



THE BERKELEY FLYER

ISSUE NUMBER 196

"For and about the people of Berkeley"

February 2012 Price 20p

BERKELEY'S NEW RECRUITS



The Berkeley Neighbourhood Policing Team are very pleased to welcome their new group of Junior Community Officers who will assist PCSO Mike Trebble, PC Terrie McVeigh and their colleague PCSO Claire Nutland on various projects in the Berkeley area.

Nine Pupils from year 6 who are all from Berkeley Primary School are all very excited about working with the three local officers. The JCOs all have their own distinctive blue uniform which incorporates a cap, t-shirt and hoodie with the JCO logo, supplied by a local firm. They also have their own I.D. which they have made up in school with includes a photo and finger print!

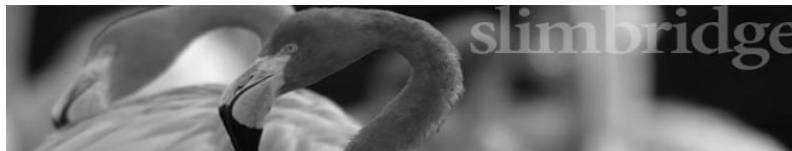
After a break of one year, the JCO project returns to the Berkeley location having previously been at Sharpness Primary. The last time it was in the area, the Chief Constable, - Tony Melville picked the project as part of the force's Citizenship Award Scheme for work in the community

The JCOs will work with local officers through until July 2012 assisting with community projects which include speeding checks, litter picks & putting together their own production for the local community on the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch. They will also get to visit the force control room to see how officers are deployed to incidents.

The Head Teacher of Berkeley Primary School - Debbie Marklove said 'We are very lucky to have this exciting project come to our school and fellow pupils can approach their school JCOs with anything which they see in the community which the JCOs can assist with.



Saving wetlands
for wildlife & people



FESTIVAL OF BIRDS

4-5 February

Simon King will be among the visitors flocking to WWT Slimbridge for its Festival of Birds on February 4 and 5. The wildlife TV star will be re-opening the newly renovated Zeiss Hide and a new otter holt on the Saturday. He will then spend time with visitors pointing out the best wildlife sights which can be seen from the hide overlooking Slimbridge's internationally renowned wetland reserve. In the afternoon in our cinema there will be a question and answer session with Simon.

On Sunday it will be the turn of the Urban Birder David Lindo to take questions from the audience after he gives a talk on birdwatching in cities. Afterwards he will be signing copies of his book.

The event-packed weekend will also include a range of conservation talks by WWT experts, bird catching and ringing demonstrations, swan sketching, wild bird feeds and a birdwatching challenge for nature fans. Young nature fans will learn all about migration in a fun interactive game and can take part in a kid's decoy in which they are caught and ringed just like a bird. There will be stands selling all manner of wildlife goodies including artwork and books, bird feed, wildlife watching trips, optics and outdoor clothing. Normal admission charges apply.

In the run up to the Festival Friday 3 February, another wildlife celebrity will be at the Centre. Conservationist Mark Carwardine, who starred in the TV series Last Chance to See with Stephen Fry, will be doing an evening talk in the cinema on his favourite places to see wildlife in the world.

Future Events at Slimbridge

Friday 3 Feb - An Evening with Mark Carwardine.
Time: 6.45pm. Cost: £15 adults, £10 children excluding admission but including a free drink during interval.

4th, 5th, 11th & 12th Feb - Birdwatch Mornings.
Time : 8am. Cost: £15.00 incl. admission, a cup of tea and a bacon roll or scrambled egg on toast.

11th - 19th Feb - Half Term Activities, theme of British Wildlife, cost included in entry fee.

14th - 21st Feb - National Nest Box Week.
Various activities in the centre, cost included in admissions cost.

Weds 15 Feb Children's Birdwatch Morning.
Time : 9.30am Cost : £12 incl. Admission.

Weds 15 Feb Ron Swanwick Sketching Tour
Time : 2.30pm Cost : £20 incl. Admission

Thurs & Fri 16/17 Feb Ron Swanwick Basic drawing and sketching. Time: 9.30am-4.30pm
Cost : £100 for both days admission and refreshments included.

1st - 31st March - Gardening Month - a month of activities and events at the centre.

For more information or to book any of these ticketed events call us on 01453 891223 or email eleanor.wise@wwt.org.uk.

