

Shire

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

No. 607 - August 2022 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

Have you got a job that needs doing? Go to YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS section on pages 21-22 to find a local business who can help.

**SHIRE
NEWSPAPER
AGM**

Friday 5th August 2022
at 5:30pm

Cotswold Community Centre,
Dursley Road, BS11 9XH

Members of the Public
are Welcome

Shire Gas Pipe Upgrades

As everyone must have noticed there are extensive roadworks going on along the High Street and Park Hill. There are diggers, men in fluorescent jackets, road signs, pipes and holes everywhere!

This is due to the work being carried out by **Wales and West Utilities** to upgrade the gas pipes in our area. The pipes are being changed from old metal ones to new plastic ones. Wales & West Utilities have

spoken about challenges of the project and said, 'We have found that there is quite a bit of corrosion on the gas main due to the age of it'. The pipes are being upgraded to make sure the current supply is reliable, and also can be used for green gases like biomethane and hydrogen in the future.

Work started in late June, and everything seems to be progressing nicely. The team are working as quickly as possible in order to keep disruption to a minimum and for the shortest time frame.



© Sarah Matthews



© Sarah Matthews



© Sarah Matthews

Wales and West Utilities informed us that 'The job is currently going well; however, we have faced some engineering difficulties with drainage obstructing our way, but we have managed to overcome these problems by working closely with **Wessex Water**. Due to the great progress the team are making, we're optimistic we'll be finished **before December**'.

We have all seen a number of road closures with diversions in place and changes to bus routes and services. Local residents have got used to diggers outside their windows and have been enjoying the peace and quiet whilst the roads are closed.

Continued on page 16.

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Shire

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

Contributions submitted to: editor@shire.org.uk

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PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR AUGUST

INCREASE IN COVID-19 CASES IN BRISTOL

Bristol, along with the rest of the country, is seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases. This is most likely being driven by the effects of COVID-19 restrictions ending and greater social mixing combined with the spread of the BA5 strain of the Omicron variant. The Omicron variant is highly infectious and this new strain appears to be causing some reinfections.

To protect yourself and others please ensure that you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters. Be mindful of those who may be more at risk and continue to:

- Let fresh air in if meeting others indoors
- Wash your hands
- Wear a face covering or mask when in busy or enclosed spaces

If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, you have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities, you are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

SHIRE NEWSPAPER AGM

Shire Newspaper will hold its **Annual General Meeting** on **Friday 5th August 2022 at 5:30pm**. We will be meeting in the **Cotswold Community Centre, Dursley Road, BS11 9XH**. Members of the Public are Welcome

AVONMOUTH LADIES CLUB

We meet at **Avonmouth Community Centre** - on the **first and third Tuesday of each month at 7pm** (but not in Jan and Feb). We listen to a variety of speakers as well as having occasional outings.

A warm welcome awaits. For any information contact **Julia** on: **0117 982 9390**.

Diary of Events: August – Sept 2022

Aug 2nd - British Sign Language - by Louise Pocock

Aug 16th - To be Arranged

Sept 6th - Local History - by Ken Edwards

Sept 20th - To be Arranged

THE NEW CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT HUB HAS ARRIVED!

The **Bristol City Council Consultation and Engagement Hub** has now moved to a new platform at www.ask.bristol.gov.uk

The new **Ask Bristol Hub** will include traditional surveys and ask for your views using a range of new tools, including interactive maps and online forums.

Any surveys that were open before this new website launched are available on the new Ask Bristol Hub. You will also be able to find details about historic consultations and engagements from the last two years.



The *Shire* Community Pages

FAMILY EVENTS AT BLAISE THIS SUMMER

Blaise Museum is excited to launch a programme of free, family-friendly summer fun that will run throughout the school holidays.

Events with craft, storytelling and a whole host of other activities will take place on **Wednesdays in August**. Each day has a different theme connected to Blaise so look forward to butterflies, mini-beasts, toys, games and giants!

There's some amazing archaeology over the summer too as part of the national **Festival of Archaeology**. Mini archaeologists can join us for **Dig It**, an archaeology session for the under 5s or visit **Kings Weston Roman Villa** for an open day filled with stories, dressing up and craft.

Bristol's Brilliant Archaeology also returns to Blaise. This fun-packed festival brings together museum archaeologists, local societies, re-enactors, field archaeologists and heritage organisations for a day filled with archaeology activities, demonstrations and displays.

Our new Blaise residents, **master crafter, Jem Dick** and **storyteller supremo, Michael Loader** will also be joining the Blaise team this summer. Jem and Michael can be found at Blaise at various dates throughout the holidays running craft workshops and sharing stories. Both residencies will be with us for the rest of 2022 thanks to the generous support of the **Friends of Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives**.

And finally, when events aren't on at Blaise, there'll be self-led family activities laid out in the community craft room for all visitors to enjoy.

So what are you waiting for? Head over to Blaise this summer for plenty of family friendly fun! You can book (for free) on the website or just turn up.

Special Events Take Place On:

3 August 2022: Family fun:
Butterflies and mini-beasts

10 August 2022:
Family fun: Toys and games

17 August 2022:
Family fun: The giant's footprints

24 August 2022: Family fun:
Toys and games

For more info please visit...

www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/blog/events/family-events-at-blaise-this-summer/

A4 Portway transport improvements

Have your say!

www.bristol.gov.uk/A4PortwayEngagement
Give us your views by **17 August**

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

The transport network in Bristol faces many challenges, including growth in housing and employment areas, unreliable journey times, high levels of congestion and air pollution. To address these challenges, and help Bristol reach its 2030 carbon neutral target, we need radical changes to Bristol's road network, changes which will to make a transformational difference to bus travel, and act as an enabler for cycling and walking.

The **A4 Portway Project** will develop and improve bus services and the walking and cycling environment along the north western section of the A4.

The project aims to achieve greater bus reliability, improved bus punctuality, growth in numbers travelling by bus, and a step change in the quality of bus

services along the A4. There is also scope to consider improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure.

The A4 Portway Route

The A4 in Bristol links two of the city's park and ride sites: one at Portway and one at Brislington. This early engagement will focus on the north western section, starting on the A4 Portway (near the M5 flyover) running south along the Portway to Hotwell Road. It then continues along the A4 Anchor Road, up to the junction with Explore Lane.

Have your say on how we improve bus, walking and cycling journeys along the A4 Portway, from Avonmouth to the city centre. It's part of our major transport plans for Bristol.

