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the common good

Greenham Common Trust

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# The Trust and the Corn Exchange bring Christmas to Newbury town centre

## spectacular festive events

The Trust, which already funds a £90,000 a year free outdoor events programme for local residents, has given the Corn Exchange an extra £10,000 to help create some Christmas cheer for local families.

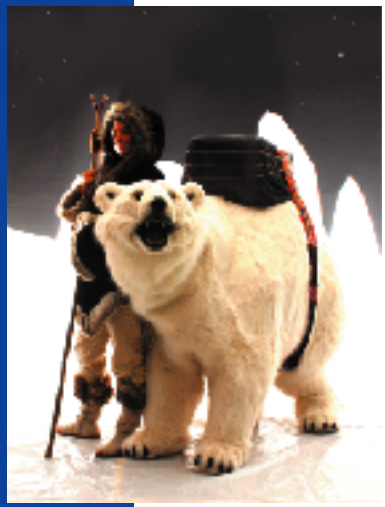
There is a host of fun for the whole family, including Dancing Christmas Elves, carols and choral music in the Market Place, Meet Bjorn the Polar Bear and the return of the popular Winter Lantern Parade as just some of the highlights. Mischievous Dancing Elves will be frolicking though the town centre on Saturday December 10 or if traditional carols are more your thing, why not bring the family along to Newbury Market Place on Sunday December 11.

Trust spokesman Julian May said: "Christmas is a time for families and bringing the community together and the Trust is happy to help give Newbury a festive, memorable and happy Christmas. This special programme would not be possible without the innovative and creative management of Newbury Corn Exchange."

Katie Griffiths, Director of the Corn Exchange and New Greenham Arts added: "We are delighted to present a really exciting range of town centre Christmas events. The funding that the Trust have provided to support this programme of outdoor events in Newbury is incredibly important, and it really helps to make the town a more exciting place to live, work and visit."

Last year's Winter Lantern Parade

Bjorn the Polar Bear



For more information about Christmas events please visit www.cornexchangenew.com

Affordable loans for those who live or work in Berkshire

COMMUNITY SAVINGS & LOANS
An ethical community organisation

Community Savings and Loans (CSL) is a credit union providing savings opportunities and affordable loans to those who live or work in Berkshire. As a not for profit organisation it relies on volunteers and partners to deliver its services across the county.

CSL, originally Reading Credit Union, decided to go county wide in 2010 and was very fortunate to be given space as its base for West Berkshire in Broadway House, Newbury by Greenham Common Trust. From the outset, the Trust has been a great help to CSL and is one of our key partners.

Partnerships are key to enabling CSL to connect with the savers who want to help their community and with those who are struggling and are unable to get help from high street banks and may be forced into borrowing at very high rates of interest, sometimes at over 4,000% APR!

CSL also joins with partners to spread the word at local events. Recently they partnered with housing asssociation A2Dominion at their Foundry Court Estate and are planning an event in January with the Trading Standards, Stop Loan Sharks Team at the Community Centre, Greenham.

"We want to give people long term financial control and peace of mind, especially in these difficult times," said Jim Coghill, Chairman of CSL.

"To deliver this mission we rely on partners to help spread the word, volunteers to deliver the services and savers to provide the funds we use to give affordable loans to those in the local community who are not so well off," he added.

Jim Coghill, CSL Chairman

Broadway House, where CSL is based

More information on CSL can be found at www.cslberks.com

# findmeagrant

## £240,000 of funding from the Trust's new online grant application portal

Around 150 voluntary and community groups in West Berkshire and North Hampshire found themselves over £240,000 better off thanks to grants given out via the new online grant application system www.findmeagrant.org

The funding web portal, launched in September by Greenham Common Trust in partnership with Conifer Consulting Ltd, has attracted considerable interest. The Trust and many of its partners have all used findmeagrant to allocate grants to local groups in need.

As well as being easy to use - just one simple online application to access multiple streams of grant funding - what makes findmeagrant even more beneficial for local fundraising is the new Trust Top-Up grant scheme for public donations (matched funding up to £5,000 per project and the administration of Gift Aid). In just 10 weeks this has raised well over £17,000 for local organisations.