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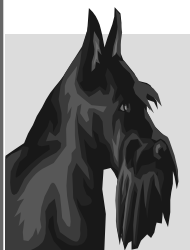
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THE ART ROOM

The premises in the High Street, previously occupied by the Break Charity shop, has been re-let. Paulettea English will be opening "The Art Room" towards the end of February.

Paulettea explained the idea behind the venture; "I will be offering arts and crafts sessions where parents can bring their children and leave them to be creative. There will be a waiting area where parents can relax and enjoy light refreshments. I look forward to your support and welcoming residents of Berkeley and the surrounding areas."

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Home Start

Support and friendship
for families

A new year brings new opportunity to Stroud's most established family support charity *Home-Start Stroud and Dursley* with a volunteer training course starting on February 21st. Accredited through the Open College Network the course runs every Tuesday over ten

weeks and will prepare potential volunteers to support local families by visiting an allocated family at home each week, supporting parents in situations as diverse as isolation, bereavement, multiple births, illness, disability or who are just finding parenting a struggle. With a team of over 60 existing volunteers the charity offers volunteers an ongoing training programme with regular support and coffee mornings. "If people can give three to four hours a week on a regular basis to help a local family then we in return are able to offer them full training, support and a huge amount of satisfaction in knowing that a little of their time has gone such long way to making a difference." Says Alex Corgier, Senior Coordinator. "Our volunteers are a wonderful mix of local people who have one thing in common and that is that they have all been parents themselves and are able to understand that sometimes having a family can be the hardest job in the world."

For further information please call Home-Start on 01453-759911 or visit their website www.homestartsd.org.



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AND THERE'S MORE!

There is never a dull moment at Berkeley Primary School. We would like to take the opportunity to share with you some of the recent and forthcoming events which take our school forward into the New Year.

Some people are daunted at the prospect of painting and decorating the largest room in their house. Imagine what it would be like to paint the School Hall? The work of Carter Construction accomplished this task over the Christmas holiday. The result is a clean, fresh and bright Hall.

This work has been enhanced by the curtains having been pristinely cleaned by Hard Pressed for Time. Our thanks and gratitude to all concerned in this project.

From the beginning of January the children from the Play Group have been visiting our Reception Class on Wednesdays and Fridays. There has been lots of play, fun and laughter. And yes, learning too! The main purpose of this is to enable the children to familiarise themselves with the new environment and routines which will help them settle more quickly when they join the school in September.

Although it feels like we have just returned to start the Spring Term, we are thoughtful of the approaching half-term (13.02-17.02), and parents and carers who may need the childcare service of our Holiday Club. If you would like your child to experience a fun, stimulating and safe play environment, run by experienced staff, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 810254.

We all like a good story. So as part of our focus on reading across the school, we will be having a "Bangers & Books!" evening on Thursday 2nd February from 6.30pm in the woods located in the school grounds. This is an opportunity for boys and girls of the school to bring their Dads or significant males in their lives to participate in Story Telling by Mr Bill Church. The stories will be told under the blanket of the night. It is hoped that this evening will ignite flames of imagination and the pleasure of enjoying a wonderful tale with someone special. Hungry tummies will be catered for with the delight of – bangers! Sorry ladies, Dads and significant males only on this occasion! If you are interested in attending this event please contact the school.

The Flyer is just one way we can share with you what is happening at your local school. However, in addition, the school website is another. We are currently looking at updating and making our website more user-friendly. We would welcome any suggestions you may have, whether it's regarding its layout or content. Please visit us on www.berkeleyprimary.org.uk and let us know.



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National Youth Voice Award for Berkeley Sisters



Receiving their awards from Kate Daley from The Co-operative; Lindsey and Kirsty are 2nd and 3rd from the left respectively.

Among the six members of Stroud District Youth Council (SDYC) who received nationally accredited awards recently, were two sisters from Berkeley. Lindsey (18) and Kirsty Driver (15) were at a ceremony in London on 6 December in recognition of their work as district youth councillors. The Youth Voice Award, is operated by the British Youth Council (BYC) and sponsored by the Co-operative, and was open to affiliated organisations such as SDYC. Members submitted a portfolio of their work which was carried out during the last year together with evidence of their impact and achievement in voicing the views of young people. The ceremony was held at the Houses of Parliament in London and was part of the BYC annual reunion, hosted by Julie Hilling, MP. Also in attendance was the government's Children's Minister, Tim Loughton and the members of SDYC spoke to him regarding their work and the issues of concern to young people across the Stroud district.

