



CHRISTMAS EVENTS ARE BACK



Every year in Sharpness and Berkeley 24 houses create beautiful festive displays in their windows or gardens. Each day of the advent one of them switches on their lights. Usually anyone can go along to see the light up and if you're lucky you might be offered a mulled wine or mince pie by the household. Last year however, because of the pandemic we weren't allowed to have crowds of people gathering so we did a virtual "switch on" live on Facebook each evening so everyone could watch from the comfort of their own homes.

This year thankfully we're allowed back out (fingers crossed it stays that way) so we'd love to see you all out with your families getting in the Christmas spirit. We will also still stream live on Facebook for those of you that don't want to venture out every night.

An incredible £4560 was collected last year for the charity Winston's Wish - Giving hope to grieving children. Gail Bidder, the organiser of this event lost her husband a few years ago and Winston's Wish helped their grandchildren come to terms with his death. A few months ago the family were struck by tragedy again when the children lost their wonderful dad Martin, so it's even more important to raise as much money as we can for this incredible charity.

The Sharpness dates are full but we have a few dates available for Berkeley and the surrounding areas so if you want to get involved please get in touch with Lisa Palmer on 07885881145 or find the event on Facebook and get in touch that way.

We will print an advent calendar for the event in next month's flyer so if you want to go out and see the switch ons you know where to go each night.

We look forward to seeing all the wonderful creations this year and to seeing everyone for the "switch ons"

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are hoping to hold the children's Christmas party at the Malt House on Sunday 5th December, from 2-4pm.

This party was started 16 years ago by Brendan McNally and Tony Edwards, and financed by the R.A.O.B (Buffs)

The children will be given a presents & sweets. There will be music and entertainment, and the chance to meet Santa in his grotto.

Boys and Girls up to the age of 10 years old are welcome.

We do not charge, we just have a raffle on the day.

Many thanks to Wendy & Stuart for allowing us to hold this event at the Malt House. Thanks also to Lisa Palmer for creating the Grotto.

Come along with your children for a fun start to Christmas.



I fundraise for GWAAC (Great Western Air Ambulance Charity) who tried to save a driver of our business 6 years ago when he had a heart attack. The last 3 weeks I ran Bristol half then Sunday went to Devon and ran from Exeter to Dawlish for a full marathon. I have raised £600 would love a bit more.

Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so at - <https://greatwesternairambulance.enthuse.com/pf/rachael-goatman-24871>

Rachael Goatman

Applications now open!

BERKELEY TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS 2021/22

Available to local community groups which are set up to promote community life for Berkeley residents

Visit the Berkeley town Council website for more details

http://www.berkeley-tc.gov.uk/Documents_and_Policies_29255.aspx

or contact the clerk on 01453 511964

clerk@berkeley-tc.gov.uk

Sharpness Wind Turbine Grants 2021-22

Do you run a group or organisation which helps local people in our community? Did you know that every year the owners of the Sharpness Wind Turbine give £5,000 in grants to help groups like yours?

Your activities should help promote physical or mental health and encourage social inclusion for people who are disadvantaged or may be lonely and isolated. We would welcome applications from local organisations in the Hinton, Hamfallow and Berkeley areas.

Sorry, but we cannot support national charities or organisations which are run for profit.

For further information and application forms, please contact lizzie.ashton123@btinternet.com.

or, if you would like to discuss applying, please call 01453 811208 and leave a message.

The closing date for applications is December 31st 2021

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BERKELEY WI Meeting
Thursday October 16th
14:00 -16:00

After the success of the previous meeting

Berkeley WI had the second in person meeting since February 2020. We were delighted to welcome both familiar friends and new potential members. As at the previous meeting the doors were kept ajar to allow the air to circulate, hand gel and masks were used as per covid guidelines.

The business part of the meeting was conducted by Frances Denton the President. She warmly welcomed all to the meeting and covered the necessary health and safety information, finances and upcoming activities. Plans for the Annual General Meeting 2.00 -4.00pm on Thursday 11th November were explained and what format the December Christmas meeting will take. Due to the change in the meeting time Berkeley WI will now have a bring and share Christmas buffet lunch on Thursday December 9th at The Canon Park Pavilion.

