

THE Grapevine

August '09

50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



"Bigger and Better Every Year" Shadow Justice Secretary

Dominic Grieve said it in his opening speech. "The Cherry Fayre gets bigger and better every year." We know that the number of stalls increased but no one can be sure how many people came to enjoy it. The FH Residents Association wisely increased the number covered by their insurance policy to 4 000 people; so we have to allow a margin for error and assume that there were no more than 3 999 there at any one time.

David Onslow and the team of all talents he assembled to organise the Fayre should be proud of their success. They not only handled the complex administration efficiently but they were also open to innovation. Matthew Kite's report of his enjoyable afternoon with the high tec i-van is on page 2. One mother's view of the Fayre is on the back page.

It will be a couple of months before all the bills are in but given the fine weather and the crowds who came along, the Cherry Fayre certainly made a profit and we all had a splendid time.



FLACKWELL HEATH Residents' Association

Planning and Environment Group

Firstly I should like to thank all those folk who contacted me regarding the various items we wrote of in our Planning and Environment Group article in July's Grapevine. It was encouraging that you support us in our efforts to try to improve the quality of life in the village. It was good that some of you sought me out at the fantastic Cherry Fayre last Sunday. I was so pleased to meet you and put faces to phone calls and e-mails.

Babs Park Lorries

For those of you particularly concerned regarding the traffic problems caused by the container lorries endeavouring to manoeuvre into Babs Park on Blind Lane, the Public Enquiry is still ongoing. As you know it began on 23 June and during this and the next day various witnesses were questioned. However, there was insufficient time for all the evidence to be presented, so the enquiry was adjourned until 10am on 1 September in the main Council Chamber in Wycombe.

The Magpie Development

A number of you contacted me regarding the planning application submitted by Michael Shanly Homes for 'The Magpie' site. Whilst we recognise this site needs development so it does not become an even worse eyesore than it is now we were pleased so many of you also wanted to see the 'right' development there. All your comments were valuable and were used in our submission expressing our reservations and concerns. The main points of our submission were:

Traffic issues

Overspill parking from the development

Insufficiently large turning head for refuse and emergency vehicles

Lack of communal amenity space

Height of the car barn

Security issues

Hedge between the site and Magpie Lane

Refuse/recycling storage

Cycle storage

Loss of a community facility

This all led to the conclusion it was over development of the site

Wilfrids Wood Close

Apart from the usual applications for extensions, conservatories and the like the only application we have noticed since our last article is for the corner of Wilfrids Wood Close and Blind Lane (09/06232/FUL). The proposed development here is to demolish the existing bungalow and erect 2x 4 bed houses.

M40 Gateway Area

You will no doubt have noticed the recent delivery through your door of Wycombe District Council's 'Imagine the Future 5' booklet outlining some of the proposals for the development of the Wycombe area and giving notice of the various events and exhibitions being held during July. At the M40 Gateway Area meeting on 13 July there was good representation of FHRA and also our local councillors both at Parish and District level. National government demands an average of 380 dwellings per annum extra in South Bucks, most of these in the Wycombe area over the years leading up to 2026. Clearly major developments will be necessary to achieve such numbers as 'in filling' only provides small numbers per annum and such possibilities are limited. Clearly the proposals for approximately 550 houses on RAF Daws Hill and 450 on Abbey Barn South are those likely to affect Flackwell Heath the most. At present there appear to be three options for delivering necessary road improvements. One of these being a southern link road (SLINK) with a price tag of £6.5M excluding land costs. With developments of such a large scale there are clearly huge implications for the area and of course Flackwell Heath. Wycombe District Council would like to have our view on these proposals but there is a deadline for all submissions – 4.45pm on Friday 14 August. May we urge you to read the booklet which was delivered and to go on Wycombe's website www.wycombe.gov.uk/planningconsultations. The document you require is 'Delivering the Strategy for Wycombe'. It is a large document so you may wish to be selective. We hope to put in a submission but need your views so it is representative of what you think about the proposals. Ring Carolyn Leonard 01628526512 or fhra-planning-environment@flackwellheath.net as soon as possible.

Litter Picking Saturday 3 October

Lastly as there is no Grapevine in September may I remind you of our next litter pick 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 dogs. Gloves, litter pickers and bags supplied.

