

**BRING ME SUNSHINE!****BERKELEY SUMMER FESTIVAL
Saturday 6th July**

That's all that we need to complete the preparations for this year's Berkeley Summer Festival. We'll be at our usual venue in the garden of the Berkeley Arms Hotel from 1 o'clock on Saturday 6th July, just waiting for you.

This year we have lots of food from good old-fashioned candy floss and traditional style sweets to wood fired pizza, magnificent ice cream, exclusive smoothies and exotic coffees, pancakes, crepes and savoury sandwiches. Around the hotel we have a choice of beers and real ales, summertime Pimms and much more to tease your palate.

We're looking forward to a musical treat from a new and very local acapella singing group, ready to tickle your fancy in their first Festival appearance together with Berkeley's own Pete the Fiddle who rocked the joint last year with his mix of styles and music for all ages. Sit back, relax and take in the summer atmosphere (even if the sun doesn't make an appearance).

Come and try your luck at winning a brand new Mini with Utility Warehouse and browse our hand made jewellery, plants and flowers for all occasions, speciality wooden gifts and novelties and much more. Highlight is a new business offering upcycled and vintage curios and small furniture pieces together with local charities and organisations like



Vale of Berkeley Railway, SARA Lifeboat, St Mary's Church and others.

Not forgetting the children and young people, we'll have a special area of games and challenges to keep them amused, including a chance to pelt Town Mayor Phil Stevenson with wet sponges in the stocks. Adults can have a go as well, if they promise not to be too heavy on the throwing.

Berkeley Community Trust run this annual event to give local businesses an opportunity to let you spend your hard-earned cash locally and keep

them going. We also give local charities and organisations the chance to swell their funds to support them.

To get the Festival off with a bang we're delighted to host the finish for the New Berkeley Harriers Castle Dash and Folly Frolic Runs which will end at the Festival site at the start of the event. Come on down and soak up the atmosphere without having to drive or travel out of Berkeley. Don't forget 1 o'clock on Saturday 6th July at the Berkeley Arms Hotel.

Get it in your diary now.

**FAMILY FUN DAY AND ROUNDERS - SATURDAY 27th JULY - in aid of Meningitis Now**

Just Rounders Tournament and Family Funday this year (no crazy bike rides or half marathons or swimming, we're having a year off from the extreme challenges). Rounders (we have 10 teams entered) will begin at 10 am with the final being played around 5 pm.

There will be loads of other things to entertain you and your families throughout the day and night including bouncy castles and crafts for the kids (all free as usual) Entertainment from Pete and Ant from Weareevolution and live music throughout the day ending with our headliners 'Phat Gary's Band'

There will be bacon rolls and coffee for breakfast, BBQ all day and hog roast in the evening. The fabulous ladies from St. Mary's Church will be running their vintage tearoom as usual with their amazing cakes and we will have our outside bar with all your favourite tipples on sale at very reasonable prices.



We are in need of a volunteer to take on the distribution of 34 Flyers to Lower Berrycroft.

If you think you can help contact Grace

King 811138 or email:

editor@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk

(Please refrain from bringing your own refreshments as the sales from this are how we raise so much money for Meningitis Now)

Get it in your diary.



JULY IN THE GARDEN

July – the month of lazy carefree days when gardens are swelling in colour and maturity. It is also usually the hottest month of the year so watering the garden is likely to take up a considerable amount of time. Also harvesting of crops and staking plants will keep gardeners busy. Make the most of any good weather to enjoy the garden with family and friends. On warm evenings make sure you stroll around in the evening after dusk and appreciate the night scented flowers.

Sweet peas will stop flowering if they are allowed to run to seed. Keep picking flowers to bring inside and dead head them regularly to keep the plants flowering right through the summer.

Lift spring planted garlic bulbs promptly once the foliage yellows. Dry in single layers either outside in the sunshine or in a greenhouse or dry shed. Don't leave them in the soil for long after the leaves have turned yellow or the bulbs will rot. Store them after they have dried out in a cool dry place out of the sun either in a net bag or wicker basket or you could plait them to a rope to be hung up. Don't store them in a cold place as they will start to sprout. If you are growing tomatoes inspect them for signs of fruits splitting or blossom end rot. These are cultural problems due to variations in temperature or moisture. So keep the growing medium evenly moist as possible and the greenhouse ventilated. On hot days this can mean watering twice a day. Remove damaged fruits and ensure consistent watering to limit further damage.

Forget me nots, Wallflowers and Sweet William which are biennial plants can be sown now and will ensure good flowering displays next Spring.

If you are going on holiday you must take precautions to keep your plants alive whilst you are away. Getting a reliable person in to water them is ideal but not always possible. Containers and hanging baskets can be watered well and put in a shaded area all together. This will reduce the loss of water. You could install an automatic drip irrigation system which has a timer and water will drip into each container. Also you can give the garden a good soak with water and put a mulch down. In the greenhouse open all ventilation and leave the door open. Put all pots and trays in a large tray which holds water. I also put garden fleece over the plants to reduce water loss and to stop the rays of sunlight burning the leaves of plants.