Give your views at www.bristol.gov.uk/A4PortwayEngagement

For a paper version of the survey or to ask for it in another format, email transport.engagement@bristol.gov.uk, phone 0117 9036449 and leave a message on the answerphone, or write to A4 Portway, Transport Engagement Team, PO BOX 3399, 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 9NE.

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Contact **Suzi Griffin** (CYS, AYS, BWY)

07776 321 989 suzi@yogafriendly.co.uk

News from TS Enterprise Avonmouth Sea Cadets

On Thursday 9th June we held our Royal Navy Support Visit. The Inspecting Officer was Cmd. Gary Mills RN. He was welcomed by Commanding Officer Lt.Cdr (SCC) Alison Fowler RNR and the Chair of the Unit Management Trustee Team Mrs Terri Booker. During his inspection of the cadets he did remark that he could see lots of effort had been made to get their uniforms to a good standard. He then met the Unit Management Team and thanked them for their commitment to the Unit and all their hard work.

Following this he then had a tour of the Unit with Cadet 1st Class Ruby B, where he visited the cadet classes and talked with them. We had a good number of parents attend for the latter part of the evening to watch **Evening Colours**, an enrolment and presentations. A very satisfactory evening.

On Saturday July 2nd we joined with the **Lamplighters** to raise money for a **Public Access Defibrillator**, which will be put on the wall of the Lamplighters.

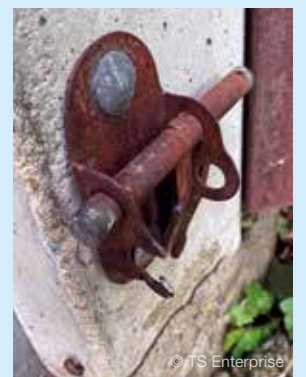
The cadets did a **Sponsored Row** using two rowing machines and set the target of 32kms, the equivalent to the 20miles that **manager of the Lamplighters, Paula Parsons**, was going to walk. The cadets smashed their target by rowing over 52kms. Not only that but to date they have raised £440 from sponsorship with more due in as well as any donations made direct to Paula's fundraising page. A great achievement by all on the day!

We are finally getting back out on the water where cadets are achieving boating qualifications and most importantly enjoying being out on the water.

Unfortunately, it's not all good news to report this month. It is with much anger and great disappointment that we have to report that during our parade night on **30th June** we discovered that we had been the victims of a break in.

They came very prepared, they cut themselves a pathway through the very dense undergrowth that surrounds the premises and then cut a considerable hole in the chain link fence. They then cut both locks off from the garage that is used to store junk causing costly damage.

We are a small independent registered youth charity run solely by volunteers. We do not have any high value items stored on the premises at any time. Obtaining funding over recent years has become more difficult due to funding streams being re-directed because of



the Covid-19 Pandemic and things are about to become increasingly more difficult as the cost-of-living crisis sets in and more funding streams are re-directed away from organisations such as ours.

Every penny we raise is a joint effort between our young people and fundraising team which enables us to provide the best possible experience we can. So the fact is when we suffer criminal damage or theft it is the young people who suffer.

There is a huge lack of youth provision locally and we pride ourselves on offering fun land based and nautical activities that help shape our young people for the future and allow them to gain important life skills to set them on a good path in life.

If anyone has any information, please email us and we can then pass it on to the Police.

We are always pleased to welcome new Volunteers to the team and have vacancies for new cadets to join 10-12yrs Juniors, 12-18yrs Senior Cadets. Our current Parade nights are every Thursday. For more information on volunteering or for new cadet joiners please email avonmouthseacadets@gmail.com

Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston Ward Community Meeting Open to all residents

Monday 15 August 7-8.30pm

At Avonmouth Community Centre



There'll be a short introduction from the host, followed by a presentation on the Community Resilience Fund (CRF). The remaining time will be available to speak to the various organisations at their information tables. Invitations have been sent to the local police, fire service, councillors and the MP's office. If you have any suggestions/requests for other organisations to attend, please get in touch.

For more information contact Jo Sergeant
accbookings.marketing@gmail.com
Tel. 01179827445

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

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

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

Many thanks.



TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS

Dear Editor,

I got a letter from BCC re this, i.e. the MetroBus, on Saturday 9th July with a notice on a lamppost on 7th July 2022. The data was published on 4th July and there was an 'Early Engagement'; on 6th July at Shire Hall. We missed it!

Shire, like everywhere, is plagued by cyclists on pavements. I am a retired teacher who has lived on the Portway since 1948 in Avonmouth and then Shirehampton. I was part of the Shirehampton Community Group in the 1990s chaired by the late George Cooper who worked hard to get signage on the pavements when the Shared Cycleway was first put through the Gorge to Pill, which the council has repeatedly covered with 'dressings' they put on pavements but never renewed the words. Someone gave permission for the bump out of the kerb when the prefabs were changed to houses about 2014 in Valerian Close and we are plagued by cyclists going in both directions on our pavement between Valerian Close and Hung Road. The city council

support rules by the Dutch for the space needed for pedestrians and Cycle use and the approx 5 ft of solid pavement along here in no way obeys the rules the council themselves use, but even the map for conditions now, show this residential area as a Cycleway, although the only road marking show a cycle on the highway!

Trying too do a web search for just Improvements to A4 Portway or MetroBus A4 Portway, brings up a huge range of sites, so may put off others ignoring this subject but just found this link which may be useful - www.bristol.gov.uk/A4PortwayEngagement

I have attached a few words as once this development is done, I doubt we will have any other money spent on this road.

Regards,

Sue

Editor: Thanks Sue – we missed the consultation too but have included a link in this edition where people can voice their opinions. See page 3.

Family Announcements

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

To book contact: adverts@shire.org.uk

Small text box = £10.

Larger picture box = £15.

ELLISON

Margaret Elizabeth

Passed away peacefully on 8th June 2022

At Southmead Hospital aged 90 years

Will be sadly missed by all her family and many friends

UK Heatwave: Protect Your Garden!

With temperatures set to soar around the UK and Met Office issuing an extreme heat warning, it's more important than ever to protect your garden and its content from the incoming heat wave.

1. Move All Container Plants Into The Shade

Container plants are the first to dry out in a heatwave, you need to protect them from the sun or they will perish quickly. Moving them into the shade so they don't feel the full heat of the midday sun is an easy way to prepare your plants and pots for the rising temperature.

2. Do Not Over Water Your Lawn

Lawns can become scorched during a heatwave, but there are things you can do to keep it looking thick and green. It will require minimal watering, once a week should do, and your mowing routine should drop to once a week. You should also adjust the blades on your mower to a higher setting to ensure the grass stems provide maximum shade for the soil.

