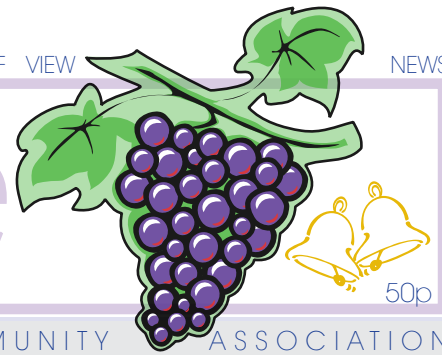


# THE Grapevine

December '08/ January '09



50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## A Christmas Appeal from the Methodist Church

Our annual all-age Toys and Gifts Service will be on 7th December at 11am. We always take to the Priory Centre in Wycombe lots of toys and gifts for children (0 to 16) from the generous people of Flackwell Heath. Items should be new or in excellent condition if second hand, as we want these disadvantaged children to be delighted with their present.

You do not have to attend the service to give gifts. Our church will be open for tea and coffee on Saturday morning 6 December so anyone wishing to give to those children, who get very little at Christmas, can do so by just bringing them along then.

The Priory Centre would rather the gifts were not wrapped as then they can then decide for themselves who should get what.

This year we will also be collecting toiletries, shaving and tooth cleaning gear, blankets (no duvets please) and clothing for the homeless people who will be using the Wycombe Night Shelter. We are open to receive Christmas presents of toiletries etc which were not quite what you wanted any time after Christmas.

Flackwell Heath Methodist Church will be supporting the Wycombe Night Shelter again this year as will Christ Church. More details on the wonderful work they are doing on [www.wwns.org.uk](http://www.wwns.org.uk).

The Women's Refuge badly needs babies clothes & toys and teenage girls' stuff - although all ages of toys and gifts are very acceptable. For more details of all these events ring 01628 520686 or go to our website: [www.fhmc.org.uk](http://www.fhmc.org.uk)



The new Boots pharmacy in the centre of the village was opened on Monday 17 November by Harry Merryweather. Harry had been chosen as the most popular person in Flackwell by the staff and a survey of their customers. The photo shows Harry surrounded by the new Boots branch of his fan club.

The newly fitted pharmacy will have the same staff and offer the same

services for your prescriptions. Other items on sale will be from the Boots range, and you can collect points on your Advantage card for them. There is also a small consulting room for private advice. For two weeks the new manager, Walid Jerjes and the staff 'camped-in', only filling prescriptions, while shop-refitting took place around them.

*Sue Arnautov Photo: Tim Kendell*

## Residents' Association Seeks New Chair

Two key members of the Executive Committee of the FH Residents' Association have given notice that they will stand down at the March AGM. Grant Foster and Craig Lewis will be leaving the Association in good financial order and with a string of successful events in the last year and with plans for the Cherry Fayre well advanced.

Grant is self-employed, Craig is a manager with a local medical supplies company and we are entering a period of recession. They both have young families and their days are only 24 hours long.

**Chairman** The Association has an

Executive Committee to take an overview of the work of the Association. There are currently four sub-committees dealing with Youth; Planning and Environment; the Police and Traffic; and the Cherry Fayre. Grant Foster is the retiring Chair of the Executive Committee and he sees his role as ensuring that the sub-committees are able to work effectively; that policy issues are properly discussed, understood and implemented and a most important part of the job is to be the public face of the Association whether it be liaison with Councils, funders for village projects or linking with organisations within the village to share expertise and strengths to make

*Continued on page 2*

Seasons Greetings  
Happy New Year



Continued from page 1

Flackwell Heath a better village to live in.

**Membership** At the moment this is handled by Craig Lewis on his own but it could be split in two. The job of registering members, recording membership fee and associated donations and sending out membership cards is a quiet administrative job which would suit someone with office skills who would like to be involved with this important Flackwell organisation.

The other half of the job is horrible. Or great fun if you like that kind of thing. It involves finding imaginative ways of persuading people that they really want to be members of the organisation that provides the village Christmas lights, organises the Christmas tree, the Cherry Fayre, liaison with the police and a lot more behind the scenes.

Craig will continue to run the Village Quiz and organise concerts by the Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice Choir.

