



BERKELEY TOWN COUNCIL

I'm pleased to say we have recently been joined by a new councillor, Paul Walkden. Paul's arrival means that we once again have a full complement of councillors in the town. As councillors we are always looking at what we can do to support the community more, so over the next few months we will be holding "councillors surgeries", where a few of us will be available at the town hall to answer your questions, listen to any concerns you have and see what we can do to help.

The first event will be held on Saturday, 7th October, 10-12, at the Town Hall. The second will be Monday 6th November 7-8:30, and the third will be on Friday 1st December as part of the Christmas Lights Switch-On event.

I'd like to talk about the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for a moment. This is a levy defined by the government that all house builders must pay for new developments; some of it goes to the local town council, and much of it is held at county level to support bigger infrastructure activities. You may have seen in the press that the new Redrow development, Berkeley Dene on Station Road, is providing funding to the community – this is their CIL contribution.

As a town council we will receive regular payments every 6 months from Redrow: we plan to use this to support much-needed work within the town, but will also be using some of it to increase the grants we give every year to local community groups. Alongside this, we have recently applied for a significant amount of funding from the county-level CIL funding to support our plans to rejuvenate the town centre. We don't have a detailed design that's mature enough to share with you yet, but given how long it takes to get funding agreed, we want to start that process while we also work on the design. That way, once we have a design ready to share and get your input on, we won't then have to wait while funding is secured.

Finally, I'm pleased to say the youth club has started up again in the new school term. There are 2 groups, school years 6-9 and 14 and over, both on a Monday at the Pavilion in Canons Park. It's already proving popular: more information can be found at <https://www.krunch.org.uk/krunch-sw/services/youth-clubs/berkeley-youth-club/>, or scanning the QR code below.



**BERKELEY**
TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR SURGERY

**SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER
10AM-12 TOWN HALL**

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS OF
BERKELEY TO COME AND CHAT TO
COUNCILLORS LIZ ASHTON, NICK EASBY
AND PAUL TURNER ABOUT ANY
CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS THAT THEY
WOULD LIKE HELP WITH.
EVERYONE WELCOME.

liz.ashton@berkeley-tc.gov.uk
nick.easby@berkeley-tc.gov.uk
paul.turner@berkeley-tc.gov.uk

**FURTHER SURGERIES WILL BE HELD ON:
MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 7-8.30PM AND
FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER AS PART OF
'BERKELEY AT CHRISTMAS'**

Partner Practice

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James's
Place****Dominic Holden**

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OCTOBER IN THE GARDEN

Autumn is officially here after a cold wet Spring this year, a very hot June and a wet July. August was a weather disaster for your holidays but September brought a heat wave and what is to come in October is anyone's guess! Some plants and trees have enjoyed the weather but others not so much - but now as we come to put the garden to bed for the Winter, our preparations for the coming cold months should be in full swing! Tender plants can be placed into a frost free location – these include Dahlias, Salvias and Fuchsia to name a few. Fruit and vegetables can be harvested, put into store or made into jams, pickles, chutney or put in the freezer. As flowers set seed you can collect them – it is easy to do and will provide you with plenty of plants to fill gaps or make an existing scheme create more impact next year. You could also keep a few stems on the plants with seed to provide a meal for the birds. If you use herbs for cooking now is the time to pot up a few to stand on a warm windowsill so that you have Mint, Parsley, Sage and Chives at your finger tips all through the Winter. If you have had a lot of maggoty Apples this year then it may help for next years crop to put grease bands around the trunks of the fruit trees to protect them from Winter Moths. The wingless females climb up the trees to lay their eggs on

