

Chalfont Office Direct kindly prints this newsletter

Chalfont St Peter Village Voice – February 2012

Editor: Elaine Quigley, 01753 886412

elainequigley@sky.com

www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice



BETTER Healthcare in Bucks. The NHS in Bucks is proud of its services and wants to continue to change and develop them in a way that delivers safe, high quality care and meets the needs of patients. They are doing this through the “Better Healthcare in Bucks” programme and have some proposals they want to discuss with patients and the public. From now until 16th April 2012, they are running a consultation programme to give you a chance to hear these proposals and to give feedback.

To ensure they have room at all of the meetings for everyone who wants to attend, **places need to be booked in advance**. To book a place, please email: betterhealthcareinbucks@buckinghamshire.nhs.uk or call 01494 552256. For more information: www.buckinghamshire.nhs.uk/bhib Our nearest centres are: Everham Centre, Martindale, Iver, SL0 0HY, Monday, 13 February, 2 – 5pm and Chesham Town Hall, Chesham, HP5 1DS, Monday, 27 February, 10am – 1pm.

CHALFONT ST PETER W.I. meets next on Wednesday 8th February at 2pm in the Church Hall, Church Lane. The presentation is: The Royal Wedding . Advance notice – The March Meeting is the Spring Group Meeting and it will be held in the CSP Community Centre at 2pm.

SIMPLICITY: Jennifer Kavanagh, Friday 10th February 10am – 4pm

What is a simple life, and why should we want to lead one? Explore what simplicity means to us and what some of the steps might be, with Jennifer Kavanagh, the Quaker author of *The World is our Cloister*, *The O of Home* and *Simplicity Made Easy*. Jennifer Kavanagh worked in publishing for thirty years as an independent literary agent, she has run several community projects including conflict resolution and prison reform, and is a regular contributor to the Quaker press. Pre-booking is essential at £35 per person (or whatever you can afford) with a ‘bring and share’ lunch. Refreshments will be available from 9:30 For further information call Janet or Tom on 01494 876594 or email: office@newjordans.org New Jordans Programme, Jordans Quaker Meeting House, Welders Lane, Jordans, HP9 2SN.

ARE you a mum who wants to have a family-friendly, but fulfilling, job? Do you want a career change but don’t know where to start? If so, you can join a 2 hour workshop that is both fun and practical. During this time you will define your career goals, uncover what motivates you at work and identify your core skills. Courses: Wednesday 8th February or Tuesday 13th March – 9.30-11.30am at the Greyhound Inn, High Street, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9RA. Cost is £35. Workshops delivered by Fiona Clark and Clair Dent, Qualified Career Coaches. Limited places available so don’t leave it until the last minute to book your place. More information from 07789 597209 or email Fiona@inspiredmums.co.uk.

VILLAGE Older Person’s Action group (VOPAG) has been set up as part of Chalfont St Peter Village Appraisal to give the over 55s of Chalfont St Peter the opportunity to meet together and exchange views, news and information. It provides an authoritative voice to take up issues with people who can do something about them. VOPAG meets once a month and speakers talk on various topics of interest. There is also an information point in Budgens, the dates of which are displayed on their notice board. The next meeting is on **Thursday, February 16th** at 10am for coffee and the meeting begins at 10.30, in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. Further information from 01753 884729

THIS is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police. The Chiltern Local Policing Area is experiencing an increasing amount of theft from motor vehicles, whereby victims are leaving valuable items such as handbags and electrical goods in their vehicles and on display whilst they are spending just minutes visiting addresses.

Offenders are not only targeting insecure vehicles but forcing entry into the vehicle to steal these items. This is a reminder to the public not to leave any valuables in the vehicle no matter how brief your visit. Also, ensure that doors and windows are locked at all times.

GERRARDS CROSS Scottish Country Dancing Club would warmly welcome any newcomers, especially beginners. Classes Tuesdays at 7.30pm at GX Memorial Centre. Keep fit and have fun! For further information please phone GX 884217.

