



BERKELEY COUNCIL VOTE SUPPORTS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Berkeley Town Council held an extraordinary meeting on February 9th to consider the revised planning application S14/0619/FUL for the construction of 188 houses on the open land at the rear of Canonbury Street.

Over 50 members of the public turned up for the meeting and all who spoke were against the application. Mr Peter Stockall was also in attendance representing the applicants and views for and against the development were given by Councillors before the vote.

Cllrs Stanton (Chairman of ABRAID) and Ashton both declared an interest and therefore were not allowed to vote, although Cllr Stanton was granted dispensation to address the Council before the vote. The Council voted 4:3 in support of the revised application.

It was then unanimously agreed to submit the following comments to Stroud District Council with the Council's decision:

"Berkeley Town Council supports the revised plans S.14/0619/FUL. The council would like to see a further review of the access point off the B4066 in order to improve safety and recommends a roundabout to facilitate this. It would also be helpful if the planners

could consider the transport management of the wider area including improvements to parking in the Town as well as safer speed limits. The Council would like to see further clarification of the long term management of the site drainage and flood prevention swales. Berkeley Town Council welcomes the improvements to the proposed screening but asks that it includes more mature trees."

The full minutes can be found at the Berkeley Town Council website www.berkeley-tc.gov where there is also a link to the planning application on the Stroud District Council planning website.

These comments together with observations and comments submitted by others will be included in the consultation which will be used by the Stroud District Council Planning Department to make a recommendation to the Development Control Committee (DCC).

The application will then be decided by the DCC in April at the earliest and the Flyer will bring you further information as we get it.



"National Pub of the Year" Award

The Salutation Inn, Ham, Gloucestershire judged best pub in Britain

support and contribute towards the pub. It is these people that have made the pub what it is today and for that we are incredibly grateful." said Pete. He also paid glowing tribute to Don and Sue Dunbabin, the previous owners, for the work they had done in building up the reputation of the pub amongst the faithful real ale community, right across the County and beyond.

Pubs are judged by CAMRA on a variety of criteria such as atmosphere, level of service, value for money and community focus, with extra weighting of course given to the quality of their real ale, cider and perry. The Salutation Inn, known affectionately by locals as 'the Sally', was popular with judges due to its fantastic beer selection and welcoming, homely feel – with one judge saying *"what struck me most was the welcome – as if I was being invited into a private house as a friend"*.

CAMRA Director Abigail Newton says that being named overall Pub of the Year is a massive achievement for any landlord, *"What Peter and Claire have done in the short time they have been running the pub is nothing short of staggering and goes to show that passion, enthusiasm, and a real love of beer are hugely important when running a pub. They have hit the ground running and taken what was already a great pub and made it truly exceptional – beating off over 50,000 other landlords from across the UK."* See more pictures of the presentation on page 3.

To win the National Pub of the Year competition a pub first has to win its local competition, then fight off tough competition at the regional stage, then finally be put forward as one of four finalists before being named overall winner. This process takes a full 12 months and hundreds of hours of judging by dedicated CAMRA volunteers and competition judges.

Having done so much in such a short time, we asked Pete what next? He's passionate about promoting the reputation of Ham and the Berkeley area for its food and produce and sources most of his requirements locally. In early March Clare and Pete will be turning on the taps in their new micro brewery at the pub.

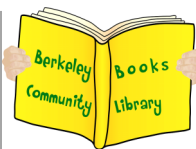
Tell us about your local pub and what makes it special, email us on editor@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk or drop us a note in the Flyer box at Berkeley Pharmacy.

What makes a good pub? That's probably not a question you consciously ask yourself when you walk into the familiar surroundings of your local. Is it the friends that you meet, warm and cheery surroundings or just the beer? This month the Flyer had an opportunity to explore this burning question and who better to ask than the landlord and customers of the winners of a prestigious award for National Pub of the Year.

The Salutation Inn, as most of you will already know, is a rural freehouse in our neighbouring village of Ham. In mid February it walked away with the Campaign for Real Ale's (CAMRA) National Pub of the Year Award - a feat made even more impressive given that this is the first pub the landlord and his wife have ever run.

Former business analyst Peter Tiley had never even pulled a pint when he decided to quit his job in London and follow his love of beer to take over The Salutation Inn in Ham with his wife Clare. Eleven months later the pub had won its local CAMRA Branch competition, then the whole region, finally making it through to the final four and now being named overall National Pub of the Year.

"For the Sally to have won National Pub of the Year is beyond our wildest dreams - we're totally shell-shocked. Pubs are so important to me that to have our own one recognised in this way is just amazing. We count ourselves so unbelievably lucky to have a brilliant team of staff who are so passionate and dedicated as well as a community of locals who have given so much to



BERKELEY BOOKS YOUR COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Talk:

11th March will be an illustrated talk by Astrid Domingo Molyneux who is the author of: *Cycling Full Circle* - a Lone Woman's 2-year Pilgrimage around the World. Tickets, which are limited in number, are available from the Library at a cost of £5.00 each which includes either a glass of wine or a soft drink. Doors will open at 7.15 for a 7.30 start.

Children's Activities:

A free children's activity will take place on Saturday 14th March when the children can make a Mothers Day card and a present for mum. The starting time for this event is 10.00 – 10.30 a.m. but places are limited and have to be booked before the day by calling into or ringing the Library on 01453 819520.

Bus Passes:

We have purchased a webcam for our computer which means if anyone needs help to apply online for a bus pass we are able to assist.

New Stock:

We are continually adding more items to our stock. During 2014 we were able to add 1200 items which includes fiction, non-fiction, audio book, DVD's. Why not call in to browse. If you are not currently a library member we can assist you to join.

Crochet Group:

Our crochet group have been meeting for twelve months in March. To mark their first birthday they will be decorating the ramp railings outside the library with some of their work.

Berkeley Books - Committee



Gloucestershire Constabulary
People First Policing

February has seen a slight increase in crime in the area, however, overall we continue to benefit from a very low crime rate compared to the same period last year.

Starting off at the start of February we had two reports of fraud in the area.

