

# THE Grapevine

June 2025

50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



In its 25th anniversary year, 31 members of The Christ Church Oasis Self Help Bereavement Group left Flackwell on Monday 5th May to travel to Warner's Lakeside Holiday Complex on Hayling Island for a four night holiday. On arrival, there was a luxury afternoon tea, before some of the group walked down to the sea front to join in with the VE celebrations. On Tuesday and Wednesday holidaymakers were left to their own devices to explore Hayling Island. However, most stayed on site thoroughly enjoying the tap and line dancing sessions, allied to other entertainments, or joined in with the wine tasting, gin tasting and cocktail tasting sessions.

The highlight of the short break came on Thursday with a morning trip to the fabulous Chichester Cathedral followed by a street party in the afternoon commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Entertainment was led by Keegan and out came all the old war time favourite songs, It's a long way to Tipperary, Pack Up Your Troubles, Run Rabbit Run and of course, We'll Meet Again.

## Oasis on Holiday



The Oasis group travelled prepared for action with everyone dressing up in period costume and then holding their own party before being clapped into dinner by the other guests for being so entertaining! Despite staying up until gone midnight dancing, the return journey to Flackwell Heath proved to be very lively. Well done to Richard and his Oasis team for once again helping to bring happiness to those that really need it.

Meanwhile, Tracy Greenfield, was walking around Menorca raising almost £1400 for Oasis. She finished the gruelling walk the day after Oasis returned from Hayling Island. If you'd like more information on the Oasis Bereavement Group, please contact

Oasis@ccfh.org.UK or the Christ Church office. Richard has advised that over 20 people contacted Oasis following the Grapevine's last article and he's hoping for even more this time!



**THE HEATH SINGERS**  
present

*"Around the World in Song"*

A VIBRANT CONCERT FEATURING MUSIC FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE

**FRIDAY 20 JUNE AT 7:30PM**  
**SATURDAY 21 JUNE AT 4:00PM**

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[HTTPS://T1TO/HEATH-SINGERS-SUMMER-CONCERT-2025](https://t1to/heath-singers-summer-concert-2025)

Profits donated to Mabelma UK, The Chill Zone and Carrington Junior School

## Plants, Plants and more Plants



The Chrysanthemum Society plant sale took place on May 10, (see left) where your editor admired the quality of bedding plants on sale and got some much-needed advice on potting compost.



The plant sale at the church was on May 17 with proceeds to Christian Aid. As usual it attracted a large number of customers, as much for the tea, cakes and company as for the plants. And of course the car wash. They even got to wash a motorised scooter - Tim Franklin, church treasurer carefully manoeuvred it and admitted it was fun!



## Your new County Councillor



Congratulations to Larisa Townsend who easily won the support of the village in the local elections on May 1. The three independent candidates between them gained an overall majority of all votes cast. With three local councillors in the 97-strong council, there is now a slightly better chance that the concerns of our area will be addressed. We wish Larisa all the very best in her new role.

At this point, it is also worth recognising the work done by David Johncock who did his best for us throughout his term in office. Thank you, Dave, and enjoy your retirement!

## QUIZ NIGHT 2025

Saturday September 20

7.30pm

Community Centre


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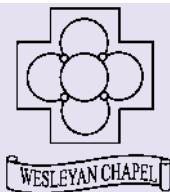
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## FLACKWELL HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

**SUNDAY 1 JUNE, 11am** – MORNING WORSHIP, followed by our COMMUNITY LUNCH. All are welcome – please put your name on the list in the church so that we have an idea of numbers.

**SUNDAY 8 JUNE, 11am** – MORNING WORSHIP for PENTECOST led by Paul Strange.

**SUNDAY 15 JUNE, 11am** – CONTEMPORARY MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION led by Rev. Kate Strange.

