



## New Business Supporting Berkeley

A new shop with an emphasis on local hand made items is opening in Berkeley on the 9th November

'**From Home**' will be located at number 1 on the High Street and will be run by Lizzie Hammond, an artist specialising in British Wildlife and Jeanette Palmer of Having a Hoot Crafts, a maker of beautifully crafted homewares.

These two ladies have joined forces to open a shop on the High Street showcasing work by artists, creatives and makers who may not necessarily have the opportunity to sell their work locally at a fair price.

They decided to open **From Home** after being frustrated by the lack of local outlets where likeminded people can sell their work. Despite the existence of many lovely homeware shops locally, most bulk buy their products often months in advance and leave little to originality and one off designs.

FROM HOME X

HANDCRAFTED, LOVINGLY MADE GIFTS

Whilst the emphasis really is on 'local', with all stock being handmade within 20 miles of Berkeley, there are also plans for a monthly 'Guest Maker' feature showcasing work from a little further afield.

Many creatives have already signed up to join Lizzie and Jeanette in their new venture, including fused glass makers Ye Green Men, Yasmine Jones cards and Roz Hull from The Loveable Leaf, all of whom are from Berkeley.

Opening Hours will be Thursday to

Monday **from** 9.30 am to 5.00 pm and by opening on November 9th, you will be able to get ready for Christmas without having to leave Berkeley, and at the same time you'll be supporting a new business and the artists and makers that they are supporting as well

**Berkeley Vale District Councillors are holding a drop in session at Berkeley Library on Saturday 16th November between 10am and 12.30pm. They would love to hear your thoughts on what's important to you, your family and Berkeley.**

### SILENT DISCO RETURNS

Back in January, Violet Palmer and Macey Spiers (age 13 now) organised a silent disco for school years 4-9 and they raised an amazing £1000 for the children's charity NSPCC. It was such a great success they've decided to do it again. They've set the date, ordered the headsets and booked the D.J.s for **Friday 8th November**.

Please keep an eye out for their posters and Facebook event for details of how you can get tickets for your children. Tickets will again be priced at £5. The girls haven't decided yet which charity to raise funds for so please let us know if you have any suggestions. They would like it to be a children's charity and preferably a local one.

Contact Lisa Palmer 07885 881145 or Claire Spiers 07500 801972 for further information.



Meeting held in  
Berkeley Town Hall  
on Thursday  
October 10th at  
7:30pm.

Fran Denton president chaired the meeting with Jenny Hodgett secretary.

Events and business:

National Federation of WIs

The Resolution process is ongoing. 106 resolutions have been submitted. Six will be shortlisted and communicated to the individual WI members at the end of November. Unsurprisingly the WI are very involved in several topical issues. The ongoing food poverty crisis in Britain. Many members volunteer at food banks as well as donating foodstuffs and are reporting harrowing situations of not only families in desperate need but single, elderly, young people from all walks of life who have hit on hard times. The WI are along with millions of others calling for action on Climate Change and were involved in the June 26th mass lobby of Parliament. Many WIs are in coastal areas, canal sides and riversides. Individual members and groups alike are fighting plastic pollution with beach cleans and even some on paddle boards raising awareness of plastic pollution in our canals and rivers. Actions do speak louder than words sometimes. The latest WI campaign is entitled Five minutes that matter - challenging the fall in women having cervical screening. Apparently the Jade Goody effect has faded and uptake is falling.

Gloucestershire Federation of WIs  
1919 - 2019

In 1919 there were 28 WIs in Gloucestershire. There are now 139 Institutes in Gloucestershire.

The centenary celebrations are happening weekend of October 12th in Gloucester Cathedral with a centenary celebration service and a centenary exhibition. The WI Choir are singing an anthem written specifically for the centenary as well as supporting the hymn singing - Jerusalem was chosen as the WI anthem in the 1920s marking its links with the wider women's movement (particularly women's suffrage) and for the WI commitment to improving the conditions of rural life. The exhibition is to run over the weekend.

To a completely different matter -Palm Oil. GFWI are keen to debunk the myth. Not all palm oil is bad. Some palm oil is sustainably grown in respecting the environment and local communities. The areas where palm trees are native allow wildlife to thrive and can provide a major part of the local economy. It is true that swathes of the rainforest have been cleared to grow palm plantations thereby devastating the wildlife, traditional ways of life and impacting negatively on climate change.

