

THE Grapevine

December '15

50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Flackwell Amblers

....wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

If you would like to join us on Tuesday 29 December, we will be going for a Local Walk. We will be meeting at the ex- Budgen's car park at 10am. This walk will last approximately 2 hours and is undertaken at your own risk. Please wear walking boots or strong shoes. NB This walk may be subject to change at short notice due to prevailing weather conditions.

It will be decided nearer the time as to whether there will be a January or February 2016 walk.

C. Barker

JIGSAWS IN JANUARY

Yes, even in January, the Jigsaw and Paperback Library will be open as usual on the first Wednesday, (7 January) from 1.30 – 3.30pm in the Sarney Room at the Community Centre. Give us your unwanted jigsaws and paperbacks, replace them from our huge collection. Stock up in case it snows!



Woodland Leaves & Shadows Photo: James Fanning

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CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

FHRA Membership 2015

This year our Committee members have helped out at several fêtes and fairs organised by other village organisations as part of our ongoing commitment to improve communication with all village groups and tell people about FHRA. Chatting with people has made it apparent that many people think that being a member of FHRA means being on the committee and whilst we would welcome new committee members (we are only 8) what we need is as many residents as possible to become members. In addition if you are able to provide a couple of hours helping or advising on any of the projects, that would be great too!

The FHRA charges a nominal annual membership fee to provide facilities and support for the village. FHRA members do not have to do anything except Join! But their membership fee then boosts our ability to organise the Christmas lights and Carol Service, annual Village Fête and picnic, quiz etc., plus make donations to projects that improve the village such as the playground. We are always looking for new members, and their ideas.

It also means the more members the FHRA has, the greater representation we have to other groups – for example the Police, Wycombe District Council (WDC), Chepping Wycombe Parish Council (CWPC) and the Highways Agency.

We are always happy to provide information and answer any questions you may have.

Joining is easy, details can be found at www.flackwellheath.net - Community – FHRA and read our statement 'Who We Are'.

I am sure you will have heard that HM The Queen celebrates her 90th birthday next year. Amongst the events being organised is a campaign – 'Clean for the Queen' - which as it suggests is to clean and tidy the whole country. The main push to do this is over the weekend of 4 - 6 March. We intend to organise an event as part of this and hope you will join us on the morning of SATURDAY 5 MARCH 2016. Full details will be in the next 'Grapevine'.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

The Committee.



Bomber Command Memorial

We had an article about Charlie Darby in our August issue. On 2 October, he went to the unveiling of the Memorial Spire at the Bomber Command Centre which is being set up outside Lincoln. This commemorates all those who served in Bomber Command in WW2, whatever their nationality (they came from over 60 nations). The spire is 102 feet tall, the same length as the wingspan of a Lancaster Bomber. It reminds us that many crews coming home navigated partly by recognising the church spires and other landmarks. The material is Corton weathering steel (like the Angel of the North) which goes rust-red. Around the base will be curved plates of the same steel, with the names of those who died cut right through by a laser process. Currently, that work is about half done – 26,500 out of 55, 573 names. There will also be an educational centre, named after Roy Chadwick who designed the Lancaster; it will contain archives and oral histories from those who served – including Charlie's.

The photograph, taken by his son-in-law Tony Lee, shows Charlie by the spire on the day.

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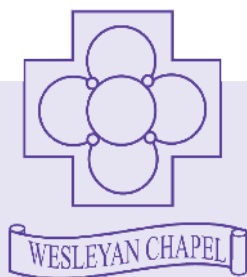
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Methodists

Thank you to everyone from the village who came to our 150th Birthday Celebrations Weekend - it was great to see so many who have had a connection with our Church over the years. The memories shared were amazing! [see page 6 Ed.]

Our Sunday services will continue as usual at 11.00am and 6.30pm with details of our special Christmas Services below.

Sunday 6 December - **Sunday Club** for 3-11 year olds at 10.30am, followed by Family Lunch at 1.00pm. All welcome.

Tuesday 8 December - Time Out for Busy Mums 9.30 - 11.30am. Crèche available.

Saturday 12 December - **Christingle Special** - 3.30- 6.00pm. For families, with fun sharing the Christmas story and food.

