



BERKELEY FLYER

N^o. 290

'For and about the people of Berkeley'

December 2019

LOOK TO THE SKIES FOR A CHRISTMAS SURPRISE

Always greatly anticipated each year is the annual Berkeley Christmas Fayre run by the Berkeley Community Trust. The event gives local people the chance to spend their hard earned cash locally and to support small businesses and charities in the Town.

The excitement builds as we get nearer to Christmas and the Facebook journey of Santa around the globe has become as much of the big day as the turkey and tinsel. Watch out for the first post on the Berkeley Festivals Facebook page and follow Santa on his journey to Berkeley, where he then pops into the Christmas Fayre on Sunday 15 December. The fun starts at 3.30pm with lots of stalls to buy those last minute gifts and little extras for the big day. We love the chance to sample the famous Berkeley Arms sausage rolls, mulled cider and lots of other festive eats and to see the children frolicking in the snow (even if it's artificial).

Highlight for the little ones (and even some of the more mature amongst us) is the arrival of Santa, collected at Sharpness and delivered to us by the SARA Lifeboat team who are always ready to stand in to give the Reindeers a chance to have a comfort break and a quiet moment before continuing their worldwide task.

It's always amazing how quickly time flies in the run up to Christmas so get the date in your diary now, Sunday 15 December from 3.30 till 6pm at the Berkeley Arms Hotel. Look forward to seeing you all there. Have an enjoyable day and shop local.



BERKELEY CHRISTMAS FAYRE

**AT THE BERKELEY ARMS HOTEL
ON SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2019
3.30 PM - 6 PM**

 **PLENTY OF STALLS WITH
ALL TYPES OF PRESENTS**

**VARIETY OF FOOD
AND DRINK**

**FATHER CHRISTMAS
AT 4.30 PM WITH FREE
SWEETS FOR YOUNG
CHILDREN**



**GUARANTEED SNOW
AND MUSIC**

 **ENTRANCE IS FREE**

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!!!



BERKELEY TOWN CHRISTMAS TREE

Every year we, as a community decorate the town's Christmas tree and make it look fantastic and something to really be proud of.

The tree will be arriving soon by the Town Hall so gather your family and friends and make a special trip to hang a trinket or bauble on the tree.

Lots of people have made or customised their own decorations before with their children which makes it even more special. We saw lots of lovely family photos on the Facebook page.

Please make sure you secure it well so they don't blow off and please don't use a family heirloom. Let's see if we can fill every branch with multicoloured baubles and make it even better than last year's.



**1st BERKELEY SCOUTS
CHRISTMAS CARD LOCAL POST
COLLECTION POINTS**

J.C. Aldridge & Son, & Jenner Court,
The Perfect Blend Coffee / Craft Shop in Berkeley
Post Office & Village Shop, Sharpness
Hamfallow Court, Sharpness
Delivery on the Weekends
14th/15th & 21st/22nd Dec

**LAST COLLECTION - FRIDAY 20th at
midday**

Please post early and tell your friends
Scouts will deliver the cards over the weekend.
Berkeley, Sharpness, Purton, Breadstone, Newport,
Ham and the area between.
The 30p stamps will be available from the collection points and any of the leaders or put the money in the box with your cards.
Happy Christmas, thank you for your support



This year a house in Sharpness & Berkeley will each be lighting up.

The locations for each night are as below.

Berkeley will light up at 6pm every night and Sharpness at 6.30pm, unless otherwise stated.

Follow us on Facebook, Search Sharpness and Berkeley Nativity Windows.



Date	Sharpness & District Location	Berkeley & District Location
1 st	28 Cromwell Close, Newtown GL13 9GA	19 High Street, Berkeley GL13 9BH
2 nd	22 New Street, Newtown GL13 9 NN	Bespoke Cottage, High Street, Berkeley GL13 9BH
3 rd	23 The Crescent, Newtown GL13 9NJ	29 Station Road, Berkeley GL13 9AL
4 th	21 New Street, Newtown GL13 9NN	1 Salter Street, Berkeley GL13 9BS
5 th	Chelston House 22 Oldminster Road, Sharpness GL13 9NB	20 Lynch Road, GL13 9TA
6 th	24 New Street, Newtown GL13 9NN	6 Leaze Close, Berkeley GL13 9BZ
7 th	The Manse, 10 Oldminster Road, Sharpness GL13 9NB	16 Marybrook Street, Berkeley GL13 9AB
8 th	St Andrews Church, Newtown GL13 9NF	5 Watts Close, Berkeley GL13 9EQ
9 th	62 Oakfield Way, Sharpness GL13 9UU	13 Parkview Road, Berkeley GL13 9TB
10 th	Severn Bank House, Dock Road, Sharpness GL13 9UA	31 Parkview Road, Berkeley GL13 9TD
11 th	20 Oldminster Road, Sharpness GL13 9NB	20 Salter Street, Berkeley GL13 9DB
12 th	32 Cromwell Close, Newtown GL13 9GA	10 Stump Street, Berkeley GL13 9FG
13 th	Newtown Post Office & Village Shop, Newtown GL13 9NR	Yew Tree House, Marybrook Street, Berkeley GL13 9AA
14 th	36 New Street, Newtown GL13 9NN	18 Salter Street, Berkeley GL13 9DB
15 th	Westerings, New Brookend GL13 9SF	44 James Orchard, Berkeley GL13 9TP
16 th	Oak Cottage, New Brookend GL13 9SF	10 Howmead, Berkeley GL13 9AS
17 th	29 Cromwell Close, Newtown GL13 9GA	3 Severn Drive, Berkeley GL13 9EH
18 th	28 Oldminster Road, Sharpness GL13 9NA	10 Parkview, Berkeley GL13 9JY
19 th	43 Cromwell Close, Newtown GL13 9GA	Little Mead, Stone GL13 9LE
20 th	3a Oakfield Way, Sharpness GL13 9UT	Coppit House, The Leys, Berrycroft, Berkeley GL13 9AG
21 st	4 Baylands, Newtown GL13 9NX	9 High Street, Berkeley GL13 9BH
22 nd	7 Gloucester Road, Sharpness GL13 9NJ	29 Lynch Road, Berkeley GL13 9TE
23 rd	25 New Street, Newtown GL13 9NN	Sema4Graphics, Salter Street, Berkeley GL13 9DB
24 th	Sharpness Dockers Club, Sharpness GL13 9UN	St Marys Church, Berkeley GL13 9BN. 3pm

