



Christmas At Berkeley 2023

Friday 1st December 5pm to 8:30pm

We are back and bigger than ever!

Many of our brilliant local businesses will be opening late for the evening providing delicious food and drink and lots of opportunities to shop. We also have over 25 stalls joining us with a wonderful range of beautiful handmade gifts and delicious homemade treats. The perfect time to treat yourselves and make a start on your Christmas shopping.

We have some special visitors this year, the main man Santa is back in town, and we have some festive donkeys coming down to say hello. There will be a caricaturist, face painting and some selfie stations for the all-important festive photos.

The children of Berkeley Primary School have been busy making festive lanterns and will be doing a parade through the town to kick start the event.

The White Hart Court, The Edward Jenner Museum, St Mary's Church and the town square will all have stalls and lots going on. We will be posting details of what is happening and where on the Facebook page @christmasatberkeley. We will also be putting up posters and programmes will be available closer to the event.

This year we are raising money for four local charities - Berkeley Books, The Edward Jenner Museum, SARA Lifeboat and Berkeley Community Swimming Pool.



(If you can spare any time the weekend before or on the day to help with setting up, please get in touch at christmasatberkeley@gmail.com)

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**St
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Place**

Dominic Holden

Financial Adviser

Frazer Wealth Management

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NOVEMBER IN THE GARDEN

In the garden there is a golden glow this month in the cold clear light of morning which brings the best of Autumn colours. There may be some fine days in November but the first sharp frosts can happen. At this time of year daylight is limited in the evenings as it gets dark by about 6.00pm so many of you will only have the weekends to do the many tasks that need doing. By this time most of the tender plants should have been taken in to protect them from the cold weather. If there is a sharp frost be ready to put some light horticultural fleece over the most tender plants and cuttings in the greenhouse. Fleece is very light and can be draped straight over the plants without any damage. Remember to take it off in the morning and replace it at night until the risk of frost is over. Keep the vents open for a few hours each day. Also do not forget to lag outdoor taps and water pipes.

Paths and patios need to be cleaned so that they do not become dangerous. If you have a jet washer this a very good way to keep them clean but if not just give them a good stiff brush to stop then getting slippery. If you are going to have a bonfire this November do check around the base of it before you light it for hedgehogs and other wildlife that may be sheltering there. It is always advisable to keep a corner of the garden for wildlife so keep a pile of logs and leaves for them.

Protect Alpine plants from rain- they can stand any amount of cold but will

not tolerate wet weather in the Winter. Protect by suspending a sheet of glass or clear plastic horizontally over the plants laying it on bricks so that air can circulate around the plants. It can be removed in the Spring. Now is a good time to clean out water butts and let the Autumn rain fill them again or install a new one ready for next year's use. Continue to mow lawns - in mild weather the grass will still grow! Set the mower blades at a high setting of about 4cm (1.5"). Now is the month to plant Tulip bulbs - this is because it is colder and will prevent Tulip Fire infection.

At the bottom of our garden we have lovely garden compost ready to use as a mulch this year. We decided to cut up all the twigs and leaves from the garden into small pieces and not put in any long woody stems- hoping that it would speed up the process of composting. It has worked well and has been turned over regularly during the summer. It will be added to the borders and beds and will help retain moisture and will improve the soil condition.

Garlic can be planted now - this will take advantage of the cold weather which will help to develop the cloves to mature into bulbs by next June. Split the large bulbs and check all the cloves are firm and plump with no sign of rot. Prepare the planting area which should be well drained. Firm the soil and space out the cloves at 15cm (6") apart. Make a hole and place the clove with the pointed end upward. Plant about 2-3 cm below the surface.

Although many gardeners find the subject of fruit bush pruning mystifying

I say - just keep it simple. The object is to ensure that Apple and Pear trees are well shaped and that they will carry as much fruit as possible. Take out any dead, dying or diseased branches first. Remove crossing branches and any branches growing up the middle of the tree. It should have a "wine glass" shape. The tip of each branch should be pruned lightly. Cut back current seasons growth by about a quarter. It is best to do all this when the tree is dormant.

If the weather is bad why not swot up on a garden topic where your knowledge is sketchy and read up about it over the winter months in the warmth. In the Spring you will feel you really know all about it! Christmas is on the horizon so make a list of things you would like for your garden then when someone asks you will have a list to hand! So with that thought - Happy Gardening!!

