

## Trust gives £1/2 million in match funding to regional cancer centre

The Ark Cancer Centre charity has received a huge boost to their campaign to raise £5 million thanks to Greenham Common Trust which has agreed to match donations up to £500,000.

This means that each £1 raised will be matched with another £1. For example, a £50 donation will be worth £100. As an added bonus the charity will receive an extra 25% of the donation (subject to eligibility) from the Gift Aid scheme.

The cancer charity is raising £5 million towards a state of the art cancer treatment centre to be built in North Hampshire. The centre will offer radiotherapy, chemotherapy, support services and complementary therapies in one unique building. The aim is to greatly enhance the care received by patients and their families throughout their cancer treatment journey leading to improved outcomes allowing people to maintain the best quality of life, thrive and recover.

Merv Rees, Medical Director of the Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said: "I am absolutely delighted to have the support of Greenham Common Trust. Its endorsement and donor support should encourage everyone to support our project at such an exciting time in its development. We know that Hampshire and West Berkshire deserve the best cancer centre and we are determined to deliver a unique building with an excellent service for all cancer patients in the local area."

The boost to the charity with the match funding scheme from Greenham Common Trust will enable the charity to reach its first million pounds. With the public's support and enthusiasm for the project growing, the people of Hampshire and West Berkshire can look forward to a cancer centre that will offer the latest technology in an enhanced architectural environment.

In the UK more than 1 in 3 people develop some form of cancer in their lifetime. For females the cancer type with the highest lifetime risk is breast cancer followed by lung and bowel cancer. For males the type with the highest lifetime risk is prostate cancer, again followed by lung and bowel cancer. A holistic approach to cancer care allows people living with cancer and their families to be kept informed and fit and able to manage all aspects of their disease as well as possible.



Images: Artist's impressions of

- The Main Entrance
- The Chemotherapy Unit
- The Reception Area

Simply visit [www.findmeagrant.org/wberks/](http://www.findmeagrant.org/wberks/) click 'Applications', type the application no. WB10841 into the keyword search to make a donation.

If you would like more information about the charity visit [www.arkcancercharity.org.uk](http://www.arkcancercharity.org.uk) or E: [info@arkcancercharity.org.uk](mailto:info@arkcancercharity.org.uk) or T: 01256 360419.

If you'd like to get involved and join the volunteer team contact Vickie Randall - E: [Vickie.randall@arkcancercharity.org.uk](mailto:Vickie.randall@arkcancercharity.org.uk)

Traffic  
delays at  
Thatcham  
Level  
Crossing  
may soon  
be a thing  
of the past

## Are you fed up of waiting in a queue of traffic at Thatcham Railway Crossing, counting the cost of your delay?



Thatcham resident Steve Ardagh-Walter was so frustrated he set up **Level X**, a website (tablet, PC and mobile compatible), Twitter and Smartphone service which tells you when the level crossing gates are due to close, with his software development partner Simon Carter from Highclere.

Mr Ardagh-Walter's **Level X** driver information system, which is scheduled to launch in June, allows users to receive real time updates from Network Rail on train schedules and includes an algorithm based on statistics of train arrivals and departures through the crossing with the help of Reading University statistician James Reade.

To make the service even more accurate Steve has been given permission by West Berkshire Council to install a solar powered camera to record the gates lifting and closing as trains pass through the station and also the number of cars crossing.

"By combining these information sources, an accurate prediction of future closing times can be built up, including those from delayed trains and freight trains, which are not accessible from passenger timetables," said Mr Ardagh-Walter.

Thatcham residents and local businesses have been calling for a solution to the congestion hotspot for decades including proposals to build a bridge over the level crossing which would link Station Road and Crookham Hill.

"You can be caught in traffic for anything up to 20 minutes when the barriers go down," said Mr Ardagh-Walter.

"This is hugely wasteful and frustrating. But the real problem is you don't know whether it is one train going through or three. There have been talks about a bridge over the crossing, but realistically I don't think it will ever happen. **Level X** will allow residents, businesses and commuters to avoid travelling until the crossing is clear because they will know when the trains are coming through and how long the barriers will be down for. It will also discourage irresponsible behaviour of people trying to race through the barriers before they close," he added.