All proceeds will go to Winston's Wish

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gail-bidder3

Friends of Berkeley Castle visit to Virginia in November 2019

In May 2017, Professor Mark Horton gave a talk to the Friends of Berkeley Castle, in which he said that in 1691, Richard Berkeley was one of 4 London based businessmen who commissioned John Woodlief and crew to sail the *Margaret* to Virginia. They landed on 4 December after a 2 month voyage at what became known as Berkeley Hundred. 2019 would be the 400th anniversary of this expedition. I decided to arrange a group to join the celebrations.

After about 18 months of planning and the help of a London-based travel agent, 30 of us set off on 1 November for an 8-day stay in Williamsburg. The main focus of the trip was to attend these celebrations at Berkeley Plantation on Sunday 3 November. We were recognised by our black scarves with the FoBC logo and were welcomed by Graham Woodlief, descendant of John Woodlief and President of the Virginia Thanksgiving Festival. Under clear blue skies and a hot sun, there were re-enactments of the landing, a parade in which we took part, music, crafts, tribal dancers, and a presentation with Charles Berkeley amongst the speakers.

On another day, we had a visit to the Colonial National Park which includes Jamestown. There we saw excavations at the original settlement, reconstruction of the dwelling area James Fort and of a Powhatan Indian village. We then went to the very new Visitor Center in Yorktown where we learnt about the American Revolution, saw the reconstruction of a 18th century farm and toured the Yorktown battlefields.

Another visit was to Richmond, where we had an extensive guided coach tour, hearing more about the Revolution and also about the 19th century Civil War.

We had a couple of days to explore Historic Williamsburg at our leisure, and also visited three Williamsburg wineries where the product and some local food was sampled.

After this very enjoyable visit in brilliant weather, most of the party returned to UK on 9 November but some took advantage of being in US to visit Washington and New York, and friends and family in other areas.

Althea Hamlyn



Sharpness & Berkeley Christmas Windows/Houses/Gardens Light Up

Last year in Berkeley and Sharpness leading up to Christmas we lit up one household a day for the whole of December. Everybody went out each night with their families to see. We've each found 24 people and convinced them to decorate a window, their house or their garden for the festive season and each has a designated night for the big switching on of the lights. Some households will even be handing out the odd mince pie or glass of mulled wine on their nights so be sure to pop along and see them. The Berkeley switch on time is 6pm and in Sharpness it's 6.30pm (there are a couple of exceptions to this which are clearly advertised)

Gail sadly lost her husband two years ago and struggled to find the words to help her grandchildren understand, so she turned to the charity Winston's Wish. They were great with helping the family come to terms with their loss so we will be inviting everyone to donate whatever they can to them. Each house will have a collection on their evenings and you can also donate online at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gail-bidder3

Full details of the houses are in the table on the opposite page.



SEASONS

We journey through seasons in our personal lives. Within those seasons there seems to be a right time for everything. A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to dance and a time to mourn. This is the reality of life from which children are not immune. However, within the right context children can learn how to negotiate these times in a healthy way.

How often, as we go about our daily lives, do we take the time to stop and consider those who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of others? Do we contemplate the benefits we have reaped at the expense of someone else's hardship, pain or even life? Although these times of reflection may seem quite challenging, they are essential if we are to foster an attitude of appreciation and thankfulness. To this end our children, along with the nation, participated in a two minute Act of Remembrance on the eleventh hour on the eleventh month. At that moment and throughout the day, the children had the opportunity to meditate on the lives of those who have and are serving in the Armed Forces. For example, during Art, Key Stage 2 children produced thoughtful silhouettes of World War 1 soldiers and Crosses against backdrops of dramatic watercolours, while other children crafted poppies from clay. For Literacy, Year 5 explored John McCrae's famous World War 1 poem, 'In Flanders Fields'.

We can so easily take for granted the benefits we have. Good health is something that many of us take for granted. By creating an awareness of a healthy lifestyle and good habits at an early age has proved to have long term benefits. So we were delighted to have Dr. Dan (GP) talk to the children in Little Jesters about making healthy choices. Dr. Dan brought some of his medical equipment with him for

the children to checkout, including a stethoscope. Great fun!

