

THE Grapevine

December 16

50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Christmas Lights

The new Christmas lights went up, but not quite as planned: one of the three trees was pollarded days before, so the lights all went on the other two. These new lights cost £1720, funded by FHRA with the help of some members of the business community. Total spend on lights for this season was £2010. The next phase will be the column lights at the Swains roundabout which will complete the new lighting plan, with all lights LED, as I promised when I joined the Committee as Chair of the Decorations Group of the FHRA.

The FHRA would like to thank all businesses and residents who have contributed to the cost. If anyone would like to add to the contributions already received they can take their gift to the video shop, the envelope to be clearly marked for Flackwell Heath Residents'.

*Liz Johncock,
Chair Decorations Group, FHRA.*

Janet Smith (Chair) and Chloe Andrews-Jones (Vice Chair) of the FHRA, together with all the Committee, wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Photo: Liz Johncock

(Ex) Budgens' Car Park

As most residents know, the car park is closed. I feel that it is important to note that it is a private car park, now leased to Booker Retail Ltd who acquired Budgens' business some while ago. Wycombe District Council has no ownership rights.

Nevertheless, Dave Johncock and I as your District Councillors, together with governors of Carrington Schools, have held meetings with the property director of Booker to try to persuade the company to re open, but at present the company remains firm that it will not reopen. We are pursuing some options but these are early days, we hope to be able to bring better news soon.

John Savage

The Cherry Tree

There are changes at The Cherry Tree pub in the middle of the village. You may have noticed that the sign disappeared! The licensees are leaving, and gave us the following message:

"We are leaving the Cherry Tree Pub after 13 years. We have met lots of lovely people during that time, and thank them all for their custom and support over the years. We shall stay in touch and look forward to a drink or two on the other side of the bar!

Best wishes, Pat and Gerry."

We understand the pub is to remain open, at least for now.



Christmas tree – as seen by a Flackwell child



NEWS FROM FLACKWELL HEATH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Firstly thank you to those of you who attended our recent Quiz Night. This was a very enjoyable and successful evening once again and the profit made is being divided equally between FHRA and the Community Association.

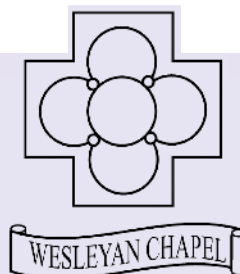
We have received a number of comments regarding the grass and weeds growing in the gutters and pavements. We have been told it is fine for you to clear those around your home.

We have continued to read all the documentation regarding the New Local Plan and also the reserve sites which affect Flackwell Heath. We have also submitted timely comments on the various public consultations.

We would like to pay tribute to Dorothy Robertson, our Minutes Secretary, who has sadly passed away. Dorothy was a lovely lady and we very much appreciated her contribution to our group. Therefore we have a vacancy for a new Minutes Secretary so if you feel you could help us in this way or indeed if you would just like to join the group as a member please contact me as we would love to have you join us.

Carolyn Leonard
Chair of Planning and Environment
Group
01628526512

*fhra-planning-environment@
flackwellheath.net*



FLACKWELL HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 4 December, 11am – TOYS AND GIFTS SERVICE for all the family (including our regular Sunday Club for young people), followed by a family Christmas lunch – all welcome; if possible, please put your name on the list in our vestibule so we have an idea of numbers.

Wednesday 7 December, 9 – 11.30am – CHRISTMAS MESSY CHURCH; Lots of fun including party food and a special visitor!

Sunday 11 December, 4pm – CHRISTINGLE SERVICE for all the family.

Tuesday 13 December, 9.15 – 11.45am – TIME OUT FOR BUSY MUMS. This group for Mums meets on the second Tuesday of every month during term-times, and gives them breathing time while their children are cared for in the crèche. Come and enjoy coffee, chat and support while enjoying such activities as adult colouring, pancakes and a recipe swap. To book a place in the crèche, please contact Vicky on 07979 541874.

Sunday 18 December, 4pm – FAMILY CAROL SERVICE by candlelight. Come and start the Christmas celebrations with a traditional service of carols and readings. Coffee and mince pies afterwards!

CHRISTMAS DAY, 10.30am – FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE. Bring some presents to show us!

NEW YEAR'S DAY, 11am – MORNING WORSHIP

SUNDAY 8 January, 3pm – COVENANT SERVICE. A traditional Methodist service in which we have the opportunity to renew our commitment to God as originally encouraged by John Wesley in 1755. This will be followed by a 'pot-luck' tea.