PLANS have been unveiled by Transport for Buckinghamshire to install a puffin crossing on the A40 in Denham. The decision comes after a consultation into the future of the pedestrian bridge, removed after a collision in February 2011.

The consultation on all the options took place and the solution was agreed by a Cabinet Member decision in early January. Work is scheduled to start towards the end of February and the programme of work will be available to view online.

The road will stay as a dual carriageway permanently and the speed limit will be raised to 40mph through the area. The street lighting will also remain on, the area previously having been part of the street light switch off trial.

Peter Hardy, Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport said, "This is excellent news for the residents and road users of Denham as we now have an effective, efficient and economically viable solution."

During consultation, it became evident that the old over-bridge was frequently not used, with pedestrians preferring to risk crossing the road at ground level without a formal crossing instead. The temporary crossing installed after the bridge was struck also proved popular, with minimal delays to traffic. In addition to this, replacing the structure with a puffin crossing makes long term economic sense in whole life cost terms, by saving an estimated £1.73M over 60 years when compared to the bridge repair option.

The damage to the footbridge was caused by a third party. TfB will now take action to recover the full costs of the temporary works required and permanent solution from the third party's insurers.

CHALFONT COMMON WI has a busy schedule in the next couple of months. In February there is an outing to Denman College which is the WI residential college set in the glorious Oxfordshire country side and there are plans to have lots of other trips to places in and around the area. Then in March is their **ATTIC SALE** and coffee morning in the Community Centre, on **March 17th** from 9.30 until 12. There will be cake and book stalls, bric-a-brac and lots of children's games and toys and in the main hall a full variety of stalls. Tables are £12 each and anyone wishing to book a table please phone Brenda Aldworth on 01753 885293 - brendaa387@gmail.com Anyone interested in joining this lively group of ladies please do come along on the first Thursday of the month to the Tony Graham Room at the Community centre – 7.30 for 7.45 or contact Chris on 01494 872133 for more information and we will make you very welcome.

RESIDENTS of Chiltern District can now benefit from Government funding aimed at keeping the most vulnerable people warm and well during the cold winter months.

Chiltern District Council together with partners Buckinghamshire County Council, United Sustainable Energy Agency, Age UK, Bucks Citizens Advice, Community Impact Bucks, Bucks PCT, Bucks Community Foundation and all the other district councils in Bucks have successfully bid to the Department of Health for £125,000 to help keep people well this winter.

The grant money will be used to mobilise a winter task force from each of the organisations as well as volunteers from the community to help people in practical ways. This will include supporting people to get all their eligible benefits, advice on how to make savings on fuel bills, help to improve their home insulation and heating systems and in some cases provide extra support in terms of food boxes. To find out more, call your local Affordable Warmth helpline on 0800 107 0044.

THE Bucks Advertiser, last week, led on plans for a Free Secondary School set for the Holy Cross Site. The aim is to boost the number of secondary school places in South Bucks. It would be Government, rather than County funded and it is noted that 'a plan to move the CSP Academy primary school to the site, backed by the Parish Council', could be replaced by this new plan put forward by a steering group from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, if agreed. The Holy Cross Convent, closed in 2006, provided Catholic secondary school education and this steering group wants this to be reinstated by this new proposal. The school would be a faith school with a Catholic ethos, though, like the Convent in the past, all faiths will be represented in its roll-call.

There has been a lot of feedback by parents as, though the steering group has found other local sites, it believes that the Holy Cross is the most suitable. Keep an eye on the Advertiser's reports to stay abreast of developments.

COUNTY Council leader meets Olympic hopeful.

Buckinghamshire's Martin Tett met China's Alex Hua Tian when he visited one of the county's 2012 Games training camps. Martin, a keen equestrian in younger days, and now more at home scaling heights on rock faces in his spare time, was delighted to meet Alex, and talk about his hopes as China's first three-day event competitor.