Steve Miles, Senior Youth Officer for Stroud District Council said; "The award reflects the huge amount of voluntary work they have carried in their respective roles with Stroud District Youth Council". He added; "Lindsey has made a massive contribution and impact in the last three years particularly as SDYC Youth Cabinet Leader during the 2010/11 year, she also campaigned to keep Vale of Berkeley College open. Kirsty represented the College until its closure last September and is now leading a small team of young people in assessing the needs of young people in the town regarding future youth provision".

For more information about the event, visit www.byc.org.uk For more information on SDYC, please contact Steve Miles on 07896 690140 or email steve.miles@stroud.gov.uk

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Not too late to make a New Year's resolution

Have you got over the Christmas period now? Were your finances squeezed by all the seasonal expenses? Are you wondering whether you will have enough money for a summer holiday? Do you want to make it less difficult in the future? Now is the time to do something about it.

With your local Community Bank you can save as much as you can manage each week at a friendly, confidential collection point near to you. If you start right away and save £10 a week you could have £200 by the middle of the year.

Your money will be safe – the Community Bank is part of Stroud Valleys Credit Union and is backed by the government's deposit guarantees scheme - interest is paid on your savings and there are no fat cat directors creaming off big bonuses. And, if you do come to a sticky patch, you could apply for a loan at a friendly rate of interest. If you have been saving for at least 12 weeks, you can have a loan equal to twice the amount you have saved at just 1% per month.

Berkeley Community Bank opens each Tuesday morning from 9.30am until 11.00am in the Town Hall. For further information feel free to call in for a chat or see the website: www.svcu.org.uk

1st BERKELEY SCOUTS

The Scout Christmas Post around the area over the last ten years has been well supported and has been getting more each year, we delivered over 3,000 cards over Christmas.

Thank you for supporting scouting in Berkeley. Thank you to all the shops that let us use them to sell the stamps and make room for the post boxes, and thanks to all the people that delivered the cards. We hope that we will be doing it again this year.

We hope you had a Happy Christmas and wish you all a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Good News for Berkeley Youth Club

We are very pleased to announce that Berkeley Youth Project has been awarded a grant of almost £5,000 by the Gloucestershire Community Foundation, Windsor Family Trust, to develop youth projects in Berkeley. The grant will be used to help set up a group of young people called a Youth Forum, which will consult local boys and girls on the type of Youth Club they would like to see in the town. The money will, in addition, fund the training of five young people as Youth and Sports Leaders for the future.

Readers of The Flyer will know that Berkeley has linked with Cam, Dursley and Wotton under Edge in an organisation called the South of Stroud Youth Partnership, to jointly bid for funding for our youth services to replace those lost when Gloucestershire County Council removed the funding from our Youth Services in last year's spending review.

The young people of Berkeley and district have suffered enormously from the loss of not only their Youth Club but also their school and possibly the library. They deserve better treatment. We hope that this is the beginning of a great new future for the boys and girls of the town.

Liz Ashton



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Foundation

The copy deadline for the next issue of the Flyer is:

Thursday 15th February

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theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Berkeley W.I. held their first meeting of the New Year on the 12th January and a guest and members were given a warm welcome from President, Vicki Young. There was lots of news to catch up on, including the Christmas Party and Berkeley Fayre in December, both of which had been successful. Members had also enjoyed today the W.I. New Year Lunch held at the Berkeley Arms Hotel, where there had been a good attendance and lots of delicious meringues eaten. The business side of the meeting concluded and Vicki welcomed speaker, Peter Nolan of Berkeley, whose talk was entitled 'My Visit to India'.

Peter, known to a number of members, had gone to India in September 2010 for three months and travelled the country with his backpack. He had seen great sights including the source of the Ganges, visited the Golden Temple at Amritsar and the Taj Mahal at Agra, at dawn, to name but a few. He had travelled on dangerous mountainous roads on local buses, had long train journeys on amazing trains and flown across the country as well. He had seen what he called 'the real India' which his photographs echoed with great variety. His talk prompted many questions from members and Peter was thanked by Alison Thompson.