An address in Hillcrest, Berkeley was being used as a fake location for the sale of a car advertised on Gumtree. The car never existed and numerous people parted with £200 as a deposit only to turn up at the address to find that the vehicle and more importantly the residents living at the address in Hillcrest had nothing to do with the advertisement nor did they have any knowledge that their address was being used until people started turning up from as far away as London and Manchester. The offender gave a name of Peter Jones who has pocketed a number of £200 deposits. Our financial investigators are currently working on this case.

A similar fraud incident took place in Newtown where a youth parted with £175 again on Gumtree. The youth thought that he was purchasing a genuine engine for a motor bike only to discover that the person was anything but genuine. We already have a suspect for this offence who is well known for similar offences.

On the 7th February 4 people broke into a flat at the end of New Street in Newtown

making off with various items.

We had a report of a suspicious person looking into a property on Berkeley Vale Park on the 7th February and when challenged they ran off.

On the 8th February an air rifle and strimmer were stolen from an outbuilding at Damery Lane and an adjacent neighbour had a generator stolen.

A flat at the end of New Street in Newtown had a window smashed again on the 8th February. On the 18th February a man was arrested for criminal damage and having an offensive weapon following a disturbance in the New Street area of Newtown.

A resident phoned police on the 23rd February reporting that he had seen two men in their early twenties acting suspiciously looking into gardens and cars in the Oldminster Road area.

Finally our local resident police panel made up of residents in the area meet with us around the middle of March. The panel will pick new priorities for both Mike Trebble and Mel Campbell to work on through the spring and summer period. If you have anything which you would like the panel to discuss on your behalf – please leave a note in the police letter box outside the town hall in Berkeley by the 10th March.



PCSO Mike Trebble & PC Mel Campbell

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BERKELEY FLYER TEAM:

PUBLICATION:

Simon Bingham: 01453 811353
Sarah Hall: 01453 511681
Sue Studden: 01453 511131
James Walls: 01453 810703

WEB PAGE: David Hook: david@davidhook.info

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ALL HEART AT YOUR LOCAL CO-OP

Staff at the Co-op store in Berkeley raised an incredible £801 for the British Heart Foundation by holding a 2 day raffle organised by Janie Palmer for her daughter Alicia who both work there.

Alicia who is only 17 suffered a minor stroke and through lots of tests to determine why this happened, it was discovered that Alicia actually had a hole in her heart! Thankfully this was fixed at Oxford only last month and Alicia is already back at work smiling and looking the picture of health. Her mother Janie started asking local businesses for a prize and the response was incredible, from the Berkeley Arms, Howard Withers Driving Instructor, Ye Green Men, Designer Chocolates, Veils of Berkeley, all the hairdressers and beauty salons and many, many more.

The staff spent two days asking every customer to buy a raffle ticket and raising this incredible sum of £801 just shows the dedication of the Co-op staff. They would like to express their thanks to everyone who supported this raffle, by supplying a prize or by buying a ticket.

Thank you so much.

WHO SAYS NOTHING EVER HAPPENS IN BERKELEY?

Berkeley is beginning to pop up almost (but not quite) as often as Buckingham Palace on the telly. You've no doubt recognised the courtyard at the Castle in scenes from the BBC period drama Wolf Hall which ranked alongside Gloucester Cathedral in adding authenticity to the production. Recently Berkeley Estate also played host to BBC Countryfile, in a feature reviewing the effect of the hunting ban ten years on.

Presenter Matt Baker was particularly interested in the history of the hounds and how the lineage can be traced back for centuries. Many of the scenes shot at the kennels will be familiar, particularly to local families who board out puppies in their early years.



The film crew were delighted to adjourn to the Salutation for lunch and "refreshments" and were suitably impressed by the welcome at the National Pub of the Year, which also popped up on our screens around the days of the CAMRA presentation.



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MARCH IN THE GARDEN

At last Spring time is in full flow with yellow catkins swinging in the wind and primroses are coming into bloom taking advantage of the sunny periods.

There is much more to do in the garden now the weather is improving and growth getting under way. It is a good time to divide and transplant herbaceous plants. Try to get the job done on any fine days early in the month before the plants really begin to shoot. When transplanting old clumps only use the new growth on the outside of the plant and discard the hard central portions. Split up by hand where possible or use a couple of border forks thrust back to back through the middle of the clump and levered apart. Only use a knife on plants that have a very solid crown such as Peonies, Delphiniums and Hostas. Replant using a spade or trowel into wide holes allowing the roots to spread well out. Cover with soil and water in.

Maintain warm greenhouse temperatures to germinate seeds and to encourage

seedling growth. Check for damping off and apply a fungicide to the soil to prevent or control the problem. Sow Aster, Zinnia, Alyssum, Phlox, Tomato, Cucumber and Peppers. Pot up rooted cuttings of Fuchsia, Pelargonium and other tender plants in the greenhouse and start watering them to encourage new growth.

Cuttings of Dahlia and Chrysanthemum can be taken now. Lift and divide snowdrops which have become congested as soon as the flowers have faded but still have green leaves. Scatter Sulphate of Potash fertilizer around your fruit trees and bushes to help with good fruiting.

Roses can be pruned during March, cutting out dead or diseased wood with secateurs or lopping shears and shorten last year's growth back to outward facing buds. The severity of pruning depends on the type of rose. Light pruning helps to maintain a good even shape to the bush and will help to prevent it getting top heavy. A mulch of wood bark or compost around the base of shrubs, trees and roses can be carried out to conserve moisture and suppress weed but do not carry out over frozen ground.

New shoots of Hosta, Delphinium and Lupin may be under attack from snails and slugs when the weather improves so put some slug pellets around the emerging shoots but be careful with domestic pets.

By March the potatoes that have been chitting in egg trays or boxes will be ready to plant out. The first early varieties are the first to plant so it is time to evict them from their comfortable home and plunge them into the darkness of the soil. The patch should have had lots of well rotted manure dug in and a trench about 5" (13cm) deep created, put a scattering of slow release fertilizer in the bottom. Then space out the tubers 10" (25cm) apart in the trench and back fill with soil. Don't forget to mark the rows. It will be late April when the first leaves push up through the soil.