Volunteers signed up to assist in the providing and serving of mince pies and Christmas cake for The Friends of Berkeley Castle at their November meeting.

As said in the previous report additional WI activities will slowly return. As yet we have no outings planned but will hope to plan and book in 2022. The monthly book club is restarting with a meeting at The Berkeley Arms on Thursday November 18th 2:30 - 4pm. The first set of books from the library has been delivered and we are reading The Island by Victoria Hislop. The WI skittles

are currently on hold so we are waiting to see if they may start again. There is to be a WI county quiz in 2022. Berkeley WI plan to enter at least one team of 4.

This month's speaker was Liz Davenport who is the volunteer co-ordinator for Woodchester Mansion. She delivered a fascinating and illuminating talk about this unique and amazing Grade 1 listed Victorian Gothic house hidden in a beautiful Cotswold valley situated near Nympsfield. Just ten miles away from Berkeley.

She began by outlining the history of the land and buildings prior to the construction of Woodchester Mansion.

In the mid 19th century the land was owned by Earl Ducie who had a hunting lodge known as Spring Park. In 1845 he sold the lodge and surrounding land to concentrate on funding and building Tortworth Court. William Leigh the purchaser bought lands in Australia which he subsequently used to fund the design and building of Woodchester Mansion (he was perpetually short of adequate funds). Most importantly he converted to Roman Catholicism, the legacy of which we see today in the continuing presence of Roman Catholicism in the Nympsfield parish – the primary school continues to be a Roman Catholic faith school; there is a convent adjacent to the school still maintained by the church and there is a Dominican monastery in South Woodchester.

The Mansion was designed by a young local architect, Benjamin Bucknall from Rodborough. He produced the unique Gothic Revival house which blends the local traditional work in limestone with the ideas of the French architectural thinker Viollet-le-Duc. Liz took us around the house by using the points of the compass. Starting with the East front aided with photographs we were taken on a tour going through the north front moving to the south front and ultimately the west front. She showed us photographs of the high quality stone carvings in the Mansion which are deemed to be outstanding: some are inspired by the plants in the surrounding valley (such as oak leaves, harebells, ferns, wild strawberries) and others are life-like images of animals (4 gargoyles symbolise the hunt including hound heads and wild boar).

The building itself boasts a chapel with a circular rose window set in a triangle with magnificent stone carvings – the mansion provides training for stone masons in the art of stone masonry. There is a cellar that

has a brick vaulted ceiling with unplastered walls and a relieving arch. The grand staircase boasts a vaulted ceiling on a slope. There is even a bathroom with a stone bath with stone faucets carved as dog heads. All of these features are exposed for all to see. These descriptions clearly do not do justice to the building so if you are interested to find out more the mansion is open to visitors on particular days. It is also used for film sets.

Perhaps the most unusual feature of the house is that it is described as an unfinished masterpiece. Building started about 1857, but stopped in the mid-1860s so floors and ceilings are missing, walls not plastered and windows unglazed. All the secrets of the construction of the Mansion are visible - something visitors will never see in another country house. Curiously Woodchester Mansion is owned by Stroud District Council who bought it because The National Trust declined to buy it. SDC having purchased it immediately set up The Woodchester Mansion Trust. The grounds became available at a later date and The National Trust did buy the land. Hence the car park is owned by The National Trust who you pay to park your car but the house is not National Trust owned.

I think as relatively local to Woodchester Mansion we are aware of the protected breeding bat colonies of Greater and Lesser Horseshoe bats. Spooky for some - Halloween in the cellars is on offer. Also there is the well known paranormal aspect to the house. The house is available for private hire and weddings. Rather a different wedding venue.

This talk has certainly inspired some of our members to go and visit Woodchester Mansion. Many of us were completely unaware of the history of this unique house.

The 2021 open weekends season finishes on October 31st but the house will reopen for visitors 01/04/2022. As volunteer co-ordinator Liz advised that they are always looking for new volunteers.

Berkeley WI are always delighted to welcome any visitors. The next meeting is the AGM on November 11th at 2 pm in Canon Park Pavilion. Visitors are welcome to attend but there is no speaker. The current office holders have kindly agreed to stay in role for the next 12 months due to covid curtailing all our activities for the previous 18 months. You are safe. If you do choose to visit you will not be asked to take on a role unless you would like to do so.