Forthcoming events include the craft group meeting at Vicki's house on Thursday 19th January at 1.30pm., skittles practise on Tuesday 24th January at 3.30pm at The Mariners Arms. The result of the flower of the month competition was 1st Vicki Young, 2nd Helen Jones and 3rd Alison Thompson. The competition of an Indian Food Recipe was 1st Vicki Young and 2nd Margaret Glastonbury.

Our next meeting will be at the Town Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th February when our speakers will be David & Ruth Jacobs on 'Antiques Road Show'. New members very welcome.



Dr Jenner's House
Birthplace of Vaccination

Upcoming Events

* **Coasting Along - An Evening with Mark Horton** In partnership with Under the Edge Arts.

Thursday 2 February 2012, 8pm (doors open 7.30pm) The Chipping Hall, Wotton-under-Edge

Professor Mark Horton, historical archaeologist and presenter of the BBC's 'Coast' series, takes us behind the scenes and offers first-hand experiences of his BBC career during an exclusive evening event. Tickets: £8 / £6 Concs.

Available from: Dr Jenner's House 01453 810631 or info@edwardjenner.co.uk OR Under the Edge Arts 07791323869 or info@utea.org.uk There will be a bar and raffle on the evening. **All proceeds go to Under the Edge Arts and Dr Jenner's House**

* **National Gardens Scheme Open Day, Sunday 26 February 2012, 11am-4pm.** All ticket proceeds to NGS.

Your chance to explore Dr Jenner's woodland garden. Come and see the spring snowdrops, the medicinal herb garden, the magnificent plane tree and the rustic Temple of Vaccinia! Refreshments and free trails for children available.

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Berkeley Neighbourhood Policing Update

January 2012.

Local officers carried out the second of two dedicated drink drive operations on the evening of 30th December 2011 where 37 vehicles were stopped in the Berkeley area. We are pleased to report that, again drivers were outstanding in the area with not one person being over the limit following a roadside breath test. One driver was reported for driving a vehicle without a licence or insurance & another driver was issued with an anti-social behaviour notice for using a vehicle horn without reason after midnight.

Between 18th December 2011 & 15th January 2012 crime remained particularly low in the Berkeley area with only a few reports of nuisance noise during the night time economy in the Lynch Road & Salter Street locations. One local company were again repeat victims of crime with 2 complete exhaust systems having been removed from two vehicles whilst parked overnight. Local officers are working on some leads which have been provided to them which may be connected to these thefts. We are also very pleased to report that local residents are letting us know about the continuing number of suspicious vehicles in the area who are looking for scrap metal. Some of these vehicles are linked to genuine dealers. However, there are a certain number we know to be in the Berkeley area who are not. One notable incident reported during Mid January involved a so called dealer looking for scrap outside a premises in Berkeley who then tried to gain access to the property without reason to do so. Do let PC Terrie McVeigh or PCSO Mike Trebble know if you have any concerns.

Our local resident police panel have just met & chosen some new priorities for your local officers to work on until the Summer. These priorities are chosen as a result of the community consultations which take place twice a year in the area. We shall list these new priorities in the next report.

Buff Working For Multiple Sclerosis

We would like to thank everyone for helping the Buffs raise £1,093.38 for Multiple Sclerosis. We have had a number of events from October which included a quiz night at the Malt House, a jumble sale at the Town Hall plus numerous events at the Buffs Lodge over Christmas.

Thank you to Wendy at The Malt House for hosting a quiz night and donating a prize of a meal for 2 for our jumble sale raffle. We had lots of raffle prizes donated from the town i.e. Gordon in the veg shop, the Co-op, JC Aldridge, Bailey's News, One Stop and the Chemists plus the public – thank you very much.

We would also like to thank Diane and Tony Edwards, Barb Philips, Vanice Hillier and Chris Vincent for helping at the jumble sale, it was very much appreciated.

While we're on the subject of Diane and Tony Edwards we would like to say that they, Lisa Higgins and Lisa's little helpers did a fantastic job with the Christmas party at The Malt House; the grotto looked amazing (Lisa's so clever!) and all the children had a wonderful time. Thank you for making it a brilliant afternoon and for all your hard work to make this happen. We are so grateful to everyone for helping us raise this amount for multiple sclerosis, it touches so many peoples' hearts and we hope the money which you the public helped to raise will help.

Martin and Joanna Turl.

NEW

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VALE OF BERKELEY COLLEGE

NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR BERKELEY DISTRICT UP TO 30 NEW JOBS.