As with any new product or service development Mr Ardagh-Walter surveyed local motorists to determine the demand for the service, find out how they would prefer to use and through which channels and to refine features and functionality of the service.

After an overwhelmingly positive response Mr Ardagh-Walter realized there was a real demand for the service and hopes to roll it out across the country if the pilot in Thatcham is successful.

"I have been in talks with Wokingham Borough Council and with Network Rail who are also interested."

To help cover the cost of investment in [levelx.info](http://levelx.info) Mr Ardagh-Walter recently entered local business competition Coras 2014. He won and part of his prize was £1,000 in cash and up to £25,000 in further investment plus up to 12 months' mentoring from Newbury entrepreneur Shawn Khorassani. Mr Ardagh-Walter is considering introducing a small monthly or annual subscription fee.

For more information please visit [www.levelx.info](http://www.levelx.info)

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Photos:

Steve Ardagh-Walter at  
Thatcham Level Crossing

Steve Ardagh-Walter



## Their Royal Highnesses, The Earl and Countess of Wessex officially opened Ufton Court Adventure on May 6th as part of The Earl's 50th birthday tour



The Earl and Countess met visiting children and were shown some of the amazing new activities at the outdoor education centre such as beach volleyball, forest survival skills and archery. They were introduced to Ufton Court Adventure (UCA) patron, Sir John Madejski, before unveiling a plaque and meeting UCA supporters, friends and donors such as Greenham Common Trust, which provided a £250,000 grant for the project.

UCA is an exciting new woodland centre opening at Ufton Court which aims to raise the aspirations and achievements of disadvantaged young people most in need through repeated access to outdoor education. The project has been developed by the Ufton Court Educational Trust (UCET) in partnership with the South Reading community charity Aspire2, which supports activities to enrich children's lives in and around the area of Whitley, South Reading.

UCET is a charity that aims to inspire, educate and challenge children using the extraordinary house and grounds of Ufton Court. The opening of UCA means that the charity can extend its work in enriching and changing children's lives.

Mary Riall, CEO of UCET, said: "Ufton Court is very excited to be able to extend its work with young people through UCA. We look forward to working with our partners to ensure this exceptional new

facility delivers programmes that will support local children, raising aspirations and achievements and helping them towards fulfilling future careers."

Simon Blomfield, manager of Ufton Court Adventure, added: "At Ufton Court Adventure, we aim to reach out to local children and young people who have difficulty accessing woodland environments because of limiting factors such as socio-economic, cultural or mobility reasons. By removing the desks, chairs, walls and the influx of technology that a child may face in the average day, we aim to captivate them through a journey of curiosity and exploration of themselves and their environment."

Local adventurer and television personality Bear Grylls, who was also present at the opening, said: "Young people need dynamic projects like Ufton Court Adventure that empower them to get outdoors, embrace challenge and change their lives."



UCA has already had a profound effect on the confidence and independence of participating young people. A teenage boy, who has enjoyed three visits to Ufton Court, said: "It has made me more confident to speak to people, inspired me to push for better GCSE grades and has helped improve the relationships I have with my family."

Greenham  
Common  
Trust gave  
Ufton Court  
Adventure  
£250,000  
to build  
cabins  
for the kids

Photos:

Their Royal Highnesses The Earl and Countess of Wessex unveiling a commemorative plaque (image: Simon Kemp, Hyde End Studios)

Children enjoying a challenge at Ufton Court Adventure



The Bruce Foundation relies entirely on Voluntary Helpers

- to maintain and clean its motorhome
- to drive it to campsites for any hirers who may wish to use the motorhome as a static base rather than touring in it
- to fundraise towards its running costs

Photos:

The Motor Home wheelchair lift access

Wheelchair access next to the driver

The kitchen and storage area

The hospital bed

## The Bruce Foundation has launched a £120,000 capital appeal to create the world's first wheelchair-accessible motorhome for hire

David Bruce and his wife, Louise, have provided canal boat holidays on the Kennet & Avon Canal for disabled, disadvantaged or elderly people for the past 25 years through their Great Bedwyn-based charity, The Bruce Trust.

