

THE Grapevine

October 2020

50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



YOUR COMMUNITY CENTRE



During September it was good to see the community centre re-open to several of its regular users. Karate, badminton, Zumba, Pilates, Anna Rose dancing, new keep fit classes, table tennis and one yoga session have started up so far. It is still not possible to hold parties of any kind. We have become accustomed to many COVID-19 restrictions over the last few months and use of the community centre is no exception. The badminton and table tennis groups have governing body guidelines with which to comply, and there are many other requirements for centre users.

A one-way system operates: in the main door and out one of the fire doors.

Hand sanitisers must be used on entry and exit.

Contact details are required as per 'test and trace' guidelines.

Masks must be worn except when actually exercising.

You must not arrive early and must allow 15 minutes at the end of your session for wiping down all surfaces.

The kitchen may not be used except for fetching drinking water in your own container.

There are limits to the number of people who may attend, depending on the room and the activity.

Any suspected household case of COVID-19 will require the centre to close for a minimum of 72 hours.

A new key collection system will operate via a key safe.

Our thanks go to Bill, Frank, and Chris Thomas for putting all this in place over the summer.

The Grapevine can advertise your community centre event, free if it's not-for-profit. Three ways to contact us:

Email to grapevine@flackwellheathcommunitycentre.org.uk.

Use the contact form on the FHCA website.

Pop a note through the community centre post box addressed to the Grapevine.

One of the first groups back in the centre was the jigsaw and paperback library under the watchful eye of Chris Thomas. There were over 100 customers (75 households on the 'test and trace' list) who parted with £175 at 50p per item. An enormous pile of donated books and jigsaws was acquired and put into quarantine to be dealt with next time, 7 October.



Just a small proportion of the returned jigsaws

Grapevine Subscriptions

Your road rep will be asking for these this month at a flat rate of £5 for 10 copies. Please help them as much as possible as follows:

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- (1) exact cash or
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- (3) bank transfer to Flackwell Heath Community Association, Sort Code 20-40-71, Account 30525200 using reference 'Grapevine'.

Place the subscription request slip, together with any cash or cheque in an envelope. If you have paid by bank transfer, please be sure to tick the bank transfer box on the slip.

Your subscription will pay for 10 printed copies starting with this copy. If you prefer, instead, to have your copy emailed as a pdf you can request this by sending an email to grapevine@flackwellheathcommunitycentre.org.uk. Please note that this is an *alternative*. If you would like both a print copy and an emailed copy this will cost an extra £2, at £7.

With the coronavirus situation so unstable, we may need to revert to online copies at any time and at short notice. Be warned that we may not be able to tell you about this in advance. Any months with online editions will not count towards your 10 copies.

Broad-leaved Cockspur thorn, *Crataegus persimilis* 'Prunifolia'



This small, unassuming little tree, only about 4m tall, stands unnoticed for most of the time in the children's play area in the Straight Bit recreation ground. Its moment of glory comes once a year, usually in late September to early October, when briefly for a week or so it turns a brilliant orange red colour before the leaves fall. Large red berries, bigger and more crimson than our native hawthorn, enhance the overall display.

The Cockspur thorn is native to north east America, growing from Quebec in Canada to Kansas in the US. It was one of the earliest introductions from the New World to this country, with records indicating that it has been grown here at least since 1691. It will grow happily on most soil types, and tolerates a wide range of conditions. Together with its modest size, these attributes combine to make it a popular tree for park and street plantings.

There are several different hybrids and cultivars of the Cockspur thorn, and it is these rather than the type tree which are usually planted nowadays. These varieties can be difficult to tell apart; the identification here is based on the colour and timing of the autumn display and the fact that the berries have usually all fallen by Christmas. These can cause mild stomach upsets if eaten, but they are not considered poisonous. They have a reputation for being popular with birds, but our local wildlife seems mostly to leave them alone.

Its flowers are creamy white, clustered similarly but somewhat larger than hawthorn. They open in late May after hawthorn, and after most other spring blossom is over. "Blossom fatigue" by that time in the season, and the fact that there is so much else going on by then in gardens everywhere, often causes them to be overlooked.

Malcolm Wles



Our COVID-19 Secure Library Service

Flackwell Heath Community Library has been operating a limited library service from mid-August that is designed to minimise any risks from COVID-19. This means that we have had to introduce some restrictions – only two people browsing books in the library at a time, plus one person using a public PC. Everybody is asked to use the hand sanitiser on entry and to wear a face covering. This will mean that on occasion you may have to queue, but 2m apart.