The Flyer has discovered that the Prospect Education Trust which runs two private schools hopes to relocate its Bristol school to the old Vale Of Berkeley College. It is understood that negotiations with Gloucester County Council are complete and that the matter is currently with the Secretary of State for Education for his final approval. According to Prospect, the buildings at Vale of Berkeley will be about double the size for their current needs and it is their intention to apply for "free school status" which will ultimately enable them to offer a very large percentage of places to local children and around 30 new jobs in both teaching and support are anticipated.

Prospect are also keen to talk to local sporting organisations regarding use of the schools facilities.

The flyer understands that our Berkeley District Councillors have been talking with Prospect for some months and are pleased that a positive outcome is now coming to fruition, providing continued educational use of the building, local secondary places for the Berkeley District and local jobs.

Berkeley Football Club

Berkeley Football Club wish to thank all supporters, local business people and Vice Presidents for their very welcome donations which goes a long way towards the expense of running the club.

After-game hospitality is going very well, and thanks are due to the ladies who do all the catering for the teams and officials of both home and away teams. The club ran a stall at the Christmas Fayre held in the Market Place which was very enjoyable; we raised £190 in the night. The Christmas hamper, which was donated by Di Lane and Marg Dimery which we thank them for, was won by Sarah Frankham, and the Boxing Day hamper was won by George Richings.

The club is holding a Valentine dinner dance at the Berkeley Arms Hotel on February 11th; three course meal and disco starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets available from Di Edwards (811946) all welcome.

We are also holding a jumble sale in March. If you would like to donate any items please ring Di Edwards and we will collect.

Once again Berkeley Football Club thank you all for your support and wish you all a very happy New Year.



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THE 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

Sir,

The landowner of some 27 acres of fields east of Berkeley is, once again, trying to get planning permission for a massive housing estate. He has appointed a firm of land agents, called GVA, to promote the site and they gave a presentation to the Berkeley Town Council before their December meeting.

This site is outside the settlement boundaries and to breach these would signal a shift in Stroud District Council's planning strategy and would open up the possibility of other potential developments all around Berkeley.

This has arisen because Stroud District Council is developing its housing strategy for the period up to 2026 and there is a requirement for 3,200 dwellings in the whole district. The Council consulted widely on the strategic objectives and five were agreed, mainly based on putting housing near health and leisure facilities, schooling, shops, public transport and particularly employment with a target of two jobs per dwelling. This will also minimise the carbon footprint arising from the new housing, due to the reduced need for travel. This site does not meet these objectives.

Further consultation by Stroud District Council on a variety of development strategies, ranging from putting all the housing on one site through to dispersal across the region, produced a strong preference for three of the more concentrated options. These meet the strategic objectives outlined above. Further consultation will take place in January to further these housing options to best meet the needs of the local population.

Berkeley is still essentially a Georgian hilltop town and the main route in is little changed since Victorian times. This proposed development would have a major impact on the views on coming into the Town. It would also put more pressure on the roads and local facilities, such as the health centre and school.

A big increase in the population is likely to produce even more social problems, such as petty vandalism and offensive behaviour.

Often developers try to buy off objections by promising money for local projects, however there is a priority order for these payments, with the County at the top followed by the District and then Town and Parish Councils. A large housing estate would require road improvements and probably some investment in the schools. These alone are likely to absorb any funds available.

The Town Council will be discussing this proposal at future meetings and you may wish to let them have your views

John Stanton

Sir,

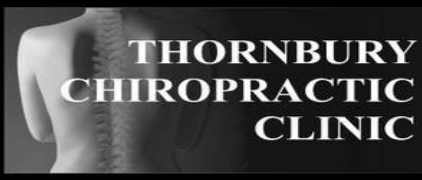
Can you remember the 'Don't Swamp Berkeley With Houses' campaign in 2005, in response to the planning proposal for a new housing estate to be built on the land between the short stretch of the bypass and the town? The application was rejected but it's recently been renewed. And while pretty much everyone was against it back then, before jumping on the band wagon this time it's worth bearing in mind that Berkeley is an entirely different place now to what it was six or seven years ago. And a sizeable injection of new housing/people/money could be just what Berkeley needs to stop it sliding into a total state of degeneration.

