

THE Grapevine

September 2025

50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Heath Fest 2025

A Sunshine-Filled Celebration of Community and Music!



Heath Fest 2025 was truly one for the books — the biggest and best Flackwell Heath has seen yet! Organised by the Flackwell Heath Residents' Association, this year's festival took place on Saturday 12 July, drawing a record-breaking crowd of 1,300 attendees. Glorious sunshine, incredible live music, and a strong sense of community spirit made the day a fantastic success. Read more on page 2.



THE FLACKWELL HEATH

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday, 20 September
 at Flackwell Heath Community Centre
 Doors open at 7.00pm
 Quiz starts at 7.30pm
 Raffle prizes to be won!

£15 per person.
 Tables of 8 or less. Ticket price includes quiz and a light supper.
 BYOB - bring your own drinks

To book tickets, email flackwellquiz@gmail.com or call Pam Mannering on 01628 525317

Heath Fest

Throughout the day, festival-goers were treated to a packed programme of entertainment and activities for all ages. Children were especially captivated by the circus skills workshop hosted by the ever-popular Katy Kartwheel, where they had the chance to juggle, walk the tightrope, and try out various circus tricks.



The food scene was just as exciting, with mouth-watering offerings from local street food favourites including Knead Pizza, Jerk 21, Free Range Jane, and Home Roots. The tea tent, run to raise funds for the Oasis Bereavement Group and the Community Pantry, was a welcome stop for those looking for something sweet and traditional. Local businesses such as Giggles and the Vegan Sweet Shop were also in attendance, adding to the vibrant community atmosphere.

Thirsty guests were well catered for too, with bars run by local pub The Coach House and The Cattle Truck keeping everyone refreshed throughout the day.

Live music was the beating heart of Heath Fest, with a superb line-up of local talent including Amp Cats, Country Chicks, These Certain People, and Daft. The evening culminated in a show-stopping performance by the Ed Sheeran tribute band, whose headline set had the whole field singing along. Marlow FM added to the buzz by broadcasting live from the festival all day — sharing music from the stage, interviews with performers and vendors, and bringing the sounds of Heath Fest to listeners across the area.

A special thank you must go to Marlow band These Certain People, who stepped in at the eleventh hour to replace band the 19Eighties who were unable to perform due to injury. These Certain People brought the house down, and we hope to see them return next year!

A special moment during the festival came with the presentation of the Unsung Hero award, to Mark Russell of Flackwell Boxing. He was a very deserving recipient, recognised for his outstanding work with young people in our community — a reminder of the positive impact local heroes make every day.

Following the roaring success of Heath Fest 2025, we're thrilled to share just how impactful this year's event has been for our village. We raised an incredible £12,000, the majority of which has already been donated to much-loved local groups including Flackwell Scouts, The Nancie Ross Centre, Juniper Hill School, Carrington Infants, Carrington Juniors, and The Chill Zone youth club.

This is a remarkable achievement — significantly more than we've raised in recent years — and we're proud to be able to support organisations that contribute so much to our community. The remaining funds are being put to festive use, helping to upgrade the village Christmas lights ahead of our seasonal celebrations.



A huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers, performers, vendors, and attendees who made Heath Fest 2025 such a brilliant day. We're already looking forward to doing it all again — so make sure to save the date for **Heath Fest 2026 on Saturday 11 July**. See you there!

Larisa Townsend

News In Brief

Planning: A revised proposal for the Legion building has been submitted. There are now 7 x 2-bed flats and 2 x 1-bed flats with 8 unallocated parking places. Again, the parking is considered to be a problem. We understand that both this and the Aries House development are now subject to discussion between the developers and the planning department.

Juniper School: Congratulations to Mrs Garnett who has been named Buckinghamshire Headteacher of the Year 2025. There was an award ceremony at the Wycombe Swan earlier in the summer.

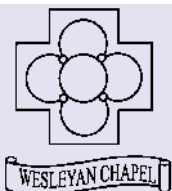
Water meters: Thames Water has been installing new meters in some parts of the village. These have the potential to be smart meters once a system has been put in place.