*Carolyn Leonard
Chair of FHRA Planning and Environment Group*



Photo: Tim Kendall

i-van

The i-van (a van that has been fitted with power, the internet, and lots of very impressive equipment) came to the Cherry Fair on 12 July. Inside there are desks with several Mac computers (they brought four Macbooks, but they have another two and a Macbook pro), MIDI keyboards, graphics tablets and very good cameras. The computers all have an excellent range of software on them including programs for editing audio, pictures, and video.

When we arrived we sat down in the van with the computers and looked at what we could do. We experimented with one of their very good digital cameras and they let us go out to take pictures of the different things happening at the fair. We took pictures of the football matches and the jousting. We then went back to the van and put the photos onto Google Earth. Then we used the computer music software to make a theme tune for the i-van. Ours weren't too good however, so I don't think they'll be using them any time soon. They also had three graphics tablets that we used to make drawings on the computers. It was amazing as you can use the graphics tablets to draw on (with special pens) just as if you were actually drawing on paper. I can't draw very well with a normal pencil so we didn't keep any of my sketches.

Overall the i-van was really impressive and it was a really fun afternoon. I would definitely go back if I had the chance.

Matthew Kite

Grapevine



There will be no Grapevine in September. The October issue will have articles about the events planned for the Autumn and a piece about one of the most interesting businesses in the village.

In the meantime, read Simone Coles's so positive article on the joys of living in Flackwell Heath and have a good Summer! *Tim Kendell Editor*

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Christ Church launched its new website at the Cherry Fayre. Do visit www.ccfh.org.uk to find out about your Parish Church.

During the school holidays Sunday services continue as normal.

The Alpha course is an opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting over ten thought-provoking weekly sessions. It is low-key, friendly and fun – and supported by all the main Christian denominations. There will daytime and evening courses at Christ Church this autumn. Why not come along to the free supper evening on Saturday 26 September

where the theme will be "Christianity – Boring, Irrelevant and Untrue?" and take this opportunity to explore the meaning of life?

Coffee Stop will open only on Wednesday mornings during the school holidays. From Thursday 3 September it will again run every weekday morning. Coffee Stop is open from 9.00am to 11.30am.

Please contact the Church Office in Chapel Road for details. 01628 533004 (9.00am – 1.00pm Monday to Friday).

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Flackwell Heath Women's Institute

Morning WI

The Speaker for the meeting was the popular Colin Oakes. His talk was entitled "Dr Johnson's Dictionary" but the main theme was the life of Dr Samuel Johnson and the kind of person he was. He was portrayed as a 'grumpy' man in poor health, disabled and with no social graces. A lonely person who for some reason disliked Scottish people – even his diarist James Boswell, a Scot who did not escape his sharp jibes.

When Johnson found a word he wanted to include in the Dictionary he would not only give the definition but also find a literary example of the use of the word. As usual, Colin Oates was very informative and interesting.

The competition winners were Joan Cox Wilson with Dorothy Attwood second and third equal Brenda Aldridge and Jean Stevens.

There will be no meeting in August. Instead we are going to Bournemouth. Meet behind Budgens at 9am on Wednesday 4 August.

In September the speaker will be Air Vice-Marshall Graham Skinner and his subject will be "Livery Companies and their Modern Function".

Jean Worth

Evening WI

Members heard a talk from Mr Peter Bird, a landscape gardener, on 'Colour in the Garden'. His main message was 'you can do anything you want, but consider carefully before you plant - and at worst you can rework it next year!'

In the annual draw for the bursary to attend a short course at the WI's Denman College, the winner was a relatively new member, Wendy Mander. Last year's winner, Wilma

Goodfellow, told us about her course 'Ramble and Dance', where she had been very energetic in many different styles.

Eight members enjoyed a lunch with other members of the Group (a loose association of several Institutes in the area).

There is no formal meeting in August, but an outing to Mapledurham instead.

In September, the speaker is Neil Rees on 'King Zog in Exile'.

The WI is holding a Musical Evening with the Cygnet Singers on Friday 25th September in the Methodist Church at 7.30pm. Open to all, tickets, £6 to include light refreshments, are available from 01628 526898 or 01628 476641.

