



## THANK YOU!

On Saturday the 27th July we had the annual Rounders Tournament/Family Funday in aid of Meningitis Now (in memory of Sam Virgo) We want to thank everyone for coming along and supporting us by spending your hard earned cash at the bar, BBQ and tearoom, or having a go on the raffle. The day was a great success and made around £5000 for the charity. The winners of the tournament for the second year, were 'Second Base' captained by Jess Bullough (a team made from mostly females) We were entertained all day by local D.J. Pete Atkinson from Evolution Entertainment and later with some great live music from 'The Lost' and 'Phat Gary's Band' and the gorgeous voice of 15 year old Eloise Whitbread. The children were entertained with bouncy castles and craft projects and made some beautiful unicorns and ribbon skirts. The lovely ladies from St Mary's Church served the hot drinks and delicious home made cakes again and 'Gloucester Stormtroopers' marched through to 'The Imperial March' to the delight or fright of the crowds.



Big thanks must go to lots of local people/businesses that help to make it happen every year including Tracey Freeman from The Berkeley Arms for cooking the pork to feed everyone in the evening (and providing lots of items for us to borrow throughout the day) Howard Tenens for the loan of a trailer to use as our stage.



Magnox for buying us a new professional BBQ. If any community groups would like to borrow it for an event please let us know as we'd like to see it well used. Berkeley Football Club for the use of the facilities. Our amazing referees this year Charlie Strickland and Leeanna Ashford, one of the hardest jobs to do but we've heard nothing but praise for both of you. Lots of people came along to help us set up on Friday and tidy up on Sunday as well as working on the day itself, too many to name them all so just a great big THANK YOU to all of you, without people like you, the day wouldn't be possible. This is a great community event and it's lovely to see it so well supported each year by all age groups. Until next year!!!

*Lisa Palmer, on behalf of the organisers.*

## WANTED!

The Berkeley Flyer is in need of another editor. Editing of The Berkeley Flyer works on a rota basis, with the current number of editors this means you would edit every three months. We use Microsoft Publisher, training can be given, and we can supply a copy if you don't already own one. If you are interested in volunteering please email us at [editor@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk](mailto:editor@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk)

## SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN

The start of Autumn with the late evening sun low in the sky and the gradually shortening of the days. There is a feeling of winding down in the garden, cropping giving their last of the season and the general tidy up to do for the coming winter. It is a busy time of the year. Beds and borders should still be putting on a show with late blooming plants such as Dahlia, Chrysanthemum, Sedum and Michaelmas Daisy still in flower. In small gardens it is essential to add plenty of organic matter as we grow plants intensively and lots of goodness is taken out of the earth each year. It is therefore necessary to continue to get the best out of the garden so why not get a compost bin. There are plenty of bins available to buy or make one out of wire or wood. Remember to use a variety of materials to make your compost such as grass cuttings, vegetable waste, debris from the garden if it is not diseased and fallen leaves. All can be composted but weeds such as bindweed, ground elder and mares tail must not be put in as they will continue to grow. Once the bin is full cover the top with a lid or piece of old carpet to keep the heat in and the rain out. You can occasionally turn the sides of the heap to the middle – this will speed up the rotting process but it is hard work! When it has decomposed to a dark brown crumbly sweet smelling mass it can be spread on to beds and borders.

In the vegetable garden onion setts can be planted, also leek plants can be put directly into the ground. There is still time to sow winter cabbage. As autumn approaches the deciduous trees and shrubs often make a remarkable display of brilliant colour. Betula alleghaniensis known as yellow birch turns a buttery yellow, the fast growing climber Boston Ivy (Psarthenocissus) turns a bright crimson and Euonymus alatus the spindle tree foliage turns a dazzling crimson. These are all easy to grow in a small garden. Now is the time to remove the thatch from your lawn, this is the dead grass and other debris which accumulates in the lawn, if left it will restrict air movement around the small grass plants which can cause problems to surface drainage encouraging moss and other weeds to grow. The best way to remove it is with a spring tined rake or an easier way is to use a powered scarifier which you can hire. Like any other plants grass needs air and the surface of the lawn gets compacted over the summer with cutting every week. So we aerate the lawn with a fork which is pushed into the ground to make holes about 5cm (6in) at intervals over the whole lawn area which opens up the top soil to let more air in. You can then top dress the lawn immediately afterwards to help with drainage. A top dressing is usually made up of one part sieved garden compost and two parts sharp sand which is brushed into the holes with a stiff brush. It will look a mess for a couple of weeks but the grass will quickly grow through.