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BVCAN

Christmas craft

We're looking forward to seeing you at the Berkeley Christmas Fair on Friday 1st December.



We've been having Christmas craft sessions to make tree and table decorations from left-over craft materials. It's been good fun! We hope to have the BVCAN stall looking very christmassy and are keeping fingers crossed for good weather. Any funds raised will go to the local food bank. Come and visit our stall and gather some sustainable Christmas ideas!

Local E-Bike hire

Transition Stroud, along with Brimscombe-based social enterprise, The Bike Drop, have successfully secured £20,000 to set up a series of e-bike hire schemes in the Stroud District. They're now looking for local delivery partners, for example a CAN, community group, village shop or parish/town council. Can you help?

The scheme is designed to give local people the opportunity to hire an e-bike, and the funding will enable us to install community/neighbourhood bike 'pods' in and around Stroud District. These pods will consist of a police-approved cycle store, e-bikes, plus the accessories and utilities necessary to keep them maintained.

Each pod will be located somewhere central in the community (community hall, village shop, parish council car park etc.), and will need a group of volunteers drawn from its locality to run it. Each group of volunteers will determine the exact way in which their pod is run. The pods will be able to retain a proportion of the hire fees.

The scheme will provide ongoing administration, booking, insurance, maintenance, and volunteer support in partnership with each pod's volunteer group.

Interested? Interested groups will be invited to come to a meeting where the scheme and the funding will be explained in more detail, and questions answered. If you know anyone, or group of people who might be interested in learning more email: admin@transitionstroud.org.

Stroud Book Festival 8-12 November

Stroud Book Festival includes some fantastic events about the environment, nature and the importance of making things.

Best wishes,

Jane Robertson and the BVCAN team

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PURTON St JOHN's CHURCH FAYRE – SATURDAY 25th November 2023

1000 – 1200

Purton St John's Church will be holding a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 25th November from

10.00 am until 12.00 pm. Stalls to include Jams, Chutneys, Bric-a-brac, Crafts, Books. TOMBOLA, Raffle. Tea and cake will be served. Please support this event in aid of the Church.



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BERKELEY
TOWN COUNCIL

Message from the Mayor

As you may have read elsewhere, we are starting to receive some money from the "Community Infrastructure Levy" (CIL), from which Redrow have to pay to help improve the town to cope with the increase in residents. The first round of funding will be used for some urgent repairs to the Town Hall – to repair the leaking roof. Later rounds of funding over the next few years will be used to improve the town, & to give money to local charities & groups.

We relaunched the youth club, with a local group called Krunch, last year, after it had to stop during Covid. The number of people attending it has grown significantly, so I'm glad to say we have agreed to fund the club for another year.

We've also agreed to launch a "Tourism & Industry Working Party". Through this the council wants to work with local businesses, charities & community groups, to help promote Berkeley to tourists, & just as importantly to make Berkeley an even better place to live.

Finally, you may have noticed that the public toilets on Marybrook Street have been closed for a while. We've been pushing Stroud Council (who are responsible for the toilets) to get them working again. They finally did get one of the toilets open again last month, but unfortunately this week it's had to close again, because someone decided to vandalise it. We'll keep pushing Stroud to get it repaired again as soon as possible.

As The Flyer was going to press, our local MP, Siobhan Baillie, speaking in House of Commons, talked about Berkeley Town Council's plans to rejuvenate the Town Centre. The Levelling Up minister agreed to meet her on the subject, and possibly come to Berkeley himself. Making Berkeley visible like this can only help us.

Peter Hall

BERKELEY COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL

Here is the last pool report until next spring. Well as everyone knows the weather in 2023 summer holidays was truly awful. Volunteers and lifeguards alike required fleeces and umbrellas and that was on the days we were able to open. It was a very disappointing summer season. Thank you to all our loyal swimmers and their parents who braved the elements. However looking on the bright side the school were able to swim almost everyday for the second half of the summer term and the first three weeks of the Autumn term so one of our primary objectives which is to enable all the primary school children to learn to swim was met. For those who haven't seen the pool with its new liner - it looks absolutely fantastic. On the occasional sunny days it glistened in the bright light. So inviting.

