



Cllr Gordon Craig says farewell to the District Council

As we approach the District Council elections in May I wanted to let you know that I have decided not to stand for election again. I have represented Berkeley for the last 14 years and feel very honoured to have had your support over that time. I have tried to repay that trust by working hard to represent everyone and I'm very pleased to say this was recognised by the District Council who, back in 2019 nominated Pauline and I to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in the company of Her Majesty the late Queen Elizabeth and the current Prince and Princess of Wales (William & Kate). What an amazing and unforgettable day it was. During my 14 years as your Stroud District Councillor I have sat on the housing committee, community



services committee, environment committee and the strategy and resources committee. I have attended many a long and often boring meeting running late into the night. I won't miss those meetings one bit but I will miss the great feeling that I've enjoyed each time I've been able to help people in our community with something important to them. Seeing the weight of what has often been an almost unbearable burden, to them, being lifted away is rewarding beyond belief.

They say it's important to know the right time to move on from something and I decided long ago that I wasn't going to ask you to vote for me past the age of 70. I'm now 71 and so I'm just sticking to that principle. Those of you who know me well, know that I'm involved in lots of things

locally and am never happier than when I'm busy. That will absolutely continue and I'll continue to support this great community of ours in any way I can.

Although not so well known here in Berkeley, my fellow Berkeley Vale District Councillor Haydn Jones, who lives in Gossington, has decided not to stand for re-election in May either and I know he would want to join me in thanking you for just being "THE BEST COMMUNITY" to represent.

Gordon

Christmas at Berkeley Announcement

First of all we'd like to say a massive thank you to everyone who came and supported our Christmas at Berkeley evening, and on one of the coldest nights too!

Thanks to your generosity we can finally announce that we made £300 for each of the four charities:

SARA

Berkeley Community Library
Edward Jenner Museum
Berkeley Educational Swimming Trust

This event wouldn't have been possible without all the amazing volunteers who came together to make this evening even better than the last! We hope to make 2024 even better!!

BERKELEY TOWN COUNCIL

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY

MONDAY 22ND APRIL 7PM TOWN HALL

Welcome from the Mayor
Followed by presentations to the charities who benefitted from the 'Christmas@Berkeley' event

The Launch of the second Consultation of the Town Regeneration Project

'Have your say' Time for residents questions!

- All residents of Berkeley are welcome to attend
- You can raise any issues regarding our Town, and find out some more about plans for the future

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APRIL IN THE GARDEN

April is the month of sunshine and showers! There may be some warmer days but frost protection may still be needed. Around the garden can be seen Exochorda "the Bride" coming into flower. It is a delightful small tree with dense white flowers. Forsythia with its cheerful yellow flowers is early this year and Philadelphus (mock orange) is coming into bud. All the sights and sounds of Spring can really lift your spirits on a warm April day as you walk around the garden.

It is time to battle once again with the weeds in the borders as they are growing fast at this time of year. As the soil is very pliable after all the rain we have had now is a good time to lift up weeds such as Dandelion and Docks which have long tap roots. The old saying of pulling up weeds when wet and hoe them when dry is good advice. Under dry conditions annual weeds can be sliced off just under the soil level with a hoe and they soon shrivel and die in the heat of the sun. Perennial weeds such as Bindweed need continual weeding to reduce reseeding. It forces them to use up food reserves and exhaust their supply of root buds thus minimising their spread through the soil. The most important point is to stop the weeds from setting seed. This will reduce the production of the next generation of growth. This month is very busy in the garden as you should be well on with

seed sowing in the greenhouse. French Beans, Runner Beans, Courgettes, Marrows, Squash and Cucumbers can be sown in trays and pots. Sweet Peas and Broad Beans that we sowed last month can be hardened off ready for planting out. Tomatoes can be pricked out into pots in the greenhouse. Roses can be given their first feed using a general fertilizer. There is still time to lift and divide perennial plants to invigorate them. There are potatoes, onion sets and shallots to plant. Gladioli corms and lilies can also be planted now. Do remember to dead head spring bulbs after they have finished flowering. Protect perennials from slugs and snails as they become more active as the weather gets warmer.