Having successfully completed a similar appeal to completely refurbish after 25 years The Rebecca, a boat which accommodates people with a wide variety of special needs, the Bruce family have now set their sights on a new fundraising challenge and have created this new charity, The Bruce Foundation, to achieve it.

They decided they wanted to offer people immobilised by disease, accident or old age the opportunity and freedom to experience life on the open road in a bespoke motorhome.

A 32-foot long Mercedes chassis and engine has been completely developed upwards to include:

- Wheelchair lift up to a wide-access double doorway
- Removable passenger seat to enable a wheelchair user to sit next to the driver
- Lounge/dining area with 360° wheelchair turning circle
- Scissor-action hospital bed adjacent to a 6ft x 3 ft panoramic window
- Ceiling hoist for transfer from the hospital bed into the wet room
- Fully equipped wet room with shower, basin, flushing toilet and mobility rails
- Accommodation for 6 people

The motorhome also features a fully fitted kitchen, hanging wardrobe and storage cupboards, central heating, generator and a Glide-Rite hydraulic self-levelling system.

David and Louise's daughter, Rebecca, who has recently taken over running of both The Bruce Trust and The Bruce Foundation, said: "We got the idea after meeting Roy Townsend and his wife Sally, an MS

sufferer for 25 years, who now only has the use of one hand, and John Clayton, an inspirational mouth and foot painter who became quadriplegic, after his motorbike was involved in a horrific accident with a lorry."

"John and Sally really guided us in the design of the vehicle. John is a truly amazing guy who goes on painting holidays in the French Alps in his own purpose-built motorhome," she added.

David Bruce is also President of The Kennet and Avon Canal Trust and recently accepted the Queen's Award for Volunteering from HRH the Princess Royal to honour the hard work and dedication of its volunteers during the past 52 years. He said: "This bespoke motorhome will give people freedom and independence to enjoy holidays and day trips with everything they need around them."

The Chairman of Christie and Co, David Rugg, has kindly kicked off the appeal with an incredibly generous £1,200 personal donation (1% of the total required). Mr Rugg says "We know, like the canal boats, that the motorhome will bring joy and make a huge difference to many people's lives."

If you are interested in booking the motorhome or becoming a volunteer please call Rebecca on 01264 356451, email [enquiries@brucefoundation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@brucefoundation.org.uk) or visit [www.brucefoundation.org.uk](http://www.brucefoundation.org.uk)



To make a donation please visit Greenham Common Trust's fundraising website [www.findmeagrnt.org/wberks/](http://www.findmeagrnt.org/wberks/) click 'Applications', type WB10839 into 'Search' to find the application and then click 'Make a Donation'. Donating through findmeagrnt is free and your donation may be eligible for Gift Aid and matched funding.

## Thanks to the Trust's Community Buildings Improvement Programme Hermitage will get a badly needed new village hall

Hermitage Village Hall was originally built in 1841 for the 120 children of The Church School. It closed in 1913 when the County Council built a new school at the north end of the village and was managed as a village hall for many years by the church, until a number of energetic local residents purchased it in 1960 and re-opened the new hall in 1962. It became a popular venue - the hall is the only community facility in Hermitage other than the school and the scout hut.

Since 1962, with a significant proportion of new housing having been built in the village, Hermitage's population has grown by 300% and the old village hall and its inadequate parking area cannot accommodate all the uses that are being asked of it by various social, community and educational groups, including Pre-School, Horticultural Society, dancing classes, dog training classes, Youth Club and others.

"This is the biggest community project in Hermitage in the last 50 years, and we are very grateful to Greenham Common Trust for their generous support, without which this would not have been possible"

John Lawler  
Chairman,  
Village Hall Committee



The old hall also suffers badly from high running and maintenance costs as a result of its age and there is no room to expand the current site as it is surrounded by housing and leads straight off the busy B4009.

Fortunately, the concept of a larger replacement hall was made an integral part of the agreement between West Berkshire Council and Miller Homes, the developers of Forest Edge, one of the two recent major housing developments in Hermitage. The site of the new hall was chosen to be next to the playing field incorporated into the new development.