Bucklebury Wolves Football Club has had two applications fully funded using this scheme, one of them in just six weeks, giving them the financial stability they need next year without the need to seek further funding.

Club Secretary and Coach Jonathan Poole said: "The response was frankly overwhelming, with one parent donating £250 and many others donating at least £20."

St George's Church has raised over £11,000 through donations, Trust Top-Up and Gift Aid towards the latest fundraising for its renewable energy scheme.

The Trust has distributed over £170,000 of reactive grants through findmeagrant.

Trust Chief Executive Stuart Tagg added: "You can keep your applications on findmeagrant for 18 months, giving you access to multiple grant rounds and the potential to raise money through public donations, Trust Top-Up and Gift Aid."

The next Trust grant round opens early in the New Year but you can register and apply any time for funding via findmeagrant by visiting www.findmeagrant.org or call 01635 817444 for more information.

St George's Church, Wash Common

Bucklebury Wolves FC

**www.findmeagrant.org**

# A conservation garden at Greenham Business Park

Conservation volunteers have teamed up with people with learning disabilities to create a living landscape garden at the Slater Centre at Greenham Business Park.

The wildlife garden will have six habitats - wildflower meadow, heathland, woodland, pond, bog garden and herbaceous border outside the Slater Centre - each reflecting the important conservation work carried out by Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) at Greenham and Crookham Common.

Based at the purpose-built Slater Centre, created by the Trust for West Berks Mencap Link-up and Newbury Community Resource Centre to manage as a shared learning, training and employment resource for disadvantaged and those with learning difficulties, the garden was the brainchild of BBOWT Trainee Jenny Dawe.

She said: "We want to create an educational, enjoyable and inspirational resource for people in the local community through community engagement and partnership with local organisations and to create a refuge amidst an urban area for wildlife."

## a living landscape

The garden reflects the objectives behind BBOWT's Living Landscapes model by generating an understanding that species span several habitats types.

"The links between these habitats need to be preserved or created in order for species survival," added Jenny.

West Berkshire Mencap Link-Up is preparing the six habitats in the garden with support from Newbury Community Resource Centre and horticultural therapy project Growing4all.
As well as enhancing wildlife conservation the garden will be a peaceful area for staff, service users and visitors.

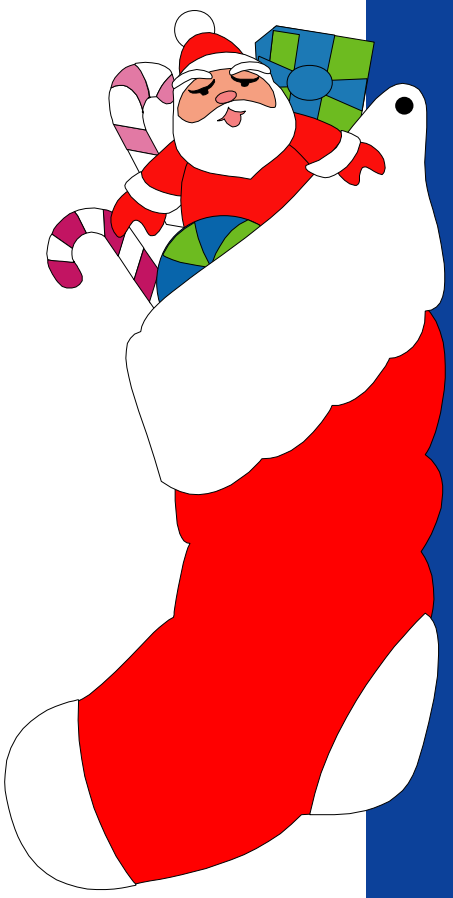
The Living Landscape at Greenham and Crookham Commons recently received a further £7,000 grant from the Trust. Follow the progress of the wildlife garden by visiting www.greenham-common-trust.co.uk

www.bbowt.org.uk

www.link-up-project.org.uk

Jenny Dawe, BBOWT Community Wildlife Trainee, helps Jeremy Stockdale, Alan Fisher and Richard Mitchel to create the new garden

# give a child a toy for Christmas



The Trust is supporting the West Berkshire Christmas Toy Appeal for 2011

The Appeal, now in its sixth year, is a partnership between West Berkshire Council Children's Services, Newbury Weekly News, Swift Couriers, Newbury Building Society, Volunteer Centre West Berkshire, Apple Print, Newbury Sound and the Trust.

