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the common good

Greenham
Common
Trust



newsletter 19
summer 2012

www.greenham-common-trust.co.uk

The Trust awarded the Queen's Award for Sustainable Development 2012 - the first charity ever to achieve this three times



Greenham
Business
Park



Broadway
House,
Newbury



Basingstoke's
Innovation
Centre



Greenham
Common
- restored
for public
use



Having previously won the coveted accolade in 2008 and in 2003, when Greenham Business Park was the first commercial property development ever to receive the commendation, the Trust has once again been recognised for its continued regeneration of RAF Greenham Common into a sustainable business park.

Since its creation in 1997, the Trust has transformed 150-acres of the former nuclear airbase into a mixed-use business campus with 150 businesses employing around 1,500 people. Greenham Business Park, and the Trust's other assets, which include a centre for counselling and voluntary organisations called Broadway House in Newbury and The Innovation Centre in Basingstoke, fully serviced office and conference space for fledgling entrepreneurs, now produce an annual income of around £3 million a year that is distributed to local good causes and social projects through charitable awards. It was this sustainable investment which has enabled the restoration of 750-acres of Greenham Common into some of the most important wildlife and conservation areas in the UK.

Sir Peter Michael, Founder Chairman of Greenham Common Trust, says: "To be the first charity to have received The Queen's Award for a third time is not only an incredible honour but an acknowledgment of the Trust's innovative and radical approach to sustainable development.

"Fifteen years ago we formed a charitable trust with the philanthropic vision of regenerating and transforming a redundant nuclear airbase. We wanted to safeguard

Greenham Common from piecemeal development and create a sustainable commercial venture which would not only boost the local economy but create a self-sustaining charitable income, benefiting the lives of thousands of local residents.

"Since 1997 the Trust has distributed over £16m to over 700 local good causes, supporting hundreds of social, educational, environmental and artistic projects. We believe we have achieved a transformational blue print for sustainable brownfield regeneration at Greenham Business Park which we hope others can learn from."

Stuart Tagg, the Trust's Chief Executive, adds: "The long-term vision for Greenham Business Park has always been to produce a commercial development capable of producing a secure, sustainable income that would support the local voluntary sector and charitable projects. The management of the Trust's investment has enabled millions of pounds to be channelled into the community through its focus on economic development, social projects and ecological balance."

It is this focus on innovation that has led to the Trust's latest exciting venture - www.findmeagrant.org - a simple and efficient online grant application system which matches grant givers to local fundraisers and administrators, free of charge, public donations, adding Trust matched funding and Gift Aid where applicable.

So far www.findmeagrant.org has distributed nearly £700,000 for local organisations, including around £120,000 in donations and Trust-Top Up (the matched funding element).

What do you think?

The Trust has changed the format of the newsletter to try and get more news and information out to its supporters and partners.

We would like to hear what you think about the new newsletter and we also want to hear from you with news about your projects which we have funded. We will be having regular slots in the newsletter for local organisations we have supported.

Call Julian May on 01635 817407 or email julian@greenham-common-trust.co.uk

Trust gives
Foundation
accommodation
at Broadway
House and
£40,000 over
three years for
local business
loans

success the
Fredericks way

After a reasonably comfortable and well-connected upbringing, Paul Barry-Walsh was shocked to be turned down for finance when he looked to set up his own first business. He realised that if it was this difficult for someone like himself, how would someone without his advantages find any backing?

He always intended to set up a charity to fill this gap and, after selling his own business and finding time on his hands, he launched Fredericks Foundation in 2001 with the aim of supporting particularly disadvantaged applicants in establishing businesses in areas of deprivation - with loans of typically around £5,000 to get up and running.

The Fredericks model was then, and still remains, built on a solid two-way relationship, with support and mentoring part of the package, to ensure each business has the best possible chance of success. The system delivers increased self-esteem and better life chances for recipients.

