



Berkeley Celebrates Its Unsung International Hero



On Thursday August 18th 2022 Berkeley took its first step to celebrate its very own unsung local hero Dr Edward Jenner, who was born in Berkeley in 1749, through a re-enactment of Jenner's air balloon launch from the grounds of Berkeley Castle. Spectators watched the inflation of the balloon from the upper terraces of the castle garden accompanied by the sounds of a brass quintet. They were all then invited to participate in singing the 'Air Balloon Song' written by local composer Dr Liz Lane as part of the musical celebrations planned for 2023 which is the

bicentenary anniversary of his death. Various local councillors and some members of the public then had a short ride in the balloon all of which had been paid for through a grant from Gloucestershire County Council. The event was organised by The Jenner Project 2022 | 23 supported by Berkeley Community Trust.

We are in process of organising an informal chat to discuss how organisations and individuals can assist the musical celebrations in 2023. It will be in The Town Hall later in September or in early October and we will have tea and cakes. For further information see the website <https://www.jennerproject.com> or our social media sites.



Jenner is best known for the skills and persistence he showed when he developed a technique for the treatment of smallpox, a horrific disease which has now been eradicated worldwide. His persistence and dedication brought a ray of hope to many in 18th century Berkeley and across England and the process of vaccination has now become the main weapon in our armoury against global public health scourges such as diphtheria, influenzae, hepatitis B, measles, meningitis, mumps, pertussis, poliomyelitis, rubella, tetanus, tuberculosis, and yellow fever. The recent vaccination campaign against polio in London reminds us how his efforts are still saving lives today.

One of his greatest triumphs, however, must be the international vaccination programmes in the COVID 19 pandemic across the world, from China to Alaska and beyond which have saved hundreds of millions of lives in every continent.

The Jenner Project
2022 | 23



SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN

Shortening days is a sure sign that the year is moving on towards the end of our growing season. There is a final rush to gather in the harvest and watch the garden change from subtle greens to glorious shades of leaves to come. Also the late Summer perennials seem to come in warm shades to add to the dazzling Autumn colour. There is freshness in the air after the hot Summer sunshine – put this together with plenty of fruit and vegetable and life does not get much better!

This is the month for planting Spring flowering bulbs and most bulbs thrive in free draining, moisture retentive friable soil. Daffodils and Narcissus are ideal for naturalising in the garden. They are best planted where they can be left undisturbed and will give much pleasure for many years. Plant them as soon as possible when you buy them so that they do not deteriorate. Plant about 15cm (6") apart and at sufficient depth that they do not dry out. – 12 -15 cm (5"-6"). The biggest cause of Daffodils going blind is shallow planting. They also look superb in pots and containers. Never allow them to dry out – even in Winter. After flowering do remove the faded flowers and let the foliage die down. Tulips are not native to our shores and their original home is Turkey and Asia Minor and they have very different climatic and growing conditions. – plenty of water in the Spring and dry baked Summers. So well worked oxygenated soil is important for maximum root development so that the bulb can take up water in the Spring. Always plant

Tulips from October onwards but do not plant them too deep depending on your soil type – 10-15cm (4"-6") on heavy soil and 10cm (4") on lighter soils. Bulbs can be left in year after year if you have a well drained soil but they will need a warm dry location during July and August. Hyacinths are ideal for Spring bedding and being short are ideal for the front of borders and containers. They should be planted in September in well cultivated soil. A good root system is essential so that they enjoy an even temperature and moisture in the early stages of planting. The bulbs should be planted 10cm (4") deep and about 5-8cm (3") apart. Shallow planting can cause the bulb to split and produce small flowers. Hyacinths can be in the garden for about five years and continue to do well. If you want Hyacinths for Christmas you will have to buy specially prepared bulbs. They can be purchased in September – they undergo temperature and humidity control treatment to advance the flower embryo. They will have to be planted no later than early October. When planted the pots may be placed in a cold frame or against a North wall outside. Alternatively they can be placed in a cool dark spot but they must not dry out. They will need a good root growth before they are placed inside by the 1st December. Then they can be placed in a light position in the room when the neck of the bulb flower stem is about 6-8 cm long. Allium bulbs have become more popular in the past few years – these ornamental Garlics will thrive anywhere in borders or naturalising in grass or woodland. They are loved by floral art

arrangers. They come in a wide diversity of shapes and sizes so the usual depth of planting is four times the diameter of the bulb. The ones I have come up every year and bring a rich coloured ornamental bloom to any border in the Spring.

