

After more than four years' disruption to our site and daily routines, I am delighted to report that we are now fully settled into Our New Home. The period of significant adjustment for both students and staff created by the scale and duration of the new build programme should not be underestimated. That said we are delighted with the new facilities that will offer exciting opportunities for the KLB community.

We look forward to holding an official opening later this year and welcoming visitors and members of the local community into the school. Our focus now turns to how we enhance our new spaces. Work is underway on developing the external grounds and shaping corridors and display areas so that they properly reflect the vision and identity of KLB.



The completion of the Hub has been a particularly important milestone, strengthening our support for students who need help with regulation and enabling even closer collaboration between pastoral and SEND teams.

This first newsletter of 2026 recognises achievements across a range of areas, from the inspiring stories shared at the Academic Awards Ceremony to the year 12 photography exhibition, alongside subject enrichment such as the A level geography lecture and other visiting speakers. Updates on careers education include apprenticeship talks and the Year 8 careers event, supporting students as they explore the range of pathways available to them.



Alongside lessons, students continue to be involved in a wide range of activities. These include Rotary Youth Speaks, drama performances and preparations for Les Misérables, as well as strong participation in sport and a busy programme of house events. There are also examples of students extending themselves through Duke of Edinburgh training, horticulture projects and community-based activities.

As you can tell, we are really enjoying settling into Our New Home.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Hannah Khan, Headteacher

## Year 12 Photography Students Showcase their Work

This term, the year 12 photography class held a private exhibition for friends and teachers to celebrate the incredible work they have produced so far in the course. The exhibition featured a wide range of photography, demonstrating technical skills such as aperture, shutter speed, and compositional techniques. Visitors were also treated to the students' extended projects, which explored still life and creative portraiture. Final pieces were displayed alongside their accompanying books, marking the end of the first part of the course before students move on to their personal investigations.

The students were thrilled to see a strong turnout of friends and staff during the afternoon. Miss Champion, Head of Sixth Form, described the exhibition as "really absorbing," adding, "I loved the way the students had experimented with light and shadow in their photography. The skill level was impressive, and it's clear they have come an enormous distance over the past couple of terms, really maturing as artists."

I am immensely proud of all my students. They have worked so hard in lessons and in their own time on photoshoots, developing their skills and producing some fantastic outcomes.

T Chilman, Photography Teacher



## Academic Awards Ceremony



The Academic awards ceremony for the 2025-25 school year took place in the first week of January, before last year's students returned to university. The evening is a celebration of attainment, celebrating both academic prowess and community contribution at each key stage.

We are immensely proud of the students who achieve academic excellence. Among the winners this year were Jayden Ansell and Sam Adams who received the Renishaw Cup for Excellence, and Scott Patterson who was awarded the Oxford Prize for Academic

Excellence alongside the A level mathematics prize.



Students who reflect the school's values are also recognised, with awards including the Tuckwell Prize for contribution to charity, the Unsworth Award for Determination and the Durand Prize for Services to the Community. Worthy winners included last year's head students, Jacob Bray and Alice Bailey, and Daniel Sadler for Service in Year 11.

With over 70 awards made during the evening, the Berkeley Theatre had a lovely celebratory atmosphere. Well done to all.

Special thanks to George Sainsbury and Zak Lampard for playing during the musical interludes and to Foundation Governor, Jane Kendell, for the wonderful flower arrangements.

Ed Thomas, Deputy Headteacher



## Year 8 and 9 Apprenticeship Talks



On Friday 9 January, we welcomed Junior Saunders from Inspired IAG who spoke to our year 8 and year 9 students about apprenticeships. The latest government legislation requires all students have input about technical qualifications by the time they complete Key Stage 3. For the second year running we invited Junior to not only explain the apprenticeship option to students apprenticeships, but also to inspire them to achieve their own personal best through his engaging and motivational presentation style.

Both talks were well received by students, and they will have hopefully sparked more

thought for them in terms of their future pathways (particularly for year 9 students who are currently considering GCSE Options).

If you would like further information on apprenticeships, please visit the careers section of our website where there are links to pages about the full range of qualifications available to young people.

