



The **Colour** pages of this month's Flyer are kindly sponsored by **Armstrong and North** opticians

## Proposed New Centre for Berkeley Town Centre

ilmar YOUNG



Over 60 people attended the first consultation at the Town Hall for the proposed development of Berkeley Town Centre.

Mayor Mike Studden said the initial responses had been extremely positive and he encourages everyone to check out the plan at;

<http://www.stroud.gov.uk/info/regeneration/fts.pdf> and to give their feedback to the council. The plans will also be available in the library until the 15th April.

There will be future consultations about these plans and the Flyer will report on them as soon as the dates are confirmed for you.

## Mosaic Students Show Highest Standard at Exhibition



Over 50 amateur artists are exhibiting mosaics in this exhibition running at the TomatoJack Arts Studio in White Hart Court. The skill and talent demonstrated in their work is stunning, even though many of them were new to this art form before they attended workshops at the TomatoJack studio. The exhibition has examples of mosaics utilised in a wide variety of styles. The display serves to both showcase the amazing talents of those involved to a wider audience and importantly to inspire and encourage those who attend mosaic classes at the studio.

The exhibition is running until Sunday 10th April, viewable the weekend of 2nd / 3rd April, and whenever the studio is open

(please ring 07833496799 or email [admin@tomatojack.co.uk](mailto:admin@tomatojack.co.uk) to check opening times).



The TomatoJack Arts studio is also a venue on the Severn Vale art Trail again this year, joined by the new shared venue at Dr Jenner's House and Garden as well as several artists exhibiting from their homes in and around Berkeley. This marks a shift in the trail further north of its origin in Thornbury and hopes to bring more visitors to Berkeley during the May Bank Holiday weekend and the following week. The arts trail runs from Friday 29th April to Sunday 8th May, brochures detailing the artists taking part will be available from the Library and the TomatoJack Studio as well as other locations in the Severn Vale area.

### Photography Competition

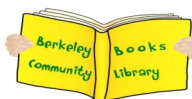
Closing Date: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016

*The winning photographs will be used for our 2017 Calendar*

**Theme:** Berkeley & Area – Colour or Black and White  
**Size:** A4 Landscape  
**Entry Fee:** 50p per photo - no limit to number of entries  
**Open to:** Individuals or Groups/Organisations

Entries should have name, tel. no. & email contact on the reverse of each photo and handed into the Library, in an envelope with the appropriate fee.

Photos will be displayed in the Library.  
Parental written permission must be obtained for any photo featuring a child/children.



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Watts Keith Palmer Liz Ashton  
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Tucker -

To contact Councillors - office@berkeley-  
tc.gov.uk

**Town Clerk:** Debbie Spiers -  
clerk@berkeley-tc.gov.uk

(511964) [www.berkeley-tc.gov.uk](http://www.berkeley-tc.gov.uk)

**Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Berkeley Castle will be lighting one of a long line of beacons on 21<sup>st</sup> April as part of the Queen's birthday celebrations. The beacon will be lit on the roof of the Castle. To enable Berkeley residents to take part

the Council would like as many of you as wish to come to meet in Market Place and we will all proceed up High Street and through the Castle entrance next to the church to watch the lighting of the beacon. The castle will be told in the next week or so at what time to light the beacon so look out for posters around the town.

**20 mph Speed Limit**

We have now received the speed readings for all four entrances into Berkeley and have decided to go ahead and try to get a 20 mph speed limit in Berkeley. We are now in communication with Highways Department to arrange this.

**Potholes**

We, like everyone else, are fed up with the appalling state of the roads. We have

recently issued a phone number (08000 514 514) to report potholes which you think need filling.

**Parish and Town Council Elections**

As part of Stroud District Council's synchronisation of elections of all District and Town/Parish Councillors there will be an election on the 5th May when Berkeley Town Councillors will be up for election.

**Youth Club**

While the alterations are taking place at the Pavilion from 1<sup>st</sup> May, the Youth Club will continue on its normal dates in a special Youth Club bus which will be brought to the recreation ground.

Val Watts

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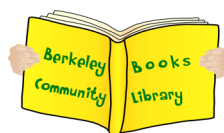
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**BERKELEY BOOKS – YOUR COMMUNITY LIBRARY****Crochet Group:**

The Library's Crochet Group is celebrating its 2nd anniversary in April and to mark the occasion they are putting together a small exhibition to show the work done in the past year. They've been busy making cushion covers, bags, beanie hats, blankets of all sizes and lots and lots of lovingly made crochet poppies (you may have seen them around last November), to name just a few. These items and more will be on show in the library from April 5th until the end of the month. As well as the exhibition look for the crochet decorating outside the Library.

The group meet in the library every Tuesday morning from 11 and each session costs only £1. All the money raised from the crochet sessions goes to the library.

Anyone is welcome to join, just bring some wool and a crochet hook. If you are a beginner help is available and they always have lots of laughter and friendly banter.

**Photography Competition:** The format for the competition will be the same as last year: theme Berkeley and Area, size A4 landscape, entry fee 50p per photograph. Please put your name, email and telephone no. on the back of each entry. Closing date for entries is 14th June.

