

\* Find out who has benefited in the Trust's **Spring 2015 Grant Round** on pages 4 & 5.

\* See page 7 for the Trust's new **Music Bursary Fund** for young children in West Berkshire.

\* Find out on page 3 who has benefited this Spring from the Trust and West Berks Council joint funded **Vibrant Villages** scheme.

## 46

 local projects, organisations and charities have benefited in the Trust's Spring 2015 Grant Round

Over **£143,000** was awarded in grants

Grants of between **£250** and **£30,000** were made

**14** projects were fully funded

The Trust has given nearly **£30m** to local good causes since 1997

**£7.4m**, including nearly **£1.3m** in public donations, has been raised for local projects by the Trust's fundraising website. If **YOUR** community project needs funding visit [www.findmeagrants.org](http://www.findmeagrants.org)



"If you have any ideas about a local project that the Trust could be funding I'd like to hear from you."

Chris Boulton  
Chief Executive

“More and more people are surviving cancer, and this milestone facility will make such a big difference to so many people’s lives.”

Mark Jones  
Director of Fundraising

Photos  
Above: Soul singer  
Natasha Watts and guest at  
the Basingstoke fundraising  
concert

Below: Mark Jones  
Director of Fundraising,  
Ark Cancer Centre Charity



Everyone can be an Ark Cancer Centre champion – that’s the message from the man who is rallying support for a £5m fundraising campaign



Mark Jones is the new director of fundraising and communications for the Ark Cancer Centre Charity, and he is seeking to raise awareness of, and support for, the campaign to build a state-of-the-art cancer treatment centre (CTC) that will benefit the people of West Berkshire and North Hampshire.

This landmark centre will save lives and greatly enhance cancer care for patients, so everybody who gets involved in fundraising, or gives a donation, will be making a positive difference to people’s lives.

One of the key ways that people can support the fundraising campaign is through Greenham Common Trust’s findmeagrant match-giving scheme.

Mark said: “Greenham Common Trust has generously agreed to match donations £1 for £1 up to a total of £500,000, and the cancer centre charity is grateful for this fantastic support.

“This crucial contribution will enable the charity to raise £1m, so I would encourage both people and businesses to donate through the findmeagrant link on our website at [arkcancercharity.org.uk](http://arkcancercharity.org.uk).”

**£237,184** has already been raised through findmeagrant.

The £5m that the Ark Cancer Centre Charity is raising will ensure that the centre provides a range of support services and complementary therapies alongside chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments in one unique local cancer centre. The remainder of the funding will come through Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Mark, who joined the charity in February, added: “The CTC has been inspired and designed by people who have experience of living with cancer, as well as those professionals caring for patients. It will be a centre where people will receive the best possible care in the best possible environment.

Mark would welcome the opportunity to come along and talk to any interested groups, organisations and businesses. He is also keen to provide publicity support for any individuals or groups who are organising events for the appeal.

To contact Mark, please email [mark.jones@arkcancercharity.org.uk](mailto:mark.jones@arkcancercharity.org.uk), or call him on 01256 360419. You can also follow the charity on Twitter [@arkcancercharity](https://twitter.com/arkcancercharity).

Soul singer Natasha Watts has been a great supporter of the Ark Cancer Centre Charity – and like many people who have got involved, it is a cause that is close to her heart.

Natasha was the driving force behind a Basingstoke fundraising carol singing and dance concert that pulled in the pounds just before Christmas last year – and the memory of her mum was very much the inspiration behind the successful event.

It was Natasha’s personal experience of driving her mum to Guildford for cancer treatment that inspired her to support the charity’s fundraising drive.

Natasha said: “Because of what my mum went through, in having to travel a long distance for treatment, I know how important the new cancer centre will be. I was very close to my mum, and I am supporting the cancer centre fundraising campaign in her memory.”

While her mum sadly lost her battle with cancer, Natasha knows that what she and fellow fundraisers are doing to help create the cancer treatment centre will make a big and positive difference to so many patients, and their families, in the future.

Nearly 140 children from local schools and dance groups took part in the festive event organised by Natasha at Queen Mary’s Hall, in Queen Mary’s College, Basingstoke. It was attended by more than 200 people and raised almost £2,500 – a sum that will be doubled thanks to match-funding from the Trust.

