

THE Grapevine

September 2020

50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



THE GRAPEVINE IS IN PRINT AGAIN!

A big thank you to all road reps. Where would we be without you?

We are grateful for the services of Tom Lewis, Janet Jones, Mike Russell, Jean Cocks, Betty Leach and Roger Adams who have taken this opportunity to step down.

And pleased to welcome Maureen Reeve (Carrington Road and Chiltern Green), Digby Harman (Sedgmoor Gardens), Barbara Hunt (Links Approach and Links Way), Wendy Marshall (Links Road), Pat Kendall (Philip Drive) and Derek Clench (Beckings Way). **We are still in need of someone to cover the Rugwood Road area.** Please contact Nigel and Alison Peach if you can help (contact details on back page).

The Bad News

Unfortunately, printing costs money and we will need to collect subscriptions next month. Having given some thought to the safety aspects, it has been decided that we will charge a flat rate of £5 for 10 printed copies. This may be paid with exact cash, cheque or bank transfer, and full details will be provided with your October issue.

Lockdown Schooling

During lockdown parents of school age children have had to try to teach them at home, often whilst juggling new work practices themselves. For many parents, the prospect was quite daunting and often resulted in their having to invest time in re-visiting their own school days. Whilst a few enjoyed the experience, most seem to have found getting their children to do school work a little challenging and exhausting.

Local schools approached the crisis in different ways, some sending out work on a regular basis, others organising lessons over the internet and catch ups so children could see one another. The lack of social interaction definitely had a negative impact on some children and this made teaching them at home even harder.

No one knows yet exactly what will happen when the new school year begins in the autumn term but you can be sure the vast majority of parents will breathe a deep sigh of relief!

Inside: Juniper School in lockdown plus the experience of one mum.

HURRAY: IT'S BACK!

You can now refresh your books and jigsaws

JIGSAW & PAPERBACK LIBRARY

WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER



1.00-2.45 pm

FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY CENTRE
We are very pleased to be able to welcome you back to our Library.

In order to do this, I'm sure you will understand, we have to follow strict Government guidelines with Social-distancing and face coverings.
Subject to current restrictions



For further details please contact:

Alison Harvey - 01628 530186

alison.harvey3@sky.com

PLEASE NOTE EARLIER OPENING TIME

Redevelopment of the Old Kiln Road Car Park

In the June edition of the Grapevine we reported that a planning application by Revere Homes had been submitted for the erection of 4 semi-detached properties and 5 flats in the old Budgens car park.

Nearly 30 objections from neighbours were received and local councillor, Dave Johncock, has asked for the application to be put before the local area planning committee in order that the views of residents, business owners etc. can be fully aired and the planning decision made by Members.

No date has yet been set for that meeting but Cllr Johncock assures us that it will be well publicised when known.

Carrington Windmill

Did you notice that the windmill in Carrington school has mysteriously disappeared? Many of us didn't and its whereabouts are currently a bit of a mystery. Theories abound; was it abducted by aliens, taken away by 5G activists or simply taken home for the school holidays to be cared for by a Year 4 pupil! We'll be investigating, because the village needs to know!



WANDERS BRING WONDERS

We are very lucky in Flackwell Heath to be surrounded by beautiful countryside. We would like to bring you a few pictures from our local walks this summer. The disused railway line at Wooburn had a glorious display of wild flowers in July, with the rose willow herb forming a backdrop for a carpet of yellow and blues.



Clockwise from top left: Goldenrod, toadflax, chicory, tansy, valerian, hogweed. Photo collage: Malcolm Wiles



A stag was spotted behind the Crooked Billet near Warren Wood, where the Peacock butterfly was also found.

Photos: Craig Lewis



And from the allotments, an early morning kite and a sunset. Photos: Craig Lewis



Woollcotts – adapting to survive

Businesses throughout the country have had to adapt swiftly to survive throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Locally, Woollcotts dry cleaners have done just that. After 22 years running a shop in the village, Ian, the owner quickly realised that to survive, he would need to make some changes. Shop rents do not go away during lockdown but a lot of business does, so he decided to close the premises and move the equipment to a small, much cheaper industrial unit locally.