Absolute Rubbish (Swindon)

Peter Fitchett left the Army in 2003 and spent the next six years in various short-term jobs from sales to labouring, but when he was made redundant in 2009 he began to fear he was on the scrapheap in his twenties.

It was then he decided to become a licensed waste carrier and set up Absolute Rubbish (www.absolute-rubbish.co.uk) as a domestic and commercial collection business in Swindon under the slogan 'Skips are never this Cheap'.

Having attended some Business Link workshops, he approached the Prince's Trust - unsuccessfully, as they were then changing their lending criteria. Fortunately he found Fredericks Wiltshire and applied in 2010 for a loan to buy a small tipper truck and signage.

Successful from the outset, he has now expanded his services to include breaking up driveways, trimming hedges and trees, and taking away the waste, and Peter is now looking to franchise Absolute Rubbish across the UK.

He has also been invited to speak at the British Library about business opportunities open to ex-servicemen.



David Cameron with Paul Barry-Walsh, launching Fredericks in Oxfordshire

Since 2008, access to finance has been a growing issue in the UK. Banks have largely withdrawn from unsecured lending, and Fredericks has been seeing a large increase in the number of enquiries it receives. Recently awarded a grant from the Government's Regional Growth Fund, Fredericks is expanding fast to meet the need for start-up finance. As part of this programme, Fredericks has received support from Greenham Common Trust to establish a fund in West Berkshire, in the shape of a 3-year grant and an offer of pro bono space in its Broadway House counselling

services offices in Newbury town centre.

"We are delighted to be opening a specific lending operation in West Berkshire," says Fredericks Foundation CEO, Charles Dodwell. "This would not have been possible without the assistance of the Trust. Their help has enabled us to employ an experienced local Client Manager, and to lever in some private capital which will be ring-fenced for West Berkshire. We are now very much open for business, and look forward to helping start many businesses in the local area which would not otherwise have seen the light of day."

Fredericks Foundation is just coming up to its 1,000th loan, bringing the total to just over £3m lent, saving or creating just over 1,200 jobs.

If you are struggling to raise affordable finance to start your business, or to grow an existing small business, call the Foundation on 01276 472722 or visit www.fredericksfoundation.org

"With Fredericks my life has changed for the very best, with my new business growing by the week...my ambitions are getting bigger and bigger!"



"I was lucky to be able to turn my passion for flowers into a business. Without Fredericks the business wouldn't have survived. Now I'm looking at a much more optimistic future in a business I love."

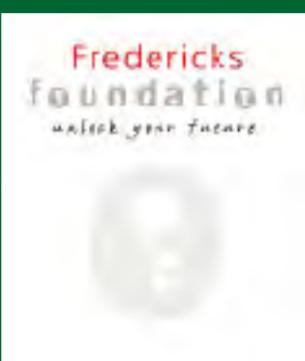
Janet Edwards London Ltd

Janet Edwards spent over 18 years working in a Public Sector job she thought was for life, but the credit crunch bit and Janet was made redundant in 2008.

She had always had an interest in floristry and had developed her skills by taking a City & Guilds qualification, working voluntarily one day a week in a florist and also taking a market stall. She decided to open her own shop, while improving her skills with more courses.

Business was very quiet, so Janet, rethinking her long-term plans, decided to ramp up the functions side of her operation, such as weddings, funerals and corporate work, as well as improving the sales from the shop itself by setting up a pavement display. She asked Fredericks for a loan for an awning and some barriers to place on each side, a Council licence for the display, a new sink, membership of BNI, and some e-commerce functionality for her website.

Happily, as a result, business has greatly improved, and 'Janet Edwards London Ltd' is still the only florist in Brixton. The shop has been nominated for a Lambeth Business Award for "Best Customer Care", and Janet is starting to pick up corporate work and trade from local offices, hotels and restaurants.





Trust awards £170,000 in grants bringing the total distributed through www.findmeagrants.org to nearly £700,000

The latest cash injection from the Trust's Spring Reactive Grants programme, which was on top of over £45,000 of grants distributed through the Local Strategic Partnership, brings the total of funding delivered through its online grant application system

www.findmeagrants.org to an amazing £683,395 in just over six months.

