



* £100,000
awarded at
Pitch to the Panel
- see page 3.

* For this
autumn's
reactive grant
round see pages
4 and 5.

* Join us for
Christmas - see
page 8.

 **Over £31.5m** in local grants

 **£4.4m** in grants
last year alone

 **Over £4m** to renovate, refurbish or
rebuild **110** local village halls and
community buildings

 **Over 1,000** community projects
and local organisations
have benefitted from grants

 **Nearly £1.8m** in public donations to local causes thanks
to the Trust's revolutionary local fundraising website
www.findmeagrants.org

Greenham Common is part of the largest and most precious area of lowland heath in West Berkshire



Cycle with BBOWT from Greenham Common to Paris in aid of your local wildlife

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) hope that up to 50 cyclists will be taking part in the 2016 Wild Ride for Wildlife, a three day 200-mile challenge starting at Greenham Common Control Tower Car Park and ending at the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

The route includes rolling English countryside and the breath-taking panoramas of northern France, before arriving at the iconic Eiffel Tower, which marks the finish line in the centre of this majestic city.

The Wildlife Trust aims to raise £33,000 to help protect and manage the largest and most precious area of lowland heath in West Berkshire.

The Commons are particularly important for some of Britain's rarest ground-nesting birds, including nightjar, woodlark and lapwing and a wide variety of wildlife including adder's, great crested newts, dormice and a variety of beautiful orchids.

The Wild Ride will take place from 8th to 11th September 2016.

The Ride will take 4 days, of which 3 will be cycling days. The Ride will also include 2 nights in a hotel and 1 night in a shared cabin on the ferry across the English Channel.

When the Eiffel Tower is in sight the cyclists will have cycled approximately 200 miles.

Each Wild Rider will have lots of support and advice from event organiser Global Adventure Challenges to help them raise sponsorship to support their local wildlife.

BBOWT is one of 47 county-based Wildlife Trusts across the United Kingdom and manages and protects 90 nature reserves across the three counties.



Images:

Some of the rare species to be found on Greenham Common:

Nightjar (photo Amy Denness)

Heath Spotted Orchid

Adders

Bee Orchid

**Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire**



Find out more at a Wild Ride for Wildlife information event

Answer your queries about fundraising, the route and where the money raised will be used.

27 January 7pm to 9pm, Nature Discovery Centre, Thatcham

For further information please ring The Fundraising Team on 01865 775476 or email fundraising@bbowt.org.uk. Or book online at www.bbowt.org.uk/wildride.

A spectacular event allowed six worthy causes to pitch for vital funds to make a real difference in West Berkshire

It was a glittering night of celebration at the Corn Exchange Newbury, as six charities pitched for a share of **£100,000** in the Trust's first Dragons' Den style community event.

Pitch to the Panel formed part of **The Greenham Exchange – Getting the Community Together**, an evening of celebration, giving the voluntary sector and charities the chance to network freely.

Pitch to the Panel applicants were able to learn via www.findmeagrants.org about the wide range of funding streams available, and 6 finalists were invited to present their case at **Pitch to the Panel**.



Representatives used powerful and moving testimonials to convince the panel of judges and the audience of the worth of their individual causes.

Including the results of online and text voting, all 3 finalists in the minor grant category won the amount they needed. **Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years** received a total of **£13,252.92** to pay for a Family Support Worker, **Five a Day Market Garden**, won **£5,946** to fund its 'Big Carrot' project, and **West Berks Rapid Response Cars (WBRR)** got **£4,733** to pay for its 'winter-safety' package.

Andrew Sharp from WBRR said: "We were genuinely excited to be listed as finalists, and went in to this with no expectations. We are absolutely delighted to get all of our required funding. Without this, we would not have been able to supply winter protection kits for our responders, like tyre grips and hi-vis jackets."

In the major grant category, **West Berkshire Therapy Centre**, received their goal of **£29,395** to pay for 5 additional power assisted machines to help tone muscle and give patients a comprehensive range of bodily movements.

After the event, John Holt, from the charity, said: "We were all absolutely over the moon. It will allow us to do what we need to do and provide more capacity during 'disabled-friendly' hours'. We were pitching on behalf of our clients and we were very pleased with the result we got for them."

The final two charities received a significant portion of what they needed.