## grant aid for small capital projects in rural communities

These **Vibrant Villages** Spring 2015 grants aim to maintain key social and economic infrastructure in West Berkshire's villages.

### 1st Theale & Calcot Scout group

Over the past 3 years 1st Theale & Calcot Scout Group has grown from only 8 members to over 100 and the Group's equipment is no longer sufficient. The **£1,500 Vibrant Villages grant** is to help provide the new equipment required.

### Boxford Village Hall and Recreation Ground

The new Boxford Village Hall and Recreation Ground was completed in June 2014 and has been in continual use since September. The **£3,567 Vibrant Village grant** is for the purchase of tables and chairs to equip the hall and increase its hiring potential.

### Bucklebury Pre-School

Bucklebury Pre-School's IT equipment is reaching the end of its useful life, and cannot cope with the needs of staff and volunteers. The **£1,500 Vibrant Villages grant** is to purchase new equipment to make administration easier and more efficient.

### Chieveley Village Hall and Recreation Centre

The Recreation Centre has been greatly improved in recent years, with works to the building and car parks, newly planted trees, an artificial cricket wicket and renovation of the hall and kitchen. A **Vibrant Villages grant of £2,490** has been awarded to improve the standard of the gentlemen's and disabled toilets.

### East Woodhay Silver Band

The Youth Training Band of East Woodhay Silver Band is now in its fifth year, providing brass instruments and music tuition to up to twenty young people aged eight and above. A **£1,000 Vibrant Villages grant** will help pay the cost of music and uniforms for the Youth Band.

### Hermitage Village Hall

The **£3,130 Vibrant Villages grant** is to help equip the newly built Hermitage Village Hall kitchen with a commercial range cooker, stainless steel work and preparation surfaces, a double sink and draining boards, a commercial 400 litre refrigerator, hot cupboards and food serving equipment to enable the hall to be used for catering events.

### Kintbury Tennis Club

Kintbury Tennis Club has been awarded a **£2,000 Vibrant Villages grant** for a hitting wall that will allow members to practice on their own, help new players to improve, extend the range of coaching of young players and let elderly members continue to enjoy tennis as an activity once they become too slow to take part in matches.

### Playbuddies Baby & Toddler Group

Playbuddies Baby & Toddler Group, a non-profit making organisation, has been running for 5 years in Kintbury and is the only toddler group in the village, offering a variety of toys and crafts and a place to get together. A **Vibrant Villages grant of £250** has been awarded to buy new toys.

### Purley on Thames Cricket Club

Purley Cricket Club runs 6 senior teams and 7 junior teams and has about 60 senior members and 140 juniors. The **£2,000 Vibrant Villages grant** is to purchase a new mower for the preparation of wickets - the most important machine needed for a cricket pitch.

### St Mary's Church, Burghfield

St Mary's Church has been awarded a **Vibrant Villages grant of £2,080** to purchase tables, gazebos and a flat screen TV to encourage community activities.



**Vibrant Villages** is financed jointly by Greenham Common Trust and West Berkshire Council. The scheme has granted over £480,000 since it started in 2007.

Photos:  
Chieveley Village Hall and Recreation Ground

East Woodhay Senior and Junior Silver Bands  
(photo: Newbury Weekly News)

Kintbury Tennis Club

Applications for Vibrant Villages funding can be made via [www.findmeagrant.org](http://www.findmeagrant.org). For funding criteria visit [www.greenham-common-trust.co.uk/what-we-do/vibrant-villages](http://www.greenham-common-trust.co.uk/what-we-do/vibrant-villages) or call the Trust's Jill Owen on 01635 760105.



Photos above:  
Community Youth Project  
holiday activities at Bishops  
Green

Community Youth Project at  
Greenham Community Centre

Five A Day Market Garden  
children's session

Photos overleaf:  
Fairclose Day Centre sitting  
room

Liam - longstanding Living  
Paintings library user

Mencap playground

Young at Heart Christmas  
singalong

**46** local projects, organisations and charities have benefited this Spring from over **£140,000** thanks to Greenham Common Trust and its fundraising website **www.findmeagrant.org**

