



Christmas at Berkeley

Thursday 1st December - 5pm to 9pm



A fabulous evening with shops and local crafters providing the perfect setting to start your Christmas shopping. Getting you into the festive spirit, we have the Christmas light switch on, carol singing, a walk through the snow and presents with Santa!

Schedule of events:

5pm Shops & stalls open for business

5pm to 5.45pm early gifts with Santa for the younger children in the church

6pm Christmas light switch on outside the Town Hall with Santa

6.15pm to 9pm gifts with Santa for the older children in the church

8.30pm drawing the raffle in the White Hart courtyard

9pm end of a wonderful evening!

Make sure you visit all the shops and stalls listed in the programme as you wander around the town soaking up the festive atmosphere. Some of the stall holders will have card machines but some may not and those that do may not have reliable wifi, so do have cash ready for the things you would like to buy. There are three cash machines in Berkeley, in the One Stop, on the Coop, and on the corner opposite the Town Hall.

Shops, stalls & Community Groups taking part:

Berkeley Flowers, Town Hall, GLII Hub, Berkeley Library, Yasmin Jones Cards, Gillyflower Floating Handmades, Berkeley Bakery, The Perfect Bland, Holly Crafts, The Lovely Sweet Co., From Home, Veils of Berkeley Bridal Boutique, Cherry Blossom Hair, Henry Heron Crafts, Berkeley Tea Rooms, Pottery by Abbie, Sweetscents Berkeley, Label Your Life and all things nice, Canny's Cakes, T and Me, Tomato Jacks, Black Ivy Tattoo and Piercing Parlour, White Hart courtyard, SJR Aesthetics, Motherfudger, Adam the Gardener, Rose and Mary Cosmetics, St Mary's Church hosting Mulled wine & mince pies, Presents with Santa, Photos with Santa, Festive Selfies, Severn Vale craft stalls

DECEMBER THE GARDEN

December! – The excitement of the festive season, lots to do and many people to see! Yule logs to bring in, evergreen to collect to decorate the house! Ivy is at its best now and will last longer when cut if it has a long soak in a bucket of water before you bring it indoors. The same goes for all your foliage such as Holly – there are lots of berries this year because of the hot Summer we had. Griselinia and Eleagnus give great colour and texture. Colour stems of Cornus and Willow can make wonderful shape to any design. Do not forget the bulbs you have planted for Christmas – they should be ready to display – ready to flower and give a delightful fragrance to any room.

There are a few mundane tasks to do in the garden too. Autumn Raspberries need to be cut back now right down to two or three buds on the bottom of each stem near ground level. Weed the area around the base of each plant and mulch with garden compost or farmyard manure. It is the time of year when patios and paths get slimy patches on them so it is a good idea to give them a good clean. One way is with a broom and a patio liquid cleaner, or blast away with a power washer. Winter is the ideal time to service your lawn mower. If the job is too daunting for you send it to the local garden machinery store you could just give it a good clean to remove the dead grass from the body and blades first. In the garden borders you can cut back the old foliage from Hellebores before the end of the month to prevent the emerging flowers being obscured. This will also control leaf spot disease.

Gather up fallen leaves from around the base of Rose bushes which have suffered from Black Spot or Rust in the Summer.

Do not put them on your compost heap but burn them or put them in the brown recycle bin. This will help reduce the chance of infection next year. If you have a grape vine it will have become dormant by now and it is time to prune it so that it will increase production of grapes next year. While it is dormant it will not bleed sap when you cut the stems. It is always said that you should prune your vines by Christmas. If you have it in a cold greenhouse then you can extend this pruning until January. The aim is to cut the year's growth to the old permanent stems called rods. Prune to two last buds on this year's growth – this will create a short growth called a spur from which the new shoots will develop in Spring to produce the fruits. Any loose flaking bark on the old wood can be removed as this will prevent the build up of overwintering pests that live there.