In the latest grant round, nearly 100 organisations received funding (25 through the Youth Distribution Committee, which distributed £15,000).

Findmeagrants has also raised nearly £120,000 in public donations (including Trust Top-Up matched funding and Gift Aid) for local projects which the Trust administers for free.

Some of the projects which received funding:

- Community Youth Project, Bishops Green - £14,648 to fund a project manager/youth worker
- West Berkshire Citizen's Advice Bureau - £10,000 to help deliver a local carers' advice service
- 14:21 youth counselling service - £8,000 for continued support for the project
- Relate Berkshire - £7,500 to create a family counselling service
- Loose Ends - £6,000 - towards kitchen refurbishments
- Bishops Green Community Association - £5,080 to build a new skate park
- Naomi House children's hospice - £5,000 for emergency respite care and care in the home
- Welford Parish Plan - £5,000 Welford and Wickham Community Play Area Project
- Age Concern Hampshire - £3,991 for a tea and company roadshow
- Greenham Community Association - £3,688 - balance required to fund a student youth worker in Greenham

Speaking about the grant awarded to the Community Youth Project, its manager Ian Green said: "It is a huge relief to be able to concentrate on working to help the young people of Bishops Green rather than fundraising.

The grant is to fund the continued success of our work at Bishops Green to include the employment of a full time Youth Worker / Project Manager based at Bishops Green Village Hall. We are so grateful to all of our funders who we continue to rely on to keep this service running."

The hard work of some of the younger Bishops Green residents, who managed to raise nearly £3,000 through a disco, Britain's Got Talent and psychic evenings, has paid off. The Trust's Distribution Committee has awarded a £5,080 grant to Bishops Green Community Association to help them reach their fundraising total for a mini skate park in the existing Beech Road play area in the village.

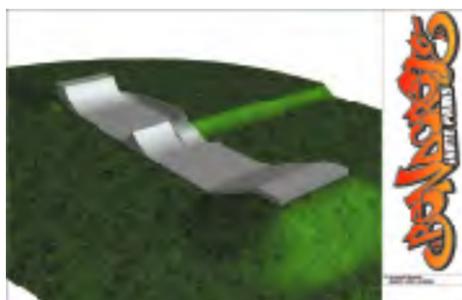
Association Chair Tricia House was delighted, adding: "The children have been doing such a lot to make this project a reality. It means so much to them and it keeps them safe and off the streets. Thank you for giving local kids a break. We still need to get planning permission but getting all of the funding means we can build it as soon as we get permission."

Remember you can apply to www.findmeagrants.org any time and if you have received funding but have not been fully funded your application can stay on findmeagrants for up to 18 months.

We will shortly be announcing some exciting new features and services on findmeagrants for grant seekers and grant makers that will make local fundraising even easier.

Trust Chief Executive Stuart Tagg said: "We are delighted that we have used findmeagrants to distribute nearly £700,000 to support good causes. I think local people are realising that findmeagrants provides a good opportunity to raise the funds they require for their projects quickly and easily."

For more information about findmeagrants contact Melissa Elliott on 01635 817445.

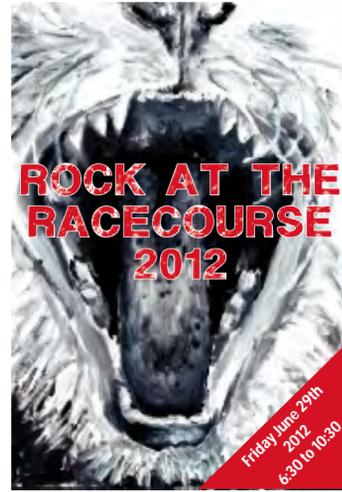


a further
£170,000
in grants
to help local
good causes
in West
Berkshire
and North
Hampshire

Bishops Green kids take part in a huge variety of activities through the Community Youth Project

The proposed new skatepark

At last the Trust is pleased to announce the shortlisted acts for the Rock at the Racecourse Final on Friday June 29th.