the branches and the sticky bands stop them in their tracks. If you would like to increase your Blackcurrant, Redcurrant and Gooseberry crops now is the time to take hardwood cuttings. They are easy to take, take up little room and are low maintenance. It will take them a year to root. Wait until leaf fall, select growth from this year which should be hard and woody. Cut lengths of 15-20cms (6"-8") each with at least two leaf joints. Remove the soft top tip with a sloping cut to show you which is top. The base is cut below a leaf joint with a straight cut. Insert onto a narrow trench with sharp sand in the base. Place them about 10cm (4") apart with one third of the cutting above the soil. This method can also be used on deciduous shrubs such as Deutzia, Philadelphus, Buddleia and Weigelia. As leaves fall collect them up and make leaf mould compost that can be used as a mulch / soil conditioner or to include in potting composts. Place the leaves in a bin bag and seal it just making a few holes in the sides of the bag. This will take about twelve months to rot down. Gardening is all about being patient!!

Remove and clean pond equipment such as pumps, fountains and lights and store safely indoors. It is time to harvest Pumpkins, Squashes and Gourds for Halloween decorations. Summer containers are about past their best now so replace them with Winter bedding to

brighten up the garden for Autumn. If you have an Asparagus bed now is the time to cut back the foliage to 5cm (2") off the ground. As you cut back perennials and fork over and weed the borders put down a mulch of garden compost or well rotted manure. Do this carefully to avoid damaging the plants and do not let the mulch build up too much against the stems of woody plants as this may cause them to rot. In our garden we usually apply a natural slow release fertilizer such as Bonemeal to all the beds and borders around the whole garden at this time of year. It supplies nutrients to the soil very slowly. It is used around the perennials, trees and shrubs during the dormant season. It is carried down into the soil by rainfall or snow so it is ready to feed the plants in the coming year. Always wear gloves when applying Bonemeal if you have cuts or abrasions to your skin as it will sting unpleasantly. As the year changes lots of jobs can be done indoors – order seeds for next year, plan your garden for the coming season – this can all be done from the comfort of your armchair in the warmth of your house.

Happy planning until next month.

ANN LEGG

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BVCAN Climate in the news

"It's evident in our observational records that the UK climate is already changing." (Met Office, 8th Sept 2023)

In the 10 years to 2022, the average daily temperature in September was 13.2C. That's an increase of almost 1.5C since the mid-1990s. (Sky News, 8th Sept 2023)

Climate change is a global issue but even in Berkeley we are feeling the effects. With COP28 being held next month in Dubai, and where, no doubt, a lot of hot air (excuse the pun!) will emerge, now is a good time to remind ourselves what **we can** do.

- Save energy at home
- Change your home's source of energy
- Walk, bike, take public transport
- Switch to an electric vehicle
- Consider your travel
- Reduce, reuse, repair and recycle
- Eat more vegetables
- Throw away less food
- Plant native species
- Help clean up your environment
- **Make your money count**

Everything we spend money on affects the planet. You have the power to choose which goods and services you support. To reduce your environmental impact, choose products from companies who use resources responsibly and are committed to cutting their gas emissions and waste. If you have money check how it is being invested for you. Your pension fund for instance, may be supporting fossil fuels or deforestation. Make sure your savings are invested in environmentally sustainable businesses to indirectly reduce your carbon footprint.

• **Speak up**

Speak up. It's one of the quickest and most effective ways to make a difference. Talk to your neighbours, colleagues, friends, and family. Let business owners know you support bold changes – from plastics-free products and packaging to zero-emissions vehicles. With a 2025 General Election likely, let candidates know what you expect their party's manifesto climate commitments to be.

Climate action is a task for all of us. And it concerns all of us. No one can do it all alone – but we can do it together.

A job opportunity!

Down to Earth (Stroud) is looking for a someone to preserve food in their own home. This might involve dehydration, pickling etc and may require carrying out some research. All food and ingredients must be organic.

Person specification: Food preservation experience desired, as well as the time and ability to process food as it becomes available, and when it's fresh. Must be keen to support local food initiatives.

You will need to have had, or be willing to have, an Environmental Health home check.

