 'pat on the back'! We couldn't do it without you!

Bobbie Perkins. Distribution Co-ordinator.

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News from Co-op Shirehampton

It's been 4 months now since I arrived as store manager of Co-op Shirehampton. I thought it would be good to give you all an update from me about what's new and been improved in store.

Firstly we have significantly improved the availability of our products in store and have much fuller and consistent stock available. I have increased the deliveries across our fresh range to ensure we have maximum stock available for you all.

At the start of this year I had a coupon drop go into all letterboxes in the BS11 area with £5 off a £20 spend to help you in this current pandemic and also to help support the community.

We have an online ordering service where you can buy your items and have delivered within 2 hours every single day of the week with no availability issues or full booked slots. This service is offered to support with the issues of the pandemic and people in isolation. As a community convenience retailer this service is fast and easy and always available. Just visit coops website for more details.

We have actively sourced a food share partner for our waste food each night.

We are doing everything we can with COVID-19 compliance's and your safety whilst in our store.

Finally we welcome our new community causes and actively ask you all to become members of the coop to support our local causes, North Bristol Food Bank, Shirehampton Public Hall Community Association and Shirehampton Community Action Forum.

We aim to continue to serve you all safety and with the availability you expect whilst supporting the community we all live in.

Thank you for your continued custom.

Chris Gilbert - Store Manager

Co-op Local Community Fund

Hello there, my name is Ken Luxon and I am new in the post of the Member Pioneer for Shirehampton, Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston. My role is intended to bring local groups, causes and charities together and in touch with their local Co-op stores and services. My contact details are below, I will try and be in touch with each of you over the next few months. But the reason that I am contacting you now is there it is the season for applying for our Local Community Fund.

What is the Co-op Local Community Fund?

Are you a local group who helps support your local community? This might involve: helping people get access to community spaces, supporting people with their food, their mental health needs or their children's development,

helping people learn skills, become more employable or independent?

Then you may be eligible to apply for financial support from the Co-op's Local Community Fund. You can apply for the 2020/21 awards up until the

end of June 2020. You will then be eligible to share in the profits from your local Co-op stores.

Follow this link for more information and the application form. You will need to be able to prove that you are an accredited charity, not for profit and not political or promoting a religious view (but religious groups doing non-religious work can apply). If you have this, then get on and apply.

<https://causes.coop.co.uk/>

The Co-op, local stores, local causes. It's what we do!

Letters to the Editor

We enjoy spreading community news especially in these strange times. We love to hear from all our readers of both the online and printed versions. Send in your stories to editor@shire.org.uk. Although, if requested, we will not print the name of a letter written to the Editor, we cannot accept an anonymous letter.

Many thanks.



THANK YOU TO THE GOOD SAMARITANS

Dear Readers,

I would like to thank the very helpful couple who helped my father after he fell over at the top end of St Mary's Road a few years ago. He was walking back home after buying himself fish, chips and mushy peas from Simply Fish. He had Parkinson's disease and sometimes his legs would just stop working so he would fall over.

The young couple, (Dad said, so that means someone younger than 60 years old) stopped their car and helped him off the floor and took him home to Chelwood Road. They helped him into the house and drove off. Dad then realised he had left his fish, chips and mushy peas in the back of their car. After about 15 minutes the young couple came back with the fish, chips and mushy peas, they came in the house and plated the food up for Dad and made sure all was okay before leaving.

Dad often talked about this and wounded if I ever knew who the young couple was. So, I would like to say a big THANK YOU.

Vicky Fisher

(thank you for your donation Vicky)

DANGEROUS DRIVING

Dear Shire,

My wife and I had to take action as a bus and car passed each other at the narrowing of the road in the High Street, Shirehampton. The car hit the curb, fortunately for us the car did not mount the pavement but we were still alarmed enough to press back against the wall.

I believe this has been reported before in your paper and I fear that if no corrective action is taken there

will be an injury that could be life threatening. There must have been many near misses that have a scary effect on pedestrians. If like me you have concerns and would not like to read that someone has been injured in future please contact your local Councillors/MP about your concerns.

Regards,

S Hughes

AN UPLIFTING READ

Dear Editor,

I have really enjoyed reading the life story of one of our neighbours in Shirehampton. The author (Ruth Adam, now known as Sue Saunders) has spent her life in the Bristol area and has a dramatic tale to tell of a series of mistakes, disappointments and tragedies before finding a way through to a happy and fulfilling life.

In the description on the cover it says, "This is not a story for the faint-hearted." However, it is a book of hope and faith in a loving God and one which will help people understand more about the awful trap of addiction. It is available on Amazon.

Yours faithfully,

Lyn Morton





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

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

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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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 Email: t.linda1206@gmail.com
www.shirestrong.co.uk



HISTORICAL LAND FILL AT DAISY HILL

Dear Editor,

I read in your latest edition the article about planting fruit trees on the daisy field.

Back in the late 1950's through into the 60's the daisy field was used as a land fill area.