Needless to say we did lose a significant amount of income but fortunately have enough in reserve to be able to afford to cover the costs of opening next season. If anyone wishes to make a donation towards supporting the pool we would be immensely grateful. Please contact Ellie Gent (01453 811938)

Meanwhile, the pool has now been winterised. The heavy duty winter cover is on. The pipe work has been drained. The pool level has been dropped, below the skimmers. All the poolside furniture is stowed in the changing rooms; the pool filters and air source heat pump fans are silent and we wait until May 2024 to open again.

Thanks are due to all our loyal volunteers and lifeguards who were rostered every Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons throughout the season. Despite the atrocious weather this summer holiday we will be opening again in 7 months time. Given the change in weather patterns we may open the pool earlier in 2024 so keep an eye out for updates in The Flyer.

Look out for information about a fundraising quiz night for the pool to be held by kind permission of Peter Tiley at The Salutation Inn. Date to be confirmed.

We wish all our supporters, users and volunteers our best wishes and look forward to welcoming you back to the pool next swimming season.

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05.10.2023

Dear Town Centre Residents/Businesses

Re: 'Berkeley at Christmas' Event, 1st December 2023

Notification of temporary road closure 2pm-9.30pm

As your property or business is located in the Town Centre we would like to update you on the Christmas lights switch on event, which will be held on Friday 1st December 2023.

Due to the success of last years event, we would like to temporarily close the road (as on the attached map) from 2pm-9.30pm. This is for the safety of pedestrians and will host our 'Christmas Community Market' and entertainment. This order is currently available at either end of all the roads involved. The diversion will be managed using Highway accredited contractors and adequate signage will be installed.

The actual event will run from 5pm-8.30pm with time either side for set up and close down.

Please do not park within this area after 2pm. If we do not hear back from you then we will assume that you are happy to be part of the festivities.

The committee is hoping that as many shops/businesses will be open for the event which will include: Town Hall Lights switch on, a community christmas market, choir singers, petting donkeys, Santa's Grotto, a walk through the snow, childrens lantern parade and other entertainment (details to follow), throughout Market Place, High Street and Church Lane, incorporating White Hart Court, Jenner Museum and St Marys Church.

This is a free event however we are holding a raffle and will be asking for donations for visiting Santa. This year we have four charities that we will be raising funds for. If you would like to volunteer to help on the night please email the committee on christmasatberkeley@gmail.com

To all residents and businesses who have Christmas lights installed on their premises - The Christmas lights will be installed on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th November, our supplier Encore Electrical are committed to the Health & Safety of its staff, clients and members of the public. Please feel free to have a chat with them if you have any questions or call the Town Council on the number above. Everything will be done to minimise the disruption - but we appreciate your patience through this process.

Your Town Council

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
www.stroud.gov.uk

THE TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

WHEREAS the Stroud District Council is satisfied that traffic on the streets set out in the Schedule hereto should be prohibited between the hours and dates set out on the schedule below for the purposes of holding **Christmas at Berkeley** during which event the Market Place, streets and lane are liable to be obstructed

AND WHEREAS the said Stroud District Council is empowered by Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, as amended, to make an Order prohibiting the use of that Market Place, streets and lane by all classes of vehicles.

NOW THEREFORE in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, as amended, the Stroud District Council **DOES HEREBY ORDER** that all classes of vehicles in the street listed in the Schedule hereto other than those vehicles employed by any emergency service shall be prohibited

SCHEDULE

Event: Christmas at Berkeley

Date: Friday 1st December 2023

Time: 2pm to 9.30pm

Road(s)/area to be closed: please also see attached map marked with a red line

Market Place, into Canonbury Street (ends just past the Berkeley Arms Hotel)
High Street to the entrance of Church Lane
Church Lane all the way to the entrance of St Marys Church

The diversion (marked in green) from Salter Street would be Marybrook Street - B4066 Berkeley Bypass - B4066 to A38

The diversion route (marked in green) from High Street/Church Lane would be: Road from High Street Berkeley to Ham - Ham to Pedington Elm - Stone to Pedington Elm Berkeley - A38

GIVEN under the Common Seal of the Stroud District Council on 22nd September 2023

THE COMMON SEAL of the STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL was hereunto affixed in the presence of

