



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Some great news this month: we've been awarded just over £40,000 from Stroud District Council to help fund the next stage in our work to improve the Town Centre. This should allow us to develop more detailed plans that we can hopefully use to secure funding for the actual work. As the plans are developed, we will of course be making sure that parking, safety & accessibility are properly considered, while making the centre of our town a more attractive place to be.

Once a year the council gives grants out to some of your local charities and community groups. I'm pleased to say we gave grants to 8 groups – the library, the pool, the Jenner project, the toddlers group, the football club, and singing and drama societies.

As the nights get shorter and the days get longer, I'm sure you've all seen the snowdrops, daffodils & other plant starting to spring in to life. People's thoughts are turning to spending time outdoors, so it's a good time to talk about allotments. We have a long list of people wanting to take on one of our allotments down on Oakhunger Lane, so if you have an allotment that you don't think you'll be able to make full use of, can I ask you to consider giving it up, or splitting it up and giving up a part of it?

Finally, a message to the small number of dog owners that allow their dogs to foul the pavements of our town without clearing up after them. This is having a growing impact on the community, making our town look bad and meaning people have to clean their shoes, and pick up your dog's waste themselves. Please take responsibility for your pet and clean up after them.

Peter Hall ([peter.hall@berkeley-tc.gov.uk](mailto:peter.hall@berkeley-tc.gov.uk))

## Blind and visual impairment awareness meeting.

On the afternoon of February 2<sup>nd</sup> anyone in the centre of town would have witnessed your town councillors Liz Ashton and I along with guests visitors walking the town with Julie Stephens with her blind dog Heidi and Alun Davies who is also blind but prefers the use of a white stick.

The objective was to make those with normal vision aware of the difficulties encountered by the blind and also those with various types of visual impairment by the use of an assortment of different glasses that created various visual effects.

This was a most interesting, educational and enlightening exercise that made us all aware of the obstacles on pavements that we all live with. Some of them like street sign posts, litter bins, building posts, there is little we can change but can be aware of for future plans.

However, there are things that we can all be aware of and can be thoughtful of those with visual impairment. Just think does your home or business have trees, bushes or privet that overhangs or obstruct the pavement, have any temporary signs that are in the middle of the pavement, creating an obstacle, have any weeds growing in the pavement outside your premises or have boulders on your boundary obstructing the pavement. All these can cause difficulty and were encountered on our walk and could with a little thought and understanding be improved.

If any of the above apply to us, it would be very much appreciated by those in our community suffering from a variety of visual impairments if we could just think about if we can help in any small way.

Our thanks to Julie and Alan who are working with parish, town, district and county officials to draw attention to their difficulties and try to improve the safety of their community.

### Those present.

Julie Stephens and her Guide Dog Heidi - Gloucestershire Sight Loss Council

Alun Davies - Engagement Manager at the Thomas Pocklington Trust

Cllr Gordon Craig - Berkeley Ward Councillor

Liz Shellam - SDC Customer Access and Engagement Manager

Hannah Emery - SDC Corporate Policy and Governance Manager

Andrea Durn - Wotton-under-Edge Town Clerk (Andrea couldn't attend the previous walk held in WUE last August)



## St Mary's Church, Berkeley

*Do something new?*

*If you've already broken your New Year's resolutions this year, don't worry, you are not alone. Over 80% of people give up on*

*their resolutions by the end of January. We are now in the season of Lent, another chance to make strong resolutions with good intentions. But rather than giving something up,*

*why not take something up. If you want to try something new, or meet some new people, you are always welcome at one of our services. Highlights this month are:*

**5th March @ 11am Family Worship & @ 6pm Choral Evensong**

**19th March @ 11am Mothers Day Service**

For more details go to [www.berkeleybenefice.co.uk](http://www.berkeleybenefice.co.uk)

