

Shire

No. 649 - February 2026 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

Have you got a job that needs doing? Go to YOUR LOCAL TRADESPEOPLE section on pages 19-20 to find a local business who can help.

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

Don't Miss the ComUnity Festival at the Public Hall on Saturday 21st February
- See page 4.

Window Wanderland 2026
For More Information
- See page 11.

Be the Voice Behind the Stories Volunteer With Us Today

It's not easy to find volunteers in the community; we all know that people lead busy lives but is there more to it than that? Have people just lost sight of how valuable volunteering is? Perhaps it is thought that volunteering is not beneficial? Or maybe people just don't realise that many of our community groups rely on volunteers to exist? So, what are the benefits of volunteering both for the volunteer and for the community that they serve? There are so many; here's just a few:

Volunteering boosts your mental & physical health, builds confidence & self-esteem and expands your skills and experience. You will meet new people, make new social connections and develop a sense of belonging. Volunteering combats isolation, reduces stress and makes you feel valued and part of something bigger.

Why volunteer with Shire (this is, by no means an exhaustive list)? Firstly, because it's **LOADS** of fun. Secondly, there are many different roles so there's probably going to be something to suit everyone. Thirdly, because you have the chance to be part of a **team** of local people with a variety of different experiences and interesting backgrounds. Fourthly,

because **Shire News** is at the very heart of the local community so you have the chance to be involved in things that you'd probably never hear about otherwise. If I had to pick one thing about it that I really love, it would be having the chance to spread the news about the wonderful people and amazing things that are going on in our village.

We are particularly looking for help with advertising, accounting (including fundraising) and distribution. But would also benefit from more editors and reporters. Please contact us for more details regarding specific roles at editor@shire.org.uk or on 07742 804737 We are happy to meet up with you individually but, if there are enough people interested, we'll organise a new volunteer forum and social, so we can get to know you better and you can get to know us.

For a "Spotlight" on one of our volunteers go to page 6.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Shire

NEWSPAPER NEEDS YOU!

CAN YOU OFFER HELP WITH

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* EDITING * FUNDRAISING * DELIVERING

WHAT WE CAN OFFER:

FUN, VARIOUS ROLES, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU:

A FEW HOURS COMMITMENT EACH MONTH, IDEAS, ENTHUSIASM

CONTACT US: editor@shire.org.uk or 07742 804 737

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QR code linking to the website.

Shire

We hold regular monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month at 6pm in Shirehampton library. All welcome!

Official address: The Library, Public Hall, Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol BS11 9TU.

Please contact Shire on: chairperson@shire.org.uk

'SHIRE' Contact Details

Web address: www.shire.org.uk

Submit articles: editor@shire.org.uk

Sport & Activities: sports@shire.org.uk or 07981 927787

Advertising: adverts@shire.org.uk or 07742 804737

Finances: treasurer@shire.org.uk

Distribution: distribution@shire.org.uk or 0117 982 0478

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

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Mrs J. Williamson & Mrs L. Bradley, Co-Vice Chair

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Mrs. Bobbie Perkins, Distribution

Mrs. L. Bradley, Website Manager

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Mrs. Lucy Bradley, Mr. Robert Andrews,

Miss. Amelia Osborn, Mr. Richard Coates,

Mr. John Rohde (Sport & Activities)

Artwork: Iain Chaffey of Crimson Goose Design

Photographers: Kathryn Courtney, Bob Pitchford

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

We welcome contributions for publication in 'SHIRE' but reserve the right to edit any copy received. Articles should not exceed 450 words. Any material published is at the editor's discretion and may also be included on our website www.shire.org.uk unless the copy is clearly marked 'not to be included on the world wide web'.

Contributions submitted to: editor@shire.org.uk

For our current privacy policy visit our website at www.shire.org.uk/privacy_policy

ADVERTISERS! Contact: adverts@shire.org.uk or call 07742 804737



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REGULAR EVENTS IN SHIREHAMPTON

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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

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

VOLUNTEER!

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

If yes we would love to hear from you!!

If you are interested please get in touch on:
chairperson@shire.org.uk

SHIRE ADVICE SERVICE

Free Advice Sessions

*Shirehampton Health Centre, Pembroke Road,
Shirehampton*

Tuesdays from 10am

To make an appointment call 0117 9515751

Notice to Our Readers and Contributors

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

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

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



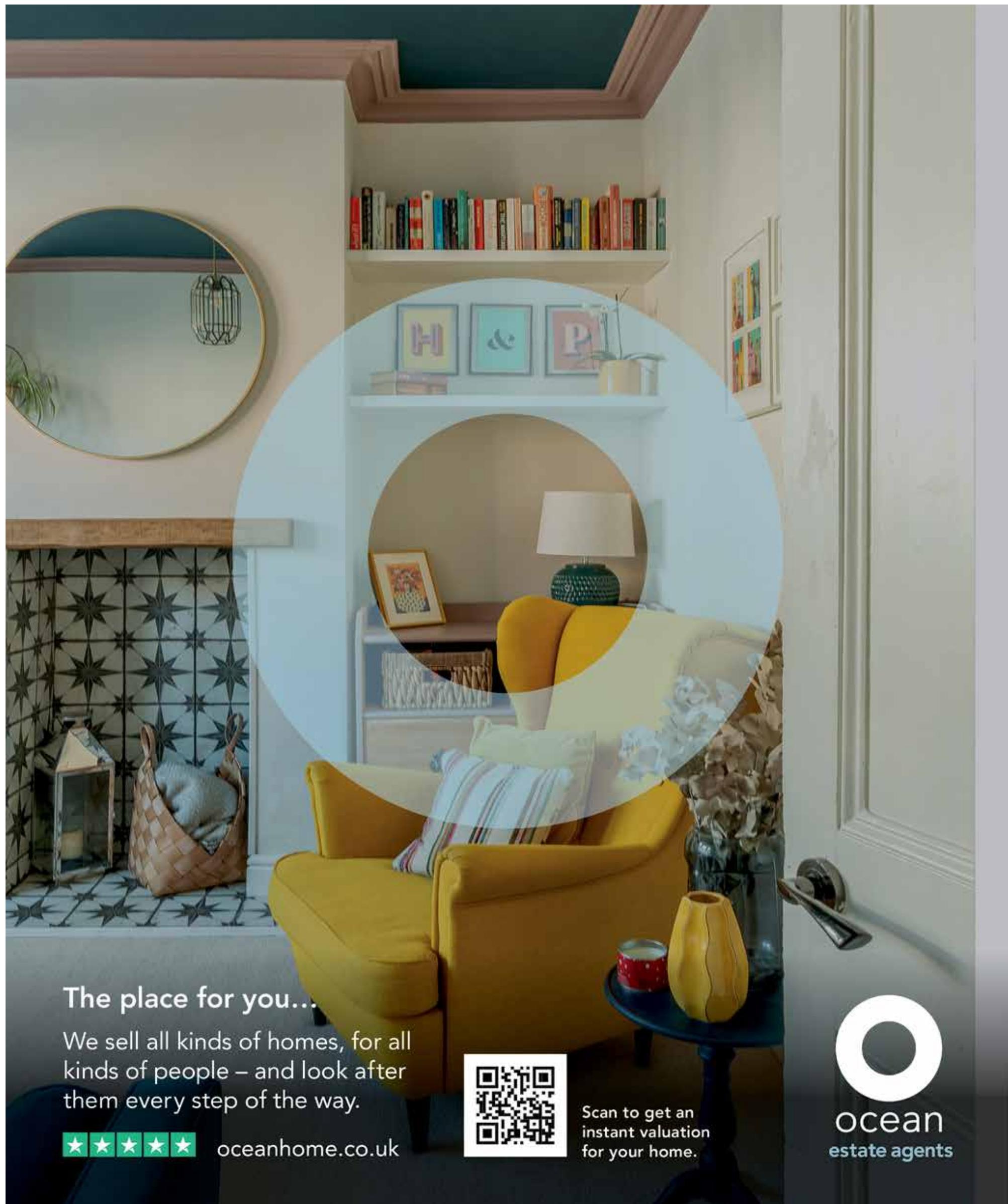
Regular Events at the Cotswold Community Centre

MONDAY	Pilates 9.30-10.30am Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm 6:30-7:30pm
TUESDAY	Over 70s Exercise Class 2pm-3pm Film Night 7:30pm (1st & 3rd of month)
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 10:30-11:30am Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm Pilates 6:30-7:30pm
THURSDAY	Welcome Space 10am-Noon Bingo 2pm Kettlebells 5:15-6:15pm 6:30-7:30pm
FRIDAY	Happy Space 2pm-4pm (3rd of month)
SATURDAY	Coffee Morning 10am-11:30am (2nd of month) Bingo 7:30pm
SUNDAY	Cotswold Christian Community Service Songs of Praise Café 4:45-6pm (2nd of month)

Come along and join in the fun

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

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The Shire Community Pages

Fabulous, Fun and FREE for Kids!