Now is a good time to plant a new hedge. Why would you want to plant a new hedge – you may ask with the extra work in maintaining it. There are a few answers to the question! The first benefit is that it provides architectural interest throughout the year; it makes a great boundary and can be very ornamental. A hedge can provide a home for many types of wildlife from birds to insects, giving shelter and food such as berries and flowers which have pollen and nectar. A hedge can lock in Carbon and this will help in the fight against climate change. It can provide a windbreak and reduce noise levels if

you live on a busy road. It can provide a green wall which will give you privacy from your neighbours and planted wisely will give you a stunning feature. They are also good for security if you choose a thorny specimen such as Hawthorn or Prunus Spinosa with their great prickles. A well maintained hedge can last for decades making them very reliable and cost effective. For a low growing option to line a border Lavender is a must and for when a high hedge is needed the pleached type is a great solution to screen an unsightly building or view. Fagus Sylvatica (purple beech) or Carpinus Betulus (hornbeam) are excellent for this. Do avoid planting the fast growing Leyland Cypress as a hedge as if you cut it back into the old wood it does not regrow and turns brown. A hedge gives a good strong design feature to any garden and is good for the planet.

This is all for this month. I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and you will hear from me in the New Year. Here's to happy gardening but do have a rest over the festive season!

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XXX REPs

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THURSDAY 10.30am

Covid 19 virus has reduced class numbers to avoid disappointment please check availability and call

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



Mike Trebble
PCSO



Gloucestershire Constabulary
People First Policing

As we head towards the end of the year, we are pleased to report that the town of Berkeley remains a very safe place to live and work in. Overall crime remains low despite new reporting requirements.

The main concerns within the town have been the number of road accidents since August. A driver was arrested at scene in the Station Road area back in August for being intoxicated. The driver, who lived outside of the area, crashed the vehicle into hedges and damaged street lighting.

There was a two vehicle collision at Mobley towards the end of September and a further road accident during early October between a cyclist and vehicle with the cyclist sustaining head injuries. A vehicle was seized by Police on the A38 at Newport for being driven without any insurance. Two catalytic converters were stolen from vehicles in the town in September & October & a business premises was broken into towards the end of October where cash was stolen.

Now that we are well into the darker evenings, if you are going out please consider leaving a light on to protect your property!

Lastly the Gloucestershire Constabulary open day was cancelled back in September and has been moved to Spring 2023 with a date to be announced.



THE JENNER PROJECT 22 | 23



JENNER CREATIVE - FREE WORKSHOP!

A unique opportunity to get creative with international voice facilitator Natasha Lohan, choreographer Lizzi Kew Ross and composer Liz Lane, and help celebrate the 2023 bicentenary of Berkeley's Dr Edward Jenner.

No experience necessary!

Children over 7 should be accompanied by an adult

Drinks available

FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 16:30-17:30
SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 10:30-12:30

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, SALTER ST,
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www.jennerproject.com



COMMUNITY Grants

Now open!
Follow link below for application form:
http://www.berkeley-tc.gov.uk/Documents_and_Policies_29255.aspx

We at BADS have a dilemma!

Through the pandemic and the various lockdowns we have been unable to rehearse or perform our usual feast of plays, pantomimes or Murder Mysteries.

As we start activities again we find that membership has been depleted for various reasons.

What we need are new members. On stage, off stage, in the wings, front of house - however you would like to be involved we'd love to hear from you.

If interested - don't delay act today Mail us at <mailto:info@bads.biz>. Or text Billy Furey on 07812 584265

HELP WANTED

We have a need of a Volunteer for the monthly distribution of 35 copies of the Flyer in Berkeley Vale Park.

Map of the route with numbers of the properties will be provided. This could well suit someone living in the Park, but anyone interested please contact Grace King 01453 811138



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The Berkeley Benefice

Upcoming Special Services

Sunday 4th December

- 11 am Christingle Service at St Mary's Berkeley
- 6 pm Traditional Advent Carols at St Mary's Berkeley

Sunday 11th December

- 3 pm Confirmation Service with Bishop Robert at St Mary's Berkeley
- 6 pm Informal Carols at All Saints' Stone

Sunday 18th December

- 11am Crib & Carols at St Michael's Hill
- 3.30 pm Christingle Service at All Saints' Stone
- 6 pm Nine Lessons & Carols at St Mary's Berkeley

Christmas Eve

- 3 pm Crib Service at St Mary's Berkeley
- 10 pm Christmas Eve Communion at All Saints' Stone
- 11.30 pm Midnight Communion at St Mary's Berkeley

Christmas Day

- Christmas Family Services with Communion
- 9 am at St Michael's Hill
- 10.30 am at All Saints' Stone and St Mary's Berkeley

For a full list of our services, please go to our website www.berkeleybenefice.co.uk or look at one of our church notice boards.

