

THE Grapevine

March 2025

50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Martin Courtney

Revd Martin Courtney, Associate Minister at Christ Church, died on 5th February 2025 at the age of 90. Martin was born in Letchworth in 1934 and moved to Wooburn Green in 1941 where he lived above the bakery run by his grandparents, Mr and Mrs Mellett. In 1956 he moved to Flackwell Heath. Martin was licensed as a Lay Reader on 11th July 1970 and served at both Christ Church and St Peter's Church, Loudwater. For many years Martin was heavily involved in the children's and youth work at both churches.

On his retirement from Instron, High Wycombe, Martin was ordained in 1998 meaning he became Revd Martin. He continued to serve the village of Flackwell Heath, taking numerous funerals for families in the village and being a constant source of comfort and joy to many. He also led services at other local churches to give them support. When he wasn't at church, Martin could often be found walking his beloved Sheltie dogs in Wooburn Park.

Martin continued to lead services at Christ Church until late 2024, when his health prevented him from doing so any longer. Martin will be remembered by many for being kind, gentle, loving, and encouraging. He will be deeply missed.

Funeral to be held at Christ Church on Friday March 14th.

Phil Simpson and Revd James Dwyer



Your village Day Centre needs you!

Maybe you have other skills to offer. But whatever you can offer, we at The Nancie Ross Centre, would love to hear from you. The Nancie Ross Centre in Flackwell Heath supports the needs of senior members of our local community.

We also need volunteers to chat to our clients, play games with them, or do simple arts and crafts.



After all, one day it may be you or me needing the help the Day Centre offers! If you can offer any help, please contact Lorretta Keating, our Manager, on 01628 526113 or email fh.l.daycentre@gmail.com

Do you have a few hours a week to spare?

Do you enjoy driving?

Chatting?

Organising games to help keep elderly people physically and mentally active?

Enjoy working as part of a team?

Do you see yourself as someone who cares for the elderly in our community?

We are in need of volunteer drivers for our new minibus. We need people for approx. one and a half hours between 9 and 10.30am and/or 3-4.30pm to drive the minibus in the local area to pick up clients. All that is needed is for you to have a clean licence. An escort from the Day Centre will always travel with you. Without the minibus to provide transport, many of our clients would be unable to attend the Day Centre.



Eucalyptus and Palm



These two exotic evergreen trees may be seen growing in a garden in Philip Drive. On the right in the foreground is a Eucalyptus, probably *Eucalyptus gunii*, the Cider Gum. Precise identification of Eucalyptus species is hard, because there are over 700 similar species which can hybridise to give intermediates. Native to Australasia, they are noted for their blue-green leaves and pinkish orange bark, which peels to leave a smooth grey trunk. Growth may continue year round in mild winters.

Left in the background is a Chusan Palm, *Trachycarpus*

fortunei. Palm trees mostly grow in tropical and subtropical parts of the world. There are something like 3000 different species, but only a handful can be grown here, and of these few only the Chusan Palm is really frost hardy. The others usually have to be pot grown and taken in for the winter. They are mostly seen in sheltered gardens in the west of the country, eg Cornwall. In the eastern half of the country, the only palm tree of any size likely to be seen is the Chusan Palm, which makes identification easy.

The Chusan Palm comes from China, Japan, Myanmar and India. Palm trees develop from a single shoot that grows upwards, and they don't expand their girth yearly like most other trees (and some humans). The trunk is therefore usually approximately the same diameter all the way up. They may often get smaller towards the base, as leaf stems from leaves that once surrounded the growing shoot decay away.

Malcolm Wiles

Roadworks

Works on the eunetworks cable ducting have progressed along Straight Bit towards Northern Woods, as envisaged in the December '24 Grapevine. They are planned to continue on down Whitepit Lane through March, with further weekend work planned during April and May. However this is not the end of it, because at this stage only the ducting (green pipes) is being installed. They will have to return at some stage

to pull fibre optic cables through the ducts, which will no doubt cause more delays.

Both eunetworks and JSM, the contractors actually doing the work, were invited to make a donation to local charities in compensation for the disruption they have caused to villagers, who will not directly benefit from their project. Both companies refused.



FLACKWELL HEATH
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

FHRA AGM

The FHRA AGM will take place on 25 March at 7.30, kindly hosted by our friends at The Three Horseshoes Pub. All are welcome, please come along and hear all about what we did over the last year, plus our plans for the next. We would love to hear your thoughts and concerns - what really matters to you as a resident of this village?

