

# THE Grapevine

July '09

50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



## FLACKWELL HEATH Residents' Association Planning and Environment Group



We are pleased that the Parish Council are planting two of our cherry trees on Heath Lawn. We look forward to seeing them grow and bloom, commemorating the first two Cherry Fayres. We are also grateful for all the work done by the Parish Council in conjunction with the folk on the Community Payback Scheme. This has made a tremendous difference to the appearance of the corner at the junction of Straight Bit and Juniper Lane. A big thank you to the organisers of the scheme and to those who voluntarily give up time to supervise the work.

### Architect needed

We were wondering if there is an architect in the village who would be interested in joining us and using their expertise to help us visualise how different areas of the village could look. At the moment we are considering the Post Office area in particular.

A full planning application has been made by Michael Shanly Homes for 9 houses (3 of them socially rented) on 'The Magpie pub site. This application is available to download on the Wycombe District Council website or alternatively you can call in at the Planning Department. Its reference number is 09/05991/FUL. Any comments can be submitted through the website or by letter.

### Litter Pick

We held another successful litter pick on Saturday 16 May. Despite a poor weather forecast the rain held off until we were clearing up. We were able to collect a large amount of rubbish and this time more of the footpaths were tackled beside the main road. Our experience of clearing more footpaths showed we should concentrate on some of these in future as they contain more rubbish than the verges of the main road.

One interesting point however was the amount of rubbish around the bus stops where there were loads of used bus tickets. We noted these were virtually all zero fare tickets, which surprised us. Following on from the Editor's comments about anti-social behaviour in the last edition of 'The Grapevine', we all moan about graffiti and vandalism but could we comment that leaving litter is also anti-social behaviour which is also completely avoidable. Therefore could we please ask those of you privileged to have free bus travel to take your used bus tickets home and put them in your recycling.

Our thanks to all those who turned up and also to Terry Hill and his colleagues from the council who make such an event possible by loaning the litter pickers, supplying the bags and coming out specially to collect the rubbish. Our next litter pick will be held on Saturday 3 October from 10am to noon, meeting on the village green by the Community Centre. We welcome all the family including children and well-behaved dogs. We look forward to seeing you then.

We would also welcome your views, either positive or negative, to Carolyn Leonard 01628 526512 or fhra-planning-environment@flackwellheath.net

### Find out about crime in our area

We all tend to over estimate the amount of crime in our area. You can register to be informed of what is actually happening in reality. 'Ringmaster' messages provide information about crimes committed in our area, report successes where possible, offer crime prevention advice and notify members about forthcoming NHWatch and other events. If you are already a member of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – and there are currently 35 schemes with 60 registered 'Ringmaster' recipients in our village – you will be familiar with 'Ringmaster' messages received from the Watch Office of Thames Valley Police, Wycombe LPA.

However, if you don't belong to Neighbourhood Watch, you can still register to receive a good part of the information sent out, by registering for the Community Messaging service through the Thames Valley Police web site.

As a registered recipient you will not only benefit from the messaging but may also learn about those in your community subject to anti social behaviour orders, help identify suspected or wanted criminals from the Gallery pages or learn about community groups, events or meetings in our area. Links to some of these additional pages are only visible to registered recipients.

This communication service is free of charge.

You can choose to receive messages by email, text message, voice message to your mobile or landline telephone, or fax.

The police actively encourage residents to join a Neighbourhood & Home Watch scheme where one exists – if there isn't one in your road, why not get together with your neighbours and start one?

For further information about Neighbourhood Watch, contact: David Gresswell – Area Co-ordinator, Flackwell Heath 01628 525019 flackwell-nhwatch@talktalk.net

# Cherry Fayre goes Medieval

The 2009 Cherry Fayre is on Sunday 12 July at the Recreation Ground. Straight Bit David Onslow and his team promise that it will be bigger and better than ever before. This year they have had to increase the insurance cover from 2 000 visitors to 4 000 due to the increasing popularity of this event. All we need is a nice bright July afternoon.

Unlike any similar event locally, entry to the Cherry Fayre is free. The Residents' Association decided two years ago that although they needed to raise funds, they also wanted to give local families a good day out.