The shortlist all have a lot of potential. Now it is your turn to vote for your favourite band via our media partner Newbury Weekly News. Visit www.newburytoday.co.uk and click vote next to your favourite performance. Your vote will count towards the final result on the night but the judges will be looking for the best performance on June 29th and we want you to support the bands.

They are an eclectic mix of genres from a singer songwriter to Indie, Rock and Grunge bands. And they are all local talent!

Tell your family, Facebook your friends and Tweet on Twitter. Come and see Rock at the Racecourse for a fantastic night of live music and you will not be disappointed.

After watching seven great bands the audience can look forward to the headline act The Crave, while the judges choose the winners (remember acts who come second receive £300 and third £200).

The Crave have toured with the world's biggest bands and played Britain's biggest venues and festivals, including Download and Sonisphere. Tipped by the music press to be the next giants of rock, their debut album was called one on the best albums of 2011! Their link to Newbury is through teaching at Newbury Rock School, travelling from Brighton to help our local children.

It has been a difficult decision for the judges because the quality of entries has been so high, so thank you to everybody who applied to the competition and commiserations to those who didn't get through.

The shortlisted bands who will play live in front of the Grandstand at Newbury Racecourse for a chance to win £500 and a day in a recording studio are:

- Gutter Godz
- Conan MacDermott
- Glacier
- Empires
- The Jammin' Dodgers
- The Doss
- Highly Personal

band profiles

Gutter Godz

We're Gutter Godz, a five-piece alternative rock band who have been playing together and gigging in and around Wiltshire/Berkshire for about five years now.

The band consists of: Will Allman on drums, Jack Amos on guitar, Jonny Budd on guitar, Luci Budd on vocals and Felix Davies on bass. We recently recorded some new tracks at MoonCalf Studios which we think reflect our evolving sound which combines rock, grunge, fusion, soul and a little bit of metal. The eclectic mix comes from the wide range of influences within the band ranging from bands such as Pink Floyd to Nirvana, to Guthrie Govan to Laura Marling. We are constantly inspired by everything we see or hear around us and because of that it's very hard to pigeon hole our sound. We hope to carry on making music together for as long as possible and to carry on having as much fun with it as we do!

We'd love you to listen to our songs and hope you enjoy!



Conan MacDermott

I am an acoustic singer/song writer and I also play guitar. Some of my favourite artists include Ed Sheeran, James Blunt and Boyce Avenue.

Every artist has an inspiration, and mine is Boyce Avenue. The group were made famous by doing covers of well-known songs and posting them on YouTube.

I myself have done my own covers of well-known songs including "Small Bump" by Ed Sheeran and "Just the Way You Are" by Bruno Mars, which I have posted on Youtube.

On the first Friday of every month I attend an "Open Mic" gig at my local social club. I have met many other aspiring artists around my age who have very similar musical tastes to me. I am very excited about auditioning to compete in Rock at the Racecourse and I hope you enjoy my video!



Glacier

Glacier are a young pop-punk/post-hardcore band. Formed in September 2011, the band consists of Madi Brown (lead vocals), Ryan Smith (guitar), Ben Windle (guitar), Curtis Knowles (bass guitar) and Tyler Bronson (drums, backing vocals). All are 16-years old except for Ryan, who is 15-years old.

Influenced by ex-Newbury band Francesqa, Bring Me The Horizon, The Blackout, Muse, Deaf Havana and others, the band hope to continue writing and performing their own songs. They have just recorded their debut EP.

Empires

We are a Newbury based metal band and take influence from the likes of Architects and alexisonfire. We've been on the scene for about 2 years; we've been in the studio twice and recorded 2 short EPs which had relative success among our friends but never really made it past that. So now we are looking to take this band a lot more seriously and start getting our name out there. This seemed like the perfect opportunity to get our names on the scene.