Let's face it, we've lost the hospital, the secondary school, the library, the police force and any credible notion of public transport. Berkeley is becoming a ghost town. Even the primary school which used to be over-subscribed, is now struggling to fill classes. So don't be surprised if that's the next public institution to be earmarked for closure. I

Swimming Pool Lotto Winners December Draw

Winner Mr. E. W. C. Rugman - Ball No. 20 - £30.00

Runner Up Mr. Frazer Brown - Ball No. 94 - £20.00



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went to a council meeting at the Town Hall on 16th January to listen to what other residents had to say about the planning proposal for the new housing development, and if what I witnessed was proportional representation of the people who live here, then Berkeley has one foot in the grave.

Aside from myself, Steve from Berkeley Bakery and two others, there was no-one under retirement age and no-one in favour of the new houses being built. It seems that the over-whelming majority is against change of any kind, regardless of whether that change may represent economic growth and prosperity for the town and its people. I can appreciate how many regard new homes as unsightly (particularly if they're fortunate enough to have bought a property for 50p during the reign of a previous monarch and which is now worth half a million, or inherited a castle along with most of the Vale of Berkeley), but insisting that the view from your bedroom window remains unchanged until you die, is short-sighted and selfish.

What about the younger generation with little hope of gainful local employment, who don't want to ship out to the urban sprawl of Quedgeley - the only place they can afford to buy a home? I heard people talking about Berkeley 'not having the infrastructure to cope with more residents'. What are you talking about? The developers of this possible new housing development have already proposed building a car park behind the police station, specifically for Canonbury Street residents, so that they won't need to park on the brow of the hill as they currently do. And how many of these potential new 'incomers' would need to drive into town? Basically none, because the entrance to the new estate would be well before the town, possibly even on

the bypass, and they could use the footpath beside what used to be the police station, to walk into town.

An increase in the local population would exponentially increase our chances of having some public services reinstated in the town (and keeping them). An increase in the population would increase spending in the town and in doing so, grow the whole local economy. Such regeneration will stabilise existing property values. An affluent area attracts investors. Investors employ people.

I'm sure you're all aware that the main justification for closing Berkeley Hospital was that a brand new one has been built in Dursley, and whad'ya know - that new hospital is bang smack in the middle of a new housing estate. They've pumped 20 million into Rednock (a stone's throw from the new Littlecombe housing estate) but closed our secondary school because there are not enough local people to warrant keeping it open.

If as a town we're prepared to at least listen to what the developers propose (and you might be pleasantly surprised at what they can offer us in terms of facilities) instead of simply rejecting the entire notion out of hand, we could all be instrumental in getting Berkeley back on its feet! Keep your eye out for notices relating to this matter in future editions of the Flyer, and also the Town Hall notice boards. Then you can have your say!

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COFFEE MORNING BERKELEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH

**Saturday 11th February
10am until 11.30am**

We will be open on the second Saturday of the month for fresh brewed coffee or tea with unlimited refills, tempting home bakes and plenty of chat. If this sounds good to you why not come along and try it for yourself? Our welcome, like our drinks, is always warm.

I would like to thank the unknown 'harvester' for the huge bag of discarded ring pulls left by my front door recently. Your dedication to pulling and collecting is much appreciated by all of us involved with PCF. Thank you. Dare I ask you to keep up the good work?

For any information about the charity or the coffee mornings please contact either **Dawn on 810494 or Grace on 811138**

Women's World Day of Prayer Service

This annual event, shared by the Churches in Berkeley, will be held this year at the Evangelical Church on Friday 2nd March at 10am.

Through the hymns, prayers, readings and presentation of slides we will see how the theme "Let Justice Prevail" is the hope of the Christian women of Malaysia who prepared the service for 2012.

Over 170 countries will commemorate this day and more than 6000 services will be held in the British Isles alone. It's quite amazing that we in this small town of Berkeley can be part of this.

Everyone is welcome. Crèche facilities available.
Coffee served after the Service.

LENT LUNCHES

St Mary's church in Berkeley will be again offering delicious homemade soup and bread lunches, followed by coffee and tea, on Wednesday lunchtimes during Lent starting the week after Ash Wednesday and finishing the week before Holy week. There is no charge, but a bowl will be set aside for donations to charity. This year we are planning on supporting Water Aid which helps African villages to have a reliable clean water supply. Come along for a sustaining break and friendly conversation at the back of St Mary's church from 12.30-1.30pm on the five Wednesdays from February 29th through to March 28th.

