

THE Grapevine

February '16

50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Write for Grapevine?

Would anybody like to try their hand at writing an article for The Grapevine? Do you know of someone with an interesting hobby or achievement? Are you a member of a club or other organisation? It must be about someone living (or working or attending school) here, or an event or organisation in Flackwell. We don't do obituaries, weddings etc.

Or suggest a topic (besides those recurrent bugbears — litter, dog mess, parking on pavements, feeding red kites — which get an occasional mention) and I'll see if I can find someone to write about it. Please check with me first to avoid duplication. Contact details are on the back page.

Sue Arnautov, Editor

Lest We Forget..... those from Flackwell who died in World War 1

On the 100th anniversary of each death, the bell at Christ Church is tolled at 11 am. The Local History Group has collected information on each man which is displayed in Flackwell Heath Library. For the rest of 1916 the names are:

08 June **William Redding**
01 July **Ernest Brooks**
19 July **Edgar Lewis & Harry Wilks**
30 July **William J Why**
09 August **Alfred W Goodacre**




CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

JOIN
YOUR LOCAL
CLEAN UP


Flackwell Heath Residents' Association

In Celebration of Her Majesty's 90th Birthday
 Flackwell Heath Residents' Association Invite Flackwell Heath Schools, Clubs, Associations and Residents to Join Us on 5th March in the centre of the village at Jubilee Garden from 10.30am in order to

Clean For The Queen.
 Litter pickers, rubbish bags and rubber gloves will be provided.
 Food or Refreshments will be available for helpers when they return from their collecting.

Join the Clean for The Queen weekend on March 5th and let's clear up the UK in time for a very special Birthday.

Flackwell Heath Girls' Brigade has spaces for new members!

The group runs activities for girls aged rising 5 (reception class at school) to 18 years on a Tuesday evening at Flackwell Heath Methodist Church, starting at 5.45pm. Younger groups finish at 7pm whilst those in years 3 and above finish at 7.30pm.

Activities include craft, cooking, drama, Bible Stories and games as well as special evenings for things like Pancake Day and Easter. In the summer, there are outings such as Treasure Hunts in the village, train trips to Marlow, and outdoor sports. There's also a sleepover

for Year 3 and above with some great activities throughout the evening.

Our annual Spring Fair and car wash will be happening on Saturday 23 April in the Methodist Church Hall and Christ Church car park – the girls get to wash the cars and help run the stalls to raise money for the Girls' Brigade.

So how about having some fun and coming to join in! Just turn up on a Tuesday evening in term time!

For more information, please phone Ruth Lisle on 01628 523972.

NEWS FROM FLACKWELL HEATH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

We begin a New Year with some dates for your 2016 diary:

Clean for the Queen:

5 March – see page 1.

FHRA AGM: 21 March, see below.

Village Fête and Picnic: 17 July.

FHRA and FHCA Quiz: 15 October.

Christmas Party, Carol Service and Lights: 26 November.

We will send reminders out closer to the events!

We want you to know that FHRA work hard at making our village a good place to live. To do this we need your help so in January we have planned a whole village membership drive. You may already have had a letter through your door or an email asking you to become a member or to renew for another year. We rely on the membership fees for money to fund events and services in the village and just as important is the fact that the more members we have, the bigger our voice in representing the concerns of residents to various authorities. Please do look at the

letter and take a moment to consider becoming a member. You can join for 1 year - just £5 and 5 years - £20 that's 1 year free! All you have to do is fill out the form, decide on your method of payment, return it to us and Voilà! you're a member.

You will remember that we asked you to take part in a survey last year. We had to extend the time it was available to complete, so as many of you as possible could access it. We did have a great response, which made for a mammoth task of going through it all and coming up with a report. We are almost there and hope to have it available for you to view early this year! The committee have already taken note of the results and will do our best to implement positive outcomes.

FHRA AGM, held on Monday 21 March will be at the Royal British Legion 7.30pm for the meeting to start at 8pm.

Sadly this year we will be losing our treasurer Charles Colton after many years of excellent service on

the Committee. This will leave two major committee roles vacant as despite a number of appeals no one came forward to take over the role of secretary, when Chloe resigned that role last year. The last year has been difficult for the committee, without a treasurer and secretary we will be down to just seven members.