Ian was already finding that most of his business was pick ups from local offices and so it was easy to extend this to cover all customers. Over the last decade or

so, many of us had moved away from local shops, deliveries etc., but COVID-19 has changed all that and everything has gone full circle. We're now returning in droves to home deliveries and a more personal service.

Woollcotts started as a family business with Ian, his wife and sister; 22 years later, it is once again with the latest team of Ian, his wife Donna and daughter Amy.

Ian sounds rejuvenated now he doesn't have the worry of an expensive shop and he's enjoying having more time to engage with his loyal, local customers.

To arrange pick-up or collection or for more information ring 07828 726078 or email info@woollcotts.com.

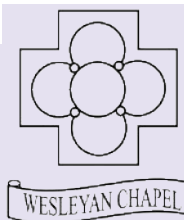
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FLACKWELL HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

Please see our Facebook page (details below) for information on when our church building will be reopening. In the interim, there are ways for us to worship and get together online:

There is a regular **SUNDAY MORNING CIRCUIT WORSHIP SERVICE** at 10.30 a.m. which can be accessed using the following link:

http://www.marlowmethodistchurch.org.uk/service_live/index.php

WESLEY METHODIST

CHURCH is offering a service via YouTube. This will be posted at 10.30 a.m. at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOG1DdgptnR-2wRKgjiW3A> but can be viewed at any time thereafter.

We are running our **PARENT AND TODDLER (PAT) GROUP** and **PLAY & PRAISE** virtually during September on Wednesday and Friday mornings, respectively; please contact our **Community Mission Worker Vicky Everitt (07979 541874)** for details on how to join in.

If you have specific prayer requests or need any information, please contact our Minister Rev. Nick Thompson on 01628 483985; or see our Facebook page for regular updates.

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



On Sunday 25th July Christ Church said farewell to Revd Canon Christopher Bull. After 25 years as Vicar of Flackwell Heath, Chris has been appointed Associate Archdeacon of Buckingham and starts his new role on 1st September. Sadly the COVID-19 restrictions meant that we were not able to give him the send off he deserved, but we paid tribute to him in our online service (which can be viewed via our website www.ccfh.org.uk and Facebook page) and presented him with a copy of the Rose Window. We hope to



be able to have a gathering once restrictions are lifted. Chris and Wendy won't be going far, as Wendy is Vicar of St Anne's, Wycombe Marsh and St Peter's Micklefield, so they will move into her parish.

Although our Sunday services have had to move online, the building is open for private prayer on Thursdays and Fridays from 10-11.30am.

Sunday services go live at 10.30am and can be viewed at fb.com/ChristChurchFlackwellHeath/live

You are invited to Alpha, a multi-week interactive course that creates a space where you can come and have a conversation about faith, life and God. Weekly morning & evening courses start week beginning 28th September. It's low-key, friendly and fun! There is no pressure and no charge. Want to explore life, faith & meaning? Try Alpha. Contact alpha@ccfh.org.uk for more information.

THERE WILL BE A **PLANT SALE** IN AID OF **CHRISTIAN AID** ON SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER, 9.30 - 11.30 AM AT **CHRIST CHURCH CHAPEL ROAD**

Please contact the Church Office for further information on any of the above

☎ 01628 533004

✉ admin@ccfh.org.uk

🌐 www.ccfh.org.uk

📘 Christ Church Flackwell Heath

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Flackwell Heath Community Library - NEW COVID-19 Secure Service



We are now able to offer a limited in-library service taking into account COVID-19 hygiene and social distancing requirements.

Access to the library is limited to 2 people at a time for borrowing books or to collect reservations.

In addition one person may use a public PC.

To access the library you will need to provide your name and contact details for NHS Test & Trace. These will be destroyed after 21 days.

You will need to sanitise your hands and wear a face mask and keep a safe distance apart.

Returned books are placed in a box in the foyer without entering the library. These are quarantined for 3 days before they are recorded on our systems. So remember to return your books at least 3 days *before* the stated return date.

The library is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 10am - 12 noon.