Sue Arnautov

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CARRINGTON Infant School



King Harry Meets the Carrington Gardeners

What a way to be welcomed at the beginning of a school trip, a herald announcing 'The Infants of Carrington'. That's the position that Carrington Infant School Gardening Club found themselves in when they visited Hampton Court Flower Show at the beginning of July. The Club had been invited to accompany their scarecrow Lizzie, who had won through to the finals of the Royal Horticultural Societies' Annual Scarecrow competition. The remit was

that the scarecrow should be 'Tudor' in celebration of the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII. Lizzie was an auburn headed beauty modelled on Henry's daughter Queen Elizabeth I, with a treasure chest of growing goodies, namely potatoes and tobacco, sent from the Americas by 'Walt'.

*Lynn McMeekin
Headteacher*

PS The tobacco in the treasure chest was of course a nicotiana plant!

During the day we visited the show tents and the set gardens and looked for ideas for our own school garden. Further excitement awaited the children when 'Henry VIII' himself strolled over to talk to the children about our scarecrow. A wonderful day was had by all and hopefully the future gardeners of Flackwell Heath will remember the experience and be inspired by what they saw at Hampton Court.

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Day Centre reaches 25th Birthday

On 18 September the Day Centre reaches its 25th Birthday. It started with one day a week in the Sarney Room, then in 1989 it moved into its own purpose-built premises next to the Community Centre. It operates under the wing of Age Concern, which on 1 April this year merged with Help the Aged.

The Day Centre is run by a Management Committee, currently chaired by Shirley Wallis, who took over from Barrie Walmsley in May. It is now open on four days per week, with 10 to 12 clients coming each day; some for one day per week, some for more. Ages range from 68 to 98, with most in the eighties. Potential clients are referred by Social Services, their GP, community nurses or their families. They come for the social life (many live alone), a change of scene, a hot freshly-cooked meal, and perhaps for help with bathing. Those from Flackwell and Loudwater are collected by the Centre's own minibus (bought with the help of a grant from the Gannett Foundation); those from further afield use Dial-a Ride. They are looked after by six paid members of staff, led by Jacky Retallack-Hall, and a team of volunteers. (More volunteer drivers and escorts always welcome). Activities include quizzes, puzzles, Tai Chi, gentle exercise, bingo, and visiting entertainers. This year, four clients will have celebrated their 90th birthdays.

Sue Arnautov

The WI presents

A Musical Evening
with the Cygnet Singers
Friday 25 September
at 7.30

At the Methodist Church

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New Scheme Started

At a BBQ hosted by David Trotter, Neighbourhood Watch was introduced to many of the residents at the top end of Philip Drive, and hopefully this will encourage the rest of the road to follow his lead. The introduction of a 'No Doorstep Selling Zone' was adopted on a house-by-house basis, as it was agreed that it would be inappropriate to put up street signs at this time.

Cherry Fayre

Neighbourhood Watch supported a stand at the recent Cherry Fayre, manned by Geoff Pegg (Chairman – WDNHWA) and myself. During the course of the day, we had a number of residents enquiring about NHWatch,



taking advantage of the wide range of literature available and purchasing items of security equipment.

Holidays

Whilst you are away on your summer holidays, don't forget to put into place all the appropriate security measures to ensure that you return to find your home as you left it. Lock and secure all windows and doors, cancel the milk and papers and best of all, leave a neighbour with a key so they can go in and clear away the post, draw the curtains, etc. Have a great summer!

For further information about Neighbourhood Watch, contact:

David Gresswell



arrives at Juniper Hill

On Thursday 11 June, Juniper Hill School was visited by the presenters of Blue Peter! All pupils were bursting with excitement and could not wait to catch a glimpse of the stars. Andy, one of the three presenters was there with us.

Blue Peter came especially so that Andy could paint the "Keep Clear" signs and markings on the road leading to the school. Juniper's Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) were there helping to draft the lines and markings, which were then painted on by Andy, with the help of a professional road marker.

At the end of the day all of the JRSOs were given Blue Peter Badges. They are great! Even though we were sad to see the presenters go, we had a very memorable experience!

Blue Peter's visit could not have happened at a better time. This year as part of our Travel Plan, everyone in the school has loved the challenge of matching our daily walk to school to our 'steps' around the British Isles coastline. Recently we have just interviewed the Year Five applicants for next year's future JRSOs. Hopefully they will have as much fun and great experiences as us.

We have had a really successful year together as a team. This year we have achieved Buckinghamshire's Gold Level Award for our Travel Plan. We would like to thank all of our children, parents and the Travel Plan Team for making it possible.

Pip and Sophie, Junior Road Safety Officers, Juniper Hill School.