The public and local businesses are asked to donate toys or gift vouchers to give those less fortunate than ourselves a Christmas gift. A voucher is then issued in advance to those who are eligible.

Toy Appeal co-ordinator Yvette Jones said: "It's been a tough year across West Berkshire for us all - but for some people who are already really struggling - it has been even harder. There are families on very low incomes, in debt, homeless, awaiting benefit determination, or living in a Refuge, who will find it very hard this year to give their children any toys at all."

The Appeal needs unwrapped toys, games and gifts suitable for boys and girls from newborn right up to 19+. Second hand things are not suitable for this appeal.

Drop off points for toys and vouchers will be advertised on posters, in the NWN and on Newbury Sound website, www.newburysound.co.uk.

The toys are collected by Swift Couriers and are delivered to a local exchange centre where families can visit to exchange their voucher for a toy or toys for their children. The centre is staffed completely by volunteers.

The last date for donations is December 22. Collections need to be given in gift vouchers please, as the Appeal does not have the facility to manage cash. Gift vouchers should be taken to Newbury Sound or telephone Swift Couriers on 01635 571773 to arrange collection from donation points or additional collections made from your business.

The Launch of the Christmas Toy Appeal outside Broadway House

# Local MP inaugurates new manufacturing facility at the Trust's business park

## state of the art science

Newbury MP Richard Benyon recently visited Greenham Business Park to officially inaugurate the UK's latest and most advanced Additive Manufacturing machine at 3T RPD.

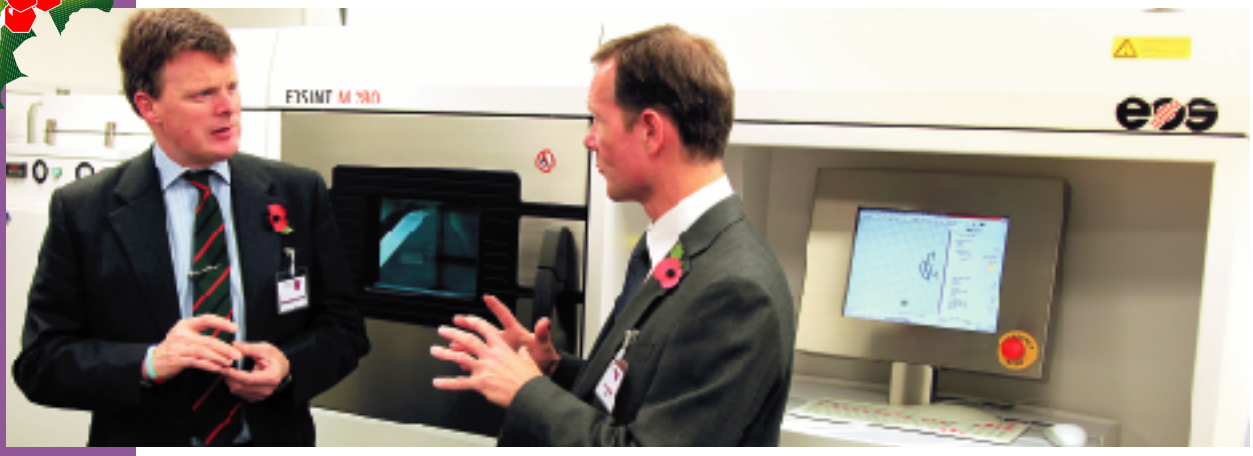
Additive Manufacturing (AM), also known as 3D printing, has been described in the media as 'the industrial revolution of the digital age' and 3T is at the forefront of developing the technology and its applications.

Speaking at the launch, Mr Benyon said: "This technology plays to some of this country's innate talents such as our characteristic inventiveness and entrepreneurial spirit. I see the work of 3T as taking a vital step towards a brighter future for British manufacturing."

