

Kennet Radio 'Ray of Hope' spotlights at Newbury Racecourse to raise money to buy laptops for disadvantaged local schoolchildren and highlight the hope generated by the launch of new Vaccination Centre.



Caption: Kennet Radio 'Ray of Hope' will light up the night sky every Thursday from 6-8pm. (Image credit: George Audas)

For Immediate Release - 20 January 2021: The 'Ray of Hope' spotlights will be visible in the night sky across Newbury and Thatcham every Thursday between 6pm and 8pm. Launching on Thursday 21st January, the goal of the spotlights is to encourage the local community to donate to good causes and to highlight the hope brought to the local community by the new vaccination centre at Newbury Racecourse.

The recent launch of the vaccination centre at [Newbury Racecourse](#) brings a much-needed ray of hope to the local community in and around West Berkshire, but we shouldn't forget the thousands of local children who face having to complete their lessons online at home for weeks to come.

Greenham Trust's '[Laptops for Lockdown Learning](#)' appeal, hosted on its online crowdfunding platform, The Good Exchange, aims to give every disadvantaged child in the local area a laptop to help them learn under lockdown. Greenham Trust will match up to £250,000 of donations made to the appeal. Every £1 donated will be matched by the Trust, raising £500,000 to help schools buy laptops for disadvantaged children to use at home.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a stark light on the gap in provision for families in lockdown, especially those with school-age children who do not have the devices they need to learn at home, and we must make sure this gap doesn't continue to grow" said Chris Boulton, CEO, Greenham Trust. "We believe that the charitable sector and local communities have a role to play to ensure that disadvantaged children do not fall through the cracks when it comes to receiving education during these difficult times."



Caption: Spotlights will reach across Newbury and Thatcham (Image credit: George Audas)

Local radio station [Kennet Radio](#) has been the driving force behind 'Ray of Hope'. "Kennet Radio is very grateful to everyone including, Newbury Racecourse, Greenham Trust and Top Marque Events Ltd that have got behind this campaign and allowed the lights to be installed to raise hope and charitable donations for the local community" said volunteer, Graham Pocock. "Please donate as generously as you can to 'Laptops for Lockdown Learning' so that the Ray of Hope campaign can have a lasting positive impact on the lives of our young people."

Kennet Radio will be broadcasting regular updates about the 'Ray of Hope' campaign on air with presenter Paul Walter featuring a weekly update on project progress on the Friday Breakfast Show, including interviews with representatives from local supporters.

Harriet Collins, Marketing Director for Newbury Racecourse added: "This is an inspiring initiative by the Kennet Radio team and a very worthy cause in the Laptops for Lockdown Learning launched by Greenham Trust which the racecourse is fully supportive of. We hope many will see the beams of light on a Thursday night from the racecourse and not only feel compelled to donate but also see this as sign of hope.

Please enjoy the spotlights on Thursday from the comfort of your own home. We kindly ask you not to travel towards the vaccination centre to watch it.

Find out more about 'Ray of Hope' and the 'Laptops for Lockdown learning Appeal' [here](https://thegoodexchange.com/rayofhope/).

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Notes for Editors:

For more information, please contact:



- Ray of Hope - Graham Pocock, Kennet Radio - 07786 551 007
- Laptops for Lockdown Learning Appeal - Julian May, Greenham Trust and The Good Exchange – Tel: 07787 138 829 Email: julian.may@thegoodexchange.com
- Information about Newbury Racecourse - Harriet Collins Tel: 07827 957 113
- Imagery must be credited to George Audas – George Audas (Photography and Videos) 07587 285566 / georgeaudas@yahoo.co.uk.

The Ray of Hope initiative was conceived and launched by Kennet Radio volunteer Graham Pocock. Graham is also co-owner of *Top Marque Events*, a Newbury-based events company providing high-end lighting.

Graham is working with Richard Alexander who has kindly volunteered the lighting display. Most recently his lighting has been used to light up the Tilehurst Water Tower for the NHS as well as Windsor Castle amongst others. His company has closed due to COVID 19, but he is also looking for a brighter future.

Donations to the 'Laptops for Lockdown Learning' appeal can be made here: <https://thegoodexchange.com/lockdownlaptops>. This campaign is raising money to provide laptops for disadvantaged children and young people across West Berkshire and north Hampshire so they can continue to learn at home during the lockdown and beyond. Donations up to £250,000 made via The Good Exchange will be match-funded pound for pound by Greenham Trust.

Any charitable funders, philanthropists or businesses wishing to help Greenham Trust extend the reach of the appeal beyond West Berkshire and north Hampshire, please contact Julian May (details above).

The vaccination centre at Newbury Racecourse has been set up for the most vulnerable and elderly in the West Berkshire council area which includes Newbury and Thatcham, with a centre in Pangbourne serving residents in the east. The NHS will invite residents to attend for a vaccination and provide details of when and where to go. Please do not contact the NHS to request a vaccination or turn up at the site.

Further information on Covid-19 vaccinations is available [here](#).
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

About Kennet Radio

Kennet Community Radio broadcasts 24/7/365 on 106.7 FM to Newbury and Thatcham from its studios in Newbury. It is currently looking to extend its coverage to include Hungerford.

Kennet Radio is not-for-profit and more than 60 local people volunteer for the station. Primarily funded by grants and donations, the station is permitted to accept a certain amount of on-air advertising to help support running costs. The station broadcasts online, via smartphone apps, and on 106.7 FM.

If you are interested in volunteering for Kennet Radio, please click on <https://kennetradio.com/get-involved/>



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About Greenham Trust

Greenham Trust Ltd was founded in 1997 to purchase the former Greenham Common Airbase, and to create and manage the new 150-acre Greenham Business Park. The Trust's principal objective is to use income from commercial property to provide charitable funding for the benefit of the local communities in West Berkshire and North Hampshire. Since its inception, the Trust has supported over 1,000 local organisations, donating over £58 million over the last 20 years. Groups seeking funding can apply online at The Good Exchange: www.thegoodexchange.com.

www.greenhamtrust.com

About The Good Exchange

The Good Exchange is a not-for-profit fundraising platform which makes it easy for charitable organisations to raise money through Greenham Trust, grants from other funders, and donations from the general public. As the only platform to bring together grant-making, donations, charitable projects and fundraising in one place, the automated matching system with its simple single on-line application form has revolutionised charitable giving in its local area, making it more accessible, transparent and collaborative.

<https://thegoodexchange.com/>

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