



Berkeley Vale Trees for Gardens

Stroud Valleys Project in association with Sarah's Field, with Berkeley Town Council is offering residents of the area small shrubs, trees and apples to plant in gardens.

The charity is offering these native shrubs and small trees to encourage wildlife in Berkeley and Sharpness, and to help our environment. There are two schemes: one is orchard apple varieties and the other is native shrubs.

These are free, although for the apples there is a suggested £10 donation; still a good price! The charity have received funding to do this. For new residents this might be a good chance if you have a small garden.

Native shrubs are 2 year old saplings, three feet in height: guelder rose, spindle, crab apple, wayfaring tree, wild privet, hawthorn, purging buckthorn, and a couple of trees are available too: rowan and wild service tree.

They are all excellent for insects and birds with flowers and berries. Small trees give dappled shade, and a pleasing view. There is a limit of three saplings per household (not including apples).

Do you have space to plant a rare apple tree in your garden? Stroud Valleys Project is offering twenty five apple trees.

There will be five local varieties of apple: Ashmead's Kernel, Fon's Spring, Gloucestershire Underleaf, Lake's Kernel, Rhead's Reinette.

These Gloucestershire varieties are getting rarer, so planting them helps preserve this unique heritage, as well as supplying delicious local fruit.

A biodegradable tree guard will also be supplied

On Community Tree Day, Saturday 21st January, from 11.00am until 3.00 pm, There will be the opportunity for residents to collect trees that they have ordered. There will be planting demonstrations, and at 3.30 pm, there will be a wassail song, and toast will be hung in the trees by participants.

If you are interested in having a couple of shrub or small tree saplings, please e-mail: fred@stroudvalleysproject.org or further information.



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

JANUARY THE GARDEN

The garden looks dead to the world but look at the evergreens which are the backbone to any garden and many of them will be in flower. And this gives us hope for things to come! It can also seem a Spartan landscape until we have a fall of snow and it becomes quite magical. So why not wrap up warmly and venture outdoors and have a stroll around the garden and take a look at some of your shrubs such as the lovely bright colour of the Witch Hazel and the stunning bark of the Silver Birch, the hidden bulbs pushing up through the soil and glimpse the tips of their leaves. Smell the fragrant Eleagnus and Sarcococca at the back of the border and the Garrya Elliptica (tassel bush) with their grey green catkins. Pass by the Cotoneaster with their attractive berries and you are in a winter wonderland. If you have been given a garden gift voucher for Christmas why not treat yourself to one of them from the garden centre to add to your own garden. Continue the walk and you will see lots of wildlife visiting your garden. The always faithful Robin will be there with his merry song, a delight. It is important to encourage all birds to your garden as in summer they are fantastic at keeping pests in check. Caterpillars, beetles, grubs, snails, slugs and greenfly are some of them! You could start by leaving seed heads in your borders, they can be a wonderful source of food. Birds also rely on bird feeding areas and water sources such as a bird bath which should be topped up regularly so that they can

survive the cold winter weather. Hanging fat balls, unsalted peanuts, sunflower seeds and unwanted dried fruits can go a long way to help small birds that have to eat 30% of their body weight every day to keep alive. It also helps to put up new boxes for nesting time. If you have any old apples and pears in store they are loved by Blackbirds, Fieldfares, Redwings and Thrushes. In our garden we have a field station outside the sitting room window and we get a lot of pleasure watching all the different birds as they feed. It really does give an uplifting effect. The acrobatic agility, chatter and falling out with each other and all other ups and downs right in front of us in the birds hierarchy of life.