Pay to be negotiated. Hours not regular but as and when needed.

In the first instance, please email

info@downtoearthstroud.co.uk

Considering a heat pump?

A Waterly Bottom resident has had a heat pump recently installed. They have kindly offered to make themselves available to anyone interested in learning from their experience and visiting the property.

If you would like to take them up on this please contact us at berkeleyvaleclimateaction@gmail.com and we'll see what we can do.

October is Wool Month!

Wool Month is part of a global initiative 'Campaign for Wool', launched by His Majesty King Charles III when he was Prince of Wales. A surprising number of small British companies manufacture a wide range of products made from local British wool. Products include blankets, mattresses and bedding, upholstery, flooring and even wool and resin made solid furniture. Many of these companies have low carbon footprints and wool is a (neglected) sustainable material with wonderful properties. For more information about Wool Month events visit: <https://www.britishwool.org.uk/what-is-wool-month>

Family Friendly Protest day

A 'Unite to Survive' family friendly (and fun) climate protest day is open to all in Bath, on Saturday 28th October. For details contact accessinclusionssw@protonmail.com

If you want to go and would like to meet up contact us at: berkeleyvaleclimateaction@gmail.com

Hope to see you there!

Jane Robertson and the BVCAN team

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Berkeley Grammar School Educational Fund

Have you just completed your A Levels? Are you about to start Higher Education?

If you also live within the Berkeley Parishes you may be able to apply for a small grant to help with the cost of your study materials.

This small Charity has been in existence in various forms, for well over 100 years. Nowadays it is run by representatives of the local Berkeley parishes and councils, and distributes small grants to individuals (and sometimes) organisations with an educational link to those parishes.

The Essential criteria for individual eligibility are:

Home Residence in one of the five parishes (Alkington; Berkeley; Hamfallow; Ham and Stone; Hinton.) AND the applicant is embarked on a course of further or higher education after state funded education.

Other criteria:

Preferably attendance at a state school within those parishes (or a local secondary school) for at least 3 years.

Once eligibility is confirmed then grants are looked at on a merit to merit case.

Meetings are held just once a year in December and applications are normally decided upon then. All applications are treated with discretion and in confidence.

Acknowledgement of receipt of a grant, and details of what it is spent on is always required.

To apply please contact the clerk for an application form:

Mrs Susan Watson

berkeleygrammarschooleducationalfund@hotmail.com

Applications should be made by the student themselves (except in cases of disability when a representative may apply on their behalf if necessary)

Name, Address and Phone Number, plus details of eligibility as well as information as to how any grant is to be spent, is required.



Berkeley Vale Foodbank



Part of Stroud District Foodbank
supported by The Trussell Trust

How it works

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

To get your voucher just phone one of these numbers

Justine Hopkins at Berkeley Town Council

01453 511964

Culverhay Berkeley Surgery

01453 810228

Citizens Advice

0808 8000510 or 0808 8000511

P3

0808 1682443

More than just food

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

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CAN YOU HELP WITH THE 2023 POPPY COLLECTION?



If you could spare a few hours from the end of October to the beginning of November 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

Have you ever considered car share?

We have had enquiries regarding setting up a car share scheme. This is not only a means of sharing travelling costs but is also good for the environment.

If you travel to Bristol or Yate areas then there is a new free car park at Falfield that isn't being used much at all with a capacity for 60 cars.

If there is interest in this community project I could set up a WhatsApp group so that interested parties would have a means of communication.

Any interest or questions at all please email paul.turner@berkeley-tc.gov.uk



The Berkeley Parochial Trust

Is life a struggle at the moment? We may be able to give a little help.

The Berkeley Parochial Trust is a small local charity that is able to offer modest financial one-off help for a particular purpose, to local people who are on a limited income and struggling to manage.

Anyone who lives within one of the five Berkeley Parishes (Berkeley, Alkington, Ham & Stone, Hamfallow, and Hinton) is eligible to apply.

