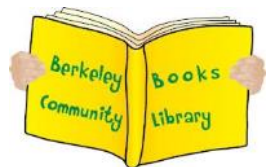




BERKELEY FLYER

N^o. 330*'For and about the people of Berkeley'*

April 2023



Last month, we said we would tell you about our plans for the library. Those of you who use the building will have noticed that it is beginning to show its age – in its defence, it

was built in 1977 and very few “temporary” buildings can have lasted that long! It still serves its purpose, but we want to replace it with a brand-new building – this time really built to last. An artist's impression of what it might look like is here on the right.

This building will be constructed behind the old library, which will stay open during the building phase and continue serving the people of Berkeley. On completion of the new-build, the old library will be removed and we will all be able to use a purpose built, weather-proof and up-to-date building, with effective insulation for those cold winter days and the hot summer ones, and new electrical works all of which will certainly make the library more environmentally friendly. We are busy fund-raising and as soon as we have reached our target, work will begin and we will look forward to showing off our new headquarters.

In the short term, we will be running the monthly quiz at the Salutation Inn on April 13th: a limit of six per team and the price is £ 4.00 per person – to include one of the Salutation's famous chip butties. Our April coffee and cake morning will be on 4th April at 10.30 am and watch our Facebook page for details of our upcoming Plant Sale (<https://www.facebook.com/BerkeleyBooks/>)



Finally, we are restarting the ever-popular Library calendar. We are looking for photographs for this, on the theme of “Beautiful Berkeley and its Surroundings”. You have until the end of June to send us your photos (details will follow about how and where to send them) after which they will all be exhibited in the Library for selection to appear in the 2024 calendar. A small charge will be payable by entrants.

To remind you, we are open on Tuesdays (from 10.00am to 6.00pm), Fridays (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm) and Saturdays (10.a.m to 12.00noon). You can find answers to most of your questions at <https://berkeleybooks.co.uk> where you can order books, search the whole Gloucestershire Library catalogue for a specific book and where you can join the library.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

BERKELEY
TOWN COUNCIL

The new Berkeley Town Council website is now up and running, and can be accessed at <https://berkeley-tc.gov.uk/>. We aim to expand it to make it a 'one stop shop' to give people access to information about the council, the town, local businesses, local societies / charities and much more.

Please have a look at it, and let us know if you want to see other information / links there.

The annual Berkeley Town Assembly will take place at 6pm on Monday 17th April. Everyone is welcome: it's the council's opportunity to tell you what we've been working on and what we are planning for the future. More importantly it's your chance to ask us questions, tell us your concerns, and to talk to the police, and our Stroud & Gloucestershire councillors too.

You can find more details in the poster on the right. Hopefully I will see you there on the 17th.

Peter Hall

BERKELEY TOWN COUNCIL

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY

MONDAY 17TH APRIL 6PM TOWN HALL

6pm Welcome and Annual Report from the Mayor Peter Hall
6.10pm Report from Stroud District Councillor Gordon Craig
6.15pm Report from Glos County Councillor Brian Tipper

6.20pm Report from Town Improvement Project Chair Cllr Isaac Bamfield

6.30pm Benefit of Neighbourhood Watch
7pm Police update
7.30pm Residents questions

- All residents of Berkeley are welcome to attend
- You can raise any issues regarding our Town, and find out some more about plans for the future
- This will be followed by the Full Council meeting at 8pm.

APRIL IN THE GARDEN

April is the month when everything starts to look green and vibrant. Gardeners are not the only ones who are enjoying the early Spring weather as the weeds and pests are now thriving and growing rapidly. It is important to keep them under control. There are lots of scented plants around now – Hyacinths, Lily of the Valley, Jasminum, the old favourite Wallflowers and the early blossom of Prunus which bears a profusion of fragrant flowers in shades of pink and white which brings a smile to your face. There are lots of things to tackle now including trimming Lavender back – but do not cut back into the old wood. Tie back climbing Roses and bulbs that have finished flowering can be dead headed and given a sprinkling of general fertilizer. Self sown seedlings in the border such as Poppy and Foxglove that are growing in the wrong place can be lifted and replanted elsewhere. Begonia and Gloxinia tubers can now be potted up. Start to take cuttings of Hydrangea, Fuchsia and Pelargoniums. Herbs such as Chives, Mint and Oregano can be divided and replanted. Pot up seedlings of Tomato and Chillies. Start to sow – in a cold greenhouse – Courgettes, Pumpkins, Marrows, French Beans and Runner Beans at the end of the month. Continue to prick out seedlings you already have in modules ready to be planted out later. Onion setts can be planted outside and Carrots and Spinach can be sown in drills outdoors. Early Potatoes that you have chitted can now be planted outside in the garden but leave the main crop until the end of the month or even next month. If you have a Citrus plant now is the time to start feeding it with a high