If you think you would like to take on the Chairmanship of the Association or if you would like to try one or both jobs administering or promoting membership please ring to find out more. Grant Foster 01628 850650 or Craig Lewis 01628 528550

If you would like to take part in the varied activities of the Residents' Association but do not know quite what help is needed, just ring Tim Kendell who is a Members' Representative on the Executive Committee 01628 521149. *Tim Kendell*

## A Journey into Grief

In January 2006 Gill & Edwin Hartley's only child died of a mystery illness. Will was 22 years old. On Friday 7 November, Gill, with a little help from her friends, spoke of her experience of grief. She opened our understanding of their painful journey and how friends and family could be of help to others at such a time.

About 40 people attended the short talk and were invited to speak to Gill and members of Christ Church's bereavement team afterwards over a hot drink. Many in the audience thanked Gill for her courage in coming forward and said it had been helpful and informative.

As Christine Pentland observed in introducing the evening, 'by getting alongside someone grieving, you cannot make it worse as the worst has already happened!'

Gill & others hope to be able to take this initiative further so that people who are grieving are not left in isolation. If this would be helpful for you or your organisation, please contact the Christ Church Office 01628 533004

*Judy Deegan*  
(Christ Church Bereavement Team)

## Flackwell Lights Up!

**Saturday  
29 November**

**4.45pm**

**Outside the  
Community Centre**



**Carols  
and seasonal songs  
with**

**Rev Christopher Bull  
Father Christmas**

**Lighting up the Village  
Lights and the Christmas  
Tree**

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### Osteopathic Clinic Moved

Michael Thornton has moved to  
The Mill House Dental Practice,  
London Road, Loudwater.  
**01494 433072 or 07799713117.**

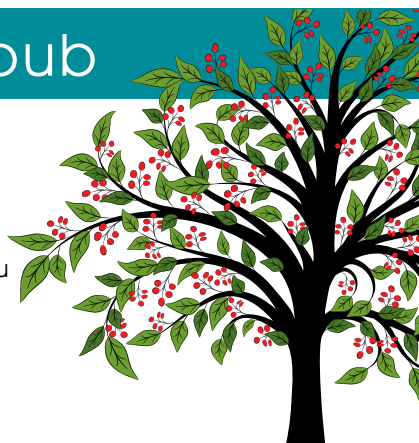
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Christmas is a great time of celebration... why not plan to include a visit to your Parish Church to remember the birth of Jesus Christ, the reason for the season!

#### Sunday 7 December

10.00am: Family Service and Girls Brigade Parade Service

Gifts of new toys to be received for distribution through London City Mission to poor families

#### Sunday 14 December

10.00am: Nativity Service for all the family.

Mince pies and refreshments will be served afterwards.

#### Sunday 21 December

6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight – a traditional Service of Lessons and Carols.

Mince pies and refreshments will be served afterwards.

#### Christmas Eve

4.00pm: Crib Service – a short service for younger children with the Christmas story.

11.15pm: Midnight Holy Communion.

#### Christmas Day

10.00am: A short Family Celebration of Holy Communion for Christmas Morning

#### Sunday 4 January 2009

##### Epiphany

8.30am: Holy Communion for Epiphany

10.00am: Epiphany Family Service

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

Rev Christopher Bull



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Rev. Shameela Jameelee has been granted parental leave and will not be back working in the High Wycombe Methodist Circuit until September 2009. We are delighted that our Superintendent Minister, Rev. David Miller, will be taking pastoral care of Flackwell Heath Methodist Church, along with Marlow and Marlow Bottom.

The new Sunday Live service at Flackwell Heath Methodist Church got off to a lively start in October. These services are held on the **third Sunday of the month** at 9.30am. There are games, activities, lively music, DVD clips and Bible stories. Afterwards everyone is invited to enjoy drinks and Ron's famous bacon butties.

**Christmas Live on 21st Dec.** will be a telling of the Christmas story with puppets. It will be followed by drinks and eats..

## Methodist Church

**Advent starts on Sunday 30th November** when we light a red candle on the wreath each week, with the middle, white candle being lit on Christmas morning.

Our annual all-age Toys and Gifts Service will be on **7th December** at 11am.