See Facebook for latest updates



SCHOOL AT HOME

When a colleague mentioned home schooling and what it had meant to me during lockdown, I shuddered a little. I had expected it to be a relative breeze having two boys, one 15 and the other 18. I mean, they are at least able to understand the serious reasons behind “not being able to go to school” even if they were secretly quite pleased about it. It’s not like I would have to schedule their days at home with a Joe Wicks start at 9am, an hour of spelling and subsequent mini breaks including a run around outside or some finger painting to get their brains focussing back on the serious stuff for the afternoon.

How wrong I was. It was less of a breeze and more of a storm(trooper)!

My younger son would cheerfully sit in front of his laptop for most of the day and, as I was being sent the detailed breakdown of what he was being asked to complete on a daily basis, I wrongly assumed that when I queried whether he’d done all the relevant workand got a positive response... that it was indeed the case. I have to admit that on the odd occasion when I walked into his room and the screen was quickly flicked to Hegarty Maths I did suspect he had been distracted by something like Minecraft or FIFA (hopefully nothing more nefarious!) but I thought as long as the work was getting done...he could be allowed these distractions as “rest” periods. It wasn’t until we got some quite terse emails from the French teacher who advised us he hadn’t submitted any work since the beginning of the

lockdown and another from the Geography teacher outlining her disappointment in his ability to provide only the barest minimum of content, that I realised I had, yet again, been “had over” to use his words.

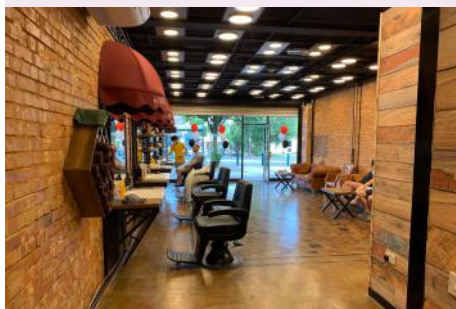
So.. a regime ensued where I would have to physically examine everything he’d done each day, followed by a negotiation where the incomplete items had to be slotted into future days before their deadline. This carried out with threats of no PS4, no phone or no laptop. I had turned into the homework police...

My older son on the other hand did no work at all. Having been advised the teachers would provide recommended grades to the exam boards for his BTEC3 (A level equivalent), he took it as read he could stay in bed ‘til midday every day and only surface if one of his friends called for a chat! On top of that he has an unconditional place (deferred for a year) at Bournemouth University. It’s looking like I won’t be able to get him out of bed for the whole year!

Having failed miserably at my “mother as teacher” tasks during this period therefore, I have taken up a new pursuit...



Barber Crew



It will probably not have escaped your notice that one of the empty shops in our village centre has now re-opened as a Turkish Barber Shop called Barber Crew.

It opened early in August, and is open six days a week (closed on Tuesdays) – Monday to Saturday 9am – 6pm and

Sundays 10am – 4pm. There is no need to make an appointment.

I asked Abdul, the owner, why they chose Flackwell Heath to open a shop and he said they liked the idea that it is seen as the largest village in the UK (although whether this is still true may be debatable!)

They are Turkish Barbers - a particular type of barber, who provide other services on top of traditional men's hairdressing, such as a hot towel shave and massage and beard trimming. They also cut children's hair.

So do pop in and visit them and support one of our local businesses.

Alison Peach

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COVID-19 Support Group

Our village support group has been providing an invaluable service in Flackwell Heath for over 4 months. However, as you will know from the national news, people who have been shielding during the coronavirus pandemic have been able to go outside and meet with others since 6 July. From 1 August, they can also visit shops, places of worship, and return to work or school.

It was therefore decided that, from 1 August, we would scale back what we have been doing since March because there is, and hopefully will continue to be, little left for us to do. We will however remain on standby and be prepared to jump back into action quickly should there be a second spike in the village or the surrounding area. The virus hasn't gone away and, as we have seen in other parts of the country and the world, can rapidly come back to bite us! If you get any symptoms, get a test and self-isolate.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all our wonderful band of willing volunteers. Many thanks and stay safe.