**Easyfundraising.org:** If you shop online there's an easy and free way for you to support Berkeley Books – Your Community Library.

We've teamed up with easyfundraising who provide a shopping directory listing some of your favourite online stores. Hundreds of popular retailers are participating including Amazon, M&S, Vodafone, ebay, Tesco, Viking, National Lottery, and over 3000 others.

All you need to do is use the links provided on the easyfundraising site whenever you shop online. The retailer will then give Berkeley Books up to 15% of every purchase you make – it's that simple!

It doesn't cost a penny extra to shop and raise funds in this way, and you can even save money as many retailers give exclusive discounts, special offers and even 'e-vouchers' exclusive to easyfundraising.

If you already shop online why not help raise extra funds for us by using this completely free service? Follow these instructions to find out how.

1. Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/berkeley-books](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/berkeley-books) - your community library and register for FREE!
2. Once you are registered, use the links on the easyfundraising site to go to your favourite online shops and shop in the usual way.
3. Every time you shop online, log on to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and use their links to visit your favourite shops.

Please encourage your friends and family to sign up too and raise even more money for Berkeley Books. Up to now we have raised nearly £300 for our funds.

Berkeley Books - Committee

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### Stress Awareness Month: Managing Solutions to avoid Burnout

April is Stress awareness month. According to Health and Safety Executive (HSE) statistics based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS) across Great Britain, stress has been responsible for 35% of all ill health cases at work and 43% of all working days lost due to sickness during 2014/15. The total number of working days lost due to this condition equated to 9.9 million days (or an average of 23 days lost per case). With such a huge impact, businesses cannot afford to ignore such an important issue.

This is why stress management for managers should be a part of the on-going business strategy for success, because it is targeted towards key people that can help with the smooth flow of operations in the company. Helping managers to cope with stress not only helps them individually, but helps their subordinates and/or the clients they come in contact with, and the company in general.

Managers play a vital role in the organizational structure of every company. Whether they handle small teams, departments, or divisions, it is through its managers that a company cascades ideas and information, as well as organizational beliefs and values. Any concerns of employees within the rank-and-file are usually coured and addressed through them, and they become accountable for their subordinates' performance and well-being within the company. As such, they hold a significant amount of responsibility pressure on their shoulders.

One of the things a company can do to ensure that leaders stay healthy and

productive, whilst continuing to do excellent work, is to help them manage their stress. Below are a few things to take note of for effective stress management.

#### 1. Make it challenging, but not overwhelming.

Local hypnotherapist Liane Ulbricht-Kazan comments, "Stress is not always a bad thing. The problem is not actually that stress exists, but how much of it there is, how well we feel we can handle ourselves when confronted with it, and how we apply stress management techniques to use the stress as a stepping stone instead of a stumbling block."

The right amount of stress (i.e. when it is perceived as being difficult but doable) can motivate people to maximize their potential, and perform at their optimum level. The result is that they can reach their goal. However, when the amount of stress becomes overwhelming or is sustained for an extended period of time (i.e. chronic stress), it can sometimes begin to develop into a "stress disorder" which can manifest in a host of physical, emotional, mental and/or behavioural health problems.

#### 2. Ensure a proper work-life balance

The saying "all work and no play makes jack a dull boy" is very much applicable here. Without rest and recreation, we don't have a way to empty our stress buckets, which is a metaphor used by hypnotherapists

to describe the things that we've not yet processed. In the long run, this will stifle creativity and problem-solving skills as well as reduce a person's ability to concentrate on tasks. It also causes major strain in relationships.

#### 3. Foster a positive environment within the workplace.

Human beings were designed to thrive within a community setting. This is why primitive man existed in tribes and villages. We get a certain reward when we have positive interactions with others, and that reward came in the feel-good chemical that our brains produces called *serotonin*.

#### 4. Make sure that managers also receive support.

Managers are meant to be the first point of contact for support, but that doesn't mean they don't need support themselves. Providing them with options like Solutions Focused Hypnotherapy for coping with stress let's them know that the company cares about their well-being as a top priority.

The beauty of this approach is that it trains the mind to find the answers instead of focusing on the problem. Programmes like these can provide valuable life-skills that allow them to function within the innovative intellectual part of the brain, where we tend to see the solutions and cope with things appropriately.

Changes Welcome Hypnotherapy holds regular practice hours at the Marybrook Medical Centre in Berkeley, as well as Nailsworth and Bristol. To book an initial consultation where you can learn more about how this therapy can help you, just call 01453 367 870/ 07825 286 550 and speak to Liane or Sam, or visit [www.changeswelcome.co.uk](http://www.changeswelcome.co.uk)

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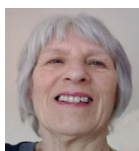
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## News for April 2016

Well, it is spring now and here is a bit of news that may encourage some of you to get out and about. Berkeley is going to have a **New Craft Group** for people who are 50+. It will be held at the library on Wednesday mornings on April 27th, May 25th and June 29th, and if there is enough interest it may continue on a more permanent basis, so vote with your feet and come and join in. Something else that may soon be going on at Berkeley library is a computer group. There will be an initial meeting in March and if that goes well there may be regular sessions. So if you would like to improve your computer skills or have the time to help others do so, please let me know and I can put you in touch with Matthew who is co-ordinating the scheme.

