

THE Grapevine

NOVEMBER '08

50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Quiz Night

The quiz night has become a village institution and is now so popular that tickets sell out a month in advance. This year there were 18 teams and the winners were Alison and Nigel Peach, Ruth and Jono Walne, Amanda and Grant Foster.

The profit from the evening is divided between the Residents' Association and the Community Association. Both charities received £550 from tickets and the raffle.

Thanks go to Vic Grewal of Budgens who provided each table with a bottle of wine, Pam Mannering who prepared the finger food, Joan Sweetman for the raffle and all those who worked behind the scenes.

But it is the Lewis family that make the evening such a success. Linda and son Gareth kept the score so effectively that no one checked it and certainly no one would have the courage to query it.

Craig likes to make up his own questions. You can tell he does not just copy them from a book of quiz questions because if anyone has a query Craig clearly knows more about it than just the answer.

He recognises that he has a very diverse audience with a wide range of interests and knowledge. The questions are designed so that every team should get six or seven questions out of 10 right. The other three questions are the hard ones which separate the winners from the also-rans. Some questions arise from his own knowledge; he has a degree in Bio-chemistry and many interests ranging from music to birds. He also uses the internet and reference books. Linda does the brain teasers and, with Nerys and Gareth, helps with the general run of questions. They reckon that it takes about 40 hours to generate enough good questions for one evening.

Tim Kendall



Crudit  Crunchers
Photo Tim Kendall

A Fayre of Helms and Wimples

The theme of next years Cherry Fayre on 12 July 2009 is 'Medieval'. There will be jousting and sword fighting, a medieval coach, a jester, archery, birds of prey, tug-o-war, a traditional jazz band and the Strawberry Fair Majorettes. A wonderful chance for dressing up.

David Onslow, Chair of the Residents' Association Cherry Fayre Committee made the announcement at a public celebration of the success of last year's Fayre. The occasion was also to thank Mike and Meg Scullion and Terry Darby for their work on the Fayre, making it bigger and better every year they were running it. They have said they would like to stand down this year but they are willing to help as required.

There is no such thing as a free supper. Three difficult jobs needed someone to tackle them. The only one remaining at the end of the evening was someone to visit the firms that advertise in the Cherry Fayre programme and get their money and their artwork. If you think you would like to meet local businesses and offer them the second best advertising opportunity in the Buckinghamshire (5 000 people came to last year's Fayre) please contact David Onslow. (The first best opportunity, dear reader, is the one you are reading now)

This was the first time the Residents' Association had invited Association

Members and interested people to participate in this early stage of planning the Fayre. The presence of some 65 people and their positive response was most encouraging. There were offers of help for two of the three outstanding difficult jobs. Roger Berry of the Wooburn Directory will deliver the programme to homes in the village; Nigel and Alison Peach (see their smiling faces in the Quiz photo) will take over the Public Address announcements. An unexpected bonus offer from Paul Williams was more medieval acts if needed.

At the end of the evening Grant Foster, Chair of the Residents' Association, presented cheques for £150 each to The Royal British Legion and to Brenda Aldridge. The object is to send comforts to the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan at Christmas (some WI members have been sending boxes of small treats.)

Editorial Pedantry

The Medieval period ended at lunch on 22 August 1485 with the defeat of Richard III by the army of Henry Tudor at Bosworth. This unleashed a dynasty of weirdos with a penchant for executing their wives and ministers and burning Christians alive.

Tim Kendall



Remembrance & Memorial Service

at 6.30 pm on
Sunday 16 November

Christ Church offers you a service of hymns and music, readings and prayers, an opportunity for quiet reflection for those who have lost a loved one in the recent or not-so-recent past. There will also be an opportunity to light a candle in memory of those you come to remember.

Details from the Christ Church office
01628 533004

Seeking Terry Holland

I am currently assisting a group of young people to produce an exhibition about Slough. The project is being coordinated by Slough charity Aik Saath (Together As One) and it has an emphasis on community relations.