BERKELEY COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL



Exciting times at Berkeley Pool. Here are two photos - the before the liner was installed and the after when the empty lined pool looks fabulous. We are absolutely thrilled by our new look pool which now is filled with water and will be winterised until next summer.

We can hardly believe it. After months of fund raising the liner project is complete. Thank you to everyone who has donated directly or indirectly. Every penny has made a difference. We so appreciate all the wonderful support from this fantastic community.



Looking ahead, our next big project will be to upgrade the changing rooms which have not had more than a lick of paint in decades, but our immediate need is to ensure that we have adequate funds to cover the costs of opening next summer - chemicals, insurance, lifeguards etc.

Date for the diary Elton John Tribute act at Hamfields Saturday 13th May 2023

If in the unlikely event that you haven't already supported us and would like to do so we have a just giving page

<https://www.justgiving.com/berkeleycommswim>

Thank you all

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BVCAN

Several times a year, Stroud Climate Action Networks (CANs) meet via Zoom.

The theme of our most recent meeting was Food security and Sustainability. There are many initiatives in the Stroud district including food banks, community fridges and Community Hubs such as GL11 in Cam.

The importance of these services was highlighted by the fact that there are no emergency plans for food provision in the county. This is not unusual across the country as a whole. Therefore, if local food banks run out of supplies there is no Plan B for the county to support those in need.

The GL11 Community Hub has recently launched a new initiative, The Food Pantry. More than 50 families and individuals have signed up to the scheme. Members pay £4 per week and are then able to come away with £15 worth of food and non-food items. Members say they welcome the opportunity to contribute towards the food and are also happy to be able to choose what they need.

Food banks rely on surplus stock from supermarkets, donations from shoppers and some small amounts of money from funding sources. Food banks are reliant on goodwill and on volunteers.

BVCAN members would like to become more involved in the provision of food in our area. Berkeley is part of a food bank initiative. Perhaps there is scope for gardeners and allotment holders to offer surplus vegetables? Do let us know if you already run a food-based scheme in the area or if you or your community group would like to come together to discuss what more can be done. Please email berkeleyvaleclimateaction@gmail.com

One thing to come out of this winter's CAN forum was something simple that everyone can do to cut their carbon emissions. That is to put food waste into the recycling bin. This can cut a person's carbon footprint by up to 3%!

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas

Jane Robertson and the BVCAN team



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

Do you urgently need help?

The Berkeley Parochial Trust may be able to help you.

The Trust is set up to financially help people in need. To qualify, you must live within the 5 Berkeley Parishes (Alkington, Berkeley Town, Ham & Stone, Hamfallow and Hinton) and have a legitimate need. Any payments do not have to be repaid.

Decisions on help are made at the discretion of the trustees and can be given by cheque or cash, very quickly. Personal details are always kept confidential.

If you are particularly in need of some support with the current high fuel, heating and electric costs we can provide one off payments to help.

To apply, contact the BPT clerk in confidence, with an outline of the problem (or talk to the BPT representative on your Parish Council).

Mrs S Watson (Clerk to the BPT) 01453 542208

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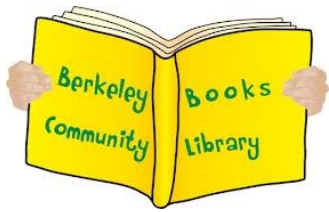
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BERKELEY BOOKS COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

Berkeley Books Community Library achieved its 10th anniversary in November this year. Back in 2012 Berkeley Books Community Library was formed as a charity to keep this vital asset in Berkeley. It has continued to serve the local community being run mainly by volunteers. Berkeley Books continues to be part of Gloucestershire County Library. This provides borrowing from the extensive county catalogue, using free computers and wifi with access to ancestry and findmypast websites for free when accessed via a library computer as a library member.

After running a questionnaire one of the main points raised was that people wanted access to the library after work—and we have listened! From December the library will be open until 6pm on a Tuesday.

Volunteers also run various groups that all can join; a Crochet Club on a Wednesday 11am-12.30pm, an Art Club on a Thursday 10am-1.30pm. These do incur a small fee. Berkeley Flicks film club runs throughout October until the following April on either the 3rd or 4th Tuesday of the month. Please contact berkeleyflicks@gmail.com for more details

In the New Year the library will start a Baby Bounce & Rhyme session, date and time to be confirmed, please keep an eye out on our website, facebook page, The Flyer or in the library.