Nitrogen or proprietary Citrus Summer feed. Cornus and Salix with vibrant stem colour in the Winter need to be pruned back now so that you will have a lovely display in their next season. After all the heavy frost we have had in the last two months there may be a few plants that look dead but do not pull them up yet but leave them to see if they revive when the weather is warmer – it may take a while after such a cold spell.

With all the seed sowing and potting up taking place at the moment let us take a little while to see what type of growing medium we are using. All plants, whether in medium containing peat or alternatives require the right balance of nutrients, air and water for healthy growth. Choosing the right growing medium can make a big difference to your plants thriving. Think what you want to grow and match the compost to the task in hand. Seed compost is usually of a finer texture and contains less fertilizer. Multipurpose compost can be used for a few tasks such as potting up Summer containers. Growing medium that is bought from garden centres are now peat free and they may contain materials such as Coir which usually comes from tropical regions like Sri Lanka. It has a high carbon footprint although it has an excellent natural water holding ability and has mixed fine and coarse fibres to hold air in its pores. It makes a good growing medium but does not hold nutrients too well. Wool and bracken composts are readily available in the UK and are a

renewable ingredient for a base potting compost. Most are not available to buy from a garden centre but you can order them on the internet. Ericaceous compost which has a low Ph for acidic loving plants such as Camellias and Rhododendrons is usually well labelled. John Innes which is a loam soil based medium has good structure and aeration for the roots of shrubs and trees grown in containers is a more dense compost. Shredded wood fibre or composted green waste are good and more readily available but the labelling of ingredients is often poor. Specialist compost for Orchids is usually made of wood bark. Cacti compost is John Innes 2 with added grit or sand. With all types of compost you have to get to know it and how much water it will hold and does it dry out quickly. Does it have enough nutrients in it as well. If you find one you like try and stick to it and get to know how to handle it.

This month can be a very busy one inside and out! Let us hope the weather improves and that we have some sunshine so that you can sit outdoors on your favourite bench with a cup of tea and enjoy the birds busy with their nesting and the emerging insects enjoying the first flowers.

Happy gardening and I look forward to the May time blossoms next month.

ANN LEGG

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Covid 19 virus has reduced class numbers
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Barbara Weldon 01453 766421
email: bandbweldon1@gmail.com
website: extend.org.uk

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Are you struggling in difficult circumstances?

The Berkeley Parochial Trust **may** be able to help you.

This small local charity is able to offer modest one-off financial help to people in need.

To qualify:

- You must live within the 5 Berkeley Parishes (Alkington, Berkeley Town, Ham & Stone, Hamfallow and Hinton)
- Have a legitimate need, and be prepared to disclose some details of your current circumstances. (Personal information is kept confidential within the trust.)
- Decisions on help are made at the discretion of the trustees and can be arranged quite quickly. Any payments do not have to be repaid.

Please be aware that the trust is unable to offer help towards utility payments or school transport.

To apply, contact the clerk of the Berkeley Parochial Trust in confidence, (by email if possible) with an outline of your need and circumstances. Alternatively, talk to your BPT representative on your local parish/town council.

Please be aware that the trust is unable to offer help towards utility payments or school transport.

Mrs S Watson (Clerk to the BPT) 01453 542208

berkeleyparochialtrust@hotmail.com

The Berkeley Flyer Needs You!

Would you like to join our team of amazing team of volunteers? We have roles available for support with fundraising or with updating and maintaining our website.



Printing cost rises, combined with the need for extra copies of the Flyer for the new houses in the town, has seen it get harder and harder for us to cover our costs purely through advertising income. We are therefore looking for a volunteer who would be able to research and apply for funding and grants to boost our income.

For the website role we are looking for someone who can keep our webpages up-to-date by adding the latest edition of the Flyer to the site once a month as well as helping us create an archive of previous editions.

If you think you can help us please email
editor@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk

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

More than just food

Citizens Advice and P3 can also help with debt, budgeting and housing problems

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David Jones
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22 Leaze Close, Berkeley, Glos. GL13 9DA



St. Mary's Church, Berkeley

For all the "chocoholics" who are counting down the days until Lent is over, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Easter is almost here, you can make it!

