

THE Grapevine

DECEMBER '09 - January '10

50p

THE NEWSLETTER OF FLACKWELL HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Alan Davies, Sheila Davies, John Rees, Mike Davies, Matt Davies, Felicity Rees

The Village Quiz

The village quiz was won by Titwillows in a very tight contest where only four points covered the first three teams. The Davies family and their friends, the Reeses, have promised to "return and defend our title next year".

The family who is sure to win every year are the Lewis family. Craig is a brilliant question master and behind the scenes, Linda and Gareth kept the score and, with Nerys, helped Craig write the questions. The food prepared by Pam Mannering and friends and the wine donated by Vic Grewal of Budgens completed a most enjoyable evening.

Tim Kendall



Lighting up Christmas

The Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony will begin with carols from 4.45 on Saturday 5 December. Mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies afterwards in the Community Centre.

The Residents' Assn Craft Fayre is 10.30 to 4pm in the Community Centre on the same day. Shop for that special little something for your friends. Then treat yourself to morning coffee, lunch or afternoon tea as a reward for an intense bout of shopping.

Flackwell Heath by Night. Between now and Christmas you can see magnificent examples of the over-the-top exuberance and panache of the Flackwell home lighters.

Going by last year, the places to look out for Christmas lights are Oakwood, Highfield Road and Green Dragon Lane. Last year's biggest cluster was in Cherry Close (near the junction of Chapman Lane and Green Dragon Lane), where the Birch and Brophy families invite you to put some money in a tin for animal charities.

Photos: Steve Thomas



Congratulations to Fred Gibson

After leaving the Army (The Life Guards) in 1980, Fred Gibson became involved with Scouting; first in Yorkshire and later in Flackwell Heath. He was Scout Leader of the 1st Flackwell Heath Troop and is now Assistant Group Scout Leader.

After the Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the War Memorial Fred was, to his great surprise, presented with a Certificate from the United States Ambassador.

"The Ambassador of the United States of America to the Court of St. James's acknowledges with deep appreciation the... outstanding efforts of Fred Gibson in furthering cordial community relations in the United Kingdom and thereby strengthening the British-American alliance". Signed Louis B. Susman.

In recommending Fred for this award Captain David Dittmer, USN Senior National Officer, wrote "Mr Fred Gibson has been an outstanding advocate for partnership between the US and UK Scouts in the High Wycombe area....As a British Army veteran, he understands the need for good relations between the forces assigned to a base and its community, and is a strong advocate for bridging between the two groups...."

Tim Kendall

FLACKWELL HEATH Residents' Association

Planning and Environment Group



Our thanks go once again to Jeff Herschel for his efforts in helping to 'beautify' the village by replanting the planter outside Radhuni Indian restaurant. The Residents' Association has been pleased to provide the plants some of which are already in flower. We look forward to seeing them grow and filling the planter with colour. We are also in the process of planting more spring bulbs in the village.

News from developments:

The planning appeal to allow the demolishing of the bungalow at 28 Sedgmoor Road and the building of two 3-bed houses has been dismissed by 'The Inspectorate'.

The appeal to build 9 homes on 'The Magpie' site is still to be determined.

In the meantime Michael Shanly Homes have submitted another application for the site.

Thank you to those of you who have contacted me in the past month or so with your comments and views. We appreciate it and find this very useful.

The P&E Group would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Carolyn Leonard

Chair of FHRA Planning and Environment Group

01628526512

fhra-planning-environment@flackwellheath.net



Neighbourhood Watch

REMINDER

Area Meeting, Dec 11th at 7 pm

I hope that you have marked your diary or calendar with this date for the meeting to be held at Wye Valley School – everyone is welcome. Speakers will include Dominic Grieve MP, Supt. Paul Emmings, Insp. Ray Wilks, Cllr. Mike Appleyard and others. There will be table displays on Crime Prevention and other relevant issues

Jingle Bells.....