I have been asked whether to use the No Dig method on the soil in the garden or to dig deep – which is the best? As a student many years ago we were taught to double dig the soil which was good for opening up the soil structure – but it was very hard work! As I have got older and wiser I think a bit of both works. When I first started to garden here in Berkeley the garden had not been dug for many years – there were no worms or other organisms to be seen as the soil was as hard as a brick and in very poor condition. After 20 years and more of mulching, incorporating farm yard manure and fertilizer it has at last started to come alive. I do very little deep digging but just fork over to get

air in and open up the structure of the soil allowing for better drainage for root growth and nutrients to be available for the plants. As for Micorizza fungi in the soil, there was very little Oxygen as the soil was so compacted, so it was not working. So the best results to grow healthy plants is to open up the structure of the soil, fork over incorporating lots of organic material. Feed your plants with a general fertilizer in the growing season. So I would say that a bit of no dig and a lot of forking works for me and no double digging is much better on my back! I hope this information is of interest to you and helps with your everyday gardening. It is lovely to see the new growth, leaves unfolding and blossom bursting forth so here is to more settled weather so that we can enjoy the outdoors to the full. You will find me mostly in my greenhouse pricking out all my seedlings and potting up the cuttings which are now rooted.

So until next month – enjoy your gardening!

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Message from the Mayor

BERKELEY
TOWN COUNCIL

You may have seen the scaffolding installed around the Town Hall. This is to allow us to perform some essential repairs to the stonework, to keep the building in good condition and prevent stonework falling on to the pavement.

The Council will hold its Annual Town Assembly on 22nd April at 7pm, upstairs in the Town Hall. This is your chance to find out what the council has been up to this year, what our plans for the future are and to give you the chance to question us or raise any concerns. Hope to see you there.

Finally, a huge thank you to Brian, our caretaker for many years. In recognition of his hard work he and his wife have been selected to represent the Stroud District at an upcoming King's Garden Party. We hope that they both have a wonderful day.



BERKELEY
TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, Salter Street, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, GL13 9DB
01453 511964 07510 075101 www.berkeley-tc.gov.uk
clerk@berkeley-tc.gov.uk

Town Regeneration Project Consultation Second phase consultation survey

The Town Regeneration Project Working Party includes members of the public and town councillors and is keen to have YOUR views on the second phase of a consultation process for improvements to the Town Centre. Gloucestershire Highways is supporting the Town Council with the delivery of an urban realm improvement project, and associated highway surface improvements including realignment and re-surfacing of our roads to create an attractive town centre environment with improved pedestrian accessibility and movements, traffic calming, parking, safer crossing points and multifunctional community space. Please consider taking part in our survey as we want to have as many residents involved as possible.

This consultation will run from 22nd April to 20th May 2024. There are a range of ways to take part:

- Visit one of our consultation events
And talk to members of the working party
(paper surveys will be available)
- Participate in our online survey from
22nd April to 20th May (link available on
our website www.berkeley-tc.gov.uk
from 22nd April)
- Complete the paper based survey which
is available at the consultation events, in
the library, or collect from Berkeley Town
Hall (office hours)
- Submit your comments to the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Salter Street,
Berkeley, Glos, GL13 9DB by post, in person or by email to
clerk@berkeley-tc.gov.uk

Consultation Event Dates:

Monday 22nd April
Annual Town Assembly
Town Hall 7pm

Saturday 18th May
Town Hall
10am-12noon

Presentation board in
Berkeley Books community
library from Friday 26th
April to Monday 20th May

Yes the rumours are true, the ever popular Family Fun-day/ Rounders Tournament is back. It was started around 14 years ago in memory of Sam Virgo who sadly died of meningitis aged just 2. The event is set to take place on Saturday 27th of July at Canon Park recreational field.