The new machine (an EOSINT M 280) makes metal parts directly from digital data. It builds an item, layer by layer, from metal powder which is selectively melted by a powerful laser which is guided by CAD data. This then solidifies, creating an accurate, high quality part which can be used in the aerospace industry, in a racing car, by a surgeon for implants and many other applications.

This new development will lead to at least one additional job being created and further recruitment likely as production levels increase.

Commenting on AMs potential 3T's CEO Ian Halliday said: "We are already the UK's leading metal and plastic AM provider and are the first UK Company to be commercially operating an M 280. This new machine is faster and more accurate and will build the highest quality metal parts currently available in the UK which gives us and our customers a significant competitive advantage."




Newbury MP Richard Benyon talks to 3T Chief Executive, Ian Halliday

# new community shop

Headley Community Shop has opened its doors thanks to the support of Greenham Common Trust and the hard work and commitment of local residents.

The Trust bought the former Headley Baptist Chapel in 2009 after being approached by local residents who needed help to secure the future of their community enterprise.

Vice chairman of Headley with Ashford Hill Community Shop Association Richard Bayly said: "We heard the village shop was closing so we got together to form a community association and started fundraising so we could take over and run the shop. The lease was running out and there were a few problems with the building so we approached Greenham Common Trust for help."

"To our surprise the Trust said they would buy the former Chapel for us and let us have it rent free," added the Association's fundraiser Sue Crook.

The shop is run as a not-for-profit community association and any profit made is either ploughed back into the shop or made available for charitable purposes.

It is staffed by a few local people but mainly volunteers, who also helped construct and currently maintain the building.

As well as selling the usual products, the shop also has a Post Office and a café community corner where people can donate books and, for a small charge, people loan them and return them for other local residents. It has also agreed to sell local meat, vegetables and confectionary and hopes to be able to sell local crafts soon.

Richard said: "This project would not have been possible without the help of Greenham Common Trust and the considerable commitment and enthusiasm of local residents. We simply would not have been able to afford it. Their support and advice and financial assistance has been amazing."

"Could we have completed this without the help of Greenham Common Trust? No, absolutely not," added Sue.

If you are interested in volunteering to help, just call into the shop on Thornford Road.

Headley Community Shop has opened its doors thanks to the support of the Trust

The shop stocks a wide range of local produce

Michael Aspray, Chairman of the Community Shop Committee, welcoming Sir George Young MP

# opera for all 2012

## Saturday June 30
## Newbury Racecourse

Greenham Common Trust is delighted to announce the return of Britain's leading outdoor opera company Opera Brava to Newbury Racecourse next summer to perform Rossini's The Barber of Seville.

Now in its seventh year, Opera for All is a subsidised Trust initiative to provide international quality opera for the whole family at a fraction of Covent Garden prices.

Opera Brava is celebrating 25 years as the country's leading outdoor opera company and, with the Olympics in London this summer, why not celebrate our cultural prowess and diversity as well as our sporting ones.

Opera Brava Director Bronek Pomorski said: "Opera Brava is delighted to return to Newbury Racecourse to perform The Barber of Seville. In conjunction with the Trust, Opera Brava has had three very successful years putting on accessible and affordable operas for the local community. Together we have had audiences of over 1,500 and next year look forward to breaking through the 2,000 barrier."

Written in three weeks, Rossini's masterpiece is one of the wittiest and most immediately appealing comic operas in the repertoire today and is as fresh to the ear now as when it first performed in 1816.

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.

Bronek added: "This sparkling and colourful production will excite and thrill both regular opera audiences and anyone who wants to see opera for the first time. Come, see and hear and you will be amazed!"

Barber tickets cost just £10 for adults and under 18s and senior citizens can enter for free.

Tickets are available from Newbury Corn Exchange via their box office www.cornechangenew.com, by telephoning 01635 522733 or by visiting the theatre in the Market Place.
Gates open at 6pm and the performance starts at 7.30pm. Picnics and chairs are welcome. A bar will also be available.

## The Trust and Opera Brava bring The Barber of Seville to Newbury Racecourse

"Figaro! Figaro! Figaro!"

Greenham Common Trust