**Blue Badge Application Scam.**

Gloucestershire County Council is warning of scam websites that are charging people to apply for a Blue Badge, when the process should be available free. A Blue Badge is available to people to allow them free use of allocated disabled parking spaces. These websites may not be

illegal but they exist solely to make money by charging for an application process that would normally be absolutely free. The only charge for a Blue Badge is £10 if a badge is issued, and this is payable to Gloucestershire County Council. The forms can be tricky to complete, so if anyone would like a hand when doing this I would be very willing to come along to help.

'Refresh 2 Impress' is a free course being run by Stroud College for those who are retired and over 50. The programme offers: free lunch each day, free tea/coffee with biscuits/cake every morning and afternoon, free maths qualification, fun and interactive taster sessions. This may include art, wellbeing and technology.

**Refresh 2 Impress** offers people the chance to have an amazing 3 days, meeting like-minded people and just to have fun. The next programme is Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April. Phone 0800 056 6940. There may still be a few places left and there will probably be a couple more of these courses later on in the year so if you are interested it is worth phoning them.

I have just received this information and thought that it may be worth sharing. The **Gloucestershire Disability Fund** provides grants to people with disabilities of all ages, as well as financial support to not-for-profit organisations/groups and

community groups working to enhance the lives of people living with a physical, sensory or learning disability in Gloucestershire. **People who apply need to have been awarded one of the following disability benefits: PIP, DLA or Attendance Allowance.**

- Well-being grants of up to £750 for individuals needing help with one off exceptional needs.
- Grants of up to £2,500 for eligible organisations/groups
- 'Your Future Fund' offers financial help to individuals who are 18 or over with special needs arising from their disability... giving them the opportunity to enhance their education or work related training.

This could include household appliances, leisure activities, pursuit of skills in sports and the arts, transport related problems, computers, mobility aids, reclining chairs, specialist equipment.

They can be contacted by phone on Monday or Tuesday between 10am -1pm on 01452 614890, email: [info@glosdisabilityfund.org.uk](mailto:info@glosdisabilityfund.org.uk) or check out their website at [www.glosdisabilityfund.org.uk](http://www.glosdisabilityfund.org.uk)

Penny French. Tel: 07776 245 726.

Email: [pennyf@villageagent.grcc.org.uk](mailto:pennyf@villageagent.grcc.org.uk)

**Berkeley Educational Swimming Trust (BEST)****March Draw**

|           |                |             |        |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|--------|
| Winner    | Mary Midgley   | Ball No. 41 | £25.00 |
| Runner Up | Phil Greenaway | Ball No 95  | £15.00 |

The draw took place on Wednesday 2nd March by Beverley Hunt of The Berkeley Tea Rooms. On behalf of BEST I would like to thank the Berkeley Tea Rooms for their continuing support

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## COMPASSION, KINDNESS AND CARE



Do we ever consider the impact we have on others? Do we ever consider how a simple act of kindness can make a difference to another person's life? Here at Berkeley Primary School we have been reflecting on our recent and future endeavours, and the potential to transform the lives of those we know and those we don't know by simple acts of kindness.

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, we joined the rest of the nation to raise money for worthy causes via Sport Relief. During assembly, the children were moved by the stories of girls and boys from the streets of Dhaka in India, who are forced to work scavenging for plastic or metal each day to earn just enough to buy one meal. In the knowledge that there are many other children who face the harsh realities of abject poverty, our pupils were able to make a positive contribution by making donations to dress up as their favourite sporting hero or don their favourite sports kit. The whole school were also able to participate in a fabulous

obstacle course designed by Miss Franklin. The monies raised mean children in places such as India, can find the security of safe centres where they can go for a few hours a day and receive the gift of education.

Hot on the heels of our children to demonstrate not only stamina but psychological strength are our super-fit mums who are running the London Marathon this year. Claire Spiers, Laura Gaby and Nathalie Langley, will be running in support of Meningitis Now. Those whose lives have been affected by Meningitis will know the trauma and the cost it brings and therefore are aware of the desperate need to raise awareness of its signs and symptoms, offer support to those affected and research to fulfil the organisation's vision of no one in the UK to lose their life to Meningitis. In addition, Rachel Goatman will be running for Addaction, which provides support to enable individuals to make positive behavioural changes whether that is in relation to alcohol, drugs or mental health. To celebrate our mum's dedication and to help them on their way, we will be holding a Fun Run for the children at school on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April to raise funds for these commendable causes.

We value each individual child at the school and the contribution their difference makes in creating a school community which is diversely rich. Therefore on 21<sup>st</sup> March we marked World Down's Syndrome Day, a day to raise awareness and to celebrate people with Down's syndrome, of all ages, who are part of our communities - at home, in schools and colleges, in workplaces, clubs and social groups. We at the school joined many throughout the world, in the act of putting on odd socks, to demonstrate our support. It's worth remembering that the 'something' that makes another person different makes up for the 'something' that we don't have.