On the festive horizon, the children are well into their rehearsals for the various Christmas productions. Little Jesters and Reception children will be performing a traditional Christmas play. Miss Buck, our musical drama specialist, has composed a bespoke production for our Key Stage 1 children entitled, 'A Winter Walk'. Their parents will be suitably entertained by the 'friends of the forest'. Not to be forgotten, Key Stage 2 parents are invited to join us at St Mary's Church for traditional carols at the end of term.

If you would like to know more about what is happening at Berkeley Primary School please visit our website <https://www.berkeleyprimary.org.uk>.

New Business – New Office Space?

The Berkeley Green Campus of the University of Gloucestershire is now firmly established on the old Power Station site and rapidly becoming a centre of innovation for business, in particular the new Cyber Security and Digital Innovation Centre. A newly launched initiative offers small companies and larger organisations the opportunity to share the modern and spacious co-working space to network and meet other businesses or to enjoy a professional space to catch up with clients.

Associate Membership of the C11 Centre enjoys a list of benefits including:

- Unlimited hot desk facility from 9 to 5 Monday to Friday
- Access to bookable meeting rooms
- Staffed reception desk during working hours
- Access to the Centre seminar and events programme
- Secure card entry
- Wi-Fi
- Free on-site parking
- Canteen facilities on Berkeley Green Campus
- Access to a kitchen space with complimentary tea and coffee.

Associate Membership is just £50 + VAT per month. If your business needs a base in the Berkeley area call on 01453 707511 or email talkc11@glos.ac.uk

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Trees are a special part of Christmas but which are the 'greenest' trees to have?

If your artificial tree is still 'leafy' then keep using it. However, if it's looking rather threadbare but you prefer an artificial tree, why not replace it with a 'pre-loved' tree?

If Christmas isn't the same for you without a real tree, look for FSC certification to show it has been grown sustainably. Organic and pesticide free are also available!

Alternatively, you can grow your own, in peat free compost. It can be planted in the garden after the celebrations or maintained in its pot for next year.

Don't forget to recycle your tree when its job is done. Longfield Community Hospice are doing charity Christmas Tree collections again this year. Register online by midday on Sunday 5th January and make a donation and they will collect your tree for recycling from your house. Details at <https://charityxmastreecollection.com/xmas-trees/>

You can even rent a tree locally at rentaclaus.com!

Also, with Christmas in mind. . .

On **Saturday, the 30th of November** the popular pop-up repair café,

The Toy Hospital, is running. Kids don't always need bright and new and shiny!

If you have any toys to fix, want to bring your children along to mend their own or want to renovate or re-purpose toys to re-gift for Christmas, now's the time to do it.

Saturday 30 November 2019, 11:00 to 14:00 at Atelier, 19a Lower Street, Stroud, GL5 2HT. Book in at

www.bookwhen.com/nrc

Happy Christmas!

Jane Robertson, Berkeley Area Climate Action



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Gloucestershire area

SKYLARKS COMMUNITY CHOIR

We will be singing Carols again this year at the Lammastide Inn, Brookend on **TUESDAY 3rd**

December at 7.30pm.

Please come early to get a seat, join in and enjoy.



Berkeley Area 2020 Calendar



Each photograph taken by Local Winners of our Photographic Competition

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Available to purchase from:

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Six Market Place (Coventry Building Society) Berkeley.

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DECEMBER IN THE GARDEN

December with dark nights and cold days to look forward to but most of us would prefer to stay indoors in the warmth – but the garden will be much more healthy if it can have a few weeks of really sharp cold weather. Cultivated soil left in clods will break down and become lovely friable soil simply with being frosted. Fungi spores are killed by cold weather. Overwintering aphids, slugs and snails also die. A few weeks of sustained cold in the garden do more to get rid of pests and diseases than a lot of chemicals so there is a silver lining to every cold morning!

Evergreen shrubs give interest in the winter months, they give structure to the garden and give colour especially in the dull dark days. They are the backbone of any garden design. There are a few I grow in my garden. *Eleagnus x ebbingii* 'Gilt Edge' is ideal for the back of a border and has bold variegated foliage. *Osmanthus Aureomarginatus* – known as the false holly due to the shape of its foliage – it also has fragrant white flowers. *Fatsia japonica* is an exotic looking plant loved by flower arrangers for its foliage. I grow it in a large pot. *Aucuba* – the spotted laurel gives a great show of colour. *Sarcococca confusa* has the most fragrant flowers at this time of year and *Euonymus fortunei* 'Emerald and Gold' is a must to bring a golden glow to any garden. They can be pruned to shape to fit into any garden.

There are a few jobs to be done when the weather is dry and you can get out into the garden. Autumn fruiting Raspberries can be cut down to ground level – mine have cropped well this year. You can put a good covering of garden compost or manure as a mulch around the base of them – this will feed them and act as a weed suppressant. Another important job at this time of year is to sweep patios and paths so that any slippery algae and leaves are cleared away. If you have a pond it is important to make an air hole in ice if the pond freezes over. This is vital to keep fish and aquatic wildlife alive. It is a good idea to remove the filters and pump so that they do not get damaged from freezing water during the winter months. If we have any snow this month brush it off shrubs – especially evergreens to prevent them getting damaged, also clear it off greenhouses and cold frames. Check tree ties and stakes and replace any ties that are frayed or broken. Make sure they are neither loose or too tight. Cut back the old leaves from evergreen winter flowering Hellebores.