Shirehampton ComUnity Festival, Saturday February 21st, 1-8 pm

“Community is Everything”

Last August saw our historic Public Hall host Shirehampton's first “*ComUnity Festival*”. Driven by the vision of *Tom Bradley* and a small group of friends to bring together community groups, people of all ages and provide a space for young people to perform music, there was an emphasis on co-operation, collaboration and youth involvement, not only in attending and performing but in helping to plan and set up the event. The simple guiding principle of “Unity” was the cornerstone, providing appropriate space for a wide variety of activities and experiences, in the belief that this would forge new bonds and strengthen existing relationships right across our community.

If you were one of the many people who attended, you will know that there was representation from groups right across the breadth and diversity of our community and that the presence and participation of our young people was particularly evident. August's event was a “leap of faith” but grounded in the belief that this is a rich community, with a strong desire to feel a sense of belonging but without necessarily having the outlet to fulfil that need. If I can be allowed to indulge my own view by way of illustration, in my work with Shire News, I see a huge range of activities and events happening across our community, many involving our youth, but they naturally tend to exist in their own “bubble”. The ComUnity Festival is a way of bringing the energy of those groups together, of sharing the love of our community and of recognising that, whilst we may have widely different interests, what binds us all together is a mission to enrich each other's lives.

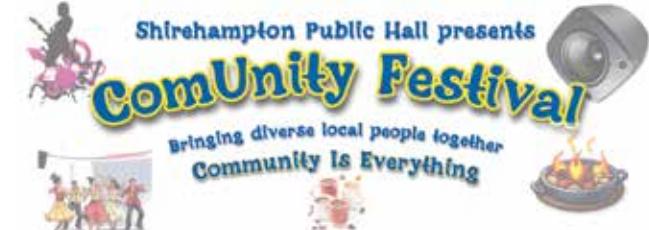
August's event was in many ways a trial and lessons have been learned. February's event will be focused on but not exclusively limited to “*Performance and Food*”.



The list is not yet finalised, but here's a brief selection:

- **Performance;** including drama, cabaret, drum and piano recitals, live bands and dancing.
- Information and short presentations about:
 - Arts and Crafts;** several local groups we hope to include e.g. **Shire Inspire** and **Nibley Engraving and Gifts**.
 - Health and Wellbeing;** we hope to include e.g. **ShireStrong**, Chair Aerobics, Pilates and Sound Meditation.
 - Food;** including Indian, Turkish and Nepalese as well as a café with cakes and biscuit decorating.
 - Social Spaces;** including a quiet space for relaxing in the library, or the Penpole room for more focused Meditation, thought provoking or spiritual activity.

If you run a group however small and you think you may have been missed, or have contributions, please contact communityfestivalshire@gmail.com or phone **Tom 07455 956 827**.



Saturday 21st February 2020 1pm-8pm

Food and Performing Arts Community Festival

Line Dancing
Piano Instrumental
Sea Mills Am.Dram
Children's Drama
Drum performance
Disco/Funk DJ
Dads Mixtape (Teen Band)
SylverFysh (Band)
Feedback (Band)

Indian Food - All Mahal
Turkish Food
Nepalese food
Food decorating
Hot and Cold Drinks
Cakes and dessert
(feel free to contribute)
Meditation/Contemplation in
Penpole room upstairs

Library will be open courtesy of Friends O.S.L for a chilli out space
& Shire Inspire are running a Window Wanderland Workshop.

£1 Adult entry, Children Free



© Bob Pitchford

Photos from the last event held in August.

We are looking forward to welcoming you all to the winter edition of the ComUnity Festival. We are conscious of the constructive feedback received after the summer edition and will be striving to make changes to the order and line up to ensure that everyone feels comfortable in the spaces that will be open to you. Please come along with family and friends and do your bit to strengthen the bonds that make this such a great community to live, work and grow up in. It's free for kids and only £1 for adults, to help cover costs.

Paul McMillan, on behalf of Tom, Sylvia and the rest of the organising group.



We especially enjoy spreading community news and we love to hear from all our readers. Please, send in your letters and stories to editor@shire.org.uk or deliver to The Library at The Public Hall. If requested, we will not print the name of a letter written to the Editor, but we cannot accept an anonymous letter.

Many thanks.

Wanted - Volunteer Trustees

The *Avon University Settlement Community Association* (AUSCA) is looking for additional trustees to run this long-standing local charity.

We sponsor the Shire Advice Service at the Shirehampton Health Centre which is outsourced to North Bristol Advice Centre. We are looking for additional trustees to assist in key roles on the committee and governance of the charity and service we offer. It is not onerous. We meet 4 times per year, 3 via Zoom and our AGM in September face to face.

If you have an interest in serving the local community, please contact juliethelme@aol.com to find out more.



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 xx

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Email: t.linda1206@gmail.com

www.shirestrong.co.uk



Shire is Calling All 10-15 Year Olds

How would you like to see an article you have written appear in print? Well, now is your chance as we are holding a competition for young reporters to write a piece to print in Shire. It can be on any of the following subjects:

- ◆ Why you like living in Shirehampton.
- ◆ A local club or activity you enjoy.
- ◆ An event you have attended local to Shirehampton

So put pen to paper and start writing! Articles should be no more than 200 words, please also include a photo if you can! A selection of articles will appear in the May edition of Shire. You can email your piece to editor@shire.org.uk or leave it in the "Shire" box in the library before 10th April. A prize will be awarded for the best article.

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.



Personal Announcements

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

To book contact: adverts@shire.org.uk

Prices Start from £7.95

PLEASE NOTE:

Any submitted Personal Announcements or other Notices to the paper may incur a charge and must be accompanied with the submitters contact details or their submission will not be able to be published.

LEGO Club at Shirehampton Library

Every month Shirehampton Library hold a free LEGO club on a Saturday morning for children accompanied by their adults. This month's club will be held on Saturday 7th February, 10.30-11.30am. Please see posters in the library for subsequent dates.

Izabela Rogalska



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Be the Voice Behind the Stories: Volunteer With Us Today

Continued from page 1.

SPOTLIGHT ON ONE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERING – *what it means to me!*

Hi, my name is *Jill* and I've been part of the Shire editing team for over 20 years. I thought I'd volunteer for different things in the village once I'd retired so after attending an AGM I joined up and haven't regretted it in the least. I still remember my first issue even after all these years! I felt proud of putting the articles into print for all residents to enjoy. This was well before laptops and emails. I remember receiving an A1 copy of the paper and having to "cut and paste" the articles in the spaces not taken by advertising.

It was very therapeutic – like doing a jigsaw puzzle, which is one of my hobbies. I also enjoy keep fit and table tennis – which brings me onto my other volunteering passion. I joined the keep fit class and table tennis evening at the **Cotswold Community Centre** and when they were looking for people to join their volunteering team I immediately "put my hand up". This also brought me onto helping at the monthly **Dementia Café** held at the Community Centre where we host and make drinks for the clients, with plenty of washing up! It was very challenging

at first, after recently losing a very dear sister-in-law to this terrible disease but I find it very rewarding keeping everyone fed and watered and chatting to the great group of people who have turned up.

So why not get up off the sofa, turn the TV off and join one of the clubs in our village to help out! There are many clubs and activities in the village that need volunteers. I'm sure you'll find it just as rewarding and interesting as I do.

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Check it out using the link below or QR code.

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

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

Some Examples!



**shirepublications.
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An Update from Darren Jones MP, Bristol North West

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

When we talk about feeling safe in our own homes, most people will think about securing their home from potential intruders. But for some, the everyday threat comes from living in hazardous conditions caused by severe damp and mould.