As Christmas approaches and shops get busier, the risk of having your purse 'dipped' from your shopping bag increases. A simple yet effective device to alert you to any attempt to steal your purse, is 'Purse Dipping Bells'. These simply clip to your purse and attract your attention if the purse is disturbed. They are available through NHWatch for the princely sum of £1.00

Christmas security

Christmas gifts are the seasonal target of thieves, whether whilst out shopping, in your car or around the

Christmas Tree at home. Don't leave purchases on display in your car – lock them away safely in the boot. If you do display gifts around the tree, make sure that they are not visible from the public highway or adjacent paths during the day, and draw the curtains at night. Check and review your security arrangements again to ensure that you don't create openings for the opportunist burglar by leaving any windows or doors unsecured. Check that your house contents insurance covers you for the value of gifts over the Christmas period. If you are going away over the holiday period, leave lights and a radio on a timer, and get a neighbour to draw your curtains and collect any mail. If you are not already a member of a neighbourhood watch scheme, make joining – or starting – a scheme a New Year resolution.

SatNav security

Theft of SatNav's from unattended cars is a common occurrence, but just think about it. Most SatNav's include a 'Home' location, so not only has the thief got your SatNav, but he knows that you are NOT at home, and he has the means of navigating TO your home. I suggest that you edit the details of your 'Home' location so that it does NOT reveal your home address. Use a local feature such as a car park or store, so that you can still navigate back to your home location. You know where your house is – don't give the thief directions to get there!

Current Scams

The 'Car-Jacking' scam (a note stuck on your car's rear window in a busy car park) and the 'Parcel Delivery Service (PDS)' scam (requiring you to phone a premium rate line) have both surfaced again. The best advice with the former trick is to ignore the note until you are safely out of the car park. With the PDS scam, simply ignore it.

Have a very Happy Christmas, and a safe and joyful New Year

David Gresswell

NHW Area Co-ordinator, Flackwell Heath O1628 525019

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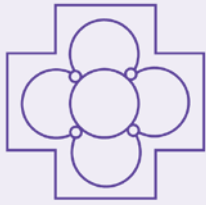
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WESLEYAN CHAPEL

Methodist Church

Advent started on Sunday 29 November when we lit a red candle on the wreath each week, with the middle, white candle being lit on Christmas morning.

Our annual Sunday Live all-age Toys and Gifts Service will be on **6 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 secondhand, 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 is always open for tea and coffee on a Saturday morning, so anyone wishing to give to those children, who get very little at Christmas, can do so by just bringing their gifts 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 for the homeless people who will be using the Wycombe Night Shelter.

The evening of the **6 December at 6.30pm** will be a Circuit Service held at Flackwell Heath Methodist Church led by Rev. Peter Hancock, the new Chair of District.

13 December at 11am will be Holy Communion with David Miller. **6.30pm will be a Christingle Service.** Come and make a Christingle and find out the meaning behind them.

Sunday 20 December at 11am Sue Simpson from Christ Church will be leading the service and at **5pm. is our Carols by Candlelight Service** with David Miller. This will be a traditional Carols and Readings service for all the family. Fairtrade coffee, tea and mince pies will be served afterwards.

Our **Midnight Communion Service** on Christmas Eve will be led by David Miller, starting at **11.15pm**.

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.

Flackwell Heath Methodist Church will be supporting the Wycombe Night Shelter again this year as will Christ Church. It opens on 4 January 2009. More details on the wonderful work they are doing on www.wwns.org.uk.

For more details of all these events ring 01628 523022 or go to our website: www.fhmc.org.uk



Celebrate Christmas at Christ Church

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 6 December 10.00am: Family Service and Girls Brigade Parade Service Gifts of new toys and toiletries to be received for distribution through London City Mission

Sunday 13 December 10.00am: "Bethlehem's Got Talent" Nativity Service for all the family. Mince pies and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Sunday 20 December 6.00pm: Carols by Candlelight – a traditional Service of Lessons and Carols. Mince pies and refreshments will be served afterwards.

CHRISTMAS EVE Thursday 24 December 4.00pm: Crib Service – a short service especially for younger Children, with the Christmas story.