However, there is an individual who sadly passed away during the early 1980s who appears to have made a significant contribution to fostering harmony between peoples. We would like to honour him posthumously as part of the exhibition and though we have a great deal of factual information we would appreciate the chance to talk to any of his relatives that may still be living in the area or former friends and colleagues.

His name was Terry Holland and he was appointed Community Relations Officer at Slough Community Relations Council in 1970. When he passed away he was living in Flackwell Heath. If anyone can provide me with the contact details of someone from his family or has any recollections of being helped by Mr Holland then I would be most grateful if you could contact me on 01753 574 780 or rob_deeks@btconnect.com

Rob Deeks

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Merry Christmas Lights

Besides the 'official' Christmas lights in the centre of Flackwell, there are always private displays. This year, as for the last few years, the Birch and Brophy families will be putting on a great show in Cherry Close (near corner of Chapman Lane and Green Dragon Lane). They will be lighting up on Sat. 29 November and collecting money for the PDSA and Tiggywinkles' Wildlife Hospital.

Further along Green Dragon Lane at No. 26A, the Partridge family will be lighting their tree at the beginning of December. Their huge evergreen, covered with tiny lights and with a big star on top, looks almost otherworldly from some angles.

If you are decorating your house/garden so it is visible from the road, please let us know, and maybe we will take some photos and publish them in the February issue of Grapevine (remember, no issue at beginning of Jan).

Sue Arnautov

Craft Fair

The Craft Fair run by the Residents' Association is in the Community Centre from 10.30 to 4.00 on Saturday 1 November.

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The Royal British Legion is holding a
Jumble Sale
in the
British Legion Club from
10.00 to 12.00 on
Saturday 1 November.

Remembrance Sunday

2008 marks the 80th anniversary of the Royal British Legion in Flackwell and 90 years since the end of the First World War

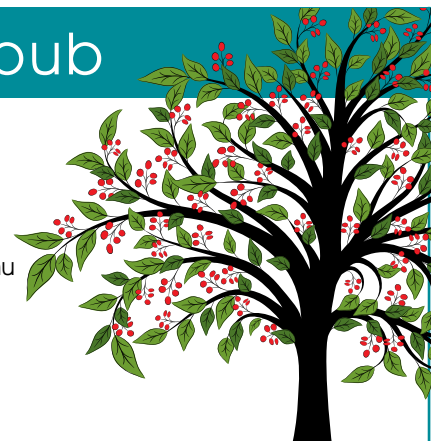
On Sunday 9 November the ceremony round the War Memorial will begin with the parade from the Legion's club at 10.35. The memorial service conducted by Rev Bull will begin at 10.40. Two minutes silence from 11 am will be followed by the laying of wreaths and personal tributes. The 65 names on the memorial will then be read out by three young people from Christ Church.

At the end of the service there will be a parade with the salute taken by Deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Kenneth Ross, representing the Queen, and Air Commodore Christopher Bruce.

Afterwards at the RBL there will be a presentation of Max Chivers DFC awards to Scouts, Guides and the Girls Brigade.

the cherry tree pub

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What is going on in schools?

The press reports the 11+ results and we hear about SATs and how many children leave education unable to read. What we never seem to hear about is how our children are being educated – and there are lots of interesting things happening in that area. I am planning to include articles in future issues of the Grapevine which explain some of the new initiatives in our schools. I must add that my wife, Patricia Kendall, is a governor at Juniper Hill.

Tim Kendall - Editor

CARRINGTON Infant School



Working with the Royal Horticultural Society

In September Carrington Infant School were chosen to celebrate one year of working with the Royal Horticultural Society as part of their Gardening for Schools scheme. The school, who have been running a gardening club for three years, were picked by the RHS as a school who had been particularly successful in developing their garden.

The RHS have provided the school with lots of resources including seeds to sow a wildflower meadow as well as flowers and produce. The pupils have been growing their own flowers, fruit and vegetables as part of the lunchtime club and have enjoyed eating the produce fresh or cooked as well as sharing some of it through the Harvest Boxes that were sent out to senior citizens in the village after the annual Harvest Festival celebration.