This will allow the emerging blooms to be more visible. Wait until new shoots appear at the base of the plant then trim all the old leaves and stems to the ground. Lift and divide established clumps of rhubarb to renew the plants vigour. Sections from the outside of the plant are better than those from the centre for replanting. An important

job that can be done from the warmth of a shed or greenhouse is to clean all garden tools. So now that the weather is cold outside and we are not using the tools quite so much is an ideal time to give them a thorough overhaul. Spades and forks should be cleaned thoroughly and the metal parts rubbed with an oily rag. Rub the wooden shafts with sandpaper to smooth them down so there are no splinters and then wipe them with linseed oil. It is a good habit to clean secateurs and loppers regularly after use as pruning tools can spread diseases. Rub off any dry sap on the blades with fine emery paper and ensure all moving parts are regularly oiled. Tighten any slack nuts. Sharpen the blades with a sharpening tool. File the cutting edges of Dutch hoes so they slice through weeds effectively. As the end of the month approaches it will be Christmas and hopefully a rest from gardening for a few days. Our thoughts turn to what to get people for Christmas – well that is easy if they are gardeners as there are lots of things available. - Gardening books, a new watering can, a pair of secateurs- the list goes on. Whatever you get I hope you have a lovely Christmas and you will hear from me in the New Year.

Ann Legg

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CHRISTMAS CAROLS Thursday 12th December

Rounding off 2019 at Dr Jenner's House, we're really looking forward to a night of carol singing and mulled wine with the Woodford Silver Band!

Plus, we're really pleased to confirm that there will be an opportunity for local last-minute shopping with our friends Yasmin Jones Cards, Ye Green Men, Cotswold Handmade Soap and Tortworth Plants.

Thursday 12th December, gates open at 6:30pm.

Free Entry



Christmas cards for Cobalt Unit

Unfortunately for various reasons I will not be able to take the Christmas cards to Cheltenham this year. I am therefore asking if someone else would be willing to take over this very worthwhile effort for charity and collect the cards from our three collection points in Berkeley and take them to the Cobalt Unit in Cheltenham.

With the amount of support over the years I would expect to have to make two trips to Cheltenham usually during the second week in January as there is about a ten day window when the Cobalt Unit will accept the cards. Exact dates can be obtained nearer the time.

Anybody interested in helping out can contact me on 810519 and I would be happy to answer any queries.

I thank everyone for their past support and ask that similar support is given to the next person(s) who are willing to carry on this act for charity.

Paul Glastonbury



Citizen's Advice Stroud and Cotswolds – Winter Heating Payments

With Winter just around the corner the thought of heating our homes becomes ever more a constant worry for many of those in our communities. In order to help with some of the energy costs, the government allow a **Winter Fuel Payment** to every household with someone born before 5th April 1954 living there. The payments are tax free, not means-tested and paid to anyone who satisfies the criteria, irrespective of whether they work or not.

Winter Fuel Payments are paid automatically to those who qualify between November and December by The Department for Work and Pensions; all payments are usually by 13th January the following year. If you think you are entitled to a payment and you do not receive one, then contact the DWP before 31st March 2020.

Cold Weather Payments are another form of government help with energy costs for those household living on low incomes. Payments are only paid to certain means-tested benefits claimants when the average temperature of zero degrees or below lasts for seven consecutive days in any period from 1st November to 31st March. The Payments of £25 for any qualifying period are triggered automatically by The Department for Work and Pensions.

If you would like any further information about these issues or any other matter please contact Citizens Advice on confidential freephone-08088000510.

Over this last year we have been celebrating 60 years in Stroud: Can you help us find 60 new donors for your local charity? An annual pledge of £5 per month can make a real difference. Please phone us on Freephone 0808 800 0510 for the necessary forms. Thank you.

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Burglary campaign:

We are currently delivering a communications campaign in relation to burglary where we are asking the public to install a 'WIDE' combination of security devices as minimum protection against burglary. A 'WIDE' combination of security devices provides a home with 49 times more protection against burglary compared to having no devices installed.

As well as the 'WIDE' combination we would like homeowners to consider installing CCTV or digital doorbells and to use forensic property marking liquids.

Events are being held across the county where the public can get advice from a local officer, pick up a free timer switch and purchase discounted forensic marking kits. Detailed information from our campaign can be found below.

The link to the content can be found here: <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/campaigns/burglary/>

Discounts on forensic marking kits: <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/campaigns/burglary/#kits>

Events: <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/campaigns/burglary/#events>



W

Window locks



I

Indoor lights on timer switches



D

Double or deadbolts fitted to doors



E

Exterior lights on a sensor

Get 49 times more protection against burglary by installing a 'WIDE' combination of security devices*

A 'WIDE' combination includes:

- Window locks
- Indoor lights on timer switches
- Double door locks or deadbolts
- External lights on a sensor

Burglars look for opportunities:

They want to find empty-looking homes, where they can't be seen by neighbours and where they can get in and out quickly. Take away their opportunities by installing the 'WIDE' combination of security devices and by carrying out the following actions:

Is your back gate your weak spot?