If you are returning books then you can just put them in a box in the foyer without entering the library. These are then quarantined for 3 days before being 'returned' through our system. If coming into the library, we are required to record your name and contact details for NHS Test & Trace. These details are destroyed after 21 days

We have a wide range of adult and children's fiction, non-fiction and biographies. In fact at the moment we have rather more books than normal, as there is currently no rotation of books between county libraries. However a full reservation service is available.

We have had a very positive response from our customers and would like to thank them for their patience and consideration in accepting these new restrictions. A big thank you also to our team of volunteers, a large number of whom are in the 'vulnerable' category, and who have enabled us to offer the best service we can in these difficult times.

We should expect that this is going to be the new 'normal' for some time, though there may be changes along the way as we strive to improve the service that we can offer. Our current opening times are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10.00 to 12.00. To keep abreast of any changes and other news please refer to our Facebook page.

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

Tel: 01296 382415

email: fhcl@flackwellheath.net

web: www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries



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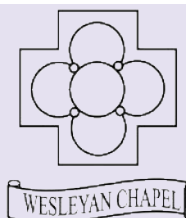
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FLACKWELL HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

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 am** 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 10.30am 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 October on Wednesday and Friday mornings, respectively.

For the foreseeable future our toddler sessions remain virtual, and for security reasons the log in details are new each time; these are posted on the Flackwell Heath Wednesday PAT Group Facebook page, which can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1428129857426775/?ref=share> so please join to receive regular updates. You can contact our **Community Mission Worker Vicky Everitt (07979 541874)** if you need any more information.

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



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

LOCKDOWN STATUS – See:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

Sadly, the incidence of COVID-19 is on the increase, apparently due to the easing of restrictions.

FRAUD – visit:

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> and <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/>

The Action Fraud website has undergone a major overhaul, and now offers helpful advice on a whole range of frauds, whether doorstep, mail, phishing, malware, etc., etc. Well worth a visit.

‘Popular’ scams

- Coronavirus Scams – watch out for websites offering to sell you protective equipment, home testing kits, claimed ‘remedies’, etc. The scammers are taking advantage of the current pandemic in attempts to steal your money! Most of the products are useless or not even real! Check, check.

- TV Licensing – phone calls or emails regarding your TV Licence are scams. The TV Licensing Authority will only contact you by post.

- SAGA – watch out for phoney websites, emails or phone calls which appear to be regarding SAGA. Look out for minor spelling differences in email addresses. The only phone number for SAGA is: **0800 028 1701**.

- Travel Fraud – emails, phone calls, websites or social media posts claiming to be able to recover costs associated with cancelled flights or holidays, or offering what appear to be great value holiday deals post-lockdown or holiday homes, caravans, etc. for ‘Staycations’. Many are fraudulent. Do some research before committing. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is!

- DVLA – emails claiming that your vehicle tax status is incorrect and needs updating. Do NOT click on any link – the message is a scam!

- HMRC – emails or phone calls, often ‘Robocalls’, claiming that you owe tax or are due a refund, and threatening severe penalties if you do not respond quickly. HMRC will only contact you by post.

- ASDA – email offering you a chance to ‘win’ a £1,000 Gift Card. This is a scam.

- TalkTalk – threatening to curtail your broadband connection or suspend your email account unless you update your account details. DO NOT click on any link or download any attachment.

- Courier Fraud – emails or more often phone calls claiming to be your Bank, or the police, asking you to help them investigate a fraud. They will want to collect your debit/credit card and transfer your money temporarily to a ‘safe account’. It is NOT safe – it will be the scammers account!

- PayPal – using Facebook Messenger asking to use your PayPal account to transfer money resulting from sales on eBay for a small payment to you. Do NOT get involved.

- Events – fake Facebook accounts claiming to be able to provide tickets to various popular events. Do NOT follow any of the links, they are probably phoney and will steal your money with no redress.

The 5th Edition (2020) of the Metropolitan Police Service publication, ‘The Little Book of Big Scams’ has been expanded and is freely available to download at:

<https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/central/advice/fraud/met/the-little-book-of-big-scams.pdf>

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)

NEW VICAR NEEDED

We spoke to Sue Simpson, Licensed Lay Minister at Christ Church, to discover how the village will obtain its new vicar.