At present the pupils grow their flowers and vegetables in recycled tyres, buckets, lunchboxes and Wellington boots. The development of the school garden is part of the 2008 – 2009 school plan. The intention is that raised beds will be built during the coming year to allow the green fingered youngsters to grow and eat more of their own produce in an effort to encourage healthy eating as well as exercise.

Lynn McMeekin

news from

Juniper Hill SCHOOL

Mrs Hilary Nohavicka became Head Teacher of Juniper Hill in April 2008 after having been Deputy Head since 1996. Mrs Nohavicka feels privileged to be head of a school which, as she says, has been so well led and managed and which has a strong community spirit. She cheerfully describes herself as "boringly" passionate about Juniper Hill and aims for every child and adult to have the best possible experience of the school. Her Deputy, Mrs Elizabeth Mace, joined the school this term. She was previously a Deputy Head in Havering, Essex. She is now thoroughly enjoying being part of the Flackwell Heath community.

One of Mrs Mace's jobs is to work with the School Council. Every class from year 1 to year 6 elects a boy and a girl to represent them on the Council. The Council elects its Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer and meets at least twice every half term. It prepares its own agenda and writes its own minutes (with support from Mrs Mace). Both staff and children can raise items for the agenda. Its function is to discuss and develop whole school issues. Any opinions and concerns of the pupils may also be raised. Minutes and actions are then reported back to their classmates, Senior Leadership Team and governing body of the school.

You might expect the children to be consulted about a new adventure playground, new toilets and their perceptions of bullying. But it may surprise you to know that the School Council were involved in the interviews of the candidates for both Head and Deputy Head. Both successful candidates describe the experience as being more daunting than facing the governors. The children's comments were taken into

account when governors made the final decision.

Currently the big topics of discussion are a Code of Conduct which incorporates not only acceptable attitudes and behaviour to staff and fellow pupils but also care and concern for the school and the wider environment. This will ensure that the outstanding behaviour noted by OFSTED in December 2005 continues to be a feature of the school.

Schools can be tokenistic about School Councils but Mrs Nohavicka sees the Council as an important part of her children's education and an integral part of part of the school community. For example the staff at Juniper Hill have good reason to believe they know how to teach: but what do the children understand about learning? Any teacher will tell you that different children learn different things in different ways. The School Council is working with the whole school community to develop awareness of learning styles and to help everybody (adults as well!) to be even better learners and build their learning power.

Tim Kendall

CARRINGTON Junior School

We celebrated our Harvest Festival in October by performing the musical Harvest Praise. Generous gifts of food were sent in which were sold by the PTA to parents and children.

This year the money raised will go to a charity called Play Pumps which provides 'roundabouts' to African villages. The movement of the roundabout causes water to be pumped up to the surface, enabling villagers to have access to clean drinking water.

Deborah Fox

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Flackwell Heath Women's Institute

Morning WI

Dates for members' diaries

Shopping trip to Oxford on
Wednesday 19 November

Christmas lunch at Wycombe
Heights Golf Centre on
Wednesday 10 December

Autumn Competition attracted some beautiful and original exhibits. The winners were Joan Cox Wilson, Pamela Frances and Margaret Butler.

Annual General Meeting

The Treasurer's Financial Statement was accepted. Jacqui Veitch read the Annual Report and then the President gave a short address thanking members of the Committee and those who helped regularly at meetings. The Secretary, Dorothy Attwood, is retiring after many years of service in various positions on the Committee. She was presented with a bouquet as a token of appreciation.

The Committee Members for the coming year are:- President Brenda Aldridge, Secretary Jacqui Veitch, Margaret Butler, Carmen Clancy, June Lysaght, Margaret Fardon, Jeanette

Muncey and Jean Worth.

The date of our next meeting is 5 November.

Jean Worth

Evening WI

Our Annual Meeting in October passed smoothly; last year's Committee and President were re-elected unchanged. The report on the past year reminded us of many interesting and enjoyable times, and the finances are in good shape. Joyce Wilks showed us her recently-awarded Land Army Medal, and told us about her hard work as a land girl during the war.