- **£1,539** for 1st Theale & Calcot Scout Group Growth and Development Fund - **fully funded**
- **£1,650** for scout hut replacement windows for 2nd Thatcham Scout Group
- **£3,400** for All2gether (Minority Ethnic Forum) Community Engagement Projects
- **£2,500** to help subsidise costs for Beenham Friendship Club
- **£3,000** for a replacement wheelchair vehicle for CHAIN of Hungerford
- **£3,500** to rennovate the bathroom at Cornerstone, Children 1st West Berkshire's home for foster-care leavers
- **£1,000** for activities and outings for Christians Together in Mission (operating as TiM)
- **£2,500** for Community Youth Project's Summer Holiday Activities at Bishops Green
- **£2,210** for Community Youth Project's Greenham (Nightingales) Carnival Arts Project - **fully funded**
- **£3,000** for Education Business Partnership West Berkshire's School Science Challenge

**£30,000 to West Berkshire Council for Newbury Splash Pad - fully funded**

- **£3,000** for Falkland School's Wash Common Walkway project
- **£2,280** for Five A Day Market Garden's Little Green Fingers project - **fully funded**
- **£250** for Five A Day Market Garden's Kids Get Outdoors! - Children's Activity Club - **fully funded**
- **£690** for Five A Day Market Garden's Go Wild! - Nature And Gardening Family Activity Sessions - **fully funded**
- **£1,900** for Heartstart Thatcham AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) Scheme
- **£4,000** to help transport isolated families to Home-Start West Berkshire Group sessions
- **£1,500** to fund coaching for young cricketers at Hungerford Cricket Club
- **£2,000** towards equipping John O'Gaunt School's new Learning Resource Centre
- **£1,800** towards providing outdoor learning areas around John Rankin Junior School, Newbury

**£8,000 for learning and play sessions at Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres**

- **£1,900** for new accommodation tents for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from Kingsclere Scout Group - **fully funded**
- **£3,300** for Living Paintings towards the provision of a free library service for blind and partially sighted children and adults in West Berkshire
- **£1,000** for the refurbishment of sitting-room carpets at Fairclose Day Centre for Newbury & District Old Peoples Association - **fully funded**
- **£2,250** for the salary for a Crèche Worker for Newbury Family Counselling Service
- **£1,061** for Newbury Round Table for running costs of the Crafty Craft Race 2015 - **fully funded**

**£9,000 to Newbury Weekly News towards the Digital Archive Heritage Project - see page 8**

- **£2,500** for Parkinson's UK to fund chair based exercise sessions
- **£600** for printing costs for "Look What I Can Do" books and other printed media for Pied Piper Pre School, Thatcham.
- **£784** towards a replacement mower for Purley on Thames Cricket Club - **fully funded**

**£6,585 for Sue Ryder for 3 rise and recline chairs for the Duchess of Kent Hospice**

**£8,394 for core funding for West Berkshire Citizens Advice Bureau - fully funded**

- **£2,460** for Revitalize towards respite care breaks for ten disabled people and carers
- **£2,000** for general running costs for Tadley & District Citizens Advice Bureau
- **£440** for a website for Thatcham Sports Network - **fully funded**
- **£1,000** for sports equipment for Thatcham Vision Youth Club - **fully funded**
- **£2,882** for free Spring and Summer school holiday activities for Thatcham Youth (2 separate applications)
- **£1,500** for running costs for Theale Village Carnival and Fete
- **£2,880** for Time to Talk 12 months' office rental costs - **fully funded**

**£5,875 for outings to Adventure Dolphin, Pangbourne, events and residential trips at Ufton Court for West Berkshire Foster Carers Association (3 separate applications)**

- **£1,145** for IT equipment for West Berkshire Mencap
- **£1,840** for community activities for Young at Heart at Reading Community Church



If you are fundraising for a local project and want to attract grants and donations (with the potential to add match funding up to £5,000 per project and Gift Aid on those donations) please visit **www.findmeagrant.org** to register / make an application or call the Trust's Helen Carlile on 01635 817302 for more information.

## A new manager for Greenham Common



Although Greenham Common is owned by the local authority (West Berkshire Council) it has recently been added to the many local sites being managed by BBOWT (Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust) - our local Wildlife Trust.

The huge diversity of local sites that BBOWT manage under the Living Landscape project allows the Wildlife Trust to care for the habitats of the varied and sometimes extremely rare species of plants, birds and animals that live in our local countryside. BBOWT also aims to make that countryside more easily accessible to local people.

BBOWT's land management team, led by Alex Cruickshank, has recently taken over the management of Greenham Common, among other sites throughout Berkshire.