Constituents from Shire and elsewhere in Bristol North West frequently contact me about damp and mould issues in their social housing, with a particularly high number of cases concentrated in **Lawrence Weston**. In the past, despite the best efforts of my team and I, we haven't always been able to get a successful outcome when we have urged a social housing landlord, including **Bristol City Council**, to undertake the necessary remedial work to put these properties in a liveable state.

But now, this government is putting a stop to social landlords not acting on reports from tenants about damp and mould and other emergency hazards.

The government has introduced **Awaab's Law**, which is named in memory of two-year-old **Awaab Ishak**, who tragically died after being exposed to mould at his Rochdale home in December 2020.

The new law came into force on **27th October 2025** and states that social landlords must fix emergency health and safety hazards within 24 hours of reporting. They must also investigate significant damp and mould within 10 working days of being notified and then make properties safe in five working days. They

must also write to tenants with their findings within three working days of an inspection.

Since this is the law, this should mean case closed on all the casework my team is dealing with on constituents' damp and mould issues. However, I'm **bitterly disappointed** to learn that Bristol City Council has not sufficiently prepared to be compliant with this new law.

This is completely unacceptable. For my constituents living in damp and mould-ridden properties, every day of a delay brings further misery and potentially puts their health at risk.

I have written to the Council about the need to comply with Awaab's Law and asked them to clarify the timeframe by which they will be fully compliant. In my letter, I also shared the personal story of one constituent that I spoke to before Christmas, to share the grim reality of what it's like to be forced to live with severe damp and mould in your home. I'll share the Council's response in a future column.

In better news, **Waitrose** has announced it is opening a new **South West distribution centre in Avonmouth** early next year, creating about 550 jobs for local people!



© Darren Jones/Houses of Parliament

The distribution centre will be run by logistics firm **DHL**, with recruitment expected to begin this spring.

The news follows an announcement last year that Waitrose is opening a new flagship store at the nearby **Brabazon development**, on the old airfield south of The Mall at **Cribbs Causeway**. This is what we want to see from large housing developments and future new towns: not houses built in isolation, but in tandem with all the facilities and services – and the jobs they create – to build thriving new communities, and help neighbouring areas to prosper, too!

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

CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Shirehampton is in the Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Ward

Your Councillors are:

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

Zoë Peat - Labour: Cllr.Zoe.Peat@bristol.gov.uk

Tom Blenkinsop - Labour: Cllr.Tom.Blenkinsop@bristol.gov.uk

Labour Members' Services Office: 0117 922 3827

CONTACTING YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Shirehampton is in the Bristol North West Constituency

Darren Jones Phone: 0117 959 6545

Email: darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.darren-jones.co.uk

jelyco

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Churches in the Shirehampton Area

Baptist Church News

www.shirehamptonbaptistchurch.co.uk

Christmas is beginning to seem a long time ago, yet it is worth reporting our Christmas activities at Shire Baptist. On December 21st we held our Candles Carol Service which consisted of readings and carols and on Christmas Day we met for a short service at 10am to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Both were well attended and it was good to see some old friends.

On December 14th the Cotswold Christian Community held a Christingle and Carols Service - a lovely way to illustrate God's love for the world by sending his son in human flesh as a sacrifice for sin.

The next Songs of Praise Cafe will be Sunday February 8th, 4:45 - 6pm. We meet in the Cotswold Community Hall, Dursley Road.

Rock Steady started last month. The children enjoy games, music, drama and craft and they meet every Thursday during term time. It is for children of primary school age.

The next Life Cafe will open on February 26th providing drinks, cakes and a warm welcome.

We are in the process of seeking a new minister and would appreciate your prayers that the right person will be found not only for us but for the benefit of our village.

A warm welcome awaits you every Sunday at 10:30am especially if you are not a regular church attender.

We hope you are all keeping warm and well and send our love and prayers from Shire Baptist Church.

See our website for more details and to read recent sermons.

www.shirehamptonbaptistchurch.co.uk

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

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

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



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Hello from Shire Methodist Church

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

We hold Morning Worship each Sunday in our church building from 11am. The first Sunday is led by a guest preacher. The second is All-Age Worship. The third Sunday includes Holy Communion and will be led by our Minister, *Reverend Martin Slocombe*. Our fourth Sunday will be an informal service with coffee and conversation. Anyone is welcome to our services. We are an inclusive church, welcoming and affirming every person.

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

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

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Hello to You All from St Mary's

There's plenty happening here, as usual.

Goldies are meeting here on **Wednesday 4th February** from 10:30am for their monthly get-together, enjoying music and company. They meet on the first Wednesday of each month and as the Goldies website says the group 'gives people a reason to get out, to be with others, laugh, sing out and to make new friends'.

West Bristol Concert Band returns for their **Winter Concert on Monday 16th February** and posters detailing the start time and cost will be on our noticeboards and website in due course.

The following day, **Tuesday 17th February**, is **Shrove Tuesday** and we are holding a **Pop-Up Pancake Party from 3:30 to 5:30pm**. All are welcome to come along and enjoy the pancakes at this event - children should be accompanied by a responsible adult please. Any donations received at this event will go towards the cost of pancakes - thank you.

As a reminder, our **Sunday morning services** take place at **10:30am each Sunday** and a shorter **Midweek Communion service** is on **Thursdays at 11am**. Our **All Age early morning** provision takes place at 8:30am on the second and third Sunday of the month - please refer to our website www.stmarysshire.org for more details.

We are **open every morning from 10am** for hot drinks (except Thursdays and Sundays when we hold our services). Our **Welcoming Space/Friday Cafe** takes place on **Fridays 12pm to 2pm** (after the coffee morning) and hot food is available between midday and 1pm - you are welcome to join us and meet with friends or make new ones. A variety of food is served including vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options. A children's play area, family board games, book nook and sensory box are always available for use. Any donations towards the food provision are gratefully received.

We hope to see you soon!

With best wishes from St Mary's Shire

Sundays	8:30	Rise & Shine on 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month
Sundays	10:30	Holy Communion Service Worship for All on 4th Sunday (including baptisms)
Monday	10:00-12:00	Coffee Morning
Tuesday	10:00-12:00	Coffee Morning
Wednesday	10:00-12:00	Coffee Morning
	10:30	Goldies (1st Wednesday of the month)
Thursday	11:00	Holy Communion
Friday	10:00-14:00	Coffee Morning to midday. Welcoming space with hot food from midday to 14:00
Saturday	10:00-12:00	Coffee Morning

News from the Shire Hub

There was a lovely opportunity to say farewell to **Darren and Kirsty Moore** on 23rd December. Darren, as Project Coordinator had been with the Hub since early 2022. He had made the place very successful and a helpful resource for many folks. Kirsty had been his main support and our cleaner. No doubt we will miss them, but now for a new chapter.

In January we were pleased to welcome **Mary Page** as **temporary Coordinator** for the period up to Easter to give the Management team and Church officers the opportunity to evaluate and affirm our aims.

We are grateful to the **Bristol City Churches Fund** for providing us with a grant to run a **Warm Welcome Space** this year. This will start in February on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. On Tuesday 17th it is Shrove Tuesday when it is traditional to eat pancakes in preparation for fasting through the period of Lent, which takes place over nearly seven weeks before Easter. This year we have decided to host a **Pancake Party at our Tuesday Warm Space on the afternoon of Tuesday 17th February**. Please come and join us!

We are also open in the mornings from 9.30am with **Clean Slate** and **Housing Matters** on Mondays and we will also continue with **Job Club**. However, some mornings may change for some of the previously regular activities. We are not opening on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The **Community Fridge** is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the core hours 9.30 to 4.30pm. We work with local supermarkets and stores to be able to offer free food that would otherwise go to waste, but which is still good to anyone who needs it. Feel free to drop by and help us reduce food waste and save yourself some money at the same time. We often consider that the Hub helps to feed body, mind and soul. Connected to that, the national Methodist Church's Lent theme for this year is "Soul Food" where we can explore what helps to sustain us. More information can be found here: www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/soul-food/

Check out our updates for activities on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ShireJTEHub/ or the website <https://jtehubshire.org/> The Hub email address and mobile number are the same.