Sunday 13 December - Sunday Live! **Toys and Gifts with Nativity Service** at 11.00am. Food served from 10.15am.

Sunday 20 December - **Traditional Candlelit Carol Service** at 4.00pm, followed by coffee and mince pies.

Christmas Morning Family Service - 25 December at 10.30am. We ask the children to bring one of their presents to show us.

All of our special Christmas services will be led by our Minister, Rev. Nick Thompson.

For anyone wishing to attend a Midnight Communion Service on Christmas Eve - we know you will be welcome to share in the one at Christ Church.

In January - our Sunday Services and weekly Groups continue.

Sunday 17 January at 3.00pm - Our **Annual Covenant Service** led by Rev. Nick Thompson, followed by sharing tea together. For anyone interested in joining us for this service of re-dedication, you will be very welcome to the service and to join us for tea.

Sunday 31 January at 6.30pm - The Christian family in our village will come together at Christ Church for a Service of **Prayer for Christian Unity** and we invite you to join us.

Our Groups will take a short break over the Christmas period and re-commence when the school term starts in the New Year. For more details of all of these services and events please see our website at www.fhmc.org.uk or call one of our stewards on 01494-673403 or 01628-523022.



Make Room for the Manger this Christmas

Christmas is a great time of celebration... why not plan to include a visit to your Parish Church to remember the birth of Jesus Christ, the reason for the season! Christmas services include:

Sunday 6 at 10.30am: 'Worship for Everyone' **Toy and Gift Service**: Christmas gifts of new toys, men's clothes and toiletries may be brought for distribution to those in need through London City Mission.

Sunday 13 at 10.30am: '**Out of the Bag**' **Nativity Service** with mince pie refreshments served afterwards

6.30pm: '**Rock the Manger**' - an upbeat carol service for all the family.

Sunday 20 at 6.30pm: **Candlelit Carols** - a traditional Service of Lessons and Carols, with refreshments served afterwards.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday 24 at 1.30pm to 3.30pm: '**Masterchef Open House**' - Christmas food fun for the whole family. Booking is required.

4.00pm: **Crib Service** - a short service for younger children with the Christmas story

11.15pm: **Traditional Midnight Holy Communion**

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday 25 at 10.30am: A short 'Worship for Everyone' Celebration of **Holy Communion** for Christmas Morning

Sunday 27 at 10.30am: 'Worship for Everyone' with Holy Communion

Sunday 3 January 2016: 9.00am: Holy Communion for Epiphany.

10.30am: Epiphany 'Worship for Everyone'

6.30pm: Evening Service

New Year resolutions... Must gets to grips with my finances... Must discover what Christian faith is all about... Must get some creative ideas on parenting. Good news! Coming in the New Year... CAP Money, a free three-evening course on managing your money well... the ALPHA Course - a fantastic way to explore the Christian faith for yourself in the company of others... and 'Time Out for Parents - The Early Years' parenting course, a six-week course to help you help your babies and pre-school children, on Friday mornings from 29 January. The cost is just £10 and a crèche is provided. Book now as spaces are limited.

'Fit to Lead' - Fellowship, the Men's Group at Christ Church, have invited James Beaton who founded 'Discovery Foods' and pioneered the introduction of ethnic foods into the UK food market to speak on leadership. Saturday 16 January 8.00am to 10.00am. Booking is essential to secure your full English breakfast!

Visit www.ccfh.org.uk, email admin@ccfh.org.uk or phone 01628 533004 for further information on all our regular services and all that is happening at your Parish Church this December and January.



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Neighbourhood Watch News

December 2015 -
January 2016



See and be seen!

I know this is not really a NHWatch issue, but.....! Remember that fog and mist we had in November? I was amazed to see how many people chose to drive around during the day without ANY LIGHTS showing. OK, headlights during daylight hours may not help YOU to see any better, but they do ensure that other road users can SEE YOU. Those extra milliseconds of visibility can mean the difference between a HIT and a MISS. Make it a rule – when visibility is reduced for whatever reason – USE YOUR HEADLIGHTS.

Safety & Security at Christmas – or anytime!