Did you know you can hire the library? If you want to run a group, club or a one off activity we offer the library space at a very reasonable rate.

From Monday December 5th we will open the library as a

warm social space between 10am-4pm with games and films showing. Tea and coffee will be available. On these Mondays the library will not be operating. It will purely be a warm social space and to run this we do need more volunteers. Volunteers duties will be to open the building and be around to help those attending. The volunteers shifts will be either 10am-1pm or 1pm-4pm. If you are interested in helping throughout the winter months please contact the library either in person, or phone, or email.

The tea and cake morning we ran in November was very successful so we intend to continue running them. From January we will offer tea and cake on the first Tuesday of the month. This will continue for the winter months with the possibility of making it a permanent feature.

For more information on any of our services, or to volunteer to help with warm space opening on Mondays, please contact Berkeley Books by either visiting on Tuesday 10am-6pm, Friday 10am-4pm or Saturday 10am-12noon.

Email on berkeleybooks22@outlook.com or telephone 01453 810520

PS—Berkeley Books thanks the town for making it the charity it is supporting through its Christmas event.



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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Following the positive messages about last year's Christmas lights in the town centre, you will hopefully have seen the lights going up again this year. There will be a few more than last year, to cover a slightly larger area. The lights on the Town Hall will be turned on at 6:00pm on Thursday 1st December, as part of the town's Christmas at Berkeley event (see elsewhere in the Flyer for details).

The council currently has a great mix of people: a range of ages, a good mix of women & men, people who are new to Berkeley and those who have lived here all their life. We now have a vacancy for a new councillor, and are keen to fill it so we can make sure we can properly represent the

whole of Berkeley. If you are interested, please contact the Town Clerk (clerk@berkeley-tc.gov.uk).

Finally, I'd just like to highlight the support we give to providing activities for the young people in the town. We run a regular Youth Club in Canon's Park pavilion, and have recently provided support to the Berkeley Community Swimming Pool, to help them complete some vital improvement works, to keep the pool available for many years to come. We have also just agreed to support Severnside Youth Football Club, to help in the great work they do with a large number of the children in and around Berkeley.

Hope to see many of you at the Christmas at Berkeley Event,

Peter Hall



A big thank you to all of our door-to-door collectors and local traders. This year we successfully raised about £5,500 towards the annual British Legions Poppy Appeal.

If you would like to assist next year please contact Ray Chaney on 01453 811545



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**Berkeley Football Club are Playing a
Local Derby on 31st Dec**

Berkeley v Sharpness

Dave Smith Cup donated by Pat Smith family

Dave was a talented player who played for both teams. Some say he was a good looking Boy. Berkeley are hoping to win this year

Come along:— B-B-Q and Bar open

Annual Father Christmas party at the Malt House from 2pm The event is free and all Children will get a present and sweets, so come and see Father Christmas.

Raffle and prizes on the day.



November is AGM month so we all gathered to see out the 21/22 committee and to welcome in the new 22/23 committee accompanied by tea and cake. Before this the business part of the meeting was completed. All passed smoothly with the minutes of the previous meeting being agreed, matters arising being dealt with and then reminders for the book group, the skittles, and the coffee morning.

Wednesday November 16th saw 30+ WI members undertaking a mosaic workshop under the tutelage of Tomato Jacks.

The December meeting will be a bring and share Christmas lunch. Always a lovely event. Carole and Malcolm Brown are coming to provide entertainment- singing a selection of songs. It is also planned to have a post Christmas lunch at the Berkeley Arms on February 15th.

AGM

Sue Tainton treasurer presented the accounts for 21/22, which were unanimously agreed.

Vicki McHardy - Young presented the secretary's report which reminded us of all the speakers and events throughout the last 12 months, again unanimously agreed.

Fran Denton, President of Berkeley WI, had announced her intention to resign from the role at the AGM so tendered her resignation after presenting her report. Her report outlined the significant changes that have been made over the previous 12 months largely due to the Covid outbreak: change of venue which involved moving all WI "stuff" from the Town Hall to The Pavilion; new time of day for the meeting, increase in membership and several events where Berkeley WI have supported other organisations

such as the tea tent at The Berkeley Show and afternoon tea for the Friends of Berkeley Castle.

There being no others wishing to stand for the role Rose Coupe agreed to take on the role of President. Many thanks were given to the President of Berkeley WI for the year of 2022/2023.