There are a few jobs to be done outside when the weather is not too inclement. Check the ties on trees and make sure the stakes are good and strong. It is time to give Wisteria a winter prune once they have become established. They can romp away if not kept in check. Prune in two stages. This time of year shoots are shortened to two or three buds along the lateral stem. In the summer the long whippy growth is shortened. In this way you will contain the plant and get fantastic flowering. Be ready to knock snow from any plants bending under its weight as it may snap and damage fragile branches. Spread a layer of compost around shrubs and at the base of hedges. Sow Onions, Broad Beans, Spinach and Carrots in a cold greenhouse so that they can be planted out later. Cover Rhubarb crowns with a bucket or a terracotta forcing bell. This will encourage early tender stems. If you have any Alpine plants remove any fallen

leaves that have accumulated around them. They may die if left damp for too long. Cover bare patches around them with gritty compost to help with any damage and to encourage regrowth. Apple and Pear trees can still be pruned - cutting an open goblet shape with no rubbing or crossing branches. Check fruit and vegetables that are in store for damage and disease and also check Dahlia tubers. If the weather is poor catch up on some new plans for the garden. A pleasant job is to leaf through the latest seed catalogues to get some ideas of what to grow this coming year. WE all look forward to the Spring in our gardens and trying out new things and hoping to have bigger and better flowers and vegetables.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year with great gardening ahead. A new start to watch plants grow gives us a great deal of pleasure and happiness.

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

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

berkeleyparochialtrust@hotmail.com



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



Berkeley Amateur Dramatic Society

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>.

Contact V on 01453 810085

or Pete on 07935 404075

or text Billy Furey on 07812 584265



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The Berkeley Benefice Upcoming Special Services

Happy New Year from St Mary's Berkeley

Why not make a resolution to take some time out in January to join us for an hour at one of our services. From uplifting choral to informal cafe church, there's plenty to explore at St Mary's Berkeley.

Sunday 1st January at 10.30am - New Year's Day Service

Wednesday 4th January at 11am - Coffee & Communion

Sunday 8th January at 11am - Informal Service

6pm – Evensong

Sunday 15th January at 10.30am - Communion Service

6pm - Cafe Church

Sunday 22nd January at 11am - Informal Service

6pm - Evening Prayer

Sunday 29th January at 8am - Early morning Communion

10.30am - Communion Service

For more details of all our service and events across the Benefice in January go to www.berkeleybenefice.co.uk

St. Mary's Church, Berkeley

We are looking for volunteers to join our cheerful Housekeeping and Flower Arranging Teams.

We know there are many skilled and talented people living in our community and if you are able to give a little of your time to ensure your Church is always ready for the needs of Berkeley please get in touch by ringing 01453 811743.

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BVCAN

Keeping warm, saving energy and greener gardening. Welcome to the New Year!

We're always on the look-out for advice about keeping warm and cutting energy bills.

The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) recommends using a heated throw. These only are 4-5p an hour to use. Heated throws cost around £70 to buy. Using one will enable you to turn your heating down which will reduce your energy bills. The CSE calculates that the throw will pay for itself within a month.

Other items designed to keep you warm include heated pads, heated floor mats, electric blankets and microwaveable wheat bags. Although they may be expensive to buy, these all cost less than 5p per hour to use.

You may already have spare blankets. An extra layer (fleece or blanket) under the duvet will keep you much warmer than laying a throw on top of the bed.

Mumsnet has information about all sorts of ways to keep warm. See below for their review of heated throws.
<https://www.mumsnet.com/swearsby/best-heated-throw-blankets>

The Wonderbag.

Another item which has come to our attention is the 'Wonderbag'. This colourful, insulated bag will continue cooking stews, soups or a curry after you have brought the pot to the boil on the hob. Once simmering, the pot is placed inside the bag where it will continue to cook for up to eight hours.

This principle has been around for a long time. You may have heard of a 'hay box' being used to cook food in a similar way during World War II.

In African countries the Wonderbag has helped improve family health by reducing the smoke produced when cooking with wood or charcoal. It has also freed up time, enabling girls to go to school and women to start up businesses. It has made cooking for refugees in densely populated camps much easier. In 2022, 2500 bags were donated to people in Ukraine. Wonderbags use less energy than a plug-in slow-cooker and so, in the UK, would help reduce energy bills.

<https://www.wonderbagworld.com/uk-shop>

More from the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

The CSE have produced a draft report (commissioned by Ofgem in 2020) which describes the purpose and value of local area energy planning (LAEP). The report outlines a process which can help inform, shape and enable key aspects of the transition to a net zero carbon energy system in a community.

