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the common good



newsletter 24
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www.greenham-common-trust.co.uk

During 2013 the Trust also match funded £130,000 of public donations made via the **findmeagrnt** website

Photos:

David Bruce and his daughter Rebecca show off the Bruce Trust's newly renovated barge.

Members of Young Corn Exchange at work on creating a long term resource for other young people called The Arts Online.

Elderly people in Thatcham who would have been alone on Christmas Day enjoy a free Christmas lunch, with Mike and Mandy Cole, Mayor and Mayoress of Thatcham, joining the festivities.

The proposed Multi-Use Games Area for Welford will look like this one, but without the running track.

Greenham Common Trust gave nearly £120,000 to benefit 26 local organisations in its recent reactive grant round.

The funding included:

-  £5,000 to Community Christmas which helps the elderly people in the Newbury area have a free Christmas meal and events.
-  £25,000 to The Bruce Trust to refurbish Rebecca, one of their specially converted canal boats for disabled people (see page 7 for more details).
-  £20,000 to the North Hampshire Medical Fund's Pinpoint Appeal which targets cancer through advanced radiotherapy treatments (see page 3 for more details).
-  £10,000 to The Corn Exchange, Newbury, to train young people in front of and behind the stage.
-  £10,000 for Welford's Multi-Use Games Area.

The Trust awards two reactive grant rounds each year to organisations in West Berkshire and the north western towns and villages of north Hampshire. The deadline for the spring round 2014 is Friday April 11.

Applications for reactive grants need to be made through the Trust's fundraising website www.findmeagrnt.org. Here applicants can be matched to other grant makers as well as Greenham Common Trust and can attract donations from the public and local businesses. The Trust also awards match funding on eligible donations through **findmeagrnt** as well as administering Gift Aid on behalf of applicants. You can claim up to £5,000 in match funding per application and £10,000 per organisation each financial year for eligible applications.

Since its launch in September 2011 www.findmeagrnt.org has helped to distribute in excess of £3.5m, including nearly £500,000 in public donations. Due to the success of **findmeagrnt**, which is free for applicants, donors and grant makers locally, the Trust is upgrading the system with a view to rolling it out in other areas of the country.

For full details of exciting new features and the re-launch of **findmeagrnt** please check the Trust website, facebook page and the local media. For further information about our reactive grants please visit www.greenham-common-trust.co.uk and click Reactive Grants. To make an application for reactive grants please visit www.findmeagrnt.org.



findmeagrnt



The Dingley Family & Specialist Early Years Centre provides a place where children from birth to 5 years with additional needs and disabilities can develop skills through play.

"Nowhere else offers one-to-one care with the same expertise. I can have respite and feel totally relaxed because of Dingley"

This allows the children, who have disabilities such as Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down's syndrome and life shortening conditions, to take a full and active part in everyday life and maximises their potential for inclusion when they start school.

The children are often unable to access mainstream activities because of their needs or because the parents often feel a social stigma is attached in trying to involve a disabled child in activities aimed at the able bodied. Qualified staff plan specific programmes for each child based on their individual needs.

Dingley provides:

- Safe, satisfying and stimulating needs-led play for the whole family. This includes: imaginative and pretend play, table-top activities, story-telling and sensory play.
- Guidance and support for the whole family. Dingley are able to signpost to local services as well as giving parents and carers the respite they need. Siblings under 5 are also encouraged to attend to get the necessary support to come to terms with their sibling's condition. At Dingley the whole family is given the chance to be able to spend time playing together.
- An independent environment for further assessment and therapy by all the professionals working with the children and their families, including consultants, G.P.s, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and speech therapists.

In August 2012 Dingley needed to relocate its West Berkshire Centre as their building at Newbury Racecourse, was being demolished as part of the Racecourse's redevelopment.

"Our project to find a new home for our Newbury (West Berkshire) Centre has greatly benefited from the findmeagrants system managed by Greenham Common Trust. We had initially hoped to raise sufficient funds to construct a new building, but the site for which we had gained planning permission proved to be ex-landfill, which subsequently increased both the risks and potential costs of our project. We are now progressing the total refurbishment of an existing building at a location which provides most, if not all, of our key requirements - parking, outside play, convenient location and flexible space. The funds we have raised should therefore cover both the one-off refurbishment and our running costs for a number of years", said Dave Ormrod, Dingley Chairman.

To help Dingley during its homelessness the Trust awarded them a total of £5,360 during its two 2013 grant rounds to help pay rent at their temporary home at the Phoenix Centre and enable them to provide a separate sensory room. During the same period the Trust has also granted £3,600 to provide more play sessions at Dingley for the children that are referred to them by Social Services.

