

THE Grapevine

December/January 2019/20

50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



THE GRAPEVINE WILL DIE WITH THE MARCH ISSUE.....

.....unless more people come forward to help produce it. The last Editor had to leave abruptly, because her husband's job moved abroad at short notice. Since then we have been struggling along with makeshift arrangements. This can't last.

We have a great team for proofreading, layout, distribution and delivery, and subscription management (the printing is done by a commercial printer).

WHAT WE NEED are WRITERS AND

EDITORS. Being the sole Editor is currently time-consuming and possibly daunting. But how about a co-operative? We have had several offers of help, and now have four potential writers/editors, some proof-reading assistance, and maybe someone to look after the advertisers. More people would give us greater resilience for those times when life gets too much!

We intend to have a meeting early in the New Year, to see whether there is a way

forward. If you might be able to help in any way, please do get in touch. Contact details on the back page, as always.

It would be such a shame if The Grapevine died. Published by the Community Association (which also runs the Centre), it aims to cover the entire village and the activities and concerns of all who live, work or learn here.

PLEASE HELP!



Juniper Hill School



On November 12th PUDSEY Bear visited Juniper Hill School as the children embraced a week focusing on Children in Need. Mrs Claire Garnett, the headmistress, took PUDSEY on a tour of all the classes with a key message that there is always someone to turn to at Juniper Hill if you need help. Year 4 appointed themselves as 'Secret Angels', with a mission for each one to help others. (Wouldn't we all like to have a 'Secret Angel'!) As PUDSEY Bear toured the classes he received a rapturous welcome, particularly from the younger members of the school in Miss Lewis's Year 1 class (aged 5 - 6 years old).

Also at the school this is "Anti-bullying" Week when the children are learning about the qualities of respect and tolerance.

Year 2 have enjoyed wearing odd socks! It's important to know that it is absolutely fine to be different.

Juliet Bates



A CHRISTMAS NOEL with the HEATH SINGERS

**Thursday 12th December &
Saturday 14th December
2019 at 7.30pm**

**Christ Church,
Chapel Road,
Flackwell Heath**

**Donation £10 to include
interval refreshments**

**Tickets from Christ Church Office,
Jan and Paul Churchouse
07791 500479 and Choir Members**



Make room for the manger this Christmas

2019 CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER

10.30am: Family Nativity Service with refreshments served afterwards

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

SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER

6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight – a traditional Service of Lessons and Carols

Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Preacher: Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham

TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE

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

11.15pm: Traditional Midnight Holy Communion.

WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY

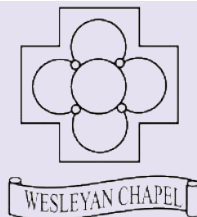
10.30am: A short 'Christmas for Everyone' Celebration of Holy Communion for Christmas Morning



Coffee Stop.....

... is open every weekday morning during term-time from 9 to 11.30am. In the school Christmas holidays, it is CLOSED. 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.

More details of the above are available from the Church website (www.ccfh.org.uk) and the Church Office in Chapel Road: 01628 533004 (9am – 1pm Monday to Friday)



FLACKWELL HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 1 December, 11am – **TOY AND GIFT SERVICE** for all the family, 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. Toys and gifts for 0 – 16 year-olds will be collected for redistribution via Women's Aid and Wycombe Homeless Connection.

Sunday 8 December, 6.30pm – **UNITED ADVENT SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH**

Tuesday 10 December, 9 - 11.30am – **TIME OUT FOR 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.

Tuesday 10 December, 12.30 to 2.30pm – **CRAFTERNOON**. An opportunity for crafters of all ages and abilities to come together to chat while working on your own projects or learning a new skill.

Wednesday 11 December, 9 - 11.30am – **CHRISTMAS MESSY CHURCH**; lots of fun

including party food and a special visitor!

Saturday 14 December, 10am - 12noon – **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 15 December, 10am – **CAROL SINGING OUTSIDE THE CHURCH** (with mince pies!)

Sunday 15 December, 4pm - **FAMILY CAROL SERVICE by candlelight** led by Rev. Nick Thompson. Come and start the Christmas celebrations with a traditional service of carols and readings. Children can come in Nativity costumes! Coffee and mince pies afterwards.

Sunday 22 December, 4pm - **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE** café style, for all the family led by Rev. Nick Thompson.

CHRISTMAS DAY, 10.30am – FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE led by Nigel Sweet. Bring a present to show us!