3. Don't Give Up On Plants Damaged By The Heat

It's not too late for plants that have wilted or turned brown during the heatwave. Watering your plants in the morning, mulching to encourage water retention and providing them with the right shade even after signs of damage could help them recover once the heat subsides.

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

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Linda x x

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

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



SHIRE STRONG



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



SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL NEWSLETTER

Our Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 6th July and was well attended. We also accumulated a number of new members, so welcome one and all! The minutes will be available soon, hopefully on our newly created website which we are still working on with fervour!

We are also having a Special Meeting of the **Building Committee** on **Tuesday 2nd August at 7pm at the Public Hall**. It is likely this will be held in the library as **Puppy Training** is in the Hall that evening, however do attend if you can (entrance still through the main hall door, please) and find out more about what is planned for the future of the Hall and how we intend to go about it! **Your opinions matter!**

We also would still love to hire out our lovely **Penpole Room**. Located on the first floor of the Hall with fabulous panoramic views across Shirehampton and beyond, this wonderful space would suit a keen business as an office base, or a therapist as a therapy room for example. It is currently underused, and this is unfortunate as

the space would make a great base for someone's ambitions! If you would like to view the room or rent the space for regular or one-off meetings please contact the Hall manager on the number below.

Upcoming Community Events at the Hall:

- September (date to be announced) – Hall Quiz Night
- 22nd October 5-7pm, Halloween Disco for 11 years and under
- 17th December (time to be announced), Hall Children's Christmas Celebration

The **Gardening Volunteers Group** which meets in the Hall garden from 10am on the first Saturday of the month have started meeting once again now that things are growing once more! Everyone is welcome and bring tools if you can! Contact the Hall for more information if necessary.

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

The Public Hall is very keen to hear from anyone with drive, determination and a flair for listed buildings to join their team of Trustees.

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

SPOTLIGHT ON GROUPS AT THE PUBLIC HALL:

Furry Frolics - Puppy Training

At the User Group meeting on Friday 27th May a suggestion was made that a small article be written about regular groups that meet at the Hall. It was hoped that by introducing Shire Paper readers to what we have to offer they would feel part of the Hall community, and maybe even take part in a few activities (if they don't already!).

This month we are showcasing the **Puppy Training**. **Furry Frolics**, run by **Ellie Turner**, have been loyal users of the Public Hall for some years now, and run classes from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Tuesdays. Here's what they have to say:

"Furry Frolics' mission is to make canine lives happier and human lives easier through effective, fun and positive puppy and dog training. We have been running group training classes at Shirehampton Public Hall for many years and currently offer both Puppy and Adolescent classes on Tuesday evenings,

with occasional additional workshops such as tricks and scent work. We are a friendly team with a focus on making training fun to get the best out of the handlers and their dogs!"

For more information about puppy training classes at the Hall please contact Ellie Turner on 07766 383030 or email info@furryfrolicspetservices.co.uk.

(Our thanks to Ellie Turner for this article)



© Ellie Turner/Furry Frolics

ARE YOU READY FOR BRISTOL'S CLEAN AIR ZONE?

Bristol's Clean Air Zone will start on Monday 28 November

Poor air quality has a major impact on the health of the city and the Clean Air Zone will help us tackle this issue and meet targets for cleaner air in 2023 while providing people with £42 million of support.

You can find out more about the zone and the financial support available on our website: www.bristol.gov.uk/streets-travel/bristol-caz

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SCHOOL SUPPORT FROM GOODMAN & LILLEY

Local Estate Agents Goodman and Lilley were able to step in and support Shirehampton Primary School leavers this month. Head Teacher Louisa Munton explained 'Fund raising has been extremely difficult these past few years, for obvious reasons, so when the team at Goodman and Lilley offered to buy our year 6 children their leavers hoodies we were over the moon!' She added 'It's become a popular tradition, and something the children treasure when moving up to a bigger school'.

Director Guy Lilley went on to say 'We believe it's important for businesses to support their local community, and with offices in **Shirehampton, Henleaze and Portishead** we are not short of opportunities. It has been a difficult time for all, but schools and organisations seem to have been hit hardest so we were delighted to help our local school with this donation'.

The school are hoping that normal fund raising activities will be going ahead in the future, and look forward to welcoming parents and friends along to join in the fun.



© Shirehampton Primary School/Goodman & Lilley

THINKING ABOUT SELLING
THIS SUMMER?
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DARREN JONES MP

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

As the 'village' in the city, the charm and character of Shirehampton play an important role in attracting people to the district, with many areas protected by the Shirehampton Conservation Area. Now, after nearly 30 years since the last full review, Bristol City Council's Conservation team is proposing amendments to the Conservation Area.

On 8th July, Darren attended a public Q&A session organised by Bristol City Council's Conservation team about the proposals. They include new recommendations to protect historic buildings and areas of important character, as well as plans to extend the boundary of the Conservation Area to include, for example, the Bristol Garden Suburb, The Bradleys and Station Road. Several constituents who live in areas that would be affected by the proposed boundary extension have contacted the team to express their disappointment that they weren't notified about the Q&A session in advance. However, the draft document outlining the plans is available to download from the

Council's website (there's also a link to it on Darren's Facebook page in a post on 8th July), and if you have any questions, you can still reach out to the Council's Conservation team on conservation@bristol.gov.uk.

Earlier in the month, Darren visited the Tesco Food Collection, where shoppers were encouraged to donate long-life food items for foodbanks in Bristol in an initiative organised by the supermarket chain in partnership with The Trussell Trust and FareShare. It was humbling to see people's generosity to help others in our community, even though they are likely to be feeling the strain of the cost-of-living crisis themselves. The need for foodbanks, though,

is a symptom of a broken social security system. Even before the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis hit, data from The Trussell Trust reveals foodbank usage in South West England increased by 63% in the five-year period between 2014/15 and 2019/2020.

Looking ahead, Darren intends to write to the Secretary of State in support of Bristol City Council's bid to the Levelling Up Fund for the proposed Bristol Cycling Centre in Lawrence Weston. The centre will provide a much-needed new facility for this part of the city. You only need to look at the Quality of Life in Bristol 2020-21 survey, which found that only 35% of residents in Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston play sport once a week (Bristol average is 41%), to see why investment in sport facilities in the ward is desperately needed.