Dave Johncock

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Juniper Hill Survives Lockdown

You will remember that on March 23rd the country went into lockdown and the government ordered that pupils must be educated at home.

But some schools simply could not close. After all there were children who needed to continue to go to school throughout the lockdown. Children of doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, food chain workers, postmen, people involved in gas, electricity, water and sewage services, bus drivers and countless other critical jobs, had to be looked after so that their parents could go to work.

Claire Garnett, headmistress, prepared to keep Juniper School open to welcome a small group of pupils of mixed ages. The newly decorated school library became their home. Surrounded by bright red shelves of books, sitting at a safe distance from each other, on little red chairs, the ten children of critical workers, became a family. Lena (aged 10) told me "At first I am thinking 'Why am I coming to school' but 'winning a bronze badge made me very happy'. Lauchy (aged 7) explained how he "loved the football and the colouring." They all made new friends.

The teaching staff didn't worry about their own risk and told me "You want to help. You are so absorbed in what you are doing. You know the key workers are keeping the country going".

On June 1st the government announced that Year 1 and Year 6 children could also return to school. Long legal documents were issued setting out how schools should implement protective measures. "Where the physical layout of a setting does not allow small groups of children to be kept at a safe distance apart, we expect practitioners to

exercise judgement in ensuring the highest standards of safety are maintained." Decisions on planning had to be dealt with quickly and it took long hours of work into the early hours to sort through pages and pages of regulations.

Mrs Garnett explained to me how she envisaged a new system for Juniper Hill. Children would be divided into a red and a blue group.

Each group would have two and a half days per week of schooling (except for the critical workers group which would continue to come every day). The class sizes could then be reduced to just 15 socially distanced children.

The curriculum would also have to be simplified with English and Maths being taught in the morning and Art / PE and Wellbeing covered in the afternoon.

In July, when I visited and Mrs Garnett showed me around the school, the school corridors were empty. The movement of children has been very carefully planned and minimised.

Every small class of 15 children has been allocated specific toilets and at playtime each class plays in a separate area of the school grounds.

The school field has been taped off into six separate play areas. No one must dare to cross the "No man's land" strip down the middle!

Juniper Hill's new motto is "Kindness, Enjoyment and Achievement." Miss Lewis is the Wellbeing leader at Juniper, making sure that families and children receive the help they need. A "Helpful Hippo" scheme is there for any child who is worried. The message is, "Go to someone to get help. Don't wallow in the mud!"

Miss Lewis told me how impressed she has been to see children gain more independence and resilience. "The children have adapted really well to changes in the routine. For some children a quieter environment has



positives. They are interacting with different children and playing cohesively. We have questionnaires for children so that we can pick up on issues... e.g. are you OK or is there anything you want us (teachers) to know?"

How did the children feel about going back to school? "Great excitement," to be returning, the staff told me, "although some were worried they were not with their friends but the red group have begun to leave little messages for the blue group. They have also invented 'social distancing' games at playtime. In the lines the children stand apart automatically! It's brilliant."

Technology has been a great help. Although it wasn't possible to have a full assembly in the school hall, Mrs Garnett has used "Zoom" to bring all the classes together in a "Virtual Assembly".

Parents were emailed Home Learning Packs featuring home learning "Stars of the week". Many children learned to email for the first time. For those families who couldn't receive the packs electronically, they were printed and delivered by Mrs Annika Williams (Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator), often accompanied by home-made biscuits and cakes!

The new regime has worked well and every child had a month back at school before the summer holidays. That's quite an achievement for Mrs Claire Garnett, the Headmistress of Juniper Hill and her loyal staff. In years to come we will all look back on 2020 and I am certain that Juniper Hill can do so with great pride at what has been achieved.

Juliet Bates



Flackwell Local Area History Group

Following the latest Government advice on social distancing, due to the coronavirus, we are postponing all talks at the Flackwell Heath Community Library. They will be rescheduled at a later date.

Flackwell Heath Carnivals

Our thanks to David Price who recently sent us some photographs from the 1936 Flackwell Heath carnival. Do you recognise anyone in the pictures? Perhaps you also have photos of the carnivals to send us? If you do we would love to see them, plus any information/stories that might accompany them. Please email us on info@localhistorygroup.org.uk.



