

Newbury Weekly News

1867 - 2017

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Thursday May 11, 2017, £1

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A career in care

8-page pull-out guide



How the new bus station will look from the Wharf



An artist's impression of the new-look south entrance to the train station



A VISION OF THE FUTURE

The changing face of the town centre is revealed at Corn Exchange conference

A BOWLING alley, trampoline park, a gym and a hotel are all being considered for the Kennet Shopping centre in Newbury when it is redeveloped.

An option to provide outside seating on the upper level of the centre on the Cheap Street side (pictured right) is also being proposed.

The second stage of the work will see the previous space occupied by Debenhams reconfigured to introduce new shop frontages on the ground floor at Bartholomew Street.

There is also opportunity to create a new link from the Market Street development into the centre.

The trampoline park and bowling alley are being considered as long-term replacements for TK

Report by DAN COOPER
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Maxx, while a hotel and 'residential opportunity' above the shopping centre are a possibility.

The Kennet Shopping centre plans were just one of a number of key developments discussed at a Newbury Vision conference at the Corn Exchange last week.

Other important topics included the relocation of Newbury bus station and improvements to Newbury railway station.

The redevelopment of Market Street and the proposed regeneration of the London Road Industrial Estate were also debated.

■ For full coverage of the conference, see pages 6-9.



How the Kennet Shopping centre 'restaurant quarter' could look

Philip still by her side

THE QUEEN and the Duke of Edinburgh were in West Berkshire this week to mark the centenary of Pangbourne College.

Tuesday's ceremony marked

Prince Philip's first appearance since Buckingham Palace announced that the 95-year-old would be retiring from public duties in autumn this year.

See page 5 for more pictures.

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Trust in talks to take over Corn Exchange

West Berkshire Council could hand over building to safeguard its future

Report by CHRIS ORD
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WEST Berkshire Council and The Corn Exchange Trust have started talks which could lead to ownership of the landmark Newbury building being transferred to the trust.

The discussions come just weeks after the cash-strapped local authority said it would be reducing its funding to the Corn Exchange by £78,000 over the next two years.

Co-director at the Corn Exchange, Grant Brisland, said the trust had asked West Berkshire Council to consider transferring the ownership of the building to it, in an attempt to safeguard its future in a climate of continued funding reductions.

Mr Brisland added: "We understand that ongoing annual funding is going to be a huge challenge for West Berkshire Council and our proposal offers a solution that reduces their liability, while ensuring that the Corn Exchange's creative offering in the district will continue to thrive."

Fellow co-director Katy Griffiths said: "We do understand that West Berkshire Council has to make difficult choices, but it remains very hard for a small charitable arts organisation like the Corn Exchange to manage a cut at this level at short notice."

"We will be renewing our fundraising efforts and remain focused on our long-term plans and future sustainability."

The performing arts venue is owned by West Berkshire Council, but has been run by the trust since 2000.

The council will continue to provide annual funding of £174,000 until 2018/19.



The Corn Exchange in Market Place

A decision on the future of the building will be made by the end of 2017 and will include a period of public consultation to give local people a chance to have their say.

Speaking on behalf of West Berkshire Council, culture and libraries manager Paul James said: "The Corn Exchange is a local organisation with a national reputation."

"We are proud to have them in the district and want to support them where we can."

"Over the past two years it has been increasingly hard for us to provide financial support because of an increasing demand for our services and, particularly, social care for our most vulnerable residents."

"We have to balance competing needs for our resources and we believe transferring the ownership of the Corn Exchange will help the trust in the long term."

"We're grateful to the Corn Exchange for understanding the difficult position we find ourselves in and look forward to continue working with them in the coming years."

The Corn Exchange recently announced a partnership with Greenham Common Trust to develop a new visual arts and crafts facility at Greenham Business Park, and the launch of a new learning centre in Market Place.

■ Love Your Corn Exchange appeal launched, see page 35.

Motorists warned of M4 closure

DRIVERS are being warned to expect delays as a stretch of the M4 through West Berkshire will be closed for the weekend.

The busy motorway will be closed in both directions between junction 12 (Theale) and junction 13 (Chieveley) as part of a Highways England scheme to maintain two bridges.

The closure will come into force from 9pm tomorrow (Friday) until 6am on Monday, and is to allow new beams to be lifted into position on two bridges that carry the M4 over Dark Lane and Ashampstead Road.

Highways England said that clearly-signed diversions will be in place to take traffic along the A4 to rejoin the motorway at Chieveley or Theale.

It is also advising drivers to plan their journeys in advance, and to leave extra time or take an alternative route as delays are expected.

A spokesman said: "Replacing parts of the bridge that span both carriageways is a large and complex task, so it is essential the M4 is closed to ensure maximum safety for road users and our road workers."

"Highways England has worked closely with the local councils, the police and other stakeholders to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum during the work."

Dark Lane and Ashampstead Road are due to be reopened on Tuesday, June 6, weather permitting.

This is the second time this stretch of the M4 has been closed this year.

The motorway was expected to have closed from March 31 to April 3, however, Highways England finished the work ahead of schedule and the road reopened at 3am on April 2.

Some motorists reported taking two hours to travel from Theale to Newbury, while others said they avoided local roads altogether.

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News, entertainment, advertising

News.....	1-15
Fuel.....	14
Schools.....	16-17
Mental Health Week.....	18-19
Letters.....	20-21
Hungerford & Lambourn	
Valley news.....	24-26
Thatcham news.....	27, 30, 31
Announcements.....	28-29
North Hants news.....	32-33
Local History.....	34
N2 arts & entertainment starts.....	35
What's On.....	40
Competition & puzzles.....	41
Film review.....	42
Classified starts.....	43
Motors starts.....	50
Jobs starts.....	54
Sport starts.....	57

■ Daily news updates online at:
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Thousands turned out to watch the carnival parade in 2015



Join in Newbury Carnival parade

NEWBURY Carnival Parade now has more than 30 entries from local clubs, groups, charities, businesses and schools.

More groups or individuals are invited to join the parade – and it's completely free.

Project manager Ruth Walker said, "We are well over half way there already which is fabulous, but we are keen to welcome even more local groups to join us.

"We would particularly welcome anything musical for the parade, such as marching bands or a walking choir, as music is always a special feature of Newbury Carnival, as is anything that is fun or completely different of course."

The Carnival Parade will leave Pound Street at 2pm and will

wind through Bartholomew and Northbrook Streets to the Clock Tower, ending at Victoria Park.

The theme for this year's carnival is Myth and Legend and Ms Walker said: "We had lots of fun deciding on the parade theme from the brilliant ideas given to us.

"We hope that everyone will feel inspired to enter with all sorts of great ideas around the theme of Myths and Legends, which, in addition to the traditional meaning, may include someone or something that can be described as a legend too."

Recent entries for this year's parade include PALS (Partners for Active Leisure Scheme), Whitelands Park Primary School,

a 1967 Dennis RS Fire Appliance with water tender, Newbury and District Agricultural Society and a clown called Rainbow.

Newbury Royal British Legion, winners of the Best Community Group Entry in 2015, are also returning with their 2017 entry of Music Legends

The carnival and fete, from noon to 6pm, will include rides and activities for all ages, a wide range of food and refreshment stalls, trade stands, many local groups, charities and arts and crafts.

Admission is also free.

For more information and to book a spot go to www.newburycarnival.info or email hello@newburycarnival.info

20p charge to spend a penny

THOSE looking to spend a penny in Newbury will have to pay 20p for the privilege with work to install turnstiles at the Wharf public toilets set to get underway later this month.

Newbury Town Council will be installing the paddle gates between May 22 and 23.

The toilets will remain open during this time.

Once the paddle gates have been installed, there will be a 20p charge to use the facility – 5p, 10p, 20p and 50p pieces will be accepted, but no change will be given.

Newbury Town Council has confirmed that the 20p charge will go towards the maintenance and cleaning of the toilets.

The cost of the turnstiles is thought to be in the region of

£10,000 (to be covered by West Berkshire Council) and is expected to bring in around £5,520 each year.

The town council took over the running of the toilets from West Berkshire Council last year as the district council struggled to slash millions of pounds from its budget owing to the unprecedented government cuts in 2016.

Suspended prison term for sex pest

Failed asylum seeker faces deportation after groping women

A SEX pest who pawed and propositioned women shoppers is a failed asylum seeker avoiding deportation.

The 23-year-old former Newbury College student told police he targeted the women because he was "desperate for sex".

Hawkar Shwani has been given a deportation order and fired from his job operating a kebab van in Newbury town centre.

But the Home Office will only act if he was sent to prison, Reading magistrates heard on Tuesday, May 9.

Maddy Charlesworth, prosecuting, said Mr Shwani, formerly of Florence Gardens, Thatcham, but who now lives in Fifth Road, Newbury, groped his first victim as she shopped in Tesco in Pinchington Lane, Newbury.

She added: "He was spoken to by security staff – the woman was quite shaken by the incident."

Mr Shwani then targeted a woman in nearby Boots, touching her bottom.

Ms Chaddleworth said: "She spun round and asked what he thought he was doing.

"He apologised, but seconds later she felt further contact, this time more of a grab to her bottom."

The woman shouted: "Get your hands off me", the court heard, but Mr Shwani insisted: "Just talk to me", before propositioning her, mentioning a sex act

Report by JOHN GARVEY

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he wanted to carry out.

Ms Chaddleworth said the woman was "shocked, embarrassed and humiliated".

CCTV footage later showed Mr Shwani circling the aisle and masturbating through his clothing, magistrates were told.

In interview, Shwani apologised, admitted his actions and explained he was "desperate for sex", said Ms Chaddleworth.

Mr Shwani admitted two counts of sexual assault on April 13.

Robert Slinn, defending, said his client had risked his life to smuggle his way into Britain from Iraq seven years ago in the back of a lorry.

He was enrolled in a Newbury College course and worked at a

kebab van in Newbury while his asylum applications were processed, the court heard.

But his bid to stay was rejected and all subsequent appeals failed, said Mr Slinn.

He said his client was remorseful, and added: "An immediate custodial sentence would very likely result in him being deported immediately."

A probation officer told the court that, because of Mr Shwani's status as an illegal immigrant, a sex offender's treatment programme was not an option.

She added: "Because of his status we're unable to offer intervention in the community.

"A deportation notice has been served on him and I asked the Home Office why he's still in this country – he can't claim benefits, has no work and no funds.

"They said if he receives an immediate prison sentence they will complete the deportation."

Mr Shwani lost his job at the kebab van when authorities informed his employer, the court heard.

Presiding magistrate Brenda Harding told Mr Shwani: "These were very unpleasant incidents that will have had a quite profound effect on your victims.

"But we understand the position you're in."

The bench imposed a 16-week prison sentence, but suspended it for 12 months.

Mr Shwani was also ordered to pay a statutory victim services surcharge of £115.

“

These were very unpleasant incidents that will have had a quite profound effect on your victims

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Shortlist of 15 for £20,000 giveaway

TO celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Newbury Weekly News we are giving away £10,000 this year for local good causes – with every pound match-funded by the Greenham Common Trust.

We have now picked a shortlist of 15 charities registered with The Good Exchange (www.thegoodexchange.com) and we will reveal who they are in next week's paper:

We will then ask our readers to select the charities they think most deserve the money by filling in a voting form printed in the paper over the coming 10 weeks."

With the matched funding from Greenham Common Trust, the good cause with the most votes will get £10,000, the organisation in second place will receive £6,000 and the one in the third place will be given £4,000.

Newbury Weekly News editor Andy Murrill said: "Congratulations to the 15 charities that have made it on to our shortlist and we hope our readers really get behind them by voting for their favourites."

The Good Exchange is a new fundraising platform which brings together organisations and institutions offering grants to those local charitable projects seeking funding, through auto-matching criteria.

As a fundraising platform, The Good Exchange is unique as it brings together public donations, fundraising activities and institutional grants.



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2017 GENERAL ELECTION

UKIP voters are being urged to back Benyon

Tactical voting encouraged to ensure Conservatives hold off Lib Dem challenge

Report by JOHN HERRING
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PEOPLE intending to vote for UKIP in Newbury have been asked to vote for Conservative candidate Richard Benyon instead.

UKIP has entered the tactical voting fray in an effort to see Brexit passed.

Mr Benyon campaigned for the Remain campaign in last year's referendum, but has since "supported the will of the people" and voted to trigger the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

The chairman of Newbury UKIP, Roy Tubb, said that Brexit was the main issue facing voters and that Mr Benyon backing the Government over Brexit "may cause some diehard remainers to desert him".

He said: "Recent electoral history shows that Newbury cannot be considered a safe Conservative seat."

"With this in mind, UKIP Newbury has decided reluctantly not to field a candidate, because that would only split the potential 'Brexit vote'."

"The result of the referendum needs to be accepted and supported in Parliament."

"We suggest therefore that UKIP supporters consider voting for Richard Benyon, if only to increase the chance of the referendum result being properly implemented."



Tory candidate Richard Benyon

Mr Benyon said: "I think it's more about the fact they didn't have anyone to stand here."

"I've not had any conversation with UKIP. Undoubtedly they are in trouble in this election and their decision not to field a candidate in West Berkshire reflects that."

"People are more concerned about what Brexit means for West Berkshire and their statement rightly says that I campaigned hard for Britain to remain in the EU."

"I want the deal that's reached to reflect the needs of West Berkshire businesses, many of whom trade with and in the EU."

UKIP finished third in Newbury during the 2015 General Election, with 10 per cent of the votes cast (6,195), close behind the Liberal Democrats' 15 per cent (8,605) and beating Labour's 8.4 per cent (4,837). UKIP's apparent endorsement



Lib Dem Judith Bunting

of Mr Benyon was welcomed by Liberal Democrat candidate Judith Bunting.

She said: "It's not often that I agree with UKIP but in this case I think they're spot on - this is no longer a safe Tory seat."

"The way that Richard Benyon changed his position was very disappointing. I don't think he has changed his mind, he's following the party line."

"He's choosing party over the people he represents."

"We need representation of the people who live here, not a representative who puts their needs and political party's needs above those of the area."

"To the 48 per cent I say stick with the Liberal Democrats."

"We are working in every way we can to stop the destructive hard Brexit course that Theresa May is setting the country on."

Mrs Bunting said that people should have the choice of another



Labour candidate Alex Skirvin

referendum once a final deal for leaving the EU had been agreed.

Labour candidate Alex Skirvin said that Labour would seek a progressive deal that would not endanger businesses.

He said: "It goes to show that Richard Benyon supports a hard and dangerous Brexit and that UKIP associating with him goes to show what kind of values are on offer in the election."

"There's a clear choice between progressive values offered by the Labour Party and regressive hard values offered by the Conservatives."

"Labour accepts the result of the referendum, but wants to retain membership of the customs union and single market."

"I would also say that the election is not just about Brexit. It's about schools and local service cuts, which have had quite a devastating affect on the local area and across the country."



Homeless people had to survive freezing temperatures last winter

Lib Dem's homeless pledge

THE Liberal Democrats have committed themselves to ending the "national scandal" of rough sleeping across Britain, including in Newbury and West Berkshire.

Latest figures show that 14 people were sleeping rough in the district last autumn - although local charities put the figure at 25 - and Lib Dem candidate Judith Bunting said: "It is a scandal that so many people are sleeping on the streets in 21st-century Britain."

"Here in Newbury, we all know that as well as the people who have been 'counted', many more sofa surf or are in insecure accommodation for only the occasional night, and we know we have single homeless people and couples who are sleeping rough."

"That is why I welcome this commitment by the Liberal Democrats to end homelessness in the UK."

The series of measures to end rough sleeping, laid out by the national party, include introducing a Housing First provider in each local authority that would put long-term homeless people straight into independent homes rather than emergency shelters.

The news comes as a coalition of homelessness charities have called on political parties to end rough sleeping in Britain.

Mrs Bunting said: "By increasing practical support for homelessness prevention and properly funding emergency accommodation, we can end rough sleeping in Newbury and West Berkshire and across the country."

"We will ensure that each local authority has at least one provider of Housing First services, to allow long-term homeless people to live independently in their own homes."

"The evidence suggests that supporting people with a long-term, stable place to stay is far more successful in tackling homelessness than constantly moving them through the chain of different temporary accommodations."

"Under this Government, homelessness has soared and young people are being stripped of housing benefit, threatening to make matters even worse."

"This election is a chance to change the direction of this country and stand up for a can-do Britain that is open, tolerant and united."

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Greens warn of funding crisis in schools

WEST Berkshire parents have been warned of a "funding crisis" in schools - and Green Party candidate and headteacher Paul Field has said it will cause "dreadful damage" to children.

In a letter sent to parents, 53 West Berkshire primary school headteachers said that changes in the way the Government funds schools "will not bring the benefits that we had hoped to see for West Berkshire children".

The headteachers say they will raise their concerns with West Berkshire Council, local MPs and the Government.

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) says more than half of school leaders in England and Wales feel their budget will be "untenable" by 2018/19.

Spending on education as a percentage of the country's GDP has fallen every year since 2010.

The Green Party's general election candidate for Newbury, Paul Field, is also the headteacher at Basildon Primary School and is one of the 53 local primary head signatories.

A former chairman of the Primary Heads Association and current president of the local NAHT branch, he attended the NAHT conference in Telford.

He said: "The current funding crisis will be familiar to many local voters."

"For a Government to deliberately mislead people with



Green Party candidate Paul Field addresses the National Association of Head Teachers conference

statements about funding being better than it has ever been is outrageous.

"They know that in real terms schools will lose £3bn by 2020 and their dishonesty is an insult to both the electorate and the professionals who serve our communities."

"The consequences of this current policy will be devastating and wide ranging."

"They will cause dreadful and permanent damage to our schools and the futures of our children."

"Education is at the heart of any civilised society and impacts every one of us."

Conservative candidate Richard Benyon said he had held frequent conversations with headteachers and ministers about the issue.

"I know that while the major-

ity of schools continue to have rising budgets, some of them don't," he said.

"In one sense, it's good news that there's very low levels of deprivation in West Berkshire."

"In terms of school funding, high levels of deprivation have seen very large increases in some areas."

"In West Berkshire they have seen small decreases."

Mr Benyon said he thought that schools could survive the funding arrangements, but the impact of increases to wages, national insurance and changes to pensions and the apprenticeship levy was causing concern.

He pledged to support local schools in parliament if he was re-elected as MP.

The Labour Party announced their education policy on Tuesday, promising to increase school funding by £4.8bn and introducing free, life-long education in colleges.

Labour candidate Alex Skirvin said concern over education was an issue with voters.

He said: "Education matters to me because it was my passport to a more secure, skilled and prosperous life."

"I'm proud to have attended a state school and been the first person in my family to attend university."

He backed Labour's education plan announced by shadow education secretary Angela Rayner, which includes restoring the educational mainte-

nance allowance scrapped in 2010.

The policy would be paid from £20bn by reversing cuts to corporation tax introduced by the Conservatives.

Mr Skirvin said: "The parents we've talked to say that we should be spending more on education rather than wasting it on pursuing an obsession with grammar schools."

"I'm a firm opponent of the Tory grammar schools agenda."

"Every child has a right to a quality education - not the right to sit a single, life-defining exam at the age of 11."

Liberal Democrats broke their pledge to oppose an increase in fees when they entered a coalition with the Conservatives in 2010.

The Lib Dems plan to invest £6.9bn into schools to protect pupil funding.

Candidate Judith Bunting said that West Berkshire schools would benefit from an additional £28m from her party's policy.

Mrs Bunting, who has worked in education and as a science and medical journalist and broadcaster for more than 20 years, said: "Education is at the heart of everything we believe in and everything we do."

"When headteachers write to parents like this it's time to be worried. We must protect the education of kids."

■ Primary school headteachers' letter - see page 16

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Queen and Prince Philip join Pangbourne College centenary

College receives new military colours as part of celebrations



The Queen at Pangbourne College

Ref: 19-2017ZI

THE Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were the guests of honour at Pangbourne College to help celebrate its centenary this week.

The royal couple met staff, students and parents during the visit on Tuesday and attended a special service in the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, which was opened by the Queen in 2000.

Among the guests was the oldest surviving Pangbournian, Keith Evans.

The 97-year-old served with the Duke of Edinburgh during the Second World War, when the pair were both lieutenants at a shore station, *HMS Royal Arthur*, in Warwick.

"I like him," said Mr Evans, who now lives in Hazelmere with his wife Heather.

"He was 18 months my junior. He was the Lieutenant Mountbatten because they'd got rid of all that Greek nonsense.

"He was a bit randy. Obviously the history of the man is extraordinary."

The veteran had the chance to reminisce with the Duke and showed him letters sent between the two men after Prince Philip's engagement.

Following the thanksgiving service, which was conducted by

Report by SARAH BOSLEY

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The Right Reverend Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, former Bishop of Rochester, the royal party spent time chatting to staff, parents and pupils, who were all dressed in their Number Ones cadet uniform.

The Duke of Edinburgh, who was appearing in public for the first time since announcing his retirement from royal duties later this year, stopped and spoke to Harry Edwards, one of the young pupils lining the path.

"He asked me what the coloured badges meant," Harry said. "I told him they were to show our houses, I'm in Starboard."

After lunch the Queen signed a guest book, before joining the large crowds for a college parade.

She then presented HM The Queen's Gold Medal to the college's head boy, Frederick Taucher, and head girl, Ellen White, and new military colours to the college.

Pangbourne College headmaster Thomas Garnier said: "Philip was on quite good form. He was interested in the pupils.

"The college has no formal link with the armed forces, but there's a ceremonial link and I think he felt in tune with that."

The school, in Pangbourne

Hill, was opened in 1917 as a training base for officers in the Merchant Navy.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh last visited in June 2007 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the end of the Falklands conflict.

The chairman of West Berkshire Council Quentin Webb, who was a guest at the ceremony, said that Prince Philip took a great interest in his chairman's medallion, lifting it up to take a closer look.

He said: "I would say there were no jokes, but it was noted that he was interested as he picked it up and looked at it. One didn't know whether he knew everything and it was just a test.

"He was very sprightly and on the money when it came to everything that was required as far as the college was concerned.

"At his age that he has continued to be the Queen's escort is remarkable to be doing that for that length of time.

"It was an honour and a pleasure to be at the centenary of Pangbourne College and to see all the cadets in full uniform and the presentation of the new colours."

■ To see our full gallery of photographs visit newburytoday.co.uk



The Queen presents The Queen's Gold Medal to the college's head boy, Frederick Taucher, and head girl, Ellen White

Ref: 19-2017AX



Prince Philip reminisces with Keith Evans, who served with the Duke on HMS Royal Arthur



Prince Philip and West Berkshire Council chairman Quentin Webb

Ref: 19-2017AG



The Queen presented the college with new military colours

Ref: 19-2017AS

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NEWBURY VISION 2026 CONFERENCE

‘Affordable housing is biggest issue in district’

THE chief executive of West Berkshire Council says the lack of affordable homes is the biggest issue facing the district.

Nick Carter's claim came in response to a question asked by Newbury resident Neil Taylor.

Mr Taylor raised concerns about the increasing number of homeless people and a lack of affordable homes at Market Street.

Mr Carter responded: "I think your wider point is that there isn't enough affordable housing.

"We as a local authority – and many employers in the audience – struggle with recruitment and a lot of that, particularly for low-paying jobs, is driven by the cost of living in West Berkshire.

"Affordable housing is, I think, probably our biggest challenge.

"It is probably our biggest challenge in West Berkshire, a huge challenge in the South East and a huge national challenge.

"We haven't got the answers to it in many respects.

"The challenge we had with the Market Street scheme comes back down to viability.

"This is the issue we are constantly struggling with.

"There was an expectation when we started of having 30-per-cent affordable housing with the Market Street scheme.

"Simply getting that to a point where it was viable meant that, unfortunately, it was the affordable housing that was reduced and we have seen that with previous schemes.

"Some of you who have been around for a while will remember a similar sort of debate with Parkway. There were similar sorts of issues when viability became problematic.

"To move the scheme forward something had to give and unfortunately it was the affordable housing piece.

"I recognise what you are saying.



West Berkshire Council chief executive Nick Carter

"There are things happening around homelessness and conversations going on around that.

"But the much bigger issue of 'how do we address the housing issue of West Berkshire' is an ongoing one."

When asked if the council could build more council houses, Mr Carter replied: "I don't see any imminent return of West Berkshire Council building council houses.

"As you know, we transferred all of our stock to Sovereign in 1983." Chris Fletcher, development director at Grainger – the company overseeing the Market Street regeneration – added that the provision of affordable housing is a "very complex matter arrived at after a variety of calculations".

He added: "While the definition of the term [affordable housing] has a very specific meaning, we are trying our best to spread the word about what affordability actually means for a scheme like this and therefore how accessible it is for people."

Work on Market Street to get under way in 2018

Regeneration of town centre site likely to take two years to complete

NEWBURY Vision 2026 outlines West Berkshire Council's aims and objectives for the town over two decades and includes details of major developments and proposed improvements to roads.

At a meeting held at the Corn Exchange last week, local residents, business owners and councillors were invited to hear what the council has planned. Among the key topics covered were the regeneration of Market Street and the Kennet Shopping centre, the relocation of Newbury bus station and improvements to Newbury train station.

Proposed improvements to the Robin Hood and Bear Lane roundabouts were also discussed. On pages 6 to 9, DAN COOPER looks at the impact the changes could have on Newbury.



An artist's impression of the new 'station square' and multi-storey car park

the work in six phases.

The first three, according to Grainger, will appear "relatively minor" and involve demolishing the existing bus station and clearing Highfield Avenue to free up land for the car park.

However, before any work can start, Grainger has to speak to various bodies about releasing land.

Development director at Grainger, Chris Fletcher, admitted the site was a "Rubik's cube when it comes to delivery", owing to the land being adjacent to stakeholders such as Network Rail.

At last week's Newbury Vision 2026 conference, he said: "We would ideally be able to

start construction on the residential quarter as soon as we could, but the reality is that the construction of the car park and maintaining of car parking spaces takes priority.

"Not to mention the various bodies that have processes for us to follow, such as Network Rail, and GWR have an interest in the scheme itself in terms of assets being constructed."

The work will include an improved entrance and access to Newbury railway station and a new pedestrian access to the town centre.

Plans also feature a new station square with a café, alongside nine new commercial units and a residents hub. The construction of the first

three residential blocks and multi-storey car park will start at same time and last for approximately 38 weeks.

Mr Fletcher said the later phases, which will see the remaining residential blocks built, will take around 63 weeks to complete.

Plans to regenerate the 5.5-acre site have proved controversial.

It was revealed that the land, which the council previously owned and valued at £3.9m, was given to Grainger at no cost.

Despite this, only 13 of the 232 homes built will be affordable, prompting critics to say the scheme did not provide good value for money.

There have also been concerns raised over parking, with just 108 spaces being provided for the 232 homes.

Grainger anticipates the project will be completed towards the end of 2020, but was reluctant to commit to a definite timescale.

Mr Fletcher said: "We have somewhat cowardly avoided putting dates on most of this because that work to unlock various parcels is a complex one and will take some time to resolve."

He added that Grainger was engaging regularly with the various parties to ensure that happens "as soon as possible".

A MAJOR scheme to redevelop an area of Newbury town centre is scheduled to start in February 2018.

Full details of the Market Street regeneration, which will see 232 homes built opposite the Kennet Shopping centre, were unveiled last week.

As part of the redevelopment, a 497-space car park will be constructed to provide 150 spaces for council staff and more than 300 for Network Rail and station users.

The scheme, which was approved last year, will see developer Grainger complete

Concern over potential drop in footfall

BOTH West Berkshire Council and developer Grainger have denied that the Market Street redevelopment will discourage footfall in Bartholomew Street and Cheap Street.

During the meeting, local businessman Stephen McKinnon, who set up the Abstract Bodyworks gym in Kings Road West, Newbury, raised his concerns.

Mr McKinnon feels that the new development will encourage people to walk out of the railway station, through Market Street and into the town centre.

During last week's Newbury Vision meeting, he asked West Berkshire Council's chief executive, Nick Carter: "Would you agree that the Market Street development does nothing to encourage footfall at all in Bartholomew Street and actively discourages footfall in Cheap Street?"

To which Mr Carter replied: "No, I wouldn't agree with that.

"What we have sought to do with the Market Street development is introduce housing into the town centre in what is a very sustainable location.

"That in itself will create footfall.

"Indeed, the conversations, as you've heard in relation to the Kennet centre, are about what the Kennet centre might want to do in terms of its offer to reflect on the fact there are going to be more people living



Fears were expressed by one businessman at the conference that footfall will drop off in Cheap Street

in the town centre.

"Those people generate footfall.

"They will want to buy things, they will want to buy food, etcetera etcetera.

"So no, I don't agree that putting 230 or 240 housing units on Market Street is going to be negative for footfall.

"What is there at the moment? Car parks? They are

not generating footfall."

However, that answer did little to satisfy Mr McKinnon, who said: "You are ignoring the question.

"We are talking about Bartholomew Street and Cheap Street, neither of which you've mentioned.

"There will be tons of traffic coming out of the railway station, coming through the gateway into the redeveloped Kennet centre.

That will be great for those retail units.

"Your plan will discourage people walking up Cheap Street.

"They won't need to, because they will be going straight through the car park into the town centre.

"There will be nothing for Bartholomew Street.

"So these two important, in

my opinion, retail centres are being actively discouraged by these plans."

Development director at Grainger, Chris Fletcher, said: "I would like to make one specific and quite detailed point in response to that.

"What it [Market Street plan] will do, which currently doesn't happen, is deal with the level difference between the Highfield Avenue end and the current route out along the western side by the council premises.

"You will now be able to walk laterally through the site as well as south to north for the first time very easily.

"At the moment there are a fair few barriers to that.

"Our scheme addresses that fully and encourages people to walk, as opposed to discouraging people."

However, Mr McKinnon again reiterated that the plans would discourage footfall on Cheap Street and Bartholomew Street.

Mr Fletcher responded: "I don't really see how.

"We aren't fundamentally changing anything that allows you to walk in that direction."

Marcus Franks, the councillor overlooking the delivery of the Vision, added: "The plans for the Kennet centre will make sure those units underneath the cinema are opened up and looking out on Cheap Street, which will encourage people down the southern end of the town."

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NEWBURY VISION 2026 CONFERENCE



How the main entrance to the northern side of the station would look

£6m facelift for railway site

THIS is what Great Western Railway architects envisage Newbury train station will look like after £6m worth of improvements are made.

The revamp of the station will look at environmental improvements and enhancements, as well as possibly widening Station Road to provide additional parking.

The plans could also include improved bus stops, a taxi facility and a possible pedestrian link over the station.

West Berkshire Council's projects manager Jon Winstan-

ley said: "This scheme has been allocated by the Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership through the growth fund.

"The intention is to improve access and provide a gateway to Newbury.

"The building is looking a little bit tired on the south side and the view from the north is not a particularly attractive entrance to the town."

Depending on how the adjacent Market Street development progresses, the station improvements could be delivered by 2021.



The main entrance to Newbury station is looking a 'little tired'

Bus station 'sympathetic' to its historic location

Proposed new terminal at the Wharf will provide an enhanced gateway to town

Report by DAN COOPER
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THESE images show what the Wharf will look like when the new bus station is built in Newbury.

As part of the Market Street redevelopment, flats will be built on the existing bus station site.

The current area in the Wharf is for coach parking, but this will be replaced with seven stands for buses to use.

The concept designs, created by Newbury-based architect Sutton Griffin, were shown at the Newbury Vision conference at the Corn Exchange last week.

West Berkshire Council's project manager, Jon Winstanley, said at the meeting: "This will provide a public transport interchange at the heart of the town, so we think that's a good thing.

"It is in a key and historic location, so the design needed to be sympathetic to its surroundings and needed to mirror the local architecture, ie the library and museum."

Mr Winstanley added that the current view "does not provide an overwhelming gateway to this important area of the town".

The work is scheduled to start in late autumn.



The current view from the south of the proposed bus station



How the new bus station will look from the southern approach



The current view from the north of the proposed bus station



How the new bus station will look from the northern approach

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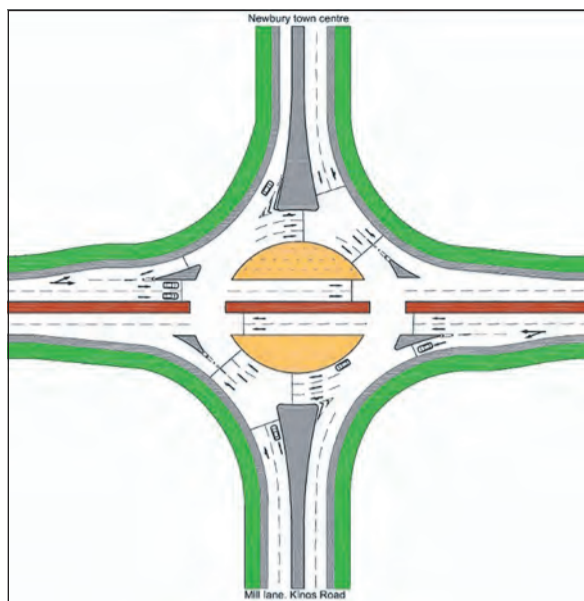


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NEWBURY VISION 2026 CONFERENCE



Plans for the Bear Lane double roundabout



The design for a 'hamburger' junction at Bear Lane



The proposed Bear Lane flyover

Council explored new ways to beat congestion

Flyover among options considered to keep traffic flowing through town

A FLYOVER, a 'hamburger junction' and a double roundabout were all considered by West Berkshire Council as ways of easing congestion around the Sainsbury's roundabout in Newbury.

The council's projects manager, Jon Winstanley, revealed discussions around all three took place - but none were considered to be viable.

As reported on the front page of the *Newbury Weekly News* last week, the council is now consulting on its preferred option - a new junction diverting traffic from the A339 into Cheap Street.

Mr Winstanley said: "I think most people who use the [Sainsbury's] junction are aware that the main problem on it is the right hand turns in all directions basically.

"We looked at numerous options for this junction.

"One of the obvious options was taking the junction out completely and putting in signal-controlled crossroads.

Report by DAN COOPER
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"That didn't work. There's just not enough capacity on the approaches.

"More radical solutions included a hamburger junction.

"Any of you who have been to Winnersh in Reading, to the cinema, have probably been through a fairly well-established one there.

"The premise is the main route through the A339 would travel through the centre of the junction with other traffic going around it.

"We tried that, but it didn't quite give us the right capacity.

"It had some improvements, but the other problem with this as well is that it would be impossible to build in Newbury and not close Newbury down for up to a year, which is obviously unacceptable."

Referring to the diagram of

the double roundabout, which the council also considered, Mr Winstanley joked that it "looked like something put together by a tortured mind".

"It has its merits," he said. "It basically creates two smaller roundabouts and removes the conflicts between the right turns.

"Again, building this would be very, very difficult and it didn't quite give the benefits we managed to generate from the proposed scheme [Cheap Street junction].

Another option considered by the council was a flyover or a tunnel from Bear Lane.

"This is something we ask for more often than you'd believe," said Mr Winstanley.

"We did briefly have a look at this and it would generate some improvements, but unless we could fly in on helicopters I don't think we would be able to construct it.

"Plus, there wasn't quite the space on the A339 to get on and off of it."

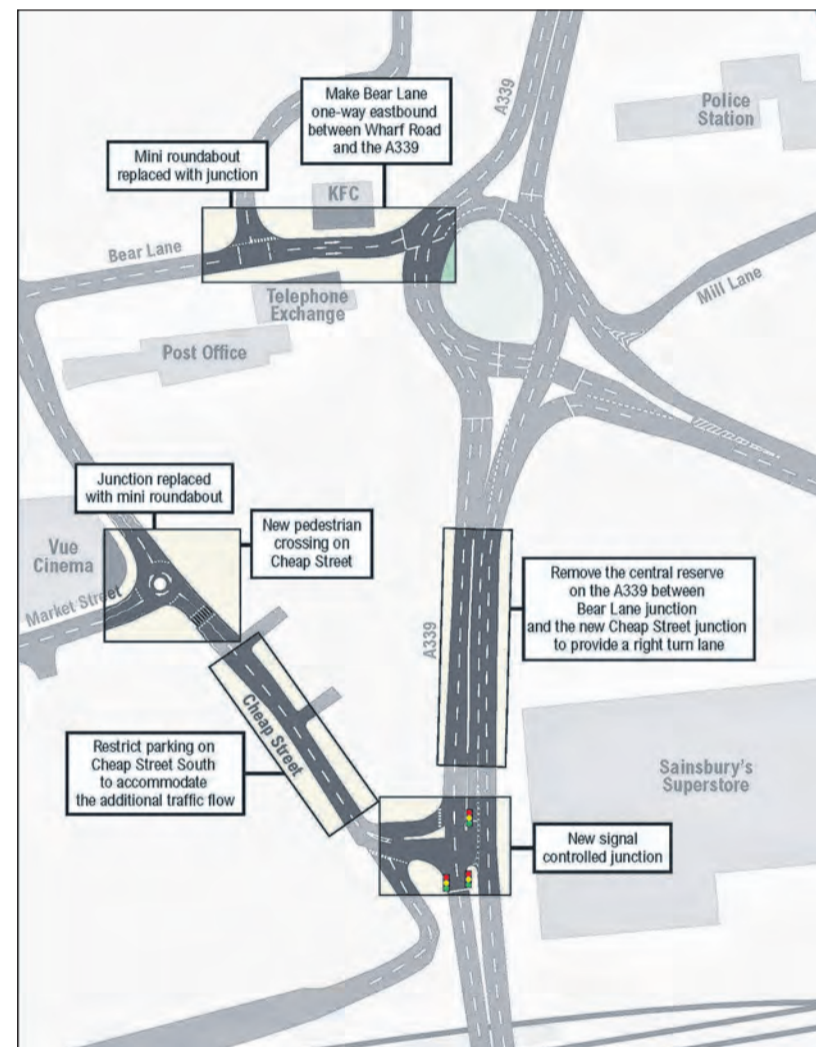
For the council's preferred scheme, it is proposing to create the new junction on to Cheap Street to allow traffic travelling from the north and east to access the town centre.

This would involve making Bear Lane one-way eastbound between Wharf Road and the A339, meaning motorists wouldn't be able to get to The Wharf via the Sainsbury's roundabout.

The council also wants to remove the central reservation on the A339 between the Sainsbury's junction and the new junction to provide a right-turn lane into Cheap Street.

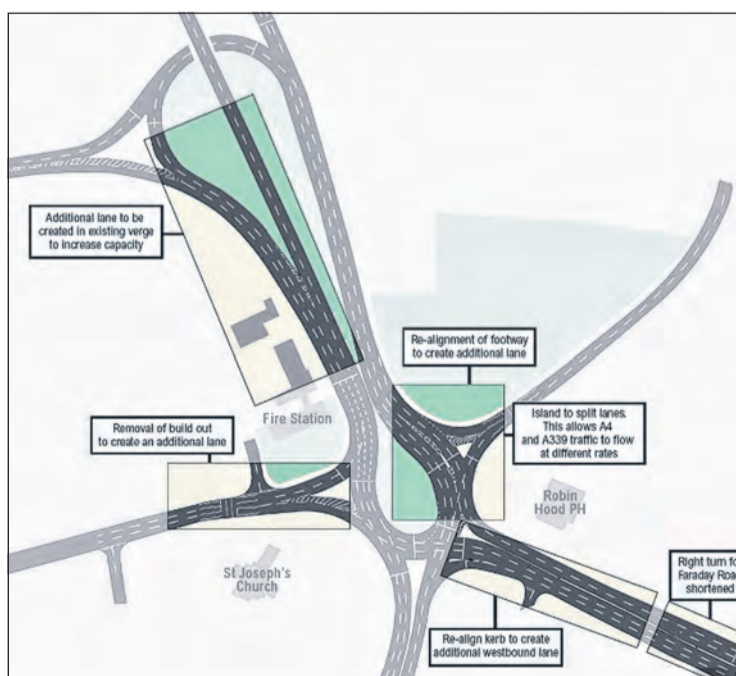
However, this would mean parking on Cheap Street south would be "restricted" to accommodate the additional traffic flow.

It is also proposed to introduce a new pedestrian crossing on Cheap Street and a mini roundabout at the Market Street/Cheap Street junction, which will replace the current give way lines.



The proposed new junction on Cheap Street

Robin Hood roundabout set for a revamp



PLANS for a major revamp of Newbury's Robin Hood roundabout have been unveiled.

The proposals would involve widening the road outside the fire station to create a second lane for Thatcham instead of one.

The council is also proposing to widen the roundabout to five lanes at the end of Shaw Road and install a traffic island to separate the traffic turning left on to the A4 and straight over to the A339 towards Sainsbury's.

Explaining the proposed changes at the Newbury Vision meeting, the council's projects manager, Jon Winstanley, said: "At the moment, traffic coming out of Shaw Road is immediately hit by a red light.

"We can unlock that so

the traffic coming from Shaw Road can carry on straight through, which significantly reduces the queuing on Shaw Road."

The two-lane approach to the roundabout from Faraday Road would also be widened to three lanes to improve capacity.

On the Aldi side, the plan is to elongate the two-lane approach to minimise congestion.

A YouTube video showing how the proposed scheme would work, is available to view at www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaEZpReHLAK&feature=youtu.be

No definite date has been set for the proposed works as they are dependent on funding from the north Newbury development - which will see up to 400 new homes built in Donnington.

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NEWBURY VISION 2026 CONFERENCE

Bayer 'had sights set on HQ closer to London'

Council says bid to keep pharmaceutical giant in town was doomed to fail

Report by DAN COOPER
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BAYER always had one eye on a site closer to London, West Berkshire Council's chief executive claimed last week.

The company left its UK headquarters in Newbury earlier this year after 32 years in the town and relocated its 470 employees to Green Park in Reading.

The district council came in for some fierce criticism when Bayer announced the plans, with many saying it failed to do enough to retain one of its largest employers.

Last week, Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate Judith Bunting quizzed council chief Nick Carter over what the council did to try and keep Bayer and what mistakes it had learnt.

Ms Bunting asked: "My question is about employment and commercial development and the loss of Bayer."

"It was no surprise to anyone who lives in Newbury that the Bayer lease was going to run out."

"We also understand that Bayer wanted to stay in Newbury, that they really



Bayer switched its UK HQ to Reading this year after 32 years in Newbury

wanted to be on the Faraday Road site.

"So I wanted to ask, how come they have gone to Reading?"

"We need high-tech employers in the future. What does that say to companies looking to come in here?"

"I would love to know what you did to keep Bayer here and how are you going to change that in the future so that we don't lose companies like Hitachi and Amec as well?"

Mr Carter replied: "There was a lot of conversation with Bayer over a protracted period

in terms of options about staying in Newbury.

"I think they had an eye on Reading and being closer to London as well."

"I think it is fair to say that. It was very clear from some of the early conversations we had."

"We put options for London Road to them. It would be unfair to say they wanted to go to London Road."

"They had concerns around London Road in terms of deliverability, they had concerns in terms of what would be around them."

"We then put a further option

to them in Newbury on a green-field site which might have been tricky to deliver but we had a partner who was willing to do that.

"And again, I think the attraction of Green Park was too much. Unfortunately, but we certainly tried."

"I do genuinely think that other sites closer to London were always in their sights and we were always competing with those sites."

Mr Carter added that the council was doing as much as it could to prevent the same thing happening and has understanding with some of its major employers about what their aspirations were.

However, he added: "I am not giving any guarantees. At the end of the day companies will form their own view about where they want to be."

"I still think Newbury, West Berkshire, is a very attractive place for companies and perhaps a slightly more attractive place to live than perhaps to locate."

"I think it is a bit more complex than simply saying 'can the council keep everyone here?'"

"We will certainly try, but at the end of the day there are a range of other factors in play."



Faraday Road in the heart of the London Road Industrial Estate

LRIE redevelopment is still a long way off

THE controversial redevelopment of the London Road Industrial Estate (LRIE) in Newbury won't be happening any time soon.

That was the verdict from West Berkshire Council chief executive Nick Carter when asked when he thought the work would start.

The council has long had aspirations to regenerate the area and in 2014 it appointed St Modwen as its preferred developer.

St Modwen submitted a masterplan to build a mix of residential accommodation and office space on the site, but no formal planning application has been submitted yet.

That is because the plans are currently subject to a legal challenge from rival developer Faraday Developments Limited.

A concerned member of the public, who works on the LRIE, asked the council's chief executive Nick Carter what plan was in place for the existing commercial units in London Road when the site is redeveloped.

Mr Carter responded: "We have started some conversations with some of the employers on that site."

"I have made it clear in previous discussions here, that the council and St Modwen - St Modwen will take the lead on this - will be working with those employers on the industrial estate."

"Where appropriate, we may well be looking at relocation where that something that might be mutually acceptable."

"But at the moment, because of the legal process we are in, we are not doing a great deal."

"We are not looking at closing down businesses in Newbury. What

we are wanting to do is rejuvenate London Road and create some of that office space.

"We fully recognise there are other operators, other employers there, that Newbury need."

"Some of them may well stay on the industrial estate, some may go elsewhere. That maybe something that is mutually beneficial."

"Once we have got through the legal process, this, I suspect, is something that will come up at future conferences."

The LRIE worker then asked: "Is it possible to give us some sort of timescale, simply because I work on the industrial estate and everyone I speak to says they are in limbo?"

"They can't increase their workload because they just don't know if they'll have a unit to finish up with once the development goes ahead."

Mr Carter responded: "Our hope was that the legal process might have moved forward by now. It seems to have taken a little longer than we thought."

"There is no ability for the council to prompt the judges in this, they will take whatever time they need."

"If we clear through that, then St Modwen will need to submit a planning application, so we are some way off from my point of view."

The employee then said: "Are we talking four or five years away?"

Mr Carter replied: "I wouldn't be surprised if it's that - it might be a little shorter, but not a lot shorter."

"Nothing is going to happen very quickly is my message to you and certainly the timescale you talked about is where my head would be."



Marcus Franks

Town must move with the times

WEST Berkshire needs more modern commercial buildings in order to retain existing employers and attract new businesses to the area.

That was the view of Marcus Franks, the councillor responsible for overseeing the Newbury Vision.

Mr Franks was responding to concerns from the Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Newbury, Judith

Bunting, at the Vision conference last week.

Ms Bunting asked what the council was doing to ensure that major employers did not leave Newbury to go elsewhere.

Mr Franks replied: "The relationship with local businesses is important and we believe we have got that."

"There are a number of companies that are expanding in Newbury and that is really

good news. We want to encourage that.

"But we also really need to work with the LEP [Local Enterprise Partnership] to sell Newbury and West Berkshire to new businesses looking to invest in the UK."

"We need modern commercial buildings that are suitable to modern businesses."

"London Road will deliver some of that, but I think we need to look for more."

Business park is needed to attract new companies

NEWBURY Town Council believes that a new business park - accessible from the M4 - will be needed in order to attract new and expanding companies to the area.

It also feels that the retention of young people, or the innovation generation as it describes them, is vital.

To help achieve that, it feels a short-stay leisure proposition and an events venue for 2,000-5,000 people should be investigated.

The town council says that more affordable, starter and student accommodation is also needed to improve the offering for young people living locally.

Just 16 per cent of the population of West Berkshire is aged between 20 and 35, compared to 29 per cent in Reading and 20 per cent nationally.

Meanwhile, Newbury Town Council is asking for the public's help in drawing up a town plan.

The aim of the document is to 'conserve the best of the old' and

encourage 'sympathetic' new development in the town.

The chairman of the Newbury Town Plan steering group, Anthony Pick, previously said: "The purpose of the town plan is to provide our ideas on how Newbury might grow and develop over that period, and the opportunities, issues and constraints which we foresee."

The town council will refer to it when dealing with any planning applications that it considers in future.

The document is in the form of a 64-page illustrated booklet, which picks out 11 key principles relating to the whole town.

Newbury Town Council has set up a questionnaire for members of the public to complete on its website www.newbury.gov.uk

The draft town plan is scheduled to be published in October 2017, with the final version due to be completed by March 2018.



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Woman took her own life on holiday

21-year-old had expressed 'dark thoughts' before her death

A YOUNG woman from Thatcham intentionally took her own life while on holiday in Lithuania, a coroner has ruled.

Rachael Perkins, 21, had been expressing "dark thoughts" and had created a series of morbid drawings of her own death, the inquest heard.

Her body was discovered on the morning of Monday, July 11, in a play park in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, where she had been visiting the family of her boyfriend.

The cause of death was given as hanging.

Assistant coroner for Berkshire, Emma Jones, recorded a verdict of suicide – telling the inquest she was satisfied that Miss Perkins, of Druce Way, had intended to take her own life.

The former Reading College student, who had a history of mental illness and cannabis use, had not been seen since walking off from her partner, Edwyn Jarosevic, the previous evening at around 11pm.

The inquest heard how Mr Jarosevic had to run to catch up with his girlfriend, before stopping to light his cigarette.

In a statement given to the Lithuanian authorities, which was read out at the inquest, Mr Jarosevic said: "At that point

Report by CHRIS ORD
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Rachael did not stop and kept on walking.

"I turned around to light my cigarette – I turned back, but could not see her."

"I just turned my back for a second and could not understand how she could disappear."

Mr Jarosevic reported her missing to the police the following afternoon when she failed to return to his parents' home.

Speaking to the Lithuanian authorities, Mr Jarosevic had said his girlfriend did not seem annoyed and had been acting "normal" before she disappeared.

A previous inquest hearing had been adjourned in November owing to a lack of information surrounding the death from the Lithuanian authorities.

In a separate statement to the English coroner, Mr Jarosevic had described Miss Perkins as feeling "stressed" in the moments before she went missing, which had caused him to become "agitated".

Miss Perkins had previously been diagnosed with anxiety and obsessive compulsive disorder, and had suffered a breakdown in 2012, which had been linked to her use of cannabis at the time.

According to Mr Jarosevic's statement, Miss Perkins had stopped using drugs 10 days prior to her death.

A post mortem examination found traces of cannabis in Miss Perkins' blood and urine.

However, the drug can remain

in the body for a number of weeks.

No alcohol was found in her system and no other injuries were noted.

In a further statement read out at the inquest, Mr Jarosevic had said he was aware of Miss Perkins' previous mental health issues and talked about conversations he had had with her.

"Once she said she did not see any point in living," he told police.

"She had dark thoughts."

The inquest also heard how, after arriving in Lithuania on July 3, concerns had been raised by Mr Jarosevic's family when Miss Perkins revealed a drawing she had made of (what was believed to be) herself lying in a coffin.

Miss Perkins' parents told the inquest how a series of similar drawings had been discovered in her room following her death.

After considering the evidence, the coroner told Miss Perkins parents: "In my opinion, it was very important to obtain this file of evidence from the Lithuanian authorities."

Concluding the inquest, Mrs Jones said: "She obviously thought about how she's going to do it, coupled with past mental health difficulties, that drawing she did of the coffin and expressing 'dark thoughts'."

"Taking all the evidence into account, I'm satisfied that she did intend to take her own life on this occurrence and that it was more than a cry for help."

"Therefore, I will record a verdict of suicide."



Demolition work has started on the Sterling Cables tower



End of an era as tower comes down

THE end of an era on Newbury's skyline is drawing closer.

The demolition of the town's 'eyesore', the Sterling Cables tower, got into full swing this week as the site is prepared for housing.

Developer Amirantes will build 167 flats in place of the 250ft tower.

The new homes will be spread across eight blocks, varying in height between three and eight storeys.

A new road, which will be constructed as part of the Ster-

ling Industrial Estate redevelopment, will link Hector's Way and Kings Road.

Improvements will also be made to the Boundary Road bridge so that it can accommodate two-way traffic, with pedestrian footpaths installed.

When the plans were approved in 2015, Bucklebury ward member Graham Pask (Con) said: "This site has been an eyesore for 30 years or more."

"It's probably the worst site we have got."

"The need to do something with it is inevitable."



The Sterling Cables tower has dominated Newbury's skyline

Pensioner admits sex offences

A THATCHAM pensioner and member of a local church congregation has been spared a prison sentence for committing sex offences.

Eighty-seven-year-old Ernest Smith, of Coombe Court, who attends the United Reformed Church, admitted two charges under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and appeared for sentencing at Reading Crown Court on

Tuesday, May 2.

Steve Molloy, defending, said his client had been married twice.

Mr Smith's first wife had died in tragic circumstances and he had nursed his second wife through Parkinson's disease until her death, after 48 years of marriage, the court heard.

Judge Alexia Durrant imposed a prison sentence of

two years, but said she would suspend this for a two-year period.

In addition, Mr Smith was required to sign the Sex Offenders Register and made subject to a 45-days rehabilitation activity requirement.

Finally, he was made subject to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order.

Once she said she did not see any point in living



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Team leader who swindled £10k is spared jail

A NEWBURY man who swindled more than £10,000 from his employers has avoided jail.

James Parsons deceived unwitting colleagues by inventing fake customers demanding refunds on goods purchased at the Wickes store in Canal View Road.

A team leader at the store, Parsons, of Martingale Close, then pocketed the cash for himself and also stole goods from the shop.

He pleaded guilty to stealing cash and goods when he appeared at Reading Magistrates' Court on March 2.

The court heard how Parsons would ask colleagues to complete refund forms and ask them to leave the cash for the fictitious customer to collect.

He then used his knowledge of store procedure to hide the envelopes in places his colleagues wouldn't think to look.

Parsons, aged 30, was sentenced to 10 months' imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, at Reading Crown Court last week and was ordered to pay £8,500 compensation to Wickes within 18 months.

He also has to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work, 30 sessions of a thinking skills programme and a complete a 10-day rehabilitation activity.

The thefts occurred between August 2016 and November 2016.

In total he completed 65 transactions, pocketing a total of £9,653.51 in cash.

Goods totalling £405.46 taken from Wickes without payment were found at Parsons' home address during a house search.

Magistrates heard that Parsons stole to fund his cocaine addiction, an online gambling habit and to repay debts to loan companies.