The presence of a dog in a classroom would be a strange sight, but in some schools in England this would not be unusual as they have adopted classroom canines. Research in both Britain and America have concluded that having a dog in a school classroom can have many positive benefits - these include help to calm children down, improve academic achievement, motivate those children who are often not that attentive, teach responsibility and encourage children to respect all life. Furthermore it has been shown that when classmates share the affection and care

of a 'class' dog, a bond forms among the classmates and strengthens their team ethics. Although the school does not have plans to do this Deputy Head, Miss Robbins, has a new addition to her family, Lenny, a Springador puppy who will be visiting the school. All the children and staff are excited to meet Lenny who is set to be the new school celebrity.

Nobody can predict the time when they might be in need of the help of a trained First Aider. Our key staff are qualified to administer Paediatric First Aid, however during the INSET on 29<sup>th</sup> April all support staff will be trained in this area, significantly increasing our number of qualified staff. In readiness for the summer swimming, all the teaching and Little Jesters staff are scheduled to complete their Swimming Safety Award, ensuring that all our children are safe in the water and helping to fulfil our vision that every child is able to swim when they leave Berkeley Primary School.

Can we transform lives? Looking to the needs of others with hearts of compassion, kindness and care and taking action we can make a difference. Can we change the world? The sphere of the world where we have an opportunity 'to touch' - absolutely!

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## BERKELEY W I

It is hard to believe that it is March already and the evenings are getting lighter. We were welcomed to the Town Hall by Judith our President.

We have lots to do in the coming months with our own Group Spring Rally on 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm at Coaley Village Hall. There is also going to be a garden games event at Coaley for the group at 3.30pm – 9.00pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May. The County walk on 14<sup>th</sup> May will be from Box followed by lunch. On May 19<sup>th</sup> 10.00am – 3.30pm at W I House there is to be a Needle Felt Class “Blossoms and Blooms”. For those interested in writing there is to be a competition for The Lady Denman Cup – closing date for entries to be at W I House by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The speaker for the evening was introduced to us. He was Richard Cann a guide at Gloucester Cathedral and he started his talk on Royal Collections by telling us that the Cathedral was a Roman settlement on the road to cross the River Severn. He added that the Cathedral had been

a monastery to start with and was over 1000 years old. In 1089 the foundation stone was set. In 1134 Robert of Normandy was buried at the High Altar. The coronation took place in 1216 of the boy King Henry III. In 1327 there was the burial of Edward II who died in Berkeley Castle. When Henry VIII dissolution of the Monasteries took place he left Gloucester Cathedral because of the connection to the Royal Family. Richard went on to tell us of the design of the Cathedral such as the types of large pillars used, the story of the stained glass windows and the shape of the beautiful roof. There is a first edition of the King James Bible in the Cathedral Library. The Royal Court used the Cathedral for their Christmas celebrations. It was a very interesting and entertaining talk with lots of illustrations.

Judith gave the vote of thanks to Richard for his delightful talk and the evening came to an end with a nice cup of tea and biscuits. Our next meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. The speaker is Jessica Mills and she is to give a demonstration of Make Up.

New members are always welcome.

## APRIL IN THE GARDEN

April can be a difficult time for gardeners because the weather can be so changeable. We listen to the weather forecast and dread the mention of frost which sends shivers down our spines and we rush out to protect those tender plants which have begun to grow. None the less early April is a vanguard of Spring and brings great joy to most gardeners.

There should be a host of flowering shrubs and trees to see this month in the garden from the upright forms of Magnolia stellata with the star like white flowers, Ribes sanguineum (flowering currant) which bears hanging clusters of pink flowers, Cytisus x praecox (broom) with pea like creamy yellow flowers on wand like branches, lots of Prunus (cherry) ranging from dark pink to white flowers in profusion of fragrant blossom and the first of the herbaceous flowers such as Doronicum with its beautiful yellow daisy flowers. Now the daffodils are over it is time to dead head them because if you do not the plants energy will go into making seeds and not back into the bulb to make next

year's flowers. Always let the foliage die back naturally.

Many crops can be sown direct into the ground now. These include parsnips, cabbage, radish, peas, beetroot, carrots and leeks. Indoors you can sow tomatoes, French beans, runner beans, courgettes, sweetcorn and marrows.

It is time to plant summer bulbs and tubers such as Gladioli, Dahlias, Lilies and Anemones. They like a sunny position in well drained soil. They are best planted in groups of five or more to give a good display. Plant them about three times their own depth in the soil.

As you are weeding and clearing the beds and borders where perennial plants are growing think of plant supports for them whether they be metal commercial ones or natural woven types which you can make yourself or just pea sticks pushed in. It is better to do it now so that the plants will grow through them and they will have support against the winds we seem to have in the Spring and Summer.

Adding supports later can be difficult and may damage the plants.