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: cll.donald.alexander@bristol.gov.uk

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

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

Conservative Members' Services Office: 0117 922 2746

Labour Members' Services Office: 0117 922 3827

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

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

DAY	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
MONDAY	Twyford Art Club (except July & August)	10:00am - 12noon	Hall
	Extraordinary Links Parents Group (every 3rd Monday)	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Hall
	Yoga	6:00pm - 7:15pm	Hall
TUESDAY	Messy Play Toddlers	9:00am - 11:00am	Hall
	Extraordinary Links Parents Group	10:00am - 12noon	Penpole
	Line Dancing	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Hall
	Puppy Training	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Hall
WEDNESDAY	Shire Stitchers (1st Wednesday of the month)	10:00am - 12noon	Hall
	Bristol Healing Rooms (every 2nd Wednesday)	11:00am - 1:30pm	Hall
	Pop-Up Play Village Bristol North (every 3rd Wednesday)	9:30am - 1:30pm	Hall
	Over 75s Exercise Class	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Hall
	Extraordinary Links	3:30pm - 5:30pm	Hall
	Shire Stitchers (every 3rd Wednesday)	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Hall
Women's Fellowship (every 2nd and 4th Wednesday)	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Hall	
THURSDAY	Shirehampton Community Art and Social Group (formerly Sea Mills Art Club)	10:00am - 12noon	Hall
	Tai Chi	2:00pm - 3:30pm	Hall
	Model Railway Club	7:00pm - 10:00pm	Club Room
	Grainger Players	7:30am - 9:30pm	Hall
FRIDAY	Stay & Play (formerly Playtots - Term Time Only)	9:30am - 11:00am	Hall
	Shire News (last Friday of the month)	4:00pm	Hall
	Tree of Life Church (1st Friday of the month)	6:00pm - 10:00pm	Hall
	Create to Elevate Youth Group (2nd & last Fridays)	7:00pm - 10:00pm	Hall
SUNDAY	Church of Grace	11:00am - 4:00pm	Hall

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



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Catholic College

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6

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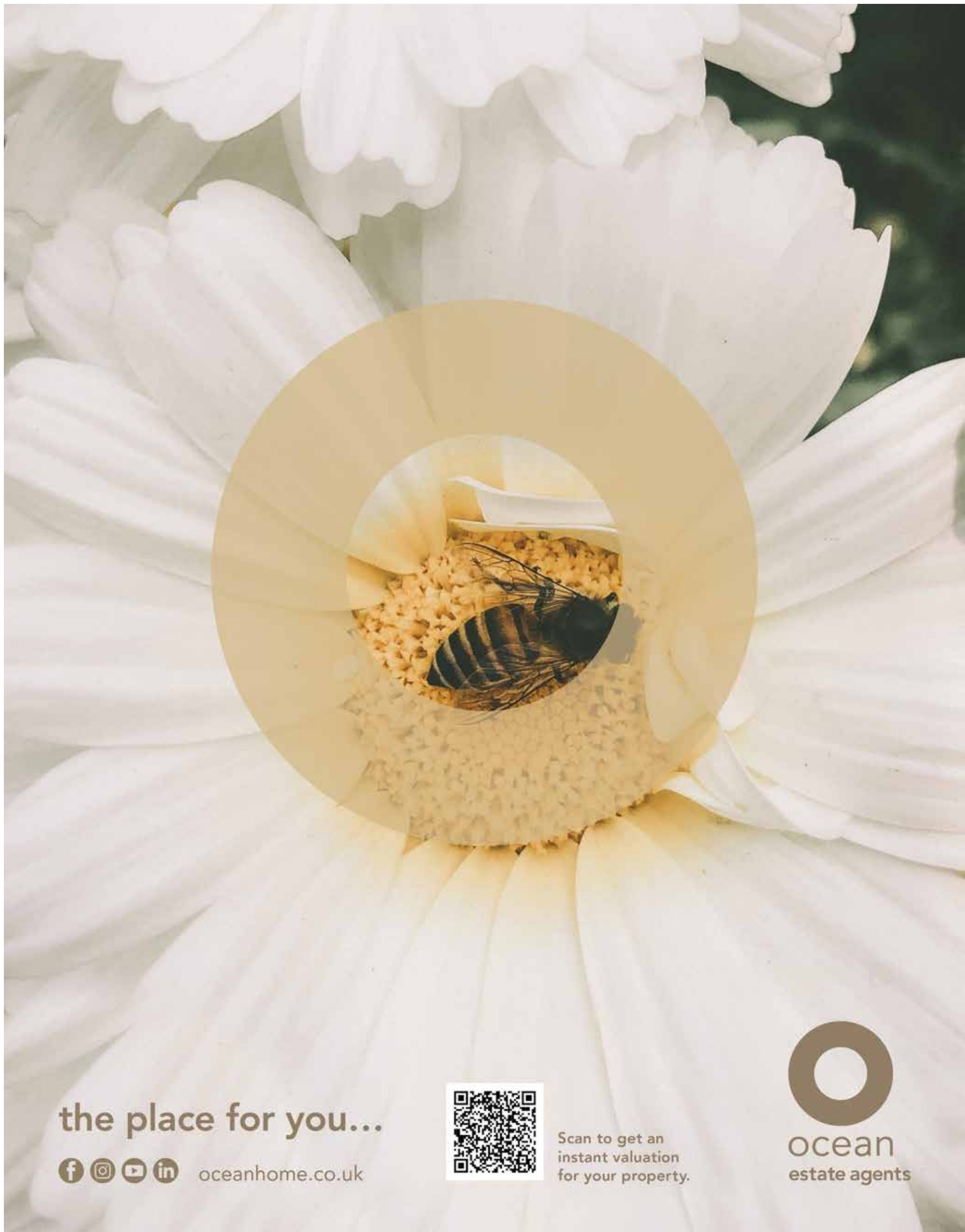
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Just Stop Oil Campaign

Back in June Just Stop Oil came to speak to the Shirehampton Climate Emergency group about the Just Stop Oil campaign. The speaker pointed out that “We are all ‘soft’ climate change deniers. We all ‘know’ the science which tells us we are in for sudden and disastrous changes to our way of life as the climate warms. We are all concerned and want to take action to at least minimize those disasters, but we find it SO hard to keep that dreadful truth in mind, so hard to “just stop oil”. We as individuals need to reduce our consumption of all kinds: energy, food, transport. But our government must take real effective action to help us do that. So Just Stop Oil has three demands: we must

- Stop New Fossil Fuel Exploration
- Insulate our homes
- Create Affordable Public Transport

The current rise in fuel prices is a strong incentive to use our cars less, or even not at all. The government promised to insulate Britain three years ago. Now as energy prices rise and we are trying to reduce our energy consumption, insulating our homes will help with fuel bills as well as helping the climate.

