

Chalfont St Peter - Village Voice - May 2011

Editor: Elaine Quigley 01753 886412 equit.text@virgin.net

www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice

Bluebells in Welders Lane

Photo by Anne Leitch



AT the beginning of April, a large turnout of local people at the CSP Middle School expressed their displeasure at the prospect of HS2 plans. This high speed train project will have trains travelling at 250 mph and, to avoid danger to people and animals, it will be encased in a wire cage structure when it travels above ground. This unsightly safety issue would be necessary if it is to operate, but is the train system itself really necessary?

At the meeting it was suggested that the numbers likely to use this train were not as large as had been put forward and that the HS1 through Kent had carried fewer passengers than predicted. Not only that but people from this area would need to go to Euston (which incidentally will take years to be adapted to deal with this train) if they want to use it, as it doesn't stop anywhere near us. So many questions arise from this plan. One was why is a train every four minutes needed? Attendees at the meeting cited examples of journeys to Birmingham already being very fast and a quote put forward of many billions less than building the proposed service, would enable the existing line to be updated effectively. Recently I travelled to Glasgow in four and a half hours by train. For a four hundred mile journey, with a couple of stops, that is pretty impressive and the Birmingham route is equally so at the moment.

We are told that the High Speed train is going to cut a large slice off the time, but I've been told that at the Birmingham end the train stops a half hour journey away from the centre of the City. Adding the time taken to get to Euston and the time getting from train station to Birmingham city, it would be quicker to get there by the current train service.

It was mentioned that the HS2 would provide an effective route to Europe, but there is no link planned that will allow it to offer a transfer of passengers to HS1.

Our MP, Cheryl Gillan said in a newsletter that she supports Chalfont St Peter's protest against this train service, but it was mentioned at the meeting that other local MP's hadn't been approached by residents complaining about the proposals. **The best way to combat this is to write to every MP that you can think of and express your concern.** You should be able to find contact details on the internet.

We have a lot of issues that need protests, such as the Library and the Holy Cross site (again we are supported here by our MP Cheryl Gillan), but if we don't keep up the pressure, those with vested interests in going ahead with the plans, will steal a march on us.

Meanwhile, there is an official mobile exhibition of the HS2 project at Blizzards Yard car park in Chalfont St Giles from 8am-9pm on Monday 9th May, which is certainly important as demonstration of what to expect.

MAKING Days is an original creative club for school holidays Keeping your children busy and actively engaged with a wide range of high quality, original art and craft activities. Activities are designed to be suitable for all ages and adaptable so your child can be as creative as their imagination.

Making Days is based at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre and is open during school holidays from 9.00am to 4.00pm for 4 to 11 year olds. Children are supervised with a high ratio of adults to children (1 adult to 5 children minimum) and all staff are experienced and qualified with enhanced CRB checks. Individual support can be arranged as required.

Now booking for Friday 3rd June 2011 and Summer 2011 This is an opportunity to benefit both parents and children. Please call 07768 544264 or email makingdays@hotmail.co.uk information and booking details. www.makingdays.co.uk

CHALFONT St Peter W.I Spring report.

"We have had two excellent speakers. In March Charles Oakes, an old friend of ours, spoke of "London between the wars. 1918-1939." Poverty, Suffragettes, motorcars, the abdication were amongst the things enlarged on. Talks by this gentleman are always full of humour, information and interest. March also saw the start of our "Red Hat club" which was a very jolly occasion. Our next meeting will be on May 4th at 10.45 in the Church Hall.

The April meeting was lovely too. Mr Edwin Rye came back to tell us about "Seasonal plants". with photos, pot plants and cut flowers he described all the colour and textures we could achieve in our gardens.

Mrs. Rye judged the Floral Art Cup---Arrangement in an egg cup. There were several entries but Mrs. Marion Dudman's was deemed the best.

April 12th saw us back in Burnham Beeches for a Spring walk followed by lunch prepared for us by Templewood W.I. Mrs. Judy Tipping met us and guided us. This time we did not go near the ponds, we went near to Egypt and crossed the Nile. Really enjoyable. We were ready for the delicious home-made soup and lunch which followed. Many thanks to the ladies of Templewood.