## MARCH IN THE GARDEN

The first month of Spring has arrived at last and the garden has become alive after the long dreary Winter. The clocks going forward give gardeners much needed extra daylight each day. March can be very cold but there will be plenty of bright days to come. There are lots of jobs to be done this month from taking cuttings, mulching, pruning and you may want to reseed your lawn or sow half hardy annuals. It is also the last chance to plant bare rooted trees and shrubs and to divide Snowdrops and Winter Aconites. Keep a watch out for germinating weed seedlings and use a hoe on them before they grow too big. Prune bush and shrub Roses – taking the old diseased stems out first, then cut out any stems growing in the centre of the bush – this is done so that air can circulate throughout the plant. The rest of the stems can be cut back to make a good overall shape. Cut to an outward facing bud and slant the cut away from the bud so as rain will run away from the bud and down the stem. Mulch well after pruning. Lift and divide perennial plants that have become overgrown clumps. This should be done regularly every four to six years. This will keep the plants healthy and vigorous. Lift the plant with a fork and break up the mass into sections. Pull them apart gently and each piece should have about five healthy shoots. Replant as soon as possible at the same depth in another part of the garden and water well. Alternatively pot them up individually and grow them on until you need them. Start to stake the taller growing perennials such as Peonies,

Delphiniums and Lupins. They may be tiny now but they will soon be putting on rapid growth that can easily be damaged by the wind. Now is the time to cut back Penstemons- their tops will have been damaged by the frosts over the Winter so remove the damaged stems so as the new stems underneath will be able to grow quickly. Radish, Carrots, Beetroot and most hardy vegetable crops can be sown outdoors now once the weather has warmed up. You can tell this by looking to see if weed seedlings are germinating. It is then that your vegetable seeds will be able to germinate. Tomatoes, Chillies and Sweet Peppers can be sown in a heated propagator or on a warm windowsill indoors. Onion, Cabbage and Leeks can be sown under cover in trays and pots ready to plant out later in the Spring. Do not be tempted to sow Runner Beans, French Beans. Sweet Corn, Courgettes or Pumpkins as it is still too early for them. For the past two years I have grown a small flower meadow in a large plant pot about 30" (75cm) wide and it has given us great pleasure to watch it flower. So if you only have a small area or a large container just have a go. The flower meadow likes a sunny spot, the soil should be quite poor, dig it over lightly, remove any weeds and stones with a rake to level it then just sow a meadow mix or any hardy annuals such as Poppies, Cornflowers, Ox eye Daisies or Corn Chamomile. Your mini meadow will attract beneficial insects which aid conservation. If you have a lawn now is the time to start to mow it on a bright dry day. A lawn is made up of thousands of small grass plants that, after a trim, will thicken up their growth

from buds in the centre of each plant- so mowing is a bit like pruning. Keep the cutting blades high at the start as this avoids damaging the buds and strengthens the grass ability to compete with the lawn weeds. Do not cut areas with bulbs growing in it yet- wait for the bulbs to die back first. At the same time any damaged parts of the lawn can be repaired. Also you can sow a new lawn now but good preparation is the key to a good lawn. Remove all weeds and rake over the soil to a fine tilth. Seeded lawns take time to establish but it is cheaper than laying new turf. Before starting a strenuous job like digging do some stretching exercises to ease yourself into the work. Do half an hour digging and then switch to another job but always find time to sit and enjoy your garden in the sunshine (I hope!). Until next time – good gardening.

ANN LEGG

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THURSDAY 10.30am

Covid 19 virus has reduced class numbers  
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Barbara Weldon 01453 766421  
email: [bandbweldon1@gmail.com](mailto:bandbweldon1@gmail.com)  
website: [extend.org.uk](http://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](mailto:berkeleyparochialtrust@hotmail.com)

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## Berkeley Vale Foodbank



Part of Stroud District Foodbank and Trust

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### 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

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### **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.

Thanking you in anticipation.

[www.berkeleybenefice.co.uk](http://www.berkeleybenefice.co.uk)

## **Meet your Town Councillors**

### **Liz Ashton**

I was born in Berkeley Hospital and am very much a local person. I attended Sharpness Primary then the old Dursley Grammar School. My first career was at Bristol University, where I researched the chemistry of cider. In 1973, with my husband and three small children, I went to war torn Ethiopia then Sudan for ten years. After two revolutions and an attempted coup, it was wonderful to return to peaceful Berkeley.