**Sunday 21st. December at 5pm.** is our Carols by Candlelight Service. This will be a traditional Carols and Readings service for all the family. Fairtrade coffee, tea and mince pies will be served afterwards. **There will be no 11am morning service that day.**

We do not have a Midnight Communion Service on Christmas Eve this year but will be joining our friends at Christ Church or at other churches in the Methodist Circuit.

**25 December. Our Christmas Morning Family Service** at 10.30am. will be an informal celebration. Children traditionally bring one of their presents to show everyone.

Looking ahead to early January, our annual **Covenant Service will be at 3pm on Sunday, 4th January 2009**, led by Rev. David Miller. It will be followed by a pot-luck tea. There will be no other service that day.

For more details of all these events ring 01628 520686 or go to our website: [www.fhmc.org.uk](http://www.fhmc.org.uk)  
Jane Routledge

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# FUND Raising

## Craft Fair

In spite of the foul wet weather in the afternoon, stall holders went away happy with their day's sales and several of them wanted to book a pitch for the Cherry Fayre next year. Residents Association Craft Fair netted £250 after allowing for £129 for a new advertising banner which will be available to advertise many future fairs. Thanks go to Pam Mannering and all her helpers.

## Race Night

The Race Night on 14 November brought in £650 for the Residents' Association and gave the punters a really enjoyable night out. Thanks to a very busy Pam Mannering who organised the event and all those who helped make it such a success.

*Grant Foster*  
Chair of the Residents' Association

## The Great Sunday Lunch

Flackwell Heath & Loudwater Age Concern Day Centre took part in this National event, which it is hoped will become an annual occurrence. On 19 October 60 people sat down to a freshly cooked two course meal ably produced by volunteers and our two cooks who gave their own time to help.

Everyone appeared to enjoy the meal and there have been many favourable comments.

Thanks again go to everyone who worked so hard to make this a memorable day and everyone who supported us. The lunch raised over £500 for the Day Centre.

*Nancie Ross MBE*

## Methodist Church

A coffee morning was held on 25th October at Flackwell Heath Methodist Church, when we raised £130 for PACE, a centre for children with cerebral palsy and similar conditions. Everyone enjoyed Fairtrade tea, coffee and hot chocolate and homemade cakes.

We were pleased to have a visit from a young boy from Flackwell Heath who attends the PACE centre. His family brought a display of photos of him doing lots of activities at the centre, where he is making good progress.

£25 was also raised for deprived children in Israel.

*Jane Routledge*



## CARRINGTON Junior School

### Baking for Pudsey

Year 3 children at Carrington Junior School baked Pudsey cookies and cakes and sold them to the rest of the school. They raised £150 and donated it to BBC Children in Need.

Photo: Carrington Junior School



## uk4u -Thanks!

George O'Leary and Mary Harding arranged a Musical Afternoon at the British Legion. The money raised from tickets and donations, a magnificent £1217.53, was presented to Allan Simms of uk4u -Thanks!, a charity that sends Christmas boxes to members of the British forces serving overseas away from their families.

## Poppy Appeal

By 17 November the sum collected was £6 700 and still rising. Of this £2 224 was from house to house collections by Harry Merryweather.

## Wine Tasting

The Wine Tasting organised by the Community Association on Saturday 22 November sold out a couple of weeks earlier. The exact figures were not available as the Grapevine went to press but about £800 will be available for maintaining your Community Centre. Many thanks to Joan Sweetman for the original idea and for organising the cuisine and to everyone else who helped make the evening a great success.  
*John Sweetman*



## Mad Hat Day

On Wednesday 22 October the Junior Road Safety Officers at Juniper Hill School held a 'Mad Hat Day' event to encourage pupils to walk to school. Mad Hat Day was extremely popular and many pupils wore crazy hats when they walked. We saw an interesting and varied selection of headdresses from hats with frills and feathers to dreadlocks and Mickey Mouse ears. This fun event proved to be hugely successful and we hope to hold similar activities in the near future.

Last year every child's footsteps added to our walk to Beijing. This year we aim to walk around the whole coast of the British Isles. We started at Tynemouth and have just passed Ullapool so we will be celebrating St. Andrew's Day in Scotland!