Volunteers for making soup, baking/buying bread or helping on the day should contact Jean Stanton on 511081 or Sue Stump on 810273. There will be a list for signing up on the table at the back of the church from the end of January.

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VILLAGE AGENT NEWS

Hello from Penny, your Village Agent. Well the festive season is over and we are back to normal now. These next couple of months of winter can be a difficult time, with cold weather and short days. However there are things that we can do to keep our spirits up. I have been putting together a list of activities in the area for the over 50s and I have been surprised at how much there is on offer. For example, there are opportunities to play Bingo in Berkeley, Sharpness and Slimbridge. I expect some of you already know what is going on locally but if you would like a copy of the list just let me know.

For some of you who like an active lifestyle, there are organised walks that are great for health and for meeting new people. "Strolling in the Stroud District" offers short walks in Dursley on Thursday afternoons. These are less than an hour in duration and are graded as "easy terrain". This is part of the Walking for Health Scheme. Each walk has a leader and often includes tea and biscuits afterwards. Another option for keeping active is volunteering for the over fifties. This is great for people who have recently retired and would still like to be active in the community, and there are lots of choices. Of course there are always informal opportunities to do volunteering locally that don't involve travelling.

If walking is a bit too much for you, don't forget about free bus passes for older people and for those with disabilities. They can be used for shopping trips, a pub lunch, or even for a day out further afield. If you haven't already got a bus pass you can contact the County Council for more details.

I know that sometimes the mind is willing but the body's not so keen. So if you have some mobility difficulties there are places where you can get aids to help; ranging from the loan of aids from the Red Cross to the Disability Living Foundation who provide a wide range of mobility aids for sale. The Disability Living Foundation is a national charity and offers impartial advice and an information website about daily living equipment. They also have a helpline that you can ring.

If this is all a bit too much for you and you're feeling lonely and would like a friendly phone call regularly then "Call in Time" may be for you. It is a free telephone friendship service for people over 60 who are living alone or are a carer for someone else. One user says "it blows the cares away, a little chat".

I know how I will be cheering myself up during the next few weeks, I'll be going to one of the pantos that were advertised in last month's Berkeley Flyer.... I love pantomimes, oh yes I do!

Please use the number below if you want more information about any of these things.

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Staff vacancy:

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Must be over 21 years of age.

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WHAT'S ON

Community Bank in the Town Hall

Tuesday mornings 9.15 am until 11 am

Bingo in Sharpness Village Hall

Thursday nights 7.45 pm

Exercise Classes in Scout Hut

Wednesdays 10.30 am to Noon

Citizens Advice Bureau

Town Hall, Wednesdays 1pm - 3pm

Slimming World

Berkeley Arms, Wednesday - 6pm

Belly dance Classes

Berkeley Arms Hotel

Thursday 7-8pm Beginners

8.15 - 9.15pm Improvers

People for You

Town Hall Friday - 9.15am - 1pm

Berkeley Under 5's

Town Hall Toddlers

Wednesday 9.30am - 11.30am

Berkeley Local History Society

3rd Tuesday of month, 7.45pm, Library

Town Planning & Finance Meetings

2nd Tuesday of the month

Town Council Meeting

3rd Monday of the month

Roman Catholic Mass

Sundays 8.30am 10.30am 5.30pm St Dominic RC Church, Kingshill, Dursley

Berkeley Brownies Every Tuesday

The Brownie Hut 6.00-7.30pm

Berkeley Players Rehearsals

Town Hall, Thursday nights 7.30pm

Knit & Knatter

Town hall, 7.30pm - Feb 1st, 15th & 29th

Coffee Morning

Every Thursday in the Union Church Schoolroom 10.00 - 11.30am. All Welcome

If you would like to feature events or activities, whether regular or one off, please email the Flyer Team:
berkeley.flyer@live.co.uk (By 15th February)

Berkeley Amateur Dramatic Society



Thursday 9th February

7.30 Cattle Country BADS Panto Robin & his Band of Merry Persons. tickets from Berkeley Pharmacy

Friday 10th February

7.30 Cattle Country BADS Panto Robin & his Band of Merry Persons. tickets from Berkeley Pharmacy

Saturday 11th February

2.30 Matinee and 7.30 Cattle Country BADS Panto Robin & his Band of Merry Persons.

Tickets from Berkeley Pharmacy

Berkeley Players

WE ARE 10 YEARS OLD !



