



IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE EDITORS OF THE FLYER

THE DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST EDITION IS REGRETFULLY BEING **BOUGHT FORWARD TO 10TH OF JULY** BECAUSE THE PRINTING TEAM (NOW SEMA4 GRAPHICS) ARE ON HOLIDAY FROM THE END OF JULY TO EARLY AUGUST AND WE WANT TO AVOID LATE DELIVERY.

IF THIS LEAVES YOU WITH INSUFFICIENT TIME TO PRODUCE AN ARTICLE OF YOUR USUAL LENGTH PLEASE WRITE WHATEVER YOU CAN.

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TOWN COUNCIL

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) are responsible for looking after our roads, so I thought I should share some recent development regarding the roads around Berkeley.

First, the good news: after a long time of asking, Station Road is finally due to be resurfaced soon.

Now the bad news: GCC have imposed a further parking restriction on Canonbury Street, at the entrance to the town. This has caused a lot of frustration for the residents there, and as far as we can tell has been done with no consultation or official paperwork. As a Town Council we are challenging this.

Secondly, despite several complaints, loose chippings damaging cars and people, and multiple pothole repairs there every year near Sarah's Field, GCC have announced they no intention of resurfacing Lynch Road any time in the next 4 years. Again, as a Town Council we will be seeing what we can do to challenge this.

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JULY IN THE GARDEN

July – the month of sunshine and holidays. The garden should be at its best- all the earlier sowing, pricking out and planting will be paying dividends in the borders and in the vegetable plot too. I always think that the holiday season comes just at the wrong time for our gardens when everything is growing lushly and needs a lot of attention! Keeping up with watering for a start!

Picking Runner Beans and Courgettes regularly and also picking Sweet Peas so that they continue to flower are some of the jobs that need attention.

Lifting the old clumps of Bearded Iris is another job to be done – they have knobbly rhizomes. Cut off the healthy pieces that have a clump of leaves attached. Pick off the dead foliage and cut back the fan of remaining leaves- about (6in) 15 cms long. By reducing the leaves this helps with water loss from the leaves and prevents wind catching any tall foliage and blowing the plants over. Replant the small pieces of rhizomes in a sunny well drained spot 8 -15cm (4in-6in) apart. The rhizomes must be just below the surface of the soil. The older pieces can be thrown away. Water them thoroughly.

Now is a good time to start to harvest seed from perennials which you would like to propagate. Seed is best collected on a dry sunny day. Put the seed pods into a paper bag with the

name written on the bag. I bring mine indoors and lay them on a tray until they are totally dry. The seeds will fall out of the pods – then carefully separate the seeds from the dirt and chaff. Put the seeds into paper envelopes and label with the date, plant name and colour. The envelopes can be kept in airtight containers and will be ready to sow next year.

It is time to prune early Summer flowering shrubs such as Philadelphus, Weigelia and also give Wisteria a Summer prune by cutting back the whippy growth the plant has made in the late Spring. Cut back to the main stem to about five or six buds. This will encourage the formation of flower buds for next year.

This year the Roses in our garden have been glorious. When dead heading they should be cut back to a bud in the leaf axil lower down the stem. Do not just snap off the flower head. Doing this way will encourage strong new growth. Wild roses do not need to be dead headed as they will produce attractive hips in the Autumn.

Take cuttings of Hydrangeas, Penstemons, Lavender and Salvia now. Take stem from a non-flowering current seasons growth – cut just below a leaf joint and place in a pot of compost, water and place a plastic bag over them until they have rooted- but take the bag off every day wipe off the condensation and replace. Do not place the pot in direct sunlight.

Lift early Potatoes when they have stopped flowering. Harvest Lettuce, Broad Beans, Strawberries and Raspberries. After you have harvested the last of the Broad Beans cut down the plants which can be placed on the compost heap. Leave the roots in the soil; as with all Legumes they have nitrogen fixing bacteria within the nodules on their roots and these can be dug into the soil to add extra nutrients.