Email: projectcoordinator@jtehubshire.org
Telephone: Mary on 07305 066478

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Time to Start Anew

We had a very cold start to 2026. Nearly 1,000 schools stayed closed during the first week of the new term because heavy snow blocked roads in Scotland and The North. An Amber health warning was in place for the whole of the UK. That meant we could expect increased demand on hospitals and social care. More broken bones and respiratory illness. Elderly people cut off, unable to leave their homes; care workers unable to get to their patients. And Storm Goretti gave us a taste of the 'extreme weather' we are likely to experience more often as global warming increases climate change.

Sheltered here in Shire we had a very wet and gloomy day, but we were lucky to be on the edge of the storm away from the most damaging winds. I was able to go out in the evening to a **Shirehampton Action** meeting to discuss how Shirehampton might develop an emergency preparedness plan for the Village. Despite the rain a dozen people from the various nature and environment groups active in Shirehampton were able to attend. The question, as always, is how to engage more people from the village in helping create an emergency response strategy they would then be willing to help implement when the need arises. There will be more meetings and an open workshop later in the year so do think about what you might do to help. Right now, despite the cold the spring is beginning early. The snowdrops are already up and there were blossoms



on the quince and kerria, before Goretti's rain knocked them off. There are catkins on the hazel on the bank. The blackbirds are stirring and we are grateful for the brilliant clear sunshine. Time to start anew.

RS

Nature Notes



© Bobbie Perkins

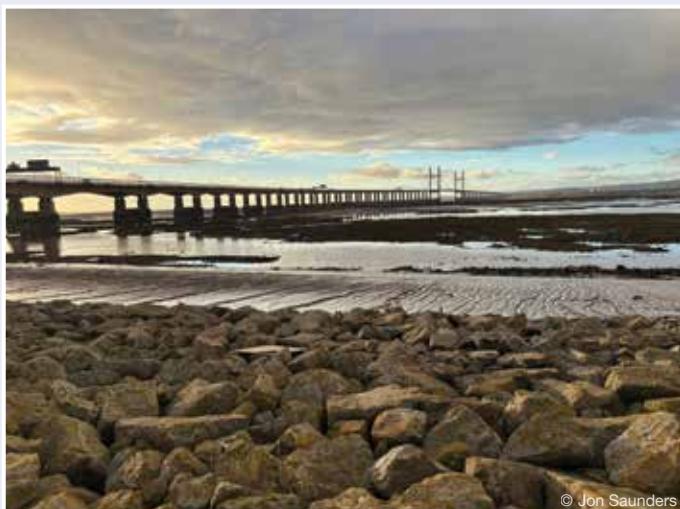
I came across this shot from just recently and thought it might prepare us for the better weather to come. It has been a very stormy, very very chilly winter lately so I hope this might cheer us a little to remember Spring is just around the corner!! Here's to the promise of fresh buds then leaves on our lovely trees, followed by spring flowers of many colours!

Happy nature watching folks!

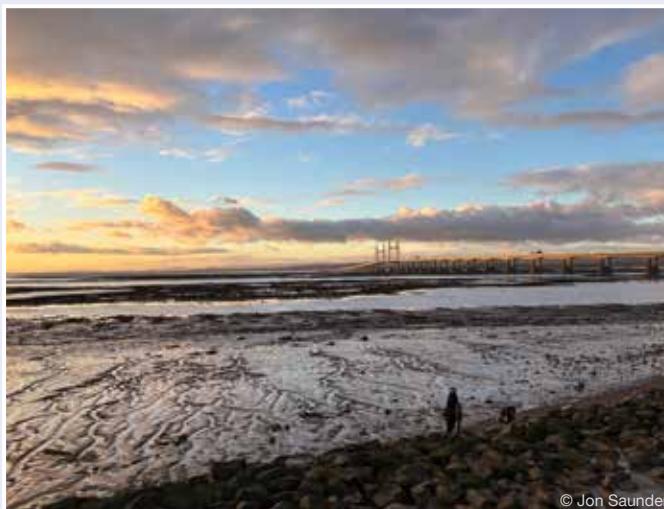
Bobbie

The Splendour of Severn Beach

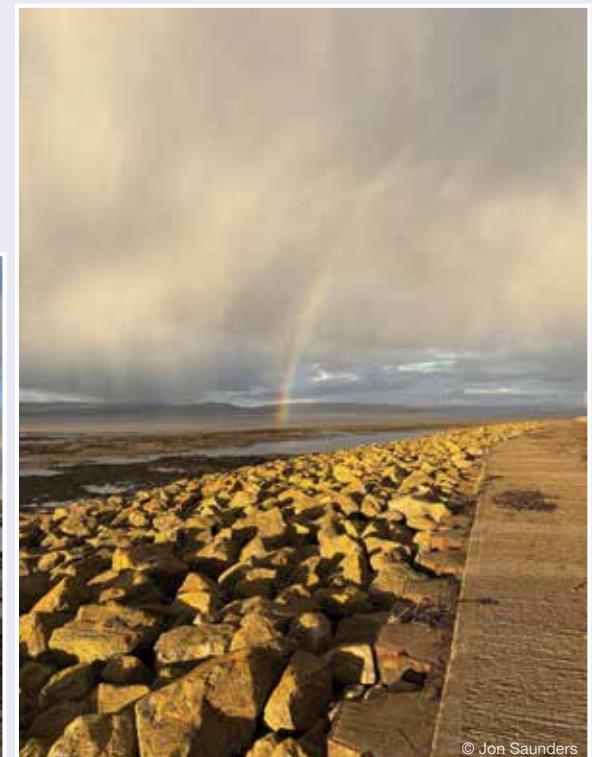
Many thanks to one of our readers, **Jon Saunders** who sent these photographs he took at Severn Beach over the first weekend of January.



© Jon Saunders



© Jon Saunders



© Jon Saunders

Light Up Shire with Window Wanderland

Window Wanderland will be taking place in Shirehampton again this February, over the weekend of Friday 27th February until Sunday 1st March, thanks to funding from Shirehampton Action.

The focus will be on households and neighbourhoods again this year, though we'd welcome any businesses who'd like to put up a display, of course. All folk are encouraged to take part and help make Shire's streets a safe and pleasant place to wander round after dark

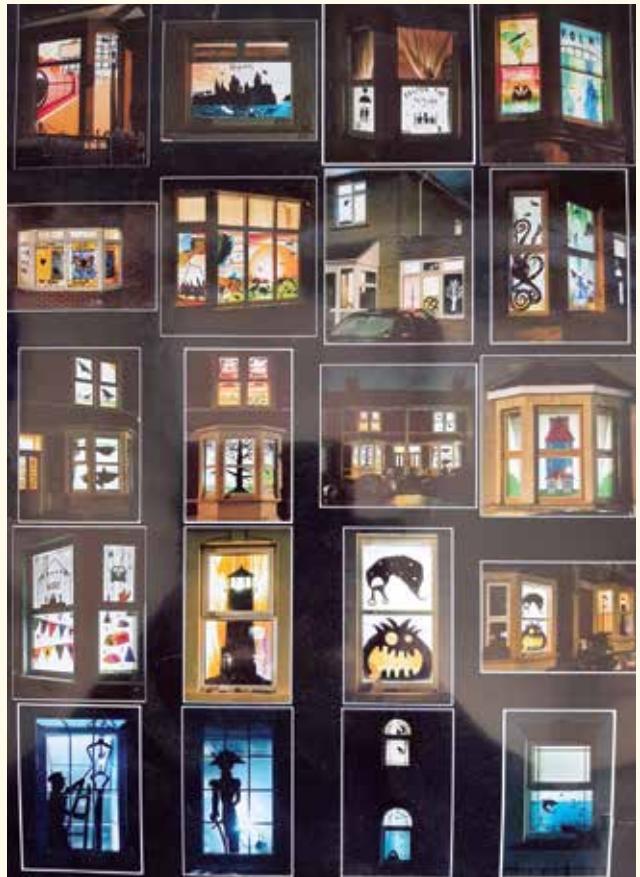


and appreciate all the lovely local artwork on display in people's windows. The theme this year, in these troubled times, is **UNITY**.

We will have access to materials via the **Children's Scrapstore** and can supply some if asked. There will be workshops at the **Cotswold Community Centre** on **Friday 13th February** from 3:30pm till 4:30pm, and in **Shirehampton Library**, as part of the **ComUnity Festival** on **Saturday 21st February**, between 2pm and 6pm. There will be help with lots of ideas for displays.

