

THE Grapevine

April 16

50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN



Photo: Carolyn Leonard

Litter Pick

The principal organisers, Liz Johncock and Carolyn Leonard, (Residents Association and Parish councillors) would like to thank all who participated in this very successful project. Students from the College participated during the week – see page 5. Members of many other organisations and the general public took part on Saturday 4 March, as pickers or as part of the team who cooked, baked, made and served refreshments at the Methodist Church.

Carolyn says: "Apart from Rob Offord and the college students, we would like to thank everyone who helped in any way. Special thanks go to the Methodist Church, the Council Waste team for the litter pickers and bags and to everyone who turned up. When the litter was consolidated we had 45 FULL Clean for the Queen sacks, a tremendous effort and doesn't Flackwell Heath look better for it."



Photo Liz Johncock

Flackwell Heath Evening WI

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Flackwell Heath Community Association

AGM

Tuesday 19 April

8pm

Sarney Room,
Community Centre

All Welcome



Girls Brigade

invites you to a Spring Fair and Car Wash on
Saturday, 23 April from 10am to 12noon.

There will be things for all the family at the Methodist Church: cake, book and toy stalls, crafts and cake decorating for the young and young-at-heart. Or just tuck into the refreshments – all whilst your car is given a great spring clean in the nearby Christ Church car park. Come and enjoy!

NEWS FROM FLACKWELL HEATH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

FHRA has been very busy with the Survey and Clean for the Queen. Of course, we continue our involvement with the groups looking at the new Local Plan and other planning and traffic related issues affecting the village and are already working on our planned 2016 events. We hope that many of you who are not members will consider joining this year as membership fees are our main income source and we'd love to be able to implement ideas raised by the Survey to improve our village.

FHRA Survey Reveals.....

Last year the Flackwell Heath Residents Association undertook a survey of Flackwell people using the SurveyMonkey tool (on-line). There were 536 responses, which included in excess of 1550 individual comments. Pulling this mass of information and opinion together has been a major project, and the result is a 38 page report.

In February, the Report was presented to many interested parties included Parish, District and County Councils, FH schools and college, churches, the police and other neighbourhood and community groups. It has been very well received. It was also discussed with members at the FHRA AGM in March.

It contains the responses to factual

questions such as 'How long have you lived here?' (70% more than 10 years) and also speculative ones such as 'How likely are you to attend the following community led events?' (Village Fête and Picnic came top with 42% responding 'extremely likely').

There were plenty of questions on aspects of planning e.g. 87% of respondents said it was extremely important to them that our village remains separated by green areas from surrounding towns and villages. Environmental issues such as crime, traffic and speeding were also covered.

It is impractical to summarise the results here. If you missed the meeting, a copy of the report can be read on-line on the Village website or hard copies are available at the Library.

The report also contains some facts about Flackwell from the 2011 census: there were then almost 6000 people here, living in 2390 households. Approximately 30% of those households included dependent children. 81% of residents were 16 or over; response rate to the survey in adults was thus 11%, which is considered good.

Sue Arnautov

(It was pleasing to see that 64% of respondents claimed to read the The Grapevine regularly - Ed).

Flackwell Forum...an example of co-operation

The atmosphere at the refreshments during 'Clean for the Queen' was fantastic, and was an example of exactly what the Flackwell Forum has set out to achieve - what can be pulled off when organisations within the community work together.

When Liz Johncock and Carolyn Leonard (on behalf of the Residents Association) brought their proposals to a Flackwell Forum Meeting, it was encouraging to see how other organisations represented pitched in with practical offers of support. Neighbourhood Watch offered to raise awareness through their network and Girls' Brigade pledged to get involved. The Methodist church offered to open for refreshments and a WI representative felt they would be able to help serve, which they did and also provided delicious cakes, thus enabling people who were unable to physically clean to still be involved and make an equally valuable contribution to the day.

Flackwell Forum meetings are set up as a way of bringing together representatives of all and any organisations/businesses/villagers who want to know more about what is going on in the village, and look for ways in which we can work together and support each other, particularly on whole village initiatives such as 'Clean for the Queen' and the Village picnic. They are open meetings, to which all are welcome and we alternate between evening and lunchtime meetings to try and accommodate as many people as possible.

The next meeting, to which YOU would be very welcome, is on Tuesday 12 April 8pm at Library; or contact Vicky Everitt on 07979541874 or vicky@gravic.org.uk.