*Sophie, Megan, Pip and Sam*  
Junior Road Safety Officers





# CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

By the time you receive this, Christmas will be only a few weeks away. Statistics show that the weeks immediately prior to Christmas see a marked increase in burglary, with Christmas gifts being the prime target. Burglaries are on the increase. Don't leave your valuable gifts on display either in your car or at home, as this will only encourage the opportunist thief to help himself. Make sure that you keep your property secure at all times.

## NEW NHWatch Scheme Straight Bit

During October, one of our PCSOs delivered a letter to all residents of Straight Bit, to assess interest in setting up NHWatch schemes along that road, as Straight Bit suffered a number of burglaries during 2008. Long, linear roads are not the easiest to manage due to the extended nature of the community. However, sufficient interest has been received from residents of the Greenlands to Jennings Field stretch to make a scheme viable. Contact me for more information.

## House Number visibility

Could your house be easily and quickly identified by the Emergency Services on a wet, winter's night, when minutes could make all the difference? I know that everyone and his brother seems to have the ubiquitous 'SatNav' these days, but many only get you to a post code rather than to a specific address – maybe the Emergency Services are better served? In walking the length of Straight Bit, which



covers at least four post code areas, I had difficulty identifying house numbers in many instances – and I was on foot! The inconsistent numbering of houses – odd numbers are not necessarily opposite even numbers – and the insertion of the occasional 'A' or 'B' doesn't help. Ideally, your house number should be clearly visible at the front of your property, on a gate post or gate for example. If the number is on the house itself, is it big enough to be easily read from the road, especially at night?

## Identity Theft

According to research by PayPal, 14% of British internet shoppers have suffered identity theft, compared with 3, 5 and 6% for Germany, Spain and France respectively. Nearly half (49%) of Brits describe themselves as 'very concerned' about identity theft, yet more than half (53%) of all respondents use important names or dates for passwords, despite warnings. Contact me if you would like a copy of the latest Home Office advice.

David Gresswell Area Co-ordinator, Flackwell Heath  
01628 525019  
e-m: flackwell-nhwatch@talktalk.net



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# Flackwell Heath Women's Institute

## Morning WI

A cheque for £150 has been received from the Residents' Association. The money is to be used to buy items suitable for "Boxes for the Troops in Afghanistan" scheme which the WIs are supporting and will be shared with the Evening WI. We were most grateful for this generous gesture.

A letter had been received from Pam Mannering thanking the members who helped provide and serve refreshments at the Craft Fair in the Community Centre on 1 November.

The coach trip to Marble Hill and the Museum of Musical Instruments was considered an excellent day and the Group Convenor was thanked for arranging it. Ten members had attended the Group Meeting at Marlow Bottom WI on 30 October and heard a fascinating account of life on the tall ships run by the Jubilee Trust – Sailing for the Disabled Charity. The speaker had been on several occasions as an

able-bodied crew member. She was enthusiastic about the benefits of the experience to both disabled and able-bodied. The proceeds of the raffle were donated to the charity.

Our speaker, Mrs P Lindsey, told us about the ups and downs of Stoke House. It was built as a two room Tudor dwelling and is now a large country house. She gave us a brief history of the inhabitants over the years and the changes they made.

The competition winners were – Joan Cox Wilson; second Jacqui Veitch and third equal Brenda Aldridge and Beryl Hale.

Our next meeting is Wednesday 3 December when Sylvia Eastgate will talk about Egg decorating in the Fabergé style.

Jean Worth

## Evening WI

Members and guests from six other WIs enjoyed our 51st birthday party, with

a buffet supper in the Sarney room. Afterwards they were entertained by the Belmont Duo, who illustrated the life and work of Ivor Novello with some of his songs (yes, you do, he wrote, among many others, "Keep the Home Fires Burning", "And Her Mother Came Too" and "We'll Gather Lilacs"). The birthday cake was made by the President, Barbara Dickinson. She had also decorated it - not with sugar icing but with pictures on a cardboard casing - unusual but effective...

Our WI had hosted the other members of the Group, with an illustrated talk on stained glass called 'Not Just for Churches' The speaker, Anna Conti, designs and makes windows and panels mainly for public buildings such as schools and for private clients.

Next Meeting, some of our own members will be entertaining us - should be a hoot! Date for your diaries: New Year Dinner is on Monday Jan 19th.