Here all sorts of industrial waste were tipped, including radioactive waste from the hospitals.

They then covered the area with hard core and grassed the area. It was said at the time it would be a hundred years before it would be safe to build on this area.

I wonder if anyone checked if it was safe to dig the holes for the fruit trees before the work commenced.

I lived in Springfield Avenue from 1947 to 2008.

Regards,

Bob Kellaway

News from the Office of Darren Jones, MP

The vaccination roll-out now happening at pace across the UK has been remarkable and I want to pay tribute to the NHS and all those involved in getting Bristol ready for this next step in our pandemic response. In February, we started to see our efforts during this lockdown repaid with declining numbers in Bristol, but we must not become complacent now.

As I write this update to you in February, **Bristol City Council have been working together with Public Health England and the NHS to set up additional community testing sites.** This is to understand and isolate any new cases of the mutated version of the Kent variant of COVID19 that has been identified in some parts of Bristol. Many constituents have written to me with questions about this, and the guidance on how to stay safe remains the same: **stay at home, keep social distancing, wear a mask when shopping for essentials and wash your hands frequently.** Bristol City Council and PHE have been fantastic in providing up-to-date guidance throughout this lockdown, and I recommend you go to bristol.gov.uk/coronavirus if you have further questions.

I've also received enquiries about the remarkable **vaccination roll-out** happening in Bristol. Many questions are about how the vaccines work, how to get appointments and the vaccine's development. In February, I sat down and talked about these questions with the lead clinician for Bristol's roll-out. You can watch our video conversation at darren-jones.co.uk/vaccine. As this roll-out progresses, I am continuing to argue for vaccine prioritisation, so that our essential workers, including teachers and carers, on the pandemic's frontline can do their jobs safely.

Thank you to all those that attended the **Excluded UK Bristol North West forum** in February. We need to ensure that our efforts to stop the spread

of this virus do not come at the cost of Bristol's vibrant local businesses or livelihoods of those excluded from government support.

Throughout the spring, I will be hosting more issue-driven online meetings for constituents; including a briefing on **UK Environment and Agriculture policy** later this month. You can find out more information, or request an event topic, at darren-jones.co.uk/events.

As usual, if you need my help or have a question, I am running telephone surgeries and regular fortnightly catchups on Wednesdays on Facebook. Please get in touch on darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk or call the office on 0117 959 6545 but please note that due to very high demand for support that we are currently prioritising COVID-related and personally urgent enquiries.

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
 Matthew Melias – Conservative: cldr.matthew.melias@bristol.gov.uk
 Jo Sergeant – Labour: cldr.jo.sergeant@bristol.gov.uk
 Conservative Members' Services Office: 0117 922 2746
 Labour Members' Services Office: 0117 922 3827

CONTACTING YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Shirehampton is in the Bristol North West Constituency

Darren Jones

Phone: 01179596545 • Email: darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk
 Website: www.darren-jones.co.uk

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We'd like to wish everyone a Happy 2021. Let's hope we can resume activities as soon as possible.

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

SATURDAY (2nd of each month)

Coffee Morning 10am

*Booking must be made, either by email:

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

NEWS from the PBA Club

Dear members and community,

Happy New Year to you all, hoping you are well!

We are bringing you a further update on the charity and the formation of a new legal structure for the PBA Club so we'd like to introduce our board of trustees – Alex Richards, Emma Baldwin, Martin Preston, Alexis Woodward and Martin Ackerman who have all volunteered to assist steering the charity towards a sustainable and viable organisation for the future. The new trustees between them, bring expertise, local knowledge and enthusiasm to our fledgling project.

We have been meeting regularly on Zoom to have trustee training, manage the Community Asset Transfer, business development plan, and the financial modelling.

The strategic aim for the future is to secure a long term lease from the council which will allow development of the premises and grounds which will in turn benefit the local and city residents with enhanced facilities.

Our belief is that the key DNA of the club is a social and sports hub for the local community but we also aim to fulfil our new charitable purpose and increase our usage possibilities with other ideas. Our ideas could include a community/homeworker shared workspace, community kitchen/ education and training space, potentially a gym, crèche and space for our local youths.

The business development work has been funded by a small grant from Quartet, the grant has allowed us to get secure support from Voscur, who were very helpful, we've have had some architects plans drawn up and employed a business development UWE intern, the intern has been writing up the business development plans and has put together a Gantt chart (a project management tool) which will guide the trustees through tasks and time lines to finalise the project and present to the council by the end of

August 2021. Our intern will soon be carrying out consultation amongst members, users, and other key stakeholders.

We have also been active with the consultation around the **Bristol Avon Flood Defence Strategy** which closed early December. New flood defences are to be constructed in the 2020's (indicative maps and consultation can be found on bristol.citizenspace.com/) and some are proposed for the field adjacent to the PBA and up along the path separating the houses from the club. Our ask is that the defences continue to stretch along the boundaries of the club thus protecting the pitches for generations to come.