Another job that can be done this month is pruning of Spring flowering shrubs in order to achieve the optimum flowering performance next year. Without cutting back most shrubs will steadily increase in size – outgrowing their space and becoming very dense and twiggy with stems that have small amounts of flowers at the tips. By pruning now and removing some of the old growth and reshaping the shrub it will develop stronger and produce lots of new growth which will take over in future years and produce better flowers. Shrubs which can be pruned in this way are Philadelphus, Deutzia, Forsythia, Viburnum and Weigela. If, like me, you find whilst pruning there are healthy stems I will take semi ripe cuttings that are just beginning to harden and become

woody at the base. Cut the shoots with secateurs just below a leaf joint, remove the lower leaves and create cuttings about 10cm/4in long. Dip the base of the cutting with hormone rooting powder and insert into a prepared pot or tray with compost. Place the pots or trays in a cold frame or well ventilated greenhouse or a sheltered position outdoors. Keep them shaded and watered until they produce roots in three or four weeks time.

If we have long and warm sunny days why not take the opportunity to sit back and enjoy the garden whilst having a well deserved rest. Maybe you could take some photographs of your garden as a record of what has grown well and you will be able to compare this year with last and next.

Until next month – Good Gardening!

Ann Legg



Garden Opening

SUNDAY, 21 JULY
1PM - 5PM

RAISING FUNDS FOR 'SEVERN AREA RESCUE ASSOCIATION'
ENTRY FEE (ADULTS): £4
CHILDREN WELCOME

We look forward to welcoming you back to our 8th annual garden opening!
Enjoy delicious homemade cakes whilst exploring our 1.5 acre garden & woodland.

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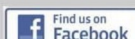


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This term at Berkeley Players, our adult and older young people have been working on a summer play for the Jenner garden: The scatter-brained scarecrow of Oz.

At the time of going to press the dates are to be announced, look out for posters with details soon. Hopefully the weather will be kind and we can be at the Jenner Museum Gardens. If the British weather should fail us a wet weather plan will be in place for all ticket holders. Tickets will be on sale from the Pharmacy shortly.

Meanwhile our young people have been taking part in a variety of theatre workshops to help develop their skills. The workshops have included: character acting, singing and makeup."

Stroll and Roll!

In Berkeley many of us have friends or family members who are living with dementia. The condition can have a huge impact on people's confidence so it can happen that, despite their families' best efforts, they find themselves living increasingly isolated and restricted lives.

A few months ago, I told you of our plans to set up gentle walks for people in our area who are living with dementia. We all feel better for the opportunity to get out in the fresh air, meet friends and have a chat. It's taken a long time but we are finally ready to go.

Our walks will be on alternate Wednesday afternoons to avoid clashing with the Past-times café at the Health Centre. We will be meeting in the Berkeley Tea Rooms for a drink then walking in the Jenner Museum grounds and the Castle gardens. Many thanks to Owen Gower from the museum and Jackie Pennington from the castle for permission to use their grounds free of charge. Both gardens have level paths giving good access for both walkers and wheelchair users: strollers and rollers!

We have managed to recruit some excellent volunteers to join us but would welcome more, anyone who enjoys having a chat and meeting new people. Basic Dementia Friends training is available for anyone who is interested.

For more information, please feel free to contact either Liz at lizzie.ashton123@btinternet.com 811208 or Kathy at kathy8148@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you soon,
Liz Ashton

Pride of Berkeley -The big tidy up

Well the weather stopped us on our advertised weekend but we tried again the following Saturday and unfortunately this meant that numbers were low. However, the few families that did turn up did a great job and we actually found that Berkeley is quite a tidy town already.

There are a few problem areas, sadly including the town's two play parks and surrounding areas. The children that helped enjoyed it and we at least know that they wouldn't dream of littering our town.

Sadly in the week that followed we witnessed a few people throwing their rubbish on the ground including one gentleman that really was old enough to know better. After being challenged by an onlooker and given his rubbish back, he again threw it in the street. Some people clearly just don't care.

We will organise another tidy up day in the Autumn and hopefully will have a few more supporters. We are still in talks about 'Planting a Family Tree' with the Council, Sarah's Field and lots of other people. It turns out it is not as simple as just buying and planting them. We'll let you know more about this and organise a date for planting in September or October.

Thanks to everyone that did their bit on Saturday 22nd.



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NEW OPENING TIMES

From January 2019 the shop opening times will be as follows

Tuesday - Thursday 9am - 4pm
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This is to allow for more consistent opening, leaving Mondays & Fridays for site visits

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Thursday June 13th was the monthly meeting of Berkeley Women's Institute in the Town Hall.

Quick resume of the **May meeting:**

There was a lively discussion about the two national WI resolutions (the decline in rural bus services and the need to promote younger women to have their cervical smears).

If any member of the public would like to make a comment about either of the resolutions we would be glad to hear them - one observation made at the meeting was the complete absence of any bus service being provided to Berkeley Vale Park despite the sturdy bus shelter and buses galore (including the 62) passing the bus stop at the entrance to the park. The buses are transporting students to and from Berkeley College but not stopping to pick up any passengers before or after dropping off the students.