The day after the **Just Stop Oil** talk I attended a Zoom organized by **Bristol Green Capital** about how to create a community climate action

group. They suggested we begin by generating a community carbon calculator that would tell us what Shirehampton’s carbon footprint is. When we know what the main sources of carbon emissions are in Shire we can look for specific ways that each of us can reduce our emissions. We hope to be working with other community groups on this project.

The **Shirehampton Climate Emergency Group (SCEG)** is taking a break during August. But we’ll

be working on our next event: a morning advising on how to reduce our fuel bills by heating and insulating our homes more efficiently. Details of the event will be in the September Shire. **Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th September, 7:30 pm in the Cotswold Community Centre.**

We’d love to see you there!

Renee Slater

A Mid-Summer Garden in Shirehampton





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SHIREHAMPTON CLIMATE EMERGENCY GROUP

We are taking a summer break so there will be **NO** meetings in August. We’ll resume September 13th, the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm in the Cotswold Community Centre, Dursley Road, BS11 9XH.

Hope to see you then.



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

Tynings Field Community

From field to plate. The ethos of allotments, the basis of what we do is to provide locally grown fresh food for ourselves. To self-motivate the soul into growing food, is to provide ourselves with soul food.

This is not comfort food. There's nothing comfortable about the environment of digging up ground, but to be driven by poverty and fighting the limitations of eating on a budget.

11 years since the first plot was cultivated, the sun rises early on our harvest. First veg begins to become food, the day when we know we won't need to shop to purchase potatoes, peas, lettuce or turnip, is when we start to live off the land.

Our menu can be extensive in the nature kitchen.

For many people new to growing veg, it's an eye opener as to how this now gives back in small stages, once they realise what is happening enthusiasts will go on to grow even more.

Some veg may be an experiment, other veg may fail whilst other crops flourish.

Adaptability in what we eat, must follow what grows and what doesn't.

On Sunday our own homegrown veg makes our lunch. Homegrown is better for you, travels less miles, it works out as a huge saving. So it sits in the ground until ready to pick. In winter it can be stored in a sack in a shed. We talk about seasonal veg but some veg can be all seasons.



Surrounded by daisies and white campion, the sun sets after an afternoon's physical work.

If the soul needs food...it's time to eat.

Veg Growing Group in Shirehampton



Tynings Field Community are not just basic allotments, we are open to members who wish to prepare land for growing veg next season on a fairly small but manageable area, and take part in other workshops and workdays.

Work can get started now in readiness for next spring.

Help maintain an orchard, cut grass, keep poultry, learn about grafting trees, plant trees etc.

If you want to just do a plot, come and go, this is not the place for you!

If you would prefer to make life interesting while really helping with the work involved. Here we are!

Contact: carolinepennyp@gmail.com

Nature Notes

Due to the hot weather and other tasks keeping me busy lately, the main one being the garden, I haven't had chance to find a suitable wildlife photo to use with these notes. I therefore hope seeing a few of the flowers in my garden will go down well with everyone!

The collection in the stone pot were from Blaise Nursery. Some of you will know we had a plant sale in May at the Cotswold Community Centre, and when I got them home, I was straight outside to get them potted up! Not known for my artistic talents, I must admit that they do look quite pretty!!

There is a nice story attached to the poppies. A very close friend of mine had been living in a super old farmhouse in West Hay in Somerset, which she and her husband renovated. After just a few years, during which time I had enjoyed



my trips down to visit, they decided to move to France! Naturally I was very sad to see them go, but my friend made sure I would take something away from the farm that would always remind me of them and West Hay. She gave me a bag of poppy seeds! As you can see, they are thriving, with many others around the garden.

Back to the wildlife now. Happy to report that the Gold Finch babies are eating me out of house and home and niger seed! The various varieties of pigeons are defying my collie's continued chasing of them out of the back garden, but the smaller birds are still able to swing by to take a bite from the seed feeder.

Jeff and I have taken advantage of the warmer late evening temperatures to sit out on the river bank with a nightcap. This resulted in a nice surprise a few nights ago, when we were joined by at least one little bat! At the time of writing we are looking forward to sitting out on the bench this very evening to see the Super Moon! This particular one is apparently called the Buck moon, as it coincides with the stags shedding their old antlers in readiness for the new ones needed for the rutting season! No, I didn't know that either DEER reader!!!! **On that awful pun note, happy nature watching all.**

Bobbie

Churches in the Shirehampton Area

Shirehampton Baptist News

This July it has been good to enjoy the return of the Harbour Festival and other yearly Bristol Summer events.

We in **Shire Baptist** have some new projects. The **Life Café** which is held on the **last Thursday of the month** is going well. We meet in our Church building. Do come and enjoy some home-made cakes where you can meet old friends and make new ones

We now run a **Rock Solid club for Primary School children every Thursday from 3:30pm to 4:30 pm**. The children enjoy drama, games and craft work. For more information or application forms contact our number below.

Our next **Songs of Praise café** will be on **August 14th at 4:45pm in the Cotswold Community Hall, Dursley Road**. This is an informal time when we explore **Paul's Missionary journeys**, learn about our favourite charities, and choose some hymns. We also enjoy some refreshments. All

are welcome. We come from several local churches under the name **Cotswold Christian Community**. This group of people ran a Fun Day in 2021 at the Cotswold Community Hall, Dursley Road. This was a very enjoyable time with refreshments and drinks for adults and children, craftwork, and games.

We are glad to announce another **Fun Day on August 29th, Bank holiday Monday afternoon**, same venue. No Bank Holiday traffic jams, or packed beaches, we invite you to enjoy the afternoon close to home.

During August, we plan to meet at the Baptist Church every **Sunday at 10:30am and on Zoom**. There is also a **Bible Study on Zoom at 4:30pm**.

The **Church building is open** for private prayer from **10am to 12 noon on the third Thursday of the month**.



Author: Bobbi Jones Jones used under Public Domain License

It would be good to see some new faces on Sundays, you will receive a warm welcome.

We send our love and prayers.

From all at Shire Baptist Church Station Road

Contact number 07743 683684 or
rhodespaul360@gmail.com

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

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

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



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

REGULAR EVENTS

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

*Booking must be made, either by email:
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or leave a message on **07943 401575**

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

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St Mary's News

Hi Folks!

Here we are into August and already we can see the nights beginning to draw in. I'm just debating whether to put my winter vest back on! Once the longest day has passed, I always feel we are back on the downward slope to Winter once again. I jest - as I am sure we have some lovely Summer days to come.