The annual 2020 AGM has been postponed this year due to Covid restrictions. The finances for year this year will look very different but we have been closely monitoring cashflow, our suppliers have been supportive and offered us discounts, refunds, payment holidays, this alongside the local government support means the club's finances have been stable. All the staff have been put on furlough throughout closure, but we hope to welcome you and them back in the future.

Memberships have not been fully utilised since the club has been closed for most of 2020 so **memberships will not expire or be up for renewal January 2021.**



©PBA Club

We have the possibility of an exciting new future and we are looking for volunteers and a club secretary to join us on our journey, we are all picking up new skills and contacts, it's a real learning experience. If you feel you could offer any or know anyone who could help, please do get in touch.

Your Club, Your Logo

The PBA Club is a community space that's enjoyed by many. To help share information about the PBA Club, what's on and when, we have kindly been offered some help to give our website a makeover, and we hope to have a shiny new website for the PBA Club soon.

As part of this we thought the community might like to get involved by designing a new logo for the club. So, we are looking for a new design that encapsulates what the PBA Club means to the local community.

The rules: Anyone can enter. Please send your design to info@pbaclub.co.uk.

The winner: Will see their design on the new website and on our marketing materials! Plus, as a thank you, you'll receive prize!

Update from Avonmouth Ladies Club

Due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions it will not be possible to meet in March as previously planned. We hope that it will be possible to meet sometime in 2021, perhaps in September.

But it will depend on the guidelines for Avonmouth Community Centre, and when we can all safely meet again.

The Avonmouth Ladies club committee will endeavour to keep our members informed.

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191st SCOUT GROUP



There have been several articles in recent editions of Shire featuring memories of the 191 Scout Group. Times have changed and life certainly isn't normal at the moment but, the 191st St Mary's Shirehampton Scout Group is continuing to operate during these strange times.

We have been unable to hold face to face meetings since March 2020 but, thanks to our dedicated leaders the Beaver, Cub and Scout groups have been continuing to run via zoom meetings bringing together the young people for fortnightly meetings. We have even participated in a 'hike to the moon' and Guinness World Record challenge by camping at home.

If you have children who may be interested in joining any of our groups you can contact us at gsl191stbristolscouts@gmail.com for more information or perhaps you have spare time on your hands and would like to join our team or executive committee?

Thank you to **Charlie and Hannah** for all your hard work and Congratulations to **Martin** in your new role as group leader.

We look forward to returning to normal meetings as soon as restrictions allow.

BEAVERS Tuesday 5.30 – 6.30 pm

cubs Monday 6.15 – 7.45pm

SCOUTS Tuesday 7.00 – 8.30pm

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARDS

We finally have a noticeboard on the Cotswold Estate, just along from the Nibley Road Shops.

This has been a while coming, due to the various lockdowns, and was the result of grant funding from the Bristol City Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), with particular help and support from Councillor Don Alexander. It was also one of the outcomes from Shirehampton Community Plan, and there will be some more arriving around the High Street in future months.

If folks locally want to advertise their events or activities on the noticeboard, contact details will be on the board. Let's hope there will be some to promote very soon!



PORTWAY SCHOOL REUNION

COVID permitting I am hoping to arrange a school reunion for anyone who left Portway between 1975 and 1980.

For my year we will all hit the big 60 sometime before September 1st 2021 so I felt this would be an opportune time to meet again.

The venue is as yet undecided as it will depend on interest.

The provisional date is Saturday July 3rd 2021.

There is some discussion on Facebook on the 'Portway Community School' page if you want to join in. It will be a pupil only event, unfortunately partners will not be allowed, sorry. This has already been discussed on the group.

Please can you help by passing this message to anyone you know that may be interested.

My email is: firebelle_uk@hotmail.com

More details will be published nearer the time.

Verena Edgeworth (nee Sullivan)



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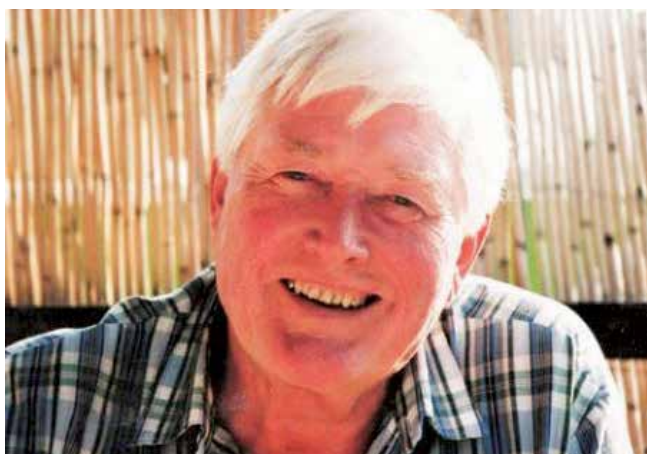
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Dr. John Templeton Bush

19.06.1929 - 01.01.2021



Many of you know that the Bush family experienced the sad loss of John Bush on the 1st January 2021 aged 91.

