

In brief

On the map

READING has appeared on a map of the top 40 UK areas that could save money by cutting carbon emissions.

The Carbon Trust says total potential savings in Reading could amount to £6.2million a year.

The map is part of the Carbon Trust's One Million A Day campaign, encouraging businesses to prioritise saving energy and reducing emissions.

Agency acclaim

CIRCLE AGENCY, based in King Street, Reading, has won worldwide acclaim for its work with game publisher Electronic Arts.

The agency, which organises parties, events, campaigns and PR stunts, was judged to have come up with the best shopping mall programme in the world, with its EA Experience Tour at a ceremony in Chicago.

Green award

WOKINGHAM Borough Council has had its eco-credentials recognised.

It was commended in British Gas's Energy Efficiency Achievement awards for promoting insulation and backing the Green Park wind turbine.

'Final lap of Gurkha campaign'

by Alex Gore

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READINGS

Gurkhas were cracking open the champagne on Tuesday after being granted permission to stay in the country.

Around 25 of the former Nepalese soldiers in Reading have had immigration applications rejected over the past couple of years but this week all but two of them received letters from the Government saying they could stay.

The letters say they are not eligible to stay under revised Government criteria on Gurkhas who retired before July 1997, but grant them permission outside the Immigration Rules.

Retired corporal Chandra Bahadur Budhathoki, who lives in Theale and has a wife and three sons in Nepal, said: "We are very happy, it is great news but for most of us this is not extended to our families and dependants."

The letters, which asked the Gurkhas to submit their passports and two identical passport photos, do say that their families can also apply within immigration regulations and will be considered accordingly.



Jubilation: Reading West MP, Martin Salter, celebrates with Gurkhas who are now allowed to reside in the UK. 093026r1

solicitor Tim Heaver, and Reading West MP Martin Salter, joined the former soldiers for a glass of Champagne before they all headed to London to give evidence at a Home Affairs Select Committee seminar.

Mr Salter said: "I think it's fantastic news for the individual Gurkhas, some of who are my constituents. "I genuinely believe we are close to victory, we are on the final lap of this campaign."

TELEPHONE donations can now be made to a charity which helps Gurkhas living in Britain after a call centre pledged its support on Tuesday.

Verbatim in Newbury has set up the 0845 number to help the newly formed Reading-based Forgotten British Gurkha charity, which officially launches this weekend.

To make donations call 0845 003 9958 or www.justgiving.com/heforgottenbritishgurkha
The charity hits the streets of Caversham and Reading on Saturday with collection buckets. To volunteer email kedsp@btinternet.com. Visit www.theforgottenbritishgurkha.com



Friendly steer: Molly the cow with (l-r) Conrad Williams, relationship manager, Lloyds TSB Commercial, Camberley, and Wokingham Group, Chris Carreron from Hare Hatch Sheeplands and Wendy Hyde from the Hurst Horse Show Committee. 092772r1

Cash cow has the moo-lah

This bovine beauty gave a new meaning to the term "cash cow" when she caught a bank manager on the hoof.

Lloyds TSB and Country Fair Horse Show and Country Fair representatives look somewhat amused to receive this unusual £500 cheque - Molly, the mascot of fair sponsor Hare Hatch Sheeplands plant and farm shop.

The shop "herd" cheques can be written on anything and show organiser Wendy Hyde said: "To our amazement the bank was prepared to take her even though

she wouldn't slip through that slot at the counter."

Molly went to the bank in Broad Street, Wokingham, on Thursday last week and spokesman Conrad Williams said: "To be honest though I'm quite relieved they decided to take her home."

Sheeplands spokesman Andrew Cardy said Molly had got homesick and they would send a paper cheque instead.
The show on June 27 and 28 will raise money for charities and a school. Visit www.hursthorsheshow.org.uk

Mixed Recycling