In prospect are a trip to see the play 'The Calendar Girls' at The Swan and a visit to the Barnes Wetland Reserve. Also arranged is an evening for newer members, and established members maybe needing a refresher, to hear about the way the WI works.

The November Meeting is the Birthday Party, when The Belmont Duo will introduce us to, or remind us of, the work of Ivor Novello.

Sue Arnautov

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G-Wizz! It's the Fuzz!

The Thames Valley Police are running two operations dealing with anti-social behaviour in the area which includes Flackwell Heath. Our representatives on the Neighbourhood Action Group, The Residents' Association Police and Traffic Group, have identified the Recreation Ground and the Aries parade of shops as areas of particular concern.

Operation Grim Reaper is concentrating on anti-social behaviour in the period late October to early November including Halloween and Bonfire Night. Later in November and December Operation G-Wizz will see more neighbourhood officers in Flackwell Heath. They too will be concentrating on anti-social behaviour by which they mean public order offences such as under age drinking, causing damage, graffiti, throwing fireworks and other things, drug taking, loud parties and bad driving of mopeds.

First offenders will get a Yellow Card and those under 18 will be reported to their parents. Their names will remain on record for 6 months. A second Yellow Card within 6 months "will result in a final warning which in turn may lead

to further action such as an anti-social behaviour order (ASBO)". "Breaching an ASBO is a criminal matter which can lead to a fine of up to £5 000, imprisonment or both."

Village Traffic Plan

At a recent meeting of the BCC/WDC Local Community Partnership the Police and Traffic Group's frustration at the lack of any progress with finding funding for the Village Traffic Plan was brought to the attention of the committee. Further discussions between the PAT Group and our County Councillor, Mike Appleyard, are to be held.

Also, our Chepping Wycombe Parish Councillors have been contacted to obtain their support for the Plan.

David Onslow

Osteopathic Clinic Moved

Michael Thornton has moved to
The Mill House Dental Practice,
London Road, Loudwater.

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The Three Horse Shoes

The prospect of eating in Flackwell became more attractive on Wednesday 8 October when the Three Horse Shoes opened its new restaurant. The new landlords, Andy Rodbourne and Linda Gilbert, come to Flackwell with a wealth of experience from rejuvenating The Live and Let Live in Booker Common. They now have a manager running that pub while they introduce their successful formula to Flackwell Heath.

The bar offers a new range of beers including three real ales and a 'vast' wine list. Linda Tyson (who has worked there for over 20 years) and Emma will continue behind the bar.

Andy and Linda are planning to put in new toilets, redecorate throughout and have a new heated smoking area outside. In the summer the garden will be opened up for an after-work drink in the evening sun (should there happen to be any next year).

The third and very important member of the management team from Booker is Sapia. Sapia manages the restaurant side of the business with the help of five Thai cooks who have worked with her before. She learned to cook from her mother in Thailand and when she came to the UK she spent 30 years at the Savoy Hotel adding English, French, Italian and other dishes to her repertoire. She assures me that the dishes her cooks serve will be freshly made on the premises.

The emphasis in the restaurant is Thai food but the Business Lunch menu also includes traditional pub food ranging from pasties to roasted vegetable with mozzarella. For Sunday lunch, the choice is between Thai and traditional roasts. In the evenings Monday to Saturday it is Thai with some European options. There is also a takeaway service during restaurant opening hours. For reservations, information on the December menu for firms and clubs get-togethers, take away orders and the special Christmas Day lunch, ring 01628 520541.

Tim Kendell

Iain Rennie Hospice Shop

Opening in Flackwell in November
Volunteers wanted
Drop-In Meeting for Information from
Monday 3 November
11.15 to 1.15 Community Centre



Sapia, Andy Rodbourne and Linda Gilbert

Flackwell Authors for Christmas

My True Son

My True Son is a collection of poems written by Gill Hartley. It is dedicated to her only child, Will, who died of a mysterious illness in January 2006 aged 22. He was planning to enter the Anglican church as an ordained minister.