Flackwell Amblers

If you would like to join us on Sunday 17 April, The Flackwell Amblers will be going for a walk at Fulmer. We will be meeting at the ex- Budgen's car park at 10.00am. 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. The next date for your diary is Sunday 22 May..

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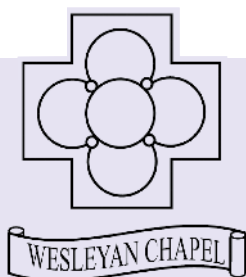
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Methodists

Sunday 10 April - SUNDAY LIVE with food from 10.15am. Service starts at 11.00am led by Deacon Ruth Richey. **ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING** following the service, with light refreshments available.

All Groups re-start after Easter Holiday break from Tuesday 12 April

Tuesday 12 April - TIME OUT FOR BUSY MUMS with crèche available for little ones - book a place by contacting 07769585252.

Saturday 16 April - WHO LET THE DADS OUT? 10.00am till noon for Dads, Uncles, Granddads and any male carers of pre-schoolers to come to and enjoy time with their little ones and enjoy some snacks together. £1 per family. Please phone Vicky: 07979541874 to tell us you are coming.

Monday 18 April - FOOD FOR THOUGHT 5 week course begins 12.00noon - 2.30pm over lunch. An opportunity to ask questions and find out more about what Christians believe.

Saturday 23 April - 10.00am-12.30pm GIRLS' BRIGADE ANNUAL SPRING FAIR AND CAR WASH see page 1.

6.00pm MURDER MYSTERY EVENING with 3-course dinner for £12.50 per head. Dress Code: Edwardian(ish). Come and join us. Tickets available from 01628 528326 and 01494 673274.

Sunday 24 April - CELEBRATE SERVICE at 6.30pm led by Rev Nick Thompson.

All of our activities can be seen on our website - www.fhmc.org.uk

or contacting our Senior Steward at 01494 673403

If you need to speak to our Minister; Rev Nick Thompson - 01628 483985



'Worship for Everyone' is the new name for our first Sunday all-age worship at 10.30am. On Sunday 3 April we welcome the **'No Strings Attached'** puppeteers to help with the theme of 'Famous Double Acts - Paul & Barnabas'.

Wendy Bull, wife of the Vicar Chris Bull and currently Curate in Marlow, will be Licensed as Team Vicar in High Wycombe with responsibility for St Anne's Wycombe Marsh and St Peter's Micklefield on **14 April**.

'Prayer for Healing' is now offered regularly every 3rd Sunday morning as part of our 9.00am service of Holy Communion. The next date is **Sunday 17 April**. Healing Prayer continues to be offered every Sunday after the 10.30am service.

CU@the Pub meets twice monthly, on 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings at The Crooked Billet Pub in Sheepridge Lane. If you fancy discussing Christian perspectives on 'life, the universe and everything' then this is the place for you! The topic for 28 April is "Is God a Conservative?"

Children's parties? Celebrations? Dinners? Business meetings? Exhibitions? Training? Conferences? With bright and modern facilities the Christ Church Centre can accommodate most needs! We have

a large main hall and two small meeting rooms, all with good disabled access, and an easily accessible, well-equipped kitchen and toilets. We also have a large carpeted Upper Room. Tables and chairs are available. We provide off-road parking for 27 vehicles, with another large car-park within three minutes level walk. Contact the Church Office for details.

Coffee Stop is open for everyone in Flackwell Heath, and serves fantastic fairly-traded tea and coffee with daily newspapers, providing a warm and friendly place to meet old friends and make new ones. It runs every weekday morning during term-time from 9.00am to 11.30am and on Wednesday only during school holidays.

Planning a Wedding for 2016/2017? Have you considered getting married in Church? We would be pleased to assist you in your thinking. There is information and other helpful advice on getting married in Church on the Church website.

More details of events and services are available from the Church website (www.ccfh.org.uk) and the Church Office in Chapel Road: 01628 533004 (9.00am - 1.00pm Monday to Friday).

More Help wanted for Road Reps!

Grapevine Road Reps deliver The Grapevine 10 times per year and collect subscriptions once a year, and we are very grateful for their efforts. We need a new Rep for about 10 houses in Magpie Close (subs. for 2016 already collected!). Is there anybody who can help? And along Straight Bit, Mrs Hilda Ball would be glad of some help; she must be our busiest Rep with a lot of houses, and any assistance, even if occasional, would be very welcome. Please contact either Sue Arnavtov, 01628 523907 or Pauline Cooper, 01628 522562.



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Neighbourhood Watch News

April 2016



COURIER FRAUD – Again!