11.15pm: Midnight Holy Communion.

CHRISTMAS DAY – Friday 25 December 10.00am: A short Family Celebration of Holy Communion for Christmas Morning

EPIPHANY - Sunday 3 January 8.30am: Holy Communion for Epiphany

10.00am: Epiphany Family Service

Coffee Stop serves fantastic fairly-traded tea and coffee with daily newspapers, and provides a warm and friendly place to meet old friends and make new ones. It runs every weekday morning during term-time from 9.00am to 11.30am. Why not come along...

Bbeebies Bumps babies and beyond meet on Monday afternoons (Term Time) 1.30pm – 3.00pm. Lots of fun for pre-school aged children with parents/grandparents or carers.

Christ Church has an exciting new website! Visit www.ccfh.org.uk for details of all that is happening at your Parish Church or contact the Church Office in Chapel Road further information: 01628 533004 (9.00am – 1.00pm Monday to Friday).

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**Flackwell Heath
Residents' Association
Presents**

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7.30p.m. to 10.45p.m.

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Flackwell Heath Allotments

Dear Editor

As allotment holders we have a constant battle – weather, weeds, deer, rabbits, pheasants and pigeons. Now we have another battle – vandals. They – whoever they are – have done enormous damage this year – the latest being removing canes, pallets, wooden posts, compost bins, anything in fact that they can burn, but which are necessary for us to tend our plots. It is heartbreaking. We all work hard and get great pleasure and enjoyment from our 'patch'. In my case, my late husband worked hard on his plot and when he died I took it over and have benefited from fresh air, fresh vegetables (which I had never grown before) and a sense of being with him. Sentimental I know, but that is how it is. I was not one of the unlucky ones this time, but could be the vandals' next target. Earlier this year I was unfortunate to have damage done along with many others. But we all pulled together and got our plots straight again. Whoever these vandals are should be ashamed of their actions. How would they feel if their property was broken and burned?

If these vandals are ever caught (and some know who they are) perhaps their punishment could be to help put right that which they have damaged. After all, a bit of hard work never harmed anyone.

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A member of St. James's Place Partnership

Once the allotments at Flackwell Heath had relatively few takers, but in recent years the idea of an allotment has appealed to more and more residents. So much so that there is now a waiting list of over two years. The idea of growing fresh, even organic vegetables clearly appeals too many, especially as it helps keep gardeners fit and happy.

Though this summer and autumn all has not been as happy as in the past. Unusually there have been a number of incidents when youth have invaded the allotments in the late evening: setting fires around which to sit – using bean poles and timber off allotments for fuel – and then at some stage going on to destroy and damage fruit enclosures and stealing water taps.

In spite of a reward of up to £500 from Chepping Wycombe Parish Council nobody has been named. But it is hoped by all, including the police, that the cold winter weather will break the attraction of this pointless criminality.

However

on a more positive note. Community Payback offenders, organised by the Parish Council and supervised by the Probation Service, have started a programme of work to improve the site.

Over the years brambles and hedges have inevitably spread and grown taller. These are being cut back and the accumulated rubbish of years beneath them cleared away. The roots remain and come the spring what currently looks very raw will begin to 'heal'. Stone dumped willy-nilly in piles by tenants in the past is also being dug out and used to make good the puddle-filled track.

Best of all the hut has been cleared of abandoned equipment and is being painted and repaired.

It all sounds very easy, but there is an awful lot to do before we can even think of once again winning the county's best allotment competition.

Cllr Jeff Herschel

Josh Stanners

As reported in the October Grapevine, Josh Stanners won a place in the Faldo Series Grand Final in Rio de Janeiro. The Final took place over three rounds from 28 to 30 October and Josh finished a creditable fourth in the Under 16s competition. Of course, Josh is not satisfied with fourth especially as he started the final round in second place.