Her father was George Edwin Hall who was born in 1871. He was married twice. First to Amelia Vickers and then to Mary Burgess. George Hall's father was also a George Hall, born in 1849, who married an Elizabeth Why. George Hall's father was yet another George Hall, born in 1814, who married a Mary Bryant but exactly where he was born or who his parents were remains a mystery.

If any of these names appear on your own family tree and you are willing to share your information with our enquirer, please email us on info@localhistorygroup.org.uk. Thank you.

Further to this, we have the following from Pam Kemp:

"Alice May Hornsey (nee Hall)'s brother, Bert Hall, owned the coal merchants in Swains Lane and her son, George Hornsey & his wife Moira, lived in the same house in Heath End Road for over 50 years".

Gill Kyle also has some information from the registers on Bert, George and Moira. Space does not permit us to include it here, but see Gill's contact details below.

Family History Research - At present there are no research sessions in the library but if you would like help or guidance please contact **Gill Kyle** on **01494 436314** or by email donkyle@btinternet.com



Like us on facebook www.localhistorygroup.org.uk

Appeal Corner

Can you help the descendants of a Flackwell Heath family with their research? They have been able to trace their village roots back by five generations but can't get further back than 1814. Do you recognise the following names? Their maternal grandmother was Alice May Hall who was born in 1897 and who married Albert Hornsey. Alice was born in Flackwell Heath and she and her parents and 12 siblings all lived in the village.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

CRIME

Unfortunately, very little information about crime in our area is made generally available by the police.

Some crime information is available via the Ourwatch website: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/>

If you enter your postcode, you can select 'Crime in this area' when a map will be presented with large coloured dots indicating the number of crimes in a specific area. Clicking on a coloured dot allows you to drill down to individual crimes, but details are very sparse.

FRAUD – visit

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

In 2019, fraud in its many forms is estimated to have cost the UK economy approx. £130 billion, representing about 35% of ALL crime, but only attracting about 1% of enforcement expenditure (Source: BBC and UK Finance). Approx. £825m was attributed just to personal Card fraud, and £456m to Authorised Push Payment (APP) fraud. 'Phishing' emails attempt to steal our personal data, which can also lead to 'identity theft' which has potentially significant financial and mental health consequences..

In addition, 'Vishing', the use of the telephone system to commit fraud has seen similar growth, with many reputable organisations being 'spoofed' in an attempt to relieve us of our money, eg. HMRC, DVLA, TV Licensing, etc. The 'hackers' are also active, and 'Blackbaud', a major company providing customer relations management services to many

educational bodies, not-for-profit organisations, charities and the like, were subject to a Ransomware attack earlier in the year. They are currently contacting all individuals associated with these organisations, by email or post, to provide reassurance that personal data is now secure.

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

David Gresswell – Scheme Co-ordinator, Flackwell Heath

(Tel: 01628 525019 e-mail: flackwell-nhwatch@talktalk.net)

Police General & Non-emergency number: 101

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/contact-us-to-discuss-something-else/>

Wycombe District Neighbourhood Watch Assoc:

<https://neighbourhoodwatchwycombe.org/>

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

Crimestoppers (Anonymous): 0800 555 111

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

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

Get Safe Online –
<https://www.getsafeonline.org/>

National Crime Agency (NCA) -
<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news>