**SUNDAY 22 JUNE, 11am** – MORNING WORSHIP with a sermon from Rev. Kate Strange.

**SUNDAY 29 JUNE, 11am** – MORNING WORSHIP streamed from METHODIST CONFERENCE.

**SUNDAY 29 JUNE, 6.30pm** – JOINT SERVICE WITH CHRIST CHURCH at FHMC.

**SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING:** Every Saturday, the church is open from 10am until 12noon to provide a friendly space to enjoy company, so please just drop in.

**GIRLS' BRIGADE** meets in the church on Tuesday evenings from 5.45 during term time. If anyone needs further information, please contact us at [suzstoll@aol.com](mailto:suzstoll@aol.com) and we will put you in touch.

**PARENT AND TODDLER (PAT) GROUP** – in the church from 9.15 on Wednesday mornings during term time. Please see the Flackwell Heath Wednesday PAT Group Facebook page for details.

**FHMC WOMEN'S GROUP** meets on the third Thursday of each month in the church from 10.30am to 12noon. Tea and coffee are available from 10am.

**PLAY & PRAISE** – for parents, carers, young children and toddlers in the church from 9.15 on Friday mornings during term time.

We run a **LINE DANCING** class on Tuesday lunchtimes (12-1 pm) and Wednesday evenings from 7.30-9pm. For more information, please contact Grace on 07929 517064.

To book the hall for events, please contact Grace on the above number.

[www.facebook.com/FlackwellHeathMC](https://www.facebook.com/FlackwellHeathMC)  
[prayer.requests@fhmc.org.uk](mailto:prayer.requests@fhmc.org.uk)



Strawberries and cream. Manicured green grass. The gentle ripple of applause. The cry of "out!" The sound of ball on racket. All of these, of course, make us think of Wimbledon, which takes place each year at the end of June. Wimbledon is a very English affair, with its constant battle with the weather, and the usually restrained cries of the crowd ("come on, Tim!"). It's a traditional fixture in our summer, and for many of us it provides an opportunity to tune into some very watchable sport.

One of the reasons I think Wimbledon remains so popular, including with those who wouldn't say they are particularly into sports, is the traditions we associate with it. There's something reassuringly familiar about knowing that while things inevitably adapt, the important things that make Wimbledon what it is stay the same. It means that each year we know what we're participating in and can enjoy afresh.

Tradition and familiarity are important to us as human beings. In a world where it feels as if things are constantly changing, and we struggle to keep up with the latest trends, there's something reassuring about experiencing something familiar. Whether it's a sporting event, or a family tradition, or something you do by yourself, these traditions are important, and we rightly fight hard to keep hold of them.

Tradition is something the church does well (most of the time), and I often meet people who tell me that they like coming to church and hearing words that they grew up saying or remember their parents or grandparents teaching them. Just like Wimbledon, things change over time, and church in 2025 looks a little different to church in 1985! But even the sense of being gathered with other people and realising you are part of a bigger story can be a tradition in itself.

At Christ Church we try to hold onto the good traditions of the church while also reflecting the world we now live in. Our 9am service is reflective and structured in its pattern and still uses words that have been used for hundreds of years. Our 10.30am service is more informal and feels more modern, with some of those familiar prayers used alongside newer ones. The 10.30am service also has regular groups for children and teenagers, so they can have time to be with friends their own age as well as time with the wider church family. I often find myself saying to people, "come and give it a go, and see what you think" – so let me extend that invitation to all of you reading this column as well. We'd be so pleased to see you.

As we enjoy these summer months, don't forget that Coffee Stop remains open every weekday morning until schools break up in July. It's a place of conversation, welcome, and support, and there is always someone there to chat to. And do come and enjoy our church grounds, which are beautifully maintained and offer a little oasis of calm, especially the Quiet Garden off the rear car park. It's a bit of a hidden gem, and if you like the tradition of sitting peacefully surrounded by nature, it's a lovely space.

Whatever your June may look like, may it be peaceful for us all.

Go gently,

*James Dwyer*

*Vicar of Flackwell Heath*

### Contact

Phone: 01628 533004

Email: [admin@ccfh.org.uk](mailto:admin@ccfh.org.uk)

Website: [www.ccfh.org.uk](http://www.ccfh.org.uk)

### Regular services

9am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

6.30pm Various services



### Grapevine Schedule

Please note that the next issue of the Grapevine will cover July and August. Contributions should be with the editorial team by June 15.

