

The
**Knowledge
Event**

**Showcasing the charitable sector
in West Berkshire**

Event organised by



Volunteer Centre
West Berkshire

Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1156302

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Kindly supported by



WELCOME TO THE WEST BERKSHIRE KNOWLEDGE EVENT A charity showcase 2025

We are proud to welcome you to this year's Knowledge Event – a day dedicated to recognising and celebrating the incredible contribution of the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in West Berkshire.

West Berkshire is home to an inspiring network of organisations, groups and individuals who work tirelessly – often quietly – to support local people, tackle disadvantage, and create opportunities for a better life. From grassroots volunteers to established charities, the VCSE sector forms the backbone of community life, responding to local needs with energy, empathy and innovation.

This event brings everyone together – the voluntary sector, public services, local businesses, funders, and residents – to share knowledge, explore support, and strengthen relationships. It's about making connections: between those offering help and those who need it, between services and solutions, between people who care about making a difference.

Whether you're here as a charity stallholder, statutory partner, funder, business or resident, today is your opportunity to see the breadth of activity happening across West Berkshire. There is a wealth of advice, information and inspiration to explore, and many chances to build relationships that can lead to lasting impact.

We would like to thank our sponsors, West Berkshire Council, Greenham Trust, Newbury Town Council and Peter Baker Grants for supporting this event, and for recognising the vital role the VCSE sector plays in creating a stronger, more connected community. Thanks also to everyone who has helped organise today – especially our guest speakers, volunteers, staff, and the team at Shaw House who have given their time to make this event a success.

West Berkshire is a wonderful place to live and through collaboration, compassion, and community spirit, we can make it even better for everyone.

Thank you for joining us.

Let's connect, collaborate, and celebrate the work that brings our communities to life.



Rachel Peters
CEO, Volunteer Centre West Berkshire

PROGRAMME

8.45 – 9.15	Stallholders arrive and set up – VCWB colleagues will sign you in and direct you to the room your stall is in
9.15 – 9.25	Tea and coffee then take your seats in the Great Hall
9.30 – 9.35	Welcome address - Rachel Peters, VCWB
9.40 – 10.05	Session 1 (25 mins) – Christian from Lambourn Junction CIC: Artificial Intelligence for NGOs - Friend or Foe?
10.10 – 10.40	Session 2 (30 mins) – The Charlie Waller Trust: Mental wellbeing and resilience / boundaries
10.40 – 10.55	Comfort break – Tea and coffee served in corridor behind The Great Hall
11.00 – 11.25	Session 3 (25 mins) - HR Dept: HR in the not-for-profit sector
11.30 – 12.00	Session 4 (30 mins) – Greenham Trust & Berkshire Community Foundation: What makes a successful funding application in the current climate - tips and hints
12.00 – 12.45	Lunch (45 mins) served in the corridor behind Great Hall and Café
12.45 – 1.00	Take your space at your stall (1 representative per organisation – this is the time to handover if you are swapping over with a colleague)
1.00 – 4.00	Stalls open to the public
4.00 – 4.30	Pack away and leave

* timings of speakers and workshops are subject to change

SESSION 1

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR NGOs - FRIEND OR FOE?

AI is everywhere—but what does it really mean for charities, community groups, and nonprofits? In this opening session, Christian Noll draws on decades of leadership in global tech and his recent hands-on experience in the community sector to explore the opportunities and challenges AI presents for mission-driven work.

Christian will open up a grounded, thought-provoking conversation on how NGOs might approach AI with curiosity, caution, and confidence. Is AI a tool to trust—or a force to tame? Join us to begin unpacking that question.

About Christian Noll

Christian Noll spent nearly 40 years at IBM, holding senior roles across Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He's seen tech evolve from the inside, from engineering to leading billion dollar business units, and built a reputation not just for results but for mentoring and forward thinking. He led major digital transformation efforts and worked across both public and private sectors.

Now retired from corporate life, Christian lives in Lambourn, West Berkshire, where he channels his energy into community projects, running almshouses, supporting a youth club and food bank and local green schemes. He's passionate about helping charities and small groups use technology, especially AI, in practical and ethical ways. Blending boardroom know-how with grassroots commitment, Christian is all about making tech work for people and bridging the gap between strategy and everyday action.

SESSION 2

MENTAL WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE / BOUNDARIES

During this session, Sarah Ashworth from Charlie Waller Workplace, will share insights on how to create a positive workplace culture where staff and volunteers feel connected to the organisation, the client and each other. The session will also introduce some tools and tips on recognising when someone might need some extra support, how to reach out and support them and how to keep ourselves well.

About Charlie Waller Workplace

The Charlie Waller Trust was set up by the Waller family in 1997 after Charlie tragically took his own life aged 28 whilst suffering from depression. The Trust, based in Newbury, provides training and resources based on sound evidence, and encourages people, especially the young, to talk about mental health problems.