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Vehicle 'took off' in police pursuit

Car hit a roundabout and 'became airborne' court hears

A SPEEDING car hit a traffic island so fast it "became airborne" during a dramatic police chase.

Daniel James Moss nearly lost control several times as he jumped red lights and sped the wrong way around roundabouts, Reading magistrates heard on Thursday, April 27.

The teenage motorist then fled on foot after leading officers on a hair-raising ride at speeds of 80mph, on the wrong side of the road, in a built-up area.

Clare Barclay, prosecuting, said the 19-year-old, of The Strouds, Beenham, was guilty of "prolonged, dangerous driving".

She added: "He was fleeing from police pursuit, driving at speeds of 80mph in a 40mph limit."

"He drove through a red light and nearly lost control of his vehicle on a traffic island, swerving round other vehicles."

"At a second roundabout he did spin out of control but managed to recover."

At one point, the court heard, Mr Moss was driving at speed on the wrong side of the road.

Ms Barclay said it appeared he

Report by JOHN GARVEY
email john.garvey@newburynews.co.uk
twitter @john_g_nwn

might even outrun the pursuing police car and escape – but eventually his luck ran out.

She explained: "He struck a roundabout and the car became airborne."

"It slammed back down and continued on the wrong side of the road for a short way before slowing and then stopping."

Even then, the drama was not over, magistrates were told, as Mr Moss tried to flee on foot.

He was eventually caught and arrested, and on Thursday he admitted driving a Honda Civic dangerously, failing to stop when required by police, driving without insurance and driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence.

All the offences were committed on the A33 near Reading on March 20.

Mr Moss also has previous convictions, the court heard.

Ms Barclay suggested that the offences were so serious they might merit more than the maximum six months' imprisonment

available in a magistrates' court.

She urged district judge Shomon Khan to send Mr Moss to the crown court for sentencing, instead.

Adonis Daniel, defending, pointed out that the offences had happened around 3am and that there was little or no traffic on the roads.

He said the vehicles referred to, that his client had swerved around, had been stationary at the time.

Mr Daniel added: "It has been described as prolonged bad driving but, in fact, it was rather short."

But district judge Khan told Mr Moss: "I've listened carefully to what has been said on your behalf but I feel the safest option for me is to send this, on an 'all options' basis, to the crown court, where the judge will have a fuller sentencing range than I have."

He ordered pre-sentence reports to be prepared and imposed an interim driving ban.

Mr Moss was then bailed until a date to be fixed for sentencing by a judge sitting at Reading Crown Court.



Newbury's Conservative parliamentary candidate Richard Benyon dropped into the Empire Cafe for a chat during Companions Hour

Benyon boost for Companions Hour

REGULARS at the Empire Cafe in Newbury were joined by some new faces at a recent Thursday morning Companions Hour, including Newbury's Conservative parliamentary candidate Richard Benyon.

The 60-minute session, organised by community group Coffee Companions, encourages customers to chat to each other in an effort to provide social interaction for some older or isolated residents.

Customers are issued with a 'Chat Mat', and if they want to get chatting they show the green side, but the red side shows they don't want to be disturbed.

Following the session, Mr Benyon said: "Too few of us say hello to our neighbours, let alone have a proper conversation."

"Coffee Companions has introduced an easy way to open the communication channels."

"Change doesn't have to be expensive but failure to change may be for individuals and wider society."

The Companions Hours are held at the following coffee shops in Newbury:

Mondays – Sainsbury's, Hector Way, 10.30am-11.30am; Café Nero, Northbrook Street, 2pm-3pm; Coffee#1, Parkway, 3pm-4pm; Café Nero, Kennet Shopping

centre, 4pm-5pm.

Tuesdays – Weaver's Coffee Shop, Weaver's Walk, 10am-11am; Corn Exchange, Market Place, 2.30pm-3.30pm.

Wednesdays – King's Café, The Broadway, 3pm-4pm.

Thursdays – Empire Café, Cheap Street, 10.30am-11.30am; McDonald's, Northbrook Street, 6pm-7pm.

Fridays – Waterstones, Parkway, 2pm-3pm.

Sundays – Waterstones, Parkway, 10.30am-11.30am; Café Rouge, Parkway, 3pm-4pm.

For more information, or to download your own Chat Mat, visit www.coffeecompanions.co.uk

District council has new switchboard number

WEST Berkshire Council has changed its customer switchboard number to (01635) 551111.

Although more people are accessing West Berkshire services online, it still receives more than 2,330 phone calls to its

switchboard each week.

The former (01635) 42400 switchboard number will remain active until the end of March 2018. West Berkshire Council's out-of-hours emergency number remains (01635) 42161.

The council has an ongoing

programme to provide more services online, which will reduce costs for the authority, ranging from accessing information and advice, requesting new bins or the cutting of overgrown hedges. These can be accessed at www.westberks.gov.uk

Did you see thefts in the town centre?

POLICE are appealing for witnesses following a spate of thefts in Newbury town centre.

On Sunday, May 7, at around 4.30pm, thieves stole a mobile phone from a coat pocket in a shop queue at a premises in Oxford Road. Then, between 3.10pm and 3.25pm on Tuesday,

May 9, offender(s) in Northbrook Street stole a wallet from a trouser pocket. Again on Tuesday, thieves stole two mountain bikes in Market Place between 5.30am and 3pm, while a Giant Talon mountain bike was taken from Bartholomew Street between 4.30pm and 5pm.

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New mayor

NEWBURY will have a new mayor this week.

The town council was due to elect the new figurehead at a meeting last night (Wednesday).

The new incumbent will then be formally installed at the annual town council meeting in Newbury Town Hall at 10am on Sunday.

Retiring mayor Julian Swift-Hook will present his report on his year in office.

Shop assistant recognised shoplifter from their school days after seeing CCTV footage

A NEWBURY man travelled to Hungerford for a shoplifting outing.

Jordan Richard Dickins, aged 18, of Kings Road, was only caught because a shop assistant recognised him from CCTV footage.

Sarah McKay, prosecuting, told Reading magistrates on Thursday, April 20, that the employee had recognised Mr Dickins from school days and reported his identity to police.

Mr Dickins admitted stealing

alcohol worth £20 from the One Stop store in Fairview Road, Hungerford, on March 4. He has previous convictions.

Mike Davis, defending, handed magistrates a daily newspaper cutting headline which read: 'Mum's reign of cruelty' which outlined abuse his client had suffered as a child while temporarily living in another town with his mother.

He added: "The newspaper article may give you some idea of the sort of start this young man

has had in life.

"The theft itself was pretty blatant."

"He just walked in with another young man, picked up a case of lager and walked out."

Magistrates made Mr Dickins subject to a nine-month conditional discharge and ordered him to pay £20 compensation to One Stop plus a statutory victim services surcharge of £20.

No order was made for costs because Mr Dickins is on benefits.

Man guilty of sexual assault

A CALCOT man has been convicted of sexually assaulting a woman.

In the dock at Reading Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, April 11, was 34-year-old Ahtif Ahmad Chowdhary of Piercefield.

He denied deliberately engaging in sexual touching of a stranger when she did not consent, in Tilehurst, on October 26.

But magistrates did not believe his story that the touching was accidental and he was convicted following a trial.

Mr Chowdhary was made subject to a community order with a rehabilitation activity requirement of up to 15 days.

He was also ordered to pay £500 costs plus a statutory victim services surcharge of £85.

Finally, magistrates ordered him to pay £50 compensation to his victim.

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Greenham to keep control tower grant

Funding provider lays down conditions for parish council

GREENHAM Parish Council has received a clean bill of health over funding for its flagship control tower project, following positive talks with grant provider Social Investment Business (SIB) last week.

The news draws a close to questions over how £421,000 funding from SIB was spent, after an investigation revealed the initial terms of the funding agreement had been broken.

As a result of the investigation, the council was given a June deadline to abide by a strict set of conditions set out by SIB, which included providing a full breakdown of work still to be done and a realistic plan detailing how the remainder of the project will be financed.

Following the meeting with council representatives on May 2, SIB said it was satisfied with the progress made and that the conditions had been met.

In the letter to Greenham Parish Council clerk David Fowler, SIB's head of programmes Deborah Smart said the meeting had been "hugely helpful" and thanked the council for providing the information.

Responding to the letter, Greenham Parish Council chairman Julian Swift-Hook said: "I'm really pleased that our

Report by CHRIS ORD
email chris.ord@newburynews.co.uk
twitter @chriso_nwn



meeting with SIB last week went so well and that we were able to provide them with all the information they needed, as its letter this week makes clear.

"Now that SIB's project oversight issues have been resolved, I think the focus has to be firmly on getting on with what remains to be done so that this iconic building can be opened to the public, hopefully later this year."

More than £700,000 has so far been spent on the control tower project, which will see the Grade II-listed Cold War building converted into a café and visitor centre.

Initially there had been fears that SIB could claw back all or some of the £421,555 grant after

concerns were raised over how the funds had been spent.

However, despite finding the initial agreement had not been adhered to, the grant provider determined that the council would not need to pay the money back if it provided a full breakdown of what work was required, with costings and timescales; a realistic plan detailing how the remainder of the project will be financed; an update which details which partners remain involved in the project; and re-confirmation that once the project was complete, a lease would be given to a new body, to ensure that the building stays in community ownership and management for at least 25 years.

An SIB spokesman said: "After meeting with Greenham Parish Council earlier this month, we are satisfied with the progress being made towards opening the control tower.

"The council has agreed to provide us with further progress updates and we are hopeful that this important community asset will open for public use in the near future."

It is hoped the control tower will be opened up to the public by the end of the year. However, it is believed the council is still in the process of applying for a further £100,000 loan in order to complete the development.



Rowbarge deputy manager Andy Pyne is presented with the Pub of the Year certificate by West Berks CAMRA chairman Richard Scullion
Ref: 19-0617A

CAMRA's top award for Rowbarge

WOOLHAMPTON'S Rowbarge has gone from strength to strength to be named Pub of the Year by the West Berkshire Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

The riverside pub won the district accolade for its selection of six real ales, bistro-style food and amount of outside seating overlooking the River Kennet.

Of the six real ales available, the pub serves one regular and five changing guest beers, often including one from Vale Brewery and West Berkshire Brewery.

The pub's assistant manager, Tom Girling, said: "It is an honour to receive this distinguished award of West Berkshire

CAMRA Pub of the Year.

"It really does show that all the hard work that the team put in here is worth it.

"We hope to be an example of how successful a team can be if you all pull in the same direction"

"Finally getting the recognition we all deserve is massively rewarding and will spur each member of the team on to emulate the success for 2018.

"A massive thank you to all at CAMRA for your continued support of our regular Meet The Brewer evenings, and also for electing us for this award. It truly is an honour."

A pub since the 18th century, The Rowbarge is located within a

few minutes' walk of Midgham railway station and the main bus route between Reading and Newbury.

West Berkshire CAMRA chairman Richard Scullion said: "Over the last year The Rowbarge has gone from strength to strength, which is a credit to the entire team.

"Many people will be aware of their reputation for good food, but you can also be assured of a great selection of quality real ales.

"The beer festival they held in August 2016, their first attempt at an event of its magnitude, was a huge success and we wish them all the best of luck with their festival this August."

Man cleared of raping sleeping woman

A JURY has cleared a man of raping a woman while she slept.

Earlier, the alleged victim had told Reading Crown Court of the moment she awoke to find Christopher Ball trying to have sex with her.

Twenty-four-year-old Mr Ball, of Fairfield Park, West

End Road, Mortimer Common, denied one count of rape and another of attempted rape.

On the first day of the trial, on Tuesday, May 2, the woman said she had enjoyed an evening with friends when she decided to go to bed.

A male friend told her she could sleep in his double bed

upstairs – something he occasionally did, the court heard.

The woman, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, said that earlier Mr Ball and his friend had arrived at the same house in Mortimer.

She said she had been taking cocaine and drinking alcohol during the evening.

The woman added that she had gone to sleep, but awoke suddenly at 2.15 to find Mr Ball on top of her. Mr Ball told the jury he had indeed had sex with the woman, but that it had been entirely consensual.

It took jurors just one hour to unanimously clear him of both charges.

Barbecue follows community clean up in Clay Hill

RESIDENTS are invited to join a community clean up in Clay Hill on Saturday, May 20.

Organised by the volunteers at the Riverside Community Centre, the two-hour clean-up will take place around the Clay Hill neighbourhood and all residents are invited to join in.

Newbury town councillor Jeff Beck (Con, Clay Hill) said: "The Riverside Community Centre is run by volunteers on behalf of the community, who make great use of the facilities provided.

"The maintenance of the local stretch of the River Lambourn, together with its banks and footpaths, are also in the main dependent on the work carried out by volunteers.

"Do come along on May 20 and help us in our clean-up around the River Lambourn and surrounding areas.

"You will find us a friendly group of people and we will do our utmost to ensure you enjoy your day."

The event has been funded by the One-Stop Carriers for Causes Grants and will be supported by the Renewal Project and local volunteers.

All equipment will be provided and a barbecue lunch will be held afterwards to say thank you to all who helped.

The group will meet at Riverside Community Centre, Rosemoor Gardens, RG14 2FG, at 10.30am.

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Ref: 19-1217F



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Drive down retro street

Car club brings a new show to Newbury town centre

A NUMBER of vintage and classic cars were on display in Newbury town centre at the weekend.

Petrolheads were able to view the array of retro and customised cars, which lined Northbrook Street and Parkway. Parkway showcased two supercars while Northbrook Street displayed

vintage and retro vehicles. The display was organised by Newbury BID and the Berkshire Retro and Custom Club. Cars ranged from a Scooby-powered Beetle, an Escort RS turbo and a Ford Capri, to the more modern, highly-modified vehicles.

Newbury BID events manager Laura Adamson, said: "Newbury

Car Display brought something new to the high street and it was a joy to see the public appreciating these unique vehicles.

"We would like to say a big thank you to Berkshire Retro and Custom Club for making this display such a success and we look forward to building on this great event next year."



Lou Lewis displays the engine of her Mk4 Ford Escort Series 2 RS Turbo

Ref: 19-1217D



Max Plester, who helps run the club, with his Nissan Micra

Ref: 19-1217C



BV03 AMK

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- Library

Fuel worth £25 to be won this week

THE *Newbury Weekly News* is continuing its free petrol competition which each week gives one lucky reader the opportunity to win £25-worth of free fuel.

To be in with a chance of winning, all you have to do is pick up one of our car stickers from the list of suppliers (left), display it in your car and then check each week in the *Newbury Weekly News* to see if your registration number is the one chosen.

If it is, then bring your car with your V5 registration document to our offices in Faraday Road, Newbury.

We will then give you a letter for you to claim your £25-worth of fuel from Chieveley Motor Company, in Long Lane, Hermitage.

The *NWN* has been out spotting cars displaying the sticker.

If your car has a sticker but we haven't spotted it yet – let us know straight away, either by emailing



your registration number to fuel@newburynews.co.uk, handing it in to us at Newspaper House in Faraday Road during office hours, or by sending it on a postcard.

How to claim your prize

ONE prize of **FREE FUEL** is being awarded to a sticker-holder each week.

Readers **MUST** check the *Newbury Weekly News* each week to see if they have won and contact the newspaper if their number has been chosen.

They will not be contacted by the *NWN* in the event of their number being selected. The cars **MUST** be displaying one of the special stickers to be eligible to win the prize.

Winners must provide proof of ownership – a current V5 vehicle registration

document in their name – in order to claim their prize by bringing the car with the V5 registration document to our offices in Faraday Road, Newbury.

We will then give you a letter for you to claim your fuel from Chieveley Motor Company, Long Lane, Hermitage.

Prizes must be claimed within 28 days of the winning registration number being published in the *Newbury Weekly News* and must be claimed, in person, at the *NWN* offices at Newspaper House, Faraday Road, Newbury.

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THE world has changed a great deal in the last 150 years and never more so than in the realms of technological development and what is understood by 'a sense of community'. Wholeheartedly embracing these aspects of life today is the *Newbury Weekly News*.

Newbury Weekly News



Newbury Weekly News – Still making history is an account of this truly local newspaper, ownership of which remains within the founding family since its first edition in 1867. It features some of the people who have contributed to the publication's longevity, and those who have worked to reinforce its place within the community it serves. Proud to be local, nevertheless at times its reach has also been both national and international. The history of the *Newbury Weekly News*, its growth and survival over 15 decades, is a remarkable tale of change and consistency.



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Dolphin open day goes swimmingly

PANGBOURNE-based charity Dolphin Adventure made a splash at its open day on April 22 as it welcomed twice the expected amount of visitors.

Visitors were encouraged to have a go at a range of activities such as using the climbing wall, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding and marathon boating.

Event organiser Ed Edwards said: "Our taster sessions gave people the chance to take to the water in a variety of different boats and to reach for new heights on our climbing wall.

"It was a lovely atmosphere and a great opportunity for people to discover new adventurous activities that are not only good fun, but also improve your fitness, enable you to learn new skills, make new friends, enjoy the River Thames and climb or walk in scenic surroundings."

More than 120 children, adults



Youngsters enjoying the Dolphin Adventure open day

and families attended, and the event was staffed by 55 volunteers and a team of qualified coaches.

For details of summer evening courses in kayaking, canoeing and climbing go to www.adventuredolphin.co.uk

Man, 58, convicted of attacks on two people

A NEWBURY man has been convicted of assaulting a woman and a male.

In the dock at Reading Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, April 26, was 58-year-old Martin Hardy of Kennet Place.

He admitted assaulting Gabriella Slevin by beating her in Newbury on January 30. He further admitted committing the same offence against Niall O'Neill on the same occasion.

Mr Hardy was made subject to a six-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £75 compensation, £85 costs plus a statutory victim services surcharge of £20.

Reprieve for battling alcohol

A MAN with a lengthy criminal history was given another chance in court because he was striving to stay off drink.

In the dock at Reading Magistrates' Court on Thursday, April 27, was 29-year-old Colin Andrew Null of Newtown Road, Newbury.

Clare Barclay, prosecuting, said Mr Null had numerous previous convictions and on this occasion repeatedly swore at police in Bartholomew Street, Newbury.

She added: "There were lots of people around, including young children."

Mr Null admitted using threatening, abusive or insulting

words or behaviour on April 9.

Mike Davis, defending, said his client had been homeless and living in a tent but had recently acquired hostel accommodation.

Mr Null told the court he had given up alcohol.

District judge Shomon Khan told him: "You've got a very bad record but this is the best place you've been in for a number of years, it seems.

"I'm going to test your resolve to stay out of trouble with a nine-month conditional discharge."

In addition he ordered Mr Null to pay £85 costs plus a statutory victim services surcharge of £30.



Alec Jenkins, who has motor neurone disease, centre with brother Paul behind, join other guests at the event
Ref: 18-2017A

Inspirational MND 30th anniversary

THE West Berkshire branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association celebrated 30 years of the charity's work at an event on Saturday, April 29.

The evening, attended by 100 supporters and invited guests, started with a service of music and readings in St Mark's Church, Englefield, conducted by the Reverend Derek Spears from Aldermaston, followed by an event at Englefield House, home of the branch's patron, Newbury's Conservative Parliamentary candidate Richard Benyon.

Speakers included BBC TV and radio presenter Nicholas Owen, who shared his personal story of a close friend who died of MND in 2015, and Newbury's Alec Jenkins, who is being robbed of his voice by the disease and agreed for his speech to be read by his brother Paul.

Invited guests included Berkshire's new High Sheriff Mrs Sarah Scrope, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Professor Suzanna Rose, Dr Clare Galtrey, consultant neurologist at Frimley Park



Nicholas Owen speaks Ref: 18-2017C

Hospital, and West Berkshire Council chairman Quentin Webb.

Mrs Scrope said: "I was fascinated and moved again by the speeches."

All guests were asked to bring a jam jar of spring flowers to place in the church.

Jane Gilbert, of the MND Association, said: "It was a very simple idea but effective."

Prof Rose said: "It really was an inspirational event."

"I too was heartened by optimistic views around research progress."



Council chairman Quentin Webb

Association research director Dr Brian Dickie said: "We may not see the light at the end of the tunnel yet, but the train is heading in the right direction and it's picking up speed."

Branch chairwoman Margaret Moss said: "To continue our successful work we need more volunteers for the next leg of the journey."

MND can leave people locked in a failing body, unable to move, talk and eventually breathe.

It kills six people per day in the UK, just under 2,200 per year. At present there is no cure.

National honour for holiday hero

Firefighter who saved child's life awarded Roll of Honour

Report by CHRIS ORD
email chris.ord@newburynews.co.uk
twitter @chriso_nwn

A NATIONAL water safety charity has awarded a Newbury firefighter its highest accolade after he saved the life of a two-year-old girl while on a family holiday earlier this year.

Oliver Parker was awarded the Roll of Honour by the Swimming Teachers' Association (STA), a charity dedicated to the teaching of swimming and water safety.

As reported in the *Newbury Weekly News*, Mr Parker, 33, was on holiday in Dubai with his pregnant wife and two young daughters when he spotted a two-year-old girl named Erin unconscious in the pool.

Thanks to Mr Parker's quick thinking and actions he began CPR and after three minutes Erin's eyes opened and she took a deep breath.

The young girl from Finland made a full recovery and spent the last few days of her holiday playing as if nothing had happened.

Mr Parker said: "At the time, in that split second it was like everyone around the pool froze in time, in shock."

"I'm not sure if it was my fire service training or the fact of being a dad that made me react so quickly, but it did bring home to



Swimming Teachers' Association president Richard Timms presents Oliver Parker with his Roll of Honour certificate

me that 'knowing' what to do in an emergency and 'actually' doing it are two totally different things."

He added: "I was amazed by how quickly a person can react to CPR and the immediate positive effects."

"It will be a day I will never forget, and I was so pleased to see Erin when she returned from hospital playing as normal."

Mr Parker also revealed that his actions have inspired friends and family to seek out first aid training and learn CPR.

Mr Parker said: "I've been really surprised with the response to this story and I'm very proud to be recognised by STA with a Roll of Honour."

"If by sharing this story, which

can truly happen to anyone, and showing the importance of CPR training and the immediate positive effects it can have on saving of a life, then great, there have been two positive outcomes."

It is only the eighth time in 17 years that the Roll of Honour has been awarded by STA.

STA president Richard Timms presented the award on Saturday, and said: "Faced with a terrifying, split-second situation like this, especially with a child, panic can set in for even the bravest."

"But thankfully Oliver didn't panic, and his quick thinking and actions that day saved this young girl's life."

"Oliver is fully-deserving of this honour."

Meet three real life life-savers

TWO blood donors from Thatcham and one from Newbury have been honoured for their life-saving efforts with commemorative medals.

With 301 blood donations between them, Mike Harmsworth, Phil Saich and Sheila Weaving have potentially saved more than 900 lives.

The NHS Blood and Transplant awards ceremony at the Coppid Beach Hotel, Bracknell, honoured them and 28 other blood donors from Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

Sheila Weaving, 68, from Thatcham, who is retired, has been giving blood for approximately 49 years after being encouraged by her work colleagues.

She said: "Giving blood only takes a little of my time but helps others and can perhaps save their life."

Mike Harmsworth, 67, retired, from Thatcham, has been giving blood for approximately 48 years after a work colleague suggested he give it a try.

Mr Harmsworth said: "My wife and mother and several other members of my family have all needed blood transfusions after major operations."

"Blood can be used in so many ways to help save someone's life at no cost or danger to me."

Phil Saich, 59, a wood yard worker from Newbury has been



From left, Mike Harmsworth, Sheila Weaving and Phil Saich

giving blood for more than 40 years.

He said: "I started giving blood as I was a keen motorcyclist and wanted to make sure blood was available if I ever needed it."

"Some of my family members have needed blood; we just never know when we or someone we know may need it."

The senior marketing coordinator at NHS Blood and Transplant, Karen Healy, said: "These loyal donors are very special to us, which is why such an event gives us the opportunity to say a real heartfelt thanks."

"Between them, they have

saved hundreds of lives and improved the lives of countless others who have required blood transfusions.

"These donors are an inspiration to us all."

Each blood donation can potentially save three lives, so if a donor has given blood 100 times they have potentially helped save the lives of 300 people.

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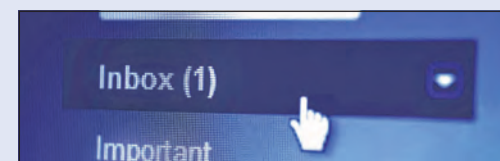
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Welcome to our fortnightly education section. *Newbury Weekly News* education brings you interviews, columns, schools and college news and all the issues that matter most to the children, teachers and parents of West Berkshire. If you want to get involved with stories, opinions or simply tell us about something your school has been up to, please get in touch via chris.ord@newburynews.co.uk



Glowing report for St Andrew's

STAFF and pupils at St Andrew's School in Buckhold, near Pangbourne, are celebrating following a glowing report from the Independent School Inspectorate (ISI).

Following their visit to the preparatory school in March, inspectors deemed the quality of pupils' academic achievements and the quality of personal development to be 'excellent'.

The inspectors recognised 'skilful and knowledgeable' subject teaching and significant achievements in music, sport and the arts, as well as noting the diverse range of extra-curricular opportunities available to pupils.

The school, which has 289 pupils, also met all required standards of compliance and safeguarding across all areas.

Pastoral care was deemed to be of the highest calibre, with



St Andrew's School and headteacher Jonathan Bartlett



pupils' moral development described as 'outstanding'.

Inspectors also praised the school's leadership, noting: "Pupils' high standard of achievement is supported most effectively by strong governance and leadership."

Responding to the report, headmaster Jonathan Bartlett said:

"The report is a tribute to the hard work and commitment of the school's exceptional staff and supportive community."

He added: "Our focus now is on planning for an exciting future. We are developing new facilities for sports and performing arts as part of our commitment to delivering the best all-round educational provision of any prep school in the area."

BDZ backing Achievement for All

A NEWBURY businessman has urged local schools to take advantage of a funding scheme aimed at closing the attainment gap in West Berkshire.

Managing director of BDZ, Bob Rae, recently formed a partnership with education charity Achievement for All, who are also based in Newbury, to provide a specialist support programme for pupils who are under-achieving or from a disadvantaged background.

The scheme will see BDZ cover 50 per cent of the cost of the programme.

Mr Rae said: "Schools are such

a vital part of any community and as a local organisation, we want to do our best to support as many schools as we can in West Berkshire.

"Achievement for All does fantastic work in helping all pupils to achieve academically, but also socially and emotionally.

"We are pleased to be able to help schools to pay for this unique programme and I am delighted to announce that BDZ is in a position to fund half the cost of the programme for 40 schools or Early Years settings in West Berkshire.

"I'd like to encourage schools to

make the most of this opportunity and get in touch with the team at Achievement for All to see how it can support you."

The charity offers schools and Early Years settings a two-year, coach-led programme which supports teachers in closing the attainment gap.

The scheme provides up to £6,000 of funding to each West Berkshire school to register.

Any schools or Early Years settings that are interested in registering with Achievement for All can contact schools partner Sue Bowen via sue.bowen@afaeducation.org or 07788 281 520.

Schools warn of 'tough decisions'

Headteachers advise parents of budget cuts and rising costs

"TOUGH decisions" will have to be made as West Berkshire primary schools continue to wrestle with dwindling budgets and rising costs.

The worrying news comes in a letter written to parents from the West Berkshire Primary Headteachers' Association, which says it cannot guarantee that tightening budgets will not affect teaching conditions.

However, the letter, signed by the heads of each primary school in the district, offers re-assurance that schools will do their utmost to prevent this from happening.

The letter states: "School budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time.

"Senior leadership teams at many schools have been faced with funding challenges, leading to a number of tough decisions being made at some schools.

Report by CHRIS ORD
email chris.ord@newburynews.co.uk
twitter @chrisonwn

"In time, it will affect more and more schools."

According to the correspondence, the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has shown that more than half of school leaders felt that their budget would be untenable by 2018/19, while the National Audit Office estimates a £3bn real-terms cut across all phases and in all schools.

A new government funding formula is set to be introduced later this year, but the letter says it is unlikely to improve the financial pressures faced by schools in West Berkshire.

"With increasing costs placed on all schools, including higher pension and national insurance contributions, as well as the introduction of the apprentice-

ship levy, the new formula will not bring the benefits that we had hoped to see for West Berkshire children."

"We will work hard to ensure that cuts have the least impact on teaching possible.

"However, rising costs and a frozen budget mean that tough decisions will have to be taken.

"We cannot guarantee that such cuts will not affect teaching, despite doing our utmost to prevent this."

The heads continue: "Please be assured that we will take absolute care with budgets, to ensure all the money we have is spent effectively on your children.

"We are also letting the local authority and Government know just how serious the funding crisis has become.

"This includes meeting with local MPs, and the minister for schools, Nick Gibb MP."

Young poet makes her mark in national contest

A YOUNG poet from Trinity School has received a special commendation for her entry in a national poetry reading competition.

The school entered the Poetry by Heart Competition for the first time and was delighted when Year 13 student Koshesai

Fundira made it through the regional round and went to London for the semi-finals.

The talented teen didn't reach the final, but received a commendation from judges for her performance of *Minority* by Imtiaz Dharker.

Following the competition, she

said: "I honestly am gutted that it was my first and the last time I'd be able to enter because I enjoyed it so much, but poetry is definitely now something more for me than just a GCSE exam - so surely that is something to take away from the whole experience."

May Bank Holiday Deadlines

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Week commencing May 29th 2017

Publication	Issue Date	Classification	Space & Copy Deadline
Newbury Home Search	Thursday June 1st	Property/Accomm display	Thursday May 25th, 10am
		Accommodation lineage	Friday May 26th, 12 noon
NWN inc N2	Thursday June 1st	ROP Ents + cinema	Wednesday May 24th, 10am
		Features	Wednesday May 24th, 10am
		Leisure	Tuesday May 30th, 10am
		Motors	Tuesday May 30th, 10am
		Classifieds/Trades	Tuesday May 30th, 10am
		ROP/Greetings	Tuesday May 30th, 10am
		Sits Vac	Tuesday May 30th, 12 noon
		BMD's	Wednesday May 31st, 10 am
Advertiser	Friday June 2nd	All	As Above

Newbury News Ltd



Mary Hare School pupils with their entry in the Newbury & District agricultural competition

Ref: 19-3815B

Growing success of agricultural contest

PUPILS from special schools in Berkshire wowed judges at a recent annual agricultural competition.

Every year, the Newbury and District Agricultural Society puts on a challenge for schools with special needs across the county.

Schools are asked to work on a number of themed projects over two terms, before presenting the finished works to a panel of judges from the society.

This year saw Newbury College win the cookery class challenge; The Castle School won for their collage of the seaside; and Prior's

Court Young Adults were awarded first prize for their country craft project and also for their recycled bird feeder.

Mary Hare Primary School finished in third place overall.

First and second place went to Kennel Lane School in Bracknell and Addington School in Woodley, respectively.

Certificates were awarded to all the students who participated, as well as the winners of each activity.

Trophies and prize money were also awarded to the overall winners.

Education officer for the society, Jan Murray, said: "We have been running this event for a number of years now and this year saw more teams than ever taking part.

"It is so rewarding that the schools are embracing it with such enthusiasm and using the challenges to support their curriculums back in school.

"The students who attended were very animated when talking to the judges and the staff appreciated the opportunity to network and share ideas."



Year 13 students at The Downs School

Clean sweep for Downs students

100 per cent of those who applied receive offer for further education

THE Downs School Sixth Form took time to congratulate its Year 13 pupils recently with 100 per cent of those who applied for a higher education place receiving offers.

The Compton school held an assembly to highlight the year group's achievement, with head of Sixth Form Pete Hogan emphasising the wide range of subjects for which students have been offered places, from accounting to veterinary medicine.

"This assembly is about celebrating the success our students have had in applying to a wide

variety of institutions, not just universities," he said.

Eighty-two per cent of the Year 13 students submitted applications to UCAS, with every one of those students receiving at least one offer.

Three students have received offers from Cambridge University - Harriet Allan to read human, social and political science at Clare College, Marcus Rabbetts to read chemical engineering at Magdalene College and Catherine Walker to read history and politics at Gonville and Caius College.

Headteacher Chris Prosser

said: "We are extremely proud of the success our students have achieved in securing their offers.

"They have been supported really well by the Sixth Form team when making their applications.

"But, more than anything, the success of our students reflects the hard work and determination they have shown throughout the two years of their courses.

"They have had a great ethos as a year group and this is reflected in the fantastic progress they are projected to make."

Pupils hear of horror of the Holocaust

YEAR 9 students at Theale Green were able to hear a harrowing first-hand account of the Holocaust during a recent seminar at the school.

Holocaust survivor Rudi Oppenheimer returned to the West Berkshire school to give a thought-provoking and moving talk to the youngsters.

He spoke about his experiences as a Jewish child living in Germany, Britain and Holland during the 1930s and 40s.

Mr Oppenheimer is now 85 years old and still visits many schools throughout the year.

He, his brother Paul and sister Eve were deported to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp when he was just 12 years old and, although all three survived the ordeal, their parents and grandparents did not.

Speaking of his experience, Mr Oppenheimer said: "I am the little boy who stood at the barbed wire fence and saw. I've made it one of my life's missions to ensure that people don't forget - we must learn the lesson so that others don't



Rudi Oppenheimer gives his talk on the Holocaust at Theale Green School

have to suffer."

He added: "I find it so rewarding and important to share my experiences with young people who might not otherwise know what went on."

Pupil Sean Dyer said: "Rudi is a gifted presenter that made us both laugh and cry at his recollections of the Holocaust.

"The journey that he took us on was powerful and was further

amplified by its depth and specific details."

Another pupil said: "Rudi came to Theale Green to share his harrowing experiences of the Holocaust, and, even though such memories must be extremely hard to share, he relived them for us in vivid detail.

"He was incredibly inspiring and has encouraged me to stand up for my own rights."

Drummers demonstrate rhythm of Africa



PUPILS in Newbury had a taste of Africa recently during a visit from the Kakatsitsi: Master Drummers of Ghana.

The African drummers visited youngsters at Winchcombe Primary School, Fir Tree Primary School and Parsons Down Primary School as part of the education programme organised by the Newbury Spring Festival.

The group, which includes some of Ghana's finest traditional drummers, dancers and singers, treated pupils to a concert and a talk about where the drummers come from, after which they were taught how to sing some of the chants, before joining in.

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FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK



Mental Health Awareness Week runs from May 8-14. The theme is 'surviving to thriving' and aims to outline practical steps that can be taken to build a mentally healthy country

The counsellor contemplates

Why are young people today feeling so anxious? An expert view from Time to Talk

By DAVINA NICHOLSON MBACP Accredited
School counsellor

FOR the past three years, anxiety has been the top presenting issue in the counselling room at Time to Talk West Berkshire, and indeed, if you look at national statistics, this is a common picture.

So why are young people today feeling so anxious?

I have some thoughts about this to share with you.

First of all, we live in an anxious world; the threat of terrorism, the fear of financial insecurity, politics turning on its head, the threat of greenhouse gasses etc etc. Good news doesn't make the news.

We are constantly bombarded with things to worry about and I mean constantly – with new technology we receive news immediately.

When the terror attack happened in London on Wednesday, March 22, around 3pm, most of us knew about it before 6pm.

Our anxiety can be felt by our children.

Secondly, there is huge pressure for young people to achieve at higher and higher levels.



Davina Nicholson

Of course, we want our young people to be successful, but often, rather than this being a positive aspiration, it becomes driven by fear. Schools are fearful of being judged for not 'making' it possible for their pupils to achieve the highest grades and sometimes the cost is the emotional health of the young person.

The fear that the job market is highly competitive is passed on from adults to children, with the message that if you do not succeed in your exams 'you will fail in life'.

There is a lot of fear passed from Ofsted to schools, from parents to schools, from schools to parents

and ultimately all of it is put on to young people.

Many of the anxious young people in the counselling room are high achievers and a few are young people who cannot achieve and are being failed by the current curriculum.

Young people frequently tell me that their best is never good enough for the adults – they always want more.

They tell me they constantly feel judged, by the adults in their lives and by their peers too – being judged makes you anxious.

We live in a culture of perfectionism.

Following on from my last paragraph; high achievers are now expected to get all A*s.

Instead of being able to celebrate one, two or three A*s, they will bemoan not achieving eight.

Perfectionism doesn't stop at academic achievement.

Young people post thousands of pictures of themselves on social media each year and most devices have the facility to 'edit' these photos.

The result is that most people look pretty fantastic in these photos and yet every young person who looks in the mirror first thing in the morning, with

no make-up and possibly bad skin, feels like they have a secret, which is that, in their reality, they are 'ugly'.

They forget everyone looks like this at times.

The media has for many years directly and indirectly put pressure on young people to look a certain way. Images of 'perfect' models give us all the impression that we are less attractive.

This pressure is 10-fold in today's world, with the explosion of media sources.

Sadly, it also means that the bullying, which has always existed to some degree in all schools, is multiplied because young people cannot get away from it.

Social media has another huge impact on young people and anxiety, in that the constant use of it means young people very often are in communication of one sort or another, most of the day. They have no 'down time'.

My own, perhaps idealised, memories of getting home from school and going out on my bike with no real pressure to do anything specific or be anything or communicate with anyone, seems to be a very rare experience today.

We all need 'down time', time where we are just being rather than doing. After all we are human beings not human doings.

Finally, in the age of 'health and safety', we have become risk adverse.

Back to me on my bike. In years gone by young people took more exercise and more frequent small physical risks, like riding down a steep hill.

Small physical risks are good because they help us to see that we can survive things; they build resilience.

Nowadays people either take no risks at all or they go for the big adrenalin hits, and too much adrenalin causes more anxiety.

Much of what young people are expected to do in a normal day produces some adrenalin and that adrenalin often remains in their body, rather than being dispersed through exercise or expression.

A build-up of adrenalin causes anxiety and panic attacks.

For brain health we need physical health, things like exercise, the right amount of sleep and relaxation.

To build self-esteem young people need seven pieces of praise to every direct criticism – self-acceptance leads to a reduction in anxiety. Striving to do well is positive, constantly being afraid of failure is not.

Change and progress are inevitable and necessary, but let's try to keep some of the good habits of yesteryear and of ancient culture and let's resist the urge to try to do more in less time better and better.

**DAVINA NICHOLSON MBACP Accredited
School counsellor**

Don't run away from mental health issues – just run!

By JOHN AGUILAR
Principal of Padworth College

MENTAL health-related issues in young people have been an area of concern over the last few years; in fact the issue appears to be escalating at quite an alarming rate.

Over the last five years, 90 per cent of headteachers have reported an increase in mental health problems among pupils and, over the same period, hospital admissions for self-harm have doubled for under 18s.

Here at Padworth, most of our students are under 18 and in our care for a substantial portion of the week, if not all of it.

Therefore, we are very focused on removing the stigma associated with mental health and also putting preventative care in place.

I firmly believe that, for those students who require it, we need to be offering a means of assessment, counselling and consultation which co-exists with the promotion of universal well-being.

In short, we need to be very un-British – and make sure that we provide plenty of opportunities to 'talk about it'.

Instead of offering discreet, wooden guidance, we need to be open and vocal about the issue.

Above all, we need to advocate the message that it is 'okay not to be okay' and that we are here to help.

As Padworth College is predominantly a boarding school which homes a vast range of nationalities, we understand how initially, it can be a difficult transition for our students.

Often, they have travelled from a place very far from the Berkshire countryside, with little access to familiarity and are surrounded by strangers who are not necessarily proficient in their language.

So, we put certain measures in place to ensure that the transition is a smooth and not a daunting one, which, instead of fear, cultivates a sense of bonding amongst our students.

It is really important that we set up a safe and reassuring environment for everyone who attends Padworth – whether they board or attend during the day.

Additionally, we have found common ground for our students through the co-curricular activities that we offer, such as our running club which is led by our deputy principal, Chris Randell.

He is an avid runner who uses his sessions to reflect and refocus – it is a routine that gives balance and release to both his and the students' stresses, and therefore prevents some of those difficult days.

To start with, Chris welcomed students to join him on one of his weekly runs, which soon grew and turned into a running club.

The weekly run creates team spirit, enjoyment and togetherness, as well as an opportunity to expel stress and boost endorphins.

Chris takes the students out in all weather conditions to uphold the principle of finding balance within a busy week and also to teach perseverance, resilience and self-discipline. These attributes are necessary for tackling issues and overcoming them – whether it



John Aguilar

be switching off from an approaching exam or dealing with a more personal issue.

Being so committed and determined to achieve his personal goals, Chris completed an impressive total of 2,801km in 2016.

He said: "Reaching my target at the end of November was an amazing feeling and I hope that this can serve to inspire our students to reach their goals."

At Padworth, we have different approaches to communication, and the way our teachers interact with students makes for a more collaborative and friendly environment.

For example, students address staff on a first-name basis and are not required to wear school uniform, in an effort to create a sense of ease in their surroundings. We also encourage language workshops as a way to break the ice between unfamiliar languages, which builds relationships amongst the students.

As a boarding school, we organise an interesting range of educational and social pursuits which offer students different outlets and support their personal development.

We have a fully-trained therapy dog on campus which visits primary schools and hospitals, helping individuals to benefit from her calming influence and friendly nature.

These methods work for us and our students, but I am very aware that the problem is growing and every school should be fine tuning its own methods to maintain a beneficial mental health environment for its students.

Keep it simple – a message that is sometimes forgotten.

Often simple offerings like our running club can act as a successful form of alternative therapy, for stresses that do not necessarily need discussing.

The physical therapy ensures a healthy level of physical and mental health and it also develops self-awareness in the students, so that they listen to their body and know when they need to slow down in all areas of life.

Teenagers in general have fluctuating hormones, which is why they need more support during this phase of their life.

Different degrees of support are necessary, depending on the individual and the situation.

Efforts need to be made to identify signs of concern early, using the different outlets available to maintain and encourage wellbeing.

Collectively, as a profession, we should be at the forefront on this issue as young people spend a great deal of time in our care and rely on us for the right guidance and support.

This means thinking outside the box a bit more so that we can help young people to really enjoy their formative years.

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FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESSWEEK

'I hid mental health issue from everyone'

David Beeney describes the feelings of deep anxiety that he told nobody about because he felt embarrassed and scared

I AM very fortunate. I have a happy life, a loving family, caring friends and have enjoyed a successful career.

Most people who know me would describe me as a fun-loving person who can be the life and soul of the party.

However, I have hidden from everybody in my life a mental health issue that has troubled me for over 30 years.

When I say everybody... I do mean absolutely everybody.

I chose to suffer in silence because I felt embarrassed to admit my fears and was scared that I would lose my job.

I felt that I would be looked at differently, was embarrassed and would be discriminated against for not being 'normal'.

I will never forget September 2, 1986, and describe it as one of the worst days of my life.

I was helping to interview somebody and suddenly became so anxious I couldn't breathe.

I pretended that I felt faint to disguise what was really going on and did exactly the same the following day in similar circumstances.

Little did I know then that I would continue to mask and hide similar feelings of anxiety for the next 30 years.

On September 4, 1986 (only two days later), I attended a wonderful wedding with my closest family and friends.



Their memory of me that day would be of me acting the clown and pretending to get out of a swimming pool fully clothed.

My only memory of that day was thinking that my promising career was over at only 24 years old and that I was going 'mental'.

You just can't tell by looking at someone how they are feeling inside.

The miserable-looking guy who sits in the corner may be fine, while the young lady with a gorgeous smile may be thinking that her life is no longer worth living.

Back in 2004, a number of us from *Auto Trader* went out straight from work to watch an England game in the Euros.

Our boss had put some money

behind the bar and I can remember us all cheering England to a rare victory.

What nobody noticed that evening was the young lad who decided to go home at half-time.

Young Ben didn't turn up for work the next day.

We never saw Ben again because he chose to 'hang himself' as life was no longer bearable for him.

His closest colleagues were shocked because he had been laughing and joking only the day before in the office.

How much must Ben have been suffering inside?

Surrounded by many people but he must have felt so very, very alone.

I have been lucky that I have

never been anywhere near as desperate as Ben must have been.

I have still thought of doing some crazy things though.

I can still picture the roundabout near Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire where I decided to crash my car into another car on a roundabout because it seemed a better option than attending the meeting I was going to.

I chose to not have that deliberate accident and carried on to my meeting, but this is the point where some people seriously self-harm themselves or go even further.

I tried to get professional help many years, but couldn't find anybody who I felt understood my issues.

I discovered my own coping mechanisms and, looking back now, they have made me who I am today.

From very early in my career I have made all my touchpoints with people very interactive.

This was not because I was the pioneer of 'engagement in the workplace' but because I was fighting like crazy to mask an anxiety disorder.

I also used creativity wherever possible to help me avoid panic attacks.

I became well known for giving out tins of baked beans and for my bouncy balls.

They created a brand that I was

pleased to own and it made people laugh, but I would not have gone down this road if it was not for living with a mental health issue.

Realistically, of course, this anxiety disorder has held me back from truly achieving my full potential, but equally it has made me who I am today and I am proud of my achievements.

At least one in four of us will suffer with a mental health issue every year.

I actually believe that this figure is much higher as males, in particular, find it very difficult to talk about stuff.

Is it any surprise that suicide is now the biggest killer of men under 45 years old?

I decided to talk for the first time in 30 years about my anxiety disorder because my former employer, *Auto Trader*, gave me the ideal platform during Mental Health Awareness Week and are doing their very best to reduce the stigma of mental health in our workplace.

I found it difficult but have been truly humbled by the number of people who related to my own story.

Many of them have said that it has inspired them to no longer suffer in silence and they have vowed to seek help.

My personal commitment is to no longer hide my own anxiety disorder and to do everything I

can to reduce the ignorance that exists around a mental health issue.

If you do suffer, please don't wait 30 years like I did to speak out in the workplace.

The longer you hold on to things the heavier they become and this suffering in silence can lead to longer term mental health issues.

Please speak to somebody today and no longer suffer in silence.



David Beeney, from Newbury, now speaks at conferences and has ready-made workshops for employers who want to reduce the stigma of mental health in their workplace. He is also a qualified mental health counsellor. His website is www.breakingthesilence.co.uk If you wish to contact Mr Beeney to see how he can help you or your business either email davidbeeney@breakingthesilence.co.uk or call 07572 211610.

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Email letters to editor@newburynews.co.uk with your full name, a terrestrial address and daytime phone number. DEADLINE: MONDAY NOON

POST: Newspaper House, Faraday Road, Newbury, RG14 2DW EMAIL editor@newburynews.co.uk

CHRISTIAN Viewpoint

Getting over the overture

HOW would you like to die at the grand old age of 146?

Mbah Gotho, a Christian man from Sragen in Central Java, has finally died. His December 31, 1870, birth date was verified last year by the local Indonesian authorities and his earliest memory is the construction of a sugar factory there in 1880.

Beyond Mbah's unbelievable longevity, one curious fact is that he has been preparing for his death for the past 22 years.

One news source said "he was ready to die" and his own grandson revealed that he simply wanted his family to "let him go".

A number of years back, I came across a woman who had suffered a crisis in pregnancy and then had a near-death experience.

She recounted how she was drifting away, looking down on her own body and then heard Jesus addressing her.

When she did come out of the coma, on opening her eyes she suddenly exclaimed: "Oh no! I'm still here!"

I wonder how you plan to face your own death? Perhaps you appreciate a little humour to soften the idea: "It's not that I'm afraid to die, I just don't want to be there when it happens." (Woody Allen)

The apostle Paul is a little more earthy and concrete: "If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better." (Philippians 1 Verses 22 & 23)

I guess if death is termination, a full stop, then we all tend to resist getting over the overture.

However, if Paul is right then we can be utterly happy that the overture is once and for all fully over.

REV HEDLEY CLEMO
The Community Church, Thattham

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The Newbury Weekly News is published and printed by Newbury News Ltd, Newspaper House, Faraday Road, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2DW. Registered at Post Office as a newspaper

A depressing choice in this General Election

IT is hard not to get depressed, having read the first two weeks of your election coverage.

Unless there is a political tsunami, we will re-elect a party apparatchik as our representative in Parliament.

An MP incapable of voting against his party machine even when that vote is against his constituents' interests.

A willingness to obey orders are admirable traits in an army man, less so in a politician.

Like it or not this election will be framed around Brexit and yet all the candidates are treating the referendum result as if it is some inviolable holy grail, something that cannot be overturned as the "people have spoken", forgetting that "the people" in this instance represent only 37 per cent of the electorate.

The Tories have chosen "strong and stable" as their byline for this election, apparently without irony, as they rush headlong towards the biggest economic gamble this country has seen since Churchill took us back on to the Gold Standard.

We can only hope that the results will not be as catastrophic, but the portents are not encouraging.

Meanwhile, our opposition parties cannot even contemplate the notion of working together for the greater good - it does not bode well for a future coalition of whatever political hue.

It is hard to see how this opportunistic election will not result in more Conservative MPs, because no-one is standing to stop Brexit.

The Lib Dems' position of "no to a hard Brexit" implicitly accepts the referendum result with all its flaws, the Labour Party explicitly so.

It is not a position that is going to have pro-Europeans rushing to the ballot box.

And yet if May is successful then she will have slipped under the carpet a mandate to do so much more, such as the reintroduction of grammar schools against the advice of most

The carers situation has gone on for years

I READ your article head 'Carers fear for the future' (*Newbury Weekly News*, A) with a sense of depressed

I was head of the post-16 department for students at School for several years.

I constantly fought, along colleagues, to raise the issue supported independent living when families were ready children with learning disabilities to move out of the family home. Some wished for this to happen 19, but some wanted it to happen later.

We always seemed to lurched one crisis to another as there has been no forward planning

This was in spite of the fact that had been raised at every a review of the child's State Needs from the age of 14 a constant reminders to the authority.

The authorities were also regularly updated of all our students who would require accommodation at some point in the future.

I also know that other special schools and providers were also updating the authority and I am sure that is still the case.

I totally agree with Mencap's comment that this has been a 'ticking time bomb since 2002.

At one point we had a cohort of several students with quite challenging and/or medical needs that were about to leave at the same time.

It was only due to the cavalry coming over the hill in the form of Mencap and Greenham Common Trust that led to a property being found and adapted for these individuals. I hate to think what could have happened otherwise.

There was a spell when the Phoenix Centre was built when quite a lot was also done to provide supported living in the

Carers fear for the future
Group criticises West Berkshire Council over its failure to secure long-term provision

NEWBURY NEWS
Group criticises West Berkshire Council over its failure to secure long-term provision for carers. The group, led by Mrs Christine Dalton, says the council has failed to plan for the future of carers and their families. Mrs Dalton says the council has failed to plan for the future of carers and their families. She says the council has failed to plan for the future of carers and their families.

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educational experts and professionals, and in spite of the fact that they were abolished in most parts of the country for a very good reason.

Meanwhile, the immense resources being sucked up by the Brexit process mean that public services continue to languish.

Our whole approach towards health is in need of urgent reform if the NHS is not to be completely overwhelmed by an insatiable demand for its services.

Education will suffer from a lack of funding and the relentless reforms governments feel impelled to introduce on an increasingly demoralised workforce.

Government and industry will continue to fail to invest in training, preferring the cheaper option of importing pre-trained labour.

And when we should all be working together to tackle the biggest problem of our age, the environment and climate change, instead we are turning our backs on those very institutions best placed to ensure a coordinated global approach.

As I said at the outset it is hard not to be depressed.

PETER M NORMAN
Newbury

NWN letters pages are among best in country

MRS English ('Newbury Weekly News' letters pages are biased', May 4) should switch to the *Daily Mail* or *Daily Express* if she wants right-wing propaganda rather than fair and balanced coverage of local issues.

Judging by her ill-informed remarks about migrants enjoying "an easy life on benefits", she might also enjoy the *Nigel Farage Show* (formerly known as *Question Time*) every Thursday night on BBC1.

The NWN readers' letters sections is one of the best in the country precisely because it is open to all points of view, including those of us, such as the Green Party, who are largely ignored by national media.

My Newbury – in pictures



DONNINGTON resident Carol Forbes took this picture – of a mandarin duck – on the Kennet and Avon Canal recently.

The ducks were introduced to the UK from China and this one was spotted by the Wharf in Newbury's Victoria Park.

Why not take some inspiration from this and send the *Newbury Weekly News* and *Newburytoday* some of your photographs?

If you have a picture that you would like to submit for consideration, please send it to dan.cooper@newburynews.co.uk.

Alternatively, send it to our twitter account @newburytoday using #MyNewbury, but please remember to let us know where the picture was taken and, crucially, by whom.

They may then be published online on www.newburytoday.co.uk, or in the *Newbury Weekly News*, the *Newbury and Thattham Advertiser* and our Facebook page.

Your views

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Greens won 40 seats in the local elections on May 5; UKIP won one. Who got all the coverage on the news and in the national press?

Whether I agree with them or not, I always enjoy the letters in your paper and the level of debate is generally high and well-informed.

The contributions from regular correspondents, such as Stan Green and Peter Norman, are themselves worth £1 of anyone's money.

And where else would we find brilliant original ideas like Michael Pagliaroli's to turn the control tower at Greenham Common into a Star Wars tourist destination? ('Control tower could have Star Wars future', May 4).

What a shame that Mrs English, who claims she is going to stop reading your paper because of its "bias", will never see this letter.

DAVID MARSH
Green Party election agent for Newbury

Liberals want a fairer, more equitable society

I NOTE that in the opening rounds of this June's snap General Election, the Conservative Party is already publically mulling over the long-term prospects for income tax and VAT increases.

For a party which talks about acknowledging and helping the 'squeezed middle' and the 'just about managing', it continues to look to squeeze yet more tax from the

proverbial stone, rather than look at alternative sources of revenue to create a more equitable society.

For instance, last year the charity Oxfam released a briefing note entitled *How to Close Great Britain's Great Divide: The Business of Tackling Inequality*.

The report makes reference to a reputable banking report which suggests that the wealthiest 10 per cent of the UK population now holds almost 54 per cent of the nation's wealth.