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxon Wildlife Trust gained **£10,098** leaving just under £10,000 to find for their project to pay for an Access Audits Officer to work towards enhancing the visitor experience to five nature reserves in West Berkshire.

The Trust for Sustainable Living needed £47,122 for their additional glass-house exhibition, which they hope to open in 2016, and received **£37,807**.

Director Ruth Larkin said: "We are absolutely delighted to have secured funding of £37,000 to open an island rainforest glasshouse. Thanks to Greenham Common Trust we'll be able to bring the magic of the rainforest to thousands more local school children and families."

Guest speaker Simon Woodroffe OBE, who was one of the original 'dragons' from Dragons' Den, also praised the hard work of Greenham Common Trust and the importance of organising such an event. Simon said: "If you can change your view of the world, if you can change the vista, you can do anything in this world."

David Bailey, Non Executive Director of Greenham Common Trust and one of the "dragons", said: "Based on the success of the evening and positive feed-back received, and as was always intended, we can confirm that **Pitch to the Panel** will become an annual event."



"Pitch to the Panel was a great opportunity for local charities to get publicity, and it is something that GCT does so well."

Wendy Tobitt,
Media and Campaigns
Manager, BBOWT

Photos: Delighted finalists from Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years, WBRR, Five a Day Market Garden, BBOWT, Berkshire Therapy Centre and the Trust for Sustainable Living

You can still help these deserving causes
- donate to your favourite project
www.pitchtothepanel.com



Our reactive grants scheme is just one of our many funding schemes. During 2015 we also freely administered over **£110,000** in Gift Aid and match funded **£230,000** in public donations

Photos:

Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centre

Hungerford Victorian Extravaganza

Newbury Cricket Club

Pelican Cancer Foundation

fully funded

- **£371** for 1st Compton Scout Group to upgrade the electrics in the Scout and Guide hut
- **£398** for a Scout Hut kitchen for 1st Hungerford Scout Group
- **£32** for storage for camping equipment for 4th Newbury Guides
- **£250** for Berkshire County Blind Society - Hungerford Group's 50th Anniversary Celebrations 2016
- **£772** for Massage Therapy Sessions at Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centre
- **£2,850** for the Eight Bells For Mental Health Art Group
- **£190** to Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence (FLAG DV) for evening support sessions
- **£322** for Home-Start West Berkshire's Thatcham Children's Christmas Party 2015
- **£500** for Home-Start West Berkshire for transport for isolated families
- **£1,847** to Hungerford Chamber of Commerce for the Hungerford Victorian Extravaganza 2015
- **£670** for Life Education Wessex for a Drugs Education Programme for The Priory Primary School, Tadley
- **£1,301** for Lower Farm Hide Habitat Management for Newbury District Ornithological Club
- **£1,300** for Newbury Malayalee Cultural Association Christmas and New Year celebrations
- **£1,053** for Open Studios Scheme towards a pilot project of art sessions for Sovereign Housing residents

over **£146,000** in awards
70 applications funded
32 projects fully funded

- **£3,660** to Parenting Special Children for Sleep Well workshops in West Berkshire schools
- **£61** for the Parents And Children Together Thatcham 'Bounce Back 4 Kids' programme
- **£2,000** for the Park House School Active Movement Pilot Project
- **£128** for local walks leaflets for Shawcum-Donnington Parish Council
- **£600** for an outdoor learning area for Speenhamland Primary School
- **£704** for the Sing Christmas 2015 St Nicolas Performing Arts Project
- **£173** for a portable projector screen for Stockcross & Surrounding History Association
- **£350** for premises for Stockcross and Speen Billiard Club
- **£2,288** for 8 young people to benefit from the Tall Ships Youth Trust
- **£1,861** for Thatcham Methodist Church entrance gate and wall
- **£485** for a gazebo for Thatcham Photographic Club
- **£1,164** for Thatcham Youth clubs for 8 - 12s
- **£564** for the Cromwell Singers Music Library Extension
- **£150** to rebuild the perimeter bowls wall at The Hungerford Club
- **£6,351** for a West Berkshire Foster Carers Association administrator
- **£2,657** for West Berkshire Indian Society's Mega Divali
- **£1,850** for West Berkshire Mencap for an adult club for Hungerford
- **£1,500** for Young People and Children 1st for Lifeskills training for care leavers