There are other jobs you can carry out this month – hardwood cuttings can be taken from shrubs and roses. You can start to divide perennial plants that have stopped flowering. Keep collecting seeds of annuals and perennials. Sow hardy annuals for planting out next Spring. Start moving tender perennials such as Fuchsia and Pelargoniums under cover. Plant Onion sets – varieties Rador and Swift are good. Also Garlic can be planted 8-10cm (3"-4") apart using individual cloves. Take advantage of clear warm days and enjoy the outdoor life! If the weather is cold and wet take the opportunity to plan ahead for your next gardening year. Look back at your photos and notes of the garden through the year. With a cup of tea in one hand and a pen in the other – the garden is yours to do with what you want!

Till next time and good gardening

Ann Legg

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BERKELEY COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL

The community pool is having a fantastic season so far. The sunshine has ensured that we have had many sold out sessions and many children, parents, couples, toddlers, babies and adults have enjoyed the pool this year. One of the difficult things to do is turn people away when the pool has reached its capacity. We are very conscious of how difficult it can be to pacify children who are expecting to swim and we apologise to those who have been disappointed but safety has to come first.

We are very grateful to all our supporters - local residents, swimmers, gate people, pool maintenance people and lifeguards. The pool is volunteer run and maintained which means that all the support that we get is hugely appreciated.

This season the final community swim will be on Sunday September 11th. The following weekend 17th September will be The Great Berkeley Dog Swim. This is a once in a lifetime event. Currently the pool lining is concrete so dogs claws will not harm the surface BUT from 19th September those who are at Berkeley Primary School will hear and maybe see the works going on readying the pool for the new liner to be fitted. A Cheltenham company Milaqua are installing the liner and once the liner is installed no more dogs in the pool. Berkeley Pool will have a new look for 2023 swimming season.

Dog Swim - You may have seen it trailed on Facebook. Well it is happening. All booking/registration details will be on Facebook so keep an eye out. Posters and flyers will be around town. Pre booking will be essential. It will be online so anyone not online needs to contact Ellie Gent (811938).

Come and join the fun! Celebrate the end of an era. Let's hear stories from those who learnt to swim in the pool back in the 60's, 70's, 80's right up to today. Maybe there are people in Berkeley who helped build the pool - whoever you are look at what a fabulous resource you built and how it has lasted. We will never know how many young lives have been saved by the on-site pool to this day teaching generations of young Berkeley residents to swim. Berkeley is one of very few primary schools in Gloucestershire to still have an on-site pool and meet the Department for Education's stipulated requirement that all children leaving primary school can swim 25 metres. The dog swim is our last big fundraiser towards covering the cost of the pool refurbishment. We are having one final push to raise the final few thousand pounds needed.

Saturday 17th September starting at 10.00am. 1 hour sessions through the day. All spectators very welcome. Do feel free to come along and enjoy the spectacle. Weather permitting there will be a barbecue. The cost is £10 to cover one dog and two adults - one in the pool with their dog and the other on the poolside. Spectators will be asked for a small donation. It should be hilarious fun.

If you value this wonderful community resource please consider making a donation. We are also very excited that one individual has set up a monthly direct debit to the pool. If you used to support the swimming pool lottery please consider setting up a monthly direct debit. It would be hugely appreciated.

If you are a local business owner you may recently have received a letter from us asking for a donation. Our biggest concern is that costs are rising so fast that we need some contingency funds to meet any potential overspend. Please support us with a donation if you can.