Ongoing county WI activities include guided walks; handicrafts with a lampshade workshop; WI Choir Christmas concert in Cheltenham Town Hall; an exclusive WI Christmas event evening at John Lewis in Cheltenham.

Concorde Museum took place in late September.

The WI ladies are delighted to be providing and serving teas at Berkeley Castle for the Friends of Berkeley Castle meeting on October 17th.

Ongoing are the usual monthly bookgroup and monthly skittles practice. Craft group is on hold until the new year.

Next meeting will be discussing the six short listed resolutions which have yet to be announced accompanied by suitable refreshments and the following meeting will be the Christmas party.

Entertainment for the evening was keenly anticipated. Carole and Malcolm Brown have sung for us before and we were thrilled that they made time in their exceptionally busy calendar to return to Berkeley WI. The evening is titled "Singing for Your Pleasure" with the music accompaniment provided on disc by Martin Dack

Carol and Malcolm are trained singers with a wide repertoire ranging from Handel to Andrew Lloyd-Webber encompassing sacred songs, light opera, modern musicals and some more humorous songs. Carol and Malcolm are passionate about singing and this passion infuses the atmosphere. The Town Hall was abuzz. Foot tapping where appropriate, singing along when invited and the joy of music and singing left us all with a real feel good factor. Many WI members sing with The Nightingales and The Skylarks and just naturally joined in. Who can't join in with Mud glorious mud, I'm gonna wash that man right outta my hair, I feel pretty? So Rodgers and Hammerstein, Bernstein and Sondheim, Cole Porter, Gershwin brothers, Andrew Lloyd Webber and several others all had their songs sung in the course of the evenings

programme. They say that singing releases endorphins and that certainly seemed to be the case on Thursday evening.

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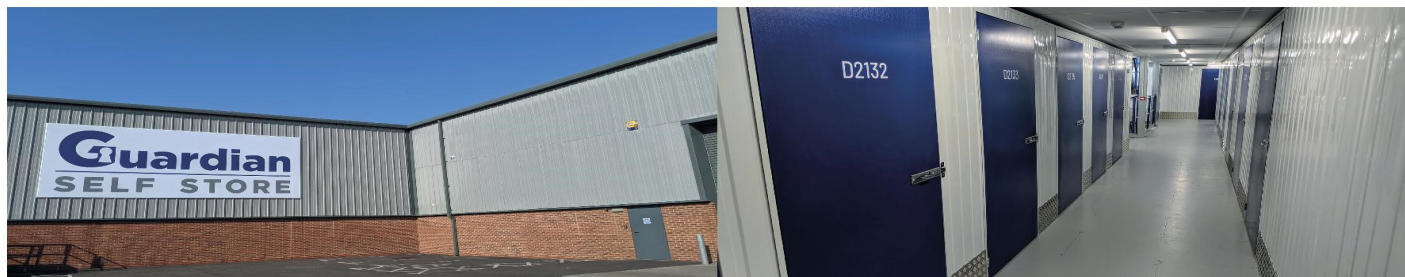
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## NOVEMBER IN THE GARDEN

The colour of Autumn can still be seen but the wild winds will soon blow through the branches of the trees and detach the leaves and they will fall to make a carpet of golden brown and the never ending (or so it seems) of raking them up begins but if they are stored away in black bin bags the leaves will break down and make the most sought after leaf mould which makes a good mulch for the garden beds and borders. November can be the start of lower temperatures and the first frosts.

Most tender plants should have been put in a sheltered spot or greenhouse by now. Dahlias will continue to flower until the first frost which will blacken the whole plant. Then it is time to lift the tubers from the ground. The top growth can be cut back to about 15cm (6in) of stem, label them clearly, remove any damp soil from around the tubers and then leave them to dry upside down for a few days to allow the hollow stems to drain. They should then be packed into crates or pots with sand and spent potting compost covering them. This will insulate them and stop them drying out totally. They should be placed in a frost free place for the rest of the winter in a dry shed or under staging in a greenhouse. In the south of England you may get away with leaving them in the ground with a thick mulch on them if the Winter is mild.

A job that can be done if the weather is dry is to paint wooden fences, sheds and garden furniture with a wood preservative before the Winter arrives. Outdoor taps can be damaged by frost and they can be covered with insulating materials which are available from DIY stores and garden centres. This will stop the taps freezing and the pipes from bursting. Also empty hosepipes which may be outside and store them in a shed.