still fundraising

- **£2,500** for 1st Thatcham St Mary's Scout Group for a disabled toilet in the Scout Hut - **WB11192**
- **£1,600** for ABC to Read towards the 'Help find the fun in reading' project - **WB11289**
- **£1,400** for an Outfield Mower for Aldermaston Cricket Club - **WB11143**
- **£4,500** to ASD Family Help for social evenings, day trips and residential breaks - **WB11223**
- **£2,725** to Berkshire Maestros for schools participation in a Royal Albert Hall concert - **WB11254**
- **£2,600** for Berkshire MS Therapy Centre to hold physiotherapy classes - **WB11267**
- **£2,000** towards 12 GPS Tracking Collars for Berkshire Search & Rescue Dogs - **WB11226**
- **£2,500** to provide a Family Worker and group events for Daisy's Dream - **WB11076**
- **£2,200** for Echchinswell Bell Restoration Trust towards creating a simple hang of 6 bells in Echchinswell Church - **NH10100**
- **£2,495** for Echchinswell Primary School PTA to upgrade the existing school playground - **NH10123**
- **£1,400** for Fibromyalgia Support Group, Newbury and Reading, towards exercise and well-being sessions - **WB11274**
- **£3,940** to Friends of Castle School towards the Food for Inspiration project - **WB11211**
- **£3,500** to Friends of Kingsclere School for the Infant Playground project - **NH10130**
- **£3,200** to Friends of Pangbourne Primary School for the Minibus appeal - **WB11300**
- **£1,260** towards a Therapeutic Bath for Douglas House - **WB11312**
- **£2,000** to Hungerford Primary School PTA towards 30 laptops - **WB11109**
- **£1,100** for new paving at Kingsclere Bowling Club - **NH10118**
- **£800** for a Dining Shelter for Kingsclere Scout Group - **NH10120**
- **£2,000** for 'Development through Play' resources for Ladybirds Pre-School - **WB11301**

- **£3,375** for 250 children to use Lambourn Imagination Library for a year - **WB11296**
- **£4,000** towards a practice facility for Mortimer West End Cricket Club - **NH10103**
- **£2,750** for rehearsal costs for Newbury Chamber Choir - **WB11232**
- **£1,080** for grounds equipment and repairs for Newbury Cricket Club - **WB11190**
- **£4,600** towards renovating the bar area at Newbury Royal British Legion Branch - **WB11180**
- **£2,320** for Oxford International Biomedical Centre (OIBC) towards a Scientists in Schools Symposia - **WB11286**
- **£5,200** towards a surgical camera for the Pelican Cancer Foundation - **NH10127**
- **£3,180** for Reading Community Church towards Calcot Fun Day 2016 - **WB11264**
- **£6,400** for SpotlightUK towards the salary of an Intensive Support Service Volunteer Co-ordinator - **WB11308**
- **£4,800** to Sue Ryder for the Duchess of Kent Hospice family and bereavement support programme - **WB11081**
- **£5,800** for an access life for the Tadley & District Community Association Youth project - **NH10134**
- **£3,300** towards replacing existing wooden floor at Thatcham Parish Hall - **WB11288**
- **£3,000** for the refurbishment of Thatcham Town Cricket Clubhouse - **WB11174**
- **£1,600** for Thatcham Youth for a new club for 12 -15s - **WB11196**
- **£1,800** to the Thumbs Up Club for an Activity Club for children with special needs - **WB11209**
- **£1,100** for supervision costs for Time to Talk West Berkshire - **WB11235**
- **£840** for a replacement lawn mower for Trentham Bowling Club - **WB11238**
- **£3,475** to fund a co-ordinator for West Berkshire Advocacy - **WB11269**
- **£5,400** for Young People and Children 1st for an Operations Manager salary - **WB11233**



These projects still need funding

You can donate to them via findmeagrants

- just type the WB or NH number into the search field

All awards are subject to terms and conditions being met.



“ No one nowadays need die in a fire, but on occasion they do. People must be made more aware about fire safety .”

Bob Ward
FCS-live

A professional Fire Safety Company that started as a husband and wife team in 2007 in a garden shed.