Chris Bufton, Careers Curriculum Lead

## Year 8 Careers Exploration Event

Following the success of last year's event, we once again invited representatives from a range of employment sectors to deliver sessions to year 8 students. Direct contact with employers brings the world of work to life for students. It helps them to recognise that they are constantly building skills in lessons and extra-curricular activities, and that both qualifications and personal skills are valued.

We were delighted that the following organisations joined us:

- British Army
- Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
- Kier Construction
- NHS
- NRS (Nuclear Restoration Service)
- Stroud District Council
- Tallis Amos
- The Calcot Collection

Our visitors covered a range of themes relevant to their workplace including roles, responsibilities and rewards, and the academic and soft skills they prize. They also talked about the routes into their sector, including apprenticeships, and on-going training and opportunities. Students learnt that there are many different pathways to a job and that they will continue to develop and learn throughout their working lives.

Most of the sessions included some interactive content. Calcot passed round their coffee log (made from coffee waste) and asked students to guess what it was. They talked about their drive to improve sustainability, and the significant cost savings on the annual log bill. NRS brought their safety suit and had a willing volunteer to try it out at all four sessions.



Following the sessions, we asked students to name one take away they had learnt about the world of work. Here are just a few of their thoughts:

*Everyone has a role that they are good at*

*Employers are looking for both qualifications and skills*

*There are categories/teams who do different things*

*Work requires teamwork and good communication*

*You can be in a job but the job can have many different roles*

*There are many different ways of getting the same qualifications and job*

We are grateful to all the company representatives who took part for putting together and delivering such engaging presentations and answering our students' questions. The impact of last year's event continued to be evident in conversations with students for the remainder of the academic year and beyond and we expect to see similar this year.

Helen Isaacs, Work-related Learning Lead

## Houses Update

It has been a busy start to the New Year for the Houses.

It was full steam ahead with the Pantomime for year 7 and 8 students. Collaboration, creativity, and confidence were at the forefront of the final performances. Well done to Durand in year 7 and Berkeley in year 8 for taking the win. It was a fabulous morning of fun and laughter.



Year 10 and 11 students battled it out to build the tallest paper towers using just scrap paper and determination. 11VMA made a massive tower reaching nearly two meters, giving Wellicome the win. Year 10 winners were 10SMP for Logan with their tower almost matching the Y11s.

These results, alongside the Christmas house activities mean that there has been a change to the standings once again, with one house smashing into the 600s! Well done to Berkeley for taking the lead with 643 points.

Coming up... Welcome to our year 12 House Leaders, year 12 House Launch, Paper Aeroplanes Challenge, End of Term Quiz, House Comedy Club and much more!

K Wyndow



## House Totals Update



Berkeley

643



Durand

578



Logan

476



Wellicome

533

## A-Level Geography Enrichment: Visit from Dr Chris Spencer (UWE)

Our A level geography students were delighted to welcome Dr Chris Spencer from the University of the West of England for a specialist talk on coastal processes and coastal management. The session was well attended and offered students valuable insights that will directly support their exam preparation.



Dr Spencer's expertise and engaging delivery helped deepen students' understanding of how coastlines evolve and the challenges faced in managing them, knowledge that will be extremely beneficial as they head into their A level assessments. One student commented the following day that they particularly appreciated the way he encouraged synoptic thinking between geography and their other subjects.

We would like to extend our warm thanks to Dr Spencer for giving up his time to speak to our students. As a parent within our school community, we are especially grateful for his continued support. We look forward to welcoming him back for future sessions.

Kirsty Probyn  
Head of Geography

## Language Learning Skills

On 22 January, the Languages department welcomed David Binns, the recently-retired CEO of Sanako UK, to present to year 9 students on the importance of language learning as they embark on their GCSE options choices. David spoke passionately about how beneficial languages can be to employers, and highlighted how the skills developed by studying a foreign language can be so useful to young people looking to get into a whole variety of careers.

Having worked within a languages-based sector for over 40 years, and with a good level of Finnish himself, David's points resonated with our students given they came from his vast experience. We were so proud of our students who engaged brilliantly with the presentation, with several even staying at the end to ask David further questions about his career and how languages have supported it.



