

Banjos On The Heath

One of the pleasures of living in Flackwell Heath is the variety of live adult entertainment available throughout the year. Banjovi Revival is a band which makes this possible where the vi is for vigour. This little group – mainly, but not totally - ladies, will perform wonderful music at concerts, practically to order with really superb enthusiasm. They are primarily banjoleers, with one guitar, backed up by a keyboard and often a good singer.

They donate all their fees, including those from their record sales, to various charities and since they started in 1993 have given more than £18,000 to many good causes. The group was started by Joyce Wooster, and core members are her sister Maggie on keyboard and our own Pauline Gibson on second banjo. Pauline sometimes plays first, or rhythm banjo (but Joyce would probably say she just does her own thing). Other members include Jenny Everett, who plays rhythm, Ray Journaux on guitar, and Alan Leighton on base banjo. Very often Sally Edwards sings with them. Sally is determinedly amateur, but an excellent singer who gives her fees to the poorest of the poor in the Third World.

The band's success comes from weekly practice, which is also a major part of their fun, and they perform about once a week, with extra at Christmas. They normally fill a forty-five minute slot, to village audiences, retirement homes, sometimes at birthday parties, in fact to anyone who might appreciate their music. They offer all the 20th Century repertoire, including jazz, country and western, Beatles, and much more modern music.

Pauline, our local member, has been in the village since 1965. In that time she has been a tireless worker for the village and for charity, as well as being an accomplished musician. We are lucky to have access to Banjovi Revival, and wish them well into the future. You can see the band on the afternoon of Friday 19 May from 2pm to 4 at the Christ Church Hall in a fund raising performance in aid of the FH Residents Association. Tickets £5 for members and £6 for non-members from Pauline on 01628 523946 or from Unit 4 Newsagents.