People in their teens and early twenties are not usually attracted to conventional events but this year the high tec i-van will be on the site – see separate item.

Making the theme of this years Fayre "Medieval" was a smart decision. We all like to imagine ourselves as Robin Hood, Maid Marian, King Richard and his Knights or Joan of Arc on a good day. Although few of us imagine living in a grotty hovel with lice infested clothes, 'the Kings evil' and rotten teeth. (Sadly, no local dentists have taken a stall for the traditional peasants' tooth pulling.)

We are much happier living out the modern fantasy of the Medieval Fayre.

And Terry Darby has hit just the right note of medieval fantasy in his arrangement of the parade which starts from the Scout Hut at 12 noon, down Chapel Road and into the Recreation ground. It has everything a modern Medieval procession should have. I just love the idea of mounted knights parading between the Strawberry Fayre Majorettes and a Traditional Jazz Band.

*The Town Crier in full regalia  
The Reading Scottish Pipe Band  
The Strawberry Fayre Majorettes*

*2 Mounted Knights  
in full suits of armour*

*A Traditional Jazz band*

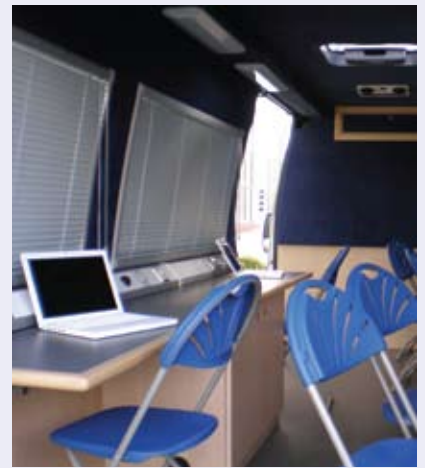
*Conjurors, a Jester and Stilt walkers  
You and your children, dear reader,  
walking in Medieval Fancy Dress*

But the Cherry Fayre is not just folk dressing up in rather fetching clothes and throwing wet sponges at local dignitaries in the stocks. There is a serious side to it. It does enable charities to raise money for worthy causes in Flackwell Heath.

A number of commercial organisations sponsor the Fayre and will be represented on the day because they hope to meet their customers face to face. Other organisations also want to contact their users and supporters. Neighbourhood Watch will be there as will the Chepping Wycombe Parish Council and the FH branch of Beaconsfield Constituency Conservative Party to name but a few.

I have not given you all the information the events and stalls you will find on the 12th. The free programmes will have dropped through your doors by now, and will give you all the details.

*Tim Kendall  
FHRA Members' Representative and  
Editor of the Grapevine*



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## £200 REWARD

Chepping Wycombe Parish Council is offering a reward of **£200 for information leading to a successful prosecution** of the perpetrators of the criminal damage at the Flackwell Heath allotment site on Saturday 18 April 2009. The numbers to ring are the police 0845 8 505 505 or Crimestoppers (anonymous) 0800 555 111.

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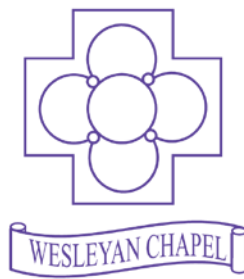
The Christian Aid collection and fundraising in Flackwell Heath raised an astonishing £3 898.25. Thank you to everyone who gave and helped!

The Christ Church Puppets will be at the 10am Family Service on Sunday 5 July to tell us the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments. The service will last about an hour and is suitable for all the family.

Coffee Stop serves fairly-traded tea and coffee with daily newspapers and provides a friendly place to meet old friends and make new ones. It runs every weekday morning during term-time from 9.00am to 11.30am and on Wednesday only during school holidays.

Calling all parents and grandparents! "Godly Play" is an exciting Sunday afternoon interactive children's story and a creative play event. It runs monthly from 4.00pm to 5.30pm. Children of all ages are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. It includes a snack tea. The next occasion is Sunday 12 July.

Please contact the Church Office in Chapel Road for details of regular services and further information on any of the above: 01628 533004 (9.00am – 1.00pm Monday to Friday).



