

Shire

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

No. 632 - September 2024 www.shire.org.uk 5,000 copies monthly

Have you got a job that needs doing? Go to YOUR LOCAL TRADESPEOPLE section on pages 18-19 to find a local business who can help.

Join the High Street Market
5th Anniversary
Celebration on
Thursday 5th
September at the
Tithe Barn.

The Shire's Longstanding Chairperson Says 'Farewell'!

When I joined the *Shire* in 2008 *Jean Archer* was our Chairperson and we editors were still cutting and pasting the paper together on kitchen tables or in spare bedrooms each month. Mrs Archer stood down in 2010 and *James Harris* stepped in as chairman. James organized our *40th anniversary celebrations in 2012*. Importantly he made us realize that we must abandon our familiar but out-dated cut-and-paste methods and go digital. I became Chairperson in 2014 and the minutes for the 2015 AGM say *"our main challenge continues to be the transition to electronic production."*

Looking back at *Shire* I've been astonished to see just how much has changed for all of us over the last 10 years. We have all had to accommodate a tremendous technological revolution in the way we process data and communicate and the Covid pandemic changed everything we did in every way. We held our monthly meetings on Zoom and even

Continues on page 4.

Robin Matthews and Sarah Biggs had just joined us in 2015. Robin researched desktop publishing packages and together they ran tutorial workshops for editors willing to move to desktop publishing. The younger more digitally savvy editors supported the older pen and paper people and we struggled towards a 20th century operation. We were rescued by **Mary Cook**, lifelong Shirehampton resident, who volunteered her considerable web design skills to preparing the paper for publication every month. It was Mary who brought colour to the paper and introduced the roundel on page 1. Losing Mary in 2019 was a huge blow to the *Shire* but, generous as always, when she knew she would be unable to continue her work with us she found a replacement – **Iain Chaffey** – who has been our patient, calm, creative page designer for the last five years.



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Shire

We hold regular monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month at 5.30pm 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

Requests for SHIRE by Post 0117 904 3037

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Mrs. S. Matthews, Chairperson

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

Mrs. J. Helme, Secretary

Mr. Ed Amphlett, Treasurer

Mr. Paul McMillan, Advertising Manager

Mrs. Marilyn Gorry, Archivist

Mrs. Bobbie Perkins, Distribution

Mrs. L. Bradley, Website Manager

Editors: Mrs. Jill Williamson, Mrs. Sarah Matthews,

Mrs. Lucy Bradley, Ms. Vanessa Evans,

Mrs. Renée Slater,

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

We welcome contributions for publication in 'SHIRE' but reserve the right to edit any copy received. Articles should not exceed 500 words. Any material published is at the editor's discretion and may also be included on our website www.shire.org.uk unless the copy is clearly marked 'not to be included on the world wide web'.

Contributions submitted to: editor@shire.org.uk

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



SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL

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The Hall Manager 0117 982 9963

www.shirepubhall.org.uk

REGULAR EVENTS IN SHIREHAMPTON

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

MONDAY	Twyford Art Club	10am-12noon	Main Hall
TUESDAY	Music with Mummy 9 to 5 Ladies Choir Line Dancing Community Living Room Bereavement Support (1st Tues) Puppy Training	10am-12noon 11am-1pm 2-3pm 3-5pm 5.50-7pm 6.30-8.30pm	Main Hall Library 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 Tai Chi Family History Group (2nd Thurs) Model Railway Club	10am-12noon 2-3pm 6-8pm 7-10pm	Main Hall Main Hall Library Main Hall
FRIDAY	Youth Group (2nd and last Fri) Shire Stitchers (1st Friday)	7-10pm 10am-12noon	Main Hall/Penpole Bradley Room
SUNDAY	Church of Grace	11am-4pm	Main Hall & Springfield

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

SHIREHAMPTON COMMUNITY ACTION FORUM (SCAF) SHIRE COMMUNITY LITTER PICKS 2024

Meet at 10.30am at Shire Public Hall, Station Road, BS11 9TU

Pick up equipment & we'll go to different areas of Shire and tidy up for 1-1.5 hours

Thursday 26 September

Thursday 17 October

Thursday 21 November

Thursday 19 December

Please come along and help us clean up Shire! All litter picking kit will be provided

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

Events in our library



Every Tuesday afternoon 3pm – 5pm

Shire's Living Room –

free tea/coffee/biscuits/games and a friendly chat.

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

Record Appreciation Club –

(next one on 2nd October)

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

2nd Thursday of the month 6pm – 8pm

Family History Group –

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

Every Sunday evening 6:30pm – 7:30pm

**Heartfulness Relaxation and
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Email southwest@heartfulness.uk before your first session. All welcome 18+

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



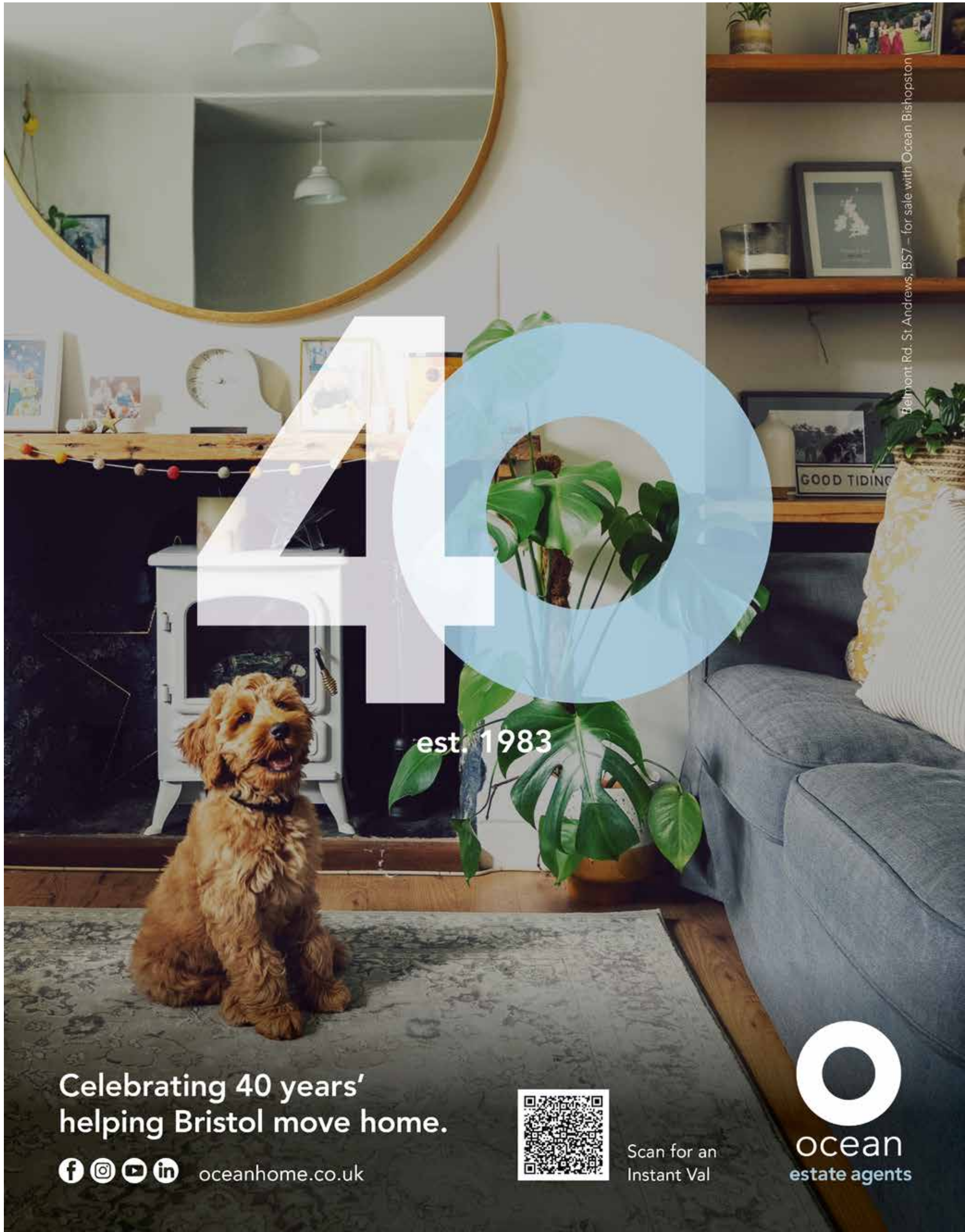
Cotswold Community Association
Dursley Road, Shirehampton,
Bristol, BS11 9XH
Registered charity no. 1101427
Website: cotswoldcommunity.org
Email: cotswoldca@gmail.com
Phone: 07943-401575