The nights are drawing in and it is the slight change in day length which gives a message to the plants that Winter is on its way and the plant's energy is on the wane and therefore it is time to put the garden to bed.

There are still a few jobs to be done, get garlic, onion sets and shallots into the ground before the weather turns too cold. The soil will be warm and the bulbs should root strongly which will hopefully result in a better yield next year. Also the Autumn is the perfect time to plant bare root plants whilst the soil is still warm. If possible plant bare root items as soon as they arrive so that the roots do not dry out. If you cannot plant them right away heel them into the soil as a temporary measure. Before you plant them in their permanent position put them in a bucket of water for about an hour.

Dig the hole for them and mix a small handful of bone meal with the soil before you backfill the hole. To add nutrients in this way will give the plants a good start. Roses, hedging plants and fruit trees are usually bought with bare roots. They can be

much more inexpensive than container grown plants.

Hardwood cuttings can be taken now of many plants. If you want to grow more soft fruit such as currants and gooseberries they are easy to propagate by hardwood cuttings. These cuttings can be left in the open ground all winter and need very little skill to root successfully. Cuttings are usually taken in the dormant season using fully ripened wood. Use strong healthy stems about a pencil thick and about 15-25cm (6in – 10in) make straight cut at the base just below a bud and a sloping cut at the top. Treat the base of the stem with a rooting hormone. Put them in the soil so that only 5cm (2in) is still visible above the ground. They can also be put into a container in the same way. Over the Winter a corky callous of tissue forms at the base of the cutting and new shoots should appear in the Spring.

If you are thinking of having a bonfire on November 5<sup>th</sup> do remember to check that there are no hedgehogs or other wildlife sheltering in the base before it is lit. Do keep examining forced bulbs that you may have planted for Christmas and it is also time to plant Tulip in the garden. Plant them about 10cm (4in) deep so that they produce larger bulbs next year with flowers.

Well – all I can say to end this is keep warm and good gardening until next month.

Ann Legg

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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 years' 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)

## Berkeley's Best Craft Fair is coming to the Union Church once again!

Join us on Saturday **30th November** (10am—4pm) for a fantastic craft fair with lots of great festive gift ideas for all the family.

Browse the quirky craft stalls, fantastic array of seasonal cards and have the chance to win a lovely prize in our super raffle.

Have a go at our ever popular lucky dip and guess the name of the cuddly soft toy

Refreshments available

Enquiries to Linda—07941700752

Berkeley is hosting the 3rd in a series of 'start-up' workshops organised by our climate action group and Transition Stroud.

The workshop is for anybody from Berkeley and neighbouring parishes who would like to be involved in their community response to climate change.

It will put you in touch with like-minded people who are keen to make a difference no matter how small. In time, our cluster of parish groups will help inform Stroud District Council in meeting its target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

The workshop is on Sunday 17th November, 14:00 - 17:00 in the Chapel Rooms, Union Chapel, Salter Street.

To book a place go to [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) Search for events in the Bristol area on 17th November. Click on 'How can our local communities respond to climate change?' and click on 'register'. Alternatively, send an email to [janerobertson.60@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janerobertson.60@hotmail.co.uk) and I'll get back to you.

Don't be scared to come - we're a friendly bunch!

Jane Robertson, Berkeley Area Climate Action

## Jumble Sale

10-12 Town Hall

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9TH

Raffle

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**Gloucestershire Constabulary**  
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There is a new weight restriction within the High Street here in Berkeley which became legal mid August preventing vehicles over 3.5 tonnes from using this route unless delivering to properties within the High Street.

Residents have been affected with both noise and damage to their properties which is why this new traffic road order was introduced.

We have been monitoring traffic movements and overall this seems to have had some positive effect.

We will continue to monitor and enforce any vehicles found to be in excess of the new lower weight limit.

Now that the clocks have gone back an hour please exercise some caution regarding protecting your properties whilst you are out. Some neighbouring locations have been hit with burglaries, however, here in Berkeley we are largely unaffected by this current crime run. Never-the-less some simple

measures to prevent any unwanted visitors could keep you safe for example some background lighting set to a timer when you're out and cut back any overgrown hedging so there is a clear view to your property will deter criminals.