Using best practice, LAEP can provide sound foundations for effective and sustained local action to cut carbon emissions taken by well-informed local leaders and initiative-takers.

For detailed information visit:

<https://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/file/LAEP-method-final-review-draft-30-July-2020.pdf>

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Our Ukrainian Family in Berkeley

Kateryna and her two young children come from Kupiansk which is in north eastern Ukraine which is about two and half hours from Kharkiv. On February 27th 2022 Russian forces took control and occupied their home City.

Mum Kateryna, son Ivan and daughter Oleksandra (Sasha) left Kupiansk on April 16th and travelled to Poznan in Poland. Not long after Russia invaded Ukraine and our then Prime Minister Boris Johnson made an appeal for British families to offer their support to Ukraine by providing a short term home for families fleeing the Russian invasion and occupation of their homeland, Hilary and myself discussed hosting a family and after some research we applied to become hosts on the U.K Government website and we also joined a local Ukrainian Facebook Support Group called HUSH. We were shown photographs of Kateryna and the children and we decided to proceed with hosting. We then contacted Gloucestershire & Stroud District Councils to verify the application and arrange for them to carry out suitability inspections of our house, and Katerina's Ukraine friend who lives locally. Mrs XYZ proceeded with the Visa applications this was in early April 2022 and Stroud District Council promptly carried out the home inspection & GCC carried out the necessary DBS checks but Mrs XYZ still hadn't received notification regarding the Visa applications.

May 4th 2022 frustrated by the lack of information concerning the Visa application and the family in a hostel in Poznan I emailed our local MP Siobhan Baillie. Much to my surprise Siobhan replied within the hour and promised to personally contact the Minister responsible for Visa applications and within days the family received their permission to travel and Visa documentation. The family arrived at our home in Berkeley on Saturday 14th May after being collected from Bristol Airport by Mr XYZ. They seemed very pleased with the two bedrooms we provided and another spare bedroom that we have turned into a lounge to give them their own space. The family settled in really quickly and on Tuesday 17th Sasha started School at Sharpness Primary School and we received the welcome pack and visit from Gloucestershire County Council. Kateryna was desperate to work and luckily our son found her employment at Michaelwood Welcome Break Service Station and she started work the following Tuesday and still enjoys her work, Ivan started at Rednock School two weeks later and both children are now happily at Rednock School.

Kateryna and her family have received great support from the people of Berkeley we received a tremendous donation for School Uniforms from the Berkeley Parochial Trust, free swimming donated by the Swimming Committee, free access to Berkeley Show, Berkeley Castle, and Jenner Museum. These kind gestures

really made Kateryna and the children feel welcome in Berkeley and we also had the jubilee celebrations and a Howmead Street Party. The biggest issue has been getting the family into English Language Lessons after various failed attempts due to travel problems to Stroud or Gloucester. I decided to ask for local volunteers through HUSH and with great support from Berkeley Town Council we have run our Ukrainian English Language Class every Monday at Berkeley Town Hall since June 2022 and I would like to thank the tremendous gang of volunteers and of course our local Ukrainian Community for making Monday evenings so enjoyable.

We have jointly agreed that Kateryna and family can stay with us for as long as required but of course Kateryna would love to have her own home and she is working hard to save for a rental house deposit, renting a home is going to be a big challenge for all Ukrainians because they have no British Credit History and their biometric passports are only valid for three years but she is a strong brave lady and together we will overcome these issues.

Our family especially our two grandsons get on great with the family and our sprocker spaniel Pippa understands Ukrainian and she has become part of their family. We have been very lucky to have met Kateryna and her family and we will be friends for life, They fled a war in Europe which is a sobering thought and they are still unclear what the future holds, Kupiansk has been badly damaged and has major power outages and Kateryna worries about her close family living in Kupiansk but she remains happy & positive. If you see a silver Citroen C3 around Berkeley with "P" plates that's Kateryna please give her a wave.

The brave Ukrainian Army liberated Kupiansk on 10th September 2022 but the war continues. If you have the room please consider hosting a Ukrainian family or single person.