# Flackwell Local Area History Group

Our next talk will be on Monday 7th July 2025 from 7.30pm

**'Cliveden: The History of the Gardens'**

with Dr Jacqui Edwards



Cliveden, a National Trust estate overlooking the River Thames, is renowned for its stunning views, historic significance, and beautifully maintained gardens. Dating back to the 17th century, the estate features celebrated gardens shaped by notable figures like Charles Barry and John Fleming. Its rich history includes connections to Nancy Astor and the Profumo Affair. An illustrated talk will explore the development of four of Cliveden's most famous gardens from their origins to today.

Dr Jacqui Edwards is a volunteer gardener at Cliveden and a seasoned speaker on the history and evolution of the Gardens.

**This is a ticketed event. The tickets are £5 (£3 to friends of FHCL) and are available from the library on Tuesday 3rd June. Please note that the doors will open at 7:15pm and that tickets will not be available on the night.**

**Family History Research** - If you would like help or guidance, please contact Gill Kyle on 01494 436314 or by email [donkyle@btinternet.com](mailto:donkyle@btinternet.com)

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

[www.localhistorygroup.org.uk](http://www.localhistorygroup.org.uk)

## News in Brief

**Golf Club.** We understand that the deal with the Maidenhead club has fallen through. (Maidenhead are now talking to Mill Ride.)

**FHCA.** The editor attended the Community Association AGM on May 14. We are pleased to report that the Association made a modest profit of £8800 in 2024. The new treasurer is Kate Phipps and sounds well-qualified to keep things on an even keel at the Community Centre.

**Bin Returns!** Following on from a snippet in the March Grapevine, we notice that a posh new bin has now been installed on Chapel Green (corner of Chapel Road). Not that we take the credit!

## EARLY BIRD OFFER!

## HEATH FEST

12 JULY 2025

ADULT £19.50 17.00

CHILD £14.50 12.00

FAMILY £60.00 50.00

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

[WWW.FHRA.CO.UK](http://WWW.FHRA.CO.UK)

 FLACKWELL HEATH  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



**FLACKWELL HEATH**  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**Heath Fest – Saturday 12 July, 12:30–10:00pm, Carrington Field**

This year's Heath Fest promises to be the best yet, with live music all day, a headline performance from Thinking Out Loud (the UK's top Ed Sheeran tribute), Katy Kartwheel's circus workshop for kids, a brand-new silent disco, basketball challenge, tea tent, rides, stalls, food vendors and more!

**We're looking for volunteers** to help with setting up, marshalling the event, and clearing up on Sunday. All volunteers will receive a free ticket – a great way to support the community and enjoy the day.

With thanks to our sponsors, Brittons Solicitors and Martin Adams Vehicle Servicing.

**Nominations Now Open – Flackwell Heath Unsung Hero Award**

Do you know someone in Flackwell Heath who goes above and beyond for our community? We're now inviting nominations for our annual Unsung Hero Award, celebrating an individual who makes a real difference to village life — often without any recognition.

This year's winner will receive:

- Two free tickets to Heath Fest
- The Unsung Hero trophy
- A £250 donation to a Flackwell Heath community initiative of their choice

If there's someone you feel deserves this honour, please send your nomination to [hello@fhra.co.uk](mailto:hello@fhra.co.uk). The winner will be announced and presented with their award at Heath Fest on Saturday 12 July. Let's celebrate those who help make Flackwell Heath such a special place to live!

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**FLACKWELL HEATH**  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## June 2025

| M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  |
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| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

 The Chill Zone-Youth club [5 - 7] Methodist Church  
 Monthly food market [9 - 12] Three Horseshoes  
 The Repair Cafe [10 - 12] Community Centre  
 Village litterpick [10 - 11] Jubilee Gardens

# Flackwell Heath Women's Institute

## Morning WI

A belated mention of our April meeting which was our 33rd anniversary, when we were entertained and baffled by Clive Peacock performing some amazing magic tricks. This was followed by an enjoyable buffet lunch provided by our members.