Next month our local residents panel will meet with us to discuss any priorities which they would like us to work on through until the Spring those priorities will be published here in the December Flyer update.

Finally ending on a good note - crime continues to remain extremely low in the town!

**Michael.treble@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk**

**07811292900 (not for incident reporting).**

**Melanie.campbell@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk**

**07813349225 (not for incident [reporting](#)).**



## WINGS DAY THANK YOU

Many thanks to all visitors  
and townspeople who  
contributed to the Royal Air  
Forces Association Wings  
Day appeal.



This year's town collection  
amounted to £141



**Dr Jenner's House**  
*Museum and Garden*

### More Tales of Old Berkeley

Tuesday 12 November / Thursday 14  
November 7:30pm

To celebrate Museums at Night, we've been hunting in the archives at Dr Jenner's House, Museum and Garden for more tales from the darker side of Berkeley's history.

Following on from last year's sold out tours, we have new surprises galore as we dig below the surface of our ancient town.

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**Sarah's Field, October Apple Day, Sat, October 12th**

A lovely day making apple juice was had by all, with not a drop of the predicted rain! A small and a large gazebo were put up, in case of said rain, under which apples were prepared and mulled juice heated up. Our friends from the Jenner Museum provided an apple quiz: Guess if the apple 'variety' is true or false. These included 'Hen's Turd' and 'Breadstone Blush' (are these real varieties or not ???). They also brought apple cake and an apple-spoon race, which was hilarious to watch.



The Guides and Rangers came again with their enthusiasm, and worked hard chopping and pressing apples, and also nature-spotting and pond-dipping. People brought bags and buckets of apples from gardens and

an orchard which was visited on a scrumping! walk (part of Dursley walking festival). The large apple press (on loan from the 'Secret Garden' at the Chantry Centre in Dursley) performed well with its ratcheted, and geared mechanism. After chopping and scratting (mashing), the apple 'cake' was put in the press. The rich, tasty, amber juice began to pour out, as the screw was turned. By mixing cookers and eaters, even some pears, it made a full bodied drink, which was decanted into containers, and demijohns; some of it for juice and some for cider. A big thank you to everyone who came, especially the local Guides and Rangers with their leaders who support and attend these community days, come rain or shine. It is really good to see the young people enjoying the outdoor activities with such enthusiasm. The wildlife surveying continues and we hope to make even more of it next year. Voles can be seen under the habitat (corrugated roofing) sheets. The annual cut of some of the vegetation is taking place, to provide a varied habitat for different animals and plants. Having cut back the reeds, the rhine is free to see again, so look out for others; and as we move into the cooler months, we expect there to be some migrating birds such as fieldfares and redwings. There is the suggestion of forming a residents group: 'Friends of Sarah's Field. If you would like to support this in anyway (no commitments needed), or just hear about activities, you can send in your e-mail to the clerk@berkeley-tc.gov.uk.

## Christmas Party at the MALT HOUSE

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As autumn is here, we have ended our summer walks in Berkeley but aim to start up again in the spring. We would like to thank Berkeley Tea Rooms for their hospitality, also Owen at the Jenner Museum and Jackie at Berkeley Castle for welcoming our group to their lovely gardens.

Plans are underway to set up a singing group in Berkeley based on the Alzheimer's Society, Singing for the Brain. Anyone who is feeling lonely or isolated would be welcome to join in. Definitely no need to be a good singer!

Look out for posters around town shortly.

Liz Ashton

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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

As you sit down to read this, our Town Clerk for the last twenty years Debbie Spiers will hopefully have her feet up & will be taking things easy. Debbie has decided to retire from the role, her last day was on Thursday 31st October.

After the initial shock and telling her no, the council & I relented and agreed...(not having Debbie running the Town Hall is like the Ravens not being at The Tower of London). In twenty years you have looked after seven Mayors including me (Twice), so many councillors & always your advice, extensive knowledge, guidance and friendship have been a total blessing. We have been in very safe hands and big shoes are needed to be filled.

So Thank You, not just from myself but the Town of Berkeley. Now, take it easy and enjoy your retirement, your children, but especially your Grandchildren.

Philip Stevenson, Mayor.

Dear Editor,

In common with everyone I've spoken to in Berkeley, I'm appalled at the Town Council's suggestion that they should sell off our ceremonial maces to fund town centre improvements. The maces are extremely old and represent the history and heritage of our town. They are something to be cherished.