There had been a suggestion that Berkeley WI might consider moving to being an afternoon WI. Our secretary Vicky Young contacted GFWI for guidance as to how to proceed. After discussions and issuing of ballot papers at previous meetings the outcome of the ballot was given which is to continue as an evening WI at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of every month in Berkeley Town Hall.

After the discussions Prosecco and puddings were much enjoyed.

At the June meeting:

As the summer (hopefully the rain will stop) approaches various sports taster sessions and outings were discussed.

Eight ladies had had a wonderful Sunday afternoon hosted by Dursley Bowls club. A rain break apparently gave much more time to enjoy the sumptuous tea provided by the bowls club.

The feedback from the trip to the BBC was hugely positive. Having an inside look at what is behind some of the magic of the television and radio programmes that are made was especially fascinating. Particular mention was made of the weatherman (Ian) and his shed on the

roof. Of course Bristol is home to the BBC natural history unit as well as producing well loved radio programmes (Farming Today, The Food Programme, Poetry Please to name a few). There was the opportunity to participate in mock TV and radio shows. Great fun. Who knew what hidden talents our members have.

Monthly activities:

WI meeting - second Thursday in every month (except August) at 7.30pm upstairs in the Town Hall. The WI would like to thank the Town Council for increasing the cleaning/caretaking to 2 hours per week. It has made a noticeable positive difference.

Book Group - we meet in the front sitting room of the Berkeley Arms on the first Thursday of every month at 7.30pm. We are hugely grateful to Tracy for enabling us to meet there. It is the perfect place to discuss the books - and we often get interest expressed by other customers.

Craft Group - Vicky Young very kindly hosts this at her house 40 Salter Street on the third Thursday of every month. Vicky supplies the necessary items at cost for all attendees so does require to know before each session how many participants she is expecting.

Skittles Practice - last Thursday of the month at 3.00pm in the skittle alley at The Boars Head in Salter Street. We are very grateful to Sam and her staff for making us so welcome. We have been delighted to be joined by Stone with Woodford WI and plan to continue this monthly joint event with both WIs enjoying the practice. A good bit of healthy rivalry! In the WI skittles competition Berkeley WI played Uley and it came down to a knockout as it was a draw. The knockout was very tense and Berkeley lost by 2 pins. It was a very enjoyable match played at The Tudor Arms in Slimbridge. Congratulations are due to Stone with Woodford who won their match against Bredon and now go into round two. Berkeley will be entered into the plate competition.

Speaker at the June meeting was our very own Berkeley based Adele Sage. Adele is an extremely energetic mum of two under 3s who while on maternity leave from being a full time nurse on the acute

medicine unit at Southmead Hospital has become a Neal's Yard Consultant.

Neal's Yard is named after the address of the first shop which was set up by Rome Fraser. The company philosophy, vision and mission are all driven by empowering people to improve the quality of their lives by sustainably harnessing natural ingredients and creating products which promote healthier living through the power of nature.

Neal's Yard was the first UK certified organic natural health and beauty company also being the first retailer of certified organic oils. It also has an eco farm in Dorset sourcing ingredients from sustainable sources all over the world. It has the highest eco credentials being certified by Cruelty Free International (no product tests on animals ever); The Soil Association Organic; Ethical Consumer Best Buy; Vegetarian Society approved and for the last 11 years it has been carbon neutral certified business.

Packaging is kept to a minimum. Many of the products came in distinctive blue containers - the blue pigment prevents UV deterioration of the products.

Having introduced herself, the organisation and the products Adele gave one lucky member a facial cleanse.

Then all those present were divided into groups of six and had to try and identify different scents - harder than you might think. The scents included geranium, frankincense, ylang ylang, lavender.

There were four different stations all with different types of remedies and the ladies rotated around the tables testing the remedies.

This description does not do justice to the demonstration. If you want a pamper session or to host a party or to find out more about Neals Yard products contact Adele. Berkeley WI ladies had a lovely evening and Adele was a wonderful host - informative, engaging, fun, helpful and enthusiastic. (Adele 07843388460.). Thoroughly recommended.

Looking ahead

July 6th cake stall at Berkeley Summer Fayre Berkeley Arms garden.

July meeting Thursday 11th Berkeley Town Hall 7.30pm "Fakes and Fortunes, Art & Antiques, Forgers and Dealers" speaker Chris O'Grady. Described as a light-hearted journey through the pleasures and pitfalls of collecting.

August 6th outing to Lyme Regis and Seaton Tramway.

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The great news is that we now have 14 new donors! Please help us achieve our goal by the end of the year in order to maintain this free, confidential and independent advice service to our community.

We ask that you consider making an annual pledge in the form of a standing order – as little as £5 a month is a valuable contribution, especially if you are able allow us to collect Gift Aid on your donation. Please phone us on Freephone 0808 800 0510 and ask us to send the necessary forms.

This month's advice: We would like to let you know about

Council Tax Discount for those people living alone, or with someone else in the property, who has a severe mental impairment. If your condition is considered to cause 'severe mental impairment' - which is likely if someone has a diagnosis of Dementia - it could mean that they are disregarded for Council Tax liability.