I then studied to teach children with severe learning difficulties, a job I loved. On retirement, I became a Town and, for a time, District Councillor. My particular interests are in the environment and Planning. I really enjoy meeting and talking to people so volunteer with Stroud foodbank and our fantastic Jenner Museum. Always happy to have a chat and do my best to help you. Please feel free to contact me anytime on:

[Liz.ashton@berkeley-tc.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.ashton@berkeley-tc.gov.uk)



**Last Minute  
Mosaic  
Workshop**

**Spaces Available!**



Although we love our 'regulars' very much, it's been great to welcome some new faces to our classes this year. Two more regulars have simply run out of things to mosaic (well they have been coming for almost 10 years!) so we have two daytime spaces available

next term:

**Monday afternoon** 1.30 pm - 4 pm  
**Thursday morning** 9.30 am - 12pm

Next term runs for 5 weeks w/c 27th February and costs £75 plus materials. We also still have a few spaces on our evening workshops which run 7pm to 9.30pm and are £15 per session:

**Wednesday 1st March**  
**Monday 6th March**  
**Wednesday 15th March**  
**Monday 20th March**

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

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## BVCAN

### Bristol Airport Expansion

In November 2022, Bristol Airport Action Network (BAAN) mounted a legal challenge against the proposed expansion of Bristol Airport. The expansion would add **23,800 flights and two million passengers a year to the airport's capacity; also an additional 10,000 car movements a day and an extra one million tonnes of carbon emitted each year.**

North Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council and the West of England Combined Authority have opposed the airport's plans.

BAAN representative Stephen Clarke said: "The government has policies in place which are designed to encourage the growth of airports and the number of people wanting to fly.

"This shows a total disregard for the climate emergency we are in."

Aviation Environment Federation (AEF) director Tim Johnson has emphasised a flawed decision-making process, based on outdated policies. The documents relied upon to make decisions on airport expansion were issued before net zero legislation came into place. And, while Bristol Council has declared a climate emergency this has not yet found its way into the relevant local plan considerations.

In the Jet Zero Policy, announced in July 2022, the government's hopes are pinned on (as yet almost non-existent) zero or low emission flying along with support for sustainable airport growth. However, the government's own advisory body, the Climate Change Committee say that the policy holds "significant risks", and recommend that "there should be no net expansion of airport capacity".

### Word play

Bristol airport has taken a leadership position in the industry by confirming that it will be the first net zero airport in the UK by 2030. What is not made clear is that it aims to be net zero in its airfield, buildings and vehicle fleet. This does not include flights, car parking or travel to and from the airport. This is not always apparent when airport expansion is being discussed. The quote below from Simon Earles, corporate affairs director at Bristol Airport, does appear to suggest a link between flights and the net zero target:

"We've set a target to be net zero for our own operations by 2030. That will involve a new generation of aircraft and the South West has got a unique role to deliver that technology but, in the meantime, we're working with our airlines to get the cleanest, most modest kind of aircrafts here." ([www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-64465440](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-64465440))

As Bristol Green Councillor Carla Denyer has said:

"Of course, any work to improve the airport's climate targets are welcome, but to brand yourself as a 'net zero airport' without including flights, car parking or journeys to and from the airport is highly misleading."

### So, how close are we to net zero flights?

Aircraft use an incredible amount of fuel. A Boeing 747-400 jumbo jet carries 63,000 gallons (240,000 litres) of jet fuel and burns through it at a rate of 4 litres (0.9 gallons) per second.

Aviation also has a significant non-CO2 climate impact. A recent analysis for the EU found emissions of particles, nitrogen oxides and sulphates, along with the production of contrails, may double or even triple the climate impacts of aviation compared with CO2 alone.

**Sustainable biofuels** and synthetic kerosene are already in use. The Netherlands has set a target of 14% of aviation fuel to be sustainable by 2030. However, biofuels are in high demand with trucks and ships competing for them.