## Methodist Church services.

We have All Age Worship on the first Sunday, July 5, followed by tea and coffee.

Our Minister, Rev. David Miller will be leading Holy Communion Services on July 5th at 6.30pm and July 26th at 11am. David will also be leading Sunday Live at 9.30am on the third Sunday, July 19.

There is no evening service on 19 July but a Circuit Service at Wesley in High Wycombe, which will be a Farewell Service for Rev. Moira Peters who will be moving to a Circuit in the North East.

For details of our other services please go to [www.fhmc.org.uk](http://www.fhmc.org.uk)

*Jane Routledge*

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## Flackwell Heath Women's Institute

### Morning WI

The Treasurer had some good news. The Inland Revenue Office had repaid some tax through the Gift Aid Scheme. It was suggested that for this year only, 2 Bursaries for a courses at WI Denman College could be offered to members. This would be in addition to the one offered each year. It was also suggested that a donation be made to Bucks County WI Hardship Fund to help struggling WI Groups in the County.

Members were reminded that the WI is running a cake and produce stall at the Cherry Fayre.

The competition winners were 1st Margaret Flintham, 2nd Midge Larkman and 3rd Joan Cox Wilson.

The speaker was Alan D Copeland with is "Tales of the unexpected". No ghosts or ghouls or strange happenings but a series of curiosities he had researched and photographed. His talk was accompanied by slides and some

sound effects and kept us wondering what he would show next. A First World War memorial to cyclists, bread stones engraved with the price dough per gallon through several centuries, unusual and unhelpful signposts, a huge underground arsenal of ammunition under a pleasant covering of grass and shrubs were some of the things he told us about.

The next meeting is on 1 July and the speaker will Colin Oakes talking about Dr Johnson's Famous Dictionary.

*Jean Worth*

### Evening WI

Mrs Sylvia Eastgate came to talk to us about 'Tai Chi and Me'. However, it was really Tai Chi and Us: she got us all doing 18 short exercises that between them involved all parts of the body, from head to toes. (Two young boys saw us through the window and appeared intrigued; we asked them to join us, but they came over shy). Mrs Eastgate then

performed, to music, what is known as a form - a sequence of moves with a low number of repetitions flowing one to another. Some of the various moves have highly romantic names, such as 'white crane spreads wings'.....who could resist?

Members reported progress on the Story Sack items, and displayed them. It has to be finished by July. [ Maybe the Editor will give us room for a photo then?]

Next month is the draw for our annual Denman bursary. This pays for a short course of the member's choice at the WI College, and is awarded by drawing lots amongst our members. If you are not going to be present at the July meeting, you can still enter by giving your name to the Secretary or any member of the committee.

July's speaker will be Mr Peter Bird on 'Colour in the Garden'.

*Sue Arnautov*

# Cherry Fayre & Local Trade

The Fayre draws people into our village and many of them will be amazed at the range of shops and services we have here. What other village has a supermarket, a bank, Boots, a first class optician, a pet shop, Post Office, hairdressers, beauticians, pubs, eateries and takeaways? Radhuni, bright entrepreneurs that they are, have been running their own food stall at the Cherry Fayre for years.

Many of these shops will have advertised in the programme which was delivered to every home and local visitors will pick them up at the Fayre. If just one of our less usual shops attracts a visitor the chances are that he or she will stop off at several shops.

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## CARRINGTON Junior School



### Artsmark

Carrington Junior School has just been awarded the 'Artsmark'. This is a national award scheme that recognises schools with a high level of provision in arts. It also recognises the school's commitment to, and excellence in, arts education.

A school must dedicate a minimum of 10% of its curricular teaching time to the arts. This includes music, art, design & technology, dance and drama. The school achieved the Silver Artsmark level by having dedicated 12% of the curriculum to the arts.

The amount of teaching of the arts that takes place during the curriculum was looked at together with the special events that take place during the school year (e.g. the summer musical productions the school puts on each year where the whole school takes part and Year 6 take the lead roles). In addition, the Arts Council wanted to know what arts clubs the school ran during out-of-school hours (e.g. dance clubs, drama club, choir, school band, various art clubs etc). Chris Inder, a local artist and one of our mothers, worked with the whole school to create a large Ceramic of Cherries which is now in pride of place on one of the outside walls for all the children to see.