Easter brings a lot of activities in our local churches, here are a few in St Mary's, Berkeley which might be of interest:

Sunday 2nd April at 11am Palm Sunday Parade from Salter Street to the Church.

Walk with the Donkey to a service for all ages.

Sunday 2nd April at 6pm Choral Service for Holy Week
Perfect start to Holy Week for the music lover.

Thursday 6th April at 7.30pm Maundy Thursday
Passover Communion

Friday 7th April at 11am Messy Easter
Family fun and food.

Sunday 9th April at 11am Easter Day Service
Warning - May involve Chocolate!

For more information about these and other services in Stone, Hill, Purton & Sharpness, go to
www.berkeleybenefice.co.uk

Dr Jenner's House opens on Sunday 2nd April with the Easter event - Catch A Cuckoo Family Trail.

Can you use your detective skills to catch a cuckoo? Follow our fun-filled family trail to find the cuckoo clues hiding in the museum and gardens. Complete the detective explorer quiz and receive an egg-cellent Easter reward.



Trails cost £1.50 each and include a prize.

Sun - Weds, 2 -16 April. Opening times, admission prices and booking at www.jennermuseum.com

THE LION KING

Who can resist a timeless tale, which takes the audience on a journey of friendship, rivalry, and destiny? The musical, The Lion King, is such a story and has captivated audiences around the world since 1997 when it made its debut in Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A.

We at Berkeley Primary School, have never been afraid of taking on a challenge, and for that reason this year's musical production will be The Lion King. "A tall order," you may say to yourself. Indeed, that is true, but we believe our children are ready to show how talented they truly are. After a series of auditions, hopeful applicants were carefully selected and allocated their roles. Armed with musical scripts, enthusiasm and a healthy dose of nervous energy, the children have been put through their paces rehearsing lyrics, lines, and stage positioning by our Deputy Head - Mrs Lawday to ensure a top-class professional performance.

The audience will not be disappointed as the story comes alive with the sound of familiar songs such as: Circle of Life, Hakuna Matata and I Just Can't Wait to Be King. Much thought has been put into the visual aspect of the production too, to enable the audience to fully engage in Simba's story.

Performances are scheduled for Monday 22nd May and Tuesday 23rd May at 2:00pm and 6:00pm at the school. Tickets are £3 each and available from the school office. During each performance there will be a raffle, which has been kindly organised by The Berkeley Fundraising Group. This not-to-be-missed event will be enjoyed by all members of the family, friends and loved ones.

We are also calling out to local individuals and businesses to raise their profile locally by providing advertising space in the production programme (£10 for individuals, £50 for businesses). If you are interested, please contact admin@berkeley.gloucs.sch.uk.

We are extremely excited about this event and would love you to join us and make it a time to remember. We look forward to seeing you.



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BVCAN

Plastic gardening

Last year's hot summer wrecked our garden polytunnel. The insulation on the ribs of the frame had broken down and scorching metal melted the cover. In March, the old plastic was removed (there seemed to be an awful lot of it!) and replaced with an off cut from a commercial polytunnel which would otherwise have gone to waste. But our shed was filled with rolls of dirty plastic.

A quick search online revealed that, yes, polytunnel plastic can be easily recycled as it's mostly polyethylene. However, this turned out to be a horticultural myth. Deeper enquiries revealed that only a small proportion of old polytunnel plastic is actually recycled. The work is carried out by specialist companies because the plastic is stained and contaminated. Sadly, my plastic has gone to landfill. Perhaps a wooden framed, traditional greenhouse is more sustainable in the long run?

Plastic is ubiquitous in gardening: netting, pots, trays, compost bags, even wellington boots, and almost none of it is recycled.

Every year, 380 million tonnes of plastic are produced worldwide and only 16% is recycled. This is a mechanical process. The plastic is shredded into small pieces, melted and reformed. Every time this happens the plastic becomes degraded and, after a few rounds of recycling, it is largely unusable.

However, there may soon be an answer to this problem. Mura Technology are building the world's first commercial-scale plant on Teeside which will recycle all types of plastic. Waste plastics are heated in a reactor and later condensed into an oil-like liquid. This liquid feedstock can be used to manufacture new plastics of the highest quality.