The next outing is to Brighton in August but before that there are lots of good things in store. Next meeting **May 11th at 2.15pm** in the Church Hall when Mrs Valerie Edwards will present The History of Chenies Manor. DO come and join us"

A BRIDGE evening is to be held in All Saints' Church Hall on Saturday, 7th May at 7pm, to raise money for the Organ Fund. £20 per person, to include supper and drinks. All standards of bridge from beginners to experienced are welcome. A fun evening for all with lots of prizes. Tickets please contact 01753 883360.

“WE love the village with the countryside on our doorstep” A comment from the 2010 village survey and Janet Harper, Chairman of Open Spaces Committee, sends an open letter to Chalfont St Peter residents

“The Parish Council would like your help in seeing Chalfont St Peter win ‘Best Kept Village’ this year. We have run a close second for several years and with everyone in our community pitching in, this might be our year for the winner’s cup. Our Haywardens have a full schedule of works to keep our open spaces and public areas maintained and litter-free, but we invite you to contribute to this effort. Any effort YOU can make towards the overall appearance of the village will be noticed and make a difference.

The judges look at public spaces, but do notice the overall appearance of the village so anything you do, from trimming a hedge overhanging a footpath to tidying verges or picking up litter, would help the cause.

The judging will take place in June, so let us know if you have any suggestions for helping us be Best Kept Village this year. Thank you for helping to make a difference.” **Email: clerk@chalfontstpeter-pc.gov.uk Tel: 01753-891582**

However, an email has been received which should make people give a second thought to their attitude to litter. It says: “I am sorry to put a damper on the chances for Chalfont St. Peter winning when we have as the centrepiece of our Village the disgusting re-recycling centre or rather dump. I have privy to this centre from my house and see it regularly misused with food waste etc. being left amongst other things including household items such as mattresses, chairs, carpets, well you name it. It has to be cleaned up nearly every day by two Council men with a lorry who take the rubbish away. When the wind blows there is paper scattered around the car park into the Church etc. My neighbour and I pick up rubbish quite often. What chance has Chalfont St. Peter got I wonder?” Maybe those who read this are not likely to be the ‘fly tippers’, but if the message can be phased on in conversation, it might filter through to careless rubbish dumpers.

But to put the smile back on our faces again, another email was received by a very positive resident who said:

“Friends visited us last weekend and couldn't wait to tell us how lovely they thought Chalfont St Peter was looking. They said the village looked vibrant and the shops interesting, everything looked clean and well kept and once they reached Gold Hill Common they rejoiced in its beauty and perfect condition!!

SUNDAY, 15th May will also have Deanery Choral Evensong at 6pm in St Mary's Church, Old Amersham. Choir members from the Parish Church and All Saints' Church will be participating.

VOPAG for the over 55s, meets at the Community Centre each month for an interesting talk and the chance to meet others from the village. The next meeting is on Tuesday, May 17th for coffee at 10am and the meeting begins at 10.30.

CHALFONT St Peter Garden Club will meet in the Church Hall, Church Lane at 8pm on Wednesday, May 18 when you can spend an evening with Master Gardener Bill Bossom. Visitors welcome. It is also planned to hold a Plant Sale on Sunday 15th May outside the Hut, from 10am.

GERRARDS Cross Flower Club meets on Wednesday, 18th May at 1.30 for 2pm in the Colston Hall, GX Memorial Centre. Dr Cristina Curtis will present “Create Cavalade”. Visitors welcome.

ON SATURDAY, 21st May, The Band of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers will provide some great music for an evening at All Saints' Music Festival, at the Church in Oval Way. A BBQ is included in the ticket price of £20 for adults and £12 for children. All profits to the Bucks branch of SSAFA Forces Help. Tickets from 01753 883384.

ST JOSEPH'S Parish Day is on Saturday, 21st May from noon to 4pm in the parish church grounds. There is a BBQ and Bar, entertainment for all ages, New games and stalls, bouncy castle and much more. Free Entry. There is a fancy dress parade and competition, Age Groups, under 5, under 11, under 16, adults – young and older. Everyone encouraged to take part by dressing as their favourite hero or villain. Parade at 12.30 in the central square.