Sue Arnautov



# Banjovi Revival Concert

2 pm on Tuesday  
27 January  
at Christ Church,  
Flackwell Heath

Banjovi Revival are holding this concert to sponsor two Royal Grammar School boys, Josh Walker and Matthew Hayhurst, who are planning to go to Mongolia to conduct projects for mainly schools and orphanages. The majority of projects in Mongolia will give them excellent cultural exchange opportunities. Projects are currently running in co-operation with a number of orphanages based mainly in and around Ulaan Baatar and, in addition, there are several countryside schools to renovate which offer more physical work. The boys have already held several discos and successfully completed the Three Peaks Challenge to raise funds towards their trip.

The concert starts at 2pm with two 45 minute sessions and during the interval we will be serving a cream tea (two scones, jam and cream).

Tickets £5 including tea from Pauline on 01628 523946. Banjovi Revival have not held a concert in Flackwell Heath for a couple of years so we hope that we can look forward to seeing many friends.

Pauline Gibson  
(proud grandmother of Josh)



Photo: Meg Scullion  
From the left, Dave Horseman, Cameron Price, Stefanie Preston and Andy Walker.

## Cinderella!

This year's Flackwell panto, complete with all-star cast of Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs, is on Sat 6 December, at 3pm and 7pm in the Community Centre. Like Treasure Island and Robin Hood, this one is written, directed and produced by Cameron Price, now a Young Leader in the Scouts. Cameron hopes to do a degree in Theatre Production after his 'A' levels next summer. Helping him with Cinderella will be Assistant Producer Sam A'Court, Stage Manager David Horseman, Stage Supervisor Stefanie Preston and Musical Director Queenie Creswick. There will be a sizeable backstage crew and a cast of 18 who were selected after lots of auditions. Laughter, hisses, corny jokes and audience participation guaranteed. (I saw last year's show) Tickets £4 from Mrs Patel at the Post Office.  
*Sue Arnautov*

### FLACKWELL HEATH LIBRARY



Our newly launched Internet Taster and Family History sessions are booked up for December. If you are interested in learning about the basics of the internet or finding out how to research your own Family History please add your name to our list and we will start some new sessions in the New Year.

The library will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day but all other opening times remain as normal.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our customers a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.,

Due to essential upgrading of the County Council computer network we do apologise but there will be no public internet access on Saturday 6 December. This will also affect High Wycombe Library on Sunday 7th December.

Flackwell Heath Library  
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## Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice Choir

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Proceeds to FH Residents Association

**Do not delay - this concert will be sold out by Christmas!**

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## 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.

### December

<b>Wednesday 3</b>	<b>Jigsaw and Paperback Library</b> , 1.30 to 3.30, Community Centre
<b>Saturday 6</b>	<b>Cinderella Panto by Scouts</b> , Cubs and Brownies, 3pm and 7pm, Community Centre, £4
<b>Sunday 7</b>	<b>Toys and Gift Service</b> 11 am Methodist Church ( See page 1)
<b>Thursday 11</b>	<b>Heath Singers Christmas Concert</b> , 8pm, Christ Church, £8.
<b>Wednesday 17</b>	<b>Heath Singers Christmas Concert</b> , 8pm, Christ Church, £8.
<b>Thursday 18</b>	<b>Heath Singers Christmas Concert</b> , 8pm, Christ Church, £8.
<b>Saturday 20</b>	<b>Beat Surgery</b> Talk to your local policeman Rob Page, 11.00 – 1.00 at Christ Church
<b>Sunday 21</b>	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b> 5pm Methodist Church
<b>Thursday 25</b>	<b>Christmas Morning Family Service</b> 10.30 Methodist Church
<b>Sunday 28</b>	<b>Flackwell Amblers</b> 'Walk Off Christmas'. 10 am from Budgens car park

### January

<b>Sunday 4</b>	<b>Covenant Service</b> 3 pm Methodist Church
<b>Sunday 18</b>	<b>Common Road closed</b> for the day
<b>Sunday 25</b>	<b>Flackwell Amblers</b> Jubilee Walk 10 am from Budgens car park
<b>Tuesday 27</b>	<b>Banjovi Revival Concert</b> 2pm at Christ Church Tickets £5 including a cream tea from Pauline Gibson 01628 523946

### February

<b>Wednesday 4</b>	<b>Jigsaw and Paperback Library</b> , 1.30 to 3.30, Community Centre
<b>Sunday 21</b>	<b>Flackwell Amblers</b> Wooburn / Bourne End 10 am from Budgens car Park.