Have you seen one of these in your garden this summer? It's a Jersey Tiger Moth (*Euplagia quadripunctaria*) and probably yet another indication of climate change, with warmer winters allowing more greenery for the larvae.

<https://www.ukmoths.org.uk> tells us it was until relatively recently restricted to the Channel Islands and parts of the south coast. On the mainland it was most common in south Devon, but began to spread north and eastwards, and colonies appeared in Dorset, the Isle of Wight and then other southern counties. Now there are good numbers in the home counties and it has been spotted in Bedfordshire and East Anglia.

It flies both in the daytime, when it can be found feeding on various flowers, as well as at night, when it is attracted to light. The main flight period is July to September. The hairy larvae feed on a range of plants including nettle, bramble, ground elder and dandelion. This one was snapped in your editor's back garden which says it all!



FLACKWELL HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

ALPHA IS COMING TO FLACKWELL HEATH THIS AUTUMN!

Once again, we are joining with our friends at Christ Church to run The Alpha Course, beginning in October. This is an ideal way to find out more about Christianity (for both Christians and non-Christians), so if you are interested or know someone who might be, please see the sign-up sheets which will be available soon in both churches. There will be two identical courses, each running for a total of ten weeks: a Monday evening one at FHMC beginning on 6th October (7.30 - 9.30), at which a light supper will be provided, and a daytime one on Thursday mornings (9.15 - 11.15) at Christ Church beginning on 9th October, where coffee and pastries will be available. Things kick off with an ALPHA SUPPER at Christ Church on Saturday 27th September at 7pm. at which you can find out more; there will be a delicious supper followed by a talk from Rev. Gill Taylor. Come along and invite your friends!

SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER – PICK'N'MIX SUNDAY: 11am. HOLY COMMUNION streamed from Marlow Methodist Church, followed by COMMUNITY LUNCH. All are welcome – please put your name on the list in the church so that we know numbers. 2.30pm. An informal worship time led by Rev. Kate Strange.

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, 11am. – MORNING WORSHIP with a sermon from Rev. Kate Strange.

SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER, 11am. – CONTEMPORARY MORNING WORSHIP with a sermon from Rev. Kate Strange.

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER, 11am. – MORNING WORSHIP with a sermon from Rev. Kate Strange.

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 first and third Thursdays 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 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.

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



The annual Residents' Association Quiz Night takes place in September and so here are some useful facts to add to your knowledge bank. First: of all the months, September is spelt with the most letters – nine – which is convenient with it being the ninth month of the year. Second: no other month has the same number of letters as its number in the calendar year (I know you'll all be working this out now). Third: somewhat confusingly given all the nines just mentioned, the word September actually comes from a Roman word meaning seven. It was the seventh month of the Roman Calendar and didn't become the ninth month until the Gregorian Calendar took over. But clearly no one had the heart to rename it, so as the new ninth month, September continued to be named after the number seven. All as clear as mud.

As well as being a source of fairly useless information (but if it comes up at the Quiz Night, you're welcome), September is associated with new beginnings. It's the month that schools return after the holidays, the month that summer draws to a close and autumn begins, and the month that often feels more like a new start than January.

Sometimes new beginnings can be exciting – a chance to learn new things, meet new people, or try something for the first time. But new beginnings can also be scary, and as I often say to my children, it's OK to feel nervous ahead of something new. We all feel that way from time to time: it's part of being human. So if you or someone you love is feeling nervous ahead of something new this September, remind them that it's OK to feel that way, and that by giving it a go, it won't feel scary for long.

We've started something new at Christ Church this year: Café Church. Meeting at 4pm on Sunday afternoons, Café Church is church, but not at you know it. The service is interactive around tables, informal, and engaging for all ages, with refreshments available throughout and all lasting no more than an hour. We had our first Café Church before the summer holidays, and it was so much fun. This term we've got two more: Sunday 12th October, and Sunday 30th November, both at 4pm. I'd love to invite you to come and join us and see what it's all about. There's more information on our website if you want to have a look.