Alex moved his 11 horses there in November and is preparing for next week's tour of Spain's three-star events in his journey to the Olympic Games.

Martin said: 'I'm really pleased that as a host county for the Games, we're welcoming competitors from other nations to help them prepare for their events. And I love the way so many of our residents have become Games volunteers to help provide a real Buckinghamshire welcome to visitors in the summer.'

Buckinghamshire is home to 23 training camps, and will welcome around 30,000 spectators a day to Dorney Lake where rowing, canoeing and adaptive canoeing events take place during the Games. The county has a special place in Games history, as the birthplace of the Paralympic movement, and will host four community live-sites where more than 10,000 residents will be able to watch Games events on huge video screens.

THE Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile is back – and it's coming to Amersham. The town is set to host its first ever Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile on **Sunday 25 March**, and needs local people to come together and show their support by entering now at www.sportrelief.com As one of the UK's biggest fundraising events, Sport Relief brings the entire nation together to get active, raise cash and change lives – so it's time to dust off those trainers and enter right now.

Setting off from Amersham Cricket Club the GLL Nexus Amersham Mile will pass through the Shardeloes Estate and is set to be an incredible event. Entrants don't have to be sporty to take part, but can choose to complete 1, 3 or 6 miles knowing that all the money raised will help to change the lives of people living unimaginably tough lives right here on our doorstep, across the rest of the UK and in some the world's poorest countries.

Councillor Mimi Harker, Cabinet Member for leisure said: "The Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile in Amersham is here and it's your time to shine. From teeny-tots with their mums and dads, to super sprinters up against the clock there's something for everyone on the big day. This is the first Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile in Amersham and is set to be a great event. So come on, pull your Sport Relief socks up, enter the Mile and do something amazing!"

Sport Relief has a unique history of dedicated people doing extraordinary things to rise to the challenge. Last September, David Walliams started Sport Relief off with an epic splash when he completed The BT Sport Relief Challenge: Walliams vs The Thames. Despite battling a nasty bacterial bug and biting cold water, David swam a staggering 140 miles and has so far raised over £1million for Sport Relief. And that's not all; there will be even more amazing celebrity challenges to get the whole nation geared up for the Sport Relief weekend!

The Sport Relief Weekend kicks off on Friday 23 March when everyone gets active, has fun and raises cash at home, at work or at school; before settling down to watch a night of top Sport Relief TV on BBC One. There will be even more BBC radio, online and TV coverage throughout the weekend to keep you entertained. By the end of the weekend everyone will be raring to go, when the whole nation comes together to take part in the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile on Sunday 25 March.

To enter the GLL Nexus Amersham Mile visit sportrelief.com.

For information contact Natalie Davis at Chiltern District Council on 07787254680 or email ndavis@chiltern.gov.uk

GERRARDS Cross Lawn Tennis Club will be holding a Neighbourhood Meeting on the Monday 16th January, starting at 8pm in the Clubhouse, Bull Lane.

CAMERA enthusiasts may be interested in joining the Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Camera Club.

<http://www.candgxcameraclub.org.uk/section321554.html> - If so, the person to contact is Dave Trotter Phone: 01628 524332 E-mail: dave-trotter@tiscali.co.uk

THE local group for National Trust members meets on the 2nd Friday of each month. They meet one month in Gerrards and the next month in Chalfont St Peter. Contact: 01494 872204 to know more.

LETTERS REVEAL THE REAL IMPACT OF HS2 ON CHILTERN RESIDENTS

Residents in Chiltern District whose homes are directly afflicted by the recently approved high speed rail link (HS2) have received a letter from the Department of Transport/HS2 Limited saying their properties will be compulsory purchased.

Two days after the announcement by the Government that the HS2 scheme was going ahead, the letters started landing on resident's doormats. Each letter stated that from HS2 Limited's 'own initial work the property that you own or occupy is within the proposed line of the route, and will need to be acquired by the scheme.'