If you have a pond remove any blanket weed, leaves and other debris. Leave any material you remove at the side of the pond to allow creatures to get back into the water. Top up the water in the pond in hot dry weather. Clear and clean water filters and pumps.

With all the work to do in the garden maybe you will not have time to go on holiday but do take time to sit back and take advantage of having a garden on your own doorstep!

Until next month – Good Gardening!!
ANN LEGG

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GL13 COMMUNITY HUB AND LIBRARY

Am I the only person who is wondering why the year seems to be passing so quickly? It seems that we have only just taken the Christmas decorations up to the attic, and now we find ourselves rapidly reaching the end of the school year and the beginning of the school summer holidays!

Talking of which, our Bounce and Rhyme sessions will stop throughout the summer holidays from Friday 17th July and will restart on Friday 4th September. The choir sessions will also stop through the holidays, but we have a few activities planned to fill those empty hours – including the reappearance of the Summer Reading Challenge which starts on the 12th July and runs till the 12th September – the idea is the same: sign up at the Library, get your Challenge Pack and get reading. The theme this year is “Travel through Time”. **Please bear in mind that the Library Challenge is only suitable for children of 3 and up.** For more information go to <https://gloslibraries.uk/welcome-library-challenge> or come into the library. We will also have other activities going on in July and August, so follow what is happening on our Facebook page.

In July, we will be holding our first “Pizza and Books” evening with the help of the lovely people from “One Pizza”. On Thursday 16th July from 4.30-8.00pm they will be at the Community Hub serving the best pizzas in town, fresh from their wood-fired oven. Once you have your pizza, come and get a drink from inside the Hub. So bring the family along and have a meal inside (or outside if you

prefer a picnic ambience, but bring a blanket). The library will be open, so come after work, grab a pizza and a book. What a great way to spend a Thursday evening!

On Friday 10th July, “Digital Daisy” will be holding a Scam workshop in the Hub from 10.00-12.00 where they will address your questions about how to avoid being scammed – warning signs, what to look out for, any software that might help you and any other concerns you might have. This is a drop-in session so don’t bother to book.

Starting in August in partnership with Gloucestershire hospitals we will be having a free NHS hearing aid clinic. Local charity, GDA, will be holding free clinics for NHS hearing aid wearers. These clinics are by appointment only so visits need to be booked with the first one being on Tuesday 4th August from 10.00am -1.00pm. To make a booking contact GDA on 01452 372999 or email earhealth@gda.org.uk. These clinics will be repeated every three months.

I want to give a big shout out to a service that is offered by Gloucestershire Libraries and worked amazingly well in my experience. I was hoping to read the last of a series of books by an American writer but it was not available in Berkeley. With the help of the online catalogue that covers the holdings of every library in Gloucestershire, I located it and “ordered” it on a Tuesday afternoon – by Friday of that week, it had arrived in Berkeley. What a service! For your information the book was “Hotel Ukraine” by Martin Cruz Smith and was the last of a series of stories following the career of a Moscow policeman from 1981 through to 2022 – a great read both as a thriller, but also as an interesting insight into Russian society.

THORNBURY AND DISTRICT U3A is holding another coffee morning in **Porch House, 11 Castle Street, Thornbury, Bristol, BS35 1HA**. Members and Non-members are welcome. Some u3a groups will be represented and will be happy to answer questions. There will also be refreshments. Please do come along to meet other people and have a coffee and chat. For further information visit our website Thornburyu3a or for membership enquiries please email membership@thornburyu3a.org.uk



Dr Jenner's House wants to hear from you!

As you will recall from last month's Flyer, Dr Jenner's House is starting work on a major programme to restore and revitalise the museum and would love to hear your views. There are lots of ways you can do this. Firstly you can join us on Wednesday 15 July 6-8pm for a glass of wine and a chat at the museum, plus the chance to review initial designs.

Alternatively, you can share your thoughts via our online survey via this QR code:



Dr Jenner's House, Museum and Garden in Berkeley is delighted to announce that Luke Jerram's glass artwork *Smallpox* is now on display at the museum, offering visitors a striking new way to reflect on the disease that Edward Jenner's work helped to defeat.