If we win any money from this we will put it towards gear and equipment for the band.



The Jammin' Dodgers

The Jammin' Dodgers are a Thatcham based rock band aged 12 to 15 years old.

The members are:
Lead Vocals: Sam Butler aged 14.
Lead Guitar: Callum Williams aged 12.
Guitar: Adam Hex aged 15.
Lead Guitar: Harry Elliott aged 13.
Drums: Craig Macmillan aged 14.
Bass: George Maclean aged 13.

They are endorsed with Behringer and Bugera amplifiers, won Newbury's battle of the bands and performed with their heroes 'The Crave' at two events!

They have an original set, but can also play a variety of covers if required. In 2011 they got through to the semi-finals of Britain's biggest music contest 'Live and Unsigned'. This year they are through to the quarter finals.

Lead guitarist Callum is endorsed by Vanquish guitars and Orange amplifiers, and was runner up in young guitarist of the year.

Their aspirations are to get to the finals of Live and Unsigned, and to play the biggest festivals. And of course play Rock at the Racecourse!



The Doss

The Doss would love to play at Rock at the Racecourse on June 29. We are a rock band from the Newbury / Abingdon area and we play indiecore and progressive music. All the members are 16 years old and our influences range from bands like Dream Theater to Enter Shikari. We are also recording our debut album at the moment.



don't forget to vote
www.newburytoday.co.uk

Highly Personal

Highly Personal are based in Hungerford and originally started as a three piece called Easy Access but later with our new-found band member we felt a change was needed. We started off as a band playing Shalbourne beer festival and the occasional gig at The Starting Gate pub in Newbury. Since then we have branched out to Hungerford, Newbury, Reading and even a small festival in Basingstoke. We also spend time at a local community service every Thursday called Wired Rock Cafe lending a hand teaching 12-20 year olds not only how to play instruments but also to form bands. We like to organise local gigs to showcase their talent as well as bringing in bands from around England to help them widen their fan base and friendship groups.



Tickets will be at the subsidised price of £5 for adults and £2.50 for under 18s. Rockers over 60 can get in for free. To buy your tickets please call into the Corn Exchange Box office or call 01635 522733 or visit www.cornexchangenew.com

in partnership with


Newbury Weekly News
at the heart of your community

a new memorial
at Greenham
Business Park
to commemorate
the lives of the
American
servicemen who
were tragically
killed in two
accidents above
Greenham
Common

"These young men died tragically, many miles from their homes and families. It is our honour to remember the sacrifice they made in the defence of freedom. The transformation of the former airbase into Greenham Business Park and the charitable income that the business park will produce for generations to come is a fitting tribute to all those who gave their lives."

Keith Williams, Secretary of the Newbury Branch of the Royal British Legion



Stonemason Joss Nankoo is busy refining the final details for the tri-part 2.5 metre Penrith Slate stones at his studio on the Sterling Industrial Estate, remembering the soldiers who gave their lives in the name of freedom within three days of each other in December 1944.

His company, Stone Art Memorials (www.stoneartmemorials.co.uk), was commissioned by the Newbury branch of the Royal British Legion to honour the 16 servicemen who were killed when two B-17 Bombers collided above Greenham Common on December 15th 1944. Two B-17 Flying Fortress Bombers from the 368th and 423rd squadrons of the 306th Bombing Group were returning from a tough mission in the German industrial heartland of Kassel when terrible weather conditions caused a collision which killed all but two of the 18 American airmen. They were just days from leave and returning to their families.

The second part of the memorial will pay tribute to the 33 airmen who were tragically killed just three days earlier when their Horsa Glider crashed on take-off above the airbase. The 31 paratroopers of the 194th Glider Infantry Regiment and two glider pilots of the 438/88 Troop Carrier Squadron were transported to Greenham Common airfield for a flight in the large British-made Horsa glider. However, their training flight was to end in disaster when it crash landed on take-off, killing the whole crew.