Those of us who are old enough to be called 'Senior Citizens', 'Seniors', 'OAP's' or whatever your favourite descriptor is, will just about remember when it was considered quite safe to leave your house unlocked, or to 'hide' a latch-key; when cars were still a luxury and central locking hadn't been thought of; when policemen trudged their beats and deterred casual criminality! Sadly, those times are long gone, and we have to be on our guard at all times to reduce the opportunities for theft, robbery and burglary, and we now have the added threat of 'Cybercrime'!

Christmas is a time of plenty for the criminal – unless we take some fairly simple precautions to reduce the risk of the festive season being spoilt for ourselves, our family and our friends. Here are a few tips:

- When out and about doing your Christmas shopping, ALWAYS lock purchases in the boot of your car. Don't leave things visible on the seats – that is asking for trouble. NEVER leave your car unlocked, even on your own front drive!
- If you put gifts at the foot of your Christmas tree, consider drawing the curtains in the evening to reduce visibility to the casual 'window shopper'. Put high value presents away in a safe place, not under the tree! Get them out on Christmas Day.
- Make your property appear occupied, especially during the hours of darkness, by leaving a radio on and having one or two lights on timer switches. These are very inexpensive and some even 'learn' to switch on and off as though you are at home.
- Don't leave your house and car keys visible in your porch or hall. Burglars can easily 'fish' these out via your letter box or cat flap!
- If you leave the house unattended – even if only for a few minutes – ensure that external doors and windows are secure. Most burglaries are by opportunist thieves.

- Don't leave ladders and tools easily accessible – these can be used to gain entry.
- Make sure that your Home Contents Insurance Policy is paid up-to-date, and check whether you are covered for increased risk over the Christmas period.
- Finally, look at your property through the eyes of a burglar and see if you can identify places where someone could break in unseen.

Have a safe and happy Christmas. My very best wishes to you all for 2016

For further information about any of these topics or about Neighbourhood Watch, contact:

David Gresswell – Area
Co-ordinator, Flackwell Heath

(Tel: 525019 e-mail:
flackwell-nhwatch@talktalk.net)

Police General & Non-emergency
number: 101

Public Safety Team (Anti-social
behaviour): 01494 421087

Crimestoppers (Anonymous):
0800 555 111 – watch out for a 'spoof'
Crimestopper site

Trading Standards (Consumer Direct):
0845 4 04 05 06

ACTION FRAUD: 0300 123 2040
(www.actionfraud.police.uk/)

The Information Commissioner's Office:
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NHS: 111

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Office: 01628 533355

Mobile: 07748 314950

Email: info@rphtreeservices.co.uk

Dates For Your Diary - December

Saturday 19	Children's Christmas Craft Morning, Library, see page 5
Saturday 19 & Sunday 20	Mavericks Panto, Community Centre, see page 1
January 2016 Monday 18	LHG talk 'Flackwell Heath in the Great War', Library, 7.30pm, see page 8

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Flackwell Heath Women's Institute

Morning WI

We are looking forward to our Group Outing to London at the end of November for a carvery lunch, a tour round the Xmas lights and a brief visit to Somerset House.

We had an interesting talk from Sheila Keating about her cruise 'In the Wake of Shackleton' in the Antarctic. It was illustrated with excellent projected pictures of weirdly shaped icebergs and lots of different penguins and other wild life. There are strict hygiene rules when landing ashore, avoiding any stress to the birds, not leaving litter and not bringing anything back. The very large cruise ships are now banned in case of accidents (sea rescue would be very difficult).

December's entertainment has yet to be confirmed. January's meeting will be devoted to Social Time.

Evening WI

November brought our Birthday Meeting, always an enjoyable occasion, with a cold buffet supplied by members. Afterwards we were entertained by the 'Delectable Selection', a WI verse reading group from Downley. We heard what became of the Owl and the Pussycat after the honeymoon, laughed at some snappy jokes, and watched spellbound as a 'Greek tragedy' unfolded before our eyes.

We had a very successful stall at the Christ Church Christmas Fayre. Our thanks go to Alison Harvey and Christ Church for arranging this great village event.

John Dunsterville will be entertaining us at our December meeting – should be fun. Three of our members are going on a course at Denman College on 'Watercolours in Winter'. In January, the artistic theme continues when Edward Dixon tells us about 'Paintings in World War One'.