The artwork, part of Jerram's celebrated *Glass Microbiology* series, presents the smallpox virus as a delicate, beautiful and thought-provoking glass object. Displayed in the home of Edward Jenner, the pioneer of vaccination, it invites visitors to consider the relationship between science, art, disease, public health and hope.

The museum will be open on Saturdays throughout July and August, The Temple of Vaccinia has also reopened following major restoration.

Visitors can also see the museum's new temporary exhibition, *Under the Skin: A Complicated History of Vaccine Confidence*. Blending art, science and history, the exhibition explores the complicated history of vaccine confidence, resistance and public trust, tracing debates around vaccination from Jenner's cowpox vaccine to the present day.

SHORT MAT BOWLING

Hamfields Leisure on Wednesdays from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. Everyone is welcome, whether new to bowls or not and bowls can be provided if you don't have any. A very friendly group, usually with a tea and cake interval half way through the afternoon. Short mat bowling is similar to Lawn Bowls except played indoors on a mat which is much shorter than an outside green. Telephone Liz on 01453 547248 for more information or just turn up about 2.10pm.

St. Mary's Church, Berkeley

Local Produce Sale

August 'Bank Holiday' Monday

St. Mary's Churchyard

10am - 4pm

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BVCAN UPDATE

BVCAN Event

At last! It's your chance to watch the film that Lt General Richard Nugee CB CVO OBE, Deborah Meaden of Dragon's Den, Hugh Montgomery OBE Professor of Intensive Care Medicine and comedian Jennifer Saunders all agree everyone should see. There will be a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing at the Jenner Museum on Sunday 5th July, 3-5pm. Please make time to come. The event is free and there will be refreshments and a chance to discuss the film afterwards. This event is for everyone over the age of 16.

Everything Electric Festival (West)

Last month, BVCAN members visited the Everything Electric Festival in Cheltenham. It was a great showcase for the newest electric vehicles: cars, vans and UTVs as well as for companies involved in domestic solar panels and renewable energy heating solutions. A large marquee and stage hosted a variety of expert panel sessions and discussions about home energy saving.

If you feel you've missed out, the next expo is Everything Electric Greater London, Friday 11th to Saturday 12th September at the Allianz Stadium, Twickenham. Entry is £10 for adults, £7.50 concessions. Children are free.

Pet flea treatments

Research is beginning to show that pesticides in pet flea treatments, such as fipronil and imidacloprid, affect the brains of adult birds and kill chicks. Both substances have been found in UK rivers in sufficient concentrations to affect river insects and the animals which prey on them.

There are two types of treatment, products which stay on your pet's skin and products which enter the blood stream. Pet owners can help reduce harm to the natural world by adjusting how they use these products.

The British Veterinary Association advises that routine year-round treatment is not required for all dogs and cats as flea and tick infestations tend to be seasonal. My own pet dog, a lurcher, has very thin fur and has never yet had fleas. Your vet will be happy to discuss what is best for your pet.

If your dog swims or is bathed regularly then avoid using spot-ons or treated collars. If you use a product that is absorbed into the bloodstream this will gradually pass out of your pet in its poo—another good reason to pick-it-up every time your dog defecates. Don't

leave the poo to be washed away into the soil and from there, into our waterways. Careful flea treatment management also reduces the speed at which pest species develop immunity to the effects of the pesticides.

For more information visit: <https://vetsclinic.co.uk/environmental-impact-flea-treatments/>

Best wishes

Jane Robertson

The BVCAN team

berkeleyvaleclimateaction@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/BVCAN1/>

An invitation to join BVCAN for

A screening of

The Peoples Emergency Briefing

Sunday 5th July

4—5pm

In the Jenner Museum

Entry and Refreshments are free

Suitable for everyone over the age of 16



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New

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All abilities welcome
Every Thursday
6:30 - 7:30pm

Check out Facebook, 'New Berkeley Harriers Notices' for info on each weekly run, and 'New Berkeley Harriers Chat' for club chat.