In the coming year Josh plans to try to qualify for the under 18 section of the Grand Final in Rio de Janeiro. He will have coaching and training with the Berks, Bucks and Oxen coaching squad during Winter and Spring and then some County and individual tournament matches. Then he has his GCSEs.

Tim Kendall

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SAFE Journey Home

The festive season is upon us and you may find you need a taxi to get safely home. Cabs come in two varieties: hackney carriages and pre-booked cars.

Hackney Carriages are the traditional taxis with a 'For Hire' light in the front window and a sign on the roof. They are licensed by the Council with a plate on the back. You can hail them in the street, if you can find them. They use payment meters with regulated rates.

Pre-booked cars (also called Private Hire) are those you arrange to come and fetch you. They are also licensed by the Council, and on 1st January 2009 WDC introduced stickers to identify such cars. These stickers have been issued as licences came up for renewal, so almost all private hire cars should now have them. They go on the front doors of the car, and look like this:



With private hire cars, you agree a price for the trip when you arrange it and the driver should know your name when he comes to collect you. The sticker has the name of the firm.

There are also fly-by-night operators who may cruise busy streets late at night or hover outside party venues, touting for business. As they are unlicensed, their insurance will not be valid and unlike the licensed cabs, neither they nor their vehicles will have passed the Council checks. There may be difficulties over payment, knowledge of the district and in the worst cases, assault.

Avoid them by checking that the car you are about to get into is either a 'Hackney Carriage' or the private hire car you arranged.

Sue Arnautov

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Alex and William collecting our Christmas Shoe Boxes for Samaritan's Purse Charity

At Juniper Hill we are developing our pupil voice further. Each class has a selection of representatives for different committees. We have School Council, Eco Jets, Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) and now Friendship Buddies.

This term, the School Council have been organising a collection of Christmas shoe boxes packed full of gifts and goodies to send to children in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. We had lots of fun filling the boxes and choosing whether each box should go to a boy or girl. So far we have over one hundred boxes. We would like to thank everyone and their families for their kind donations.

The Eco Jets discuss how we can make our school more eco-friendly. We have compost bins to put our food waste in. We are trying really hard to conserve heat and reduce our energy use.

JRSO'S make sure the roads and everyone are safe travelling to and from school. This year's Walk to School theme is to walk around the circumference of the moon by July.

Our Friendship Buddies play with anyone sitting on the buddy benches around the school playground to make sure that everyone has a happy playtime. We have been given advice and training about the games to play.

We look forward to sharing more information with you about our school soon.

By Charlotte Year 6

Diary of event

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	Flackwell Ladies Club 1st & 3rd Thurs 8pm Community Centre

December

Saturday 5	FHRA Craft Fayre 10.30 to 4pm Community Centre 4.45. Carol singing and turning on the Christmas lights FA Vase FH v Wroxham ko 3pm Tickets £6 & £3
Thursday 10	Heath Singers Concert 8 pm Christ Church £8
Friday 11	Crime prevention meeting at 7.00 Wye Valley School
Wednesday 16	Heath Singers Concert 8 pm Christ Church £8
Thursday 17	Heath Singers Concert 8 pm Christ Church £8
Saturday 19	Scouts Panto Dick Whittington 3pm and 7pm Community Centre Tickets £4
Thursday 24	Christmas Eve Check out the Green Dragon, Cherry Tree and Stag
Monday 28	Flackwell Amblers local walk Meet at 10.00 Budgen's car park
Thursday 31	New Year's Eve. Check out the Green Dragon, Cherry Tree and Stag

2010

January

Saturday 16	FHRA present An Evening with Glenn Miller. 7.30 Community Centre. See advert
Sunday 24	Flackwell Amblers Wooburn Town walk Meet at 10.00 Budgen's car park

February

Sunday 21	Flackwell Amblers Knowl Hill walk Meet at 10.00 Budgen's car park
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Flackwell Heath Women's Institute

WI Morning

The President announced the death of Joan Howell. A collection was made and several members have attended her funeral.