Breaking the stigma of mental health in the workplace is extremely important to the Charlie Waller Trust. It offers training and consultancy to senior leaders, line managers, HR staff and employees.



SESSION 3

HR IN THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR

During this session Katie will draw on her experience of working with charities and not-for-profit organisations to outline best practice in attracting, retaining, motivating and rewarding employees where finances and resources are limited.

About HR Dept

The HR Dept is now the UK's largest network of HR professionals providing outsourced HR support to small and medium sized entities. Their clients vary, from tiny start-ups to not-for-profit to established brands, across all industries. They pride themselves on delivering cost-effective HR solutions and employment law advice that enable their clients to concentrate on their strategic objectives.

With a wealth of experience across multiple sectors, Katie Aldridge and her team provide commercial, pragmatic advice to local organisations on both a retained and an ad-hoc basis.



SESSION 4

WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL FUNDING APPLICATION IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE - TIPS AND HINTS

During this session, Rob Daniels from Greenham Trust and Ellie Philpott from Berkshire Community Foundation will introduce their respective organisations, explain how they operate, and outline their current funding opportunities and processes. With the funding landscape becoming increasingly competitive, they'll also share practical tips and insider advice on what makes a strong, successful application.

About Berkshire Community Foundation

We are Berkshire Community Foundation (BCF), a charity that works across Berkshire to raise, then distribute, money directly to vital local causes.

We ensure that any form of philanthropy, whether from an individual or an organisation, brings greatest benefit to those most in need in our local communities.

Last year we awarded over £1million across Berkshire supporting the community.



About Greenham Trust

Greenham Trust is a charitable organisation based in West Berkshire, dedicated to supporting local communities through innovative funding and grant-making. Established in 1997, it reinvests profits from its commercial property portfolio—most notably Greenham Business Park—into charitable and community projects. The Trust operates an online donation and match funding platform, The Good Exchange, which connects funders with local causes, ensuring that resources go directly where they are most needed. Through its strategic partnerships and transparent approach, Greenham Trust plays a vital role in driving positive social impact across West Berkshire and the surrounding areas.



ROOM LAYOUT

DOLMAN 1

- Burghfield & Mortimer Volunteer Bureau
- Carebus Volunteer Group
- Eight Bells for Mental Health
- Get Berkshire Active
- Healthwatch West Berkshire
- Hungerford Food Community
- Let's Connect Wellbeing Network
- Newbury and Thatcham Community Transport
- Newbury Cancer Care
- Pangbourne & District Volunteer Centre
- Parkinson's UK Newbury & District Branch
- Patient Information Point
- Response
- Sport in Mind
- Stroke Care Newbury & West Berkshire
- The Charlie Waller Trust
- WBSPAG (West Berkshire Suicide Prevention Action Group)
- West Berkshire Patient Panel
- West Berkshire Therapy Centre

DOLMAN 2

- Age UK Berkshire
- Connecting Communities in Berkshire
- Cruse Bereavement Support
- Greenham Trust
- Home-Start West Berkshire
- Lambourn Junction CIC
- Loose Ends
- Newbury Community Resource Centre
- Newbury Soup Kitchen
- Project Salama

DOLMAN 3

- Read Easy West Berkshire
- Refugee Support Group
- Rotary Club of Newbury
- Volunteer Centre West Berkshire
- WB Action for Refugees
- West Berks Foodbank
- West Berkshire Green Exchange
- West Berkshire Homeless

CHANDOS

- Assisting Berkshire Children to read (ABC to read)
- Berkshire Youth
- Bridge For Young People
- Daisy's Dream
- Digit<all>
- Hungerford Youth and Community
- iCollege
- Step by Step
- Ufton Court Education Trust

KING CHARLES

- ASD Family Help
- Berkshire Vision
- Enrych Berkshire
- Guide Dogs
- InteraKt Community
- Lambourn RDA
- Mary Hare Foundation
- Newbury Riding for the Disabled
- Newbury SEND Parent Carer Cafe
- PALS (West Berkshire)
- Parenting Special Children
- Prior's Court Foundation
- Swings & Smiles
- The Happiness Horsebox CIC
- West Berkshire SENDIASS

I58I

- Angels Outreach Community Interest Company
- Christians Against Poverty
- Citizens Advice West Berkshire
- Cosier Homes Advice Service (Centre for Sustainable Energy)
- Flag DV
- Newbury and West Berkshire Neighbourhood Watch
- South West Advocacy Network

FARQUHAR

- Adventure Dolphin
- Arts for Hungerford
- Cats Protection Berkshire Cat Centre
- City Arts Newbury
- Newbury BID CIC
- Oakley Stitchers CIC
- Thatcham Town Radio
- The Watermill Theatre

FLOOR LAYOUT

GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



ADVENTURE DOLPHIN

Adventure Dolphin is a community-led charity in Pangbourne, offering a range of outdoor activities and community classes. With a purpose-built climbing wall and direct access to the River Thames, we provide paddle sports, climbing, school holiday clubs, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, school trips and much more. Our passionate volunteers and staff help people of all ages experience the thrill of adventure, develop new skills, and connect with the natural world all in a safe and supportive environment.