One of children's parents says: "There is nowhere else in Newbury or Hungerford that offers our family this exceptional care. The staff are trained to a high standard but also have great experience in working with children who have complex and additional needs. Nowhere else offers one-to-one care with the same expertise. I can have respite and feel totally relaxed because of Dingley, as West Berkshire is not a child disabled friendly place to live".

Photos:
Children enjoying the sensory room at the Phoenix centre



The Trust awards £20,000 to the North Hampshire Medical Fund Pinpoint Appeal

The North Hampshire Medical Fund raises funds to ensure that patients at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital are treated and cared for by clinicians using the latest medical technology.

The fund has to date raised over £6million for leading edge equipment that can save lives or make treatment and recovery more certain and less painful. The reality is that NHS budgets cannot keep pace with advances in medical science. Raising funds for advanced equipment also helps the hospital to attract consultants and physicians whose expertise is expanding its reputation as a centre of medical excellence.

Thanks to a Trust grant of £20,000 in November 2013 The Pinpoint Appeal has now reached its target of £450,000 for a state-of-the-art scanner for the new Radiotherapy Unit at Basingstoke & North Hampshire Hospital. The Radiotherapy unit will welcome its first patients in the spring of 2014 and anticipates treating 30 patients per day, including residents from West Berkshire.

About half of all cancer patients receive some type of radiation therapy, which uses high energy radiation to shrink tumours and kill cancer cells. Radiotherapy patients need the treatment for up to six weeks, and the opening of the unit will be a relief for many who currently have to travel to either Southampton or Guildford. It will primarily treat those with breast, lung and prostate cancers.

The new unit will provide state of the art treatment through a method known as "intensity modulated radiation therapy" (IMRT). This allows higher and more effective radiation doses to be safely delivered to the cancer, resulting in fewer

side effects compared with conventional radiotherapy. IMRT requires the use of sophisticated scanning equipment to plan the actual treatment.

The Radiotherapy Planning CT scanner which the Trust has helped to fund uses laser beams to ensure the patient is always positioned in exactly the same way for every treatment session. Because the scanner enables medical staff to target cancer with 'pinpoint' accuracy, side effects are reduced and there is minimal damage to healthy tissues, helping patients to recover faster from their treatment.

"We are thrilled to have reached our target and would like to say a huge thank you to Greenham Common Trust and everyone who has supported our Pinpoint Appeal. This includes many cancer sufferers and their families who fundraised for the scanner. They know only too well what a difference the new unit will make - because this facility wasn't available for them. Their support has been invaluable and makes us especially glad to have played our part in advancing local cancer treatment that will benefit those living in North Hampshire and parts of West Berkshire." said Tricia Monroe, Fund Manager.

The new scanner will be transferred in due course to a planned Cancer Treatment Centre that is to be sited near Basingstoke and due to open in 2016.



Radiotherapy Planning
CT scanner
(image courtesy of
Siemens)

"We are thrilled to have reached our target and would like to say a huge thank you to Greenham Common Trust and everyone who has supported our Pinpoint Appeal"

Tricia Monroe, Fund Manager

Tricia Monroe,
Fund Manager and
Etta Pullinger,
Fund Co-ordinator



Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



£10,000 for BBOWT to help make our local landscape more wildlife friendly



Photos:

Bowdown Woods
(photo by Rob Appleby)

Greenham Common
(photo by Rob Appleby)

Volunteers working
on Greenham Common
(photo by Adrian Wallington)



The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) is one of 47 Wildlife Trusts working across the UK to achieve the shared aim of securing a better future for wildlife. BBOWT works to achieve this by inspiring people to take action for their local wildlife, by acquiring and managing nature reserves, and by working in partnership to preserve the wider countryside and urban areas.

In January this year West Berkshire Council transferred to BBOWT the management (but not the ownership) of nine of the council's reserves and commons, and the Nature Discovery Centre.

The Linking the Landscape project is about making connections: between people and their extraordinary local natural heritage, and between pockets of threatened wildlife habitats. The West Berkshire project covers more than 27 sq. km. of lowland heathland, ancient woodland, reedbeds, rivers and streams, with Greenham and Crookham Commons at the heart. The five-year project began in July 2013.

Greenham Common Trust awarded £9,000 to the project in its Spring 2013 grant round and also match funded another £1,000 with Thatcham Town Council in December 2013; other funders include the Heritage Lottery Fund and many other organisations and charitable bodies.