The third part of the memorial is a dedication to all American servicemen who had a connection to Greenham airbase, particularly those who never returned from the D-Day sorties which left the runway at Greenham following General Eisenhower's famous 'Eyes of the World' speech.

Every year a memorial service is held at the park, when relatives of those killed in the glider accident come over from America to remember their loved ones at a plaque provided by the 17th Airborne Division Association. This plaque will form part of the new memorial along with a second plaque which the Association has donated.

S/Sgt Wayne Laubert wrote to his sister two days before he died in the B17 crash on December 15th 1944.

S/Sgt Laubert was decorated with The Purple Heart, Air Medal and four Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Medal, Good Conduct Ribbon, European Campaign Ribbon, two Silver Stars with 3 ratings and Victory Medal.



Joss said: "It is an honour to be asked to produce a piece of art that will act as a reminder of these tragedies to future generations. I am trying to translate the passion, understanding and sense of loss of those tragic accidents into the piece."

The memorial was designed by Luke Webb, on behalf of Stone Art Memorials. Luke added: "There is something powerful about this story which I think is quite unique. These young men were 3,000 miles from home when they died suddenly and unexpectedly."

The Trust has named several roads and buildings on the business park in memory of the paratroopers and pilots who were killed.

The memorial will be officially dedicated by a senior member of the royal family in September.



2nd Lt John P Mockus was co-pilot on one of the Flying Fortresses



"Having this memorial will bring closure, pride and peace to the children that were left without fathers that day."

Mary Mockus Shipler, John's daughter

Dear Gerry and Mike,
Hello folks, guess you thought by now I had forgotten you, but I have really been busy and I try to write more often to home since the mail is so slow. This leaves me OK and I sure hope it finds you the same. I guess it's kinda late for the news but congratulations.
I know you are both very proud of her and I am very proud of having a niece too, no kidding though. I also want to thank you a million times for the box. Everything was in good shape and boy did it ever go over good. We made coffee right here in the barracks. Boy did we feast. I really appreciated them Gerry, thanks a million. Well, we are still knocking away at them over here.
And if everything keeps going, I'll be through with all my missions in four or five weeks from now.
At first I thought I would finish sooner but a couple of things came up that really slowed us down. It makes no difference when, just so we do.
Edwin S. is going home now and so is Bud Jones, they're flyers and have completed their missions.
I still see and talk to Woody everyday. He's just fine, also said tell you and his sis hello. He's sure got a neat little Irish gal over here, ha, ha. Don't get any ideas though about me. Oh yes, I got a package from Skipper a couple of days ago. Had a very nice present in it. Something I wanted too.
Well Gerry, guess I'll close for now. Tell everyone hello, until next time.
Love Bud.
P.S Tell Forrest and Jessie I'll write soon.

The Trust is once again funding an exciting range of outdoor events in Newbury town centre for 2012 and 2013

Since its inception in 2009, in excess of 30,000 people have attended large-scale events, with countless others engaged in smaller scale initiatives. Through our support, we hope the events programme, managed by the Corn Exchange & New Greenham Arts, will continue to attract the most exciting outdoor artists and companies from across Europe and beyond to Newbury.

To date the programme of events has included giant bicycle-powered insects rampaging through the streets, and lavish French drummers performing high over the Market Place. It's also attracted lots of people who don't normally engage with the arts, which is something we're very pleased about.

The aim of the programme has always been to present high quality arts events which will make an impact within the town, gain publicity in local and regional media and attract audiences from across the area. We've been collecting information from audiences throughout the programme, and the response has been fantastic, with people really enjoying the performances, and more than 80% saying that it helped to improve their perception of Newbury Town Centre.

Looking ahead, our support has helped the Corn Exchange secure partnership funding from Arts Council England to expand the programme for the next 2 years, as well as supporting the first major commission, The Berkshire Giant.

The Berkshire Giant has also received funding from West Berkshire Council for the participatory programme that will run concurrently, as well as a sought after 'Inspire Mark' from London 2012 as the event will be a key project in the South East's contribution to the Cultural Olympiad.