SERS - report@phishing.gov.uk

The Information Commissioner's Office: 0303 123 1113

A times past pastime



Way back in the last century part of my misspent youth was devoted to making up model kits of various things. My remembered favourites were the 'Ole Bill' circa 1914 London bus and strange to tell, Henry VIII. Sadly, Donald Trump wasn't an option in those days or I may have majored in voodoo dolls instead. The years have gone by and the bug seemed to strike again a little while back but all the kits I could see seemed to hold little interest for me. Eventually I tracked down a long discontinued kit of an aeroplane I had always liked the look of. It is one of those things that in one sense is so ugly it is in fact beautiful. It is much more inspiring than the usual more modern offerings. This was a Catalina PB5Y. Sorted out submarines and the like in WWII. Being out of practice for a few moons I did manage to cobble it together and even knocked up a WWII Jeep to keep it company. Whilst the skills and the eyesight have seemingly also gone into some sort of retirement, I also sensed the answer to a long held dream to own a Renault 4GTL car could be realised in miniature if not in reality. Being a French kit didn't help particularly when the number codes in the instructions didn't always match up with the numbers on the pieces in the kit. This will come as no surprise to those of you who have driven in La Belle France and discovered that what is on the map is not on the signposts and what is on the signposts is somewhere in the next 'département'. The Quatrelle was duly finished and whilst it was never intended for anyone but me it conveyed to me that it was a bit lonely so I made it a companion in the voluptuous shape of a 'Dolly' model Citroën 2CV. It would have been a nice pastime during the Coronavirus lock down but I will settle for just surviving this one.

Mike Russell

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Did you take up or revisit hobbies during lockdown? Tell us about it at the Grapevine.

Hornbeam, *Carpinus betulus*

The hornbeam is a native tree. Superficially it resembles the beech: the leaves look very similar, but the hornbeam leaf has a toothed edge where the beech is smooth or just slightly wavy. The bark is a similar grey colour, and smooth like the beech, but the hornbeam's trunk tends to be more fluted. The best way to tell them apart is by their fruit. Hornbeams bear small nuts which hang in clusters from the tree attached to what appear to be wings, but are actually large bracts, quite different from beech nuts.



The bracts

Hornbeams are common in woodlands in southern England, especially on heavy clay soils, though less frequent on the chalky soils of the Chilterns. There are a few scattered about in Fennels Wood, including two or three by the main footpath, but they are difficult to spot. A better place to look for them is where

the path from Willow Close enters Ronald Wood. For 80 metres or so, before the path turns left, about half the trees are hornbeams.

Hornbeams make the hardest wood of any British or indeed European tree. It finds some uses as cutting boards and carpenter's benches, and it makes high quality charcoal. It is occasionally employed in construction where an exceptionally hard wearing flooring surface is needed, but generally the sheer difficulty of working the wood limits its use. In former times it was used to make cogwheels for windmill mechanisms where metal could not be used because of the danger of sparks igniting flour dust.

The hornbeam has a fastigate form (see the June Grapevine) which grows in an attractive, regular "ace of spades" shape, and is very popular for formal plantings. The young tree next to the village sign is a fastigate hornbeam, as is the tree behind the bus stop outside the row of shops opposite when viewed from the sign. There are other examples in the village; can you find them?

Malcolm Wiles



Photo :Malcolm Wiles

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Eating out...



Our local restaurants and pubs were all forced to close in March and hadn't been able to reopen until July. Initially trade was slow as it took a while for people to feel safe going out again. The government's incentive of up to £10 off food throughout the month of August, provided you ate Monday to Wednesday, changed all that. Alex and his wife Jenny who run La Bodega, suddenly found they were completely booked out! La Bodega re-opened as soon as they were allowed in July, having spent the lockdown period decorating and preparing for social distancing etc.

Jenny has an NHS background which is evident as soon as you enter the restaurant. Quite rightly you're asked to use

hand gel at the door, tables have been spaced to allow a 2m gap and gone are the old linen cloths, replaced with disposable plastic ones. Menus are now paper and disposed of after each customer but there is the option to download onto your phone. The menu is completely new, a delicious taste of Spanish food prepared by a Spanish chef.

Alex and Jenny say they are very grateful to the people of Flackwell Heath for supporting them through this very difficult period. It's not just La Bodega that's been busy though, whilst returning from a Tuesday night walk, slightly moist after getting caught in a thunderstorm, I passed the Crooked Billet and the car park was overflowing. Our pubs in the centre of the village have also been well attended. Generally, people appear to be being sensible and observing social distancing etc., let's hope and pray life continues to return to some semblance of normality.

Flackwell Heath Community Association

Chairman: Chris Cramer
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The Grapevine is printed by
Spot On Print using vegetable inks on
Cocoon silk recycled paper
FSC certified and totally chlorine free.