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Doggy Days of Berkeley

TYNDALE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

What did you do in the Summer months?

After a survey was taken a few weeks ago, our opening evening of the new season took the same format as the first meeting of the 2020-2021 season – ZOOM. With everyone sat comfortably in their own homes our chairman, David Brookes, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone back and introducing existing members to two new members. Even though several people had met up during the summer months on walks organised by Diana Baker, it was good to see everyone back together again.

Under normal circumstances the first meeting would be the U-Judge print competition, but as the majority of members preferred to carry on with Zoom meetings for the time being an invite was sent to all members for them to show up to ten images of what they had been doing during the Summer months. There were twenty two members who were willing to show and share, which meant we were in for a really busy evening as there were over 200 photographs to be displayed. With the covid restrictions not being so strict as they were this time last year, several members were happy to be able to go on holiday, whilst others set themselves a project for the time they spent at home.

All in all, it was a most enjoyable and successful evening and thanks must go to following people who shared images of:

Diana Baker – a Vintage Car Rally held at Newark Park

Peter Whitfield – his 2021 project – Photography and Motion

Christine Wetton – a day trip to St Martins in the Scilly Isles

Brian Wetton – the pristine seas around St Agnes in the Scilly Isles

Lionel Jones – his garden taken with his new toy – a trail cam

David King – Silverstone, Northumberland and Forest of Dean Railway

Jane Martin – her Scottish holiday and the art trail at Portishead Marina

Jenny Fryer – her time in Scotland on the club holiday

Don Grundell – various unusual items and views in his local area

Steve White – just him, his rucksack and his tent in remote areas in Wales

Kerrin Malone – the most favourite places he would like to revisit

Steve Varman – his continuing 'teabag' project and new passion - infrared

Bill Beere – comparing the camera on his phone vs his 'proper' camera

Barbara Gibbons – her day trips and holidays throughout the year

Elizabeth Oakley - photographs taken around her home and on local walks

Christine Ryske – her time away in North Devon, Rutland Water and Wales

George Ryske – his time away at Symonds Yatt, Welland Valley and Wales

Joan Scott – local bluebells and the sculpture trail in The Forest of Dean

Christine Morgan – her 'safari' photographs of Ospreys at Rutland Water

Elizabeth Restall – days out in and around her local area

Claire Haynes – her recent holiday to the Norfolk Broads

David Brookes – his recent visit to Norfolk and the church at Salle



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Barbara Weldon 01453 766421
email: bandbweldon1@gmail.com
website: extend.org.uk

TYNDALE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



DOG BED GOES WALKIES!

I have a sad tale to tell.

On Wednesday October 14th I went for an early morning walk and someone had left 3 or 4 black sacks of donated items in the doorway of The Longfield Shop. On the top of the sack was a small terrier sized navy blue dog bed which would have been perfect for our elderly Jack Russell. Just after nine we were walking our dogs and passed the shop where the bags were still outside but the dog bed was gone. Later I went into the shop to enquire as to whether the dog bed was available to buy. The lady behind the till told me that the bed had been there when she arrived at the shop just at nine. When she went outside to pick up the bags the bed was gone.

Be warned. If you leave donations outside opening hours at the shop door they may never benefit the charity. I spoke with an area manager today and she said that sadly it is not uncommon for donations left outside a closed shop to be taken. This is happening not only in Berkeley. I had no idea but donated items left outside the door are technically fly tipping.

Her request is for donors to please not leave items outside the shop but instead to phone the shop (01453 810692) and talk with the shop staff about how best to donate your items. Longfield will collect larger donations. Due to Covid the shop is currently only taking donations on Monday/Wednesday/Friday which can be limiting for those who work but to be sure that your donation does benefit Longfield do not leave them outside the door.

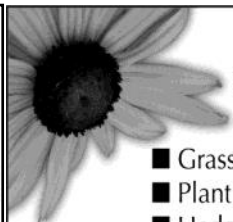
And if the person who took the dog bed is reading this do the honourable thing and go in and pay for it.