Phil & Hilary Smith

I want to say a huge thank you to England for supporting Ukrainian families in such a difficult situation. Thanks to my friend who pulled out this lucky ticket for me and helped me to come here. And of course a big big thank you to Phil and Hilary for all their help. During these six months we have become not just friends, we have found a new family here. These are people with a capital letter and a big heart. They never refuse and always find time for us.

Kateryna, Ivan & Sasha



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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Thank you to everybody who came along to the Christmas At Berkeley event on the 1st December. It was amazing to see so many people at the Town Hall for the Switch-On of our lights, and at the church to visit Santa. Huge thanks to the shops, the church, & to everyone else that helped make the evening go so well. Hopefully we will have an even better event next year: we're aiming to close the town centre to traffic to give people more room to enjoy the evening.

Krunch have been running a Youth Club for us for a little while now, on Monday evenings. In the New Year they will be launching a second evening, on Tuesday (6:30-8:00) at Canons Park, for children attending senior school.

The Digibus has been to the town a few times recently, helping anyone who needs advice about accessing services online – or any other computer problems. They will be back in Berkeley on 24th & 31st Jan.

Finally, Prisca Ponet has kindly agreed to join the council: I'd like to welcome her to the team.

Meet your Town Councillors:

Peter Hall

We've had quite a few changes on the Town Council recently, so we

decided it was a good time to introduce ourselves to you. I start this month, then (if the Flyer has room) one councillor will introduce themselves each month.



I work down in Filton as an aerospace engineer, originally from Liverpool, & I moved to Bristol in the nineties. I met my wife there before we moved to Berkeley in 2010, where we live with our little bringers of chaos: chickens, fish, a dog & 2 children.

I'm the current town mayor, having been involved in the council for several years now. I'm really keen to improve things for all of us in Berkeley, whether that's through the improvements we've delivered at Park View play area, Canons Park & the Town Hall, through the support we give to local groups, or through our plans to rejuvenate the town centre. If you think the council can do anything to help you, or if you have any ideas, I'd love to hear from you.

WARM SPACES

When

Where

Monday	Warm Social Space in Berkeley library 10am-4pm
Tuesday	St Mary's Church Toddler café 10am-12 Berkeley Library open 10am-6pm everyone welcome
Wednesday	GL11 Parent & Toddler Group @ Sharpness Village Hall 9.30-11am £2 GL11 Warm Café in Cam 10am-7pm
Thursday	Union Church (next door to the Town Hall) 11am-4pm Berkeley Toddlers in the Town Hall 9.30-11.30 £5/per family/childminder
Friday	Berkeley Library open 10am-4pm everyone welcome to use as a warm space
Saturday	Berkeley Library open 10am-12 everyone welcome to use as a warm space



BERKELEY
TOWN COUNCIL

St Mary's Church

1st Wednesday of every month 11am Coffee & Communion
Emergency food supplies available in the church, packets,
cans and frozen (donations welcome)
Please help yourself, the church is open until 5pm

Berkeley Vale Foodbank

delivers in the area using a voucher referral system
(contact the Town Council for more information)

Urgent financial help-**The Berkeley Parochial Trust** is set up
to help people in need
(contact Mrs S Watson on 01453 542208)

Berkeley Town Council

Town Hall, Salter Street, Berkeley GL13 9DB
01453 511964 or email clerk@berkeley-tc.gov.uk

parochial trust

berkeleyparochialtrust@hotmail.com



FREE Mental Health Support for Girls and Young Women

Girls and young women in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire can benefit from a FREE mentoring service: Gloucestershire Mentoring Programme. It's being offered by a collaboration of seven trusted organisations, and it's for 11 – 25 year olds whose life circumstances suggest they're at risk of becoming involved in crime. This can be because they've had Adverse Childhood Experiences or live in environments that are known to put them more at risk, or because they've become linked to criminal activity, either as victims of crime or through relationships with offenders.