HORN HILL VILLAGE HALL In September it will be 100 years since the Hall at Horn Hill was given to the residents of the hamlet. Celebrations are planned for Saturday September 10th. If anyone has old photos of the Hall or events taking place would be kind enough to share these with us. Any photos or memorabilia will be copied (with your permission) and the originals safely returned to you. We would like to have any memories from those who went to school at the hall to residents who may have moved away as well as present residents. Please contact Helen Watson on 01494 874269 or Margaret Sheppee on 01494 873533

AS one of the largest employers in the County, Buckinghamshire County Council wants to do more to support young people to enable them to get jobs. Their internship programme will provide opportunities for young people to gain valuable work experience, develop critical skills and competencies and provide a springboard into paid employment.

Interns will get personal support from those immediately overseeing their work and will also be supported by a mentor from another area of the council. At the end of the programme, the intern would have an overall performance review with their mentor. They will be provided with a reference and statement of achievements/testimonials which will demonstrate the experience and skills acquired.

No previous experience is needed to apply for the internship scheme. The Council is just looking for bright, committed young people who are wanting to make a contribution to the local community. To apply please use the on-line application form - www.bucksccl.gov.uk/internship or call 01296 382665.

SAVERS has come to the Village in Market Place. Steve, who has lived in Chalfont St Peter all his life, is starting up a new venture with a shop full of all sorts of housewares, toiletries, gardening tools, haberdashery, stationery and much else. It is a bit like an Aladdin's cave of shopping. You don't know just what is there until you browse through it.

OPEN AIR THEATRE The Chiltern Shakespeare Company are performing The Winter's Tale in the beautiful grounds of Hall Barn, Beaconsfield on 8 - 11 June and 15 - 18 June in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Booking forms are available in Chalfont St Peter at the Library; Budgens; Only Natural; Crumbs Coffee Shop.

WOMEN need to Talk - about things that matter. This happens at breakfast and the next date will be Saturday 21st May, 8.30 – 10am in Gold Hill Church hall - £6 per person. Head teacher Sheila King will be speaking. Everybody welcome. For further details, or to book a place, please telephone 01753 887173.

THE Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Camera Club's object is to foster interest in photography: to provide a means for the exchange of photographic knowledge and to promote a congenial social atmosphere amongst members and guests.

This is a very friendly Club with about fifty members whose skills range from beginners to experts, and they seek to promote an atmosphere that encourages sharing of knowledge and experience, so that people may learn from one another. The Club is a founder member of The Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs, which includes some 43 clubs and a member of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain and they take part in inter-club competitions and enter work in the Community Association's events.

Their annual programme details most of the activities of the Club and to support the programme the Club has its own darkroom, projection equipment, exhibition stands and also studio lighting and backgrounds. These are available for hire by members. The Club provides a wide range of activities to encourage and stimulate members in both digital and film photography. These include lectures, demonstrations, practical evenings, competitions and projects. In addition to internal competitions in monochrome prints, colour prints and both film and projected digital images we also compete with local clubs and in other external competitions: enjoying a good level of success.

A specialist "Digi Group", helping members develop skills in the manipulation of digital images using Adobe Photoshop, meets in the Memorial Centre, G.X. on the third Wednesday of each month.

You are warmly invite you to join them: whether you are an experienced photographer or a complete beginner. Just turn up at one of their meetings and you will receive a warm welcome. Information can be obtained from:-

David Durrant, Honorary Secretary: 07791 691 896.

James Torr, Publicity Officer: 01753 629 493 and from the Web Site: www.candgxcameraclub.org.uk/

Annual subscriptions: Full Members: £40.00 Students: £15.00 Club Meetings are held at The Memorial Centre,

Gerrards Cross:- September to May: Every Thursday evening at 7:45 PM for 8 PM.

June to August: Informal meetings are held on the second and last Thursday evening in each month.

BOUNDARY plans will reduce councillors by eight. Proposals to redraw electoral division boundaries, reducing the number of councillors by eight, were agreed by Buckinghamshire County Council today (Thursday April 21).

Work on the boundary review, outlined to the full council this morning, has been going on since November when councillors agreed to create 49 single member divisions ready for the 2013 election. Currently 57 councillors represent 47 divisions, of which 10 have two members.

Deputy Leader Bill Chapple told members the boundary review was triggered by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at a time when the county council was listening to feedback from residents about reducing administration costs through the Bucks Debate, a consultation programme held last autumn.