In order to qualify for Council Tax Discount on these grounds a person must meet the following criteria:

- ♦ Have a severe impairment of intelligence and social functioning which appears to be permanent.
- ♦ Have a certificate from a registered medical practitioner confirming the diagnosis
- ♦ Is entitled to a qualifying benefit such as Attendance Allowance or Personal Independence Payments.

Please do contact us on freephone 0808 800 0510 if you would like more information on this matter.

**BERKELEY SUMMER FESTIVAL****SATURDAY 6 July 2019****1 PM – 5 PM****IN THE GROUNDS OF THE BERKELEY ARMS HOTEL****ENTERTAINMENT
AND MUSIC****LOTS OF STALLS****FUN FOR CHILDREN****PLENTY OF FOOD****PIMMS AND BARS**

FOLLY FROLIC 10K AND CASTLE DASH
5K RUNS START AT 12 NOON AT JENNER MUSEUM AND
FINISH AT THE BERKELEY ARMS CAR PARK
(REGISTRATION ALREADY CLOSED)

**Water and Climate Change**

Earlier in the year I walked to the source of the Severn in the Plynlimon mountains, Wales. It was April and the surrounding moorland was very dry and crispy underfoot. Hopefully, the moors are wetter now! It was beautiful to see the Severn as a small stream tumbling down the forested hillside.

Our domestic water has a carbon cost associated with it both in supply and heating. It is estimated that 25% of the average British household energy bill is spent on heating water.

Severn Trent provide a variety of water saving items to customers for free! I am eagerly waiting for my free shower timer to arrive. If every shower taken is shorter by just one minute a household of four can save £60 per year - more if your water is metered - and the cost

to the climate is reduced too.

Go to savewatersavemoney.co.uk and enter your postcode for your free water saving items.

For more information visit
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Jane Robertson,
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BERKELEY EDUCATIONAL SWIMMING TRUST (BEST)

For anyone unfamiliar with Berkeley there is an open air heated pool situated behind the primary school. The pool was originally built because of the local stretches of open water especially the River Severn and local children not being able to swim had sadly already claimed some victims. The decision was taken to dig swimming pools at both Sharpness and Berkeley primary schools. If you talk to some of the older Berkeley residents they will tell you that they helped to dig the pool out and learnt to swim in it. Generations of Berkeley Primary School children have indeed learnt to swim in the pool - at one time the national curriculum required all primary school leavers to be able to swim 50 metres. Some years ago the political climate with the swingeing cuts to education budgets it was deemed to be no longer desirable/viable for Berkeley Primary School to fund the upkeep and running of the pool. The Berkeley Educational Swimming Trust was formed. This year so far volunteers have drained, cleaned and repainted the pool and it looks great. A new water meter has been installed. The undergrowth has been cut back and family swimming began on June 9th. Sadly thus far the weather has not been on our side but the season has only just begun.

TO CELEBRATE SUMMER AND THE POOL BEST ARE HOLDING AN OPEN DAY AT THE POOL ON SATURDAY JULY 6th 2pm - 4pm.

Bring the family. Come and see what there is. Enjoy free swimming, barbecue,

ice creams, music. Let's celebrate having this fabulous resource in the heart of our community. Remember the pool is heated.

Information about the pool.

There are 2 pools - a small toddler/infant pool which is ideal for toddlers (wearing a swimming nappy) and non-swimming small children and the swimming pool itself which is no deeper than 4 feet 9 inches at its deepest.

All the staff are volunteers other than the lifeguards.

All the lifeguards hold a National Pool Lifeguarding qualification.

All sessions have at least one qualified lifeguard - With one lifeguard up to 30 persons are allowed in the pool - (with good weather and subject to lifeguard availability) 2 lifeguards on poolside the maximum number allowed in the pool rises to 40.

The day to day management of the pool is undertaken by Nathan Wolstenholme and Pip Greenway (including temperature testing and chemical testing) along with support from the Berkeley Primary School Maintenance team with other committee members supporting back up activities.

The pool continues to be used to give the primary school children swimming lessons during school hours.

In addition the pool has public swimming. BEST want the local community to enjoy using the pool.

If anyone would like to find out more do come and visit anytime during opening hours.

OPENING HOURS FOR PUBLIC SWIMMING

TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS 3:30 pm - 5:30pm

SUNDAYS 2:00 pm - 4:00pm

LADIES ONLY SWIM

SUNDAYS 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Entry costs: Adult £3:00 Child £2:00 Under 2s free.

Ice creams and soft drinks available to buy.

Private swimming pool parties are available to book by arrangement (a birthday party with a difference).

BEST welcome local voluntary organisations such as toddler group; WI; Scouts, Guides; to book the pool.

Up to date information about the pool (opening is weather dependent) is available on the BEST Facebook page www.facebook.com/BerkeleyPool/ (a Facebook account is not required to access the page).

Access to the pool is go through the 5 bar gate to the right of the library, keep right across the top of the school field after 50 yards the rainbow double decker bus is on your right and in front of you is the gate in the fence leading onto poolside.