In May we had further discussion about the proposed Resolution to encourage members of the public to have training in the use of CPR and defibrillation to give out-of-hospital cases of cardiac arrest the best chance of survival. Apart from online training information, St John Ambulance and the British Heart Foundation offer classes.

We will support the vote for action at our National Annual Meeting next month.

We ended with a quiz.

Our next speaker in June will be Ken Brazier on "Travelling the Pilgrimage Routes"

*Brenda Aldridge*

## Evening WI

Some of our members went to the Bucks Federation's Annual Council meeting last month at Aylesbury so our members reported back. There were several speakers covering a range of topics – Rev Simon Chapman, Rebecca Bissonet, an Archivist, Trading Standards Scam Champion Alan Parker and Cllr Mimi Harker OBE with the theme, 'My journey – Everything heels'.

We also discussed the National Resolution "In a crisis Bystanders should be encouraged to help - with CPR and defibrillators". Hopefully this will be a way of helping our community.

At June's meeting we will welcome back Alan Copeland who last time shows us some interesting places, signs and buildings in London which we probably never noticed, like the very small police station at Trafalgar Square. This time he has discovered some curiosities in New Zealand. They will not be on the standard list of holiday sights so no doubt we will be in for some entertaining surprises. Come along.

*Helen Waller*

## Spring walking

Spring is a great season when everything rapidly bursts back into life and never better than when the sun dominates the day. Rising early for my daily route march from Flackwell through Bloom Wood and onto the ridge overlooking Emmett's farm, I've been lucky enough this year to see a tawny owl perched on an allotment water butt, a solitary barn owl hunting on the fields adjoining Sheepridge Lane and brown hares chasing around above the farm.



Another highlight was almost tripping over a juvenile badger, probably out after its curfew. It scurried away through the undergrowth before I could get my camera out. Much of Bloom Wood has suffered from Ash Dieback over the last few years



and many trees have had to be felled. Fortunately, nature soon recovers and in the areas that used to be dense, quiet and dark, you can now hear a multitude of different birds including chiffchaff, warblers and wrens. The highlight of the year though has to be when the bluebells come out, it may only be for a few weeks, but it's visually stunning and well worth the walk.

*Craig Lewis*





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## FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

**I don't go to the library – the library comes to me!**

For those individuals who are unable to get to the library themselves because of mobility issues or illness or age-related issues, we offer the Home Library Service (HLS). This enables us to deliver library services direct to the home of these individuals and to their unpaid full-time carers.

The way this works is the HLS co-ordinator visits a potential client and has a general conversation around what books they enjoy, what sort of format they would like as well as any other additional services that may be of interest to them. We then match the client up to a volunteer within the local area. That volunteer would then liaise with them to arrange suitable times to visit every (roughly) 4-6 weeks. All HLS volunteers are DBS checked.

Most of our clients also like the company, so the volunteer generally pops into the house and has a chat and a cuppa. The client and volunteer decide how they want to operate. The volunteer can reserve books, collect them and bring them to the client, also renew and return books. Which books are chosen can be a mixture of both the volunteer's experience and knowledge, or books that the client would specifically like to read.

To find out more, or to become one of our HLS volunteers, please call 01494 475 573 or email: [homelibraryservice@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:homelibraryservice@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

### Regular events

**Bounce & Rhyme** for under 5s is every Thursday 10.30-11.00am during school term time. No need to book – just turn up

**Knitting & Crochet** group is every Friday morning 10.00am-12.00noon. For details contact Glen Colman via email: [colgas39@aol.com](mailto:colgas39@aol.com)

**Craft & Chat group** runs on the fourth Wednesday of each month 7.00-9.00pm. For details contact Alison on 07803 044 298 or [admayall@btinternet.com](mailto:admayall@btinternet.com)

**The library may be booked for meetings** and other activities outside of normal opening hours. Contact Michael Russell - [michael@sedgmoor.plus.com](mailto:michael@sedgmoor.plus.com)

### Opening hours

We are open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10.00am-5.00pm. On Saturdays we are open 10.00am-1.00pm.