Alan Davey, Chief Executive of the Arts Council England, said 'Arts Council England is committed to great art for everyone and we believe that the earlier children are creatively inspired, the more likely they are to have a lifelong engagement with art.' We are going to collect our Silver Artsmark certificate at an awards ceremony on 29 June in Newbury, Berkshire.

Deborah Fox

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## Juniper's Eco-friendly Curriculum

Juniper Hill School has worked very hard for the environment this year. We have a Council of Eco-Jets and we are also trying to promote green issues throughout our lessons.

There are two Eco-Jets within each class. They meet regularly to bring about helpful changes. We have tried to cut down on energy wastage. To remind people to turn off lights, we have designed labels for every light switch in the school. Our energy bills are really being reduced. We have also produced compost using the pupil's left-over fruit from break-times. We hope to use this within our school grounds.

During lessons, we have been learning about sustainability. In Year 4 this included our 'hot and cold' survey when the whole class went around the school in small groups, and measured the temperature of different rooms. This highlighted to us which areas were most energy-efficient. We sent an email to our Head teacher explaining that we would like to make our school a more 'Eco-friendly' place. We especially liked the idea of 'Juniper-cycle', a way to advertise and recycle your old things for free. Also, the Nursery, Reception and Year One pupils have started to plant seeds in their lessons. This fits really well with Science. Our Parent and Teacher Association have kindly donated some gardening trolleys. Some parents have even come into school to help prepare vegetable patches.

We are all very excited about what the future holds for Juniper Hill!

By Angel, Joseph and Sophie.

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# Please Can We Have Our Game Back?



*Imaginative reconstruction by Lyn Rimmer using a Sopwith Camel and a Zeppelin*

Do you know the whereabouts of a fund raising game which has been lost for ten years or more? It consisted of twelve segments of wood of different colours which formed a circle some 10 to 12 feet in diameter. In the centre of the circle was a stand with a cross piece which spun round. On one end of this crosspiece was a small bi-plane and on the other an airship. There were also 12 oblong wooden tokens painted the same colours as the circle.

The idea was that the cross piece was spun and whichever colour the plane landed on the person holding that colour was the winner. It was a very simple game but the children loved it.

It belonged to the Community Association but was borrowed by various organisations and used at functions and fetes around the village for many years and always raised quite a bit of money.

It was very well made and apart from wanting to find the game, it would be interesting to know the origin of it, who made it and when it was made.

If anyone has information about this game, would they please get in touch with Barbara Thompson 01628 522751.

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# Jeff Herschel

Jeff Herschel has recently been elected by his fellow Councillors to be Chairman of Chepping Wycombe Parish Council which covers Tylers Green, Loudwater and Flackwell Heath. I asked him to write a piece telling us how he feels being Chairman and what he hopes the Council will achieve. Tim Kendell Editor

How do I feel about being Chairman? In a nutshell more work, but I welcome the opportunity to do more to improve the parish.

For the past two years, as Chairman of the council's Works, Services and Planning Committee, I worked to ensure that the physical assets owned by the parish were steadily improved and that we took the initiative with other agencies to bring about improvements.

The parish operates on a shoe-string and it's difficult to find the money for change. But over a two year period, in spite of above-inflation cost increases, we slowly saved about £5,000 a year, largely from footpath lighting maintenance costs. We agreed to use the money to refurbish street benches; improve our cemeteries and the two closed churchyards; start a programme of replacing stiles on parish footpaths with gates; and improve the environment generally.

By being proactive we have been very successful in getting funding for many of our projects, or getting others to make improvements that might never otherwise get done. We had a significant grant to refurbish two war memorials; bid successfully for funds to put a new green path down Sheepridge to Little Marlow; We worked closely with Bucks Highways to improve areas of waste ground, as at the top of Juniper Lane – using Community Payback offenders organised by the parish; started a project to have cats-eyes replaced on the unlit roads that lead into the village; dug-out blocked drainage gullies that flood roads and so much more. Add in what we have done

in Loudwater and in Tylers Green and it all starts to make a tangible difference.