Stop access to your back garden. It is really important. Install strong fences and gates and make sure they are kept locked. Make it difficult for burglars to climb over them by adding trellis and spiky plants. Burglars enjoy the privacy of a back garden as it allows them to spend the time they need to get into your home often by smashing patio doors.

Install CCTV or digital doorbells

Install external CCTV or digital doorbells. Burglars don't want to be seen and these devices can capture evidence we can circulate amongst our officers and the public.

Can your neighbours see your entrances and exits?

Increase the visibility of the entrances and exits of your home. Cut back and remove any plants, bushes and high fencing that block your neighbour's view of your home. Burglars do not want to be seen as they may get caught.

Mark your property with forensic marking liquids

Use forensic marking liquids to increase the likelihood of getting your belongings back. These liquids act like DNA evidence and can be used to link recovered property back to you. Popular brands include SmartWater, SelectaDNA and ImmobiDot. You may be able to purchase these kits at a discounted price from us at our events as well as through your local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Check if valuables are on show

Check what valuables can be seen from the outside of your home. If there are items that may look tempting to a burglar remove them from view and make sure they are marked with a registered forensic marking liquid.

Wheelie bins, tools and heavy garden objects

Wheelie bins left out the front offer burglars help to get over your fences. Tools and heavy objects left out help them smash or force their way in. Put them away.



NEW BERKELEY HARRIERS Couch to 5k

Join us for this nine week plan designed to get new runners building up their runs to a 5k target. **Starts Tuesday Jan 21st, 6.30pm.**

Meet at The Pavilion, Canon Park and will be held every Tuesday until the end of the plan.

This will be followed by an optional 5k to 10k for the next 5 weeks on a Thursday evening. Everyone welcome.

Best ask Santa for a new pair of trainers!



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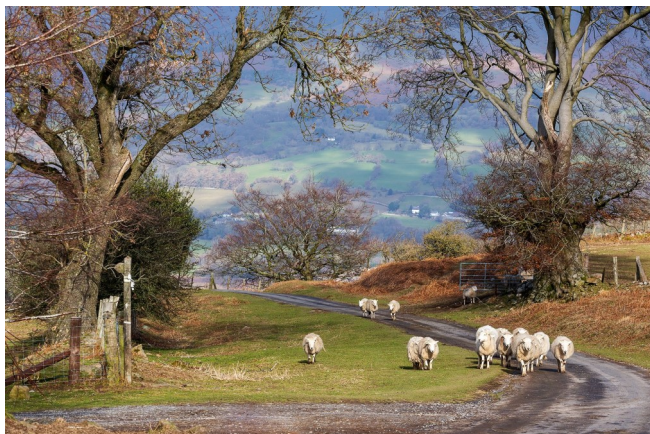
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Tyndale Photography Club's first competition of the year was judged by Martin Cooper LRPS who had a very busy evening judging 24 prints, 31 images for division two and 34 images for division one.

Both prints and digital images were of open and very varied subjects with several entries in monochrome. Overall his comments were constructive and considerate and hopefully helpful not only to the individual concerned but to all present. He awarded points to each entry as he went along keeping the top four or five aside before announcing which of them had placings.



DIVISION ONE

- 1st – Steve Varman – Brecon Beacons (above)
 2nd – Steve Varman – Rainbow Houses
 3rd – Christine Wetton – Colourful Beach Huts

DIVISION TWO

- 1st – Barry Wilson – Side Saddle (below)
 2nd – David Gamm – Foxglove and Fern
 3rd – Barbara Gibbons – Red Kite



PRINT SECTION

- 1st – Jenny Fryer – Under the Falls (below)
 2nd – Majory Wright – Waiting for a Fare
 3rd – Elizabeth Restall – Porthgain Harbour



Be a flu superhero!



**PROTECT YOURSELF AND
YOUR FAMILY... HAVE YOUR
FLU JAB TODAY!**

Have you had your flu jab?

If not it's not too late, Berkeley Pharmacy have flu jabs available. No appointment is necessary, just visit on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. The vaccination costs £13.

They're not just for the young, elderly or those with existing medical conditions. It's also important in order to stop the spread of the illness. Even if catching flu yourself might do nothing worse than leave you housebound for a week, if you pass it on to a vulnerable family member, neighbour or colleague, the consequences for them could be much worse.

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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

Selling off berkeley town maces

What sort of town council do we have?? The Berkeley Town Council propose to sell off the town's heritage when they propose to sell off the town's Maces to fund 'improvements to fund town centre'

I fail to see what town Improvements have been made lately, floral yes in the summer, but on the other side of the coin, parking restrictions by putting two unnecessary half islands each side of the co-operative which are a waste of time, and a futile space for the Police, which I've never seen used by them.

I look forward to seeing what will be improved following the sale of these historic legacies to the town. I'm pretty sure you can dig in to the council coffers to supplement your needs

rather than dispense with what is part of the Berkeley tradition.

Name supplied

Regarding the "front page news" on the Berkeley Flyer last month (November). It's nice to see that another business has sprung up in Berkeley, however let's remember that this business is not an original idea for Berkeley. I'm sure I'm not the only one to notice that the new business is strikingly similar to the last business that occupied No.1 High Street. The previous shop ran there for more than five years, which in all my years as a resident of Berkeley I see as quite an achievement. I think it's important to point out that the last business supported local crafters, including one that was mentioned in

the article last month. However the lack of support and footfall from locals (crafters and residents alike) really didn't show off the supportive Berkeley spirit that we should have as a somewhat creative community. Whilst I hear that the original business is still part of the community and continues to offer creative opportunities for Berkeley, I do wish the craft shop that has taken over the old residence of the last business all the best with their venture. Let's hope they put their trust in the right people and Berkeley in return can improve on the Berkeley business spirit.