Sunday 5 January, 2pm – **FAMILY-FRIENDLY COVENANT SERVICE for EPIPHANY**. A traditional Methodist service at which everyone is welcome, in which we have the opportunity to renew

our commitment to God as originally encouraged by John Wesley in 1755, including HOLY COMMUNION and preceded by a 'bring-and-share' lunch at noon.

Tuesday 14 January, 9 - 11.30am – **TIME OUT FOR MUMS**. Our first get-together of the new year – see above for details.

Saturday 18 January, 10am - 12 noon – **WHO LET THE DADS OUT???** See above for details.

Sunday 26 January, 6.30pm – **CELEBRATE!** A lively music-based service for all.

All weekday groups meet at their usual times, with Sunday services at 11am. 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

FlackWild Heath - The Big Sow Down

You may have noticed home-made signs popping up all over the village, on public grass verges and in front gardens, declaring the area to be 'FlackWild Heath'. The FlackWild Heath wildflower project held its inaugural 'Big Sow Down' on 21 September 2019, with over 25 families taking part.



Over 20 areas were planted with native wildflower seeds on the day itself (with several more patches being promised over the coming weeks), and some of the 'FlackWilders' met for a few drinks in The Cherry Tree that evening. Linda and Bruce Jacob from Daisy Gift Shop were the real heroes of the day - they hired a scarifier and visited at least 10 patches across the village to assist with ground preparation, making everyone's day significantly easier!

Filled with enthusiasm, some FlackWilders have also added early spring bulbs to their patches, and even a

Bug Hotel! Not only is it hoped that this will provide some beautiful wildflower displays for villagers, bees and butterflies alike to enjoy, but everyone felt that this was an event that really boosted community spirit and was a real opportunity to meet new people.

Keep your eyes peeled in May 2020 for the emergence of poppies, cornflowers, ox-eye daisies and other native wildflowers species across FlackWild Heath!

You can keep up to date with all developments on the Facebook page 'FlackWild Heath'.

'THELMA AND LOUISE' CHARITY CONCERT

On Saturday 12 October, 300 people packed Wycombe Town Hall to pay tribute to former Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice Choir accompanist, Thelma King who sadly passed away in 2018.

The Orpheus choir were joined by the ladies of the Heath Singers from Flackwell Heath and guest young musicians, 10-year-old violinist Anna Whibley and the Borlase Barbershop singers.

Louise Langley, recently retired from the Orpheus, returned to lead the Choir in a concert entitled 'Thelma & Louise, Thank You for The Music!' The Heath Singers were led by Jan Churchouse with husband Paul accompanying in the first half and then swapping roles in the second as Paul skilfully led the Choir for the first time. The Heath Singers treated us to the fast-paced Rhythm of Life, reflective Seal Lullaby and quirky Alice.

The Orpheus offered their usual entertaining mix of music from the haunting Danny Boy, frivolous Java Jive, through to One Moment in Time and Bohemian Rhapsody, where accompanist Becky Holt produced an electrifying

performance in the piano solo sections.

The Borlase Barbershop Boys excelled, offering such classics as Crazy Little Thing Called Love, Blue Velvet and Billy Joel's The Longest Time. Anna Whibley's playing of the violin (purchased with assistance from the Orpheus Bursary fund) and then recorder received sustained and warm applause from a very appreciative audience.

The evening was a roaring success, enjoyed by all present and over £2000

was raised to help fund the Orpheus Young Musicians Festival and to provide a Bursary Award in Thelma King's name.

The finale of Abba's Thank You For The Music, sung by both choirs and audience combined, was a fitting end to a brilliant evening. Both choirs are looking for new members, contact Craig Lewis via recruitment@wycombeorpheus.org.uk or Jan Churchouse on 07791 500479 for details.

Craig Lewis



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Flackwell Heath Community Library



Christmas Crafts – Saturday 7 December

Our popular Christmas Crafts morning will be on Saturday 7 December. We are inviting young children to come along with their parents, from 10am to 12.30pm, to make Christmas decorations and cards. Parents are invited to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while they wait. There is NO CHARGE and NO NEED TO BOOK, just turn up.

Our regular activities

Yoga sessions – Sundays 10am-11.15am.
Meditation & Yoga Nidra – last Thursday of the month 8.30pm -9.30pm. Contact Alexandra Alves 07786 332695.