AGE UK BERKSHIRE

We're Age UK Berkshire. Our goal? To enable older people across the whole of Berkshire to enjoy later life.

At Age UK Berkshire, we are many things to many people: a source of advice, information, support, companionship and enjoyment. We also support Adult Carers, of any age, as a part of the Reading and West Berkshire Carer's Partnership. Come and speak to us about the many services we offer in West Berkshire.



ANGELS OUTREACH COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY



Angels Outreach CIC is a community interest company dedicated to empowering marginalised and underserved communities through compassionate education on organ donation, advance care planning, ethical wills, and estate planning. We work collaboratively with community, faith, and healthcare partners to address cultural taboos and ensure every voice is heard in life and legacy decisions. Our mission is to empower every adult in our communities with the knowledge, tools and resources necessary to make informed decisions regarding their health, end of life care and ethical wills and estate planning. We aim to build bridges between care, culture, and community.

ARTS FOR HUNGERFORD



Arts For Hungerford is a volunteer-led not-for-profit CIC providing a year-round programme of high-quality arts events for Hungerford and the surrounding communities.

We present a variety of arts genres including film, theatre, music and spoken word. Our events mostly take place in the historic and atmospheric Croft Hall which provides an intimate jazz cafe style setting to hear live performances. The hall is just a ten-minute walk from Hungerford station and our town offers a variety of places to eat and drink along the way.

We hold an annual free summer Children's Arts Festival which allows young children to try a range of hands-on arts experiences.

ASD FAMILY HELP

ASD Family Help is a dedicated support network for neurodivergent adults, children/teens, and their parents or carers. We provide a welcoming community through regular coffee mornings and engaging activities designed to foster connection and understanding. Our team also offers practical support with completing DLA and PIP forms, helping families navigate the challenges of accessing essential resources. At ASD Family Help, no one faces the journey alone



ASSISTING BERKSHIRE CHILDREN TO READ (ABC to read)

ABC to read is an award-winning charity supporting children's literacy across Berkshire. We train and place dedicated volunteers in schools to help struggling young readers build confidence and skills. Our one-to-one sessions make reading fun, boosting children's learning and future opportunities. We also offer training for older students to mentor younger peers. By working closely with schools, we ensure every child has the chance to thrive through improved literacy.



BERKSHIRE VISION

Losing your sight can be life-changing, leaving many people feeling isolated, anxious, and unsure of how to navigate everyday life. We're here to change that.

For over 115 years, we've provided vital support services, from emotional and practical support to social activities, adapted sports, life skills training, befriending, and technology and equipment assistance; giving people the skills, independence and confidence they need to thrive.



BERKSHIRE YOUTH

At Berkshire Youth, our mission is simple yet powerful: we are dedicated to championing young people. By supporting their development, education, and growth, we help them thrive both as individuals and valued members of their communities. Our goal is to ensure that every young person in Berkshire has the opportunities and guidance they need to build a brighter future.



BRIDGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Bridge for Young People provides a home and support to young people (aged 16-25) who are leaving care or who are homeless. We currently have three houses in West Berkshire: Wessex House, Rebecca House and Hope House. Our residents have typically experienced varying challenges during their childhood. We provide them with a stable home, emotional support and practical help during this crucial time as they move into independence.



BURGHFIELD AND MORTIMER VOLUNTEER BUREAU



The Bureau is an organisation of volunteers who provide their time and their own private vehicles to enable the elderly and people to get to their medical appointments. doctors, hospitals, opticians, dentist and day centres. We do not charge for our service; we simply ask for a donation to cover the running cost of the office, and to reimburse drivers for their fuel.

CAREBUS VOLUNTEER GROUP

We provide community transport to the eastern parishes of West Berkshire - Aldworth; Ashampstead; Basildon; Bradfield; Bucklebury; Calcot; Chapel Row; Englefield; Fords Farm; Holybrook; Pangbourne; Purley; Stanford Dingley; Streatley; Sulham; Theale; Tidmarsh; Tilehurst; Tutts Clump; Woolhampton; Yattendon.