Plus, why not start running with one of our regular Couch to 5k plans





Berkeley Family Fun Day is Back!

Get ready for a fantastic afternoon of fun as **Berkeley Family Fun**

Day returns for its third year on **Thursday 23 July 2026**. Organised by **Krunch South West**, this much-loved community event will take place at **Canon Park, Berkeley**, from **12pm to 4pm**. Families can enjoy inflatables, circus skills, coconut shy, a climbing wall, glitter tattoos, carnival face painting, graffiti art, music, a BBQ and much more. **Everyone is welcome!** Entry is free, although some activities will have a small charge.



The Berkeley WI met as usual on the 2nd Thursday of the month at The Pavilion Canon Park. The turnout was great. There are now 46 members which is absolutely brilliant and close to our cap of 50 members. It was very busy with lots of chatter and laughter.

The business part of the meeting covers the usual agenda format (safety regulations, apologies, minutes of previous meeting, chairman's report, treasurers report etc) and is chaired by Rose Coupe (President).

Outings: Trip with The Willow Trust Saturday July 11th. All those joining the trip should have paid any outstanding monies to Margaret Sheldon. Any queries please contact Margaret. Car share planned. Please take some cash coinage for parking etc. Meet at GL13 Hub (Library) at 9.15am. All participants need to have a completed Berkeley WI medical questionnaire form with details of next of kin (required in the event of an accident).

Summer outing Thursday August 13th. Picnic at Tinkley Gate. Final details to be confirmed at next meeting. Meetings:

No craft group in July. More poppies are being crocheted for The Remembrance poppy waterfall in St Mary's Church. Contact Sue Walkden for pattern details.

WI meetings: Thursday July 9th 2.00pm at The Pavilion Canon Park
Book group Thursday July 16th 2.30pm at GL13 Hub
Coffee all welcome The Kitchen Garden at Berkeley Castle 10.30am Saturday July 25th
Members were advised to read their copy of the GFWI June magazine to apprise themselves of county WI activities.

The formal meeting was closed.

The speaker was Rayelle Pentland-Borthwick from Fennell's Alpaca Farm. Anyone driving south on the A38 just before the Falfield motorway junction may have seen bags of alpaca poo beside the entrance to a driveway; that is where Fennells alpacas are. Rayelle entertained and informed the group explaining that running the alpaca farm is a retirement dream for herself and her husband.

They currently have a herd of 22 alpacas of mixed colours - grey/black/white and of varying age. Alpacas are by nature timid but curious and not at all aggressive. Fennells alpacas work extensively with Special Educational Needs children and adults (SEND).

A few alpaca facts:

Alpacas are part of the camel family native to South America so well able to withstand the cold but not coat-penetrating rain.

In 1989 there were 150 alpacas in the UK. In 2026 there are 45,000 registered in the UK and an estimated 15-20000 unregistered.

Unlike sheep's wool Alpaca fleece contains no lanolin so is smoother and finer. Samples of the wool were passed around. The softest came from a first fleece from a young beast. Lovely, soft and warm.

Want to know more? Anyone interested in visiting the farm or finding out more should contact the farm and they will advise how and when to visit.

Info@fennellsalpacas.com. 07912770053 Enjoy



BERKELEY COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL

Half term was a bonanza for the pool. It was wonderfully busy. The sun shone the temperatures rose and families came from near and far (well Wotton -under-Edge and Stonehouse as well as Berkeley). Parents and children had a blast in the pool. Happy days. The extra revenue for the pool was a welcome boost as earlier in the year the pump failed and had to be replaced - an unexpected cost of over £2000.

Now it is weekend swimming for the community and weekday swimming for all the pupils at Berkeley Primary School including Little Jesters. As always Facebook and the A board in Berkeley Market Place are kept updated.