Spring bulbs can now be planted for flowering next year. It is also a good time to plant perennials while the soil is still warm so they will establish before the winter. Hardy annuals can be sown outside and they will flower next year. Rake the soil to a fine tilth, mark out an area, sow seed and cover with dry soil and don't forget to label so that you know where they are. The annuals that can be sown now are Cornflowers, Calendula, California poppy, Poached Egg Plant (limnanthus) and Nigella. They will all start to flower next May. Biennials can be planted now – they should be ready to buy at garden centres – these are the plants that grow one year and flower the next. These are forget me nots, Canterbury Bells, Sweet William and Foxgloves and also winter flowering Pansies. When the summer bedding has stopped flowering it is time to replace them with spring bedding such as Bellis perennis, Wallflowers and Primroses. We hope to have a warm dry September so that we can get out into the garden and make a start getting it ready for winter. You could take a look at the photographs you took through the year and start to plan what to grow next year and any changes you want to make in the garden to make it more interesting and attractive. Until next month – Good Gardening Ann Legg

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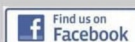


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PCC Martin Surl and Chief Constable Rod Hansen welcome you to the

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There is no meeting in August but several members reported that they had had a lovely day enjoying the Summer outing to Lyme Regis and Seaton Tranway in the Axe Valley. The same week saw us take on the might of Bredon WI in the WI Plate skittles competition. Bredon is a large WI with 70 + members and won the WI Cup in 2018 so formidable opposition. Both teams had a real fun evening but regrettably Berkeley WI lost by quite some margin. We play to win but are

gracious in defeat. There is always next year!! In the meantime we plan to have a skittles practice with Stone with Woodford WI on Thursday September 26th at 3 pm at The Boars Head in Lynch Road. The book group continues in August and our current book has been loaned to us by The Break Shop. The Break Shop were donated 12 copies of the same book and very kindly thought of The WI book group. The book is described as being based on the life of the most skilful and unscrupulous adventuress Scotland Yard ever set out to capture.....

Our next meeting is at 7:30 pm upstairs in the Town Hall on Thursday September 12th. The speaker is Ian Caskie and his talk is entitled "Launch to re-launch the SS Great Britain".

If any lady would like to come to the meeting as a visitor but would like more information about Berkeley WI please call our President Fran Denton on 01453 452390. All visitors are very welcome.

## Thornbury Musical Theatre Group

### 'BARNUM'

Thornbury Musical Theatre Group are delighted to be performing the circus based musical 'Barnum' at the Armstrong Hall in Thornbury from Wednesday 23rd to Saturday 26th October.

We have a fantastic directing team at the helm for this magnificent show, which promises much in the way of stage presentation and skill. Steve Blackmore (Director), has a wealth of experience directing for BMCC, BAOS and his own production company The Worx Productions, Brendan Casey (Musical Director) will be knocking our vocals into shape and Donna Podesta (Choreographer) will be casting her own magic on the company's moves.

Michael Crawford famously played the role of Barnum at the London Palladium and in the film version and we are delighted that Rose Bowl Award-winning actor Simon Vardakis will be more than filling those dancing shoes.

This musical tells the story of Phineas Taylor Barnum the self-proclaimed Greatest Showman on Earth! P T Barnum will never be satisfied unless he is living a life full of colour, fame and fortune. No matter what his wife Charity might say it won't be easy for Barnum to keep his feet on the ground. This show marries musical theatre and circus to tell the true story of a charming man who wanted to sell his vision to the world. From humble beginnings selling lottery tickets to being one of the world's most celebrated showmen, courted by Presidents, Kings and Queens and producing such greats as the magnificent Tom Thumb, Jenny Lind and Jumbo the Elephant. A joyful and moving musical portrait of the nineteenth century's greatest show-biz legend, 'Barnum' is a colourful, dynamic spectacle full of circus, side-show legends, toe-tapping songs and immense heart. Come follow the band!

Performances will be at 7.30pm every night and also a matinée on the Saturday at 2.30pm.

For tickets (priced from £10.50) go to [www.tmtg.org.uk](http://www.tmtg.org.uk) or contact the Box Office on 07516 270140. Tickets will also be available at Lisa Costa Residential Sales and Lettings at 53 High Street, Thornbury from Saturday 21st September. The staff are big fans of TMTG and always delighted to meet our audience members, but remember it's a very busy office so please be patient if they're not available the first time you call.