We are sorry that we are unable to offer help with Utility debt or School Transport Fees, but perhaps there are other necessary things that you are desperate for and just cannot find the money? Many things can seem impossible to obtain, when times are hard.

Contact us to explain your situation, and let us see if the Trust can help?

The Trustees will consider each application on an individual basis. Their decision is final. Any help given does not have to be repaid. We will need to know a name, address and some details of your family and financial situation, however this will be kept confidential within the trust.

How to make contact with our clerk Sue: (email if possible) to berkeleyparochialtrust@hotmail.com

or if you can't access email, phone 01453 542208.



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SARAH'S FIELD

Come and join Stroud Valleys Project for a fun day of Apple Juicing

**Sunday 8 October 2023,
11.30am - 2.45pm**

Sarah's Field, Lynch Road,
Berkeley, GL13 9TR

- * Bring clean tight-fitting containers.
- * Bring some apples
- * Bring some elbow grease !

Help wash, chop, scrat and press apples.

- * Sort them
- * Wash them
- * Chop them
- * Scrat them.
- * Make a pulp
- * Put it in a press and turn the handle.
- * Bottle it

This will keep a few weeks in a fridge.

It will start to go fizzy,

It can be made into cider.

It can be frozen

It can be pasteurised at home at 70 C. and then kept for longer.

**The Berkeley Flyer Needs You!**

Would you like to join our team of amazing volunteers? We have a role available for support fundraising.



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

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

**CHRISTMAS AT BERKELEY**

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER

FROM 5PM - 8.30PM

**LIGHT SWITCH ON BY
MRS CHRISTMAS AT 6PM.**

We know there's still a while to go but hopefully this event will go in your diary!

This year we are hoping to improve on our Christmas town event and make it even bigger and better.

We have over 25 stalls this year, again offering some wonderful handcrafted items, delicious food, games, face painting, and of course, there will be Father Christmas in his grotto!



More to be revealed in next month's Flyer.

If you would like a stall or you have a few hours free to help set up on the day please email us at:

abbie1b87@gmail.com



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Saturday	9.00am to 12.00pm

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Curry and Quiz Night

Berkeley Scout Hut,
Park View
21st October 7pm start

Meat and
veggie options
available!
BYO drinks
and glasses!

£12 per person
Message Amy on
07484 137339
to book tickets

In August 2024, I will be travelling to Norway to take part in Roverway. Roverway is a European Jamboree where members of Guiding and Scouting come together to celebrate the community. This is the first Roverway post Covid and is expected to be very special.



Would you like to help people in your local community who are struggling?

Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts needs volunteers now more than ever to help make a difference to local people. In the last year we have faced an unprecedented demand due to the cost-of-living crisis.

We are appealing for new volunteers from all backgrounds who are looking for a volunteering role that is both challenging and rewarding. We are looking for people who can give 8-10 hours per week, and are currently recruiting for the following roles:

Administration/Triage Assistants. You will provide a professional welcome to callers at the door of our Stroud or Cirencester offices. You will triage callers without an appointment - identifying emergencies and providing information and signposting to other agencies when needed (no advice giving involved). You will also undertake a wide range of administrative tasks, including contacting clients by telephone and text, and handling inward and outbound post.

You must be computer literate but full training in triage and our IT systems will be given.

Volunteer Advisers. You will give advice and information (face to face, by telephone and email) to clients on a wide range of problems. No prior advice experience is necessary as full training will be given. Information sessions for volunteer advisers will take place on 18 October 2023 (2-3.30pm) in Stroud and on 8 November 2023 (1-2.30 pm) in Cirencester. Our next training programme will start on 24 January 2024.

Elizabeth Hall, our Chief Executive Officer said:

"Now more than ever, you can really make a difference by volunteering with us. We're seeing more and more people needing support as living costs spiral. As well as helping the local community, we know people who volunteer their time get a lot back. We'll give you all the training you need and would love to hear from you."