Whilst the church is without a vicar, it is the responsibility of the churchwardens to ensure that the normal practices of the church continue. (There is a cautionary note here - do make sure you read the small print before you sign the contract!) Christ Church is well-placed in having both lay and ordained ministers and authorised preachers. Isaac, the curate, has risen to the occasion and has been an immense help whilst still having two further years of training in prospect. Due to Coronavirus restrictions, a pre-recorded service is broadcast on Facebook Live each Sunday at 10.30am and a short service of Holy Communion follows in church, so the team has been able to cope without requiring much assistance from other churches.

The gap between one vicar leaving and the next taking over is called an interregnum, and it is an opportunity for the church and the local community to take stock. How do they see the role of the church in the coming years? What do they need to achieve this? This stock-taking process should result in a document known as a parish profile, likened by Sue to a church equivalent of a dating profile.

Several people will be involved in the drafting of this profile but principally it will be the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), the church management committee. It will be important at this stage to consult with as many people as possible. This will include the congregation and other residents of the village. You too can



The Leadership Team at Christ Church: Debbie, Martin, Sue, and Isaac

(Photo taken before social distancing regulations)

have your say, even if you currently have no connection with the church. A formal meeting of the PCC will agree the profile, decide how to advertise the post, and appoint two parish representatives to the selection process.

Once the advertisement is placed, there will be the usual short-listing and interviewing process that one would expect for any secular position. The Bishop of Buckingham will be the one who formally makes the appointment, although our parish representatives will have a veto. As most applicants will be on a 3-month notice period, it will be reasonable to expect that the whole process may well take a year.

The church congregation has doubled in the 25 years since Chris Bull came to the

village and ministries such as Coffee Stop, Oasis and parenting support have become established. At that time, very few people had internet access and mobile phones were in no way smart. It is therefore reasonable to expect that, aside from the parish profile, much more information will now be readily available to both applicants and church.

At the licensing service for the new vicar, the Bishop says "Receive this cure of souls, which is both yours and mine". In this way he hands over the care of the whole parish and its residents from the diocese to the new vicar. This includes you, wherever you stand with God, so if you would like to contribute to the consultation please do contact Sue (llm@ccfh.org.uk) or the church office (see below).

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Christ Church Flackwell Heath

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

<https://www.facebook.com/CCFHOnline/>

Please contact the Church Office for further information.

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.

Did you Know

Did you know that in 1939, Magpie Cottage at the top of Sheepridge Lane in Flackwell Heath, was converted to a BBC listening post and it was from here that the village was the first to learn of the German invasion of Poland and that we would therefore once again be at war with Germany.



Bombs over Bucks

With the anniversary of the end of the Second World War the local history group would like to draw your attention to this very interesting site: <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/culture-and-leisure/buckinghamshire-archives/online-resources/bombs-over-bucks/>

One of the air raids over Flackwell Heath refers, we believe, to the bomb at Roberts Farm, formerly Dickson Park's Sedgemoor Farm, which killed a cow. Fortunately, there were no other casualties.

Appeal Corner

We would love to hear of your local village memories and/or stories passed down from parents or relatives.

If you have any information please email us on info@localhistorygroup.org.uk or please write the information down (plus your contact details) and pop it into the Flackwell Heath Library, once it reopens. Thank you.

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, Flackwell Heath, Loudwater & Wooburn Local History Group
www.localhistorygroup.org.uk

Road Rep Changes



Our grateful thanks to Draha Fry, Jack Cooper, Janet Lovelock and Peggy Hersee who are stepping down after several years. We appreciate the support of Maggie Simons, Lynne Campbell and Mike Dewey who are taking on Chapel Road, Heath End Road/Rugwood Road area, and Swains Lane respectively. We now just need a volunteer to cover Wilfrid's Wood Close. Contact Nigel and Alison if you can help (see back page).

Children's Story Competition



During October, we will be running a competition to write a short piece with the theme 'A Story for Christmas'. Children in years 3-6 at the village schools will be given the opportunity to enter and the winning stories, one from each school year, will be printed in the Grapevine. There will also be a small prize.

Handwriting and grammar are important, but they are not the main criteria - it's the imaginative quality of the story which will count most. The closing date is Thursday 24 October and the winners will be announced in the week beginning 9 November.

We are very much looking forward to having some new young contributors!

Hearing Aid Found

An expensive hearing aid has been found in the vicinity of Carrington School. It can be claimed by contacting Carrington Junior School.