For some residents this is the first indication that their property is affected by the HS2 line. Many other residents who live near to the line and will be impacted, albeit it not directly, have yet to receive any communication from HS2 Limited.

Leader of Chiltern District Council, Councillor Nick Rose said: "HS2 Limited is anxious to start acquiring properties now. Many of our residents have already been suffering uncertainty and blight since 2010; this is unacceptable. We are urging anyone who believes they might be affected by the proposed rail link to contact HS2 Limited as soon possible. Don't wait for a letter, get advice now and be careful what you agree to."

We will be doing all we can to keep our residents informed about HS2 and will continue to fight hard against this misguided route which has no business, economic or environmental case."

If you have a query about HS2, call 020 7944 4908 or email HS2enquiries@hs2.gsi.gov.uk. If you want copies of the Government's booklets on compensation and compulsory purchase call 0300 123 1124 between 8am and 8pm or visit the Department for Communities and Local Government website - www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/compulsorypurchase



REGISTERED CHARITY No: 1028040

Celebrating 20 years of service to the community

THE CHILTERN, SOUTH BUCKS & HIGH WYCOMBE SELF HELP GROUP FOR MANAGERS AND PROFESSIONALS SEEKING WORK

Programme for February:

February 6th – Networking and Direct Letters. February 13th – Using the Internet /Linkedin for your Job Search, February 20th – What the Recruitment Consultant looks for, February 27th – Interview Preparation.

Careers Springboard meetings take place 7.15 for 7.30pm each Monday at St Andrews's United Reformed Church Hall, Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7 QE. Free Membership. **New Members Welcomed.**

NEARLY NEW SALE- Top quality baby and children's clothes and equipment at bargain prices.

Saturday 10th March 1.15 - 2.30pm. (1pm for NCT members with an NCT membership card.

Curzon Centre Beaconsfield. Admission £1 in aid of NCT Charity.

Help on the day and shop first at the sale! Items to sell? Email: seller.nctbeaconsfield@gmail.com

Want to help? Email: helpers.nctbeaconsfield@gmail.com www.nct.org.uk/nns

HAVE your say on public transport provision with Travel Bucks

Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) is launching a countywide public consultation for the Travel Bucks Strategy from Monday 23rd January 2012 to Monday 5th March 2012 to encourage feedback on public transport provision.

Peter Hardy, Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Transport said, "With the current financial pressures on public transport expenditure, this consultation offers residents a real opportunity to shape how public transport services will be delivered in the future. I hope that we are able to generate a good response so that we can develop a strategy that meets Council priorities and the needs of local people."

The elderly, children, young people and disabled people all require access to essential services, key facilities and destinations which are essential to individual quality of life and community well-being.

Through the Travel Bucks Strategy, the Council aims to develop a sustainable model for public transport provision which offers value for money, choice and opportunities for local communities to deliver their own demand responsive community transport to help solve local accessibility issues.

The 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review delivered a 14.3% cut in the Council's Government funding - about £11.1m for 2011/12. In 2012/13, the Council will lose a further 10.4% - about £8m and further savings will be required for the following two years.

This has meant that the Council's Gross Expenditure on subsidised bus services has reduced from £5.4m in 2009-10 to £4.3m in 2011-12 and there are real financial pressures for this to be reduced even further.

The Travel Bucks Strategy proposals and questionnaire can be viewed on the Buckinghamshire County Council website: www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport

ARE you between the ages of 30 and 60? Have you never been provided with the chance to learn how to swim? Then these sessions could be for you!!

GLL Nexus have been awarded funding from the ASA Kellogg's Swim Active Fund to provide adult non-swimmers with the opportunity to learn how to swim.

This project will provide 6 weeks of new learn to swim adult taster sessions (particularly for 30-60 year olds) for non-swimming individuals. These sessions will lead into 6 weeks of low cost lessons.