When I joined the Liberal Party six years ago, it was still about 40 per cent, rising to 44 per cent, and now seemingly represents over half.

Much of this acquired wealth was not earned, but instead inherited via an opaque inheritance regime which simply moves wealth from generation to generation within a limited clique.

To tackle this, the Liberal policy of Universal Inheritance seeks to bring about a gradually increasing positive redistribution of inherited wealth in a genuine Liberal Opportunity Society, financed by taxes on the transfer of capital from each generation to the next.

It would provide every qualifying young UK citizen at the age of 25 with a lump sum Citizens Inheritance, initially modest but increasing by a similar amount year on year up to a significant level.

The scheme is cost neutral as it is paid for by a reformed, exemption-free, inheritance tax.

Although such a scheme does not directly address the issues of the

national budget deficit, it does make for a fairer, more equitable society.

No longer would some inherit billions free of tax while others inherit no capital at all.

STEPHEN GRAHAM
Newbury Liberal Party organiser

Give assurance to EU citizens working here

MY mum was a nurse and midwife for more than four decades and would come home from work exhausted, her sandwiches uneaten because there weren't enough staff on the shift for her to have a break.

She retired nearly a decade ago, but the problem of understaffing is getting worse.

There are thousands of unfilled vacancies across the country.

The NHS wouldn't be able to function without international doctors and nurses – including staff from the EU.

In the Thames Valley, nearly 10 per cent of nurses and midwives are from the EU, but they have no guaranteed right to remain after the UK leaves the EU.

During 2016, there was a 37 per cent increase in the number of EU nurses and midwives leaving the NHS compared with the previous year.

The Government urgently needs to provide these essential workers with reassurance that they are welcome to stay in the UK.

CAROLYN CULVER
West Berkshire Green Party

Benyon used 'would' instead of word 'could'

THERE was a time when some mothers told children that to fail to finish their egg, turn it upside-down, and smash it, would mean a sailor dies at sea. There was no room for doubt.

Mum, of course, knew that English allows her to use 'could' in that sentence, and had she done so, sailors might have felt somewhat easier going about their calling.

When Richard Benyon deployed the 2010 flyer that said: "A hung parliament would mean five more years of Gordon Brown" he too was at liberty to choose 'could' – but didn't.

He clearly intended to state a fact – but it wasn't. No one can be in any doubt that the mother was lying to the child to gain advantage.

BARRIE SINGLETON
River Walk Shaw

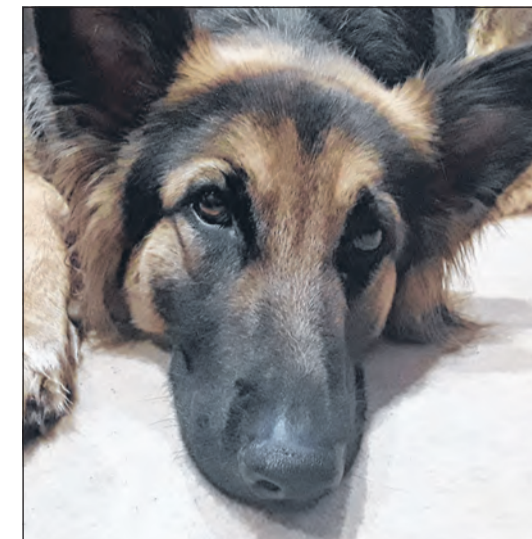
Tactical vote will end in a Conservative win

WHEN people such as Mick Ayling (*Newbury Weekly News* letters last week) talk about voting tactically, do they mean the type of tactics so disastrously employed by Tom in his attempts catch Jerry?

By Wile E Coyote to catch the Roadrunner?

■ Continued on page 22

Pet of the Week



Name: Winnie

Breed: German shepherd

Owners: The Hambidge family

From:

Likes: Toast, going for long walks and being stroked

Would you like to nominate your pet as our Pet of the Week? Just send a nice picture with your pet's name, breed, your name, where you're from and your pet's likes and dislikes to: editor@newburynews.co.uk

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■ Continued from page 21

The kind of tactics that led to the Lib Dems being slaughtered at the last election, when they were reduced to a handful of seats, and Ms Bunting's vote dropped by 20 percentage points?

It is, of course, true that in some areas where Labour is successful, Conservatives vote with the Liberal Democrats in the hope of a coalition which will preserve austerity, damage the NHS and force young people out of higher education and the housing market.

In Newbury though, a vote for the Liberal Democrats is a vote for the Conservatives.

It may be a tactic, but it's a bad, failed, futile tactic of Tom-ish proportions.

There is no hope of a Liberal Democrat victory here.

If you want progressive policies, then you can't vote for parties that aren't progressive.

The Conservatives offer austerity and a hard Brexit, the Lib Dems offer Tory plans wrapped in an EU flag.

Only the Labour candidate can promise to fight for those progressive policies of fairness, for a more hopeful future.

The dictionary definition of tactic is an action carefully planned to achieve a specific end. A tactical vote means that the specific end will be a Conservative victory.

So before deciding on tactics, watch Tom getting a frying pan in the face, and think again.

ALAN CHILDS
Newbury Labour Party campaign
co-ordinator

Lambourn bus services are simply not joined up

I AM an occasional user of the no 4 bus service from Great Shefford into Newbury, but recently I looked into the possibilities of using the bus to go to Swindon.

The no 4 from Newbury connects with the no 47 for Swindon at Lambourn, but a look at the timetable showed me that this so-called connection is a joke.

The 0922 from Great Shefford gets into Lambourn at 0935, but the 47 departs at 0930. The 1122 reaches Lambourn at 1135, by which time the 47 has left five minutes earlier.

Only in the afternoon do the connections work, although passengers arriving in Lambourn on the no 4 at 1515 would have to hope that the bus is punctual and they are swift on their feet, as the 47 leaves at the same time.

In the opposite direction, departures of the no 4 from Lambourn towards Newbury provide a reasonable overlap with the arrivals from Swindon up to early afternoon, but the penultimate no 4 of the day departs at 1655; the same time as the arrival of the 47.

The last bus from Swindon arrives in Lambourn at 1835; 15 minutes after the final no 4 service has left for Newbury.

Where is the sense in having bus services in a rural area whose timings seem designed to inflict the maximum of inconvenience on passengers?

The current timetable states that the no 4 service is operated under contract to West Berkshire Council, while no 47

is operated by West Berkshire Council transport services team.

As the council appears to have responsibility for both of these services, why don't those in charge of transport ensure that the timings meet the needs of the passengers rather than the convenience of the operators?

These are, after all, supposed to be 'services'.

ROY BAILEY
Great Shefford

Thanks to Maestros for the show at family hub

I WOULD like to say a great big thank you to Berkshire Maestros' Early Years Team for their wonderful *Pantomimus Show* last week.

As part of a series they are staging, they performed two fantastic shows for toddlers, babies and their families who attend the Central Family Hub (formerly Thatcham Children's Centre).

As one of West Berkshire Council's family hubs, we are committed to improve outcomes for children and their families and reduce inequalities, particularly for those families in greatest need of support; early education is a major part of improving outcomes for all children.

The *Pantomimus Show* accomplished this by the bucket load, deftly incorporating communication and listening skills, physical movement, pattern recognition, motor skills and a whole host of others. All these, but with heaps of fun, enjoyment and pleasure so that no one felt they were

'learning'.

It was such a privilege to be able to give our families the opportunity to experience *Pantomimus*; the expertise was not only in the execution, but the fundamental understanding of early years education which underpinned the show.

I have rarely been so impressed. Bravo!

PAULA CRAVEN
Central Family Hub Manager

More should be done to stop pavement cyclists

RECENTLY I visited my friends in Plymouth, and as we walked through the city centre, I remarked how surprised I was that there were no cyclists riding on the pavements.

Even in the pedestrianised zones I saw cyclists walking with their bikes until they reached the end of the zone and they only remounted when they reached the cycling lanes.

It is all due to the police fining the riders according to a letter in the *Plymouth Herald* on Saturday, April 8, which is as follows:

"A cyclist giving someone a 'backie' was one of more than 100 riders slapped with fines for breaking the law, new police figures show.

"Devon and Cornwall Police revealed that 112 cyclists have been hit with fines in the last five years. But the number of tickets issued has dwindled from 60 in 2012 to just four last year.

"The most common offence was 'contravening traffic sign/road

marking' – such as jumping a red light.

"Riders were also penalised for not having working lights, cycling on a footpath and failing to stop for officers.

"Fines for cyclists breaking the law rose from £30 to £50 in 2013. In all, riders paid fines totalling £3,960."

We still have a problem in Newbury with the pavement cyclists, and when I and other pedestrians have asked them to stay on the road, we have had verbal abuse, which has got to stop.

Also, recently a cyclist was seen riding through the Kennet Shopping centre by many shoppers.

So come on West Berkshire Council and Thames Valley Police, please try and do something about the few irresponsible cyclists who endanger pedestrians.

And, if they only thought, they endanger themselves as well.

MICHAEL CRYER
Enborne Road
Newbury

How to get your views published in the NWN

THE Newbury Weekly News is delighted to receive letters and views from readers.

Preference will be given to letters of fewer than 300 words and local topics. All views may be edited to conform with legal and publishing requirements. The identities of contributors may be withheld only in exceptional circumstances. Anonymous submissions will not be considered.

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Kingswear	13:00	16:45	Standard	£135	£95	£462

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To celebrate Father's Day this year the Newbury Weekly News invites our young readers, (with Mum's help!) to send in: **selfies, drawings, paintings of your dad or a Father's Day message.**

These will be published absolutely free in the NWN on Thursday June 15th, 2017 in a special pull-out keepsake supplement called "My Dad". Prizes will be awarded for the best entries, as judged by the Editor, in time for Father's Day.

Message:
(max 40 words)

.....

.....

.....

.....

Name: **Address:**

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How to send your pictures and messages:

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BY EMAIL Email your picture/message (maximum 40 words), along with your own details (including a daytime phone number), to:
fathersday@newburynews.co.uk.

ALL MESSAGES AND PICTURES MUST REACH THE NWN BY NO LATER THAN 12 NOON on FRIDAY, June 2nd, 2017.

David is new primary head

HUNGERFORD Primary School has announced that it has appointed a new headteacher.

He is David Mayer, who will be taking up the position on September 1.

Mr Mayer, pictured, will replace Gerry Heaton, who has occupied the role since January 2014 and who announced his intention to retire earlier this year.

Mr Mayer is an experienced headteacher who was recently principal of a large primary school in Wiltshire.

Before that, he was headteacher at a medium-sized primary school in Oxfordshire.

Mr Mayer has strong connections with Hungerford Primary School as both his daughters have been educated there.

He said: "I'm very excited to be coming back to the town and working with the local community."

"I am very much looking forward to meeting children and parents during my visits to the school in the summer term."

Chairman of the school governors, Andy Bell, said: "We had several strong candidates who went through a rigorous selection process and we're delighted that David has accepted the position of headteacher."

He added: "He demonstrated great empathy with the governors' vision of putting children at the heart of everything we do in the school, especially nurturing and developing a lifelong love of learning."



Hundreds of guests attended the Barrs Yard opening evening on Friday

Ref: 19-1017B

Opening party is the best Barrs none

HUNDREDS of people, including civic leaders, attended the launch of Hungerford's new Artisans' Collective on Friday evening.

The collective, founded by husband and wife team Travers and Katie Nettleton, brings together a number of independent businesses including a deli, wine shop, fashion boutique, gardening clothing brand and art gallery, which reside alongside Garden Art Plus's own shop to create a "unique shopping and lifestyle destination".

The Nettletons founded Garden Art Plus in 2004 and since then its ever-changing display of antique garden statuary has become one of the town's most striking features.



From left, Travers and Katie Nettleton, Romilla Arber and Newbury Conservative parliamentary candidate Richard Benyon at the Barrs Yard opening party Ref: 19-1017A

'Be on guard over council tax banding review claims'

Trading standards issues warning to homeowners over company's letter about 'savings'

TRADING standards chiefs have warned Hungerford homeowners to be on their guard after letters were sent offering council tax band reviews.

Westbrook Close, in particular, was targeted by the firm, which tells residents they are paying too much council tax and offering to have it reduced.

But anyone can have the council tax band of their property reviewed for free.

One letter, addressed to "the homeowner" and sent to a property in Westbrook Close from 'Council Tax Review Services', states that the company believed the occupant is on the wrong council tax banding.

It added: "A neighbour in your close was successful in their banding review by ourselves... saving them almost £200 per year."

We contacted the company and asked why it believed the occupant was on the wrong banding and whether it could back up its claim that it had saved a Westbrook Close resident £200 a year.

A spokesman for the firm, Paul Buck, claimed his company had been "defamed" by West Berkshire Council trading standards officers.

He insisted our questions be put in writing, before replying: "Thank you for your email, which has been forwarded on to our lawyers. As soon as they have any answers... either

they will contact you or I will and will be happy to answer your questions."

However, there had been no further reply as this newspaper went to press.

Council tax banding is determined by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), part of HM Revenue and Customs.

Having it reviewed costs nothing – the VOA has no fees or charges and will guide homeowners through the process.

A spokesman for West Berkshire Council's trading standards, Martin Dunscombe, said: "A Hungerford resident has been in touch with our trading standards team to discuss a letter received which offered a council tax

rebate.

"We have provided some advice and arranged to visit the resident in the next few days."

"The trading standards team has written to local residents to share advice from the VOA on council tax banding."

"Anyone can check their council tax band is correct for free by contacting the Valuation Office Agency."

"In doing so residents need to understand that re-evaluation could result in a property being assessed at a higher band."

The advice can be found at www.gov.uk/government/news/warning-bogus-council-tax-refund-scams

'Outstanding' Ofsted for under-fives pre-school

STAFF, parents and children at Great Shefford Under Fives Pre-school are celebrating following a recent Ofsted visit.

Inspectors awarded the school the highest accolade – a rating of 'outstanding'.

That's a boost from the previous rating of 'good'.

The small community group, which is based at Great Shefford Village Hall, won praise for the effectiveness of leadership and management, the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, for personal development and behaviour and for welfare.

The inspector spent the morning

alongside the children, observing their indoor activities, and said: "They are totally engrossed, using original ideas and rich language to describe what they are doing."

After lunch, she joined the children as they walked across the fields and afterwards reported that they were tremendously active, "helping them to become strong and agile."

The report went on: "The highly experienced and inspirational manager uses her in-depth knowledge and her skills effectively."

"She leads by example to ensure her staff continue to develop their practice to maintain the highest standards.

"Teaching is of a very high standard. Staff use accurate assessments and children's interests to provide a wonderful variety of rich and exciting learning experiences."

"Staff skilfully encourage children to think creatively and find their own solutions. Children are inquisitive and very eager to learn. They make rapid progress."

It added: "Children settle very quickly, they feel happy and secure and are ready to learn. Behaviour is exemplary."

"Children gain an excellent understanding of how to lead healthy lives. "Staff arrange for a dietician to talk

to the children and parents about healthy eating. Children are tremendously active and become strong and agile."

"They thoroughly enjoy running, climbing and balancing as they gain confidence in their own abilities."

Pre-school supervisor, Denise Herrington, said she was delighted with the report.

She added that it reflected the "hard work and commitment of the staff team together with the support of the parents and community".

The group has places available – for more details visit www.greatsheffordunderfives.co.uk

HUNGERFORD & LAMBOURN VALLEY Keeping in touch

Have you got a story? Contact our Hungerford & Lambourn valley reporter JOHN GARVEY, on (01635) 564528, or email: john.garvey@newburynews.co.uk Twitter @john_g_nwn



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Phoebe Digweed on the podium

Phoebe is British schools judo ace

A HUNGERFORD pupil has been crowned British schools judo champion.

Phoebe Digweed, a Year 7 pupil at John O'Gaunt School, was one of more than 650 contestants from schools across the nation competing in the championships at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield.

Phoebe won every single one of her fights en route to the final.

Around 400 schools were represented in the competition.

John O'Gaunt School headteacher, Alan Henderson, said: "A massive well done to Phoebe. This is an incredible achievement and we are extremely proud of her."

Gatting's batting for new sports pavilion

Cricket ace opens state-of-the-art sports facility in Shalbourne

CRICKET legend Mike Gatting was guest of honour at an opening ceremony for Shalbourne's new sports pavilion.

The former England star, who captained the national side in 23 Test matches between 1986 and 1995, cut the tape to formally declare the state-of-the-art facility open.

The Shalbourne Pavilion Appeal was launched in May 2014, with the aim of raising £200,000 to build the new facility at the village sports ground after the old one became dangerously dilapidated.

Planning permission was granted for the new structure and a major fundraising initiative was launched.

Following individual donations, fundraising events and grants from Sports England and the Greenham Common Trust, the cash was raised.

The new pavilion has spacious and fully-equipped changing rooms for team and individual sports, together with toilet and shower areas for men and women.

Catering facilities are included, plus a large, multi-purpose indoor area.

There is a verandah on the front of the building and storage facilities for groundskeeping and other equipment in a separate building to the rear.

Local sports that will benefit from the new building include cricket, football, tennis, basketball, petanque and croquet.



Former England cricket captain Mike Gatting with Shalbourne captain Peter Reid and Ham captain Martin Humphreys
Ref: 18-1917A

In addition, community events held at the sports ground, including the Classic Car Show each October, which regularly attracts more than 4,000 people, the May Day Fair and the village firework display, will all be enhanced by the pavilion.

The Shalbourne Recreation Society manages the sports ground and chairman Bob Walker welcomed Mike Gatting to the event.

Chairman of the fundraising committee, Charles Scott, said: "It was an absolutely wonderful event."

After the traditional, annual

cricket match between Shalbourne and nearby Ham, Mike Gatting spoke of the fun he had enjoyed, and the friends he had made, during his stellar career, and added: "The new pavilion will help people make a lot more friends and have a lot more fun; it will encourage youngsters to take up the game."

"Cricket builds bridges and brings communities together."

"These sorts of places really do give kids in the community a chance to have fun in a safe place instead of hanging round in gangs."

He added: "This means an awful lot to me and to the volunteers who have spent their time with the kids, and to everyone who helped to get this pavilion up and running."

It was, he said, a "great credit" to the village and to all who had made the new facility a reality.

Mr Scott said that bookings for weddings, parties and other events were already coming in.



Mike Gatting with the Shalbourne and Ham cricket teams
Ref: 18-1917B



Crowds at the opening of the Shalbourne village sports pavilion
Ref: 18-1917E



Mike Gatting with artist Sara Sturgeon, Bob Walker and Charles Scott
Ref: 18-1917D



Mike Gatting cuts the ribbon to officially open the pavilion
Ref: 18-1917C

Bad behaviour in Kintbury

THE Hungerford and Lambourn Valley neighbourhood police team is investigating a spate of anti-social behaviour in Kintbury.

In a monthly update, the team reports that the pedestrian gate to Kintbury St Mary's Primary School was damaged between April 7 and 13.

It was also reported that bricks were removed and thrown at barges from the bridge over the canal.

Furthermore, on April 16, boxes of eggs were thrown at properties in both Church Street and Millbank.

Pc Lee Frost is investigating the above incidents.

Meanwhile, in Hungerford, the front window of the One Stop shop in Fairview Road was smashed using a sign that was positioned outside.

The suspect is described as white, in his 20s, wearing a dark blue T-shirt, grey hoodie, blue jeans and white trainers.

Anyone with information about any of the above incidents can contact the team via the 101 number. Alternatively, the independent Crimestoppers charity can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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Drug dealing pair 'absolute mugs'

Judge gives couple 'a big, big wake-up call' over cannabis

A LAMBOURN couple caught with half a kilo of cannabis and thousands of pounds in cash have been spared an immediate jail sentence.

His Honour Paul Dugdale gave the pair a furious dressing down, which made them visibly pale, before telling them they would not be going to prison that day.

In the dock at Reading Crown Court on Thursday, April 27, were 41-year-old Scott Owen Edwards and his heavily pregnant partner, Tanya Emma Ledbury, aged 23, who had been supplying friends in the village.

Richard Moss, prosecuting, said a member of the Hungerford and Lambourn Valley neighbourhood police team, had been alerted to a strong smell of herbal cannabis coming from their home.

Subsequent police raids netted a huge haul of the powerful strain of the Class B controlled drug called 'skunk', plus £3,000 in cash.

Edwards and Ledbury, both of The Old Station Yard, admitted possessing cannabis with intent to supply between August 3 and August 25 last year.

Edwards also has previous drug convictions, including one for growing cannabis, the court heard.

Lucky Thandi, representing Edwards, said her client was

living on benefits, prompting Judge Dugdale to interject: "Why isn't he working? It's not complicated - he could just get off his backside, get out and get a job."

Ms Thandi replied that her client, who had been using the drug for 20 years, suffered from paranoia and anxiety, to which the judge retorted: "That's the cannabis."

She added that Edwards had helped to wean Ledbury from a heroin habit and she hoped to be completely opiate free by the time she gave birth in June.

Michelle Clark, representing Ledbury, said: "She is aware she is at grave risk of going into custody today."

After reading pre-sentence reports, Judge Dugdale told the pair to stand, and said to Edwards: "When your child asks in six or seven years' time where you were when they were born, and you have to say 'in prison', that won't look good."

Turning to Ledbury, Judge Dugdale said: "When the child looks at his or her birth certificate and sees the place of birth was prison, that won't look good either, will it?"

As the pair sobbed in the dock, the judge added: "Let me tell you now: I'm not sending you to prison today. Let this be a big,

big, wake-up call. You have a positive future ahead of you if you give up drugs... a stable home, a family.

"But you gambled with all of that when you thought it a bright idea to buy an awful lot of cannabis, to smoke an awful lot of cannabis and to sell it."

He added: "You both behaved like absolute mugs.

"Skunk is very powerful. It is debilitating and pretty much ruins you for anything in life - of course you can't work, because of anxiety and paranoia.

"That's cannabis. It causes more mental health issues in our community than anything else.

"It will ruin your life and make you utterly useless for your child."

Sentencing Edwards - "the main mover in this operation" - the judge imposed a 12-month term of imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, with a 25-day rehabilitation activity requirement and six-month drug rehabilitation requirement.

Ms Ledbury was made subject to a 12-month community order with a 20-day rehabilitation activity requirement.

As a parting shot, Judge Dugdale said: "You're being given a chance. Good luck and don't muck it up."



The project team hauls a large piece of metal from the waters

Volunteers have Dun such a great job

A PROJECT to clean up the River Dun at Bearwater in Hungerford is under way.

The work is being done by the Action for the River Kennet (ARK) charity, with lots of help from the local community.

ARK project officer Anna Forbes said the first two river restoration days, where local people volunteered to help while learning news skills, had been a huge success.

She said: "Everyone enjoyed last week; feedback from volunteers has been incredibly positive.

"They all worked really hard and together we're improving

this stretch of the Dun for wildlife and for people to enjoy too."

Bearwater's retired residents are also playing their part, keeping volunteers fuelled with tea and cakes and occasionally dropping by to see the transformation of the river and have a chat.

Ms Forbes said: "The Methodist church are kindly letting volunteers use the church facilities.

"Bearwater people have been amazing - they've all totally embraced this project and have truly mucked in."

Next week, a team of managers from the Cognatum retirement

facility is having a team-building day with ARK to continue the river work.

There may be more opportunities to get involved with this project throughout May.

To keep up to date and follow this project, visit ARK's Facebook page www.facebook.com/riverkennet

The Bearwater Community River Days project is led by ARK and funded by Thames Water Rivers & Wetlands Community Days, with additional support from Bearwater, the Bearwater residents coffee morning and Co-op Local Good Cause.

Plant sale this weekend

THERE will be a record number of plants on offer at this year's Hungerford Rotary Club plant sale.

But more are always welcome. The event takes place on Saturday between 10am and noon at

Tumblings, opposite St Lawrence Church, Parsonage Lane. If you have any plants to donate, take them to the same address tomorrow (Friday), between 2pm and 4pm. All money raised will go to Rotary charities.

Motorist faces two drink-drive charges

A DRINK-driver from Great Shefford still faces a trial on a similar charge.

Alexander Hislop, of Wantage Road, appeared before Reading magistrates on Thursday, May 4, where he admitted driving a Jeep Cherokee on Hungerford Hill, Great Shefford, after drinking more than the legal limit on April 19. Clare Barclay, prosecut-

ing, said a police patrol stopped him because he was weaving across the carriageway.

Tests subsequently showed 43mcg of alcohol per 100ml of breath in his system.

The legal limit is 35mcg.

Joanna Benn, defending, said her client had been dealing with psychological issues and that, on the same day of his arrest, he had

been to court to deny a second charge of drink-driving on another occasion. The trial for that alleged offence will take place on June 20, the court heard.

Mr Hislop was meanwhile fined £300 and ordered to pay £85 costs plus a statutory victim services surcharge of £30.

In addition, he was banned from driving for 12 months.

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Bell foundry talk

HISTORIAN Graham Palmer gave a talk on the Aldbourne Bell Foundry at the latest meeting of Hungerford Historical Association (HHA).

Mr Palmer based his talk on 30 years' study of bells, especially relating to the Aldbourne Bell Foundry.

Drawings from the 17th century showed that the village had not changed drastically, and that a number of original buildings remain today.

The Bell Foundry, installed by Robert Corr in the 17th century, cast cannons emblazoned with his distinctive embossed marks.

Several generations followed as gunsmiths.

Later, church bells were cast, including one for the rebuilt St Lawrence Church in Hungerford in 1814.

Sadly, the meeting heard, the local Bell pub no longer exists with its iconic sign to record Aldbourne's unique industrial past and renowned foundry.

The talk was followed by the enthusiastic audience having the opportunity to view a display of some of the unique collection of bells Mr Palmer has amassed over the years.

The next HHA meeting will be on Wednesday, May 24, when Charles Baxter and Kevin Challen will deliver a talk on 'The Wilton Windmill and the mill at Chateau Guédelon'.

For more information on the HHA, visit the website www.hungerfordhistorical.org.uk

Dementia walk and cupcakes

LAMBOURN Valley Dementia Friendly Community Forum has organised a walk in support of Dementia Awareness Week.

The event is open to everyone, and dogs are welcome too.

Participants will meet in the British Legion car park, Big Lane, at 9.30am on Monday, May 15, for a gentle walk around the Old Cricket Field, followed by cupcakes and hot drinks outside The George, High Street, Lambourn.

Work on second Tull Way flood basin set to start

WORK on Thattham's second flood shield will begin next week.

A large earth embankment will be created to the north of Tull Way to retain flood water and hold excess water, which it will then release at a rate with which local drains can cope.

The £1.2m flood alleviation scheme is funded by a Government grant through the Environment Agency and

contributions from West Berkshire Council and Thattham Town Council.

The basin is the second of four to be constructed around the town to prevent a repeat of the 2007 floods.

More than 1,000 properties were affected after three months of rain fell on the town in 24 hours.

Projects manager at West Berkshire Council Jon Winstanley said: "We are

looking forward to delivering this important flood defence scheme for Thattham and will be working closely with all parties concerned to ensure that the works cause as little inconvenience as possible."

The construction work will be carried out by Jackson Civil Engineering, supervised by West Berkshire Council.

Work will start on Monday,

May 15, and is scheduled for completion by the end of October 2017.

Normal working hours for the project will be from 7.30am until 5pm, Monday to Friday.

A temporary speed restriction of 30mph will be in place along Tull Way between the A4 and Bowling Green Road to allow for safe working.

There will also be off-peak lane closures on Tull Way to

allow for construction of the site access.

The footpath from Tull Way to Cold Ash, which passes through the site, will be closed during the construction period and an alternative route will be via Ashmore Green Road.

A basin at the bottom of Cold Ash Hill was constructed in 2014 and two more are planned at Floral Way and south east of the town.

THATCHAM Keeping in touch

Have you got a story? Contact our Thattham reporter JOHN HERRING, on (01635) 886633, or email: john.herring@newburynews.co.uk Twitter @johnh_nwn



News updates from Thattham are now available online throughout the week. Go to newburytoday.co.uk and select the district pages

newburytoday.co.uk

Plea for funds to keep memory café running

A PLEA for funds has been issued to help people with dementia in Thattham.

The Nature Memories Café has been running at the Nature Discovery Centre since January, offering relaxing social and creative activities

After a successful 10-week trial, the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) has secured funding to keep the café open for the next 18 months.

But the trust says it needs more funding to keep it going long-term.

Centre ranger at the Nature Discovery Centre Becky O'Melia said: "The Nature Memories Café is a lifeline for people living with dementia, and their friends and family members who come along as well.

"Because we received funding from Thattham Town

Council, West Berkshire Council and Alpkit we were able to run the café sessions earlier free of charge.

"Keeping these sessions free for anyone to attend means that everyone gains the benefits of spending time in nature, as well as the social interaction that the café offers."

BBOWT's ambition is to keep the project going for two years and needs to raise £5,440 to achieve the goal.

People wishing to donate can visit www.wildcrowd.org/campaigns/detail/46/help-people-living-with-dementia-connect-to-nature

The dementia-friendly project is run by BBOWT in collaboration with the dementia-friendly communities project officer at West Berkshire Council.

"People who have come to the café sessions say that they are a lifeline," Mrs O'Melia



Centre ranger Becky O'Melia and dementia-friendly community programme officer Sue Butterworth at the Nature Memories Café Ref: 03-2017C



said. "The opportunity to spend time in a relaxing environment with others who

truly understand what they're going through is vital, not just for the wellbe-

ing of their loved ones living with dementia but also for their own wellbeing."

Neighbourhood police in merger

Thattham team combines with Newbury for 'more coverage'

THATCHAM'S policing team is to merge with Newbury in a bid to cover the town more effectively.

Thattham currently has one neighbourhood inspector, one sergeant, two PCs and two Pcsos.

In contrast, Newbury town centre has an inspector, a sergeant, two PCs and six Pcsos.

But the two towns are to pool their manpower from June in order to cover a greater area.

The announcement was made at the annual town meeting last month by Thattham neighbourhood sergeant Llian Spinks.

She said that the combined team would result in two sergeants, four PCs and nine Pcsos covering the two towns.

"By having a bigger team, it gives more flexibility," she said, adding that having a small team in Thattham meant that officers could be pulled away from the

Broadway if an incident occurred elsewhere in the town.

"Hopefully it will give us a bit more coverage," Sgt Spinks said.

"You will still have familiar faces in the community and attending community events."

Speaking after the event, Sgt Spinks said that the force was restructuring to become more effective following a reduction in government funding and the number of officers being cut.

She added that changes to the neighbourhood policing teams were because of the introduction of a new problem-solving team.

"Officers on the problem-solving team have come from neighbourhood so it means the local geographical teams are a bit smaller and hence the Thattham and Newbury merger," Sgt Spinks said.

"By having two teams covering Newbury and Thattham it will

hopefully mean there will be more times that officers are about in Thattham."

Sgt Spinks said that as the Thattham team was on the same shift pattern there was little police presence on their days off.

She said the new system would allow one Pc and two Pcsos from Newbury and Thattham to focus on the town.

"The new structure will require more flexibility and the officer will have to deal with the demands for the day which could mean all officers are dealing with a job in Newbury but it also means if there is an issue in Thattham there will be more officers available to come to Thattham."

And Sgt Spinks said that longer term issues, such as police efforts to tackle anti-social behaviour in Thattham, would be able to call on assistance from

Primary pupils to sing with Cold Ash Brass

STAGE and screen themes and the voices of Thattham schoolchildren will ring out at St Mary's Church this weekend.

Cold Ash Brass will be hosting

their spring concert at 7pm on Saturday, featuring the White-lands Park Primary School Choir under the baton of Jess Watson.

Entrance for adults costs £7.50 and £2.50 for children, which

includes an interval drink.

For more information visit www.coldashbrass.org.uk email secretary@coldashbrass.org.uk or follow @ColdAshBrass on Facebook and Twitter.

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Obituary

Isobel (Izi) Kennerley
1983 - 2017

IZI was born at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, and at seven months old was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. She underwent numerous operations during her early life, but never let her physical limitations hold her back.

She rode with the RDA for many years and sailed around the Caribbean with the Jubilee Sailing Trust, subsequently making a skydive to raise money for them.

She attended Englefield Primary, St Gabriel's and Park House schools and ultimately gained an honours degree at Oxford Brookes University, while at the same time working as a teaching assistant at St Bartholomew's School. She hoped to eventually qualify as a teacher, specialising in working with children with ASD.

In 2010 she married Scott, the love of her life, her best friend and soulmate, but shortly after this her health began to deteriorate and she became confined to a wheelchair. Scott ultimately had to give up work also, to become her full-time carer. In 2014, she was diagnosed with a large, inoperable brain tumour and she fought the most courageous battle imaginable.

In March this year, a week before she was taken into the Duchess of Kent Hospice, Izi won the Sue Ryder Southern Woman of Courage Award, which she was presented with at a ceremony at Trunkwell House and



for which she received a standing ovation. This was to be her last public outing. Our pride on that day was immeasurable.

Izi was a very special young woman, the bravest of the brave and an inspiration to many. She will always remain in the hearts of those who knew her.

CE
The funeral will take place at St Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church, Newbury, on Wednesday, May 17, at 11am. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to the Duchess of Kent Hospice.



Family runners Aria and his father Sanjoo Pictures: Pete Hughes



Adult male winner Dean Harris crosses the line

Fun on the run for 500

Good turn out for Silchester races

NEARLY 500 runners took part in the Silchester Fun Run on Saturday.

There were two races taking place - a five-mile route for more serious runners and a 2.5-mile family race, starting 20 minutes later.

The five-mile route ran along the Roman walls before going through the woods of Benyon's enclosure and ending at the Silchester Pavilion.

The fastest runner in this race was Dean Harris, finishing in just over 30 minutes.

The fastest runner in the 2.5-mile race was Evan Jerome, who completed the race in a little over 18 minutes.

In total 493 runners entered the two races and there were prizes for different categories in each of the contests.

In the 2.5-mile race, the winner of the 12 and under male was Evan Jerome (18:12), and the 12 and under female was Anna Macklin (21:01).

The winner of the 16 and under male five-mile race was Matthew Raynor (33:01); 16 and under female was Abigail Hancock (38:24); adult male was Dean Harris (30:22); adult female was Emily Faulkner (35:41); vet male was Trevor Smith (36:33); and vet female was Jane Stewart (41:12).



Newbury Runners



Families set off on the Silchester Fun Run

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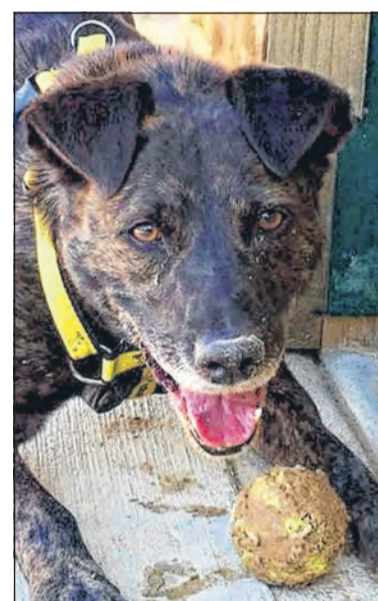
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GREETINGS MUST BE RECEIVED BY TUESDAY 10am FOR THURSDAY'S PUBLICATION



Shy crossbreed Branston has so much love to give

BRANSTON, a five-year-old crossbreed, is ready to adopt a new family.

The assistant manager at Dogs Trust Newbury, Jenny Hopkins, said: "Branston is a smashing chap with so much love to give."

"His favourite game is fetch and he adores curling up with his favourite canine carers after a busy day."

He is best suited to an adult-only home, with no other pets so he can have his new family's undivided attention.

Miss Hopkins said: "Branston can be a little shy

when he meets new people but once he gets to know you, he will be a friend for life.

"Potential new owners will need to be able to visit him a few times to build up a bond before bringing him into their homes."

If you have the time to get to know this adorable dog before inviting him to live with you, please call the staff at Dogs Trust Newbury to arrange a visit on 0300 303 0292. The rehoming centre is based at Plumb Farm, Hamstead Marshall.

Homes needed for rescued hedgehogs

AS spring arrived, Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital began to release 215 hedgehogs that were rescued in the autumn and winter.

Many were too small to have survived hibernation in the wild.

Marilyn Korkis, who runs the hospital, said: "It has been a great winter for the rescued animals and they will hopefully enjoy a healthy life now we have seen them through their hibernation crisis."

"We are now undertaking the huge task of releasing the hedgehogs, if possible close to where they were found."

"We are also looking for suitable gardens where hedgehogs can be rehomed and are always happy to hear from those who want a hedgehog to help them keep slugs and other pests off their plants."

The Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital, in Newton Tony, covers a vast area from the south coast to Newbury.

For further information please contact enquiries@wildthingsres-q.org.uk

Birthday Greetings

90

90th BIRTHDAY
12th May
RAYMOND GOLDING

Many congratulations on your 90th Birthday Dad, with lots of love from Jan, Sean and Buddy xx

Homeless' tents blaze was 'accidental' say firefighters

TENTS belonging to homeless people were burnt in Newbury last week. Firefighters believe that the blaze was started by accident.

Four fire engines were sent to deal with the burning tents in a car park under Centrix Software, Oxford Road, on Thursday.

Crew manager Ian Whatley said that the four pumps had been required in case there were people

in the tents, but added that no one was hurt.

He said that two tents had been completely burnt and that others had been damaged in the fire, which he said was being treated as accidental at this stage.

Mr Whatley added that there was strong smoke in the car park, fanned by the wind, but it was not hazardous.

Firefighters left after an hour.



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Deaths

W **COOK.** Tony passed away on Wednesday 3rd May 2017, aged 74 years. Beloved husband of Gina, much loved father, grandfather and great grandfather. Tony will be greatly missed by all family and friends. Funeral service to be held at West Berkshire Crematorium on Tuesday 16th May at 11.15am. Donations in memory of Tony for Macmillan Cancer Support can be made via www.abwalker.co.uk. Enquiries to A. B. Walker, 40 The Broadway, Thatcham, RG19 3HP. Tel: 01635 873672

DEWEY. On Saturday 29th April 2017. Mary passed away peacefully at the North Hampshire Hospital, aged 82 years. Devoted wife to the late Sidney, loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at on Friday 12th May 2017 at 10am at St. Joseph's Church, Newbury followed by a committal at the West Berkshire Crematorium. Family flowers only with donations if desired to The West Berkshire Branch of the Parachute Regimental Association may be sent to Geoffrey Church and Co, Churchgate, The Broadway, Thatcham, Berkshire RG19 3HX Tel: (01635)868444

DOWSETT. On Monday 8th May 2017 Don passed away peacefully at home aged 80 years. Loving husband to Gwyneth and much loved father and grandfather, he will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends. The funeral service will be held on Friday 26th May 2017 at 3.00pm. All are welcome. Donations in his memory may be made by cheque to 'Sue Ryder' c/o Howe & Son Funeral Directors, Bear Hill, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berkshire RG20 5QA. Tel. (01635) 298303.

DWYER. On 4th May, Phillip Anthony died peacefully at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. A celebration of his life will be held at St Mary's Church, Greenham on Thursday 18th May at 11.30am. Donations in his memory to Sue Ryder, c/o R C Smallbone, Funeral Directors, 37 Pound Street, Newbury, RG14 6AE

EGGLETON. Jean, Margaret, Nee Leonard. Passed away peacefully in hospital on May 5th. Loving wife to Gerry. Mother to Carolyn and Stephen, grandmother to Michael, Melissa, Ryan and Beth, mother-in-law to Tracy and Colin. Funeral enquiries to Geoffrey Church & Co, Churchgate, The Broadway, Thatcham. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Cancer Research.

GIBBS. Clifford G 'Cliff' aged 92 of Port Washinton, New York since 1967. Formerly of Newbury, Berkshire UK, died on 13th March 2017. Clifford is survived by his daughter Denise Dellesite (husband Antonio) his grandchildren Dale, Kane, Rhea and Great Grandson Ethan. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews, Clifford was predeceased by his sisters Lilly, Mercia, Irene, Phyllis and Winifred. He worked as a Precision Machinist for Krug Precision, Inc. until his retirement. Cliff was an avid golfer, Pool and card player. Known for his good humour and generous nature, He will be missed by all who knew him, and will leave a void that no one can fill. A Religious Service was held at St Stephens Episcopal Church, Port Washington, New York on the 18th March. An interment and Memorial Service will be held at Shaw Church, Shaw Cemetery on 19th May at 11am. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory to 'JustGiving' for Leukaemia CARE will be greatly appreciated.

GOODSIR. On 4th May, Monica died after a short illness aged 88 years. Much loved by all her family, her funeral service will be held at St Mary's Church, Kingsclere on Thursday 18th May at 9am. Family flowers only, donations to The Royal National Institute for the Blind Charity' c/o Howe and Son Funeral Directors (01635) 298303. No black please.

GREENWAY. Agnes (Nessie) Passed away peacefully at The Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital on 17th April 2017, aged 86years. Loved mother of Keith and Libby and a much loved grandmother and great grandmother. She will be sadly missed by all her family and many friends. Funeral to be held at Lambeth Cemetery, London on 19th May 2017 at 11.00am. To be followed by a Memorial Service at St Mary's Church, Newbury at 2.00pm. Family flowers only please, donations welcomed for the Royal Navy Association and the British Legion. c/o Camp Hopsons Funeral Directors, 90 West Street, Newbury, RG14 1HA

HAMPTON. On 5th May Ben passed away at home, aged 89 years. Much loved husband of Mary, dear father of the late Tim and of Bev, grandad to Sam, Martin and Noah, he will be sadly missed. Funeral service to be held at West Berkshire Crematorium on Wednesday 17th May at 3.00pm. Family flowers only, donations in his memory if desired to Sue Ryder and Help for Heroes c/o R C Smallbone, Funeral Directors, 37 Pound Street, Newbury, RG14 6AE

JENKINS. Pamela Gladys Sylvia. Wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great grandmother, aunty, proprietor of Kincare sadly passed away on 26th April 2017 in Carmarthen Hospital. She will now be at rest with her late husband Malcolm. She was loved by all and will be sadly missed. Funeral Service to take place on Friday 12th May 2017, at St Llawddog's Church (Penboyr Church), Penboyr Carmarthen, at 2.00pm. Flowers and/or donations if desired to Cancer Research or Guide dogs for the Blind to D.L. Davies and Sons, Bethel Chapel of Rest, Newcastle Emlyn SA38 9AB Tel 01239 710495



KENNERLEY. Isobel (Izi) née Eeley. On 4th March 2017 in the Duchess of Kent Hospice, aged 33. Adored wife of Scott and beloved daughter of Christine and Simon and sister of Alex. So loved by all her family and friends. Isobel fought an inoperable brain tumour for three years with amazing courage and dignity. Her funeral will take place at St Francis de Sales Catholic Church, Wash Common on Wednesday 17th May at 11am. Family flowers only but donations may be made to the Duchess of Kent Hospice where she spent the last seven weeks of her life. Rest in peace our brave and beautiful girl donations and enquires may be sent c/o West Berkshire Funeral Directors, Clarendon House, 44 London Road, Newbury RG14 1LA Tel: 01635-43355

LAWRENCE. On Friday 5th May, Daisy passed peacefully away, aged 91, at St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke. A loving Mum to Pearl, Adrian, her late son Micky and her son-in-law, Keith. Wonderful nan and great nan who will be deeply missed by all her family. Funeral will be held at West Berkshire Crematorium on Wednesday 17th May at 12.45pm. Family flowers only, donations to St Michael's Hospice, c/o R C Smallbone, Funeral Directors, 37 Pound Street, Newbury. RG14 6AE

NEWELL. Fred, died on April 28th 2017, aged 93 years. Dearly loved by his wife Babs, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral Service to be held on Wednesday 17th May 2017, at West Berkshire Crematorium, at 11.15am. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired for Dementia UK, c/o Turner Brothers, 15 Hampton Road, Newbury, Berks., RG14 6DB.

PAISLEY-BOWEN. Cody James, born sleeping on 2nd May 2017. Much loved son of Samantha & Patrick, he will be greatly missed by all his family. Funeral service at West Berkshire Crematorium on Thursday 18th May at 1:30pm, please wear something bright and not too formal. No flowers please but donations for the Hampshire Hospital Charity (to benefit the Butterfly Room) may be sent c/o West Berkshire Funeral Directors, Clarendon House, 44 London Road, Newbury RG14 1LA Tel: 01635-43355

SHEPPARD. Colin passed away peacefully in the Rainbow Rooms at West Berkshire Community Hospital on Saturday 6th May 2017, aged 73 years. Loving husband to Janice, father to James and Louise and grandfather to Alistair, Phoebe, Poppy, Lottie and Millie. He will be sadly missed by all family and friends. Funeral service to be held on Tuesday 16th May at 1:30pm at All Saint's Church West Ilsley. Family flowers only but donations if desired can be made payable to Rainbow Rooms West Berkshire Community Hospital and sent c/o Camp Hopson Funerals, 90 West Street, Newbury RG14 1HA.

TILLEN Mervyn. On 2nd May peacefully in his sleep at his home in Sunderland aged 71. Will be sadly missed by family and friends.

In Memoriam

CHAMBERS. Adam, 13th May 2014. Three years have passed since you were taken far too soon. In the hearts of those who love you, you will always be here. Miss you always, love you forever. Mum, Jake, Mandy, Niamh, Grandad, all family and friends xxx

EVANS. Elsie, 11th May 2015. Two years have gone, time passes but memories never fade. Sadly missed by her children and grandchildren xxx

In Memoriam

GREENING. Barbara 11th May 2015. In loving memory of a much loved wife, mum and nan. Words cannot even begin to express just how much you are loved and missed. Always in our hearts, forever in our thoughts. Love and miss you every day. Love your husband Terry, children Louise, Marie, Terry, Paul, Barry and all their families

HOOK. Ann & George. As the years roll by, we hold you in our hearts. Your loving family.

ROSIER Stuart. In loving memory of our very special Dad who passed away May 15th 2011. Remembering you is easy, we do it every day, missing you is the heartache that never goes away. Forever in our hearts. Love always Richard, Angelina, Philip and family xxxx

Acknowledgements

MILLER Martin James. Martin's family would like to thank all relatives, friends and colleagues who attended his funeral, and all the kind messages. As yet Martin's death is still undetermined.

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Roger Croft

THATCHAM South and Crookham residents will have three votes to cast on June 8.

A by-election has been called to fill Conservative councillor Roger Croft's seats on West Berkshire Council and Thatcham Town Council.

Mr Croft died from injuries sustained in a car crash in France in February. His wife Zelda was also killed.

Mr Croft was elected to the town and district councils in 2011 and became the leader of West Berkshire Council in 2015.

The by-election will be held on the same day as the General Election on Thursday, June 8.

The Conservatives controlled 48 of the 52 seats on West Berkshire Council until Mr Croft's death, with the remaining four held by the Liberal Democrats.

Thatcham Town Council is also run by the Conservatives, who held 15 of the 18 seats, with the Lib Dems holding the remaining seats.

This week the *NWN* spoke with candidates standing for election to West Berkshire Council.

Profiles of candidates standing for election to Thatcham Town Council will appear in next week's *Newbury Weekly News*.

By-election candidates

Death of Roger Croft leaves vacancy to fill on town and district councils

Conservative candidate – Jason Collis Lib Dem candidate – Owen Jeffery



THE Conservatives are looking to honour Roger Croft's legacy by having town council leader Jason Collis elected to his seat on West Berkshire Council.

Mr Collis was elected to the town council in 2015 and was appointed leader in 2016.

He sits on all town council committees and is a member of community planning group Thatcham Vision.

When asked why he was standing for the district council, Mr Collis said: "I just want to represent the people of Thatcham.

"I go to the Baptist church in the ward and have done for 19 years now and just want to honour Roger's legacy in terms of the work he has done with the district and continue to represent Thatcham at a district level.

"Roger is a huge loss and very much missed by us all.

"I'm determined to fight this election as he would want and to continue on with his fantastic work, ensuring the best deal possible for the people of Thatcham."

He said that a Conservative win would allow Thatcham's voice to be heard at district level as him "working with the Conservative group at West Berkshire Council would achieve more than having someone from another party battling all the time".

Mr Collis said that his priority was how future development of the town would unfold.

He said: "A lot of our problems with parking on streets is how the estates have been designed and the way we have let developers build these estates.

"With all the planning applications around the town it affects all of Thatcham because it affects infrastructure and traffic levels.

"We need to change the way we deal with it."

Mr Collis said that the ultimate end game would be the creation of a town plan, if there was a need for one.

However, he said it would be an "incredibly involved process", but "we need to ask these sort of questions because they impact on us for so long".

Green Party candidate – Steve Masters

THE West Berkshire Green Party candidate wants to let Thatcham's voice be heard, while tackling congestion at the level crossing.

The local party's chairman and former serviceman Steve Masters will be contesting the Thatcham South and Crookham seat.

He said: "I don't think the residents are getting their voices heard.

"I want to be the voice of the ordinary everyday people, for those who don't really get a voice.

"A vote for a Green Party candidate would allow that voice to be heard and give an alternative perspective for the people of Thatcham South and Crookham."

Mr Masters said that West Berkshire Council had a Newbury-centric view, with most infrastructure projects focused on the town.

He said that Thatcham residents' calls for a bridge over the railway had been discarded, leading to higher air pollution levels around the station and roads affected by the queues.

Mr Masters said: "That's got real-world implications.

"Air pollution from vehicles and poor air quality leads to deaths and cars sat with their engines running at the crossing and around Thatcham adds to that pollution.

"Now is the time to look at the options and maybe do a feasibility study to see how we can improve air quality."

Mr Masters added that he had been "fighting the severity of the cuts" that the Conservative-controlled council had implemented in recent years.

He said that rural bus services needed to be reinstated as some residents at the car-

van park at Crookham Common had been left isolated.

"We need joined-up thinking in terms of public transport and infrastructure that serves the community," he said.

"I think Thatcham is very often seen as the poor relation to Newbury in planning and providing the infrastructure.

"It needs to have a voice that's not just going to be the Conservative Party line.



"The Tory candidate is bound by the party whip at district level and not actually going to have a totally independent voice.

"We need someone who will stand up and address the issues."

A former corporal in the Royal Air Force, Mr Masters now works in mental health care, an area he said had felt the brunt of Conservative cuts.

He said one area was retiring servicemen who needed support in the community.

He said: "I was homeless for 10 months in 2009.

"I'm very grateful to the people who did support me and help me get back on to a level playing field.

"These things are real issues to people."

THE Liberal Democrats are hoping for a fightback in the Thatcham South and Crookham ward.

The party has selected political veteran Owen Jeffery, a former district and town councillor, to stand.

Mr Jeffery said that the Conservative-controlled council had shown a lack of ambition, despite having the power to get things done.

"They are sat there with a massive majority; anything that they want to do, anything they think can be done they can do it without having to blink an eyelid and they can't think of anything other to do than increase members allowances."

He branded Conservative councillors as "an incompetent bunch" who had shown "no pre-planning" and were not "not looking up to see if there's a problem coming down the road".

Mr Jeffery said that child and adolescent mental health services had been neglected under Conservative rule, along with education and recycling targets and promotion.

He said that a lack of affordable housing was the biggest issue facing the town.

"I think that should be one of the things at the top of the hit list," Mr Jeffery said. "What they are doing with the planning department is it's being run in a way that doesn't



seem to be giving us great value for money because we haven't put any strategic plans to bed properly."

He added that the six-year wait for replacing Taceham House in the Haywoods represented "the paradigm of affordable housing in this area".

Mr Jeffery said that, while the result would not see a shift in power at the district council, he wanted to be "the fifth Lib Dem poking them in the eye saying wake up and run the council properly. What you are doing is not adequate for the people."

He hoped that Thatcham South and Crookham would emulate the Richmond effect, when the Conservatives lost the seat to the Lib Dems in December last year, and show the local Conservatives that people would no longer be taken for granted.

UKIP candidate – Ian Waters

UKIP is looking to break the two-party mould in Thatcham by offering a different voice on West Berkshire Council.

Ian Waters said that his party believed that the by-election should not have been called, but it would present Thatcham voters with a choice to elect an alternative voice.

"I believe the two seats could have stayed open," he said.

"It's going to be very difficult to fill Roger Croft's shoes. We didn't call it and we wouldn't have called it out of respect.

"The main thing is to let people know that UKIP is alive and kicking... and that our membership is still holding strong and we are still here and not going away.

"I'm standing for Thatcham South and Crookham mainly to be another voice, a different voice, that can put forward viable alternative solutions and ideas to improve Thatcham."

Mr Waters said that the town needed a different voice from the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives.

He said: "There's never been another voice to put forward different ideas. I think we can put them forward and work together.

"To me the idea of a council is to work together and not be rivals all the time."

Mr Waters, a retired construction manager, said that his party had long advocated a bridge over the railway to ease congestion and added that road safety on Crookham Hill needed addressing.

He said another priority was

education and that the town needed another secondary school.

"I've had quite a few people say that, with the growing size of Thatcham, we need a new secondary school," he said.

"Newbury has three and the population difference isn't that great.



"We need to look at another secondary school and see if some solution can come."

He added that Grundon's intention to quarry at Kennetholme Farm should not be fought.

"Instead of demonising, I believe we should work closer with Grundon and landowners.

"If we put our minds to it, part of it could be for recreational purposes.




"It's going to take 10 years before it's all finished, we could have something equivalent to the Nature Discovery Centre there."

NB: At the time of going to press, the Labour Party had not announced its candidate



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Drink-driver caught on his own driveway

A THATCHAM man has been banned from driving for 12 months after pleading guilty to drink driving.

Police officers saw Neil Worthy, of Medway Close, drive his van on to the driveway at his home address on April 4 this year at around 11pm.

The 41-year-old had been watching a boxing match at his parents' house before taking the Ford Transit van home.

A subsequent blood test revealed a reading of 123mg of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood – the legal limit is 80mg.

Prosecuting, Lesley Gilmore told Reading Magistrates Court on Thursday, April 13: "Officers observed the defendant drive a Transit van on to the driveway of his address just before 11pm.