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page or the library noticeboard for the latest library news.

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

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## The Tulip Tree

Following on from an article in the May Grapevine, Malcolm Wiles received a lovely letter from Mavis Carter, the owner of the tree on Blind Lane. She tells us that she planted it in 1971 on the day of the funeral of a 13-year-old boy. He'd drowned whilst on a trip to the Thames with friends and it was a very sad time for his family, whom she knew well. Mavis writes "I think it is a lovely tree, and it will soon have its lovely yellow flowers".



## The Cherries at Easter

Residents, friends, and family gathered for a wonderful Easter Party at The Cherries on Thursday 17th April. There were lots of Hot Cross Buns and Mini Egg Cakes for all, with plenty of cups of tea to keep everyone watered. There was even a special appearance by a hopping friend – we'll leave you to work out who.



# Wooden Spoon The Children's Charity of Rugby

You may have seen in May's 'Grapevine' that the Wooden Spoon charity, had made a generous donation of £25,000 to fund a sensory room at Carrington Infant School. So I went along to talk to Flackwell Heath resident Stephen Jones, vice-chair of the Chilterns branch of Wooden Spoon.

So, who are Wooden Spoon? And what is a sensory room?

Wooden Spoon is a charity set up to transform the lives of children and young people through the power of the rugby community, by awarding project grants. It originated 42 years ago in 1983 at a post-match dinner in Dublin after Ireland beat England 25-15. Some Irish supporters presented the English with a silver salver holding a wooden spoon engraved with the fact that England had won the Wooden Spoon by coming last in the Five Nations championship. After much discussion it was decided to auction the spoon at a golf match at Farnham Golf Club in Surrey. This raised an astonishing £8,500 and a minibus was bought for a local special needs school. The charity was formed and aptly named. It now has 30 regions across the UK and Ireland and has raised over £42 million since it started. Chilterns Region usually raises about £35,000 annually.

The local branch is the Chilterns region covering Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. Their target is to help disabled and disadvantaged youngsters

under the age of 25. The Chilterns branch holds four or five events each year, the next one being their annual lunch at Bisham Abbey, Marlow on June 6th, where (another!) Stephen Jones, rugby correspondent of The Sunday Times, will interview Michael Lynagh (former Australian rugby captain) and Dwayne Peel of Llanelli Scarlets, Wales and British Lions.

Stephen approached the head of Carrington Infant School, Kate Cliffe, to ask if they had any large projects they were seeking funding for. Applications (which must be for a capital project, not to cover daily running costs) follow a strict process, one of the main criteria being that it must benefit the most youngsters. Plans and quotes were

looked at, and agreed, eventually leading to the official opening of the sensory room at the school in April.

Although Wooden Spoon is perhaps a charity not heard of by people not involved in rugby, within the rugby community it is very well known, and supported by the majority of rugby clubs. It has about 7,500 members across the UK, and the patron is Princess Anne – who, Stephen

says, does a fantastic job.

A sensory room is a specially designed space, often containing soft furnishings, special lighting, sound effects and plenty of tactile materials to help individuals. It is the most wonderfully calm and peaceful place, great for those with sensory challenges, but also for reducing anxiety and stress, often used in schools, hospitals and clinics. It can be used as

therapy for children with communication issues.

Every penny that is raised is spent on projects. Their head office in Fleet in Hampshire is funded entirely by corporate sponsorship and memberships. Stephen has been involved in Wooden Spoon for 11 years now and has seen money given to Westfield School in Bourne End for outdoor soft play equipment, disabled toilets in a local adventure playground, a library/café in another local school, wheelchairs provided for wheelchair rugby, and a horse for Riding for the Disabled – amongst many projects.

It is a charity that is able to make a huge difference to the lives of some of our disabled and disadvantaged youngsters.