Tuesday 10 January, 9.15 – 11.45am – TIME OUT FOR BUSY MUMS. Our first get-together of the new year – see above for details.

Saturday 21 January, 10am – 12 noon- WHO LET THE DADS OUT??? For Dads, granddads, uncles and any male carers to spend time with their under-fives to give Mum a break and share snack-time together. Bacon butties available!

Sunday 22 January, 6.30pm – CELEBRATE! A lively music-based service.

Sunday 29 January, 6.30pm – UNITED SERVICE at CHRIST CHURCH

All weekday groups meet at their usual times, with Sunday services at 11am and 6.30pm, except where there is an afternoon service as specified above. Other activities and information can be found on our website www.fhmc.org.uk; or please contact our senior steward Suzanne Soper on 01494 673403, or our minister Rev Nick Thompson on 01628 483985.

www.fhmc.org.uk www.facebook.com/FlackwellHeathMC
prayer.requests@fhmc.org.uk

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Thursday Morning Badminton

Ladies, please come and join this friendly group for social badminton

We meet 10 – 11.30am at
Flackwell Heath Community Centre
during term time

Ring 07840 357266
for more info or just turn up



Spend, Spend, Spend

As the last dregs of my Cherry Tree pint disappeared, my drinking buddy Andy asked, "What do you do with all the money generated from hiring out the centre?" As we moved onto the Three Horseshoes and had another pint, I began my update on funds spent.

"Well Andy, in the last 5 years we have been trying to modify and simplify the upkeep of the Community Centre. We have updated most of the plumbing including replacement of all the radiators, two water heaters, removed old radiators and have carried out the usual maintenance requirements. We have also renewed some of the plumbing at the Day Care Centre. Improvement of most of the lighting in the Community Centre with more planned and new cupboards, chairs and tables bought for the Sarney room has made a dent in the finances. Curtains have also been put up on the stage for the drama group as well as various changes to the lighting. Obviously money also has to be spent on annual safety checks and to keep the premises properly 'dressed'. I suppose that is it in a nutshell." Andy then joked, "The drinks are on you then, cheers".

Graham Foster, Facilities Manager of the Community Centre



Flackwell Heath Minors Football Club is 50 years old in 2017!

If anyone has any memorabilia – photos, trophies, cuttings, kit – from their time in the Minors, the Club would love to hear from you. Please contact Chairman Declan Breen on 07801 777504 or by email at declanbreen123@btinternet.com



Christ Church has three services EVERY Sunday: at 9am a more traditional Holy Communion service with hymns; at 10.30am a more contemporary service with a full range of children's and youth groups, and at 6.30pm a quieter evening service to end the day.

Starting 27 November – **'Four Words for Advent'**: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace characterise the Advent season... and our Sunday services in Advent will explore these themes. The Church also has four 'Prayer Stations' linked to these themes and you are invited to use them any weekday morning in your preparations for Christmas. In addition there are two led Quiet Evenings on Wednesday 30 November and Monday 12 December, both 8pm to 9.30pm.

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 4 DECEMBER

9am: Holy Communion – 'Four Words for Advent – Love'

10.30am: 'Advent for Everyone' – an all-age event for Advent

Christmas gifts of new toys, men's clothes and toiletries may be brought for distribution to those in need through London City Mission, with refreshments served afterwards.

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER

9am & 10.30am: Holy Communion – 'Four Words for Advent – Joy'

6.30pm: 'Rock the Manger' – a loud & lively celebration of Christmas

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER

9am: Holy Communion – 'Four Words for Advent – Peace'

10.30am: 'Postcards from Bethlehem' Nativity Service with mince pies served afterwards.

6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight – a traditional Service of Lessons and Carols with refreshments served afterwards.

SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE

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

4pm: Crib Service – a short service for younger children with the Christmas story

11.15pm: Traditional Midnight Holy Communion

SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY

9am: Christmas Day Holy Communion

10.30am: A short 'Christmas for Everyone' Celebration of Holy Communion for Christmas Morning

SUNDAY 1 JANUARY 2017

9am: Holy Communion for Epiphany

10.30am: 'Epiphany for Everyone' – an all-age service to celebrate Epiphany

New Year resolutions... Must get 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-session 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.

New for parents of children with additional needs: A coffee morning support group on the second Wednesday of each month, from 9.30am to 11.30am. For details email parenting@ccfh.org.uk or contact the Church Office

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.

Coffee Stop is open every weekday morning from 9am to 11.30am, it is located at the Church Centre and serves fantastic fairly-traded tea and coffee with daily newspapers. It provides a comfortable and friendly place for everyone to meet old friends and make new ones.