'We're in a time of austerity, when we're making savings across all services, and we, as members, recognised the need to support this process,' said Mr Chapple. 'Nationally, we're already recognised as a top authority and our decision today will make us even more efficient and effective.'

Currently each of the county council's 57 members represents an average of 6,800 residents. The proposed new arrangement would maintain an average electorate of 8,113 per member through to 2017, and save Buckinghamshire's council taxpayers around £100,000 a year.

The county council's adopted proposals will be submitted to the Boundary Commission, which will consider them during the next three months.

BUCKS launches its Big Society Bank. Voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in Buckinghamshire will get a major boost to their funds with the launch of Bucks Big Society Bank. Buckinghamshire County Council is the founding contributor to the new bank, providing a contribution of £75,000.

The Bucks Big Society Bank will be administered by Buckinghamshire Community Foundation, and the idea has been developed in partnership with Community Impact Bucks and The Clare Foundation.

The bank will provide a low-cost loan fund for smaller voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in all parts of the county. Its aim is to help these organisations achieve their objectives by providing loans to enable them to access other sources of income, including grants, private donations, lottery funding and trading income, which will help them continue to build and develop their capacity to meet the vital needs of local communities.

Organisations eligible to apply for funding from the bank need to be situated in Buckinghamshire and be providing services or support, just for local residents. The loans, starting from just £1,000 to £25,000, may be used for a variety of purposes, equipment and premises costs. They could also be used as a bridging loan pending receipt of other funds due, or to allow the organisation time to change its business model.

As well as showing ability to repay the loan over a term of up to five years, loan applicants will need to show broad community support and public benefit, either directly through the services provided or indirectly through the generation of income to support activities for wide public benefit.

The first loans are expected to become available in the summer and anyone wishing either to contribute towards the bank or to apply for funding should contact Buckinghamshire Community Foundation on 01296 330134.

DRIVERS using the A40 at Denham are being warned to keep their speed down, after more than 1,000 vehicles were recorded as travelling at more than the new 30mph speed limit in a four day period. A damaged pedestrian foot bridge has been removed from the road by Transport for Buckinghamshire. The speed limit has been reduced from 50 to 30mph, to enable safe use of the pedestrian traffic signals, there has also been a reduction in the number of lanes from three to two in both directions. These numbers occurred during mobile camera enforcement carried out by the Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership over four days covering a time period of just 16 hours. Enforcement is being carried out to make sure drivers stick to the temporary speed limit, to protect pedestrians using the temporary pelican crossing and the travelling public. This is to reduce speeding, collisions and casualties at the locations where excessive speed represents a road safety problem. Cameras have been set up to play an important part alongside engineering measures that are also in place. Signing and visibility at the location is above the required standards, to highlight to motorists where enforcement is being undertaken, the cameras are clearly identifiable and are highly visible. Safety cameras are proven to make a significant contribution to improving road safety for all road users and can encourage changed driver behaviour. Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Transport Valerie Letheren said; "We want both pedestrians and road users to be safe and we hope that by sharing the results from the camera enforcement we will encourage motorists to slow down." For more information on the A40 at Denham visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/transportation and follow the links to the road works section.

GERRARDS CROSS Sailing Association meets in the Colston Hall of the Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre, East Common, SL9 7AD, on Wednesdays at 8.15pm The bar opens at 7.30. To find out about the illustrated talks that are held at each meeting, please go to <http://www.gxsa.org.uk/prog.htm>

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE has the following ten recycling centres that residents can use to dispose of household waste:

- * London Road East, Amersham HP7 9DT *
- * College Road North, Aston Clinton HP22 5EZ*
- * Rabans Close, Rabans Lane, Aylesbury HP19 8RS *
- * A40 London Road, Lower Pyebushes, Beaconsfield HP9 2XB *
- * Wigans Lane, Bledlow Ridge HP14 4BH
- * Yonder Slade, Buckingham Industrial Park, Buckingham MK18 1RZ
- * Crowpiece Lane, Burnham SL2 3TG
- * Latimer Road, Chesham HP5 1TL
- * High Heavens, Clay Lane, Booker, High Wycombe SL7 3DJ *
- * Langley Park Road, Langley SL3 6DD
- * Trade waste facilities available (charges apply)

All sites are open seven days a week, except on 25 December, 26 December and 1 January.