The work will make it easier for species to move through the landscape, increasing their chances of survival and success. Many of the species once common in the area have fallen to critically low population levels, as the habitats on which they depend have declined. This is partly due to a lack of habitat management. Without intervention, this situation would only be exacerbated over the coming years with the threat of climate change. The project will address this by improving the key wildlife sites, creating buffer zones around them, and corridors between them.

The project will also protect and enhance the area for local people, raising its profile within the local community and safeguarding vulnerable habitats and species for the long term future. Jacky Akam, Manager of the current West Berkshire Living Landscape project, explains: "This is a fantastic opportunity for people living in Newbury, Thatcham and the surrounding areas to get involved in new projects and initiatives. Local people of all ages will discover the beauties and delights of the nature reserves and wild places through projects such as Team Rangers, an after-school conservation group for 13-16 year olds, and Nature Tots, for very young children to have fun as they and their parents discover wildlife together."

"We will also establish training programmes and volunteer teams to help us deliver the project. Through regular events and community activities we will connect the local community to the landscape, ensuring that their support for it will continue after the project ends in 2018."

"This is a fantastic opportunity for
people living in Newbury, Thatcham
and the surrounding areas
to get involved"

Jacky Akam,
West Berkshire Living Landscape Project Manager



For further information, please visit www.bbowl.org.uk/wbll

The Trust has agreed to commit up to £250,000 towards making the Greenham Common control tower into a Visitor's Centre



"Without the Trust's support and the guidance and expertise they bring, this project would not have succeeded"

Tony Forward
Chairman,
Greenham Parish Council

Greenham Common Control Tower is one of seven identical control towers built in the early 1950s, during the Korean War. The other six were located at fighter bases at Biggin Hill and North Weald, Brize Norton, Fairford and Upper Heyford, and at the Mildenhall tanker air base.

Since 1993, when the Greenham Common airbase was decommissioned, the control tower has been disused and as a result is still largely in its original state, which has resulted in Grade II listed status.

The building is in the middle of the now restored Greenham Common. After a long bidding process West Berkshire Council have agreed to sell the building to Greenham Parish Council for £100,000 under the Government's Community Right to Bid scheme.

£421,555 of funding for the project will come from the Community Assets and Services Fund managed by the Social Investment Business Group (SIB), in partnership with Locality on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government. Greenham Common Trust has also committed £250,000 towards the project. Substantial works will be necessary to prepare the building for use as a Visitor's Centre, where the public can see both the historic past and learn about the present natural landscape of the common.

The ground floor will comprise a community-run café and public toilets. The first floor will include an Interpretation area, with displays not only about the history of the common but also about its wildlife and how to enjoy the common without damaging valuable habitats.

Also included in the new building layout are offices for BBOWT to use during their management of Greenham Common.

The top floor, where once men sat directing planes landing and taking off during the Cold War, will be a viewing tower from which the panorama of the Common can be fully appreciated. It is also possible that some parts of the building will be available for hire.

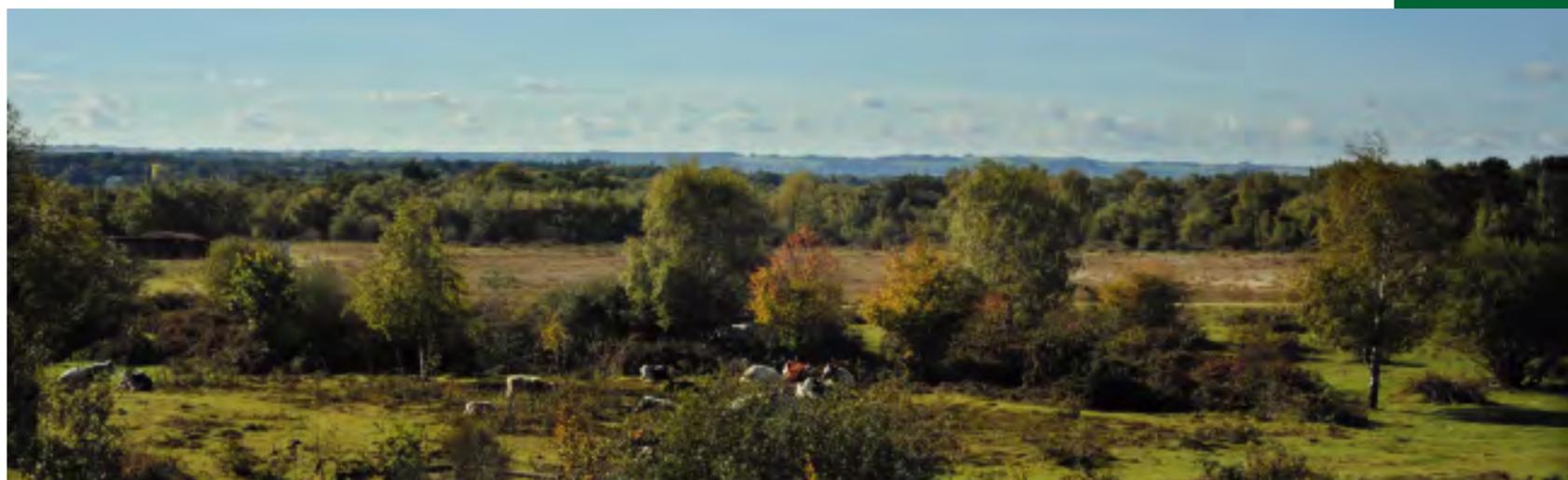
It is hoped that the Centre will be open before autumn 2014. Although it is unlikely that the Centre will be completely finished, Greenham Parish Council intend to hold a ceremony at the control tower on 5th June 2014 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of General Dwight Eisenhower's famous 'Eyes of the world' speech, given at Greenham Common on the eve of D-Day in 1944.