The main event of the day is the Rounders Tournament which runs from 10 am til the final is played around 5 pm. If you would like to enter a team please message or call Lisa on 07885881145 or tell us on our Facebook page. A team is 9 mixed gender people (you can have as many subs as you like) and we will be asking for £5 per team member to enter.

There will be music throughout the day and live bands in the evening. We will be catering to your every whim with a very well stocked bar and we will also be serving cocktails and Pimms. The barbecue will be fired up all day serving bacon rolls for breakfast and burgers and hotdogs all day. There will be tea and cakes and free squash and water for the kids. We pride ourselves on being an affordable day out for you and all your family so please put the date in your diary and gather the family for a fun day.

There will of course be a raffle so if you have anything you would like to donate please get in touch.

All proceeds this year will be split between Meningitis Now and Spencer Dayman Meningitis Research.

Look out for updates on our Facebook page and in next month's Flyer.

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Professor Philip Brookes BSc, PhD, DSc 1951 to 2023

Philip Brookes was born in Berkeley Hospital in rural Gloucestershire in 1951.

He lived his early years in Berkeley, attending local Dursley Grammar School, worked at R A Lister to help fund his education, before attending Coventry University, studying Biology, graduating with a First then a PhD.

He was a well known and much loved character in and around Berkeley visiting Berkeley regularly until both parents died.

In 1976 he began his career at Rothamsted Research in Harpenden, Herts. where he was to spend the rest of his distinguished scientific career, travelling globally until retirement beckoned nearly 40 years later. He held several Professorships, both in the UK and China.

Phil became an internationally recognised soil biologist with a much respected reputation over the last 40 years, including investigating various pollution issues and was proud to meet Mary Robinson when she was President of the Republic of Ireland and discuss these issues with her.

Phil worked with numerous PhD students, early career scientists and visiting scientists from around the world, becoming a mentor and inspiration to many younger



colleagues. After his retirement from Rothamsted in 2011 he took up a prestigious Chinese government Fellowship to work at Zhejiang University where he spent some 6 years, during which time he received a prestigious award for his achievements from the Chinese government. Following his second retirement he enjoyed living in his beloved adopted country of Ireland where he had many friends and enjoyed bee-keeping, country life and his lifelong passion of fishing. He will be greatly missed by close family members, colleagues and former students across the world and by his many friends in Ireland. He was an extremely knowledgeable bee keeper and a familiar site at local markets in Ireland selling his honey and beeswax. He was never happier than when tending his bees in his home, Sin E in Caher, Co Mayo.

His achievements in soil science will be remembered by so many all over the world, but so will the remarkable trail of hilarious stories he left behind him everyday, through his unique approach to life and wicked sense of humour.

His family received so many moving messages of condolence from all over the world, many truly affected by his death, he was highly respected and much loved by family, friends, students and colleagues.

At his funeral many of his Irish fishing friends gave him a guard of honour next to his beloved Loch Mask, dressed in their fishing gear – a fitting tribute.



Berkeley Vale Foodbank

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

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Local Police Report



Mike Trebble
PCSO

PCSO Trina Ellis

PC Sarah Robinson

Our mobile police station was parked up in the town on the 13th March. From the visitors we had there were no real concerns, except for complaints about speeding through the town. Crime wise, again nothing of real concern. Earlier in March there were a couple of outbuilding thefts in the Oakhunter Lane area of the town. One of those thefts involved a Quad bike being stolen. We continue to work on enquiries with this theft including with our neighbours at Avon & Somerset police who have also seen a rise in farming vehicle thefts.

The main concern, however, was a rogue trader operating in the town. The rogue trader used the name of an existing genuine company and provided a leaflet with false information.

Numerous properties were visited by this rogue trader in

the town including Howmead and Lantern Close.

We are particularly concerned following a visit to a lady in her 90's in the Hillcrest area of the town on Monday 11th March. Three males with Irish sounding accents approached the property and asked the lady if she wanted her roof cleaned for a reduced price of £500 down from £1600. The lady informed the group that she wasn't interested. The next thing she knew was that they were up on her roof starting work.