More information from Ellie Gent (811938)

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Services in the Benefice for September

Sunday 4th September

9.30am Communion at All Saints', Stone
11am "Eleven" with Baptism at St Mary's, Berkeley
6pm Choral Evensong at St Mary's Berkeley

Wednesday 7th September

11am Coffee & Communion at St Mary's, Berkeley

Sunday 11th September

9.30am Choral Communion at St Mary's, Berkeley
11.30am Baptism at St Mary's Berkeley
6.00pm Café Church at St Mary's Berkeley

Sunday 18th September

9.30am Communion at All Saints' Stone
11am Harvest Communion with Baptism at St Michael's Hill
11am "Eleven" at St Mary's Berkeley
6pm Evening Prayer at St Mary's Berkeley

Sunday 25th September

8am BCP Communion at St Mary's Berkeley
9.30am Choral Morning Prayer at St Mary's Berkeley
11am Informal Communion at St Mary's Berkeley

Please look at our website for more details: www.stmarys-berkeley.co.uk. Here you will also be able to access the **Herald** – the monthly magazine for the Berkeley Benefice which is now back once again. Paper copies of the Herald are available in each of our three churches.

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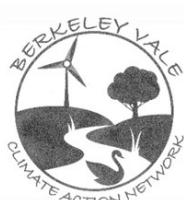
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We've had heatwaves before! What's all the fuss about?

This and similar comments have appeared recently in the media, often made by people who experienced the exceptional heatwave in 1976. I was living in East Anglia at the time. I remember the hose pipe ban, the threat of having stand-pipes in the streets and I still have a photograph of our family dog, flopped on the crispy crust that was our lawn!

During the long summer of 1976 the peak temperature was 35.9°C. This top temperature was not wide spread and most UK temperatures remained in the high 20's. Across northern Europe as a whole, the heatwave of 1976 was quite localized.

In contrast, exceptional heat this summer has been widely experienced in India, continental Europe, China and parts of the USA. The jump of several degrees between this and previous record temperature has taken many climate scientists by surprise.

People point out that our weather has always fluctuated between extremes of heat and cold, wind and rain. This is true. Weather in the UK has always been variable – that's what makes it such an interesting talking point! But today, this variability is superimposed on a human-induced warming of the overall climate. We can think of weather extremes as occurring in the same way that throwing three dice will sometimes result in three sixes appearing together. Global warming, in effect, begins to load the dice making the occurrence of those three sixes more likely. As we add more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, we load the dice more and more, and the frequency of extreme weather increases.

Other people observe that countries such as France, Spain and Italy routinely cope with much hotter temperatures. *They* don't encourage their citizens to 'stay at home' during hot weather! UK infrastructure and businesses are severely affected when temperatures push towards 40°C because they were designed and built for use in our, previously, more temperate climate.

And, countries well used to high temperatures are not without their difficulties. Air conditioners are high energy consumers and are responsible for around 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Some communities in the USA regularly experience power cuts due to air-con overloads of the grid.

What can be done?

As well as reducing and reducing, year on year, our consumption of coal, oil and gas, **adaptation** strategies need to be drawn up and implemented in all sectors. For example, adaptation work carried out in response to flooding events over recent years has increased resilience to flooding in Gloucestershire (although, sometimes it can feel a little touch-and-go!). But, adaptation strategies for transport infrastructure, homes, businesses and for UK agriculture in particular, remain woefully inadequate and this is the responsibility of government.

Frampton Country Fair.

BVCAN will have our Pop-Up stall at this year's Frampton Fair on Sunday, 11th September. We will be displaying a variety of plastic free products as well as ideas for 'greener gardening'. Do come and see us if you are visiting the show this year!

Jane Robertson and the BVCAN team



CAN YOU HELP WITH THE 2022 POPPY COLLECTION?

If you could spare a few hours at the end of October to conduct house-to-house collections we would be very grateful.

Please contact Ray Chaney (01453 811545 or ray.chaney@btinternet.com) for further information.

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I'd like to start this month's note by welcoming our latest councillor – Emma Taylor. We have had quite a turnover of councillors in last couple of years, but with Emma joining us we are back to full strength. I'm conscious that you might not know who your current councillors are, or what they are interested in, so over the next few months we will each be introducing ourselves to you here in the Flyer.