Now we have some very joyous news and that is we have a **new Vicar** appointed for St Mary's. Her name is the **Revd Alison Sowton** and she comes from **St Thomas in Melksham, Wiltshire**. She is married to **Derek** and they have four children and five grandchildren. They have a motorbike which gives them both a great deal of pleasure as Alison and Derek like to be out and about. Dare I tell them there is a "bikers pub" - The Mardyke in Hotwells?!! Perhaps not, or I may get excommunicated for making such a suggestion! Alison and Derek are expected to arrive in the parish sometime in **September**. It will be wonderful to have a permanent Priest again in St Mary's and we very much welcome them both.

Recently, the **Revd Jennifer Hall** conducted a combined service of **Baptism and Holy Communion** which went off very well, with many favourable comments received from those present. It has been quite a little while since we last had a Baptism service in St Mary's, mainly due to postponements as a result of Covid but also because we have been without a vicar for some time, so we were pleased to be able to hold this special service.

There is **NO Messy Church** this month as it is the holiday period, but it will resume again in September. This means our next Messy Church is on **Tuesday 20th September at 3.30pm**.

Wednesday 3rd August - the first Wednesday of the month - will still host "**Goldies**" as usual from **10.30am until 11.30am**. We could not disappoint

the regulars who enjoy singing songs from the past which often stir up old memories. If you know of anyone who might be interested in coming along, please mention this to them - there is a charge of £2 due to Goldies to cover their costs.

Our **Patronal Festival** this year is on the weekend of **Saturday & Sunday 13th and 14th August**. This is the time when we celebrate our **Patron Saint - St Mary the mother of Jesus**. On the **Saturday 13th** there will be the usual Tea & Coffee served between **10.00am and 12.00 noon** but wait for it - in order to tempt your taste buds - Cream Teas are to be available from 2.00 pm until 4.00pm. I shall be there (even though I'm Diabetic) - I am allowed the occasional treat, so I shall take advantage of it! A **Holy Communion** service will be held as usual at **10.30 am on the Sunday morning**, not forgetting our usual **Rise & Shine** service that takes place for our younger families from **8.30am**.

At the beginning of July, we were fortunate to attend two wonderful Music Concerts. The first was the **Summer Piano Showcase by Students of Helen Wilkins**. The students' ages ranged from 6 years to mid-teens, and they played with feeling and confidence. Entry was free but a Retiring Collection was to be given to **Ukraine and the Soundwell Music Therapy Trust**.

On Monday evening **4th July**, we welcomed back **Bristol West Concert Band** and also the **Fly-by Choir** conducted by **David Ogden**. This was the



Band's first visit since the Covid19 outbreak. David Ogden, incidentally, is not only the Conductor of The Fly-by Choir, but is also the Composer of the music St Mary's Church Choir sing at our Holy Communion service on the first Sunday of each month. The West Bristol Concert Band played a number of pieces of music which were well known to everyone, as did the Fly-By Choir who sang familiar songs with great vigour, taking advantage of the wonderful acoustics St Mary's is renowned for, and with diction that could be understood by all. The audience, which almost filled the church, certainly showed their appreciation at the end of the Concert.

Finally, St Mary's congregation would like to thank all the Priests who have put themselves out, in order that services within the church could be maintained during our interregnum - Weddings, Vow Renewals, Funerals, Interment of Ashes along with our Holy Communion services on Thursday mornings and Sundays. We are truly most grateful for all the support.

And now for this month's usual piece of silliness - Did you hear about the chap who was at work and his boss said to him - "Are you ambidextrous?" He replied, "No Sir, I'm Church of England!"

Well, that's it for another month!

'Bye for now.

C.M.E.



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Continued from page 1.

Wales & West Utilities added 'One of our main challenges on this project was the planning stage and having to have multiple road closures through Shirehampton. I know this has been a massive inconvenience for the residents of Shirehampton and I would just like to say thank you for being so understanding while our works are taking place. By replacing this gas main, it is reducing the risk to the public in Shirehampton and fingers crossed no more holes to be dug for gas leaks!!'

Residents impacted by the changes will see their supply turned off and switched to the new supply. This should all happen in the same day and safety checks will be completed to ensure all gas appliances are safe after the changes.

If you have any questions regarding the work, you can speak to the team on site directly or get in touch below:
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cubs

Age 8 to 10.5 year
on a Monday 18:15 to 19:45

SCOUTS

Age 10.5 to 14 years
on a Tuesday 19:00 to 20:30

You may not be aware but Scouting runs entirely on volunteers. These volunteers help by sitting on the Executive committee and running a section. We are keen to keep the workload we ask of our volunteers manageable and the only way we can do this is by having a strong community of volunteers backing the 191st.

If you would like to volunteer to be part of our Leadership team, Executive committee, or any other assistance you can give or if your child would like to join one of our sections please contact us at the email address below.

GSL191stbristolscouts@gmail.com

Paula's Fundraising Success

Saturday 2nd July was the Fun Day Fundraiser for The Lamplighters pub in Shirehampton. Paula Parsons set off at 10am and began her 20km sponsored walk to raise funds for a defibrillator to be installed at The Lamplighters.

"I did the walk on my own as my son came down with covid and not long after I began the walk the rain came down, it literally poured down but my thoughts at the time was 'I had to keep going'. I was determined to continue even when I pulled a ligament in my ankle the last few miles. I may have struggled but there was no way I was giving up" said Paula.

"I think the hardest part of the walk was the hill to **Ashton Court** and then **Avonmouth bridge** on the way back as I knew I was close to home. On my travels I had a few people ask what I was doing and telling me well done, to keep going and I also had a few car beeps along the way. I also had people waving to me across the river whilst walking through Pill and it gave me the encouragement to keep going especially on my return as I was nearing home. I was really overwhelmed with all the love and support when I turned the corner with the cheers and claps from family, friends, staff and customers".

"I want to say thank you to my husband **Craig Parsons**, he was my check point and ground team to make sure I was ok along the route as I was doing the walk on my own. Also, to the **Sea Cadets** who were amazing with their sponsored row. They ended up rowing 52km! And of course, everyone who has helped with the fundraising, we hit our target." added Paula

Despite the rain, the sun and blue skies did make an appearance that afternoon. Sweet bags and ice cream were being sold, temporary tattoos were popular with young children and the DJ moved into the pub to provide the music. The table games from quots, connect 4 and snakes and ladders were also available in the pub. The Sea Cadets remained outside with their sponsored row, and many took up the challenge.