CATS PROTECTION BERKSHIRE CAT CENTRE

Cats Protection Berkshire is run by a dedicated team of cat lovers. We're passionate about improving the lives of cats and kittens in the Newbury area, working to find loving new homes for local cats in our care, offering support with neutering, and lost and found cats, as well as general education and awareness. Without the support of our amazing volunteers, Cats Protection Berkshire simply wouldn't exist.



CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

We provide a free, face-to-face service to help people escape from the burden of their personal debts. We also provide free money coaching courses to help people produce their own personal / family budget and stick to it. We also offer life skills courses to help people get more for their money in the essentials of living.



CITIZENS ADVICE WEST BERKSHIRE

Citizens Advice West Berkshire provides free, independent, and confidential advice to help people resolve their problems and improve their lives. We empower individuals with the knowledge and support they need to navigate issues such as benefits, debt, employment, housing, and more. As part of the national Citizens Advice network, we champion fairness, advocate for change, and ensure that everyone has access to the guidance they need.



CITY ARTS NEWBURY

We are a registered charity whose aim is to make the visual arts more accessible and reach the disadvantaged. We are inclusive and aim through the power of art, to help people feel uplifted, enriched and able to contribute to the community.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES IN BERKSHIRE

Connecting Communities in Berkshire (CCB) is an independent charity with over 50 years of experience in community development work, originally founded in 1973 as a Rural Community Council. We work to support and strengthen communities across Berkshire. Our current projects include supporting village halls and community buildings, offering advice to help reduce utility costs, enabling the delivery of affordable rural housing, improving rural health and wellbeing, tackling rural disadvantage, and coordinating a Heating Oil Club.



COSIER HOMES ADVICE SERVICE (Centre for Sustainable Energy)

Need help staying warm and managing your energy bills?

Our team of friendly advisors offers free, expert energy advice and support to help you stay warmer, healthier, and in control at home.

Call us on 0800 038 6345 (Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm) if:

- You're struggling to pay your gas or electricity bills, or you're in energy debt
- Your home is cold, damp, or draughty
- You find your heating system confusing or don't know how to use it
- Your heating system is broken
- You want to find out what grants or financial support is available



CRUSE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Cruse is a national organisation and registered charity. It was started in Great Britain in 1959 and now has over 150 branches. Cruse in West Berkshire was founded in 1987.

Cruse Bereavement Support provides free support and helps for the bereaved in West Berkshire. We can offer children, young people and adults support by phone or Zoom or in person.



DAISY'S DREAM

Daisy's Dream provides vital support for children and young people facing bereavement, helping them prepare for a loss or navigate life after losing someone important.



DIGIT<ALL>

Digit<all> supports underserved, underrepresented and underprivileged young people with digital skills including AI, cyber, coding, engineering and data science through the lens of climate action and sustainability. The charity focuses on developing self-efficacy of girls through activity, collaboration and communication ensuring they are digitally active citizens and discerning users and developers of technology. The charity is the recent winner of Charity of the Year in the NWN Best in Business Awards 2025.



EIGHT BELLS FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Eight Bells is a welcoming, member-led group offering friendship, support, and a listening ear to those facing mental health challenges, loneliness, or isolation in Newbury, Thatcham, and nearby areas. We help members boost well-being, confidence, and self-esteem through peer support, coordinator guidance, dedicated volunteers, training, and diverse well-being activities.



ENRYCH BERKSHIRE

Enrych Berkshire supports adults with a physical disability to develop and enjoy social, leisure and learning activities of their choice with a one-to-one volunteer on a long-term basis, thus improving their health and mental wellbeing.



FLAG DV

Empowering victims of domestic abuse through free family law advice and support across the Thames Valley and Hampshire.

We support individuals facing family law challenges, whether anxious about their rights in a current relationship or struggling with post-separation issues like child contact. Our expert legal advice empowers clients to make informed decisions, providing clarity and guidance to help them move forward with confidence.



GET BERKSHIRE ACTIVE

Get Berkshire Active believe in the power of physical activity and sport to transform the lives and local communities. Our quest is to tackle inequalities and create a healthier, happier and more resilient Berkshire.



GREENHAM TRUST



Greenham Trust is a social enterprise based in West Berkshire that supports local communities by distributing funding to a wide range of charitable and community projects. Through the innovative online platform The Good Exchange, the Trust enables grant giving, match funding and collaborative giving. It supports causes across sectors including education, health, arts, youth, heritage, and poverty, helping to improve lives and strengthen communities. Greenham Trust owns and operates Greenham Business Park amongst other assets, using its income to sustain its charitable activities and maximise impact locally.

GUIDE DOGS



We are Guide Dogs. And we're here to help people with sight loss live the life they choose. Our ambition is a future where every person with sight loss has the confidence and support they need to live their lives to the full. Children and adults. Friends and family. Whoever you are, our expert staff, volunteers and life-changing dogs are here to help you live actively, independently and well.