Mr Trucker

"Everyone needs a helping hand from time to time and having a young family can be one of those times"

Home-Start is an independent registered charity supporting local families with at least one child under five years of age. We offer a FREE 10 week training volunteer prep course. All you need is parenting experience, two/three hours per week and a BIG heart!



Our next volunteer course will run:
Wednesday 22nd January – 1st April 2020
10am-2.30pm (term time only)
At Stonehouse Community Centre

If you would like further information on how to apply, please contact us on 01453 297470 or email: enquirieshomestartsd@gmail.com



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*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*

Thank you to all those who have supported us this year.
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Remembrance Day Service

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers from Berkeley and Sharpness attended the service at St Mary's Berkeley. see pictures.

Uniformed personnel from HMS Exploit also joined the parade and attended the service.



Long Service Award

Following the Service William 'Bill' Glover was presented with his long service award following 40 years as a Cub scout leader at Berkeley. He was presented with the award by Pat Day, Group Scout Leader. see picture.



Poppy Appeal

Hearty thanks from the British Legion to the generosity of the people who live in the Berkeley-Sharpness Area. We have raised over £5,200 this year.

We would also like to thank all the people (especially the house collectors) and organisations that helped and participated in raising this magnificent sum.

We are in need of more house collectors. If you would like to volunteer to be a house collector next year please let me know via e-mail ray.chaney@btinternet.com or telephone 01453 811545.

I have a few enamel poppy pins still available. If you are interested please contact me. All donations will be given to the Poppy Appeal.

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

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A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TEAM



2019 is nearly over. For us, it started badly with the loss of our very good friend and fellow district councillor Penny Wride to cancer. Penny was tireless in her role and spent many a sleepless night worrying about other people's problems. She was hugely respected in her home village of Stone and a hard act to follow.

Followed she was however and in February you elected Lindsey Green, a Purton Girl who now lives in Newport. Lindsey has hit the ground running and as a young mum she brings a new and very positive dimension to the team. For instance we now have a Facebook page "YOUR BERKELEY VALE DISTRICT

COUNCILLOR TEAM" all three of us regularly post on it and pick up on any issues or questions left you leave.

During the year we have been involved in lots of things and to those individuals that we can't name, we hope we did alright for you. The bigger things include pushing the county council for new highways and pavements (Note the new pavements in High Street are delayed while a new surface that will protect cellars from water ingress is obtained but will be rescheduled within this financial year). We have been involved in setting up a new Tourist Information operation. This will generate interest in the town and should be ready to go in the Spring. There is real method in this madness as tourist numbers can make all the difference to keeping facilities open and thriving for our use.

The biggest issue of the year though has been the Revised District Council Strategic Plan which includes a number of local building sites including a huge 2400 house one in Sharpness. A round of consultations has already taken place and a second round is due to take place in the next few weeks. You can tell us what you think of that and we can tell the Council BUT IT COMES MORE POWERFULLY DIRECTLY FROM YOU

Soooooooooooo

1. PLEASE LOOK TRY TO ATTEND THE LOCAL ACTION GROUP MEETING to be held in the BA on the 4th December at 7pm. This will give you a local perspective

2. PLEASE GO ALONG TO THE CONSULTATION WHEN YOU SEE IT ADVERTISED. When you get there you will no doubt find a questionnaire asking for your opinions on an array of things. Please complete this.

3. THE BIG QUESTION "DO YOU APPROVE OR DISSAPROVE OF THIS PLAN FOR BERKELEY AND SHARPNESS" WILL PROBABLY NOT FEATURE, SO PLEASE WRITE IT ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND ANSWER IT IN YOUR OWN WORDS !

We believe we understand your opinion but we will ask for responses to be recorded and this will help us in the discussions that will no doubt take place in the year ahead. You should note that there is another year to go before things are finalised.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP ON THIS AND FOR JUST BEING YOU IN 2019

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Lindsey , Haydn, & Gordon

Latest News From Marybrook Medical Practice

New Provider

We are very excited to announce that Culverhay Surgery will be taking over the provision of primary care services in Berkeley next year. They will be working closely with the Marybrook team over the coming months.

They will be recruiting extra staff, including Doctors and Nurses and will aim to start integrating them into the team at Marybrook from the New Year, before taking full responsibility in April 1st 2020.

Culverhay Surgery is committed to keeping the service in Berkeley **at the same site** and are in current discussions regarding the premises.

Church Street Group will continue to run the service up until that time.

Staff Update

It is with great sadness that we announce Mrs Clare Barnfield, Practice Manager, will be leaving Marybrook at the end of December. She has enjoyed working with the Staff & Patients since April and would like to thank everyone for making her feel so welcome.

New Social Prescriber joins the Team. Julia Horsfall is running clinics once a week. If you are feeling isolated at

home or would like help to access extra support, please contact reception on 01453 810228.

Social prescribing involves helping patients to improve their health, wellbeing and social welfare by connecting them to community services which might be run by the council or a local charity. For example, signposting people who have been diagnosed with dementia to local dementia support groups.