Feed Blackcurrants, Redcurrants and Raspberries with high Nitrogen fertilizer. These plants make a lot of growth during the season and an extra dose of feed will give them a boost. Do not use too much but follow the directions on the package. The warmth and Spring rain brings a huge increase in the population of slugs and snails which can cause a great deal of damage to plants, so do remember to spread a few slug pellets in amongst the plants most affected. Pests are also on the move – greenfly being one. Get on top of the problem as soon as you spot them and this will prevent them getting a hold.

Well that is enough of gardening for the time being, my next job is to put the sun chairs out in the garden ready for the nice weather (ever hopeful!). Well you live in hope or so they say. Until next time.

Ann Legg

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**Gloucestershire Constabulary**  
People First Policing



Our local neighbourhood panel met with us last month and they have chosen the following priorities for us to concentrate on for the spring/summer period.

- To carry out speed checks on Lynch Road, The High Street & Wanswell through to Newtown.
- To concentrate on evening weekend patrols paying particular attention to the

derelict site of Newport Towers (where there have been a number of unauthorised visits).

To continue with our school work and in particular deliver lessons on internet safety.

If you live or work in the area would you like to join our existing team of volunteer local police panel members? They meet with us twice per year and have a say in how you want local officers to deliver policing in the area - please get in touch via email or leave a note in the police letter box outside Berkeley Town Hall.

March has again provided the area with a very low crime rate with just a handful of incidents which have included a couple of sheds having been broken into to the south of Berkeley with a couple of items having been stolen from one of those sheds and an untidy search of the other.

Mike Trebble and Mel Campbell stopped and questioned a male who was reported as trying a number of car doors parked at Michaelwood Services towards mid-March. He was sent on his way with a caution.

A vehicle number plate was stolen from a parked up vehicle at Newtown.

There have, however, been a number of road accidents in the area during March thankfully none of those have been serious but please remember speed limits in Berkeley and surrounding locations.

Michael.trebble@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk

Melanie.campbell@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk

### COFFEE MORNING BERKELEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH SATURDAY 9TH APRIL

10.00 -11.30 am

The Spring weather last month encouraged a large number of friends, old and new, to come to sample our cakes and coffee. Please join us again on the 9th of this month. It's great to meet up and it's good to see the results of our skilful cake makers being enjoyed in such lively company. If you would like more information or help with transport please ring Dawn 810494, or Grace 811138



### Meningitis NOW

#### NEWSFLASH....

Unfortunately this year's Rounders Tournament / Family Funday in aid of Meningitis Now in memory of Sam Virgo will not be taking place as the football field is out of action for the summer (it's being dug up to sort out the drainage problems). We have looked at all the other options but feel we cannot give the same value for money family day out that the town is used to, so we would rather take a year off and focus on other projects. So the big event this year is .....

### "BERKELEY'S GOT TALENT"

It will be held at Hamfields Leisure on Saturday 16th July from 7 p.m. We are looking for entrants so if you have a talent you would like to share with the town and perhaps win a fabulous (t.b.c) prize please get in touch. We are looking for singers, bands, magicians, comedians, dance troupes, performing pets etc..... We are hoping to put on an amazing show with music provided by the fabulous Pete Atkinson, lighting and sound effects by our very own team of specialists. Tickets to this fabulous extravaganza of talent will be £5, we will let you know when they go on sale. Please contact Lisa Higgins on 01453 511902 or email at [lisaclarehiggins@gmail.com](mailto:lisaclarehiggins@gmail.com) if you would like to enter. Many thanks for your continued support.

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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*

People of Berkeley are rightly angry about the state of our roads. While in theory, as a District Councillor I have no greater influence over the County Council who are responsible for highways than any other resident, I felt compelled to write directly to Mark Hawthorne, the leader of Gloucestershire County Council and wanted to share my letter with residents. For your information, the officer in charge of Highways at the county is Scott Tomkins and his e-mail address is [scott.tomkins@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scott.tomkins@gloucestershire.gov.uk) should residents feel they want to voice their own concerns.

Dear Mark,

Ref: Highways in and around Berkeley

You are my last resort. I have reported potholes, I have spoken with and received visits from your highways engineer and I have spoken with my County Councillor, but none seem very effective. Having considered what I've seen, I've come to the conclusion that the procedures your contractor is following are at least partially to blame.

Your procedure which requires an engineer to firstly assess a group of potholes to judge and mark which ones qualify to be fixed and which ones don't is wasteful in terms of the overhead of this tier of people, it also adds considerable additional time to achieving the fix.

Perhaps the more serious but not so obvious consequence is that often by the time the pothole team get to fix the marked holes other holes around them that had previously not made the grade to be fixed need fixing and so it appears to the layman that you never really fix any. On that basis you really should expect that satisfaction levels with Gloucestershire County Council will

be impacted and impacted in such a way as to overshadow the many good things you do in other areas. This is something which should deeply concern you as leader.

Where fixes take place I have to say that the quality of the fix in my experience tends to be generally below standard - often not excavated, flattened or properly sealed round the edges which just leads to the rapid return of the pot holes and greater public dissatisfaction.