Regular Events at the Cotswold Community Centre

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

Come along and join in the fun

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







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The *Shire* Community Pages

Continued from page 1.



Renée and Fiona at the 40th Anniversary in 2012.

though Shire couldn't be delivered during lockdown we produced a full issue every month posting it in PDF on our website. Most of our advertisers stayed with us and our loyal distributors were ready to resume their rounds as soon as we were allowed to move about freely. We were still here in **2022 to celebrate our 50th Anniversary.**

All of us at Shire will have stories of special events: The year it was so wet we held *Carols on the Green in St Mary's* – an exuberant joyous occasion never to be repeated because we packed the church so full we broke all the health and safety rules. The year we held the *Shire photo exhibition* when we released our archive of photos to you, our readers, and many of you found photos of your younger selves or old friends passed away. But what I will remember best from my time at Shire are the *friendships I've made* and the quiet, dependable, good-humoured way everyone at Shire goes about playing their part in creating and distributing a paper we are all proud of.

Renée Slater

Farewell, Aged Editor

By a curious quirk of fate, I arrived in Shirehampton from Africa in 2002 and, within a short time I was asked by a dog walking companion (a member of the Shire newspaper) if I'd be interested in joining the team as an *Editor*. Because I was involved in writing in my job in *Zimbabwe*, I said 'Yes' and have never regretted it.

However, in recent years trying to grasp more and more computer technology, I realise that I must move aside for more computer-friendly volunteers to keep our excellent newspaper alive and remain the success that it undoubtedly is!

I will miss covering stories, attending events and clubs in the village but, most of all, the *friendship of the Shire team*. However, I still hope to remain a part of life in Shirehampton which doesn't require ever-continuing advances in computer technology!!

FG



Thankyou

There were lots of changes at our recent *AGM held in August*. Changes in committee members and people taking on new responsibilities and roles. Feels a bit like a changing of the guard for this well established and valued part of our community.

Renée has been a brilliant chairperson, leading us through difficult times over recent years, but always providing a supportive and collaborative atmosphere for the newspaper to run in. No question was ever too big or too small for Renée to handle, and she will continue to be a **guiding light and honorary Shire member**.

Fiona too has been with the Shire for many years and has been a **passionate contributor and editor**, writing her own articles and sharing stories as well as pulling community news together.

They will both be missed from the committee, and we thank them immensely for all they have done to make Shire as successful as it is today.

Very best wishes to you both from the Shire Committee

SHIRE NEEDS YOU!

Are you searching for something to fill those empty hours? Looking for a rewarding local community group to join? Enjoy finding out the news before it happens?

Why not join the Shire newspaper committee? We're a relaxed, supportive and friendly team working to bring an interesting and useful community newspaper to Shire.

We have lots of tasks and activities you can get involved in – editing, distribution, reporting, advertising – the list is endless.

We're always open to new ideas on what we should be including and reporting on too – so if you have things you want to share please get in touch.

If this sounds like your thing, and you'd like to get involved please reach out to the editor mailbox (editor@shire.org.uk) or pop along to one of our monthly meetings on the 1st Monday of each month at 5.30pm in Shirehampton library.

Come on, join us, you know you want to!

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 £7.50



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.

PORTWAY GIRLS SCHOOL PHOTO

Dear Editor,

Irene Jansen passed to us an old school photograph in her possession taken during the last term at Portway Girls School in 1962. The class teacher was Miss Mead.

Maybe you may recognise yourself or someone in the photograph! We'd love to hear from you if you have any memories to share.



Shire NOTICE BOARD

SHIREHAMPTON PUBLIC HALL AGM

Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 7pm in the Main Hall. All welcome.

AVON UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (AUSCA) AGM

AUSCA, which runs the Shire Advice Service, is holding an AGM at the Tithe Barn, Shirehampton on Wednesday 25th September, 7-8pm.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us and find out more about this long standing local charity.

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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

Email: t.linda1206@gmail.com

www.shirestrong.co.uk



SHIRE ADVICE SERVICE

Free Advice Sessions

Shirehampton Health Centre, Pembroke Road,

Shirehampton

Tuesdays from 10am

To make an appointment call 0117 9515751

FINDING JACK

There has been much press publicity in the desperate search for the young Bristol student, Jack O'Sullivan, who disappeared in March, having been at a house party in Hotwells, and the Shire have been contacted by a friend of the family to see if anyone can shed any knowledge or light as his parents are living a daily nightmare.

Last seen on **Bennett Way**, walking towards the **Plimsoll Bridge** in the **Cumberland Basin** area at approx **3:40am on Saturday 2nd March**. If you were driving in that area at the time check please your dash cam footage.

Jack is 23 years old, 5ft 10ins tall, of slim build, has short brown hair and was last seen wearing a quilted green/brown Barbour jacket over a beige woollen jumper, navy chinos and brown leather trainers with white soles.