HEALTHWATCH WEST BERKSHIRE



Healthwatch West Berkshire is an independent organisation that champions the voices of local people to improve health and social care services across West Berkshire.

HOME-START WEST BERKSHIRE



Home-Start West Berkshire recruits and trains volunteers from the borough of West Berkshire. The charity supports families in many rural communities including Hungerford, Lambourn, Kintbury, Aldermaston, Burghfield, Theale, Pangbourne, Compton and The IIsleys. Once trained, we carefully match our volunteers with an appropriate family. The volunteer visits one or two families in their own home for 2-3 hours a week. Families tell us what a huge difference it makes to their lives to have that support at a time of need, often describing our volunteers as "a ray of sunshine" or a "life-line".

HUNGERFORD FOOD COMMUNITY



Promoting sustainable food and cooking to help improve the health of our communities, environment and food system. We work with local groups, schools and residents on a range of food projects including hands on cooking for all ages and experiences; reducing food waste and energy bills; eating less meat, ultra processed food and take-aways; buying local, seasonal produce and growing your own.

HUNGERFORD YOUTH AND COMMUNITY



Hungerford Youth and Community Centre is a central hub in Hungerford, running youth sessions for young people from school years 5 and above. We currently offer 8 different sessions, including a home ed group, SEND specific session and a teen cafe. The Centre is also available for private hire and currently offers a space for several local groups, including a toddler group, brownies and guides, art classes, photography club and football sessions.

ICOLLEGE



icollege is West Berkshire's Alternative Provision for learners who for a variety of reasons are unable to access mainstream education. We have bases across West Berkshire for learners aged from 5 to 19. We are looking for Governors who are willing to support our learners being the best they can be. We would also be interested in contacting organisations who are willing to offer our older learners work experience opportunities.

INTERAKT COMMUNITY



InteraKt Community is an art service for adults with learning, sensory and physical challenges.

Open 9am-3pm every weekday, participants work in dance, music, theatre, filmmaking, visual arts, and life skills at our base in Newbury. Our exploration of the arts develops and showcases our participants' confidence, interpersonal skills, physical dexterity and ambition whilst providing a natural place to explore emotions and be their authentic selves.

LAMBOURN JUNCTION CIC



Lambourn has many community spirited individuals who are willing to give their time to help others. However sometimes the rules and regulations required to run a project or activity can be overwhelming. This is where we come in. We can help by providing volunteers, insurance, health and safety, risk assessments, DBS checks, a bank account and also financial help or applying for grants for the project, to allow the volunteers to focus on projects.

LAMBOURN RDA



The Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) is a pioneer in the therapeutic use of horses, a leader in disability sport, and the only major UK charity focused specifically on the health and wellbeing benefits of bringing people and horses together. The Lambourn Group of the RDA, based in Chilton Foliat, RG17 0TJ, is a very friendly group run entirely by volunteers, providing riding and non-riding therapy sessions five days a week, for a wide range of people and abilities, both children and adults.

LET'S CONNECT COMMUNITY WELLBEING NETWORK



The Let's Connect Wellbeing Network is a social network for people wanting companionship and /or information about building friendships, social networks and community support across Berkshire. It is for anyone over the age of 18.

We aim to connect people to make friends and get information about their community. We run weekly social network groups which are ongoing and we can also see people for a few sessions who would like to meet individually. We believe that if we are connected with others that our wellbeing is enhanced and that this in turn supports us all by combatting social isolation.

LOOSE ENDS

Loose Ends Newbury is a well established drop-in centre for anyone in our community who may otherwise go without a hot meal. We welcome people who are homeless, lonely or vulnerable as well as those who are simply struggling to make ends meet.

We are a registered charity and are run entirely by unpaid volunteers. As well as providing nutritious food, clothes, and other essentials we offer a safe friendly space where people can socialise. We also liaise with other agencies who may be able to help our clients so that together, we can make a difference to people's lives.



MARY HARE FOUNDATION

Mary Hare School is a special non-maintained school for deaf children. Our pupils come from

across the UK to be immersed in spoken and written English, supported by specialist educational, wellbeing and care staff. Students' care and teaching costs are paid for by their local authority, which leaves the Mary Hare Foundation and its fundraising activities to raise vital money to support the continued development of the school, including facilities, technology or opportunities for pupils.



Securing the future of deaf children and young people

NEWBURY AND THATCHAM COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

The Newbury Community Car Scheme provides transportation for people who find it difficult to use public transport. This includes those who are elderly, permanently or temporarily disabled people. Using your own car, for which we reimburse your fuel, you set the time that you want to offer to the community. You can drive once or twice a week, just mornings or afternoons or any time you can offer. Talk to our team about volunteer driving.