There are so many jobs which need to be done this month it is hard to decide which to do first! If it is cold I will be in the greenhouse but if it is warm and sunny you will probably find me working outside getting the best of both worlds.

ANN LEGG



SITUATION VACANCY/ VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Do you know someone who or would you be interested in running/helping our **Berkeley & Sharpness Ranger unit – now called Senior Section** formed in 1999 (run every other week on a Monday 8pm – 9.30pm) at Sharpness Scout & Guide HQ or our **Berkeley Brownie unit** formed in 1961 (run every Tuesday 5.30-7pm) at the Brownie/Rainbow HQ, Berkeley near St Mary's church.

Both Leaders & Assistant Leaders from each unit are retiring, the first one leaving at Easter, two in May and the last one at the beginning of the school holidays.

Berkeley Brownies could be run on a Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday or even on a Saturday morning giving an opportunity for new or experienced leaders to continue or return to Guiding when they couldn't manage a regular mid-week commitment.

Brownies are girls aged seven to ten who become a member of a Six and follow a programme called the Brownie Adventure. Brownies opens up a world of exciting challenges and the opportunity to try new things and to make brilliant friends.

The Senior Section offers young women aged 14 to 25 the opportunity to develop their skills and abilities through a flexible and inspiring programme which offers a huge variety of challenges, activities and opportunities for personal development.

We have a lovely group of girls in the area eager to continue their time in 'guiding'. With a waiting list to join 'guiding' as a Rainbow they will not be able to progress further into guiding unless Leaders/ Assistants are found. They will then have to look to other areas for the girls to join.

If you would like to be a regular unit helper or to do the ALQ (Adult Leader Qualification) please **email me** gilly@stook.co.uk

It would be a shame to have to close both units down.

Gilly Stook
Berkeley & Sharpness District
Commissioner

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information that is required. Having got hold of a fairly comprehensive list I thought that it might be a good idea to share some of them.

Recently I have had to deal with a number of consumer issues and I know that it can be difficult to find the

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HISTORY MAKERS

Here at Berkeley Primary School, we have been blessed over the years by the generous contributions of a variety of specialists visiting the school and sharing their unique gift. The experience of these encounters, although there are other factors, has played an important role in shaping and moulding the school as it is today. The school has a history, and it is a history of encounters with special people with special talents.

In early February, The Treasure Trove Puppet Theatre Company continued in the tradition of making its mark on both the pupils and staff, with the enactment of the Willow Pattern Plate Story. A classical Chinese love story of Koon-se and Chang who, against all odds, never gave up on their heart's desire. It was wonderful for the children to both hear and see this story told without being 'contaminated' by technology. The simplicity of voice, puppets and clever set changes added to the impact of this professional performance. The performance was suitably well-received by the children from Class 4 who have been studying this fascinating country under the themed title of, 'Made in China'. Experiences like this open our children's eyes and ears to the wider world and the realisation and appreciation of diversity of culture – global education.

Science specialist, Mr Hall from Rednock School, is a regular visitor to the school. His mission on the 4th February was to provide a 'shocking' demonstration of the properties of electricity! Encounters with electricity literally made hair stand on end with children being transformed into a 'human circuit board' ensuring that Class 4 and 6 pupils were 'charged' with excitement about the 'power' of discovering the scientific world. The children always look forward to seeing Mr Hall in the knowledge a door is open to great fun and memorable scientific discoveries.

Every person who comes to the school, realising it or not, makes a mark. We appreciate the contribution of the parents and carers who joined staff for an informative Literacy Evening on the 21st January, to discover more about how our children learn literacy at the school. A further event, on the 11th February, provided families with a behind the scenes view of how we tailor education to individual

need, interest and ability to fulfil every child's potential. Parents and carers had an opportunity to have an input into the home learning trips visitors and Wow events that we offer. We are grateful to all who attended and enjoyed the evening. Please inform the Berkeley Office when resending to classes.

children will experience during the summer term. Valuable first-hand knowledge was gained regarding exactly why and how children learn.

There was a real 'buzz' in the school as parents, children and staff worked creatively together on mapping out the children's learning experience. Such collaborative events are not only exciting, but central in ensuring that we work together in making an everlasting impression on our children's educational experience. The evening also saw the

embellished. We need around one hundred squares by the end of this term which is

27th March. Once we have all our squares, Mrs Harding from 'Knit and Natter' has kindly volunteered to put the jumper together and finish it off to make sure that Shaun is the best dressed sheep in town! If you know how to knit why not share your talent with one of our children and help them learn a skill, create a memory and Shaun a cosy coat!

Those who attended the Family Fun



launch of our 'Berkeley Primary School - 100 Memories'. Children, parents, carers, members of the local community and staff have shared what they consider to be the most important, non-academic, childhood achievements; those experiences which make childhood rich and full of colour. There were many suggestions and one hundred of these were selected based on popularity, breadth of experience and the obvious 'fun factor'. From now on, every child at the school will be given a diary to record each memorable achievement. It is hoped upon leaving school they will have a beautiful record of these treasured memories of laughter, joy and triumph.

One achievement which may be accomplished quite readily is that of learning to knit. We purchased a Shaun the Sheep sculpture to go along with our very own Gromit, which was designed and created by our lovely local artists at Tomatojack Arts and keeps guard in our reception area. (He is very friendly and doesn't bite!) We have asked the children or family members to knit a 10cm square which will become part of a very snazzy jumper for Shaun to wear. The square can be in any type of wool or colour, knitted in stripes, patterns or even fancy cable. We had a go and used size 8 (4mm) needles, casting on 22 stitches. Obviously, number of stitches will depend on other factors such as type of wool, tension, pattern etc. All we ask is that the finished square is not

Curriculum Evening on the 11th February will be aware of the importance of nurturing in our children a multi-cultural awareness. With this in mind Miss Robbins and Early Years practitioners will be visiting St. Mary Redcliffe Primary School in the centre of Bristol to discover how practitioners there work with a diversity of cultural groups. Ideas from this visit will help us think about how we can strengthen our pupils' cultural consciousness and inter-cultural awareness, increase awareness of global issues and prevent prejudice and discrimination.