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CREATING THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT

The space we live and occupy is very important to us. This is reflected in the amount

of money we spend as a nation on home DIY and decoration projects to create the perfect environment for our family. How do we at Berkeley Primary School create that 'perfect' environment for our pupils?

The children returned after their half term break to discover their classrooms had been creatively transformed to reflect the themes which they will study during the final part of their 2018/19 school year.

For example, an impressive 'stone-faced' castle can found in the corner of the Year 1 room. You may also have to curtsy or bow, as their theme is, 'Kings & Queens'. Already the children have been eager to share their ideas about what they think the qualities of a good monarch should be – kind, caring, helpful and generous. The pupils have not been shy in expressing that if they had the power of the head of state they would abolish school and enforce pyjama wearing!

Digeridoos at the ready! Year 2 are heading 'Down Under' to enjoy some unforgettable of 'Australian Adventures'. Their piece of Australia can be found with an illustration of Aboriginal Art, an array of Australia's indigenous animals and the display of a silhouette of kangaroos against the blazing Australian sun. During literacy, the children have been getting to grips with new vocabulary in relation to the unique Australian wildlife, such as 'marsupial' and 'duck billed platypuses'. However, the children are yet to perfect the distinctive Australian accent, but all know how to have a G'day!

It's extremely humid in Year 5, teaming with millipedes, tree frogs and snakes. (Has anyone told our caretaker, Mrs Fryer?) These intrepid explorers will visit parts of the world identified as Rainforest and still be ready for their parents to collect them at the end of the school day. They will discover



that rainforests get at least 200cm of rain every year, sometimes more?

We live in an incredible world, where the power of nature is displayed. The fearsome sight and sound of an erupting volcano is unquestionably extraordinary. Imagine the Year 6 pupils' surprise to discover not one but two volcanoes in their classroom? About the room, fiery red and flaming orange creates a dramatic backdrop for an environment which will stimulate imagination and curiosity. The eyewitness accounts of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79 provide fascinating insights. This is an obvious exploration, but there is so much more to discover.

With enquiring minds, our children discover so much about the world and themselves. With the right environment, children are can be encouraged to be confident and excited about learning. When we learn, we grow.

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Tyndale Photography Club enter the Tom Crowe Competition

Each year Thornbury Camera Club invite other local camera clubs to a challenge, it is in memory of Tom Crowe, a former chairman of their club. The invited clubs submit eight entries and each image must be from a different photographer. There are four categories to fulfil Landscape, People/Animals, Creative and Humour, the remaining four images will be placed into open categories.

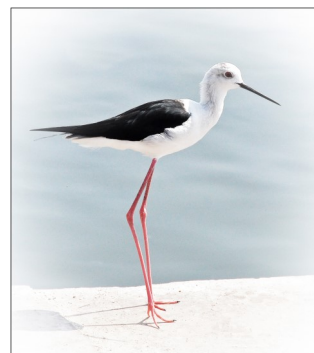
In October last year Tyndale Photography Club entered the competition with the following images:

- Landscape – Into the Distance – Diana Baker
- Open – Indian Wader - Brian Wetton (pic right)
- People/Animal - Enjoying the Fruit of His Labour - Elizabeth Restall ARPS
- Open – Holding on – Barry Wilson (pic right)
- Creative – A cold winters day – Jenny Fryer LRPS
- Open – Old Man of India – Christine Ryske (pic right)
- Humour – Happy Meal – George Ryske (pic right)
- Open – Toppers – Steve Daniell

The competition was judged by an independent judge Ian Bateman FRPS MPAGB AV-AFIAP APAGB and when the presentation of the results of the ten clubs who entered were shown at our meeting there were many ooohs and aaahs along

the way as each image was displayed, critiqued and points out of twenty awarded. The overall winning club was Calne Camera Club with 139 points, Tyndale Photography Club came 5th with 133 points.

Congratulations to those whose images were entered, a great team effort!



What's the Community Bank?

You may have noticed a sign for the Community Bank by the Town Hall door every Tuesday morning and wondered what it is.

Community banks, or as they are also known, Credit Unions, are banks where only local people can save and borrow money. They are run by volunteers but are fully covered by the FCA rules, which govern the high street banks, so your money is completely safe.

The best thing about them is that you can have extremely cheap loans to cover the sorts of emergencies which everyone has from time to time:

- * Washing machine breaking down,
- * unexpected problems with your car,
- * have to pay a holiday deposit when you are short of funds
- * School shoes disintegrating after football games etc

You can be sure that your business will be treated as totally confidential so why not call in one Tuesday between 9 and 11am to find out more.

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Update From District Councillor Gordon Craig

Tourism in Berkeley

As you will be aware, tourism is very important for Berkeley, it supplies local jobs and supports local facilities and we can benefit from them, such as the coffee shop and tea rooms which without the tourist footfall might not otherwise exist. Generally as a community we have in the past left tourism to the big attractions, trusting that there would be some fall out benefit for residents. However with some seed money from Stroud District Council, Berkeley is soon to have its own tourist information centre and we can all be part of it. It is very early days but there are exciting times ahead if we all get behind it. The Town Council is behind it, the Library will be leading on the project and a project manager is in place. I'll keep you informed as things progress.