The lifeguards had a whole day's update and refresher training from our qualified trainer. Thanks go to Berkeley Town Council who gave a grant to cover the cost of the training and to GL13 Community Hub and Library for allowing use of the building. It turned out to be an extremely important session because the UK Resuscitation Council have updated Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) techniques for both adults and children. All our lifeguards were deemed to be competent to continue in the role. Well done to them.

What many people don't realise is that sunshine is the biggest natural destroyer of pool water chlorine. As the climate changes and we have more sunshine and hotter temperatures so the pool uses more chlorine. We regard ourselves as extremely fortunate that Aldridges continue to support us financially through cardboard recycling. As previously reported for every bale of cardboard that Aldridges send off the pool receive a generous donation. It is not rocket science - the more dry cardboard that is donated to Aldridges the more costs of running the

pool are covered SO everybody please drop your cardboard off at Aldridges- it all helps. If you run a business and pay to dispose of your cardboard this is an opportunity to save costs.

We look forward to lots of swimming over the next weeks and to welcoming Sharpness Guides for their end of year party here at the pool. Do remember that the pool is available for private hire and also aims to support local organisations that wish to use the pool.

**TIRED OF POTHOLES
DOG POOP VANDALISM
BROKEN STREET LIGHTING
FLY-TIPPING LOOSE PAVING?**

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More than £84,000 of community funding from Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) at Berkeley is helping to support local facilities, skills development and opportunities for communities across Gloucestershire and the surrounding area.

The investment includes five Good Neighbour grants, providing targeted support to local clubs and charities, alongside four larger awards over £2,000, helping community-led projects develop facilities, improve accessibility and invest in sustainability.

Projects supported this year include GL13 Community Hub and Library, awarded £51,219 towards the installation of solar panels and a heat pump at the community hub and library, improving energy efficiency and supporting long-term sustainability.

Good Neighbour funding has also supported a variety of local organisations, including Cam Sports Club, Whittington Park Youth Football Club, Severn Area Rescue Association, The Keepers Wotton Area Community Hub, and Pauls Place South West, helping to fund equipment, safety improvements and community activities.

Mike Heaton, Site Director at Berkeley, said: "Supporting our local

communities is an important part of our role at Berkeley. This funding is helping community groups deliver projects that improve wellbeing, sustainability and access to facilities, while also supporting activities that bring people together. We are pleased to work alongside organisations that are making a real difference locally".

Community investment at Berkeley sits alongside the site's ongoing work to safely decommission the former nuclear power station, while continuing to support local employment, skills and supply chains.



John Stanton, Chair of the Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group (SSG), said: "These projects show the positive impact that targeted community funding can have. From sustainability improvements and accessible play areas to grassroots sports and community hubs, this investment is

delivering real benefits for local people. The Berkeley SSG welcomes NRS's continued commitment to supporting the communities around the site."

Berkeley site colleagues have also supported the local community through hands-on volunteering across a range of projects. This includes supporting Springboard, a Gloucestershire-based charity that helps young people build confidence, develop life skills and move towards employment, by repainting one of its rooms to create a brighter and more welcoming space.

Volunteers have also worked with Berkeley Primary School, transforming outdoor areas by repainting play equipment and benches, installing new sports equipment, and building features such as a mud kitchen and outdoor stage. In addition, teams supported the Berkeley Community Hub and Library, helping to move books, shelving and furniture into the new building to ensure the library remains an accessible and welcoming facility for local residents.

NRS is part of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority group, which invests around £15 million each year in socio-economic projects to support lasting and sustainable change in communities near its sites.

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Citizens Advice Column: Worried About Money After Injury?



Q: I've recently had to give up work due to a back injury, and I'm worried about how I'm going to cope with the drop in income. I'm not sure what benefits I can get - where should I start?

A: Lots of people miss out on benefits they're **entitled to**, so it's definitely worth checking what you can get. Claiming benefits can also give you **access** to other financial help like cost-of-living payments and discounts on energy and transport.

To get started, you can use an **online benefits calculator**. For the most accurate results, you'll need information about your savings, income, pension, childcare payments and any existing benefits for you and your partner, if you have one. Tools like Entitledto, Policy in Practice or Turn2us can help.