If people come forward to take on these roles we will still be able to provide the Fête and Picnic, litter picks, care for the gardens and planters, arrange events, monitor speeding and parking issues, represent the village on planning issues and make sure the village looks festive at Christmas, providing lights, children's party and carol service. FHRA get involved with many other village groups too and strive to improve our Community. **Could you help?** Would you be prepared to give a little of your time so that FHRA can continue? **Without more Committee members the Association may not be able to survive.**

Janet Smith, 01628 520451

Fhra-chairman@flackwellheath.net



L to R: James Anstey, Denise Anstey, Ann Rarity, Lucy Stokes, Elaine Stokes

Quiz for Iain Rennie!

Two families from Flackwell Heath have come together to organise a quiz for Rennie Grove Hospice Care. This is a local charity which cares for patients diagnosed with critical illnesses, provides end of life care, and supports families during and after bereavement. Elaine Stokes and Denise Anstey wanted to join

forces to raise money in memory of their loved ones.

The quiz attracted over a hundred friends, family members and those from the local community. Hosted by quiz masters Matthew Anstey and Luke Graham, the fun-filled evening involved question

rounds, an impressive raffle and a stunning bake off, and they managed to raise a grand total of £2,820.

James Anstey and Lucy Stokes also volunteer every week in the Rennie Grove charity shop in Flackwell Heath.

The families would like to pay special thanks to everyone who donated, baked or contributed in any way, to help make the night a success and raise money for an invaluable cause.

Denise Anstey

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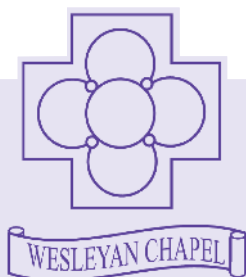
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Methodists

All of our groups have started again after the Christmas break, with their regular programmes from now until Easter. Our once-a-month events continue as usual:

Sunday Club for under 11s on 7 February at 10.30am, followed by Sunday lunch.

Time Out for Busy Mums on Tuesday 9 February from 9.15-11.30am, with crèche available.

Sunday Live service on 14 February with food from 10.15 and service at 11.00am, led by Rev. Nick Thompson.

'Who Let the Dads out' on Saturday 20 February from 10.00am - 12 noon for male carers and their pre-schoolers.

'Celebrate' service on Sunday 28 February at 6.30pm.

Christ Church and Methodists will be joining together to offer united services and shared events throughout Lent and beyond - please feel welcome to be part of these as you see them advertised.

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February 2016

Christ Church has three services every Sunday: a 9.00am more traditional Holy Communion service; a 10.30am more contemporary service with children's and youth groups, and a 6.30pm quieter evening service to end the day. There is something for everyone!

Christ Church hosts the **One Can Trust** Wheelie Bin from 31 January to 14 February. One Can Trust is a High Wycombe based food bank providing food parcels to local people in need. You can help by donating and 'depositing' gifts of non-perishable food via us any morning during that fortnight. A 'shopping list' is available from the One Can Trust website.

'Worship for Everyone' is the new name for our first Sunday all-age worship at 10.30am. On Sunday 7 February we welcome the 'No Strings Attached' puppeteers to help with the theme of 'Candlemas'.

Christ Church is hosting a **Fabulous Film Night** on Friday 5 February from 6.00pm-7.30pm. The film will be suitable for and open to all primary school age children. The cost is £1 per person to cover the cost of refreshments (popcorn, drink and ice lolly).

Ash Wednesday (10 February). Why not mark the start of your Lent and preparations for Easter by coming to an Ash Wednesday Holy Communion (8.00pm)? In a service of quiet hymns and prayers maybe you will find a place to renew your faith and passion for God.

'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 21 February**. Healing Prayer continues to be offered every Sunday after the 10.30am service.

CU@the Pub has moved from once a month to twice monthly from January, meeting 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 25 February is "Is fighting ISIS a righteous war?"

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 29 February to 13 March and reminds us to be fair to those who produce what we buy. Christ Church is a Fairtrade Church serving Fairtrade refreshments on Sundays and in Coffee Stop and runs a Fairtrade Shop on the 2nd Sunday of every month (next shop - Sunday 14 February).

Coffee Stop is open to all... and serves fantastic fairly-traded tea and coffee with daily newspapers, and provides 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. Why not come along...

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.