For more information, and if you'd like to participate, take a look via this link to the website: [Window Wanderland: Light Up Shire with Window Wanderland](http://WindowWanderland.com) and also on the Facebook page: <https://fb.me/e/3vyTVRo1Q>

There will be lots of information circulating the area via schools and community groups during the next few weeks. If you'd like to display a poster or have some flyers to distribute in your



street and get the neighbourhood involved, email: shirewindowwanderland@gmail.com

It also coincides with the Bristol Light Festival which takes place between 19th and 28th February - <https://bristollightfestival.org/#>

John Hastings & Photos © Shire Window Wanderland



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Farewell PJ's Hairdressing

Lizzie Stone has run PJ's Hairdressing in Station Road since 20th August 2002, initially it opened as a Barber's Shop and the following year as a Hairdressers.



"PJ's has been my life and I have found more love from this village than I have anything else. I'm from the area; my roots are here. I have enjoyed the people, the stories and the laughs we've shared. Now I am retiring my brain is allowing me to remember all the quirky things, all the funny stories, not forgetting the Barber shop and the laughs shared there too, all those happy moments. Many men knew my dad and played bowls with him, so the family connection was already there with customers".

"I wanted to be a Police Officer when I left school but was too short and my mum was a hairdresser locally, so I got thrown into it. They noticed I was a natural. I went to college and flew from there really. I love cutting hair, doing all the difficult cuts has been my heart's desire. I've loved every second of it. I'd like to thank all my customers and those who have continuously supported me over the years. It means a lot." she said.

Later, Lizzie added **Krazy Kids** for children to have their haircut. Her first grandson, who is now 17, lives with Autism, and the aim was to provide a safe, quiet place for neurodivergent and neurotypical children alike. It gave children a place to play with walls, featuring cartoon characters.

Lizzie also organised and ran the Christmas Fair held from The Parade into Station Road for five years despite the challenges of red tape.

I asked Lizzie why she was retiring. "My health has not been kind, and I am taking some wisdom from my dad. When you know it's time, you need to go. Don't waste the last chapter of your life, because you don't know how long you've got left." said Lizzie.

The shop won't be empty for long. Lizzie owns the building and her daughter runs a successful **bridal shop** in **Chepstow** and will be using the shop as a sales outlet for the dresses as well as venturing into



prom dresses. It will certainly be a welcome addition and unique shop for our 'High Street'.

"I am going to miss opening the shop, Shirehampton and everything that goes with it. It's always going to be my heart and soul. However, my retirement will be a busy one being a grandmother and stepping up more so my daughter can spend more time working to expand her business. I am also going to be kind to myself and that will be my New Year's resolution." said Lizzie.

The shop closed on 19th December. We wish Lizzie a happy and busy retirement.

Kathryn Courtney & Photos © Kathryn Courtney

Happy New Year Shirehampton from CakeHole!

Following a short break over the festive season The Cake Cupboard will re-open on **Saturday 7th February** from 10am at 70 Clifford Gardens, Shirehampton, BS11 0EE.



I will be open each weekend from 10am on Saturday and 11am on Sunday, the cupboard will be filled with delicious, fresh, homemade cakes, brownies and other sweet treats. I operate on an **honesty box system**; customers

lockdown changed many things but it also gave us time to think and I decided that I would love to be able to provide a delicious homemade sponge or a selection of sweet tray bake treats for you to enjoy with friends and family over a weekend; that is how **CakeHole** was born.

Each weekend I see many new and regular faces visiting the Cake Cupboard, I see the children running down the drive to open the cupboard first, then deciding on which cake to have that day. The Cupboard has become what I wanted it to be, and I love it.

Please follow me on Facebook and Instagram (links to both within the advert across) for weekly updates of opening times and a sneak peek at the delicious treats filling the Cake Cupboard every weekend.

I am excited to see you soon, Jo x

PS: As for my business name... I love cakes and I married a Mr Hole!

The Cake Cupboard

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Welcome To Legion Games

Gaming is a huge business and Shire High Street is lucky to have a brand-new store dedicated to this popular hobby. I went along on opening day on Saturday 20th December and within 15 minutes the place was very busy. The shop will no doubt be a huge hit especially with plans for the future that will see Gaming increase in North Bristol meaning 'Legion Games' will be the place to be.

Luke is the business owner and has been into gaming since around 5 years old. Born in Avonmouth his family moved to Shirehampton and now he has a shop on the High Street. His hobby has progressed into a business,

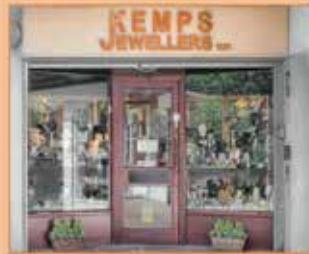


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"Everybody who is an adult would have had some exposure to Pokémon when they were growing up and I think with the resurgence of Pokémon in today's society, we are seeing that it kind of transcends age because a lot of people are chasing nostalgia. I think that's where parents can share that passion with their children".

"We have about eight tables with plans to add more in the future to expand the space and we're going to be putting on events where all ages and families are welcome to come in and actually play those game systems and share those experiences with their families," said Luke.

"I would just like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported us so far, we've been completely overwhelmed by the support." added Luke.

For Legion Games there are exciting times ahead, so many great plans for the gaming community, and in time don't be surprised to see **Gaming Tournaments** being held in Shirehampton.

Legion Games can be found at 27 High Street, Shirehampton, Bristol, BS11 0DX. They open Tuesday to Friday 10.30am until 6.30pm, Saturday and Sunday from 10am until 6pm.

You can email: support@legiongames.net and also check out their FaceBook Page: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61583874333447 and Instagram: www.instagram.com/legiongamesstore/

Kathryn Courtney & Photos © Kathryn Courtney

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CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

Carols on the Green



We at 'Shire' would like to thank everyone who turned out for the Carols on Christmas Eve, we enjoyed ourselves very much and the singing was great. A huge thank you also to the *West Bristol Concert Band* who led us with their usual professionalism, and *Colin Chidgey* for erecting staging, lighting and the sound system, a job he has done in a voluntary capacity for many decades.

For the first time ever, we had to ask for donations towards the cost of staging the carols. Since Covid, the revenue from advertising has dropped, and barely keeps pace with the cost of printing the paper and paying the graphic designer, as well as other ancillary expenses such as website costs and public liability insurance. We were very grateful for the money collected in the bucket and through the QR code, but if you didn't have a chance to donate here is the link and QR code: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/shire-publications2026

We are also happy to accept donations via bank transfer, please use the following details:



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 Account Number: **01985368**

If you would like to make a cash donation or write a cheque, then you can leave these in our 'Shire' box in the library or contact the editor at editor@shire.org.uk

This February issue of Shire celebrates 54 years in existence, that is pretty amazing for a free local paper run entirely by volunteers producing and delivering 5000 copies each month! We might be biased but the committee feels the paper keeps up to date with modern trends and technology and gets better and better (well we are entitled to brag a little!) We obviously want to keep going and continue with the Carols on the Green so donations at any time would be most welcome. Thank you.

Judy Helme & Photos © Bob Pitchford



Shirehampton Markets Spread Christmas Cheer

This year, Shirehampton Markets held two Christmas events. The *Autumnal Christmas Fayre* took place at Shirehampton Public Hall on Saturday 22nd November complete with Christmas Grotto. Thankfully, the rain didn't keep customers away.



© Bob Guscott

There was a free meet and greet with **Father Christmas and Jan the Elf**. Father Christmas brought along his naughty list book just in case. Luckily there was no need for it! There was a free activity where you could make your own Marzipan Fruits, run by **Tracy from Chatty Craft**. Christmas music was performed by **The New Yorkestra** from 12 noon onwards and they did a great job keeping everyone entertained. There

were plenty of Market Stallholders to choose from; all handmade, unique and high quality products, made by the business owners.

The second event was the **Christmas High Street Market** at the Tithe Barn held on Thursday 4th December, with some different stalls offering high quality items at affordable prices.

Father Christmas spent almost two hours at the market to do his annual Christmas shopping and to buy a special gift for Mrs Christmas! He was happy to chat with traders and customers and have photos taken whilst he was there. The Market Kitchen had to send out for a second round of cakes before the afternoon was up.