In the future, planes could be powered entirely on **hydrogen or batteries**. Airbus has plans to develop the world's first hydrogen commercial aircraft by 2035. But powering long haul flights with either of these technologies would be tricky.

Today's new aircraft are about 85% **more efficient** than those entering service in the 1960s, and the UN's aviation agency aims to achieve 2% improvement in fuel efficiency a year up to 2050. But growth in flights has so far outpaced these efficiency gains, and airport expansion would only see this continue.

**Contrails** can alter the balance of radiation entering and leaving the Earth. But not all flights create contrails and a 2020 study found that just 2% of flights contributed to 80% of the contrail warming effect. So, relatively simple changes to the altitude of these few flights could vastly reduce this climate impact.

**Stronger policies** could stop the industry relying on carbon off-setting to 'cancel out' its emissions by incentivising airlines to materially reduce their emissions. A proposed **frequent flier levy**, would see everyone get one tax-free return flight each year but add a gradually rising tax on any subsequent flights. There could be an end to the current **tax exemption** for kerosene and moves made to curb short haul flights on routes where there is a rail connection.

And, of course, **customer choice**: the most effective way to reduce emissions from the aviation industry is to choose not to fly! If you want to support BAAN in their efforts to challenge the High Court decision visit:

<https://bristolairportactionnetwork.wordpress.com/>

### Sources:

[www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/bristol-airport-expansion-given-go-ahead-at-high-court-31-01](http://www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/bristol-airport-expansion-given-go-ahead-at-high-court-31-01)

[www.internationalairportreview.com/news/161051/bristol-airport-carbon-neutral-2021](http://www.internationalairportreview.com/news/161051/bristol-airport-carbon-neutral-2021)

<https://greenworld.org.uk/article/bristol-greens-airports-net-zero-claims-are-utter-nonsense>

<https://www.bristolairport.co.uk/corporate/environment/carbon-roadmap/>

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210525-how-aviation-is-reducing-its-climate-emissions>

Contact us at: [berkeleyvaleclimateaction@gmail.com](mailto:berkeleyvaleclimateaction@gmail.com)

With best wishes from

The BVCAN team

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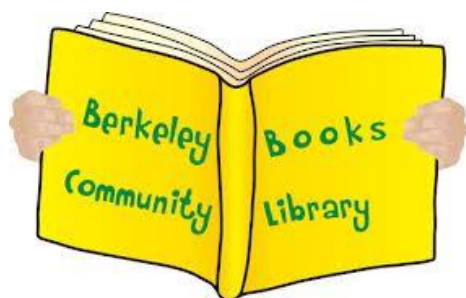
## Berkeley Forum

*The Flyer reserves the right to edit and abridge letters submitted for publication. Anonymous letters will not be published, but we will withhold your name if requested*

### THANK YOU

Through these pages I would like to formally thank the kind people who cleared away the rubbish that was scattered along the road into Berkeley at the end of the second week in February. It makes such a difference.

Sheila Banks and The Berkeley Flyer Team.



As Winter moves into Spring, we at Berkeley Books thought it would be good to let you know about some of the changes at the library, some of the things that we offer that you might not be aware of, and some of the exciting plans that we have.

Obviously, you can come to browse and borrow books from our extensive collection, but do you know that you can order books from every other Gloucestershire Library should we not have what you are looking for? And since December, we have made it easier for you to visit us, as the library hours have been extended on Tuesdays to 6.00pm making it much

easier for you to come in after school, college or work. If this scheme is a success, we may well extend our hours further. And, as some people will know, the library was recently used as a hub for a Covid-vaccination session.

We would also like to remind you of some of the other clubs and organisations that use the library. There are weekly meetings of the Art Group (Thursdays 10.00-13.00) and the Crochet Club (Tuesdays 11.00-13.00) with a new Job Club, run by the GL11 Community Hub, starting in February (fortnightly on Tuesdays from 16.00 from 7<sup>th</sup> March) to help with CVs, online job searches and job applications. Then there are also the monthly meetings of the WI Book Group, Berkeley Flicks (showing films), The History Group and the Gardening Club.