Flu Season

We have had a really good start to the Flu Vaccination season. We have given over a 1000 vaccines to patients who are eligible. If you haven't already booked for your vaccination, please contact reception on 01453 810228, as stocks are getting low.

The aim of vaccination is to help protect vulnerable patients from the virus, which can develop into more serious complications such as bronchitis or pneumonia in older people or those with underlying health conditions.

To ensure patients receive the most appropriate vaccination there are two different vaccines one for the over 65s and one for under 65s as guided by NHS England and the World Health Organisation.

From everyone here at the surgery we wish you a Very Happy Christmas !

PLANS FOR NEW TOWN OF UP TO 5,000 HOMES TO BE DISCUSSED AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

Two public meetings are being held to discuss controversial plans which could see a new town the size of Dursley built on land between Berkeley, Sharpness and the surrounding villages.

The meetings have been organised by Berkeley and Sharpness Residents' Action Group (BaSRAG), which was formed after major concerns were raised about the proposals to build up to 5,000 new homes on farmland and open countryside over the next 30 years.

If it gets the go-ahead, the development, which forms part of Stroud District Council's newly published draft Local Plan, would be more than five times the size of Berkeley and would effectively join the town with Sharpness, Newtown, Wanswell, Brookend and Hinton.

BaSRAG believes the area is unsuitable for the huge number of homes being proposed and feels the transport infrastructure won't be able to support a development of this scale.

The group is also concerned there won't be enough local employment opportunities for the thousands of new residents who would live in the new homes.

The meetings will be held at 7pm on Monday 2 December at Sharpness Village Hall and 7pm on Wednesday 4 December at The Berkeley Arms.

They follow on from two similar meetings held at the same venues a year ago. Both events will be an opportunity for local residents to learn more about what has happened over the last 12 months and also discuss the key issues in the latest proposals for the Berkeley and Sharpness area.

The meetings coincide with the launch of Stroud District Council's consultation on its draft Local Plan. This is the blueprint for how it intends to meet housing needs in the district over the next few decades.

Berkeley & Sharpness Residents' Action Group (BaSRAG)

A NEW TOWN ON YOUR DOORSTEP

5,000 homes are planned on green fields in this area

For the latest news, come to our residents' meetings on:

**Monday, 2 December
Sharpness Village Hall (7pm)
Wednesday, 4 December
The Berkeley Arms (7pm)**

Contact: sharpnessproposeddevelopment@gmail.com

The council will hold its own 'road show' events in the area on the afternoon of 13 December and the morning of 14 December. Residents will have the opportunity to speak to officers and – possibly – representatives of the development consortium behind the plan for the new town. These events will be held at Sharpness Village Hall (exact timings TBC).

To contact BaSRAG, please email: sharpnessproposeddevelopment@gmail.com



KIDS SILENT DISCO

Wow wow wow !!!!!

What an amazing night we had. 130 kids joined us on Friday 8th November at Hamfields Leisure for a Silent Disco. Violet Palmer and Macey Spiers organised it to raise funds for the Bournstream Trust, an outdoor adventure

playground in Wotton-under-Edge for Children with special needs.

We had the best time ever and from the feedback we've had, everyone felt the same. We are so happy to announce that the girls raised over £700 (they were aiming for £1000 so you may see them in the town shaking a tin to raise the extra £300 in the coming weeks) and can't wait to hand over the money to the Bournstream Trust.

We couldn't have done it without all the help we got from lots of people so a Big Thank you to everyone that helped us, especially our DJ's Steve Mansell and Steve Virgo, Berkeley Pharmacy for selling our tickets and everyone that bought a ticket and had a go on the raffle.

The girls are already making plans for next year's event so watch this space.



Moo Music Berkeley and Sharpness

Makaton friendly music and messy play classes held at Chilled Out Family Space in Berkeley and Sharpness Village Hall. Various classes from birth to 6 years old.

For timetable and booking go to: www.moo-music.co.uk/areas/berkeley or see facebook: Moo Music Berkeley and Sharpness. Alternatively call or text James on 07801 270222.

What's On



COFFEE MORNING: SATURDAY 14th December 10.00 - 11.30AM at THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Hello, it hardly seems possible that this will be our last coffee morning of

2019. The year seems to have flown past and Christmas is nearly here again. We've enjoyed our year of cakes, drinks, laughter and meeting new friends. We hope that you have too and will be eager to support us in 2020. By now our unlimited supply of cakes and hot beverages are legendary among our regulars. Occasional visitors to Berkeley have been warm in their praise of our faithful team of excellent cake bakers, a skill which sadly I don't have (as my son will bear witness to). So a big thank you to you all, supporters and bakers alike.

Come along and enjoy our Christmas coffee morning, rumour has it there will be mince pies on the tables in addition to the selection of mouth watering bakes. We make no charge and we never count the slices or refills. What's there not to like?

We who are involved in the coffee morning wish all of you a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

Get it in your diaries now and tell all your friends.

We have 3 D.J's for 3 different genres of music so pick/change your channel and sing and dance the night away. This year we are supporting Claire Spiers in her third (yes third !!!!) London Marathon raising funds for Meningitis Now.

Tickets will cost £10 in advance from Lisa Palmer (07885881145) or Claire Spiers (07500801972) or from Hamfields Leisure (ask for Warren)

Age limit is 15 accompanied by an adult.