How much this becomes a sustainable, carbon neutral process will depend on two things: how the oil-like product is used and where the energy for the process comes from. There is a danger that the oil-like liquid will be burnt as a fuel to provide heat energy. This would only contribute to global warming (because the plastics originated from fossil fuels). But, if 100% renewable energy is used throughout the process and if the product is all used to manufacture new plastics in a genuine circle of recycling, then we will have come a little closer towards solving the plastics conundrum.

With best wishes

The BVCAN team



Meet your Town Councillors

Cllr Elizabeth Carter

BERKELEY TOWN COUNCIL I live in Berkeley with my two enormous children and two ridiculous cats. Originally from Dursley, I moved here in 2006, via uni in Southampton. Both of my boys thrived at Berkeley Primary and enjoyed playing football for Severnside, and we all appreciate the friends we've made in the town. Berkeley is a special place to live. I love being in the countryside, near the river and the canal - and being so close to the delights of Bristol.

I've enjoyed an interesting career in marketing and communications, with plenty of travel. Now I work in marketing for a software company and - since lockdown - work at home pretty much full time.

I decided to become a Councillor because - well - someone needs to do it, and it might as well be me. It's easy to complain about the lack of dog poo bins, or a broken pavement, but people need to get involved to make things happen. I'm a big believer in doing things for the wider good and this is my way of serving my community. As well as

contributing to the running of the town, I tend to get involved with anything digital or communications. I've really enjoyed working on our sparkly new website and implementing our new logo and brand. I'm also the Chair of the Staffing Committee - making sure we look after the people that work for us.

Things only happen in Berkeley because of the great people who live here pitching in. There are always initiatives the Council is working on that need people power. Show up, get involved, do your bit. I promise you'll enjoy it. You can email me on elizabeth.carter@berkeley-tc.gov.uk



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Berkeley Community Swimming Pool

The Elton John tribute happens on May 13th at Hamfields and is a big fund raiser towards the running costs of the pool.

Please support us by joining us for a fabulous night out. Tickets available online and at The Coventry Building Society, Berkeley Marketplace details in the accompanying poster below.

Despite the chill we are looking towards readying the pool for swimming. Weather dependent the pool will open in May if the sun shines and temperatures rise. If it

remains chilly it will open in early June. Look out for posters around town and the Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/BerkeleyPool/)

Lifeguard training - opportunity to acquire a life skill.

The National Pool Lifeguard Qualification course is running over Sunday May 21st 9-4pm (zoom), Saturday 27th May 9am - 4pm (zoom) and Sunday 28th May to Tuesday 30th May 9-4pm each day at the pool.

Participants need to be able to attend all the sessions.

Anyone interested must be aged 16 or over, able to swim well and available for weekend sessional work from June to September with some weekday afternoons.

Please contact Nathan Wolstenholme at info@karlykars.co.uk for more details.

Ask any of last years lifeguards - lifeguarding is a big responsibility but it is supported, confidence building, fun, and you work in a happy team.




**THURSDAY 27TH APRIL -
MONDAY 1ST MAY**

We are pleased to announce that this year's art trail will be taking place from Thursday 27th April until Monday 1st May.

As in previous years, artists will be exhibiting in their homes, studios, community halls and churches.

This year we will be hosting 68 artists, with the usual diverse range of work: paintings, photography, ceramics, textiles, jewellery, pyrography and glass art.

Spend an afternoon, a day, or the weekend exploring the trail. Enjoy the opportunity to talk to local artists and view and purchase original art work. There are two venues participating in Berkeley; at the Town Hall and St Mary's Church. Group venues are usually open from 10-5pm, but please check opening hours and accessibility on our website.

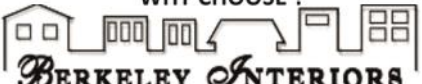
For details about the artists and venues, (including accessibility and directions) and to download our very comprehensive trail map, please visit our website www.severnvalleartrail.org



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Gloucestershire Constabulary
People First Policing



Over the last few weeks we have brought the mobile police station to Berkeley, it has been really nice to meet those of you who came along to run through concerns. Speeding seems to be the main concern in the area & we will pencil in some visits to carry out some speed checks in the locations mentioned. Our last visit (for now) will take place on Monday 17th April in the usual location.

Crime & incident wise, we are pleased to report a continuing trend of low levels in the area. We have received reports of a white van containing 3 males acting suspiciously and seen in Wanswell, Stone, Heathfield and the Lantern Close area of the town. The index plate was recorded by one concerned resident BX6*C*E. If you see this vehicle acting suspiciously, please call us on 101.