Newbury and Thatcham Handybus. We provide transport to allow those who have mobility problems or who are more senior to enjoy a fuller life. We provide this service with a group of volunteer Handybus drivers and are always looking for more drivers to add to our team.



**Newbury
Community
Car Scheme**

NEWBURY AND WEST BERKSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Newbury Neighbourhood Watch is a voluntary organisation. Neighbourhood Watch is about being alert for any crime or suspicious activity, it is helping the Police to reduce local crime, promoting neighbourliness and looking out for each other to make the community a safer place to live. We are looking for people in West Berkshire to volunteer to be Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators covering part or all of their area.



NEWBURY BID CIC

Newbury BID (Business Improvement District) is a not-for-profit organisation formed in 2012 by local businesses, for local businesses. It is a fully independent, business-led and business-funded Community Interest Company, which exists to allow the 500+ businesses of Newbury town centre to work together collaboratively towards a shared vision and purpose.



NEWBURY CANCER CARE

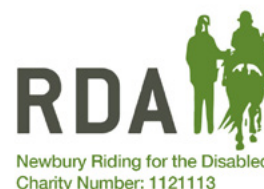
Offering support and information for cancer patients in West Berkshire, including a transport service, counselling, support group, financial assistance and supporting the Rainbow Rooms and The Rosemary Centre at West Berkshire Community Hospital.



NEWBURY RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Newbury RDA delivers riding therapy to local children with physical disabilities or special educational needs to help improve their health and wellbeing. RDA benefits our participants, both physically and mentally, by improving muscle tone and co-ordination; boosting concentration and confidence; and giving them a huge sense of achievement and pleasure.

In 2024 we gave over 1,000 riding sessions to over 100 different children with the help of over 100 volunteers and our eight resident ponies.



NEWBURY SEND PARENT CARER CAFE

A community-style cafe that provides a welcoming safe space for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to access vital peer support, professional advice, respite and other services. Our cafe sessions are hosted at the West Berkshire Mencap premises in Newbury.



NEWBURY SOUP KITCHEN

Newbury Soup Kitchen provides nutritious meals and outreach for those experiencing homelessness in West Berkshire. Hot food fosters connection, helping us build trust, understand circumstances, and offer effective support. Beyond food, we offer a safe space to chat and essential provisions like tents, clothing, toiletries, and haircuts. Our outreach team, including NHS professionals, ensures safety and well-being. Our vision is a dedicated building, a one-stop hub for services from charities and statutory bodies.



OAKLEY STITCHERS CIC

Oakley Stitchers is a not-for-profit group providing a purpose to people's hobbies and skills. Helping communities and reducing anxiety and loneliness. We provide the items created to individuals, organisations and hospital units around the UK for free. Volunteer stitchers provide many items including: our knitted knockers and aqua knockers, as an alternative to a breast prosthetic. Knitted, crocheted and sewn items to SCBU units, heart, cancer and dialysis wards. We support dementia, children's and end of life wards and so much more.



PALS (WEST BERKSHIRE)

PALS is a local charity supporting children and young people with physical disabilities. Since the charity started in 1997, we have helped many youngsters access leisure and recreational activities that would otherwise be unavailable to them. At the same time, we are providing a valuable respite service for parents and carers. Our manager is looking forward to chatting with you at the Knowledge Event.



PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Pangbourne & District Volunteer Centre provides transport for mainly the elderly and infirm, who otherwise might have difficulty getting to hospitals, doctors' surgeries or other medical appointments. We also take people to clubs on a regular basis e.g. day centres, lunch clubs, singing for fun and visiting loved ones in care homes. We cover Pangbourne, Whitchurch, Upper and Lower Basildon, Purley and part of Tilehurst (RG31 6**), together with Tidmarsh, Yattendon and Ashampstead.

Pangbourne &
District Volunteer
Centre

PARENTING SPECIAL CHILDREN

Parenting Special Children (PSC) is a Berkshire charity providing specialist support services to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). PSC offers a wide range of support to families including the following:



A helpline, specialist parenting workshops and courses, annual topic-based conference, regular training opportunities for professionals, regular social & educational sessions for children and young people, specialist workshops, courses and peer support for families of children who have experienced adverse childhood experiences and monthly support groups.

PARKINSON'S UK NEWBURY AND DISTRICT BRANCH

The Newbury branch of Parkinson's UK offers friendship, support and information to people with Parkinson's, their carers and families. We provide a range of therapies including yoga, balance and flexibility, Nordic walking, speech therapy, singing and dancing. We also support access to the West Berkshire Therapy Centre and provide monthly opportunities to socialise through coffee mornings, evening meetings and a lunch club. Run by volunteers, we rely entirely on fundraising to support the branch's activities.