John's health slowly began to decline about eighteen months ago, and up until a year ago he was lovingly cared for by **Claire**, his wife at home until increasing frailty meant he moved to **Trymview Hall Nursing Home**.

The 30 somethings of Shirehampton are unlikely to remember John but if they asked parents or grandparents they'd be hard pressed to find someone who didn't have an anecdote about him. He was after all the **local GP for over 30 years**.

John and Claire came to Shirehampton to join the **'Ellis, and Archer'** practice in 1957. As junior partner he lived in Tregenna House, now flats, with his young family and with a small 4 roomed building attached, which was the Doctors Surgery. Then it was common for patients to queue outside down the driveway, to be seen in turn. John would remain there until the last person was seen. After house calls, his 'rounds' afternoon surgery would take the same format. Then if his turn he would be on call for the night.

John enjoyed being a member of the Shirehampton community, and his place within it, he was honest, straightforward, with the capacity to instil trust and confidence in those he cared for. He looked after generation upon generation, through their losses and celebrations.

The early 80's saw a move to a new health centre, about half the size of the one there now. This meant changes for John many of which he disliked in principle.... An appointment system!! A Practice Manager!!

John retired in 1989 after over 30 years of practice, which enabled him to spend long summers in Spain with Claire, more time with his ever enlarging family and more trips to **Westbury Mens Working Club**.

I have pondered how I shall remember John, the great debates righting all the wrongs of life, peppered with laughter and of course a glass of red. I know I shall recall fondly the snowy haired man with the rosy cheeks in the blue jumper, who became so dear to me, mellowing with age, sitting behind his paper listening and absorbing everything around him, offering practical suggestions, a kind word, a voice of sarcasm and reason, or simply that formidably raised eyebrow.

Jane Bush (Daughter in law)

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SIR CAPTAIN TOM

We all watched you on our tellies, walking the long walk.
Putting in so much effort and we listened when you talked.

The gentleness of your words, the kindness in your eyes.

It Gave us all such joy; in these such troubled times.

You pulled us all together, you showed the way to go.

What the NHS would of done without you, goodness only knows.

The angels came to get you, they took you in their arms.

They could not help but do it; so enchanting were your charms.

It's time to Sleep Sir Tom, you can close your eyes and rest.

You can't keep Heaven waiting for one of the very best,

We salute you as a soldier, and could not respect you more as a man.

R.I.P

*Written by Jennie Frankowicz (nee Button)
02/02/2021*

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What is the The Dasgupta Review?

Some of you may have heard about the *Dasgupta Review on the Economics of Biodiversity* in the news at the beginning of February. We've all been hearing about the crisis in biodiversity for some time. We are warned that more and more species are becoming extinct, largely due to loss of habitat and climate change driven by human activity.

The **Dasgupta Review** – which was commissioned by **HM Treasury** – recognizes that ecosystems everywhere are adversely affected by human economic activity and *“calls for urgent and transformative change in how we think, act and measure economic success to protect and enhance our prosperity and the natural world”*. It sets out ways in which we can take account of the impact of our economic activity – things like mining, agriculture, and deforestation – on the natural world.

What it comes down to is finding ways to name the economic value of the natural world and all its creatures so that governments and corporations will begin to see the value of protecting and preserving rather than degrading and destroying natural systems.

That may seem a bit remote to our daily lives, but we have opportunities every day to observe and learn more about our own local ecosystems – even those

in our own back yard. I wonder how many of you took part in the **RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch**. I wonder what you saw this year and whether the numbers and species of birds you saw had changed much from last year. How are your birds doing? Mine are looking for nesting sites and eating the fat balls in this cold weather.

If you'd like to know more about the global state of nature or about what our government plans to do to stop and reverse the decline in biodiversity you can read the full report (or just the headline issues!) at www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review.

Renee Slater

A Very Special Garden Visitor



©Kate Shadbolt

Just thought I'd share with you a picture of a lovely sparrow-hawk that visited my garden in Shirehampton!

We live in quite a built-up area so it's very unusual to see these types of lovely birds, or indeed any regular birds, and thought it may be of interest to any nature lovers out there.

Kind regards,

Kate Shadbolt

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Nature Notes

My little friends making their debut in Shire!

In order to get any sort of a picture of these little tinkers I had to make sure they couldn't see, hear or worse still, smell me coming!!

So, my trusty iPhone was sneakily placed against the window whilst they were elsewhere, and yours truly hid behind the net curtain holding said phone in position, until they rocked up for breakfast once more!

As gently as I could the button was pressed and happily they remained undisturbed.

It barely does them justice, they are such beautiful little creatures with a dazzling mix of colours on their tiny frames, but at least you get to meet them at last, albeit, in the nature of the current restrictions, remotely!!



©Bobbie Perkins

Lovely birds, or indeed any regular bird.