We are extremely grateful and thankful to everyone who has shared their gifts and talents and shaped our pupils' precious childhood.



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Alongside our Holiday Club, we are also pleased to offer a Holiday Sports Camp provided by our P.E specialists, Sports Plus Scheme. Again there will be a wide range of activities, including Dodge Ball, Soft Archery, Ball Games and much, much more!

We will be open on Monday 30th March - Wednesday 1st April and Tuesday 7th - Thursday 9th April (subject to numbers).

If you are interested in booking, please contact the school office on 01453 810254 for further information, or download a form from our website, www.berkeleyprimary.org.uk.



Winston's Wish

the charity for bereaved children

Winston's Wish is the leading childhood bereavement charity in the UK, helping children and young people rebuild their lives after the death of their mum, dad, brother or sister, and enabling them to face the future with confidence and hope.

Throughout Gloucestershire, Winston's Wish run a unique bereavement support program called SWITCH. The program is aimed at children aged 8-14 who have suffered a close family bereavement which is having a negative effect on their behaviour. The bereavement may not be recent but may still be having an impact on the child. The SWITCH program offers family work, individual work for children and their carers and group work. We end the program with a celebration day. The aim of SWITCH is to provide children and families with the opportunity to work through their experience with qualified professionals and to help them make sense of their emotions and feelings, meet other people in similar situations and provide them with coping strategy to help them reach their full potential.

We would like to reach as many of these children and families as possible in Gloucestershire. If you or you know a child or family who would benefit from the SWITCH program or would like any further information, please contact Sheila Elliott, Family Program Lead for SWITCH: selliott@winstonswish.org.uk / switch@winstonswish.org.uk / Phone the office on 01242 515157 and ask to speak to myself or a member of the SWITCH team.

For further information about other services Winston's Wish can provide for children who have suffered a bereavement, please go to our website www.winstonswish.org.uk

The Children's Society 2014

We would like to thank all the box holders for raising £220.90 from the recent collection.

Thank You.

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BERKELEY EDUCATIONAL SWIMMING TRUST (BEST)

On behalf of BEST I would just like to show our appreciation to everyone who supported the Berkeley Primary School Pool Lottery over the past year. It is now that time again and application forms will be available at Berkeley Primary School, The Pharmacy, The Coventry Building Society and Berkeley Books Community Library. Last year just on lottery sales alone BEST raised £1320. Each winner received £25.00 and the runner up £15.00. Approximately 50% of the total received was used solely for the School Pool. As you can imagine it costs quite a bit to run a swimming pool and to do improvements. Your help in this was much appreciated by buying one or more lottery tickets for £12 each for an entire year. On behalf of BEST, thank you and we hope you can continue to support us in this way for 2015/16.

Regards
Gill Badsey (Lottery Manager for BEST)

January Draw

Winner	Beverley Hunt	Ball No. 68	£25.00
Runner Up	Jean Stanton	Ball No. 39	£15.00

February Draw

Winner	June Wright	Ball No. 43	£25.00
Runner Up	Sue Stump	Ball No. 7	£15.00

March Draw

Winner	Jill Tebb	Ball No. 53	£25.00
Runner Up	Bruce Fryer	Ball No. 23	£15.00

The January draw took place at Aldridges at the beginning of the year, the February draw took place at The Co-op and the March draw at Hard Pressed for Time on 9th February.

On behalf of BEST I would like thank Aldridges, the Co-op and Hard Pressed for Time for supporting us by displaying our poster advertising the lottery.

FUTURE PLANS FOR POOL IMPROVEMENTS

The Berkeley Primary School Swimming Pool has been part of the school for 50 years; planning consent was given in 1965. Latterly a dedicated band of people established a committee and have worked hard to keep it going as an asset for the school and to meet curriculum requirements. The costs associated with running and maintaining the pool have been met by local fundraising such as Jazz in the Meadow which raised approximately £6,000 (thank you!) and the annual lottery. We are continuing to raise funds through the annual lottery and application forms are now available, in order to renew your membership or to become a new member.

In the past 2 or 3 years an improvement plan was drawn up in order to keep it viable and bring it up to date. This means that large amounts of money will be needed to achieve the entire plan, Phases 1 and 2 have been achieved by fitting a cover and new heating has been installed so the pool can be used well into September.

The third phase of the plan is to build new changing rooms with showers and proper toilets. This will be very expensive and the committee will need to approach grant making agencies such as Sport England who are able to give large sums of money. It is for this reason that the committee have registered the pool as an incorporated charity. Also, the Local Education Authority is giving us a lease to run the swimming pool as this is another requirement for obtaining funds. Researching for relevant agencies and applying for grants will be quite time consuming, so two committee members have taken on the task. But this leaves the committee short handed so we are looking for more volunteers to help with the day to day running of the pool and local fundraising.

If you feel that you can spare some time to help us please leave your contact details in the school office.

The Committee.



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BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL LOTTERY 2015/16

Berkeley Educational Swimming Trust would like to invite you again to participate in the above lottery. We have been running this for a few years and it has raised valuable funds to help us to maintain the pool. As you can appreciate there is an ongoing need to keep the pool to the standards required and this is one way in which you can support us knowing that your contribution is helping to keep the pool running with the added bonus of the chance to win a prize.

For a payment of £12 per number, per year (April to March) your number(s) will be entered into the monthly lottery. You can have as many numbers as you wish and based on similar interest in previous years we are looking at a **MONTHLY** winning number prize of £30 and runner-up of £20, donating approximately 50% of the funds raised to the pool. (The prize money could be more or less depending on how many tickets we sell). There will be one draw each month and this will take place in the first week of each month, the first one being in April.

If you are interested could you please complete the application slip and return it to the school office (term time only) or to the address on the slip with the money in an envelope marked "Swimming Pool Lottery". You can pay either by cash or cheque whichever is easier. If necessary, prize winners will be contacted by phone and also published in The Berkeley Flyer. Prize money will be delivered to you.