New members are always welcome - more information can be found at <https://woodenspoon.org.uk/region/chilterns/>

For details of the June 6th lunch please visit

<https://woodenspoon.org.uk/events/wooden-spoon-chilterns-lions-lunch-2025/>

Alison Peach



Stephen wearing his Wooden Spoon blazer. The stripes are the colours representing the four home nations of rugby

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## Repair Café

The Repair Café in Flackwell has been running for over 18 months and is now a well-established fixture in the village calendar. It runs at the Community Centre on the 1st Saturday of every month from 10am to 12 noon from February to November.

In 2024 we saw a total of 418 items brought in for repair – averaging around 38 per month. Of those 80% were successfully mended and given a new lease of life.



Just bring along your item and our friendly reception team will book it in for you. You'll then fill out a short form with a few details before taking a seat and enjoy a cuppa while waiting for the next available repairer. Our dedicated team of experienced repairers will assess the item and get to work on

fixing it. Once complete you'll be asked to give feedback on the form and return it to reception where you'll also find a donation box and card machine available for donations.

Items are mended during the 2 hours that the Repair Café is open with up to 5 general repairers on hand. They can tackle a wide range of issues, including small electrical and mechanical repairs, wooden items, household equipment, garden tools (including sharpening), ceramics, IT problems, and bikes and trikes – and the list goes on! Each month, we're joined by a skilled watch/clock repairer who can replace watch batteries, advise on broken clocks and give your timepiece a clean or overhaul.

We also have a thriving Textile team with up to 3 talented ladies who bring in their sewing machines to tackle a wide range of textile repairs. Alongside them, we have a skilled hand sewer for those more intricate or delicate pieces of work. From fixing rips and seams, sewing on



buttons, darning jumpers and patching trousers to mending handbag straps, blankets and cushions and even that tricky zip – they have done it all! We even repaired a pair of shoes last month.

The donations that we receive help to cover the cost of hiring the hall and any other running costs. Any surplus is donated to local charities. So far we have contributed £2,600, supporting initiatives such as The Community Pantry, play equipment at the new SEMH unit at Juniper School and an art project at Carrington School. Our next partnership will be with the Nancie Ross Centre.

The Repair Café has proved to be so successful with visitors coming from Wooburn, Bourne End and Loudwater that a new Repair Café has recently launched in Bourne End. It takes place on the 3rd Saturday of the month, from 11am to 1pm and is held in the Target Room of the Bourne End Community Centre.

Our next Repair Café in Flackwell is Saturday, 7th June from 10am to 12noon. Come along and bring all the items that don't work or your textiles that need mending – we'd love to give them a new lease of life!

*Pauline Howland*

## Dates for your Diary

### Regular Events

*Chill Zone Youth Club:* Mondays, Methodist Church, 5-7pm.

*Litter-pick:* first Saturdays (June 7, July 5) Start from Jubilee Gardens at 10am.

*Repair Cafe:* Also first Saturdays Community Centre, 10am-12noon. (see p8)

*Paperback & Jigsaw Library:* first Wednesdays (June 4, July 2) Community Centre, 1-2.45pm.

*Food market:* third Saturdays (June 21, July 19), Three Horseshoes car park, 9am-12noon.

### June

*Sunday 1:* Festival of Football, Green Dragon Lane

*Friday 20:* Heath Singers Concert, Christ Church, 7.30pm (see p1)

*Saturday 21:* Heath Singers Concert including Carrington School Choir, Christ Church, 4.00pm

### July

*Monday 7:* 'Cliveden: The History of the Gardens' with Dr Jacqui Edwards, library, 7.30pm (see p4)

*Saturday 12:* Heath Fest, 12.30pm -10pm, Carrington Field (see p4)

### Flackwell Heath Community Association

Chairman: Chris Cramer  
01628 526129  
Secretary: Chris Thomas  
01628 520361

#### Centre Bookings

Please use bookings enquiry page  
to be found on website  
[www.flackwellheathcommunitycentre.org.uk](http://www.flackwellheathcommunitycentre.org.uk)

Reg Charity No. 1044870

## Grapevine



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