Please contact the Church Office for further information on any of the above (Phone 01628 533004: 9.00am - 1.00pm Monday to Friday or email admin@ccfh.org.uk) or visit www.ccfh.org.uk

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Reginald Bryson and his World War II Army Experiences

Prompted by our article on Charlie Darby, Arthur Hawkswell told us about Reg Bryson. Reg is still with us at the age of 99 next April. He still attends the Remembrance Service at the Flackwell Heath War Memorial every November where he can be seen wearing his blazer complete with the Burma Star and Medals. He is the oldest member of the FH British Legion.



Cpl Reg Bryson in Burma WW11

In 1939 when war broke out Reg had just completed his apprenticeship as a draughtsman. He was called up and began military service in the Royal Army Medical Corps working with their field ambulances. In 1940 he got married to Eleanor (she died last year after over 70 years of marriage).

Then, shortly after completing his basic training, he was posted to the Middle East and saw service in the North African campaign. Reg now got caught up in the siege of Tobruk and it was then that he first became involved with Australian troops. His service in North Africa now meant he was a Desert Rat. As luck would have it Reg left Tobruk before it fell to the Germans. He nearly got sent to Crete but luckily the Navy refused to take them on this one-way mission.

Instead Reg was sent straight from North Africa to India and then on to Burma. Reg said that in Burma they were fighting a very different enemy. The Germans and the Italians wanted to be helped if they

were wounded, but the Japanese had no respect for the Red Cross insignia so there was no point in wearing it or indeed any other badges of rank, especially those of an officer. Wounded Japanese often had a hand grenade with the pin removed, which exploded when the medic tried to help them. As a result all medical personnel were asked if they wished to be armed so Reg and the other medics carried Lee Enfield rifles throughout the rest of their time in Burma. One of his jobs was to push medical supplies and tents out of Dakota planes to those behind enemy lines, sometimes under fire from Japanese on the ground.



Reg Bryson, 98 and Holder of the Burma Star lays a wreath at the FH War Memorial on the 70th Anniversary of VJ Day.

After four years in Burma Reg was finally sent home. He was on the troop ship when the war in Europe was declared over in May 1945. On arriving back in England he was given two weeks leave and then posted to Belgium. Reg found it hard going from 4 years in the Far East to a winter in Europe. Then three months later he was demobbed because experienced draughtsmen were badly needed; he returned to Sanderson Fabrics where he became a design Manager.

THE HEATH SINGERS

The two Christmas Concerts at Christ Church were packed out and very enjoyable. Their conductor and leader Peggy Woolhouse reports:

"To all our friends and supporters I am happy to tell you that after covering all our expenses we are able to donate £1900 to local charities. We are giving £800 to Scannappeal towards a 3D Breast Scanner at Amersham Hospital, £800 to Rennie Grove Hospice Care and £300 to Wycombe Homeless Connection.

Thank you all for coming and singing so well!!"

Peggy Woolhouse

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Neighbourhood Watch News

February 2016

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable Christmas and send my best wishes for 2016.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

Neighbourhood Watch is the largest single UK voluntary organisation whose main objectives are to help reduce crime and the fear of crime. The current financial constraints being faced by the police will inevitably have an impact on policing, which will make Neighbourhood Watch even more valuable. Neighbourhood Watch continues to grow in the Wycombe Local Policing Area (LPA), and the Wycombe District Neighbourhood Watch Association is the most active in the Thames Valley area. Their web-site can be found at: <http://neighbourhoodwatchwycombe.org/>

Why not make it one of your New Year Resolutions to start a scheme in your road? If you are already in a scheme, how about giving your scheme a bit of a refresher? Have any new residents been invited to join your scheme? Is your street signage up to scratch? The recent Thames Valley Alert reporting street sign sponsorship by the Co-op in High Wycombe has seen a very good response.



Talk to anyone in an active Neighbourhood Watch scheme, and they will confirm the benefits – both practical and social – of belonging to a scheme. You may even get a reduction in your household insurance! Plans are already in hand to start a new scheme for Wilfred's Wood Close/Blind Lane.

CRIME IN THE CHEPPING/WYE VALLEY AREA

Data collected by our Neighbourhood Policing Team indicates that we are fortunate in living in a relatively low-crime area, although we still experience the occasional 'Theft from Motor Vehicle' and some 'Antisocial Behaviour'. However, we are probably all aware of the increase in deception crime by doorstep callers – despite the establishment of 'No Cold Calling' schemes. We can all help combat this by being more aware of our vulnerable neighbours. There has also been a significant increase in the level of 'Cyber-crime' and we must all take the appropriate steps to protect ourselves and our families from such crime in our ever-increasing electronic society.