An insight into affordable houses on Canonbury Rise

As you will be aware I was not happy about the Persimmon Development in Berkeley on a number of levels, In my mind, on this site the negatives outweighed the positives. However we are where we are and one positive aspect is that the development is producing some more affordable local homes for rent. 14 are already built and occupied, another 7 will be ready very soon with a further 34 coming in the next year or so. Persimmon just want to sell houses but I want any local people in need to be in with a chance of getting one, hence this information. All the affordable houses are being sold by Persimmon to Bromford Housing Group which is a housing association that owns or manages 44,000 homes across the Midlands and South West. They in turn are offering these houses up for rent on Homeseeker Plus

(www.homeseekerplus.co.uk), anyone interested has to be registered on the Homeseeker website, keep looking out for the Berkeley houses to become available (check the site at least weekly) and bid for them as soon as you see them. Homes will be allocated to bidders with the greatest perceived need, there is no local bias for this development so being on top of the process is your only advantage and that's why I'm highlighting it.

If you are interested in part ownership then the Bromford Housing Group will be offering up 13 two bed properties in Berkeley from next year. If for example the offer is 50% ownership then interested parties would require a deposit of 5% of the 50%. These homes will be made available on a different website (www.helptobuysouth.co.uk). Once again, interested people should register on this site and check it regularly.

Further affordable developments in the offing but with local priority

A planning process is underway for a small exception site development in Alkington Parish which will produce 16 affordable homes in Newport. These will come with a local priority going firstly to people with a local connection to Alkington parish then to people with a local connection to surrounding parishes of which Berkeley would be one. I'll keep you informed on progress.

Update on the emerging local plan

A second consultation period will be announced in the Autumn however it is likely that this will still include the thousands of houses proposed for Sharpness. My colleagues Lindsay Green and Haydn Jones join me in opposing this proposal because we simply believe that on many levels this is just the wrong place for a development of such a scale. The Berkeley

and Sharpness Residents Action Group (BaSRAG) has been formed and I would urge you to support both them and us when requested. There is nothing stronger than massive people power and given that it would seem Sharpness is at the core of this new emerging plan, we will need all the strength we can muster.

Update on Marybrook Medical Practice

If you have been reading the papers you will know that many surgeries around the country are closing and there was a real risk that Marybrook could have been amongst them. I just want to confirm that **our surgery has been saved and is not at risk**. In fact from next year you should start to see real steps forward. Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group currently have responsibility for our surgery and they have to follow a prescribed process to create a new partnership. The current operators including doctors and key staff are employed on a temporary locum contract, which is why you will have noticed changing faces and differing systems. An invitation to tender for the practice has gone out and I know of at least two highly respected Practices who intend to tender. The tenders will all be in by September and the new Practice will be in place by March next year. We have an active patient participation group in Berkeley which has been determined to not only secure a new Practice but once in place it is determined to work with that Practice to make it into something Berkeley can be really proud of. The CCG have confirmed that we will be part of the selection process.

Right now you should be confident that the surgery is being well run by good people and will always be there for you.

Finally

As we get into summer properly, the Berkeley Show and the Primary School Happy Circus are behind us, the Skylarks Community Choir Summer Concert is just happened and we look forward to The Berkeley Summer Festival, The New Berkeley Harriers running events, and the Family Fun Day & Rounder's Tournament, plus lots more.

I would like to thank all the event organisers for their hard work on behalf of the community. They are what make Berkeley such a special place and their commitment to the community makes me proud to be your District Councillor.

Thank you all, you know who you are !

Gordon Craig
Stroud District Councillor
Berkeley Vale Ward

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What's On

VALE OF BERKELEY STRONGEST

SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST 2019

From 10.00 am, Hamfield's Leisure

Some changes for this year's event. We have changed the name as above to encourage anyone in the district to join in the event.

The date has changed this year to 17th August but the essence of the event is the same. We will still be watching the competitors put themselves through a back crunching, thigh burning, muscle pumping marathon of physical exertion.

Spaces are now filling quickly and are limited due to time pressures on the day but if you want to get involved please contact us on our face book page **The Vale of Berkeley Strongest** or email matt.stump@hotmail.co.uk.

We are running a training camp every Tuesday and Thursday evening 6.30pm at Hamfields Leisure for those who think they might like to try out the events. Please come and join us. You never know you might be better than you think you are!

We are also hoping to run a car boot sale this year in the morning between 10.00 and 12.00. If you would like to book in a car please contact june.keyworth@outlook.com

Each year we offer the opportunity to local fund raisers to set up various stalls to enable them to take advantage of the crowds to raise money for their own causes. If you would like to be involved this year please contact June (email above) to book your free space.

This is an action packed day, organised by local people with locals that train hard all year round to compete in this event. Please come down for the day and show your support.

We look forward to seeing you.



COFFEE MORNING BERKELEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH SATURDAY 13th JULY 10.00 - 11.30 am

The summer weather certainly hadn't arrived in time for our last coffee morning, but we were pleased to see that so many of you were not put off by that. We hope that by this month that summer will be here.