## Carrington Celebrates with Gilly

Thursday 16th October saw The Carrington Schools' much loved Lollipop man turn 80 years old. Gilbert Fryer, affectionately known as Gilly, turned up for work like any other day but traffic through the village came to a standstill. Every time Gilly stepped out into Chapel Road to let the children cross, they would ply him with presents, kisses and hugs - each crossing took a couple of minutes rather than a few seconds. Cars then backed up to the roundabout, which in turn caused a traffic jam right along Straight Bit and down Treadaway Hill! Drivers weren't complaining though, as most people recognise Gilly and were only too happy to toot their horns and shout out happy birthday from their windows.

Everyone clubbed together and gave Gilly an evening for two at Cliveden with a car to take both Gilly and his wife Millie, we also threw in spending money for the bar and with a car to take them home they were sure to enjoy this! Everyone was so generous we were also able to present him with Tea for Two at Danesfield house - they will be going in the Spring when the gardens are at their best.

We were all worried that Gilly may have to retire now he's reached 80 - there was even talk of a petition to the council if this were the case. Luckily for us, laws have now changed and as long as Gilly is willing and able, he will be allowed to carry on the fantastic job of Lollipop man - a job which he dearly loves.

Caroline Cross



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# After School Club

## 10 Years On



Having their picture taken. The Juniper children arrive Photos: Meg Scullion

The After School Club based at Carrington Schools opened on 4th December 1998. It began as an initiative by the then governing body, and was run on a voluntary basis by about 6 people. The aim was to provide a service for parents and some rental income for the school. As time passed and personnel changed, it became a not-for-profit company run by Jean Cameron and Beverley Jewell, still on a voluntary basis. Most recently it has become a limited company, run by Jean Cameron and her husband Robin Vidler. Jean has been involved since the earliest days, when she was Chair of Governors. It is an area where she has professional expertise - she works for Slough Borough Council in charge of the development of Children's Centres; her career grew out of her voluntary work.

The Club runs every day after school, from 3.15 to 6pm. It has places for 40 children on any one day, and the average attendance is 36. (A far cry from the first day 10 years ago, when just one small boy came!) There are about 75 to 80 children on the register, each of whom comes for one to five days per week, most commonly 3 days. There is a waiting list; places are open to those in full-time school, from age 4 to 11, but most participants are 4 - 9.

After School Clubs are regulated by the Government through OFSTED. They lay down the ratio of staff to children and the qualifications people must hold. There are now 15 paid staff, and on any one day a supervisor, 5 child care assistants, and 2 catering assistants are present. There are also the 3 trained escorts who bring the walking crocodile of up to 16 children from Juniper Hill

School. Older pupils (who must be at least 17) from Wye Valley School, who are working for a Community Sports Leader Award or are on a coaching or similar course, come to help with the sports and games, such as cricket, football or indoor hockey. All staff must have First Aid training and be checked by the Criminal Records Bureau. The Club rents premises from Carrington Infant School and also has the use of the Junior School playground and playing fields.

So what do the children actually do? Sports, games, art, crafts, table top games like Monopoly and table tennis, playing with Lego and other construction toys, dressing-up, a play-house, a quiet corner with books and bean-bags - are all available. There are however no TVs or computers, and only the very occasional DVD. Sometimes there are special events, such as a visit from the RSPCA, or a talk about environmental issues. Activities are 'child-led' i.e. the children choose what they would like to do. The staff celebrate the significant achievements of all the children and involve them in planning the activities. A hot cooked tea is provided - sausages, pasta, etc. with vegetables and fruit to help towards the all-important '5 a day'. A recent 'design and cook your own tea' evening led to some surprisingly healthy pizzas.

And the cost? £10 per child per day, or £11.25 to include the supervised walk from Juniper. Contact no: 01628 529553

Sue Arnautov

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### Flackwell Heath Community Association

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