Readers who are part of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, or who are registered to receive Thames Valley Alerts from the police, will be well aware of the recent fraud that affected one of our village residents. At the risk of repeating information, it is important that we are all aware of this type of fraud, so that we can protect ourselves and our loved ones, and reduce the risk of falling foul of these unscrupulous tricksters.

The fraud works like this:

- The fraudster phones you, claiming to be from the police, your bank, credit card provider, etc. They will often quote some personal information that will re-assure you that they are genuine!
- They will claim that there has been unusual activity observed on your bank/card account and that they need your help to track down the culprits. They may ask you for some card details – 'to confirm that the card is in your possession'. This should ring **LOUD** alarm bells.
- To provide further re-assurance that they are genuine, they may suggest you ring back on a number for your bank or card company known to you,

but they are able to keep the line open so you are still talking to the fraudster even though you have dialled a new number. Always try dialling 123 (TIM) to confirm the line has been cleared, or use a mobile phone to circumvent this trick.

- They may then ask for your card PIN or suggest you enter it via the phone keypad. They may also ask for details of other accounts you hold – 'for confirmation purposes'! Even **LOUDER** alarm bells should be ringing at this point. No bank, credit card provider or the police will ever ask you for your PIN as this is only known to you, and banks already know about your accounts.
- Finally, the fraudster will advise you that a courier will call to collect the card. Should you part with your card, they now have it and your PIN and can remove money from your account.

Protect yourself against this type of fraud:

- The police, your bank or card company will **NEVER** send a courier to your home.
- Likewise, they will **NEVER** ask you for your PIN
- Should you receive one of these calls, put the phone down immediately to end the call.
- Report the event to the police on **101** and/or Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**

- If you have been duped and handed over your card(s) call your bank/card provider immediately and **CANCEL** your card(s).

There is further information available on the Action Fraud website – see below. In addition, 'Prompt Cards' which can be displayed in the home – by the phone – can be found in the Crime Prevention section of the Thames Valley Police website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk/identity-theft-and-fraud

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: 0303 123 1113

NHS: 111

Dates For Your Diary

April	
Saturday 9	WI Craft Dabble day (for adults), see page 1
Tuesday 12	Flackwell forum, 8pm at Library, see page 2
Monday 18	Local History Group talk, 'The History of Local Railways', see page 8
Tuesday 19	FHCA AGM, Sarney Room, 8pm, see page 1
Saturday 23	Girls 'Brigade Spring Fair and Carwash, 10am – noon, see page 1
May	
Friday 13	Diabetes Day
Monday 16	Local History Group talk by Jane Dunsterville
Tuesday 17	Age Concern AGM, 7pm at Day Centre
June	
Saturday 4 & Sunday 5	FH Minors 'Festival of Football', Green Dragon Lane
Friday 24	Heath Singers' Summer Concert

Apologies to all our road Reps and readers for the late arrival of this issue, which was because of a bereavement - Ed

Shaun Guard
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Bailey and the students

Bailey helps.....

I was really excited on 4 March because my friend Carolyn had explained to me that I was to have a busy morning and had a very important job to do. We were going litter picking with the college students and my job was to help look after them and show them round Oakwood and Fennels Wood so they didn't get lost. Those are two of my favourite places so I know them really well. I know all about litter picking as I had helped Carolyn clear Oakland Way of litter the day before but I didn't know what college students were.

We loaded the car with lots of litter pickers, bags and gloves and went to the College to find Rob Offord who was organising the college students. I was amazed, there were masses of them, I think about 70 and they were all quite young and seemed very nice and friendly.

We led them down to the car where we dished out the pickers, bags and gloves. Adam said he'd like to look after me and I had a nice time as the students made a fuss of me before we assembled for photographs. You can see me at the front. We

set off with me, Adam and Carolyn leading and Liz bringing up the rear. The students were telling us about their courses which was very interesting, for instance some were hoping to go into the police, others into the services and some played football. When we got into Oakwood, Carolyn let me off my lead. One of the girls was worried as she thought I would get lost but of course I knew exactly where I was, unlike lots of the students who hadn't been to the woods before; many came from other areas and didn't really know Flackwell Heath at all. Anyway I managed to show the students where to go and had a lovely time doing my usual doggy things like sniffing.

All too quickly the morning was over and as we walked back to the college we came across a whole load of kitchen appliances and things that had been fly tipped at the junction of Bernards Way and St Hildas Way; they were reported to the Waste Team. I supervised the litter pickers and bags being collected up. We said goodbye and thank you to Rob and the students. Carolyn sorted out the bags and I counted 12 really full bags so it was a very successful morning. I had a super time and now I know what college students are!