If you would like to start your own reading group, or any other group please inquire within the library to ask about our very reasonable rates.

Dates for your diary: Coffee and Cake Morning 7<sup>th</sup> March (10.30am) and The Great Sally Alley Quiz (8.00pm 13<sup>th</sup> April at The Salutation Inn).

Finally, we are working hard, fund-raising for our exciting project to build a new Library/ Community Space which will open up a number of other uses for the building. Berkeley has never really had a community hub and our plan is for the new building to offer spaces for all types of activities – exercise sessions, markets, mother and baby play sessions and counselling sessions among others.

We will aim to keep you up-to-date with what is happening in Berkeley Books over the next few months. Should you have any questions please check out our web-site ( <https://berkeleybooks.co.uk> ) or drop in at the library – we are right by the primary school - and are open on Tuesdays (10 am -6.00pm), Fridays (10am – 4.00pm) and Saturdays (10am -12pm). We look forward to seeing you!



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TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM HAMFIELDS LEISURE AND COVENTRY BUILDING SOCIETY IN BERKELEY AND ONLINE AT <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/best/t-moeoqzx>

A BEST fundraising event for Berkeley Community Swimming Pool.

## BERKELEY COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL

Are you 16 by the end of May? Able to swim well? Ready to take on a new skill and challenge? Then training to be a pool lifeguard may be something that you should consider.

We have had the same lifeguards for the last 2 years and as some move on to pastures new we are looking for the next generation. There will be continuity with some of last year's lifeguards continuing but to ensure that we have enough we are running a lifeguard training course at the pool at the end of May 2023.

To train to be a lifeguard you have to be at least 16 years old. The pool will pay for the lifeguard training as long as those trained commit to working at the pool for 2 seasons. Once qualified the Lifeguards are the only paid members of pool staff. All other helpers are unpaid volunteers who support the lifeguards. Lifeguards are never left alone. The work is seasonal (summer only), sessional and rota based including weekend afternoons and some weekday afternoons in the school holidays. Being a lifeguard is an asset to a young persons cv/personal statement and helps develop skills such as team working, confidence and communication.

Anyone who is interested please contact Nathan Wolstenholme at [info@karlykars.co.uk](mailto:info@karlykars.co.uk)

Please note think carefully anyone taking the paid for training and failing to undertake the lifeguard commitment will be required to repay the cost of their training.

## ST PETER'S HOSPICE – COFFEE MORNING

St Peters Hospice Severnside Support Group would be delighted to welcome you to the Spring Forward Coffee Morning in Falfield Village Hall on Saturday March 25th at 10.00am.

Home made cake stall, Books, and Raffle.

Entrance £3.00 to include tea/coffee and cake.

Please come along and support St Peters, and celebrate the start of Spring.

## Severn Vale Flower Club Flower

Our Spring Open meeting is on Monday evening 17<sup>th</sup> April. This will be held in the Olveston and Tockington Parish Hall. Our demonstrator for the evening will be Andrew Lloyd. Andrew is no stranger to the club and is like a family to some. The last demonstration he did for us was arranged on tables, as there wasn't a stage. Andrew is amusing and an entertaining demonstrator. Friends and visitors are welcome. Doors open at 6.30pm for 7.30pm. There will be the usual raffle and refreshments. For tickets and more information, the nos. to call are 01453 811089 or 01454 885213.

## 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](mailto:clerk@berkeley-tc.gov.uk)

parochial trust

[berkeleyparochialtrust@hotmail.com](mailto:berkeleyparochialtrust@hotmail.com)



Berkeley WI  
met on  
Thursday  
February 9th.

President Rose Coupe welcomed Paul Walkden to speak about Peter Scott. Paul was a lively engaging speaker who delivered a very informative and interesting talk. Despite being geographically close to Slimbridge and thinking that we all knew about Peter Scott we discovered that there was a lot more to the man than any of us knew. We were taken through Peter Scott's life from the small boy who never met his father hence being brought up by a single parent - his mother Kathleen who was a sculptor by profession and socially very well connected. His father Robert Falcon Scott was of course Scott of the Antarctic who died returning from the South Pole. He left a letter for his wife in the event of his death and in that letter he wrote "make the boy interested in natural history" - little did he know.