"They spoke to the defendant and requested a breath sample as they were suspicious he was over the limit.

"He was taken into custody, however the reads were inconsistent and so blood was taken."

In mitigation, the court was told how Mr Worthy, a self-employed craftsman, was the financial provider for his wife and two young children and that "he was extremely sorry to be

before the court".

"He's put both his work and family into a difficult situation," Mr Worthy's solicitor added.

"He felt fine to drive, he obviously wasn't.

"It was a quiet time and there was no impaired driving.

"He accepts it was wrong.

"He accepts the reality of being punished."

He added: "He's willing to do whatever it takes to show this was a one-off mistake."

The court heard how the repentant father-of-two had now sold his Transit van and had wound down his customers ahead of the inevitable disqualification period.

Mr Worthy was disqualified from driving for a period of 12 months and fined £200 (reduced from £300 for the guilty plea).

He was also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £30 and £85 in court costs.

Sentencing magistrates told the court: "We are aware it will have a big impact on Mr Worthy's work but a ban is inevitable."

The magistrates added: "We take into account your previous good character and your need to drive again to support your family."

Get snapping nature pictures

YOUNG photographers in Thatcham are being asked to snap scenes of nature in and around the town.

Thatcham Photographic Club, in collaboration with Thatcham Town Council, has launched its annual photographic competition for all pupils living in or studying within 10 miles of Thatcham.

The competition will form part of this year's Thatcham Festival, which will run from October 7 to 20.

The theme of the competition is The Natural World and pupils are asked to capture what the natural world means to them.

There are three age groups and prizes of up to £50.

Images can be sent by email to festivalcomp@thatchamphoto-club.com

The competition is now open for submissions and these can be made at any time until September 22. For further information contact Mr Roberts on (01635) 866841.

Hi-5 Roadrunners take on Thatcham Family Fun Day Run

THATCHAM'S Family Fun Day Run will be under new orders this year.

Hi-5 Roadrunners will be taking over the running of the event when it returns to the Henwick Worthy sports ground on Sunday, June 25.

Members Chris Clacy and Matt Atkins said that the group was formed just over a year ago to create a running group for people of all abilities.

They want to encourage social running and plan one social event every month.

There have been successes along the way, with Mr Atkins saying that one member had run the London and Bournemouth marathons despite only taking up running 18 months ago.

Another member lost his son and organised a 10km charity run in his memory.

The club meets each Thursday at 7pm at Henwick fields car park, with new members, of all fitness levels, welcome to turn up on the night.

"It's the friendship groups established from it, most people didn't know each other a year ago," Mr Clacy said.

"The future for us is to pick up the formula and drop it into other towns.

"We want to move towards events like this."

The traditional family day fun run, sponsored by the *Newbury Weekly News*, will return on the day and Hi-5 are also looking to add a 100m toddler dash and a 1km dash for adults.

Hi-5 will be taking over from the Thatcham Sports Network and Jane and Binky Wells, of the Spring Charity Fundraisers, who have been involved in the event since the 1980s.

Ways to register the event and information on the group's chosen charity will appear in future editions of the NWN.



Young athletes with their trophies and medals at the Kennet Games on Saturday

Ref: 19-1117H

Kennet Games triumphs

Young people with physical disabilities compete in range of sports and activities

CHILDREN with physical disabilities enjoyed another successful Kennet Games last weekend.

Children from local schools joined clubs and pupils from Reading at Kennet School for the 37th Kennet Games for children and young people with physical difficulties on Saturday.

Competitors came from Kennet School, The Castle School post-16 unit, Speenhamland Primary, Brookfields Reading, Lambs Lane Reading, and PALS Berkshire, a group that provides activities for children with physical disabilities.

After rounds of games ranging from boccia, dodgeball, shotput and rolla ball, trophies were awarded by special guest and disability campaigner Toby Hewson of JustDifferent and the deputy head of the Kennet School Academies Trust, Ms Bernadette McNally.

The cup winners were: Junior Electric wheelchair – Otilie Bankes, Speenhamland; Junior wheelchair – Jake Parsons,



Rhys Ballie tries the rolla ball

Ref: 19-1117C



Louise Rogers plays table skittles

Ref: 19-1117E

Speenhamland; Junior standing – Tegan Basden, Brookfields; Senior wheelchair – Emma Clark, Kennet; Senior standing – Sophie Sanders, PALS; Fastest time in wheelchair slalom – Craig Rolfe, Lambs Lane; Exceptional sportsmanship – Henry Davies, Kennet. Event organiser Jane Morland

said: "It was fantastic to see so many children being included in so many events in such a competitive way – and with smiles on their faces.

"A huge thank you to all the sponsors, particularly Team Kennet Sport whose donation allowed the purchase of new

boccia sets.

"Thanks also to all the companies that donated raffle prizes.

"The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

"Competitors, parents, friends, carers and school staff all helped to make the event a very successful day."

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News updates from North Hampshire are now available online throughout the week. Go to newburytoday.co.uk and select the district pages

newburytoday.co.uk

Folly Farm is refused planning permission for a third time

PLANNING permission to turn the agricultural barn at Folly Farm, Headley, into a residential building has been refused for the third time.

In the March meeting of Ashford Hill with Headley Parish Council, objections were raised about the latest proposal to change the use of the barn to a dwelling.

The objection was upheld by Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council and the application was subsequently refused.

Similar planning applications to change the barn at Folly Farm to residential use were refused in October 2014 and May 2016, with a further application being withdrawn in August 2015.

20th anniversary of twin villages

EAST Woodhay Twinning Association marked the 20th anniversary of signing the charter with its French partners in Normandy with an exchange visit.

Thirty-nine people visited from four Normandy villages, staying with host families in and around East Woodhay. They were welcomed with a ceremony at Woolton Hill Church Hall, attended by the mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Jane Frankum.

The host families entertained their visitors with trips to the Watercress Railway, Shaw House, Newbury Open Studios and the Crafty Craft race.

In 2018, a group from East Woodhay will stay in the four twinned Normandy villages of Anguerny, Anisy, Colomby-sur-Thaon, and Villons les Buissons.

Clere message about the benefits of regular reading

School's new initiative to encourage pupils to get more involved in world of books

A NEW initiative has been introduced at The Clere School in Burghclere to encourage pupils to read more.

Every lesson will start with a short reading session, while weekly library lessons will also be introduced.

Headteacher Benjamin Bond said: "I cannot emphasise enough the importance of reading regularly each day and the benefits this provides for a child's learning."

A schedule of library events have also been planned and Mr Bond said: "We are all looking forward to reading together as a school."

These events include the Hampshire Book Awards Book Club, the Manga Club, a creative writing club and the celebration of World Book Day, Harry Potter Night, Roald Dahl's birthday, LGBTQ+ month and National Poetry Day.

Learning resource centre manager Jenifer Klepfer said: "There is no such thing as a person who doesn't like reading."

"There's just people who haven't found the right book."

The school will work closely with the pupils to find books they will enjoy reading.

The Clere School has struggled

with Ofsted reports in recent years and the reading initiative is part of a number of changes resulting from the 2017 Ofsted rating of 'requires improvement', with particular emphasis on English and mathematics.

Ms Klepfer said: "The Clere School has been looking at literacy across the whole school for some time and our new headteacher Benjamin Bond is proactively looking at new initiatives to encourage every child to read every day."

"We use Accelerated Reader in KS3, and for this daily reading is essential."

"We have reading muscles and we want them to be strong."

"We have to work them out every day."

The Ofsted report also stated: "Leaders have not tackled the weaknesses identified in English since the last inspection."

"As a result, some pupils, including those who are most able, are not making enough progress and achieve below national averages for others with similar starting points."

In 2012 the school was placed into special measures, but improved to 'good' in 2013.



The Clere School pupils take part in the reading initiative

The chief executive officer of BCMS, Steve Dally has warned businesses in the Kingsclere area to be "extremely vigilant"



Boss's warning after break-in

THIEVES broke in to the offices of BCMS in Kingsclere Business Park on Tuesday last week and made off with a number of laptops and electronic equipment.

A spokesman for Hampshire police said entry had been gained via one of the side doors of the building and that an untidy search was made of the ground and first floors.

The chief executive officer of BCMS, Steve Dally, is now warning other businesses in the Kingsclere area to be "extremely vigilant".

"Obviously, we are working very closely with the police," he said.

"Early suggestions indicate this was

not an opportunistic break-in, and that, as a large, high-profile business in the area, we may have been actively targeted."

The company's PR and managing editor Mark Bentley said: "You don't expect it in Kingsclere."

"It is a sad state of affairs."

Another burglary took place in the same road on April 21 at 2am, when two batteries were stolen from trucks that had parked in a compound on the industrial estate.

The two incidents are not thought to be connected.

Anyone with information should call 101, quoting reference number 44170163965.



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Tadley man found guilty on domestic violence charge

A TADLEY man has received a suspended prison sentence after being convicted of domestic violence.

Reading magistrates ruled that Callum Jake Hall's offending was more serious because it took place in front of a child.

On Friday, April 28, the 19-year-old of Bishopswood Road, was sentenced for assaulting Courtney Nicholls by beating her at Oakley Road, Newbury, on February 27.

He had denied the offence, but was convicted at trial.

Mr Hall admitted two charges of resisting police, causing criminal damage and possessing cannabis, all on the same occasion.

Mr Hall was sentenced to 16 weeks imprisonment, suspended for two years.

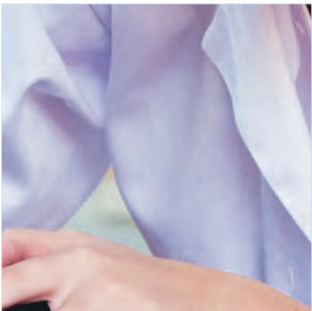
He was also ordered to pay £400 in costs, as well as a statutory victim services surcharge of £115.

Finally, he was ordered to complete 32 days rehabilitation activity requirement.

Magistrates said that they had imposed the suspended prison term because it was a nasty incidence of domestic violence committed in front of a child.

A career in care

DEMENTIA



CAREER GUIDE



NURSING



SOCIAL SERVICES

REHABILITATION

RESIDENTIAL CARE



A CAREER GUIDE TO:
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REHABILITATION
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SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Gracewell Healthcare

Join the team caring for the elderly in a family atmosphere

FROM its early beginnings, Gracewell Healthcare has cultivated a caring, family-like atmosphere for its team members.

Gracewell believes that the small things are the big things that really matter to its residents, and adopts the same approach to its team members.

People who choose to pursue a career with Gracewell enjoy the personal touch the team brings to providing focused, daily care.

Members of the Gracewell team enjoy a unique, challenging and rewarding work environment where it's not just about doing good work, it's about doing work that's good.

Gracewell is always seeking exceptional people with a passion for working with older people.

Above all, it wants people who are dedicated to the mutually rewarding experience that comes from caring for others.

The following positions are available:

There are various care assistant roles due to the rapidly increasing occupancy within Gracewell of Newbury.

You will earn £8 per hour and have a very attractive benefits package.

A care assistant within Gracewell Homes is a 'hugely

rewarding and satisfying job with no two days the same' – that is what some of the most committed team members have said.

As a care assistant within Gracewell you will be working as part of a focused, and skilled team of fully supported staff who have residents' well-being at the core of all they do.

The care assistant is responsible for providing the highest standards of person-centred care to resident, while maintaining dignity, respect and well being.

You will contribute to reviewing the Individual Service Plan for each resident and assist with daily activities providing residents with both physical and emotional support and personal care as required.

Gracewell is committed to supporting and developing all care assistants with ongoing training and leadership across all areas.

If you are interested in any opportunities with Gracewell of Newbury, please call (01635) 818887 or visit the Gracewell recruitment website to see what opportunities there may be for you – www.Gracewell-team.co.uk

As a Gracewell employee, you'll enjoy the benefits of working for a world class company, while truly making a difference in the lives of its residents.




Gracewell
 HEALTHCARE
 OF NEWBURY

**NOW
 RECRUITING!**



*Gracewell of Newbury
 are now recruiting*

Recently opened Gracewell of Newbury is ready to move in our ever growing list of new residents and are now recruiting for additional Team Member's to join our committed staff team in providing support and delivering excellent care and service.

If you would like to make a difference and be part of this fantastic team, we currently have opportunities in the following areas:

- Care Assistants- Various shifts, nights and days – Up to £8.00 per hour
- Registered General Nurses - Various shifts, nights and days – Up to £18.80 per hour (dependant on experience)

If you are interested in any opportunities at Gracewell of Newbury, please call **01635 818887** for further information or visit our recruitment website to apply direct: www.gracewell-team.co.uk and we will be in touch.

Why wouldn't you want to make a difference?

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www.gracewell-team.co.uk

Audley Care is all about building relationships

Understanding, empathy and respect are the values at the heart of delivering care



AUDLEY Care is an integral part of Audley Retirement and delivers tailored care to customers.

As one of the UK's most respected care providers for older people, Audley takes great pride in helping people maintain independence in their own home, offering a helping hand with daily domestic tasks, personal care, and, most importantly, providing a trusted face and someone to listen.

The UK is experiencing a huge social care crisis, and good quality care provision has never been more important.

The nation is getting older, with the proportion of over 65s growing faster than any other age group, yet as current projections stand the size of the UK's workforce of carers isn't growing nearly at the same pace.

There may be no 'final answer' on how we deal with this, but we do know that high quality in-house care, allowing people to remain in their own homes for longer, is a model that works and needs more support.

Audley Care knows that more needs to be done to encourage people to enter into what is not only a fulfilling, but incredibly valuable career choice, and to invest in those who have already started on this journey.

This is why Audley Care plans to continue creating rewarding roles and long-term career opportunities.

They recognise that care is a skilled profession and are committed to training, inspiring and recruiting new and existing workers.

Through the Audley Academy, they fund all of their care teams to work towards their QCF level 2 and 3 apprenticeship in Health and Social Care.

Staff can then build specialist skills in areas such as supporting those with diabetes, or end-of-life care and even work towards a degree.

Audley Care's people are crucial to the service they offer to their customers. The Audley way provides a level of care that exceeds customers' expectations and they look forward to continuing to grow the team of dedicated professionals.

But don't just take their word for it, listen to what their employees say about working for Audley Care:

"What I love about my job is the people as every day my work is different. I never feel like I'm at

work, as I enjoy what I do."

"I feel I have a great support network just on the end of the phone from the office or in person if I ever have a problem."

"I love making our customers smile and being there for them as a carer and as a friend."

"I really enjoy being able to help people remain in their own home by providing care so they are able to do so. I also enjoy traveling around the community meeting some amazing people."

"The satisfaction of someone's life being made easier and happier because of you and the amazing and positive relationships with all our wonderful clients - nothing better."

To find out more about job opportunities at Audley Care visit www.audleyjobs.co.uk



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into a great day
#respect4carers

Careers in care for people with empathy

Our Personal Care Assistants are special people. They give their customers the support they need to be safe, comfortable and well cared for. And to stay living in the homes they love. In return, we provide the training needed to deliver an exceptional service, including funding every person through their QCF level 2 diploma in Health and Social Care. Join us, and you'll be given the respect, training, salary and extra benefits you deserve for doing the most important job in the world. Visit audleyjobs.co.uk

to find out more or email
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The Audley way
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Helping you to help others

Care UK provides a rewarding career path tailored to your needs

FOR most people, care is a vocation. You want to work in the care sector because you're a born carer. You want to make a difference to vulnerable people's lives.

Care UK gives you all the support you need to fulfil that ambition.

One team, working together

When you join Care UK, you become part of a culture where residents' wellbeing is at the heart of everything.

Every team member is given the time and freedom to care – to build relationships with residents and enjoy the variety that brings.

Care UK's homes have a close-knit family feel. Teams work together, supporting each other in an open, honest way.

A commitment to your training and development

Care UK is committed to helping you reach your potential.

Offering innovative and new bespoke learning and development programmes, it is one of the first social care employers to deliver them through its in-house learning academy.

Whether you're new to care or highly experienced, you'll benefit from this. The innovative training can be tailored to your personal career goals.

Get off to a great start

You will feel supported from day one. A role-specific induction will be fully tailored to your needs, preparing you for your role and helping you understand what you need to do your job well.



The company vision will be shared with you, as well as the more practical details like standard operating procedures and how Care UK works.

Rewarding and recognising you

Whatever the role, it is important that team members feel motivated and rewarded.

Care UK offers a competitive package and recognises the value of a healthy work-life balance – so it tries to be flexible, helping

you fit your working life around your home life.

Your career path

When you're part of the Care UK team, you don't just have a job. You have a career. Care UK works with you to help you grow in your role and take your career in the direction you want to go. If you want to move up the ladder, it will support you. If you just want to stay in your role, that's fine too. Care UK will help you be the best you can be.



Bluebird technology

Online access gives customers and family peace of mind

SINCE 2008 Bluebird Care has led the way in incorporating technology in its business to improve the quality and safety of the care at home services it provides.

When the company started, it relied on paper schedules posted to its care staff, multiple times per week, leaving the company and its customers at the mercy of the local postal service.

Since then things have moved on to the point that in 2017 all the company's staff are now issued with a smart phone or tablet computer, with secure access to customer information including up-to-date care plan tasks and medication information.

This allows for immediate notification of changes in their schedules and to the tasks needing to be completed for their

customers, providing a safer, more reliable response service for the company's customers.

Technology also now allows Bluebird Care's customers, as well as verified friends and family members, online access to real-time information and records in the system, giving loved ones the peace of mind to know all is well.



For Emily, spending time with **Philomena** and **Peter** is the icing on the cake

Rewarding careers in caring

It's the little things we do that make a big difference

We are currently recruiting Care Assistants across various shifts (full-time, part-time or bank staff) to join the team at our care home in Newbury.

We provide nursing, respite and day care for older people including individuals living with dementia.

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We're Recruiting Care Assistants

Winchcombe Place Care Home

Maple Crescent, Newbury

NHS advises on all care needs

CARE and support services, also known as social care services, help people who are in need of practical support due to illness, disability, old age or a low income.

Care and support services could include having a personal assistant to help you around the home, structural changes to help you move around or manage in your house, or even an alarm system so that you can call for help if you have a fall.

Social care services are available to everyone, regardless of their background.

However, social care is subject to rules about your needs and ability. Services can also support the families or carers of people who receive social care.

Local authorities (councils) are responsible for providing social care services for those who need them and are eligible for them. After assessing your needs and



finances, the local authority may agree to pay for some or all of the care and support you need.

These council-funded social care services may be provided by independent providers – firms or charities that specialise in providing social care services. Even though most people have to fund all or part of their own care and support, local authorities have a duty to assess everyone's care and support needs, and advise you on relevant local services.

Social care services can take many forms – you can get help from them while you live at home, out and about in the community, or even in a new place of

residence such as a care home. Most local authorities will have a social care team devoted to older people. These teams can provide support that enables older people to remain living independently in their own home.

The local authority's team for older people will also be able to guide you through the options available if you are no longer able to live at home independently, for instance in sheltered accommodation, extra care housing, or care and nursing homes.

www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide



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Thursday, May 11, 2017

A Newbury News Limited publication

Estate agencies featured in this issue:	Page
Jackson Stops.....	4-5
Cricketts	6
Jones Robinson	7-11, 24
Downer & Co	12-15
Warmingham.....	16-17
Carter Jonas.....	18-19
Jones Robinson Lettings.....	22
Downer & Co Lettings.....	23



Wonder of Windyridge

WINDYRIDGE is a delightful detached residence situated in the most idyllic of locations with beautiful gardens of approximately an acre.

The property is roughly one mile from St Gabriel's public school and within striking distance of Cheam, Horris Hill and Thorngrove schools and the senior schools of St Bartholomew's and Park House, which all boast excellent reputations.

This superb property has well-proportioned and flexible

accommodation throughout, comprising a large reception hallway, sitting room with doors to the south-facing terrace, dining room, a further reception room, breakfast room, fitted kitchen, five bedrooms, two bathrooms and a shower room on the ground floor.

On the first bedroom is the master bedroom and shower. Other features include double glazing and gas central heating. The property is approached via the in-and-out drive, which

provides parking for several vehicles and leads to the double garage.

There are beautiful mature gardens offering a good degree of privacy to the front and rear of the property that are well stocked with a variety of lovely shrubs, plants, flowers and trees with the remainder being laid to lawn.

The guide price is £950,000.

For more details, call (01635) 35010 or email sales@jones-robinson.co.uk

Family fortunes are on the up

CRICKETTS is delighted to present a beautiful detached four-bedroom family home in prime residential area in Thatcham.

The property has been very well maintained by its current owners, who have had the kitchen re-fitted within the last four years.

The accommodation comprises the kitchen, hallway, lounge, study, dining room, downstairs WC and large conservatory.

On the first floor there is a master bedroom with en-suite shower room, three further bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The front of the property is accessed via a front garden with personal pathway leading to the front entrance door and gated access leading to the large rear garden.

There is a driveway offering off-



road parking for several vehicles leading to a double garage. A beautiful mature traditional garden to the rear has a large patio area where one can enjoy alfresco dining.

There is a lawn with pathways and well-stocked flower and shrub borders offering all year round interest.

The property is positioned east-west so that each room gets good light, especially the conservatory and back garden throughout the afternoon.

The guide price is £525,000.

For more details, please contact (01635 43333), email sales@cricketts.co.uk or see www.cricketts.co.uk



Industrial revolution

MERCHANTS Court is a fantastic two double-bedroom ground-floor, loft-style apartment located in an exclusive development.

This beautifully-presented apartment is full of style while enjoying an abundance of natural light and enjoying a contemporary industrial style.

It includes exposed brickwork, floor-to-ceiling windows, a high-gloss finished kitchen, integrated appliances and stainless steel splashbacks, soft-close doors and stylish lighting. The master bedroom enjoys full-height windows with a fitted mirrored double wardrobe.

The second bedroom is light and airy with a space-saving pocket door, with a range of uses from bedroom, study or dining room.

The shower room is finished to a high specification with chrome fittings and space-saving pocket sliding door.

The property is set in stylish landscaped grounds which comprises two industrial-style buildings.

The well-kept grounds provide allocated parking, along with extra visitors' parking, secure bike store and a communal bin store.

Merchants Court is situated just off the A4 and A339 within a short walk to a number of convenience stores and Victoria Park.

Newbury town centre boasts a comprehensive range of schools, shops and leisure facilities.

The Kennet and Avon Canal is just 600 metres away. The guide price is £240,000.

For more details, call (01635) 35010 or email sales@jonesrobinson.co.uk



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Nick Loweth



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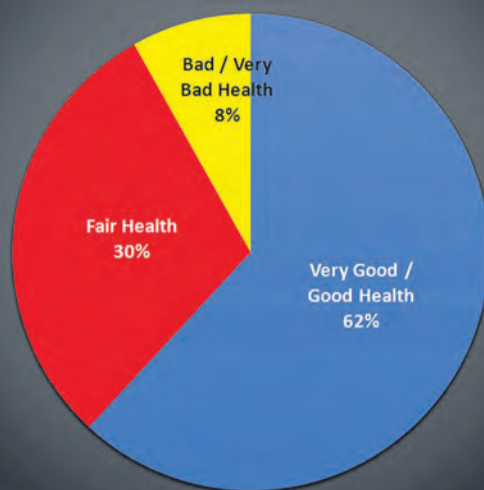
Rob Wightman

Knight Frank Hungerford have achieved 99.94% of the guide price for the financial year 2016/2017. To find out how we can help you, please contact us on 01488 498954



Newbury Home-Owners who are

65yrs +



Generation Trapped needs a helping hand

Market comment by LEE FENN-TRIPP, director of Downer & Co Lettings
Newburypropertynews.co.uk

SHOULD the Government incentivise downsizers?

This was a question posed to me on social media a few weeks ago after my article about our mature members of Newbury society and the fact many retirees feel trapped in their homes.

After working hard for many years and buying a home for themselves and their family, the children have flown the nest and now they are left to rattle round in a big house.

Many feel trapped in their big homes (hence I dubbed these Newbury home-owning mature members of our society Generation Trapped).

So, should we incentivise Newbury's over 65s to downsize?

Well, in the original article, I suggested that we as a society should encourage, through building, tax breaks and social acceptance, that it's a good thing to downsize.

But should the Government incentivise pensioners?

One of the biggest reasons pensioners move home is health (or lack of it).

Looking at the statistics for Newbury, of the 4,626 homeowners who are 65 years and older, while 2,863 of them described themselves in good or very good health, a sizeable 1,387 home-owning pensioners described themselves as in fair health and 376 in bad or very bad health.

More than eight per cent of Newbury home-owning pensioners are in poor health.

But if you look at the figures for the whole of West Berkshire Council, there are only 682 specialist retirement homes that one could buy (if they were in fact for sale) and 1,298 homes available to rent from the council and other specialist providers.

Again, you would be waiting to get your foot in the door and most older homeowners wouldn't feel comfortable with renting a retirement property after enjoying the security of owning their own home for most of their adult lives.

My intuition tells me the majority of would-be Newbury downsizers could afford to move, but are staying put in bigger family homes because they can't find a suitable smaller property.

The fact is there simply aren't enough bungalows for the healthy older members of the Newbury population and special-

ist retirement properties for the ones who aren't in such good health – we need to build more appropriate houses in Newbury.

The Government's Housing White Paper, published a few weeks ago, could have solved so many problems with the UK housing market, including the issue of homing our aging population.

Instead, it ended up feeling annoyingly ambiguous.

Forcing our older generation to move with such measures as a punitive taxation (say a tax on wasted bedrooms for people who are retired) would be the wrong thing to do.

Instead of the stick – maybe the Government could use the carrot tactics and offered tax breaks for downsizers.

Who knows – but something has to happen?

And, come to think about it, isn't the word 'downsize' such an awful word?

I prefer to use the word 'decent-size' instead of 'down-size', as the other phrase feels like they are lowering themselves, as though they are having to downgrade in their retirement.

The simple fact is we are living longer as a population and constantly growing with increased birth rates and immigration.

So, what I would say to all the homeowners and property owning public of Newbury is more houses and apartments need to be built in the Newbury area, especially more specialist retirement properties and bungalows.

The Government had a golden opportunity with the White Paper – and were sadly found lacking.

Finally, a message to my Newbury property investor readers while this issue gets sorted in the coming decade(s).

Maybe seriously consider doing up older bungalows – people will pay handsomely for them – be they for sale or even rent? Just a thought!

■ If you want to know what (and what would not) make a decent buy-to-let property in Newbury, then one place for such information would be the Newbury property blog.

Please visit www.newburypropertynews.co.uk, view our pages on Facebook or pop into our office in Cheap Street in Newbury.

PROPERTY SPOTLIGHTS



New start in Old House

BRADFIELD SOUTHEND

£1,600,000

THE Old House is a fine detached period property situated down a quiet country road – Cock Lane.

It has wonderful proportions and large windows, enhancing the light and airy feel which is apparent throughout the house.

The property is presented in a stylish yet comfortable manner, exuding welcoming warmth throughout.

The property comprises a large drawing room, a delightful family room/snug with wood-burner, perfect for cosy evenings, and both have lovely aspects over the grounds.

This in turn leads through to the kitchen/dining room which is the hub of the house and features bespoke units with a central island and which also provides a generous dining area.

The laundry/utility room has a separate entrance to outside –

ideal for families with dogs – together with a separate WC and a shower room.

The first floor features a master suite which has a dressing room and bathroom.

There are three further good-sized bedrooms plus a smaller fourth/study and a family bathroom.

The grounds are largely laid to lawn with mature hedging, shrubbery and flower borders.

A wonderful patio area has been created with a sizeable terrace and most attractive brick-built barbecue, which is flanked by two large beds with low box hedging.

There is also a smaller patio, again offering a charming setting for informal outside dining.

For more details, please contact (01635) 582111 or newbury@hamptons-int.com



Woodlands setting is just perfect

GREENHAM

£1,650,000

WOODLANDS is located in a magical setting, within its own gardens and grounds of about two acres, which includes some beautiful woodland glades and river frontage to the River Enborne, with fishing rights.

It is a fine, recently-constructed family home, with adaptable accommodation over three floors.

The property has well-proportioned rooms, many of which make the most of the charming views over the gardens and grounds.

The centrepiece of the property is undoubtedly the magnificent kitchen, with adjoining breakfast room and circular dining room.

On the same floor is the formal drawing room and study, together with magnificent reception hall and galleried landing above.

The lower floor represents an opportunity to create independent living space, or alternatively makes an ideal family area, with the options to create a games or cinema room.

The bedrooms are located on the first floor and there are four well-appointed bathrooms.

This property has been built with much care and attention and to a high standard, which includes stone floors in the kitchen and bathrooms, oak flooring, hand-made double glazed windows and underfloor heating.

Outside, the property is approached down a long woodland driveway to gravelled parking where there is room for a detached double garage, for which planning permission has been granted.

The gardens comprise areas of lawn and terracing, together with attractive woodland glades and the adjoining River Enborne.

The property is conveniently located for the major commercial centres of Newbury and Basingstoke and is convenient for the M3 and M4 motorways and mainline stations to Paddington and Waterloo.

For more details, call (01635) 45501 or email newbury@jackson-stops.co.uk



Byfields of dreams

HEADLEY

£600,000

BYFIELDS is a versatile four/five-bedroom detached family home with a plot of more than a third of an acre in a tranquil semi-rural location.

It has beautiful, mature gardens at front and back, bordered on one side by fields and there is huge potential for renovation/extension (subject to the usual consents).

Originally a bungalow, it was extended by the present owners in the 1970s to comprise, on the ground floor, an entrance hall,

sitting room with multi-fuel stove, kitchen/breakfast room with walk-in larder, three double bedrooms (each with fitted wardrobes) and shower room with w/c.

On the first floor, is a large double-aspect room and beautiful countryside views (currently a living room) with potential for use as a master bedroom, one further double bedroom and a family bathroom.

There are also extensive loft spaces and an enclosed boot

room leading to adjoining workshop and garage.

Windows are double-glazed, and here is oil-fired central heating and solar water heating panels.

At the front of the house is block-paved driveway parking leading to the garage and front garden.

There is no onward chain.

For further information, contact Hillier and Wilson on (01635) 522044 or sales@hillierandwilson.co.uk



jackson-stops.co.uk



Ashmore Green

An attractive period farmhouse with 7.12 acres and planning permission for a 2 bedroom cottage

2 reception rooms • Garden room • Kitchen/breakfast/family room • Utility room • Master bedroom with dressing room and adjoining bathroom • Guest bedroom with shower and separate wc • 2 Further bedrooms • Family bathroom • Separate office with kitchenette and wc • Pool house • Store • Swimming pool • Tennis court • Manege • Stable block comprising 4 stables • 2 stores and games room • Gardens and paddocks amounting to 7.12 acres (2.884 ha) • EPC rating D

Guide Price: £1,500,000

Contact: Liz McLean



West Ilsley

An outstanding Grade II Listed barn conversion in a popular downland village

2 reception rooms • Study area • Kitchen/breakfast room • 4 en suite bedrooms • Double garage • Award winning garden designed by Joanne Alderson

Guide Price: £750,000

Contact: Liz McLean



Newbury

A classic attached period house on the edge of Newbury

2 reception rooms • Kitchen/breakfast room • Study • Shower room • Master Bedroom • 4 further bedrooms • Family bathroom • Shower room • Garden • Stores • EPC rating E

Guide Price: £725,000

Contact: Liz McLean

Newbury 01635 45501

newbury@jackson-stops.co.uk



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& Staff



Foxhill

A beautifully restored period house on the edge of The Ridgeway with outstanding views.

Marbled reception hall • Drawing room, • Dining room • Staircase hall • Study • Kitchen/breakfast room • Utility room • Master bedroom with en suite bathroom • Guest bedroom with en suite shower room • 3 further bedrooms • 2 further bathrooms • Annexe • Garaging • Garden and paddocks • In all about 9.604 acres (3.887 ha) • EPC rating F

Guide Price: £1,800,000

Contact: Liz McLean



Headley

A charming period farmhouse in an outstanding rural setting with paddocks

Entrance hall • 2 reception rooms • Study/playroom • Kitchen/breakfast room • Utility room • Cloakroom • Master bedroom with en suite bathroom • 4 further bedrooms • Family bathroom • The Cottage: Sitting room • Kitchen • Conservatory • 2 bedrooms • Shower room • Heated swimming pool and pool house • Stables • Manege • Barn • Gardens and paddocks • In all 4.510 acres (1.825 ha) • EPC ratings E

Guide Price: £1,450,000

Contact: Liz McLean



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West Mills

An amazing Victorian town house with character situated in a truly unique location in the heart of Newbury Town overlooking the Kennet & Avon Canal within a stroll from the town centre. The accommodation is arranged over three floors and retains many original features including beautiful fireplaces, exposed floor timbers and sash windows. On the ground floor there is a large hallway with stairs leading to the first floor, sitting room, lounge and kitchen/breakfast room with french doors leading to a lovely courtyard garden. On the first floor there is a master bedroom, guest double bedroom and bathroom. On the second floor there are two further double bedrooms and a shower room. To the rear of the property there is private parking for two vehicles and gated access to a lovely fully enclosed courtyard garden where one can enjoy alfresco dining which offers a degree of privacy. EPC - E

£650,000



Upper Bucklebury

A deceptively large five bedroom detached family home situated in a prime residential location in the popular village of Upper Bucklebury. The property has been very well maintained by its current owner. Accommodation comprising:- large entrance porch, good size dining room which is open plan to a lovely fitted kitchen, the lounge benefits from having an open fire and French doors leading to the garden, there is a good size laundry room, downstairs toilet and integral garage. On the first floor there are four good sized double bedrooms and a fifth single bedroom currently utilised as a study, good sized family bathroom and there is also a 'Jack and Jill' shower room accessed from bedrooms three and four. The front of the property is accessed via a large shingle driveway affording off road parking for several vehicles. There is an attractive garden to the rear which is fully enclosed offering a degree of privacy. EPC - E

£550,000



Thatcham £525,000

Detached four bedroom family house. The accommodation comprises:- hallway, downstairs cloakroom, lounge, dining room/study, kitchen, large conservatory. There are 4 bedrooms and two bathrooms. Garden and double garage. EPC-D



Newbury £499,999

A deceptively large detached family home comprising:- hallway, WC, study, lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory/utility room, four good size bedrooms and a family bathroom. Driveway parking, good size garden and a double garage. EPC - E



Chieveley £420,000

A fabulous three bedroom detached bungalow. The accommodation comprises:- entrance hallway, bathroom, kitchen, utility room, lounge with large patio doors leading to the garden, dining room, three bedrooms all with built in wardrobe space.



Dunstan Park OIEO £300,000

A bay fronted end terrace house comprising:- entrance hall, WC, lounge, dining room, kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite, two further bedrooms and a family bathroom. Driveway parking to the front and enclosed garden to the rear. EPC - C



Thatcham £299,995

A three bedroom end terrace house within walking distance to Thatcham town and Kennet School. The accommodation comprises:- hallway, lounge/dining room, kitchen, rear lobby, WC, 3 bedrooms and a shower room. Fully enclosed rear garden. Off road parking and garage in a nearby block. EPC - D



Town Centre £289,950

A three bedroom Victorian terrace house. The accommodation comprises:- hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen and bathroom. On the first floor there are three bedrooms. There is a fully enclosed garden to the rear, which offers a high degree of privacy. EPC - E



Newbury £279,995

A spacious three bedroom family home comprising:- hall, dining room, large lounge with gas fire, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, single bedroom and a modern bathroom. The garden is fully enclosed, has a sociable patio area and a pathway leading to a garden shed. EPC - C



The Moors £265,000

A two bedroom house situated in a prime residential area to the south of Thatcham. The accommodation comprises:- entrance hallway, kitchen, living room, dining area with patio doors onto the rear garden. EPC-D Two parking spaces and a very pretty rear garden.



Newbury £214,994

A two bedroom top floor apartment situated in a tucked away position in a small select development. The accommodation comprises:- communal entrance hallway, hall, kitchen, lounge/dining room, two bedrooms and a family bathroom. allocated parking and additional visitors parking. EPC-D

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South Newbury £830,000

An impressive detached family home in one of Newburys most desirable locations offering an exceptional standard of accommodation and comprising a generous reception hall, cloakroom, study, kitchen/breakfast room, family room, conservatory, dining room, drawing room and utility on the ground floor. On the first floor there is a master suite with en-suite bathroom, a guest bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms and a family bathroom. Benefits include gas central heating and double glazing. The property offers attractive gardens, large detached double garage and ample driveway parking.



Winterbourne £775,000

A rare opportunity to purchase a detached family home in one of the region's most desirable villages. Entrance hall, cloakroom, generous double aspect living room, dining room and fabulous modern kitchen/breakfast room on the ground floor with a master bedroom and en-suite bathroom, three further double bedrooms and a family bathroom on the first floor. Double garage, gardens and delightful views.



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Highclere £675,000

A delightful family home, formally the School House which forms part of an attractive courtyard development. Reception hall, cloakroom, fabulous split-level double aspect drawing room with raised dining area & lovely fireplace, a fitted kitchen and adjoining breakfast room, utility room, an impressive master bedroom with a dressing room and en-suite bathroom, 3 further bedrooms and a family bathroom. There is a private garden and access to the large communal lawns with countryside views. There is parking and a garage.

Wendan Road Price Guide £675,000

A well-presented substantial detached family home comprising reception hall, cloakroom, modern fitted kitchen, utility, dining room, living room, generous study and garden room on the ground floor with master bedroom and en-suite, 4 further generous bedrooms, and a large refitted bathroom on the 1st floor. There is also a guest double bedroom and en-suite bathroom on the ground floor which could serve as a small annex. The property is approached via electric gates. There is a detached garage and beautifully maintained gardens.



Newtown Common £625,000

Set in generous beautifully maintained gardens in a delightful setting this detached chalet bungalow offers ideal opportunities for improvement. Reception hall, living room with fireplace, dining room, conservatory, modern fitted kitchen with pantry, master bedroom with en-suite, 2 further bedrooms & guest double bedroom/study. The property has a right of way across a small parcel of common land, a double garage and plenty of parking.

Whitway, Burghclere Guide Price £600,000

A stunning detached property on the edge of the Highclere estate with wonderful views over the surrounding countryside. The property has recently been refurbished throughout and comprises an entrance hallway, lovely open plan kitchen/dining room, sitting room, cloakroom, garage/study, three bedrooms, all of which enjoy glorious views, with en-suite to the master and a family bathroom. Central heating, double glazing, large private gardens and ample driveway parking. Offered for sale with no onward chain.



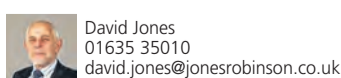
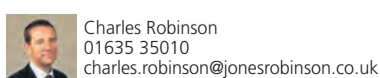
Lambourn £550,000

The property is situated in an elevated position on a secluded plot on the corner of a small exclusive development conveniently situated for both the village centre and the school. There are gardens to three sides, driveway parking and a detached double garage. The accommodation comprises entrance hall, living room with fireplace, dining room, study, kitchen/breakfast room, family room, utility room and cloakroom to the ground floor. To the first floor there are five bedrooms, en-suite shower to master bedroom and a family bathroom.

East Garston Guide Price £575,000

A light and airy Victorian detached family home which has been lovingly renovated and extended to the highest specification. Reception hall, a bright living room with large dining space alongside, a snug with wood burner, a modern fitted Neptune kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, master bedroom with en-suite, a further 2 double bedrooms and a family bathroom. Outside there is a good size private rear garden and a gated gravel driveway suitable for parking 4 cars.

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East Garston £498,823

A charming detached Grade 2 listed characterful thatched cottage in the heart of this picturesque village which is well maintained and has good ceiling heights. Accommodation includes an entrance hall, dual aspect sitting room, separate dining room, shaker style kitchen with granite worktops, a family bathroom and WC. The garden is a good size and is private; there is a garage; a workshop with power and light and off road parking.

Chiltern Close £510,000

Situated in one of the most desirable cul de sacs upon this highly favoured development to the south of the town a 4 bedroom detached family home available with no onward chain. Reception Hall, cloakroom, living/dining room. Kitchen/breakfast room en suite & family bathroom.



Montgomery Road £495,000

A superb extended detached bungalow with a large conservatory in one of the most sought after locations to the south of Newbury. The property is well presented throughout and offers flexible family accommodation comprising, reception hall, living room, kitchen/dining room, a fabulous conservatory and a garden room, three bedrooms and a shower room. Gas fired central heating, double glazing, a garage and beautiful established gardens.

Dunstan Park £450,000

This family home has well-proportioned accommodation arranged over two floors measuring approximately 1230ft². On the ground floor is an entrance hall, lovely sitting room with doors to the dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room and cloakroom on the ground floor with 4 generous bedrooms with en-suite to the master bedroom and the family bathroom on the first floor. Other features include gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking and an enclosed rear garden.



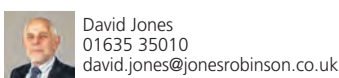
South Newbury £425,000

This beautiful apartment built to an exceptionally high standard comprises a large reception hall, generous reception room leading through to the open plan kitchen/dining room with Juliet balcony, high quality fitted kitchen with island and integrated appliances and granite work tops, two bedrooms, both with en-suites and fitted wardrobes, a further third bedroom or study and cloakroom. Gas central heating, double glazing and views to the rear over the stunning communal gardens.

Highclere £410,000

Situated in the delightful village of Highclere is this lovely property offering spacious accommodation comprising an entrance hallway, living/dining room, fitted kitchen and cloakroom on the ground floor. On the first are three bedrooms with en-suite to the master and a family bathroom. Other features include a carport and a further allocated parking space

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Lambourn £399,950

A spacious family home with potential for extension. Entrance hall, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, utility, cloakroom & rear porch, 3 double bedrooms and a refitted bathroom, driveway parking and gardens to three sides.



Newbury Racecourse £350,000

A stunning apartment with views over the Racecourse and Stroud Green. Lovely open plan living room/kitchen, two bedrooms, en-suite to master and main bathroom. Large balcony, plenty of storage and undercroft parking.



Newbury £359,950

A modern detached family home convenient for the town centre. Living room, dining room, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, three bedrooms, a modern bathroom, garage and garden.



Hermitage OIEO £345,000

A modern three storey townhouse. Entrance hall, WC, kitchen, living/dining room, 2/3 bedrooms and family bathroom, with a master bedroom and en-suite on the second floor. Garage, carport & garden.



Gloucester Road £330,000

This beautifully presented property offers an entrance hallway, lovely sitting room with wood burning stove, dining room, kitchen, two double bedrooms, a large bathroom, a good size south facing garden, gas CH & d/g.



Greenham Road £315,000

An attractive bay fronted semi detached property. Entrance hall, living room, stunning fitted kitchen/dining room, rear hall, bathroom and 3 bedrooms, en-suite to master. Gas fired CH, d/g & off street parking.



Great Shefford Guide Price £325,000

This much improved family home offers a reception hall, living room, conservatory, kitchen/dining room, utility room, WC, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, driveway parking, a beautiful rear garden and field views.



Hungerford Newtown £325,000

An attractive Grade II listed cottage. Entrance hall, triple aspect reception room, kitchen, rear hall, refitted bathroom and 2 double bedrooms. Off road parking for 4 cars, enclosed mature gardens and a workshop.



Town Centre £294,950

A beautifully presented apartment with its own private garden and car port. Entrance hall, living/dining room with French doors, modern fitted kitchen with built in appliances, two bedrooms and a bathroom.



Hungerford Guide Price £310,000

A light & airy link-detached property convenient for the town centre and railway station. Living/dining room, kitchen, WC, 3 bedrooms and family bathroom. Driveway parking for 3 cars, a garage & attractive private garden.



West Overton Guide Price £300,000

This delightful cottage offers plenty of character and natural light and is close to Marlborough. Entrance hall, open plan living & dining room with wood burner, cloakroom, 3 bedrooms, a bathroom & private garden.



Lambourn Guide Price £285,000

A modern semi-detached house benefitting from a 60ft rear garden & field views to the rear. Entrance hall, living room, kitchen/dining room, w/c, 3 bedrooms, en-suite & family bathroom. Gas CH & d/g.



Greenham Road £275,000

A well-presented Victorian terraced house with a generous garden. Living room with feature fireplace, dining room, refitted kitchen, bathroom, utility and 2 double bedrooms. Gas fired CH, d/g and shed.



Shrewsbury Terrace 279,995

An attractive 2 bedroom terrace cottage dating back to 1890 located in a traffic free walking close to the town centre. Living room, kitchen dining room, two bedrooms, bathroom gas central heating and double glazing.



Great Shefford £270,000

A beautifully refurbished character cottage. Kitchen/dining room, sitting room with original fireplace & wood burning stove, refitted bathroom with under floor heating, two double bedrooms and enclosed rear garden.



Lambourn Guide Price £260,000

An end of terrace situated within walking distance of the village. Entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, cloakroom, 3 bedrooms and a bathroom. The property benefits from front and rear gardens.



Town Centre £240,000

A beautifully presented ground floor loft style apartment. Open plan reception room/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, shower room, allocated parking, visitors' spaces, bike storage & well-kept communal grounds.



Town Centre OIEO £170,000

A fantastic ground floor maisonette comprising a sitting room, fitted kitchen, double bedroom with built in wardrobes & bathroom. Other features include double glazing and well kept communal grounds beside the river.



Thatcham £210,000

A spacious and well presented first floor maisonette situated in a quiet cul de sac. Entrance porch, lovely living/dining room with Juliet balcony, modern fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. Gas CH & d/g.



Lambourn Guide Price £240,000

An extended & spacious end of terrace property. Entrance hall, dining/family room, living room, kitchen, utility, three bedrooms, ensuite shower to master and a family bathroom. Good size garden and garage in a block.



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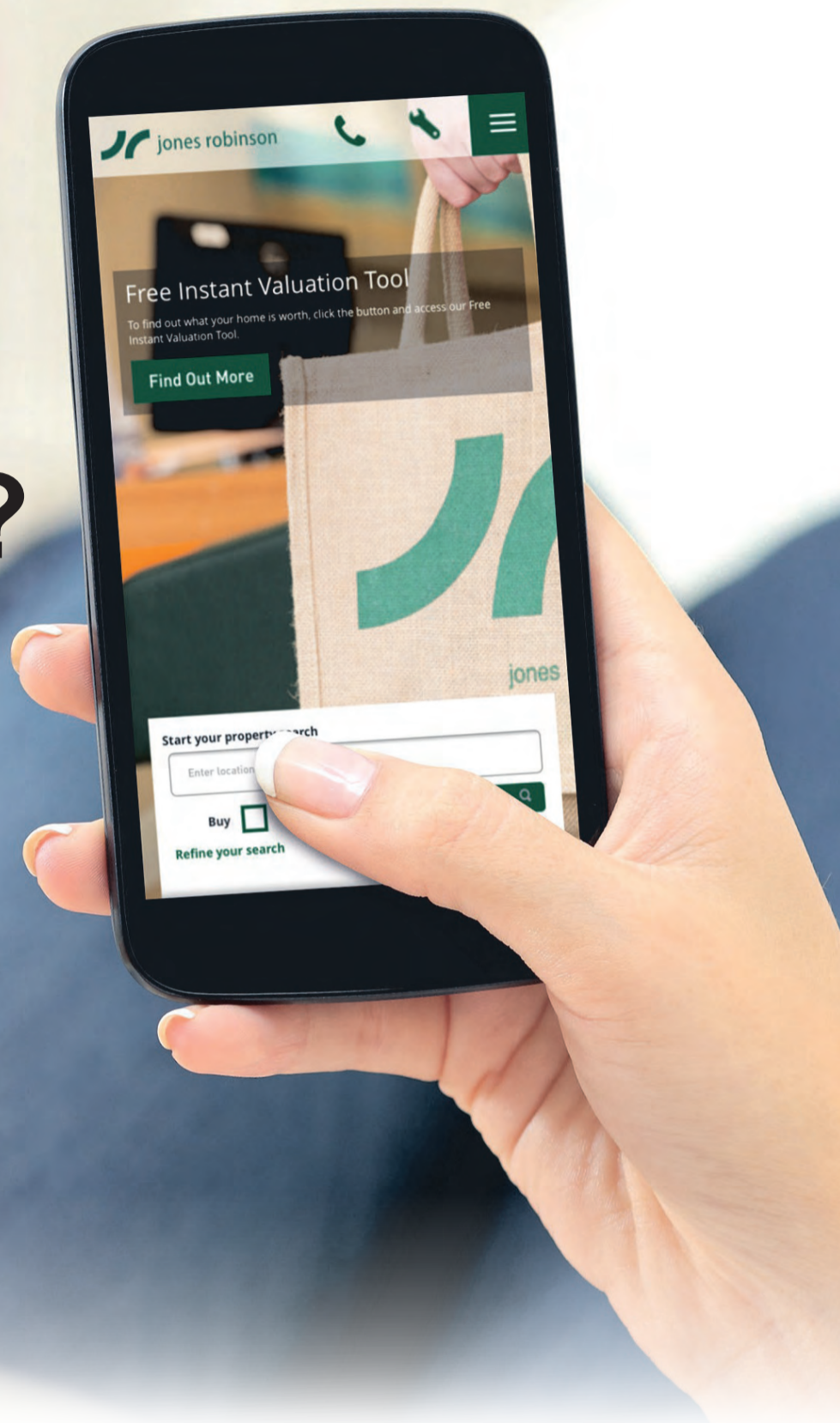


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Mr & Mrs Dobrowolski, Thatcham



Sidestrand Road

£449,950

A beautifully presented three bedroom detached bungalow in a lovely quiet backwater of Newbury in the St Barts Secondary School catchment. The property is superbly presented and offers spacious living accommodation and lots of parking together with a good sized private rear garden backing onto a copse. Accommodation includes entrance porch, large living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, inner hallway three bedrooms, bathroom, ample driveway parking and garage to front and rear garden.



Inkpen

£355,000

A spacious three bedroom semi detached family home in the popular village of Inkpen. Situated on a no through road and backing onto woodlands. Accommodation comprises large utility room, cloakroom, kitchen/dining room, lounge, conservatory, two double bedrooms, further bedroom and family bathroom. Benefits also include walking distance to Primary School, large rear garden, parking for several vehicles and oil fired central heating. NO ONWARD CHAIN.



South Newbury

£330,000

CASH BUYERS ONLY! Extended three bedroom semi detached 1950's house in need of full modernisation. Situated in a sought after residential area to the south of Newbury and within the St. Bart's school catchment. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, cloakroom, sitting room, lounge/dining room, kitchen, two double bedrooms, further bedroom and bathroom. Good size south facing garden, gas central heating, double glazing, garage, driveway parking and NO ONWARD CHAIN.



Walton Way

£315,000

Well presented and spacious three bedroom home with fantastic corner plot garden and converted garage. The property has been well maintained by the current owners and is set back from the road allowing driveway parking for two vehicles. The accommodation consists of entrance lobby, open plan kitchen/dining room, living room, two large double bedrooms, third bedroom and bathroom with separate shower.



Central Newbury

£299,950

Newly built three bedroom end of terrace house ideally suited for a first time buyer or as an investment. Situated within a short stroll of the town centre and rail station with a south facing rear garden. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, cloakroom, kitchen/dining room, sitting room, two double bedrooms, further bedroom and family bathroom. Benefits include driveway parking, 10 yr warranty, gas central heating, double glazing and NO ONWARD CHAIN.



Racecourse

£220,000

Immaculate third floor one bedroom apartment within the Racecourse development with secure covered parking. Just a short walk from the town centre, this nearly new flat would make a fabulous pied-a-terre, investment or first home. Security entry system through communal front door, lift to third floor, personal front door to flat, hallway, utility, open plan kitchen/living room, bedroom and bathroom. West facing balcony, NHBC and David Wilson guarantees and NO ONWARD CHAIN.

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Bishops Green £760,000

Retaining lots of original features, with light and well proportioned accommodation. Sitting in just under half an acre of beautifully landscaped gardens, this three bedroom period cottage with four/ five reception rooms is located on the edge of the village and backs onto open countryside.



Ecchinswell £675,000

With just under half an acre of lovely gardens and paddock, a stunning looking three bedroom detached cottage with an annex and outbuildings. Retaining a great deal of charm and character the cottage could benefit from updating and offers huge scope to further extend (SSTP). No Onward Chain.



Curridge £595,000

In a village location just a few miles north of Newbury, an attractive cottage-style three bedroomed detached house offering spacious family accommodation. Curridge primary school is just a short walk away and the property is within the Downs catchment with its own school transport. Also within walking distance is 'The Bunk' a popular public house and restaurant.



Inkpen £500,000

A superb opportunity to update and extend a three bedroom detached property with great sized garden, overlooking paddocks and backing onto woodland. Located about two and a half miles from Kintbury mainline train station to London Paddington and the West Country. Entrance hall, cloakroom, kitchen, dining room, living room, three bedrooms and family bathroom. Garage. NO ONWARD CHAIN.

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'Downer & Co were very good in keeping me informed of what was happening at all times'

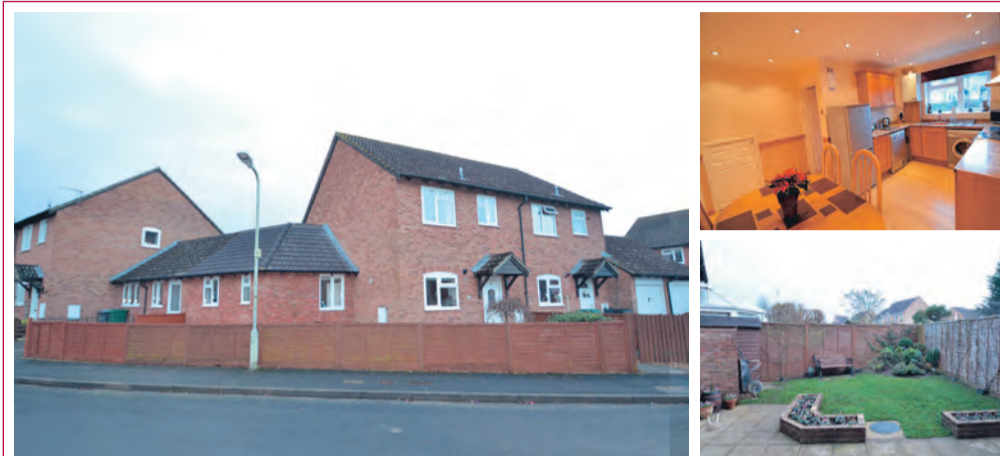
Mrs A Parfitt, Thatcham



Beenham

£365,000

Located down a quiet single track lane in this pretty village midway between Reading and Newbury, this three bedroom semi detached house is within walking distance of the primary school and the local public house. The garage has been converted to provide a study/family room and smart downstairs shower room. Entrance hall, living/dining room, conservatory, kitchen, study, downstairs shower room, three bedrooms and bathroom. Driveway parking and lovely south west facing rear garden.