Universal Credit is the main benefit for most working-age people. If your injury makes it difficult to work, you might receive more or not need to look for work. You may also be entitled to other benefits or help with council tax or living costs. If you're unsure, **Citizens Advice** can help.

Citizens Advice helps with a range of issues. For information and self-help guidance, visit citizensadvice.org.uk. To speak to a local adviser in the Stroud and Cotswold Districts, visit citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk to complete our **webform** or call us on **0808 800 0510**.

The Annual Family Funday & Rounders Tournament is almost upon us. Please come along and support us. Have a beer or a cocktail, buy a hotdog or have a go on our raffle and help us raise loads of money for Meningitis Now and Spencer Dayman Meningitis Research. There will be lots to do on the day for your little ones too, so bring a deckchair and settle in for a day of fun.

After the tournament there will be live music so you can dance the night away.

Please remember dogs are not allowed on the field so please leave your furry friends at home

**THE ANNUAL
FAMILY FUN DAY
ROUNDERS
TOURNAMENT**

SATURDAY 25TH

RAFFLE

BBQ

Rounders, food, drink & music!
An affordable day out for all the family
Raising money for both **Meningitis Now** and **Spencer Dayman Meningitis Research**

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What's On Diary

Monday

Town Council Meeting

3rd Monday of the month 7pm

Krunch Youth Club - Canon Park Pavilion

Juniors for school Years 5-7, 5.30pm - 7pm £1
Seniors for school Years 8-11, 7.30pm - 9pm £1
From 17th April - Contact Natalie@krunch.org.uk

Berkeley Scouts - Scout HQ, Park View

10½ to 14 years old 7pm - 8.30pm

FitFix Exercise - Stinchcombe Village Hall

6.30pm Combat with Sam 07793 755240

Suitable for all abilities

Sharpness Guides 10 to 14 years old,

weekly 6.30pm - 8pm, **Sharpness Rangers**
Mondays 8pm-9.15pm Bi-weekly. Both at Scout & Guide HQ, Sanigar Lane, Sharpness. Contact: Sarah Walkden, sarah.walkden@hotmail.co.uk

Art Classes

Berkeley Congregational Church (opposite Co-op)
11am - 1pm

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Under 4s Group - GL13 Community Hub & Library

1pm - 3pm

Tuesday

Berkeley Community Library

Tuesdays 10am - 6pm

Telephone 810520

Line Dancing/Ballroom Dance Class

Hamfields Leisure 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Vale Community Choir

GL13 Community Hub & Library 7.30pm - 9pm

Term Time only.

All welcome

Squirrel Scouts - Scout HQ, Park View

4 to 6 years old, 5pm - 6pm (from Nov 25)

Cub Scouts - Scout HQ, Park View

8 to 10½ years old, 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Thornbury Macular and Low Vision Support

1st Tuesday of month, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Methodist Church Hall, Castle Court, Thornbury

Toddler Café

10am - 11.30am at Saint Mary's Church

Preschool baby & toddler group, could babies & toddlers please bring their parents/grandparents/childminder with them.

Games Club - GL13 Community Hub & Library

1.30pm - 3.30pm

Yoga Class

Tuesdays 7pm, at the Town Hall,

While every effort is made to ensure accurate reporting of events and information supplied to us, we regret we cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions that may occur. Publication © 2021 The Berkeley Flyer. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without prior written permission from the Editorial Committee. Copyright of individual articles or pictures submitted for publication rest with their authors, but may not be reproduced as published within this publication without the permission of the publishers. Publication of trade adverts in this newsletter does not constitute our recommendation of their services.

Wednesday

Dog Training - Sharpness Village Hall

from 7pm contact Mike Vine 01453 822134

Citizens Advice Bureau

Now Closed. Ring for advice on 0808 800 0510

Berkeley Gardening Club

3rd Wednesday of the month. Library 7.30pm

Crochet Group - GL13 Community Hub & Library

Every Wednesday from 11am until 1pm, £2 per session. Refreshments: 20p. Everyone is welcome. Just bring a crochet hook and some wool.