Gill's book is published by Moorley's Print and Publishing. It costs £5.95 and is available from Woodman Estate Agents, www.moorleys.co.uk, Amazon or Gill herself on 01628 522883. Royalties and profits will go to "The Compassionate Friends" a charity which was founded in the UK by bereaved parents and has grown worldwide. It has been a lifeline to Edwin and Gill.

Gill and others will be speaking on the experience of losing a child at Christ Church Centre at 7 pm on Friday 7 November.

Portrait of a Chiltern Beech Wood

Rosalie Bullock's new book covers many aspects of Chiltern woods with special reference to Fennels Wood which she has observed and recorded over the years. The book is illustrated with maps and photos which she has taken. Cost £4 available from Rosalie Bullock 01628 526984 or the Tourist offices in High Wycombe and Marlow.

Magnolia

Mary Thomas' story of a beautiful Chinese princess who overcomes evil by the power of goodness was first told to a small girl called Jan in 1943 when the triumph of good over evil was still only a hope and a dream. Available from Amazon and can be ordered from all good book shops at £8.99.

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Diary of events

Regular events

Saturdays	The FH Royal British Legion runs dances every Saturday evening. 8.30 to 11.30 Open to non members
Wednesdays	The Silver Circle over 60 Club 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 2pm to 4 at the Royal British Legion Club. £1 including tea, cake and a chat.
Thursdays	Good Companions meet every other Thursday 1.30 to 3.30 in the Community Centre. Speakers, games and conversation
Thursdays	Flackwell Ladies Club 1st & 3rd Thurs 8pm Community Centre
November	
Saturday 1	Residents' Association Craft Fair , 10.30 to 4.00 at Community Centre
Tuesday 4	Mike Dewey on Sharing Wycombe's Old Photographs 7.30 in the Library, £2
Wednesday 5	Jigsaw and Paperback Library , 1.30 to 3.30, Community Centre
Friday 7	Talk 'A Journey into Grief' by Gill Hartley, 7pm at Christ Church
Sunday 9	Remembrance Service at War Memorial at 10.40, with parade from British Legion club at 10.35
Friday 14	Residents Association Race Night , 7.30pm at the Community Centre, £10.
Sunday 17	Flackwell Amblers Thames Walk. 10 am from Budgens car park Charity Christmas Cards on sale in the Library
Sunday 16	Remembrance and Memorial Service , 6.30pm at Christ Church.
Thursday 20	Shopping trip to Harrods by coach 9.15 am Carrington PTA
Saturday 22	Community Association Wine Tasting , 7 for 7.30pm, Community Centre, £10
Sunday 23	Flackwell Amblers Burnham Beeches. 10 am from Budgens car park
Saturday 29	Christmas carols and lights 5.00pm in front of the Community Centre
Sunday 30	Juniper Hill School Christmas Fair , 11am - 2.30pm, entry 50p.

December

Wednesday 3	Jigsaw and Paperback Library , 1.30 to 3.30, Community Centre
Saturday 6	Cinderella Panto by Scouts , Cubs and Brownies, 3pm and 7pm, Community Centre, £4
Thursday 11	Heath Singers Christmas Concert , 8pm, Christ Church, £8.
Wednesday 17	Heath Singers Christmas Concert , 8pm, Christ Church, £8.
Thursday 18	Heath Singers Christmas Concert , 8pm, Christ Church, £8.
Saturday 20	Beat Surgery Talk to your local policeman Rob Page, 11.00 – 1.00 at Christ Church
Sunday 28	Flackwell Amblers 'Walk Off Christmas' local walk.

Juniper Hill SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS FAIR

30 November

11am-2.30pm

Entry: 50p

Crafts stalls, Santa's Grotto,
Cafe Noel; raffle; tombola;
games; kids arts and crafts;
bouncy castle;

Juniper Hill PTA Charity No 1012841



Every Parent's Nightmare *A Journey into Grief*

Christ Church Centre

at 7pm on Friday 7 November

Gill Hartley talks about the loss of her son, Will, and the effect on her life, her marriage and her relationship with friends, family and church.