Newbury

£335,000

Cleverly extended three bedroom semi detached house offering excellent flexible living space with the opportunity to create a good size self contained annexe. Accommodation currently comprises entrance hall, kitchen/dining room, sitting room, study/family room, shower room, garden room, two double bedrooms, further bedroom and family bathroom. Benefits include cul-de-sac location, close to town, off road parking, gas central heating and double glazing throughout.



Newbury

£329,950

Smart first floor flat with lift located within a gated development in central Newbury. Communal security entrance, hallway, kitchen, living/dining room with bi-fold doors to balcony, master bedroom with built in wardrobe and ensuite, second double bedroom with built-in wardrobe and jack 'n jill ensuite and allocated parking. NO ONWARD CHAIN.



Railway Road

£265,000

Two bedroom mid terrace house within walking distance of the town centre and rail station. Recently re-decorated making this ideal for investment or a first time buy. Accommodation comprises sitting room, dining room, kitchen, double bedroom, further bedroom and stylish bathroom. Benefits include south facing rear garden, gas central heating and NO ONWARD CHAIN.



Newbury

£215,000

Spacious open plan living on the top floor and within walking distance of the town centre and rail station. Ideal for first time buyers and investors alike. The accommodation consists of security entry system, stairs to second floor through personal front door to hall, open plan kitchen/dining/living room with breakfast bar and built-in appliances, master bedroom with en-suite shower room and built-in wardrobe, second double bedroom and bathroom. NO ONWARD CHAIN.



Town Centre

£175,000

Smart top floor apartment located just minutes from the town centre, within walking distance of all the amenities. A perfect investment or first time buy. Accommodation comprises, communal hall, own entrance, open plan living area, double bedroom and bathroom. NO ONWARD CHAIN.

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Garden Close Lane £890,000

Unquestionably one of the most prestigious and enviable locations in Newbury - a handsome and spacious four bedroom family home sitting in approximately 0.35 acre and backing onto fields. The property is within walking distance of Park House and Falkland schools, local shops nearby and easy access to the A34.



Wolverton Common £735,000

A superb four/five bedroom and three bathroom detached family home in this wonderful rural location. The house (formerly a bungalow) has been beautifully extended/modernised to a very high standard and offers very flexible accommodation which could be further altered to include an annexe.



Headley £650,000

Set well back from the road, a substantial four double bedroom, three bathroom detached home set in a sub-tropical garden in this village between Newbury and Basingstoke. The smartly presented home includes three reception rooms together with a stunning refitted kitchen and versatile accommodation arranged over the two floors.



Curridge £535,000

Fabulous cottage within one of the most desirable villages to the north of Newbury and within easy reach of the M4/A34. Entrance hall, kitchen/breakfast room, living room, dining room, shower room, utility room/outbuilding, two double and two single bedrooms, bathroom, and a bonus room in the loft currently used as a study. Beautiful west facing patio and garden, single garage and NO ONWARD CHAIN.

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Upper Basildon

A stunning bespoke house

Only recently newly built, a stunning bespoke house of approximately 2,970 sq ft, built to an exacting standard with striking elevations of architectural note displaying stylish and high quality fixtures and fittings throughout. EPC: C

Price Guide: £1,250,000



Goring on Thames

A substantial late Victorian family home

Of impressive architectural design affording accommodation of approximately 3191 sq ft occupying a prime village location set in delightful south facing gardens and grounds. EPC: F

Price Guide: £1,295,000



Streatley on Thames

An elegant & stylish duplex apartment

With awe-inspiring views affording well-appointed accommodation of approximately 1,691 sq ft forming part of a small exclusive development in an architecturally striking late Edwardian Manor House, in such a fabulous setting. EPC: TBC

Price Guide: £635,000



Goring on Thames

A traditional semi-detached house

With sympathetically extended 3 bedroom accommodation, refurbished throughout and displaying in a tasteful contemporary form, with large attractive family garden and private driveway. EPC: D

Price Guide: £600,000



South Stoke

A delightful and spacious well-appointed 3 bed character family house

Of typical elegant yet imposing Victorian design, benefitting from having been extended and modernised throughout in more recent years and with the added advantage of having an indoor pool. EPC: F

Price Guide: £525,000



Compton

An attractive period property

In converted Grade II listed former Manor House situated within walled gardens in the heart of this popular village. Conveniently located between Newbury and Oxford enjoying excellent road and rail communications via the A34, M4 and with mainline Stations nearby.

Price Guide: £350,000



Streatley on Thames

Available Now

A beautiful 3 bedroom character cottage with charm and wonderful views of the surrounding fields in Streatley on Thames. EPC: E

Price Guide: £1,795 pcm + fees



East Ilsley

Available Mid June

Situated at the top of the high street, a 3 bedroom character property renovated to a high standard. EPC: C

Price Guide: £1,795 pcm + fees



East Ilsley

Available Now

A 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom character cottage with excellent road and rail links to Oxford, Newbury and London. EPC: D

Price Guide: £1,495 pcm + fees



Streatley on Thames

Available Late May

Well presented semi detached spacious 3 double bedroom Cottage in fabulous rural location. EPC: D

Price Guide: £1,300pcm + fees

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51 Northbrook Street, Newbury RG14 1DT



HEADLEY

A charming Hampshire farmhouse surrounded by a lovely established garden, with outbuildings and 10.62 acres in total. Energy Rating D.

- 5
- 2
- 2

Guide price
£1,185,000



WOODLANDS ST. MARY

An attractive period cottage with a fabulous studio building together with a large plot of approximately 0.87 acres. Energy Rating D.

- 3
- 2
- 3

Guide price
£825,000



ADBURY HOLT

Situated in a lovely private and secluded location, near the end of a no through private road, an individual detached family house with a wonderful south west facing garden of approximately 3/4 of an acre. Energy Rating E.

- 4
- 3
- 2

Guide price
£950,000

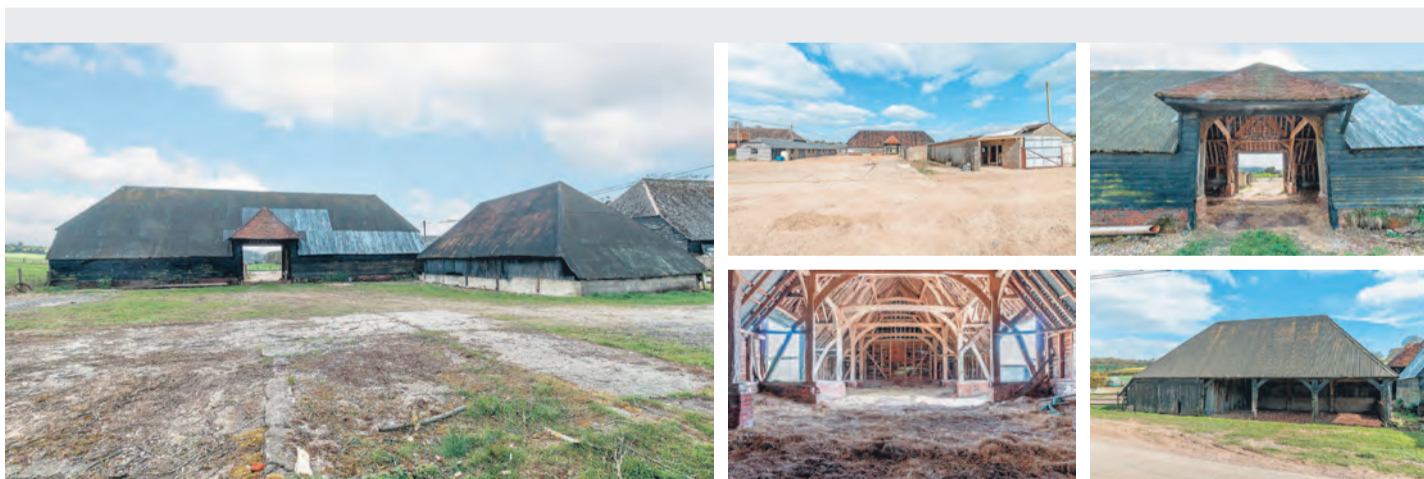


HERMITAGE

An attractive brand new village house constructed to a high standard with quality fixtures and fittings throughout and situated in this popular location within the catchment of the Downs School. Energy Rating B.

- 4
- 1
- 3

Guide price
£675,000



CHADDLEWORTH

Situated in a lovely rural location a range of Listed barns with planning permission to be converted into two dwellings with garden and garaging. Potential to be converted into a magnificent single dwelling subject to planning.

-
-
-

Guide price
£500,000



WASH COMMON

A beautifully presented semi-detached house situated in a popular residential area within the catchment for Falkland Primary School and Park House School. Energy Rating D.

- 3
- 2
- 1

Asking price
£410,000

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KINTBURY

Rarely available is this excellent detached property set within a quarter of an acre of beautiful gardens in the heart of Kintbury. Energy Rating E.



Guide price
£765,000

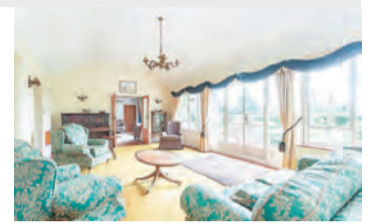


UPTON

A very rare opportunity to purchase this substantial farmhouse, in need of updating, with good equestrian facilities and all set in grounds and paddocks of just over 18 acres in a glorious location on top of the Downs. Energy Rating E.



Guide price
£1,300,000



HURSTBOURNE TARRANT

Situated in a very pretty village in the Bourne Valley an attractive Grade II Listed period cottage with a private south westerly facing courtyard garden and ideal as a permanent home or a weekend retreat.



Guide price
£375,000

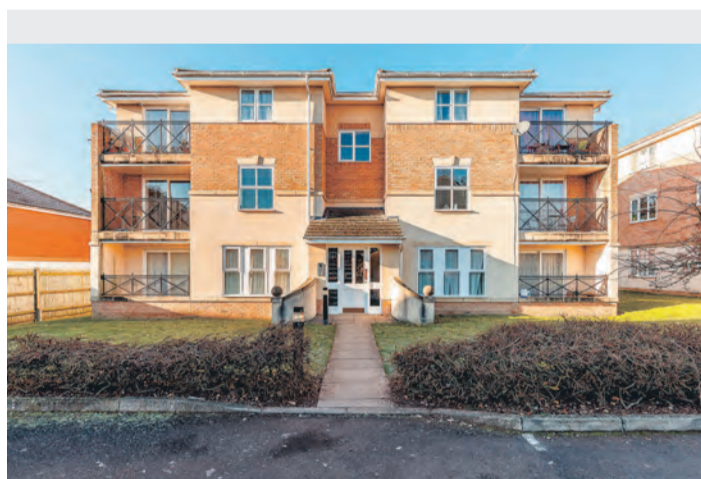


STREATLEY

With approximately 2.77 acres, a handsome detached Victorian family home with a detached self-contained annex/party barn situated on the edge of this highly desirable village. Energy Rating E.



Guide price
£1,250,000



THATCHAM

A bright and spacious first floor apartment located in this smart modern development benefiting from a balcony with room for seating and private parking, available with no ongoing chain. Energy Rating C.



Guide price
£175,000



ASHAMPSTEAD COMMON

An attractive individual house with substantial accommodation of over 3,500 sq.ft, with a wonderful garden of approximately 1.5 acres and situated in a very special quiet location close to the village of Yattendon. Energy Rating E.



Guide price
£1,250,000



Looking for a skilled trades-person for your home renovation?

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Thursday, March 2, 2017
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Estate agencies featured in this issue:

Agency	Page
Carter Jonas	4-5
Cricketts	6
Jones Robinson	7-11, 24
Downer & Co	12-15
Dudley Singleton	16
Atkinson Keene	17
Jackson Stops	18-19
Warmingham	20
Davis Tate	21
Jones Robinson Lettings	22
Downer & Co Lettings	19

For information on new homes to buy or rent, log on to [newburyhomesearch](http://newburyhomesearch.co.uk) anytime

Modern living with that period charm

SITUATED just off the green in Aldbourne, Ivyannie House is an elegant house that has modern living combined with period charm.

Ivyannie is a modern three-bedroom property, but with all the charm and looks of a period property.

The house is incredibly well presented, having been renovated, extended and improved.

The accommodation is versatile, with the added bonus of having an adjoining annexe.

Entering the house you are greeted with a light and welcoming entrance hall, off which is a lovely mahogany-panelled drawing room with a feature wood burning stove at its heart.

Further down the hall is an open-plan kitchen/dining room which can be used as a family room.

Upstairs there is a master bedroom with a spacious dressing room. There is another bedroom upstairs and a family bathroom.

Throughout the house there are



many quality features, including the built-in shelving and storage and fitted wardrobes in all bedrooms.

There is also extensive loft space in the main house as well as above the study/bedroom in the annexe.

To the rear of the house is a delightful and well-established walled garden, while to the front there is plenty of parking for cars as well as a two-bay open garage.

Victoria Anderson-Stewart said: "This is a truly special house with great emphasis on entertaining in the show-stopping kitchen/family room."

The guide price is £895,000.

For more details, call Victoria Anderson-Stewart on (01488) 688534, or email Victoria.anderson-stewart@knightfrank.com



Acres of inspiration

FAR ACRES is situated in Freshfields Lane, a quiet location on the edge of Chieveley.

It has been extended and improved by the current owners, who have created an individual and stylish home designed to benefit from the stunning views.

In keeping with today's open-plan living, they have created an amazing main living area, which has three sets of doors on the western side to maximise the light and space.

There is a sitting area which is triple aspect and a large dining area, and both benefit from a central wood-burning fireplace which can be rotated so it can be enjoyed in both areas of the room.

The property also boasts a fully-fitted kitchen with island, stone worktops and built-in appliances, including three ovens and five-ring gas hob.

In addition there is a utility, downstairs cloakroom, small study and a separate family room.

Upstairs the galleried landing is a particular feature of the house, the master bedroom with en-suite has French doors with a Juliette balcony, three further double bedrooms (one with en-suite) and a family bathroom with both bath and shower.

The property is approached via a gravel drive, providing access to the garage and generous off-road parking.

To the front of the house is a large area of level lawn and to the rear is a sheltered additional area, which is currently laid as raised vegetable beds.

The guide price is £875,000.

For more details, call (01635) 263000 or email newbury@carterjonas.co.uk

Impressive home down on the farm

LETCOMBE Bowers Farm is an impressive period house sitting in the most wonderful position, near Wantage.

The house offers extensive and very flexible living and can easily be sub-divided to provide separate accommodation.

The main house offers excellent south-facing reception space with working fireplaces radiating out from an impressive hallway with steps down to the cellar.

From the kitchen/breakfast room there is access to the scullery, store rooms and a further sitting room, bedroom, shower room and kitchen.

On the first floor there is an impressive master bedroom with an en-suite bathroom and beautiful views over the countryside.

There are a total of nine further bedrooms, a bathroom and shower room.

There is a useful second



staircase serving the east wing of the house.

The property is approached via a mile-long drive through farmland and there are a range of outbuildings within the grounds to include a tractor barn, lambing barn and an impressive timber-framed barn with planning permission to convert for ancillary use to the main house.

The garden has a very open south aspect, with stunning views over adjoining farmland and countryside beyond.

The guide price is £3m.

For more details, call (01635) 263000 or email newbury@carterjonas.co.uk

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Location Newbury

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Newbury Berkshire Price **£220,000**
Well presented park home. The property comprises two bedrooms, two bathrooms, one en-suite. Reception room, kitchen, dining room, fully carpeted, garden, a large brick drive, benefits from gas heating and main drainage. Property is in a private cul-de-sac of Hayson's Drive. Over 50's only retired/semi-retired.

Phone (01635)46666 or (01635)38769



Thatch life in a character cottage

COBWEBS, is situated in **Newtown Hungerford** and offers plenty of character, including exposed timbers in most rooms.

The accommodation includes a separate entrance hall, a good-size triple-aspect reception room, an inglenook fireplace and wood-burner.

The kitchen, which has a cellar and a range of units, leads on to the rear hall and then on to the refitted bathroom.

On the first floor there are two double bedrooms.

There is good frontage with off-road parking for four cars.

A well welcomes you to the property alongside a pedestrian gate. There are enclosed mature gardens to the rear and side – approximately 36ft by 36ft – offering a good degree of privacy.

The workshop is a great size and has power and lighting.

The hamlet of Hungerford

Newtown boasts its own public house and is situated approximately one mile from the M4 junction 14 and three miles from Hungerford town centre.

Hungerford is renowned for its antiques and benefits from a range of boutiques, shops and a supermarkets and is on the Kennet and Avon Canal.

The guide price is £325,000.

For more details, call (01635) 35010 or email sales@jones-robinson.co.uk

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Newbury £1800 pcm

Recently built four bedroom detached house close to Newbury town centre. The property includes off road parking, garage and garden. Available 1st July 2017.



Newbury £925 pcm

Modern two bedroom apartment close to the town centre with an ensuite master bedroom and allocated parking within a gated complex. Available immediately.



Newbury £825 pcm

Refurbished one bedroom top floor apartment located within the heart of the town centre. The apartment includes one allocated parking space. Available 14th July 2017.



Newbury £795 pcm

Modern well presented two double bedroom apartment in this sought after development, conveniently located for Newbury town centre. Available 9th June 2017.



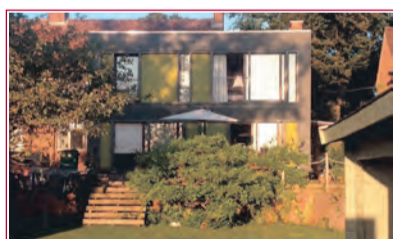
Newbury £725 pcm

One bedroom terraced house in a quiet cul-de-sac with open plan downstairs kitchen and lounge, a rear garden and parking. Available 23rd June 2017.



Hermitage £1100 pcm

Three bedroom family house with master en-suite bedroom, further double and single bedroom situated on the edge of the village. Available 20th May 2017.



Curridge £1995 pcm

Four bedroom semi-detached home with a modern interior, situated on the edge of this lovely village. Available 7th July 2017.



Hampstead Norreys £1900 pcm

Four bedroom detached cottage in a rural location which has been fully re-furbished to an excellent standard. Available immediately.



Newbury £1795 pcm

Five bedroom detached family home close to the town centre. The property includes open fires, a garage and garden. Available immediately.



Enborne £1650 pcm

Four bedroom semi-detached family house set in pretty countryside, located just a ten minute drive away from Newbury. Available 10th May 2017.



Newbury £1600 pcm

Four bedroom family home on the Andover Road close to amenities with flexible accommodation, garage and gardens. Available immediately.



Thatcham £1495 pcm

Detached four bedroom house with a master en-suite bedroom, two further doubles and a single bedroom. Available immediately.



Worlds End £1250 pcm

Three bedroom cottage with two reception rooms. Including parking and a garden with rural views. Available 10th June 2017.



Newbury £1195 pcm

Three bedroom townhouse located within walking distance of the town centre. Includes a driveway and garage. Available immediately.



Newbury £1100 pcm

Detached three bedroom cottage located in Speen Lane close to Newbury town centre. Includes allocated parking. Available immediately.



Chieveley £695 pcm

One bedroom maisonette with it's own front door and an extra room that can be used as a study. Includes parking. Available immediately.



01635 523880

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Donnington Park £1,075,000

This substantial detached and impressive family home offers an exclusive cul-de-sac location. The ground floor comprises an entrance porch and reception hall, sitting room, dining room, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, study and large games/play room with an additional external workshop and store. The first floor comprises an impressive master bedroom with en-suite shower, four further bedrooms and a family bathroom. There is a double integral garage, a heated swimming pool, impressive gardens which are mainly laid to beautiful lawns and an expansive gravel driveway with ample parking. In all the gardens measure approximately three quarters of an acre. NO ONWARD CHAIN



Newtown £950,000

A delightful detached residence situated in the most idyllic of locations with beautiful gardens of approximately an acre. This superb property has well-proportioned and flexible accommodation throughout comprising a large reception hallway, sitting room with doors to the south facing terrace, dining room, a further reception room, breakfast room, fitted kitchen, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a shower room on the ground floor. On the first bedroom is the master bedroom and shower. Other features include double glazing and gas central heating. The property is approached via the in and out driveway, which provides parking for several vehicles and leads to the double garage. Set in beautiful private gardens of approximately an acre.



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Fly with the Bluebird Care team

Carer career opportunities with salaried pay for professional and dedicated staff

WHEN business partners Phil Miles and John Prendergast joined the care industry almost 10 years ago, they felt they could play a major part in changing the way care was delivered, not only by raising the profile of the care sector across Newbury, but also by improving the pay and conditions for domiciliary care staff.

Managing director Phil Miles said: "It has always been a relatively low-paid sector and as a result has seen high staff turnover,

"While we have always been one of the highest payers, the level of pay is not the major problem the sector faces, rather the issues around zero hours contracts and unpaid travel time.

"So, when we were planning for 2017 at the end of last year, we decided the time was right to introduce salaried positions for care assistants."

Phil and John started the company nine years ago after becoming increasingly concerned about the poor level of care at home for older people, those living with dementia, and adults with physical and learning difficulties in West Berkshire and North Hampshire.

"We were unimpressed with the standard of care available at the time so we saw an opportunity to change things by launching Bluebird Care in Newbury and



use our years of business experience to establish a company where the emphasis is on quality," added Phil.

With a local office in Newbury Business Park, Bluebird Care provides a high-quality, local service across the whole of West Berkshire including Hungerford, Lambourn, Kintbury, Compton, Streatley, Pangbourne, Theale, Burghfield, Mortimer, Padworth, Aldermaston and Thatcham as well as North Hampshire.

Joint managing director John Prendergast said: "The pay and

employment conditions for our care staff were both things we wanted to change when we came into the sector in 2008 and the effect of introducing salaries for care assistants has been really positive.

"Our employees see we are making positive changes and the better paid they are for their professionalism and dedication to their role, the more people are attracted to the sector and that is also good for our customers."

With Bluebird Care's first salaried contracts introduced in

April, Bluebird Care Newbury was the first private sector homecare provider to introduce such a change in West Berkshire.

They have already seen the move have a noticeable effect on recruitment and retention of staff and along with paid travel time and a formal career pathway the company now offers an impressive working environment for its employees.

Bluebird Care employs a 50-strong team who all care for people in their own homes to

help them maintain their independence.

"Our front-line staff are our most important asset and we recruit people we would be happy to look after our own families and friends – people who go way beyond the call of duty and go the extra mile on a daily basis," added John.

"High turnover is not good for the business or our customers who like consistency and continuity so we have tried to maintain that over the years.

"It is difficult as people do come and go, but we like to treat people with the respect they deserve which we find is repaid by staff who then stay with us longer.

"We want our staff to stay for years, not months, and we are proud to have employees who have worked for us for more than nine of the 10 years we have been operating, which in the home-care sector is a real rarity."

Bluebird Care is a provider of care in the home, specialising in working with customers who live with dementia, physical disabilities and many other acute and chronic conditions.

Bluebird Care works alongside its customers' families, social services and the NHS to ensure each person receives the care they need.

Bluebird Care offers a unique service of tailored care visits, which range from anything from 30 minutes to full live-in support.

As well as personal care they also help with meal preparation, welfare checks, shopping, social trips, visits to the hospital and providing extra support for post-discharge customers.

For more details about salaries for care assistants and to find out about the latest job opportunities with Bluebird Care contact Kim by calling (01635) 36953 or 07792 784354, emailing kimteagle@bluebirdcare.co.uk, or by visiting www.bluebirdcare.co.uk/newbury

Join the Bluebird Care team

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"Salaries for care assistants, paid travel time and a career pathway, why would I work for anyone else?"

Call Kim now on: 01635 36953
recruit.newbury@bluebirdcare.co.uk





Warm welcome to Bayford House, Stockcross

BUILT in Victorian times, Bayford House has been carefully extended and converted into a fully-modernised care home equipped to meet all its residents' needs.

It is surrounded by glorious landscaped grounds with raised flowerbeds and a tranquil sensory garden – great for entertaining visitors.

Its care assistants and registered

nurses tailor the care they provide to each person, taking time to understand their preferences and needs.

Its focus is on dignity, respect and quality of life.

It aims to provide support around the clock while, at the same time, allowing its residents as much independence as possible.

It offers excellent career opportunities in various roles

and offers a full induction into the roles.

Full training is provided so previous experience is not a requirement.

It is currently looking to add to its dedicated team of night care assistants.

It can offer flexibility around the number of nights you would like to work so please call in for a chat about how you can work together.

It also requires care assistants for days and is happy to work around family commitments.

It offers a number of staff benefits including a pool car to pick up staff.

The rate of pay is excellent, with an hourly enhancement on any hours worked on a Sunday as well as bank holidays.

The home has a great teamwork ethic throughout all departments, so why not call for

more information and an application form? The number is (01488) 608632.

Delivering exceptional customer care

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BAYFORD HOUSE

Rookwood, Stockcross

Newbury, RG20 8LB

01488 608632



A CAREER IN CARE WORKING AROUND YOUR LIFESTYLE!

We are currently looking to add to our dedicated team of **Night Care Assistants**. We can offer flexibility around the number of nights you would like to work so please call in for a chat about how we can work together.

We also require **Care Assistants** for days and are happy to work around family commitments.

We offer a number of staff benefits including a taxi service for those who do not drive. Excellent rate of pay with an hourly enhancement on any hours worked on a Sunday as well as Bank Holidays.



WHO ENJOYS WORKING IN CARE?

- People who inspire and motivate others, but understand things always work best when you're part of a team
- People who understand that everyone is important and deserves respect and dignity - whatever stage of their life they are at
- People who are prepared to go the extra mile and love doing a really good job

The home has a great team work ethic throughout all departments so why not call for more information and an application form Tel: 01488 608632



A chance to look after others

If you're considering a career in care, there's only one Choice

AT Choice they recognise that their staff are one of their most important assets.

They always aim to recruit people who are passionate about working in care, and support them to develop their career.

As well as job satisfaction they offer excellent training, great team-working and plenty of opportunities for career progression.

Choice is a leading provider of high-quality residential and supported living services for people with learning disabilities, mental health conditions, autism and complex needs.

They have been providing high-quality, tried and tested services for 25 years. They currently have 59 residential care homes and

support around 100 individuals through their supported living services.

They operate in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Wiltshire and the Midlands and are continuing to grow.

Many of the people working for Choice have been with them a long time – many started as support workers and have progressed into more senior management roles.

Choice believes in nurturing the talent of its staff so they can provide the best possible service and go on to achieve promotion into more senior roles through learning skills, and benefitting from the experience they are

gaining every day.

Clara joined Choice as a support worker and is now the manager of its supported living service in Newbury. She said: "I joined Choice as a support worker and loved it right from the start.

"From the outset I felt as though I was doing something worthwhile and helping to make a real difference to other peoples' lives.

"Choice is very good at supporting and encouraging career development – after less than a year in the company, I was promoted to assistant service manager.

"In January 2017, I applied and was successful in becoming the service manager in Newbury.

"The role can be challenging; work/life balance isn't always

easy, but I love it!

"I have a brilliant team – we are very much like a little family who always support each other and help each other out. For me, Choice is the best company I've ever worked for; it's very welcoming and they give their staff opportunities.

Carl is the deputy operations manager for Choice's supported living services in the East region, covering Reading and Newbury. He said: "I started working for Choice in 2013 and this was a completely new role for me.

"Before Choice I had worked in retail but didn't find it fulfilling.

"My wife works in care and suggested I should give it a try so I started as a support worker in

Reading. It was a bit of a learning curve for me at first, but I really enjoyed it.

"I quickly settled in and found the work much more fulfilling than anything I'd done before.

"I was given very good training and grew in confidence, taking on more responsibility and then given the opportunity to take on a more senior role.

"Choice gave me the opportunity to make a new career for myself and I'm very happy I made the move."

Louise joined Choice after doing a degree in law and criminology. She said: "I had previously worked in care so it seemed natural to look for a role that matched my experience, but where I might be able to develop a career.

"I joined Choice in 2016 as a support worker. I was only there a few months when I was promoted to senior support worker and I'm now an assistant service manager.

"So far it's been brilliant – I love spending time with the service users and helping to make a difference to their lives.

"The care is very person-centred and everyone I've come across in Choice has been so supportive. I've had great training and development opportunities.

"For me the whole experience of working at Choice has been better and more rewarding than I'd expected."

To find out more please visit our website www.choicecaregroup.com

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‘Are you looking to start, develop or progress your career in Adult Social Care in a care home setting?’

West Berkshire Council is looking to recruit to a number of vacancies for Birchwood Home which provides nursing care and care for frail elderly residents, some with dementia and challenging behaviour; we aim to offer a friendly, safe and secure environment.

We believe our residents have choices about their care, and we promote independence as much as possible. We aim to offer social and emotional support to our residents in order to meet their individual needs. Visit our website for more information about these roles and how to apply: <http://jobs.westberks.gov.uk/birchwood>

Roles available at Birchwood Care Home

Care Assistants

Salary up to £17,072 per annum, pro rata
Various hours available

House Keepers

Salary up to £15,807 per annum, pro rata
Various hours available

Registered General Nurses

Salary up to £30,785 per annum, pro rata
Various hours available

Residential Care Officers

Salary up to £23,398 per annum, pro rata
Various hours available

Home Manager

Salary up to £42,899 per annum
37 hours per week



Tory glory in North Hants

Conservatives increase their share of the vote following county council elections

THE Conservatives gained 11 seats as they dominated the Hampshire County Council elections.

But it was a disastrous result for UKIP, who lost all 10 of their seats.

The Tories now hold 56 seats, increasing their share of the vote from 38 per cent in 2013 to 52 per cent this year.

Meanwhile, the Liberal Democrats gained two seats – from 17 to 19 – and increased their share of the vote by five per cent.

Labour lost two seats, with two remaining in position.

There is one Community Campaign councillor (unchanged).

Following the 2013 elections, the county council comprised 45 Conservatives, 17 Liberal Democrats, 10 UKIP, four Labour, one Independent, and one Community Campaign.

The make up of the council is now 56 Conservative, 19 Liberal Democrats, two Labour and one Community Campaign.

In last Thursday's local elections, the Conservatives received 52 per cent of the vote, the Lib Dems 27 per cent, Labour 11 per cent, UKIP four per cent and the Greens three



Conservative Derek Mellor won the Tadley and Baughurst seat from Warwick Lovegrove

per cent. Independents got two per cent.

There was a shock in the newly-named Tadley and Baughurst ward, with Lib Dem candidate Warwick Lovegrove (43 per cent of the vote) losing his seat to Conservative Derek Mellor (47 per cent).

Reacting to his victory, Mr Mellor said: "I'm very pleased. Obviously it was a close-run thing, but one local issue came

into play – waste disposal.

"We can't hide from the fact that the collapse of UKIP, so to speak, in the last year, has had an impact over our gain, but people are realising that we are doing the right thing."

Mr Lovegrove, said: "We worked very hard in the area, handing out leaflets and lots of canvassing, but we still didn't quite hit the target. It is disappointing."

"It was very much a challenging election."

"We didn't have a UKIP candidate, but we had a Green candidate. This split my vote rather than the anti-Tory vote."

Elsewhere in North Hampshire, the Conservatives won in Calleva (up 18 per cent from 2013) and Whitchurch and The Cleres (up 13 per cent).

The Conservative candidate for Calleva, Rhydian Vaughan, said: "It was my aim to win it, to increase the turnout and increase the votes."

"It is in my manifesto to work on highways, as I drive through the same potholes as every one else, education and social welfare for the elderly."

Conservative Tom Thacker managed to retain his seat in Whitchurch and The Cleres.

Despite overall defeat, the Lib Dems received seven per cent more votes in Calleva and Tadley and Baughurst than in 2013, and saw a four-per-cent increase in Whitchurch and The Cleres.

In Tadley and Baughurst, and Whitchurch and The Cleres, Labour candidates received the same percentage of votes as in 2013, but saw a seven-per-cent rise in Calleva.

The overall results in North Hampshire were:

CALLEVA: Rhydian Peter Vaughan (Conservative) 3,069 (76% of vote, +18% on 2013); Stephen David Rothman (Labour) 733 (18%, +7%); Paul Anthony Kelly (UKIP) 232 (6%, -16%)

TADLEY & BAUGHURST: Derek Preston Mellor (Conservative) 1,977 (47% of vote, +15% on 2013); Warwick Godfrey Lovegrove (Lib Dem) 1,833 (43%, +7%); David Liston Foden (Labour) 246 (6%, same as 2013); Anne Marie Mockford (Green) 169 (4%, no candidate in 2013)

WHITCHURCH & THE CLERES: Tom Thacker (Conservative) 3,012 (62%, +13% on 2013); Linda Rosemary Stepney (Lib Dem) 1,128 (23%, +4%); John Bernal Rodway (Labour) 461 (9%, same as 2013); Andrew Neville Smith (Green) 289 (6%, no candidate in 2013)

Women's group looks to set up second branch

WOOLTON Hill's National Women's Register has proved so popular that it is considering starting a second group.

The social group for women meets twice a month at a different member's home for an evening of themed discussion, presentations and activities.

At the March meeting, Macmillan nurse Madeleine Jenkins gave a demonstration of therapeutic hand massage, which the group were then able to try out for themselves.

Woolton Hill group member Nicole Bentham said: "It was a brilliant evening. It was very successful and everyone enjoyed themselves."

The group sometimes travels further afield, with trips including a behind-the-scenes visit to the Royal Opera House, a tour of the Wallace Collection, London, while last October there was a mini-break to Tewkesbury, following the trail of Capability Brown.

The Woolton Hill group was founded nine years ago by Angie Maxwell, who was a member of the Bracknell group before she moved to the area and wanted something local.

It started with 12 members and numbers have continued to grow.

At present there are 20 members, with more women interested in joining.

Any more members may make meeting in private homes difficult, so in September another local branch will be opened.

Mrs Bentham said: "It keeps the brain cells going. Nearly all of our members are retired, but that was not the point of the National Women's Register."

"We struggle to get younger people now. Not that they are not welcome, but that they are too busy."

"There is a lot of fun and laughing involved and they are a hugely supportive group."

While there is a skeleton schedule of activities for the year, member input is encouraged.

Mrs Bentham said: "We feel this year we need to branch out."

The next meeting on May 17 will have a short demonstration on the theme 'signs and gestures'.

The National Women's Register was started in the 1960s to connect women who were not expected to return to work after having children and were feeling isolated at home.

Today, the group appeals to women of all ages and spans the world with groups in the UK, Europe, Africa and Australia.



Members of the Woolton Hill National Women's Register enjoy a cuppa



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Holly Unnuk, Amy Hamilton, Katie Sainsbury and Michelle Pettifer entered the bake-off competition at Echinnswell May Fayre Ref: 18-2217A

All smiles at village fair

ALMOST 700 visitors braved the bank holiday weather to attend Echinnswell's May Fair.

All funds raised will be donated to Thatcham charity, Swings and Smiles, which provides recreational facilities for children and families with special needs.

Landlord of the Royal Oak pub, Chris Webb, said: "Each year for the May Fair we try to choose a local charity, in particular smaller charities, where it makes a real difference."

Popular activities included the bucking bronco, bake-off, and build a beast competition, with the 17 entries lining the village.

The winner was judged by Swings and Smiles patron and television presenter Chris Tarrant.



Carter, Taylor and Jayden Jamieson try their hand at hook-a-duck Ref: 18-2217C



Entries in the Magnificent Beastie competition

Ref: 18-2217E

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150 years ago
9 May 1867

Power to the people

THE Reformers of Newbury have added their voice to the general expression of public opinion throughout the country as to the merits of the Government Reform Bill.

The resolutions passed at the meeting at the Town Hall last Friday evening, and the sentiments expressed by the various speakers, will give our readers a fair idea of the reception accorded to Mr Disraeli's scheme for extending the Representation of the People.

It was no doubt well for the Liberals of Newbury to express publicly their opinion on the various points of the Reform scheme, but it must be remembered that the clauses relating to compound householders, lodgers and residents refer only to the Borough franchise, and have no bearing upon the register of voters for the polling place of Newbury.

Our town is not a Parliamentary Borough, and we suppose never will be: it is as then as electors for the county of Berks, that our householders can be enfranchised, and whatever may be said of the need of a reform in boroughs, still more, we think, may be said in favour of an extension of the franchise in county constituencies.

It is absurd that gentlemen residing in the elegant villas in the environs of Newbury, and the shrewd businessmen of the town itself, should to a large extent be debarred from exercising the suffrage.

125 years ago
12 May 1892

No dignity in the Chamber

I AM afraid the Town Council must be given up as past reformation in the manner of conducting their discussions.

It must be admitted that last Tuesday's meeting was a painful experience, and for the credit of the town and the reputation of some of the members, it is hoped the reporters will not record all the unpleasant things that were said, and the personal recriminations indulged in.

It is a matter for regret that personalities should be imported into the Chamber.

The transaction of business is thereby hindered, the prestige of the Corporation is damaged, and the good feeling between the members very much strained, if not destroyed.

It may be remarked that members are rather too apt to adopt the conversational manner, and talk to one another across the table.

Rabbit is on the menu at schools

Huge supply of meat is readily available for pupils, May 7, 1942 OLD MEMORIES REVIVED

Extracts taken from past columns of the *Newbury Weekly News*



CHILDREN from Robert Sandilands School present gifts to their school secretary, Mrs Daphne Ellerington, on her retirement in December 1985.

■ Anyone wishing to submit an image for this page should email editor@newburynews.co.uk, attaching a copy of the picture with details about it, or send it to: Local History, Newbury Weekly News, Newspaper House, Faraday Road, Newbury, Berks RG14 2DW.

If Mr Mayor would insist upon the observance of standing orders that every member should address the chair, considerable more dignity would be imparted to the debates.

I WONDER why it is considered unlucky to bring May-blossom indoors.

It is so lovely to look at, so beautifully fragrant, that one is tempted to fill vases with hawthorn branches, but for the fact that it will not live long after being gathered.

Ill-luck is said to follow May blossom, birds' nests or peacock feathers brought into the house.

But I am no believer in such superstitions any more than in the malefic result of spilling salt, crossing knives, walking underneath a ladder, or sitting down 13 to table.

I have known a dinner party to be upset through the latter contingency, the guests having been invited and one of them disappointing at the last

moment. Half of those invited refused to sit down, and at last one guest slipped away dinnerless and the bad omen was averted.

Such silly nonsense shows that even in these end of the century days we are in some respects no wiser than our forefathers.

100 years ago
10 May 1917

Digging for victory

THERE can be no doubt as to the wisdom of the Education Authority in providing opportunity for the elder boys of the three schools to obtain practical acquaintance with the science of gardening.

A good deal can be taught theoretically, but nothing beats instruction actually on the spot, and now that the work has been partially completed in the open, the studies are being continued in the classroom.

The boys have greatly enjoyed the outdoor occupation and keen rivalry existed to be included in the "gardening gang".

The fathers have undoubtedly made good use of the gardens and procured satisfactory crops. But probably the

sons may do even better.

SINCERE regret is felt in the Boxford district at the sad news received on Tuesday, that Gunner George A Eales of the RFA [Royal Field Artillery] had been killed in action, somewhere in France, on 15 April.

The fallen defender of his country was not a native of Boxford, but had for some time been stationed in the village as police constable.

He was of fine physique, an all-round athlete and as a cricketer, rendered good service to the Welford Park Club.

In a letter written from the Front a short time ago to a friend in Boxford, he expressed the hope (alas! never to be fulfilled) that he might once more enjoy a game on the Welford Park ground, thus indicating pleasant recollections even in the time he was playing the great game of war.

75 years ago
7 May 1942

Girls help war effort

GIRLS of 16 to 18 living in Newbury and District are to have the opportu-

nity of helping in the country's war effort, for a Girls' Training Corps is shortly to be formed.

Its object is to occupy them after leaving school in useful service, and by providing mental, moral and physical training to develop in them the principles of patriotism and good citizenship.

It is anticipated that uniform will be worn, and instruction will be given in physical training, despatch carrying, firefighting control, first aid, hygiene and army drill.

There will also be a handywomen's course.

TO every school in the country, the Board of Education wants the rabbit-keeping habit to be spread.

In a memorandum, the authority asks for a large increase in the occupation.

Schools have already made a notable contribution to the nation's larder in producing vegetables, and a good many of them are already busy breeding rabbits.

But in order that this number may increase substantially, the Board of Education have circulated advice on feeding and housing.

Any school which has a garden, allotment or access to hedgerow waste could support four breeding does and their off-spring and this would produce about two hundredweight of meat in a year. Large schools, of course, could keep a bigger stock.

50 years ago
11 May 1967

Welcome to Burghulbury

IT WAS on 5 August 1954 that the last Court Leet of the Manor of Bucklebury was held and its revival at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Wednesday created considerable interest.

In addition to a jury of 12, with Air Cdre JMD Ker as foreman, over 60 people were present when the bailiff Mr HH Dennis, opened the court according to ancient custom.

Mr Peter Faulks presided as steward appointed by the present Lord of the Manor, Mr D Hartley Russell, and he explained that the original grant was made in 1541.

He said the Court Leets had been held from time immemorial, but gradually their powers were whittled away as they were taken over by courts of the Realm.

He said the feeling now was that because of new legislation, the court should again be held to bring presentments up to date.

On display at the meeting was the original Grant of the Manor to John Wynchcombe. This is the first time this has been displayed at a Court Leet.

The Grant carries a massive seal, and alongside it was an abstract showing that John Wynchcombe paid £2,619 13s 4d to the treasurer of the King's chamber.

This gave him the grant to "our manors of Burghulbury, otherwise Bokulbury, and Thacham, and all our borough of Thacham, in the county of Berks, to the late monastery of Redyng".

The grant is dated 12 February 1540. A table showing the descent of the Manor was also displayed.

This showed the holders of the Manor from 1086 to 1959, when the present Lord of the Manor succeeded his father Mr HHA Russell.

25 years ago
7 May 1992

Making most of May Day

MORE than 200 Kintbury villagers turned out on Monday to take part in May Day festivities.

In the morning everyone met at the Notrees old people's home and the village children performed a maypole dance for the residents.

The May queen's crowning followed, at St Mary's Church. Last year's queen, Linzi Cable, aged 11, arrived in pony and trap, courtesy of Miss Polly Lawrence of Thatcham.

She handed over her crown and cloak to this year's queen, Helen Brookman, aged 11.

Katie Barnett, age seven, and Charlotte Boxshall, age six, were the May Queen attendants.

After the ceremony a procession filed through the village on to the green at Bradley Close.

10 years ago
10 May 2007

Oakes on the move

A HUNGERFORD machinery company which has traded in the town for more than 180 years is relocating.

Oakes Bros Ltd, established in 1825 is merging its Hungerford and Reading businesses into an existing site in East Ilsley. The move is expected to result in some redundancies.

The company specialises in lawn, garden, agricultural and groundcare equipment.

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Comic book Guardians
return for *Volume 2*
film review – 42



What's on this week – 35-42 Welcome to the sculpture zone – major two-site exhibition 39 An artist's process explained – 37

Folk

ONE of the shining lights of the British folk scene, vocal harmony trio Lady Maisery perform at Arlington Arts tonight (Thursday, 8pm). Underpinning every performance are Lady Maisery's distinctive harmonies; sometimes lush and rich, sometimes dark and invigorating, they intertwine with assured precision. The trio are also one of the foremost English proponents of mouth music or 'diddling' – a form of singing without words, once common in England and still found across parts of Europe. Many songs are accompanied by a rich tapestry of Rowan's fiddle, banjo and bansitar, Hazel's harp and concertina and Hannah's accordion and foot percussion. Visit www.arlingtonarts.co.uk

Shakespeare

THE Watermill's powerful production of *Romeo + Juliet* has returned to Newbury until Saturday, before touring nationally and internationally alongside *Twelfth Night*. Shakespeare's immortal tale of an all-consuming love is reimagined in a contemporary setting and features the same cast of actor-musicians who recently performed the successful *Twelfth Night*, inspired by the 1920s jazz era. *Romeo + Juliet* features a dynamic selection of energetic folk and rock music performed live by the cast, with fresh interpretations of familiar songs by Mumford and Sons, Johnny Flynn, The Vaccines, The Civil Wars and Hozier. Visit www.watermill.org.uk

Comedy

BBC RADIO 4 comedy duo Croft and Pearce perform their new show, *Croft & Pearce Are Not Themselves*, at New Greenham Arts on Saturday. After a total sell-out run at the Edinburgh Fringe, they launched a podcast with their hit characters June and Jean, and are now back on the road with a whole host of entertaining new character combinations. Catch these award-winning comedians, who bring their hilarious new sketch comedy show to Newbury for one night only. Visit www.cornexchangenew.co.uk

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Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Angels and demons launch town's music festivities

Newbury Spring Festival opens with big orchestral concert

BOURNEMOUTH Symphony Orchestra, Newbury Spring Festival Chorus, and Choros, with mezzo Caitlin Hulcup, tenor Gwyn Hughes Jones and baritone Morgan Pearse, under conductor David Parry, opened the 39th Newbury Spring Festival with one of the cornerstones of British choral music.

Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* was composed in 1900 to Cardinal Newman's long, beautiful and highly-accessible poem of 1865, a profound and compelling meditation on the ecstasy of Christian faith, which Elgar used as a declaration of his own Catholicism. It tells how the faithful Gerontius, after initial confidence in the after-life, is made to doubt by a chorus of Demons, has his faith restored by Angelicals and finally achieves immortality through the intercession of the Angel of Agony.

The role of Gerontius was convincingly sung, floated, affirmed and declaimed by Gwyn Hughes Jones, with ringing high notes and appropriately operatic delivery. Caitlin Hulcup was a passionate and lush-voiced angel and Australian baritone Morgan Pearse an imperious and authoritative Priest cum Angel of Agony.

The Festival Chorus, perched as ever

Newbury Spring Festival

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra: The Dream of Gerontius, at St Nicolas' Church, on Saturday, May 6

in the far reaches of the apse, was in finest voice throughout, delivering their multiple roles with silvery encouragement or alarming menace, as required. Their chorus master Janet Lincé is stepping down after 17 years. She leaves with the gratitude

It was a beautiful, uplifting, compelling and dramatic account of this sublime work. Even the most agnostic of us would have left the church cleansed and touched by its conviction

and admiration of all concerned.

It was a beautiful, uplifting, compelling and dramatic account of this sublime work. Even the most agnostic of us would have left the church cleansed and touched by its conviction. But there were two significant shortcomings. There was no text printed in the programme booklet, so that many (according to my audience research in the interval) had no idea as to the function of the choir, or indeed what had occurred in the first half. It was disconcerting that orchestra, choir and soloists had played and sung their hearts out with perhaps less than half the audience knowing why.

Then, as in his Wagner/Verdi concert a couple of years back, I was unable to relate the whirling gestures of conductor David Parry to the music. But nor, it seems, could the fine and experienced players of the BSO, to judge by some obvious lapses of ensemble.

And how frustrating for the choir, after so much committed and rigorous rehearsal with the superbly precise Janet Lincé, not to be offered the clear and steady beat they so need to give of their best.

CHARLES MEDLAM

Show how much you love your Corn Exchange

FURTHER to the news that West Berkshire Council has been forced to reduce Corn Exchange funding by £78,000 over the next two years, the centre has launched a fundraising campaign, Love Your Corn Exchange.

Funding from the council is specifically to fund the activities at the Corn Exchange and, as a small arts charity, it needs to urgently raise £25,000 to manage this reduction. Project funding to launch the Learning Centre and to develop 101 is ring-fenced to deliver these projects and therefore cannot be diverted to manage the funding gap for the Corn Exchange.

A suggested donation of £10 (simply amend the denomination to donate more or less) will be matched pound-for-pound by Arts Council England and can you donate by:

- ✉ Phoning the box office on 0845 5218 218. Calls will cost 2p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge
- ✉ Giving online at www.cornexchangenew.com/donate
- ✉ Texting CORN15 £10 to 70070
- ✉ Sending a cheque to Love Your Corn Exchange, Corn Exchange, Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5BD

Last year the campaign raised more than £12,000 in six weeks. This was a crucial lifeline for the Corn Exchange to continue its activities and services.

By working together, you will be helping the Corn Exchange to continue making a positive impact in your community.



Austen masterwork celebrated in word and sound

Newbury Spring Festival

Pride & Prejudice, at St Mary's Church, Kintbury, on Sunday, May 7

JANE Austen was a frequent visitor to Kintbury, so St Mary's Church in the village was the perfect place in which to enjoy an adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* by writer and resident Gill Hornby, narrated by actress Hayley Mills to music by Carl Davis, to mark Austen's bicentenary.

This was a reminder – if ever we needed it – that Austen is one of the world's greatest writers and *Pride and Prejudice* her masterpiece. Gill Hornby has produced a sharp, clear, clever adaptation of the novel, retaining all the author's wit and forensic social observation while moving the plot forward in a series of word and sound pictures.

The text was intelligently and vivaciously read by Hayley Mills, clearly relishing Austen's incisive characterisation and humour. We enjoyed again the stops, starts and misunderstandings of Elizabeth and Mr Darcy's courtship ("He would lay aside his sense of her inferiority"); the glorious foolishness of Mrs Bennet; Lady Catherine de Bourgh's hauteur, as she patronises the Bennets "for being so persistently poor"; and the oleaginous Mr Collins, one of the literary world's greatest bores. "Mr Collins pounced. Lizzie recoiled... He was engaged to Charlotte Lucas within a week."

Composer Carl Davis has adapted and added to his celebrated score of BBC Television's much-heralded mid-1990s production of *Pride and Prejudice* for this new venture. Pianist Ashley Wass and violinist Matthew Trusler, both international performers, played with panache, but, equally important, with sensitivity to the integrity of the spoken word, Wass almost imperceptibly cueing words and music together.

The text was read both with and without musical accompaniment, giving colour to the production and varying its pace and feel. A technical problem with the sound balance between music and voice in the first half was happily resolved for the second.

The production is touring, but will be back in Kintbury on June 24, for the Jane Austen Festival. Find out more about the Kintbury connection in *Out&About* magazine inside the *NWN* on May 25.

LIN WILKINSON

"We have just had two hampers of apples from Kintbury, and the floor of our little garret is almost covered."

Jane Austen

October 1808



Dutch Swing College Band

Jazz with a Dutch touch

Entertaining band brings fresh treatment to US standards

PICTURE the scene; in a cellar in Nazi-occupied Holland, a group of musicians meet to play jazz. Jazz is banned and if they are caught they will be shot. On Liberation Day, in 1945, they came out and played their first public performance and the stylish trad jazz we heard in Newbury did those pioneers proud.

First in the line-up, two familiar faces from their appearances in Marlborough and at The Mill at Sonning; genial double bass Adrie Braat, the rhythmic anchor man and powerhouse of the outfit Bob Kaper, clarinet, alto sax and vocals – musical director since the death, in 1990, of Peter Schilperoord.

The youngest additions to the band bowled me over with their superb musicianship: Keesjan Hoogebom, trumpet and vocals and Maurits Woudenberg, trombone. The latter's solos had this amateur trombonist on the edge of her seat. His outrageous glissandi and smooth improvisations were a delight.

Lea Lyle's teatime assortment

JAZZ singer Lea Lyle made the short journey to the Bluecoat School from the Angel, Woolhampton, where she was last seen singing in this area.

She arrived with a sturdy jazz combo, which featured Mark Aston on tenor and soprano saxes and Rodney Mendoza on keyboard. Terry Davis was the bassist and John Sergeant was on drums.

Resplendent in a bright silver dress, Lyle made immediate verbal contact with the audience before launching into her first selection, *Straight No Chaser* by Thelonious Monk. There were two other pieces by the Monk, *Round Midnight*, arguably his best-known composition and *Well, You Needn't*. That last title came about owing to Monk's eccentric manner of naming his compositions, or rather,

Newbury Spring Festival

Dutch Swing College Band World Tour, at the Corn Exchange, on Saturday, May 6

The band brought fresh treatment and superb solos all round to every number from *Apex Blues*, first recorded on 78rpm vinyl, to *Tiger*

...absorbing arrangements, many by Kaper, kept us entertained from the moment they arrived on stage in their neat suits to the final medley from *William Tell to Way Down Yonder in New Orleans*

Jazz

Tea & Cakes concert series: Lea Lyle, Love That Jazz, at the Old Bluecoat school, Thatcham, on Sunday, May 7

not naming them. Someone offered to title his song and he said: "Well – You Needn't."

One record producer made the mistake of asking Monk if he'd like to name his song now "or worry later". Guess what the title of that one became...

As to Lyle though, she got around the odd contours of Monk's spiky compositions very well.

Straight received a crisp and clear

Rag. No tired copies of American standards here: absorbing arrangements, many by Kaper, kept us entertained from the moment they arrived on stage in their neat suits to the final medley from *William Tell to Way Down Yonder in New Orleans*. In those last bars we drooled at the cool soprano sax of David Lukács, the third of the band's shining new stars. His clarinet duos with Kaper and his bari sax had a superior tone.