Whatever it looks like outside, inside the welcome will be warm and the cakes as delicious as ever. Our tea and coffee pots are bottomless, the number of refills unlimited. We don't make a charge and can offer decaffeinated and soya alternatives. We look forward to your company.

If you would like any more information or help with getting to us please contact Dawn: 810494 or Grace: 81138

Summer is here, Thornbury in Bloom has enhanced the town with their floral displays. Thornbury Horticultural Society are holding their annual Summer Show on 10th August 2019 at 2:00pm.

We are one of the oldest shows in the area which started with the Grand Dahlia Exhibition held at the Castle in 1838. We have held shows every year except the war years. Why not come along and exhibit or visit the show? There will be classes for vegetables, flowers, pot plants, floral art, photography, cooking, crafts, children's classes and there will be tea and cakes available. The show will take place at the Armstrong Hall Complex in Thornbury. Show schedules are available from the Garden Shop, T & J Owens, Town Hall and our website : <http://www.thornburyhorticulturalsociety.org.uk> Or to our Facebook page #thornburyhorticulturalsociety which also contains handy gardening hints.

NEW SINGERS NIGHTS

A good time to join Skylarks Community Choir Berkeley!

Come and join us for a free fun evening (or two!) in September and see if you'd like to join our friendly choir. All are welcome, no previous musical experience is required. We sing a variety of songs – pop, jazz, musicals, gospel.

NEW SINGERS NIGHTS will be held on Tuesday 3rd September and Tuesday 10th September. Try it out with no pressure and at no cost for new singers. Berkeley Town Hall, 7.15 – 9.15pm. Tea and cake provided!

If you then choose to join us, weekly term-time choir practices are £3.50 per session. For questions or more information: nicolacdavies@hotmail.com or 07976 771309

Hamfields Leisure

Saturday 15 June

Cabaret Night With comedian Lenny Dee + tributes to Elvis and Tom Jones

All events supported by Wearevolution...

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email: hamfields@outlook.com

Afternoon Teas

St. Mary's Church, Berkeley

May to September
Second Sunday of the month

2.30pm - 4.30pm
In aid of Church Funds

2020 CALENDAR
PHOTOGRAPHIC
COMPETITION
CLOSING DATE
31ST JULY 2019
BERKELEY VALE
PAST & PRESENT

Enter the competition now for a chance to have YOUR Photographs used for the 2020 local Berkeley Area Calendar – all of which are sold for funds to help run Berkeley Community Library (registered charity 1149718)

Winners will be chosen by three local judges, whose decision is final. The theme is Berkeley Vale Past & Present. Your own Old or New Images may be entered.

Cost per entry = £1.
Payable at submission.
A4 Landscape Print Only
Name, Address, Phone & Email on the reverse.
Digital copies will be required from winning entries.
Closing Date 31st July 2019

Entries to
Berkeley Community Library,
School Lane, Marybrook Street,
Berkeley GL11 9DQ
Open Tues & Fri 10.30 – 4pm;
Sat 9.30 – 12.30
01453 810520
www.berkeleybooks.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

Physio-Led Modified Pilates Class

Town Hall— Advance Booking essential

Contact Miranda 07813513516

Monday's 10am -11am , 11.15am—12.15am &
7.15pm-8.15pm

Tuesday

Community Bank - Town Hall,

Tuesdays 9.15am - 11am

Poetry Circle: 1st Tuesday of the month
2-3pm at Berkeley Library. Informal group for
reading, writing and enjoying poetry. Bring your
favourites along

Town Planning & Finance Meetings

2nd Tuesday of the month 7.30pm

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

Crochet Group - Berkeley Library

11.00am. £1 per session.
Everyone is welcome.

Just bring a crochet hook and some wool.

Berkeley Walking Group

Meet 10.a.m. The Library Car Park. (Free) Coffee
optional afterwards in The Library.

Free Legal Sessions

1st Tuesday of month, Coventry Building Society

Thornbury Macular & Low Vision Support Group

1st Tuesday of month, 10.30am to 12.30pm
Methodist Church Hall, Castle Court, Thornbury

Wednesday

Craft Club - Berkeley Library

Last Wednesday of the month. 10.30am - 1.30pm.
£2 all welcome

Dog Training - Sharpness Village Hall

from 7pm contact Mike Vine 01453 822134

Berkeley Under 5's

Town Hall Toddlers - 9.30am - 11.30am

P3 Community Based Drop In

Town Hall, 10am - 12pm

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

Alcoholics Anonymous Berkeley Steps

Town hall, 7.30pm - 8.30pm, Town Hall

Thursday

Extend Exercise Classes for 60+ Scout Hut

From 10.30am Contact Barbara 01453 766421

Bingo - Sharpness Village Hall

from 7.30pm contact Jimmy Thomas
01453 811339

Coffee Morning

Union Church Schoolroom 10.00 - 11.00am

Art Group

Berkeley Library . £3.00 per session
10.00am—1pm. Bring own materials

NatWest Mobile Bank

In the Police parking bay (outside Sema4 Graphics)
10.15am -12.30 pm

Beavers Scouts for 6 to 8 years old

Scout HQ, Park View, 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Berkeley Brownies