Gloucestershire County Council has drafted a new road safety policy, & has a consultation running until 11th September. From the Town Improvement survey I know that road safety is important to many of us here in Berkeley, so I would encourage you to have your say here: https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/gloucestershire-county-council-road-safety-policy/survey_tools/gloucestershire-county-council-road-safety-policy

Finally, we have recently installed 2 new defibrillators in the town: one on the Scout Hut & one on the Pavilion in Canon Park. We are arranging training sessions for anyone who wants to learn how to use the defibrillators if an emergency occurs: keep an eye out on the council Facebook page, and website, for details of how to sign up.

Peter Hall



Gloucestershire Constabulary
People First Policing



First of all you may notice a new face!

PC Peter Escolme has joined the Berkeley team previously working on neighbourhood policing in Gloucester City and most recently in rural Cotswolds. We welcome him to the team working the area with PCSO Mike Trebble.

We thank PC Mel Campbell for her time, Mel now covers rural crime matters which does include the Berkeley area.

Since the last update, we are pleased to report that crime continues to remain very low in Berkeley.

Due to the recent hot weather and lack of rain, there have been 6 reports of grass fires in the area with two in Berkeley town and sadly two of them (according to our colleagues at Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue) were unexplained. Now that the weather has somewhat cooled off, the risk has dropped.

A reminder that we have a police letter box outside Berkeley Town Hall, police only have access to this so you can leave anything of concern within.

Finally Gloucestershire Constabulary's Family Open Day returns on Saturday 17th September between 10 and 3pm at the Police HQ at Waterwells. An opportunity to meet many sections of the police family from our dogs section to neighbourhood policing. We hope to see some of you there on the day.

Michael.trebble@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk

[07811292900](tel:07811292900) (not for incident reporting).

Also follow Stroud Neighbourhood Team on Twitter  [@StroudPolice](https://twitter.com/StroudPolice)

1 Spitfire, 1 Hurricane and 14 Berkeley College Students

fly2help, Gloucestershire's aviation charity, took 14 students from Berkeley College on an inspirational journey through aviation careers last week. Based at Staverton, fly2help organized a weeklong work experience opportunity for selected students which included talks and tours at several of the region's top aviation companies including GE, Dowty, Skyborne, Babcock, RGV and ZeroAvia. The showstopper for many students was the unexpected opportunity to help push a Spitfire, piloted by Squadron Leader Mark Long and a Hurricane, piloted by Flight Lieutenant Giles Croft into their hangars.

Scott Marshall, Aim High's Program Co-ordinator said "Aerospace is the largest industry sector in **our** region and is a key economic driver. It is vital that we bring 'new talent' into the industry and we hope the week will inspire these youngsters in their career choices as this is a fantastic opportunity for them to see the wide range of roles available."



Student Ben Bygrave enthused about the week saying "the week was so diverse, and I really think everybody should have this opportunity."

And student Brenan Langley said that before the week he had wanted to fix planes now he wants to fly; "I thought it was too hard and too expensive to train but it has given me so many ideas of how to get my PPL."



The Aim High Programs are aimed at 14–18-year-olds and not only show students the full potential of career opportunities but also gives them better clarity on how to achieve their dreams.

Fly2help have run several Aim High programs and are extremely proud that **a number of** former students, including Scott, **have** now gone on to train and work within the industry. Scott is now a fully Pilot having trained at Bournemouth Commercial Flight Training.

Fly2help are keen to hear from any local businesses who might like to sponsor future Aim High programs or individual students. <http://www.fly2help.org>

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TYNDALE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The projected digital images set subject for this season at Tyndale Photography Club was 'CIRCLES' and Martin Fry FRPS FBPE EFIAP/ d2 AV-EFIAP/b APAGB, who is a member of Cheltenham Camera Club, accepted the invitation to judge the 48 images entered into this competition. Martin is no stranger to our club, he visits at least once a season, so very little introduction was needed. Before he began his appraisal he explained what he looks for when judging competition images, subject matter, background and technical ability are the three main areas with contrast, colour and emotion following closely behind.