Co-presenters Christine Pentland and Judy Deegan

This seminar is intended to raise awareness, increase understanding of parent's grief and help us to learn how to come alongside bereaved parents.



Flackwell Heath Community Association

Wine Tasting Evening

Host Nigel Gibbes from Stratford Wines

Community Centre

Saturday 22nd November



7pm for 7.30pm

Bring Two wine glasses each

Supper provided



Tickets £10 from

(Book NOW or drink bitter tears alone)

Barbara Thompson 01628 522751

CHRIST CHURCH LADIES CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Ladies ~

would you like to indulge in some pre-Christmas retail therapy and help a few charities raise some much needed cash at the same time?

The Ladies of Christ Church Flackwell Heath are holding a social evening in the Church Hall on

Tuesday 18 November.

Doors open at 7.30

There will be refreshments and cakes available and other stalls selling Christmas cards and gifts. All proceeds from the night will go to the stall holders' chosen charities.

We look forward to seeing you there!!

Alison Harvey

race night

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Heath Singers' Christmas Concert

It's nearly that time again and this year all three of the Heath Singers Christmas Concerts are being held in Christ Church. Believe it or not we have been enjoying the hospitality of Flackwell Methodist Church since 1992 and we would like to offer our grateful thanks to the Methodist Church for making us feel so welcome over the last 16 years. We may be back! However, the chairs, staging and lighting seem to get heavier each year and at Christ Church our 'stage hands' will have less heavy lifting to do.

The first of our concerts will be on Thursday 11 December. The following two concerts, Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 will have our ever popular Gift Stall, where you can purchase your last minute stocking fillers. Each evening there will be a complimentary drink and mince pie and Father Christmas has promised to pop in as usual. (Hopefully he can still afford the sweets!) Tickets are £8 obtainable from Maureen Foster on 01628 523942 or any choir members and the concerts all start at 8pm. See you in December.

*Pam Gresswell
Publicity Secretary*

'Footsteps' Volunteers Needed!

'Footsteps' is a pedestrian training scheme for young children, which develops awareness of roads and helps children to live safely with traffic. Children are taken into the local area with pairs of trained tutors to observe the traffic and discuss road safety.

To continue Footsteps at Juniper Hill we need more volunteer tutors. Volunteers are required to attend Bucks County Council run training course, which takes just a few hours, and have CRB clearance through the school. There is no upper age limit, but volunteers must be aged 18 or over.

If you can use an hour of your time each week to help our children, please contact the school office on 01628 523536 or email office@juniperhill.bucks.sch.uk.

FLACKWELL HEATH LIBRARY



Just a reminder about our local history event being held at the library on Tuesday 4 November at 7.30 pm. The event is to publicise "Sharing Wycombe's Old Photographs" (SWOP) and Mike Dewey, the Project Manager will bring along a selection from the enormous collection of old photos and will give a fascinating and interactive talk on this exciting local history resource. Tickets are available from the library price £2 each.

On Saturday 15 November we are holding a sale of Charity Christmas cards. Come in to the library and stock up early on all your card requirements and help out good causes at the same time.

Alison Harvey

Royal Artillery Association

The recently formed Wycombe and District branch of the Royal Artillery Association, meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Royal British Legion. Our next meeting will be 19 November. At the moment we have 11 members; 10 ex-gunners and one female member who is my partner. So not all our members have to be ex-Royal Artillery; they can be retired or serving members of HM forces or members of the general public as long as they have gunner interests at heart. Membership is £5 per year.

The aim of the branch is to be a place where ex-gunners and serving gunners can meet and socialise with people who have had the same experiences. Also one of the primary aims is that we are a charitable organisation and are there for our gunners in time of need, whether that be physical, emotional or financial.

If you are interested joining our branch you can either come along to one of our meetings where you will be made very welcome, or you can contact me on 01628 526256.