St Mary's Church

Coffee & Communion 11am 1st Wednesday of the month (See website for more details)

Bell Ringers Practice 7.30-9pm

Sharpness Beavers Wednesday 5.30-6.30pm

Sharpness Scouts Wednesday 5.30-6.45pm.

Both are alternating fortnightly, Contact Frank Birnie, frankbirnie@hotmail.com

Short Mat Bowling

Hamfields Leisure, 2.30-4.30pm

Thursday

Extend Exercise Classes for 60+ GL11

From 10.30am Contact Barbara 01453 766421

Berkeley Congregational Church

Thursday Coffee Mornings have now resumed starting at 10am. Everyone is most welcome.

Art Group - GL13 Community Hub & Library

£4.00 per session. 10am-2pm. 2nd and 4th

Thursdays. 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 6.30pm - 7.45pm Young People

From 7.45pm Adults

Bingo

Eyes down at Sharpness Village Hall, Oldminster Road, Sharpness GL13 9NA. 7pm start.

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

Berkeley WI - The Pavilion, Canon Park

2nd Thursday of the month, 2pm

Berkeley WI Book Group - GL13 Community Hub & Library

3rd Thursday of the month, 2.30pm

St Mary's Church

Online morning prayers 9am via zoom. The link can be found on the church website.

Care Café - GL13 Community Hub & Library

10-12am 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

Beginners Yoga Classes - Falfield Village Hall

6pm prompt start, WhatsApp Karen on 07713854169 for class availability

Trefoil Thursday, Last Thursday of the month only, contact Michelle Everett,

micheeverett@icloud.com

Friday

Friday Fitness Fun

The Chantry Room at Dr Jenner's House 10am. Call Julie to book on 07432679484

Berkeley Community Library

10am - 4pm

1st Sharpness Rainbows

4.45pm - 5.45pm at Scout & Guide HQ, Sanigar Lane **and** 6.15pm - 7.30pm at Scout & Guide HQ, Sanigar Lane. Contact Courtney Richards

courtney.in.guiding@gmail.com

Cosy Club

Every Friday from 1pm - 4pm, Berkeley Football Club. £5 for refreshments and to cover costs

Baby Bounce & Rhyme - GL13 Community Hub & Library

10.45am - 11.15am

Knit & Natter - GL13 Community Hub & Library

11am - 12.30pm. £1 for a drink and a biscuit

Saturday

Berkeley Green parkrun

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

Berkeley Community Library

10am - 12pm

Lego Club - GL13 Community Hub & Library

10:30am - 11:30am

Berkeley WI Coffee Morning—The Kitchen Garden

Last Saturday of the month, 10.30am

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

Services at 11am & 6pm

For details of services and events please see our website www.stmarys-berkeley.co.uk or follow St. Mary's Berkeley Facebook page.

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Berkeley Castle's
FARMERS MARKET
2026

Every third Sunday of the Month, 10am - 2pm

15th March • 19th April • 17th May • 21st June
19th July • 16th August • 20th September
18th October • 15th November • 13th December

Supporting local suppliers, farmers and artists

The Kitchen Garden
Berkeley Castle
GL13 9PJ

www.berkeley-castle.com
@kitchen_garden_at_berkeley

Care Cafe

GL13 Community Hub and Library

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month 10am to 12 noon

• **2nd July** – Parkinsons support group
Kathryn
Dementia Adviser Vicki Roberts

• **16th July** – Balance group
Callum and Angharad
Frailty Nurse Rachel Peak

6th August – drop in basic health check Matt Lewis

Everyone is Welcome

We offer a listening ear, tea, coffee, and biscuits.

Sessions are Free.



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Vale of Berkeley Railway Goes Live

This month's picture shows our pacer unit following a great deal of attention ahead of some great news. We have just received the amazing news, which is especially exciting for those volunteers who have been working away on this project for up to 10 years in some cases. We are planning to run our Pacer unit along our branch line from Sharpness to Berkeley Road.