There is no longer a need for us to send "Goodie Boxes" to Afghanistan and the members have agreed to support the Veterans' Aid Society. This is a small charity based in London which has been helping ex-service men and women for 75 years. The aid is mainly for personnel who have no family and need assistance after they leave the services. Initially they are asking for unwanted warm clothing and simple household goods.

The next meeting will be on 2 December when Mrs J Patience will talk about Women and Girls in India.

Jean Worth

WI Evening

We celebrated our 52nd birthday with a party: a buffet supper prepared by members, a birthday cake and entertainment by Mr David Ball, a magician and member of the Magic Circle. At the 10 December meeting, the speaker is David Lee on 'Life and Science in British Antarctica'.

On 14 January we are closer to home with Mike Dewey who will be talking about 'SWOP - History through Photographs'.



Photo: Tim Kendall. Left to right: Krystle Smith (Assistant); Patricia Brannigan, Library Manager; Sue Arnautov, WI; Patricia Kendall, WI; Joan McNamara (visitor); Liz Payne, WI.

FLACKWELL HEATH LIBRARY

Library gets WI Story Sack

On 31st October the Flackwell Heath Evening WI handed over a Story Sack, made by members, to Flackwell Heath Library. The Sack contains a book, written by member Patricia Kendall, about a boy called Joe who thought he didn't like vegetables; after learning to grow them with Grandpa, he changed

his mind. The Sack contains Joe and Grandpa, as knitted toys, together with various vegetables, pets and pests. There are games, with fruit and vegetable themes, for extension work.

The library say they are absolutely thrilled by the donation of a Story Sack. It will be loaned out to local schools, pre-school groups and any other organisation or individuals who may be interested. In the meantime it will be held by the library so please come in and take a look.

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CARRINGTON Junior School

National Diabetes Day

Year 5 pupils at Carrington Junior School were selected to launch a new project for National Diabetes Day. They were given pedometers by the company so that they could measure exactly how many steps they took during 30 minutes of exercise, as part of a school project. The event was organised by Takeda UK, one of the world's leading diabetes companies, with UK offices in Wooburn Green, who encourage local school children to take more exercise and learn about diabetes and its prevention.

Experts recommend that girls aged between 6 and 12 years should take approximately 12,000 steps each day and boys of the same age should take around 15,000 steps, equivalent to 60 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity. Adults are recommended to take 10,000 steps per day, which is equivalent to 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity.

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King Rat, Alice Fitzwarren and Dick
Photo: Sue Arnautov

Dick Whittington

This year's Scout panto (the fourth in the series, did you see Treasure Island, Robin Hood, Cinderella?) is Dick Whittington. Cameron Price is once again the writer, producer and director, with a devoted back-up team: David Horseman is Production Manager, Andy Walker is the Gaffer, Emma Hammond is the Company Manager, Jack Tautz is Stage Manager, Nikki Clube is Wardrobe Mistress and Queenie Creswick is Musical Director.

The 3 stars are Matthew Clube as Dick (cheers), Kristian Price as King Rat (hisssss) and Sarah Gregory as Alice Fitzwarren (aaah). Cameron tells me there is a nice mixture of newcomers and experienced players in the large

cast; they have been rehearsing since mid-September. All are members of the Scout or Guide movement. Everyone puts in enormous amounts of time and energy: for example, painting the set took 20 hours.

Cameron himself is trying to break into the professional theatre, on the backstage side. He currently has a front-of-house job at the Apollo, Hammersmith.

There will be two performances of this unique production on Saturday 19 December, at 3pm and 7pm, in the Community Centre. Tickets are £4, and on sale at Unit 4 and the Post Office. Last year was a sell-out, so don't delay....

Sue Arnautov

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Needlework to Celebrate the WI

The Bucks Federation of Women's Institutes sent out a request for each WI to produce a sampler of their own design. I offered to have a go on behalf of Flackwell Heath Morning WI to record something in our present village life. Something which has been here a long time - the cherry trees. Something old - the bell tower from the old village school which stood on the site of the Community Centre. This tower is now in the grounds of Juniper Hill school and records some names of past villagers. And a welcome relative newcomer - the red kite. Also our future represented by one pupil from Carrington school holding hands

with a pupil from Juniper Hill. Some leisure pursuits - football for the young and energetic and bowls for the less energetic.