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Flackwell Heath Women's Institute

One sad consequence of the coronavirus is the permanent closure of the National WI's Education College near Oxford, Denman College. The College has run a huge variety of short courses, mostly residential, for many years. Based on an old house, but with very modern teaching and accommodation blocks, members came from all over the country to learn a new skill, refresh a disused one, or explore new fields of interest. They also enjoyed a break from daily cares and the fellowship of other members. Its loss is mourned, but given the financial position, the trustees had no choice.

Evening WI

We met, at the Community Centre, on 10 September, the first time since March and just before the 'rule of six' came into force. Twelve members came and sat carefully distanced while we discussed future plans. We are legally required to hold our Annual Meeting in October, but this will be mostly by Zoom. Future 'in person' meetings depend on the changing rules.

After the business we had a couple of quizzes and exchanged news – there was a lot to tell!

On a personal note: at the beginning of March I used a bursary from our WI to go to Denman on what must have been one of their very last courses: 'Moorish and Middle Eastern Cookery'. (Please see next column - Ed) It's a pity it has to close – the only consolation is that opportunities for women are now so much wider than when it was founded – and the WI and Denman were part of that expansion!

Sue Arnautov

'More-ish'

Flackwell Heath Evening WI gives an annual bursary to go towards a course at the WI College, Denman, near Abingdon. The recipient is chosen by lot, and last year I was lucky enough to win it. There are courses for all tastes, e.g. photography, music appreciation, patchwork and historical topics, and I chose 'Moorish and Middle Eastern Cookery', because it was a cuisine new to me. (Fortunately the course was at the beginning of March, before the great shut-down.)

The College has its own teaching kitchen, with space enough for 12 students and a demonstration bench. We clustered round the demo bench and watched the technique (angled cameras let you see inside the pans). Then we dispersed to our own benches, which are equipped with every kind of utensil, bowl, pan, chopping board etc. Half the hobs are gas, half electric. All the ingredients have been pre-portioned for you, a great time-saver. The tutor (a delightful man called Peter Lien) toured the kitchen, keeping an eye on our progress; "Needs a couple more minutes", "Too salty, rinse them off quick".



This is Freekeh with Spiced Roast Vegetables, Herbs and Saffron Yogurt Dressing

In 48 packed hours, we cooked 13 dishes and watched (and tasted) 2 more. The mezze and flat-bread we ate for lunch, the rest we could take home: Persian chicken, shakshouka, imam bayildi, tagine, all of them delicious. I've already tried imam bayildi (the name means 'the imam fainted'!) - baked aubergine stuffed with a mixture of onion, garlic, green pepper, tomato, herbs and spices. I'll definitely be making some of the othersor at least, I will when I can source pickled lemons, wild sumac, harissa

I'd like to thank the Institute for providing the bursary which enabled me to enjoy this course.

Sue Arnautov

Arboretum Open Day

Malcolm Wiles is a regular contributor of tree articles to the Grapevine. This interest in trees has dragged in his wife and consequently, on Sunday mornings, I regularly find myself at Priestfield Arboretum in Little Kingshill. There I pull brambles and feed bonfires, whilst the more energetic wield chainsaws and strimmers. You can see the results of all this labour at our Open Day on October 18. The arboretum is open between 10.30am and 4pm; no guided tours due to COVID-19 restrictions, but self-guide tour leaflets and knowledgeable persons will be available, together with a 'spot the champions' challenge for children of all ages. Price £2 per adult. For more information see www.priestfieldarboretum.org.uk.



if the timing is right you may see this Golden Larch in all its glory

Joyce Wiles



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Flackwell Festival



Back in February, various representatives of community organisations, the Residents' Association and Flackwell Heath Methodist Church, met together to discuss an idea about a programme of events designed to bring together and celebrate community. We were all set to meet and explore our ideas on the 25 and 27 of March, and on 23 March we went into Lockdown. It looked like our plans were doomed, but some remarkable community-minded things started happening and we realised how technology could be embraced to create virtual events that reflected elements of real life. So 'Flackwell Festival' came into being.



The winning scarecrow – the centipede on Straight Bit

Week One of Flackwell Festival, 6-12 July, was really spent preparing, raising awareness of, and encouraging people to sign up for things that would be taking place in Week Two. The Community Awards element was launched by asking for ideas for award categories. Week Two, 9-16 August, was a hive of activity. Scarecrows popped up around the village for the Scarecrow Scavenge organised by the Residents' Association. A bunting-making workshop was held via Zoom, and the Methodist Church was decorated with one of the finished results. Nominations were made for the, now decided, Community Awards and voting was opened for locals to opt for their

favourites. Local Businesses received prayers from representatives of the Methodist Church and all week people were encouraged to enjoy Tea@3 with neighbours over garden fences. The idea prompted those living at The Fairway to do a socially distant afternoon tea party on the Monday and then celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day on the Saturday. Some lucky people from our village were nominated to receive cream teas and five of them were selected, one each day, to enjoy their cream tea being delivered to them.