For more information about 'Barnum' go to our website [www.tmtg.org.uk](http://www.tmtg.org.uk)

or follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

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## Berkeley and Sharpness Residents' Action Group (BaSRAG)

A residents' group set up after it emerged that thousands of new homes could be built near Berkeley is looking for new members

Berkeley and Sharpness Residents' Action Group (BaSRAG) wants sensible and sustainable development and is fighting to protect local communities and the area's natural landscape. It follows proposals, revealed under Stroud District Council's revision of its Local Plan, for up to 2,900 homes in the area over the next 20 years, many of which will be built in fields and countryside around Berkeley, Sharpness and Newtown, Wanswell, Brookend and Hinton. BaSRAG has been campaigning since the plans were announced at the end of last year, but it now needs help with activities, such as research, lobbying and raising awareness in the local community.

Neil Leighton, a member of the group, said: "We have been busy since Christmas lobbying the council, politicians and groups such as Natural England. We've also held two well-attended residents' meetings and are continuing to put pressure on the council to hold a public meeting to give the local community the chance to discuss these plans. However, we are few in number and need more help. In particular, we would like to hear from anyone with knowledge and experience of planning and planning law, communications, website design and digital media."

The development proposals were published as part of Stroud District Council's Local Plan 'emerging strategy', which set out a blueprint for how the authority will meet housing needs.

The plans include:

- up to 2,400 in fields and countryside around Sharpness and Newtown, Wanswell, Brookend and Hinton
- up to 300 at Sharpness Docks
- up to 70 on land at the Focus School in Wanswell
- up to 120 homes on farmland on the outskirts of Berkeley

In addition, a development consortium has drawn up proposals for a 'Garden Settlement' which could mean the total number of homes around Sharpness and Newtown, Wanswell, Brookend and Hinton could eventually reach 5,000.

The council consulted with residents over the Christmas period and has since revealed that more than 84 per cent of respondents living in the Berkeley 'cluster' opposed its plans for the area.

Neil added: "Many people in Berkeley, Sharpness and the surrounding villages are clearly against the plans, and, as a community, we shouldn't lie down and let this happen to us. It's not about opposing all development. We recognise the council is under pressure from the government to build thousands of new houses – and we accept this area would benefit from some limited new development. However, it needs to be sensible and sustainable. If these plans get the go ahead, it would mean Berkeley, Sharpness and Newtown, Wanswell, Brookend and Hinton could be joined together over the next few decades to form what would effectively be a new town. If you feel as strongly as we do that this shouldn't be allowed to happen, then we'd like you hear from you.

To contact BaSRAG, please email: [Sharpnessproposeddevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:Sharpnessproposeddevelopment@gmail.com)

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## The Friends of Berkeley Castle

The Friends of Berkeley Castle are delighted that Tracy Borman, the well-known historian, author and broadcaster, is coming to give a talk in the Great Hall of the

Castle on Thursday 12th September this year. The Friends would like to extend an invitation to any Berkeley residents who would like to hear this excellent speaker

Tracy is Joint Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces in London and is perhaps best known for her books and broadcasts on the Tudors, but the subject of her talk in September is also the title of her very first book – 'Henrietta Howard; Queen's Servant, King's Mistress'. Henrietta Howard, formerly Countess of Suffolk, was mistress to King George II before she married George Berkeley, and she is buried in the family mausoleum attached to Berkeley church.

The talk starts at 6pm and there will be a cash bar. Tickets are £8 for Friends of the Castle, and £10 for all others and can be obtained by emailing friends@berkeley-castle.com This is an evening not to be missed!

## Berkeley Educational Swimming Trust

This year the weather has not been on our side (deluging rain and high winds) resulting in the pool not opening as often as was expected. When the pool has been open there has been much enjoyed swimming and helpers and lifeguards have watched many children noticeably improve their swimming stamina over the course of the holidays. The much looked forward to open day planned for the 17th August sadly had to be cancelled due to the poor weather forecast. It is hugely frustrating for everyone concerned. School goes back the first week in September. If there happens to be an Indian summer we will aim to keep the pool open into early - mid September - keep an eye on Facebook and the notice board in the Marketplace outside Ye Olde Shoppe. If the weather cools down then and the weather turns Autumnal keeping the pool open for community swimming ceases to be viable.

We hope and trust that we have been able to open as advertised as the last 2 weeks of the holidays approached.