Ellie Gent

Milo
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NOVEMBER IN THE GARDEN

November is the month of bonfires and misty mornings with glorious Autumn foliage to give good cheer. I have been busy getting my garden ready for the cold Winter months to come – tender plants have been put indoors in the cold greenhouse, the harvest has been stored or made into chutneys, soup or sauces. At this time of year we really notice how the days are shortening and the weather shifts into a lower gear and towards the end of the month we may even have a frost. It is now time to plant Tulip bulbs by making a hole in the ground three times the depth of the bulb and plant the bulb upright and backfill. Planting out now when the soil is more chilled will help to avoid Tulip Fire which is a fungal disease that thrives in warm soil.

I have been cutting back the perennial plants but I have left some with the lovely seed heads still standing. They look stunning with an early frost on them and give a little structure to the borders and also birds can feed off the seed heads right through the Winter. If you are to have a bonfire this year on the 5th check that there are no hedgehogs or toads hibernating in them before lighting. Make sure tree supports are strong and any fencing is secure against the strong Winter winds. Lag outdoor taps. Check any stored fruit regularly to see if there are any with rot. Any imperfect fruit can be put out for the birds to eat. Once you have finished cutting the lawn for the

last time clean the mower before you have it overhauled for the Winter. It will then be ready to spring into action in the Spring. If you have a pond with a pump do remember to bring it indoors to store so it doesn't get frozen over the Winter.

I have had a wonderful crop of Autumn Raspberries this year because of the warm dry weather. Once they have stopped fruiting I will leave the canes standing until February when I will cut them back to the ground as they will produce fruit on the new canes which will start to grow in the Spring. Autumn fruiting canes do not need supporting. Summer fruiting raspberries which do need supporting need the old brown canes removing to the ground and the new canes that have grown this Summer will need tying into the wires. They will fruit on the new green canes next year.

How many of you gather up the leaves fallen in your garden and put them in your brown bin for collection by the council? You could collect them and put them in a black bag in a corner of your garden after putting a few holes in the bag to let air in and leave them for a year to turn into wonderful leaf mould for the enrichment of your own soil. Making leaf mould is a slow process which takes longer than composting on a compost heap so is better done separately. It is better if the leaves are slightly damp and even better if they have been cut up with your lawn mower by running it over them. This will help to speed up the process. Autumn leaves consist mainly of tough material such as cellulose and

lignin so the finished product is high in organic matter and will improve your soil structure but will be quite low in nutrients. Leaf mould can be used as a mulch or can be dug into the soil as it helps to open up clay soils which will drain better and on sandy soil will act like a sponge and retain moisture. It is also a good source of food for the wildlife that lives in the soil such as earthworms, good bacteria, fungi and nematodes. These all work together to help create a healthy soil structure. It is also beneficial to the fungi mycorrhiza which greatly boost the root systems of plants so that they can make better use of water and nutrients. So it is a win win situation for the soil and plants that live in it

It is the time of year that you can make a note of what has done well and what has been a disappointment in the garden and how you can plan better for next year. It would be an advantage to take a few photographs through the year so that you have a visual image. I take a note of how long plants stay in flower. I have a Scabious "Flutter Rose Pink" which has flowered throughout the Summer and a Sedum Spectabilis. In Spring it has lovely pale heads and now in November the flower heads are a vivid deep crimson. Annuals that have flowered very well are Marigold "Honeycomb" Tagetes "Cinnabar" and – as always – Cosmos "Dazzler" and "Seashell". Well that is my ramblings for this month so keep warm, well and keep gardening.

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Need a good chat? Someone to listen? Or just want to talk to somebody different?

Berkeley Benefice are here for you, offering support to the whole community. Throughout the Benefice we have people happy to help. Whether you are shielding, self isolating, or simply feeling alone at a difficult time, we can provide assistance, even if it's just someone to talk to. Our first points of contact are:
Berkeley, Jan on 01453 820752
Hill, Mark on 01454 260750
Stone, Naomi on 01454 260376
When you call, we'll match you up with the right person for you.

Our offer is not limited to those locations, or by denomination. We are here for everyone.



BVCAN

Cross the clingfilm off your shopping list!

If you're someone who's trying to reduce the amount of plastic you use then plastic food films are a great place to start.