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES WE NEED TO HAVE
APPLICATION FORMS AND MONEY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
(DEADLINE 27th MARCH 2015)

Yours sincerely,

Gill Badsey (Lottery Manager for BEST)



Please complete and return the whole of this slip as soon as possible to Berkeley Primary School, School Lane, Marybrook Street, Berkeley, GL13 9AZ (Term Time only) or Mrs. Gill Badsey, 23 James Orchard, Berkeley. The bottom half will be returned to you as your receipt with your allocated no.(s) and allocated ticket(s)

Please print all details

First Name

Surname

Address.....

.....

.....

Home Phone No.

Work No. Mobile No.

No. of Lottery Tickets Required Amount £

(Cash or Cheque)

Note: 1 Ticket = £12 for entry each month. (2 Tickets = £24 etc)

**Cheques should be made payable to Berkeley Primary School
Swimming Pool Fund**

RECEIPT

Received from the sum of
£..... Lottery Ticket No(s).....

Berkeley Educational Swimming Trust is an Incorporated Charity

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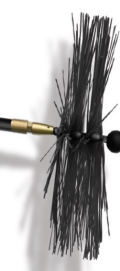
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BERKELEY FORUM

The Flyer reserves the right to edit and abridge letters submitted for publication. Anonymous letters will not be published, but we will withhold your name if requested

Dear Editor,

I would like to add my congratulations to Pete and Claire at "The Sally" for winning the CAMRA National pub of the year award. In press articles Pete has paid special tribute to the amazing local folk who both supported him and became his customers. Sometimes Berkeley doesn't realize how special it is and it takes something like this to make us all realise what we have !! So well done Pete and Claire.... and well done Berkeley!

Gordon Craig

Dear Editor.

After reading the Jan/Feb 'Intouch' leaflet campaigning for Berkeley, I was amazed to read that our local conservative councillor seems to prioritise "residents to weed the pavements in front of their houses" over the more important concerns i.e. the deterioration of our local roads and parking within Berkeley High Street. Just goes to show how out of touch this Conservative government is.

Mr W Jones

Dear Editor,

At the extraordinary town council meeting on February 9th, one of the councillors who voted for the development said Thornbury was like Berkeley 50 years ago but has been allowed to develop and it is now a pretty place where you go to shop.

Sadly all I see are housing estates as I approach Thornbury, and there have been a number of empty shops over the years since Tesco arrived. How many people know that Thornbury has an ancient castle with a history as important as that of Berkeley Castle? How many know that it has a lovely old high street with houses as historic as those of Berkeley? How often is Thornbury a tourist destination?

If people want a town like Thornbury, it is only 9 miles away. Why turn Berkeley into another one?

Joan Hosier

Dear Editor

I wanted to share my dismay at the attitude of some councillors at the extraordinary Town Council meeting on 9th February to discuss the proposed housing development to the rear of Canonbury Street.

At the start we were told by the clerk that the public only had a half hour slot in which to air their views as they didn't want the meeting to go on for too long, (although this was the only item on the agenda.) She said that we would have to share the time between those who wished to speak. As there were about 70 people there and a number of people expressed a wish to speak, I felt I should cut out some of the comments that I wanted to make and I also ended up speaking very quickly to try to make my remaining points before I was stopped and others may have felt the same.

Whilst the public were speaking, some council members were looking very uninterested.

All members of the public who spoke at the meeting were opposed to the development on the site and felt that the removal of 8 houses made no difference. No-one spoke in favour.

The councillors who remained in the meeting after some had declared an interest in the site (another very contentious

issue which I won't elaborate on here) voted by a majority of just one in favour of the development.

There is a comment on the website consultation regarding one council member who had a constant smirk on his face while the public were speaking. I tried to have a conversation with this councillor after the meeting to try to understand some of the comments he made, but ended up with the impression that it is some sort of game to him. He mentioned in the meeting that he was 'disgusted' that so many people were opposed to the development (which should speak volumes to him), and several times he blamed the people opposed to the development for councillors not being able to discuss the type of housing they wanted with the developers.

I felt that certain members of the Council were quite disrespectful to some members of the public who attended the meeting to listen to the views of the councillors. It's a pity that we felt that some councillors weren't listening to our views.

The future of Berkeley with its history and heritage is at stake as well as the open rural approach to the town. I believe this deserves to be taken very seriously by all town councillors and the Council's current response should be withdrawn until the views of all Berkeley residents are sought and truly represented.

Barbara Gibbons

Dear Editor,

I would be grateful if you would print this open letter to Berkeley Town Council. In view of the urgency of the letter could it please be inserted into The Forum page for March.

I attended the public meeting at Berkeley Town Hall on the 9th February. Every chair was taken and it seemed to me that everyone present was against the 188 house development proposed by Charles Church. Given that situation, how could the Town Council vote to support the plan. It would seem that the Council is not representing the town on this matter and the only way to proceed fairly is for the Council to carry out an immediate residents survey and be guided by that. I therefore demand that survey. Until such time as the survey is completed the Town Council should withdraw forthwith any representation it might have made following the meeting of 9th February 2015.

Gill Badsey

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BERKELEY FORUM *continued*

Dear Editor

Following the extraordinary meeting of the Town Council on Monday 9th February, I thought that it might be helpful if I laid out the points that I made, although I was precluded from taking part in the debate. I know that many people were disappointed that although no member of the public who spoke at the meeting favoured the development, the Town Council chose to ignore this and to support it, albeit by only a majority of one. My main concerns are:-

Heritage

The site dominates the entrance to Berkeley and a huge housing estate would completely "urbanise" the visitor experience and change our feelings for where we live. English Heritage, The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and others including the planning officers at Stroud District Council stated that they were against this scheme because of the impact on our heritage assets. However in spite of this the Stroud planning committee, composed of District Councillors, chose by a majority of one to ask the developers to minimise the impact on the heritage assets. The remaining Councillors opposed any development on this site. The developers chose to pay lip service to this request and reduced the number of houses by just eight.

We need to be sensitive to the fact that many of our local businesses and jobs are

dependent on tourism and this could well be threatened by changing the nature of the visitor experience.