PATIENT INFORMATION POINT

The Patient Information Point known as the PIP was established in April 2004 soon after the WBCCH was opened and is staffed by a team of trained volunteers providing information and assistance to patients and staff using the hospital. We provide our valuable service five days a week free to patients.



PRIOR'S COURT FOUNDATION

Prior's Court is a charity dedicated to transforming the lives of autistic young people with complex needs. It can be difficult to know what life is like for the young people at Prior's Court - 85% of the young people we support are pre-verbal and therefore are unable to communicate their wants, needs and emotions. On average, young people at Prior's Court have at least four other diagnosable conditions and experience extreme anxiety which psychologically and physically impacts their quality of life. All young people at Prior's Court have as a minimum one-to-one care.



PROJECT SALAMA

Project Salama is a charitable organisation dedicated to empowering survivors of domestic abuse from all backgrounds through culturally sensitive support, advocacy, and education. Rooted in inclusivity and community values, it works to raise awareness of harmful practices, challenge stigma, and promote healing and resilience. By fostering safe spaces, through our chai and chats, delivering tailored training, and amplifying victim/survivor's voices, Project Salama bridges gaps in service provision and ensures that everyone is supported on their journey toward justice, dignity, and empowerment.



READ EASY - WEST BERKSHIRE

Read Easy West Berkshire, launched in January 2023, offers free, one-to-one, phonics-based reading coaching for adults in the region. Operated by trained volunteer coaches meeting twice weekly online or at local venues, participants work through the structured Turning Pages programme, celebrating milestones at five stages. As an independent local group, it raises its own funds, fostering a friendly, welcoming environment where learners feel supported without shame. Open to volunteers and learners alike, it's truly community-powered.



REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP

Refugee Support Group (RRSG), a local Berkshire charity operating since 1994, helps refugees and asylum seekers rebuild their lives. It offers free, confidential, OISC-accredited advice, resettlement assistance, English classes, casework, advocacy, and social events across Reading and West Berkshire.



Serving hundreds from over 50 countries, it supports integration with bank account help, healthcare access, education and employment pathways. Community-driven and inclusive, RRSG fosters dignity, rights and belonging through volunteer-powered support.

RESPONSE

Response is a mental health charity which works across the Thames Valley with supported living for adults with mental health issues and complex needs, and community preventative services for children and young people.



ROTARY CLUB OF NEWBURY

The Rotary Club of Newbury supports various charities in the area including The Waterside Centre and Talk for Talk West Berkshire. We run events to raise money i.e. the Santa Fun run in the market square, the Boules in the market square and various quizzes. We meet regularly to hear talks about charities and enterprises in the area.



SOUTH WEST ADVOCACY NETWORK

SWAN, founded in 1999, is an independent advocacy charity dedicated to serving the South of England. Our organisation is committed to inclusivity, providing high-quality advocacy services that support a diverse array of individuals within our communities.



SPORT IN MIND

Sport in Mind is the leading mental health sports charity in England and Wales. Our mission is to transform the nation's mental health through sport and our trailblazing work harnesses the power of sport to inspire, educate, and promote good mental health. Our weekly physical activity sessions are free, drop-in and led by a qualified coach and are fun, enjoyable and safe for any experiencing mental health problems.



STEP BY STEP

Step by Step is a local youth charity, offering support to young people facing homelessness and other issues across six counties in the South of England. The charity works holistically to offer young people going through hard times a brighter future, providing accommodation, specialist support services and personal development opportunities. In the last year Step by Step directly supported 1,481 young people.



STROKE CARE NEWBURY AND WEST BERKSHIRE

Stroke Care for Newbury & West Berkshire (SCNWB) provides relief and practical support to stroke survivors, to their families and to their carers. We support stroke survivors resident in West Berkshire from hospital discharge through to independent living through rehabilitation, reablement and confidence building.



SWINGS & SMILES

Swings & Smiles provides specialist support for disabled children and their families. We are committed to improving the quality of life of these families and believe in a world where everybody has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential. We recognise that there is a lack of social opportunities, specialist care providers and support for disabled children, their parents, and siblings. We are there for those in our community who need us most.



THATCHAM TOWN RADIO

Thatcham Town Radio is YOUR local community radio station operated by the people of Thatcham for the people of Thatcham. At Thatcham Town Radio we focus on people and the stories that resonate with us and the news that affects us all. We have lively debates on diverse subjects. We also like music and play pop, 80s sounds and music from local bands. We encourage community involvement so if you have something to say, a story to share or want to showcase your talents, contact us and we'll help you do it. This is YOUR community radio station, and we want you to be involved!