Bob Ward, an ex fire fighter, is passionate about fire safety.

“I have had to deal with the negative effects of fire, with both people and destroyed buildings and businesses, and I wanted to make a difference. No one nowadays need die in a fire, but on occasion they do. People must be made more aware about fire safety and their legal responsibilities since the law changed in 2005.”

Now based at Liberty House, Greenham Business Park, FCS-live is a fast growing business. Initially starting with just 7 staff in one office when arriving 15 months ago, FCS now has 15 staff (still recruiting) in 3 offices and is working with in excess of 35 sub-contractors based throughout the UK.

FCS-live has unknowingly become a software development company, having created a unique cloud based Fire Risk Assessment System – known as Cloud 15.

The System enables comprehensive fire risk assessment reports to be completed by qualified assessors, which clients are then able to view and update online at any time, creating an audit trail of all works completed, proving they are managing their fire safety responsibilities correctly - any business with 5 or more staff, or with members of the public entering their buildings must have a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment completed by a competent person.

Initially FCS-live created the fire version but due to client demand other compliances have now been created, Legionella, Building Condition Survey, Roof Survey, DSEAR, COSHH and soon an Asbestos and Racking version – with others to follow.

FCS-live is proud to be able to say that Cloud 15 was used to complete fire risk assessments at all of the venues and training sites in preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games.



FCS-live is currently working closely with Travis Perkins (Wickes, City Plumbing, Plumb Base etc) completing Fire Risk Assessments and Legionella Assessments at all of their 2000 sites.

Other clients include hotel and restaurant chains, care homes, The NHS, schools, colleges, universities, retail sites and general offices.

The FCS Cloud 15 System can also be licenced by other Compliance Companies and branded with their own business details, enabling them to use this time-saving software for their own customers.

To find out more about FCS-live Ltd call 0845 8333930 or email info@fcs-live.com.

www.fcs-live.com

Photos
Archie Chandler

Bob and Emma Ward

FCS-live team members:
Bob Ward,
Archie Chandler,
Ben Bishop
and Ross Braidley



£185,000 to help West Berkshire's young children make music



Greenham Common 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 funding for non-essentials is 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.

Recent research suggests that regularly playing an instrument changes the shape and power of the brain and over time can improve cognitive skills. It is believed regular playing can sharpen the memory, and even raise the IQ by several points.

The teaching programme is being delivered by Berkshire Music Hub partners, Berkshire Maestros and Southern Sinfonia, to pupils selected by head teachers of West Berkshire's primary schools. The fund covers both tuition and purchasing the stock of musical instruments required.

For this, the first full school term that the Music Bursary Fund has covered, the Fund's latest acquisitions are a set of trombones for St Nicolas Junior School and some violins for Winchcombe School.

All participants in the Music Bursary Fund will be asked for feedback in order to make sure the service is meeting the needs of local children.

Chris Boulton, the Trust's chief executive, said: "This new bursary is a great example of the Trust's ethos, and how we can support talented children in our community, who might otherwise miss out on a life-enhancing experience."

Photo: Pupils at St Nicolas Junior School, Newbury with their smart new green trombones



Are you
aged 7 – 11?

Do you
want to play
a musical
instrument?

Ask your
head
teacher
about the
Music
Bursary
Fund.



Join us and Cold Ash Brass Band around the Christmas tree (and a few glowing braziers) for Christmas carols, Christmas nibbles and a glass of something warming.

Our Christmas tree this year has been kindly donated from the Yattendon Estate by Greenham Common Trust Patron, Lord Iliffe.

The tree will be erected on the grass beside Main Street on Greenham Business Park, so that its lights will brighten up the park during the lead up to Christmas.



Greenham Common Trust
invites you to celebrate
the festive season
this Christmas at
Greenham Business Park

5.30pm,
Wednesday
16th
December

Main Street,
Greenham
Business Park

-  Mince pies
-  Mulled wine
-  Two live reindeer
-  Christmas carols
-  Cold Ash Brass Band
-  Children's lucky dip
-  Tombola



"We wish all of our occupiers, beneficiaries, partners, friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, prosperous and peaceful New Year. What better way to start the festivities with a traditional carol concert around the Christmas tree."

Chris Boulton, Chief Executive, Greenham Common Trust