Photos:

The control tower, 1995

The control tower in the newly restored Greenham Common, 2001

Panoramic view of Greenham Common, 2010
(Photo by Leigh Quinnell)





Photos:

Soke Hatsumi conducting a saaki test

Shidoshi Dave Giddings

Dave demonstrates a kata at one of his classes at Bujinkan Newbury Dojo

It's September 2009 and Dave Giddings is kneeling on a mat in the Bujinkan Honbu dojo (martial arts training hall) in Noda, Japan. Watching is the 78 year old Soke (grand master) Masaaki Hatsumi, who requires that this, the saaki test, be performed in his presence.

Behind Dave is a man he can't see, holding a shinai (bamboo sword) with which he is about to hit Dave on the head. Dave, operating on all the skills his training has given him, must dodge the blow in order to receive the rank of 5th dan and the right to the title of Shidoshi (teacher). Dave's been saving for two years for the trip.

Unlike some martial arts whose styles are competition based, the Bujinkan is about dealing with reality. Among the first things that Dave has been taught is how to safely dodge, leap, roll and climb away from anything that's threatening him. "Knowing what to do with your feet is really important" says Dave.

The man behind him strikes. Dave dodges, but a fraction too late. The blow lands on his shoulder. The Soke confers with his colleagues and Dave is permitted another attempt.

He must concentrate on all the skills he has been taught, rely on the muscle memory he has so painstakingly learnt through years of practising the kata (forms of movement) and exercises. The Bujinkan teaches many kata, as do other martial arts such as Judo and Karate, but the emphasis is different. It's also particularly well adapted for self defence.

"If you get into a really dangerous situation, the adrenalin rush through your body can actually make it impossible for you to unclench your fists, which can be a deadly disadvantage if you need to pick something up. The Bujinkan training makes it possible to control this reaction." says Dave.



He has had his share of danger during the five years he spent in the army, serving in Northern Ireland, Canada and all over Europe, and then another twenty years spent as a paramedic.

The second blow lands firmly on Dave's head. Dave retires for the day, but he is not beaten. He returns to the dojo again during his stay in Tokyo and once again, in the Soke's presence, kneels on the mat to take the saaki test. This time the man holding the shinai is Noguchi sensei (master), a long standing direct student of Soke Hatsumi.

He has been taught not only to move but also to think effectively. He has been taught to read and understand body language, to anticipate from minute signals how an opponent may be countered. He has been taught to rely on his own instinctive reactions. He

must forget everything he knows, stop thinking, just react.

The blow falls, but Dave has already moved out of its path. He has passed the test.

Today 7th dan Shidoshi Dave Giddings continues to hone his skills by training under Shihan (master instructor) Marc Moor, the head of Budo Warrior Schools, in England. Dave runs, with the help of two of his senior students, a range of personally tailored Bujinkan classes at the Newbury Bujinkan Dojo at Greenham Business Park. He offers Women's Self Defence classes, using many Bujinkan techniques. His students range from 8 to 52 years old. Today one of Dave's own pupils is currently in Japan, and has been awarded his 1st dan black belt while there. And, today, Dave can even dodge threats while he is sleeping!



If you are interested in any of Dave's classes call 07834 386599 or email newburyninjutsu@hotmail.com

The Bruce Trust needs your help to raise another £20,000 towards their £120,000 Silver Anniversary Appeal to refurbish The Rebecca canal barge so that more disabled, disadvantaged and elderly people can enjoy a break or a holiday.