As a charity Berkeley Educational Swimming Trust need to raise funds to keep the pool open so if you are a Queen fan please put Saturday 30th November into your calendar. Queen tribute band (Pure Queen) Hamfields Leisure 7.30 pm. Tickets on sale at Hamfields Leisure and Coventry Building Society. It promises to be a great evening.

### Berkeley Educational Swimming Trust (BEST)

August Draw (took place at La Lune by Aime Bainbridge)

Winner Adrian Aldridge Ball No. 24 £20.00

Runner Up Leila Davis Ball No. 57 £15.00

On behalf of BEST I would like to thank La Lune for supporting us

Gill Badsey

Lottery Manager for BEST

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## Roll and Stroll

**A chance to walk and talk together in Berkeley**

Come and join us for a gentle walk designed to be accessible for those living with all stages of dementia and anyone who would benefit from gentle exercise and enjoy the experience of nature with a friendly and welcoming group.

Trained volunteers will act as walk leaders. Walks take about an hour and are wheelchair friendly. If you have a carer they should accompany you. Bring friends and any family members.

Our walks always start in a cafe and, if the weather is nasty, we can stay in, drink tea and eat cake!

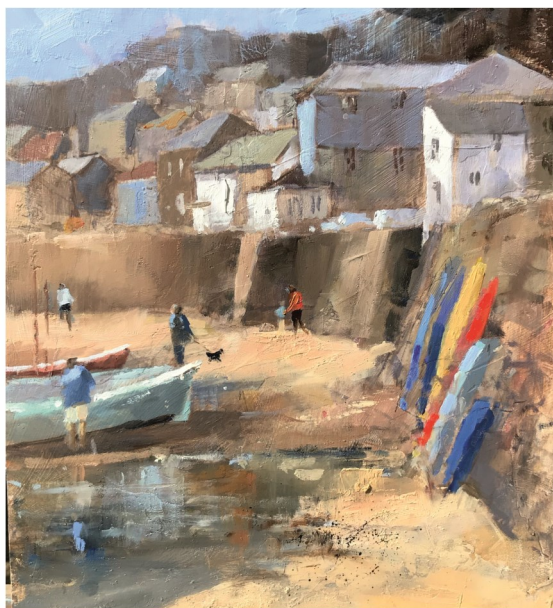
The walks take place once a fortnight on Wednesday afternoons starting at 2pm in the Berkeley Tea Rooms.

For further information please call Liz Ashton 811208

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## Berkeley Forum

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

Dear Editor

Thank you team for putting my advert for the garden in the Berkeley Flyer.

We had great success at Panthurst Barn open garden fund raiser. A wonderful day in the one & half acre interesting & varied garden that offered cream teas & lots of home baked cakes. Wood turned gifts & book sales along with the very popular plant sales which helped to raise the amazing sum of £1031 for Severn Area Rescue Association. A lovely afternoon for all our visitors.

Lynne Burton

Fast Fashion and Berkeley.

With autumn coming we begin to think about clothing for the cooler seasons.

'Fast fashion' involves the mass production of clothes in response to rapidly changing trends. An unsustainable throwaway culture has been encouraged by manufacturers.

63% of clothes are made from products of the oil industry. These garments don't biodegrade. They release plastic microfibres into our environment and ultimately contribute to the build up of plastic waste and CO2 emissions. However, cotton also has a huge environmental impact.

What are we to do?

Naturism is probably not the answer but here are some suggestions...

Extend the life of your clothing - wash at cooler temperatures and air or line dry.

Buy less; swap, pass on, hire, buy second-hand; up-cycle.

Look out for green manufacturers and recycled materials.

Use charity shops. We have excellent shops in Berkeley where we can buy 'pre-loved' garments as well as new elegant, sophisticated clothing.

For more details see:

TEDEd - The life of a t-shirt - Angel Chang

<https://7billionfor7seas.com/fast-fashion-facts>

Please become involved in Berkeley Area Climate Action. You can email or make contact through the Flyer.

Jane Robertson  
janerobertson.60@hotmail.co.uk  
BACA

Dear Editor

In March 2018 you published a letter for me, concerning the deplorable state of some of the pavements in Berkeley.

Subsequently I wrote to the Highways Department of Gloucestershire County Council, our local County Councillor, and

our Town Council regarding this matter, none of whom replied.