Coffee & Craft Group – Every Friday between 10am and 12noon. 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 11am. No need to book, just turn up.

Sewing Bee – Held on the 4th Wednesday of every month, between 7 and 9pm. To find out more please call Alison on 0780 3044 298.

Family History Research using the internet, with Gill Kyle. Individual 50 minute sessions. Cost £2 plus any photocopying charges. Please contact Gill to arrange a session at the library, telephone 01494 436314 or email donkyle@btinternet.com

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

Flackwell Heath Community Library,
 Chapel Road, Flackwell Heath, HP10 9AA

Tel: 01296 382415

email: fhcl@flackwellheath.net web:

www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries

Halloween Competition Winners' Presentation

Seven of the eight winners of the Halloween Competition were presented with their prizes at the library on Saturday 16 November. The photo show these winners and their amazing creative posters and stories. Well done to everyone who entered.



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Wycombe Orpheus Choir

Len Dandridge Memorial
CONCERT

'A Night to Remember'

Saturday 15 February at 7.30pm
 Christ Church

Tickets £14 (to include refreshments) from Craig Lewis on 01628 528550 or online via www.wycombeorpheus.org.uk/tickets

In aid of Rennie Grove and Oasis Self-Help Bereavement Group



It's Harvest Time - let's celebrate it!



**CARRINGTON
JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Carrington Junior School did exactly that on Friday 25 October, just before their half term holiday, when Year 5 presented their Harvest Festival to the rest of the Junior School, parents and visitors.

Their joyful message had some key points for all of us: Give thanks for the good things that we have, from every corner of the world and indeed in the corner of the hall we could see colourful tables spread with all kinds of food which had been brought into school.

'We plough the fields and scatter' rose to the roof as the children sang their hearts out and we all remembered this traditional hymn from our own school days.

But there was a more serious note to the service as the children told us about what harvest really means. In olden times the food gathered from the land had to last throughout the winter. They reflected that many areas of the world must still manage without electricity or water or even education. We were glad to hear that they "wouldn't want to live in a place where you couldn't go to school!". However they realised that the earth's resources are not distributed evenly or fairly and their next song was 'When we grow up, let's try to change the world'.

The Reverend Canon Chris Bull, from Christ Church, told us how the proceeds of the harvest festival will be taken to the One Can Trust food bank in High Wycombe which provides emergency food parcels to people in crisis in our community and serves High Wycombe, Marlow, and South Bucks. Eight of the

Flackwell Heath Women's Institute

Morning WI

We had a thought provoking subject from speaker Tony Easton on the question of an invasion by Germany in WW2. It was never really Hitler's plan, as he anticipated that Britain would cave in once the rest of Europe was conquered, and we would have allowed the Germans to partially occupy us, with a compliant British government, as happened in France.

However in 1940 plans were drawn up for invasion, but our navy was four times stronger than that of Germany, and the proposal to transport troops and equipment across the channel in river barges was impractical, as many would have had to be towed (because underpowered).

In December we will be entertained by a group of bell-ringers and no doubt will be singing some carols before our mince pies.

In the New Year we will experience some of the 'Fun of the 60's' with John and Jane Dunsterville (residents of the village). We are also having lunch at La Bodega to top up the calories!

Merry Christmas everyone!

Evening WI

November was our birthday meeting, and we celebrated with a buffet contributed by members. We wore home-made party hats – in wild variety! A quiz caused much discussion and was

followed by a great deal of chat...and the birthday cake, made by Barbara Dickinson.

Next month, we are entertaining ourselves – that should take our thoughts off the election!



Carol's winning hat!

Brenda Aldridge and Sue Arnavot

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children from Year 5 had visited the food bank to see how their donations will be received, the dates of the products checked and then food bags will be made up to be given out to families who have been referred by social services.

The Headmistress, Mrs Anna Majcher, praised the children with encouraging words about the importance of always being 'kindhearted' and indeed this is one of the Carrington School key values and Mrs Majcher thanked everyone who had sent in food.

Juliet Bates

Martin Adams

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

I hope that you all had a safe and enjoyable time at Halloween and on Bonfire Night. Now it's 'the final countdown' to Christmas and another New Year!

Christmas Shopping

Whilst many of us do a lot of our shopping online these days - and isn't The Internet a wonderful thing? - those of us who prefer to browse the shops for Christmas presents should be aware of some basic rules to protect our purchases.