Having stripped The Rebecca back to her bare steel shell last November, work on her complete refurbishment has progressed well. The foredeck has been enlarged to accommodate up to five wheelchairs, together with much needed new equipment including two wheelchair lifts at the back and front of the boat, a 'hospital bed' with an enlarged window so passengers can see outside at all times, engine and gear box. There is also a wet room with a hoist to lift passengers out of bed and from the shower to the toilet.

Greenham Common Trust pledged £25,000 to bring the total to nearly £100,000 but to enable the Bruce Trust to buy and fit all of the equipment that they need to completely refurbish The Rebecca they need a final push from you, the public.

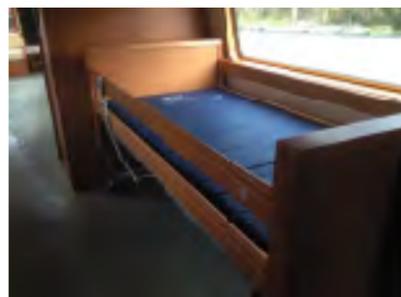
Bruce Trust founder and chairman David Bruce said: "We were absolutely thrilled to be given an award of £25,000 from Greenham Common Trust and would also like to thank all of our incredibly generous donors. I am delighted to say that, thanks entirely to the financial support of so many people like all of you, our Appeal has so far raised just over £97,000. This is a wonderful achievement, especially in these harsh economic times, and we are thrilled to be so close to our target."

The Bruce Trust has raised a significant proportion of the funding through Greenham Common Trust's fundraising website www.findmeagrant.org, where as a grant applicant you can attract funding from both established grant makers and the public. The Trust matches donations and applies Gift Aid for eligible donors and has already given the Bruce Trust an additional £5,000 in Trust Top Up (match funding).

The Bruce Trust operates a fleet of four purpose-built wide-beam canal boats, Hannah and Rebecca (12 berth), Diana (10 berth) and Rachel (6 berth). Each boat has the highest quality accommodation and offers flexibility for people with a variety of special needs. The extra width of the boats allows wheelchair users to manoeuvre with ease and hydraulic lifts on the front and back of the boat mean wheelchair users can easily access the decks to drive the boat or just enjoy the view.

Since 1990 nearly 15,000 disabled, disadvantaged or elderly people, together with their carers, have enjoyed holidays cruising on the Kennet and Avon Canal thanks to the Bruce Trust.

The Bruce Trust relies on volunteers to keep the service going. For more information visit www.bruce-trust.org.uk, email enquiries@bruce-trust.org.uk or call 01264 356451.



Photos:
The Bruce Trust's
David Bruce and his
daughter Rebecca
aboard the newly
restored canal barge

The galley and
hospital bed aboard
The Rebecca

To make a donation:

- visit www.findmeagrant.org/wberks
- search for **Bruce Trust Silver Anniversary**
- click on **Make a Donation**.





Opera
FOR ALL

Tosca
Puccini's masterpiece

6.30pm, Saturday 12th July 2014
Newbury Racecourse

The tenth Opera For All event hosted by the Trust will be *Tosca*, a heart-wrenching tale of love, betrayal and murder

Opera Brava
Southern Sinfonia

The Trust has been holding subsidised operas for local families since 2005 and has built up a dedicated following of supporters.

This year, as well as its partnership with Opera Brava and Southern Sinfonia, who will be playing live for the event, the Trust is working closely with the Corn Exchange with the aim of introducing a wider audience to the world of opera, so look out for Opera for All 2014 anywhere from Facebook to live on the streets of Newbury.

Tosca is set in Rome during the Napoleonic Wars at the turn of the 19th Century. The malevolent villain, Baron Scarpia, Chief of Police, ruthlessly tricks singer Floria Tosca into revenge against her lover Cavaradossi for an imagined transgression.

The open air performance of *Tosca* will be staged in front of the Grandstand at Newbury Racecourse on Saturday 12th July, 2014.

Gates will open an hour prior to the start of the performance. Guests are very welcome to bring their own chairs and picnics to the event or sit on the grandstand steps or the artificial grass and picnic tables provided.

A licensed bar will also be available on the first floor of the grandstand.

Opera Brava's Artistic Director, Broniek Pomorski says: "Come and enjoy a fabulous evening of opera for the whole family. Watch the sunset over the beautiful countryside while you listen to some awe-inspiring arias."



Tickets

Before 30 April	£5
Before 31 May	£7.50
Before the day	£10
On the gate	£12
Under 16s	free

available from February 24 from
www.cornexchangenew.com

Box Office: 0845 521 8218