Probably Peter's greatest talent was that anything he did he did exceptionally well. He was driven person which, combined with artistic talent and physical prowess, meant that everything that he tried he made himself excel at. In 1936 he won an Olympic bronze medal for small boat sailing. In 1943 he was British Gliding champion. He signed up for the RNVR in the war and came out a Lieutenant Commander with 2 DSCs and later an MBE for designing night camouflage.

While at Cambridge doing a degree in art and architecture he painted and sold portraits to his fellow students for quite considerable sums. Apparently his art career started lying on the floor doodling as

his mother sculpted. There are several large Peter Scott oil paintings at Slimbridge

Meanwhile he was developing his lifelong interest in wildlife focussing on migratory wildfowl. Initially observing the birds movements, breeding patterns and habitats over the year and learning from other famous naturalists.

#### **Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.**

Peter Scott leased the 700 acres from Berkeley Estate in 1946 and that arrangement continues to this day. The Scott's lived at Slimbridge as a family with Peter painting, developing a worldwide reputation for his work, and starting the captive breeding of endangered species project. The first of these being the nine Hawaiian nene geese eggs successfully incubated and grown at Slimbridge. Indeed there are strong royal connections - visits from the Queen, Prince Phillip and Prince Charles both being President and the Queen a Patron. Slimbridge was used by the BBC as it began outside broadcasting. Peter Scott spoke on wildlife question and answer radio programmes (anyone remember Uncle Mac?)

So today what is his legacy?

International wildlife conservation (he drew the WWF panda emblem) - latterly he campaigned for all animals under threat of extinction being a founder member of the World Wildlife Fund.

In the UK the 10 WWT sites enable outdoor education, preservation of endangered species, protection of the wetland areas and human wellbeing for thousands of people every year.

His focus on conservation and preservation of habitats and wildlife was at the beginning of what we are all now familiar with.

He fought to keep Antarctica safe from human development/exploitation - visiting Antarctica is very restricted and managed internationally.

What a man.

The business part of the meeting was held after the talk.

The President and secretary advised of local, county and national activities and events.

Finances are in good order.

Activities

Outings - lunch at the BA 15/02/23. August outing with Applegates to The Mumbles and the Gower.

A very successful craft group was held at Vicki Youngs and will continue on the first Saturday of the month.

WI meeting 2nd Thursday of the month Canon Park 2pm

Book Group 3rd Thursday of the month in the library 2.30pm

Skittles friendly with Stone WI last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm at The Boars Head by kind permission of Sam

Coffee catch up last Saturday in the month 10:30 at The Perfect Blend.

Non members are very welcome to initially visit us and to try any of the groups. Of course we hope that visitors like what they find and choose to join us but initially feel free to visit us and find a warm welcome.

Next meeting 2pm Thursday March 9th Canon Park Pavilion

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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

Peter Ottley LRPS CPAGB, who is a keen photographer and has had work exhibited in international exhibitions and salons, travelled up from Weston-super-Mare to judge Tyndale Photography Club's third competition of the season. He must have spent quite some time looking at all the images as he spoke at length and in great depth on each and every image. From the comments he made it was clear that he appreciated the effort and skill of the author of both the creative and non-creative photographs.

Of the 42 projected digital images entered the winners were:

1<sup>st</sup> place – Calla Lily - Steve Stone

2<sup>nd</sup> place – The Red Umbrella - Jenny Fryer LRPS

3<sup>rd</sup> place – The Cab Home - Steve Varman LRPS

For more information about Tyndale Photography Club visit our webpage at [www.tyndalephoto.org](http://www.tyndalephoto.org)



## 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](http://www.cvtv.org.uk) or call 01453 549133 and someone will call you back to arrange a visit.