The Trust awarded, under its CBIP funding scheme, up to £250,000 for the hall, match funding Hermitage Parish Council's contribution towards the project. This, along with proceeds from the sale of the old hall and the planning gain from the Forest Edge development, means that the estimated project cost of approximately £1.5 million has been met.

A new village hall has been designed and planning permission has been granted. The new village hall will have two halls, one large and one small, each with kitchen facilities, so that more community groups can be accommodated, and there will be space for adding changing rooms for use with the adjacent sports field, should there be sufficient demand.

Through its CBIP funding scheme the Trust has committed over £1.75m to help 75 local organisations refurbish or rebuild their community assets

Images:  
Architect's drawings of the new village Hall



Photos:  
The Horticultural Society make frequent use of village facilities.



The old village hall decked out for Burn's Night in 2006.

The Community Buildings Improvement Programme was set up to contribute up to 50% of capital asset improvement costs for community halls, pavilions and other shared spaces. Although the scheme is now closed to new applications, the Trust is currently looking at demand with a view to creating a new round of CBIP funding.

Special Auction Services, based at Greenham Business Park, offers a comprehensive service to both buyers and sellers of anything collectable

## That tattered and torn old rug in the attic might be worth thousands of pounds

That's what one local resident found, when she pulled a tattered old rug out of her flooded basement and decided to see if it was worth anything by putting it up for auction with Special Auction Services (SAS).

SAS holds over 40 specialist auctions and a monthly auction of antiques and collectables each year at its two Greenham Business Park premises, covering a wide range of specialised subjects dear to collectors.

Here you might find cigarette cards, postcards, stamps, books, dolls, teddy bears, model trains and other toys, sporting and military memorabilia, vinyl records, autographs, instruments, stage clothing & related music ephemera, film posters, props, clothing, & related cinema ephemera, cameras and photographic equipment, scientific instruments, watches, jewellery, coins and silver, as well as any other kind of antiques and collectables.

SAS can boast of auctioning probably the UK's most expensive toy, a 2ft long tin plated battleship, The HMS Terrible, a replica from the Boer War built by German toy manufacturer Marklin for the British market c 1905. The boat went for £57,000 plus buyer's premium in 2012. Another Marklin battleship, this time built for the German market and named The Saachsen, was also auctioned in 2013 by SAS for £38,000 plus buyer's premium.

Both Neil Shuttleworth and Thomas Plant, who have been directors of SAS since 2006, are not only the auctioneers, but also specialists in jewellery, watches, silver, antiques and fine art. Thomas can be seen on the BBC television shows *Bargain Hunt*, *Flog it!* and *The Antiques Roadshow* where he appears as one of the experts. SAS also appears on *Bargain Hunt* and *Flog it!* as well.

Since 2012 SAS has been a member of Society Of Fine Art Auctioneers (SOFAA).

If you have something you think might be worth selling you can take it along to SAS on Wednesdays and one of the many experts on the team will give you a valuation of your item for auction. Or you can give them a call on 01635 580595 to arrange a home visit. The team also do probate and estate, and insurance valuations, and look at some 50,000 lots every year, selling about 30,000 of them.

If they think your item is worth selling at auction it will be professionally photographed and advertised world wide online and in a printed catalogue prior to the auction. On the day of the auction SAS may be taking bids from all over the world by phone or online, and have built up a reputation amongst serious buyers for a professional and personalised service.

When the tattered old rug came up for auction it became apparent from intense bidding that the rug was worth more than it looked. The hammer finally fell at £23,000 plus buyer's premium.

And a tip for what's selling particularly well at the moment?

"Men's watches, cameras and anything Chinese", says Neil.

# SAS

Est. 1991



visit [www.specialauctionservices.com](http://www.specialauctionservices.com) for a timetable of auctions in a wide range of specialised collectables

Photos:

Rare carnelian Chih Lung (Chinese garment hook) sold for £4,400 (plus buyer's premium) for a local resident

SAS director Thomas Plant at the auction of 15 of Ian Fleming's James Bond books, including first editions, sold for almost £33,000 plus buyer's premium

SAS director Neil Shuttleworth valuing jewellery

Turkoman weave rug, possibly woven for a wedding c1800, sold for £23,000 plus buyer's premium

## Roll up! Roll up! The Circus is coming to town this summer.

In the latest instalment of the enthralling Outdoor Events programme, the world-renowned No Fit State Circus is bringing its joyous mix of circus skills to Newbury.