Gloucestershire Mentoring Programme is hosted by The Door and funded by CHK Foundation, and offers these "at risk" young people the chance to form a long-lasting relationship with a trained volunteer mentor. Having a relationship with a trusted independent adult is something that's often missing in their lives and can be life-changing. It helps them build resilience and grow in confidence, and, over time, empowers them to have a more positive future.

If you know a young person who might benefit from the support the Programme offers (or you are that young person), you can visit gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk to apply.

If you have a heart for understanding and supporting young people, a little spare time and would like to become one of the Programme's volunteer mentors, the providers would love to hear from you. You can contact any of them directly via the Programme website, which will help you find the one operating closest to you. No experience is required and full training will be provided.

The seven delivery organisations collaborating to provide this service are: 1625IP; Breathe; Nelson Trust; Thames Valley Partnership; The Door; WAM Youth; and Young Gloucestershire. If you like the sound of their offer and have a few moments to spare, please follow the Programme on social media and help spread the word!

Follow the Programme on Social Media

@Glosmentoring

Contacts

Jill Anderson, Gloucestershire Mentoring Programme Coordinator (Mon, Wed, Fri) jill@thedoor.org.uk
Tel 01453 756745

General Enquiries

info@gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk
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**Need a good chat? Someone to
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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

It was a pleasure to give a warm welcome to Mike Dales ARPS CPAGB who made his first visit to North Nibley to judge our second competition of the season. Mike, who is a member of North West Bristol Camera Club gained his ARPS distinction in 2008, his CPAGB Distinction in 2015 and has been a registered judge since 2009.

Mike judged the open print competition before the tea/coffee break and passed comment on the quality of the prints he had been presented with. The projected digital image competition subject was landscape. Entries for this competition must be of a landscape in the British Isles and the images entered stretched the whole of Great Britain from St Mary's on the Isles of Scilly to Tobermory in Northern Scotland.

Of the 22 prints and 42 pdis entered the winning images were:
PRINTS

1st place – Mike Smith - Hare Chilling Out

2nd place – Steve White – Blue with White

3rd place – David Brookes ARPS - Sainte Chapelle St Germer-de-Fly Abbey

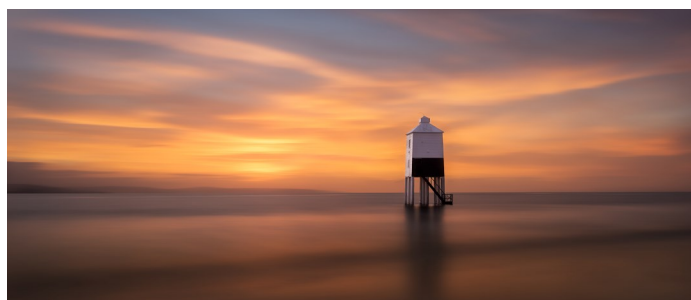
PDIS

1st place – Steve Varman LRPS – The Lonely Watch

2nd place – Brian Wetton – Smallpox Hill in Mist

3rd place – Peter Whitfield – That Pier Again But ICMed

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



TOMATO JACKS ARTS — WORKSHOPS

Daytime workshops run for 6 weeks w/c 9th January and cost £90 plus materials. Mornings run 9.30am to 12pm and afternoons 1.30pm to 4pm:

Monday morning FULL

Monday afternoon FULL

Tuesday morning FULL

Tuesday afternoon: 2 spaces

Thursday morning: 1 space

Thursday afternoon: FULL

Evening Workshops run 7pm to 9.30pm and are £15 per session:

Monday 16th January, 1 space

Wednesday 25th January, 2 spaces

Monday 30th January, 2 spaces

Wednesday 8th February, 1 space

If you would like to book onto any of these sessions please email us, sessions are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Useful Telephone Numbers:

Police (non emergencies)	101
West Country CRIMESTOPPERS	0800 555 111
Neighbourhood Warden	01453 754276
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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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ST PETER'S HOSPICE - WINTER WARMER LUNCH

St Peters Hospice Severnside Support Group would be delighted to welcome you to the Methodist Church Hall, Thornbury on Monday 23rd January at 1.00p.m to our Winter Warmer lunch.