Town Councils come and go: concrete planters disintegrate over time but the history of a town continues over centuries. I fear that selling off the maces would make the people of Berkeley look like uneducated philistines.

I hope the Town Council will reconsider this shameful plan.

Yours

Liz Ashton

*St. Mary's Church, Berkeley*

*wish to thank*

*J C Aldridge,*

*Coventry Building Society,*

*and*

*Berkeley Pharmacy*

*for selling Christmas cards*

*on their behalf.*

### BREW AND BAKE AFTERNOON TEA

Many thanks to everyone who supported the afternoon tea held on 4th October.

The final grand total raised for Meningitis Now was **£428.80.**

We very much appreciate the help, support and kind donations given by everyone before, during and after the event.

Sue and John Stump

### Marybrook Medical Centre Update

At the time of writing, details of the new practice are imminent. A letter has been drafted and will be sent to all patients very shortly, so you won't have to wait until the next Berkeley Flyer to find out who will be operating the practice going forward. This will be positive news and will confirm that the future of GP surgery services in Berkeley are secure for the long term.

In the meantime, you may have heard that the CCG has applied for planning permission to convert the old Indian restaurant building at 17 Canonbury Street into a surgery. I am assured that this is very much a contingency measure in case agreement can't be reached with the current owners of the Marybrook building when the lease expires in March 2020.

I hope to have more to tell you next month.

Gordon Craig



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The first meeting of the 2019/2020 season for Tyndale Photography Club was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October at North Nibley Village Hall; it was very well attended and we were pleased to welcome several new members. As is customary at the first meeting it was the 'U Judge' competition where members can, if they wish, enter up to three prints for all present to vote on.

The president, Brian Wetton, opened the evening by explaining the rules of the competition and then left everyone to browse the images on display. From the 37 entered a final five were displayed together for a 'show of hands' vote to decide on an eventual winner. The entries were of a very high standard and of many varied subjects but this year The Colab Trophy was awarded to Joan Scott for her winning photograph 'Japanese Anemone' - well done Joan! Don Grundell and David Brookes shared the second place with their images 'Teignmouth Pier' and 'Treguer Cathedral - South Choir Aisle'. A light buffet supper finished off a most enjoyable evening.

For more information about the club and to view the winning images visit [www.tyndalephoto.org](http://www.tyndalephoto.org)



## 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](http://www.moo-music.co.uk/areas/berkeley)  
or see facebook:  
Moo Music Berkeley and Sharpness.  
Alternatively call or text James on  
07801 270222.

## Workshop, Sunday, 17 November 2019, 14:00 – 17:00

Chapel Rooms, the Union Chapel,  
Salter Street, Berkeley, GL13 9DB

Do you live locally and want to do something to help tackle climate change? If so, come to this workshop on setting up a local climate action group in your community.

To attend, please contact Jane  
Robertson 07904 732627  
[janerobertson.60@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janerobertson.60@hotmail.co.uk)

The workshop is jointly organised by members of Berkeley community and Transition Stroud.

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY – ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST – A KIND OF MAGIC – I WANT TO BREAK FREE – UNDER PRESSURE

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HAMFIELDS LEISURE, BERKELEY | SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2019 | 7.30PM  
TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE FROM HAMFIELDS LEISURE AND COVENTRY BUILDING SOCIETY IN BERKELEY.

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



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## What's On

**Thursday's Art Group will be displaying their work throughout November in the Berkeley Community Library.**



**COFFEE MORNING:  
SATURDAY 9th November  
10.00 - 11.30AM at  
THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

Do you like cake? Would you like endless refills of freshly brewed coffee or tea? Then come to our November coffee morning to see and taste the variety of home bakes on offer. There's always a warm welcome and lots of lively conversation. Join us if you can. If you would like more information please ring Dawn: 810494 or Grace: 811138



### SHOP Volunteer Needed at BERKELEY

Longfield is a local charity which provides specialist services, 365 days a year, for adults in Gloucestershire affected by life limiting illness.

Our shops are looking for volunteers to help by serving customers, sorting and steaming clothes, displaying goods for sale, using the till, and assisting customers with their donations and

**FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CALL**

Kathy or Linda at the shop on

01453 810692 OR EMAIL

[berkeley.shop@longfield.org.uk](mailto:berkeley.shop@longfield.org.uk)



It's nearing that time of year again and Berkeley players are busy rehearsing for their Christmas production.