Neighbourhood Watch News

December '16



Well, this will be my last offering for 2016, so may I wish all readers a safe and happy Christmas. Let us all look forward to a successful 2017, whatever it may bring!

Christmas Safety and Security

Once again I would remind you to think about the safety and security of your property as we start the run-up towards Christmas. Don't leave your Christmas shopping visible in your car when it is parked in a public place - lock your shopping in the boot where it cannot be seen. Likewise, think about the security of your home, especially now that the evenings are dark so much earlier. Presents around the Christmas tree, visible from the road, are often a tempting target for the opportunist burglar. If you are planning to buy any expensive gifts, will they be adequately covered by your household contents insurance in the unfortunate event of a burglary? Post-Christmas, don't forget to security-mark and register any new, expensive items of electronic gadgetry or the like. Use the FREE website at www.immobilise.com/

Fraud

As I have noted previously, the 'traditional' acquisitive crimes of theft and burglary are on the decline, although robbery is still all too common. These crimes have been supplanted by the various forms of fraud, many of which are facilitated by the use of the Internet and Social Media. There is a very valuable campaign being run by the organisation - 'takefive-stopfraud.org.uk' Their main message is 'STOP & THINK - Take Five to Stop Fraud' This idea applies to all forms of fraud - phone scams, text message scams, E-mail scams, on-line fraud, and can even be applied to cold calling and deception fraud. I can do no better than quote from their general 5-point advice:-

1. NEVER disclose security details such as your PIN or banking passwords. If you are being asked to hand over personal or financial information, take a moment to reflect. Ask yourself the question - WHY?

2. Don't assume that an e-mail (phishing) or phone call (vishing) is authentic. Just because the message or phone call seems to be from a trusted organisation (such as your bank or the police) take the time to stop and think about what is going on. If in doubt, DELETE the dubious e-mail or HANG UP the phone.

3. Don't be rushed or pressured into making a decision - if the proposition you are being offered sounds too good to be true, it almost certainly is!

4. Listen to your instincts - if in your heart you feel that what is being said is NOT genuine, then trust your instincts, take a deep breath and walk away from whatever is on offer. In 2015, 1 in 4 victims of fraud knew immediately that they had made a mistake.

5. Stay in control - don't be afraid to say 'NO' or hang up the phone. If you think you MAY have become a victim of fraud, report the incident immediately to your bank or other financial service provider. It will also be sensible to contact Action Fraud (<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>), 0300 123 2040

The Future

If you would like me to write on a specific topic, or have an interest in Neighbourhood Watch feel free to contact me - details below.

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 'spoofer'
Crimestopper site

Trading Standards (Consumer Direct):
0345 4 04 05 06 (NEW dialling code)

ACTION FRAUD: 0300 123 2040
www.actionfraud.police.uk

The Information Commissioner's Office:
0303 123 1113

NHS: 111

Flackwell Amblers

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

The next date for your diary is Wednesday (not Tuesday as we said last month - sorry) 28 December - Local walk. Please note there will not be a walk in January 2017.

C. Barker

To All Our Readers....

To All Our Readers....All those who write for, take photographs for, advertise in, proofread, lay out, print, prepare for delivery and actually put The Grapevine through your door would like to wish you all: A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! As usual, there will be no issue of The Grapevine in January. (Those who produce it are too busy over Christmas and our Road Rep deliverers might find weather conditions difficult.)

Sue Arnautov, Editor

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FLACKWELL LOCAL AREA HISTORY GROUP



The caption top right says 'An aerial photograph of the White Gates Estate, now in the course of construction' – known to us now as Green Crescent and part of Philip Drive, with the water tower bottom left. Ed.

Our next talk at the Flackwell Heath Library will be on Monday 16 January 2017, from 7.30pm

Jane Dunsterville continues the story of - 'Frackle People & Places: What happened next'.

Sleepy little Frackle was still licking its wounds after the second world war, when it woke up one day to find itself a building site! Before long, old and familiar sights were gone for good. Cherry orchards turned into housing estates, cars took over so roads had to be widened, have

pavements added and then be given names. Committees wrestled with the vexed question of where they could squeeze in a new school, library and community centre.

Living Standards increased as water, sewage systems and electricity were laid on, soon to be followed by telephones and televisions, not to mention a Health Service and a Coronation! Remember 'Safety First'? Children had to learn 'The Country Code', how to cross a road and not to be a 'litter lout'.

Whatever next?