I haven't bought clingfilm for 7-8 years now and I don't miss it. To keep food fresh, I use plastic (I know, but it is reusable!) containers, and for sandwiches – old-fashioned greaseproof paper. To cover leftovers, I choose dishes and bowls which can be covered with a plate. Clean tea-towels, lacey cotton nets weighted with beads and cute collapsible mesh 'tents' are also useful. Waxed cotton wraps have their place but can be expensive.

If you are catering for large numbers and the food is to be left out – a buffet for example – then some sort of plastic film is probably essential but for everyday use there are plenty of greener alternatives.

Celebrate the green businesses on our doorstep

As well as Waste Not Want Not (which many of you will have discovered), selling zero waste and environmentally friendly food and household goods, there are three green tech businesses in and around Berkeley's Science and Technology Park.

The Active Building Centre (ABC) is a government funded organization which aims to transform construction in the UK, through research and sharing information.

Active buildings can generate their own power and with smart technology, decide whether to use the energy produced immediately, store it or transfer it to the grid.

Last month ABC held its own construction COP26 – a conference for people involved in the industry who are keen to make their work net zero.

Green Fuels was founded in 2003 to supply biofuel equipment to customers worldwide.

The company was awarded a Royal Warrant of Appointment to HRH the Prince of Wales in 2013. The UK's Royal Train is the only train in the world to run on 100% biofuel!

In 2014, a dedicated research and development division was set up in Berkeley. Its aim is to explore new and emerging areas in the realm of sustainable fuels without affecting food supply or causing damage to ecosystems.

WITT Ltd is a renewable energy technology company.

WITT stands, rather wonderfully, for Whatever Input to Torsion Transfer! This is an underwater renewable energy device which gathers energy from the movements of the surrounding water and turns it into storable electric power.

In 2016, WITT Ltd raised £2.4 million of investment through crowdfunding. At the time, this was the biggest crowdfunded equity raised by a 'clean tech' company.

This year, July 2021, the company secured a £350 000 contract with DASA – part of the Ministry of Defence.

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St Mary's Church, Berkeley

Sunday Services for November in the three churches of our Benefice.

Sunday 7th November Informal Communion at St Mary's Berkeley at 10.30 am

Sunday 7th November Morning Prayer at All Saints' Stone at 10.30 am

Sunday 7th November Service of Commemoration of the Departed at St Mary's Berkeley at 6.00 pm

Sunday 14th November Morning Prayer for Remembrance Sunday at St Mary's Berkeley at 10.30 am

Sunday 14th November Parish Communion for Remembrance Sunday at All Saints' Stone at 10.30 am

Sunday 14th November Morning Prayer for Remembrance Sunday at St Michael's Hill at 10.30 am

Sunday 14th November Civic Service of Remembrance at St Mary's Berkeley at 3.00 pm

Sunday 21st November Parish Communion at St Michael's Hill at 10.30 am

Sunday 21st November Evening Prayer at St Mary's Berkeley at 6.00 pm

Sunday 28th November Benefice Communion at St Mary's Berkeley at 10.30 am

We warmly invite you to attend any of the above services, especially the

Service of Commemoration of the Departed on 7th November

and the Civic Service of Remembrance on 14th November.

For the most current information, please see our website: www.stmarys-berkeley.co.uk or the weekly online benefice newsletter for which you can sign up at: www.stmarys-berkeley.co.uk/receive-weekly-updates.html

Berkeley Swimming Pool

The charity managing Berkeley Swimming Pool has taken another big step towards reaching its target of completing a major renovation project.

Berkeley Educational Swimming Trust (BEST) was given a grant of £ 3,000 from Alkington Parish Council to go towards their project to reline and renovate the two swimming pools (an 18m long adult pool and a 5 m long paddling pool). Chris Gent of BEST, said, "We are thrilled to get this very generous grant from Alkington Parish Council. We are a community-run group who manage the pool for the residents of Berkeley and the surrounding area – many residents of Alkington use our pool regularly and it is great that this has been recognised by the Council".

Richard Coffin, Chairman of Alkington Parish Council said, "We chose to support BEST as it is a community amenity that all local people can use, for exercise and for enjoyment."