SPEEDING IN OUR VILLAGE

Whilst 'speeding' is often a perception rather than being borne out by hard facts, there is no doubt that a minority of our local drivers – and some of those passing through – do exceed the 30 mph speed limit throughout the village. Your

Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) continues to have 'Speeding' as one of their priority items, and CWPC now possesses 'Moveable Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS)' which are seen at various locations around our village. Data collected by these devices is used to initiate speed enforcement activity by the Roads Policing team. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

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): 0845 4 04 05 06

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

The Information Commissioner's Office: 0303 123 1113

NHS: 111

FLACKWELL HEATH & LOUDWATER LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

History of Chairmaking in Wycombe by Stewart Linford
Wednesday 17 February 7.30pm
Flackwell Heath Library

Back, due to popular demand, is Stewart's talk on the remarkable story of our national chair, the Windsor – from Chiltern woodland to High Wycombe workshop, the dedicated craftsmen plus the variety and ingenuity of their creations and the inside story of how the customers enjoyed them.

This is a ticketed event. Tickets are available at the library £5 or £3 to friends of FHCL.

Fact Finding Forum
Tuesday 9 February 7.15 – 9.00pm
Flackwell Heath Library

The forum meeting in November uncovered a wealth of useful information about everyday life in the villages during WWII. The theme for the next meeting is Pubs, Clubs, & Cafés. Let's hope this proves to be a source of information about the leisure activities of the villages. If you are interested in, have frequented any of these establishments or have any information on their past background, please join us for the usual cuppa and a chat.

Change of date for your diary

Jane Dunsterville will now bring alive some of Nat Bowler's poems on Monday 16 May.

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Flackwell Heath Community Library

'NEW' Yoga Classes starting Thursday 4 February

There will be yoga classes every Thursday evening and Sunday morning, starting on Thursday 4 February 2016. The classes are suitable for all.

On Thursdays from 8.30 - 9.30pm come along for Meditation followed by Yoga Nidra (Yoga nidra, or 'lucid sleep' is among the deepest possible states of relaxation while still maintaining full consciousness.) On Sundays join us from 10.00 - 11.15am for Vinyasa Yoga. Unity of body, mind, emotions and spirit is the goal of vinyasa or flow yoga, an evolving form of traditional hatha yoga that integrates breath with movement, strength and flexibility and practice with daily life. For details please contact Alexandra Alves on 07786 332695 or email Namaste@yogabycandlelight.co.uk.

A great read for everybody....

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Flackwell Heath Community Library,
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Tel: 0845 230232

email: fhcl@flackwellheath.net

web: www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries

Flackwell Heath Women's Institute

Morning WI

December After some Christmas food – sausage rolls, mince pies and cake – we were entertained by a very lively performance of seasonal songs (some quite new to us) and carols by a group of children from Carrington School.

January No speaker this month (just in case we had snow!) so following normal business and a final vote on the choice of resolutions being considered by the National Federation, we tested ourselves with quizzes.

Next month's speaker, Mr J Fryer, will describe 'The Humorous Side of Being an Actor'.

Evening WI

We were entertained at our December meeting by local man John Dunsterville with 'From Rock'n Roll to Rocking Chair', the story of his life (so far!). The tunes from across the decades evoked many memories.

Unfortunately, the planned speaker for January had a medical mishap a few days before our meeting. At short notice, Tracey Blaney came to talk to us about 'Hats'. She is a bespoke milliner, making hats for women, usually for occasions such as weddings and Ascot. She told us something of the history of hats and

explained how a hat was constructed, with crown and brim made separately. She showed us some of the 'raw' materials and then some of her finished creations. At the end of her talk, we were allowed to try them on and many people did. At least two of our members have a child getting married this year, so had a particular interest. Tracey confided that this was her very first WI talk; we all enjoyed it and predict that Tracey will be a successful and popular speaker.

In December, we held a mince pies and mulled wine evening at a member's house. There was much laughter when we tried to identify everyday objects enclosed in old socks – nobody got more than 9 out of 12 objects correct.

The end of January brings our 'post-Christmas' lunch (anything but turkey!). At our February meeting, we will brush up on our knowledge of resuscitation with 'Annie'. Most people have had some training, but an occasional refresher is always good – and you never know when it might become crucial...