A vote of thanks was given for all the members of the committee. Most of the committee members agreed to remain on the committee. Sue Tainton agreed to continue as Treasurer and Vicki McHardy - Young agreed to continue as secretary for a further year. A further vote of thanks was given to Frances Denton for her very lively effective tenure of being president. Her great strength was her ability to support everybody and to be inclusive. Her generous warm welcome to everyone members, visitors and speakers alike has been very much appreciated.

Finally Angela Davies has decided to resign from the committee after at least 22 consecutive years of being a committee member. Thanks were expressed for her generosity and loyalty. We will miss her membership of the committee. A plea was made for anyone interested in joining the committee to make themselves known to Rose Coupe. New blood would be very welcome.

It being the AGM no speaker was booked. However we were thrilled to welcome Audrey Harris from GL11 to tell us more about the support and activities provided by GL11. We were particularly pleased to hear that GL11 are looking to support Berkeley residents by co-ordinating warm places in Berkeley and offering befriending services initially as well as possibly providing digital support to whoever may need it in the community. Audrey is planning to hold a meeting to bring together all the agencies in Berkeley who are interested in supporting the community in these difficult times. All Berkeley residents are eligible to attend GL11 but many people don't have transport and need support in this our own community. We look forward to working with GL11.

The next meeting is on Thursday January 12th at 2:00 in The Pavilion, Station Road. Visitors are always welcome.

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Our first points of contact are:

Berkeley, Jan on 01453 810752

Hill, Mark on 01454 260750

Stone, Naomi on 01454 260376

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right person for you. Our offer is not
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TYNDALE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The first competition of the new season for Tyndale Photography Club was judged by Ralph Snook ARPS EFIAP/s DPAGB who is no stranger to the club. Ralph has visited North Nibley many times both as a judge and a speaker and it is always a pleasure to welcome him. Before the evening began Ralph said how nice it was to be meeting face to face and to be judging prints again after a two and a half year gap. Ralph, who is an accomplished wildlife and nature photographer, gave fair, detailed and constructive comments to each image entered into both the print and projected images competitions, it was obvious that he had not just given them a cursory glance but had studied and enjoyed them before arriving at the meeting.



1st place –Don Grundell
Sweet Pea



2nd place – Mike Smith
– Jay

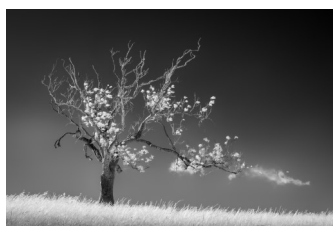


3rd place – Mike
Smith – High Alert

18 prints and 34 pdis were entered

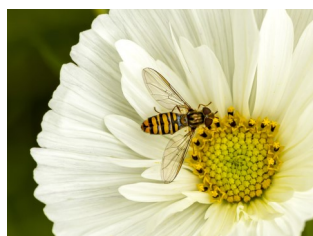
For more information about Tyndale Photography Club visit our webpage at www.tyndalephoto.org

PDIs



1st place – Steve Varman LRPS Tree,
caught in a Breeze

2nd place – Steve
Varman LRPS
Romanesco Broccoli



3rd place – Mike
Smith
Bee Nectarine

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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BERKELEY PLAYERS PRESENT

TREASURE ISLAND

DECEMBER 8th 9th & 10th



£8.00 Adults £5.00 S.C. & Young People (same as in 2019)

Tickets are on sale from BERKELEY PHARMACY

We are still looking for additional help with sewing and lighting and lots of other things - so if you want a bit of fun please get it touch via berkeleyplayersdrama@gmail.com

Berkeley Town FC are always on the look out for new players. Training is held every Thursday 6:30pm at Station Rd MUGA facility.

Why not come along and join us or contact

markpauledwards1972@gmail.com

for more information.



Meet Santa at his wetland grotto this Christmas!

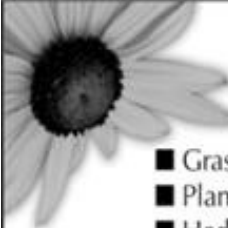
Enjoy a full day out together, making memories in our wetland wonderlands with festive activities and treats to enjoy from the Kingfisher Kitchen.

Date: Sat 10 & Sun 11, Sat 17 - Wed 21 December

Grotto time slots: 10am, 10.30am, 11am, 11.45am, 12.15pm, 1.45pm, 2.15pm, 3pm & 3.30pm

This year, join Santa in his wonderful wetland grotto. Children can meet Santa, receive a gift from him and enjoy a full day out at our wetlands centre - with lots of festive activities to take part in.