This will be Cottage Pie and Crumble followed by tea/coffee – vegetarian option will be available.

Tickets are priced at £10.00 per person and are available from the St Peters Hospice Shop, High Street, in Thornbury, from 6th January 2023.



Quiz Night

Saturday 28th January 2023

8pm

Sharpness Village Hall
GL13 9NA



£10 per person entry, max 6 per team.

Super provided, please bring your own drinks.

Call or text 07970565099 to book your team. Booking is essential, payment on the night.




Want to improve
your digital skills?

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Our DigiBus trainer and volunteers will provide hour-long personalised one-to-one sessions for you; from learning how to order items online, chat to friends and family, stay safe using the internet, to finding out about important services or social networks that can provide further support, the DigiBus can help.

The DigiBus Team are coming back to Berkeley on Tuesday 24th & 31st January 2023

The team will be located downstairs inside the Town Hall from 10am until 4pm.

To secure an appointment call 01453 260027, message Rachel Sleigh, or book online at www.yourdigibus.com.....or you can also just take a chance and pop in? See you there!

BOOK YOUR FREE SESSION

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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.

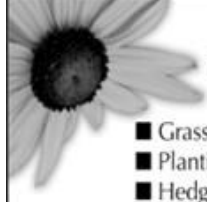
To hire the Hall contact us on 01453 810413

Email Hamfields@aol.com

Follow us more info

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 markpaulewards1972@gmail.com for more information.





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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 Club - Canon Park Pavillion
6.30pm - 8.30pm 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
Town Hall
6.00—7.00pm

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
Now Closed. Ring for advice on 0808 800 0510

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 - 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
Town Hall
10.00—11.00am

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
£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 Pavillion
See Website

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.

BERKELEY FLYER TEAM:

PUBLICATION:

Simon Bingham: 01453 811353
Sarah Hall: 01453 511681
Gwen Chaney: 01453 811545

WEB PAGE: David Hook
email: david@davidhook.info

ARTICLES, LETTERS AND DIARY DATE ENTRIES:

email: editor@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION:

Grace & Dave King 811138
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tel: 01453 546645
email: cotsmark@btopenworld.com

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Vale of Berkeley Railway

This month's photo shows the progress we have made on repairing the trackwork. These volunteers are working on the first point in our area. This controls the access. To the left is the line to the docks. To the right is the line to our sidings. This point had been robbed over the years by various teams of track workers who assumed that the point would never be used, so they helped themselves to any parts that they needed. We were lucky that on one of the other lines there were enough components to completely repair the point.

It has been a fascinating learning

of rail safety. We are very focussed on the safety aspects of what we are doing. When you are manually moving components weighing more than a ton this is vital, and full PPE is mandatory.

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 VoBR Pacer team braved the sub-zero temperatures to visit our Pacer, 143 612, which is currently at Llanelli. After topping up the oil and antifreeze and swapping two

the rest to go soon. We can then bring some of our own vehicles on site. They can then be worked on without having to travel miles to where they are stored and utilise the benefits of having a first-class machine shop and woodwork team.

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.

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 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.



experience. Most of us had no idea how complicated the design of a point is. Each has roughly 5 or 6 different types and sizes of chair to hold the rails. In addition, some of these are "handed". Some have to accommodate the movement of the point blades, and all to very tight tolerances. We have learnt so much. 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

suspect start batteries we used the services of one of the LMMR fitters who is familiar with the units from his days with Transport for Wales to carry out an "A" exam. This was necessary before we tried to move the unit. Fortunately, the Pacer passed the exam and moved under her own power to test the brakes. The unit is now ready to be used for passenger services on the LMMR. Enthused by this, a couple of our members braved more sub-zero temperatures to check our unit stored at Wishaw. As well as getting the remaining seats cleaned, they

managed to get the doors operational on the DMSL. Another step towards having a second operational unit.

At the shed we have been hampered for a long time by the storage of vehicles owned by people who have nothing to do with VoBR. This has prevented us from bringing our own vehicles on site to be worked on. This impasse has finally been resolved. Two of the offending vehicles left on Wednesday, and we expect

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