© Paula Parsons



© Paula Parsons



© Paula Parsons



© Paula Parsons

Paula and her team will continue to fund raise for a second defibrillator to be placed on the **Yellow Brick Road** and for the **Air Ambulance** too as both are extremely important with saving lives.

You can find the fundraising page here:
<https://greatwesternairambulance.enthuse.com/cf/the-lamplighters>

Kathryn Courtney

Penpole Ave Street Party

We thought that picking a weekend in June would provide us with sunshine and warmth, however, as our photo shows, we found ourselves experiencing the vagaries of the weather; requiring a bit of that 'Mad Dogs and Englishmen' mentality to be able to enjoy the short time we had with no cars going up and down our street and no rain.

All efforts were rewarded by the joy of the children playing in the street. We had coloured chalks that were used to create rivers and train tracks down the road while others were enjoying 'racing' down the hill on their scooters - I think we only had one mishap!

Everyone who could make the party bought with them some food to share and the chat ensued with a few of our newer neighbours getting to know those who have been around for a bit longer, including one who was born in the street 74 years ago. We had

a quiz and some street history was shared, such as the fact that Des O'Connor's sister once lived in the street, querying why we do not have a 'Blue Plaque' to ensure this history is preserved?

Finally, we would like to thank the Shirehampton community for respecting the street closure as we start to look forward to our plans for something similar next year.

Jan Wilson



© Jan Wilson

The Arts in Shirehampton

Tandem Summer Update

Spring and Summer are the seasons for flowers. Are you deadheading your wilted blooms and throw them in the compost bin? Did you know that you can make beautiful and interestingly textured papers with flowers, petals and plant matter in general? If you are into papercrafts and cardmaking in particular you can now build up a nice stash of intriguing natural papers simply by recycling waste materials. Papermaking involves plenty of water and is an ideal summer outdoor activity suitable for all ages.

Another technique involving plants, blooms, and foliage, is to press them. Forget about Victorian old fashioned pressed flowers pictures in frames - there is much more you can do that is surprisingly contemporary and attractive.

Willow weaving will continue for as long as there is willow left.

To book yourself onto any of these sessions or to find out more please email tandemarts2@gmail.com.

We are planning a free family craft workshop making simple musical instruments in August. Look out for more details coming out soon.



© Tandem Arts



© Tandem Arts

- CALLING ALL ARTISTS -

Sarah Trigg and I have been getting together with a few ideas such as setting up a local arts trail or a pop up exhibition. If this is something you think you would like to become involved with and contribute to please contact Sarah or Annelies in the first instance.

Sarah 07986 574833 / Annelies 07913 539487
tandemarts2@gmail.com

Shire Craft Exhibition 2022

Tuesday 25th – Saturday 29th October

After such a great comeback last year following the pandemic and all the lock downs, we are gearing up to go again.

Last year's exhibition had such a buzz around it, it was joy to be there and see all the old and new crafts and meet up those who had been working on their crafts during the lock down.

As usual there will be a theme for the week, the theme being **Mythical Creatures**. So, if you would like to put a creature into the hunt round the Hall please get in touch.

We will have applications form available soon, there will be more information in up and coming Shire's together with application forms.

If you would like more information about the exhibition please contact: Ed or Gail Amphlett 07776170053 or email gail.amphlett@hotmail.com

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The Strange

An original story by Gil Osman

Chapter 5

(Previously: the young Hunter who became the first Village Chieftain)

When The Strange and the Hunter were born the village community was still a brutal, savage and lawless society. There were frequent disputes and fighting between both the men and the women and, of course, the children copied the adult example. Sometimes this would escalate into something even more serious involving wooden spears, clubs and axes, and someone would be badly injured or even killed. Because of this, even retired hunters kept their weapons and carried them for protection. The farmers also kept at least a spear for the same purpose.

There was no written language, and the spoken tongue was very primitive, consisting of simple sentences and the names of people, animals, common objects and tools/weapons. Adjectives and adverbs were coming into use by the more intelligent settlers, which gave greater variety and meaning to the language and longer sentences, enabling them to express themselves more fully. However, those lacking in intelligence became very frustrated by the inability to express themselves and this frustration fuelled their violent behaviour.

The village was a closed community. The villagers were suspicious and superstitious and strangers were feared. Alongside the Big Water (river) was a footpath which remaining nomadic families and solo travellers

used. Sometimes, they would see the smoke from the village houses and walk up to the settlement to ask for refreshment. But they were quickly chased away by angry villagers, who would threaten them with their spears and clubs and throw stones at them. So, the village gained a hostile reputation and, eventually, was never approached again but left to its self-imposed isolation.

This isolation caused problems. Any disease caught by a villager (usually transmitted from a diseased animal) would spread like wildfire throughout the overcrowded houses, causing many deaths, especially among the children, the elderly and infirm, and decimating the population.

Although many children were born, a large number died in early childhood. Many other children were born with physical defects, which meant to the villagers that they were cursed by the gods. In such cases infanticide was widely practiced and in the past the mother was also considered accursed and killed, so these births were kept secret by the household.

A good number of hunters met their deaths while hunting. For example, they could miss their target with their spear and get gored to death by an enraged wild boar. Sometimes, hunters just disappeared in the woods. The villagers assumed that they had been taken by the evil spirits. This was why hunters began to hunt in pairs, so that there was a second spears man, who could kill the prey if their partner missed, or report back on what happened to him.

So, because of these and other factors, the population did not expand very quickly, despite the woodland being continuously cleared to make way for new houses, for those who were dissatisfied with growing overcrowding and wished to set up a new home of their own.

(to be continued)

New Veterans Hub in Bristol

Armed Forces charities in Bristol have worked together to launch the city's first veterans' 'hub', which opens on Thursday, 28 July, at Bedminster Cricket Club.

The move has been driven by the local team from **Help for Heroes**, in tandem with **Op Courage**, the veterans' mental health service from the **NHS**, and **Veterans UK**, the **Ministry of Defence's** dedicated support organisation for service personnel, veterans and their families.

Help for Heroes' Case Manager, **Larry Holmes**, explained: "We have all come together to drive a better veterans' community connection in the Bristol area.

"The plan is to have a one-stop shop with all the charities in one place, so veterans can come for a chat – and possibly a bacon butty and a cuppa – and for them to enquire about the available support in welfare, clinical, mental health, and sporting activities."

Help for Heroes champions the **Armed Forces** community and helps them live well after service. The charity helps them, and their families, to recover and get on with their lives. It has already supported more than 26,500 people and won't stop until every veteran gets the support they deserve.