Do not leave all your shopping on display in your car whilst you go off to have a well-earned 'cuppa'. Make sure that you put everything in the boot of your car, away from prying eyes and the temptation for a quick 'smash and grab'. Anything that is left visible in your car in a car park is a potential target. Apart from the obvious things such as laptops, mobile phones and the like, we have had reports of vehicles being broken into for a packet of mints, some doughnuts and an old jacket on the way to a charity shop!

Similarly, if you like to display your Christmas 'goodies' under the Christmas Tree, try not to make them too obvious, especially if your tree can be seen by passers-by, and close the curtains at night. If you plan to purchase any expensive presents, check that your household Contents Insurance is

adequate for this temporary event, to cover any (hopefully unlikely) burglary.

Vehicle Registration 'cloning'

The theft of car number plates has been known of - and publicised - for a number of years, as a means of thieves avoiding congestion charges in London or other crimes. The fitting of 'clutch-head' screws is one way of making life more difficult for the thief, and the wider use of tough adhesive and/or plates that shatter if removed by force, are steps in the right direction. However, this doesn't stop YOUR registration number being used on false plates on another vehicle, as one village resident recently found! He has received penalty notices for 'use of bus lane', 'over-staying parking time' and 'speeding' from authorities in East London over a period of three days. His registration number had been used on an identical car to commit these offences, at a time when HIS car was safely on his drive in Flackwell Heath! It has taken much time and effort writing to the various bodies to convince them that it was NOT his car!

On that note, may I wish all readers a safe and very happy time at Christmas: best wishes for 2020 whatever it brings!

For further information about this topic or about Neighbourhood Watch in general, contact:

David Gresswell - Scheme Co-ordinator,
Flackwell Heath

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

Police General & Non-emergency number: 101

Community Safety Team (Anti-social behaviour): 01494 421 087

Crimestoppers (Anonymous): 0800 555 111

NEW: Citizen's Advice Consumer Helpline: 03454 040 506 (Prev: Trading Standards)

Cyberaware -
<https://www.cyberaware.gov.uk/>

ACTION FRAUD: 0300 123 2040 -
<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/contact-us>

The Information Commissioner's Office: 0303 123 1113

NHS: 111



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FLACKWELL LOCAL AREA HISTORY GROUP

The next talk at the Flackwell Heath Community Library will be on Monday 10 February 2020, at 7.30pm:

Sticky Bombs and Stool Pigeons with John Gurney

John's talk will cover: the secretive WWII Weapons Research & Development organisation which was located at the Firs Mansion, Whitchurch. It was also known as 'Winston Churchill's Toyshop'. Also the intelligence gathered from the bugging of P.O.W. conversations at Buckinghamshire mansions in



Beaconsfield and Chesham, where MI9 officers disguised as Germans would often sit in as 'stool pigeons' and some other lesser known Buckinghamshire WWII organisations.

This is a ticketed event. The tickets are available at the library from Tuesday 7 January, and are £5 (£3 to friends of

FHCL). Please note that tickets will not be available on the night.

Thank you, to all those who have supported us this year.

We look forward to seeing you in 2020

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

 Like us on facebook/Flackwell Heath, Loudwater & Wooburn Local History Group

www.localhistorygroup.org.uk





Bonfire Night!



Well, we eventually got there! After rain (and a whole lot of wind!) stopped play on the scheduled annual bonfire and firework event of the 2nd November, it looked like it was going to do the same again on the new date of the 9th. However, Mother Nature must have felt she'd inflicted enough on us, and the rain subsided by the time the 27th village bonfire and firework display opened its gates. As always, profits from the day are split between three charities within the village - with the 1st Flackwell Heath Scout Group, Carrington PTA, and Juniper Hill PTA taking an equal share.

Almost predictably, given the poor weather, gate numbers were down on last year - but that didn't stop over 1,500 of you enjoying another fantastic display. On-line ticket purchases totalled over £3,000 (more than twice that of last year!), and a huge number of you took advantage of being able to pay by card for your teas, coffees or alcoholic drinks on the night. The Scouts are planning on buying new tents for the group, Carrington Schools are planning on buying visualisers for each class (apparently it's a combination of a camera, a microscope and an overhead projector - who knew, eh...?!), and Juniper School will put funds towards a new library.