Stuart Reid. Branch Chairman

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Saved!

Recently, a car coming along Green Dragon Lane failed to take the corner into Chapman Lane and went ahead into the garden opposite. The car came to rest after crashing through two hedges, clipping a lamp-post, a telegraph pole and a parked car, and finally hitting a brick wall. The sound of the impact brought out the son of the house, Chris Newell, and other neighbours. They fully expected to find people seriously hurt, at best.

However, all three people in the car escaped with relatively minor injuries. This seems to be partly because they were wearing seat belts. Another factor may have been that the owners of the house, Martin and Elaine Newell, had realised the potential risk of cars failing to turn correctly, and had taken defensive measures. About 20 years ago, they planted various shrubs along the edge of the garden, and in time these have made a thick but springy barrier. Additionally, they have built up the ground level so that the shrubs grow on a bank of earth. As a result, the car lost momentum gradually, lessening the final impact.

The moral of this story is 'always clunk-click', and hope for a bank and tough shrubs before hitting a wall!

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The Empire of India



Saleh Ahmed

Owned and run by a family, currently by four brothers, The Empire of India has been in Flackwell Heath for about 40 years and is almost certainly Flackwell's oldest take away. In the earlier years, it was both a restaurant and a take-away, but about 18 years ago they closed the restaurant. This allowed them to make the best use of their limited space by concentrating on the preparation of the food.

Over the years, they built up a loyal customer base, some of whom moved away from Flackwell but continued to phone in orders for delivery. It became increasingly hard to cover the widening geographical area of demand, so four years ago they opened a branch at Totteridge. They can now deliver over the whole of the Wycombe area, and the two sites can help each other out in busy times.

The Ahmeds originate in Bengal, and so do their cooks; when under pressure in the kitchen, a common language is essential. Usually there are 3 people in the Flackwell kitchen, but in winter demand is greater and extra help may be needed. There are also the people to take the orders, and to deliver them. Food is

freshly cooked to order (although some dishes have to be marinated for a day beforehand), so at busy times customers may have to wait, but they appreciate that this means higher quality. The kitchen treads a fine line between producing 'authentic' Asian dishes and pleasing British tastes. They believe they have the widest range of Jalfrezi dishes in Bucks. (Jal-Frezi means 'Hot Onions', but the various versions also contain tomatoes, peppers, spices etc.) No artificial colours are used. Traditional dishes which can't be prepared satisfactorily to short order don't appear on the menu.

Both branches are now run by Saleh Ahmed, the youngest brother. He does not cook himself, but he does the buying and sees to the administrative side, and he keeps a sharp eye on the operation. Meanwhile Helal Ahmed, the eldest brother, prefers to stay closer to the action, working in the kitchen at both locations. Business is good, and has actually been up lately, perhaps because people are down-shifting from restaurant to take-away.

However, Saleh has another life, as a process engineer working for a consultancy in the oil and gas supply business. He has worked in various countries, including a year in Texas after completing a US Masters degree and in Norway, but these days he tries to stay closer to home. He feels his young family, a girl of two and a boy of nine months, have first call on his time. Saleh lives 'down the hill', but as a local business he supports Flackwell activities, such as the football club and the schools.

The Flackwell branch of the Empire of India is open 7 days a week, 6 - 11pm, and half an hour earlier on Friday and Saturday. Tel. 01628 530304. They deliver, or there is 10% off if you collect it yourself. They can also cater for outside parties, although this would need a little notice. An idea for your next birthday party or anniversary?

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Chairman:	John Sweetman 01628 528671
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Centre bookings	Pam Wilsher 01628 525484
Keyholder	Express Video Shop
Reg Charity No.	1044870

Grapevine

Editor: Tim Kendell
55 Philip Drive Flackwell Heath HP10 9JD
01628 521149

Flackwellnewsvine@btinternet.com

Sue Arnautov

S W Grierson 01628 522514

Design: jillw.mjdesign@btinternet.com

Subscriptions: Irene Walker
01628 529710

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