The race is on to get our Pacer looking good for this exciting date. The interior needs a deep clean of the seats, windows, doors etc and the outside needs paint in various places. The never-ending task of cleaning the units, both inside and out, has continued. This has been made a lot easier by the running water which is now readily available on site.

Vale of Berkeley Railway runs on the Sharpness branch to celebrate 150th anniversary of passenger trains.

This year sees the 150th anniversary of the opening of the branch line from Berkeley Road to Sharpness. 150 years ago on August 1st 1876 eager travellers boarded the first passenger train to Sharpness, Gloucestershire. To celebrate the anniversary, the Vale of Berkeley Railway (VoBR), in partnership with Rail Adventure, is staging "Return to Sharpness", offering the rare experience of riding the Sharpness branch, normally only used by freight traffic.

A rail rarity

"Return to Sharpness", gives ticket holders the first opportunity to travel on the Sharpness branch train for 62 years, since passenger traffic ceased in October 1964. The event runs on **Friday 31 July, Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 August**, with six return journeys each day.

Reliving rail history

The eight mile return trip on board the VoBR's ex-GWR Class 143 Pacer will run from the heritage railway's base at Oldminster Sidings, past the site of the former Berkeley Station and on towards Berkeley Road junction. At Berkeley Road the driver will move to the other end of the train and drive back to Sharpness where your shuttle bus will be waiting. During the trip, a narrator will tell the story of the branch and the Pacer trains. As an extra attraction at Oldminster Sidings, there's a chance to be "Driver for a Fiver" on a

Planet diesel shunter. For just £5 you can drive our resident Planet shunter for a short distance along one of our sidings.

Free bus transfer for rail travellers and the local community

The VoBR has organised a free return bus service from Cam and Dursley Station exclusively for "Return to Sharpness" ticket holders. Buses will start from Cam and Dursley station, picking up at Cam Pitch, Berkeley High Street and Sharpness Dockers Club, arriving at our base in time to board the trains.



Drive, walk or cycle to the Sharpness Sports and Social Club

There will be free parking at the Social Club and we encourage walkers and cyclists as well.

Everyone will check-in for their train at the Social club where there will be a VoBR exhibition which will explore the history of the Sharpness branch. Food and drink will be available from the Club throughout the day.

Booking via vobr.org.uk

Tickets cost just £10 for adults, £10 for children with the under 5s riding for free. Members of VoBR pay just £10. Tickets must be pre-booked via the Vale of Berkeley Railway's website, which has full details including the train and bus timetables, at www.vobr.org.uk.

Keep watch on our website, Facebook and YouTube for the latest information.

Permanent way works

Our major track laying project has

progressed to the stage where we are ready to "escape" from our base in the Sidings. As well as the "Return to Sharpness" special event, we have replaced all the rotten sleepers on the section of Network Rail track which we would like to use as a headshunt. This completes the most difficult part of the project where we replaced large and heavy pieces of track to very tight tolerances. Replacing steel rail weighing more than a ton, and sleepers weighing more than 100 kilos to tolerances measured in millimetres is not easy, but it has been completed. Once this was completed, some cosmetic ballasting and tidying was done so that the whole section of line was available for our use. We now need to agree with Network Rail the details and rules about how and when we can use the section.

Woodworking Dept.

The woodworkers have been offered some old rolling stock for refurbishment. One of the Midland style box vans which had been used for freight trains has been delivered and we are negotiating the acquisition of an ex-GWR coach which had been used on passenger services. The Midland box van was in surprisingly good condition considering that it is more than 100 years old.

They have also completed the roofing and walls of the area which has been allocated for the generator, a covered working area and a storage area for all the wood.

A project like VoBR requires a huge variety of skills and experience, so if you have some spare time then come along for a look round, and see if your experience can be used on our project. We 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 our base at Oldminster Sidings on Wednesdays, Fridays, and 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 videos and pictures of the various activities and projects. We can also be contacted by email at valeofberkeleyrailway@gmail.com.