Thankfully neighbours came to her aid and the males made a swift exit. Other residents of the town have had similar visits. The males have stolen the identity of a genuine company. Leaflet that have been left at properties directs you to a fake website.

We are keen to catch up with these males and thank those of you who have provided us with information.

If you receive a visit please call us on 101 and certainly 999 if they are up on your roof without permission.

The Vale Community Singers is a local choir, rehearsing in Berkeley and made up of members from the town and surrounding areas.

The opportunity to perform in and support our local community is really important to us, and we've a busy Spring ahead.

We're proud to have supported The Big Sleep at Berkeley Castle on 22nd March, providing entertainment to the incredible people raising money for Alabaré by spending the night sleeping outdoors.

We're hosting an open rehearsal at **7.30pm on Tuesday 23rd April** - we'd like to invite anyone interested to come along to the Town Hall to hear some of our repertoire, sing along if you wish, and share cake and coffee with members. If you'd like to join our ranks, the more the merrier!

We offer pay as you go and subscription rates, so our members can choose the best option for your circumstances. Thanks to the wonderful support of Berkeley Town Council grants we've kept rates at pre-Covid levels and are keen to be affordable and accessible to all.

If you're not a singer but would simply like to support our performances we'll also be singing in Tortworth Church on the afternoon of **Sunday 19th May**. Look out for further details.



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BVCAN

Community Energy – How can Local Residents benefit?

At a packed meeting last month in the Mortimer Room, Nailsworth, we learned the answer to the question “How might Berkeley residents benefit from community energy?” But to begin with: what is community energy?

Community energy involves individuals investing in local, small scale, sustainable electricity production generated from solar and wind energy.

Several parishes in the Stroud District are beginning to find out whether a sustainable energy project is feasible in their area. As many local people as possible are involved from the outset. The first step in the process will ascertain three things: what type of project (if any) local residents would be happy to accept; how much energy could be generated and how all members of the community could benefit from it.

The aim of community energy is to bring down energy costs for everyone in the parish.

Those towns and villages (such as Nailsworth and Uley) which are beginning to take the first steps in this process hope to be better placed to take advantage of funding should it be made available in the future.

The meeting in Nailsworth was organised by Transition Stroud and the Stroud Area Community Energy Network (SACEN). There were contributions from the Gloucestershire Community Energy Coop (GCEC) and National Grid who have facilitated the installation of solar pv at Rednock School.

So, what can we do in Berkeley?

Transition Stroud can assist individuals interested in discovering the potential of sustainable energy in their locality. Transition Stroud can help initially, to bring residents together, enabling them to gather local thoughts

and ideas with a view to seeing what gains could be made for the benefit of everybody in the community.

SACEN meet every month and have a wealth of expertise to offer projects in the early stages of development.

If you are interested in the possibility of a community-led sustainable energy project in the Berkeley area please contact us at berkeleyvaleclimateaction@gmail.com

Jane Robertson and the BVCAN team

Volunteers NEEDED

NHS Gloucestershire is working in partnership with GRCC, The Independence Trust and four local GP practices to launch a new pilot phone service in the Berkeley Vale area.

The **Connect+Prevent** service will support people who have mild frailty and are at risk of hospital admission to live more independently.

We are looking for **15 volunteers** living in **Berkeley Vale** or the surrounding area, with a minimum of 2 hours per week to spare, to support the initial 4 to 5 month telephone pilot project. Full training and support will be provided.

If you are interested in finding out more, please call Cynthia Kerr or Barbara Piranty at GRCC on 01452 528491 or email barbarap@grcc.org.uk

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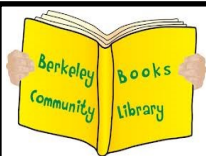
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As you know, we already have a lot of clubs which use the Library for their meetings. The latest arrival is the Scrabble Club which will be meeting in the Library every Tuesday from 1.30 – 3.30pm.