AS thoughts turn to getting away for a few days, carers in Buckinghamshire who have a spouse, relative or friend with dementia will now be able to have peace of mind if they want to take their loved ones with them. This is all thanks to a new service to help people with dementia stay safe on holiday that is being piloted in the county. By wearing a simple and discreet device, the 'buddi' safer walking system uses mobile phone and GPS (global positioning system) technology and is linked to a call centre. If someone wanders they can be located simply and easily at any time of the day or night, giving reassurance to the carer. The service is funded by Buckinghamshire County Council and will be run by Carers Bucks on the council's behalf. It will offer carers the free loan of a 'buddi' while they are away. Although initially the service is intended for holidays in the UK and Europe it can be extended worldwide if there is sufficient demand. Carers can contact Carers Bucks on 01296 392711 to find out more about the 'buddi' or to reserve one for their holiday.

BUCKS Open Studios celebrates twenty five glorious years with a silent auction to benefit Queens Park Art Centre & the National Society for Epilepsy based in Chalfont St Peter on Sunday 23 May at The Memorial Hall, Wharf Road, Wendover HP22 6NX

It is twenty-five years since Bucks Open Studios became an essential part of the Buckinghamshire calendar. In its first year, in 1986, there were 43 exhibiting venues, 28 artist open studios, 9 galleries, 4 'Special Educational Projects' and 3 'Heritage' sites. Twenty-five years later it has grown to accommodate a remarkable 258 exhibitions featuring the work of 448 arts and makers.

To mark its silver anniversary Bucks Open Studios is organising a Silent Auction featuring the work of 100 members of the Visual Art Group, the organising arm of BOS. The work will reflect 'twenty-five' or have a silver theme of a nature that inspires the artist. All work for auction will be not larger than A4. Proceeds from the silent auction will be split between Queens Park Art Centre and the National Society for Epilepsy based in Chalfont St Peter, nominated by Bucks Open Studio members. Heather Hunter, Vice-Chair of the Visual Images Group said 'The twenty-five year anniversary we celebrate this year is a major milestone in our organisation. Few would have thought in 1986 that Bucks Open Studios would grow to be such an important event for the visual arts in our county. But here we are, as enthusiastic as ever and still providing an essential platform for our members to reach out to the wider world. Our anniversary Silent Auction is a great way to support two essential local organisations and we hope that many visitors will come and look and bid for the work on show.'

The Silent Auction takes place at The Memorial Hall, Wharf Road, Wendover HP22 6NX on Sunday 23 May. The free auction exhibition opens at 2pm. Bidders will be able to place their written auction bid at any time during the day. The winning bids will be announced at 7pm. In addition there will be an exhibition of work from founding member artists and makers. Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

[The annual Bucks Open Studios – this year celebrating 25 glorious years – runs from 12 – 27 June 2010](http://www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk)
www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk

WITH less than 500 days before the London 2012 Paralympic Games, Buckinghamshire County Council is asking people to help tell the story of the start of the Paralympic movement at Stoke Mandeville.

As part of the cultural programme for London 2012 the Council is celebrating the birth of the Paralympics at Stoke Mandeville by inviting people to build a living archive around this fascinating story and share their personal memories.

The Paralympic Games have their roots in the 1948 Stoke Mandeville Games, founded by neurosurgeon Sir Ludwig Guttmann, who set up the spinal unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital during the Second World War. In 1984 the birthplace of the games was propelled into global limelight when the World Wheelchair Games came to Stoke Mandeville after the host American organising committee failed to secure funds.

If you were at the 1984 Paralympic Games at Stoke Mandeville or remember the early days of the Spinal Unit and Sir Ludwig Guttmann, either as a patient or member of staff, or know about Sir Ludwig Guttmann's pioneering work at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, you can tell your story and help build the legacy.

Tricia Birchley, Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Adults and Family Wellbeing, is encouraging people to share their memories. "It's amazing when you realise how one man's dream to make the Games a worldwide celebration of disabled abilities has come about" she said. "So far we have uncovered some fascinating photographs, documents and memorabilia that will help us tell this story to the world. We want to add personal recollections to this to bring alive the legacy of Stoke Mandeville and celebrate the story of disability across the region."