Now I have heard in some quarters that GCC almost uniquely, have a policy of fixing all road degradations in the vicinity of a qualifying pothole no matter how minor but not once have I seen it practised, perhaps that would be a good place to start putting current procedures right but surely it is as simple as the following :-

On receipt of reliable reports of potholes a gang is immediately dispatched to the area and is told to spend the day fixing these potholes and any road degradation issues found in that vicinity. Perhaps the engineers with the white/yellow spray paint could have their job reallocated to the role of making unannounced visits to gangs to establish high standards which will ensure that pre- potholes never become potholes and that potholes once fixed stayed fixed. If as I believe your contract with Amey includes a financial benefit for the number of potholes fixed then this stitch in time approach would surely save you a great deal of money in addition to raising the councils popularity rating.

Now I understand that changes wont happen overnight but there is some urgent work in my ward that just cant wait and I hope you can influence it today.

1. Numerous potholes on the B4066 near the entrance to Cattle Country Adventure Park

2. Deep pothole in the middle of the junction between Alkington Lane and the B4066
3. Serious crack opening up in centre of carriageway on roundabout at Mobley
4. Deep potholes at the edge and length of Alkington Lane caused by HGVs on a road not fit for purpose.
5. Road falling away on North bound carriageway of B4066 approx 300m before junction with A38
6. Potholes at Berkeley Heath on the junction of B4066 and A38
7. Potholes and road degradation on Canonbury Street Berkeley over extended area
8. Potholes and sunken manhole covers on Salter Street Berkeley.

If I may, I would like to finish by voicing my concerns in terms of safety and human life. I have followed vehicles as they zig zag along the A38, the B4066 and Alkington Lane to avoid potholes and am seriously concerned about the human consequences of this chicane. Cyclists and motorcyclists are particularly at risk and a number of local people I know, particularly the elderly, feel unable to venture out at night lest they crash into an unseen pothole. Please can you action what you can now and give serious thought to making procedural changes so you can make more impact with what I fully understand are finite resources.

Gordon Craig

Stroud District Councillor

Berkeley Ward



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## Berkeley Forum...continued...

*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*

On Sat morning two cars were parked on the pavement. One by the Town Hall and one further down in Marybrook Street. I was on my way home from town, I got round the first car but had to get on the road to get round the second car. As I am getting over a hip operation I cannot walk without a walking stick. I tripped on the kerb, falling down, breaking my teeth and left arm. Surely something must be done about parking in Berkeley. I hope the lady whose car it was got to Stroud.

I would like to thank everyone who came to help me, and a big thank you to the lady who provided the umbrella to keep the rain off me. Also to the emergency services who attended

Betty Eamer—Marybrook Street

I would like to thank everyone who came to help celebrate my Birthday, and for the generous donations to my three charities, Berkeley Scouts, Berkeley Players, and Berkeley Swimming Pool. The money raised amounted to £495, each receiving £165. A good night was had by all. Thanks again, Joyce Buckfield

Dear Parents

1st Berkeley Brownies would like to thank everyone who sent back their 'Gift Aid' forms. We were eligible to go back four years and were able to claim an amazing £545.12p. So a very big **Thank you** from Brown Owl, Tawny Owl & Snowy Owl.



### Memory Café Meeting

Every other Wednesday afternoon a group of like minded people make their way to the Past Times Café meeting at the Surgery. On arrival we are made more than welcome with a cup of tea and a piece of delicious home made cake.

After greeting our friends we settle down to discover our creative side, nothing too exacting. You may have seen some of our efforts in the lobby and the surgery. There are occasions when a visitor will pop in, for example Dillon the Dog (Pat a Pet) who enjoys coming along as much as we do

We are then ready for another cup of tea and a chat after which we play a game or two—we might even win a prize.

All to soon it is time to go home, felling relaxed and happy. Please, we would like to take this opportunity to invite you to come along and share with us a very enjoyable two hours.

## PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP

### MARYBROOK MEDICAL CENTRE

Surgery website:

[www.marybrookmedicalcentre.co.uk](http://www.marybrookmedicalcentre.co.uk)

Surgery email: [marybrook.GP@nhs.net](mailto:marybrook.GP@nhs.net)

PPG e-mail: [ppgberkeley@btinternet.com](mailto:ppgberkeley@btinternet.com)

### Did you know?

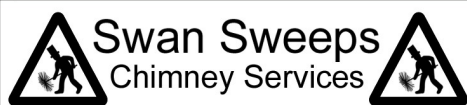
**GP Appointments at the Vale:** Choice + have introduced a new service at the Vale and Stroud hospitals which offers additional GP appointments to those available at Marybrook. If Marybrook are unable to book an appointment which is convenient for you they may be able to offer you an alternative booked appointment the same day or Saturday mornings at either of the above locations. Please call the surgery for further details as appointments are only released on the day (Friday for Friday and Saturday appointments) the receptionists will be happy to help you.

**Late Surgery at Marybrook:** Marybrook continues to offer Monday evening appointments from 6.30 to 7.30 each week. These include GP and Nurse Appointments particularly aimed at patients who struggle to attend the surgery during the day but are open to all.