Chris Bufton, Head of Japanese

## Senior Rotary Youth Speaks – A Debate



We had four strong teams at the Rotary Youth Speaks Senior Debating competition this month. All performed really well and spoke eloquently on a range of ambitious and gritty motions for their given 15 minutes. The motion on the winning team was 'Should Britain introduce a social media ban for under 16s?' with James Guy proposing, Rhys Sienkiewicz chairing and Theo Ferguson opposing. Highly commended proposer went to Emily Hall who spoke about female rights in prostitution: her answer to a fiendish question was particularly impressive. Rowan Clarke received highly commended opposer, and Dorka Rostas was awarded 'highly commended' for her chairing role. The winner of the Robin Coles Award for Public Speaking was Lucas Payne.



E Cornish, English Teacher

J Champion, Head of Sixth Form and English Teacher

The Local Councillor for Gloucestershire was one of the judges and she requested the scripts from students debating the social media ban and legalising prostitution. She asked to use some of the arguments made by the students, in her political role. It is so exciting for the students to have their voices and views taken seriously and influencing local and potentially national politics.



## First Aid

Even in the colder weather, it is important to drink plenty of water and children who stay hydrated are far less likely to suffer with headaches and tiredness. Please remind your child to bring a refillable water bottle to school. We are unable to sustain the cost of supplying cups from First Aid.

May we also request, in the interest of safety, that students do not bring their own hot water bottles into school.

Thank you for your support.

First Aid Team

## Cinderella Performance

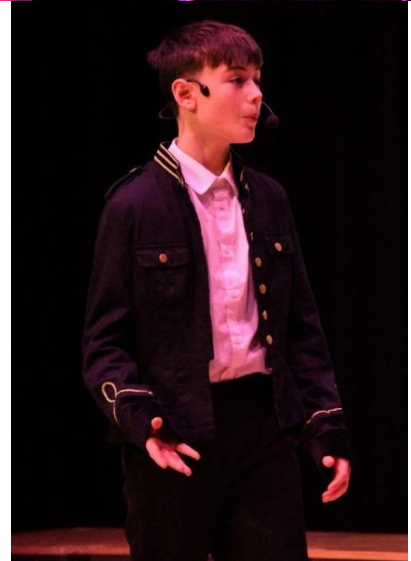
After months of rehearsals, January saw the year 7 and 8 Drama Club share their performance of Cinderella. Supported by year 12 students, they put on an all singing and dancing performance full of energy and enthusiasm.

Their audience joined in with the traditional cheering and sneering, which helped to create a fantastic atmosphere for our young people.

Well done to the performers who were all amazing!

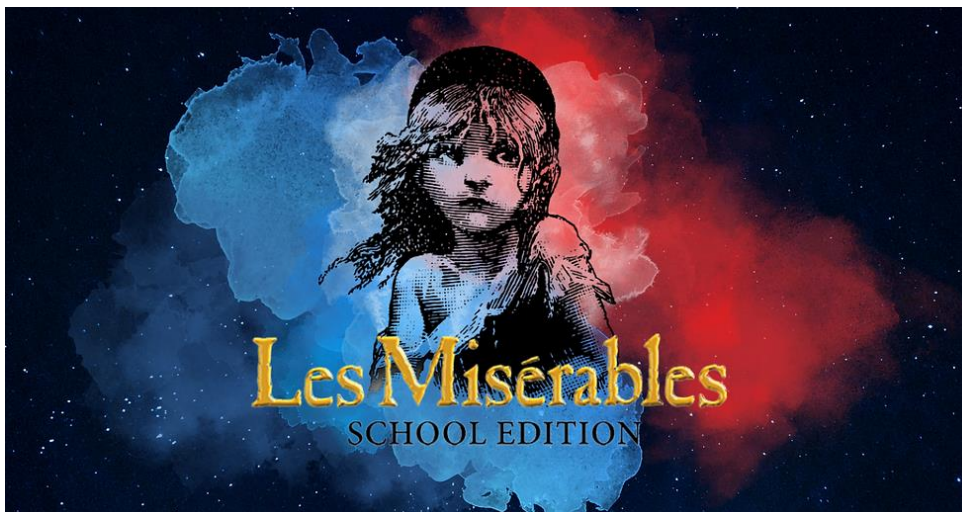
Drama Club will restart after half term.

K Wyndow, Drama Teacher



## *Les Misérables School Edition*, 11-13 March

We are excited to bring you the first full-scale production to be hosted in the new Berkeley Theatre. Students have been working hard since auditioning in September, rehearsing multiple times every week to learn over two hours of continuous music.