Easter Trail

We will once again be joining forces with Christ Church and Flackwell Heath Methodist Church to run an Easter Trail in the village on Holy Saturday (Saturday 19 April). This is a fun, free activity for all ages - follow the trail around the village and end up at the Easter Cafe with tea, coffee, hot cross buns and a prize for every completed trail. You can collect your map from Christ Church, Chapel Rd between 10am-11.30am. The Easter Cafe is open to all at the Methodist Church between 10.30am-12pm.

Heath Fest

Tickets are on sale for Heath Fest, via our website www.fhra.co.uk, currently at Early Bird prices. Now in its fourth year, Heath Fest is a family-friendly, open-air music festival featuring six hours of live performances from talented local artists, with all profits reinvested into local projects. Our headline act this year is the number-one Ed Sheeran Tribute band. Festival-goers can sustain themselves with a selection of delicious options, including a beer tent, BBQ, street food stalls, and a wine & cocktail van. There will be plenty of activities to keep the children entertained throughout the day, including funfair rides, face-painters, roaming circus skills performances and "Katy Kartwheel's Circus Passion" - an interactive circus skills workshop giving children the chance to learn some fantastic circus skills.

We are looking for volunteers to help at the event, or with set-up or clear-up. If you can spare a few hours, please get in touch. Volunteers receive a free ticket!

Get in touch

As always, if you have any queries, feedback, ideas or would like to get involved with the FHRA, please drop us an email: hello@fhra.co.uk

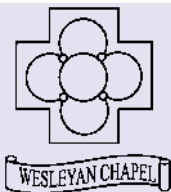
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FLACKWELL HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY 2 MARCH, 11am – MORNING WORSHIP led by Rev. Rachael Prince, 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY, 5 MARCH, 2.30pm – ASHING SERVICE led by Rev. Kate Strange, preceded by a SOUP LUNCH at 1.30pm. All welcome.

SUNDAY 9 MARCH, 11am – HOLY COMMUNION led by Rev. Kate Strange.

SUNDAY 16 MARCH, 11am – CONTEMPORARY MORNING WORSHIP led by Paul Strange.

SUNDAY 23 MARCH, 11am – MORNING WORSHIP led by Neil Manthorpe.

SUNDAY 30 MARCH, 11am – MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE.

SUNDAY 30 MARCH, 6.30pm – JOINT SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH.

We are running **THE PRAYER COURSE** on Wednesday evenings (7.30 – 9) throughout March. All are welcome to this journey through the Lord's Prayer. Refreshments are provided. This is for anyone who wants to grow in their relationship with God.

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 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 – in the church from 9.15 on Friday mornings during term time.



I've written before that many years ago I worked as a political journalist. One of the highlights of the year among those in the Westminster bubble was the annual Parliamentary Pancake Race. On Shrove Tuesday each year, three teams would line up outside the Houses of Parliament: a team of MPs, a team of Lords, and a team from the media.

The starter's whistle (no guns allowed that close to Parliament!) would blow, and a scene of chaos would ensue as usually serious characters would lose all semblance of sensibility as they hurtled round the course, passing the pancake baton from one to another in a relay race, frantically flipping their pancakes as they did so. It was a great event and was all the better for being a charity fundraiser. I never reached the giddy heights of representing the media team but did have a lot of fun cheering others on.

It always felt like a rather good reminder of the origins of pancakes in our culture. Shrove Tuesday comes the day before the start of Lent, marked by Ash Wednesday. Lent in the church has always been a season of fasting and reflection, and as such, people often give up some of the sweeter things in life. Pancakes were a way of cooking up many of those sweet ingredients in one go and having a final feast before 40 days of fasting.

These days Lent looks rather different, not least because Cadbury's Creme Eggs have been in the shops since January. (Astute Grapevine readers may remember that last year I wrote about how much sugar a single Creme Egg contains. A reminder: it's a lot). But there's still some wisdom in Lent as a season, and the opportunity it gives us to think about our habits and consider whether some might need to change. Maybe that's something each of us could do this Lent: take a moment to

stop and think, and see whether there's a new habit we could adopt, or something we might be wise to pause for a while?