These sessions will be running at a leisure centre near you from the beginning of February:-

Chalfont Leisure Centre, Chalfont St Peter, Nicol Road SL9 9LR

Chesham Leisure Centre, White Hill, Chesham, HP5 1BB;

Chiltern Pools Leisure Centre, Bensheim Way, Chiltern Avenue HP6 5AH

Times are as follows:

Chalfont Leisure Centre: Thursdays 9-9.30am

Chesham Leisure Centre: Monday 12-12.45pm

Chiltern Pools Leisure Centre: Friday 11.30am-12.15pm

These sessions start the w/c the 6th Feb so secure your place now, places are limited!

Please call Natalie Davis for more information on: 01494 732177 or 07787245680 or email ndavis@chiltern.gov.uk

Chiltern District Council, King George V Road, Amersham, Bucks, HP6 5AW www.chilternactive.co.uk

www.nexuscommunity.org

THE Chalfonts Friendship Club ("the C.F.C.") was established in March 2009 to facilitate the opportunity for people who are retired or of retirement age, whether living on their own or couples, to meet to share company.

It is focussed on reaching out and promoting companionship and sharing amongst people in our local Community. Its Membership is drawn from a wide area encompassing the Chalfonts and extending from Fulmer to Latimer and from Beaconsfield to Denham.

They get together every month over a lunchtime meal on 2nd Wednesday of the month – and we also hold Regular Outings, Theatre Trips, Lunches, Quiz Evenings, Talks on Art, Days Out, Visits to Stately Homes and Seaside.

The C.F.C aims to be self-sufficient and self-reliant through its members and welcomes new members being introduced; are you alone or in need of company or know somebody who is?

If you are interested or know someone who might be, or you would like further details, please contact Mary on 01494 875264 or Pat on 01753 885534.

GRADUATES can have a difficult time finding good career openings in this climate so it might be worth looking into whether **BLUEPRINT**, Graduate Business Intelligence Consultants, can help. It works with clients to define, build and implement Business Intelligence systems for improved Performance Management. For over 18 years, it has been helping UK companies to visualise and control processes that directly affect their success - applying advanced technologies in a creative way and working alongside our technology partners, SAP BusinessObjects, Microsoft, and Oracle. Blueprint Graduate training Scheme is a well-established 2 year programme that combines technology and consultancy-skills training with mentoring and frontline commercial experience. Those graduates who joined the scheme in each of the last 5 years have developed into the most highly regarded consultants in their field.

Upon completion of the programme you will have considerable experience of creating and implementing Business Intelligence Solutions, providing a sound base for progression as a consultant into one of a number of specialised disciplines. The scheme allows for individuals to fast track through the programme according to their experience, ability and delivery.

They are looking for Graduates who are enthusiastic, possess good interpersonal skills and are capable of taking early responsibility. In particular, we are interested in Graduates who have a natural flair with technology and are likely to have an analytical, technical or business related degree.

Blueprint is based in central London, however, as part of the role you must be prepared to travel.

If you are interested in applying please forward your CV and covering letter to blueprint@personapartnership.co.uk The closing date for applications is Friday 24th February 2012. If you have any queries please contact Barbara Smith from Persona Partnership via the above address or call 020 7397 8393.

If you would like to learn more about the opportunities at Blueprint please visit <http://www.bpms.co.uk/graduate-careers.aspx>

NSL Ltd will take over the enforcement of on-street parking restrictions in Chiltern District from 1st February 2012 acting as contractor for Transport for Buckinghamshire. The contract runs initially for a term of five years having commenced on 22 September 2011 covering the High Wycombe District Council area.

The enforcement function is currently carried out by Chiltern District Council as a delegated responsibility of the County Council. Chiltern District Council will however continue to manage their off street parking asset in district council owned car parks.

Peter Hardy, Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport said "The recently awarded contracts between Buckinghamshire County Council and NSL are designed to ensure that on street parking services continue to be managed efficiently and effectively and deliver the required savings for the tax payer.