*Les Misérables* is an epic show, which provides a true challenge for our students, and in return promises an evening of guaranteed entertainment! There are over 100 students involved, including a cast of 80, crew, and band.

Tickets are available for purchase here: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/les-miserables-klb--2026>

Mark Smith, Head of Music

## DofE Bronze and Silver Training Days

This academic year, 120 students have signed up to the Bronze and 53 students to the Silver DofE award scheme.

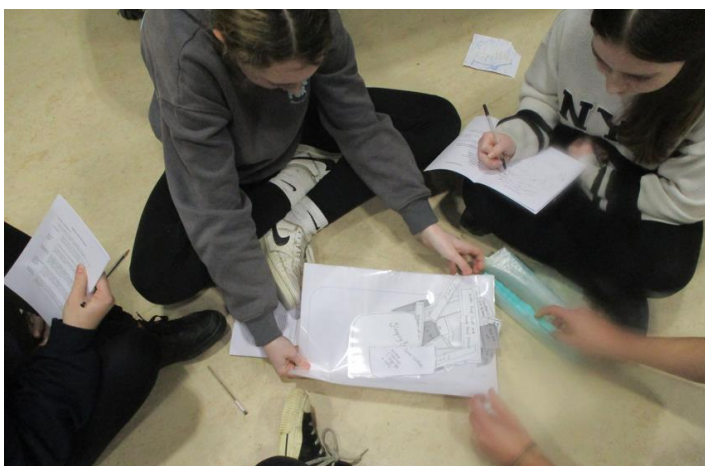
In January, the expedition section of the participants' award programmes got underway with their Training Day at school run by the Ocean Rock team. In case any were in doubt about the genuine challenge of the award, they all set about pitching tents and lighting stoves in miserable weather conditions on a thoroughly boggy field. Despite this, the students got stuck in and remained remarkably upbeat which augurs well for the actual expeditions later this year.



Our DofE groups are now armed with a whole range of skills including navigation and map reading, how to pack a rucksack and what to do in an emergency. They will have the opportunity to hone these skills during the practice expedition in May.

Taking part in the DofE award is an amazing experience and we hope all students enjoy every step of their journey.

Helen Isaacs, DofE Coordinator



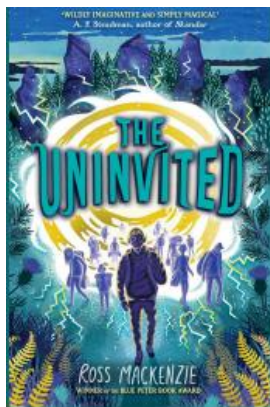
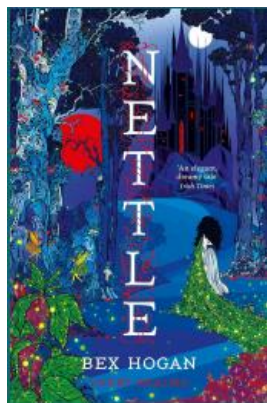


## Library News

Wishing you a Happy New Year from the library team.

## Spark! School Book Awards 2026 – Student Judges

We have joined the Spark! Book Awards and students can take part in voting for this year's winning book. The short list of four books has now been chosen, from the 12-book longlist, which we shared in December's newsletter:



We are excited to launch a new lunchtime library club. We are inviting students from years 7 and 8 to join us Thursday lunchtimes to take part in the Spark! Book Awards Club.

There will be activities, competitions, reviews and the opportunity to read, judge and vote for their favourite book from the shortlisted titles.

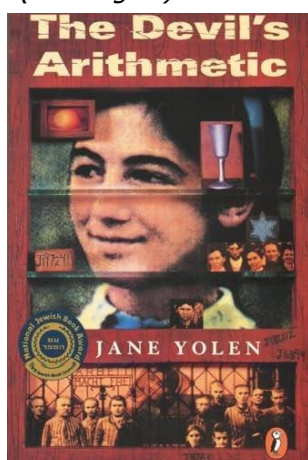
Further details and sign-up sheet are available at the library issue desk.

N Dix and L Hill, Librarians

## January diversity books

Each month we are sharing two books recommended by students in our recent diversity book project in RE. This month's book choices have been chosen to link to Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January. The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2026, **Bridging Generations**, is a call-to-action.