I mentioned Ash Wednesday above, and we'll be marking the start of Lent with a service on Wednesday 5th March at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to join us. We'll also be publishing details of our Holy Week and Easter services in the coming weeks, so do keep an eye out for those.

As a church, of course, we aren't just here for certain days of the year: we're here for you at all times. It's our privilege to be invited to walk with families through the joys of life, such as weddings and baptisms, and the sadnesses of life, such as funerals. If you want to talk about any of these and how we might be able to help, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We've had our own deep sadness as a church in recent weeks following the death of Martin Courtney, who you can read more about on page 1. Martin was at the heart of Christ Church for so many years and was known to plenty in the village as well. He'll be deeply missed, and we are so thankful for all that Martin meant to so many.

Go gently,

James Dwyer

Vicar of Flackwell Heath

Contact

Phone: 01628 533004

Email: admin@ccfh.org.uk

Website: www.ccfh.org.uk

Regular services

9am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

6.30pm Various services

We run a **LINE DANCING** class on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 9pm. For more information, please contact Grace on 07929 517064.

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

If you have specific prayer requests or need any information, please contact us on the links below; our Facebook page has regular updates.

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



AGM 25 MARCH 2025

7.30PM AT THE THREE HORSESHOES

ALL WELCOME

Flackwell Local Area History Group

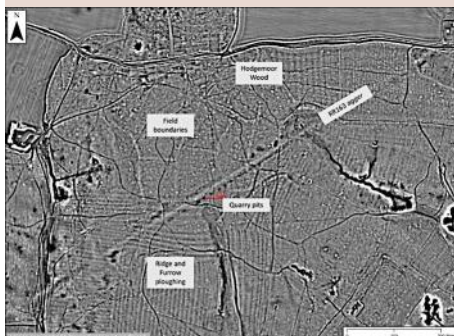
The March talk is on Monday 3rd from 7.30pm

'Wycombe in 1800: A Borough of Shopkeepers' with Jackie Kay.

Hopefully you will already have tickets for this as it may be too late to purchase them by the time you receive your Grapevine.

The next talk will be on Monday 28th April 2025 from 7.30pm

'What have the Romans done for Flackwell Heath?' with Nigel Rothwell



A re-evaluation of the the Camlet Way, a Roman road connecting Verulamium (St Albans) and Silchester, has been conducted using modern remote sensing data, specifically LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) from the Chiltern Conservation Board's "Beacons of the Past" project. The talk will explore the Roman presence in the Chilterns and South Bucks, examine known Roman road characteristics, and demonstrate how LiDAR data has provided new insights. More details will follow next month.

The tickets are £5 (£3 to friends of FHCL) and are available from the library on Tuesday 25th March.

Appeal Corner: Does anyone know if the Temperance Hall was used for other purposes during WW2 for the war effort?

Please contact
info@localhistorygroup.org.uk

Family History Research - 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

Spring Gardening

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the weather will be looking a little more like spring. (At time of writing we are well into a dark, damp and cold February.) So, as your mind turns to gardening, you may want to know that the Christ Church Christian Aid plant sale will take place on Saturday 17 May, from 10am till 12noon. This year, as well as the regular stalls, there will be experts on hand if you want any advice on growing plants.

If you are able to pot up a few extra plants, these will be gratefully received at the church on the previous Friday afternoon or early on the Saturday morning.



Bloom Wood

Following on from Craig's sunrise picture last month, it transpires that not everyone knows where this is. It's the wood that sits on the hillside above Little Marlow, and can be accessed by taking a path up behind the Crooked Billet on Sheepridge Lane. Craig wrote an article in one of the lockdown Grapevines (June 2020: available online) describing a walk there and on to Warren Wood.

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Chance to watch Dance Irish

With St Patrick's Day looming, Dance Irish has a full programme of displays and events. The busy weekend includes several performances at care homes in the local vicinity. In our own village, they will be performing at the Cherry Tree at 7.30pm on March 16. And on the evening of St Patrick's Day itself (March 17) the local community is invited to attend an impromptu performance as part of the normal Monday evening class at the Methodist Church. We are advised that the best times are likely to be 6.15 and 6.45pm.



Flackwell Heath FC Minors - First Aid Officer

Applicants must....

- Hold appropriate First Aid and safeguarding qualifications
- Possess good interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to work collaboratively
- Experience in effective record management and activity recording
- Maintain confidentiality and club privacy obligations

Responsibilities will include...