September also sees Coffee Stop return to its usual opening hours from Thursday 4th September, and our annual Alpha Supper on Saturday 27th. The supper launches our Alpha Course, which is a space where you can come and ask big questions about life, faith, and everything in between. It might feel scary to think about coming on an Alpha Course, but I can promise you that you'll be given a warm welcome and made to feel at ease. If you want to find out more, do take a look at our website.

Let me finish by reminding you all of something really important: Christ Church is your church. The reason we're here is to be available to the whole village, and I really mean that. So if there's something that you'd like to talk about, if you're going through a significant moment in your life, or if you're curious to know more about church and Christianity, please come and say hello. We'd be only too pleased to see you.

Go gently,

James Dwyer, Vicar of Flackwell Heath

Contact

Phone: 01628 533004
Email: admin@ccfh.org.uk
Website: www.ccfh.org.uk

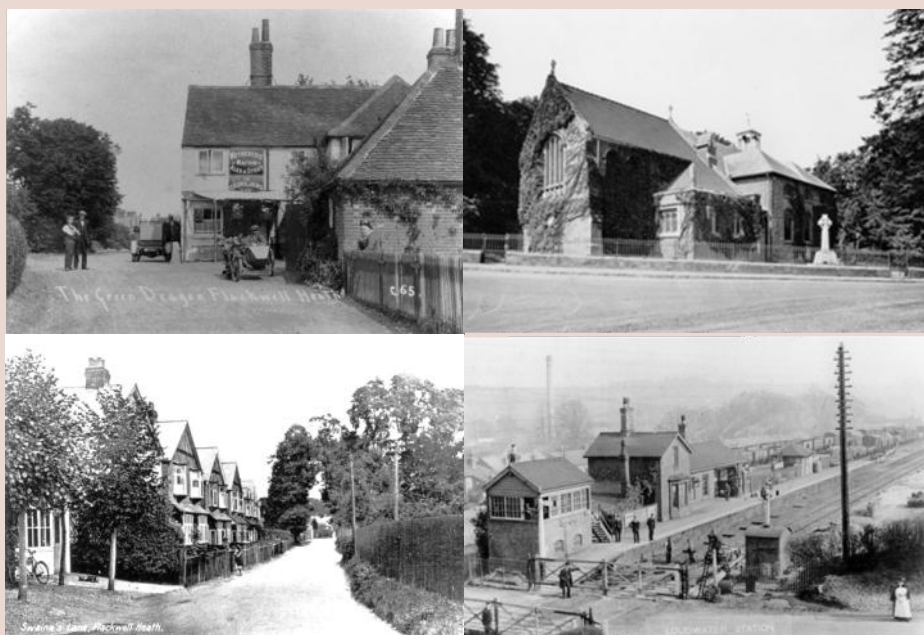
Regular services

9am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Various services

Flackwell Local Area History Group

Our next talk will be on Monday 6th October 2025 at 7.30pm

'The history of our local villages in SWOP pictures' by John Gurney



In this talk John Gurney will present the history of Flackwell Heath and Loudwater using vintage black-and-white photos from the SWOP collection.

Parish Councillor John Gurney, a long-time local historian and speaker, will present around 100 SWOP images of the High Wycombe area. He runs the Flackwell Heath, Loudwater & Wooburn Local History Facebook page and launched the SWOP page in 2021, posting a new image daily ever since.

This is a ticketed event. The tickets are £5 (£3 to friends of FHCL) and are available from the library from Tuesday 2nd September. 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



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

www.localhistorygroup.org.uk



FLACKWELL HEATH
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

What's On in Flackwell Heath

Quiz Night – Saturday 20 September, 7:30pm

In partnership with the Flackwell Heath Community Centre Association, our popular annual Quiz Night returns this autumn. Always a sell-out event, it promises a fun evening of brain-teasing questions, laughter, and great company.

- Tickets: £15 per person (includes quiz and a light supper)
- BYOB – so feel free to bring your favourite drinks
- Tables: Max 8 people per team
- Booking: Email flackwellquiz@gmail.com or call Pam Mannering on 01628 525317 to reserve your spot.

