



Rural call for broadband

SOLE practitioner Paul Tate is leading a campaign to bring broadband to part of rural Oxfordshire.

He is hoping to generate enough interest in the service, which gives fast internet access, for BT to include his local exchange at Wroxton St Mary in the next phase of the broadband roll-out.

Following criticism from MPs and users for ignoring rural areas, BT has launched a scheme enabling telephone customers linked to smaller exchanges to register their interest in receiving broadband.

Many of the busier small exchanges throughout the country have been given "trigger levels" of between 200 and 400 registrations. Once the required level of registrations has been reached, and advanced orders of 75 per cent received, the exchange will be upgraded.

Paul is hoping that enough people in his home village of Hanwell, together with Horley, Wroxton, Balscote, North Newington, Drayton and Shotteswell, will band together to get connected.

"Broadband is, very simply, a fast connection to the internet that is always on," he explained.

"You don't need to dial up every time you want to view a website or collect your emails. The extra bandwidth means that files download up to 40 times faster than with a standard modem.

"If you work from home you will be able to gain fast, reliable access to business information and online services. Your email will arrive throughout the day and you will be able to use videoconferencing to keep in touch with colleagues and customers.

"Broadband enables small and medium-sized businesses to seize the advantage of being permanently connected to the internet. Savings can be made by communicating and trading online and marketing can be more efficient and effective. Customer service can be enhanced through real-time interaction and the ability to respond speedily to email and web enquiries.

"Businesses could employ an Application Service Provider, allowing them to lease sophisticated software

applications and use them online. This can help manage costs, improve security and improve interaction with suppliers and customers."

More information about the campaign can be found at www.broadband4wroxton.org.uk or by contacting Paul on 01295 731910 or by email on adsl@broadband4wroxton.org.uk

Other useful sites:

www.news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/2051537.stm

www.broadband1.bt.com

www.adslguide.org.uk/guide/summary.asp

Fast internet access: Paul Tate



Photo courtesy of Banbury Guardian.

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Trainees carve out their career

Paws for thought

NEW trainees at James & Cowper spent their first day on a treasure hunt in Reading, pausing in Forbury Gardens to discover why the Maiwand lion was out of step. The sharp-eyed group soon spotted the mistake sculptor George Blackall Simonds made when carving the statue, which commemorates the 328 Berkshire Regiment soldiers killed in the Battle of Maiwand during the Afghanistan campaign of 1880.