- Ensuring all coach and volunteer first aid qualifications are current
- Co-ordinating regular online and face to face training
- Reviewing condition, supply and replenishment of all first aid kits
- Review recording and storage of player medical information
- Maintaining and review of Club Medical Emergency Action Plan (MEAP)

Please contact Chairman Declan Breen on 07801 777504 if this voluntary role is of interest

Flackwell Heath Women's Institute

Morning WI

In February Barry Stringer MBE regaled us with stories about some lesser known women prisoners in the Tower of London, and also the recruitment process and his life as a Yeoman Warder. He had a lot to memorise to entertain visitors, apart from other duties. He arrived in his uniform which is comfortable to wear, but he is not keen on the tights! The ceremonial one is heavier and more elaborate, of course.

In March the topic will be on 'leprosy' and modern methods of treatment for this ancient disease.

Visitors are welcome to our meeting on Wednesday 5 March at 10am in the Flackwell Heath Community Centre.

Brenda Aldridge

Evening WI

Ever been to Otmoor? It's a Nature Reserve set up in 1997 to improve the environment and to help the wildlife thrive in our area. David Wilding, their Site Manager, gave our WI an inspiring talk on the history of Otmoor and what has been achieved since. He showed us a wide range of birds that can be seen depending on the season – Wading birds and songbirds. Starlings gather in the reed beds before their murmurations. It's an interesting country walk. And it's on our doorstep just up the M40! Check out their website. March's meeting will cover the admin of running our WI, then plenty of social time with a quiz, games and a chat over a cup of tea.

Helen Waller

Fire Safety

The Fire Service is currently visiting houses in the village with advice on fire safety. They recently visited Craig who writes:

One Saturday afternoon early in the new year, a postcard came through the letterbox entitled "Keeping Buckinghamshire Fire Safe". The card stated that Bucks Fire and Rescue aim to be in the area throughout January and February offering local residents free home fire safety visits. Now, I love anything that's free and opening the door found a member of the fire brigade talking to my neighbour. Ten minutes later, Ricky and 2 companions came in and conducted their safety check. They asked about my smoke detectors: how old they are (smoke detectors usually last for between 5 and 10 years) and whether I closed doors at night to prevent the spread of fire. Ricky even went as far as asking about 4 gang trailing sockets making it clear that you shouldn't plug in appliances that draw a lot of power.



Whilst I was aware of all of the above, I didn't know about "message in a bottle" which is an inspired idea from the Lions, promoted by the emergency services. The Lions supply a small plastic bottle in which you can leave important medical details for the emergency services in event of them having to enter your house. The bottle

is supplied with two stickers, one to go on the inside of your front door and the other on the fridge where the bottle is kept. This seems like a great idea for anyone who has a medical condition and lives on their own.

The service includes testing and fitting smoke detecting devices (free), offering safety advice on how to reduce the risk of fire, chatting through an escape plan and answering any fire safety questions you might have.

You can find out more from referrals@bucksfire.gov.uk or by phoning 01296 744477 (weekdays 8.30am - 4pm). And, if you're worried about letting them into your house, the uniform and the large red fire engine parked outside helped to alleviate any doubts I had. Really good to see the fire brigade taking such a proactive stance.

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WWW.FHRA.CO.UK



Flackwell Heath Bowls Club

The Recreation Ground, Straight Bit,

Flackwell Heath, HP10 9LT

Welcomes you to come to our open day

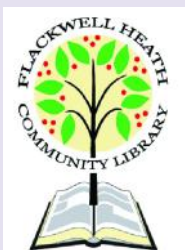
On Saturday 19th April from 10am – 4pm

No experience necessary as tuition will be provided

If you cannot make the open day, we can arrange a separate time

Please call Dave Fowler 07716 990553





FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Historical Novels

Some people are put off if a novel is described as 'Historical', but there is no reason to think this is going to read like a non-fiction book. Far from it. All it means is that there is some historical context to the novel, but it is still a work of fiction.

Sometimes the author will write a murder mystery set in a different time or place and you will become immersed in that period. For example, Abir Mukherjee's series of novels set in Calcutta of the 1920's when India was still under British rule.



Other authors may take this a step further and include prominent people of the time such as Thomas Cromwell, who will be found in the series of novels by C J Sansom and Hilary Mantel set in the 16th century.