The enquiry line phone number for NSL is 0843 208 5544. For more details on NSL Ltd, please visit:

<http://www.nsl.co.uk>

or visit the Transport for Buckinghamshire Service Information Centre <http://www.transportforbucks.net/Parking.aspx>

BOOKLOVERS can escape to another world at home or on their travels with free audio book downloads straight to the PC, mobile phone or MP3 player, from Buckinghamshire libraries.

The service offers users more than 600 unabridged titles to choose from, with new titles added each month. The current list of e-audiobook download titles includes the new 2010 Man Booker Prize for Fiction from Howard Jacobson 'The Finkler Question', Stieg Larsson's 'The Millennium Trilogy', Hilary Mantel's 'Wolf Hall', Sophie Kinsella's 'Twenties Girl', Dan Brown's 'The Lost Symbol', plus many others.

Up to 10 audio books can be downloaded for free at any one time. All residents need is a library card and PIN number. If you do not have a Buckinghamshire library card, it's quick and easy to join. Just pop into your local library or go online at www.bucksc.gov.uk/libraries.

To find out more about this new service visit www.bucksc.gov.uk/libraries.

HIGHWAY Maintenance Resurfacing Works - A413 Missenden Bypass

Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) will be carrying out highway maintenance works on the Missenden Bypass to improve the condition of the road in order to prolong its life.

The work will be done in two phases:

Phase 1 will involve carriageway patching repairs on the sections between the Aylesbury Road junction and the Link Road Roundabout and the Frith Hill Roundabout and the London Road junction and will also include the resurfacing of the two roundabouts.

Phase 2 will involve the surface dressing of the sections between the Aylesbury Road junction and the Link Road Roundabout and the Frith Hill Roundabout and the London Road junction. As this element of the work is temperature dependent it will involve a second visit and this currently planned for May 2012. Another notice will be issued when the final programme has been agreed.

Phase 1 of the work is expected to start on Thursday 2nd February 2012 and it is anticipated to take twelve nights to complete. If works are delayed by inclement weather, the advance notice signs at either end of the site will be updated to reflect any change in dates. The work is being done overnight due to the volume of traffic using this road during the day. This work will be carried out using temporary traffic signals which will be in operation between 19:00 and 06:00 hrs each night.

Further information about this work can be found on Transport for Buckinghamshire's Service Information Centre at <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport> or alternatively you can call 0845 230 2882.

ANDY WHITE of Lynwood Construction Ltd, based in Chesham, won the award after being nominated by Buckinghamshire County Council's Trading Standards team for his assistance in putting right the poor work carried out by rogue traders, which included repairs to drain pipes, gutters and fascia boards. Mr White not only carried out the repair work at short notice, which prevented one of the residents from experiencing more severe problems with their property, but he carried out one of the jobs at no charge and the other at a reasonable rate.

Andy said: "It's terrible to see elderly people targeted in this way and I am glad that I have been able to help put this right. I hadn't expected to be nominated for this award, let alone win, so it's been a great surprise and I am very pleased."

Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Local Engagement, said: "Our 'Buy with Confidence' traders do an excellent job in providing support to vulnerable adults who have been targeted by rogue traders. I would like to congratulate Mr White and thank him for his help in rectifying such poor work. Rogue traders can cause a lot of distress to people and we are very appreciative of the support our traders provide to put this right. I am very pleased that this award has also recognised this."

The award ceremony, which took place on 12 January, was organised by Home Calls Ltd., a telephone check service provided to vulnerable adults. The Act of Kindness Award, held annually, aims to recognise those who have gone above and beyond to help residents in a vulnerable situation. There were 42 entries into the competition this year. Mr White received the award and £50 worth of vouchers.

To find a 'Buy with Confidence' trader, visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk, contact Consumer Direct on 0808 1562259 or visit the Trading Standards webpage at:

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/sites/bcc/trading_standards/trading_standards.page

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS : National reports on all types of abuse are constantly in the media. Buckinghamshire County Council is running a campaign across the county to raise awareness of adult abuse and what can be done to protect vulnerable people.