The pool was dug behind the local primary school by local people in the early 1960s following a number of drownings in the River Severn. It has helped many generations of Berkeley Primary School pupils to learn to swim and continues to do so, while also providing a public amenity where families, young people and serious swimmers can enjoy themselves in a friendly and safe environment. The renovation project will guarantee the future of the pool for the next 20 years.

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New at the Sally

The Salutation Inn at Ham is proud to announce the launch of its very own cinema inside the pub's skittles alley.

Launched on Monday 27th September the cinema will run every alternate Monday showing a mixture of classic and cult-classic movies with the current schedule now on the pub's website www.sallyatham.com.

Tickets are £7.50 including popcorn and are on sale behind the bar now or online at Eventbrite, see the links on our website.



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What's On Diary

PLEASE CONTACT THE ORGANISER TO CHECK THAT THESE EVENTS ARE GOING AHEAD IN THE CURRENT EPIDEMIC

Due to Covid-19 some groups and clubs are not running. They have been included so people have contact info and details of what clubs normally run so you can make plans for when restrictions are eased.

Monday

Town Council Meeting

3rd Monday of the month 7.00pm

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

Berkeley Rainbows

The Scout Hut 4.15 - 5.30pm

Beavers/Scouts - Scout HQ., Park View

Scouts 10½ to 14 years old 7.00pm - 8.30pm

FitFix Exercise - Stinchcombe Village Hall

6.30pm Combat with Sam 07793 755240

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

Sharpness Guides Sharpness Scout & Guide Hut

10 - 14 years old, 6:30 - 8:00pm

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

Severn Vale Flower Club

St. Mary's Church Hall, Eastland Close Thornbury 3rd Monday of month from 13th Sept at 2.15pm

Tuesday

Community Bank - Town Hall,

Closed until further notice

Poetry Circle: 1st Tuesday of the month

2-3pm at Berkeley Library. Informal group for reading, writing and enjoying poetry.

Berkeley Community Library

Tuesdays 10.00am - 4.00pm

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

Berkeley Walking Group

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

Thornbury Macular & Low Vision Support

1st Tuesday of month, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Methodist Church Hall, Castle Court, Thornbury

Berkeley Flicks - Berkeley Library 7.30pm

3rd or 4th Tuesday of each month

Contact: Annie Clifford berkeleyflicks@gmail.com

Wednesday

Craft Club - Berkeley Arms

Last Wednesday of the month. 10.30am - 1.30pm.

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

Citizens Advice Bureau

Closed until further notice

Berkeley Gardening Club

3rd Wednesday of the month

Library 7.30pm

Past-Times Café

Marybrook Medical Centre

Chat, Crafts, and tea. 2.00pm

Crochet Group - Berkeley Library

11.00am. £1 per session.

Everyone is welcome.

Just bring a crochet hook and some wool.

FitFix Exercise - UAC Sharpness

6.30pm HiiT with Sam 07793 755240

Interval training with varied weights - all abilities

Alcoholics Anonymous Berkeley Steps

Town hall, 7.30pm - 8.30pm, Town Hall

St Mary's Church

Open for private prayer 1.00 - 4.00pm

Berkeley Guides Scout HQ, Park View

10 - 14 years old, 6:30 - 8:00pm

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

Thursday

Extend Exercise Classes for 60+ Scout Hut

From 10.30am Contact Barbara 01453 766421

Berkeley Union Church

The Church is closed for Coffee Mornings until further notice

Art Group

Berkeley Library . £3.00 per session

10.00am—1pm. Bring own materials

NatWest Mobile Bank

Salter Street 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

Friday

Berkeley Community Library

10.00am - 4.00pm

Saturday

Berkeley Community Library

10.00am - 12.00pm

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

(also known as the Congregational Church)

Church Services start at 10am

St Mary's Church

Please check church website for details of services and open times for private prayer.

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Berkeley Town Council News

Mayors Report — October 2021

Happy autumn everyone – we have passed the equinox and are well and truly into autumn. It's a beautiful time of the year, especially the changing colours of the trees in and around our lovely town.