The pupils are worked in stumpwork as are the cherry trees. A variety of stitches were used: long and short satin, french knots, feather, chain, hemstitch and needlelace. Another WI member made two small samples of Bucks lace which I mounted on 'pillows'.

All these samplers are to be exhibited next year, 2010, by the Bucks Federation of WIs in the High Wycombe Museum to celebrate 90 glorious years.

Margaret Flintham



I regret this image of Margaret's sampler cannot show the intricacy or 3 dimensional effects of her skills as a needlewoman. Editor.



Glenn James Postman

You may know Glenn James already – he is a regular sight on the streets of Flackwell. He has worked for the Post Office for 25 years, and currently delivers letters in the Chapman Lane area. He lives in Wycombe, but he used to live in Flackwell, and when he saw the internal advert for a Flackwell 'walk', he applied. He says the advantage of Flackwell, from a postman's point of view, is that it's nice and flat (transport between base and here is by van) and the disadvantage is that people round here get a lot of mail. You have to know the area pretty well, because some of the house numbers are illogical or missing, some houses are hidden from the road up long drives, and some have only names; nor do they always have letterboxes. Dogs in Flackwell are not a great problem, although some bark a lot!

For Glenn, Christmas starts on about December 10th, when the volume of mail starts to increase; at peak periods (say 20th and 21st December) it may be 50% above normal. There are machines which sort by postcode, after that it's down to humans. Sorting is a pretty monotonous job, broken by coping with inadequate addresses; these days only a small proportion of them are handwritten, but there are always more at Christmas. Once the mail is sorted by postcode, the postmen assemble it for their own round in order of delivery; a round's worth might be in 6 or 7 pouches, the heaviest weighing as much as 16kg. The van drops the postman off with his first, and heaviest, pouch, and distributes others along the route in the 'pouch boxes' by the road; there is often a later rendezvous with further pouches. On a normal day, Glenn may take 3.5 hours to deliver 7 pouches of mail to 380 delivery points (roughly, addresses), and finish at about 2pm. At Christmas, the sorting takes longer, and despite an earlier start at 5am (usually it's 6am) they get out on the street later - and it gets dark early, so you cannot read the

addresses! By Christmas Eve the rush is over, the team can relax and go for a beer.

After Christmas, there are always a few late Christmas cards and some New Year cards. Then, you may have noticed, the holiday brochures start to come through...

So why does Glenn do it? He used to work in an office, at Equity and Law, but didn't really like it. With this job, he gets the camaraderie of the sorting office in the mornings, and then he gets fresh air and exercise, and a measure of independence, later in the day. He does occasionally cover for a colleague, working in the office on record keeping, but he would not want to do it all the time. Two of his three brothers are also postmen.

Glenn's advice to those posting cards or parcels is post in time, write the correct address clearly (with postcode), and please avoid envelopes with very dark colours (where the address is hard to see).

Happy Christmas, Glenn, to you and your colleagues, with thanks from us all!

Sue Arnautov

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Traditional Sunday Roasts
(Discount for O.A.Ps)

Children's Menus

Homemade Desserts

All our Food is Homemade

Chicken Liver Pate

Lamb Shank in Guinness & Red
Wine Sauce

Haddock in an Asparagus &
Stilton Sauce

Homemade Pies

**Lunch Served 12-2.30 Monday
–Saturday**

Dinner Served 6.30 -9.30

Tuesday - Saturday

Sunday Lunch 12.00- 3.00pm

**Some Availability Left for Xmas
Bookings**

Flackwell Heath Community Association

Chairman: John Sweetman
01628 528671

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



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

Flackwellnewsvine@btinternet.com

Sue Arnautov

Design: jillw.mjdesign@btinternet.com

Subscriptions: Irene Walker
01628 529710

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