The Council's Mandeville Legacy project aims to ensure that the role of Stoke Mandeville in Paralympic history is recognised by the world, and is part of Accentuate, a transformational programme of fifteen projects, inspired by the Paralympic Movement, which seeks to change perceptions and offer opportunities to showcase the talents of deaf and disabled people. Accentuate is funded by Legacy Trust UK, creating a lasting legacy from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games across the UK, SEEDA and the regional cultural agencies. Screen South is the home of Accentuate.

BUCKS Open Studios celebrates twenty five glorious years with a silent auction to benefit Queens Park Art Centre & the National Society for Epilepsy based in Chalfont St Peter on Sunday 23 May at The Memorial Hall, Wharf Road, Wendover HP22 6NX

It is twenty-five years since Bucks Open Studios became an essential part of the Buckinghamshire calendar. In its first year, in 1986, there were 43 exhibiting venues, 28 artist open studios, 9 galleries, 4 'Special Educational Projects' and 3 'Heritage' sites. Twenty-five years later it has grown to accommodate a remarkable 258 exhibitions featuring the work of 448 arts and makers.

To mark its silver anniversary Bucks Open Studios is organising a Silent Auction featuring the work of 100 members of the Visual Art Group, the organising arm of BOS. The work will reflect 'twenty-five' or have a silver theme of a nature that inspires the artist. All work for auction will be not larger than A4. Proceeds from the silent auction will be split between Queens Park Art Centre and the National Society for Epilepsy based in Chalfont St Peter, nominated by Bucks Open Studio members. Heather Hunter, Vice-Chair of the Visual Images Group said 'The twenty-five year anniversary we celebrate this year is a major milestone in our organisation. Few would have thought in 1986 that Bucks Open Studios would grow to be such an important event for the visual arts in our county. But here we are, as enthusiastic as ever and still providing an essential platform for our members to reach out to the wider world. Our anniversary Silent Auction is a great way to support two essential local organisations and we hope that many visitors will come and look and bid for the work on show.'

The Silent Auction takes place at The Memorial Hall, Wharf Road, Wendover HP22 6NX on Sunday 23 May. The free auction exhibition opens at 2pm. Bidders will be able to place their written auction bid at any time during the day. The winning bids will be announced at 7pm. In addition there will be an exhibition of work from founding member artists and makers. Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

[The annual Bucks Open Studios – this year celebrating 25 glorious years – runs from 12 – 27 June 2010](http://www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk)
www.bucksopenstudios.org.uk

FIVE go for tea with the Chairman

A panoramic view from the council offices, a tour of the historic Judges' Lodgings, and tea around the Chairman's table - this was a treat for five young people from Buckinghamshire County Council's Aylesbury children's home on Wednesday afternoon (April 20).

Chairman David Polhill had invited them to County Hall following a visit he made with last year's High Sheriff Lady Howe to the children's home in Churchill Avenue.

'They gave us a tour of the home, and proudly showed off their rooms, and then asked what I did,' said the Chairman. 'So I invited them back to County Hall for tea and cakes, and they really enjoyed themselves.'

As they munched cakes with Mr Polhill, his wife Sue, and Lady Howe, they tried on the Chairman's official chain and asked him about his work.

VAL LETHEREN, Cabinet member for Transport writes to clarify how the roads Capital programme is made up. The Government has changed its national funding mechanism, so all local transport funding is now grant and not borrowing approvals. This means we can invest £11.7M in capital road repairs this year

As part of the recent Budget announcements, DfT has allocated additional grant funding to repair Winter Damage and we anticipate there being a further £2.4m

The priority work has already been completed on several sites throughout the county

Technical, local, safety and Member led issues are being considered to draw up a list of schemes and sites for repair this year and we are continuing to repair dangerous potholes within 24 hours.

Programme is due to commence 16th May and consists of a range of treatments such as patching, surface dressing, joint sealing, thin-surfacing and full scale reconstruction and resurfacing.

NEW habitat mapping to ensure conservation is a priority in planning, development and countryside care across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, launches next week (w/b March 14).

The Habitat Mapping Project, set up by Buckinghamshire County Council, Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Environmental Record Centre, and Milton Keynes Council, charts and records for the first time in one place a detailed analysis of protected habitats across the area.