Brenda Aldridge and Sue Arnautov

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Flackwell Heath Community Library

Halloween Competition

There was a prize-giving at the library on 31 October for the winners of the Halloween Competition, which attracted a large number of entries from

children up to age 11. The children had a choice to write a story or paint a picture and some did both. The overall winner was Caitlyn, age 7, who wrote a story about an evil witch, together with a scary picture. Her prize was a family ticket to Odds Farm Park, kindly donated by Odds Farm.

The children put a lot of thought into their entries which included several imaginative Halloween stories; all are displayed in the library.

Christmas Craft morning - Free

Young children are invited to come along on Saturday 19 December 10.30am – 12.30pm, to make Christmas decorations & cards while their parents stay and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while they wait. There is no charge and no need to book, just turn up.



CHRIST CHURCH CHARITY FAYRE

Another successful Fayre was held on Saturday 14 November. Despite the heavy rain we had many customers who came to browse and spend and make a start on their Christmas shopping. It is now very much part of the village Christmas celebrations. A grand total of £2057.85 was raised for all the charities involved.

Thank you to all those who came along to support us.

Alison Harvey

Our regular activities

Coffee & Craft Group - Every Friday between 10.00 and 12.00. To find out more contact Alison Moyes (mobile 0753 248 5594) or Julia Baldwin (mobile 0797 345 8977).

Bounce & Rhyme for under 5s - Every Thursday during term time from 10.30 to 11.00 am. No need to book, just turn up.

Sewing Bee - Held on the 4th Wednesday of every month, between 7.00 and 9.00 pm. To find out more please call Alison Mayall on 0780 3044 298.

Family History help sessions – 50 minute sessions twice a month on Tuesdays and Thursdays run by Local History Group.

Please call into the library to see updated details of all these activities, Local History Group events and any new events that may be arranged.

Flackwell Heath Community Library,
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email: fhcl@flackwellheath.net

web: www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries

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Methodists' 150th Anniversary

At the end of October, the Methodist Church in Flackwell celebrated the 150th anniversary of the oldest part of the present church buildings i.e. the part nearest the roundabout. It cost £276, a large sum for the 18 members to find, but they looked confidently ahead - they built space for 100. They extended the building in 1884, 1923, 1948 and 1984 (and have just enlarged the kitchen!).

There had been Methodist activity in Flackwell before 1865, including the use of buildings for schools and meetings. The oldest known written reference is in the Wycombe Circuit records (rota of preachers) for 1822. By 1832, a building about where Swain's market now stands was used as both schoolroom and place for worship. At that time there were both 'Wesleyan' Methodists and 'Primitive' Methodists in Flackwell (the 'Prims' were rather more radical, Evangelical and exuberant). The 'Prims' are thought to have had a schoolroom early on and a chapel in Chopstick Alley (now known as Fairview Lane) by 1848. The 1865 building proudly proclaims, in the scroll on its outside wall, that it is 'Wesleyan Methodist', and of those from Flackwell who served in the forces during WW1 at least 14 declared their religion as 'Wesleyan'.

Suzanne Soper, Senior Steward, led the team which organised the celebrations which began with a coffee morning. This featured an illustrated talk on Methodist history in Flackwell from Mike Dewey. Jane Routledge supplemented this with a display centred on members of the church. It included six old Bibles found in the church gallery, one of which was originally given to the Temperance Hall by Joseph Bryant. On the flyleaf it says that Mr Bryant wished his death to be recorded in this Bible – but it never was. 116 years later, his wish was finally granted by Pat Kingswood, using her calligraphic skills (see photo).

There was a celebration cake, made by Grace Winter with a picture of the church on the top (see photo). It was cut by Mike Dewey and much enjoyed by those present including a number of descendants of the 1865 founders at the celebrations, including Burnhams and Langstons. Maddie Soper was busy recording oral histories. Six wedding dresses were on



Mike Dewey cuts the cake Photo: Jane Routledge



Jane Routledge (L) and Pat Kingswood with Joseph Bryant's Bible Photo: Sue Arnavtov

display, all worn in the church over at least 30 years.

That evening there was a quiz, attended by about 50 people, with a fish & chip supper.

There was a special service on Sunday morning, led by Rev Nick Thompson. Afterwards there was Sunday lunch for 70 people, cooked by a team led by Grace

Winter. There was roast beef and roast lamb with all the trimmings, followed by luscious desserts (from their early days, Methodists have celebrated with meals eaten together). A weekend to remember!