In November 2018 I contacted our local Member of Parliament and recently received a reply from his office as follows:

*"Unfortunately, there are no plans for any footway works in Berkeley."*

*Gloucestershire Highways have informed me that they conducted safety inspections of footways in the town centre following concerns raised by residents like yourself and the Town Council. But that this identified no safety defects or hazards.*

*Requests to level the camber on the footway in Salter Street have been considered, but unfortunately the Highways Department have decided that this would result in the kerb height being extremely high, this would in itself create a new hazard both for pedestrians and vehicles using kerbside on street parking."*

I admit not a very satisfactory outcome.

However, it does pose the question;

Just what state of disrepair do our pavements have to be in before they qualify for improvement works?

In the meantime residents and visitors/tourists will have to continue to watch their step!

Yours Faithfully

E. J Price



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## Sarah's Field Update Aug 2019

At the May spring opening event, Sarah's Field was formally opened by Gill Hammond, a relative of Pamela Thorpe who donated the field to the town, with a speech in which she shared fascinating memories and thoughts. Other activities on the day included digging for earthworms and artefacts, followed by pond dipping and a sensory 'earth-walk'.

The summer has seen plenty of scything to manage the grassland, mowing of pathways, and bramble cutting! Brambles will be cut back further to maintain vehicular access to the field gate at the far side. This allows the management of the neighbouring field, and the Lower Severn Drainage Board who come in late summer/early autumn to cut back the reeds all along the Rhine. They also dredge it out with a large digger. It is amazing how the reeds bounce back, every summer, with a jungle of growth, and the sedge warbler can be heard warbling away in there.

An interpretation board will be put in place shortly with just a short summary of history and wildlife, an aerial view/map (which is a drone photo, supplied by a local resident), a view of Lynch Road flooded in 1968, and an old map showing some of the orchards in the area in 1880. Regarding dogs, the wording used by the Wildlife Trust seems rather good: "please keep your dog on a lead or under close control." The main thing is to pick up any dog

mess (which of course most people do) and not to allow the dog in the ponds, as this disturbs wildlife, and could damage the liner. Dog walkers are welcome, and are often the most regular eyes and ears on the ground.

The butterflies in the field have been very varied, including the Painted Lady which is numerous this summer due to the hot weather across Europe. The peacock butterfly has been enjoying the nectar of the teasel flowers.

The ponds have attracted at least five types of dragonfly, and an 'eft' (which is the name for a young newt). The birds have gone quiet for the summer, but the harvest of berries will be good for them. If humans want blackberries they had better pick soon!

The orchard trees are beginning to fruit. This is a bonus, as we do not expect much fruit in the first two or three years. Although we have had serious heat this summer, the rainy spells have been very good for the trees, compared to last year's long dry heat-wave. Three of the fruit trees suffered a leaf wilt, which we hope is not fatal!

### Memorial trees

There have been some requests to have trees adopted or planted in memory of loved ones who have departed. We apologise for not moving this forwards as yet, but we want to get it right. As part of this adoption, there would be a label with the memorial details on it; and also, if people are able, they may also like to help look after that particular tree with weeding and mulching.

Sarah's Field Apple Day, Sat 12 October, 2019

In partnership with the Jenner Museum, the plan is to hold an Apple Day, with these activities suggested:

Apple juicing - Bring apples and containers for juice.

Apple games and songs - If you know of any we would be pleased to hear from you.

Making apple preserves

Apple Cake

Insect safari

Nature's Treasures Trail

## HELP NEEDED



Please could you spare a few hours to collect for the 2019 Poppy Appeal

In 2019 the Poppy Appeal is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings and continues to support injured service personnel and bereaved families in their own homes and through six care homes. They receive over 150000 requests for help annually.

I am your local organiser and need several more people to undertake house-to-house collections in the Berkeley and the surrounding area. It would be wonderful if we could top the £5400 we raised last year.

If you could spare a few hours at the beginning of November please contact Ray Chaney (telephone 01453 811545 or e-mail ray.chaney@btinternet.com).

Ray Chaney

Honorary Berkeley and Sharpness District Appeal Organiser.

• mosaics • schools • workshops • parties • studio/gallery hire •

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Bennett Jones Estate Agent/Nick Franks Financial Advisor

## What's On

### BERKELEY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

WELCOME YOU ON

SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

TO HEAR AND ENJOY

## THE BRISTOL EVANGEL MALE VOICE CHOIR

STARTING AT 6pm



Donations only  
(If Desired)

Refreshments Served  
After Performance

THORNBURY AND DISTRICT U3A has nearly 1,900 members and around 90 different interest groups meeting at various venues throughout the area but there is always room for more! The groups mainly meet during the day and interests range from Archaeology to Walking. Some meet weekly, others less often and they include physical activities, crafts, board and card games, organised visits to gardens, concert and theatre as well as purely "educational" topics. Detail of all our groups can be found on our website – [www.thornburyu3a.org.uk](http://www.thornburyu3a.org.uk).