We have an excellent and committed group of councillors, supported by a first class Clerk in Huw Jones and his small team of staff. I take my election as Chairman as a vote of support for continuing change and a widening of what we do across all our committees. That's what people voted for, and my ambitions for the council have always been very clear. I shall depend on my colleagues to keep my feet on the ground and focus on what is available with the limited resources we have.

For all around I see opportunities. Our play areas are not the best that we could offer, and every year they get further behind. The recreational facilities we provide for teenagers, girls in particular, are woefully inadequate. Facilities like Dereham's Lane Sports Ground consume disproportionate amounts of the leisure budget, are little used and in desperate need of a new lease of life. We have parks and open spaces that are little used except by dog walkers, and add little of value to the street scene. Kingswood, a fantastic gem in our crown, is not yet the 'community wood' that I see other councils provide so successfully. The Revive the Wye project is the centrepiece of my aspiration to have everyone 'Love Loudwater'.

As I said, more work. But I believe the whole council is up for it. One thing I have learnt is how long it takes to bring about change that is obvious to residents. Before I hand on to another I would like to try and make an even greater difference, or at the very least leave behind a shared vision of the future for others to carry forward and complete.

Like almost all our residents I love this parish and its three villages. It is a great place in which to live. But we can make it better still.

*Jeff Herschel*





## Heath Light Orchestra Concert

What a perfect end to a glorious summer day! The “feel-good” factor from outside was ideally reflected inside as John Timewell and his orchestra treated us to a Summer Serenade. In the opening piece we enjoyed a range of tempo, pitch and volume which was prelude to the rest of the evening. Haunting and mysterious pieces were interspersed with lilting waltzes and delightfully jolly and light-hearted items. Every section of the orchestra had its chance to shine proving that, not only has Britain Got Talent, but Buckinghamshire musicians have it “in spades”. The Abba finale was a fitting end, much enjoyed by the audience and orchestra alike.

Added to all of this was the delight of quaffing beer or sipping wine in the gardens in the dying rays of the sun. (A bit of poetic licence here!)

Well done to all concerned. It was an excellent fund-raising event for the upkeep of the Community Centre.

*Sheila Davies*



## Royal British Legion Women's Section

The British Legion would like to enrol new members to their Women's Section to strengthen their membership and help support the aims of the Flackwell Branch of the British Legion which is based in Common Road. You do not have to have served in the Forces and any one over 16 would be warmly welcomed.

For more information please ring Mary Harding 01628 520546.

### Summer BBQ

The Legion's Summer BBQ and Open Fun Day will be on Sunday 26 July from 11am until 4pm. Live music from Lippy Girl Duo. Everybody welcome.

*George O'Leary*

## Secondhand books wanted!

Any kind, softback, hardback, fiction, non-fiction, children's etc.

For Sale at the Cherry Fayre on 12th July

in aid of the League of Friends of Wycombe Hospital

Contact A1 Taxis on 01628 851466, who will arrange to collect any donations, or leave donations at their office on Straight Bit.

### Diary of events

#### Regular events

<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>The FH Royal British Legion</b> runs dances every Saturday evening. 8.30 to 11.30 Open to non members
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>The Silver Circle</b> over 60 Club 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 2pm to 4 at the Royal British Legion Club. £1 including tea, cake and a chat.
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>Good Companions</b> meet every other Thursday 1.30 to 3.30 in the Community Centre. Speakers, games and conversation
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>Flackwell Ladies Club</b> 1st & 3rd Thurs 8pm Community Centre