*The theme encourages people to engage actively with the past - to listen, to learn and to carry those lessons forward. By doing so, we build a bridge between memory and action, between history and hope for the future. (hmd.org.uk)*



### ***The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen**

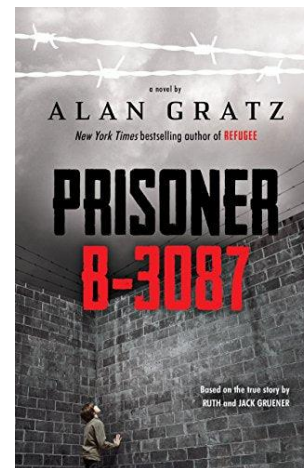
Hannah dreads going to her family's Passover Seder - she's tired of hearing her relatives talk about the past. But when she opens the front door to symbolically welcome the prophet Elijah, she's transported to a Polish village in the year 1942. Why is she there, and who is this "Chaya" that everyone seems to think she is? Just as she begins to unravel the mystery, Nazi soldiers come to take everyone in the village away. And only Hannah knows the unspeakable horrors that await.

## ***Prisoner B-3087*** by Alan Gratz

As a Jewish boy in 1930s Poland, Yanek is at the mercy of the Nazis who have taken over. Everything he has, and everyone he loves, have been snatched brutally from him. And then Yanek himself is taken prisoner -- his arm tattooed with the words PRISONER B-3087. He is forced from one nightmarish concentration camp to another, as World War II rages all around him. He encounters evil he could have never imagined, but also sees surprising glimpses of hope amid the horror. He just barely escapes death, only to confront it again seconds later. Can Yanek make it through the terror without losing his hope, his will -- and, most of all, his sense of who he really is inside?

Based on an astonishing true story.

K Williams, RE Teacher



## **Proud to Be Here - KLB School Attendance**



### **Welcome back to everyone 😊**

Winter can be wonderful, but January is **always** a challenging month – for all of us

Getting up that first morning, back to school after the Christmas break

Not much sunlight....

No more selection boxes for breakfast....

Getting through the cold (and very wet it seems!) days.

Well, not for long because ... spring is coming soon.

Longer days with more sunlight so we can be outside, get more active and get some vitamin D from the sun (we hope!) This can really help lift our mood and boost our immune systems 😊

Bursts of nature, flowers, trees, wildlife (look around on your way to school and notice what is changing) Connecting with nature, can really help with an increased sense of well-being.



Spring clean your mind! Spring-cleaning is not just for your home; it's also a great opportunity to 'clean up' your mental space. It is common for clutter, both physical and mental, to build up over time. Spring is a perfect moment to declutter your environment and your mind.

### **Important Attendance Reminder**

Please could we politely remind all parents and carers of the following, taken from our Attendance School policy on the school website.

<https://klbschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/PDFs/Policy/Policy-Attendance.pdf>

### **Page 7.0 - Planned absence**

**7.1 Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised as long as the pupil's parent/carer notifies the school in advance of the appointment by contacting the school office or emailing [attendance@klbschool.org.uk](mailto:attendance@klbschool.org.uk)**

Many thanks

Elaine Emms, Attendance Lead

## Horticulture News



Just before Christmas, horticulture students visited Westgreen Care Home to work alongside the residents to create some table centrepieces for their Christmas dinner. Much of the evergreen foliage was sourced from around the school grounds, and some of the students brought in pinecones and dried oranges.

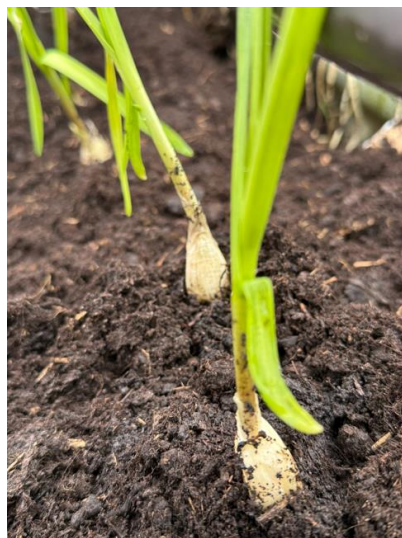
It was lovely afternoon and both students and residents thoroughly enjoyed the activity.