If anyone has any information please contact the police on 101 or call 999 quoting reference 5224055172.



North Bristol Dads' Group

Feeling overwhelmed, stressed, or just in need of some good company?

Juggling family, work, and personal time can be tough. The North Bristol Dads' Group offers a relaxed environment for dads to vent, share, and support each other. Improve your mental well-being and connect with fellow dads who know exactly what you're going through.

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'Pillar of the Community' - Mike Edwards 13th December 1943 to 11th July 2024

Thursday 11th July was a sad day for Shirehampton when Mike Edwards passed away very suddenly, aged 80, at home with his wife Jean by his side. Mike had been struggling with health problems for a few years but recently seemed to be improving, so it was a shock to all who knew him when he passed away so suddenly.

Jean and Mike were married in St. Mary's in 1969. As Jean was a local girl and loved 'Shire', Mike

willingly moved to 'Shire' where he became a 'Pillar of the Community'. After their 3 children were born, Sean, Mark and Amanda, Mike became a Governor at Shirehampton Primary School, subsequently at Portway Secondary School and continued to be one after the children had left the school.

Mike had excelled in sport and maths at school, so when Mark took a keen interest in football he took on a management role and treasurer for 'Shire' Colts. He gave up much of his time running around 'Shire' and Lawrence Weston picking up the kids so they would get a game of footie every Saturday. Often half the team was in his car but thankfully he was never caught! He loved running the team with one of his best mates, Dave Dark and continued as treasurer for 25 years.

He also spent many years as treasurer of the 191st Scouts Group in their 'Golden Years' when the 'Shire' Carnival was a huge fixture in the calendar. Their house was filled with teddies, tombolas and prizes of all sorts and the whole family felt happy to be part of the 'Shire' Community.



Mike last Christmas.

There must be many people still living around 'Shire' that remember Mike from his involvement with 'Shire' Colts and the Scouts and may have lost touch, but would still like to send Jean their sincere condolences.

For his 'real work' he had joined TSB at the age of 16 and worked his way up to Assistant Manager at the Westbury-on-Trym branch where he was well liked and respected by colleagues and customers alike and kept in touch with some of them until the day he died. His last 18 years were working in the Bristol City Social Housing Dept where he enjoyed helping people with their problems.

Mike was immensely proud of his children and his six grandchildren and was very much loved in return.

He celebrated his 80th birthday last December with his close family and his favourite meal of fish and chips. In January he was taken to see Bristol City play and had his photo taken with the 'City' Mascot.

Mikes funeral was almost at full capacity in St Mary's Church on Monday 29th July followed by a private family service at Canford Crematorium. All were invited afterwards to the PBA and donations are to go to the Salvation Army and Diabetes UK.

Rest in peace Mike.

Bill Constable

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Bristol Babbers Raise Over £11,000 for The Children's Hospice South West!

In July 2024, The Bristol Babbers, five local ladies, rode an amazing 214 miles from Bristol to Cornwall raising much needed funds for the *Children's Hospice South West*. *Stacey Tudor, Amanda Belgium, Bianca Taylor, Zoe Edwards* and *Michelle Armstrong* started their fundraising early last year through static rides at supermarkets, raffles and the infamous 'Ladies Night' at *Avonmouth Rugby Club*.

The five girls, along with 97 other riders, joined the **Ride for Precious Lives** and cycled from 'Charlton Farm' to 'Little Bridge House' and finished at 'Little Harbour'.

These hospices are providing vital care for children and young people with life-limiting conditions. Each one of these wonderful hospices provide respite, short breaks, emergency care, palliative care and end of life care.

In July 2025 we'll be cycling back the other way, over 200 miles from Cornwall to Somerset in aid of **CHSW** to help raise vital funds to support and care for children and young people living with life-limiting conditions, and their families.

If you would like to support us this year, we are holding a Christmas party at the PBA on Friday 29th November 2024 at 7pm. Please email stacey.tudor@hotmail.co.uk to enquire about tickets.

Stacey Tudor



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

The Risks of DIY Probate

AMD's Sarah Trigg, Solicitor and Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP), outlines some of the risks involved with DIY probate.

It is becoming increasingly common for individuals to deal with the administration of a loved one's estate on their own without instructing a solicitor to assist them. This is perfectly fine in principle, but in practice, there are many important factors to consider and a number of risks to be wary of.

Valuation:

To apply for the Grant and complete the inheritance tax return (if required), the assets and liabilities of the estate at the date of death will need to be valued. It is important that full enquiries are made to accurately value the estate from the outset. The person administering the estate (the personal representative) should consider instructing a company to carry out a full asset search to ensure that there has been a thorough investigation into the estate. Failing to identify all assets at an early stage may result in considerable delay further on and could result in fines from HMRC for understated inheritance tax.

Beneficiaries:

The personal representatives have a duty to ensure that the correct beneficiaries are identified. Wills are normally drafted to ensure most people can understand but there are often complexities, particularly if the

Will contains a trust. There are sometimes difficulties with home-made Wills which are badly written or do not dispose of the entire estate. Professional advice is recommended in these situations.

If there is no Will, the beneficiaries will need to be identified according to the rules of intestacy. A common misconception is that a surviving spouse will inherit the entire estate. In fact, if there is a surviving spouse and children, the spouse is entitled to the 'personal chattels' and a statutory legacy (currently £322,000). The remainder of the estate will be split so half passes to the spouse and half to the children in equal shares.

Distributing the Estate:

The increase in blended families results in a greater risk of a claim against the estate from an unknown beneficiary. An individual has six months from the date of the Grant to bring a claim. The personal representative should consider placing a notice in the Gazette and a local newspaper to allow any person with a claim against the estate or an interest in it to come forward within a two month timeframe. Distributions to beneficiaries should not be made until these notices have expired. This will protect



Sarah Trigg.

the personal representative from being personally responsible for money owed to any unidentified creditors.

A full set of estate accounts should be prepared to ensure that all liabilities are settled and avoid an overpayment to a beneficiary. The personal representative may have to pay any remaining debts and tax bills personally if they distribute the estate and do not keep enough money in the estate to pay them.

Our Probate team understand that dealing with the affairs of a loved one after death can be complicated and stressful. If you would like to get in touch to see how we can assist you, please call us on 0117 9621205, email info@amdsolicitors.com or drop in to one of our four Bristol offices.