This will be a ticketed event, and the tickets will be available at the library from 5 December, and are £5 (£3 to friends of FHCL)

The Fennels Wood Conservation Group (founded on the 24 November 1982)

A new file has been added to the Local Area History Group section in the Flackwell Heath library telling the tale of how, thirty years ago (1986), the village was finally 'granted right of access for pedestrians to use the existing paths' and for the 'purpose of removing rubbish'! Two huge loads were gathered up by very determined volunteers, for removal by the Parish Council.

There is also the Conservation Group's excellent booklet, which was produced in 1989, with details of Fennels Wood history, a round walk and photo of Harry Merryweather's Teddy Bear's Picnic.

A date for your diary: Monday 20 February 2017

History of Local Railways

John Gurney returns to deliver his popular illustrated talk about our Local Railways. The presentation on the history of the local railways will include pictures of the old branch line and its steam locomotives of yesteryear. It will also cover the introduction of the railway to the area, an overview of the construction of the main line and other more personal stories.

Like us on facebook/**Flackwell Heath, Loudwater & Wooburn Local History Group**
www.localhistorygroup.org.uk



Dates For Your Diary	
December	
Saturday 10	Children's Craft Session at Library, see page 7
Saturday 10	Age Concern Party, see page 8
Wednesday 28	Amblers' local walk, see page 4
Saturday 31	New Year's Eve Dance at the Royal British Legion, see page 8
January 2017	
Wednesday 4	Jigsaw Library, see page 8
Monday 16	Local History talk: 'Frackle People & Places: What happened next', see page 5

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Hazlemere/Chepping Wycombe Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

With the increasing use of 'Legal Highs' becoming a major concern for parents and for the police, your local Hazlemere/Chepping Wycombe Neighbourhood Action Group has added this topic to its list of priorities, in order to advertise the dangers.

As from 26 May 2016, under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 'Legal Highs' have been banned. This act prohibits the sale, distribution, production, import or export of any substance intended for human consumption that could produce a psychoactive effect, with an exemption for products such as caffeinated drinks, nicotine, medical products and alcohol. It is now illegal to buy these substances from any source including on-line shops.

At the last NAG meeting the members received a presentation on 'Legal Highs' from Jason Smith of Addaction (www.addaction.org.uk/), a local charity set up in 1967 based in Aylesbury dealing in the youth sector with Bucks County Council. Jason stressed that the use of the word 'Legal' gave many people the

idea that substances must be safe to use, when in fact, they are not only Illegal, but potentially DANGEROUS to health.

Addaction have recently purchased a bus, which will be moved to different locations throughout the area which includes Flackwell Heath.

The bus will be used to reach the general public by advertising the dangers. The bus will hopefully appeal to youngsters and parents alike, by having an Xbox available to play computer games and facilities to charge up their mobile phones. Posters and pictures around the walls will advertise the problems caused by drug abuse, and those present can ask any questions when they are ready to.

Some useful websites that provide information on Legal Highs are: The Angelus Foundation (<http://www.angelusfoundation.org.uk/>) and Talk to Frank (www.talktofrank.com/)

We'll let you know when the bus is coming to Flackwell Heath.

David Onslow



Flackwell Heath's 'Little Secret'

In the heart of Flackwell Heath on Saturday nights strange sounds can be heard emanating from a corner of the recreational ground. Sounds of laughter, shouts of joy, groans of disappointment and cheers of success, all combining to reflect the cheery goings-on at the bowling clubhouse on dark wintry nights.

'SKITTLES NITES' have become a feature of the Bowling Club's activities during the October to March period of the year. Mildly competitive but mostly fun, our skittles evenings have become a favourite with many groups in the area who want a fun night out that does not cost a fortune.

Does it have to be a Saturday? No indeed not! Many groups also book for mid-week evenings.

Included on the night are skittles games with prizes, a hot meal, raffle and of course an open bar to help the merriment along. So if you organise activities for a group or want a family get-together, you are only a phone call away from a great evening.

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email: whiteshouse18@gmail.com

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(The 'Wizard' is Library Chairman Michael Russell - Ed)



Flackwell Heath Community Library

Halloween Competition: The Results

We would like to thank all the children who entered the Halloween Competition this year. There was certainly a very high standard of entry with spooky pictures and some exciting, though rather scary, stories. The winner of the competition was Edward Giles, who is shown in the centre of the photo receiving his prize of a family ticket to Odds Farm. Also included are some of the other prize winners. Many thanks to Odds Farm for their kind donation.