To find out more about these roles or register your interest for a volunteer adviser information session please contact our Learning and Development Officer at training@ca-scd.org.uk.

You can also find further information on our website www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk.

ST PETER'S HOSPICE – "AUTUMN LEAVES TEA"

St Peters Hospice Severnside Support Group would be delighted to welcome you to our Autumn Leaves Tea in Rockhampton Village Hall on Sunday 29th October 2.30pm – 4.00pm.

Home made cakes, Jams, Pickles and Chutney, Books, Raffle, Christmas Cards.

Entrance £3.00 to include a cup of tea/coffee and piece of cake!

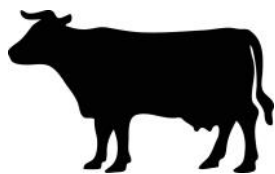
Please come along and support St Peter's, your local Hospice.



A fantastic, fun wildlife learning eek!sperience for all the family. Are you brave enough to explore our interactive trail? Discover an eek!citing and mysterious world of wetland nature this October half term. Keep your eyes peeled and your ears pricked and engage all your senses as you make your way around our wetlands for a truly eek!citing experience.

Put your spookometer to the test with our interactive activities. Will you dare to put your hand in a snake box, grab a photo op with a bat or get up close and personal with a toad? It's a weirdly wild day out for the whole family.

Eek!sperience our trail and meet characters along the way. eek! week activities are included with admission or membership. For peace of mind, non-members can book their ticket in advance online. Full details at www.wwt.org.uk/slimbridge



THE JENNER PROJECT 2022 | 23

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE BLOSSOM BY OCTOBER 7TH



We have had some very good feedback on the Blossom Trail and hope that everyone has enjoyed it. There is still time to vote for your favourite Blossom and be in with a chance of winning a food voucher kindly donated by the Berkeley Arms. Votes should be submitted by 7th October and the name of the winner will be published in the November issue of The Flyer.

We have received multiple offers for some of the Blossoms and they will go to the highest bidder unless we have received a bid from the trader or organisation displaying the Blossom in which case they will keep the Blossom.

We would like to thank all those taking part for decorating their Blossoms and invite you to vote for your favourite by either posting a completed leaflet into the post box of Berkeley Books or sending an email to jennerproject23@gmail.com.

You can collect a leaflet from any of those taking part.



The Berkeley WI Meeting took place on Thursday September 14th at 2pm in The Pavilion in Canon Park.

Rose Coupe president opened the meeting

welcoming all members and visitors after the summer break. Thanks were expressed to Vicki Young for hosting a wonderful summer garden tea party.

Outings:

18/10 at 12.30 - 2 course Lunch at the Berkeley Arms

5/12 at 2pm GFWI Christmas Carol Concert Cheltenham Town Hall

Groups:

7/10 Craft Saturday 2pm at Vicki Youngs - bring labelled fabric cutting scissors

19/10 Thursday Book group 2.30pm in the library

26/10 Thursday Skittles 2.30pm at The Boars Head

28/10 Saturday Coffee morning 10.30am Perfect Blend

Speaker:

Dr Phil Pritchard registered doctor, retired Wotton under Edge GP; retired professional rugby player (Gloucester); retired jockey and ongoing racecourse doctor.

Phil Pritchard with his wife Teresa is based at The Old Barn Clinic at Dauntseys Farm, Purton. They both independently have 30 years experience in treating back and joint pain. Phil especially supports jockeys and manages their injuries to return them to riding as quickly yet safely as possible.

What a remarkable talk he gave. Having told us that racing is a dangerous game he proceeded to tell us how he looks after racing participants. Phil is incredibly energetic and his talk took us through many aspects of horse racing - different types of racing amateur and professional, the going, statistical probabilities of jockey falls during races at what average travelling speed, types of injuries to limbs - soft tissue or fractures, head concussions. Jockey's common fracture is the collar bone - Dr Pritchard assesses the fracture and if it is displaced he injects local anaesthetic and reduces the fracture (realigns the bones) reducing recovery time for a jockey to 3 weeks (usual average healing time for a fractured collar bone is 3 months). Spinal crush fractures are common jockey injuries.