"It really is everybody's business", says Charles Owen-Conway, chair of the SVAB (Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board). "What's tragic is witnessing abuse but not knowing what to do about it, or worse assume that someone else will deal with it. So our aim with the campaign is to make people aware that adults are abused in different ways, what they can do about it and how we can protect people."

We should all feel safe in our own home, but for some people it can be a terrifying place rather than a place of of cosy comfort.

When Mary's ex-partner wouldn't accept their relationship was over and his behaviour became threatening she knew who to turn to for help.

"He grabbed my dog and held a knife to its throat", says Mary. "I was very scared and it really upset me. I kept thinking that next time it might be me".

Mary is supported by Buckinghamshire's Adult Social Care team because she has a learning difficulty so she immediately turned to her social worker who dropped everything to concentrate on making sure Mary was safe.

The Housing Association from whom Mary rents her home, replaced her glass-panelled front door and put in a spy hole, social services paid for and installed a video camera so she could monitor who was outside.

"I don't want to be driven out of my own home", says Mary, "and although I am still nervous when unexpected visitors knock on the door I do feel much safer with the added security and knowing that there are people there to help me."

"Knowing who to contact and getting a fast response in an abusive situation can prevent a bad situation getting worse" says Patricia Birchley, cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing. "It's why we are running a campaign to make people aware that we have a careline number and that the statutory services work together to resolve issues and make people feel safe."

More information can be found on the SVABs website: www.bsvab.org.

The careline number is confidential and free from BT landlines. Call 0800 137915

HAVE you been in to check out the Chalfont St Peter Library? If you have, you will note that it is working well and the volunteers are doing a great job. This Library changeover is going to be almost everywhere as the latest message indicates.

PLANS to create a further four community library partnerships in Buckinghamshire have been given the green light today (Monday 30 January) by the County Council's Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Martin Phillips.

The Communities of Flackwell Heath, Ivinghoe, Long Crendon and Wing are currently working with the County Council to finalise their plans, to secure savings of £53,000, and improve local facilities.

Cllr Phillips said: "In this tough financial climate we have had to take a fresh look at the way we run some of our services. We have a strong partnership model that can ensure the sustainability for the future of our local libraries, and give people the opportunity to tailor services to the needs of their communities."

"Having learnt from experiences with Little Chalfont, Chalfont St Giles and West Wycombe Community Libraries the council believe increasing community involvement and tailoring services to the needs of the community is the best way forward to ensure a sustainable future for all our libraries in Buckinghamshire.

"Working with local community groups on these projects has been inspiring and we appreciate the hard work and community spirit that we have seen so far. The plans are exciting and will enable these local libraries, with our support, to develop their services around their own community's needs."

The County's commitment to provide continuing support to ensure these libraries are sustainable and affordable for the future is reinforced by the extension of community partnership agreements to five years. As part of these agreements the Council will continue to provide library loan stock, IT provision and connection to the county network and public PCs, online resources and resource grants to support some of the running costs.

Flackwell Heath have a vision to develop book clubs, play readings and literary talks whilst reviewing and revising opening hours in line with community need. They plan to make links with local business and arts groups and promote the library as a venue for community activities.

Ivinghoe will rename the library Beacon Villages Community Library to reflect the wider community and develop a vibrant community hub linking the library, village hall, Post Office, shop and community facilities. Books and learning will remain the core function of the library service as well as developing a new role as a one stop shop for local community information.

Long Crendon plans to improve the library's opening hours to reflect local need, offer a toy library and extend the range of activities. These will include film nights, educational classes and a delivery service for those who find leaving the house difficult.

Wing are keen to encourage the local community to become more involved in the library specifically focusing on schools and involving residents in key decisions about the library. The library will become a local information hub and provide more community activities with the aim to increase opening hours, book stock and computer facilities.