The club will offer you the opportunity to test your words skills with like-minded people (does “QI” on a double letter score beat “UP” on a triple word score?) and get to know and socialise with new people. There is no need to be a member of the library – just come along and join in. We have plenty of boards and tiles so just bring yourselves. Hot drinks will be available at a small charge.

On April 2nd we will be hosting our last cake, coffee and tea morning of the season at 10.30 am until the cake runs out. The last film of the season will also be shown on the 2nd April, at 7.30pm and our final clue of the season is: “This Grammy winning film, inspired by the life of P.T. Barnum, (played by Hugh Jackman) tells an inspirational rags-to-riches story, with wonderful songs”.

The very active Crochet club will be displaying their wares in the library from Friday 5th April to Tuesday 23rd April, during regular library hours.

The Gardening Club is back up and running with the next meeting on Wednesday 17th April, and subsequently on the third Wednesday of every month, until further notice.

The Men’s Shed will have a drop-in session on Saturday 13th April from 10.30 – 11.30 am and we hope that they will keep visiting on the second Saturday of every month.

The History group meeting will be on Thursday 4th April at 7.00pm and then on every first Thursday of each following month.

The Lego club goes from strength to strength with more and more modellers, young and old, attending, more and more wonderful creations being made and an ever- increasing supply of bricks being made available. Come along every Saturday, from 10.30 – 11.30.

And finally, we are pleased to be able to share an artist’s impression of our new library with you. Look out for more information over the coming months.



Dursley Good Neighbours Scheme

We have welcomed Carol Bracken as our new Transport Coordinator. Carol, seen below with Roger Bennett, Chairman, (left) and David King, Treasurer, (right) takes over from Dawn and David Elsdon who have retired after over twenty years of organising the team of volunteer drivers who take many, mostly elderly or moderately disabled people, from Dursley, Cam and the surrounding area, including the Vale of Berkeley, to their hospital, clinic, GP or dental appointments.



Many people don’t qualify for NHS transport and can’t use public transport or private hire and find the service vital in getting to their appointments. Most journeys are to Gloucester Royal, Cheltenham, Stroud or The Vale Hospitals but some patients go to Tetbury, Bristol or further afield. Over 1200 journeys were made in the past year, providing transport for some 1500 patients.

Carol, who lives in Dursley, takes over the co-ordination of a team of some dozen volunteer drivers. Good Neighbours urgently needs to recruit more drivers from the area so that it can meet an increasing demand - there are more and more people who need its help. When patients need transport they call Carol, who liaises with drivers to see who is available for the required journey - drivers offer help on a flexible basis, with no fixed time commitment, use their own vehicles and receive a mileage contribution for the journeys they undertake. Costs are very helpfully supported by the County Council and local Town and Parish Councils.

Anyone interested in joining the Scheme as a driver should contact Carol on 07436 430269.

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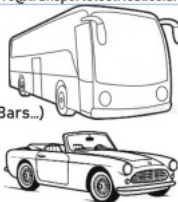
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INSPIRING WOMEN

The monthly meeting of Berkeley WI was held on Thursday March 14th at 2:00pm in The Pavilion at Canon Park.

All present were warmly welcomed by the current President, Rose Coupe. The business part of the meeting was swiftly completed.

Notice for all members. Next meeting April 11th be ready to pay your annual subscription (£45). If paying by cheque please make payable to Berkeley WI and put in a sealed envelope with your name on the outside. Those wishing to pay cash or by BACs please let the treasurer know at the meeting.

Annual membership fees are divided - half are retained by the individual WI and the other half are split between the County Federation of WIs and the National Federation of WIs. Berkeley WI does give a small subsidy to membership fees. For anyone not a member, but wishing to find out what we do, you are very welcome to come as a visitor for a maximum of 3 meetings.