Berkeley Educational Swimming Trust (BEST)

November Draw

Winner Angela Barnes Ball No. 87 £20.00

Runner Up Robert Turl Ball No. 36 £15.00

The draw took place in The Coventry Building Society and on behalf of BEST I would like to thank The Coventry Building for their continued support.

Gill Badsey, Lottery Manager for BEST

BERKELEY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

WELCOMES YOU TO



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

"We sing the carols you choose"

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER
AT 4PM

Refreshments served



PLEASE COME
AND JOIN US
(We are Opposite
the Co-op)



The **Annual Kids Christmas party** at The Malthouse is on **Sunday the 1st of December.**

All local children (Primary school age and younger) are invited to enjoy a fun afternoon of dancing and magic with our professional entertainers whilst awaiting the arrival of Father Christmas.

Each child will receive a gift and can have their photo taken in the magical grotto. The party starts at 2pm and ends at 4pm and most importantly is free to attend. Hope to see you all there.

2020 Berkeley Area Calendars Now on Sale!

£6.50 each from the library

(opening hours Tues & Fri 10.30 - 4.30;
Sat 9.30 - 12.30)

Also available to purchase from The Coventry Building Society at the Market Place.

Each month has a winning photograph taken by local people and entered in this year's photographic competition 'Berkeley Vale Past & Present'

(All profit from the sale of the calendars is used to run the Community Library in Berkeley, registered Charity no. 1149718)

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 with Sam 07793 755240
Fat burning & toning for all

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.

Coffee Morning

Sharpness Village Hall

10.30 - 12pm Call Christy 07970 565099

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

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

6.30pm with Sam 07793 755240
Fat burning & toning for all

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

Berkeley Players

Meet in the Town Hall

From 7pm—8.30 Young People

From 8.30 Adults

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 - St Dominics Hall

9.30am with Sam 07793 755240
Fat burning & toning for all

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

3rd November

11.00 Messy Church

6 p.m. Commemoration of the Departed

10th November

10.30 Remembrance Communion

3 p.m. Civic Remembrance Service

17th November

9.30 Matins

11.00 All Age Worship

24th November

9.30 Choral Communion

11.00 All Age Communion

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Vale of Berkeley Railway

The photograph is one from November's talk by Mike Smith, about the steam railways of Southern Africa, featuring the mineral lines of Zimbabwe. Mike visited South Africa's 2013 Sandstone Festival, and a steam rail tour of Zimbabwe in 1994. The Sandstone festival features an extensive two-foot gauge railway using narrow gauge locomotives ranging from small industrial types through to huge ex-South African Railways Beyer-Garretts. Beyer-Garretts feature prominently in Zimbabwe, too, but this time on the standard "Cape Gauge" of 3' 6".

October saw our Annual General Meeting, which was held in the village hall in Sharpness. A well-attended meeting heard a report of the achievements of the previous year, with a healthy assessment of the project's financial position. Under the terms of our constitution, 3 of the trustees must step down and resubmit themselves for re-election every year. The three who stood down were all unanimously re-elected and were joined by Dave Snell who has also volunteered to act as a trustee. David has considerable project management experience which will be in demand as we move forward. The VOBR team leaders had set up tables with pictures and artefacts describing their own projects. These proved very popular and generated much discussion.

Our Class 14 DH shunter D 9553, having spent several years in open storage in the car park on the Berkeley Power Station site, has been moved to Wishaw where it can be secured and await restoration. This 'Teddy Bear' was built at Swindon in 1965 and sold into industrial use at BSC Corby.

The refurbishment of the VOBR's own brake van is now under way. It had been parked in sidings for several years but has now been brought into the shed and work has started in earnest. The woodwork has been stripped off so that the underlying frame can be examined, repaired and painted. This is an interesting project as it involves both metal work and woodwork. All the wood has been stripped out, including the side walls, and internal desks and storage boxes. The metal structure will have to be sanded and repainted before the reconstruction can start. If anyone would like to be involved with this project, you will be made most welcome. Woodworking skills would be most useful.

In November 3 VOBR members visited The Chasewater Railway and met up with Mark Sealey their CME, and Andrew Goodman, one of the men behind VOBR. Our interest in the place was to see

their superbly restored guard's brake van which is identical to the one Frank and his team are working on at Sharpness. Frank got a lot of helpful advice on timber cladding and framework, roofing and the addition of vacuum braking. The Chasewater Railway has been going for about 50 years and is a fine model for the sort of operation we might aspire to. We could learn much from them and we plan to organise a trip up there for the entire Trust to talk to them and see what they are doing. It would be a shame now to waste such helpful people who are only 2 hours driving from Sharpness. We then went on to Wishaw at Andrew's invitation and had a good look at his operation there and inspected his yard.



We have been offered some young trees by the Woodland Trust, and plan to plant these at Berkeley station to improve the environment and appearance of the site.

One of our members has also started up a scrap metal recycling scheme to raise funds. To date over £3000 has been raised. If you have any metal or old batteries which you need to get rid of, then please get in touch as this is proving a valuable fund-raising option.

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 next talk will be by Tony Coder, and is entitled "Do you remember Adlestrop" Tony will describe the history of Gloucestershire's railways through stories and pictures. This will be held on Thursday December 19th 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

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