The Primary School

The school has places for 210 pupils and has 192 at present. The County forecast is for similar numbers rising to 196 in 2017/18. There are some 80 houses earmarked to be built in and around Berkeley in the next few years, producing about 20 pupils, more than enough to fill the school. The County have stated that the proposed development would produce about 46 new pupils. Where will these children go?

Affordable Housing

We all know how difficult it is for young people to find suitable houses. The last housing needs survey showed a requirement for 20 affordable houses in Berkeley. Planning approval has just been given for 10 affordable houses by Lynch Road and four more are being built in Fishers Road with more planned at Lower Berrycroft. The development of the hospital site and Newport Towers will provide more affordable housing. The proposed development would provide far more houses than are required for local needs. It may be of interest that guidance given by Stroud District Council for part share purchase of affordable housing states that a household income of about £30,000 p.a. is needed and savings of around £8,000.

Traffic and Parking

We all know the difficulty we already have with our inadequate roads and parking in Berkeley. This will be greatly exacerbated by further development including the 300 houses planned for Sharpness, which are already allocated in the local plan.

Surgery

The surgery has nearly 5,000 patients and the 300 houses at Sharpness will provide many more. This is three times the minimum size requirement by the NHS for a viable surgery.

Shopping

Berkeley must be one of the few small towns where new shops have been created recently, even so a potential restaurant owner was recently unable to find a suitable premises. However there is a risk that if there are too many new houses it could attract an out of town supermarket and that would devastate our town centre.

Whilst I do not oppose new housing where it is driven by local needs, I do oppose large new developments driven by developers with little thought to local requirements and unnecessarily destroying the picturesque entrance to Berkeley. Overall the disadvantages of the proposed development far outweigh any advantages and therefore I oppose it.

John Stanton

Dear Editor

There appear to be several misunderstandings relating to the Castle and its place in our community. It is NOT owned by the Berkeley family, they only have a lease on the part they occupy. It is owned by a charitable trust set up to preserve the Castle and its heritage. Any money the Castle makes after paying its staff is put into the upkeep of the building and surrounding parks. Any work which takes place on the grounds, including tree

cutting, is to tend and restore the gardens and ensure the safety of the visitors.

For the sum of as little as £20 (£15 concessions) per year anyone can join the Friends of Berkeley Castle and enjoy unlimited visits to the public rooms of the Castle, the gardens and the butterfly house, plus other benefits, and see for themselves how lucky we are to have this beautiful place on our doorstep.

Jean Stanton

DON'T FORGET!

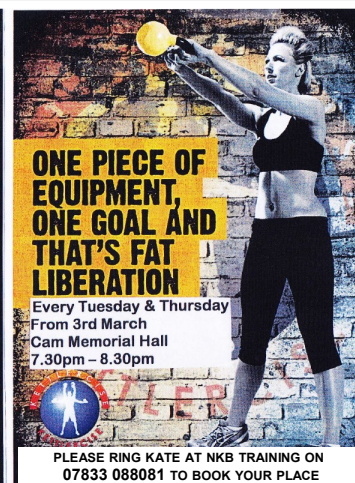
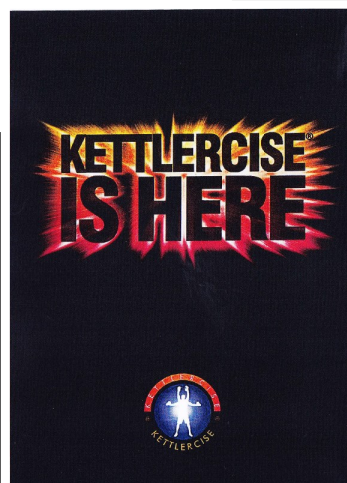
**1ST DAY OF SPRING
20TH MARCH**

**CLOCKS GO FORWARD
29TH MARCH**

***TWIL SOON BE BBQ SEASON!**



Do you have something that you would like included in The Berkeley Flyer? Letters and articles can be sent to us by email to editor@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk or you can drop it into the box in the chemist by the 15th of the month. Please make sure you include your name and contact details but we will withhold your name if requested on letters to the Berkeley Forum.





BERKELEY W I

It was wonderful to see so many ladies on such a cold night, we had a warm welcome from our President Judith.

There is to be a new Speaker Taster Event on 7th April at St Andrew's Church Centre, Churchdown. In September there is a lovely holiday offer with the County W I to the Island of Elba. From 27th June to 1st November there is to be a Centenary Celebration at Gloucester Folk Museum – an exhibition of the W I Archives from the past 100 years which will be most interesting.

Our craft afternoon is going strong and we are busy making bags. The skittles group have started their practice meetings again. We had an excellent late Christmas lunch at the Berkeley Arms on 5th February when 19 ladies sat down to a delicious meal.

Our speaker for the night - Fiona Eadie - an expert story teller told us three folk tales. The first was about a mermaid and a fisherman called Joseph Rolland which was truly magical. Fiona's descriptions were enchanting. The second story was about Scotland and the seasons. Cailleach Goddess of Winter who lived on Ben Nevis was tall thin and strong of face and made the Goddess of Spring a prisoner and Angus of the Summer came to the rescue. The third story came from Afghanistan and was all about a worried King and a poor man who was happy and lived from day to day and made the best of things of his life. All the stories had a lesson to them and really made you think.

The evening closed when Fiona answered lots of questions. Judith gave the vote of thanks. It had been a most entertaining meeting.

The next meeting is on 12th March at 7.30pm and the speaker will be R Flynn who will talk about "Trees".

For further information contact Vicki Young on 01453 810929

A USER'S GUIDE TO A HEALTHY MIND

Moving on from last month's article on the importance of 'positive interaction', this month local hypnotherapist Liane Ulbricht-Kazan is looking at 'positive thought' as the next building block towards taking control of and improving our lives. After all, empowering people to recognise, use and develop their skills and shift perceptions in order to get the very best deal out of life is the business she is in. So, what exactly does she mean by positive thought?

Well, many of the problems, which Solution Focused Hypnotherapists see people for these days, have to do with perception. People can be inconsistent in their attitude towards life. For example, they may be absolutely steadfast and strong in one area, yet at the same time feel hopeless in others. All the while not realising that their skills from successful areas are cross-transferable to others.