We will be holding our next Welcome Meeting for new and prospective members on Monday, 7th October 2019 from 3:30pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Road, Thornbury, BS35 1DR. Please come along; we would love to meet you and bring your friends.

For further information visit our website or phone our Membership Secretary, Jackie Gitsham on 858438 or Chairman, Alison

### COFFEE MORNING

#### BERKELEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH



COFFEE MORNING  
SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER  
BERKELEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
10.00AM - 11.30 am

It's coffee time again! The summer seems to have flown by and I can hardly believe that by the time we open our doors again Autumn will be upon us. All the more reason to come along to sample some of our tempting cakes, the number of slices limited only by your own capacity to eat them. It's a delicious way to sit and catch up with what folks have been doing during the summer. Our tea and coffee cups are bottomless. We do not make a charge, apart from asking that you enjoy your coffee, cake and chat. Everyone coming through the door will receive a warm welcome, whether an 'old stager' or a 'first timer' so if you can, do come along and join us on the 14th. If you would like more information or help with finding/ travelling to us please contact: Dawn 810494 or Grace 811138

## Hamfields Leisure

Saturday 15 June

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

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Phone: 01453 810413  
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Afternoon Teas

St. Mary's Church, Berkeley

May to September  
Second Sunday of the month

2.30pm - 4.30pm  
In aid of Church Funds

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## 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

## FOOD BANK

A food bank can now be  
found at  
St. Mary's Church

### 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

#### 1st September

9.30 Matins

11.00 Messy Church

#### 8th September

9.30 Choral Communion

6 p.m. Evening Prayer

#### 15th September

11.00 All Age Communion

6 p.m. Choral Evensong

#### 22nd September

9.30 Choral Communion

11.00 All Age Worship

#### 29th September

11.00 Benefice Communion held at Hill  
Church

6 p.m. Churches Together at Berkeley  
Congregational Church

# Vale of Berkeley Railway



The Vale of Berkeley Railway took a major step forward on July 31st. when D2069, a BR '03' 0-6-0 diesel shunter, moved under its own power for the first time at our Sharpness base, after a four year overhaul carried out entirely by volunteer members. Work by members of the Vale of Berkeley Railway commenced at Sharpness engine shed in April 2016 under the direction of Frank Wooldridge with a full strip-down of the Gardner Diesel engine. Since then much has been done to bring the machine back to working order including total re-wiring, refurbished diesel injectors, body panel replacement, new jackshaft bearings, refurbished vacuum brake gear and repainting.

The locomotive was built for light shunting duties at Doncaster in 1959, one of some 230 of its class produced there and at Swindon. However the work for which they were designed had largely disappeared by the 1980s and many were scrapped. D2069 survived by being sold into private hands as a working shunter in a Leicester scrap yard between 1984 and 1991. In a very run-down condition it was bought by Andrew Goodman and spent the next 20 years at the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway's base at Toddington.

D2069 took pride of place at our stand at the Gloucestershire Vintage and County Show at South Cerney over the weekend of August 3rd and 4th. There was a great deal of interest in the railway. Many people took advantage of the cab visits, and several new members joined up.

The locomotive has now gone to the Dean Forest Railway for 'shake-down' trials and running-in before being hired out for industrial use. We need to get through some 200 hours of running in to prove that everything is working properly. We will take

advantage of the trials to train some of our members in the intricacies of driving the engine.

The departure of the shunter has freed up space for our next project. This is the refurbishment of the VOB's own brake van. It has been parked in sidings for several years so will need completely stripping down and refurbishment. This is an interesting project as it involves both metal work and woodwork. If anyone would like to be involved with this project, you will be made most welcome.

The planning applications have now gone in to Stroud DC, and we await their deliberations. This application covers the erection of platforms at Berkeley and Newtown which would enable us to start running a rail service, so it is a highly significant step.

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.

We are taking a rest from talks for the summer holidays. The next talk will be another in the series by Rich Kelsey and Dave Lamb, providing an aerial view of our Cotswold canals. This will be held on Wednesday October 16th in the Berkeley Arms in Berkeley 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](mailto: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