It's the result of six years research by Buckinghamshire County Council's Natural Environment Team. Already, the information is helping the county council assess the impact of the proposed High Speed 2 rail on Buckinghamshire, to support the current national consultation on the route.

The habitat mapping database provides information not only for council planning and transport officers, land managers, and commercial developers, but also for environmental interest groups, schools, colleges and universities, and academic researchers.

It shows the locations of more than 65,000 habitats, how sites are managed, and acts as a trigger for further ecological investigations which planning regulations may require. It has drawn on sightings, records and data generated by more than 30 organisations around the county, dating back 20 years.

The map will be updated annually from information and sightings by local conservation groups, and data from national organisations.

Martin Tett, Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, said: 'Our natural environment provides an important contribution to the quality of our area, making it a prime location to live, work and invest. We have a responsibility to future generations to manage it well, and this creates an important tool to conserve the natural environment at a time when it is experiencing increased pressures.'

Cabinet agreed a new model of delivery for 14 libraries in Buckinghamshire, following a comprehensive consultation. This development comes at a time when budget pressures mean that all council services are being challenged to find new ways of delivering services. The County Council believe that increasing community involvement and tailoring services to the needs of the community is the best way forward to ensure a sustainable future for all 26 libraries in Buckinghamshire.

The new 'county and community' model for Buckinghamshire libraries will see the development of 14 community partnerships with local community groups, Parish Councils and partner organisations phased over the next two years. These libraries will be supported by nine larger county libraries and the increasing development of the virtual library and e downloads.

The nine county libraries are based in areas of high population; Aylesbury, High Wycombe, Amersham, Chesham, Beaconsfield, Princes Risborough, Buckingham, Hazlemere, and Marlow.

The 14 community partnership libraries are Castlefield, Chalfont St Peter, Farnham Common, Flackwell Heath, Gerrards Cross, Great Missenden, Haddenham, Iver Heath, Ivinghoe, Long Crendon, Stokenchurch, Wendover, Wing, Winslow. There are a range of ways a community partnership could take shape; sharing premises with other local businesses and organisations, increasing community volunteering and fund-raising, and self-managed, community-led libraries. The model is flexible and will be tailored to each local community with the ideas and development led by local residents and organisations.

The Council is committed to provide continuing support for these libraries to ensure they are sustainable and affordable for the future. The Council will continue to provide library loan stock, IT provision and connection to the county network and public PCs, on-line resources and resource grants to support some of the running costs.

Bourne End, Burnham and Mickfield libraries have been supported by £1.5 million from the Big Lottery. This support has enabled us to redesign and build new community facilities at each location. A key priority in the improvement of these libraries has been involving the community to build a space for people to use for local events and activities alongside mainstream library services. These libraries will be reviewed at the end of 2011.

The Council will begin planning a phased implementation for the 14 libraries with the anticipation that the first phase will begin in Oct 2011. The library service has to make savings of £688,000 over the next three years. Of this £488,000 will be saved through this new model.

The council will continue to provide a home library and mobile service to ensure that excluded and isolated residents can access library services.

THE Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire: "Give it a grow" this Compost Awareness Week
Residents are being encouraged to start composting at home as the 11th annual international Compost Awareness Week (CAW) gets under way next week (1 - 7 May).

The theme for this year is "Pass It On" which aims to revive the community spirit and encourage those already composting or growing their own vegetables to pass on their knowledge and skills to friends, family and neighbours.

Cllr Martin Tett, Vice-Chairman for the Joint Waste Committee said: "More than 30% of the average household bin can be composted and although one third of householders already compost at home, we want others to get involved.

"By passing on the message about the benefits of composting, residents can help the environment even further by getting others involved. When biodegradable waste such as vegetable peelings, grass and cardboard is dumped at landfill it creates methane, a harmful greenhouse gas. By composting at home, not only will we be helping the environment, but we will also have some fantastic compost for the garden."

Householders can purchase a home compost bin from as little as £15.00 for a 220 litre model and £18.00 for the larger 330 litre version.

For further information about these products, please call: - 0844 571 4444. Alternatively, you can also order your home composters and composting accessories on-line, just visit www.getcomposting.com