This term, Anya and Ginny have been making use of our harvest of carrots, parsnips, radish and sprouts to make kimchi.

Looking ahead to the new season, Tom and Thomas have been planting onions.

Emma Taylor-Roach, Horticulture Teacher



## Netball Results



The years 7 and 8 netball A teams had their first home game on our fantastic new floodlit courts vs Rednock School.

7As won 4-2, Player of the Match was Lea T

8As lost 12-7 Player of the Match was Phoebe C

Well done girls! Some fantastic netball on show 🙌

Year 7 girls had their first netball match vs Brimsham Green on 14 January. The girls showed some great teamwork and their confidence grew during the game. The A team narrowly lost 3-2 (Player of the match was Lea T) and the B team drew 5-5 (Player of the match Remy S).

A fantastic result to start the season with lots of positives to take from the matches. Well done girls!

S Prosser, PE Teacher





## A Busy Start to the New Year

We have certainly hit the ground running! January 2026 has already brought a flurry of Parents' Evenings, and with them plenty of tea and coffee — small comforts that make a big difference. Each session raises between £75 and £150, and across nine evenings that adds up to around **£1,000** for the school. Every cuppa purchased truly counts. If you can spare just an hour to help serve refreshments or simply support us by buying a drink on the night, it makes a real impact. Volunteer sign-up links are available on our Events page.

## Upcoming Events and Activities

### Parents' Evenings

- **Year 9** – 5 February
- **Year 13 (Final)** – 5 March
- **Year 8** – 19 March
- **Year 7** – 16 April

### School Production

- **Les Misérables** – 11, 12 & 13 March *Refreshments and licensed bar available*

### Community Events

- **Lions 10,000M** – Sunday 31 May
- **Charfield Fete** – Saturday 6 June
- **Carnival & Classic Car Show** – Saturday 11 July

### 80:20 Club — Join Anytime

- If you haven't signed up yet, now is the perfect moment. New members are welcome throughout the year, and every subscription supports vital school projects.

## Committee Update

A heartfelt thank you to the wonderfully talented **Abi Smith**, who has stepped down as Vice Chair. Her energy, creativity, and fundraising drive have brought significant benefits to the school, and we are deeply grateful. We wish Abi and her family every success in their new business venture.

We currently have **two committee roles available**:

- **Secretary**
- **Vice Chair**

If you are curious about what we do, interested in joining, or simply want to meet the team, please come along to a meeting or get in touch.

**Find Us Online:** <https://www.klbfriends.co.uk/>

## Get in Touch, Get Involved

We're always excited to welcome new faces and fresh ideas. Email: [\*\*klbfriends@klbschool.org.uk\*\*](mailto:klbfriends@klbschool.org.uk)

The KLB Friends Committee

# What's on in February?

The Keepers is a community hub supporting the residents of Wotton and surrounding areas. It is here for everyone. Either come along to one of the organised groups below, or just pop in for a chat and a cuppa - whenever we are open. Come as you are, bring what you can and take what you need.

## Monday

**Parent Support Group** - a support group by parents for parents. 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February ONLY 9:15am - 10:45am

**Citizens Advice** - to book an appointment call 0800 800 0510/0511 or just drop in. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February 10am - 2pm

**Age UK** - a social group for those who are 50+. 11am - 12:30pm

**Digital Drop-in** - any help on anything digital. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February 11:30am - 1:30pm

**Keepers Kidz** - board games, craft and toast available. Children to come with an accompanying adult. Also runs through the holidays. 3:15pm - 4:30pm

**Menopause Support Group** - a peer support group for those affected by menopause. 2<sup>nd</sup> February 7pm - 8:30pm

**Chair Yoga** - join in with some gentle, supportive yoga. Open to all. No booking is needed. Pay As You Feel. Followed by refreshments (optional). 1:30pm - 2:30pm

## Tuesday

**The Keepers' Garden** - the garden is open - come along to plant, dig, weed, sit or just chat with our gardener. Refreshments provided. 10am - 12pm

**Sing 2 Remember** - sing together, share memories and make friends. Come and join this supported, dementia-friendly singing session. Just turn up. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February. 10:45am - 11:45am

**Tuesday Lunches** - come and join us for a meal and chat. Open to all and Pay As You Feel (PAYF). Spaces are limited, so to book a place please call 07585 466418 or pop in to find out what's on the menu! 12:30pm - 2pm

The Keepers' Car Club is also running on Tuesdays to provide transport from your home to the hot lunches. Places are limited. To book, please call 07585 466418 or pop in.