After many years of putting on a pantomime every December, this year, we have decided to take a break from Pantomime and do something a little different. This year we are staging a production of the classic, Christmas tale 'A Christmas Carol'. Our cast of young people and adult members are deep into rehearsals and working hard with our crew to put together a fantastic production full of Christmassy cheer. **There will be 3 evening performances on December 5th, 6th and 7th as well as a matinee performance on Saturday 7th December.** Tickets will be available from Berkeley Pharmacy closer to the time.

We are always looking for behind the scenes help with set and costumes so if you have a little time to spare and would be interested in helping out, please get in touch. Our contact details can be found on our notice board outside the town hall

### B.E.S.T Fundraising

As all should be aware the pool has been put to bed for the winter. The cover is on and will remain on until next May.

There are two fundraising events for BEST in November.

Thursday 21st November Salutation Inn Ham. Water themed The Sally Alley Quiz. Sign in by 7:45 for quiz start 8:00pm. Quiz master Pip Greenaway.

Saturday 30th November Pure Queen tribute with Evolution Disco at Hamfields Leisure 7:30pm. Tickets are selling fast so if anyone wishes to go tickets are available from Hamfields Leisure and The Coventry Building Society.

### Berkeley Educational Swimming Trust (BEST)

October Draw

|           |                 |             |        |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------|--------|
| Winner    | Pat & Chris Day | Ball No. 53 | £20.00 |
| Runner Up | Angela Barnes   | Ball No. 87 | £15.00 |

The draw took place at Berkeley Pharmacy and on behalf of BEST I would like to thank the Pharmacy for their continued support.

### Severn Vale Flower Club Open Meeting

"It's Christmas, Let's Sparkle" This is the title of a floral demonstration to be given by Lorena Dyer on Monday evening 4th November. Lorena is a National Demonstrator from the Midlands. There will be Refreshments, Raffle & Sales Tables.

Doors open 6.30pm for 7.30pm. For further information and tickets the nos. to ring are 01453 811089 or 01454 885213. Our open meetings are popular events so come and join us and sparkle.

## 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.

#### 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

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

This week's picture is a particularly good one of the railway bridge which spanned the Severn from near Lydney to Sharpness. This is an unusual view taken from the North bank, and shows the elegant arches of the bridge and the stone viaduct. It epitomises the Victorian attitude to engineering projects. There was coal on the North of the Severn in the Forest of Dean, but the only deep water harbour was on the South bank at Sharpness. How could the coal be got to Sharpness? No problem to the Victorians – just build a bridge across the river. Sadly, the only surviving parts of this magnificent structure are the tower just visible on the far bank, and a stone arch on the bank of the canal. They even built the station shown in the picture – “Severn Bridge Station”, though it was hardly ever used. It is interesting that 150 years later people are again discussing rebuilding a bridge in this location, but it seems to be too daunting a task for our modern engineers.

D2069, our very own BR '03' 0-6-0 diesel shunter, performed well at the Dean Forest Railway diesel gala in September. She is staying on the DFR for the next few weeks, and is scheduled to run extensively. 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 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 needs to be stripped out, including the side walls, and internal desks and storage boxes. The metal structure will then 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.

Last weekend featured a VOBR trip to the steam gala at Llangollen. Some fine steam engines were on show, and we even managed to visit the engineering works, boiler shop and one of the signal boxes, which were all manned by very friendly and knowledgeable staff. It was really inspiring to see that in modern Britain we still have people who can rise to the challenges thrown up by heavy engineering. A slight detour on the way back enabled

a flying visit the awesome aqueducts on the Llangollen canal at Pontcysyllte and Chirk.

A key part of our plans is to build a “run round” loop at Berkeley for the use of the DRS nuclear flask trains. This would remove the need for their trains to go all the way to Sharpness to “run round”. When this is done, DRS will no longer need the 2 mile section of line between Berkeley and Sharpness, and it is planned that it will be released to VoBR to start running trains on. The plans are complete. The track layouts and point work have been drawn up and have been approved. We have the necessary points, sleepers and track, and await the approval to start work. Before this, a detailed survey of the existing track bed will be required. A ground frame to operate the points is being constructed.

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 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 railtour of Zimbabwe in 1994.

Sandstone 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" This will be held on Thursday November 21st 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