In the coming months we will be holding a bike marking event in Berkeley where you can have a bike made secure with personalised numbering and then registered on a dedicated website which in the event of a bike being stolen the marking can reveal the true ownership, a date will be announced in the coming weeks.

Finally the Gloucestershire Constabulary family open day will be held during late spring, an announcement will be made on our social media feeds with a date soon.

Michael.treble@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk
07811292900 (not for incident reporting).

Also follow Stroud Neighbourhood Team on Twitter
@StroudPolice

PLEASE KEEP BERKELEY TIDY

A small group of local residents pulled on their wellies and gloves to remove rubbish from the sunken area that runs between the road to Ham and the Castle Meadow field.

A number of comments had been made on local social media pages about the amount of rubbish that had collected in the area, but a handful of amazing locals decided to do something about.

In total there were 22 bags filled with items removed. 9 of which were mixed litter such as bottles and cans. The other 13 bags were mainly of children's clothing, a lot of which would have been in good condition before being thrown in the mud and water. As well as other unusual items included bits from a trampoline, a safety barrier, sawn wood and plastic bollards.



So it is clear that some of the items had been fly-tipped.

Not only is the rubbish as eyesore in and around our beautiful town but it is a real hazard for our amazing wildlife.

It is great that people are getting out and about and enjoying our wonderful countryside but if you can manage to carry your bottles, food packages and other items out with you, you can carry the empties back and dispose of them properly. They'll be a lot lighter to carry when empty!

Fly-tipping is illegal. If you see it in action, call the police on 999 and report it as a crime in progress. And, report all fly-tipping to Stroud District Council, whether you saw it in progress or not, at www.stroud.gov.uk/report/report-fly-tipping-dumped-litter.

For now though, it's a huge thank you to those who worked so hard to clear this area.



Berkeley Youth Club is going really well on Monday evenings, with 15 to 20 young people attending each week and over 30 members. A wide range of activities are on offer, from pool table, karaoke, gaming, cooking, crafts, indoor and outdoor games, as well as a well-stocked tuck shop!

And all young people are welcome.

Having initially launched an 'older' youth club on Tuesdays, it became apparent that we were clashing with the many other local excellent activities on offer for young people on a Tuesday evening.

So the new times for both youth clubs starting 17th April will be:

Junior youth club, Mondays 6 –

7.30pm: for all in school years 6 to 9 (aged 10 – 14 years)

Senior youth club, Mondays 7.45 – 9pm: for all in school years 9 to 12 (aged 14 – 18 years)

Both clubs will take place at the Canon Park Sports Pavilion – no need to book, just turn up. The cost is £1.

We do need a registration form completed, which you can do on arrival or beforehand by scanning this QR code.



For more info please contact natalie@krunch.org.uk



The assembled ladies gathered together for a lively talk

delivered by John Butterworth who prior to his retirement was the editor of various local newspapers. He took us through his career starting as a trainee journalist with the Daily Mirror. As he candidly pointed out he was of the era when media studies degrees did not exist and he learnt his trade by getting out and interviewing people from all walks of life. He described meeting and writing about young people with bright futures - Sue Barker (tennis star and BBC commentator), Dana (Eurovision star), Elton John. Not only did he meet stars of the future but he met "ordinary people" who all had a story to tell.

John not only worked his way up to editor of local papers but underpinned his editorship with an annual Christmas charity fundraiser.

John's very interesting talk of local journalism from the 1970s through to 2000s told its own story. It told of the value of publicising local politics, local people's concerns, needs and issues. Promoting local activism to improve local infrastructure- he gave an example of the part his paper played in getting a crash barrier on a dual carriageway despite the local council highways declaring that there was no

money. Local charities benefiting from local fundraising driven by the local paper.

This made us all think of our own local paper The Gazette and think about how it is no longer a local paper covering Dursley, Cam, Berkeley and surrounding villages but now includes huge swathes of Yate and Thornbury of which we have no interest. Most people declared that they no longer buy The Gazette,

Printed local communication in Berkeley depends on the monthly Berkeley Flyer. The Stalkingham News is no longer produced. Something has been lost. Thought provoking indeed. We are fortunate to have community news collated, produced and edited by volunteers and then delivered by more volunteers. Maybe the essence of community.

The business part of the meeting.