After the darkness and wetness of winter, spring is emerging with a noticeable rise in people's spirits. Plans for the spring/summer include the summer outing with Applegates which will be on Thursday August 8th on the

Cotswold Steam Railway from Cheltenham Racecourse to Broadway. This is a trip open to all so husbands/friends/partners are very welcome and further information about the trip is in the Applegates brochure. Spring lunch is booked on Tuesday April 16th 12.00 for 12.30 at the Berkeley Arms. Contact Margaret Sheldon if you wish to attend.

Monthly groups:

1st Saturday April 2nd Craft 2.00 pm at 40 Salter Street,

2nd Thursday April 11th WI meeting 2.00 pm at The Pavilion Canon Park

3rd Thursday April 18th Book group at The Library 2.30pm

Last Thursday April 25th Skittles 2.30 pm at The Boars Head Lynch Road

Last Saturday April 27th Coffee 10.30 at The Perfect Blend Cafe

Copies of Gloucestershire News were distributed to all members. Significant events were noted including a coffee meet up of local WIs at Leaf and Ground (Dursley) on Saturday April 20th.

Date of next meeting Thursday April 11th 2:00pm The Pavilion Canon Park.

Meeting closed.

The speaker was Nick Brunger. His talk was entitled "Magic, Tricks of the Mind and Storytelling".

Well it was an engaging 45 minutes of interactive different tricks involving playing cards and "psychological manipulation". Various attendees were

picked out to undertake particular tricks. One involved a pendulum. Another how supermarkets influence us - hidden persuaders. Harry Houdini was talked about and Yuri Geller. Extra Sensory Perception too. The final part was collective thought - using playing cards those present picked out 5 numbers. Nick had already bought a euromillions lottery ticket using those numbers which he left with us. Sadly we didn't win. Just one bonus ball.

It was a very skillfully delivered session which was in equal parts fascinating, fun, slightly disconcerting, entertaining and compelling. To find out more Nick has a website (Nick Grunger) where anyone interested can find out more. A very different afternoon's entertainment.

BERKELEY PHARMACY

We are hiring

As we look to increase our services to the community we are hoping for a second pharmacist to join the team.

Full-time or part-time considered.

Please get in touch by emailing us at: berkeley-pharmacy@outlook.com



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#WarmGL11



Crochet Exhibition

Celebrating 10 years of
the crochet group

5th - 23rd April

At Berkeley Library during
normal opening hours



Berkeley Youth Club, run by Krunch South West, is open every Monday evening in term time at the Canon Park Sports Pavilion, for young people in school years 5 to 11. Regularly attended by over 40 young people, the club offer a huge mix of activities as well as a safe space to hang out with friends and chat with youth workers.

Over the last few weeks young people have had freak shakes and

pancakes, run an upcycling fashion show, played Kahoot quizzes, board games, football and dodgeball, and enjoyed a Christmas party with karaoke, dancing, party games and a big Christmas dinner.

Young people also went on a trip to Ninja Warrior in Gloucester for lots of climbing, swinging and leaping!

Youth club times as follows:

School years 5 to 7:
Mondays 6 – 7.30pm

School years 8 to 11:
Mondays 7.45 – 9pm

All young people welcome. No need to book, just turn up. The cost is £1. There is a registration form to complete, which you can do on arrival or beforehand by scanning this QR code.



For more info, please contact
natalie@krunch.org.uk

Wild Acres Developing Roots

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- Develop Skills Together
- Cultivate Partnerships
- Exchange Resources
- Engage in our Community
- Network

More info
here



Sowing Seeds of Health, Growth,
Creativity and Community at Wild Acres

Monday 15
April 2024
10 am – 1 pm

Breadstone, GL13 9HF
info@wildacres.org.uk
07799623520
wildacres.org.uk
CIC 13268912



We Need YOU!



Email us, write to us or call us. We'd love to hear from you.

The Berkeley Flyer wouldn't exist without the local community's contribution. If you are doing some fundraising, want to say thank you to someone, have an interesting story to share or a memory of past Berkeley please share it with us.