Our new MUGA is a thorough success and it's fabulous to see so many people enjoying the facility. Please look after it – any misuse or damage will result in costly repair bills, which comes out of our precept (town funds). Bookings can be made through our website (details below). In response to public requests, and now the evenings are getting darker, we shall be opening the gates and flicking on the floodlights for free usage on Mondays 6pm until 7pm. If this proves popular, we shall provide more free floodlit evening sessions. We'd especially like to thank our new Canon Park caretaker, Shirley. She's doing a fabulous job so please say hello when you see her. We shall also be getting new signs for Canon Park, including a reminder that dogs are NOT allowed – there is plenty

of green space for dog walking without needing to use Canon Park. Also, a bluebell woodland will be planted in the winter with the hope of some lovely colourful bluebells over the next few years.

In other news, Keith Palmer has sadly resigned from Berkeley Town Council. We thank him for his many years of service to the town (including being Mayor) and he will be missed. This means we have a position for someone to join Berkeley Town Council. If you have a couple of hours per week spare, it is an opportunity to bring new ideas and energy into the decisions involving the town. You don't have to have any experience at all. If you have any further questions or are interested, please contact the clerk before 5th November.

Briefly I'd like to welcome the Reverend Steve Godsell and his family to Berkeley. He is the new Priest-in-Charge at St Mary the Virgin Church in Berkeley. It was an honour to be part of your licensing on Sunday 17th October, and I'm sure you'll enjoy being part of this wonderful community.

Given we now have a Covid Vaccination Centre in Berkeley Green I've been asked to inform everyone not to expect your

booster injection until about six months after your second jab. So please refrain from turning up without an appointment.

Another reminder that if you own a hedge that overhangs a public path, we ask that you respect pedestrians and keep the hedge trimmed so as not to cause an obstruction. Please do report any such obstructions to Gloucestershire Highways and the property owner will be contacted.

Grant applications for the councils grants scheme is now open to local community groups (closing date 31st December 2021), please visit our website for more details.

As we move towards Remembrance Sunday the Poppies are now displayed around our town. The Council will also be displaying new festive lighting this year, thanks to the Festive Lighting Committee who have helped to make this happen. Thank you to everyone who has helped, either by donation, or allowing us to fix the lights to your properties and businesses.

That's it Quite a lot to report this month. Once again, stay safe, respect and be kind.

Quentin Somerset, Mayor of Berkeley.



Smart Meters

Smart Meters are being talked about a great deal these days and many people are having telephone calls to encourage them

to have one in place of their old meters.

If you would like to know more about smart meters and the in-home display unit and find out what assistance they might be – perhaps as a way to help monitor your use of electricity and gas and possibly save you some money – then contact Citizens Advice on Freephone 0808 800 0510/ 0808 800 0511.

As well as providing smart meter information, we can also discuss any other energy questions or concerns you may have.

Please note that eligibility of smart meters may vary and savings require consumer action.

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West Country CRIMESTOPPERS	0800 555 111
Neighbourhood Warden	01453 754276
Culverhay Berkeley Medical Centre	01453 810228
NHS (non emergency)	111
Berkeley Pharmacy	01453 810316
Electricity Supply Power Loss (mobile users)	0800 6783105 0330 1235008
Gas Emergency Service	0800 111999
Water Emergency	0800 7834444
Berkeley Town Council	01453 511964
Berkeley Primary School	01453 810254
Refuse Collection	01453 754424
Stroud District Council	01453 766321
Gloucestershire County Council	01452 425000
People for You, Barbara Weldon	01453 511964
Samaritans	0845 7909090
National Rail Enquiries	0845 7484950
Traveline	0871 2002233
Community Wellbeing Agent	0345 863 8323
Gloucestershire Royal Hospital	0300 4222222
Vale Hospital, Dursley	0300 4218494
Citizens' Advice Bureau	01453 762084

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Email: bobbygee88@gmail.com

Vale of Berkeley Railway



Things at the Vale of Berkeley Railway engine shed in Sharpness docks continue to gather pace with volunteer numbers slowly building back up towards pre-pandemic levels. It is particularly pleasing that the main Erecting Shop (where locomotives under restoration or repair are

dismantled and reassembled) which for too long was used for little more than storage, has people working in it most days that the workshops are operating with real progress being made on the restoration of our 1945 built "Austerity" steam locomotive. The majority of the team working on this engine

are local people and the engine will be named "Edward Jenner" when its restoration is completed, further cementing its new local connection.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