We enjoyed guitarist Ton van Bergeijk's vocals. The surprise element was an extraordinary drum solo by Anton Burger. Members of the audience were amazed at its length and variety, his lightness of touch, dexterity and mesmeric performance, all delivered with the humour beloved by fans of this great band.

We hope Newbury Spring Festival will not wait another 12 years before inviting this fabulous outfit back to Newbury.

EILEEN CASTER

vocal, aided and abetted by Mark Aston's tart tenor sax and Rodney Mendoza's fleet lines at the keyboard, where he chose to use an organ sound.

The vocalist's other choices were *Busy Line*, the novelty song made popular by Rose Murphy and *A Raggy Waltz* by Dave Brubeck. Together with selections by Phil Craddock, a local pianist and composer, it made for a varied musical programme. She also did well with Billy Strayhorn's marathon torch song *Lush Life* with, once again, good supporting solo work from Mendoza.

A final *Strange Meadowlark* by Dave Brubeck found her in good voice and at the end she answered questions from the audience.

DEREK ANSELL

Painting by music

Newbury Spring Festival

Stephen Hough, at the Corn Exchange, on Sunday, May 7

"CONTRAST and opposition", Stephen Hough's own words to describe the music chosen for his Spring Festival recital.

Not only is he a world-class pianist, he has also had articles published by *The Telegraph*, *The Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Independent*. His recordings have won eight Gramophone Awards, he has performed in the world's most famous concert halls and, being a true 21st-century man, his performance of the Liszt *Sonata* was released for iPad by Touch Press in 2013. The piece, recorded by multiple cameras, allows us to view the performance from all angles and to call up the score at the touch of a button. *The Economist* hails Hough as one of 20 living polymaths, he has performed at the *BBC Proms* no fewer than 25 times and, to cap it all, he was made a CBE in the 2014 New Year's Honours.

Sporting one of his trademark Mandarin-style jackets, he sat at the piano, closed his eyes and drew us gently into the world of 'picture-painting-by-music' with Debussy's beautiful *Clair de Lune*. The auditorium fell immediately silent and so entranced were we by his mastery, you might have been forgiven for thinking he was playing to an empty hall, until the applause rang through the rafters after the final chord. *Images (Series 2)* followed and the sound of Debussy's beautiful dissonance washed over us before Hough wowed us with the flashy *Poissons d'or*: Fast and furious, I now know where Scott Bradley found his inspiration for some of the fabulous *Tom and Jerry* cartoon incidental music.

In total contrast, Schumann's *Fantasia in C major* closed the first-half and Hough showed us why he is in demand the world over. Hinted shades of Beethoven's *Pathétique* sonata gave us a taste of things to come in the second-half and we hurriedly ate our ice creams, not wanting to miss a thing.

Images (Series 1) began with *Reflets dans l'eau*, one of my favourites and Debussy's pianistic genius, once again, gave us the chance to close our eyes in order to 'see' the shimmering colours in the music. The third movement (*Mouvement*) allowed Hough to demonstrate his phenomenal technique in this relentless toccata-like piece. Beethoven's *Opus 57 Appassionata* sonata closed the programme; a total change of mood and a demonstration of Hough's remarkable ability to interpret the different composers' musically diverse styles.

I tweeted Stephen to tell him how much I had enjoyed his recital. He tweeted back almost straight away. Wow, a 21st-century polymath – and a really nice guy.

FIONA BENNETT



Stephen Hough Picture: Sim Canetty-Clarke

All good, gritty Godber

Theatre

Empty Nesters' Club!, at the Corn Exchange, on Thursday, April 27, and Friday, April 28

JOHN Godber is a prolific writer of gritty observational plays, many based on his own experiences. *The Empty Nester's Club!* is his 60th stage play and will resonate with parents whose offspring have left home to embrace the wide world at university.

Vicky (Jane Hogarth) welcomes us to this 'support group' that tries to help parents come to terms with the emotional turmoil caused by their children leaving the comfort of their 'nest' as they explore a new life on their journey of self-discovery.

Vicky, a teacher, and Phil Barrett (Robert Angell) are a typical middle-aged, middle-class couple who have always wanted the best for their now independent and somewhat precocious daughter Mollie (Josie Morley).

Phil is a graduate from Bradford University and tells us: "There's no rule book to follow when they are born, but at least we've got her to university."

But perhaps they should watch out as you may "reap what you sow".

When Mollie is fast-tracked for Oxbridge the pride in the parents is palpable, but Mollie doesn't fancy going to Oxford, causing consternation for the devoted parents and decides to go to UCL in London instead – well, it will be more fun.

There are some hilarious moments when accommodation issues are debated. Does she really need en-suite facilities and if so at what cost? Then there are visits to IKEA to buy 'stuff' and, of course, the painful process of letting go.

For Phil and Vicky, this newfound freedom creates its own tensions as they try to fill the void. Perhaps a holiday – after all it was 18 years when they were last away on their own?

However, their relationship is becoming a struggle and when Vicky returns from a lone holiday in Brazil complete with a tattoo and educational psychologist, Phil has taken up kung fu and they both find their new roles hard.

It's all good Godber fare, filled with funny witty one-liners and staged by three accomplished actors, who bring an honesty to their engaging performances.

John Godber directs his company with pace and humour, in what is an entertaining, lighthearted sit-com that was thoroughly enjoyed by the appreciative audience.

ROBIN STRAPP



Upper Basildon artist Nick Schlee at his Arlington Arts opening last week

Picture: Geoff Fletcher

The way of the artist

Drawing to Painting follows the creative process

IF you're interested in how painters create their work, you'll enjoy Nick Schlee's exhibition at Arlington Arts, which takes the lid off the process of painting.

His semi-abstracted, expressionistic landscapes and cityscapes are vigorous in line and colour. Working in a high-key, saturated palette, often in non-realistic colour equivalents, he applies thick oil paint in energetic, directional brushstrokes, which produce mobile and thickly-textured surfaces and a feeling of movement and excitement in the images.

In this unusual show, finished oil paintings are hung together with the charcoal drawings and/or oil pastel sketches which led up to them, with short explanatory notes on the ideas, approach, theory and making of each work. You are thus able to see the stages by which the finished paintings were created, which initial ideas made their way into the final work, which were altered or which jettisoned altogether. Sometimes notes also help the viewer to 'read' the composition, showing, for example, in *Copse in Meadow*, how the eye moves over the composition until it rests at a certain point.

The show also includes explanatory boards giving information on sizing up a drawing, and on line, colour and tone.

The muscularity of Schlee's paintings often involves just that. Sometimes, he says, as in *The Manger, Uffington*, translating a small sketch stroke into the size in which it appears in the final painting "needs strong arm movement ... and the movement of the whole body".

The dynamics of colour are at play in *Barn Roof at Stoke*, painted with panache. The roof was sketched initially in charcoal, then in an intense oil pastel,

Exhibition

Nick Schlee: Drawing to Painting, at Arlington Arts, Snelsmore, until June 30

with the contrasts of the roof in the final painting created by the tension between opposite colours, here red and green. In *Barn at Streatley*, painted in blistering colour, two opposing colours have created drama and light; in *Wittenham Clumps*, this is achieved by setting orange against blue.

In *Covent Garden North*, a composition of strong verticals and diagonals, the finished oil painting bursts with saturated, non-realistic colour; the colour sketch, however, is much quieter. In *Barges at Blackfriars*, the charcoal sketch is a more dominant composition than the finished oil, which has a cool, limpid quietness, in gentle whites, yellows and blues. In *Thames at Buscot*, the artist made at least five black and white drawings before he found the composition he

This enjoyable show is not only an exhibition in the accepted sense, but also a tutorial in painting itself: on ideas, composition, colour theory, line, and the physical act of painting

wanted for the final painting.

In *Under Blackfriars Bridge*, both the pastel sketch and the finished oil concentrate on a deep, dramatic, horizontal foreground of choppy, agitated water contrasted with the low, serene curves of the bridge in the background. Non-realistic colour is pushed to very pleasing extremes here. Other works rely on linearity. In *Ploughed Field near Swindon*, the meandering lines of plough both create and sustain the composition.

Some viewers may find they sometimes prefer the sketches to the finished works. In *Railway Bridge near Pangbourne*, the two oil pastel sketches have more dynamism, vigour and colour contrasts than the more placid, tonal, finished oil. Sometimes the detail of a preliminary drawing or sketch is simplified in the final oil, as in *Steep Hill and Trees*; in other works, only parts of the initial sketches make it to the finished painting. In *Long Shadow over Stubble*, the heavy charcoal sky has been abandoned in the final oil, but a small, bright, rectangular field, essential to the finished work, remains, glowing at the top left. In *Red Pillars at Blackfriars*, the artist has concentrated on only part of the original sketch in the final work.

This enjoyable show is not only an exhibition in the accepted sense, but also a tutorial in painting itself: on ideas, composition, colour theory, line, and the physical act of painting. So if you often like a painting, but you're not sure why, this is the show for you. It runs until June 30 (Mon-Fri, 10am-4.30pm).

Not to be missed.

LIN WILKINSON

Children's aviatrix

Theatre

The Explorer, at The North Wall, Oxford, on Sunday, April 30

WITH *The Explorer*, puppeteer Lori Hopkins has created a short, sweet show inspired by the life of aviatrix Amy Johnson. Aimed at children aged three to eight, the heroine is an unnamed 12-year-old whose plane runs out of fuel, splutters and crashes. The pilot descends by parachute into an alien environment where she has adventures underwater, in space in a silver rocket and with a boxy elephant.

Every so often Hopkins disappears behind a screen showing a reddish desert landscape to bring out a new puppet or prop. These are made by Oxford-based puppet master Stephen Mottram and Northampton Theatres' propmaker Ross White. The aviatrix is a complex marionette with 14 strings, enabling the puppet to move realistically on the stage. With aviation goggles, cap and sandy coloured clothes, the aviatrix encounters a flock of birds and a shoal of fish, waved simply above her by Hopkins. It's an old-fashioned production.

Although the show lasts no more than 20 minutes, there is a further 20 minutes of questions and answers from the audience. Hopkins gains the confidence of the children with a cheerful demeanour and hands power to them with their suggestions and comments. This session is educative because Hopkins explains how each of the strings pulls a different part of the marionette's body. She describes how the aviatrix puppet was made out of wood, then sanded, with glue and paper for the head. Hopkins even asks the children to name the puppet but rejects the one popular suggestion of Dora the Explorer.

Hannah writes: The puppet was funny because she got shocked and she didn't know that the audience was there. She went on an airplane and it fell apart and she fell into space. There was an elephant and it was different to our elephant because it didn't have any eyes. The puppeteer said we needed to blow so that she could move the boat but there wasn't any wind. We shouted for the explorer at the end because she was asleep. She went on an adventure and she was tired. It was brilliant.

JON LEWIS



Acrylic street scenes inspire art group

MEMBERS and guests of Newbury Art Group were treated to a demonstration of street scenes in acrylics, by the inspiring artist Hashim Akib.

Akib, who writes regular articles for *Artist and Illustrators* magazine and gives ongoing demonstrations of art techniques to art groups around the UK and overseas, gave a very informative and colourful demonstration.

His latest book, *Painting Urban and*

Demonstration

Newbury Art Group: Hashim Akib, at Shaw-cum-Donnington village hall, on Sunday, April 30

City Landscapes, is currently on sale.

This art demonstration was one of many arranged for members and

guests of the Newbury Art Group, together with weekly painting groups, art and sale of work exhibitions, outdoor painting days, coach trips to art galleries and more.

New members are welcome. Further information can be obtained from www.newburyartgroup.co.uk or Facebook: Newbury Art Group.

BRENDA ROULLIER

☐ Pictured left: Hashim Akib with his demo painting

Can't have too much of the Mandos

Music

The Mandolinquents plus guest Steve Tilston, at Arlington Arts, Snelsmore, on Thursday, May 4

THE Mandolinquents are fast becoming regulars at Arlington Arts – but you can never have too much of a good thing and they are very, very good indeed.

They blend an idiosyncratic mix of superb musicianship with whimsical humour and seamlessly move between folk and classical styles, covers and self-penned tracks without missing a beat. Each time I have seen them, they have delighted their audience with a fresh and different set-list and incorporated a range of special guests.

Opening the show with their own jazz-infused number *Taxi Horn Rag*, they immediately changed gear for *When Summer Comes Again*, a wistful folk piece that showcases Hilary James' pure vocals, and followed this with a Vivaldi *Allegro*. Such versatility is the hallmark of truly excellent musicians and The Mandolinquents' stock in trade.

After a couple more tracks, including the traditional Appalachian folk song *Wayfaring Stranger* (which I first heard as a cover by US psychedelic band HP Lovecraft), guest Steve Tilston took to the stage with his multi-award-winning British folk songs.

Steve is one of the best singer songwriters around and I loved his rendition of *The Fisher Lad Of Whitby*, a song he found the words to in a Victorian book of songs, and wrote a melody for.

After the interval, The Mandolinquents returned with a brilliant version of the Oscar Hammerstein song set to Bizet's music *Beat Out Dat Rhythm On A Drum* and continued to demonstrate their massive versatility with a great version of *Duelling Banjos* from the John Voight movie *Deliverance*, and, of course, their signature piece, Leroy Anderson's *Typewriter*.

Steve Tilston then joined The Mandolinquents on stage for something of a jam session, including a stunning version of the Bill Trader song, made famous by Elvis Presley, *A Fool Such As I*.

A marvellous evening of music.

BRIAN HARRINGTON



Chris Jagger

Picture: Richard Markham

Moves like Jagger...

Chris Jagger and his Kronies play their socks off and have ACE Space jumpin'

THE return from the inimitable Chris Jagger and his indefatigable Kronies was greeted with high expectation from a packed ACE Space audience.

They were indeed taken to new euphoric heights as the band played their socks off from 8pm through to 10.45pm, with just a 20-minute break.

Jagger was able to show off his diversity of music styles, while claiming complete ownership of each and every song, from Scottish ballads to whimsy Irving Berlin and soft country, Americana and Cajun, cumulating in hard, relentless rock.

He was backed by the driving beat of drummer Steve Laffy, kept on track by bassist Dave Hatfield and with superb lead guitar of Kit Morgan, topped by the haunting sounds emitted from the fiddle played beautifully by Elliot Mackrell.

He kicked off the set with a slow,

Music

Chris Jagger and the Kronies, at ACE Space, on Friday, April 18

comforting ballad and seamlessly flowed into the JJ Cale classic *Cajun Moon*, which facilitated Kit Morgan's robust interpretation of the classic interplay of Jagger's harmonica and Mackrell's fiddle.

And then on to another classic in Bob Dylan's *Memphis Blues*. Jagger was able to really show his vocal versatility in interpreting Dylan's voice admirably, backed with a musical intensity by Morgan and Mackrell especially, perhaps giving the song a more melancholic feel than the original. Morgan took possession of the stage with a truly haunting version of Jimi Hendrix's *Little Wing*, doing real justice

to his hero, topped off with a deft touch from the fiddle player.

A couple of self-penned country ditties was followed by an excellent Bobby Bland's *I Woke Up Screaming*.

A heavy Chicago blues number with a driving beat was followed by a more upbeat *Road Runner*, which had us clapping along.

Seemingly encouraged by the crowd participation, Chris plucked a signoretta from the crowd and serenaded her across the dance floor to an up-tempo little Mexican number, followed by a couple of his own rock numbers whose sheer force propelled us onto the dance floor, where we remained jumping about in sheer delight until it was time to tread softly out into that good night.

They will be back, watch this space.

JIM CROCKATT

Variety spices up life at the Angel

VOCALIST Peter Jones told the audience at the Angel Inn that he had travelled all the way from London to appear there. "And I made it in one day," he continued. Well, the trains must have been running faster than usual on Saturday, I suppose.

The singer began his recital looking rather like a slightly older Graham Norton and although a little hesitant on his first selection, *I Remember You*, he soon settled down. He used impressive phrasing on the slow ballad, *Then I'll Be Tired Of You* and was soon exercising his warm baritone voice on *Sweet Lorraine*.

Next up was a version of *Close Your Eyes*, in which his delivery was smooth, in spite of a slight nasal effect in his voice. Martin Pickett was the accompanying pianist, along with

Jazz

Peter Jones, at the Angel, Woolhampton, on Saturday, April 29

Keith Howard, who supplied the foundation on double bass. Both played well, contributed neatly-constructed solos and, if the overall effect was a somewhat thin sound, it was because the singer really could have benefitted from a flute or sax soloist alongside him and a good drummer to round out the rhythmic thrust.

As a three-man team though, they all worked hard and well on a good selection of standard tunes, familiar to everybody. Jones seemed happiest and most at home on songs associated with

Frank Sinatra and he had certainly managed to assimilate many of the little tricks of phrasing and delivery that the master crooner had pioneered.

He did well on *You Make Me Feel So Young* then switched to a taste of the blues, singing trumpeter Kenny Dorham's *Since I Fell For You*.

There was certainly plenty of variety with some scat singing on *Paper Moon*, a bit of R&B on a Ray Charles composition, a lively *Caravan* and *Nature Boy*, at an unusually bouncy tempo.

The novelty song *Straighten Up and Fly Right*, associated with Nat King Cole, had him a little worried that he would confuse the animals in the lyric, but he sailed through it without slandering either the monkeys or the buzzards.

DEREK ANSELL

Brick Kiln baroque

Music

Nathaniel Mander, harpsichord, at Brick Kiln Cottage, Hollington, on Sunday, April 30

THIS wasn't a public recital – it was an intimate soirée, with about 20 invited guests, seated on a random assortment of chairs, including plastic garden chairs. The venue was the home of cellist Charles Medlam and his wife, violinist Ingrid Siefert, the co-founders of London Baroque, one of the world's leading exponents of Baroque chamber music.

We had been invited to hear 28-year-old harpsichordist Nathaniel Mander (www.nathanielmander.com).

The atmosphere made me think what it must have been like to witness a harpsichordist playing many hundreds of years ago. The piano was not invented until 1700, and the harpsichord had been around since 1397. So, for about 300 years, the harpsichord was the biggest solo instrument in existence. Concerts would have been in the Royal Courts, attended by the select few. A harpsichord concert would have attracted great excitement. It would have been a very major event in society.

Mander's recital was entirely different. I didn't spot any men in powdered wigs and no one was dressed in expensive finery. It was very informal. But the music was the same and the best way to enjoy it was to close your eyes and imagine being part of one of those centuries-old gatherings.

Mander started on the piano at the age of eight, but four years later decided he preferred the harpsichord. Even though the two instruments both have keyboards, their functionality is poles apart. The harpsichord works by plucking the strings and the piano hammers them. This results in the piano being much, much louder, and less intimate, than the harpsichord.

Mander is already making a name for himself. He graduated from London's Royal Academy of Music with first class honours in 2011. And he made his Wigmore Hall concerto debut in 2012. Not a bad start. He's already performed throughout Europe and the US.

In this recital, Mander played works by Byrd (1543-1623), Tomkins (1572-1656), Blow (1649-1708), JC Bach (1735-1782), and Haydn (1732-1809). They progressed in chronological order.

He's fanatical about his harpsichord playing and does it brilliantly. Mander will go places in that world.

NICK DAVIES

Choral concert for church bells

THE Hurst Singers' Spring Concert at Silchester parish church on Saturday (7.30pm) features music by Bernstein (*West Side Story*), Mozart, Verdi, Dvorak, Bruckner and Fauré.

Included in the programme are Generations Chorale, who sing unaccompanied.

Tickets, priced £10 (including glass of wine or soft drink), are available from Ralph Atton (0118) 970 0825, Richard Fletcher (0118) 970 0633 or on the door.

Children go free.

Proceeds will go to the church's Bells Restoration Appeal.



The Mandolinquents

Welcome to the sculpture zones

Sculpture is made for and responds to the situation in which it is sited

Open Studios: Outdoor sculpture exhibitions at the Donnington Grove Temple Garden and Shaw House, open daily until Tuesday, May 30

UNDER the aegis of the Open Studios scheme, 13 artists are showing sculpture in two major outdoor exhibitions – in the Japanese Temple Garden at Donnington Grove and on the rear lawn at Shaw House – the sister shows both curated by Jim Crockatt in his first curatorial role.

Sculpture is made for and responds to the situation in which it is sited, so here the work not only relates to the landscape settings, but also to the particular spaces within those environments in which individual sculptures have been installed.

The two venues have their own distinct characteristics. The rear lawn at Shaw House is a flat, tree-rimmed, contained area, with sculpture placed around the edge of the lawn. The Donnington Grove Temple Garden, larger in extent, is a walled garden landscaped with ponds, mounds and tree-lines, with sculpture spread throughout the space.

Work at Donnington has been placed in relation to three sightlines, evident as you enter: Straight ahead, and isolated, you see Johannes von Stumm's *Sacred Buddha*, a quiet, contemplative yet commanding semi-abstracted bronze.

Paradoxically, within the negative space you sense the bulk of the seated figure.

To the right, Colin Underhay's rough-hewn, monumental *Yew Seat* leads your eye into the group of sculptures in front of the temple. The yew wood itself dominates, as if still a living tree. It is both carved and intact, a shortened trunk supporting the seat. Five horizontal scorched incisions and the hollowed-out back suggest a vestigial seated figure. At Shaw, his *Oak and Yew Bench* is a heavy, faux-rustic structure with a triangular back, oak seat and burnt-yew back and arm rests, the two woods complementing each other. Traditionally made, it has wooden dowels and no modern fixings.

To the left of the Donnington entrance, you glimpse the alert head of Diccon Dadey's *Spooked* deer, staring directly at the viewer, ready for flight. Dadey's sculptures are constructed with re-used, re-formed metal, often pleasingly rusted. At Shaw House the hollow structure of his leopard descending from a tree is formed of discs, with a coiled-metal tail. It is full of animation, with palpable definition of muscle.

Michael Fairfax shows *Sounding Slabs* at both sites, tactile charred-fir sentinels bearing tensioned piano strings. At Donnington they seem to guard the temple itself. Touch the strings, lean in with your ear up against the side of the structures, and hear and feel the sound resonate within and animate the works.

Gavin Wilkinson shows five formal, highly-resolved abstract metal sculptures, re-using industrial materials. In *Air Sketch*, joined, polished, curved aluminium forms hover across the ground, planes intersecting at either end, polished and ground surfaces contrasting with each other. *Cloud Ten* is formed of billowing horizontal metal rings bearing sky-blue dripping paint. They lie at differing heights, floating on thin metal supports. *Equivalence* contrasts materials and form: metal and wood, convex and concave, triangles and curves, patina and paint. *Frizzle* is a hollow 'wigwam' of self-supporting, half-painted metal rods of differing heights, containing upwardly thrusting metal poles. *Incline* is on a smaller scale, combining half-rounded, offset aluminium discs bearing an opaque flat plane of perspex; geometric and organic shapes work with and play off each other.

Paul Harvey shows semi-abstracted works in cast marble and cold cast pewter, which stem from Art Deco forms, reminiscent of some Eric Gill sculpture. His *Barn Owl*, wings spread, has clean, wide, clear-cut planes and



Clockwise from above: works at Donnington Grove Temple Garden by Hilary Arnold-Baker Ref: 19-0917F, Marie Ackers Ref: 19-0917B, Gavin Wilkinson Ref: 19-0917A, Diana Barraclough Ref: 19-0917C, Paul Harvey Ref: 19-0917D and Michael Fairfax



curves. His pewter *Heron* sits alert by the back pond, waiting to dive on to a fish, its folded, serrated wings like the forms at the top of New York's Chrysler Building. His pewter *Guinea Fowl* is an abstracted ovoid, like an ancient shield, but for the stylised head and beak.

The form of Marie Ackers' marble-resin cheetah echoes to some extent Harvey's work. Semi-stylised, it is lean, watchful and superbly feline. Several other works are of elongated, Etruscan-esque riders on horseback, the pieces varying in scale and resin admixtures. Her *Three Riders* at Shaw, the largest in scale, is the most convincing.

Hilary Arnold-Baker shows *Memory of Nikko*, its Japanese form reflecting the setting. Red vertical and horizontal open wooden struts support a solid offset black cube. A formal minimalist construction of open and closed forms, it is resolved, quietly commanding and masterfully constructed.

Martin Eastbrook's *Aeolian Dance 1* and *2* move in the breeze. Clusters of thin metal supports bear flower-like ceramic objects, the two pieces varying only by the configuration of the three wooden ground supports. In one, they are arranged in a triangle, in the other they lie in offset parallel, thus also

varying the configuration of the metal rods.

Diana Pattendon's two ceramics lead the eye into the Shaw House show. Her *Queen Anne Wig* and *Exotic Pineapple* both give a nod to the historic Jacobean mansion. Sitting on plinths of stacked industrial slabs, the abstract contrasts with the figurative. At Donnington, she works mainly in resin; three carp swim along a wall; three oversized bees intrude into a natural habitat.

Diana Barraclough's two decorated ceramic structures stand at the intersection of the Donnington ponds. *Flowing River* is a stack of five solid rounded forms with glazed decoration; the totem-like *Mitate* also bears coloured incisions. Lone Hudson shows ceramic stoneware. Her *Punched-Through Vessel* is pierced by a glazed light-green opening and a top indentation. At Shaw she shows *Three Pods*, irregular, rounded, holed forms sitting on thin metal legs.

Jane Cannon's work has moved on in scale and approach. At Shaw she shows *Reduced Cube*, a very pleasing formal abstract piece in coiled galvanised wire, simultaneously both solid and non-solid.

LIN WILKINSON



My work owes much to the motivations of the Arte Povera movement, emphasising the use of found material, the marks of its previous function resounding within the constructed works as a renewed aesthetic. I believe that there are no limits to the possibilities revealed by creative exploration, so each piece that I make is a new discovery for me as I attempt not to repeat myself
Gavin Wilkinson



THURSDAY

■ (until 20 May) Newbury Spring Festival: various events and venues. Box office 0845 5218218
■ (until 21 May) Open Studios 2017: various locations throughout West Berkshire and North Hampshire www.open-studios.org.uk
■ (until 21 May) Insight 2017: Open Studios flagship exhibition Monday-Sunday 11am-5pm, Thursday till 8pm. New Greenham Arts Centre, 113 Lindenmuth Way, Greenham Business Park, Newbury RG19 6HN
■ (until 30 May) Open Air Sculpture Exhibition, at the Orangery, Shaw House. 11am-4pm daily
■ (until 2 June) Exhibition: Knitting from traditional to contemporary, Old Chapel Textile Centre, Main Street, Greenham Business Park RG19 6HW (open 10am-4pm Tuesday to Thursday and first Saturday of the month)
■ Craft and Chat, 11am-1pm. Newbury library. Free drop-in session for adults
■ French Conversation with Danielle Simpson, 10am-noon. St Joseph's Church Hall, London Road, Newbury (every Thursday)
■ Live and Lyrical, 8pm. New Greenham Arts. Box office 0845 5218218
■ Lady Maisery, 8pm. Arlington Arts Centre, Snelsmore Common. Box office (01635) 244246
■ Brodsky Quartet, 7.30pm. St Mary's Church, Shaw. Box office 0845 5218218



Croft and Pearce are not themselves, at New Greenham Arts on Saturday night

FRIDAY

■ Family History with

members of Berkshire Family History Society, 10.30am-12.30pm. Free drop-in session at Newbury library
■ (and tomorrow) Newbury International Antiques & Collectors Fair, 8.30am-5pm Newbury Showground. (01636) 702326

■ Newbury District Field

SATURDAY

■ Design Create and Frame

Club: Talk on the Coastal Path, by Dave Stubbs, 2.30pm. Council Chamber, Newbury Town Hall, Market Place.

for Kids with Bonni Southey, 10am-1pm. City Arts, Hampton Road, Newbury. https://cityartsnewbury.co.uk/category/may-2017/
■ Croft and Pearce Are Not Themselves, award-winning Radio 4 sketch comedians. 8pm. New Greenham Arts. Box office 0845 5218218

■ Thames Valley Ancient Egypt Society (Oxon, Berks, Bucks) lecture by Dr Luigi Prada: Magical and Divinatory Texts, 2.00 pm, Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley RG5 4JZ. Visitors welcome - £3.
■ Hurst Singers Spring Concert, 7.30pm. Silchester Parish Church. Tickets £10 from Ralph Atton (0118) 970 0825, Richard Fletcher (0118) 970 0633 or on the door.

■ (and tomorrow and Wednesday) Art and Plants at Rookery Farm Open Studio, 11 am -5pm. Woolton Hill, RG20 9XP. Plant sale in aid of The Air Ambulance. Art by Sharon Perris, Katie Penlington, Julia Bowes and Jan Nethercot. Free tea and cake.

SUNDAY

■ Newbury District Ornithological Club morning walk around the gravel pits at Woolhampton. Meet in the Rowbarge car park at 8.30am. Grid ref 174/SU572667
■ Royal Wootton Bassett Brass, 2pm-4pm. Bandstand, Victoria Park, Newbury
■ Charity Run and Fun day, from 9am. Park House School, Andover Road, Newbury http://www.parkhouseschool.org/charityrun

MONDAY

■ The Sheepdrove Piano Competition winner recital, 12.30pm. Corn Exchange auditorium. 0845 5218218
■ Taste of Spain, Spanish-themed evening at The

Vineyard. £45. Box office 0845 5218218

TUESDAY

■ Book launch: Understanding Hoarding by Jo Cooke, 12.30pm-2.30pm. Broadway House, 4-8 Broadway, Newbury RG14 1BA
■ (until 2 June) Exhibition: Knitting from traditional to contemporary, Old Chapel Textile Centre, Main Street, Greenham Business Park RG19 6HW (open 10am-4pm Tuesday to Thursday and first Saturday of the month)

WEDNESDAY

■ (until 20) Newbury Dramatic Society presents Maskerade by Terry Pratchett, 7.30pm (6.30 on Saturday). The Watermill, Bagnor. Box office (01635) 46044
■ Jeff Barnhart and the Harlem Knights, 8pm. Zelda's Jazz Room at the Comrades Club, Newbury Street, Wantage, OX12 8DJ. Tickets on the door £11
■ Art and Plants at Rookery Farm Open Studio, 11 am - 5pm. Woolton Hill RG20 9XP. Plant sale in aid of The Air Ambulance. Art by Sharon Perris, Katie Penlington, Julia Bowes and Jan Nethercot. Free tea and cake
■ Thatcham in old photographs, talk by Dr Nick Young, 7pm-8pm. West Berkshire Museum. Tickets £5 from the museum (01635) 519562

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NWN TRAVEL OFFER

5 days from July 10th

4* Scottish Sensations



& Treasures of the Trossachs Inc. Kelpies Experience, Falkirk Wheel, Stirling Castle & Royal Yacht Britannia

Absorb the contrasting scenery and natural beauty of Perthshire whilst staying at one of Scotland's most iconic and well-loved hotels. Follow in the footsteps of Scottish Kings at Stirling Castle, one of Scotland's most famous Palaces, sail into the air on the unique Falkirk Wheel boat lift and marvel at the extraordinary, monumental Kelpies. We also visit the world famous Royal Yacht. An action-packed tour based at a 4 star hotel!

Monday July 10th: North to our hotel in Cumbernauld. The Westerwood Hotel and Golf Resort is a 4 star hotel situated in spectacular grounds with stunning views.

Tuesday: We first make our way to the unique sight of The Kelpies, the world's largest equine sculptures which are monumental tributes to the horse power heritage vital to the early industries of central Scotland. In the afternoon we experience the Falkirk Wheel, one of Scotland's top tourist attractions. The world's first rotating boat lift is an engineering marvel which connects the Forth and Clyde Canal with the Union Canal. We also enjoy a hot drink and scone on board!

Wednesday: To Edinburgh for a visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia, follow in the footsteps Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela plus many more including the Queen! The remainder of the day is free to explore Edinburgh.

Thursday: We spend the day in nearby Stirling giving us time to discover the city and also visit the Castle, one of the largest and most important castles in Scotland, both historically and architecturally.

Other attractions include the 19th century jail. We return to our hotel mid afternoon to enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

Friday: We return home

£439 includes return coach travel, tours as indicated (inc. Stirling Castle, Kelpies, Falkirk Wheel & Royal Yacht Britannia), hotel accommodation of bed, breakfast and evening meal. Single supplement £80. Optional travel insurance £23.

Convenient pick-ups

(subject to minimum numbers travelling)

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Please telephone 01793 821303 for further information or to book. Organised and operated by Barnes Travel.

About NWN Travel Offers

NWN Travel Offers celebrates 21 successful years in 2017! We launched the service back in 1996 to to offer good-value breaks away with interesting itineraries departing from handy local pick-ups. Thousands of readers have enjoyed a wide variety of breaks.

NWN Travel Offers is simply a way NWN readers can enjoy quality weekends and holidays with the added bonus of travelling with other people from the locality.



Lady Maisery are appearing at Arlington Arts Centre tonight (Thursday)

Puzzles solutions from page 41

Crossword week 19

Across: 1 Gaelic, 5 Brandy, 8 Pungency, 9 Trap, 10 Peel, 11 Undercut, 13 Septicaemia, 15 Red panda, 17 Giga, 19 Shea, 20 Primeval, 21 Engage, 22 Scouse.

Down: 2 Acute, 3 Leg slip, 4 Centurion, 5 Boy, 6 A star, 7 Dracula, 12 Dramatics, 13 Stephen, 14 Magneto, 16 Prada, 18 Grass, 20 Pye.

Sudoku one

8 4 2 3 1 7 9 6 5
6 5 3 2 9 8 4 1 7
9 1 7 6 5 4 8 3 2
7 9 6 1 4 3 5 2 8
5 8 1 7 2 6 3 9 4
2 3 4 9 8 5 1 7 6
4 2 9 8 7 1 6 5 3
3 7 8 5 6 9 2 4 1
1 6 5 4 3 2 7 8 9

Sudoku two

1 5 4 7 6 8 9 3 2
3 2 6 5 1 9 8 4 7
8 7 9 4 3 2 6 5 1
9 4 5 3 2 7 1 6 8
7 1 8 6 9 5 4 2 3
6 3 2 1 8 4 7 9 5
2 9 3 8 7 6 5 1 4
5 8 1 9 4 3 2 7 6
4 6 7 2 5 1 3 8 9

Sudoku one

				1		9		
6	5		2	9				
		7			4			3
		6						8
			7		6			
2						1		
	2		8			6		
				6	9		4	1
		5		3				

Sudoku two

			7	6				2
3					9			4
		9			2	6	5	
9		5	3					
	1							2
					4	7		5
	9	3	8			5		
	8		9					6
4				5	1			

Take a step back in time for Beaulieu spectacular

Win a family ticket to take part in activities at the National Motor Museum

BECOME a time traveller at Beaulieu this May half-term and follow the trail of family activities around the attraction.

The *Newbury Weekly News* has a family ticket to be won to visit Beaulieu this month.

Join living history monks in the 13th-century Beaulieu Abbey and see falconry and archery demonstrations.

Travel through time to the newly-restored, working Victorian kitchen at Palace House, where you can meet the cook, dress up in Victorian costumes and play traditional games.

Then take a journey from the dawn of motoring to more futuristic travel with a Wheels pod ride in the National Motor Museum.

For Spring Bank Holiday Monday on May 29, you can also enjoy The 999 Show as it celebrates the work of the emergency services.

Take a step back in time with a display of historic emergency services vehicles, play CSI Beaulieu murder mystery, then see horses in the New Forest Agisters' pound and dog skill demonstrations.



All half-term activities and The 999 Show are included in the standard Beaulieu admission ticket, which includes entrance to the National Motor Museum, World of *Top Gear*, On Screen Cars, Palace House, Beaulieu Abbey and the picturesque grounds.

Tickets can be bought in advance online at www.beaulieu.co.uk or for more details, call (01590) 612345.

To be in with a chance of winning a family ticket to the Beaulieu attraction, answer the following question.

Which of these is a well-known TV time traveller?

- a) *Doctor Who*
- b) *Doctor Finlay*
- c) *Doctor No*

Send your answer on the form to Beaulieu competition, *Newbury Weekly News*, Newspaper House, Faraday Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 2DW.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 17.

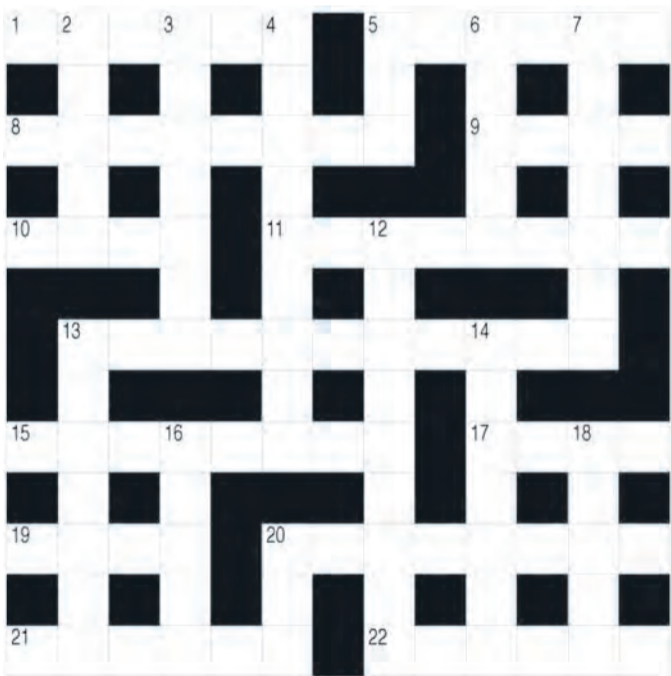


The National Motor Museum at Beaulieu

Newbury Weekly News Crossword No.19

ACROSS

- 1 Adjective describing a kind of football (6)
 - 5 Another name for the drink eau de vie (water of life) (6)
 - 8 Acridity (8)
 - 9 One of the slang words for the mouth (4)
 - 10 Nineteenth-century prime minister Sir Robert (4)
 - 11 Offer at a lower price than (8)
 - 13 Blood poisoning, especially that caused by bacteria (11)
 - 15 Animal not closely related to a black and white one (3,5)
 - 17 Word used in connection with computer memory sizes (4)
 - 19 Name of a former stadium in New York, demolished in 2009 (4)
 - 20 Belonging to the Earth's beginnings (8)
 - 21 Begin a military action against (6)
 - 22 The dialect spoken in and around Liverpool (6)
- DOWN**
- 2 Of an angle, less than 90 degrees (5)
 - 3 A fielding position in



- cricket (3,4)
- 4 Anagram of the word CONTINUER (9)
- 5 Word used partly as an exclamation of enthusiasm (3)
- 6 *When You Wish Upon* ... (1,4)
- 7 Literary character the author's original name for whom was Count Wampyr (7)
- 12 A show of overemotional behaviour (9)
- 13 King of England, a grandson of William the Conqueror (7)
- 14 Arch-enemy of the X-Men (7)
- 16 Mario __, founder in 1913 of what is now an Italian luxury fashion house (5)
- 18 Colloquial name for cannabis (5)
- 20 British record label whose artists included Petula Clark and The Kinks (3)

TURN TO PAGE 41 FOR CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Beaulieu competition

Answer.....

Name.....

Address.....

Daytime tel no.....

Email.....

RULES: The winners will be the first entries drawn with the correct answers. In the event that a winner must be notified quickly by telephone and is unavailable on the daytime number provided, another winner may have to be chosen. Newbury Weekly News Group employees, and employees directly involved in the competition, and their families, are not eligible to enter. The editor's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. Responsibility will not be accepted for entries lost or torn in the post. Entries must be made on the original form. There are no cash alternatives to the prize.



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Please ensure that your entry is clearly written and up-to-date, and submitted by **Friday June 16th 2017**.

Name of organisation:

Type/category:

Address of organisation:

Name of contact:

(give full name(s) if possible and, if office-holder, specify)

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UK solo debut at Oil Gallery

Christopher Luigi Veggetti Kanku show opens

PRELUDE, the debut UK solo show by Christopher Luigi Veggetti Kanku, opens at Oil Gallery in Hungerford tomorrow (Friday).

Luigi is a commercially-successful artist building a legacy through his work and commissions. He lives and works in Brianza, Milan.

His career so far has seen him win prizes, press and plaudits, starting with first prize, in 2008, in the Prize Ghiggini Arte, in the young painters section. He was then signed to a publishing deal through Italian publisher Umberto Allemandi and started releasing art books, *30 Tele* in 2010, *Forse Dei Marmi* in 2012 and *Monza e Brianza*, due for release in 2018. He has appeared in major Italian magazines such as *Arte Mondadori* and *Flash Art*.

Luigi's work is represented in galleries in Berlin, Milan, Florence, Stockholm and London and he has held numerous solo and groups shows across many galleries.

His work consists of portraits, urban street scenes and rural landscapes. Luigi's style is born in the classic and executed in the modern.

"His use of bursting colour or monochrome sepia splashed with acid just pops to the eye and intoxicates your senses," says gallery owner Justin Cook. "And this is what makes Luigi different. You sense that he is becoming someone who is building a real legacy."

Luigi's latest commission for 2017 is *AFROITALIANI* for the Italian Government and will feature in *Manifesta 11, the European Biennial of Contemporary Art 2018*. He will paint 25 portraits, to be exhibited in Milan and New York. The works will then be distributed for hanging through Italian embassies around the world and one or two will be presented to government and cultural organisations.

Justin says: "Oil is delighted to be hosting Luigi's debut solo show in the UK and honoured to receive him after his legacy-building *AFROITALIANI* project in Italy."

"It promises to be something memorable." You can find Oil Gallery at 5 Bridge Street, Hungerford, RG17 0EH.

www.oilgalleryhungerford.co.uk

ARTIST

Luigi Christopher Veggetti Kanku is a Congolese-born artist who grew up in Northern Italy. He is one of the principal artists of the Italian contemporary art scene.

PROJECT AFROITALIANI

...is an exhibition to show a series of portraits dedicated to important citizens of African descendants who grew up or lived in Italy, from the past through to the present day. The portraits will represent all the well-known and successful people for their work and their position in the community and whose personal experiences and achievements have had a strong impact on the path of racial integration of Italy.

The people's portraits will include writers, artists, politicians, entrepreneurs, athletes and others.

ALSO NOW SHOWING AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU

Alien: Covenant

Hostile alien life form forces the space explorers into a fight for survival

traverse the outer reaches of the cosmos. Review this page

A Dog's Purpose (PG)

Re-born dog searches for meaning in his multiple lives

Fast and Furious 8 (12A)

Street racer Toretto and his crew are tearing up the roads once more, in New York and Cuba

Unlocked (15)

Lone CIA agent tries to save London from terror attack

NT Live: Obsession

Jude Law in the Barbican's production

Their Finest (12A)

A new patriotic film is planned to boost British morale during the Blitz. Gemma Arterton stars

The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki (12A)

True story of the Finnish featherweight boxer

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2 (12A)

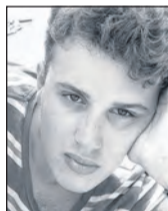
The teams continue their adventures as they

Dancer (12A)

Portrait of the Royal Ballet's young Ukrainian dancer Sergei Polunin

Comic book heroes play it for laughs

But is that enough? Not a whole lot actually happens in *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2*, says film reviewer CHARLIE MASTERS



COMIC book cinema has inherited the logic of its source material – to attempt a new Marvel movie without having viewed the last dozen releases is to expose oneself to a dizzying, incomprehensible plot, a mind-numbing host of heroes and villains and some of the most downright nonsensical action sequences yet to have graced the multiplex. *Guardians of the Galaxy*, the definitive sleeper hit of 2014, took this sorry state of affairs and, with indomitable energy and ruthlessness, turned it on its head. This was a comic book flick that ENCOURAGED us to laugh at its excess and stupidity, which dropped high-octane space battles alongside engaging characters, a killer soundtrack and gags that were actually funny – *The Hitchhiker's Guide meets Flash Gordon meets Spaceballs*.

A fantasy sequel either ups the ante, opting for effects overkill and flagrant crowd-pleasing, or dials down the madness for the sake of storytelling and dramatic introspection. The first film being the unlikely, tongue-in-cheek blockbuster that it was, *GotG Volume 2* here finds itself in an interesting position, unable to deliver on either pitch without upsetting a large chunk of the audience. Forced



into a delicate balancing act, it plays a strange game – the explosions, jokes and alien exotica are all here, but it's within the context of an across-the-board personalisation of the action that does not always sit well with the story's galactic scale. Everyone's favourite spacefarers now find themselves embroiled in an intricate web of family and identity issues – Gamera (Zoe Saldana) in a feud with her sister (Karen Gillan), Earthling Quill (Chris Pratt) wrestling with the return of his alien father (Kurt Russell), and buccaneer Yondu (Michael Rooker), a blue-skinned outcast, struggling to find his place in the universe.

It's by no means a slow or unlikeable movie (the impenetrability and OTT-ness of the plot is totally played for laughs), but one cannot help but feel that *Vol 2* is at its best when it puts the melodrama aside and sticks to what *GotG* does better than any

other super-franchise. Star-raccoon Rocket (voiced by Bradley Cooper) is marvellous as ever, stealing the show in his interactions with the hapless, adorable Baby Groot (voiced by, of all people, Vin Diesel); their stretch aboard a pirate ship boasts all the best lines. Director James Gunn demonstrates, once again, his keen ear for music, not bad for the 'mind' that brought us the live-action Scooby-Doo movies – *Awesome Mix Vol 2*, featuring the likes of Parliament, Fleetwood Mac and Cat Stevens, comes dangerously close to besting the first film's legendary soundtrack.

But those inspired moments do little to paper over the biscuit-thin execution – the movie takes the safe route, sticking squarely to its predecessor's legacy. Constant injections of energy and humour cannot distract from the fact that not a whole lot actually happens; it's as if a conscious decision has been

made to keep story and character development to a minimum in preparation for a blowout threequel, and such a Spartan treatment rarely works wonders where the sci-fi genre is concerned, demanding as it does around-the-clock thrills and real human drama (NOT, it must be said, the half-baked soap opera we get in bucketloads here). The second *Guardians* outing is a fun, occasionally smart and spectacular slice of cosmic pie, but we really deserved more.

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2 (12A)
Running time 2hr 16min
Rating ★★★

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Sun 14:45 Tue 20:45

DANCER (12A)

Sat 18:05 Tue 14:30
Parents and Babies Wed 11:00

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Q&A Screening Sun 12:00

RSC ENCORE: JULIUS CAESAR

Wed 19:00

THEIR FINEST (12A)

Fri 17:55, 20:35
Sat 15:20, 20:30
Sun 17:00
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Tue 18:05
Wed 13:15, 16:05
Thu 12:15, 17:55, 20:35

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Charity no: 300214

The Annual General Meeting of the Foundation will be held in the Memorial Hall, Brownsfield, Thatcham on Wednesday May 17th 2017, commencing at 7.30pm, when local residents are invited to attend.

K. Pitt, Clerk to the Trustees.

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M4 MOTORWAY – JUNCTIONS 12 – 13 (NEAR NEWBURY) TEMPORARY TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

Notice is hereby given that Highways England Company Limited(a) intends to vary Highways England Order 2017 No.167 (The M4 Motorway (Junctions 12 - 13) (Temporary Prohibition of Traffic) Order 2017) originally made on 6 February 2017, under Section 14(1)(a) and Paragraph 27(1) of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The effect of the variation would be to re-define the lengths of carriageway affected by the 50mph speed limit, namely to impose a 24-hour 50mph speed limit between points 1000 metres west of Scratchface Lane overbridge and 1000 metres east of the A340 overbridge on both carriageways of the M4.

This measure would be to enable the enforcement of the imposition of the limit through the works.

This variation would come into force at 00:01 hours on Saturday 3rd June 2017.

M Taylor, an Official of Highways England Co Ltd.
Ref: HE/SE/2017/M4/109

(a)Highways England Company Limited,
(Company No. 9346363). Registered Office: Bridge House,
Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4LZ.
A company registered in England and Wales.

For enquiries, please contact the Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000 or info@highwaysengland.co.uk http://www.highways.gov.uk



M4 MOTORWAY HERMITAGE CYCLE TRACK SECTION 18 ORDER

Notice is hereby given that Highways England Company Limited has made an order on 25th May 2016 on the M4 Motorway in West Berkshire, under section 18 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up highway previously comprising motorway verge and with special road status to allow the lawful passage of cycles, pedestrians and equestrians.

The effect of the Order is to stop up an area of motorway verge between junction 12 and 13 and at the foot of the embankment at the northern end of Hermitage village, carrying the M4 over natural ground level. The order does not affect the operation of the motorway.

This measure would be in the interests of road safety, recreation, healthy journeys and connected communities to create a combined cycle track and bridleway connecting Hermitage to Hampstead Norreys.

This notice was not published at the time of making the order due to an operational omission. The notice is now being published following the procedure in Schedules 1 and 2 to the Highways Act 1980. The order came into force on 25th May 2016.

The order and map showing the affected area may be viewed at any reasonable time at the address below by using the contact details below until 9th June 2017

A Winson, an Official of Highways England Co Ltd.

Highways England Company Limited,
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Borough of Basingstoke and Deane Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

The applications listed below are advertised for the reasons given

17/01450/OUT: Erection of 5 no. dwellings comprising 1 no. barn-style house, 3 no 'converted stable' dwellings, 1 no single storey 'small barn' dwelling and 4 bay cart shed. Demolition of existing equestrian buildings and removal of two mobile homes at Woodlands Park Farm Ram Alley Ashford Hill

Reason: Proposal affecting a Right of Way, being a departure from the Development Plan

17/01482/FUL: Erection of 1 no. dwelling at Land At OS Ref 451921 162139 Newbury Road Headley

17/00941/ROC: Variation of condition 1 of 16/04415/ROC to allow an amended scheme for the development of 6 no. dwellings. Variation of other prior commencement conditions to provide required information at Sandham House Pound Lane Burghclere

Reason: Proposal being a departure from the Development Plan

17/01150/LBC: Erection of single storey side extension forming additional accommodation and linked garage, and new entrance canopy to west elevation following demolition of existing ancillary sheds and kennels at The Old Farmhouse Dodds Farm Well Street Burghclere

17/01149/HSE: Erection of single storey side extension forming additional accommodation and linked garage, and new entrance canopy to west elevation following demolition of existing ancillary sheds and kennels at The Old Farmhouse Dodds Farm Well Street Burghclere

Reason: Proposal affecting a Listed Building

The applications and plans are available for public inspection at Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke during office hours or at www.basingstoke.gov.uk. Any comments should be in writing, within 21 days of this notice. Any comments received are open to public inspection.

MIKE TOWNSEND

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

TOWN AND COUNCIL PLANNING ACT

The following applications have been submitted to West Berkshire Council and are available for inspection at the Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury RG14 5LD. Comments should be sent to the Head of Planning: email planapps@westberks.gov.uk within 14 days and will be available for public inspection.

DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING AND/OR BUILDINGS OR OTHER LAND WITHIN A DESIGNATED OR PROPOSED CONSERVATION AREA

17/01095/ADV & 17/01111/LBC2: 42 Northbrook Street, Newbury - Signage

17/01122/LBC2: Kimberhead Farm, Back Lane, Bradfield - Section 19: Variation of condition 2: Approved plans, of planning permission 14/02248/LBC2

17/01027/FULD: Land North of Ham Mill Cottage, London Road, Newbury - Erection of single dwelling & associated works

17/01005/ADV: 20 High Street, Hungerford - Signage

17/01153/HOUSE & 17/01154/LBC2: Chequers Cottage, Hunts Green, Newbury - New side extension to replace existing, garage extension & replacement outbuilding

DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

17/01101/COMIND: Frilsham Home Farm Dairy, Frilsham Yattendon - S73A: Variation of Condition 5:

Approved Use, of approved application 16/01690/COMIND

17/00938/HOUSE: 130 Strongrove Hill, Bath Road, Hungerford - S73: Variation of Condition 2, of approved application 16/00989/HOUSE

MAJOR DEVELOPMENT

17/01101/COMIND: Frilsham Home Farm Dairy, Frilsham Yattendon - S73A: Variation of Condition 5:

Approved Use, of approved application 16/01690/COMIND

17/01028/COMIND: Priors Court School, Priors Court, Hermitage - Partial change of use to bakery

Public Notice

DORIS HARDING (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 46 Ferndale Court Thatcham Berkshire RG19 4PW, who died on 18/12/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 14/07/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GARDNER LEADER LLP

Winbolt House The Broadway

Thatcham Berkshire RG19 3HX

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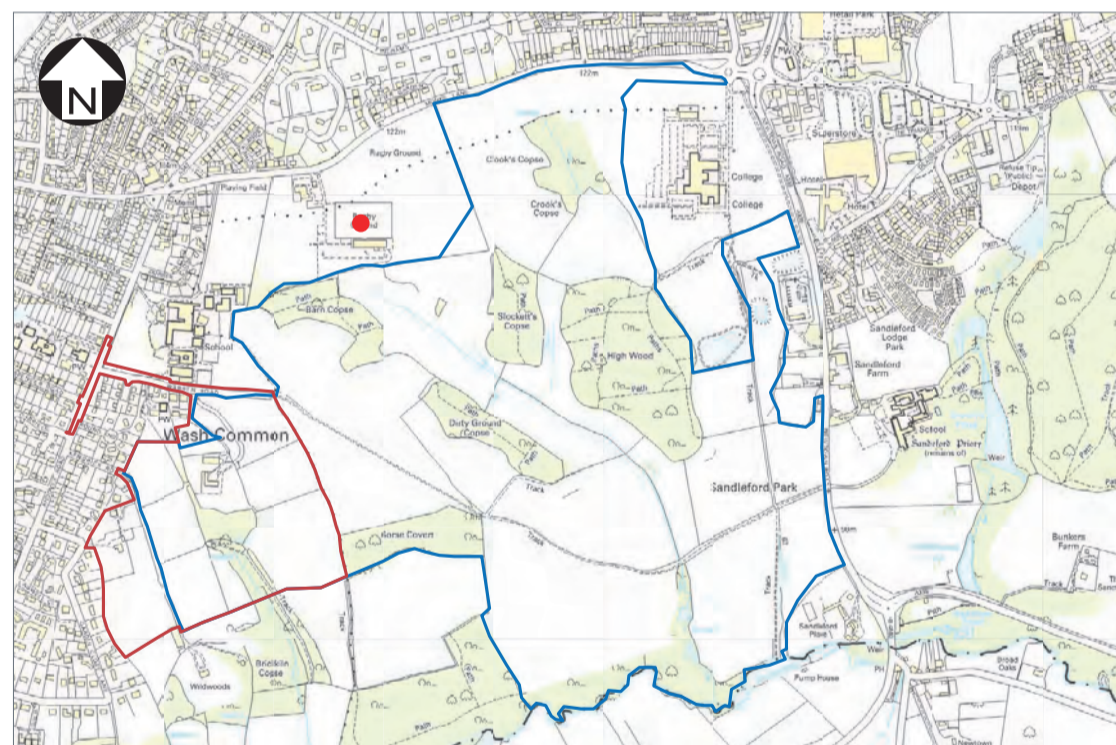
Newbury Weekly News



Notice of Consultation Event regarding development at New Warren Farm and Sanfoin, Newbury

Date: Thursday 18th May 2017 between 3:00pm and 8:00pm
Venue: Newbury Rugby Club, Monks Lane, Newbury

On behalf of our client, Donnington New Homes, you are invited to attend a consultation event to view our draft plans for the development of land at New Warren Farm and Sanfoin. Our proposal comprises up to 450 new homes, a primary school, a children's drop-off parking facility, an indoor play facility for Swings and Smiles, access from Warren Road and emergency access from Kendrick Road, green infrastructure, pedestrian and cycle links, sustainable drainage and other infrastructure required for the development.