Email us at editor@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk or pop you message into the Pharmacy by 15th of the month or give us a call. Details are on page 10.

You can also advertise your business with a monthly ad or promote an event with a one-off advert, let us know and we can send you the details.

And, if you want to get more involved, we are looking for another editor to join the team! This will involve editing an edition once a quarter and helping out with things like proof-reading. It is a great way to support your local community from the comfort of your own home. Want to know more? Please email us.

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

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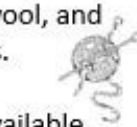
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The Carer's café

The Culverhay Surgeries Frailty Team invites you to our Carer's café

From 10am to 12 noon every first Thursday of the month
This is a great opportunity to drop in for a chat with other carers,
to find answers to questions you may have,
To seek advice about your caring journey,
Or to take the person you are caring for out for a coffee.

We'd love to see you at
St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Berkeley, GL13 9BN

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 PavilionJuniors 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 Hall6.30pm 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 LibraryTuesdays 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 Club3rd 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 View10 - 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.

Art GroupBerkeley 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 HallFrom 7pm - 7.45pm Young People
From 7.45pm 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 MassSundays 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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If you want to make a contribution, please contact one of the Flyer Team on the numbers shown, place your contribution in the collection box in the Berkeley Pharmacy, Market Place, or e-mail: editor@theberkeleyflyer.co.uk by 15th of each month

PUBLICATION DATE : 1st of each month

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TYNDALE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

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

ANNUAL FOLIO FIVE COMPETITION

Peter Weaver LRPS CPAGB APAGB, an experienced photographer, speaker, and judge, is well-known to the members of Tyndale Photography Club as he has made numerous visits in the past, and this month he was invited to judge our annual 'Folio Five' competition.

As the title suggests to participate in this competition, you are required to submit a set of five digital images that share a common theme, additionally, a sixth image must be generated that presents the five individual images as a panel.

Before commenting on each panel Peter explained that he was looking to see that each of the individual images sat well as a panel and that they flowed well together, they did not necessarily have to do well as a stand alone image. He was

pleased to say that the standard of all the entries was very good and that he had very much enjoyed judging them. He then proceeded to display the entered panels, presenting each picture from the folio individually before showcasing all the images as a panel. Peter provided feedback on each image and finally shared his thoughts on how the five images looked together as a panel.

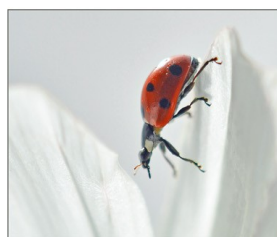
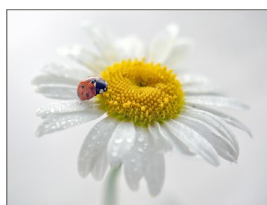
There was a good variety of subjects throughout the 17 panels entered including portraits, nature and industrial images.

The winning panels were :

First Place – Meanderings of a Ladybird – Barbara Gibbons

Second Place – The Singer Sewing Machine – Steve Stone

Third Place – Spring Flowers – Brian Wetton



Meanderings of a Ladybird

What's happening on the Berkeley Estate

Over 10,000 trees have been planted this winter on the Estate, including Field Maple, Silver Birch, Beech, Wild Cherry, Oak, Rowan, Sycamore and Scots Pine.

Amongst the many other environmental benefits, this will create wonderful new habitats for wildlife.



The Berkeley Estate Fishing Syndicate (BEFS) teamed up with Bristol and Avon Rivers Trust (BART) to undertake in-stream habitat restoration by using nature-based solutions. This involved creating 16 woody berms to improve the diversity of the flow. The work was funded by South Gloucestershire Council as part of their Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan and was undertaken with the help of BEFS and local volunteers.

BEFS are looking for volunteers who don't necessarily need to be into fishing, to help make the river a better place for everyone to enjoy. If volunteering would be of interest to you, please email enquiries@berkeley-fishing.co.uk



The Joust is back!