## Wednesday

**Drop In Café** - all welcome on a Pay As You Feel basis. 10am - 12pm

The Keepers' Car Club is also running on Wednesdays to provide transport from your home to The Keepers. Places are limited. To book please call 07585 466418 or pop in.

**P3 Drop In** - help with a range of issues e.g. housing, debt and benefit support. No booking needed. 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February 10am - 1pm

**Health Visitor Drop In** - bring your baby in to get advice from a Health Visitor 4<sup>th</sup> February 10am-12pm

**Stroud Foodbank** - offering emergency food and essentials along with support and advice. 10am - 11:30am

**Men's Shed** - talk about the projects they're working on and discuss yours. 11<sup>th</sup> February 10am - 12pm

**Talk Club** - a talking and listening club for men to help keep mentally fit. 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February 7pm - 8:30pm

**Stroud District Council Housing Officer Drop In** - pop in and talk to Becky. Weekly on a Wednesday 10:30am-11:30am

## Thursday

**Lloyds Bank** - drop in for basic transactions. No cash services are available. 9:30am - 3pm

**NHS social prescriber's Drop In** - help to connect and grow in confidence. Just come in, no appointment needed. 11am-1pm

**Rethink Welcome Group** - mental health group through referral. Every Thursday. 1pm - 3pm

**Spanish For Beginners/The Terrified** - informal Spanish conversation group. Just drop in. 7pm - 8:30pm

**Age UK Dementia Support** - Practical advice from professionals for anyone suffering with Dementia (or their families and carers). 19<sup>th</sup> February 2:15pm-3:45pm.

**Age UK Help Session** - drop in for assistance for those who are 50+. 26<sup>th</sup> February 9am-11am.

**Alzheimer's Society Advice Drop In** - Practical advice for anyone suffering from Dementia (or their carers) 12<sup>th</sup> February

**Community Autism Support and Advice** - book a one hour advice and support session for autistic adults, and friends and family of autistic adults. 26<sup>th</sup> February 11:30am-3:30pm  
To book go to: [cal@ccmcc.org.uk](mailto:cal@ccmcc.org.uk) or email them at [info@ccmcc.org.uk](mailto:info@ccmcc.org.uk)

### OPENING TIMES

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday:  
9.00am - 4.00pm

Wednesday and Friday:  
9.00am - 1.00pm

CLOSED on BANK HOLIDAYS

For more details please go to our website:  
[www.thekeepers.org.uk](http://www.thekeepers.org.uk)  
Call: 07585 466418 or Email:  
[thekeeperscommunityhub@gmail.com](mailto:thekeeperscommunityhub@gmail.com)  
or pop in

### NEW/CALENDAR EVENTS

**NHS Health Check Clinic** - Check your blood pressure or ask your health related questions. Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 10am-12pm

**Getting Connected** - digital assistance course - 16<sup>th</sup> February-30<sup>th</sup> March 1:30pm-3:30pm

**Cancer Support** - We will be hosting **Charles Community Support** from 5<sup>th</sup> February then every first Thursday of the month from 9:30am-1pm.

This support will be run alongside our other Cancer Support Groups:

- **Wotton Area Breast Cancer Support Group** - anyone touched by breast cancer is invited to drop in and meet others who know just how it feels. 19<sup>th</sup> February 10am - 11am
- **Chronic Pain & Fatigue Support Group** - This group offers a gentle, understanding space where you can simply be yourself. 5<sup>th</sup> February 1:15pm-2:25pm

## Friday

**The Keepers Tots** - a session for babies, toddlers and their responsible adult. 9:15am - 10:30am

The Keepers' Garden - the garden is open. Come along to plant, dig, weed, sit or chat with our gardener. Refreshments provided. 10am - 12pm

**Soup & Roll Fridays** - Join us for freshly made soup (flavour changes weekly), all welcome on a Pay as You Feel basis. 12:00pm-12:30pm

It's important to us that everyone is included, the Hub is accessible to all and we work in collaboration with other local organisations.  
[www.thekeepers.org.uk](http://www.thekeepers.org.uk) Reg Charity No. 1192121