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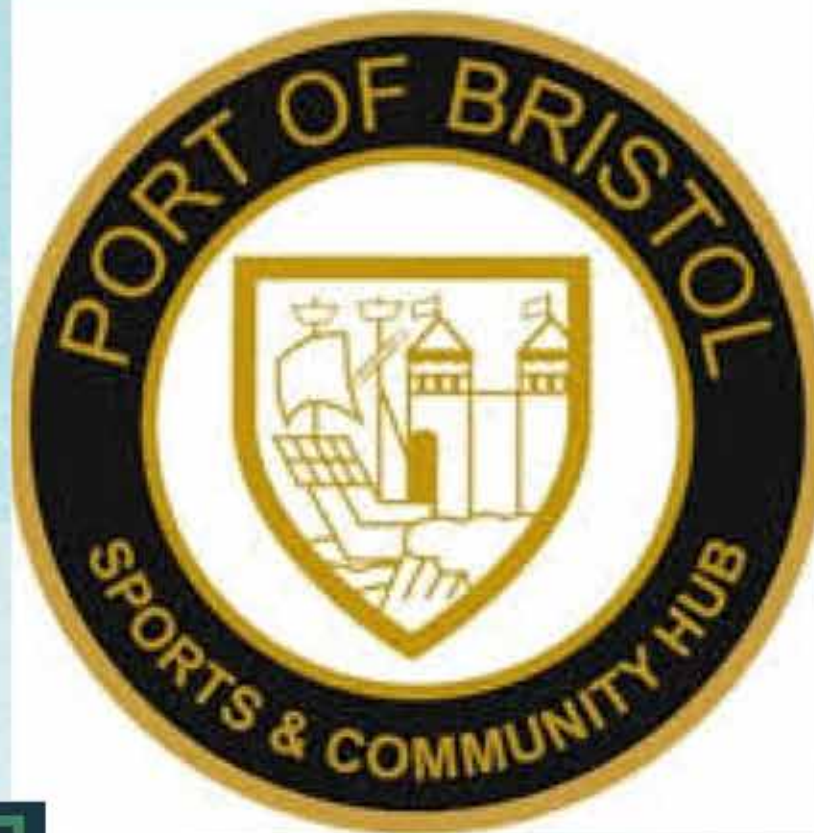
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Every Wednesday we
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 great cash prizes to
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sundays kitchen open from
 1-5pm

tasty food at a
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Churches in the Shirehampton Area

Shirehampton Hub at the Methodist Church

We continue to have some great food fetched by Darren and Kirsty for the Community Fridge. M&S, Tesco and Redland Bakery are frequent donors, with KFC, Nandos and Aldi on occasions. Food will be advertised online – Facebook or the WhatsApp notifications Shire Hub Food Group. You need to come to the Hub for this food, but there are no restrictions or referrals. Mondays to Thursdays usually 9.30-4pm. Excess food stocks (in date) and pet food are always appreciated as gifts to the fridge too.

New Activities:

Chatty Café - 1-3pm on Tuesdays - for cake, tea and a chat. Starting soon.

Business Café - Support for start-ups, sole traders and hot-desking - drop in on a Wednesday 10am to 1pm or call/pop in for an appointment anytime. Free Wifi and use of a computer if needed.

Talk Club for Men - Tuesday evenings - see our Facebook page for timings.

Continuing Activities:

HUB'S CUPS - A drop-in on Mondays 11-12.30pm - and **Job Club** on Tuesdays 10-12pm. A Jobs Fair will be coming soon.

ESOL (English Language Conversation Group) - Thursdays 12-1pm provided by **Community Learning**.

Cost-of-Living Advice or Benefit Checks – Monday or Wednesday mornings.

Games Sessions, Films and Modelling Events – watch our Facebook page for news.



Twitter and Facebook - @shirejtehub or Instagram - Shire JTE

Email: projectcoordinator@jtehubshire.org to register interest in any activity, for a one-one appointment, or Tel. 07305 066478 or check the Website - <https://jtehubshire.org/>

We are at Penpole Ave BS11 0DY – the white double doors.

Revd Pearl Luxon

Shire Baptist Church News

We trust that many of you will have read the 'Good News' paper which was delivered to nearly every house in the village during the month of August. We hope you will be encouraged by the paper's message of hope in an uncertain world. We welcome feedback (see contacts below).

Our **Rock Steady Club** for children of primary school age will **restart on September 5th**. The club meets at our church building, Station Road, at 3:30pm to 4:30pm and the children enjoy games, craft, music and drama. Parents are welcome to stay. More information from our contacts.

Our minister, **Paul Rhodes**, will be continuing the **Lunchtime Drama Club** in **Shirehampton Primary School** in the Autumn term. The children enjoy learning and performing and some have gained confidence through this activity.

The next **Songs of Praise Cafe** meets on **September 8th** at the Cotswold Community Hall, Dursley Road, 4:45 - 6pm. Christians from various

churches in the village meet but whether you are a churchgoer or not, all are welcome.

The **September Life Cafe** opens on **September 25th** - 10:30 - 11:30am. Come and enjoy delicious cakes and bring a friend.

It's **Harvest Festival** time again and we shall be celebrating another year's successful harvest but not forgetting the difficulties farmers have experienced during a year of extreme weather conditions in Britain and even more in other countries. We welcome all to join us on **September 15th** at 10:30am in our building.

This is the time of year when the children of the village will be starting their new schools or colleges and some beginning school for the first time which

can be an emotional time for parents. We trust that all these transitions will be happy and pray for the teachers in their sometimes stressful job.

We invite all to our Sunday services 10:30am at our building and Bible Study on Zoom 4:30pm.

Contacts: 07743 683684
rhodespaul360@gmail.com

Love and prayers from us all at Shire Baptist.