Subscriptions are due in April. (please bring to the next meeting in an envelope marked with your name cheque or cash). For less than £4 a month members enjoy friendship, talks, opportunities to play skittles; attend the craft group, join the WI book group, monthly coffee morning. If you are a woman who likes the sound of us come and visit us at the next meeting 2.00pm Thursday April 13th at The Pavilion Station Road. Speaker will be talking about Medical Detection Dogs

Annual programme diary will be distributed as subs are paid.

A suggestion was put forward that WI members might develop a list of volunteer hospital drivers for other WI members. To be followed up.

There is a WI WhatsApp group any member wishing to join should contact Sue Parsons. Open to all.

Outings - anyone wishing to go on the outing to The Mumbles and The Gower with Applegates coaches on Thursday August 11th should give their name to Margaret Wozencroft.

Advance notice

May 11th meeting. Royal quiz. Coronation flower arrangement competition to be in a royal cup.

Jenner Opera on Saturday 17th June 5pm - 7pm on the lawn at The Jenner Museum - bring your own picnic

Regular groups

WI meeting 2nd Thursday in the month 2pm at The Pavilion.

Craft Group 2pm 1st Saturday in the month. Created cards at the previous session. Next session at Vicky Youngs 2pm on April 1st bring sewing kit with you. In the future may knit/ crochet poppies for a Remembrance display.

Book group - 3rd Thursday every month 2.30 pm at Berkeley Library
Skittles last Thursday in the month. 2.30 pm at The Boars Head

Coffee morning 10.30am last Saturday in the month at The Perfect Blend.

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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 810752

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.

TYNDALE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

This is the first time Aleks Gjika EFIAP DPAGB has visited Tyndale Photography Club as a judge, he has visited before as a speaker but that was held over Zoom, so it was good to welcome him face to face at North Nibley Village Hall.

He had a busy evening in front of him with 23 prints and 40 digital images to judge and comment on. He gave a lengthy critique on every entry, commenting in some cases how he felt an image might be improved and in others how there wasn't a lot to remark on.

Entries into the print section were competing for the Landscape Print Trophy and Aleks made reference several times as to how composition and lighting are of upmost importance in this type of photography. With judging over Aleks stressed that all

statements made were personal to him and another judge would probably have given different comments and scores.

Landscape Print Results

1st place – Llyn Padarn – Joan Scott
2nd place – Shadows and Light at Blea Tart – Elizabeth Restall ARPS
3rd place – Quarry Snow – David Gamm



Projected Digital Image Results
1st place – Kingfisher – Chris Morgan
2nd place – Portrait in Infrared – Steve Varman LRPS
3rd place – Dahlia – Christine Ryske



HERE IS THE NEWS

Do you wish you could listen to news about your town or village?

Well, you can. We at the Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper know how important it is to stay in touch with your community. We read news stories about your local area from the Gazette, the Yate and Sodbury Voice, features from online news bulletins and from village and church magazines.

If you are visually impaired or unable to read print for any reason, you can listen to us online or on a soundbox with a USB stick that comes through the post every week. This service is entirely free of charge, easy to manage and we keep in touch with every listener for problems and feedback.

If you have a friend or family member, or if you are a carer for someone that you think would enjoy this, do get in touch with us. Look at our website www.cvtv.org.uk or call 01453 549133 and someone will call you back to arrange a visit.

Useful Telephone Numbers:

Police (non emergencies)	101
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	0800 6783105
(mobile users)	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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Volunteer with The Door this spring and help turn someone's life around.

The Door is looking for individuals of all experiences and backgrounds to join their award-winning volunteer mentoring team. Mentors meet for an hour or so a week with a young person or parent to offer a listening ear and help them make positive steps forwards:

"It is an amazing privilege to be a mentor for someone. Often, we feel we need to have all kinds of skills and knowledge to be able to help, but so much of the time, it is about being able to turn up and be there for them. You become a bit of a confidant to them, allowing the space and time for them to work through their thoughts and worries and help them to process what's going on in their lives. At The Door we mentor for as long as our mentees need us so, you really get to know the people you support,

learning about their dreams and passions as well as working through their challenges with them. It is a great thing to do with my spare time and only takes an hour a week. Even when I am busy, I get to step out of my world and into this safe space for someone else."

If you would like to become a mentor, simply download an application form from thedor.org.uk/volunteer, call the office on 01453 756745 or you can drop an email to info@thedor.org.uk

All volunteers will need to provide 2 references, complete a DBS check and take part in an introductory training course. (Next course starting 13th April, with more courses through the year)

We look forward to hearing from you.