Monthly Food Market – Third Saturday of Every Month

While attendance has been lower recently (thanks to the typically British weather!), we're hoping for sunnier Saturdays ahead. Please come along and keep the market thriving! The market takes place at The Three Horseshoes, from 9am to 12noon, offering a lovely way to support local traders and enjoy delicious food. Every pitch fee goes directly back into the community – so by turning up, you're helping Flackwell thrive.

Christmas on the Heath – Saturday 29 November

Get ready for festive cheer! Our annual Christmas lights switch-on and celebration will light up the village on Saturday 29 November.

Expect a joyful day filled with:

- A festive street market
- Christmas BBQ and bar
- Live music and carol singing
- And of course... our famous Santa's Grotto!

We're incredibly proud of what we've achieved together as a community this year – and there's so much more to come. Whether you're joining us for a market morning, quiz night, or carol singalong, we can't wait to see you there.

Thank you for supporting Flackwell Heath!

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Flackwell Heath Women's Institute

Morning WI

Time flies and our early July meeting seems an age away. Then we had Dave Sivers talking about the various extra jobs he had to boost his earnings in his younger days, such as nightclub bouncer, bookmakers' clerk etc.

After early retirement from the civil service and having been a lifetime scribbler, he began writing crime novels set in Aylesbury Vale. Never be judged on your day job is his mantra.

We don't normally meet in August, but had an informal coffee morning and enjoyed a fun quiz presented by Helen, secretary of Evening WI.

The questions all required either a year, percentage or a number as an answer, so it was all really pure guesswork on our part, though did require some thought. Try this....."what percentage of adults still own their childhood Teddy bear? And those who still sleep with it?"

A good time was had by all.

In September we have Tom Way, who is a wildlife photographer.

Brenda Aldridge

Evening WI

We started the meeting with our invited Audition speaker - Simon Booker talking about British Wildlife. He was an excellent speaker who showed us stunning unique pictures of different birds and animals to be found in the Stoke area, where he lives. Walking the dog gave him ample time to observe the wildlife and with a top quality camera he could capture unusual long-distance shots. He set up the camera, tripod and different forms of camouflage for us right in the room. He then showed how to camouflage ourselves and how to focus for different shots. What we would also need is patience, luck and passion. Over the years Simon has spent a long time waiting to get that perfect shot!

In August we had a lovely afternoon in one of our member's garden, and the weather was kind to us. The local café 'Crums Corner' provided a wonderful spread of an afternoon cream tea which they delivered on beautiful boards and cake stands to the garden. It was delightful to see members and other friends chatting over tea on a lovely summer's day.

At our next meeting on the second Thursday evening in September our guest speaker is from the local RNLI, the Cookham and Marlow fundraising branch. Come and join us.

Helen Waller

Carrington Infant School's 60th Anniversary

Back in June the children, teachers, families and friends of Carrington Infant School gathered together to celebrate sixty years since the foundation of the school.

As the headteacher, Mrs Kate Cliffe, explained, "148 years ago, the school was created in the Wesleyan Chapel. This school was built in 1965. Chalk boards were still in use. Children were watching black and white TV and listening to the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Dr Zhivago was on at the cinema."

On this day we all needed our sun hats, as the sun beamed down on what was, then, the hottest day of the year. The school choir inspired us with a joyous and energetic performance of the song, "Build me up Buttercup" from the sixties.

We were entranced by a delightful display of village maypole dancing. Long ribbons in red, yellow, blue and green were held by the children and, as they started to move around the tall maypole, they excitedly waited their turn to dance across the circle and swap places with each other. Our feet started tapping to the music. I think we would all have loved to have a try at dancing around the maypole.



Everyone was invited to visit the art work on display throughout the school. Jaany Ravenscroft-Hull, an artist from Wendover, had been working with the children to help them create some art work to celebrate this special anniversary.

The Reception class talked about growing in confidence and created a tree of life using gold leaf, glitter, acrylic paints and gems, to signify the children's first step into school life.

Year 1 looked at how we can freeze our memories by collecting and painting familiar objects from around the school.

Year 2 painted birds in flight, using patterns from folk art from sixty years ago, and imagined that they themselves were like a flock of little birds as they move up as a group through the school.