Bailey

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Flackwell Heath Community Library

The mad 'NO PRICE' book sale

We have a wide range of donated and withdrawn books which are for sale in order to help fund the community library. Now, for a limited time, we are running a book sale with 'No Prices'. Instead of a fixed price, you decide what it is worth to you, and make a donation of your choice.

Library volunteers needed

We have a great team of volunteers who keep the library running throughout the year without fail. But we always need more, as some volunteers retire or move away. Particularly as we approach spring and summer, we need a bigger pool of helpers to provide that extra cover for holidays. So if you could spend a few hours a week, or even just occasionally, to volunteer in the library, then please contact Michael Russell on 01628 531343, or email michael@sedgmoor.plus.com, or just call into the library for an application form. Any of our volunteers will be only too pleased to explain everything to you and tell you what an interesting and rewarding activity it is.



Yoga Sessions continuing on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings

We continue to feature Yoga sessions, which have become a popular addition to our regular activities. Meditation and Yoga Nidra is on Thursdays 8.30pm - 9.30pm while on Sundays there is Vinyasa or Flow Yoga from 10.00am - 11.15am. There are still a few places available. For details please contact Alexandra Alves on 07786 332695 or email Namaste@yogabycandlelight.co.uk

What books do you want added to the library?

While the majority of new books are decided by the Bucks County Library Service, we do have an allocation of books that we can specify to meet requests for the Flackwell Heath library. These may be provided by the BCC service or alternatively we may purchase these directly ourselves. So, if you have a specific book title, or author or subject area, that you would like us to order for the library, then please let us know. Call into the library and give the details to one of our volunteers. We will consider all requests the next time we are ordering new books, and hope that we will be able to get the books that you want to read.

**Flackwell Heath Community Library,
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Tel:0845 230232 email:fhcl@flackwellheath.net web: www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries

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Flackwell Heath Women's Institute

Morning WI

Our speaker, Peter Hague, took us behind the scenes to the world of a film/TV extra. It is certainly not a glamorous occupation - when the extras first assemble it is called the 'Cattle Call' - not a flattering description. He has also, on occasion been a double for a main character such as Dr Clarkson at a dinner party in Downton Abbey (sitting next to Lady Mary), or as a stand-in to copy an actor's movements while the camera angles and lighting are set up. Early starts and long hours are the norm but the catering is good! The golden rule is never look at the camera.

Next month is our 24th Birthday meeting with a finger buffet lunch (a bring-a-plate affair) and a demonstration of handbell ringing.

Evening WI

Hilary Forbes told us about ACWW (Associated Countrywomen of the World), an organisation which tries to improve the position of rural women worldwide. It lobbies at governmental level, but its greatest effect is probably the numerous small (under £10,000) projects that it funds through local organisations. BFWI (Bucks Federation) is raising money for one such project, in Cameroon.

Several members took part in the 'Clean for The Queen' litter-pick, either as pickers or with refreshments.

BFWI held an 'Investigation & Discovery Day'; we heard from Professor Monica Grady about the landing of Philae on a comet and from Professor Higson about the development of portable analytical gadgets measuring things like blood sugar or the presence of horse DNA

in beef. Dr Rohn warned us of the deplorable rise in antibiotic resistance in bacteria and Dr Wyse explained the strategy of searching for anti-Parkinson's drugs among those already approved for other uses (which reduces the need for expensive safety testing before clinical trials). Fascinating and eye-opening.

A few members went with another WI on a trip to Broadcasting House. It was brilliant, with a lot of role-playing amid much laughter.

Next month, with another change in programme, we have Dinah Latham talking on 'Walking forward, Looking Back'.

Brenda Aldridge and Sue Arnautov



From Seattle to New Yorkby sea!

My name is Stephen Jones living in Flackwell Heath and I am preparing to set off for a gruelling ocean yacht race in April. In the past I have sailed racing dinghies and 48ft yachts several times in the Solent but have done nothing on this scale. This is to fulfil a long-held ambition, while at the same time raising some money for charity.

On April 22 I fly out to the US to join the South African sponsored boat IchorCoal for the seventh leg of the Clipper Round the World Race, beginning on April 28, from Seattle to New York via the Panama Canal and the Caribbean. Divided into eight legs and 14-16 individual races, the Clipper Race, which started in England on August 30 last year, involves 12 identical 70 ft ocean racing yachts, each with a professional skipper to guide the crew safely through the 40,000 mile circumnavigation. The crew are all amateurs by the way!