Celebrations were kicked off by Flackwell Heath Beavers' Red Lodge, who supplied the winning Guy, as judged by Juniper Head Claire Garnett, Carrington Governor Michelle Els, and Carrington Junior School Staff Governor Nathan Talbot. Celebrations continued as, remarkably, Arthur Banks won the raffle for the second year running and chose to start the bonfire using the newly-introduced 'Detonator'. For those of you 'of a certain age', think Road Runner, think 'ACME', and you'll have a fair idea of what was involved! Unfortunately it didn't go exactly as planned due to the incredibly wet weather experienced throughout the day (it worked in rehearsals, honest!), but we'll be looking to resolve it for next year - so watch this space! The Big Red Button didn't let us down though, and the first display was enthusiastically started by the Heygate-Browns and the Stewarts, with the second started by Arthur Banks and Fin Mathieson.

Again, we must extend a massive thank you to a fantastic group of helpers, without whom the event wouldn't have been possible. Year on year people give their time freely to bring the community together, and this year was no exception. A special mention must go to The Flackwell Heath Village Bonfire Association team of Rory Maguire, Charles Colton, Mark Averill, Mark Nunn, John Urquhart, Emma Baker, Stefanie Preston, Sarah Hyde, Kevin Hughes and Lucy Firth. I'm sure you'll agree another splendid display provided the back-drop to another great evening!

If you are interested in sponsoring next year's event (and have your company logo printed on the rear of the tickets), then please drop an email to fhfireworks@mail.com.

As always, if you have any comments or feedback on the event, or any suggestions on how to make it even better next year, then we'd love to hear from you at the same address. Until then, we'll be seeing you again next year!

John Urquhart, on behalf of The Flackwell Heath Village Bonfire Association



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Christ Church



**60th
Anniversary Art
Exhibition at
Christ Church**

We were overwhelmed by the number of artists who gave us work to display. What talent we discovered from contributions from Flackwell Heath. We hope you enjoyed sharing your work with everybody. Many visitors came to the exhibition and commented on the standard of the work displayed.

Bob Tibbles and Lyn Rimmer

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Not Just Men in Sheds!



Men In Sheds at High Wycombe is re-launching with a brand new website and is looking for new members. Their message to would-be members is that whatever your ability at making things, **Men in Sheds High Wycombe** has the

expertise and facilities to help you improve your skills and meet people at the same time.

The facility, which comprises of several rooms, is based at Kingsmead Park, Fennels Road, HP11 1SL, facing on to the netball courts next to the Chiltern Rangers building and is open from 10am to 3pm Tuesdays and Thursdays. They have a huge variety of tools, both hand and power, for working in wood and metal.

Advice can be given on planning, design and then skills demonstrated such as making woodwork joints, planing, finishing etc.

There is a small area for making tea etc, so you can take a packed lunch if you want.

Groups can come and use the facilities by prior arrangement and people can either pop in or contact Barry on **07771 185045**.

Men In Sheds at High Wycombe are also keen to point out that it's not only men who can come along – women are also welcome. (But it is restricted to adults).

Men in Sheds High Wycombe also does **up-cycling** where an item can be brought in and improved upon. Bicycle repairs are also undertaken.

If anyone would like something made then contact Men in Sheds to discuss.



Projects in progress include bird boxes, a picture frame, and a chessboard. A lot of materials are recycled – or take your own. Costs are low. With Christmas coming up why not have a go at making some Christmas decorations?

For more details go to: www.meninshedshw.co.uk.

Colin Moore



Oak Tree

A well-known oak on Straight Bit was felled on 14 November. It was found to be rotting – more on this in February.

General Election 12 Dec

Please note the Polling Station for Flackwell is the British Legion (and NOT, as usual, The Community Centre)

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Flackwell Heath Community Association

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01628 526129
Secretary: Chris Thomas
01628 520361
Treasurer: Barrie Walmsley
01628 522016

Centre Bookings

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

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Dates for your Diary

December

Saturday 7 – Children's Christmas Crafts at the Library, 10am – 12.30pm. See page 4

Thursday 12 – Heath Singers' Christmas Concert at Christ Church. See page 1

Saturday 14 – Heath Singers' Christmas Concert (encore) at Christ Church

February 2020

Monday 10 – Local History Group Talk at Library 'Sticky Bombs and Stool Pigeons' by John Gurney, see page 6

Saturday 15 – Wycombe Orpheus Charity Concert at Christ Church, 7.30pm. See page 4



Editor: **Situation Vacant**

email: [grapevine@](mailto:grapevine@flackwellheathcommunitycentre.org.uk)

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