Booking essential for full details please visit www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/slimbridge/whats-on/santas-coming-to-slimbridge-2022



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Hamfields Leisure

Formerly Berkeley Power Station Club

WHATS ON

Sat 17th December

Christmas Party night

Tickets £12.50pp

Sat 31st December

Bits & Splits

Tickets £15pp

Tickets available via Our website or from the Club.

To hire the Hall contact us on 01453 810413

Email Hamfields@aol.com

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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

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/>

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

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, 7.30 - 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: Annie Clifford berkeleyflicks@gmail.com

Wednesday

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

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

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, 4.45pm - 5.45pm

Berkeley Brownies
The Scout Hut 6.15pm - 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

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

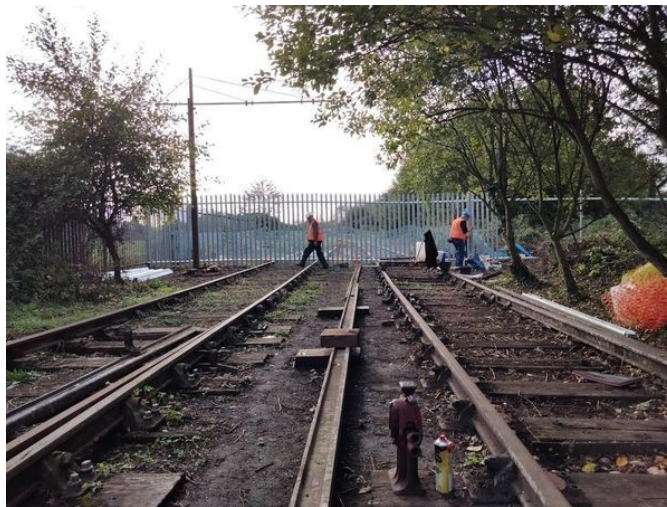
This month's photo is probably the most boring picture ever. It is of a steel fence. However, this section of fencing represents a major step forward for the Vale of Berkeley Railway. We have erected this fence ourselves and it is a physical barrier between the Network Rail's property and ours. This has been erected to Network Rail standards, using Network Rail approved safety procedures. It has demonstrated to Network Rail that we can work to approved standards and in a safe way. In conjunction with our 25-year lease it means that we can now do what we want with the leased area. The most significant features are that we can now apply for grants and planning permissions, install utilities, make the site secure, and start moving our rail vehicles in.

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 required, as is secure fencing. The whole of the new area has now been cleared, and work has started on repairing the track. The area that we have just taken over was in a very poor state as regards the track. It had been "robbed" over the last 30 years by maintenance gangs when they needed spare parts, but we have enough components to repair it. As can be seen in the picture, work has started on repairing the trackwork. This is great as we are starting to build up expertise in railway maintenance and also starting to acquire the tools needed to work with heavy pieces of infrastructure. For example, it takes a gang of 8 people to lift a full-length section of rail safely.

Some welding and fabrication work needed to be done to repair the gates to our newly acquired piece of land.

We estimate that the gates hadn't been opened for more than 30 years. They were very corroded in some places and required repair and in some cases replacement, plus a lot of heavy welding. This has all been completed. The gates now hang properly and can easily be opened and closed.

The first Saturday working session at Oldminster Sidings took place last week. It provided an opportunity for volunteers who are still in full-time work to get involved. A very enthusiastic team cleared the last of the scrub and undergrowth from around the palisade fencing, which will be disassembled



and re-erected along our new boundary. Initially we will run these Saturday sessions once a month, but if they prove popular, we will run them every Saturday.

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. We

have acquired a superb new lathe. Made by Dean, Smith, and Grace, it had been refurbished by them for the owners, but had never been used. So, we have a lovely machine which is virtually new and enhances

our capabilities. The wiring in the machine shop is being adjusted to accommodate the new machine.

The contract to repair and replace the sanding valves for a local steam engine has now been completed. Many of the old components were too badly corroded to be used and new parts were machined from solid metal to replace them. We now have a new job to refurbish the vacuum braking system for the locomotive. There are further work packages in the pipeline.

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, come and 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 plan to be starting Saturday sessions at Oldminster Sidings soon 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

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.

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