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

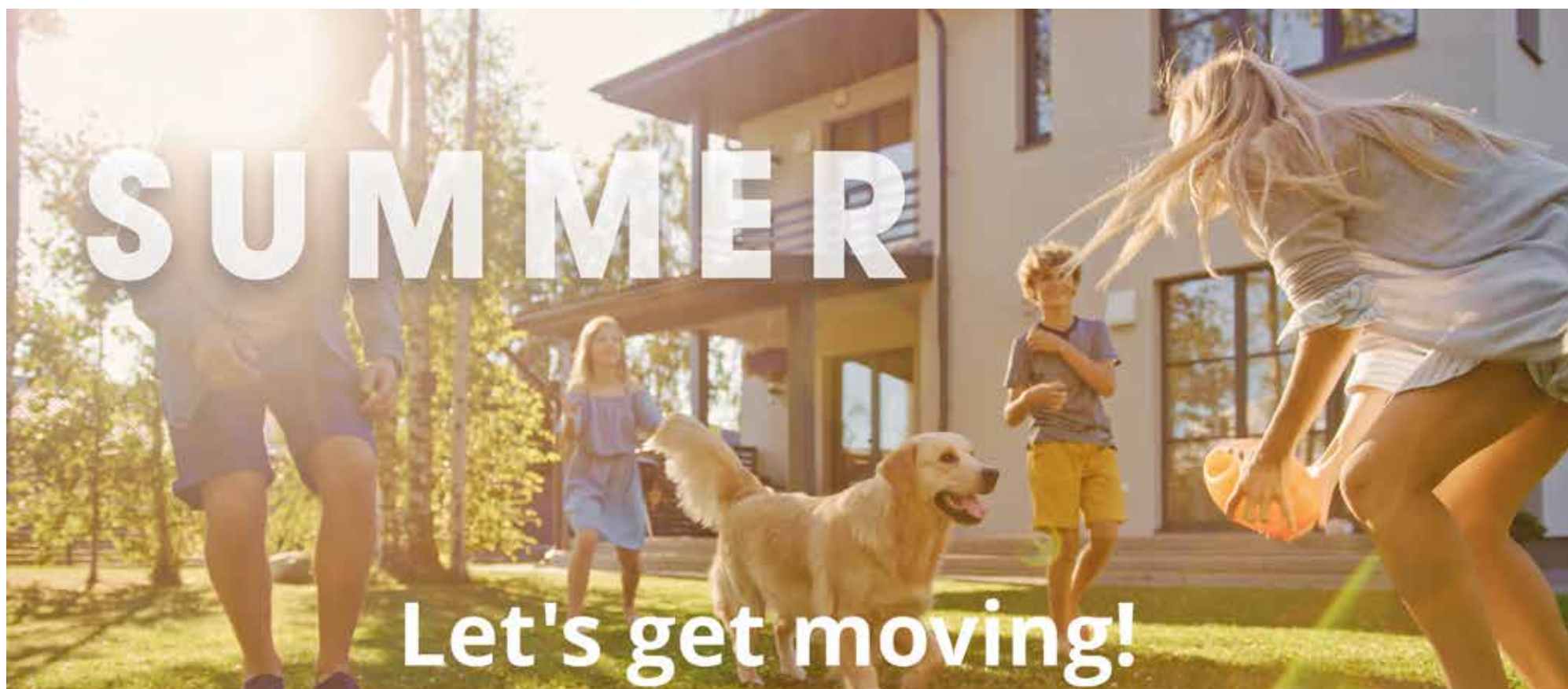
Don't miss this opportunity to drop in between **11am and 1pm** at the **Shirehampton Public Hall, Station Road**, to be prayed for in the name of Jesus. AS IT WAS IN THE GOSPELS! We have many stories of healing on a daily basis.

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



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The Arts in Shirehampton

'Shire Inspire' – JULIET LE FEUVRE

Juliet Le Feuvre - Designer, Artist, Travel Photographer - has been involved in Art & Design most of her life, mainly working as a fashion Designer, but has always had a passion for travel.

She learnt the basics of Art Photography at **Filton Technical College** in the late 1970s, where she also learnt to print her own black & white images. Then when she started to travel she used her camera as a pictorial diary to record her experiences.

Remember this was a time way before digital cameras or phones, with the restriction of the number of reels of film carried with her and just 36 images per film. Difficult when you know you will be away for a month and carrying everything on your back!

The selection of photographs shown at the **Post Office** window are from her travels through the provinces of **Yunnan, Sichuan, and Guangxi, in the South West regions of China** - solo travelling in 1987 at a time when the borders into China had not long been open to Western tourists, and very few people could speak English. Despite the language barrier and many other obstacles along the way it fuelled her passion to travel and explore more of our fascinating planet.



© Juliet Le Feuvre

Contact on Instagram: [juliet_lefeuvre](https://www.instagram.com/juliet_lefeuvre)



© Juliet Le Feuvre

Juliet has travelled to many other places, living & working in **Zimbabwe, Mauritius**, and finally **Hong Kong & China** before returning to **Bristol**.

Now living in Shirehampton she is involved in several local art groups, including **Tandem Arts, Shire Inspire**, artist displays for **Shirehampton Windows Wanderland**, and always looking out for other art related opportunities.

Our next local artist showing her work during September and October is Betty Marten. Betty works in oils, pastels, pen and ink as well as watercolour; she gets inspiration from nature's forms, colours and shapes.

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The Strange

An original story by Gil Osman

Chapter 18

While the Chieftain's new house was being built he would look for ways to improve the village. He was impressed by the way some villagers had offered their free labour to construct his new dwelling place under the supervision of the four best village builders, who had first suggested the idea to the Chief and who had collaborated on its design. Therefore, after inspecting the progress of the great house, he would walk around the village (sometimes accompanied by his father) looking for ways to improve it and involve the villagers in that process, thereby encouraging a sense of community.

On the very first walk came the very first idea. Some children were playing in one of the Little Waters (dialect for streams), which ran through the settlement from the forest down to the Big Water (River Avon). They had built a dam or weir and created a pond, which gave them more room in which to play. They were shrieking with delight as they threw mud at each other and the Chief couldn't help but smile with them. Suddenly he had an idea!

The three streams were the source of water for the villagers - for drinking, cooking, washing, etc. This excluded the middle stream, which children from a young age were warned to keep well away from, for it passed through the garden of The Strange before entering the village, and they were associated with the evil spirits in the forest, so its water must therefore be poisoned!

It was sometimes difficult to get water out of the other two streams, especially in the summer, when

the water-flow became a trickle. The Chieftain imagined a series of dams which would create ponds from which the villagers could draw water even in the hottest weather. The last of these ponds, before the stream left the village on its way to the Avon, would be in the form of a large pool in which children could play as much as they liked, without disturbing the drinking water; playing in the upper ponds was then forbidden (incurring a fine) so that water was always clear.

After this idea was discussed with, and approved by, the village elders, it was then revealed to the villagers. When it was known that the Chieftain wanted volunteers to form small working parties to create the ponds (or reservoirs), villagers rushed to be part of this big enterprise, which would benefit the whole village. Two much bigger groups were formed to dig the large play-pools at the bottom of the streams, before they carried on to the river.

(Previously: the death of the herbalist parents of The Strange. 13-year-old Little Man assuming the Mother and Father roles, without which The Strange twins would have perished. Little Man (of stunted growth) bringing the children up to call him Friend to disguise his identity from the villagers. The new generation: Boy and Girl, the twins of The Strange themselves.)

Because there was such a large workforce, the scheme was finished within a week. Those who had taken part were rightly proud of their achievement. The Chief, who was the strongest man in the village did twice the work of other people and others vied to work next to him; his status rose even more among them. It was an excellent exercise in creating community cohesion - villagers who had never spoken to each other before, conversed with each other easily and made new friends.

It was a great success and the Chieftain was extremely pleased. It encouraged the villagers to want more community activities in which they could participate.

As time went by the two large pools was made larger and larger, because more villagers wanted to use them. One became The Quiet Pool for mothers and small children, where play was gentle. The other was called The Splash Pool where older children could splash as much as they wished and have mud-fights.