THORNBURY AND DISTRICT U3A has nearly 1,800 members and around 90 different interest groups meeting at various venues throughout the area but there is always room for more!

The groups mainly meet during the day and interests range from Archaeology to Walking with all subjects in-between. Some meet weekly, other less often and they include physical activities, crafts, board and card games, organised visits to gardens and churches, concerts and theatre as well as purely "educational" topics. Details of all our groups, including Group Leader contact details, venue and times of meeting, can be found on our website – www.thornburyu3a.org.uk.

Our next Welcome Meeting will be held on Monday 20 April at 3:30 p.m. in St Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Road, Thornbury, BS35 1DR. Please come along; we would love to meet you.

For further information visit our website or phone our Membership Secretary, Jackie Gitsham on 858438 or our Chairman, Norman Taylor on 418396.



Guests at the Annual assembly 17th April at 6pm in the Town Hall.

We are pleased to confirm that the chairman of the Neighbourhood Watch for Gloucestershire, Philip Sullivan, and Becky Lamb, our local NHW coordinator, will be

making a 30 minute presentation on the merits of setting up your own Neighbourhood Watch in your road.

This is a simple process supported by NHW and full details will be available on the night. A worthwhile venture to introduce around our beautiful town.

Make a note of the date and time, we hope to see you there.

Paul.turner@berkeley-tc.gov.uk



Can you quack the clues this Easter? Join us for a family day out of exploration and discovery that will put all of your senses to the test.

Get closer than ever to nature on our Easter trail, reveal the wildlife secrets only a true Duck Detective knows.

It's time to use your super sleuthing skills to investigate the mystery of the missing duck! Follow the clues and use everything from feathers to bird calls, to footprints to complete our trail. Quack the case and become a fully-fledged Duck Detective. Make sure to pick up your Duck Detective Case File to help you along the way.

Once you've revealed nature's hidden secrets on our trail, put your new found detective skills to the test and discover more about our wonderful wetlands with daily activities such as pond dipping and much more!

Full details at www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/slimbridge/whats-on/duck-detectives-4

And the Canoe Safari will be open!



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What's On Diary

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

Krunch Youth Club - Canon Park Pavilion

Juniors for school Years 6-9, 6pm - 7.30pm
Seniors for school Years 9-12, 7.45pm - 9pm
From 17th April - Contact Natalie@krunch.org.uk

Berkeley Rainbows

The Scout Hut 4.15 - 5.30pm

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
Suitable for all abilities

Last Orders Picture House

Salutation Inn at Ham
Alternate Mondays at 7.30
Book via www.sallyatham.com.

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/>

Tuesday

Berkeley Community Library

Tuesdays 10.00am - 6.00pm
Telephone 810520

Line Dancing/Ballroom Dance Class

Hamfields Leisure 7.00pm - 9.00pm
Contact Daphne 01453 826034

Vale Community Choir

Town Hall, 7.30 - 9pm Term Time only.
All welcome

Cub Scouts - Scout HQ. Park View

8 to 10½ years old
6.00pm - 7.30pm

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: berkeleyflicks@gmail.com

Yoga (Hybrid Yoga)

Town Hall
6.00—7.00pm

Berkeley Books

The GL11 Jb Hub will be located in Berkeley Books on alternate Tuesdays from 8th March.

Wednesday

Dog Training - Sharpness Village Hall

from 7pm contact Mike Vine 01453 822134

Citizens Advice Bureau

Now Closed. Ring for advice on 0800 800 0510

Berkeley Gardening Club

3rd Wednesday of the month
Library 7.30pm

Crochet Group - Berkeley Library

Every Wednesday from 11am until 1pm £2 per session. Refreshments: 20p. Everyone is welcome.
Just bring a crochet hook and some wool.

FitFix Exercise - Berkeley Town Hall

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

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/>

Yoga (Hybrid Yoga)

Town Hall

Thursday

Extend Exercise Classes for 60+ Scout Hut

From 10.30am Contact Barbara 01453 766421

Berkeley Congregational Church

Thursday Coffee Mornings have now resumed starting at 10am. Everyone is most welcome. Please come along. A warm welcome awaits you.