We have had a little bit of interest in the back garden from blackbirds, both male and female, our little resident robin, several sparrows, and once in a while the pied wagtail. Great tits have paid a passing interest in the nest box in the goldfinches' tree, (just visible in the top right corner of the photo), so hopefully we will have lots going there in a few months from now.

It would seem a few young and poorly hedgehogs are finding their way into rescue havens even now, due to late litters being born last autumn. Please keep an eye out for any victims such as these. We need to help every precious one as their numbers decline.

Happy nature watching everyone,

Bobbie Perkins

Flood Defences on Lamplighters Marsh

Many of you who walk regularly down the Yellow Brick Road will have noticed new barriers appearing in waste ground near the M5 bridge and perhaps wondered about the tunnels cut through the undergrowth at several points along the path. Avonmouth and Severnside Enterprise Area (ASEA) in partnership with the Environment Agency and Bristol City Council are carrying out 'enabling works', surveying and investigating the site in preparation for constructing new flood defences along the Avon to protect the Severn Beach Railway line.



The defences will come up from the riverbank and under the M5 bridge to the railway line. The proposals provide for a concrete wall under the bridge, a flood gate at the Avonmouth entrance to the **Yellow Brick Road**, and an earth bund running south parallel to the railway line.

The Marsh, a Local Nature Reserve, is home to rare mosses and lichens, protected animals like slow worms and badgers, and to a surprising variety of insect life and butterflies. The Yellow Brick Road is a well-used and well-loved walk that has been an important resource to people during lockdown. **The Friends of Lamplighters Marsh (FOLM)** have been working closely with the **ASEA** contractors to ensure that adequate environmental mitigation measures are in place to protect the plants and wildlife of the Marsh during construction. The Friends are also concerned to ensure that the Yellow Brick Road will remain accessible to walkers, especially those

of you who access the path from the Avonmouth entrance.

The contractors are aware of our concerns and are keen to minimise any closures necessary at the Avonmouth end of the YBR. The expectation is that the major works will not start until late spring and the total closure time will be 1-2 months over the year, as the current plan requires several stages. Where possible the entrance will be diverted slightly to allow access. The contractors' team have promised to keep the Friends updated as the design and timescale of the works are finalised. And hopefully there will be advance notice of any closures.

If you'd like to keep abreast of developments on the Marsh you can go to the website: www.insouthglos.co.uk/flood-ecology



©Bob Pitchford

High tide at Lamplighters Marsh, March 2020

TREE PLANTING AT PBA



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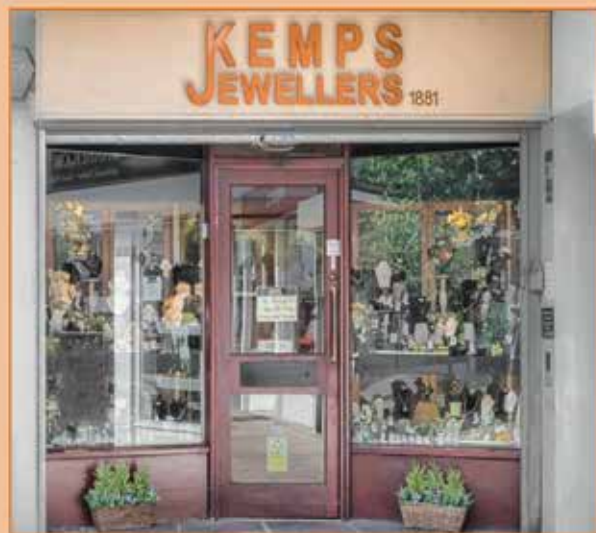
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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HIGH STREET:

Shirehampton Bakery

When we lost our bakery shop last year it left a big hole in our High Street. The new year then brought good news to Shirehampton with the re-opening of the shop despite the ongoing pandemic. At present the original signage remains but there will be a name change in the future and that is yet to be decided.

Claire Greenway is the manager of the new shop and will be a familiar face to many customers as she previously managed Redland Bakery, so you can guarantee the new business in safe hands. With eight years experience Claire and her staff will be delivering the best products available and will be complimented with the best customer service that each person deserves.

“We just like to confirm that we have no connection with Redland bakery. We are now an independent run bakery with shops in Shirehampton and in Staple Hill. Our bread is provided by the excellent Herberts bakery in Bristol and all our other products are sourced locally. We are providing a wider selection of cakes for example and the feedback from customers has been fabulous. They are impressed with the quality, selection and competitive pricing of our products and have said how much things have changed for the better with our bakery. We have an excellent range of products from bread to savoury and home-made sandwiches and cakes. I think the most popular item we sell is definitely crusty cobs”

“I’m very proud to be re-launching the shop. I think I can speak for myself and the other members of staff - who are all local people - that it’s nice to be working in a shop where you get to see people



©Kathryn Courtney

you know every day and really feel part of the community.” said Claire.