Alex has worked previously for Wildlife Trusts in both Norfolk and Hampshire. He is a specialist in heathland management, including the rare lowland heathland of Greenham Common.

Alex's plans for the Common include:

- improving access to the Common at the top of Pyle Hill
- new waymark trails for walkers
- orientation and display boards at key locations such as entrances
- improvement of cycleways throughout the Common
- refurbishment of the cycleway towards Thatcham
- gorse clearing
- scrub management
- pond surveys
- radio tracking adder populations to determine their range and photographing the unique head patterns of each snake
- surveying and vaccinating badgers against bovine TB
- working in partnership with local groups to maintain and enhance the various historic remains on the Common
- monitoring any effects of habitat change

## Rare Species

Here are just a few of the rare and interesting species to be found on and around the Common:

- Autumn Lady's Tresses
- Bee Orchids
- Green Winged Orchids
- Heath Spotted Orchids
- Pyramidal Orchids
- Dartford Warblers
- Hobbies
- Lapwings
- Nightingales
- Nightjars
- Peregrine Falcons
- Red Kites
- Sparrowhawks
- Wheatears
- Great Crested Newts
- Adders
- Damselflies
- Exmoor Ponies

Photos:

Above: Panorama of Greenham Common  
Inset: Alex Cruickshank

Below: Bee Orchid

Wheatear  
(photo courtesy of Jerry O'Brian)

Exmoor Ponies

Adders

Damselfly

If you are interested in helping, volunteers are welcome. Call Alex on 01635 35157 at his office 'Estovers', just off Bury's Bank Road on the northern edge of the Common.

[www.bbwt.org.uk](http://www.bbwt.org.uk)



Greenham Common Trust  
has pledged £185,000  
over three years to help  
West Berkshire's young  
children to make music

## MUSIC BURSARY FUND



The Trust has set up a Music Bursary Fund to give more 7 to 11 year old children in West Berkshire the chance to learn to play a musical instrument.

Funding is already available for the most disadvantaged children to support their learning to play, primarily from pupil premium funding. However there are many children who come from families where disposable funds for non-essentials are a problem although the family is not entitled to existing financial support. Greenham Common Trust has set up the Music Bursary Fund to help these young people.

The Music Bursary Fund will cover both tuition and purchasing the stock of musical instruments required.

The programme will be delivered by Berkshire Music Hub partners, Berkshire Maestros and Southern Sinfonia, to pupils selected by head teachers of West Berkshire's primary schools.

Schools, providers and pupils will be asked for feedback in order to make sure the service is meeting the needs of local children.

To launch the new Music Bursary Fund a **FREE** concert, funded by Greenham Common Trust, will be given by Music Hub partners Southern Sinfonia. This will be an unusual opportunity for Primary School children to experience the sound of a live professional orchestra.

The concert will take place at the Performing Arts Centre, Brockhurst and Marlston School, on Thursday 18th June by kind permission of the head teachers. To ensure as many children as possible experience this wonderful 45 minutes of inspiring music it will be repeated twice during the day.

Primary Schools may apply to attend the concert by emailing [phililitchfield@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:phililitchfield@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)

Are you  
aged 7 – 11?

Do you  
want to play  
a musical  
instrument?

Ask your  
Headteacher  
about the  
Music  
Bursary  
Fund





## The Trust has granted £9,000 to Newbury Weekly News towards the Digital Archive Heritage Project

Funding is needed to digitise the predominantly paper archive of the Newbury Weekly News. The archive chronicles the history of West Berkshire from 1867 onwards, covering a time of huge social and economic change, as well as massive historical significance.

Unfortunately, as the newspapers are now nearly 150 years old, they are starting to seriously decay and are in such a delicate state that they cannot be made available for members of the public to access. If they are not digitised they will eventually be lost forever as vital historical documents.

A company in Norway, highly experienced in digitising newspaper archives, has been approached and the paper is now aiming to raise the remaining £50,918 required for the project after the Trust has match funded the Newbury Weekly News' contribution of £9,000.