Key

Sandleford Park allocation



New Warren Farm & Sanfoin Boundary



Newbury Rugby Club



The purpose of the public consultation is to provide you, as a local resident, with the opportunity to comment on and influence our proposals for the site. The event is an informal event being held at Newbury Rugby Club, Monks Lane, Newbury RG14 7RW in the afternoon and evening of Thursday 18th May 2017 between 3:00pm and 8:00pm (please visit anytime between these hours).

If you have any queries in advance of the exhibition, or if you are unable to attend and would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact Rebecca Humble or Jeremy Gardiner of WYG Planning and Environment using the details below:

Tel: 02382 022 800

Email: planning.southampton@wyg.com



Public Notice

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

(THE THICKET, LECKHAMPSTEAD)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2017

West Berkshire District Council has made an Order in accordance with Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in any direction over The Thicket between its junction with School Hill and its junction with Goose Lane.

The alternative route for all vehicles affected by the Order is via School Hill, Sheephouse Way, Hangmans Stone Lane, Unnamed road from Hill Green Lane to Hangmans Stone Lane, Shop Lane.

The purpose of this Order is to enable water mains repairs.

The proposed Order will come into effect on 19th May 2017. It is envisaged that the closure will be in place between 19th May 2017 and 23rd May 2017.

The Order was made on 8th May 2017.

(GRACES LANE, CHIEVELEY)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2017

West Berkshire District Council INTENDS, not less than seven days from the date of this notice, to make an order in accordance with Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in any direction over Graces Lane between its junction with Green Lane and its junction with Oxford Road.

The alternative route for all vehicles affected by the Order is via Oxford Road, East Lane and High Street.

The purpose of this Order is to enable water main repairs.

The proposed Order will come into effect on 29th May 2017. It is envisaged that the closure will be in place from 29th May to 31st May 2017.

(A4 BATH ROAD, SPEEN)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURN) ORDER 2017

West Berkshire District Council INTENDS, not less than seven days from the date of this notice, to make an order in accordance with Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle proceeding east bound on the A4 Bath Road from turning right into any side entrance from its junction with Battle Close to a point 140 metres further east.

The alternative route for all vehicles affected by the Order is to turn round at the next roundabout and turn left into the premises. The purpose of this Order is to enable replacement of a gas main. Main premises affected will be the Shell petrol station, without this restriction the road would have to be closed.

The proposed Order will come into effect on 30th May 2017. It is envisaged that the restriction will be in place between until 15th June 2017. The above Orders shall remain in force for a period of Eighteen months, or until the works are complete, whichever is the soonest and will not take effect until approved traffic signs have been erected.

Mark Edwards, Head of Transport and Countryside,
West Berkshire District Council, Council Offices,
Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD Dated: 11th May 2017

GOODS VEHICLE
OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Guy Dickens trading as Corn Exchange Newbury Trust of Market Place, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 5BD is applying for a license to use Unit 101E, Communication Road, Greenham Business Park, Newbury, RG19 6HN as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 1 trailer.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

GOODS VEHICLE
OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Redcrest Enterprises Ltd trading as Redcrest Events of Nightingale Farm, Wantage Road, Leckhampstead, Berkshire, RG20 8QT is applying for a licence to use Nightingale Farm, Wantage Road, Leckhampstead, Berkshire, RG20 8QT as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 2 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

GOODS VEHICLE
OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Grundon Waste Management Ltd of Thames House, Oxford Road, Benson, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 6LX is applying to change an existing licence as follows: to keep an extra six goods vehicles and two additional trailers at: Grundon Waste Management, Grange Lane, Beenham, Reading, RG7 5PY. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be effected, should make written representations to the traffic Commissioner at: Hillcrest House 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the traffic Commissioner's office.

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ANTIQUE pine farmhouse kitchen table, seats 8, 6ft long 3ft wide. Good condition. £150. (01488)685402

ANTIQUE Dining Chairs, a pair, possibly Edwardian, stored in attic since early 1900s, vgc, nice display pieces, can email photo. £35. (01635)253366

ARCHERY accessories including, bow stands, fletching tool, bow stringer, leather quiver. £25. Tel (01635)46394

ARMCHAIR recliner faux leather. Mechanism perfect. Free. Tel (01635)31479

ART Set (No 1), including satchel with brand new coloured pencils, paint brushes, art book and wooden box with water colours. Also Windsor & Newton pocket box with water colours and miscellaneous art accessories. £25. (01635)45187

ART Set (No 2), including table top easel with brand new coloured pencils, paint brushes, art book, sketch pads etc. Also Windsor & Newton pocket box with water colours and box of reeves for oil paints and miscellaneous art accessories. £25. (01635)45187

AXLE Stands, good used condition. 4000k max 480mm. £10. 07966395889

BABY Trike, parent handle. £10. (01635)871644

BEAUTIFUL Laura Ashley style glass dressing table, h55" w36" d12" Excellent condition, sale due to downsizing. £45 ono. 07968983673

BEKO Dishwasher, full size, good working order and good condition. £60. Tel 07796756382

BIKE, childs Magna Wakiki, 18" wheels, pink & purple. Good condition. £25. Tel (01635)297017

BIKE, Astra Shooting Star, 15 gears, crossbar, saddle top to ground 32 inches, can be adjusted up, saddle torn, photos can be emailed. £25 ono. 07799038968

BLACK & Decker work mate, Good condition. £20. (01488)685402

BLITZ Judo suit. Size 3/160. Good condition. South Newbury. £10. Tel 07747008610

BOSCH push lawn mower, 38cm width, one year old, handy on allotments. £25. (01635)42402

BOSE companion 2 series speakers grey. As new. £30. (01488)685402

BT Home Hub v5b, no longer needed. £20. Tel 07796756382

CALLIGRAPHY 6 lever arch files of The Art of Calligraphy by Hatchette, filled with magazines. Perfect for beginner through to expert. £10. (01635)46285

CHAIRS. 2 old wing backed arm-chairs. Need to be reupholstered. £60. Tel (01635)297017

CHEST Freezer Electrolux, 16 cubic feet, good condition and working order. Good reason for sale. Buyer to collect. £20. Tel 0788415063

CIVIL war musket balls (70). £10. Tel 07507621393

COMPOST Bin, plastic, large, good condition, can deliver. £8. (Woolhampton) (0118)9714495

COSATTO travel cot. Excellent condition, hardly used. £40 ono. Tel 07768590280

Household Items for Sale

COT Mobile, colourful, with a wind-up music box that plays a lullaby. Excellent condition. £5 ono. Tel 07900913398

COT Bumper. Fawn with animals one side and large pale blue spots the other. Comes in 3 sections, 2 smaller pieces and a longer piece that attach to the sides of a cot. Excellent condition. £5 ono. Tel 07900913398.

CREAM tv unit. £16 ono. 07972120896

CRIB/cot. Attractive vintage white wicker crib on legs, with mattress. Can send photo. £55. Tel (01635)297017

CURTAIN Pole. Brass coloured, extends to 7 ft. Complete with all fittings/curtain rings. Good condition. £5 ono. Tel 07900913398

CURTAINS Cream, 66 - 54. £4. (01635)871644

CYCLE, mans 'Giant' upright XG5B100, orange tall frame, see 'Giant Cycles' website & Ebay, good but flat tyres, maybe needs new inners. £120. (01635)253366

DE'LONGHI EN520B Latissima+Coffee Machine in black. Will include 16-Capsule Sample Assortment. Excellent Condition. £75. (01635)866125

DEMIJOHNS, five brown one clear, suitable for winemaking. £1. (0118)9700479

DINING Table, extends, four slat back chairs, natural solid Oak 'Dorset' Range, unused. £425. Details (01635)254738

DOUBLE Bed with four drawers in base, clean condition, flammability standard BS7177. £10. (01635)863372

DUCAL 'Knutsford China', 1940s?, see similar on Ebay, pretty floral pattern, 13 pieces incl. plates, tureen, gravy jug. Nice display pieces. £20. (01635)253366

DULUX Natural Hints Matt Emulsion. 2.5L. Violet White. £4. Tel (01635)42743

DURWENT cavendish grand sofa, 4 years old from Camp Hopson in nivara brown. £95. (01635)31479

ELECTRIC circular saw, good condition. £15. 07966395889

ELECTRIC Fire Flame Effect, excellent condition. Cost from B&Q £98, bargain £30. Tel (0118)9833246

ELLIPTIC exercise bike by XS sports. As new, excellent condition. £70 ono. Tel 07796757382

FARM Yard Animals. Great for 3+ year old. £20. (01635)248740

FILING cabinet, 3 drawers with dividers and keys. Pine effect H40" W19" D26" Good condition. £20. (01488)685402

FLATSCREEN TV 3D, 46" 4 HDMI HD, buyer collects. £150 ono cash only. (0118)9819439

FLOOR tiles. 33x33, 9 boxes, approx 120, surplus to requirements. Beige. £30. (01488)685402

FRENCH Doors. A pair of exterior doors, 200cm long x 60cm wide with glazing to suit. £65. Tel (01635)821613

FRIDGE freezer Bosch model KGE36BW41G series 6 H6ft 2" W2ft D26" As new. £250. (01488)685402

GARDEN Umbrella, large, Blooma Mallorca, adjustable stand for height/ angle, winds up/ out, vgc, one year old. £70. (01635)866342

GOLDEN yellow curtains. 2 pairs. Roughly 70" drop X 86" wide and 80" X 66" wide. Offers accepted. Will split. Tel 07789938411

GOLF (Progen) travel bag with wheels. Almost new. £20. Tel (01635)46394

GOLF CLUBS, 9 No MacGregor 'Tourney', nos 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 56 P, complete with MacGregor canvas bag, 20 balls and trolley. vgc. £130. (01635)253366

HAMSTER cage rotostak super pod with extras. £30. 07966395889

HELLO Kitty child's sewing machine age 6+ Brand New, double up pressie. £15. Tel (01635)45821

HP Envy 5530 printer, scanner, and copier. As new. £50. (01488)685402

IKEA Leksvik wooden coffee table with shelves. £2. (01635)38920

IKEA Malm Oak veneer surround, 1 year old, perfect condition. £100. 07887692767

ILLUMINATED sign. Kronenbourg 1664 Biere. Good working condition. size 55cm x 63 cm. £50. 07767685373

JUDO suit. Size 4/170 with belt £10. Good condition. South Newbury. Tel 07747008610

JUMPER (ladies). XL navy and white, long sleeved. Brand New. £3. Tel 07900913398

JUMPERS (ladies). Size 28/30, 1 x coral/white, 1 x dark pink, short sleeved. Brand new. £3 each or £5 for both. Tel 07900913398

LARGE wetsuit. £15. South Newbury. Tel 07747008610

LARGE collection glass paper weights, will sell singly. Details (01488)682138

LAURA Ashley football lampshade, brand new. £5. (01635)38920

LAURA Ashley pink fairground lampshade, brand new. £5. (01635)38920

LEGO Duplo, Large Playset with train track, Great for 3+ year old. £30. (01635)248740

LITTLE Tikes Coupe car in red. £15. (01635)38920

LITTLE Tikes turtle sand pit. £10. (01635)38920

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MOUNTAIN bike, Saracen Vicer 26" wheel. Suspension front & rear, twist grip gears, Shimano gear set. Very good condition. £85. Tel (01635)297017

More items for sale

on page 56

please use the coupon below or email to items@newburynews.co.uk

M4 MOTORWAY JUNCTIONS 14 - 15 NEAR SWINDON
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

Notice is hereby given that Highways England Company Limited(a) intends to make an Order on the M4 Motorway in the Unitary Authorities of West Berkshire, Swindon, and Wiltshire, under Section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, because works are proposed to be executed on the road.

The effect of the Order would be to:-

- authorise the phased overnight closure of;
 - both carriageways of the M4 between Junction 14 (A338) and Junction 15 (A346/A419)
 - the road leading to the eastbound carriageway of the M4 at Junction 15 (A346/A419);
 - the road leading from the eastbound carriageway of the M4 at Junction 14 (A338);
 - the road leading to the westbound carriageway of the M4 at Junction 14 (A338);
 - the road leading from the westbound carriageway of the M4 at Junction 15 (A346/A419); and
 - the roads leading to and from both carriageways of the M4 at Membury Services; and
- impose a 50mph speed limit on the carriageways described in a) i) above and all the roads described in a) ii - vi) above, when they are not closed; and
- permit hard shoulder running adjacent to the carriageways described in a) i) above.

These measures would be in the interests of road safety while contractors undertake resurfacing, road marking, replacement of studs and loops, and all associated work.

It is expected that the work would last for approximately 4 weeks starting on or after Monday 5th June 2017.

The closures would take place between 22:00 and 06:00 (maximum period).

The Order would come into force on 3 June 2017 and have a maximum duration of eighteen months.

Traffic affected by the closures would be diverted using the A338, A4, B4192 and A419.

Access to and from Membury Services would be provided under escort.

The closures, speed restrictions, hard shoulder running and diversion routes would be clearly indicated by traffic signs when they are in operation during the works period.

M Taylor, an Official of Highways England Co Ltd.
Ref: HE/SE/2017/M4/68

(a)Highways England Company Limited,
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DEADLINE

5pm Monday

Eagerly-anticipated new Audi RS 5 Coupé

Virtual cockpit and a host of innovations result in an impressive high-performance, high-technology drive

PRECISION shares equal billing with power in the all-new Audi RS 5 Coupé.

And this is particularly true of UK-bound examples, which benefit from an enhanced specification, bringing the pin-sharp clarity of the Audi Virtual Cockpit and the optimal handling adjustability delivered by the Audi sport differential as standard.

The new high-performance, high-technology coupé, with its advanced new 450PS V6 biturbo TFSI, becomes available in the UK later this month priced from £62,900, and will touch down here later in the summer.

With 600nm (442.5lb-ft) of torque, the new 2.9-litre V6 holds a 170nm advantage over its naturally-aspirated predecessor, and delivers it to the tune of a charismatic soundtrack reminiscent of the V6 TFSI powering the original B5 RS 4.

The top model in the A5 family sprints from 0 to 62mph in just 3.9 seconds and, with the optional dynamic package, reaches a top speed of 174mph.

Two turbochargers positioned centrally between the cylinder banks guarantee exceptional



response throughout the rev range, and combustion

technology employing the B-cycle process with central direct injection ushers in a new level of efficiency for an RS model.

The V6 biturbo is capable of up to 32.5mpg combined, corresponding to 197g of CO2 per km – an efficiency gain of 17 per

cent over the previous model.

The biturbo's copious power is deftly managed by the eight-speed tiptronic transmission with optimised shift times and by the reworked five-link front and new five-link rear RS-specific suspension, supported by quattro permanent all-wheel drive.

The centre differential-based system distributes drive forces in a 40:60 front-to-rear ratio favouring dynamic handling with optimal traction, and in UK specification models is augmented by the quattro sport differential, which also apportions torque between the rear wheels to promote even

greater handling adjustability.

For the most committed drivers Audi Sport also offers optional RS sport suspension with dynamic ride control (DRC), ceramic brakes and dynamic steering with RS-specific tuning.

Pronounced air intakes, gaping oval exhaust tailpipes, quattro blisters complementing widened wheel arches and a honeycomb design for the single frame grille are among the features that render the A5 body fit to bear the RS badge.

The standard LED headlamps, with their dynamic scrolling indicators, can also be upgraded to Matrix LED units capable of intelligently diverting their high beam around oncoming and leading traffic for maximum illumination.

Defining features also abound in the upscale and lavishly appointed interior.

When the start button is pressed, the exceptionally sharp and richly-detailed graphics of the RS-specific, fully digital virtual cockpit come to life.

This standard feature of UK RS 5 models features a customisable display

incorporating screens providing information on tyre pressure, torque and g-forces.

The list of driver assistants that feature as standard also includes the side assist blindspot monitoring system, hill hold assist and drive select adaptive dynamics system offering fine-tuning of engine response, transmission shift points and steering weighting.

On the infotainment front, the RS 5 Coupé comes equipped as standard with the Audi smartphone interface bringing Apple Carplay and Android Auto on board, and with MMI navigation plus with MMI touch, which now also includes LTE internet connectivity as part of the Audi connect package.

Thanks to the embedded Audi connect SIM, the flat rate data package for the connect services, including Europe-wide roaming, is free of charge for three years.

Further high-end technologies, including a head-up display and as many as 30 driver assistance systems are available to help the RS 5 remove layers of stress and leave drivers free to immerse themselves as fully as possible in the performance.

EXPLORE FREEDOM. THE DYNAMIC XC60.

The XC60 has been carefully engineered to offer a dynamic ride on any road, now with Sensus Navigation as standard.

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Fawcett's Garage

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Official fuel consumption for the XC60 D4 SE Nav, in MPG (l/100km): Urban 57.6 (4.9), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 62.8 (4.5). CO2 emissions 117g/km. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results.

***Important information: The participating dealers are trading styles of Fawcett's Garage (Newbury) Ltd who is acting as an introducer. Contract hire provided by Lex Autolease Ltd trading as Volvo Car Leasing, SK3 ORB. 18s & over, subject to status. You will not own the vehicle and it must be returned in good condition to avoid further charges. Excess mileage charges 17.46p per mile. Subject to availability at participating dealers. Offer ends 30/06/17. Not available with other promotions.**

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0% APR

£179 + £179
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SAVE
£6,851
OFF LIST PRICE



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Mokka X1.6i Active on the road price £20,145 - Customer Deposit £499 - Part exchange allowance £3,000 - Total amount of credit £16,646.45 - 47 monthly payments of £229.88 - Optional final payment £5,842 - 0% APR on Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £20,145.36 based on 5,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Astra 1.4 SRI on the road price £18,561 - Customer Deposit £499 - Part exchange allowance £3,000 - Total amount of credit £15,062 - 47 monthly payments of £189.88 - Optional final payment £6,138 - 0% APR on Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £18,561.36 based on 5,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Corsa 1.4 Energy on the road price £13,122 - Customer Deposit £499 - Part exchange allowance £3,000 - Total amount of credit £9,623 - 47 monthly payments of £129.88 - Optional final payment £3,519 - 0% APR on Personal Contract Plan - Total amount payable £13,122.54 based on 5,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Pre-registered Viva SE normal on the road price £9,315 - Now £7,995 - Save £1,320 - Customer deposit £119 - Total amount of credit £7,876 - 48 monthly payments of £119 - Optional final payment £3,181 - 4.9% APR representative - total interest charges £898 - total amount payable £9,012 based on 6,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). Pre-registered Corsa Sting normal on the road price £10,635 - Now £9,089 - Save £1,546 - Customer Deposit £149 - Total amount of credit £8,940 - 60 monthly payments of £149 - 0% APR. Pre-registered Meriva Life normal on the road price £14,270 - Now £9,995 - Save £4,275 - Customer deposit £159 - Total amount of credit £9,836 - 48 monthly payments of £159 - Optional final payment £3,567 - 4.9% APR representative - total interest charges £1,204 - total amount payable £11,358 based on 6,000 miles contract duration (other mileages available). *Minimum part exchange is regardless of age, condition or mileage however, it must be driveable and in your ownership for at least 6 months - this offer is available on selected vehicles only and subject to Eden Vauxhall availability. The minimum part exchange is as part of a Vauxhall finance agreement and supersedes any other offers that may coincide. Finance subject to status. Terms & Conditions apply. 18's and over. Guarantee may be required. Offer ends 30th June 2017.



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2010	(10) HONDA CRV ES Ti Dtech Automatic, black, black leather trim, c/locking, e/windows, air conditioning, sat nav, alloys, CD	£10,995
2014	(64) KIA Soul 1.6 Connect+ CRDi, white, black trim, c/locking, climate control, e/windows, sat nav, rear park camera, cruise control, alloys, CD, 1 owner	£11,495
2006	(06) AUDI A4 1.8T Convertable, metallic grey, black leather trim, power hood, c/locking, e/windows, air conditioning, alloys, CD	£7,495
2010	(59) MINI Cooper 1.6 S Chili, metallic blue, grey trim, c/locking, e/windows, air conditioning, alloys, CD	£6,995
2013	(63) SKODA Fabia 1.6 TDi Ellagance Estate, metallic blue, grey trim, c/locking, alloys, e/windows, air conditioning, CD	£6,495
2010	(60) MINI One 1.6, pepper, red, grey trim, c/locking, e/windows, air conditioning, alloys, CD	£6,295
2008	(08) FORD Galaxy 1.8 TDCi LX, metallic silver, grey trim, c/locking, e/windows, air conditioning, CD, LRM, 7-seater	£5,995
2011	(11) HYUNDAI i20 Comfort 1.4 CRDi 3-door, metallic grey, grey trim, alloys, c/locking, air conditioning, e/windows, CD, LRM	£4,795
2007	(07) TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 Zinc 5-door, metallic grey, grey trim, c/locking, e/windows, air conditioning, CD, alloys, LRM, FSH	£3,795
2005	(05) VW Golf 1.9 TDi SE 5-door, metallic grey, grey trim, CD, alloys, c/locking, e/windows, air conditioning	£3,695
2010	(60) CITROEN VT 3-door 1.0, red, grey trim, CD, 1 owner	£3,495
2005	(55) VW Polo 1.4 SE TDi 5-door, black, grey trim, c/locking, CD, alloys, e/windows, air conditioning, sunroof	£3,295
2007	(57) FORD Fiesta 1.6 TDCi Zetec Climate 5-door, metallic blue, grey trim, alloys, c/locking, e/windows, air conditioning, CD	£2,695
2006	(06) NISSAN Micra 1.6 Sport C + C Convertable, metallic burgundy, grey trim, panoramic roof, c/locking, e/windows, alloys, CD	£2,595
2005	(55) FORD Focus 1.6 Sport 5-door, metallic blue, grey trim, c/locking, e/windows, air conditioning, alloys, CD, one owner, FSH	£2,595
2006	(55) SKODA Fabia 1.4 Ambient 5-door, metallic black, grey trim, c/locking, CD, e/windows, air conditioning	£2,495
2003	(03) VW Golf 2.0 GTi 5-door, metallic blue, grey trim, alloys, CD, c/locking, e/windows	£2,195
2003	(53) FORD Street KA Luxury 1.6 Cabriolet, black, beige leather trim, c/locking, e/windows, air conditioning, alloys, CD, LRM	£1,995
2004	(04) NISSAN Micra 1.25 3-door, metallic blue, c/locking, e/windows, alloys, CD	£1,995
2006	(06) PEUGEOT 206 Sport 1.6 5-door Automatic, metallic silver, grey trim, c/locking, e/windows, air conditioning, alloys, CD, LRM	£1,995

GOOD CLEAN CARS
PURCHASED FOR CASH



Mercedes-Benz expands SLC range with entry-level SLC 180

MERCEDES-BENZ has added the SLC 180 AMG Line to the SLC range, with prices starting from £32,039 OTR.

With monthly payments starting from as low as £276, the new SLC 180 makes the Mercedes-Benz roadster range more accessible than ever before.

The SLC 180 features a turbo-charged 1.6-litre petrol engine producing 156hp and 250Nm.

It can accelerate from 0 to 62mph in 7.9 seconds and has a top speed of 140mph.

It emits a low 134g/km of CO2 and delivers up to 48.7mpg combined.

A six-speed manual transmission is standard or for £1,600 customers can opt for a 9G-Tronic automatic gearbox.

The SLC 180 AMG Line comes as standard with 18-inch alloy wheels, Artico seats, Active Brake Assist, cruise control, air conditioning, sports suspension and sports braking system.

The SLC Sport model line has also been discontinued to make the range even simpler, with AMG Line now the only option.

The price of AMG Line trim has also been reduced by £500, making the SLC line-up even more attractive.

For more information on the SLC range, visit www.Mercedes-Benz.co.uk





2006 MERIVA
1.4. 5-door.
16v Life
Manual. Petrol.
Air conditioning.
One owner from new.
FSH. 30,150 miles.
7 months MOT.
£1,550 o.v.n.o.
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VW Passat Estate
Petrol Sport 1.8 Litre 20V AUTO
2000 (X), 81000 Miles
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MOT Until 13th December 2017
Great audio system, climate
control, ABS, front and side
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AUDI A3
1800cc. 1996.
Metallic green. ABS.
Drivers airbag.
Immobiliser.
114k miles.
1 years MOT.
Very nice condition.
£345 o.n.o.
07387630637



FORD MONDEO
2000cc. 2004
Black metallic paint.
130k miles.
ABS. Drivers airbag.
Immobiliser.
1 years MOT.
Very nice condition
throughout.
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MINI ONE
2004. 1600cc.
Silver. Leather.
ABS. Drivers airbag.
Immobiliser. History.
MOT January 2018.
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Lovely condition.
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2007. 6 speed.
Silver metallic.
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Very good condition.
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Newbury Weekly News & The Advertiser
Newspaper House, Faraday Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 2DW

Week commencing May 29th 2017

Publication	Issue Date	Classification	Space & Copy Deadline
Newbury Home Search	Thursday June 1st	Property/Accomm display	Thursday May 25th, 10am
		Accommodation lineage	Friday May 26th, 12 noon
NWN inc N2	Thursday June 1st	ROP Ents + cinema	Wednesday May 24th, 10am
		Features	Wednesday May 24th, 10am
		Leisure	Tuesday May 30th, 10am
		Motors	Tuesday May 30th, 10am
		Classifieds/Trades	Tuesday May 30th, 10am
		ROP/Greetings	Tuesday May 30th, 10am
		Sits Vac	Tuesday May 30th, 12 noon
		BMD's	Wednesday May 31st, 10 am
Advertiser	Friday June 2nd	All	As Above

Newbury News Ltd



Business

online newburytoday.co.uk

PHONE IT Business editor: (01635) 564525
Advertising: (01635) 564560

DEADLINE Advertising deadline two weeks
prior to publication

E-MAIL Edit: business@newburynews.co.uk
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The SORCE team

SORCE team is fully engaged for success

Intranet software even simpler and quicker than before

NEWBURY-based SORCE has launched its newly-named Engage intranet software.

It has new features and added flexibility to enable intranet professionals to engage their colleagues and enable chief executives to realise real business growth.

Over the last few months SORCE's technical team at Newbury Business Park, London Road, have enhanced their award-winning intranet software to enable users to do what they need

to do more simply and quicker than before.

The software is designed and built in-house by a team of developers and designers.

SORCE managing director John Nicklin said: "We are really proud to launch our new-look Engage intranet software.

"It's already going down really well with our clients and new business.

"It's an exciting time for us as a local business and testament to the great team we have here at

SORCE.

"Our award-winning intranet software has been transforming business communications for over 16 years.

"Today, hundreds of clients worldwide use our software at the core of their business and we work with them to ensure their software adapts to their changing business needs.

"Our clients range from legal to media, retail, leisure, housing, utilities and transport and is ever expanding."

Gerry joins ECEX as SHEQ chief

METALWORK, fabrication and mechanical services contractor ECEX, based in Newbury, has appointed a new safety, health, environmental and quality (SHEQ) manager, Gerry Merchant.

With a background delivering SHEQ in related sectors, Mr Merchant will assist in ECEX's ambitions to gain the environmental management ISO 14001 and the new occupational health and safety ISO 45001 accreditations.

Replacing long-time ECEX SHEQ manager, Ian Moir, who retires imminently, Mr Merchant joins the Bone Lane company with 18 years' experience in the construction and medical waste industries.

Prior to his work in H&S, quality and environment, Gerry was a paramedic and station supervisor for the ambulance service.

He still provides weekend ambulance duties at Premiership rugby matches; an opportunity to combine his skills and interests.

ECEX managing director John Grenville said: "Gerry's appointment will enable us to progress in improving our safety, quality and environmental credentials, adding to our existing ISO 9001 and EN 1090 (CE marking of structural steelwork) accreditations.

"Since the implementation of ISO 9001 we've seen a step-change in meeting our 'right first time, every time' target.

"We enjoy really positive customer feedback from almost every finished job.



Gerry Merchant

"ECEX works at some of the most prestigious buildings in the United Kingdom, so our clients require nothing other than really exceptional contractors whose quality, safety, environmental

and reliability values mirror their own. "I'm proud to say that ECEX is such a company, with Gerry making a great new addition to the team."

Recruitment

PHONE IT

Telesales: (01635) 550444
Switchboard: (01635) 524111

E-MAIL

recruitment@newburynews.co.uk

DEADLINE

12 noon Tuesday

WEBSITE

www.jobsthamesvalley.co.uk
www.newburytoday.co.uk

Estate Worker wanted to help within a family holding between Reading and Newbury, West Berkshire.

The job has plenty of variety and you would be part of a small team working on a family estate within fields, woodlands and a river and spring network. A clean driver's licence is required. No experience necessary, just a keen, honest, reliable and hard working person, with a view to acquiring agricultural/gardening skills. Salary dependent on qualifications.

Please send a CV and covering note to: daniellea@romulusconstruction.com

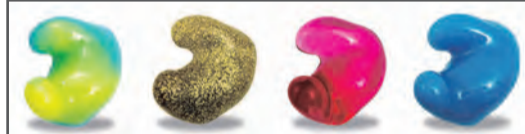
ASSISTANT HEAD GARDENER

An enthusiastic qualified gardener is sought to join a small team working in a large private idyllic waterside garden in the Kennet Valley, Nr Marlborough.

Good salary and conditions for the right candidate. In the first instance apply with your current CV to Terry at terry@rectory.biz

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Please forward CV to david.smith@oakesbros.net
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Based in Greenham, Arlington Laboratories is one of the largest earmould manufacturers in the UK. We donate 50% of our profits to the Mary Hare Charity, supporting its work with deaf children and young people. Due to our ongoing growth, staff turnover and maternity leave, we now have several opportunities to join our team.

Administrator (full time - 1 x perm 1 x maternity cover)

We're looking for 2 highly organised administrators to join our small and busy team. You'll organise and prioritise incoming work, maintain order records, invoice orders and answer calls from customers. You'll be a motivated team player, with excellent attention to detail and good keyboard and communication skills.

Lab technician (2 x full time perm)

Don't miss this opportunity to join a motivated and skilled team of technicians, working on the manufacture of earmoulds for newborns to adults. No experience is necessary, as full training will be given. Good hand/eye co-ordination is essential.

For full job descriptions and application form go to: www.maryhare.org.uk/jobs

Closing date: Monday 15 May
Interviews: w/c Monday 22 May

Tel: Jo Revell on 01635 569346
Email: jo_revell@arlingtonlabs.co.uk

All successful candidates will be subject to DBS checks
Mary Hare is a registered charity: 1048386



Clerk to Speen Parish Council

18 hours per week mainly from home. Preparing agendas & minutes, governance & financial processes, correspondence, website and other duties. Good literacy, numeracy, computer skills, ability to work independently & use of car essential.

Local government experience preferred.
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HOLLY GRANGE RESIDENTIAL HOME Part time full time care assistant required. Flexible and permanent shift pattern. Contact Sundith on 01635 864646

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PART TIME & FULL TIME BAR / WAITING STAFF

required for the Royal Oak, Yattendon
 Flexible hours, immediate start
 Please call Rob on **01635 201325**

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GENERAL & MULTI-SKILLED OPERATIVES

Ideal candidates must have site experience, a driving licence as van supplied and knowledge and understanding of the construction industry
 Apply by email to: Tracy@rgc-builders.co.uk
 Telephone: 01635 523321

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Part Time Administrators

Required either
 09:00 – 13:00 or
 13:00 – 17:00 Mon-Fri
 Salary £8.50ph to start
 Thatcham Based Company
 Please send your CV to kim@smsalarms.co.uk

Sascron Ltd WANTED!

FORWARD THINKING SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING ASSISTANTS
 TO DEVELOP AND LEAD OUR STRATEGY FOR DIGITAL MARKETING. Be part of a team that's valued, not a number that's taken for granted.
 Starting salary £20,000.00
 Call Kalem on 07736 691290 / 01189 813000
 or email: kalem@sascronltd.co.uk with your CV

QTR TRANSPORT

Require **TWO OFFICE CLERKS** to join our customer service team at our Newbury office. Please can you send your cv and a covering letter to. Deborah Povey Customer Services Manager
 Tel: 01189 185921 Fax: 01189 185999
 Email: dpovey@qtrtransport.co.uk
 Website: www.qtrtransport.co.uk

Senior Accompanist
Required for September 2017

As one of the leading Girls' Independent Boarding Schools in the country we are proud of our thriving Music Department. Music is a valued academic and creative subject that is fully inclusive and equips girls with lifelong musical skills. The Department also runs a successful and varied programme of events throughout the year.

Fully involved in the musical life of the School, you will be the lead accompanist for music events and an outstanding musician with a lively, creative and innovative approach to music education and accompanying. The role will also ideally include teaching the piano and aural coaching. The ability to play the organ would also be helpful.

This is a term time only post and in return we offer an excellent working environment, meals on duty, and a salary of £23,000 (Circa £30,000 full time equivalent).

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Jobs throughout the area every Monday for just £2.00

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required by Berkshire's premiere Kawasaki dealership.
 Working as part of a team the role will include the preparation of used machines, the up keep of the demonstrator fleet and delivery & collection of motorcycles. A full clean driving licence and effective communication skills are essential. Five-day working week Monday to Saturday and some out of hours' work. Salary TBC.
 Email your CV to:
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At Broad Lane we support people with autism, sensory impairments & physical disabilities. We employ individuals who are passionate about care, enriching the lives of the people we support. If this sounds like you, call us today!
 We offer a competitive salary & fantastic benefits, flexible & permanent shift patterns
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 IMMEDIATE START AVAILABLE
 Hours: 8am - 4pm Monday to Friday (Overtime available)
 SALARY - NEGOTIABLE

Please send your CV to Ian Passey,
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Downe House

Independent Girls' Boarding School (Ages 11-18)
 Downe House, Cold Ash, Thatcham, Berkshire RG18 9JJ

For further details or to apply, please visit our website www.downehouse.net > Jobs or alternatively call 01635 204712 or email recruitment@downehouse.net.
 Closing date: Noon on Thursday 18th May 2017.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Check (DBS) and satisfactory references.

Temporary Gymnastics Coach
September 2017 to April 2018
£25 per hour, Monday evening from 6 to 9pm

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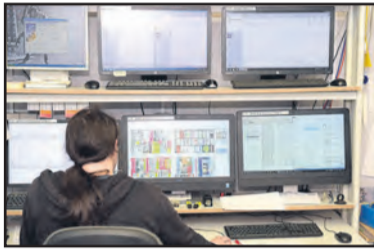
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Falkland girls blaze a trail to the crease

A FORMER England women's cricket coach has described a Berkshire club as a trailblazer for the girls getting into the sport.

Neil Rider, formerly assistant England women's coach, admits to being amazed at the numbers of girls and young women converging on Falkland Cricket Club at Newbury, to get involved in the sport.

For this summer, Rider is organising a women's team, but it has been in younger age groups where cricket appears to have caught the imagination, with more than 40 under 12-year-old girls training every week.

"The fact that we ended up with 42 that turned up every week, week on week, I suddenly realised that we had started something that was beyond just a few girls hitting a ball and throwing and catching, said Rider.

"I think it means the Club is a trailblazer for girls' and women's cricket."

Now Rider and Falkland are setting up teams and organising events so the emerging cricketers can get match action as well as training. The club's best are already making their mark at county level with Berkshire.

"It has surpassed my expectation. I've been overwhelmed by the amount of volunteers and parents that have got involved. I think the parents who haven't come from a crickering background have suddenly become immersed in a whole new game.

"And just seeing the smiles on the girls' faces every Friday probably shows best how far we've come. The fact that 42 keep turning up every week is probably testament to hopefully the coaching that they are getting and the atmosphere we have created."

And on Saturday, the girls kicked off the season with a friendly against an experienced North Hampshire district side at Yateley. It was a tight encounter and ultimately Falkland fell short. Andrea Davidson-Soler's 22 not-out was ably supported by Ava Lee, and Holly Rider with the ball were the highlights for Falkland as Falkland scored 55-6 in response to the home team's 65-4.

□ The club welcomes girls to the Friday evening training sessions from 6-7pm at Enborne Lodge and information is available from Neil Rider on 07738 423348.



Falkland girls are aiming high under coach Neil Rider

Seconds' winning hopes bypassed by Chiswick

THAMES VALLEY LEAGUE: Falkland II were denied an opening day win in Division Three A when visitors Chiswick and Whitton II held on for a draw.

Opener Nick Benwell led Falkland's way to 279-8 in 49 overs with skipper Graham Beal and Andy Jones adding 44 and 43 not out respectively.

Mark Baker and Johnny Williams ate into the visitors' upper order before Mark Bidmead and Sunny Singh formed the resistance movement with 53 and 52 respectively.

Both eventually fell to Beal, who pocketed another two victims only for the last pair to see it out at 180-9.

Beal claimed 4-28 in his 12 overs and Baker 3-37.

Teens on the rampage as Berkshire win again

TWO 17-year-olds helped Berkshire to beat Oxfordshire by seven wickets and retain their unbeaten record in Group A of the Unicorns Trophy Group

Debutant left arm spinner Mark Firth took 2-20 off 10 overs as Berkshire bowled out the hosts for 146 in the game at Bicester and North Oxford on Sunday before Henley batsman Jack Davies showed maturity beyond his years to remain unbeaten on 47 in Berkshire's reply of 148-3.

Davies shared a third-wicket stand of 102 in 23 overs with Richard Morris, who made 66 off 75 balls as Berkshire produced another all-round performance and always looked capable of winning after reducing their hosts to 75-5 and then 93-7,

although Luke Ryan with 30, and Will Eason with 33, offered some late resistance.

Tom Nugent took 3-23 and Ollie Wilkin 2-27 while the fielding highlight came from Dan Lincoln when he sprinted from square leg to deep mid-wicket to produce a spectacular diving catch to dismiss the dangerous Lloyd Sabin off the bowling for Nugent.

Berkshire are the only county in Group One to have won both their opening games and will be looking to make it three wins when they play pointless Cornwall at Wokingham CC's Sadler's End ground on Sunday.

"This was a clinical performance," said skipper James Morris. "Previously we have been winning when a little

under par, but today we were closer to our best.

"It was a really satisfying afternoon and some notable performances from our younger lads. We all know what a good player Richard is and he produced another excellent innings here, but Jack Davies had a fantastic knock and Mark Firth bowled really well in his 10 overs, finding his pace right from the start.

"Both are lads with a huge amount of potential. We are excited about being able to select these guys as we can trust them to do well.

"We are in a nice place to qualify for the knock-out stages of the Trophy, but at the moment we are not looking beyond the game with Cornwall next Sunday."

Rob falls one short of 200

FRIENDLY MATCHES: Theale and Tilehurst's Rob Dimmack hammered the Sulhamstead attack for 199 as he led his side to a 152-run home win on Sunday.

Dimmack dominated his opening stand of 194 with Charles Penman (46) and shared in a partnership of 103 with Jack Springgay (26 not out) before falling six runs short of the declaration at 313-2 after only 35 overs.

Jason Doole made 71 and Shiva Aruna 27, but Sulhamstead were dismissed inside 34 overs for 161 with Brian Cooper taking 4-20.

□ Mortimer lost out by six wickets on their trip to Ipsden, where Martin Cooper (40), Wayne Wharton (35) and Archie Fitz (22) top-scored in a total of 125-9, restricted by Dan Houseman's 6-11 haul in only seven overs.

Wharton claimed two early victims but Chris Rudling (56) and Dave Wood (33) out on 105 for the third wicket to tip the balance the home side's way as they reached 129-4 after only 16 overs.

Good works for Hill

GRANT Good's unbeaten 59 steered Ashford Hill to a four wicket win over visiting Sherfield on Loddon in their Regional One North East opener.

After inserting the visitors, they reduced them to 29-2 before Steve Dummer (53) and Chris Swift (35) put on 55 for the third wicket, although when Dummer went at 102-5, Hill were on top.

Grant Smith (21) and Graham Hill (17) chipped in at the end, but Mark Williamson's 3-20 tied them down to 174-8 after their 42 overs.

Ilsley slipped to 33-3 before Good shored it up, hitting two sixes and seven fours and finding support from Brodie Good (19) and Adnan Abid (25 not out) the latter in an unbroken stand worth 44 as Hill eased home to 175-6 with more than five overs to spare.

AWE batting slump

AWE Tadley slumped to a 10-wicket defeat at IBM Hursley in County Four North.

Skipper Dan Rides took 6-17 as AWE lost half a side for 75 runs and the other half for 17 with David Pilling's 28 the top score.

Rob Pfeifer (60 not out) and Kumaraswamy (26) not out knocked off the runs inside 16 overs.

Academy beaten

RAMSDALL were five wicket winners over visiting Cove Academy in Regional Two North East.

Jack Wilson's unbeaten 46 helped Cove to 140-5 in their 42 overs with Mark Andrews taking 3-27 before the home side lost three cheap wickets in reply.

But Wahid's 47 and an unbeaten 31 from Mark Morley steered the home side to 143-5 with five overs in hand.

Yattendon back with a win

MIDWEEK cricket returned to Yattendon last Wednesday when the village side scored a win over visiting Steventon in the Red Kite Business Solutions League.

The Oxfordshire side batted first and despite some big hitting from Tom Cannon and a few too many wides, recorded a below-par 101 as all of the home bowlers took wickets with Liam Cooper the pick of the attack and Sam Trumper polishing off the tail.

Liam Cooper and Jon Bowness soon put Yattendon in a commanding position with 47 and 20 respectively, and despite a late middle order collapse, the home side won with wickets and overs to spare.

Cricket

Results

RESULTS

THAMES VALLEY LEAGUE - Division One:

Cove (20) 196-5 Cookham Dean (6) 195-9 - Gerrards Cross (20) 254-9 Boyne Hill (7) 154 - Henley II (20) 301-4 Wokingham (7) 219 - Marlow (20) 265-7 Falkland (8) 264 - Stoke Green (20) 273 Finchampstead II (10) 206.

Division Two B: Aldershot (20) 210-9 Thatcham Town (9) 209 - Beaconsfield (20) 240 Royal Ascot (8) 64-9 - Slough II (20) 312 High Wycombe II (10) 201-9 - Sonning (6) 172 Burnham II (20) 275-6 - Yateley (10) 204 Hurst (20) 215.

Division Three A: Falkland II (15) 279-8 Chiswick & Whitton (8) 180-9 - Finchampstead III (25) 232-5 Cove I (12) 231 - Fleet (7) 144 Wargrave (25) 176 - Newbury (7) 209 Purley (25) 232-5 - Wokingham II (25) 27-0 Yateley II (0) 26.

Division Four B: British Airways (9) 172 Farnham Royal (25) 173-7 - Cookham Dean II (25) 315-3 Amersham III (6) 233-10 - North Maidenhead II (15) 164-9 Marlow II (11) 163 - Thatcham I (7) 179-5 Stoke Green II (12) 298-6 - Theale & Tilehurst (25) 257-9 Wootburn Narkovians (15) 256-8.

Division Six B: Cove III (25) 59-2 Yateley III (1) 56 - Farnham Common II (8) 161 Finchampstead IV (25) 199 - Hurst II (25) 185-4 Aldershot III (10) 182 - Purley I (11) 179-9 Sonning II (15) 228-7 - Reading III (14) 233 Royal Ascot III (8) 157-8.

Division Seven A: Bracknell II (25) 132 Theale & Tilehurst II (5) 41 - Eversley III (3) 78 Newbury II (25) 232-5 - Kidmore End II (25) w/o Fleet II (0) - Maidenhead & Bray III (5) 121 Wokingham IV (25) 124-3 - Thatcham III (9) 181-3 North Maidenhead III (11) 248-8.

Division Eight A: Finchampstead V (7) 270-7 Datchet IV (11) 327-5 - Hayes IV (9) 147 Theale & Tilehurst III (25) 148-6 - Kew IV (25) w/o Sonning III (0) - Royal Ascot IV (25) 263-5 Reading IV (7) 210 - Windsor IV (0) scratched v Bagshot III (25).

Division Nine A: Cove V (0) scratched v Cookham Dean IV (25) - Kidmore End III (25) w/o Eversley IV (-5) - Wokingham V (13) 210-8 Cove III (7) 136-7 - Yateley IV (-5) scratched v Newbury III (25).

BERKSHIRE LEAGUE - Premier Division: Berkshire County Sports (34) 109-8 Sandhurst (7) 105 - Peppard Stoke Row (37) 154-4 Woodley (5) 153 - Ruislip Victoria (8) 275 -8

Crowthorne & Crown Wood (34) 279-6 - Sulhamstead (37) 177-1 Welford Park (0) 76 - West Reading (9) 184-7 Woodcote (25) 267-6.

Division One: Bradfield (35) 190-3 Goring (7) 189-9 - Checkendon (39) 273-5 West Reading II (7) 212 - Farley Hill (9) 229-6 Peppard Stoke Row II (35) 230-5 - Ibis Mapledurham (37) 178-2 Sulhamstead II (7) 177 - Mortimer West End (36) 239-3 Emmbrook and Bearwood (8) 238-9.

Division Two: Basingstoke & North Hants III 211-8 Redlynch & Hale 212-4 - Totton & Eling II 232-9 Petersfield 147 - Old Basing 197-3 Bournemouth II 194 - Fair Oak II 118 Compton & Chandlers Ford 265-8 - Locks Heath 148

County Three North: Dinton 111-3 Otts & Romsey III 110 - South Wilts III 222-3 Hursley Park II 225-3 - Steep 69-0 Steeple Langford 68 - Liss 95 Ampert 213-8 - Hartley Wintney II 215 Hook & Newnham Basics III 129 - Michelmersh & Timsbury 130-3 Hungerford 128 - Littleton & West Hill 180-7 Tichborne Park II 181-2.

County Four North: Oakley 260-7 Basingstoke & North Hants IV 106 - Medstead 141 Old Basing II 146-5 - Longparish II 163 Sparsholt II 165-9 - IBM Hursley 96-0 AWE Tadley 92 - Rowledge III 201 Liphook & Ripsley II 203-3 - Wherwell 174 Overton 251-8 - St Cross Symondians IV 152 Ramsdell 395-6 - Whitchurch 133 Old Alresford 134-4.

Regional One North East: Rotherwick ITW 155-7 East Woodhay II 156-3 - Old Basing III 149-6 Bentworth 148-8 - Overton II 70 Silchester 71-3 - Fair Oak III 211 Holybourne 68 - Odiham & Greywell II 232-7 Donnington 132-8 - Crown Taverners 197-5 Easton & Martyr Worthy II 161 - Ashford Hill 175-6 Sherfield on Loddon 174-8 - Bishops Waltham III 122 Kingsclere 316-8.

Regional Two North East: Holybourne II 126 Oakley II 225-9 - Liphook & Ripsley III 143 Compton & Chandlers Ford III 260-8 - Herriard 203-5 Oakmount 75 - AWE Tadley II 122-4 Crown Taverners II 121 - St Marys 178-9 Hartley Wintney III 176-9 - Ramsdell II 143-5 Cove IV 140-5.

Regional Two North West: Winterbourne II 191-9 Littleton & West Hill II 196 - Wellow & Plaitford 81-1 Hursley Park IV 79 - Laverstock & Ford 59-2 Longparish III 58 - Over Wallop 77-8 Broughton 76 - Hungerford II 226-5 Michelmersh & Timsbury II 119 - Winton 95 Calmore Sports III 259-6 - Farley II 235-3 Whiteparish II 202-7.

OXFORDSHIRE CA LEAGUE - Division Four: Deddington (27) 141 West Ilsley (7) 125 - Dorchester (27) 206-4 Sunningwell (7) 202-5 - Garsington (3) 117 Bampton (30) 118-2 - Swinbrook (1) 71-9 Brill (29) 74-1 - Uffington (30) 225-9 Marcham (9) 221.

WEST OF ENGLAND PREMIER LEAGUE - Wiltshire Division: Great Bedwyn (6) 156 Devizes (20) 259-8 - Marlborough (20) 252 Calne (9) 215 - Marshfield (1) 139 Swindon (20) 140-1 - Purton (22) 265 Trowbridge (5) 101 - Warminster (4) 168 Royal Wootton Bassett (19) 171-5.

WILTSHIRE LEAGUE - Division Four: Chippenham III (9) 167 Spye Park (21) 178 - Combe Down (17) 149-6 Corsham III (7) 148-9 - Royal Wootton Bassett II (22) 250-6 Ramsbury (7) 155 - Wanborough (18) 188-6 Marlborough II (8) 187-7.

Division Seven: Corsham IV (5) 123-9 Beehive Southwick II (2) 290-5 - Highworth (23) 158-2 Warminster III (5) 157 - Lacock II (23) 123-3 Great Bedwyn II (4) 121 - Swindon B (3) 138 Hinton Charterhouse II (24) 143-1 - Westbury II (19) 271-6 Malmesbury II (10) 241-7.

NORTH HANTS EVENING LEAGUE - Division One: Hook & Newnham Basics (9) 105-0 Odiham & Greywell 101-7.

Division Two A: AWE Tadley 74-5 Herriard 95-7.



Newbury's opener Charles Anstey steers one away against Purley (19-1417C)

Penalty points add up to a losing starter

FALKLAND'S Thames Valley League top flight campaign got under way with a penultimate over defeat at the Marlow side that finished immediately beneath them in last season's table.

The cloudy skies heralded a slow start by the visitors after they had been put in to bat and James Bird and Danny Williams went for single figures inside 10 overs before Jim Ettridge joined Paul Jenkins and the pair wasted no time in making 64 in the same time before Mark Dozell made the crucial breakthrough by dismissing Ettridge for 27.

Six balls later, Falkland were in dire straits when Jeremy Batty removed Jenkins for 39 and they were soon celebrating the running out of Khalid Zafar to leave Falkland on 133-5 and in desperate need of a big partnership.

Craig Williams (27) and Daminda

Kologula duly obliged, with the latter performing the role of chief aggressor as they put on 104 before Williams departed, but with Kologula having blasted his way to 92 it seemed likely that Falkland could post a score approaching 275.

Kologula's eighth maximum brought up his maiden century off only 77 balls, but the innings ended with a whimper as the final four wickets fell for only 13, Kologula's 108 supported by only three double figure scores as Batty conceded only 10 runs in as many overs and Imran Nawaz snapped up 5-39 to swing the game back towards the home side.

Marlow survived a couple of early scares as openers Nawaz (34) and Barney Hogg put on 64 before Jenkins removed Nawaz, although pressure grew only after Zafar entered the attack and accounted for Nick Paskins after he had made 25.

The pace of Saad Atlaf struck a blow with the removal of Hogg for a stubborn 40, but the visitors could not build on the breakthrough as Graham Paskins (20) added a brisk 58 with Australian Mark Quamil, who then shared in a stand of 55 with Kirk Graham (18) that broke Falkland's spirit.

Despite a flurry of wickets, including that of Quamil for 67, Marlow were very much in control and were helped by Falkland's poor over rate as with just nine required for victory, the home side were awarded six penalty runs, leaving Simon Carter (20 not out) and partner Batty to pick off the final three runs to see Marlow home with three wickets and an over to spare, Zafar claiming 2-25 and Atlaf 2-42.

Falkland open their home programme on Saturday with the visit of last season's runners-up Stoke Green.

'Clere set off with full marks

KINGSCLERE got off to the best of starts with a maximum points return from their 194-run win at Bishops Waltham III in the Hampshire League's Regional One North East.

The visitors lost an early wicket but were soon rolling with Ross Andrews clearing the boundary six times in his powerful 69 and being supported all down the line by Steve Hanney (15) and Terry Kreysa (19).

Mark Hurst picked up the mantle with a solid 67 and with Freddie Gee thrashing 60, a substantial innings was built, Chris Hanney chipping in a useful 36 and Jack Grove-White remaining unbeaten on 12 as Kingsclere posted an imposing 316-2.

The home side made a rapid start but Gee's introduction to the attack saw him take 3-17 to turn the game 'Clere's way and when Chris Hanney removed Sammons for 43 for the first of his two wicket, the game was effectively over.

Aiden Ferris took 2-11 and Phil Gregory 2-8 in mopping up the tail as Bishops were dismissed for 122.

Draws all the way

THAMES VALLEY LEAGUE: Thatcham II had to be content with a draw when they entertained Stoke Green II in Division Four B.

The visitors were steered to 298-6 in the maximum 52 overs as Pavindar Bhachu (120) and Gully Khan (69) cut loose, and after Kieran Lynch (29), Rhys Williams (47) and notable Ben Copeman (79) had departed, Thatcham were left playing out time to reach 179-5.