We wandered around stalls of books, cakes and drinks and waited to have a piece of a celebration anniversary cake, which had been beautifully made by Mrs Pritchard, to be sliced and then shared by all.

Kate explained how closely the school and Christ Church work together through the year and then the Reverend James Dwyer spoke to the children. "Today I've learned that the 'hungry caterpillar' has been hungry for sixty years! We give thanks that so many from the school's history are here today."

Indeed some old pupils were present, who have had links with the school since its very first beginnings. We heard how Brian Huxtable was at the school when it began in the 1960s and was later joined there by his sisters Pauline and Susan. Their mum was a midday supervisor. Susan (now Henderson) has worked for twenty years at the school as the business manager. Another member of staff, Mrs Michelle Booth, came to the school as a child and now works at Carrington as a Teaching Assistant.

The anniversary was well and truly celebrated and as James Dwyer said "You can always guarantee that Carrington School will put on a good show." A sentiment with which we all heartily agreed.

Juliet Bates



FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

How's your Blood Pressure?

From September we will be offering the loan of a blood pressure monitor that you can use in your own home to keep track of your blood pressure. Each blood pressure bag includes an **instructional booklet** and **signposting information** with guidance for further action depending on the actual results.

The loan period will be for 3 weeks and this will operate just like reserving and issuing books. This service is being offered throughout Buckinghamshire following a successful pilot in selected libraries. You can borrow a monitor from the library from September.



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 7.00-9.00pm. 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-1.00 pm.

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/>



COME AND SING FAURÉ REQUIEM

Paul and Jan Churchouse invite you to come along and sing or listen to this beautiful work on October 4th. Registration takes place at Christ Church, Chapel Road at 2.00 on Saturday, October 4th, followed by a rehearsal (which includes a tea break) from 2.30-4.30. The informal performance begins at 5.00.

For those who are not familiar with the work, there will be a number of rehearsals at Christ Church on Monday evenings throughout September, at 7.30. Scores will be provided for those choir members who do not have their own copies (we will use the Novello edition). Rehearsals are not obligatory for those who know the work well, but we do need to know if you would like to take part. The fee to participate is £10, likewise to come along and listen to the singalong at 5.00; all profits will be donated to Christ Church.

For further information and registration forms please email paulandjanchur@gmail.com or phone Paul on 07779 044156

COME AND SING
'FAURÉ REQUIEM'
On
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH.
At
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REGISTRATION 2.00
REHEARSAL 2.30-4.30
INFORMAL PERFORMANCE 5.00
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Nancie Ross MBE

In the last issue of The Grapevine we had just heard the sad news of the death of Nancie Ross MBE.

Nancie was the founder of the Day Centre in Flackwell Heath, which now bears her name.

She was born in June 1934, grew up in Pembury and was educated in Tunbridge Wells. In 1955 she qualified as a State Registered Nurse, then as a midwife and in 1957 she returned to Brighton General Hospital as a ward sister on a male surgical ward and remained there until leaving nursing in 1962.

In 1951 she married Ken. Two years later Sarah was born, followed by Nicola in 1966. Nancie adored her family, loved being a Grandma and was thrilled recently to be able to attend the weddings of two of her grandsons.

In 1967 they moved to Flackwell Heath, where Nancie soon involved herself volunteering in a variety of places. At various times, she was a member of Juniper Hill Parents' Association, a member of the Guides and Scouts Support Management Committee, on the Cancer Relief fund-raising Committee, a governor of Carrington Schools and on the High Wycombe Volunteer Forum Committee.

But 1981 was a particularly important year for Nancie, for that was when she joined a small committee to set up a coffee morning for the over 60s in Flackwell Heath. This evolved into a lunch club, but Nancie had seen the need for a centre to cater for the daily needs of the elderly community.

In 1984 a Day Centre was established to serve and care for the elderly once a week at the local Community Centre. Over the next three years she led a small team fund-raising. They managed to raise £35,000 themselves for a purpose-built Day Centre, helped further by a loan from Wycombe District Council. The new Centre was opened in 1990 by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.