The Scout Hut 6.00pm - 7.30pm

New Berkeley Harriers Running Club

6.30pm at Canon Park Pavilion

Friday

Computer Club

1st Friday of the Month at the Library 11am

Berkeley Community Library

10.30am - 4.30pm

Berkeley Rainbows

The Scout Hut 4.15 - 5.30pm

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

Physio-Led Modified Pilates Class

Town Hall— Advance Booking essential

Contact Miranda 07813513516

10am -11am

Sunday

Roman Catholic Mass

Sundays 8.30am, 10.30am
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

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Vale of Berkeley Railway

This month's picture is from the GWSR gala at Toddington at the end of May, and shows a Caledonian Railway 0-4-4 tank engine which was built in Glasgow in 1907. It ran for 55 years on first the Caledonian Railway, then the LMS, and lasted into British Railways ownership. I wonder how many of today's trains will still be running after 55 years. VoBR have a stand at most of the local shows, the next of which is in the Dean Forest in June.

Heritage passenger trains from Berkeley station moved one step closer last week when representatives from the VoBR met staff from Direct Rail Services, the group who operate nuclear flask trains from their loading pad at the station. The meeting was to decide how to enable VoBR and DRS trains to operate safely together on the line. At the meeting, we came to an agreement about the arrangements for building a loop at Berkeley. This will enable DRS locomotives to run round their flask at Berkeley rather than going all the way down to Sharpness. Our proposal will make their whole operation simpler and smoother. That will release the bottom end of our line for us to run trains between Sharpness and Berkeley. It's a win-win outcome for both of us. We also received the 'go-ahead' to rebuild the station weighbridge and clear the driveway of undergrowth, including some trees that are at risk of collapsing into the road. We would be glad of some help from anyone in Berkeley who can spare an hour or two on Wednesdays to help with this.

Next week we have our first meeting with the Office of Road and Rail where our safety management system will be inspected to ensure we meet government standards of safety in everything we do. All these steps bring us closer to the day when steam trains will again call at Berkeley station.

At Oldminster sidings attention has been focussed in 2 areas. Following the tree felling, we were left with about 500 tree stumps. These are progressively being removed, but due to the constraints placed on us by Network Rail, this is all being done using manual winches. This makes for slow but steady progress. Work has also started on refurbishing the point work. These points have not moved in 50 years, and have trees growing through them, so a great deal of effort is required. A lot of the moving parts just don't move any more, but fortunately we have a machine shop to replace these. The first point is now operational again. We now have 4 clear sidings, and many tons of firewood which is seasoning in stacks. We have a working party there every Wednesday and Friday, and most Saturdays,



please join us in some extreme gardening and friendly banter.

A great deal of progress has been made on our 0-6-0 "austerity" tank engine. As with a lot of restoration projects, she came to us for some relatively minor repairs, but once she had been taken apart she was found to be in a far worse state than it seemed. It turned out that one of the main parts of the boiler, the front tube plate, needed to be replaced. This involved cutting the old one off, making a new one out of a piece of steel plate weighing over a ton, drilling 40 holes of various sizes through one inch thick steel plate, and then welding it back on to the rest of the boiler. The firebox itself also needs considerable amounts of remedial welding. Fortunately in our machine shop we have the machines and engineers capable of doing the job.

We now have a superbly equipped machine shop capable of machining anything from very large components down to tiny precision engineered parts. With all the machinery we now have, we are able to offer engineering services such as turning (up to

40 inch diameter), gear cutting and surface grinding, so if anyone has a complex machining requirement please get in touch with the machine shop in the engine shed at Sharpness Dock.

The June talk was not to be missed by steam engine enthusiasts in particular. In the 1960s, during the rush to scrap all the steam engines,

a large number ended up at the legendary Woodham Brothers scrap yard in Barry. From there around 200 engines were saved, and many of the engines on today's heritage railways were rescued from this source. Alan Price was one of the regular visitors to the scrap yard and was instrumental in rescuing engines and spare parts. Alan launched the fund to save GWR 0-6-2T No 6697 and bring it to Didcot and he was also involved in saving a number of carriages. He will be presenting a talk at the Berkeley Arms about his adventures, with personal reminiscences and photos. This will be held on Thursday June 20th from 7:30. Admission is free, and non members are welcome.

If anyone would like to see what we are up to, we are at the engine shed in Sharpness Dock and at Oldminster Sidings on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and at Berkeley station on Wednesdays, and would be glad to show you around.

You can also become a 'Friend of Berkeley Station' by joining the Facebook group of that name, and helping us to start the process of giving Berkeley back its station. This also contains pictures of the various activities.

Email: valeofberkeleyrailway@gmail.com

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Join us Friday mornings, term time only, for craft and music group. Suitable from birth to pre-school, the session is a mixture of crafts, songs and rhymes.

The group is held at the Scout Hut in Berkeley from 9.15-10.30am, the cost is £3.50 per adult and 50p for children. This includes drink and snack for the children, and hot drink and homemade cake for the adults

Find us on Facebook Berkeley Toddlers Music Group or call Nicola on 07754589669 for more info