On Saturday 9 April, we shall be holding a Craft Dabble Day for adults at the Community Centre; more details about this next month.

Brenda Aldridge and Sue Arnautov

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The Mavericks

The Mavericks Drama Group The Brothers Claus

.....performed their pantomime 'The Brothers Claus' in the Community Centre just before Christmas. Although the story (written by Anthony Deacon) was original, there were many of the traditional components – a villain to hiss and boo, a slapstick scene involving flour, puns and jokes, songs to sing-along to and good guys to root for. The audience, from babes in arms to (great-?) grandparents, enjoyed it and joined in with enthusiasm. A great deal of work goes on behind the scenes, see below. *Ed.*

A day in the life of our wardrobe mistress

Costumes are an important part of any stage production, adding colour and identity to the characters of a story. Sally Joseph-Green is the wardrobe mistress for the Mavericks. For example, for 'Wind in the Willows' it was her idea to dress all the humans in a black-and-white colour scheme, with just a splash of one colour, as this is the way animals perceive the world around them. As the Mavericks are a self-funded group, we often operate on a shoestring budget, and everybody chips in with costumes, accessories and props. Charity shops, Primark and ebay are also great sources. Jane McCormick, the mother of one of the actresses in this year's pantomime, is a very talented seamstress; amongst her creations is the dinosaur costume from last year's pantomime.

But the job of the wardrobe mistress does not stop once everybody has their costumes. There is a lot to do for a 3-day show: the designing, the producing, the searching, the transporting, and let's not forget the storing. Sally is in full command of these operations all the way through, from the beginning until the end. There is plenty to do in this group, which is like a little family of producers. The scene dock in the



The snowman from 'The Brothers Claus'.

community centre is situated in the kitchen, with a narrow flight of stairs giving access to the stage. During the show Sally is positioned there, with one ear towards the stage, the eyes on the script, disciplining the coming and going of the actors, giving them the last bit of advice and reminding them of their cue line. And of course, checking the costume. During performances, both Sally and Jane are on standby to sew on buttons, or mend any ripped fabric. In short, it's a role that requires quick thinking, planning and imagination, and, last but not least, patience, and Sally enjoys the challenges for each new production.

Karin Wiggins, The Mavericks

Juniper Hill

Forest School

One of the great secrets of Juniper Hill School is the amazing wildlife area that we have as part of our grounds. The Orchard is a place where our pupils are able to investigate the natural world and engage in a whole range of outside learning. Before Christmas Chiltern Rangers and the Berkshire College of Agriculture spent a day rejuvenating the Orchard, clearing ponds and thinning trees. This was in order to improve the space and create a wider range of habitats, allowing an increase and diversity in the number of species that call our land home.

The Chiltern Rangers have also started working with us to support pupil learning through running a Forest School. Pupils in Year 5 are spending some afternoons in the Orchard learning about the management of the area and understanding the flora and fauna that we share our wild spaces with.

This is just one small part of the education that pupils at Juniper Hill are undertaking to develop their understanding of the world around them and recognising how we all have to play our part in protecting the environment for the future.

Gareth Drawmer (Head)

Flackwell Heath Evening WI

FHEWI are holding another Craft Dabble Day (for adults) in the Community Centre, Flackwell Heath, on Saturday 9 April 10am-4pm. Cost: £25 for two 'dabbles' plus morning coffee, soup & roll lunch and afternoon tea and cake. Contact: Pat Kendell 01628 521149 pkendell@bopenworld.com

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La Bodega

We now have a Spanish tapas bar and restaurant on the corner of Straight Bit and Old Kiln Road (where Radhuni used to be). La Bodega opened last May, with little fanfare, but it is thriving. Juan Rios, the owner, says business is good, even in January, and he has a wealth of experience in the trade. Originally from Galicia in north-west Spain, he came to the UK in 1972. He trained as a chef, working at Mr Chow's in London and then Dino's (long gone) in Marlow. Next, with an Italian partner, he opened the Villa D'Este restaurant in Marlow. That prospered and eventually he sold out to his partner. He has since opened more restaurants in this area, run them for a while and then moved on. Juan used to live in Flackwell; when the Radhuni site became available, he saw his chance. La Bodega is his 14th venture! Some of his customers follow him from restaurant to restaurant.