We would like to invite all past and present members to our 10th Birthday celebrations. This extravaganza of line-learners, lycra and luvvies will take place in the Berkeley Arms Hotel on Friday 24th February at 7.30 pm. Some invites have already been sent, and if the lucky recipients could RSVP by 17th February, that would be smashing.

Please contact our esteemed leaders for more information, alternatively give **Marg a bell on 810990, or give Cathy a call on 810462.**

Anyone out there that has any photos, posters or any other Players related paraphernalia, please let Marg or Cathy know as we hope to have a slide show of 'Players through the Years'.

Dress code for the party will be 'Evening Wear'

A quick thank you to everyone that took part, or donated to our annual Carol Singing evening. We raised a magnificent £100 which we will be passing onto those fantastic people at the Air Ambulance.

If you want to make a contribution, please contact one of the Flyer Team on the numbers shown, place your contribution in the collection box in the Berkeley Pharmacy in the Market Place, or e-mail: berkeley.flyer@live.co.uk by 15th of each month

PUBLICATION DATE : 1st of each month

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CHICKEN KIEV

(with a slight twist)

Well they do say time flies when you're having fun. It's February already and instead of giving you a 'seasonal' dish I've opted for a 'timeless classic' instead.

I haven't made this dish in an absolute age and then, whilst making dinner at home the other night from what was left in our fridge, I happened on this recipe. I was staring at the random ingredients in the fridge and BANG, inspiration. It was so good and went down so well with the family there was no question to which dish I should divulge this month. It's even made it to our VALENTINE menu @The Pier View Dining Room. The measurements of this recipe will do 4 people quite nicely.

YOU WILL NEED:

4 Large Chicken breast fillets. Skinless and boneless.

Some Stale bread to blitz up for breadcrumbs. Or some shop bought ones, doesn't matter.

150g Stilton, 50g Butter, Chives finely chopped, Plain flour and a half dozen eggs.

METHOD:

Is the slight twist obvious yet? If it is, well done!!! That's right we are replacing the traditional garlic butter filling with a more luxuriant stilton and chive. First, let's wash hands; get out a suitable board for meat and ideally a filleting knife. You'll also need 4 medium/large bowls. Our filling is dead easy. In one of the bowls crumble in the stilton then add the butter and rub the mix together with your hands until the mixture becomes soft. Add a pinch of salt and pepper and the finely chopped chives, give another mix and set aside in the fridge. This is going to make the filling set so it's a lot easier to work with. Okay, in 1 bowl put 200g of flour. 1 bowl is for the breadcrumbs. The last bowl is for egg whites, so separate those eggs and whisk the whites gently. Set the bowls aside ready for action. Meanwhile, let's tend to our chicken breasts. This next bit can be quite tricky. Place the chicken flat on your board and with your sharp fillet knife make a single incision from the top of the breast making a pocket to put our filling. Try not to cut through either side of the breast making sure the cut is central as you look at the top 'fat' end of the breast fillet. Finally wiggle your finger into the cavity so it's big enough for our delicious filling. Now take the filling from the fridge, it should be set nicely by now, and simply push a handsome amount into each of the breasts. Make sure you can pinch the end of the breast together closing the pocket and locking in our sumptuous cheese filling. This next technique is called 'pane'. (pan-ay) It can be a messy old process here and my only advice is endeavour to keep one dry hand, Let me explain. With our 3 bowls in front of us, flour, egg whites and breadcrumbs we have a little production line ready to go. With the wet hand pick up the filled breast and place in the flour. With the dry hand scoop the flour so the breast is evenly covered then pick up and place in the egg white. Our wet hand then makes sure the breast has a thorough soaking of egg white and picks up the breast and drops it into its final destination.... the breadcrumbs, where our dry hand makes sure we have an even covering ensuring the pocket has been sealed. If you want a thicker coating repeat the process by placing back in the egg white and then the breadcrumbs.

The hard work is done..... To cook, heat a pan with a little oil and butter and shallow fry each of the breasts for 4 mins each side or until the breadcrumbs are golden. Place the seared breasts on a baking tray and cook off in a pre-heated oven at 180C for 20 minutes. Serve with a green leaf salad or good old chips and peas. I hope you get as excited as I do when you cut through that crispy coating and the cheesy goodness oozes out. DEEE-LICIOUS!!!!

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