Nancie was very much at the forefront of the fund-raising activities, working with the local surgeries and health visitors. A recently written history of the Day Centre tells of the early days of meals cooked in people's homes and brought in, borrowing a minibus from other village groups – including one where the back door didn't shut properly and had to be held in place as the vehicle travelled! Nancie had retained copies of the daily register she kept – with many well-known village names in there.

In 2005 in the Queen's New Year's Honours list, Nancie was awarded the MBE for all her voluntary work.

Nancie oversaw all the activities of the Day Centre, although when it went from one day a week to four days, it was decided to employ a manager. She remained an active member of the committee, becoming an honorary member in later years. But she was always interested to hear news of the Day Centre and threw herself wholeheartedly into contributing to the Centre's history in the recently published book.

Alison Peach



Nancie cutting the cake at the celebrations for the 40th anniversary of The Nancie Ross Centre in 2024

Parking Issues

Parking, as we are all aware, is a sensitive issue in the village. It can be a particular challenge during school pick-up and drop-off times. You may have received a letter from Thames Valley Police about inconsiderate and dangerous parking, which highlights a few issues. We didn't know (or had forgotten), for example, that parking facing the wrong direction at night is an offence, as is blocking pavements or access. Both are subject to fines, and we are promised that patrols will monitor this and issue fixed penalty notices to persistent offenders. Let's see if anything changes.



A P-51 Mustang performs aerobics over Flackwell, Aug 14.

Photo: Craig Lewis



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Heath Singers Concert June 20/21

The Heath Singers, Flackwell's very own ladies' choir, made a flying start to their summer concert programme of 'Around the World in Song' on Friday, 20th June, with 'Funiculi Funicula' and 'O Sole Mio' which transported us to Italy. 35 singers braved the heat to stand and perform around twenty numbers from a wide range of countries and the first half continued with songs from France, Germany, Australasia and the USA ('Guys and Dolls' medley). Our talented trio of singers, Larisa, Glenys and Jean even managed a number in Welsh! Simon Pearce, guitarist, was a most welcome guest performer; he created beautiful colours in his numbers which included a piece intriguingly called 'Ladye Nothings Toye Puffe' by John Renbourn.

The second half included numbers from Africa and Asia (notably the rollicking 'Jai Ho' from the film Slumdog Millionaire), and other songs from Central America and the UK. What a picture the choir looked in their long summer dresses, with the colours enhanced by the performance lighting of Christ Church!

The following afternoon, the Heath Singers were joined by Carrington School Choir who sang four of their own songs as well as combining with Heath Singers for three further items, perhaps most notably 'Beautiful Africa' and 'Consider Yourself' from Lionel Bart's 'Oliver'. The choir wish to commend Carrington Junior School for taking the trouble to prepare for such a venture with particular thanks going to Ms Gibbons and Mrs Cameron (headteacher).

The conductors/accompanists Paul and Jan Churchouse felt that it was the best summer concert ever, and would like to thank the choir, the committee and back-up teams that made it all possible. This must be one of the best value events in the village with two hours of varied musical entertainment and, as ever, delicious cakes and refreshments during the interval. Our audiences are very loyal and generous; we are delighted to announce that donations of £1,000 were made to each of our chosen charities (Myeloma UK, the Chill Zone and Carrington School PTA).

If any of our readers would like further information on joining the Heath Singers, all things are possible by phoning/contacting Jan on 07791 500479.

Paul Churchouse



Dates for your Diary

Regular Events

Litter-pick: first Saturdays (Sep 6, Oct 4) Start from Jubilee Gardens at 10am.

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

Paperback & Jigsaw Library: first Wednesdays (Sep 3, Oct 1) Community Centre, 1-2.45pm.

Food market: third Saturdays (Sep 20, Oct 18), Three Horseshoes car park, 9am-12noon.

September

Saturday 20: Village Quiz, Community Centre, 7.30pm (see p1)

October

Saturday 4: 'Come and Sing' Faure Requiem, Christ church, from 2pm (see p6)

Monday 6: History Group talk 'The history of our local villages in SWOP pictures' by John Gurney, library, 7.30pm (see p4)

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Flackwell Heath Community Association

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01628 526129
Secretary: Chris Thomas
01628 520361

Centre Bookings

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

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