This summer sees the launch of the most exciting series of outdoor events so far, as

The Berkshire Giant is unleashed in West Berkshire. Working with Outdoor Arts Producer, Simon Chatterton and Macnas (a group of inspirational artists and creative storytellers from Galway), the Corn Exchange is creating a homegrown outdoor event that everyone in the local area can be a part of.

The Berkshire Giant, which will see over 1,200 participants in workshops and activities in seven schools, adult writing workshops, youth film projects and volunteer opportunities, is the first outdoor event of 2012, taking place between Sunday 17th and Saturday 23rd June.

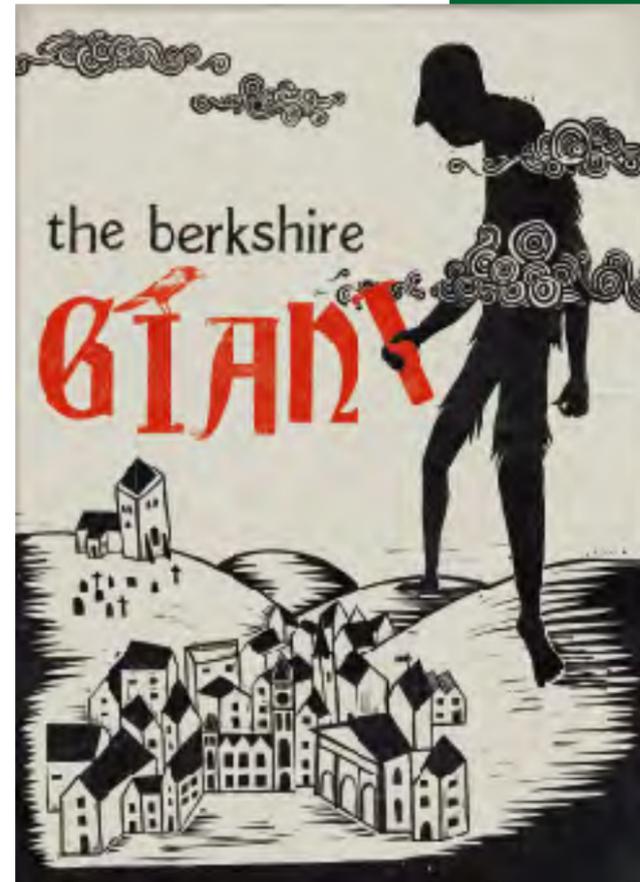
This will be quickly followed by The Bell on Friday 10th August, a potent tale of hope and redemption, featuring dynamic promenade action, mobile structures, pyrotechnics, stilts, aerial performance and soaring music, exploring timeless themes of war and peace in a spectacle of fire, light and humanity re-born from the ashes. The Bell sees the welcome return of Periplum, who brought their previous production Arquiem to Newbury in 2010.

2012 will also see the fourth Halloween Hullabaloo - an event for families that attracted over 5,000 people to a host of free events in 2011, and a Winter Light Festival in December.

Page Blanche,
November 2011



Mobile Homme,
May 2011



The Trust's continued funding of these fantastic performances really helps to encourage a sense of community within the town centre and makes Newbury a great place to live and work, allowing local people to experience new things and to develop their aspirations and opportunities.

GIANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ALDWORTH GIANT FAIR
Aldworth Village
Sunday 17th June, 12-4pm
A day of music, feasting and entertainment in the tiny West Berkshire village of Aldworth. Celebrating the magnificent restoration of the stone effigies in the church and launching the story of our giant.

INVOCATIONS AND RITUALS ON ANCIENT SNELSMORE COMMON HOSTED BY THE ANCIENT ORDER OF THE ELK.
Wednesday 20th June, 9.45pm
A mysterious gathering at dusk on Solstice Eve, where those that support the giant use drums, voices and beautiful images to invoke ancient spirit beasts to come to his aid.