She believes the local High Street is important for every community: “When I was asked by the new owners to come and run the shop for them I was passionate about employing local people. It’s vital that communities support their local shops and business, even more so in the current climate with jobs and reduce our carbon footprint. We try to keep our prices low and competitive. Unfortunately we have to buy all our products from outside suppliers which obviously pushes up costs as we are unable to make these products ourselves. I think COVID has forced all businesses to some make drastic changes

to ensure that both customers and staff stay safe. Unfortunately like a lot of people, we have been directly affected by the pandemic but look forward to better days like everyone else. We will continue to grow our business and provide our community with the best bread, cakes, pasties and sandwiches we can.”

The bakery is open Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm and Saturday 8am - 2pm at 7 High Street, Shirehampton. They also accept telephone orders. Tel: 0117 3291294 to avoid waiting time.

Kathryn Courtney

Creativity at Shirehampton Primary School

Despite the school not being open to all our pupils, our theme week of **LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION** took place from the 11th to 15th January. Learning took place both at school and at home.

We learned Disney songs, performed poems, made models and looked at play scripts. We have received videos of children singing and reciting poems. In school the Year 5 and Year 6 children watched Morph and had a go at modelling their own characters.

During lockdown we are ensuring that all of our pupils can have fun with their learning.



13/01/2021 14:52

©Shirehampton Primary School



©Shirehampton Primary School

Simply Fish

Ali Zeinali is the owner of 'Simply Fish'. He bought the business in 1999 from his good friend Gipros known locally as Giby, who owned the 'Blue Dolphin'. Ali has continued to provide the best fish and chips in the area and remains popular within the community. He was already running successful businesses 32 years ago including take-away shops, first in Stoke Bishop followed by Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston all under the same name.

I asked Ali the what was the secret to his success? "For us it is down to good customer relations, we know our customers by name, we know their orders, we serve them with a smile, week-in, week-out and have been doing this consistently over many years. We are also consistent in the quality of food we serve, always freshly cooked to order. So, good food and good service is the key. Fish and chips remain the most popular take-away in the village, no doubt because we use fresh fish and cook it to order. Of course, over the years we have changed and adapted our menu to meet changing customer demand adding fried chicken, peri-peri chicken, a range of burgers and vegetarian options."

"The people are so friendly and welcoming and being in the High Street puts us at the heart of village life. Local people have accepted us into their community, but the dedicated staff at 'Simply Fish', Ali and Lana have worked hard to develop good relationships with all our customers." Said Ali.

How important is it for communities to support their local High Street? "When I started up Simply Fish 22 years ago the High Street was thriving and



business buoyant. However, over the years we have seen many business closures in the High

Street, the range of retail outlets has greatly narrowed, so in terms of consumer choice, there is very little to attract people to their local shops. Covid-19 has brought enormous challenges to us all over the last few months, but we consider ourselves very fortunate that, as a take-away outlet, we have been able to continue working. In line with government guidelines, we have made physical alterations to the premises and adopted the very strict hygiene rules that allow us to continue trading and keep customers safe. At times we have gone the extra mile for vulnerable customers by offering free delivery to those who are shielding."

"I wish to thank all those customers who have supported us loyally over the years. Community spirit remains strong in Shirehampton. We have had the pleasure of serving three generations of families, watched them grow up, marry and have children of their own and we are proud to be a part of their lives."

As for the future of the High Street? "I would like to see a more diverse range of individual retailers and small start-up businesses in the High Street, but rents and rates need to be set at a manageable level to offer smaller retailers a chance of success."

Simply Fish can be found at 8 High Street, Shirehampton. At present they close at 10pm.

Kathryn Courtney

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Churches in the Shirehampton Area



©St Bernard's

Hello from St Bernard's

We continue to be able to celebrate Mass on Sundays at both churches [St Bernard's 9am & Our Lady of the Rosary 11am]. Obviously it's all socially distanced and the guidelines of face masks, hand gel, track and trace forms etc are being applied strictly. We're fortunate in having a rota of volunteers each week who can welcome people as they arrive and then clean the church after Mass. Do come and join us at Mass.

We now have a website: www.olorsb.org.uk - Father Cosmas has kindly set this up, and there's lots of information on there, including the newsletter. He would be grateful for any feedback.

Lent starts on 17th February and continues until April. We would normally pray the 'Stations of the Cross' each week of Lent. We hope that you'll still be able to do this at home. Perhaps look online at missiontogether.org.uk OR cafod.org.uk OR thegodwhospeaks2020.org.uk

Hello from Shire Methodist

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

Thank you to the Bristol North West CAP Debt Help Team (Christians Against Poverty) for organising a really fun online quiz earlier this year: a fundraiser for their life-changing organisation. At the last minute our church put together a team of six from four different households. We entered under the name of "CAPS LOCKdown" and, excitingly, were crowned quiz champions at the end of the evening!