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Paperback and Jigsaw Library

The Jigsaw and Paperback Library is open every First Wednesday in the month including 5 August and 2 September. 1.30 pm to 3.30 at the Community Centre

Firstly thank you to all our fans. We look forward to seeing you all, and to hear about the trials and tribulations of a complex jigsaw or which book was a good read...or not! Secondly, the volunteers get a big thank you from me because without them the library would not happen.

We do however need more volunteers, we like to have 4 per session, but recognise that people have a much more active and sometimes adventurous life than in times past.

If you would like to come along 1,2,3, or more times a YEAR, please come to see me at the community centre on 5 August between 1-30pm and 4-00pm or call me on 01628 521495

Liz Johncock

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Problems getting to see your doctor?

This is an extract from a letter I received from Mrs Sheila Wooton who lives in Ring Road. "I would like you to highlight the dissatisfaction that I and many others feel since the Cherrymead Surgery have reduced the surgery hours at Flackwell Heath to five mornings a week with no receptionist on duty, only one doctor on duty and sometimes a nurse to do blood tests etc. Since the new surgery at Loudwater opened an appointment at Flackwell Heath can take up to two weeks waiting – if deemed urgent. One might be seen at Loudwater sooner. The problem is the poor bus service especially when patients are elderly and do not have a car at their disposal. This sometimes means having to get a taxi, which in my case means over £8 to get there and back."

Sheila and I agreed that the sensible approach would be to find out how many people are having problems; what their various problems are; suggestions for solving these problems and what further action should be taken.

The Stag would be happy to host a meeting at 1.30pm on Monday 10 August for anybody who shares Sheila's concerns. With any luck the weather will be fine and we can sit outside and enjoy a drink and their wonderful view while we talk.

We have not invited the Cherrymead Surgery to this meeting. Problems are rarely solved when people on one side are angry and the others are defensive. A little calm reasoning at a later date often helps.

If you cannot make the meeting at the Stag please ring me, write or email me and let me know your views. My contact details are on the back page.

Tim Kendell. Editor of the Grapevine

CARRINGTON Junior School



Alice Through the Looking Glass

The Summer production this year at Carrington Junior School was Alice Through the Looking Glass. Although Year 6 took the principal roles, the entire school joined in the performance, which was a resounding success.

Deborah Fox

Diary of events

August

Wednesday 5 Jigsaw and Paperback Library 1.30 – 3.30 Community Centre

Monday 10 Problems with seeing your Doctor?

Meeting at 1.30pm at the Stag. See article

Sunday 23 Flackwell Amblers Walk in the Bray area 2 hrs Meet 10am Budgens Car Park

September

Wednesday 2 Jigsaw and Paperback Library 1.30 – 3.30 Community Centre

Saturday 19 Age Concern Supper Dance with the Concorde 7.30 to 11.30 Tickets £15 from Day Centre 01628 526113 or N. Ross 01628 522600

Sunday 20 Flackwell Amblers Walk 2 hrs Meet 10am Budgens Car Park

Friday 25 WI Musical Evening with the Cygnet Singers 7.30 Methodist Church

Tickets £6 Open to all men and women. See Advert

Saturday 26 50/60 Night Rocking with The Trends at 8.00 in the Community Centre. Tickets £10 includes supper (bring your own drinks) from Barbara Thompson 01628 522751 or John Sweetman 01628 528671

October

Saturday 3 Village Litter Pick 10 am to noon. Meet on the Green by the Community Centre. All necessary equipment provided. See Page 2

Wednesday 7 Jigsaw and Paperback Library 1.30 – 3.30 Community Centre

Saturday 24 Quiz Night 7.00 at Community Centre Tickets £10 from Craig Lewis 01628 528550 See advert

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September

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".... and it don't seem a day too much."

With their Summer Concert the Heath Singers celebrated 40 years of singing. Since she was 39 Peggy Woolhouse has been their conductor and she plans the music for their concerts. Her tastes are wide ranging and it is her repertoire that attracts audiences and the new singers who enable the choir to continually renew itself.

Currently the youngest in the choir is 27 and ages range from mothers of children at Primary School through to great-grandmothers.

There is an advantage in having such a wide age range. For example, Fields of Gold is about distant memories of young love in fields of barley. For some of the choir it may be a recent happy memory; for others, now widowed, it is more poignant. If you listen carefully you hear the love, the joy and the sadness, the "soul" empowering the music.

They also sing jolly pieces. But there it is again. They are not just singing jolly, you can hear that they are jolly.