□ **FALKLAND III** settled for a draw in their **Division Five B** trip to **Boyne Hill II**.

Robert Morgan and Leo Bangs made 60 and 59 respectively as the home side reached 233-9, while Sunil Sharma's 88 was Falkland's main response as they go to 188-9 in response, Jay Lloyd tying down the rest with his 6-79 return form 22 overs.

□ **PURLEY II's** **Division Six B** game with Sonning II ended in a draw after Pete Rackley (38) and Chris Priestley (44) led them to 179-9 in reply to the visitors' 228-7, built around Dan le Marquand's 87.

Purley deal Newbury a first day setback

NEWBURY'S bid to go one better than last season's third place in **Division Three A** of the **Thames Valley League** did not go according to plan at the start of the new campaign.

They went down by 27 runs to Purley at Northcroft to give the visitors a good start to their campaign after a win built upon Amit Rawal's century.

Purley skipper Patrick Allen opted to bat first, although his side struggled to get going against a Newbury attack in which Rajeev Hanabe made an early impression.

He claimed Allen's wicket for a dozen and George Wheeler for 10 in a nine over stint that yielded 2-17, and although James Denton made 35, two more wickets fell before Rawal was joined by Andrew Jackson to take charge.

They sent the total soaring to 236-5 with Rawal 116 not out after the 52 overs and Jackson on 44, giving Newbury 48 overs to turn it around.

The early loss of Mark Hughes was no help but Charlie Anstey and



Newbury's Mark Hughes pushes one away against Purley (19-1417B)

Martin Walker were snapped up, caught and bowled by Allen for 36 to leave Newbury on 89-2.

Neil Farrow made a brisk 18, Suryaprakash Sastry 33 and Ed Uden and Hanabe got into two

figures as Newbury went into the final eight overs needing 82 to win.

Skipper Kevin Mills hit out with four boundaries in his 30, but the task of finding 27 runs off 13 deliveries proved too great and survival chances were ended as Jackson claimed a late treble to finish with 5-50, Allen claiming 3-60 and Arjun Mathur 2-48 as Newbury were all out for 209 with one ball to spare.

□ **Newbury II** romped to a 154 run win in their **Division Seven A** opener away to Eversley III.

Skipper John Duncan chose to bat first and his side answered the call with openers Simon Digweed (79) and Mike Beaumont (40) set a pace followed down the order by Sean Wilson (28), Amit Agrawal (32) and James Worsley (20 not out) as Newbury posted 232-5 before declaring in the 47th over.

Matt Smith soon bagged a wicket when Eversley responded, and he went on to take 6-18 in 13 devastating overs. Trystan Williams claimed 2-16 and Austin Keep and Emily Cunningham a wicket apiece as Newbury shot out the home side for 78 inside 33 overs.

Best of the Week

BATTING

R. DIMMACK (Theale & Tilehurst) v Sulhamstead III	199
A. RAWAL (Purley) v Newbury	*116
D. KOLUGULA (Falkland) v Marlow	108
A. JORDAN (East Woodhay II) v Rotherwick ITW	*100
S. SHARMA (Falkland III) v Boyne Hill II	88
T. FLACK (East Woodhay) v Ellingham	*87
J. SEARANCKE (Mortimer WE) v Emmbrook-B'wood	84
N. BENWELL (Falkland II) v Chiswick Whitton	81
B. COPEMAN (Thatcham II) v Stoke Green II	79
S. DIGWEED (Newbury II) v Eversley III	79
F. WALKER* (Ramsbury) v Royal Wootton Bass. II	78
A. FRITZ (Mortimer) v Peppard SR III	76
J. LAWRENCE (East Woodhay) v Ellingham	*75
J. SPAINGGAY (Theale/Tilehurst) v Wooburn N'kovians	73
J. DOOLE (Sulhamstead) v Theale & Tilehurst	71
R. LEWIS (Thatcham III) v North Maidenhead III	*70
R. ANDREWS (Kingsclere) v Bishops Waltham III	69
M. HURST (Kingsclere) v Bishops Waltham III	67
J. MIZEN (Theale/Tilehurst III) v Hayes IV	*65
J. WHITE (Theale/Tilehurst) v Wooburn Narkovians	*65
F. TULLOCH (Hungerford II) v Michelmersh II	*64
T. SMITH (Bradfield) v Goring	64
E. DACK (Bradfield II) v Welford Park II	*62
A. BELL (Hungerford II) v Michelmersh II	61
F. GEE (Kingsclere) v Bishops Waltham III	60
S. DUMMER (Ashford Hill) v Sheffield	53
E. POCOCK (Thatcham III) v N. Maidenhead III	53
J. HELPS (Great Bedwyn II) v Lacock II	*52

*-denotes not out.

BOWLING

R. LEWIS (Thatcham III) v N. Maidenhead III	8-58
M. SMITH (Newbury II) v Eversley III	6-18
A. JACKSON (Purley) v Newbury	5-50

Cricket

<p>FIXTURES</p> <p>Friday, May 12</p> <p>ROYAL LONDON ONE DAY CUP</p> <p>South</p> <p>Hampshire v Glamorgan</p> <p>Saturday, May 13</p> <p>THAMES VALLEY LEAGUE</p> <p>Division One</p> <p>Falkland v Stoke Green</p> <p>Division Two B</p> <p>Thatcham Town v Beaconsfield</p> <p>Division Three A</p> <p>Cove II v Newbury</p> <p>Purley-on-Thames v Falkland II</p> <p>Division Four B</p> <p>Amersham III v Thatcham Town III</p> <p>Marlow II v Theale & Tilehurst</p> <p>Division Five B</p> <p>Falkland III v Maidenhead & Bray II</p> <p>Division Six B</p> <p>Aldershot III v Purley-on-Thames II</p> <p>Division Seven A</p> <p>Newbury II v Thatcham Town III</p> <p>Theale & Tilehurst II v Maidenhead & Bray III</p> <p>Division Eight A</p> <p>Theale & Tilehurst III v Keg IV</p>	<p>Division Nine A</p> <p>Thatcham Town IV v Kidmore End III</p> <p>BERKSHIRE LEAGUE</p> <p>Premier Division</p> <p>Welford Park v Peppard Stoke Row</p> <p>Woodcote v Sulhamstead</p> <p>Division One</p> <p>Goring v Mortimer West End</p> <p>Peppard Stoke Row II v Bradfield</p> <p>Sulhamstead II v Checkendon</p> <p>Division Three</p> <p>Bradfield II v Knowl Hill</p> <p>Mortimer v West Reading III</p> <p>Purley III v Sandhurst II</p> <p>Division Four</p> <p>Mortimer West End II v Falkland Development</p> <p>Sulhamstead III v West Reading IV</p> <p>Bye week Challenge</p> <p>Shinfield II v Welford Park II</p> <p>HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE</p> <p>County Division Two</p> <p>Redlynch & Hale v East Woodhay</p> <p>County Division Three</p> <p>South Wilts III v Hungerford</p>	<p>County Four North</p> <p>AWE Tadley v Wherwell</p> <p>Whitchurch v Ramsdell</p> <p>Regional One North East</p> <p>Ashford Hill v Kingsclere</p> <p>East Woodhay II v Fair Oak III</p> <p>Silchester v Old Basing III</p> <p>Regional Two North East</p> <p>Ramsdell II v Holybourne II</p> <p>Regional Three North West</p> <p>Hungerford II v St Mary Bourne</p> <p>Regional Three North East</p> <p>Easton & Martyr W III v Ashford Hill II</p> <p>OXFORDSHIRE CA LEAGUE</p> <p>Division Four</p> <p>West Ilsley v Dorchester</p> <p>WEST OF ENGLAND PREMIER LEAGUE</p> <p>Wiltshire Division</p> <p>Royal Wootton Bassett v Great Bedwyn</p> <p>WILTSHIRE LEAGUE</p> <p>Division Four</p> <p>Ramsbury v Chippenham III</p> <p>Division Seven</p> <p>Great Bedwyn II v Corsham IV</p>	<p>Sunday, May 14</p> <p>ROYAL LONDON ONE DAY CUP</p> <p>South</p> <p>Surrey v Hampshire</p> <p>UNICORN MINOR COUNTIES KO TROIPHY</p> <p>West Division</p> <p>Berkshire v Cornwall</p> <p>FRIENDLY MATCHES</p> <p>Aldermaston v Theale and Tilehurst II</p> <p>Aldworth v The Trundlers</p> <p>Ashford Hill v Welford Park</p> <p>Chieveley v Inkpen</p> <p>Donnington v Purley</p> <p>Great Bedwyn v Swindon</p> <p>Mortimer v Bradfield</p> <p>Pangbourne v Highmoor</p> <p>Theale and Tilehurst v Mortimer West End</p> <p>Woolhampton v Sulhamstead</p>	<p>Wednesday, May 17</p> <p>ROYAL LONDON ONE DAY CUP</p> <p>South</p> <p>Hampshire v Sussex</p> <p>NORTH HANTS EVENING LEAGUE</p> <p>Division Two B</p> <p>Old Basing v Aldermaston</p> <p>RED KITE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LEAGUE</p> <p>Division One</p> <p>Woodcote v Vodafone</p> <p>Woodhay Woodpeckers v Cold Ash</p> <p>Woolly Badgers v Falkland</p> <p>Division Two</p> <p>Downlanders v Hungerford</p> <p>Harwell International v E & W Hendred</p> <p>Thatcham Academy v Bell Inn Aldworth</p> <p>The Pirates v Wantage</p> <p>Division Three</p> <p>Hampstead Norreys v Letcombe</p> <p>Kingston Bagguize v Challow & Childrey</p> <p>Metal Box v West Ilsley</p> <p>Division Four</p> <p>Blewbury & Wallingford v Yattendon</p> <p>Evotec v Falkland II</p> <p>Sutton Courtenay v Steventon</p> <p>Uffington v Quantel</p>
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Fixtures

Single shot downs Thatcham

THATCHAM made a disappointing start to their Thames Valley League Division Two B campaign when a single run handed newly-promoted Aldershot victory by the narrowest of margins.

Hosts Aldershot struggled at first against Thatcham's opening attack as Ryan Gilmour picked up the wicket of the prolific Rory Collins for six streaky runs, and with Josh O'Flynn also bowling well, the visitors appeared to be taking control.

They kept the run rate in check as spinners Chris Bird and Nick Bishop – in as a late replacement for the injured John Williams and making his first senior XV appearance in six years – made life difficult for the batsmen with Bird conceding only 17 runs in his 10 overs as Aldershot laboured to 100-3 in 30 overs.

The departure of opener Calum Grover for a watchful 54 saw Duncan Anslow (25) and skipper Amir Hameed (20) attempt to up the tempo, and it was Thatcham who began to toil as they struggled to control the late burst of runs.

Occasional seamer Stephen Bartholomew picked up 2-54, but with Thatcham short of attacking options, Aldershot worked their way to 210-9 after 50 overs, some 40 runs above what Thatcham hoped would be the target.

O'Flynn claimed the best figures of 3-47 in his 10 overs and he and Kieran Wood made a good start in chasing the target.

They raced to 60 in nine overs before a

severe bout of cramp forced Wood off the field, and although replacement Jamie Young started confidently, Wood's departure for 29 undoubtedly lifted the home side, who were further boosted when four wickets fell for only 15 runs inside eight overs with the loss of O'Flynn for 35 a massive blow when he was stumped by Collins off Anslow.

Gilmour (33), Stephen Bird (14) and Bishop began a rebuilding operation, but there was ground to make up plenty to do when number 10 Chris Bird joined Bishop at the crease with 33 runs still required.

Bishop took the senior role as the pair chipped away, and when Bishop smashed the returning Sean O'Dwyer for a towering straight six, Thatcham moved past 200 with victory in sight.

In a final roll of the dice, skipper Hameed re-introduced young spinner Ibraaheem Ahmed and when Bird smashed him high over mid-on for what everyone thought to be a crucial maximum, the game seemed to be all but over. But as Thatcham began to celebrate, they were stunned into silence as Ahmed Faraz, sprinting from long-off, stuck out a speculative hand to pouch an unbelievable catch.

Thatcham still needed nine to win as last man Ben Denton-Powell got to the crease, he and Bishop manoeuvring their way to 209 when Ahmed held his nerve to bowl Bishop for 21 and leave Thatcham with little to show for their efforts.



Newbury's Martin Walker hits out during his side's opening day defeat to Purley in the Thames Valley League at Northcroft (19-1417M)

Rhodri's double blast resisted

THAMES VALLEY LEAGUE: Rhodri Lewis claimed eight wickets and an unbeaten 70 but still could not steer his Thatcham III side to victory over North Maidenhead III in Division Seven A.

The visitors were steered away by openers Adam (93) and Danyal Mumtaz (44) until both fell to Lewis, who went on to claim every wicket to fall for 58 runs his 13 overs as Maidenhead declared at 248-8 after 45 overs.

The target was a tough call, despite Evan Pocock's 53, and Lewis' unbeaten 70 and 28 not out from Jack North took them safely to 181-3 at the close.

Ilsley downed at Deddington

OXFORDSHIRE CA LEAGUE: West Ilsley sustained a second successive Division Four defeat when going down by 16 runs at Deddington.

The Ilsley attack was on top as Andy Brown and Nicole Beesley each claimed three wickets and Wayne Lyford and Patrick MacKenzie-Charrington two apiece, but 32 extras and last batsmen David Victor (32) and Robert Preston (16) hoisted the total to 141.

Adam Barnes held together Ilsley's upper order with us 32 before Lyford (19) and Tom Carlisle (12) propped up the middle. But despite Chris Walker's unbeaten 20, the tail went cheaply and Ilsley dropped short at 125 all out.

Bedwyn's shaky start

WEST OF ENGLAND PREMIER LEAGUE: Great Bedwyn's bid to improve upon last season got off to a shaky start with a 103-run home defeat at the hands of Devizes.

Openers David Bromley (34) and Joe Wookey put on 80 for the visitors, Wookey going on to slam three sixes and 14 fours in his 100 as Devizes posted 259-8 in their 50 overs, Max Andrews leading the Bedwyn attack with his 4-45.

The home side never got going and were soon 19-2 and laboured to 36-4 as John Palmer attempted to hold things together with his 31.

He went at 103-6, leaving Josh Quinn (31) and Chris Blundy (24 not out) to add some resistance as Bedwyn were all out inside 45 overs from 156 with Tim Saye taking 4-14 in 10 overs and Tom Pike 4-46.

Promising start at the higher level

NEWLY-promoted East Woodhay II opened their first campaign in the Hampshire League's Regional One North with a seven-wicket win at Rotherwick ITW.

On a usually difficult batting wicket, Woodhay inserted the home side, but faced stubborn resistance and despite conceding few runs, the bowlers were unable to break the opening partnership until they had reached 52 when skipper Mark Chapman got rid of Wheeler for a stubborn 19 via a superb catch in the gully from Daren Doherty.

Thirteen-old debutant left-armer Alex Kerr delivered a fine spell to take 1-13 that helped to restrict Rotherwick to 155-7 in their 42 overs.

With only a modest target, openers Adrian Batchelor and 14-year old Alex

Jordan made a careful start in putting on 78 before Batchelor holed out for 28. But Jordan batted with skill and maturity to hit the winning boundary, bringing up his maiden senior 100 with three overs to spare as Woodhay cruised to 156-3.

East Woodhay's first XI coasted home by 10 wickets at home to Ellingham in their first game since winning promotion to County Two of the Hampshire League.

The home side were limited to a total of 168 as Alan Williams claimed 3-25, Ben Lawrance 3-35 and Duncan Johnson 2-32, and the runs were knocked off by openers Tom Flack and skipper Joe Lawrance, who made 87 and 75 respectively as Woodhay hit the 171 mark in the 22nd over.

BERKSHIRE LEAGUE: It's early days yet, but Sulhamstead's nine-wicket dismissal of visiting Welford Park put them at the top of the embryo Premier Division table and Park at the bottom after the season's opening day.

The decision to make Park bat first paid off as the home bowlers cut into the ranks after openers Ben Myers and Stephen Yahia had put on 21.

Myers departure for 23 of the first 33 runs signalled a collapse to 76 all out with only Greg Griffith adding double figures while Craig Palmer claimed 4-16, Shiva Aruna 3-22 and Phil Braithwaite 2-8.

Steve Belcher (27) and Ryan Brown (29 not out) put on 53 in reply, Brown and Chris Mercer (16 not out) completing the job in 20 overs.

Mortimer West End's first match following relegation to Division One produced a seven-wicket win over visitors Emmbrook and Bearwood.

The visitors made decent progress to 191-4 with opener Ollie Williams (51) and Matt Smart (68) leading the way with a third wicket stand of 108 before West End took later wicket with Jay Patel claiming 3-35 and Nick Kingston 2-35 before Wokingham declared at 238-9 after 43 overs.

But West End made good use of the overs handed to them, Jason Searancke

Park knocked out by Sully attack

and Neil Storkey (49) posting a first wicket stand of 126.

Searancke fell for 84 and Will Bray for 19, but skipper Kingston (28 not out) and Steve Audsley (44 not out) put together an unbroken stand of 61 to take their side to 239-3 in the 45th over.

Sulhamstead II went down by eight wickets at Ibis Mapledurham after faltering in the middle.

They reached 77-2 with Jason Doole making 33 and Matthew Burrows 35 but then had to rely upon tail-enders Gurunt (38) and Babu Loganathan (15) to take the all-out total to 177.

Skipper Burrows claimed two early victims but there were no more successes as David Drury and skipper Matt Jones made 74 and 73 respectively in an unbroken third wicket stand of 152 to wrap it up inside 42 overs.

Bradfield signed on with a seven wicket win at home to Goring on Thames.

Goring's innings was dominated by number three Gary Niederheitmann's

91 of a total of 189-9 in the 45 overs before he became one of Mike Reekie's 3-29.

Bradfield's reply was given a head start by Tim Smith (64) and Ben Hardy (46) in an opening partnership worth 99, after which Paul Hale chipped in with 29 and James Fox and Matt Evans with 16 and 15 respectively as the hosts got home to 190-3 with more than four overs to spare.

Purley III squeezed out a one-run win over host West Reading III at their Sulhamstead home in Division Three.

Krish Weerasamy top-scored for Purley in their 157 total, and they had Wests in trouble at 73-6 in reply.

Wasim Akram lift Wests' hopes with his 51, marshalling a late rally that saw Oman Bilal make 21 and Imran Razaq 10 before Pahirathan Selveratnam claimed the wicket of Bilal as one of his 3-28 to secure the narrowest of wins.

Mortimer's Division Three arrival was marked by having the lesser

share of their draw at Peppard Stoke Row III.

Opener Hugh Asquith and George Lee cut open the attack to make 110 and 85 respectively in a total of 155-5 in the 45 overs.

Mortimer also had two stand-out batsmen in reply with opener Nigel Payne making 45 and Archie Fitz 76 in a second wicket stand of 114, but after that it was a question of survival as nobody else got into double figures and Mortimer saw out time at 159-8.

Welford Park II eased over the line to a five wicket win over visitors Bradfield II.

Put in to bat, Bradfield looked well set at 61-1 when Dan Filmer fell for 32 after a stand of 55 with Ed Dack, who was left to take home the innings with his unbeaten 62 as Bradfield reached 159-8 in their 45 overs.

Park were given a solid start by Jacob McManus (32) and Manu Chadha (48) in an opening stand of 79.

Henderson Alleyne added 21 and John Westbrook 15 to maintain the momentum as Park reached their target at 160-5 with just over 10 overs to spare.

Falkland Development failed to take advantage of excellent batting conditions as they went down by four wickets at home to Sulhamstead III in Division Four.

They posted a modest 140 in 40 overs, which could have been worse but for some lusty late order hitting by George Hawkins (36) and Chris Garrett (19).

Despite losing a wicket in the first over, Sulhamstead were soon well ahead of the rate with Bob Norris (21) and Singh Digvijay (24) hitting out before veteran Chris Garrett pegged them back with 2-25 and keen fielding and steady bowling from the Falkland youngsters made some inroads into the visitors' middle order.

Skipper Richard Graham kept his nerve with an unbeaten 24 however, and the visitors hit their target at 142-6 with plenty of overs remaining.

Cricket Extra

Hungerford mix it up

HUNGERFORD collected a one-two mix at the start of the club's Hampshire League campaign.

The first team lost by seven wickets at Michelmersh and Timsbury in their first game in County Three North, paying the price for a middle order collapse.

Openers Shaun Hudson and Jake Rowell made 24 apiece, sharing a stand worth 37 before Hungerford collapsed to 79-7 as the home side shared the wickets.

Andrew Burbidge propped up the tail with his 35, Ian Woolf adding an unbeaten 15, but the total of 128 was never challenging.

Openers Paul Hurl (29) and Adrian Parsons (28) made 39 of those with Steve Turner's unbeaten 21 and the biggest contribution of 38 extras ended it at 130-3 in the 26th over.

☐ **Hungerford II** fared much better in their home game with their Michelmersh and Timsbury counterparts, winning by 107 runs in Regional Two North West.

Openers Andy Bell and Lee Franklin (32) put on 49 with Bell going on to make 61 before Billy (31) and Freddie Tulloch (64 not out) took their side to 226-5 in the 42 overs.

After openers Stuart Brook (26) and Tim Evans (12) had been split at 34, the visitors were never in the chase and they were shot out for 119 with Colette Bell's 3-16 the best return while Roger Thornton and Henry Reeves each claimed two victims.

T and T make it two out of three

THAMES VALLEY LEAGUE: Two wins and a defeat was the return for Theale and Tilehurst on the opening day of the league campaign.

The first XI beat Wooburn Narkovians by one wicket in Division Six B after Jack Springgay took 3-48, Robert Dimmack 2-46 and Michael Holder 2-38 as Wooburn totalled 256-8 with skipper Mark Tennant making 65.

Andrew Wigmore made 48 for T and T before James White (65 not out) an Springgay (73) raised victory hopes, the former guiding home the tail to 257-9 in the 49th over.

☐ **T and T II** came undone at Bracknell II in Division Seven A as they were shot out for only 41 runs in response to the home side's modest 132.

Neil Halliday and Mark Mason had taken 3-40 and 3-34 respectively to give their side a chance they could not take as no batsman reached double figures as Akmal Sultan took 7-23 and Peter Henly 3-19.

☐ The **third team** were three wicket winners at Hayes IV in Division Eight A after Sachin Rane took 4-28 to hold the hosts to 147 in 45 overs. Rane made 27 in reply, but it was Jared Mizzen's unbeaten 65 that turned possible defeat into victory as he steered his side to 148-7.

☐ **Purley II's** Division Six B game with Sonning II ended in a draw after Pete Rackley (38) and Chris Priestley (44) led them to 179-9 in reply to the visitors' 228-7, built around Dan le Marquand's 87.

Two down for Ramsbury

WILTSHIRE LEAGUE: Ramsbury are two down after two in Division Four after their 95 run defeat at Royal Wootton Bassett II.

They put the home side in to bat and were made to pay as they rattled up 250-6 in their 45 overs with opener Harvey Cummins striking 79 and every other batsman getting into two figures, Matt Botham (49 not out) and Robbie Pamphilon (32) adding most.

Fred Walker and Rob Minton led the attack with 2-32 and 2-42 respectively.

Skipper Walker dominated his side's reply with the opener making an 11-boundary 78, but only Naz Ali (29) and Neil Williamson (17) supported as they were all out for 155, Botham taking 4-32.

☐ **Great Bedwyn II** were overhauled by seven wickets when they went to their Lacock counterparts in Division Seven.

Bedwyn's 121 total owed much to Thomas Stone's 39 and 22 from Jack Smith, but Lacock had no difficulty in hitting the target with Jonathan Helps 52 not out and Matt Cookson 26 not out in an unbroken fourth wicket stand of 66.

The buck - and ball - stops here

THE roulette wheel is spinning and the little white ball is slowing. It will drop on May 29 at Wembley. The play-offs is a lottery and for all the talk of home advantage, form teams and big match temperaments, if you are going to be successful what you most need is luck.

Understandably, elite sportsmen and women never acknowledge luck. What would be the point of hard graft and thorough preparation if luck played a part. They must believe the outcome will be entirely down to their performance, processes and effort. Spectators will be better placed to acknowledge the role luck has.

The joy of football is the perfect balance of skill and serendipity required to be successful. Reading's players need to concentrate on the skill element, but the rest of us can enjoy or bemoan all important luck. A dubious refereeing decision, a fortuitous bounce of the ball, an unavoidable injury, an opposition tactic, and any number of other uncontrollable factors could make all the difference.

Reading's historical record in the play-offs suggests they are due some good fortune. On five previous occasions Reading have competed in play-off

competitions. Three times they have been losing finalists and twice they have been knocked out at the semi-final stage. The bookies may have their own views, but in truth there is a one in four chance of winning. Maybe it will be sixth time lucky?

Last time Reading competed in the play-offs, in 2011, they found themselves 3-0 down against Swansea by half-time in the final. They got back to 3-2 and then Jem Karacan hit the base of the post from long range. Unfortunately, you might say, Brendan Rodgers' career, and Swansea's subsequent Premier League success, relied on Karacan hitting a shot from 30 yards, three inches too far right. Good fortune, you might say.

The team finishing third has won the Championship play-offs on five of the past 10 occasions. Reading finished third this season, so based on that statistic there is a good chance Reading will be in the Premier League next season. Reading also have the best record against the other teams in the play-offs. If you create a mini league including Reading, Sheffield Wednesday, Huddersfield and Fulham then it is Reading who finish top.

In the last few weeks I have not heard a single fan question the fairness of the play-off system. Reading have finished

third in the table. Three teams will be promoted to the Premier League, and yet it may not be Reading. Is that fair?

The play-offs is such an established part of the football schedule now nobody even bothers to ask this fundamental question. They have been in place since 1987, and over the 30 years have become more and more accepted, to the point where nobody questions their validity.

What cannot be disputed is the enormous pressure it puts on players. The successful team will be the one that can best manage the unique demands a play-off game will put on players. One under-hit back pass, a sloppy clearance, or a fumbled cross and oops! that's my club missing out on a £170 million windfall. Being frightened of failure is never a good place for a professional sportsman to be. That is never more the case than in a play-off with so much at stake. The play-offs are an extreme test of the mindset of the players, and the culture at the club.

So how much are we all going to enjoy it? Win and it will be glorious, but lose and it will be an ordeal. For casual fans it is great drama and excitement, and



nobody resents that. It is those who jump on the bandwagon that help make it a special event. For ardent supporters there is too much at stake to really enjoy a Championship play-off campaign.

It is the difference between trips to Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester United, as opposed to Burton Albion, Bristol City and Barnsley. It is the difference between watching the world's best like Ibrahimovic and Costa, or a couple of chaps you have never heard of each week. It is the difference between being on Match of the Day and beamed all round the world live on TV every week, or getting a minute of highlights on Channel 5. In short, winning the play-offs makes a big difference, and Reading will need some luck if they are to be successful.

Three targets to join a settled squad

HUNGERFORD TOWN manager Bobby Wilkinson hopes to have three new players tied down to join his squad for the club's second season in the Vanarama National League South.

One is a done deal to fill an obvious gap in the squad, and the other two are close to completion and await clearance from previous clubs.

They come on top of retaining practically all of last season's squad, with the goalkeeper position to be settled, although Wilkinson is in talks with Reading to extend the support that saw George Legg and Lewis Ward make impacts last season.

"Reading look like helping us again," said Wilkinson, "and I hoped we've helped them as well with the lads we've had."

Wilkinson admits that he has not yet had time to think about a close season: "I like to get my business done as quickly as possible," he said.

"The first thing was to get last season's lads back on board, and we've done that. It means that we shall again be competitive next season."

"We need a couple more and they should be tied up soon."

Hungerford's budget remains among the lowest in the league, as was confirmed to Wilkinson when he talked to one player from a lower-placed club about a possible move. "He came over to us to talk and showed me his contract with his current club, and he gets £600 a week. We can't anywhere near that."

"I'm dealing with tenners, and it shows what we have to compete with. But we are doing that in other ways."

Hungerford have also been given a provisional date for their Berks and Bucks Senior Cup final with Maidenhead United, which has been pencilled in for Tuesday, July 25, although the venue has yet to be confirmed.

They have also arranged a pre-season game at Bracknell Town on Tuesday, July 4 to add to the games at Winchester, Reading, Staines and Larkhall and are now looking for a home game for Saturday, July 29, a week before the August 5 kick-off.

That has not been easy either, as one National League club offered a game but wanted travelling expenses!

☐ **IT was five into four** for Hungerford Town's end of season player of the year awards held at The Bear Hotel.

Goalkeeper George Legg returned from Reading duty to claim the manager's player of the year award he shared with midfielder Luke Williams, who was also named as the supporters player of the year.

The players gave their award to defensive linchpin Jon Boardman, who also picked up a special award as the chairman's player of the year, while full back Kallum Thomas was the young player of the year and Stefan Brown claimed the top goal scorer award for his 13 goal return.

The club's merit award was presented to physiotherapist Stacey Wood and the Ray Brown Award to head groundsman Steve Skipworth while the clubman of the year was Alan O'Donohue.

The final award was also presented by chairman Nigel Warrick, a Legend Award to manager Bobby Wilkinson to mark his seven

years of success since taking the reins.



Jon Boardman: players' and chairman's favourite

(16-2117K)

'Clere pounce to claim second spot

BURGHCLERE snapped up runners-up spot in Division Four of the North Berks League after their 3-2 win over Berinsfield Reserves.

Goals from Jack Armstrong, Dean Stockwell and Josh Stockwell saw them home with Max Palmer scored both goals for Berinsfield.

☐ **Lambourn Reserves** put last week's cup final defeat behind them when they claimed a 4-3 victory over Long Wittenham Reserves thanks to two goals from James Hutchins with Luke Chandler and Shaun Randall also find the target and Wittenham replying through Callum Bowler and Cian Harper.

Lambourn search for new manager

LAMBOURN SPORTS are looking for a new first team manager for the North Berks League club next season.

Anybody interested should contact secretary Jason Williams on 07799 890841.

Football

RESULTS VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Play-off semi-finals - first leg

Chelmsford City 0 Dartford 0

Hampton/Richmond B. ... 1 Ebbsfleet United 2

Culley 45 Rance 6 McLean 43 (p) 1689

Second leg

Dartford 1 Chelmsford City 2

Olori-Acheampong 90 +4 Theophanos 70 Dixon 85 2622

Ebbsfleet United 2 Hampton/Richmond B. 1

Clark 34 McQueen 89 Federico 61 2102

ALLIED COUNTIES YOUTH LEAGUE

Central Division

Chesham United 5 Carterton 1

Buckingham Athletic 6 Highmoor Ibis 2

Chesham United 5 Thatcham Town 0

Kidlington 0 Thame United 2

NORTH BERKS LEAGUE

Division Two

North Oxford 1 Westminster 2

Burghclere Res 3 Berinsfield Res 2

Lambourn Res 4 Long Wittenham Res 3

THAMES VALLEY PREMIER LEAGUE

Premier Division

Marlow United 0 Reading YMCA 3

Marlow United 7 Mortimer 2

Results and Fixtures

Reading YMCA 4 Cookham Dean 1

Rotherfield United 1 Woodcote Stoke Row 4

Division One

Westwood United 3 FC Imaan Lions 1

Division Two

Woodcote SR Res 1 Maidenhead Magpies Res 6

Division Three

Ashridge Park 1 Berks County Res 4

WYVERN COMBINATION

Division One East - Final table

P W D L F A Pts

Petersfield Town 22 17 2 3 69 26 53

Baffins Milton Rovers 22 14 2 6 58 38 44

Hamble Club 22 13 3 6 69 39 42

Sholing 22 13 2 7 49 22 41

Alresford Town 22 13 2 7 56 38 41

US Portsmouth 22 9 8 5 43 33 35

Alton 22 9 4 9 61 48 31

Tadley Calvea 22 7 4 11 42 45 25

Newport IOW 22 7 3 12 39 49 24

Liss Athletic 22 6 5 11 33 47 23

Colden Common 22 3 3 16 16 74 12

Bosham 22 1 2 19 25 101 5

FIXTURES

Sunday, May 13

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Play-off Final

Ebbsfleet Utd v Chelmsford

Athletics

TEAM Kennet Triathletes claimed nine of the top 50 placings in Sunday's Beale Beastie Triathlon at Beale Park.

Cameron Craik led the contingent in fifth place in an event that covered a 400 metre open water lake swim, a 20 kilometre bike ride and a final 5km run around the Thames-side park.

He clocked a time of 1 hour 05 minutes 16.6 seconds behind overall winner Jack Shayler of the South Central Academy in 1:01.31.

Bart Kuijten was seventh overall of the 163 finishers and second veteran 40 in 1:07.55 with Steve Robinson ninth and leading 50-50 runner in 1:08.46.

Daniel Wright was next home in 14th spot, and completing the Team Kennet contingent were John Marriott 21st, Phil Coughlin 34th, Martin Colston 37th, Roger Davis 38th, Graham Muse 40th, Dean Makar 46th, Sean Bird 55th, Mark Gallimore 64th, Georgia Marriott 80th and Ron Stephenson 97th and the first veteran 60 finisher.

Kennet nine set the triathlon pace



Darts

Double top goes to Crucible

CRUCIBLE pair Emma Brown and Simon Purvey took the top player of the season awards at the Newbury Regional League's finals night at Shaw Social Club.

The former took the Ladies A prize after a season that saw her win the singles, the Captain's Cup and a share of the mixed threes title.

The respective B Division awards went to singles and pairs winner Vikki Andrews and Graham Snookes, who won the threes and mixed threes pairs and reached the semi-finals of the singles before bowing out to David Gage.

Crucible's Mike Page won the men's singles after beating OLA A's Jason Heaver in the final.

Other awards went to the following:-

Singles: Ladies A - Emma Brown (Crucible), runner-up Helen Mannerings (Newbury RBL A); Ladies B - Vikki Andrews (Red House), runner-up Frances Booker (OLA); Pairs - Men's A - Robert Barrett-Gore and Stephen Fenemore (The Dolphin), runners-up Steve Down and Shaun Willoughby (OLA A); Men's B Division - Craig Maggs and Stephen Booker (The Lamb), runners-up Darren Thompson and Liam Haywood (Cross Keys); Ladies - Kate Dove and Vikki Andrews (Rising Sun), runners-up Sam and Donna Barnes (Newbury RL).

Mixed pairs: A Division - Hugh and Helen Mannerings (Newbury RBL A), runners-up Paul and Sophie Self (Crucible); B Division - Graham Snookes and Jane Bennett (Cross Keys), runners-up Ali Fairweather and Liam Haywood (Cross Keys).

Captains Cup: Men's Division - Scott Armstead (Starting Gate), runner-up Andy Painter (OLA); B Division - Emma Brown (Crucible), runner-up Sally Armstead (Starting Gate).

Mixed threes: A Division - Sid Edwards, Emma Brown, Dave Brown (Crucible), runners-up Bernard Gore, Julie Gore, Ken Shattford (Dolphin); B Division - Scott Armstead, Sally Armstead, Chris Byrne (Starting Gate) runners-up Craig Maggs, Frances Booker, Stephen Booker (The Lamb).

Threes: Ladies - Sam Barnes, Donna Barnes, June Hughes (Newbury RBL), runners-up Alice Painter, Alice Legg, Caroline Amor (OLA); Men's A - Mike Page, Sid Edwards, Simon Purvey (Crucible), runners-up Kevin Rush, Trevor James, Adrian Phillips (Newbury RBL A); Men's B - Luke Robinson, David Gage, Graham Snookes (Cross Keys A), runners-up Scot Armstead, Harry Bowness, Chris Byrne (Starting Gate).

Most wins: Men's A - Simon Purvey (Crucible) 13; Men's B - Graham Snookes (Cross Keys A), Paul Bushnell (Cross Keys), Ian Sandland (Yattendon SC), Shaun Page (Yattendon SC) 11; Ladies A - Emma Brown (Crucible) 13; Ladies B - Ali Fairweather (Cross Keys) 10.

Top check-outs: Men's A - Jason Canning (Dolphin) 139; Men's B - David Gage (Cross Keys A) 150; Ladies A - Sylvia King (Newbury RBL) 79; Ladies B - Debbie Vasey (The Gun) 100.

Best legs: Men's A 501 - Paul Self (Crucible) 14 darts; Men's B 401 - Mike Flannery (Cross Keys) 11 darts; Ladies A - Emma Brown (Crucible) 14 darts; Ladies B 401 - Carol Haines (The Lamb) 18 darts.

180s: Men's A - Paul Self (Crucible) 4; Men's B - Graham Snookes (Cross Keys A); 140s - Ladies A - Emma Brown (Crucible) 8; Ladies B - Vikki Andrews (Red House) 2.

League winners: Men's A - Crucible 88 points, runners-up OLA A 87; Men's B - Yattendon SC 69 pts, runners-up Cross Keys A 65; Ladies A - Crucible 44 pts, runners-up OLA B 38 pts; Ladies B - Yattendon SC 29 pts, runners-up Red House 28 pts.

Plough drive to the front

THE Plough's Donna Racey checked out in 20 darts and Donna Richardson with a 62 out-shot in their 4-1 win over White Hart that took them to the top of the Ladies Division of Thatcham Town Friendly League's summer programme.

Taste of England B are a point adrift after playing an extra game, after their 4-1 win at King's Head B, but their men's team head their division after a 7-3 win at King's Head B where skipper Richard Rawlings hit a maximum 180 and a 135 check-out, Jordan Rawlings a 17 dart leg and Jason Heaver an 11-dart leg and maximum 180.

Taste of England A's Nigel Allen recorded a 105 check out in a 7-3 victory over Beenham that moved them into second place, 11 points behind the leaders but with a game in hand, and White Hart dropped back to third after a 6-4 defeat at The Plough

Richard Rawlings leads the men's captains division by a point from Steve Hall and Judy Cook and Donna Racey top the ladies list.

'King' Matt tames 'the hill'

NEWBURY AC's Matt Green was 'king of the hill' after winning the annual Hurstbourne five-mile race.

He was the first runner to reach the summit of Hurstbourne Hill and went on to claim the overall victory in a time of 30 minutes 34 seconds, ahead of a trio of Overton Harriers.



Maisie Jeger with her awards

Newbury's Catherine Tuttle was third in the women's race.

Green promptly went on to finish second in the Shinfield 10k in a personal best time of 34 minutes 16 seconds, with Steve Barnes 12th overall and the leading veteran 40 runner while second claim athlete Sophie Crumly won the women's event for Reading AC.

MAISIE Jeger won the Somerset Schools Multi-events Championship at her own Millfield School, improving over the five events to record a winning score of 2,614 points in the junior girls age group.

She was 13th after the opening 75m hurdles after clocking 13.3 seconds, rising to eighth after an 8.76 metre shot putt and sixth following a 1.39m high jump, rising another two places after clearing 4.56m in the long jump, and surging into the golden slot with her 2 minutes 30.98 seconds in the 800m.

She will now represent Somerset Schools at the area championships at Yeovil in June.



Matt Green wins the Hurstbourne 5

Badminton

Bucks make a two-way grab for promotion

BUCKLEBURY teams sealed two promotion spots as the Newbury Badminton League campaign draws to a close.

Their A team in Mixed Division Three claimed their place with a 6-3 win over Kennet C with Olivia May and Andy McDonald, Sarah Lewington and Alan Arnold and Cara Brims and John Holloway all winning twice, but all losing to Kennet's unbeaten Durga Limba and Tom Hunt.

Also making sure of runners-up prizes was Bucklebury's B team in Men's Division Three after their 9-0 defeat of a two-man Downlands C.

Men's Division One champions Downlands A completed their season with a perfect record from 12 matches after defeating Shaw A 7-2 with David Irvine and Barry Garnham unbeaten, and Shaw B rounded off their second division programme with an 8-1 defeat of second to bottom Newbury B in which Paul Olive and Richard Elwell and Pete Schofield and Grant Lawrence were unbeaten with Simon Jukes and Simon Suggate picking up Newbury's consolation.

Newbury B's 5-4 defeat of Shaw B could not save them from a bottom two finish in Mixed Division One, despite Claire Struthers Semple and Danesh Raja claiming the vital point.

Shaw B also lost 6-3 to Newbury A, despite Lucy Burton and John Palmer remaining unbeaten.

Sport

Results and Fixtures

ATHLETICS

FIXTURES	
Saturday, May 13	
Chieveley Chase	
Sunday, May 14	
Berkshire County Championships	Bracknell
Haring Legs Challenge	Goring-on-Thames
Park House 10K	
Royal Wootton Bassett Triathlon	
Thursday, May 18	
Aldermaston and Padworth fun run	Padworth Village Hall 7pm

BADMINTON

NEWBURY BADMINTON LEAGUE RESULTS	
Mixed Division One: Newbury A 5 Downlands A 4.	
Men's Division Two: Shaw B 2 Hurst A 7.	

BOWLS

FIXTURES	
Thursday, May 11	
KENNET LEAGUE	
LV Division One West	
Morland v Thatcham A	
Newbury A v Kingstone and BS A	
LV Division Two West	
Harwell v Tilehurst A	
Thatcham B v Thatcham C	
LV Division Three West	
Hungerford B v Newbury B	
Friday, May 12	
LV Division One West	
Abingdon A v Hungerford A	
Tuesday, May 16	
KENNET LEAGUE	
Division One West	
Abingdon A v Tilehurst A	

Newbury v Hagbourne A	
Didcot A v Thatcham A	
Division Two West	
Thatcham B v Didcot B	
Tilehurst B v Abingdon B	
Division Three West	
Harwell v Burghfield	

BOXING

FIXTURES	
Saturday, May 13	
Thames Valley ABC annual show	Newbury Racecourse

CYCLING

FIXTURES	
Wednesday, May 17	
Newbury RC TT	Hoe Benham

DARTS

RESULTS	
THATCHAM TOWN FRIENDLY LEAGUE - Men's Division:	
King's Head B 2 Taste of England B 7	Taste of England A 7
Beenham 2	The Plough 6
White Hart 4.	
Ladies Division: The Plough 4	White Hart 1
King's Head B	1 Taste of England B 4

GOLF

FIXTURES	
Thursday, May 11	
Badgemore Park seniors v Donnington Grove	
Newbury & Crookham over 60s v senior ladies	
Newbury & Crookham 19+	Calcot
Saturday, May 13	
Parasampia Bogey	Donnington Grove
Sunday, May 14	
Marlborough mixed v Donnington Grove	
Newbury & Crookham Medal	

Newbury & Crookham over 60s v Minchinhampton	
Rosser's Shield	Theale

SQUASH

BERKSHIRE SUMMER LEAGUE FIXTURES	
Thursday, May 11	
Division One: Greenacre (Herongate) v University-Marlow v Aldermaston.	
Division Two A: Camberley v Herongate - Temple Wycombe v Burghfield.	
Division Two B: University II v Nuffield.	
Division Three A: Nuffield II v Camberley Arena.	
Division Four A: Tadley v Team Caversham - Aldermaston II v Team Kennet.	

TENNIS

FIXTURES	
NEWBURY SUMMER LEAGUE	
Thursday, May 11	
Men's Division One: Pangbourne A v Bucklebury A - Kintbury A v Kingsclere A - Woolton Hill A v Hungerford A.	
Men's Division Two: Newbury A v Yattendon and Frisham A.	
Men's Division Four: Hungerford B v Harwell Village A.	
Men's Division Five: Douai Park A v Cold Ash A.	
Ladies Division Two: Harwell Labs A v Hungerford A.	
Saturday, May 13	
Men's Division Three: Bucklebury C v Bucklebury B.	

Sunday, May 14	
Men's Division Three: Woolton Hill C v Bucklebury C.	

Monday, May 15	
Mixed Division One: Chieveley A v Basildon A - Kintbury A v Woolton Hill A - Bucklebury A v Hungerford A.	
Mixed Division Two: Woolton Hill B v Wantage A - Yattendon & Frisham A v Blewbury B - Blewbury A v Pangbourne A.	
Mixed Division Three: Woodland A v Kintbury B.	
Mixed Division Four: Newbury A v Douai Park A.	

Tuesday, May 16	
Men's Division One: Hungerford A v Kintbury A.	
Men's Division Two: Kintbury B v Harwell Labs A.	
Men's Division Four: Yattendon & Frisham B v Hungerford B.	
Ladies Division One: Woolton Hill A v Bucklebury A.	
Ladies Division Two: Cold Ash A v Yattendon & Frisham B.	

Wednesday, May 17	
Men's Division Two: Goring A v Yattendon & Frisham A.	
Men's Division Three: Bucklebury B v Chieveley A.	
Men's Division Four: Newbury C v Woodland A.	
Ladies Division Two: Woodland A v Harwell Labs A.	
Ladies Division Two: Purley A v Bucklebury B.	
Ladies Division Four: Pangbourne A v Douai Park A.	

Thursday, May 18	
Men's Division One: Bucklebury A v Kingsclere A - Pangbourne A v Woolton Hill A.	
Men's Division Two: Woolton Hill B v Newbury A.	
Men's Division Three: Newbury B v Kintbury C.	
Men's Division Five: Cold Ash A v Woolton Hill D - Douai Park A v David Lloyd Newbury A.	
Ladies Division One: Chieveley A v Basildon A - Yattendon & Frisham A v Woolton Hill B.	
Ladies Division Two: Hungerford A v Goring A.	
Ladies Division Four: David Lloyd Newbury A v Goring B.	

Martial Arts

Julie battles back to bronze



TAEKWONDO black belt Julie Roth shook off a nightmare preparation to win a bronze medal at the World Taekwondo Federation's Spring Open in Manchester.

The 31-year old from Upper Lambourn had been hit by a chest infection that affected her training, and when she did resume was again laid low by a strained hip muscle.

But after responding to treatment from physio Phil Harris, she was able to go into her first competition as a 2nd Degree Black Belt as a 'guest' member of Scotland's Elite Martial Arts Academy, emerging with a bronze medal.

Her next target is to go two podium places better in the Harrogate Championships at the end of the month, when she will be competing in the individual and pairs competitions.

Golf

Ann keeps up the winning routine

ANN Davies followed up her win in the previous week's Turner Davies Trophy by winning the ladies monthly medal at West Berks.

She carded a net 78 to beat Heather Green on countback while Gale McAuley was one shot adrift in third place.

Rob Bridgeman won the men's medal with a net 71, again on countback from Chris Ward with Alex Anderson third, and Harry White's net 69 won the midweek medal by a three-shot margin from Lin Kay with Geoff Pudner third on 78.

□ Carol Sparvell won the ladies monthly stableford with 42 points, seven more than Aileen Summers and nine clear of Deb Weddell.

□ West Berks progressed to the second round of the Hillman Trophy with a 5½-1½ win at Henley while the scratch team lost 4-3 at home to Reading.

The seniors failed to win for the first time this season when going down 4-2 away to Drayton Park, and the men's team lost 3-2 at Ogbourne Downs while the ladies drew at North Wilts.

A little rest, with thanks to the team

NICKY Henderson took a well-deserved holiday after collecting the champion trainer's trophy, but was back to host a big party for the staff and everyone connected with helping him over the past 12 months.

With the winning trophy on a table next to the microphone, Nicky thanked everyone involved, giving a special mention to his headman for nearly two decades, Corky Browne and assistant Charlie Morlock.

It was also touching that he mentioned the unsung heroes like Rob the gallopman and the staff, in particular Dave Fehily who is the regular rider of *My Tent or Yours*.

Training racehorses can be trying even for the most placid of people, so a sense of humour is essential and Nicky has a particularly dry one.

On Saturday morning, totally

uninvited, I joined the Seven Barrow battalion up on their all-weather gallop.

Having completed our first canter, we walked back down the hill so the boss could issue orders.

Pausing briefly as I walked past he said: "Oh it's you Luke. What? Do you want to do two or three canters?"

Hoping he was in a good mood, I cheekily replied: "You're the champion trainer, you tell me?"

Smiling he said: "I've no idea what you've been doing with him but looking at him you'd better do three!"

Anyway, he whizzed up the gallop three-times, leaving me feeling very pleased he was capable of galloping with a Henderson horse.

Walking back down the gallop again, Nicky asked each rider about their horse and how it felt. Coming to me he said: "That looked ok." With a big beaming smile I replied: "He'll win a maiden point to point, won't he?"



Team Henderson earned praise from the guv'nor

With a mischievous grin he said: "Yes he probably will, but the horse you galloped with probably wouldn't."

I didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

The battle's on to beat the Irish master

IT was business as usual for Aidan O'Brien after the Ballydoyle master won both the 2000 and 1000 Guineas.

Over the past decade or so, horse racing has become very 'premier league' with a small number of stables dominating all the top races.

Although there are 20 teams in the premier league, there are only three or four with a realistic chance of winning, and that can also be said about the majority of races, both on the flat and over jumps.

The chances are that most of the remaining classics and Group 1 winners will come from Aidan O'Brien, John Gosden, Richard Hannon or Godolphin.

It's even worse over jumps, particularly in Ireland where Willie Mullins and Gordon Elliot are so utterly dominant that the only hope for everyone is every now and again a 'Leicester' pops up giving the smaller trainers a glimmer of hope.

There is no solution to this problem, if indeed it is a problem, because you can't and shouldn't penalise success. But that doesn't take away the fact it's nigh on impossible to win these big races.

Having said that, I'll be very surprised if Owen

Burrows' *Talaayeb* doesn't make a major impact this season.

Given she lined up for Sunday's 1000 Guineas with just one run under her belt, her finishing position was all the more commendable.

Beaten just under three and a half lengths by the winner *Winter*, she can only improve for that effort and looks the type to get further, perhaps even an extra four furlongs.

Her breeding suggests there is every chance she'd stay a mile and a half which, of course, then brings The Oaks into consideration.

Like the favourite *Rhododendron*, *Talaayeb* didn't get the clearest of passages so was rather rushed into contention and she got tired near the line.

At this time of the year, three year-old fillies can really improve and although she's not the biggest, there is plenty of scope for improvement.

Sheikh Hamdan's racing manager Angus Gold was reluctant to nominate her next target but having spoken to the Sheikh, they have now ruled out a crack at The Oaks.

It's probably a sensible decision because stepping from a mile straight to a mile and-a-half



might have been a step too far, so expect to see her next over 10 furlongs.

Since arriving from Newmarket, Owen Burrows has impressed with his handling of Sheikh Hamdan's blue bloods and this filly looks capable of showcasing his talents even further.

Talaayeb plainly has ability, but even better she has the right attitude to win big races.

Berkshire has the name and the form

WHEN Paul Cole's *Berkshire* rocketed home in the 2013 Chesham Stakes he looked to have the racing world at his feet.

Unfortunately, despite winning the *Royal Lodge* on his next start, his career has been stop-start and blighted by setbacks.

Although he won a decent listed race at Windsor last season, he never ran with any consistency, but if the rumours are correct, he's over his problems and back to his best.

On Thursday the good-looking son of *Mount Nelson* lines up for a

hot-looking handicap at Chester, but on 105 could easily be very well handicapped and with Ryan Moore booked to ride he's sure to be very popular.

Should things go to plan, it could easily be back to Royal Ascot and the Wolferton handicap.

With the Cole string in such good recent form, *Berkshire* looks a really interesting horse and one I'll certainly be following.

He's always been a particular favourite of this column and I'd love to see him back in top form.

Drought begins to bite at racing

IT'S not often in this great country we pray for rain, but this drought is becoming a real problem to farmers and racehorse trainers alike.

Lambourn's Mandown grass schooling ground is already closed and if it weren't for the all-weather gallops and schooling area, Lambourn would have ground to a halt.

The point to point season has been severely curtailed with two and three runner races becoming the norm in the past couple of weeks.

The traditional finale takes place in deepest, darkest Devon at Umberleigh on June 17, but if we don't get rain soon, the only entertainment will be in the beer tent.

And the winner is..

THIS week's NWN selection is *Berkshire* in the 1.50 at Chester on Thursday.

Sport



IT'S back to ins and outs, and sadly for a number of local clubs on Saturday, the latter. Falkland, Thatcham, Newbury and Hungerford all tasted defeat on the opening day of their league campaigns, but there was plenty of success elsewhere. LOCAL CRICKET - PAGES 57-60

No chance of ring rust for Archie and Jack

THAMES VALLEY ABC boxers Archie Jury (right) and Jack Tomlinson (Below) will be aiming to emerge unscathed from their club's annual show on Saturday to fight the following day in the quarter finals of the ABA's Schoolboy Championships.

The 14-year olds are in action before a packed house for the 14-bout bill at Newbury Racecourse on Saturday evening, and then go to Kidlington in Oxfordshire for their respective bouts in the Class B '03 group.



Jury will take on Noel Thomas from Bristol's Bartonhill club at 34 kilos, while Tomlinson's opponent at 38.5 kilos will be Curtis Rennie from Southampton's Poseidon club.

If successful, the pair will fight in the semi-finals the following weekend, with the finals taking place the weekend after that.

Matt strokes to a World gold

DONNINGTON rower Matthew Rossiter made a spectacular senior GB debut when teaming with Jacob Dawson to win the men's pairs at the opening World Cup event of the season in Belgrade at the weekend.

It was Rossiter's first world cup regatta and as stroke to Dawson's bow, the pair won a series of races to claim victory for the GB team.

Rossiter won a number of international races at junior and under 23 level, but seven years ago it looked as if his rowing career might be over when he sustained a serious back injury.

It kept him out of the sport for nearly three years, but the Leander athlete has battled back to the top level and signs that he was back were shown last month when he and Dawson finished second behind Olympic gold medallists Mo Sbihi and Will Satch at the final GB trials, booking their first-ever place at senior GB level.

They eased through their heat in Belgrade by four seconds, surging ahead of Netherlands duo Mechiel Versluis and Mitchel Steenman after 1250 metres and going on to win with Spain's pair a similar margin adrift in third place.

Turn to page 63



Gold-winning World Cup pair Matthew Rossiter (right) and Jacob Dawson (NOP)

Crusaders target three to join the adventure

SEE PAGE 60



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