Berkeley Vale Foodbank
Part of Stroud District Foodbank and supported by The Trussell Trust

How it works
Our foodbank works using a voucher referral system. The foodbank will deliver to households who do not have access to funds to buy food. Vouchers can be issued over the phone and each one covers three days emergency food for your family and can be adapted to suit any special dietary needs.
To get your voucher just phone one of these numbers
Justine Hopkins at Berkeley Town Council
01453 511964
Culverhay Berkeley Surgery
01453 810228
Citizens Advice
0808 8000510 or 0808 8000511
P3
0808 1682443

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Vale of Berkeley Railway

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Meanwhile work in the auxiliary Erecting Shop, which paradoxically has always been relatively busy, continues apace on the major rebuild of our ex British Railways brake van. This vehicle, which was built in 1959, will be put to good use as soon as we have the lease for the branch line for brake van rides. Once we complete the ex-BR brake van, we have another brake van to refurbish. This fairly recent donation to the VoBR is known as a "toad" (I have no idea why!) and is a really splendid looking ex Great Western Railway brake van. As with the ex-BR van, we will fit it with vacuum brakes which is necessary if we want to use it to carry passengers ("brake van rides" are quite popular).

Also nearing completion is the overhaul of a specialised piece of permanent way equipment called a "jacker-packer". This complex machine, which lifts a short section of track, forces ballast underneath and then lowers the track back into place, is designed to work in areas where access is limited and is quite a rare beast. It will be put to good use when we start relaying the track work at Oldminster Sidings and hopefully will also be a source of income for the railway if we can hire it out to other heritage railways.

The comprehensively equipped VoBR metal working machine shop is also getting increasingly busy, both in the manufacture and repair of items for our own restoration projects and on the outside jobs which are providing much needed income. We have recently completed work on a lever frame locking unit which the Great Western Society will use at the Didcot Railway Centre to demonstrate to visitors how mechanical locking frames work. The demonstration unit is relatively simple inasmuch as it is only "controlling" a single

set of points and associated signals using three levers - for example the lever which would move the signal from "danger" to "clear" can only be operated once another lever that moves the point blades for the selected route has been set and the signal for the non-selected route locked in the "danger" (or stop) position - a typical signal box at a busy station or junction would have a massively complex locking frame ensuring that routes and signals are appropriately interlocked. All done electronically these days of course!

We are also working hard to establish a new woodworking facility at the VoBR and would be pleased to welcome anyone interested in joining this team.

At Oldminster Sidings a significant milestone was reached when the refurbishment of the first of the points was completed. All the trackwork has been buried in earth for the last 50 years and was corroded and completely seized up. The various parts of the point were dismantled and taken back to the machine shop for restoration. With the application of large amounts of heat and brute force, movement was slowly coaxing back into the moving parts, and last week the whole mechanism was fitted back at the sidings. It is a fascinating aspect of railway engineering that many parts are very heavy but require to operate to very tight tolerances. This proved to be the case with the point, but with some gentle tuning it now works as well as it did when it was installed in 1943.

We have been donated a large quantity of railway artefacts and memorabilia and would like to sell this on eBay to raise funds. One of our members has started doing this, but he could do with help, so if someone is willing to help to set up these sales on eBay, and able to be at the shed

to pack and send items out, then this would be extremely useful. This is a job which could largely be done from home.

Another vital source of revenue for the VoBR is the scrap metal business. We became a registered scrap metal merchant a few years ago and this has provided a steady source of money for us. It also means that we can provide a service to the local community by collecting unwanted scrap metal from houses and farms in the district and turn it into funds for something else (i.e., the railway!) which will also in time benefit the local community and businesses. To date over £10,000 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 can collect. Please contact our resident Mr. Steptoe on dickdimmock@hotmail.co.uk.

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. Please bear in mind that in these challenging times, social distancing is necessary, so if you do visit, please wait at the entrance, and ask for the duty manager who will be pleased

to answer any questions from a safe distance.

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. We can also be contacted by email at valeofberkeleyrailway@gmail.com

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