Claire Hughes
Proper Officer

183

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE MAP AND DIVERSION MAP - FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER 2023



Road(s)/area to be closed: marked with a red line
Market Place, into Canonbury Street (ends just past the Berkeley Arms Hotel)
High Street to the entrance of Church Lane
Church Lane all the way to the entrance of St Marys Church



DIVERSION MARKED WITH GREEN LINE
The diversion from Salter Street would be:
Marybrook Street - B4066 Berkeley Bypass - B4066 to A38
The diversion route from High Street/Church Lane would be:
Road from High Street Berkeley to Ham - Ham to Pedington Elm - Stone to Pedington Elm Berkeley - A38

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Saturday	9.00am to 12.00pm

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TYNDALE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

With the summer having drifted away, we can now look forward to Thursday evenings at North Nibley Village Hall and what better way to start the 2023-2024 season than with a social get together and the U-Judge competition.



It is customary to start each season with this informal print competition where each member is invited to enter up to three images. Each person present is allowed to vote for what, in their opinion, were the best three of the thirty eight prints displayed around the room. With this round of voting over, the top eight images were displayed together on the print stand at the front of the room for a 'show of hands' vote to decide on an eventual winner. All entries were of a very high standard and included many varied subjects and this year The U Judge Trophy was awarded to Don Grundell for his winning photograph 'RWA Landing' - well done Don!

Other finalists were Steve White, Christine Ryske, George Ryske, Brian Wetton and Joan Scott. A light buffet supper finished off a most enjoyable evening.

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

The Berkeley Flyer Needs You!

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

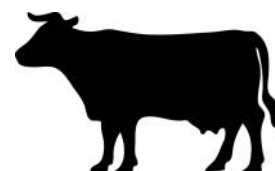
Printing cost rises, combined with the need for extra copies of the Flyer for the new houses in the town, has seen it get harder and harder for us to cover our costs purely through advertising income. We are therefore looking for a volunteer who would be able to research and apply for funding and grants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



We



THE JENNER PROJECT 2022 | 23



We'd like to show our appreciation to all the local traders who made the Blossom Trail such a success with their innovative and artistic interpretation and design skills and those of you who visited every one of the 32 shops to see the exciting displays. Thank you to those who voted for favourite Blossoms - and the winner is the Congregational Church. The names of the people who voted for this display have been put into a draw and Mrs Muriel Spencer has won a dining voucher for the Berkeley Arms Hotel, Berkeley (we'd like to thank Tracy for her generosity). We have also received several offers to purchase cows and we are in process of distributing those. We plan to display the remaining cows at the 'Berkeley at Christmas' event.

Here's a picture of the winning Blossom.

The Jenner Project 2022 | 23 was established to celebrate the 2023 Bicentenary of the death of Dr Edward Jenner and comes to a close in December. We have two more elements to complete - the creation of commemorative mosaics for the three schools who assisted with the Musical Picnic and a celebratory dinner for our Patrons. We now have a digital version of the audio and video of the Musical Picnic Event - please let us know if you would like access to this.

Any money left at the end of the project will be used to update the Edward Jenner Heritage Trail so that it can be transferred to the Jenner Museum to promote tourism in the town and the Museum and become a lasting reminder of our own local hero, Dr Edward Jenner, the "father of vaccination".





Berkeley Town Football Club

We are looking to the community for any First Aiders and Physios to support Berkeley Town Football Club's 1st and 2nd ladies team.

If you have First Aid training please do let us know we would love to have you as a part of our team. Similarly if you are a physio, or are in training to become a physio and need a placement, we would be happy to support you too.

If you would like to help out in any way please can you contact Phil Osborn on osbornphil@gmail.com, or telephone on 07879 441528 or berkeleytownfc@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

#UPTHEHUNTERS



The Berkeley W I Meeting took place on Thursday October 12th at 2.00pm at The Pavilion in Canon Park.

President Rosemary Coupe opened the meeting with a warm welcome

Secretary Vicki Young asked Members to think about coming on to the W I Committee as we need more people with new ideas.

OUTING: Tuesday 5th December GFWI Christmas Carol Concert at Cheltenham Town Hall.