**Marybrook GP on Wednesday PM:** If you require an urgent appointment on Wednesday afternoons a Marybrook GP is available. Please call the normal surgery number where your call will be passed to an answering service. Your details will be forwarded to the doctor on call who will telephone you, and if necessary ask you to come to the surgery.

Val Watts

**Secretary of Marybrook Medical Centre Patient Participation Group.**



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## What's On This Month...

## SHARPNESS & BERKELEY STRONGEST MAN AND WOMAN 2016

### CALLING ALL LOCAL FUNDRAISERS

### St Mary's Bell Tower Concert

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm there will be a special concert in St Mary's Berkeley, given by the Berkeley Ensemble conducted by Lord Berkeley of Knighton CBE; the great-grandson of the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Berkeley. Michael Berkeley is the internationally renowned classical composer and conductor, who also presents the radio programme "Private Passions" weekly on BBC Radio 3. The concert will include Michael's Clarinet Quintet, a String Trio by his father Lennox and two works by Mozart. After the concert there will be a reception in the Great Hall of the Castle, where concert-goers can chat with the performers and enjoy a fork buffet with wine. Before the concert there will be early evening guided tours of the Castle, starting between 5 and 5.30pm.

The concert has been organized for us by one of our Patrons, Rt. Hon. Lord Cope of Berkeley, former MP for Berkeley and Minister of State in Margaret Thatcher's and John Major's Governments.

Concert tickets cost £30 for Nave seats and £20 for Aisle seats. Tickets for the Reception, which are limited and only available with a concert ticket, also cost £30 while pre-concert tours are £15. Tickets are only available from the booking agency; Brown Paper Tickets on 0800 411 8881 (24 hrs, ask for the Special Berkeley Concert) or at: [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

This exciting concert will help us to raise the £50,000 we still need to complete the restoration of St Mary's bell tower so that these ten bells, including the two Great War memorial bells, can ring out for the Armistice centenary in 2018.

Steve Chandler JP

Chairman of the Appeal Committee

This year the Strongest Man and Woman annual event will be held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May at Hamfields Leisure (the old Berkeley Power Station social club).

The event has raised a good deal of money for charity over the years and we hope this year will be no exception.

The committee are to choose one or two main local charities which will receive the profits from the main event, however the committee felt that the extra space provided at Hamfields lends an opportunity for us to offer any interested local fund raisers a free pitch which they can use to raise money for themselves.

Our thoughts are that this would add a little variety to the day and offer some added entertainment to the spectators between events.

Past events held at the Pier View in Sharpness have drawn large crowds of hundreds of people for this fun packed exciting day.

If you are a fund raiser located in Sharpness, Berkeley or the surrounding areas and would like the opportunity to raise some money for your Club or Society, please pitch your ideas by sending them via email to [june.stump@outlook.com](mailto:june.stump@outlook.com).

We are trying to ensure that we have a nice mixture on the day and avoid having 6 cake stalls, for instance, as nice as that may be. Some possible ideas are any games, Tombola, Hook a Duck, Lucky Dip, Cake Stall, Face Painting etc.

We will keep you updated in the coming months and hope to see you there.

### The Phoenix Singers present songs from

### Jesus Christ Superstar



Saturday 16th April from 7pm at Berkeley Union Church

A FREE concert to be enjoyed by all. With refreshments. Come along and sing with us!

**Hamfields Leisure**

**Cabaret Night**  
Saturday 14 May - 8:00pm till late  
'Neil Diamond' Tribute Night + 'Tank Sherman' Comedian + Disco.  
Tickets £10

Saturday 9th July - 7:00pm till late  
Ollie Murs / Sam Smith Tribute + Disco  
Tickets £10

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### Events at Dr Jenner's House

#### Forthcoming talks...

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April

#### A History of Cheesemaking

Liz Godsell

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May

#### Mirmillo, the Turkey Merchant and the Angel of Death

Gareth Williams

Talks start at 7:30pm. Tickets cost £5 and can be reserved on 01453 810631 or email [info@edwardjenner.co.uk](mailto:info@edwardjenner.co.uk)



# What's On Diary

For a regular entry in the What's On Diary please email  
editor@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk before 15th of the month

## Monday

### Town Council Meeting

3rd Monday of the month 7.30pm

### Stay & Play Kids - Sharpness Village Hall

9.45am - 12 noon contact Sue Boxall on  
07526101287

### Youth Club - Sharpness Village Hall

6.30pm - 8.30pm contact Darren Brown on 07799067237

### Beavers/Scouts

#### Scout HQ., Park View

Scouts 10½ to 14 years old 7.00pm - 8.30pm

### FitFix Exercise - Stinchcombe Village Hall

6.30pm - 7.30pm

## Tuesday

### Community Bank - Town Hall,

Tuesdays 9.15am - 11am

### Town Planning & Finance Meetings

2nd Tuesday of the month 7.00pm

### Berkeley Community Library

Tuesdays 10.30am - 4.30pm  
Telephone 810520

### Line Dancing/Ballroom Dance Class

Hamfields Leisure 7.00pm - 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 - 7.30pm