Other historical novels may have a background of a single historical event like the Robert Harris 'Munich' novel set around Chamberlain's attempt to avert war by signing an agreement with Hitler. One of his earlier works is 'An officer and a Spy', a much-acclaimed novel set in 1890's France. Alfred Dreyfus had been sentenced to life imprisonment for being a spy, but was eventually found innocent and the real spy exposed. True story but a fictional account.

These are just a few examples. Although these are works of fiction, in many cases there is an explanation at the end giving the details of the historical context. So, as well as being a good read, it gives you a better understanding of the events of the time.

Spring Crafts – Saturday 29th March

With the approach of Easter and Mothering Sunday, all young children are welcome to join our Spring Crafts event on Saturday 29th March 10.15am-12.30pm. Parents & guardians can have a tea or coffee while they stay with their children. This is FREE and there is no need to book - just turn up.

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

Craft & Chat group runs on the fourth Wednesday of each month 7.00-9.00 pm. For details contact Alison on 07803 044 298 or 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

Opening hours

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

Keep up-to-date

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

Tel: 01296 382415 email: fhcl@flackwellheath.net

web: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries/>



Bingo?

One or two people have noticed the absence of the litter bins on either side of Chapel Road near the roundabout. It seems to have been the intention to replace these old green bins but, on reading the parish council minutes (<https://www.cwpc.org.uk/meetings/>), there seems to be something of an impasse with the county council on the subject. Meanwhile, we continue to owe a vote of thanks to our trusty litter pickers. (Sorry about the title – Craig's fault! Ed)



Haul from February's litter pick



Village Quiz: 20 September

For those of you who wait to book your holidays so as not to miss out - this year's village quiz, held jointly between the Community and Residents' Associations, will take place on the evening of Saturday 20th September 2025 in the Community Centre.

This year, Richard Chalmers will be providing the catering so we're in for a treat and better still, the hard-working members of the FHRA and FHCA can relax and enjoy the quiz rather than working tirelessly in the kitchen. Quizmaster, Craig Lewis, has already started putting together the questions but as those who've tried in the past to find out the answers in advance will know, he's not open to bribes or intimidation!

Last year was a sell out with 100 people taking part. It was a very closely fought battle with several teams still in contention going into the final round before the team from Christ Church won for an unprecedented second consecutive year. Can anyone stop them making it three in a row?

Details on how to book tables will be announced in a later edition of the Grapevine. Craig did let one thing drop though; reading the Grapevine might well be a good idea!



Carer Vacancy

Are you a naturally caring person with a positive outlook?

Do you have a passion for helping people?

The Nancie Ross Centre in Flackwell Heath needs a carer to join our small friendly team providing day centre services to local older people.

The centre is open Mondays to Thursdays and the working hours are from 8.30am to 4.30pm. The key responsibilities are to provide and support the care needs of our clients including personal care, crafts, activities and exercises together with some administration and housekeeping. This is a salaried position and actual working hours/days will be discussed as part of the interview process. The ability to work flexible hours/days would be ideal, although not essential.



Experience of caring for the elderly would be ideal but we are happy to consider anyone who has care experience, a can-do attitude

and excellent communication skills with a good command of spoken and written English. Training will be provided to support you into your new role.

If you feel ready for a change and have the necessary caring skills, come and join our great team, which really supports the needs of senior members of our local community. We offer you a salaried position with generous holidays, working in a safe and caring environment.

To apply please contact Lorretta Keating, our Manager, on 01628 526113 or email fh.l.daycentre@gmail.com

Little Garden



You may have noticed this new little garden on the corner of Bracken Way. We delved a little deeper, and it is actually a small piece of land that belongs with the Townsend's house. Larisa writes "after farming brambles and weeds on it for 10 years (with great success!), we thought that we had better turn it from an eyesore into something a little prettier". The hope is that it will become a wildlife garden with a pond to attract frogs and insects, the log walls as homes for bugs and a wildflower meadow, good for the pollinators.

Oasis celebrates 25 years

The Oasis self-help bereavement group which meets at Christ Church is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Set up in September 2000, it continues to thrive and support people in our community who have been bereaved. There are two groups, afternoon and evening and they meet up to three times per month on Wednesdays. Both groups are always willing to welcome anyone who feels they would benefit and there's no need to book, you can just pop along.