THE CHARLIE WALLER TRUST

The Waller family set up the Trust in 1997 in memory of Charlie, who died by suicide at the age of 28. For nearly three decades, the Trust has provided practical, evidence-based mental health training and resources to those with responsibility for young people. We work with schools, colleges and universities, parents and carers, and employers to equip them with the skills, knowledge and confidence to help the young people in their care thrive



THE HAPPINESS HORSEBOX CIC

The Happiness Horsebox is a unique vehicle with a Sport England Innovation Award. We help people with disabilities to access the countryside to join in with different activities, including riding and meeting horses. We support many initiatives such as tree planting, pleasure rides and providing a base for mobile fundraising. Visit our website www.happinesshorsebox.co.uk to see how the clever design and a heavy-duty lifting ramp create a special space, offering freedom, comfort and dignity



THE NEWBURY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

NCRC helps local people in need by reason of their youth, infirmity, disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances. We promote independent living by providing re-used furniture and household goods, and opportunities for volunteering, training and work experience. In addition we seek to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment.



THE WATERMILL THEATRE

The Watermill Theatre is home to a lively community of people who are making, watching or trying their hand at theatre. Whether you're a consummate professional or total beginner, whether you're 20 months old or well into retirement, there's an opportunity for you. We're proud to offer accessible performances all year-round, and we've designed specialist programmes for young people and adults with access needs, all through consultation with local families and partner organisations.



UFTON COURT EDUCATION TRUST

Ufton Court Education Trust offers Ufton History, Ufton Outdoors, and The Nest Alternative Learning provision. We run experiential programmes that deepen children's knowledge and connection to nature, history and the self. Our residential outdoor learning experiences at our historic Berkshire estate cultivate confidence, resilience, and creativity. By fostering curiosity and collaboration, we equip students with essential life skills and inspire forward-thinking, lifelong learners.



VOLUNTEER CENTRE WEST BERKSHIRE

Volunteer Centre West Berkshire, established in 1974, connects local volunteers with over 350 opportunities in the area. We offer information, advice, and guidance to individuals seeking to volunteer, and support charitable organisations with services such as fundraising assistance, training, and governance advice. Additionally, we run local schemes to assist the socially isolated and elderly including Newbury Shopmobility, Newbury Community Car Scheme and Newbury and Thatcham Handybus.

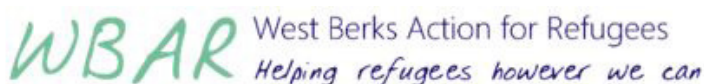


WEST BERKS FOODBANK

We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide seven days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.



WEST BERKSHIRE ACTION FOR REFUGEES



WBAR is a grassroots charity that started in 2015 offering a platform for educational support and aid to the growing refugee crisis and supported the resettlement of refugees locally. Since then it has grown to providing advice, guidance, support, ESOL and practical aid to refugees living locally.

WEST BERKSHIRE GREEN EXCHANGE

West Berkshire Green Exchange is an umbrella group for the many environmental groups in West Berkshire, and is run by volunteers.

We help groups share ideas, knowledge and best practices, and be aware of initiatives and support from West Berkshire Council, to implement climate and nature targets, and to promote a sustainable society.

West Berkshire Green Exchange

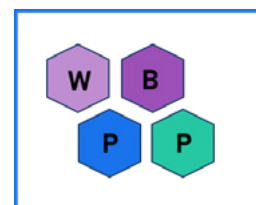
WEST BERKSHIRE HOMELESS

West Berkshire Homeless was formed five years ago, to help those who are homeless, facing homelessness, sofa surfing and to help people maintain their tenancies and also to find work where possible.



WEST BERKSHIRE PATIENT PANEL

The West Berkshire Patient Panel is a forum for GP Patient Participation Group (PPGs) and other health related bodies (e.g. Patient Information Point, public governors of local trusts, hospital trustees, and Healthwatch). It shares information, experience and ideas, to:



- Learn from each other and improve effectiveness
- Individually and collectively use patient feedback to improve health by influencing those who commission and provide services, and
- Provide information to the public about their health and health services.

WEST BERKSHIRE SENDIASS

SENDIASS aims to empower parents/carers, children, and young people to play an active and informed role in making decisions about their education, health, and social care.



WEST BERKSHIRE SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION GROUP



The West Berkshire Suicide Prevention Action Group was established in 2017, to bring about greater awareness of the issue and provide training and resources for local businesses, sports clubs and local frontline workers.

WEST BERKSHIRE THERAPY CENTRE

West Berkshire Therapy Centre helps adults with mobility problems to keep more mobile and independent by providing individually prescribed gentle, repetitive power-assisted exercise. The service is free, with voluntary contributions welcome and is based in Frank Hutchings Hall, Harts Hill Road, Thatcham, RG18 4QH.





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