Both events were a great success, and it couldn't have happened without volunteers, Market Stallholders and continued support from customers. Thank you's go to **Ash, Katherine, Kathryn, Sherralee, Colin, Neil, Emily, Helen, Grant, Paul, Marilyn, Sarah, Peter, Robin, Robert, Steve, Janet, Kim, Ludo, Cee, Jim,**



© Bob Guscott

Tracy, Tom, Amanda, Bob, Phil, Alison, Sam, Darren, Kirsty, Shire Inspire, Ocean Estate Agents (Shirehampton) and Co-op (Shirehampton) for helping make these events happen. And of course, to all the **Market Traders** for this year (all 52!!) and **customers** too.

Shirehampton Markets will be taking their usual break and will see you all again on Thursday 5th March. Happy New Year everyone.

Bookings for Market Stalls for 2026 will open again on Tuesday 6th January. If you want to book your stall, please email: shirehamptonmarkets@outlook.com or telephone 0117 9829963. You can also follow Shirehampton Markets at www.facebook.com/shirehamptonmarkets or www.instagram.com/shirehamptonmarkets1/ for regular updates.

Kathryn Courtney

Christmas in the Four Villages

In Shirehampton **St. Mary's Church** held it's 'Wonderful Christmas of Oz' whilst our local schools held Christmas Fairs & markets. Meanwhile **Shire Christmas Illuminations** have done a superb job bringing the Christmas lights to our High Street as well as a Christmas Market as part of the Santa Dash. **The Port of Bristol Sports and Community Hub** held a Christmas jumper day followed by a visit from Santa. **Shirehampton Social Club** also held a Kids Christmas Party complete with Santa. Of course, the annual Christmas **Carols on The Green** rounded off the festivities before the big day.

Avonmouth Community Centre held their Eco Christmas Market with plenty of activities. There was another visit from Santa at the centre before Christmas Day arrived. **Avonmouth Projects Group CIC** travelled around the 4 villages with their Santa Tour, giving gifts to all the children who came out to meet Father Christmas in his sleigh.

In Lawrence Weston, the **Bristol Dementia Action Alliance** held their Christmas Cheer and Sing-along event at Ambition Lawrence Weston whilst **Sea Mills AmDram** provided a traditional pantomime 'Rapunzel' at The Rock with three performances. 'Oh yes they did!'

Meanwhile **Sea Mills Primary School** had their Christmas Fair and Cafe on the Square unveiled the **Archangel Gabriel** on top their roof, with lights for all to see. There was also a Sea Mills Library Sing-along too.

There were so many events held within the four villages it's hard to include everyone but Christmas spirit was certainly being shared around this year.

Kathryn Courtney



© Mary Miltop



© Kathryn Courtney



© Kathryn Courtney

'Dance Explosion' Supports Blonde Angels

Each year, *STOMP Dance Clubs at St. Mary's Church* in Shirehampton get together with several other groups run by *Confidence* to put on a charity fundraiser dance show called '*Dance Explosion*'. This year they chose *Blonde Angels* as the recipients of the funds raised - an organisation that helps and supports *Bristol's Homeless* in practical ways.

The older dancers aged 10-18 gathered in the months after the show to plan a shopping list with their £156 budget. To create the list, they were asked to imagine themselves in the shoes of someone who doesn't have a home and what small practical items they would choose to bring them comfort in that situation especially with Christmas approaching.

From there, 3 youth representatives from the group, **Evie, Erin and Abby**, took on the shopping challenge to buy the items on the list, practise their budgeting and find the best deals that got the most value for their money. They did a fantastic job with the shopping trip and were pleased to see just how big the final supply pile was!

The dancers were asked a few questions around this project:

■ **Why did you pick Blonde Angels for your chosen charity?**

There are people in our city that don't have access to basic facilities, and it felt right to be able to help make food and hygiene items more accessible to all. We loved the interactive element of Blonde Angels - a good opportunity for us to physically buy the items and see practically how far that money goes and just how much you can buy on a budget.

■ **What things did you consider when choosing which items went on your shopping list?**

Tents, essential for shelter. Homeless people would only have access to hot water as a cooking method, so we chose meals that only needed hot water added. Individually wrapped snacks that anyone could

eat on the go. Items that would easily fit in a backpack. Eco-friendly items, such as drinks in refillable bottles and bamboo cutlery and toothbrushes. Hygiene items that can be used even if you have no access to a bathroom. Socks. Vegetarian, gluten and dairy free items to accommodate any dietary needs. Chocolates and selection boxes as they deserve a treat too this Christmas!

■ **Were you aware of homelessness before learning about Blonde Angels?**

Yes, it's unfortunately not an uncommon thing to come across today. We see many homeless people when going into Bristol City centre and we have also come across several homeless people here in the village over the last few years.

■ **Is there anything else you would like to say?**

If you come across someone homeless, smile or say hi, treat them with kindness and respect.

A message from Amy Boucher (Dance Instructor and Youth Minister at St. Mary's):

I have had the privilege of working with the youth of Shire for the last 15 years and it is a joy to see these individuals grow into kind and caring members of our society. These young people often give up their free time to volunteer with us on our youth events team to put on community events in Shirehampton. All the youth and dance groups we run have the underpinned value of 'love your neighbour' and it is fantastic to see that these young people have taken that to heart



© STOMP St. Mary's



© STOMP St. Mary's

and put it into action. They are truly community champions and are an absolute asset to us all here in Shirehampton!

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Old Habits Die Hard; Can Hypnotherapy help?

Are you one of millions of people who struggle with issues that significantly impact on your life? For example, do you struggle with stress and anxiety management? Do you want to quit smoking but simply can't give it up? Do you have one of the many fears and phobias that afflict so many of us?

If you are, hypnotherapy can help, but it's not magic. The key factor is that you must truly believe that you want to bring about change in your life. Hypnotherapy is not available on the **NHS**, so you will need to pay for a private practitioner. The NHS explain that *"Hypnotherapy uses hypnosis to try to treat conditions or change habits."*

Before you consider engaging a hypnotherapist, please check the NHS website for information and advice. Here's the link: www.nhs.uk/tests-and-treatments/hypnotherapy/

Peter Irvine, a Shirehampton resident, is a recently qualified practitioner. Here's some extracts from Peter's website to give you an idea of what he can offer you:

"The issues hypnotherapy can support are numerous and I would be happy to hear from anyone that is struggling with any challenges. A call is free, will establish if it is possible to support you and will allow you to decide if you want to give it a go.

If you're interested in learning more about how **Future View Hypnotherapy** can assist you or someone you know, I encourage you to reach out. Together, we

can embark on a journey towards improved mental wellness and a brighter future."

Peter explains that solution-focused hypnotherapy can help individuals overcome challenges and achieve their goals. It focuses on the present and future rather than delving into past issues. The main aim is to help clients develop practical solutions to their problems, enhance their well-being, and move towards a desired future. During a session you will be encouraged to take a positive look at what you've been doing in the previous week. This helps activate the intellectual part of the brain and sets you up for getting the best from the trance. He also focuses on the latest neuroscience and presents a simple but logical explanation of what's going on in the brain, when we are downcast or when we are happy.

Peter will then use guided relaxation and hypnotic techniques to help you enter a relaxed, focused state. In this state, you can tap into your subconscious mind to create positive change. You will be encouraged to visualise your desired outcomes and use your inner resources to overcome obstacles, building on your strengths and solutions rather than focusing on problems.



© Peter Irvine

Peter Irvine.