Jane Routledge and Sue Arnavtov

[We gratefully acknowledge our debt to Mike Dewey of the Local History Group for his research].

Observer

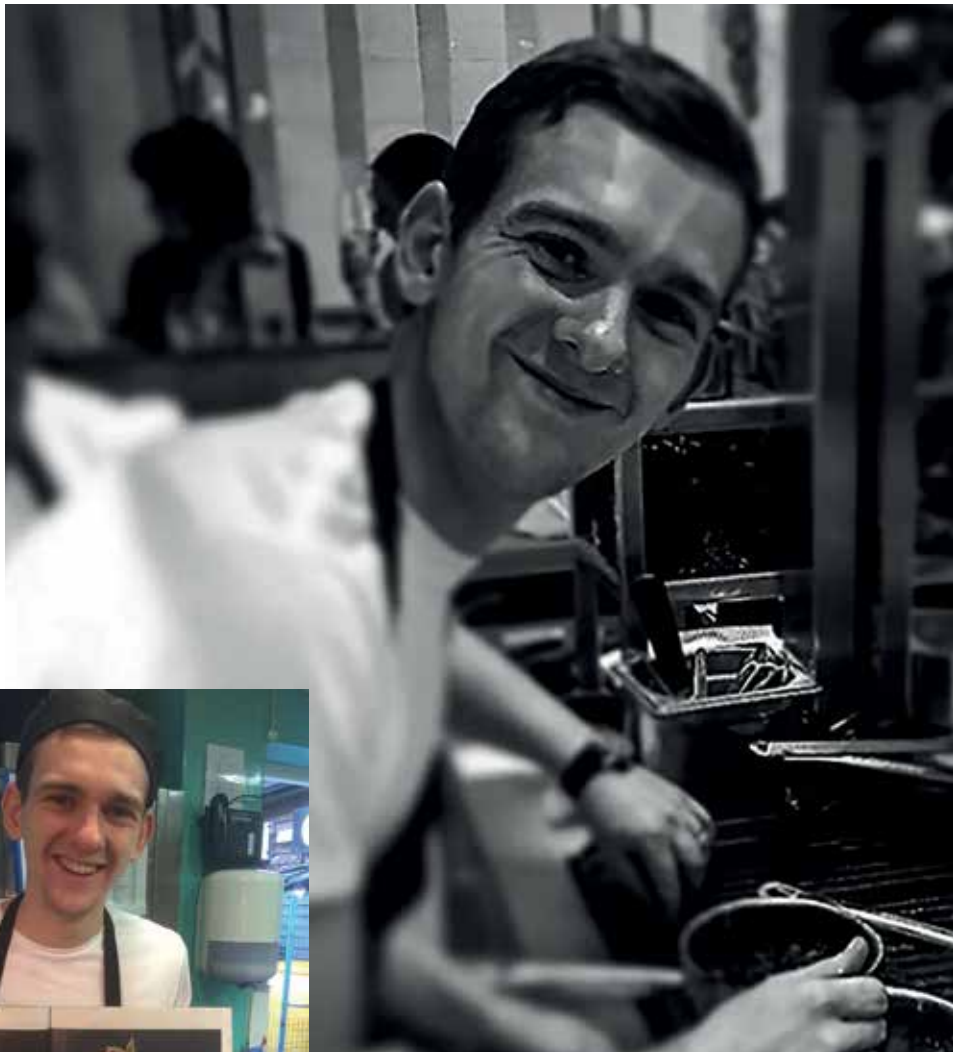
Young Chef of the Year 2015

It is not often you talk to someone who regularly leaves home for work at 7am and arrives home sometimes as late as 1.30am, but cheerfully and enthusiastically admits that he loves every single moment of his working life.

This was what I discovered when I talked to 21 year old George O'Leary. George has lived in Flackwell Heath for most of his life, only moving to Wooburn Green two years ago. He attended St. Peter's School in Marlow, Wye Valley School and Reading College where he did a course in Hospitality and Catering. When it came to looking for the one month's work experience needed to complete the course, it was suggested he contacted The Hand and Flowers Restaurant in Marlow. Owned by Tom Kerridge, one of the top chefs, it already had one Michelin star and a reputation for fine dining, and has since been awarded a second Michelin star.