If you (or someone you know) are feeling weighed down by debt, then CAP can help. You may think your situation is impossible, but there is hope. Their friendly team will give you a listening ear and provide a real solution to your debts. You can call for free on 0800 328 0006 or take a look at capuk.org

If you are interested in donating financially to our local CAP centre, or volunteering or praying for the service, then Debz Spinney, the local CAP Centre Manager, would be pleased to hear from you on debzspinney@capuk.org

Lent started in mid-February and continues throughout March until Easter. Many people traditionally give up something for Lent. Is that

something that you are doing? The Methodist Church Circuit for Bristol and South Glos has put together a Lent programme with an environmental theme. You can find out more by searching for "Touching the Earth Lightly" on Facebook, or looking on the local Methodist Church Circuit website: bsgc.org.uk

Morning Worship has been taking place every Sunday via Zoom with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Horfield Methodist Church. Anyone with the internet, a mobile phone or a landline can join. Please contact us if you would like to receive an invitation. We support each other by keeping in touch by phone, letter, email and WhatsApp. Revd Patrick Stonehewer records weekly reflections



that you can watch on his YouTube channel or our facebook page. We continue to pray for each other, our local community and our world.

All the churches in Shirehampton are holding our community in prayer, and will do our best to respond to any concerns and needs. Please don't hesitate to contact us on the numbers below:

St Mary's Church 0117 9077026

Shire Methodist 0117 924 8407

Shire Baptist 0117 982 8238

St Bernard's Roman Catholic 0117 982 3380

May God's peace be with you all during March and the period of Lent.

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Shirehampton Baptist Church

When asked what do you miss most during Lock Down probably many things especially those involving social interaction. Some of us might miss singing in a local choir or in a church congregation.

Shire Baptist has been meeting on Zoom and we are fortunate to be able to choose from a variety of songs on YouTube. As they appear on our screens we can press mute and can sing along to our hearts content in our homes but not quite the same as joining in with other voices.

However, using Zoom has been a great blessing to many churches and has kept us in touch with many who frequent our Church at Station Road.

We continue to meet on **Zoom at 11am and at 4:30pm every Sunday**. We also have prayer meetings on Mondays and Thursdays at 11am on Zoom. Our Church building is open for private prayer or a chat and prayer with some of our Church members.

March 14th is Mother's Day when many visit their mothers with gifts. Normally every lady in the service each receives a small bunch of flowers, but we are uncertain whether we will be back in our building by then. Let's hope people can see their mothers this year as many were unable during

the first Lock Down. The tradition of Mothering Sunday first began around the seventeenth century when people visited their Mother Church in their childhood home. It is not a Biblical celebration but the Bible holds women in high regard.

Sunday March 28th is Palm Sunday, Friday April 2nd Good Friday and April 4th Easter Sunday.

As yet we are not sure where we will be meeting on these dates but all the Churches will be celebrating these dates as they are a vital part of our doctrine and the reason why our churches exist and want to share the Good News found in the Bible.

The local **Alpha Course** has been going well, but we cannot invite any more this time, although we hope to do another one in the Summer,

Most of us will have received the vaccine and we are grateful for all who have administered it and ever thankful to all who have been involved in keeping us safe this past year

Spring is nearly here with its message of renewal and beauty; The Seasons come and go in their order and



© Bob Pitchford

through all life's changes good or bad Gods love remains constant

Love to all our readers from Shirehampton Baptist Church Station Road

St Mary's News

Hi Folks!

Here we are into early Spring and still having to endure Lockdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, there is light at the end of the tunnel with the Vaccine distribution and with the appearance of Snowdrops, Daffodils and Crocuses breathing colour into our lives, after what appears to have been a long, drawn-out Winter.

The church has unfortunately remained closed for normal Worship since January, except for Funerals. At the time of writing, we have had one funeral in church for the late **Pat Perks**, which was limited to 30 mourners. Many of you will remember her as a member of staff when she worked in our local Co-op shop in the Village. Her late husband was **Ken Perks**, who was a Head Chorister when I joined the Church Choir in 1949. Two more gone on from memories of my younger days.

Another funeral that took place was of **Ivan Dixon**, held at the graveside in Shirehampton Cemetery. Ivan sadly died at the early age of 56 years and I remember him from his childhood days. He was a member of Shirehampton Golf Club, where he was known to very much enjoy his game of golf, sadly curtailed at the moment because of the COVID-19 Lockdown. *May his Soul and that of Pat Perks now rest in peace!*

Palm Sunday this year is on the 28th March and I have no idea yet if we shall be able to celebrate it in Church. Last year we were forced to forgo all

our Easter services because of the first COVID-19 Lockdown - so I am afraid it is once more a case of "wait and see".

We continue to offer our online **Sermons** on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel, and these become available on Sunday mornings at 10.00 am, led by **Revd Helen** or **Revd Simon**, or one of the students attached to our church from **Trinity Theological College**. We also have the facility for those without internet access to listen to the sermons on the phone via **Dial-A-Sermon**.