Free Children's Christmas Craft morning Saturday 10 December

Once again we are inviting young children to come along with their parents on Saturday 10 December 10.15am – 12.30pm, to make Christmas

decorations & cards. Parents are invited to stay and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while they wait. There is NO CHARGE and NO NEED TO BOOK, just turn up.

New books just arrived

This month we've more than 30 new fiction titles including 'Absolute Power' by David Baldacci and 'Conclave', the latest from Robert Harris. Amongst the new non-fiction volumes, are: 'iPad for seniors in easy steps'; 'Rick Stein's long weekends' supporting his recent TV series; and Jeremy Paxman's 'A Life in Questions'.

Flackwell Heath Community Library, Chapel Road, Flackwell Heath, HP10 9AA Tel: 0845 230232 email: fhcl@flackwellheath.net web: www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries



Flackwell Heath Women's Institute

On Remembrance Sunday the Morning and the Evening WI jointly laid a wreath on the Flackwell Heath War Memorial.

Morning WI

Our November meeting commenced with our new President in place and our retiring President was presented with flowers in appreciation of her past efforts. Our speaker, Joan Dark, enlarged on the theme of 'Whatever Happened to Passion?' in the form of her own humorous poems which I am sure struck a familiar note with many of us.

Some of us are going by coach to Winchester Xmas Market on our Group WI trip.

In December we hope to have children from Carrington School singing for us, and in January we are planning a games session.

Evening WI

We celebrated our 59th Birthday with a buffet meal provided by members. A 'per table' quiz whose answers were all Tube stations fostered much discussion and chat.

We reported that Wendy Mander won the Denman bursary; actually, it was Jean Cocks – apologies to you both.

At the December meeting, we shall hear a visiting group called VoiceVersa with their 'Christmas Compendium'.

Two of our members went on a coach trip (organised by the County) to see the exhibition of 'historic' underwear at the V&A Museum. Another is going for a walk in the footsteps of the suffragettes. The speaker's topic for the Group Meeting was catching smugglers. The WI certainly offers varied opportunities...

Brenda Aldridge and Sue Arnautov



Flackwell Heath Minors FC - Players needed for Under 14's

Interested in joining our team?

Flackwell Heath Minors FC Under 14's are looking for new players across all positions. You must be both reliable and committed to attend both training and match day games. Training is on every Thursday night 6.30 to 8.00pm At Amersham Wycombe College Flckwell Heath (3G Pitch). Match day games are on a Sunday.

We are a fun and friendly team and welcome any new players that are keen to work hard and enjoy their football.

Please contact Martin Officer or Paul Emery - Under 14's Coaches:

martinoff1@hotmail.com or 07584 486800

paul-emery67@hotmail.co.uk or 07894 637913

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The team at the library would like to wish all our customers a very Happy Christmas and New Year. We have had another successful year with customers coming from across the district. We are always happy to receive donations so if you are lucky enough to get some books or jigsaws for Christmas and need to make room - you can pass some over to us - we are particularly looking out for 500 piece jigsaws. We are also on the lookout for a couple of volunteers to join our team. You would only be needed about 4 Wednesday afternoons during the year. If this is something that might interest you, let me know: Alison Harvey 01628 530186 or alison.harvey3@sky.com. If you haven't been up to see us yet - come along to the Community Centre on the 1st Wednesday of the month - 1.30 - 3.15. You will be pleasantly surprised.



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Flackwell Heath Royal British Legion

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

(Saturday 31 December 2016)

Live Music by

'Strictly Business'

Bring your own party food

Tickets only £8.50 per person (to include raffle) available
from Mary Harding Tel 01628 520546 or from the
Band or from the bar at the Legion in Common Road
Tel 01628 520257



Flackwell Heath Community Association

Chairman: Chris Cramer
01628 526129

Secretary: Chris Thomas
01628 520361

Treasurer: Alison Harvey
01628 530186

Centre Bookings
Please use bookings enquiry page
to be found on website -
www.flackwellheathcommunitycentre.org.uk

Keyholder: Express Video Shop
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Flackwell Heath and Loudwater Age Concern

are holding a

Christmas Party

at HEDSOR SOCIAL CLUB

Saturday 10 December 2016

8pm-11.30pm

Raffle, bar, buffet Please
help to raise funds for
the Day Centre



Tickets £10

available from the Day
Centre, Flackwell Heath
01628 526113

Grapevine



Editor: Sue Arnautov

58, Chapman Lane, Flackwell Heath,
HP10 9BD • 01628 523907

email: grapevine@flackwellheathcommunitycentre.org.uk

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