Come and be immersed in the contemporary circus troupe's ever-evolving large-scale installation, where anything can happen and everything becomes an excuse for performance and spectacle.

Shop; stop; watch or even (if you're brave enough) have a go... *Open House* is a daytime circus experience for public spaces, which will transform Newbury into a circus village, starting at the top of Northbrook Street and flowing through the town, setting up in the streets and unfolding washing lines, flags, umbrellas and piles of bric-a-brac. There's no big top but a colony of musicians, acrobats and aerialists exploding out of caravans - a joyous menagerie of circus chaos.

No Fit State was launched in 1986 and its members are one of the few traditional circus 'families' which live together on the road in caravans.

No Fit State follows the 2014 Outdoor Events circus theme, after acrobatics and dance theatre company Acrojou performed two amazing shows, *Frantic* and *The Wheel House*, in Newbury Market Place during the May Bank holiday.

The outdoor events programme started in 2009 to introduce large-scale outdoor theatrical arts events free to the public to enjoy. Ever since their popularity has grown and they now attract audiences of up to 5,000 people. The programme is managed by the Corn Exchange Newbury and funded by Greenham Common Trust and Arts Council England.

For more information please visit [www.cornexchangenew.com/events/outdoor](http://www.cornexchangenew.com/events/outdoor) or watch out for announcements on Greenham Common Trust's website, [www.greenham-common-trust.co.uk](http://www.greenham-common-trust.co.uk), and facebook page.



If you've ever  
wanted to  
swing from  
a trapeze or  
walk on stilts,  
now's your  
chance to  
have a go

Photos:

No Fit State Circus  
performing at the  
Four Squares Weekender  
(Birmingham 2013)

No Fit State's *Open House*  
(image by Jas Sansi)

Acrojou's *The Wheel House*  
(image by Steve Edwin)

No Fit State performances are free and can be seen at the following times:

Saturday June 14: 11.30am - 1.30pm & 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Sunday June 15: 11.30am - 1.30pm & 2.30pm - 4.30pm

## Tosca

Puccini's masterpiece

6.30pm, Saturday 12th July 2014

Newbury Racecourse

*Southern Sinfonia*

*Opera Brava*

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

Greenham Common Trust is once again teaming up with Opera Brava, Southern Sinfonia and the Corn Exchange to present a spectacular evening of outdoor opera for all the family, at Newbury Racecourse on Saturday 12th July 2014.

*Tosca*, the 'masterpiece' production that combines powerful drama and unforgettable music is set against the turbulent backdrop of Rome. Dramatic characters bring some of Puccini's most passionate music to life in this new, moving production, directed by Anthony Baker and Musical Director Jeremy Silver. Based upon French dramatist Victorien Sardou's tragic play (*La Tosca*), Puccini's *Tosca* is a story of passion, jealousy, hypocrisy and religious tyranny. Add Puccini's powerful score to the threat of Napoleon's invasion of Italy and you're in for a truly spectacular evening of memorable opera.

Tickets start at £7.50 if booked before 31 May, £10 if booked by 11 July or £12 on the gate. You can bring your own picnic, or purchase the deluxe package of a Picnic Hamper and two opera tickets for £85 - pre-booking only (before July 5th). Under 16s are admitted free (but require a ticket).

The Trust has been holding subsidised operas at the Racecourse since 2005 and has built up a dedicated following of supporters.

Artistic Director of Opera Brava, Bronek Pomorski, said: "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."

The open air performance of *Tosca* will be staged in front of the Grandstand at Newbury Racecourse. Guests are very welcome to bring their own chairs and picnics to the event or sit on the artificial grass, picnic tables or grandstand steps provided.

A licensed bar will be available on the first floor of the grandstand which will be open from 5.30pm when the gates open. The performance starts at 6.30pm. Refreshments will be also available on site.



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FOR ALL



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& NEW GREENHAM ARTS

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for more details, and online booking