Berkeley Toddlers (0-5yrs)

9.30—11.30am, Town Hall
£5 per family/ childminder & kids

Art Group

Berkeley Library . £4.00 per session
10.00am—1pm. Bring own materials

NatWest Mobile Bank

Salter Street
Every other Thursday
10.15am - 12.30 pm

Beavers Scouts for 6 to 8 years old

Scout HQ, Park View, 4.45pm - 5.45pm

Berkeley Brownies

The Scout Hut 6.15pm - 7.30pm

New Berkeley Harriers Running Club

6.30pm at Canon Park Pavilion
See our Facebook Page

Berkeley Players Meet in the Town Hall

From 7pm—8.30 Young People
From 8.30 Adults

Bingo

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm Eyesdown at Sharpness Village Hall, Oldminster Road, Sharpness GL13 9NA
Contact Christy on 07970565099 for further details

Friday

Berkeley Community Library

10.00am - 4.00pm

Saturday

Berkeley Community Library

10.00am - 12.00pm

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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Vale of Berkeley Railway

In these articles we have mostly concentrated on the big picture. Today we will look in detail at the effort that is needed to restore old locomotives. Locally we have a member who owns a steam locomotive and is trying to restore it to working order. It is more than 70 years old. Many of the components have been restored, but a large number are damaged beyond repair and require replacement. The photograph is of a cylinder steam valve. The locomotive has 4 of these and all were damaged beyond repair, so one of our machinists made new ones. These have to be made out of phosphor bronze to reduce wear and corrosion and have to fit with a high degree of accuracy. We had to purchase a piece of phosphor bronze bar, machine it to the correct diameter, and then machine it further to accurately create the components. Notice that the bottom half has been tapered to fit into a cup of exactly the same size and shape, and then a tapered slot had to be cut to allow the steam through when the valves are opened. With even a small piece of the bar costing nearly £200 great care had to be taken to get it right first time, but after nearly 100 hours of effort the components are now complete. We then had to repair the cups that these fit into by grinding their insides to produce a taper which matched. This required the making of a grinding tool which matched.

Some of the point rodding at Oldminster Sidings has corroded so far that it is beyond repair, and the machine shop has been asked to remake it.

It is easy to see why the refurbishment

of old railway equipment is so time consuming and expensive, but many volunteers enjoy the challenges, and the opportunity to hone their existing skills or to develop new ones. The machine shop has a number of urgent orders to fulfil. If anyone has machining skills, or would like to develop some, there are opportunities in our well-equipped machine shop. 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.

Our diesel team has been busy looking after our 2 "pacer" units. The unit in storage has been cleaned and the electrics tested. The other unit is on

loan to the Llanelli and Mynd Mawr Railway and has had a lot of attention as it will be used in their gala this weekend. The seats have been vacuumed, handrails and floors sanitised, and the floors mopped. A "fitness to run" examination has been carried out which the unit passed. It is very important to run these vehicles, as they deteriorate if just left unused. Batteries would go flat and various components would seize up.

At Oldminster Sidings clearance and fencing is proceeding rapidly. We ran a Saturday working party session for the benefit of people who are still working but would like to get involved. This was so successful that we will continue with the monthly session and will increase this if enough people attend. This will usually be on the first Saturday of each month. Plans are being finalised for the actual layout of the site. Road access and hard standing are required, as well as facilities for loading and unloading railway vehicles. A maintenance shed is also planned, as is secure fencing. The work to divert the footpath is now

complete, and walkers and cyclists are starting to use it. The next main jobs are to build a proper entrance with vehicular access, and to move the fencing which currently cuts our site in half. We plan to re-use this fencing to make the site secure so that we can start to move some of our vehicles in. This job is also very labour intensive, so any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Some people come regularly while others are occasional visitors, but all contributions are welcome, no matter how small.

We also have a well-equipped woodworking shop, which includes some machines which came from ex-LMS carriage and wagon works. and will in time be looking to bring in outside work for that department too. We have several interesting projects, so if you have any skills in this area, or would like to acquire some, then join us. Future projects include the refurbishment of coaches, and we have been offered a "toad" brake van. This is in relatively good condition but does need some refurbishment.

We now have a number of projects which are ramping up and require manpower, so if you are interested in joining in the fun then come and see if there is anything that takes your fancy. If anyone would like to see what we are up to, we are at the engine shed in Sharpness Dock on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and at Oldminster Sidings on Wednesdays and Fridays. We have now started Saturday sessions on the first Saturday of each month at Oldminster Sidings for those who are still working during the week. We would be glad to show you around. If you do visit, please wait at the entrance, and ask for the duty manager who will be pleased to show you around and answer any questions.

Our new website is now online, so feel free to visit us at www.vobr.org.uk. This contains pictures of the various activities and projects.

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

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