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) was back on the 16th of February and Ash Wednesday the next day was the beginning of the season of Lent. A Lent Course was available via Zoom for the **Avonside Mission Area** titled "Come to Life". The **Revd Simon Potter**, Associate Vicar from St Mary, Stoke Bishop, who is a Minister in the Avonside Mission Area, describes it thus - "This is an exciting and flexible devotional resource written especially for the Mission Area. It focuses on the God of Creation and our relationship with him and



© Bob Pitchford

his world. It will be inspirational and practical for small groups; for those speaking one-to-one over the phone or exercise outdoors; and for those accessing it individually." The course material was available both electronically and in paper format so that our parishioners could take part in whatever way suited them, and we hope this was of benefit to many.

Some of you may have noticed recently that not all of our Floodlights are working, with only the Bell Tower being currently lit up. This is because the remainder, when switched on, keep 'tripping out' and we have therefore had to turn them off for safety. This may well need the expertise of a qualified Electrician to get to the root of the problem and we hope to have the Church fully lit again as soon as possible.

The only joke I could find connected to Spring was to do with Easter Bunnies. It is this - "What do you call a Rabbit with fleas?" Answer - "Bugs Bunny".

'Bye for now.

C.M.E.

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LOCAL CHILDREN'S ART BRIGHTENS COVID-19 TESTING SITES

Testing sites for people with symptoms of COVID-19 in Bristol have had a makeover from one of our local schools. Our COVID-19 testing sites across the city can be quite daunting places especially when you're feeling unwell.

Pupils from Ilminster Avenue E-ACT Academy have created pieces of artwork to brighten them up. Last week, fifty of pieces of artwork were handed over and are now displayed across all five of Bristol's testing sites. The handover came during Children's Mental Health Week and the hope is that the artwork will cheer us all up. Our thanks go to all the pupils at Ilminster Avenue E-ACT Academy for their hard work and creativity on this project.



SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON

City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

The meeting on June 9th 1970 when it was decided that it was feasible to form a bowls club at The Port was the start of something that became organised and developed very quickly thanks to the people who were at that meeting and those who arrived soon afterwards.

Connection in those days was very much with The Port so it was inevitable that the first two Club Presidents were Port General Managers. **Mr. G. E. Edney** was approached to become the first President soon after the inaugural meeting. He accepted the invitation and held office from 1970-72. The **Men's Four Wood Singles Trophy**, competed for each season in the Club Competitions bears the name G. E. Edney.



President David Hinksman spinning the coin ahead of a Ladies Final 2013.

Mr. G. Lowery took over as General Manager and became Bowls Club President in 1973. He remained in office until 1976. There is no trophy with his name on but around that time **Mr. Stevenson**, a director at C.J.King did give a trophy to the club.

Mr. Stanley Turner became General Manager and was asked to become the next President but it appears from records at that time he declined as there was no mention of him following the request.

There was no President until **Jack Ashton**, when Port Policeman took office in 1987 and remained until 1990. The **Jack Ashton Triples** competition is played every season and the trophy with Jacks name on is presented to the winners at the Annual Presentation Evening.

Bill Deakin who worked at the Co-op Flour Mill was President in 1991-92. Bills daughters **Peggy and Jenny** followed him as players at the club. The **Bill Deakin Novice Trophy** is competed for each season by players without a previous trophy win.

Bill Evans who worked for councils in Gloucester and then Bristol took office as President in 1993 and remained until 2006. Bills son **Laurence and Daughter in Law Dawn** have both bowled for the club. Dawn is still very much involved as a player and as Competition Secretary.

John Brailey, a painter at The Port took office in 2007. He was a prominent bowler for many years and during his Presidency gave support in

numerous ways to individual members and the club in general. He often supported club bowlers in competitions and always took great interest in what was going on.

When John's term of office ended in 2009 **Roy Whitfield**, who worked for the Port in the Granary, became the seventh Club President and he also represented the Club as a representative on the main Club committee. His wife **Irene** was a bowler and very much involved at the club for many years.

David Hinksman took office in 2013 and is still President today. The PBA Bowls Club became City and Port of Bristol Bowls Club some years ago reflecting how things have changed over the years.

With numbers in need of a boost this year it is incredible to look back to 1985 when at the AGM a motion was proposed and agreed that membership should be limited to 120 (80 men and 40 ladies).

It is with regret that the 2021 Summer Tour based at Eastbourne in August has once again been postponed by a year. This is due to COVID-19 and matters related to it.

For further information about the club and its activities please call David Hinksman on 0117 9082713.

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David and Jackie

Betty Margaret Brain

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Margaret passed peacefully away at Penhill Residential Home, in January. A resident of Shirehampton since 1958, Margaret lived on the Portway, before moving to Penhill in October 2017. Grateful thanks

to all staff for excellent care throughout her stay at the home. Her funeral was well attended by family and friends, at Memorial Woodlands, despite the circumstances of Lockdown 3.

My Mum, and best friend, very sadly missed.

Your devoted daughter,

Elaine xxxxx



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