Here, 'positive thought' has to do with whether or not our perception of a given set of circumstances reflects a proper and rational view. Positive thought does not need to be over optimistic. It can relate to the smallest of things. In essence, positive thought is also objective thought, and is neither overly optimistic nor pessimistic. It represents a rational objective view based on a proper assessment of the situation. On the one hand, when faced with the symptomology of anxiety, fear, OCD, or similar related issues, this has to do with negatively forecasting what 'will' go wrong in the future. On the other hand depression, PTSD, and similar have everything to do with the person's assessment of past events and negatively ruminating over it. Neither are objective, and both represent a shortfall in successfully realising our potential.

Did you know that the 16th March is 'Everything You Do Is Right Day'. Imagine how different your life would be if you always made proper objective decisions!

Food for (Positive) Thought

Within the brain there are two distinct areas that determine how we deal with life. One is often referred to as the intellectual part, and it's this one, which comes up with a proper assessment of any given situation. Our brains work with repetition and through this they are capable of building and strengthening neural pathways very quickly. But positive thought doesn't have to be big. In fact, the smallest of changes serve us well in restructuring the way we think about situations past, present, and future.

So, knowing this, it's not difficult to imagine that we all have areas of our lives, where we could do better, be more productive, have more fun, feel more motivated, more alive, and enjoy more success. Larger inhibiting or incapacitating issues such as stress, anxiety or phobias are perhaps easier to put a finger on. However, if we remove cognitive distortions, which hamper our objective view of any and every aspect of our lives, past, present or future, then we are entering into the kind of positive thought that can support major and permanent life improvements.

It's not that hard to imagine that we would be able to make good decisions, and take appropriate action in any given set of circumstances. If we can master this approach and stay in charge, what we get is a holiday from engaging in inappropriate thought-processes. This is a skill that lasts us the rest of our lives, not just a fortnight!

Positive thought is just one aspect of the therapeutic approach, which Liane utilises in her Solution Focused Hypnotherapy sessions. She practices in Berkeley, Nailsworth, Bristol and online via Webcam. To find out more about how this approach could help you get the best from life, contact her on 01453 810 691/ 07825 286 550 to arrange a consultation.

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Last year the Bureau helped some 4,000 people across the Stroud District. To advise people effectively requires expertise and knowledge as well as people and investigative skills to get to the bottom of the problem. One situation stays in my mind. A man who came to the Bureau was extremely stressed and not able to think clearly because he faced several inter-related problems. As his problems were structured in discussion with an advisor, he gradually became less agitated and better able to consider options for a way forward – and even to help himself on some issues. I feel the Bureau is the real fourth emergency service.

The need for the service is unending- whether it is for help with debt, benefits, employment problems, housing and many other

areas of concern. The major problem at the moment is that the considerable changes to the Social Security System and the withdrawal of Legal Aid in cases of debt and family matters causes more demand for our help, just when our resources are already under pressure.

So I ask if you would consider supporting the Bureau. Details of how to make an on-line donation can be found on our website www.stroudcab.org.uk.

Alternatively, please write to the Finance Officer, asking for standing order/donation and gift aid forms to be sent to you.

Our address is: Stroud & District CAB, Unit 8, Brunel Mall, London Road, Stroud GL5 2BP.

Stop Press - A date for your diary:

On Sunday 31 May, 2015, Mr & Mrs Clifford have kindly agreed to host an Open Garden at Frampton Manor in support of the Stroud & District Citizens Advice Bureau.

Ann Horner
Chair of the PR and Fundraising Committee
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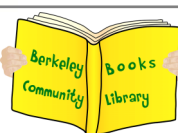
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All our shops are maintained to a high standard by Break employees and their wonderful volunteers.

See more at: www.break-charity.org/retail/shops



Berkeley Books – Your Community Library

As you know, from our report in the Flyer last month, we are considering replacing the library building with a new one. The article said we were distributing questionnaires in order to obtain your views on the design of the building, and what services you would want the library to supply.

The completed questionnaires have been collected and collated and the outcome is positive, offering some good ideas, including requests to hold meetings in the library.

Thank you for completing the questionnaires; your ideas and suggestions will be of great value in helping us to design the new building and deciding the services that will be offered.

We have started fundraising and have received a personal donation of £5000, but we still have a long way to go. If you could spare us some time and would like to get involved you would be warmly welcomed.

Once again, many thanks.

The Committee

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Palm Sunday Berkeley Union Church

Sunday March 29th 2015, Palm Sunday.
6.00 pm.

The Eden Grove ladies Choir will be performing the Cantata, Jerusalem Joy, written by Roger Jones.

The service will be led by the Rev. Nigel Young, the minister from Eden Grove Church.

All are welcome to join us, don't forget we will have refreshments after the service.

We look forward to seeing you all.

'Cycling Full Circle' An Illustrated Talk by Astrid Domingo Molyneux Local Author of

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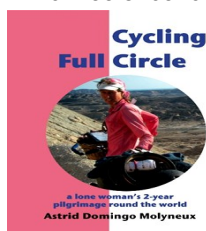
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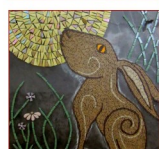
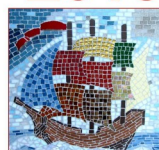
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Women's Day of World Prayer

The women's day of World Prayer will be held at the Union Church on Friday 6th March 2015 at 10.00am

The service was written by the Christian women from The Bahamas and the speaker will be Reverend Sue Phillipson-Masters

All are welcome and children's crèche is available.