## Useful Telephone Numbers:

|                                          |                      |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Police (non emergencies)</b>          | <b>101</b>           |
| <b>West Country CRIMESTOPPERS</b>        | <b>0800 555 111</b>  |
| <b>Neighbourhood Warden</b>              | <b>01453 754276</b>  |
| <b>Culverhay Berkeley Medical Centre</b> | <b>01453 810228</b>  |
| <b>NHS (non emergency)</b>               | <b>111</b>           |
| <b>Berkeley Pharmacy</b>                 | <b>01453 810316</b>  |
| <b>Electricity Supply Power Loss</b>     | <b>0800 6783105</b>  |
| <b>(mobile users)</b>                    | <b>0330 1235008</b>  |
| <b>Gas Emergency Service</b>             | <b>0800 111999</b>   |
| <b>Water Emergency</b>                   | <b>0800 7834444</b>  |
| <b>Berkeley Town Council</b>             | <b>01453 511964</b>  |
| <b>Berkeley Primary School</b>           | <b>01453 810254</b>  |
| <b>Refuse Collection</b>                 | <b>01453 754424</b>  |
| <b>Stroud District Council</b>           | <b>01453 766321</b>  |
| <b>Gloucestershire County Council</b>    | <b>01452 425000</b>  |
| <b>People for You, Barbara Weldon</b>    | <b>01453 511964</b>  |
| <b>Samaritans</b>                        | <b>0845 7909090</b>  |
| <b>National Rail Enquiries</b>           | <b>0845 7484950</b>  |
| <b>Traveline</b>                         | <b>0871 2002233</b>  |
| <b>Community Wellbeing Agent</b>         | <b>0345 863 8323</b> |
| <b>Gloucestershire Royal Hospital</b>    | <b>0300 4222222</b>  |
| <b>Vale Hospital, Dursley</b>            | <b>0300 4218494</b>  |
| <b>Citizens' Advice Bureau</b>           | <b>01453 762084</b>  |

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## BERKELEY PLAYERS

Berkeley Players Back Treading the Boards after 3 Years—and some new lighting!

It was very exciting for the cast and crew of Berkeley Players to be back on stage performing this year's Pantomime, *Treasure Island*, over three consecutive evenings in December as well as a Saturday matinee. The town hall was full and the audience enjoyed a yo-ho-ho pirate rip-roaring adventure from a tavern in England, across the high seas and to a tropical deserted island. It featured all the well-known pirates including Long John Silver played by Ross Goatman, Billy Bones played by Geoff Taylor, Blind Pew played by Bill Glover, Ben Gunn played by Phil Metcalf, and Israel Hands played by Alice Kilby, to name a few, and not to forget the comedy duo, Jolly and Roger played by Ruby Hankins and Lottie Spiers. Emma Champion played a convincing Jim Hawkins wooing his love interest, Sally Trelawney, played by Tia Stewart. The ship was commissioned by the Squire played by Deborah Hobbs which was captained by Alexander Smollett, played by Lilia Widdas. The dame, one Henrietta Hawkins, played by Peter Cornelious, gave a hilarious

performance interspersed with a human sized parrot and a gorilla playing high jinks! The cast also included all the youngest members of Berkeley Players as pirates, barmaids and sailors who were all fabulous. A special mention to Ross who won the Joyce Tuckfield Award for the best adult actor and to Ruby and Lottie who won the best young actor Joyce Tuckfield Awards. It was clear to see how hard everyone had worked both on stage and behind the scenes to create this wonderful production!

Berkeley Players have some exciting news - we have been given a much appreciated grant from Magnox Ltd for new lighting in the Town Hall for our productions. The eagle eyed amongst you may have spotted that many of the old lights have gone and that we did the panto on a limited number of LED lights that had survived the PAT testing. Now, thanks to Magnox Ltd we can order a brand new set that includes six very adaptable floodlight bars, plus the stands for new spot and floodlights. Now all we need is a keen committed person to learn how to use them and to come along for final rehearsals and performances. Is there anyone out there? We are more than willing to teach someone how to do it ready for our next production which should be in late spring/early summer. We can't wait to try out the new lights.



A warm welcome to our newest Wild Acres director, Amy Walsh.