### FitFix Exercise - Cam Memorial Hall

9.45am - 10.45am

## Wednesday

### Craft Club - Berkeley Library

Last Wednesday of the month. 10.30am - 1.30pm.  
Bring along whatever project you are working on.  
£2 all welcome

### Dog Training - Sharpness Village Hall

from 7pm contact Mike Vine 01453 822134

### Exercise Classes in Scout Hut

10.30am - Noon

### Knit and Natter

Town Hall 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Weds fortnightly (recycling week) £2 - all welcome

### Berkeley Under 5's

Town Hall Toddlers - 9.30am - 11.30am

### Citizens Advice Bureau

Town Hall, 1pm - 3pm

### Berkeley Youth Club

Canon Park Pavilion 6pm - 8pm

### Coffee Morning

Sharpness Village Hall  
10 - 12pm Call Christy 07970 565099

### Berkeley Gardening Club

3rd Wednesday of the month  
Library 7.30pm

### Past-Times Café

Marybrook Medical Centre  
Chat, Crafts, and tea. 2.00pm

### FitFix Exercise - Stinchcombe Village Hall

7.30pm - 8.30pm

## Thursday

### Bingo - Sharpness Village Hall

from 7.30pm contact Jimmy Thomas  
01453 811339

### Coffee Morning

Union Church Schoolroom  
10.00 - 11.00am

### Berkeley Players Rehearsals

Town Hall, 7.00pm Youngsters / 8.30pm Adults

### Circuit Training/Keep Fit

Hamfields Leisure 6.30pm - 7.30pm  
Contact Jess Efford 07866 255325

### Beavers/Scouts

#### Scout HQ., Park View

Beaver Scouts, 6 to 8 years old 4.30pm  
- 5.30pm



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## Friday

### Bingo in the Mariners Arms

From 3pm

### Berkeley Community Library

10.30am - 4.30pm

### Berkeley Rainbows

The Scout Hut 4.15 - 5.30pm

### Berkeley Brownies

The Scout Hut 6.00pm - 7.30pm

### Little Fishes Music Group

Berkeley Union Church. Free  
9.15am - 11.00am term time

### People for You

Town Hall - 9.15am - 1pm

### NatWest Mobile Bank

In the Police parking bay (outside Sema4  
Graphics) 11am - 1pm

### FitFix Exercise - Cam Memorial Hall

10am - 11am

## Saturday

### Berkeley Community Library

9.30am - 12.30pm

### Coffee Morning

Every 2nd Saturday of the month  
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

### Berkeley Union Church

Salter Street, Berkeley. (Next to Town Hall)  
Sunday Services 10.00am - 11.00am  
Coffee, Tea and biscuits to follow

### St Mary's Church

Sunday 3rd April:  
9.30 Parish Communion  
11 am All Age Worship  
6 pm Evening Prayer  
Sunday 10th April:  
9.30 Choral Communion  
11 am All Age Worship  
Sunday 17th April:  
9 am Parish Communion  
11am All Age Worship  
6pm Evensong  
Sunday 24th April:  
10.30 Joint Service  
6 pm BCP Communion  
**Quiz Night**  
Mariners Arms Berkeley. 8.30pm start

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: [editor@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk](mailto:editor@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk) by 15<sup>th</sup> of  
each month

### PUBLICATION DATE : 1st of each month

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THE BERKELEY FLYER

## Six Market Place

### Services Available

- Local Coventry Building Society Agency -  
full counter service
- Bennett Jones Estate Agents -  
Thinking of selling or letting? Give us a call for  
your free valuation.
- Independent Financial & Mortgage Advice  
call in or telephone for an appointment.
- Phoenix Legal Advice Clinic  
every Thursday morning from 10.00 - 12.00.

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available"**

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**Tel: 01453 810383**

6 Market Place, Berkeley,  
Glos GL13 7DH

### Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.30am till 4.45pm  
Saturdays 9.00am till 12 noon



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## About us

We offer a clear, honest and professional service, with a priority on good eye health consultations and quality products.

We welcome private and NHS patients of any age and also offer the chance to try out contact lenses free of charge. The practice is easy access with no steps and is wheelchair friendly.

### Our address:

Market Place  
 Berkeley  
 Gloucestershire  
 GL13 9BP

### Opening hours:

**Monday-Friday:** 9am-5pm  
**Saturday-Sunday:** Closed  
**Telephone:** 01453 511436

Armstrong and North, your local Berkeley Opticians, are looking at ways to supplement their service for both new and existing patients. We appreciate that some of the less mobile in the community may find it difficult to attend the practice, especially in the outlying areas.

We are hoping to put in place a free taxi service for any over 60s with no means of transport. This service would pick you up for your appointment and return you home with the opportunity to pick up prescriptions or other essentials afterwards.

Before we can action this idea we need to find out how many people would use it. If you or anyone you know may find this service useful, please call us on **01453 511436** to register your interest.

Book an appointment on our website at:  
[armstrongandnorth.com/berkeley](http://armstrongandnorth.com/berkeley)

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