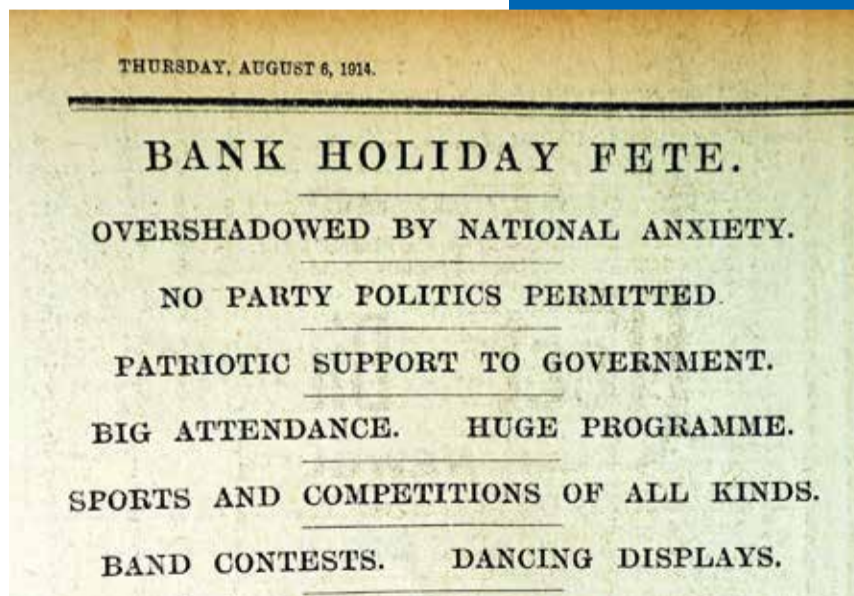
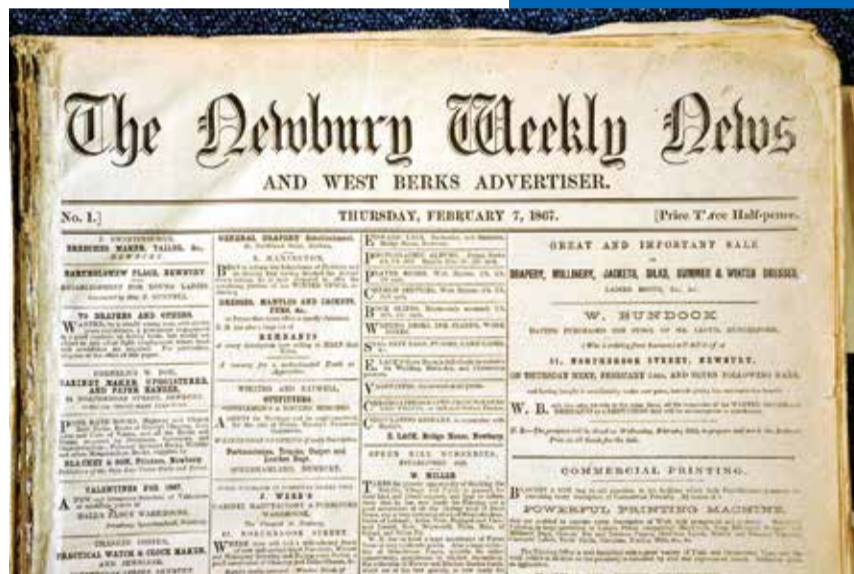
Once digitised, the archive would be of considerable benefit to the local community, particularly the many organisations and groups with an interest in local and family history, as well as schools and colleges.

Currently the newspaper archive is accessed either by bound hardcopy, which is heavy, unwieldy and fragile, or on microfilm using an outdated and erratic reader. There is no index and locating relevant items is a challenge. Also, photographs do not reproduce well from the poor quality microfilm.

The archive contains coverage of historical events - both local and national - in degree of detail seldom found in present-day news media. There is much to fascinate and interest scholars, historians and ordinary members of the public. By digitising the archive, local history will be preserved for the benefit of future generations.

By giving members of the public online access via the Newbury Weekly News' website [www.newburytoday.co.uk](http://www.newburytoday.co.uk), the digitised archive will be searchable and researchers will not have to be in Newbury to do so (at present they are obliged to make a visit in person to Newbury Public Library to use the public microfilms).

Many people researching their West Berkshire family history do not live locally and digitisation would enable them to access the records from wherever they are in the world.



To view the full application and to make a donation to the Digital Archive Heritage Project go to [www.findmeagrant.org](http://www.findmeagrant.org), choose West Berkshire, and type WB11136 into the search field. The Trust will match fund all public donations up to a total of £5,000.

Photos:  
The current archives

The first Newbury Weekly News, February 7th 1867

News article published shortly after the start of the First World War