GROUP NEWS:

4th November Saturday Craft Group 2.00pm at Vicki Young home

16th November Thursday Book Club at The Library 2.30pm

25th November Saturday Coffee Morning at The Perfect Blend 10.30am

30th November Skittles at the Boars Head 2.30pm

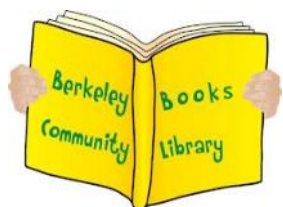
Speaker for the afternoon was introduced Paul Murphy

"Charlie Chaplin – his early life

Paul began by saying that Charlie should be called The Amazing Charlie Chaplin as his life was a roller coaster and he became world wide famous. Charlie was reputed to be born in Walworth East Lane in 1899 but he didn't have a birth certificate and he may have been born in Blackcap Gypsy Camp in Birmingham. His mother was Hana a singer earning £25 a week. Charlie, his brother and mother lived in three rooms with a maid at first but life was to change when his mother lost her voice and from then on things went from living in one room to being sent to the workhouse when Charlie was about 5 years old. When his mother was sent into hospital Charlie and his brother went to live with his father – a music hall entertainer and his partner. They both ill treated the little boys. After the mother left hospital she took them to live with her in one room. She was able to make money by sewing at home and sent the two children to have acting and singing lessons. A Mr Jackson took Charlie into his dance troupe when Charlie was 7 years old. From this start in show business he eventually met Fred Karnos of the Forest Music Hall in London and then met Alf Reeves who took him to America aged 18.

It was a very interesting talk and we would all like to hear part 2 maybe next time Paul comes to talk to us all. Thank you Paul Murphy.

Next Meeting is on November 9th at 2.00pm at The Pavilion, Canon Park. This will be our AGM.



BERKELEY BOOKS

How many of you were able to solve the cryptic clue about our first Berkeley Film Club performance? Despite the short notice, our audience had a good evening's entertainment and enjoyed the refreshments. The Film Club has now started its new season and there will be films on the first Tuesday of each month until further notice, with the film starting at 7.30pm. No need to be a member of the library and the film club has no membership fees; just come along, pay £3.00 and you are all set. Our next film will be on 7th November and will have Jane Fonda, Diane Keaton and Candice Bergen finding their lives turned upside down after reading "50 Shades of Grey". The film starts at 7.30pm and refreshments will be on sale.

Now that summer is over, don't we all want coffee and cake? Well, Berkeley Books is starting its regular Tea, Coffee and Cake morning on the first Tuesday of the month. The next one will be held in the library on 7th November at 10.30

We are pleased to say that it looks as though the visits of The Men's Shed are becoming a regular feature at the library. The next visit will be on 12th November (10.30-11.30) so bring all those items that you have been meaning to get fixed for ages and see if the Men's Shed can help you out.

A young, local artist, Lauren Smith, who describes her work as "one-off pieces of abstract art", will be exhibiting her work in the library from 28th November – 12th December. The artwork, all of which is available to buy, can be seen during the hours that the library is open (Tuesdays 10.00 to 6.00, Fridays 10.00 to 4.00 and Saturday 10 – 12.00)

We are hoping to start a Lego Club in the library, but are keen to increase our collection of bricks. If anyone is happy to donate basic Lego sets (no intricate puzzle sets, please) please bring them to the library, or let us know and we can come and collect them.

The achievements of everyone who took part in the Library Challenge Library have been collected and we are delighted to report that 17 people achieved the Bronze level; 18 achieved the Silver level and 16 people achieved the Gold level. Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Challenge and particularly to those who reached one of the award levels.

Finally, despite being a place full of activity, at heart, we are a really good library. If you are not a member, come and join (it costs nothing), take a look at our great collection of adult fiction and non-fiction, children's books, audio books, large print books and books about health and well-being. If you are looking for stocking-fillers have a look at our amazing value 2nd hand books, for all ages at prices that will amaze you! In fact, we will be having a Book Sale on Friday 17th November and Saturday 18th November: generally pricing will be 20p per book (6 for £1.00) – some non-fiction books are 50p each and children's picture books will be 10 for £1.00

Keep in touch with everything by visiting our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/BerkeleyBooks/> or our website: <https://berkeleybooks.co.uk>



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Cost of Living Support

Every Wednesday
10-7pm

 Community Pantry
Benefit & Debt Advice
£1 Hot Meals
Housing Advice
Benefit, Debt Advice
Job Seeking Advice
Digital Access/Support
FREE Wi-fi access
Coffee, Cake & Chat

#WarmGL11



WINGS DAY THANK YOU

Many thanks to all visitors and townspeople who contributed to the Royal Air Forces Association Wings Day appeal.