If you are interested in learning more, here's a web link, or scan the QR code.

www.futureview.uk

You can also call Peter on 07578105640



Here's the NHS weblink again: Please check it out before you make any decisions on starting treatment: www.nhs.uk/tests-and-treatments/hypnotherapy/



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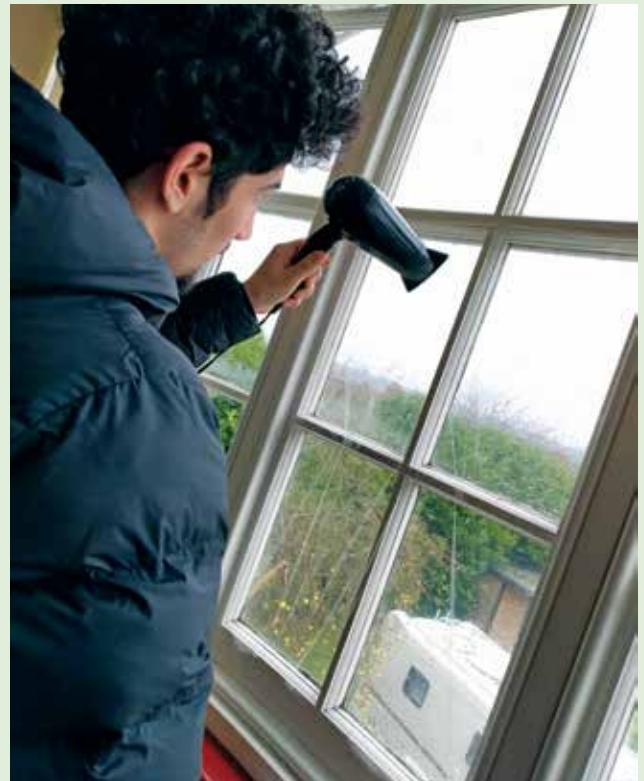
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Get Ready for Winter with Bristol Energy Network

Winter is certainly making its presence known and *Bristol Energy Network* has put together a series of events called '*Get Ready For Winter*'.

I met with Theresa Flannagan, Energy Desk and Community Building Lead at B.E.N, to find out more about the campaign

"These events are to help residents get themselves and their homes, ready for the winter months ahead. There are ways of saving money with simple changes to your home and there are people who can help you".



"Bristol Energy Network provides an energy helpdesk within communities, local markets, community fairs, community centres, faith buildings, and other events around the city where people most need the help and support. Come along and speak to our friendly advisors to see how you can be warm this winter. From energy efficiency, signposting for help, assistance with paying your energy bills, concerns about smart meters or green technology."

"It supports people wanting to be able to retrofit their homes with practical sessions and workshops. We also have an **Energy Champions Programme** where people within the community want to make change for themselves, and their community with energy efficiency."

"Avonmouth has a local knitting group which provided hats, scarves and gloves at a recent event held at Avonmouth Community Centre. Thank you, Carol and the **Avonmouth knitters**"

"Residents from Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston attended practical sessions on how to fit plastic secondary glazing to combat drafts even with wooden windows. A great workshop at Shirehampton Public Hall allowed practical skills to be learnt at the **Autumnal Christmas Fayre** where participants were very nifty with a hair dryer with amazing results double glazing the windows in the Penpole room of the building. It has reduced drafts and keeps the heat in the room," said Theresa.



I asked **Amanda Parsons, Manager of Shirehampton Public Hall** what she thought of the assessment service B.E.N provided. "The energy report for the Public Hall came with recommendations on how to improve and reduce the heat and energy loss for the building. They provided secondary double glazing for the Penpole Room and this has proved most effective."

Watch out for more local events taking place during February 2026. You can find out more information and updates from their Facebook page www.facebook.com/BristolEnergyNetwork

Bristol Energy Network would like to say thank you to their energy volunteers, **Neil, Di, Lani** and **Robbie** who have helped within the community to signpost and support residents at these events.

Kathryn Courtney & Photos © Kathryn Courtney

Another Way of ... Thinking?

Has it been dawning on you of late that there is something seriously wrong with the way humanity currently works ... or rather doesn't? Are you already choosing to avoid the news and find some positive antidotes to the doom and gloom of an over-materialistic mainstream? Perhaps you have taken up some form of artistic or creative pursuit or a spiritual practice, or try to spend more time in nature?



opportunities to share our experiences of non-rational ways of thinking and living, of practices that help us to cope with the stresses of modern life and to tune in to who we really are, deeper down. The group is concerned with what some might call our inner self, not what we have learnt or think but what we know, our intuition, our connection to each other and the natural world.

The new group meets in the Main Hall of **Shirehampton Public Hall** in Station Road, on the **first Wednesday of each month** from 11am to 1pm.

At our meeting in January, we created our own mandalas: drawings in a circle that have been used across traditions throughout the eons. The themes for the next few meetings are:

Feb 4th: An Introduction to Reiki Healing, with demonstration and a chance to experience for yourself the benefits of this simple, natural and powerful form of self-healing.



© Keith Beasley

March 4th: Inner Peace - Outer Peace. An exploration into what we can do to bring more peace into our lives and the world, including guided meditations.

April 1st: Divinations and Synchronicity. How we can tune into the flow of life, to know what we need to know, include use of Angel Cards and Celtic Animal Oracle Cards.

Full group information is available here: https://bristol.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/another-way-of-thinking/

Non u3a members are welcome as guests, but please let me know beforehand that you are intending to come: keith@keithbeasley.co.uk. Or why not join u3a? There are many other fascinating meetings going on around Bristol: <https://bristol.u3asite.uk/groups/>

Keith Beasley

Or perhaps you have, as I did a few years ago, realised that "I think too much". By becoming more flowing, more allowing, I have been finding that things tend to work out better, not just for me but for everyone else!

If any of this resonates with you perhaps you may be interested in a new group meeting in Shire. Under the auspices of the **u3a (The University of the Third Age)**, aimed at those who no longer work full-time), **Another Way of Thinking?** provides

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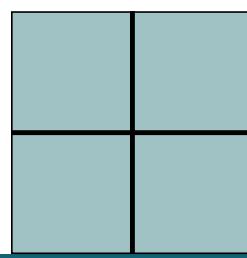
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Sport and Activities IN SHIREHAMPTON

Avonmouth Old Boys RFC - Chairman's Review

The poor weather in December meant that we could not bring you a report on any of the club's matches. We decided, with the permission of Club Chairman Grant Britton, to publish some extracts from his report, looking back at 2025 and forward to 2026.

Success on the Field for the Senior Squads

"Avonmouth RFC is a proud club with a rich history... While results since COVID may not always have reflected that history, I am proud to say that in 2025 our fortunes have changed, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our players. Last season saw **two league promotions** secured by the **1st XV** and the **Ladies XV**, while the **2nd XV also achieved promotion**. During the off-season...we were delighted to see the return of our **3rd XV** to league rugby."



The 1st XV's George Tompkins rises to challenge.

Junior Rugby

"Our Junior Section has faced challenges....and we are hopeful that guidance and support from the **RFU** and **GRFU** will help address this. Encouragingly, our **Minis and Avengers sections** are flourishing and enjoying the start of their rugby journeys. We aim to continue this growth with further recruitment in the new year and are excited to see our minis festival return in 2026."



U12 Harrison gets in a tackle in the match v Clifton.

Off the Field

"Behind the scenes we have secured funding for the redevelopment of our home and away end toilets as part of the **Bristol City Council Women in Rugby** scheme. This initiative follows the most successful Women's World Cup to date and provides selected clubs...with the opportunity to improve facilities and make them more welcoming for women players."

Throughout 2025, we have continued our pitch maintenance programme with funding and guidance from the RFU...with new equipment being made available to the groundsman team...training equipment



© Mango Photography

Avonmouth Ladies away to Yeovil.

will also be replaced for all members to benefit from as we look to invest."

The Volunteers

"... at Avonmouth RFC we are extremely fortunate to have so many dedicated individuals working tirelessly behind the scenes. Your contribution is invaluable and very much appreciated...by continuing to commit to each other and to our shared vision of improving the experience at **Barracks Lane** for all, we will continue to move forward and grow stronger. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in the past year."



© Paul McMillan

The Volunteers and Members of "The Happy Band".

Whenever Shire has visited the club, the impression has been of a happy, close-knit community.

We look forward to many more visits in 2026.

Grant Britton - Chairman, Avonmouth OBRFC
Foreword and postscript by Paul McMillan

Former Shire Colt Appointed Chelsea Head Coach

On January 6th, *Chelsea F.C.* released a brief statement, as follows: "Chelsea Football Club is delighted to announce the appointment of **Liam Rosenior** as head coach of the men's team."