Fred and Evelyn and their cream tea

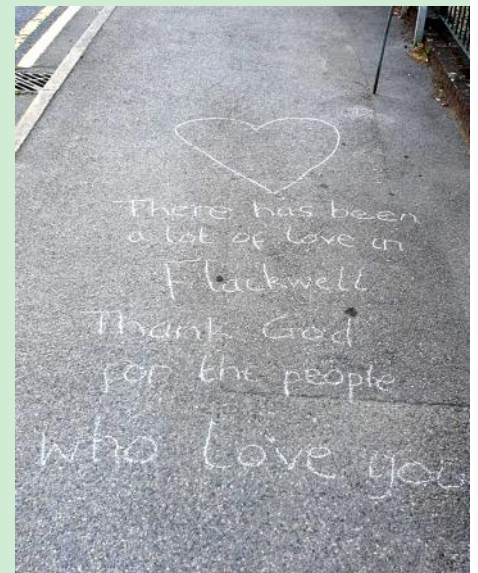
Residents and families were invited to participate in a rain-washed Chalk Prayer Walk outside the Methodist Church and two "Toddler Story and Singing" sessions were hosted. Mums enjoyed spending some time together in The Stag's garden on the Tuesday and there was a Quiz Night via Zoom on the Friday. Jesus' story of 'The Good Samaritan' was explored by families receiving "Messy Church" bags, helping all to appreciate what being a good neighbour is about. The bags contained ideas for activities, one of which was to write a letter to residents of a local care home to cheer them up while they've been unable to have friends and family visit. A lot of these activities were shared in a Zoom service on Saturday, and all this was rounded off with a celebration service, also via Zoom, where the winners of the Community Awards were revealed and received their gifts and certificates.

Whilst it was sad that so much had to

take place virtually, it was good to do something that acknowledged and celebrated the community spirit so evident in the village during Lockdown. It was encouraging to see just how much COULD be achieved with a little imagination and the hope is that it has laid a foundation for Flackwell Festival 2021, which we look forward to celebrating.

The Facebook page 'Flackwell Festival' is still active and a good place to go to see what happened in more detail. It is also where people can share ideas about what they would like to see for 2021, so please take a look and join in.

Vicky Everitt, Community Mission Worker, Flackwell Heath Methodist Church



The Chalk Prayer Walk

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Allotment Marking

On the morning of Saturday 12 September, our local neighbourhood police team of PCSOs Claire Bowles and Matt Sara, attended the Flackwell Heath Allotments to mark property. The PCSOs were joined by police constable Rus Hawkins. A steady stream of allotment holders brought various items including lawn mowers, wheelbarrows, tools and hose reels to be permanently marked with their post code and house number. As well as garden paraphernalia, the police marked a number of bicycles.



PCSO Matt Sara ready to mark property

PCSO Claire Bowles was the main organiser having previously actively engaged with allotment holders, putting up posters etc.

The whole community policing team were very personable and are happy to come to Flackwell Heath again if any groups are interested in getting their property marked. Claire was very keen to point out that they want

to be as proactive as they can. It was great to hear they all prefer walking around the area and meeting residents rather than driving!

PC Rus Hawkins asked if we would make readers aware of a widespread scam that is operating. Fraudsters are claiming to be from the National Crime Agency (NCA) informing you that your national insurance number is being used by criminals. On answering you might hear a female voice asking you to press a number and be connected to the NCA. From there a real human will ask you about your bank accounts. Rus warns this is a scam.

Your Neighbourhood Policing Team Hazlemere



PS 6785 Nathan Davey



PC 5569 Rus Hawkins Supervisor



PCSO 9061 Matt Sara



PCSO 9849 Claire Pearce

Contact us at CheppingwykevalleyNHPT@Thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

New Fence

Anyone who's walked the path next to the Scout hut in Flackwell will have noticed that the fence was in a bad state. Chepping Wycombe Parish Council have approved funds and an all new, metal fence has been erected. As well as improving security, the fence improves the look of the surrounding area.



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Flackwell Heath Community Association

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01628 520361
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01628 522016

Centre Bookings

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

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