Martin took his time over commenting on each image which gave us, as members, the opportunity to study each photograph in great detail. His comments were constructive, extremely fair and he ensured that, as it was a set subject, the circle should be the main focus of the image. Four images were awarded commended and three highly commended, the winners were

Division 1

First Place – Reflected Stone Circle – Steve Varman LRPS

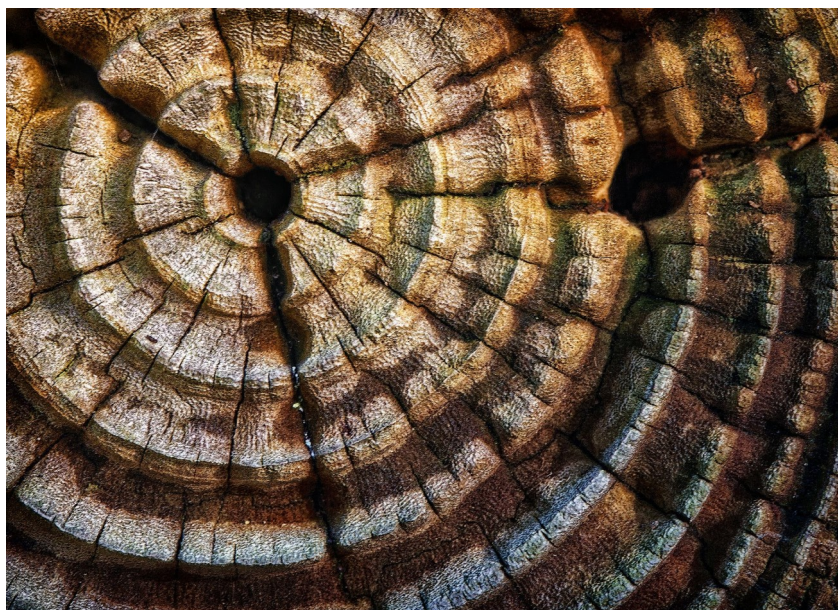
Second Place – Spiral to circles – Elizabeth Restall ARPS

Third Place – Rusting Wheels – George Ryske

Division 2

First Place – Counting the years – Peter Whitfield

Second Place – Spares – David Gamm



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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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Berkeley Forum



I'm not sure whether this should be titled 'High Jinks in the High Street', or 'Midsummer Madness', or 'Sat Nav gone horribly wrong', but this gigantic truck, carrying not one but two JCBs, tried to get up the High Street this morning, 9th August. Made more difficult by a builder's van parked on one side of the street and the usual parked cars on the other.

The Police came along, but will they prosecute? The driver claimed his map showed this was the way to wherever he wanted to go, and had driven past a number of road signs stating that the weight limit is 3.5 tons, totally ignoring them. Gordon Gilder of Cheltenham, do your research next time you send a lorry out this way!

Jane Handoll

Berkeley Parochial Trust

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.

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IF YOU'VE RECENTLY MADE AN ENQUIRY WE WILL HAVE ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH TO SEE IF YOU ARE STILL INTERESTED



By tradition there is no August meeting of Berkeley WI instead as many WI members as wish join an Applegates outing. This year it was a full day trip on August 11th in South Wales (Penarth, Barry and Vale of Glamorgan Heritage Coastline finishing with a stop at Duffryn House. Well what a wonderful day was had by all. The glorious weather helped and being in an air conditioned coach was fabulous. The fully informed and so knowledgeable tour guide was outstanding which made the trip all the better. Penarth was pretty, Gavin and Stacey are everywhere in Barry and the history of the coastline with several small towns was fascinating. It was a wonderful day.

The very next day was the Pimms and pudding evening held at Garden House by kind permission of Vicki Young. It was a very warm evening but the Pimms and the delicious strawberry dessert with shortcake and yoghurt cream (so delicious - look up Yolanda Ottolengi if you are interested) was very much enjoyed. Happy warm sunshine filled times in what we recognise are difficult days already for some and ahead for us all. The WI is a relatively inexpensive opportunity to socialise with other ladies from Berkeley and the surrounding villages. We aim to keep prices as low as possible and be inclusive.