Liam was born in Wandsworth in 1984 and would have moved to Bristol in 1992 when his dad **Leroy** signed for **Bristol City**. **Ross Burnham**, Chair of Shire Colts posted the following on the club website: pitchero.com/clubs/shire

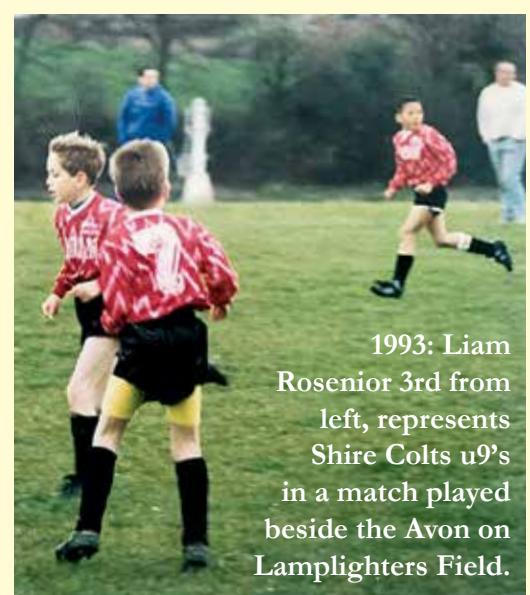
"A quick look back in our records shows that in 1992-1993 season Liam played 14 games and scored 11 goals in our Under 10s. That season the Under 10s won 20 out of their 24 games, scoring 113 goals in total. In the club's yearbook Liam was described as 'promising'. We can also see that in season 1993 - 1994 Liam went on to win the team's Sportsman of the Year Award."

Maybe you played with Liam in that team? Maybe you are one of the two other lads in the frame or even one of the two adults patrolling the touchline.

If you are, please get in touch and let us have your memories of Shire Colts u9's, 1993. Contact: sports@shire.org.uk

We wish Liam the very best in his new role; may it bring him much success and fulfilment.

Paul McMillan,
Photo supplied by Dave Rowley, President, Avonmouth F.C.



1993: Liam Rosenior 3rd from left, represents Shire Colts u9's in a match played beside the Avon on Lamplighters Field.

News from ShireStrong

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and I wish you a very Happy New Year.

It's been sometime since I last updated on everything ShireStrong so I thought it best to start with an introduction to our community.

I've always believed that fitness should be accessible, enjoyable, and something that brings people together—and that's exactly what we're building at ShireStrong Kettlebell Club here in Shirehampton.

The ShireStrong Kettlebell Club, a dedicated community of fitness enthusiasts, gathers three times weekly to build strength and endurance through kettlebell training. We also host popular outdoor Bootcamp sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:15 a.m. at Lamplighters Marsh playing field, which welcome participants of all ages and abilities. Bootcamp attendees engage in a series of timed bodyweight exercises, sometimes incorporating

small handheld weights, for a high-energy 45-minute workout to kickstart their day.

Our members range from complete beginners to experienced lifters, and my goal is always the same: to help each person feel strong, capable, and proud of what their body can do. We've had some lovely new faces join us recently, and it's been brilliant to see their confidence and strength grow with every session.

ShireStrong continues to grow not just as a fitness club, but as a community. Whether you're lifting for the first time or pushing for a personal best, there's a place for you here. And if you're curious—come and see what we're about. You might just surprise yourself. To get in touch with Linda please refer to her advert on page 5.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and strong 2026

Linda - Coach and Founder, ShireStrong Kettlebell Club



© ShireStrong

Who Cares?

It's not a case often made, that it's ok not to care if anyone else cares - but that's how arts and sciences often work. Science marches on when most of us have not the foggiest idea what it's on about. Great music can be written when most of us are utterly ignorant of it.

It's the same with games; I don't need to understand your sport or why you enjoy it; you need to enjoy it and understanding it yourself helps.

The need to be casually entertaining to a passing audience has been the bane of my sport. In part down to trying to stay an Olympic sport but mainly, it's the mirage of a mass audience and the cash that comes with it; cash that the sport doesn't need.

On the other hand, unintelligibility can be a mask for exclusivity to pass for excellence; "it must be clever because, so few understand it".

A thing should be intelligible to those that take the trouble. It should not be a series of shibboleths that mark the insider from the out.

Wherever there is scarcity, there can be conflict and there is only so much room in the pantheon of sports. We like to think the sport in which we have invested will be there for us, whenever and wherever we chance; that requires scale and agreement on rules - and that requires discussion, debate and compromise.



© John Rohde

At some point some decide that rugby is football to their mind and others go with soccer.

In fencing, we have three weapons - foil, sabre and epee - that meet different temperamental needs. In small countries, they focus on one or the other.

There's always a compromise and a compromise that's passed into habit, becomes simply reality. The knack is to know what the essentials are, preach them, preserve them and keep the path to them open.

John Rohde

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Shirehampton F.C. v Keynsham Town

Saturday December 20th 2025

Having beaten today's opponents 1-0 on their own turf way back on August 2nd, Shire must have been hopeful of a home win. Mixed results had followed that good start and a run of four losses in late September, early October saw Shire slip down in the standings. An away draw to Hengrove gave some relief but the next four games saw 3 heavy defeats, punctuated only by a 5-2 home victory over Cheddar on November 15th.

Shire started strongly, a **Keynsham** defender clearing off the line in the 5th minute. Only 1 minute later the Keynsham keeper made a smart save low to his right. On 22 minutes, as Shire pressed for the opening goal, he plucked a goal bound effort from under his crossbar. It seemed that the "footballing Gods" were not on Shire's side today though, as **Keynsham's Dennis Asante** tucked away the opener in the 27th minute.

Still Shire pressed and the reward came 10 minutes later, **Ryan Radford** stroking in the equaliser. With tails now wagging, Shire pressed strongly for the lead. In the 43rd minute, Keynsham's airborne keeper could only watch as an effort flew agonisingly wide.



Ryan Radford equalises for Shire.

As the half ebbed away, it seemed that we would go into the break level, but Keynsham's **Masood Garder** saw it differently, putting his team ahead in the first minute of added time.



43 minutes; Keynsham's keeper is beaten but Shire's effort flies just wide.



In added time at the end of the first half, Masood Garder puts Keynsham in front.

Sat 20th December 2025



1 - 2



Shirehampton FC Keynsham Town



Shire press, but can't find the equaliser.

Shire pressed hard for a second half equaliser and came close on several occasions but could not break down Keynsham's stubborn resistance.

Subsequent results have seen Shire record a **4-1 Boxing Day home win** against **Mendip Broadwalk** and a **2-2 draw** at **Penpole Lane v Cadbury Heath**. A disappointing result today, but I saw enough effort and commitment from the Shire lads to make me believe that our team will be able to improve on its present 15th placing of 20 in the **Jewson Western League First Division**.

Final Score: Shirehampton 1, Keynsham 2.

Paul McMillan & Photos © Paul McMillan

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The Leading Ladies of Cosy Crime

It was a cold, grey Thursday afternoon in December, a perfect time to attend, 'The leading Ladies of Cosy Crime' held at Shirehampton Library. This popular event was arranged by *Friends of Shirehampton Library* and I for one, hope more of these events will happen during 2026.

Frances Evesham, Debbie Young, Jean Burnett and Jayne Chard are crime writers and are all successful authors. During the afternoon Jayne interviewed the ladies about their books, their careers and why they became writers of crime and thrillers. At the end you had the chance to buy the various books written by the visiting authors.

I spoke with Jayne, who is a Television Producer and Author of 'More Than Murder': "I was inspired to write my first novel by my mother. We went on this murder weekend together, and it was so awful, but it was funny, and she kept saying to me, you should write the story, but I never got round to it." said Jayne.

"A couple of years ago I decided I just had to do it now. So, I wrote my first book, 'More Than Murder' and dedicated it to my mum, who's no longer with us, sadly. My second book is due out in May called 'The Body That Floats'. I just love to share my books with people, really. That's the main thing; I just want people to read my books and enjoy them and have



a bit of fun. I don't expect to suddenly become a best-selling author, and I don't make any money from them, which is why I remain a TV Producer in drama, but in between that I also write." she said

Jayne has worked on 'Casualty' and most recently 'Silent Witness' for the BBC. She's directed for 'Hollyoaks', worked with various companies and made three feature films, so her main job keeps her busy!

The books available on the day soon sold out with many choosing to have their books signed by the authors. Keep an eye out for the authors future publications that are available for sale online in paperback, on kindle and some in audio format from Amazon.

You can go to Friends of Shirehampton Library Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ShireLibrary to find out about more events taking place at Shirehampton Library in the future.

Kathryn Courtney & Photos © Kathryn Courtney



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