#### July

<b>Wednesday 1</b>	<b>Jigsaw and Paperback Library</b> 1.30 – 3.30 Community Centre
<b>Sunday 5</b>	<b>Carrington Schools Summer Fayre</b> 12 – 4
<b>Wednesday 8</b>	<b>Carrington Bag-2-School</b> donations received today and Thursday
<b>Friday 10</b>	<b>Heath Singers</b> 40th Anniversary Concert <b>SOLD OUT</b>
<b>Sunday 12</b>	<b>Cherry Fayre</b> parade begins at 12.00. Opening by Dominic Grieve MP at 12.25
<b>Wednesday 22</b>	<b>Magical Tales and Dance for Children</b> 4 to 7 Library
<b>Sunday 19</b>	<b>Flackwell Amblers</b> River Walk 2 hrs Meet 10am Budgens Car Park
<b>Sunday 26</b>	<b>Royal British Legion</b> Summer Open BBQ and Fun Day 11am to 4pm

#### August

<b>Wednesday 5</b>	<b>Jigsaw and Paperback Library</b> 1.30 – 3.30 Community Centre
<b>Sunday 23</b>	<b>Flackwell Amblers</b> Walk 2 hrs Meet 10am Budgens Car Park

#### Autumn dates for your diary

**Saturday 26th September 50/60 Night** 8.00 in the Community Centre. Dance the golden age of Rock and Roll with The Trends. Bring your children and grandchildren and show them what 'cool' really means. Tickets only £10 (a weeks wage's in 1960) includes supper (bring your own drinks) from Barbara Thompson 01628 522751 or John Sweetman 01628 528671

**24 October Village Quiz night**

**21 November Wine tasting**

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## Age Concern's 25th Anniversary

Flackwell Heath & Loudwater Age Concern will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary with Supper Dance in the Community Centre on 19th September. "We look forward to seeing you". More information in next month's Grapevine.

## BANJOVI CONCERT

Could I please thank everyone who attended the concert at Christ Church and all those who contributed raffle prizes. Everyone appeared to have enjoyed it. Can I also thank the rest of the band - Joyce, Maggie, Jenny and Ray who gave up their precious time to ensure the concert was a success.

Special thanks should go to Liz and Dave Johncock who volunteered for to prepare the tea and clear up the kitchen afterwards – they deserve a medal!

You will be pleased to know that we sold £112 worth of raffle tickets and we were able to hand our two teenagers £200 each towards their World Challenge.

It was nice to hear someone in the audience, who was not a local, saying what a great bunch of people the Flackwell villagers were and how much they felt at home.

*Pauline Gibson*

### Aerobics and Yoga with Caroline

Wednesdays at Carrington Junior

Aerobics 7 – 8 pm

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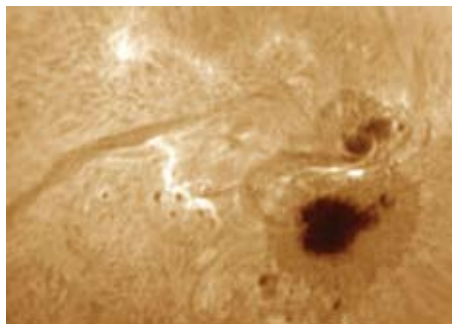
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**Congratulations** to all readers who recognised that there were no sunspots in the picture captioned "Sunspot" in last month's article on Dave Tyler the Astrophotographer. Unfortunately, I got overexcited and put in one of his pictures of an active region of the Sun's surface instead. But this really is one of Dave's pictures of a sunspot taken on 12 December 2006.

*Tim Kendall*

## Off to Paris for McMillan

On Wednesday 8 July John Nicol will be joining a group of 60 cyclists setting off to ride to Paris to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. They plan to complete the 300 miles with a parade ride down the Champs Elysee on Saturday 11 July.

John is 42 and a regular cyclist. His target is £1500 for McMillan but he has already almost got there. He works for a large garage company in London employing 180 people, the car manufacturers have been generous with gifts for his charity raffles and his colleagues have bought the tickets. John is also the trainer of the Flackwell Minors under 9s. The other coaches and parents have also given generously. Enough is never enough. If you would like to support John and MacMillan Cancer Support the cool, modern way is to log on to [www.justgiving.com/johnnicol1](http://www.justgiving.com/johnnicol1)

## FLACKWELL HEATH LIBRARY



It's Summer - that must mean it's time for the Summer Reading Challenge. This year our theme is "Quest Seekers" - a magical fantasy adventure. This runs from 11 July to 19 September and is suitable for children from 4 - 12 years. To make sure you get to take part in this exciting challenge come into the library nearer the time to pick up your pack.