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19 March: "Douched & Doctored: Medicine in Bath During the Lifetime of Dr Jenner"

A talk by Dr Roger Rolls (7:30pm, £5)



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WHAT'S ON DIARY

If you would like to place a regular entry in the What's On diary please email editor@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk before 15th

MONDAY

Town Council Meeting

3rd Monday of the month

Stay & Play Kids - Sharpness Village Hall 9.45am till 12 noon contact Sue Boxall on 07526101287

Youth Club - Sharpness Village Hall 6.30pm till 8.30pm contact Darren Brown on 07799067237

Beavers/Scouts - Scout HQ., Park View

Beaver Scouts, 6 to 8 years old
4.30pm to 5.30pm.
Scouts 10½ to 14 years old
7.00pm to 8.30pm

TUESDAY

Community Bank - Town Hall,
Tuesdays 9.15am until 11am

Town Planning & Finance Meetings
2nd Tuesday of the month

Berkeley Brownies
Tuesdays The Brownie Hut
5.30pm-7.00pm

Berkeley Community Library
Tuesdays 10.30am - 4.30pm
Telephone 810520

Line Dancing/Ballroom Dance Class
Hamfields Leisure
7.00pm to 9.00pm
Contact Daphne 01453 826034

Skylarks Community Choir
Town Hall,
7.10 – 9pm Term Time only
All welcome

Cub Scouts - Scout HQ. Park View
8 to 10½ years old
6.00pm to 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Craft Club—Berkeley Library
Last Wednesday of the month.
10.30am-1.30pm. Bring along whatever project you are working on.
£2.00 all welcome

Dog Training - Sharpness Village Hall Wednesdays from 7pm contact Mike Vine 01453 822134

Exercise Classes in Scout Hut
Wednesdays 10.30 am to Noon

Knit and Natter
Town Hall 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Wednesdays fortnightly (the week of recycling)
£2 - all welcome

Berkeley Under 5's
Town Hall Toddlers
Wednesdays 9.30am - 11.30am

Citizens Advice Bureau
Town Hall, Wednesdays 1pm - 3pm

Berkeley Youth Club
Canon Park Pavilion
Wednesdays 6pm - 8pm

Coffee Morning
Sharpness Village Hall
10 - 12pm Call Christy 07970 565099

Berkeley Gardening Club
3rd Wednesday of the month

THURSDAY

Over 60's Friendship Group
Union Congregational Hall, Berkeley
4th Thursday of the month 2 – 4pm

Bingo - Sharpness Village Hall
from 7.30pm contact Jimmy Thomas 01453 811339

Coffee Morning
Thursdays, Union Church Schoolroom
10.00 – 11.30am

Berkeley Players Rehearsals
Town Hall, Thursdays
7.00pm Youngsters / 8.30pm Adults

Circuit Training/Keep Fit
Hamfields Leisure
6.30pm - 7.30pm
Contact Jess Efford 07866 255325

FRIDAY

Bingo in the Mariners Arms
Fridays from 3pm

Berkeley Community Library
Fridays 10.30am - 4.30pm

Berkeley Rainbows
Fridays The Brownie Hut
4.15 - 5.30pm

Little Fishes Music Group
Berkeley Union Church. Free
Fridays 9.15 - 11.00 am Term time

People for You
Town Hall Fridays - 9.15am - 1pm

SATURDAY

Berkeley Community Library
Saturdays 9.30am - 12.30pm

Coffee Morning
Every second Saturday
10.00-11.30 at The Evangelical Church

SUNDAY

Roman Catholic Mass
Sundays 8.30am 10.30am & 5.30pm
St Dominic RC Church,
Kingshill, Dursley

St Mary's Church
Every Sunday
9.30am Parish Communion
11am All Age Worship
6pm Evening Prayer
(times & venue differ 5th Sunday of month)

Quiz Night
Mariners Arms Berkeley. 8.30pm start



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YOUR BACK PAGE RECIPE

The Guest Chefs are back at The Sally in Ham, recently hailed by CAMRA as their NATIONAL PUB OF THE YEAR 2014, and have shared the recipe that they will be serving up at the pub on 2nd March from 6.30pm... so book the date in your diary; or if you would like to try cooking this up at home yourself, here you go... this recipe is ideal for using up leftovers from a Sunday Roast.

The Ultimate Shepherd's Pie

(serves 8)

You will need:

- half a shoulder of lamb, bone-in (approximately 1.25kg)
- 4 cloves of garlic
- 2 large sprigs of rosemary
- 1 TBSP ground cumin
- 1 swede, cut into chunks
- 4 large potatoes, cut into chunks
- 200g ground almonds
- 100g unsalted butter
- salt & pepper

For the sauce:

- 100g butter
- 3 TBSP plain flour
- 4 TBSP white wine vinegar
- 500ml white wine
- 500ml lamb stock
- juice of 1/2 a lemon
- 3 shallots, finely chopped
- 2 carrots, diced
- 1 bunch fresh mint, roughly chopped
- 2 tsp crushed peppercorns
- salt to taste

Directions:

(if using leftover lamb, skip straight to step 6)

- 1) Pre-heat your oven to 120 degrees centigrade
- 2) Pierce the shoulder of lamb 10 or 12 times with a sharp knife into the meat, about an inch deep
- 3) Distribute your garlic and rosemary into the holes you've just created
- 4) Season with salt, pepper and cumin
- 5) Roast in the middle of the oven for 4 hours. Now turn your attention to your sauce...

6) Make a roux in a saucepan using the butter and flour

7) Add the vinegar and a splash of stock and mix to a paste

8) Gradually stir in the remaining stock, lemon juice and white wine and mix together

9) Add the carrots, mint and shallots

10) Season to taste with salt and pepper

11) Put your sauce to one side
12) Remove the lamb from the oven and let it cool enough for you to handle
13) While you wait, boil a large pot of water with a pinch of salt and add your potatoes and swede

14) Bring back to the boil and simmer gently for 20 mins

15) Drain away the water and mash the swede and potatoes together with the butter and ground almonds. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

16) Strip the lamb from the bones and coarsely chop into pieces

17) Add the lamb to your sauce and place into a casserole dish

18) Cover with the mash and place in the oven for approximately 45 minutes at 160 degrees centigrade (until the top is looking golden brown and crispy)

19) Remove from the oven, have a deep inhalation to really enjoy all the lovely smells and serve.

We will be serving this ourselves at The Sally in Ham (<http://www.the-sally-at-ham.com>) from 6.30pm on Monday 2nd March. It will be accompanied by peas that have been stewed in butter, bacon, tomato and whole-soaked almonds... we hope to see you there!"

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