Concussions are apparently often missed but now, as in rugby, using the Head Injury Assessment, the racing world is assessing intellectual capability pre concussion and post head injury. Also balance is checked.

It was a fascinating talk from a very committed qualified practising doctor who has dedicated himself to combining his medical expertise with his knowledge of horses, racing, rugby and cricket for the greater good.

In fact he used his medical skills to administer first aid to one of our members who tripped and fell as she left the meeting. How lucky we were.

Thanks to Dr Pritchard.

Date of next meeting

Thursday October 12th, 2pm at The Pavilion, Canon Park (football field). All ladies very welcome to come and visit us.

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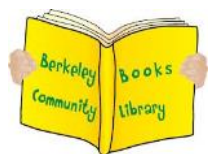
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BERKELEY BOOKS

This has been another busy month in the Library, with a visit from the Men's Shed, the continuing fun of the Baby Bounce and Rhyme sessions, the end of the Library Challenge and the first autumn meeting of the Gardening Club.

Lots of people turned up for the visit of the Men's Shed, with various broken or non-functioning items, and many things were repaired, including a bedside light shaped like an aeroplane, a wooden toy tractor, and a well-loved family armchair. We very much hope that this will become a regular feature and would ask you to look out for future visits.

The Library Challenge has finally wound down, with 52 young people taking part in it (11 of whom specially joined the Library to join in). The final numbers are still being added up, but we will let you know next month how many participants achieved the various levels. A lot of fun was had by everyone who took part, and we hope that the participants' love of reading was enhanced by the Challenge.

The Baby Bounce and Rhyme sessions have started again and will continue every Friday from 10.45 to 11.15 except for school half-terms and

holidays. There is no cost to take part and newcomers are always more than

welcome to join the fun.

The Film Club is starting up again on 3rd October at 7.30 pm. Come along and bring some friends to see a film shown on a good-sized screen using a quality projector – no reels need to be changed, though! Alcoholic and soft drinks will be available to buy and there will also be a selection of crisps, nuts and chocolate for sale. Different films will be shown on the first Tuesday of every month during the winter months – watch out for clues as to which film will be showing each month.

Other dates for your diary are the meetings of the Gardening Club (3rd Wednesday of each month) and the History Club (1st Thursday of every month) which will start in October.

Keep up to date with everything going on by following us on Facebook.

TYNDALE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Our 2023/2024 starts on
Thursday 5th October at 7:30pm
North Nibley Village Hall
GL11 6DP

If you are interested in photography why not join us
– you will be made very welcome –

The weekly meetings are informal
with light refreshments served part way through the evening

For more information visit

www.tyndalephoto.org

where you will find details about the club and be able to view photographs taken by our members



BERKELEY PLAYERS

Hello everyone,

Well its that time of year again “pantomime time” when out comes the glitter, the make-up, the music, the lights and the laughter but....

What's this I hear no costumes????

Well we have plenty of costumes but no one to take them up, take them in, let them out, or cut them up.

We are desperate for someone to help with sewing please. We can bring it to you if that would help. If anyone feels they can help in any way we would be most grateful, so please give us a ring, the number is at the bottom of this note.

We also need help with behind the scenes. Can anyone play the piano or keyboard? Perhaps you love art and could help with scenery, can you help with make-up??? If you can help please ring the number below. We look forward to hearing from you.

Our pantomime we hope to do this year is “Rapunzel” which will take place in the Town Hall on Thursday, Friday, Saturday afternoon and evening on December 7th 8th & 9th. Tickets will be on sale in November. More information in the November flyer.