Sunday 5th — Monday 6th May

Tickets available online now.

www.berkeley-castle.com



info@berkeley-castle.com

BERKELEY RACES

SATURDAY 27th APRIL

WOODFORD, BERKELEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE
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www.berkeleyraces.co.uk/tickets

Vale of Berkeley Railway

Our picture this month is of one of our volunteers working on our Ruston and Hornsby 88DS shunter.



During her initial checks we found that she was very difficult to start. We needed to attach our compressor in order to get enough compression into the engine for her to fire up. However, there was a small engine attached to one of the buffer beams. This had clearly not been started for many years. Investigation revealed that it was in fact a "donkey" engine with the specific function of providing enough compression to start the main shunter engine once it was up to pressure. This has been stripped down and restored and she now starts easily.

We have a lot of paint work to be getting on with. Two of our wagons have been stripped right back to bare metal. Due to space this work has to be done outside in the yard, so the continuing cold, wet weather has delayed progress, but hopefully the warmer, dryer will be with us soon and we can then push on with painting these as well as our planet diesel shunter. This is now largely complete, and the next task is a complete repaint.

Oldminster Sidings

The fencing work has started in earnest. The first 20 panels have been erected, and the team involved are developing more slick and easy ways of doing the job. Fortunately, the ground is relatively soft. It would have made it much harder if we had found rock, but a large number of old roots are proving a challenge.

The team operating the digger have spent several useful sessions at the sidings. They have levelled several areas and removed a large number of tree

stumps. It is wonderful to see how versatile this machine is. We had ten bags of ballast delivered. They each weigh about 2 tons, but the digger moved this to where they were required in a few minutes.

We have had the benefit of a team of trainee track fitters. They are training for future jobs on Network Rail who have a large number of vacancies to fill. A great deal of their training is classroom based, but they have to spend some time doing actual laying and re-laying track. Clearly Network Rail would not want to turn a team of trainees loose on the live railway, so they asked if they could practice on some of our sidings. The first course has run. It was very successful and will hopefully be followed by further courses.

A second container and a portacabin have been delivered to the sidings. These have been mounted on old concrete sleepers. The container will be used for storing some of our equipment which is not immediately required. The portacabin will be used as our welfare area.

Everything has been stripped out of it. Windows and a proper door will be fitted. Tables and chairs will then be added followed by some way of providing hot food and drinks. This all sounds very luxurious compared with what we have been used to. These have proved a real benefit. Our first container was bursting at the seams as until now it was all we had. Every piece of equipment had to be stored in there and it was also our shelter when the weather was excessively cold or wet.

Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to take on some specific tasks. If you have any interest and experience in these areas, please get in touch to discuss the roles further.

Project manager.

We would like someone with project management, preferably in the building industry, to help to oversee construction sub-projects at Oldminster Sidings. These include building the haul road, site establishment, permanent way modifications and building the Shed. The role consists of coordinating activity with volunteers, liaising with suppliers for the delivery of material and reporting progress to the Steering Group. It will require attendance at site on our workdays, which are Wednesdays and Fridays. Please contact rob.gerrard@vobr.org.uk

Events coordinator

We are looking for someone to coordinate our attendance at external events for 2024. Events are important for us as it's an opportunity to publicise our railway, gain new members and volunteers and raise some money. The work consists of liaising with event organisers to book our place and arranging for volunteers to attend. We have a core group of volunteers who transport, set up and manage the stand at events; we attended 12 last year. The role can be done mostly from home. Please contact bryan.whitfield@vobr.org.uk

One of our main sources of income is the scrap metal recycling scheme. Some of the donated material has been reused in our machine shop to make components for our vehicles, and a number of useful tools have been acquired by this route, but the bulk of it has been recycled. Since we started more than £20,000 has been raised through this, so if you have any scrap metal or tools, please consider donating it to us.

The machine shop has a number of urgent orders to fulfill. If anyone has engineering 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 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 these are working areas, 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.

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.