As part of the Reading Challenge we are holding a free event called "Magical Tales & Dance" - a journey into fantasy using dance. This is on Wednesday 22 July - 4-5 years can come along at 10.00 - 10.30 and 6-7 years 11.00 - 11.30. Tickets are available from the library.

We had a very successful Family History session recently and hope to repeat this at a later date.

Ladies Badminton Group  
would welcome new members  
of reasonable standard.  
Friday evenings 6.30 to 8.00  
in the Community Centre.  
Jan Fanning 01628 527506 or  
Elaine Hamilton 01628 525801

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# Cindy Thomas

## Her Dream Job

**C**indy Thomas holds her dream job and has done so for the last 24 years. If you live in Flackwell, and own a pet, you have probably met her: she is the Branch Manager at the veterinary practice in Heath End Road. The Temple End Veterinary Surgery in High Wycombe opened this branch in 1985, upgrading from an earlier occasional clinic in Fennels Farm Road. At that time, Cindy's youngest child had just started school, and she was looking for part-time work. A chance conversation with a friend led to an offer of work two days a week at the new surgery; Cindy thought she'd give it a try, and the job grew with the practice. Cindy has no formal training in either veterinary nursing or animal husbandry. These days, for such a job, you would need a qualification in veterinary nursing, probably obtained by following a day-release course for several years while employed by a vet practice.

Cindy was, however, a qualified children's nurse, and had also trained in secretarial skills. She had worked as a secretary for Hawker Siddley in Coventry, and then as a PA for Johnson & Johnson. This background stood her in good stead, but she also has the essential qualifications for her job: she loves animals and she loves meeting people. Until 1997 the practice included large animals like horses, but now it is restricted to smaller animals, mostly cats, dogs and what Cindy calls 'small furries' such as guinea pigs. Her worst ever injury was a hamster bite. The practice has 8 vets, about 9 nurses, plus reception staff, and the Flackwell branch is open 5 days per week.

Compared to 24 years ago, there have been many improvements in treatment: better anaesthesia which allows longer and more complex operations with better recovery, better antibiotics and other drugs, the introduction of scans and lab tests. There are also many more vaccines against animal diseases than

there used to be, and not just for cats and dogs.

Cindy used to organise visits by local schoolchildren, Guides or Brownies, to see the surgery and talk about the care of animals. Sadly, there are now EU rules on such things and the insurance cover required would be prohibitive.

The best part of her job is seeing a sick animal recover, and the delight of its owner. Some animals, and their families, she has known for years. The worst part of the job is seeing an animal for which nothing further can be done, and the time has come to say goodbye; at least they can offer a quick pain-free death.

Asked for Do's and Don'ts, Cindy says: DO get your cat neutered and vaccinated, DON'T leave dogs in hot cars to get heat exhaustion. The practice does treat some injured wildlife, but the best place for orphan and injured wildlife is St. Tiggywinkle's (emergency tel no 01844 292292, not only for hedgehogs). Baby birds should be left alone, so their mothers return.

Cindy and her husband Haydn have lived in Flackwell for 31 years. Their daughter Claire, a nurse, is now a GP's wife and lives in Wooburn, son Gareth is a recruitment consultant and lives in Flackwell with his wife and family, son Owen is married, lives in Holyport and works for Invesco.

An extension is currently being built at the surgery and will open in the autumn. There will be more space, with separate waiting rooms for cats and dogs and the facilities will be improved allowing them to carry out more surgical procedures. [We hope to cover this in The Grapevine in future]. Cindy is looking forward to the completion, and hopes to continue working for as long as possible - who wouldn't, in their 'dream job'.

*Sue Arnautov*

FSC  
certification



Cindy Thomas and Tess  
*Photo: Sue Arnautov*

### Flackwell Heath Community Association

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Secretary	Chris Thomas 01628 520361
Treasurer	Val Weston 01628 523213
Centre bookings	Pam Wilsher 01628 525484
Keyholder	Express Video Shop Reg Charity No. 1044870

**Grapevine** 

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