As well as the regular meetings, there are days out, dinners, concerts and even an annual holiday. In this anniversary year, Richard Chalmers, who has run the group since inception, is actively looking for local residents who have an interesting job or hobby to come along and speak to the group.

Over the years, the group has won several awards including a highly commended Proud of Bucks Award in May 2023. Richard won a British Citizenship Award for his work with Oasis and Bereavement in January 2019. There are a number of events planned for September and members of the group are actively working hard to try to raise enough money. Over the last year, sell out concerts by the Jersey Boys, The Downley Descants and the Ultimate Elton have helped boost funds. Currently, Tracy Greenfield is about to embark on a 185 km circular walk around the ancient Cami de Cavalls trail on the island of Menorca. If anyone wishes to sponsor Tracy you can use the following link www.gofundme.com/f/oasis-25th-anniversary-fundraiser.

If you'd like to know more about the work of Oasis, become a speaker or perhaps make a donation, Richard can be contacted via Oasis@ccfh.org.uk.



Martin Adams

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From Flackwell to Formula 1

Ben Simpson has what a lot of people would consider a dream job. We asked him all about it and he wrote:

I grew up in Flackwell Heath, attending Carrington School and John Hampden Grammar School before studying Mechanical Engineering at Warwick University. From an early age, I was fascinated by how things worked, particularly in motorsport, and I knew I wanted to pursue a career in Formula 1. The combination of high-performance engineering, competition, and innovation made it an exciting challenge, and I was determined to be part of it.

After graduating, I joined Mercedes High Performance Powertrains, where I gained invaluable experience working on the F1 power units in one of the most demanding and competitive environments in motorsport. Later, I moved to Red Bull Powertrains, where I currently work as a Power Unit Engineer, travelling the world with the Formula 1 team. In 2024, I had the incredible privilege of being the PU Engineer for Max Verstappen during his fourth World Championship-winning season. Supporting a driver at the top of his game and contributing to a title-winning campaign was an unforgettable experience and a career highlight, the cheers from the garage after winning from 17th on the grid in Brazil is something I'll never forget!

My role involves ensuring that the power unit operates at peak performance throughout a race weekend, working closely with the driver, race engineers, and factory-based teams to analyse data, optimize performance, and solve any technical challenges that arise. Every race presents unique challenges — weather conditions, track characteristics, and strategic decisions all play a role in how we extract the most from the car.

One of the most exciting aspects of working in F1 is the opportunity to visit incredible places, experience different cultures, and witness the passion for motorsport across the globe. The sport is constantly evolving, and with major



regulation changes coming in 2026, the next few years will be an intense period of innovation and adaptation. These shifts will test both the team and individuals, but that's what makes working in F1 so thrilling—the challenge never stops.

For anyone aspiring to work in motorsport, my biggest piece of advice is to stay curious, build strong problem-solving skills, and gain as much practical experience as possible. Engineering is a fast-moving field, and being adaptable and proactive is key to success. I'm always happy to chat with aspiring engineers or motorsport fans—feel free to connect with me on LinkedIn!

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Dates for your Diary

Regular Events

Litter-pick: first Saturdays (Mar 1, Apr 5) Start from Jubilee Gardens at 10am.

Repair Cafe: Also first Saturdays Community Centre, 10am-12noon.

Paperback & Jigsaw Library: first Wednesdays (Mar 5, Apr 2) Community Centre, 1-2.45pm.

Food market: third Saturdays (Mar 15, Apr 19), Three Horseshoes car park, 9am-12noon.

March

Monday 3: Local history group talk 'Wycombe in 1800: A Borough of Shopkeepers' with Jackie Kay, library, 7.30pm (see p4)

Sunday 16: Dance Irish at the Cherry Tree, 7.30pm (see p4)

Tuesday 25: FHRA AGM, 7.30pm, The Three Horseshoes (see p2,3)

Saturday 29: Spring crafts at the library, 10.15am-12.30pm (see p6)

April

Saturday 19: Easter Trail, start Christ Church from 10am, finish by 12noon at Methodist Church (see p2)

Saturday 19: Open day at the bowls club, 10am-4pm (see p5)

Monday 28: Local history group talk 'What have the Romans done for Flackwell Heath?' with Nigel Rothwell, library, 7.30pm (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

Reg Charity No. 1044870

Grapevine



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The Grapevine is
printed by
Spot On Print using
vegetable inks on
paper FSC certified and
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