Even The Strange, who normally showed little interest in village activities and preserved their isolation, could hardly avoid noticing (through their spy-holes) all the groups working on the new dams. Not only this, but many more villagers were to be seen standing around in little groups just chatting together, whereas, previously, being suspicious by nature, they would have kept inside their houses.

(to be continued)

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SHIREHAMPTON JOINS BRISTOL COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

Back in March SCAF (Shirehampton Community Action Forum) applied for a place on the Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership's Community Climate Action Learning and Mentoring programme. The programme links community groups across the city together to support one another in creating local community climate plans.

Winning a place on the programme allowed **Bearman**, to attend a series of workshops with SCAF Community Development Worker, Ash other community climate groups to see how they

dealt with the impact of climate change on issues which are important to them like **Housing, Energy, Transport, Food**.

During the autumn SCAF will be working to understand the **Climate and Nature priorities of Shirehampton residents**. There will be a **variety of events** and opportunities - focus groups, surveys, community fayres – for you to explore what you think Shirehampton needs to do to lower its carbon footprint, manage the costs of the transition to net zero, and prepare to cope with the effects of severe weather like flooding and heat waves.

The project wants to hear the views of as many Shirehampton residents as possible so we need your help in gathering your views. Be on the lookout for Climate Action volunteers explaining data gathering plans and asking you to fill in surveys at local gatherings this autumn. There is also a Community Climate Plan page on the SCAF website, shirecaf.org.uk/climate, where you can sign up for updates to the Community Action Plan.

RS



Shirehampton Community Garden Phase II

Shire Greens and Bee Happy Shire are combining to create a Neighbours for Nature Working Party – 1st Saturday of each Month.

Every 1st Saturday for an hour, between 10am – 11am we will be at the Shirehampton Community Garden, Pembroke Avenue.

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US ON SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Bring your Ideas and Enthusiasm and together we will create an Urban Oasis for the Community and Nature.

Thank You!

Working Party dates for 2024

Saturday 7th September

Saturday 5th October

Saturday 2nd November

Saturday 7th December



Today's Little Visitor

The common carder bee is a fluffy, gingery bumble bee that can often be found in gardens and woods, and on farmland and heaths. It is a social bee, nesting in cavities, old birds' nests and mossy lawns.

Bob



The Repair Café Returns

The Saturday morning Repair Café at the Public Hall is restarting again on **September 28th at 10am-12noon** after a short summer break.

Do you need buttons sewn on? A pair of trousers shortened or a skirt hemmed? These are just a few of the things we can help you with. A fresh set of buttons, a bit of embroidery, appliqué or a dip in the dye bath are other ways which can help you reconnect with a loved garments for a while longer.

The two hour sessions are a friendly and meaningful way to be together, get practical support and share our skills and ideas about how to move towards a more creative and sustainable way of life. There are usually two sewing machinists and plenty of willing hands practising hand darning and sewing.

The **Repair Café** as it is called now, has also been called *Climate Café* and *Fashion & Repair Café* in the past – The idea originated in response to the disastrous practices surrounding the fashion and textile/garment industries. It has a shocking

impact on people and the environment. There are many ways in which we can address the malaise by changing some of our usual ways of doing things. At the Repair Café we are inspired to make change sociable, enjoyable and fun.

The Repair Café is still in its early days and whilst we are buzzing with ideas for the future, in order to develop and grow sustainably we need the community's support.

There are innumerable ways to contribute and support this project (apart from turning up on the day) – if you like the sound of it all and would like to be kept in the loop, drop us an email on repaircafeshirehampton@gmail.com or have a chat with Leonie on 07971 335915.

Your Repair Café Team

CLIMATE REPAIR CAFE

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The Little Princess Appeal



We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has contributed towards the *Little Princess Trust*. Isabelle and Violet have raised an incredible £622. This amount will go a long way to making young children going through difficult times. Thank you to *Shirehampton Mens Social Club* and family and friends.

Tessa Good

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Being A Governor At Shirehampton Primary School



In 2020 - as lockdown started, I was newly retired and in a new house. Once the novelty of the lockdown and a new house had paled, I was considering what to do with my early retirement and saw an advert in The Shire about being a governor.

I approached the **Shirehampton Primary School Chair of Governors** via the email in the advert and as it was not a strict lockdown period the Chair and Deputy came to visit and we took things from there.

At first it was strange as a lot of meetings were online and it was many weeks before I stepped into the school. I quickly found a friendly governor group of all different ages, including parents and other members of the community.

There was a fair bit of training; some of it was online and some took place at **City Hall**. There was a lot of jargon to learn, but governors and staff were very helpful and it was no trouble to explain things. It does help if you are not fazed by statistics and reports to read, but again these are explained and the training helps too.

I was quickly slotted into the **Teaching and Learning Committee** where I enjoyed getting to learn more about the current teaching methods, assessments and progress reports on every aspect of school life. Governors are also encouraged to take on a **Link** role, and these vary from **Safeguarding**, to **Health and Safety** and more.

Each half term there are two committees, the other is **Finance and Resources**, plus there is also the **Full Governing body**. These are held after school hours but sometimes during the day and also sometimes online. Training times also vary and for those with flexible working or part-time hours it is very doable. It's best to attend new topics of training each full term (each half term in Bristol) especially at the beginning when everything is so new. Sometimes we are asked to help with recruitment and sometimes specially convened panels, but very infrequently, and this is shared across the whole governing body.

I would thoroughly recommend being a School governor; it's been a really enjoyable learning curve but for now I need to focus on other things. I would certainly like to do this again one day or some other voluntary role in a school. Most schools have governor vacancies coming up, so do consider this at one of your local schools.

If you are interested in being a governor please contact the Clerk to the Governors on email. elizabeth.jahn@bristol-schools.uk.

Pearl Luxon



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The popular workshop is back from this September, running on Fridays from 10:30 to 12:30:

- September 13th and 27th
- October 11th and 25th
- November 8th and 22nd

Reconnect, learn new skills, and make the most of your digital device!

Bristol Tea and Tech workshops are delivered at the Avonmouth Community Centre by Nicola Green: Nicola@northbristoladvice.org.uk and funded by St Monica's Trust.

North Bristol Advice Centre – 0117 951 5751 – www.northbristoladvice.org.uk



City & Port of Bristol Bowling Club

In order to bring members, past, and more recent together for one last time there will be a "Farewell to City and Port of Bristol Bowling Club dinner" at Shirehampton Park Golf Club on Friday October 25th -- 7pm for 7.30pm.

There will be a three course dinner with wine on tables and the first round of drinks paid for by the Bowling Club.

It is hoped that bowlers will bring photographs and other items of memorabilia as part of remembering the club and all that it was and all that it meant to people in its 50 plus years of bowling. Tables will be provided by the Golf Club so that any items brought can be properly displayed and seen.