JOHN'S FINAL FOOTSTEPS
Market Place, Newbury
Saturday 23rd June, 10pm
The denouement of our story, as John's pursuers finally catch up with him in a nighttime carnival parade of fire, mischief and old time rock and roll. Will John succumb to temptation or will our giant finally face his fears and find redemption?

The Trust brings Opera Brava, Britain's leading outdoor opera company, to Newbury Racecourse on Saturday June 30th 2012 to perform Rossini's The Barber of Seville

The Trust has been organising and subsidising outdoor operas since 2005, delivering outstanding professional performances which are accessible and enjoyable for family audiences at a fraction of Covent Garden prices.

In Olympic year the whole country is poised for a myriad of amazing cultural experiences and The Barber of Seville promises to be a spectacle which will not disappoint. With an audience of up to 2,000 adults and children expected, this production will excite and thrill both regular opera audiences and anyone who wants to see opera for the first time.

Opera Brava Director Bronek Pomorski says: "Written in three weeks, Rossini's melodic masterpiece is one of the wittiest and most immediately appealing comic operas in the repertoire today and as fresh to the ear now as when it first burst upon its Italian audiences in 1816. As the plot unfolds and is dramatically told through Rossini's brilliant musical structure, it helps us to understand, in part, the Barber's special place in the history of opera."

Opera Brava is also celebrating its 25th year as Britain's leading touring opera company. Its production of The Barber of Seville is performed by professional and experienced national and international opera singers who have worked with major companies such as English National Opera and Covent Garden. Paul Austin Kelly has sung The Count Almaviva at The Metropolitan Opera and Covent Garden, Gillian Webster, who has sung Mimi at The Royal Opera House sings Berta, Mark Beesley, currently at The Royal Opera House, is Bartolo and Martin Nelson, a regular at The Royal Opera House, sings Don Basilio. Two young rising stars, Niamh Kelly as Rosina, and John Lofthouse as Figaro, unravel Rossini's fantastic score with wonderful skill. This is all held together by Jeremy Silver, an international conductor who has conducted at English National Opera, Glyndebourne, and in Europe and South Africa.

Trust spokesman Julian May says: "The outdoor opera events have become a 'must see' in the Newbury calendar. We are delighted to welcome back Opera

Brava, who always deliver a very special evening to remember."

The Trust is also funding the hugely popular junior opera for a third year, which will be performed at Newbury Racecourse on Thursday June 28th, in partnership with Opera Brava.

Felix Rayner, headteacher of the Winchcome School, says: "The Winchcombe School is delighted to be working with Opera Brava this summer on their production of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. This will be an amazing opportunity for our children and staff to work with professional singers and actors. We hope this will unleash the many talents of our children and give them a new and exciting experience they can build on in the future. We thank Greenham Common Trust for their support of this project - the whole school community are looking forward to it immensely."

Bronek Pomorski adds: "We are really looking forward to working with the teachers and children of Winchcombe School at Newbury Racecourse. It will be a fantastic opportunity for the school children to experience performing in an outdoor opera and hopefully a memory they will cherish for years to come."

Tickets for The Barber of Seville cost £10 (under 18s free) and are available from the Corn Exchange in Newbury. You can purchase tickets online from

www.cornexchangenew.com, by phoning the box office on 01635 522733 or by calling into the theatre in the Market Place, Newbury. Doors open on Saturday June 30th at 6pm for a 7.30pm start. A licensed bar is available and visitors are welcome to bring a picnic and their own chairs.

The Lion, the Witch and The Wardrobe performance on Thursday June 28th starts at 7pm and admission is free. Refreshments will be served before and during the performance. All donations will go towards school funds.

Figaro! Figaro! Figaro!

This year we have some fantastic comfortable artificial grass for you to sit on, supplied by local firm Perfect Lawn (www.perfectlawn.org.uk) based in Enborne. It's so realistic you will mistake it for the real thing!



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe



The Barber of Seville