I will be taking part in this demanding race in aid of Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service, a charity set up by the parents of Alexander, who was diagnosed with a brain tumour aged four and passed away aged eight. The charity is now working to build and run a children's hospice in White

Waltham which will provide palliative care for children in Bucks and Berks, respite care, support for families and a community outreach team. Work on the hospice is under way.

Spending 41 days at sea, sailing 24/7, and covering 7,100 miles in a 70-foot ocean racing yacht which will be shared with around 20 other crew members, I am under no illusion that the experience will be a great challenge. I am excited but apprehensive too because I know from my training how difficult it will be. I will get seasick, which is not very nice and you can't get off, but you just have to grin and bear it until it passes. The conditions below deck are uncomfortable and on this leg with tropical temperatures, trade winds and even thunderstorms expected throughout the Caribbean section of the race, it will be a tough passage.

I probably know about seven of the crew already from my pre-race training. The team effort is fantastic. Safety is the watchword. We all look out for each other. The boat is often at 45 degrees because boats tip and roll. Sleeping will be difficult. Four hours on and four hours off is the usual watch pattern. It is not luxury and it is certainly not a cruise!

The boat rocks around a lot, particularly going into big waves. Some waves have been 90ft on the race so far but hopefully the Pacific and the Caribbean will be a little kinder. It is going to be tough but all the crew are of a similar mind set and it is great teamwork, getting the boat from A to B as safely and as fast as possible.

Fitness is important so I have been doing gym work and pilates for flexibility. It is an experience of a lifetime, a massive physical and mental challenge but it will be a fantastic experience. I wish I had been able to do it when I was 25!

I will be heading home to Flackwell Heath from New York on June 22, before the final leg of the race heads back to English shores to arrive at the finish line off Southend in July.

The youngest crew member is 18 and the oldest 74. Why not give the 2017/2018 race a try? It beats watching TV!

To donate visit mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/stephenjones6 and go to www.clipperroundtheworld.com to follow live updates on the race.

Thank you for generosity.

Stephen Jones

FLACKWELL LOCAL AREA HISTORY GROUP

Our next event at Flackwell Heath Library is on Monday 16 May at 7.30pm

'Frackle' People and Places - From 'olden times' to the 1950's

Using pictures, poems and stories, past residents of 'Frackle' tell of working the farms, a shop keeper with questionable hygiene standards, neighbours who can't seem to get past the pub, kindly landladies, ghosts and a mystery cave! Life revolved around scraping a living, so we hear about the 'Fakirs' chopping sticks and the kindly Squire. But the highlight of the year is the Chapel outing, with horse and cart, to Burnham Beeches.

Don't miss this entertaining evening with **Jane Dunsterville**

This is a ticketed event. Tickets will be on sale at the library from Monday 4 April 2016 for £5 (£3 to friends of FHCL).

Fact Finding Forum

Next date is Tuesday 14 June 2016 at the Flackwell Heath Library, 7.15 – 9.00pm

The topic is yet to be confirmed, but if you have any memories, or old photos, of Flackwell, Loudwater or the Wooburns, please feel free to come along and share them.

Family History Research - Help Sessions

Would you like to learn about your family tree, but don't know where to begin? Why not book a session with someone who can help you get started? The sessions are run at Flackwell Heath Library once a month on a Thursday afternoon from 2pm. They are 50 minutes long and cost just £2.00. To find out more details please contact Jan Fanning by email janfanning@gmail.com or phone 01628 527506, or to book a session please pop into Flackwell Heath Library.

Find us on Facebook/Flackwell Heath & Loudwater Local History Group

www.localhistorygroup.org.uk



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Diabetes Day

Friday 13 May

227 Blind Lane, Flackwell Heath

'Grand Draw', tombola, Phoenix
Cards, Table top sale
and lots more

Starts at 9.00am
with tea and coffee

After 6pm,
cheese and wine party

Fundraising for 'Diabetes UK'

Everybody welcome

Flackwell Heath Community Association

Chairman: Chris Cramer
01628 526129

Secretary: Chris Thomas
01628 520361

Treasurer: Val Weston
01628 523213

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Grapevine



Editor: Sue Arnautov

58, Chapman Lane, Flackwell Heath,
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Tim Kendell • 01628 521149

email: grapevine@flackwellheathcommunitycentre.org.uk

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