This year's town collection amounted to £140.60

Useful Telephone Numbers:

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

Join our weekly pencil and pastel art classes
in Berkeley Union Chapel
every Monday from 11am to 1pm

Discover your creativity with our lightly tutored classes
and enjoy the company of like-minded artists

Contact us via email: rose@laluneartstudio.com
for more information



BERKELEY PLAYERS

Please join us for a fun evening at our 'RACE NIGHT' on Nov 3rd at the Berkeley Arms starting at 7pm approx. Proceeds towards new wigs & make-up.

Tickets for our panto "Rapunzel" will be on sale from Berkeley Pharmacy from November 11th onwards so get yours before they all go!!!! Tickets will cost £8.00 for adults and £5.00 for children

"Rapunzel" will take place in the Town Hall on Thursday, Friday, Saturday afternoon and evening on December 7th 8th & 9th.

As noted before we have plenty of costumes but still need additional help. Anyone wishing to help with the scenery section in construction, painting etc please contact Phil on 07966 28 33 77. We also need more help with make-up — and can anyone play the piano or keyboard? If you can help please ring the number below. We look forward to hearing from you. If you would like any more information on our group or if you would like to help, especially if you can sew, please phone 01453 810462 or email berkeleyplayersdrama@gmail.com Thank you.

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christophers109@btinternet.com

Hamfields Leisure

Formerly Berkeley Power Station Club

WHATS ON

Saturday 18th November

Tribute to Michael Jackson
Tickets TBC

Sunday 3rd December

Xmas market with a variety of
crafters, food & christmas gift
ideas. Hot Turkey Rolls.

11am - 3pm

Hall hire contact 01453 810413

Email Hamfields@aol.com

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Tel 01454 269339

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/>

Art Classes

Berkeley Congregational Church (opposite Co-op) 11am to 1pm
Cost for 4 week period is £50
with light tutoring by Qualified Artists
Contact: rose@laluneartstudio.com

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.

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Vale of Berkeley Railway

This month's picture is of one of our brake vans as it nears completion. We acquired it in very poor condition. It had been sitting in the open for many years. The woodwork had large areas of rot and many of the metal areas were rusted and seized. The whole van has been stripped down to bare metal which has all been cleaned, sanded, and painted with protective paint. Many pictures were taken to ensure that we could re-assemble the van correctly. Every piece of wood was examined. Those which were reusable were cleaned, stripped, and painted, before re-assembly. A waterproof roof covering has been fitted. It was jacked up, one end at a time so that the axles and springs could receive attention. A couple of the springs had to be repaired. The horn guides, which are the part of the superstructure that move up and down on the axles, had to be removed and straightened where they had been bent as a result of years of heavy usage.

From a safety point of view when the van arrived it was not up to current standards. When brake vans were built, they were only fitted with was a simple bar across the ends which could not be secured. Children could easily fit under the bar and fall off. Our woodwork department has made proper doors to fit onto the platforms at the front and back of the van so that it can be used for brake van rides.

The Planet diesel shunter has now had all its bodywork replaced and refitted and is now having its final paint coats. As with all restoration projects a lot of extra unplanned jobs have appeared along the way. The latest was to find that the clutch plate had become soaked in oil over the years and needed to be replaced.

The 5-plank wagon has been stripped of woodwork, and all the springs have been removed and cleaned. One end coupling and buffer spring have been removed for cleaning and refurbishment.

One of our volunteers has also assembled a ride-on mower from various donated parts. This is destined for the sidings where we have several acres of land to maintain. Currently this

is being done with strimmers and push mowers, so it will be a great help.

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. These will be submitted to Stroud District Council for their formal approval.

The next major task is to erect a fence along our Eastern boundary. Before we can move any equipment on to the site it must be made secure. This boundary is 400 yards long and is completely unprotected, so we will have to hack a path through the undergrowth and erect 400 yards of secure fencing.

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.

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.

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.