Peggy also uses her contact with the world of music to find young talent to supplement choral singing. 'Charlie' Grimsey played two fine sets on her harp finishing with a sympathetic rendering of Danny Boy.

"Something for the Weekend", a Barber Shop quartet formed by four young men from Borlase School, were enthusiastically applauded. I am not sure if everyone present got the implications of their name (and I am afraid I did not have the nerve to do a poll).

Tim Kendell

At the celebration after the concert there was some amusement at the article in the Bucks Free Press. It was a well written and complimentary article but with a couple of brilliant howlers.

"Music must flow through the Woolhouse blood ... including daughter Jenny who plays in the BBC Concert Orchestra". Actually, it is Jenny's husband who plays for the BBC CO. Not much Woolhouse blood there then!

Quote attributed to Peggy Woolhouse. "I try to get the girls up to as professional a standard as possible and they never fail to disappoint."

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 right through 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 as soon as possible to pick up your pack.

Are there any budding Reading Groups in the village? At the library we are happy to co-ordinate choices for you from our Core Reading Collection, a collection of popular novels, classics and award-winning fiction. Please call in to see us and chat about what we can do to help your group run smoothly.

Alison Harvey

From Les Cramp of A1 Taxis

I should like to thank Sue Arnautov and the readers of the Grapevine as the bookstall of the League of Friends' of Wycombe Hospital raised £262 at the Cherry Fayre which they are very pleased about.

The 2009 Village Quiz

With celebrity Quiz Master
Craig Lewis

Saturday 24 October
Community Centre at 7 pm

Tickets £10 including a light supper
Bring your own drinks and glasses

From Craig on 01628 528550

A Joint Production of
FH Community Assn
FH Residents' Assn

Flackwell Heath

– A joy to live in



Photo: Tim Kendall

Annual events also play a big part in the 'village feel' of Flackwell Heath and bring out the best in our community. Local businesses are very supportive of our events and in turn, we are keen to promote and use their services.

A great day for the entire village is The Cherry Fayre. It brings together an amazing community spirit and enables people of all ages to gather together and enjoy the atmosphere. Every other face in the crowd is familiar and walking around can take considerably longer than anticipated after hundreds of

greetings are exchanged! This year the weather was on our side and thousands enjoyed the stalls, rides and the entertainment in the main arena. The boys' football game between Juniper Hill and Carrington was particularly exciting with Carrington winning the game after a nail biting finish!

With three boys, the Flackwell Heath Minors Football Club plays a huge part in our lives and each year we look forward to setting up and participating in the Annual 6-a-side Football Tournament which is held on the second Bank Holiday Monday in May. After two rain soaked years, 2009 rewarded us with some great weather and we managed to swap our wellingtons for sun cream! The tournament is organised by Football Club officials and a dedicated group of parent volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure the event is successful and enjoyable for all who attend....even for those without a football player in their midst!

The icing on the cake this year was a Monday in February when several inches of snow covered every part of the village and surrounding hills. There was never a better example of village camaraderie when everybody poured out onto the local slopes for a spot of sledging! Recycle bin lids have never been put to such good use and how wonderful it was to have all your friends and their

children out for a magical morning of fun and laughter in the snow. I'm sure this memory will be treasured by all.

In conclusion, I feel that we are very lucky to live in a village like Flackwell Heath....long may it last!

Simone Coles

The Stag

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Treasurer: Val Weston
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Centre bookings Pam Wilsher
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Having been a local girl for 40 years, it's interesting to put into words what life has been like, and is like, living in Flackwell Heath. Although I've lived in a couple of other areas, I have only ever moved locally and the pull of Flackwell Heath brought me and my husband back once we started a family.

Flackwell Heath seems to have a very strange effect on people – some kind of a special bond! It appears that a huge majority of people who live here have been here for many years and those who do move away often migrate back at some stage. Indeed I have friends who have moved into the village from other towns and cannot believe the amount of people in Flackwell Heath who know each other from years ago. Their general consensus is that 'everybody knows everybody' and they find it amazing that you can get any mix of people together who seemingly have never met and there is a common friend or two to talk about! What's also wonderful is that many of the current Mums and Dads at Juniper Hill and Carrington also attended those schools when they were young. In fact, many of their parents still live in the village and have maintained strong friendships with their neighbours who supported them whilst they were bringing up their own young families. I have very fond memories of our Street Party for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977!