If anyone would like to join us we do have a waiting list but would be delighted to put your name down. We like to think we are a happy bunch and welcome anyone. We have a thriving junior section who work extremely hard, and although like everyone covid set us back a little we are now back to normal. Our group has been going since 2001.

If you would like anymore information on our group or if you would like to help, especially if you can sew, please give us a ring.

Phone 01453 810462

Thank you.

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Ensuring a Happy Halloween for all

Halloween can be great fun, especially for kids. And lots of us enjoy seeing local children out trick or treating in their costumes. However, for some people, it can be a worry – especially if they're home alone and concerned about callers after dark. So here are some tips from AgeUK.

While none of us wants to spoil the fun, we also shouldn't have to feel scared or anxious in our own homes. Here are some simple things we can all do to make sure Halloween remains good fun for everyone.

If you're concerned about staying safe:

- Always put the door chain on and look out of the window or spy hole to see who's there before opening the door.
- Take particular care if there's more than one person on your doorstep.
- Only open the door if you feel safe to do so. If you're in any doubt or don't feel safe, don't – it's fine not to answer the door if you don't want to.

If you're really worried, invite a friend or relative around and spend the evening together.

If you're out trick or treating:

- Remember that some older people and other members of your community might not want to be disturbed. A good rule of thumb is to look for a pumpkin outside the house – that's a sign the house is happy to receive trick or treaters.
- Be mindful of noise late at night.

Don't persistently ring someone's doorbell, knock on their door or return to their house later. If they don't answer, it's best to move on.



Berkeley Flyer Forum

Email us at editor@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk or pop you message into the Pharmacy by 15th of the month.

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

To the Editor,

To my lovely friends and neighbours of Salter Street, sad to say that I have delivered your Flyers for the last time, and no, it is not because of my advancing years! I have also relinquished my other two volunteer posts.

My delivery round has been very enjoyable and I shall certainly miss the greetings, the chats and new acquaintances. I have more home commitments now which are important and time consuming.

Your Flyers will be delivered by a new person so be nice to him please.

Wishing you all many years of enjoying your Flyer,

With kinds regards and regrets,

Ann Harrison

Reply from the Editor.

Thank you Ann for all the years that you have supported the Flyer, how lucky we have been to have you. Not only have you ensured that the residents of Salter Street got their copies all these years but you have found your own successor! I'm sure he'll be fab but we will miss you.

The Flyer wouldn't exist without all of our amazing delivery volunteers. It is a team effort and we appreciate all that you and the rest of the team do every month for the community.

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What's On Diary

Monday

Town Council Meeting

3rd Monday of the month 7.00pm

Stay and Play Kids - Sharpness Village Hall

9.45am - 12 noon contact Sue Boxall on 07526101287

Krunch Youth Club - Canon Park Pavilion

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

Berkeley Rainbows

The Scout Hut 4.15 - 5.30pm

Scouts - Scout HQ., Park View

Scouts 10½ to 14 years old 7.00pm - 8.30pm

FitFix Exercise - Stinchcombe Village Hall

6.30pm Combat with Sam 07793 755240
Suitable for all abilities

Last Orders Picture House

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

Sharpness Guides Sharpness Scout and 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 and Low Vision Support

1st Tuesday of month, 10.30am to 12.30pm
Methodist Church Hall, Castle Court, Thornbury

Berkeley Flicks - Berkeley Library 7.30pm

3rd or 4th Tuesday of each month
Contact: berkeleyflicks@gmail.com

Yoga (Hybrid Yoga)

Town Hall
6.00—7.00pm

Berkeley Books

The GL11 Jb Hub will be located in Berkeley Books on alternate Tuesdays from andth 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, 7-8.30pm
<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

Yoga (Hybrid 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, Town Hall
£5 per family/ childminder and 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