I would be particularly interested to hear from bowlers in the club's early days --- 1970 when it was founded and up to the 1990s. Please call me on 07932 387217 if you were there in those early day.

Thank you.

David Hinksman



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- Weds 11th Sept 8pm - Open Mic
- Sun 15th Sept 6pm - Singer TBC
- Tues 17th Sept 7.30pm - Quiz Night
- Fri 20th Sept 8pm - Singer TBC
- Tues 24th Sept 7.30pm - Bingo
- Thurs 26th Sept 8pm - Live Karaoke
- Sat 28th Sept 8pm - Singer TBC

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07469 927888 All participants will need to pay for their place before the course commences.

This course is set out to support practitioners to have a better understanding of low self-esteem and the impact on our clients. As well as individual who want to understand more about the subject matter.

Date: Saturday 7th September 2024
Time: 10am-4pm (please arrive at 09:45)
Location: Conference Room, Ruby Jeans Café
3-4 The Parade, Shirehampton, Bristol BS11 9TS
Cost: £80 (Concessions available)-(includes Refreshments & snacks or available to buy /pre-order in the café)
Breaks: 11.30am & 2.50pm (10 mins)
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THE COURSE

- What is self-esteem?
- How does it develop?
- The consequences of low self-esteem
- The Importance of self-esteem
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Sport and Activities IN SHIREHAMPTON

Kings Weston Junior Parkrun

This takes place at Kings Weston *every Sunday* at 10am and we have just celebrated our 9th anniversary. The age range is from *4 to 14 years old*, and we've had lots of children who started at 4 and are now just over the age limit. We have had fantastic numbers since we started, averaging around 100 runners. Of course, many parents and grandparents come along and run with the younger ones, or just stand and cheer on the way round. Many also stay for the fantastic refreshments at King's Weston House's café afterwards.

The run wouldn't take place without volunteers, and a minimum of 25 are needed every week. We do have the support of some older children who are doing the **Duke of Edinburgh Award**, which helps hugely. If your child is going to be starting theirs soon, do email kingswestonjuniors@parkrun.com and hopefully we can sort something out. If you would like to volunteer too, also email in. It's great fun and very rewarding too.

The **Mitchell** children have all attended parkrun from the age of 4, **Dylan**, the eldest at 16 is **Ella** and **Zack** the youngest have both done over 150 runs. **Lucas**, the second eldest, has done his Duke of Edinburgh stint with us too. Parents, **Andy** and **Steff**, are both keen runners so it's certainly run through the family.

Alfie Smith is 7 years old and he's done over 50 junior parkruns now and 19 adult parkruns and is achieving a personal best most weeks too, and his

mum, **Debbie**, and gran, **Pam**, are always there to support him. It's a great start to a Sunday!!

John Hastings (Photos by Bob Pitchford)



The Race Starts.



Alfie Smith with his Gran Pam and Mum Debbie.



The Mitchell children, Dylan, Ella, Zack and Lucas.



Our Amazing Volunteers.



The Finish Line...

Avonmouth Football Club

After 105 years of football, Avonmouth Football Club has just had its most successful period in Bristol football. Two seasons ago the first team went 48 games without defeat, coming top of the Bristol & Suburban League Premier Division, and also winning the Alf Bosley Cup and the Glos Senior Amateur Cup, which included teams from both the north and south of the county. In the 2023-24 season, the club won the Gloucestershire County League at the first attempt by a margin of 13 points and have been promoted to the Jewson Western League, which will see them compete against local sides Shirehampton and Hallen. Star forward Josh Pearce won the County League Top Scorer award with the club also receiving the award for the 'Best on-line Programme'.

Success also continued with the reserves promoted to the Suburban League Division 1, also winning the League's "Norman Goulding Cup". The third team and junior sides also enjoyed great seasons, showing strength at all levels of the club and thus enabling players to easily move upwards when needed. The Junior Under 18 side also won their league and several of the team featured in first and reserve games showing the club has great depth at all levels.

Improvement has not only been achieved on the field but also in the club's infrastructure; the whole club has been upgraded to satisfy Western League standards with new changing rooms, a covered spectator area, ground LED lighting and planning permission for a pitch side stand. The clubhouse has also been upgraded and extended and is available to hire for local events and family parties. Most of the work has been done 'in-house' but the club could not have achieved these developments without the tremendous financial support of many Avonmouth companies plus a number of small local businesses who have helped in many ways. For the coming season major support has been provided by Craig Franklin

and the first team kit has been sponsored by Eco Plumbing & Heating. There are still opportunities for local companies to sponsor an advertising board and to feature in match day programmes.

The new season started for the first team with an 8-2 victory away to Longwell Green on Saturday



Avonmouth F.C. 2023-24 Season.



Avonmouth Striker - Josh Pearce.

27th July, with the first home game against Wells City on Tuesday 30th July. A crowd of 205 turned out to watch Avonmouth run out as impressive 4-1 winners, Kyle O'Donovan winning the Man of the Match award; a great start to the season with away and home wins. On the 3rd August Avonmouth faced Calne Town at home; eight goals were scored but five of those went to Calne, so a first loss of the season. Josh Pearce was named Man of the Match. Great entertainment for the crowd of 215; perhaps you will consider heading down to Avonmouth Road for the next home game?

Here's a link to the club's Facebook page where you can find upcoming fixture and other club news.: <https://www.facebook.com/avonmouthfootballclub> For more information contact Eddie Kendall (General Secretary) Tel: 07507 395038.

Dave Rowley

Events at Avonmouth Sea Cadets

During the summer months a lot of our parade nights are spent boating at Bristol Adventure. Cadets can gain nationally recognised qualifications in Rowing, Paddlesport, Powerboating and Sailing. We also spent the weekend of June 23rd boating, which the cadets thoroughly enjoyed.

At our last recruitment evening on July 1st, four new recruits joined and are enjoying their time with us. Do you have a son or daughter 10-18 who would enjoy the many activities that Sea Cadets can offer? Our next new recruitment evening will be Monday 23rd September at 7.15pm. Contact us at avonmouthseacadets@gmail.com

It was a pleasure to attend Shirehampton Summer Fayre on July 20th where some of our parent volunteers manned a stall. We always enjoy our local events.

Weekend of 3rd and 4th August, our Junior Cadets had a training weekend at the unit. Activities included Leadership Tasks, Cooking,

Mini Olympics and Model Making. The Junior Cadets thoroughly enjoyed their weekend and now would like another one!