(refreshments and cakes too)

**Saturday 18th February from 5pm at The Long Table** in Brimscombe - as part of Stroud Film Festival there will be a showing of *The Seeds of Vandana Shiva* followed by a Q & A. Martin will be on the panel talking about mental health in connection with nature and growing. Come along and support Wild Acres

**Sunday 23rd April, 10 - 3.00 - Yoga and Art** is back by popular request. Led by Amy West, Birdwings Yoga and Amanda Griffiths, this is always a great day for just £30.00 (includes lunch).

**Friday 28th April - 1st May - Severn Art Trail** - come see the work of our resident artist Amanda Griffiths

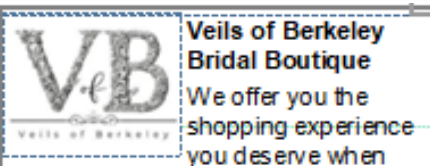
**Saturday 13th May - Bring and Buy Plants Sale (& clothes/fabric/wool)** starting at 10 am

**Saturday 27th May - A one day course about Off Grid power** for those planning on, or just interested in, independent power supplies from renewable energy sources (small scale solar, wind or hydro). Find out more about the nuts and bolts of living without the grid for electricity.

The course will be run by **Bobby Bazelgette**, who has 40 years of experience with off grid power.

AND - more details to follow on :-

**A one day course - Using Dye plants**  
**Singing with Suus - Sunday 25th June**



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## Hamfields Leisure

Formerly Berkeley Power Station Club

### WHATS ON

**Saturday 25th March**

Michael Buble Tribute

**Saturday 29th April**

The Bowie Experience

Tickets £15 each

Available via our website/  
Ticketsource or from the club

To hire the Hall contact us on  
01453 810413

Email [Hamfields@aol.com](mailto:Hamfields@aol.com)

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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

6.30pm - 8.00pm contact Natalie@krunch.org.uk School Years 6-9

### 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](http://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](mailto:berkeleyflicks@gmail.com)

### Yoga (Hybrid Yoga)

Town Hall

6.00—7.00pm

### Krunch Youth Club - Canon Park Pavilion

6.30pm - 8.00pm contact Natalie@krunch.org.uk

School Years 9+

### 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.

### BERKELEY FLYER TEAM:

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#### PUBLICATION DATE : 1st of each month

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## Vale of Berkeley Railway

This month's photo is a scene from the early 1960s. One of the ubiquitous Great Western Railway pannier tank engines, number 5420, simmers quietly in the evening sun at Sharpness station waiting to run round her train and return to Berkeley Road. By now the Severn Bridge had been closed due to the damage caused by the collision with two barges. The track stretches out ahead of the train, but will stop at the entrance to the bridge, so this is as far as the service goes. The run-down of the railway is clear to see. The track has all been removed apart from one line and only one platform remains open. It's a peaceful scene, but the station's days are numbered as the Beeching axe was not far away and complete termination of all the passenger services on the line would be implemented soon. Someone is sitting in the first compartment, but it isn't clear whether this is a passenger or one of the engine crew catching up with the news. We hope that one day the Vale of Berkeley Railway will run services again and scenes such as this will be alive again. In order to achieve this a great deal of effort is required, so why not join us to make the dream come true.

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.

The re-arrangement of the yard at the engine shed is now nearly complete. The two locomotives and brake van which didn't belong to us but had been stored in our yard have now been removed, and heavy moving equipment is booked to remove the 4 containers which do not belong to us. This will provide the space to re-organise our equipment. We will also be able to move more of our own equipment in and get on with some of our own refurbishment projects. Some have been held up due to the reorganisation while other equipment has been stored at other sites due to the lack of space.

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. The job to complete the repairs to the sanding equipment for a local steam engine is now complete, and we have machined a flywheel for a local traction engine, but there is plenty more to do. We have the vacuum brake system for a local steam engine to refurbish,



and also some complex machining to some valves for the same loco. 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.

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](http://www.vobr.org.uk). This contains pictures of the various activities and projects.

We can also be contacted by email at [valeofberkeleyrailway@gmail.com](mailto:valeofberkeleyrailway@gmail.com)

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