George must have made quite an impression, as he was then offered an apprenticeship. However, before the apprenticeship could start, Tom had a vacancy for a chef, and the job was offered to George. So at the age of 17, he started work in charge of the garnish section, progressing to hot and cold starters, pastry, and he now runs the meat, fish and sauce section. He is fourth in line of the eighteen chefs employed at The Hand and Flowers.

"Being a chef is something that I've always wanted to do from a young age. I remember when I used to pick apples with my aunty and make apple pies. My first thoughts were always of being a pastry chef but as I got more into it, I realised that I wanted to cook the likes of meat and fish".



George was recently given the Observer Young Chef of the Year award, a prestigious national award for young chefs under the age of 30 (so at 21, he was up against chefs often with many more years of experience than him.)

His most recent experience has been working in a 'pop-up restaurant' (a temporary set-up) in Harrods, where he has been working with Tom Kerridge to show a new range of menus used in his latest book, 'Tom's Table'.

If you are thinking of booking a table for The Hand and Flowers, there is, unfortunately, approximately a year's waiting list! However, 11 months ago Tom Kerridge opened 'The Coach' in Marlow, where breakfast, lunch and dinner are served, and it works on a non-bookable, first come first served basis.

When I asked George who was the most important or famous person he had ever cooked for, his answer was that the most important person for him was to cook for Tom Kerridge himself, because 'when you cook for him you're cooking his food so he can tell exactly what's been done perfectly or what needs more attention.'

I am sure the name George O'Leary is a name we will be hearing more of in the future in the world of good food cooking. And in case you think the name is already familiar, George's grandfather, also named George O'Leary, is a stalwart of the Flackwell Heath branch of the Royal British Legion.

Alison Peach

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FLACKWELL HEATH & LOUDWATER LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The first event in the Group's calendar for 2016 is a talk on Flackwell Heath in World War 1. This is the first in a series which the Group are planning under the title The Villages in the Great War, with future talks about Loudwater and Wooburn.

The talks will consider:

- What the village looked like at the time of the First World War
- Some of the men who served and paid the ultimate sacrifice
- Those who served and survived
- The families left behind in the village when their men went off to war

Flackwell Heath in the Great War will be at the Library, 7.30pm on Monday 18 January. Tickets, which must be purchased in advance from the Library, are £5, or £3 for members of the Friends of FHCL.

Welcome

to 2nd Flackwell Heath Guides

The 2nd Flackwell Heath Guides have been in the village for the last 46 years! We meet at The Scout and Guide HQ in Lawrence Way (up by the allotments) on Monday evenings from 7.15pm – 8.45pm. Girls can join Guides from their 10th birthday up until they are 14/15 years where they can then move up to the Senior Section. At present our numbers fluctuate and we would like to recruit more people to come along and join in the fun.

The Guide programme is structured to enable the girls to participate in many activities. Across the year the group will participate in a wide range of activities such as fire lighting, chocolate work, outdoor cooking and craft work (some taken from the Go For It! guide activity programme, others will lead to earning Interest badges) teamwork, a friendly atmosphere, fun activities and outings - each week is different.

Each year we go to the 'Big Gig' (a pop concert for Girlguiding) at Wembley Arena. We go away to camp and also try and go away for a weekend. Last year we went to 'Thriftwood' in Essex, where we did a variety of activities including, climbing, high ropes and a day out skiing and tobogganing. Next year we are having a weekend camp fairly local at The Willow Tree Centre – 'Back to Basics' and we will be having a sleepover at Chessington World of Adventures.

In 2016, the Senior Section are celebrating 100 years and a couple of the Guides will be going away to Switzerland to celebrate.

If you have a daughter, between the ages above who would like to join us, please either contact myself at nikki.farley@virginmedia.com or go to the Girlguiding website to register your interest at <https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk/>

I look forward to hearing from you.

Nikki Farley, Guide Leader

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Secretary: Chris Thomas
01628 520361
Treasurer: Val Weston
01628 523213

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Grapevine



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Design: jillw.mjdesign@btinternet.com

Subscriptions: M Patel 01628 528101

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Nikki on 07960074318 for more details.