Junior Cadets 10-12yrs Monday evening 18.45-21.15

Senior Cadet 12-18yrs Monday and Thursday evenings 18.45-21.15



Are you interested in helping young people? There are a number of volunteering roles within Sea Cadets for adults; becoming a trustee on the management team, a parent helper or uniformed instructor. If you would like to know more then please contact avonmouthseacadets@gmail.com



The Olympic Spirit

The Olympic Games - the spectacle, the excitement - tends to make me ponder what sport is for. Is it mainly about winning? Is it about trying? Is it about having fun? I think it's about all three of those things but it's important to rank them.

If it's a game, it first and foremost must be fun. Not fun in the sense of larking about but in the sense of enjoyment that comes from mastering the skills and overcoming the challenges. It's then that we wake up to the genius that's in us all; we

surprise ourselves by doing things we never imagined or feared we couldn't.

In that sense, I'm ambivalent on the **Olympics**. It's the ultimate prize in the World's estimation and the bravest and best are there to take each other on. But

on the other hand, it's rarely the very, very best of fencing. In this, latest Olympics, nerves got the better of quite a few fencers in the sabre discipline and we saw the triumph of those with robust, simple technique or least troubled temperament. For the spectator looking for the acme of skill, that's disappointing but there is another side.

I can respond to the pressure to succeed or fear of losing with everyone watching, by fencing within my stress; leaving margins of error and keeping everything simple, pre-planned. On the other hand, I could master that fear and simply trust my skill and - as the phrase runs - let fools say what they will.

That's the Zen of sport, if you like. That's the ultimate pay-off; to be able to enjoy the challenge, rather than the winning; to take defeat as a chance to learn and victory as just a pause between challenges; to treasure moments, not medals.

Is that the Olympic spirit? I don't think so. **De Coubertin**, the Games' founder, belonged to an age of international competition seen as a sort of Natural Selection - but that's the other thing I've learned from sport: It doesn't matter what other people think it's about.

Maybe it's about socialising for you or maybe being the best at something or getting out of the house and some exercise. That's all fine. We can come together, under one set of rules, one code of courtesy and take from the sport whatever we like. Whatever game it is, it has to be "your" game. Fencing for me was, and is, physical poetry. For others, it's physical chess. The same match can be just as much of either to each of us. It's not a zero-sum game.

There's sport for each of us. The knack is to find it and when we do, hang on to what it is for us.



Sabre Lineup.

John Robde (article and © photo)

Gold for 191st Scouts

Great Britain won numerous gold medals at the recent Paris Olympics. Here in Shirehampton we have had 5 Scouts who have been awarded their Chief Scout Gold Awards. Working hard to complete various badges and challenges during their time at 191st St Mary's Scout group, for some boys the final skills they needed were completed on our recent camp.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, either at one of our groups or on the Executive committee then you would be most welcome. Please contact us at GSL191stbristolscouts@gmail.com for more information.



At our AGM held on 9th July, **Tim, Assistant District Commissioner for Cubs**, came along to present the awards. Congratulations to all 5 of you and well done for all your hard work over the past few years. Also, a "Thank you" must go to **Hawkeye and Jacala**, our **Scout Leaders** for their efforts getting the boys to their award.

We were pleased to see many parents and carers attend our AGM, this was then followed by a BBQ cooked by our Scouts and leaders.



Shirehampton Sailing Club Goes Sailing Into To Bristol Harbour For A Pizza!

At 9.30am on Saturday 15 June, two Wayfarer sailing dinghies set off up the Avon, accompanied by our safety RIB (rigid inflatable) motor boat. It was a very windy day so we reefed our sails right down to reduce the sail area, and as the wind was blowing from the West, so that we were going downwind, we decided to sail under main alone. It was also too windy to have young people on board, though it was a bit more sheltered once we got past Sea Mills. As it happened, one of our club members happened to be on the Portway and took a beautiful photo.



In the lock.

When we realised we were running late, the safety boat towed us into the lock. We were asked by the harbourmaster to lower our masts so that the Cumberland Road Bridge would not need to be swung for us, as there were no yachts needing to lock in at the same time.

Inside the harbour we went to pay for the harbour fee, and as it was still very windy we decided to sail down to the Arnolfini pontoon under jib sail alone as this can be easily furled to control the speed, and we had oars in case we needed to manoeuvre. Once we tied up to the pontoon we took down all the sails and went to a pizza restaurant nearby. The Arnolfini

pontoon is protected by a locked gate to which we were given the code, so we could leave the boats there overnight.

We came back the next morning, Sunday at 12 noon. The wind had settled down to a steady Force 4 so we hoisted both sails and shook out the reefs. The wind was still from the West so we had to tack back the whole way – first to the Baltic Wharf pontoon where we took down our masts to lock out, and then all the way down the Avon Gorge, past Sea Mills and back to Shirehampton – four hours of continuous tacking. It was a magical day with blue sky and fluffy clouds, and we refined our tacking



Watershed pontoon.



Angus in Windshift with his motor.

technique to go right up to the river bank and tack smoothly round, pulling the jib sheet in at exactly the right moment, and got back in good time to get up the Shirehampton Sailing Club slip.

Shirehampton Sailing Club will continue to sail at weekends until November or even December, as we have dry-suits to keep us warm in cold weather. Everyone is welcome to come along on a Saturday morning to meet the slip crew who keep the slip clear of mud. You can go on our website shiresc.co.uk where we publish our sailing calendar and membership details – just email or phone if you'd like to come along for a free session!

Hope to see some of you soon!

Tina Biggs, Vice-Commodore, Shirehampton Sailing Club

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Twyford House Cricket Club's u9's Season Closing "Double Header"

Twyford House Under 9s finished their season on Sunday 11th with two away games, at Bristol CC in the morning and at Stapleton CC in the afternoon. The Twyford boys won the morning match comfortably and narrowly lost in the afternoon, where a few tired legs were clearly a factor. Here are the captains' reports:

Oliver Langford captained the team for the morning match; this is what he had to say:

"This morning, we played Bristol Cricket Club. We fielded first and won the match by 54 runs. They scored 59 for 5, we scored 113 for 5. Up the House!"

Jack Barton captained the team for the afternoon match against Stapleton Tigers. This is what he said in a post-match interview:

"Hi Jack. So you were playing against Stapleton today and you were captain. How did you find it?"

"I found it good. Stapleton was pretty good and we won the coin toss, luckily, and we chose batting first."

"Ok, nice, and how many runs did Twyford get?"
 "83"

"Ok and how many did Stapleton get?"

"85. Theo was the star player. He got 3 wickets. Up the House!"

We are very fortunate in Shirehampton to have two cricket clubs, Twyford House and Shirehampton, on opposite sides of Penpole Lane, offering sporting and social opportunities for local children and adults. If you would like to know more about Twyford House, you can follow the club

on Facebook, where you will find fixtures, match reports, interviews and details of club events.

"UP THE HOUSE!"

Thanks to the club for allowing us to use their Facebook content for this article.

Paul McMillan



© Twyford House Cricket Club

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