The calendar of meetings from September is as follows:

September 8th Monologues and Anecdotes delivered by Paul Evans

October 13th The Cotswold Perfumery delivered by Pam Slater

November 10th AGM when we will be choosing a new President.

December 8th Christmas Party

All meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 2pm to 4pm at The Pavilion in Canon Park. Any interested ladies please come and join us. You will be very welcome.



Berkeley Vale Foodbank



How it works

Our foodbank works using a voucher referral system. The foodbank will deliver to households who do not have access to funds to buy food. Vouchers can be issued over the phone and each one covers three days emergency food for your family and can be adapted to suit any special dietary needs.

To get your voucher just phone one of these numbers

Justine Hopkins at Berkeley Town Council
01453 511964
 Culverhay Berkeley Surgery
01453 810228
 Citizens Advice
0808 8000510 or 0808 8000511
 P3
0808 1682443





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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

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

Friday

Berkeley Community Library

10.00am - 4.00pm

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

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 picture is of one of the VoBR team assisting a driver who is unloading our "Fireless" locomotive at the South Cerney show last weekend. Clearly he has great confidence in the professionalism of the driver. We had a great time at the show, which is one of the high spots of the year. Apart from the "Fireless" we exhibited our brake van, which is now more than 80% complete, and our Wickham trolley. Despite the intense heat, the show and the VoBR stand were well attended, and several new members joined up. A couple of the new members were so keen that they turned up at the shed on the following Wednesday to take our induction so that they can actually work as a volunteer.

The amount of work in attending these shows is quite considerable. 3 x 10 metre panels of track were built and delivered. These are heavy pieces of kit, consisting of 2 x 10 metre rails and 12 concrete sleepers. The marquee was set up with display items about our projects and heritage items for sale. The "fireless" loco and the brake van had to be loaded at Sharpness, transported to South Cerney and then unloaded. At the end of the show all this equipment had to be retrieved.

The first significant project has started. We have to erect a secure fence between our leased area of land and Network Rail's land. This is a very small step but is highly complex and significant. Without this barrier in place, we are subject to Network Rail's rules and regulations. Under these, only people who are trained and approved by them are allowed on site. Under the supervision of a Network Rail approved person we have erected a temporary barrier close to where the permanent one will be. We now are allowed to work without supervision within this temporary barrier to erect the permanent fence and to clear the land. The permanent fence has to be built to Network Rail's specification and standards. Once this barrier is in place, we can then access the site whenever we wish. We have now started on making the rest of the site secure. 4 points have been unearthed, but none of them are in working condition. They will have to be taken apart, cleaned, repaired, and greased to bring them back to working order.

A great deal of the overgrown area has already been cleared, but there are a number of tree stumps embedded in the track which are taking a lot of work to remove. The current hot weather is



making it very difficult, as we are working in full sun wearing full PPE, so regular breaks and drinks in the shade are necessary. Two of the points have had their levers dug up and have been cleaned and lubricated. These will be checked to ensure that they are working correctly, and the points can then be made operational.

Plans are also 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.

Close to home, the machine shop has a number of urgent orders to fulfill. 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.

Currently we are working on some interesting components for a steam traction engine. Some of the valves are completely seized up and could not be freed up. The only way forward was to make completely new components. This presented a problem, as the original parts had been made from castings which were then machined to size. The castings are no longer available, and nor are any drawings. We therefore had to work out exactly

what size the original parts were, and then to machine them from solid pieces of metal. This is very time-consuming and precise work, and in the latter stages involves removing thousandths of an inch of material at a time until the exact shape was reached.

We also have some welding and fabrication work that needs 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 are very corroded in some places and require repair and in some cases replacement, plus a lot of heavy welding.

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 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 and at Oldminster Sidings on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and at Berkeley station on Wednesdays, and would be glad to show you around. Please bear in mind that in these challenging times, social distancing is necessary, so if you do visit, please wait at the entrance, and ask for the duty manager who will be pleased to show you around and answer any questions from a safe distance.

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.