New Berkeley Harriers Running Club

6.30pm - 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

Berkeley Local History Group

1st Thursday of the month, 7pm at Berkeley Books Community Library, School Lane, Berkeley. For further information:
localhistorygroupberkeley2022@gmail.com

Friday

Berkeley Community Library

10.00am - 4.00pm

Berkeley Brownies

The Scout Hut 6pm - 7.15pm

Saturday

Berkeley Green parkrun

9am, Gloucestershire Science & Technology Park, GL13 9FB

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: Margaret Orchard

email: marg.orchards@btinternet.com

ARTICLES, LETTERS AND DIARY DATE ENTRIES:

email: editor@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION:

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www.theberkeleyflyer.co.uk
email: advertising@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk

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tel: 01453 546645
email: cotsmark@btopenworld.com

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Vale of Berkeley Railway

This month's picture is of one of our wagons in a state of partial restoration. It is a traditional "5 plank" wagon which were built in their thousands to transport freight of all types. Before the 1960s most of Britain's freight and parcels were transported by rail. There were facilities at most stations to handle all sorts of freight and parcels, with local transport to deliver goods to the door and collect goods for onward shipment. Even live animals were transported. Cattle would have been delivered to and collected from the local farms and cattle markets. In the days before refrigerated transport, fresh milk would have been collected every morning in the early hours from local stations in the milk producing regions such as Devon and delivered fresh to the cities and towns for use that day. There were special newspaper trains which ran every night from London to ensure that the most recent news was available everywhere. Oysters from Kent would be fresh in London every day. The bulk of mail would also have gone by rail, with facilities on the trains for postmen to sort. In those days pigeon racing was very popular. The facility was available so that an entrant could send his pigeons in special hampers to their local station. These hampers would all be transported to a central nominated station where they would be loaded onto a "pigeon special", which was a train made up completely of wagons for the transport of live pigeons. This train would then travel to the nominated start point of the race where all the birds would be released simultaneously.

Our wagon is one of the types that would have been extensively used in Sharpness docks for transporting all sorts of goods such as coal and timber. The frame was in reasonably sound condition but needed some straightening in places. The woodwork was rotted beyond recovery and has been completely removed. The picture shows the wagon stripped down to its basic metal framework ready for remedial work and painting, and new wood will then be added.

Work has also started on the torpedo wagon. The springs have been removed, cleaned, and repaired where necessary and refitted. A detailed costed plan has been produced to finish the work on it and restore it so that it looks like it would have done when in use. We will of course use dummy torpedoes.

Oldminster Sidings

The main activity has been the finalisation of plans for the shed. With our focus firmly on establishing Oldminster Sidings as our operational base, attention is primarily on how to ensure the new shed design will work best for the railway.



Several key decisions about the new shed were taken at the board meeting on 19th August, following a presentation on the findings of the Oldminster Steering Group (OSG). After investigating a range of options for size, construction method and cost, the OSG reached the following conclusions:

The shed will be of steel frame and clad or block and steel construction, with a fibre cement roof. Although a steel-clad roof might be affordable, it can pose potential problems with condensation. Doors, walls, and concrete floors will be provided.

The design baseline includes a 24m x 6m Machine Shop with reinforced concrete floor. If the detailed design shows not all this space is needed, the additional space might be available for an office/ meeting room. Otherwise, the baseline is for office/meeting room/ amenities to be housed in separate structures: containers, portacabin or possibly converted rolling stock.

In support of the work of the OSG, a separate working group, has produced a report with detailed requirements for the new Shed. These cover the Machine shop, Woodworking, Erecting Shop, storage, scrap processing, welfare, and administration facilities. The objective is to provide a similar level of capability to the current Shed.

The Board unanimously approved the OSG's report recommendations, so now detail designs will be drawn up for the planning application.

The overall cost of the shed is estimated to be around £150k and an extensive fundraising campaign is now required.

Sharpness Shed

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.

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 some Saturdays, and would be glad to show you around. Please bear in mind that 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.