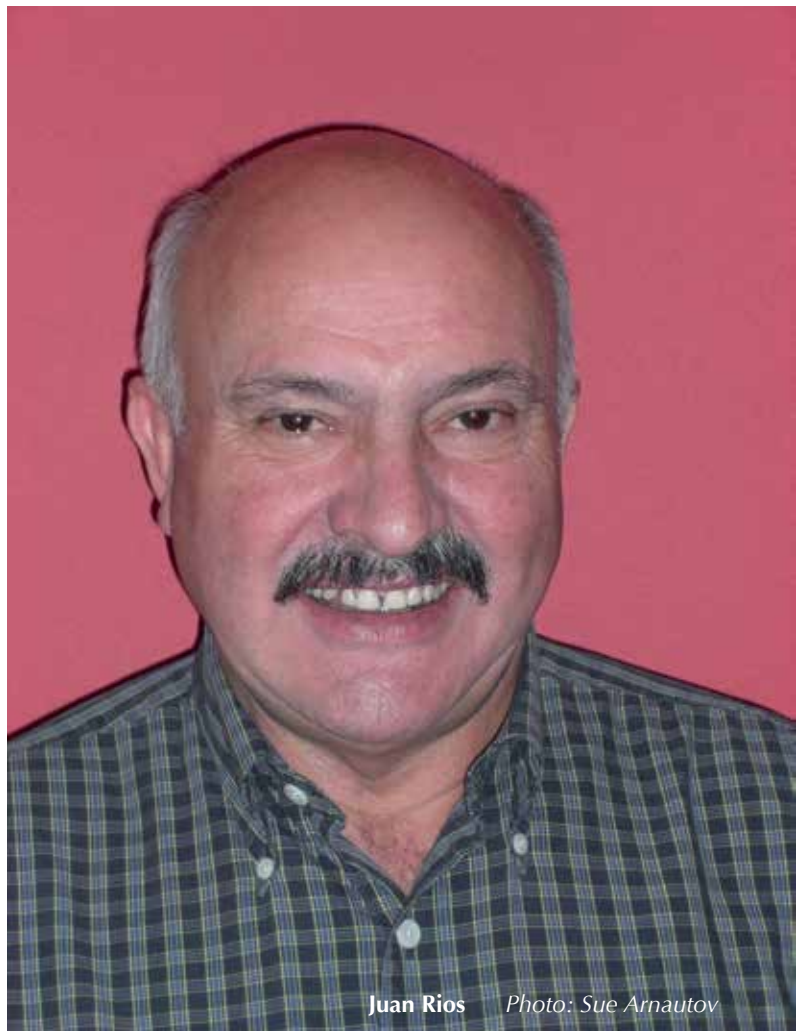
La Bodega has a tapas menu, with dishes such as sardines, spicy meat balls and Spanish omelette. Some of these also appear as starters on a lunch menu which offers 2 courses for £12.50 and 3 courses for £15.50. For dinner, there's a wide choice, including more 'international' dishes for those who prefer steak or duck with orange sauce. Northern Spain has a great tradition of eating fish and shellfish; Juan buys his fish at Billingsgate, but some of the octopus, for example, comes from Spain.

Juan chooses the wines himself, often on buying trips to Spain. He wishes he still had the underground cellar that belonged to one of his earlier restaurants in a former brewery. Another notable feature of La Bodega is the flowers; even in winter the white orchids are flourishing.

La Bodega has been nominated as a contestant in the independent restaurant category of Buckinghamshire Food and Drink Awards 2016. You can vote for it at www.bfda.co.uk

Closing date for voting is 5pm on 9 May.

Sue Arnautov



Juan Rios Photo: Sue Arnautov

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Treasurer: Val Weston
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Grapevine



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Dates For Your Diary	
February	
Wednesday 17	Local History Group talk 'History of Chairmaking in High Wycombe', see page 5
March	
Saturday 5	Clean for the Queen, see page 1
Monday 21	FHRA AGM Royal British Legion – see page 2
Thursday 24	Easter Bonnet Parade by Carrington Infant School, see March issue for details
April	
Saturday 9	WI Craft Dabble day (for adults) at the Community Centre.
Monday 18	Local History Group talk, 'The History of Local Railways'
May	
Monday 16	Local History Group talk by Jane Dunsterville with Nat Bowler's poems.