For further details on the Bristol veterans' hub, please contact Larry Holmes, Help for Heroes' Case Manager on 01752 562179 or larry.holmes@helpforheroes.org.uk.

Events in our library



Friends of Shirehampton Library are running:

- **IT literacy sessions**
every Wed, 18:00 - 19:00
- **Community living room**
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- **Family history group**
every 2nd Thurs of the month, 18:00 - 20:00

If you'd like to attend email: friendsofshire@gmail.com
or text/phone: 07943 401575.

These projects are delivered in partnership with Bristol Libraries, and are funded by the Library Innovation Fund.



Green Planet Comes to Shire with BBC Producer, Paul Williams



On Wednesday 6th July, in Shirehampton Methodist Church, local resident Paul gave a talk and presentation about his recent series, Green Planet.



A tie-in augmented virtual reality experience in London and an online content initiative were launched to promote the series, resulting in the **Broadcast Digital Award** recently for **Best VR**, presented by Comedian **Tom Allen**.

Filming took three years to complete, and took place in 27 countries. Paul hired engineer **Chris Field** to develop new filmmaking technology for the series, utilising time-lapse photography, drones and specially designed camera rigs called "Triffids." The series aimed to show plant movements over prolonged periods, but sped up into real time.

The Green Planet was a ratings success in the United Kingdom, with its first episode drawing 5.4 million viewers. It also received positive reviews from critics, who noted its production quality, storytelling, and environmentalist themes. Paul showed lots of off screen footage of how the filming was made, the incredible technology involved, and how involved **Sir David Attenborough** was with the whole project. The series has been sold, and has been broadcast, to dozens of countries around the world.

It was a fascinating evening and we raised £100 for the **Warhorse Statue in the Daisy Field**.



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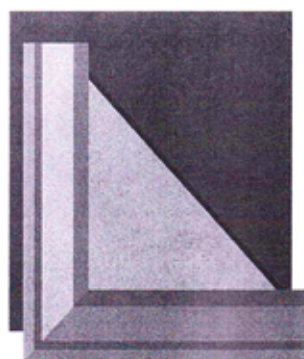
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SPORT IN SHIREHAMPTON



City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club

Bowling is the Sport for All and this season at the City and Port Club it has proven to be just that on more than one occasion.

Thursday June 23rd saw members of the Bristol After Stroke Club come to the green and bowl. Not just bowl but do well, enjoy it and ask at the end, 'when can we come again?'. Lead by organiser Stella and supported by a willing band of volunteers. Ladies and men in the group spent an hour at the green and the pleasure they gained from being there was plain to see. David and Gill Hinksman and Ken Davies were there to show them the basics of bowling and they very soon got the hang of it. Hopefully they will return in September and enjoy it all over again.



© David Hinksman

Thursday June 23rd saw the Bristol After Stroke Club come to the green and enjoy the sport of bowls.

Junior Bowlers have been at the green again this year and in greater number than in 2021. Sessions have run on either Tuesday or Wednesday since May 4th. They will not run through the School Summer Holidays but will return for two more sessions in September. The bowling club will once again provide sessions for the Holiday Activity Group the runs at the main social and sports club throughout the School Summer Holidays.

So, bowlers of all ages, from Primary School age to those beyond the age of eighty have rolled woods on the green this season. It should be mentioned that adults who bring children to bowling often try bowling themselves. Main Club Chairman Dan is amongst those to pick up a wood or two and bowl them. With his son Preston he has been on the green on more than one occasion and has bowled some very good woods.

David Hinksman played Geoff Smith of Yate in the first round of the Men's Champion of Champions competition at home on June 12th. He started well, winning shots early in the game but soon fell behind to Geoff's more direct style of bowling and eventually lost by 21 shots to 11.

David and his partner Howard Surman are still in the City and County Pairs competition, their first round opponents Trevor Wilkins and partner of Bristol St. Andrews withdrew so they now play Joe Hardwick and his partner, of Olveston away, on Monday July 25th.

At the half way stage in the league programme the men's team are in fifth place having registered consecutive home wins prior to the mid season break.

After a disappointing first half of their league season the ladies pulled off a remarkable home win over Olveston B on July 1st. Having lost the reverse fixture heavily on May 11th it was a great achievement to win both rinks and the game overall



© David Hinksman

Captain Gill Hinksman bowls a wood during her teams remarkable win over Olveston Ladies B on July 1st — a great team effort.

by 38 shots to 26 to register their first win of the season, well done ladies!

A highlight in the clubs season is always the annual Summer Tour and this year's tour saw a return to Eastbourne for the first time since 2016, and what a wonderful tour it was. A full account of it will appear in the September issue of Shire.

For information about the club and its activities please call David Hinksman on 07932 387217.



© David Hinksman

The City and Port of Bristol touring party at Parade Bowling Club, Eastbourne on Tuesday July 5th.



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Nobody Wants Your Dirty Recycling, Thank You

If you don't wash your recycling, it just gets burned or buried in a big hole in the ground.

That's the stark message from a waste collection company that's doing its very best to encourage greater recycling.

According to Divert.co.uk, too much-contaminated refuse in a lorry of supposedly "recycled" waste could mean that the entire load is rejected.

"It's usually because people are too lazy to rinse out jars and containers," says Divert.co.uk spokesperson **Mark Hall**, "but with the higher cost of living, we think people aren't rinsing them out to save money on their water bills"

What's The Problem?

Despite virtually every household and business in the UK having a special bin or bins to put their recycling in, **the sad fact is that we're just not very good at it.**

In fact, the **recycling rate for England has stalled at around 44%** for the last few years, meaning that more than **half of all rubbish still goes to landfill**, or sent is for "energy recovery" (the harmless-sounding term for "setting fire to your rubbish to generate electricity and stacks of CO2").

And the greatest problem from both domestic and commercial waste is contamination.

For paper and cardboard, it means that it can't be recycled if the load is filled with takeaway cartons that still contain pizza crusts and food leftovers.

The same goes for recycling plastics. It can't be recycled if it's mixed in with other sorts of waste.

For plastics and glass it's exactly the same. A quick rinse under the tap could mean the difference between recycling and landfill.

What's The Solution?

Dunk your messy recycling in the washing-up water at the end of the wash, or perhaps have a bucket of water outside the back door for just that purpose.

Or – and controversial opinion here – if you can't clean your recyclable goods, then don't. All we ask is that you instead put it in with your general waste where it won't contaminate the recycling for the rest of your street.

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