

FECKENHAM

NEWS

April 2023



Published by Feckenham Church for the village.
Editor Gilly Cooper - feckenhamnews@gmail.com
(Copy Date 14th)

THOMAS BROTHERS



An Independent Family Owned Funeral Directors

Family owned funeral homes in Redditch, Bromsgrove, Wytball, Alvechurch & Alcester. We provide a friendly, dignified service paying special attention to detail.

REDDITCH • BROMSGROVE
01527 547777 01527 83170

WYTHALL • ALVECHURCH • ALCESTER
01564 822001 0121 445 3422 01789 330939



"A family concern"

www.thomasbrothers.co.uk
email: admin@thomasbrothers.co.uk

TAPCAST
computer services

Local, trusted IT support done remotely
IT Support • Microsoft Office 365 & Cloud
Remote Working Solutions • Computer Equipment
Security Services • Backup & Disaster Recovery

Call 01386 792196
support@tapcast.co.uk

Microsoft
CERTIFIED
Partner

www.tapcast.co.uk

ANDREW SMITH CHIMNEY SWEEP

Traditional and Power Sweeping
Clean, reliable and fully insured
smoke test, CCTV and certificates.
Evening and weekend appointments
also available



Member of the
Institute of Chimney
Sweeps

Based locally in Inkberrow

Phone: 01386 793248

Mobile: 07789 721303



A. PULLEN MEMORIALS

Additional Inscriptions & Renovations

SHOWROOM AND WORKSHOP
338 ALCESTER ROAD, BURCOT
BROMSGROVE B60 1BH
Tel: (01527) 876200



As Time Goes By

**YOUR LOCAL FAMILY RUN
MEMORIAL SUPPLIER**

Head Stones, Cremation Tablets,
Additional Inscriptions and
Renovation Work

Web: astimegoesby.org.uk

Email: kfporter@blueyonder.co.uk



Please call 01527 550505

To arrange a home visit or to find out our opening times

Unit 5, Dunlop Road, Hunt End Industrial Estate
Redditch B97 5XP

"MEMORIALS THAT REFLECT A LIFETIME"

Beauty

by Elizabeth

MBGT, VICT
Skin Therapist



dermalogica
mapping



*Flexible appointment
times available*

Telephone: 01527 822698

Mobile: 07890 978059



Microdermabrasion, LVL and Collagen lift facials,
bio sculpture, massage, gel nails, waxing,
eyelash tinting, manicure, pedicure and many more!

Cider Mill House
Cider Mill Lane, Bradley Green
Redditch, Worcestershire B96 6TH

Feckenham News in April

Dates for your Diary

April

1st	Spring Flower Show
5th	S&B Gardening Club
8th	Cricket Club Quiz
14th	Fecknodeon
18th	Readers Group
29th	Fecknodeon

May

6th	George Egg's Set Menu
7th	Coronation Event TBC
13th	S&B Plant Sale

June

3rd	Astwood Hill Ho Open Garden
24th	Feckenham Wake

July

15th	Fun on the Square
------	-------------------

Regular Sessions

Mondays	Restorative Yoga
Wednesdays	Playgroup
Thursdays	Bridge; Hatha Yoga; Pilates
Fridays	Meditation Class
First Tuesday of the month:	
Lunch Club, Feckenham Sessions and Feckenham Forest History Society	
First and Third Wednesday:	Community Chior
Third Monday of the month:	WI
2nd and 4th Fridays :	Erstwhile Morris dancers

Production Team

Gilly Cooper - Editor	feckenhamnews@gmail.com
Distribution	07500115581
Ian Bellion - What's On	whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk
Jen Cary - NewsHound	jen@28highstreet.co.uk
Mary Smith - Advertising	fnadvertising@btinternet.com

©2023. Published by Feckenham PCC
Printed by Solopress

Contents

	Page
Editor's note	4
Easter Lilies; Coronation	4
Farewell Ann & Jeff Matthews	5
Feckenham Archive	5
Church Matters	6-8
Spring Flower Show	8
Swansbrook and Fecknodeon	9
Feckenham Showcase	10-11
Village Hall	11
What's On	12-13
Parish Council	14
Village Shop	17
Gardening	18-20
Cricket Club	21

Front Cover

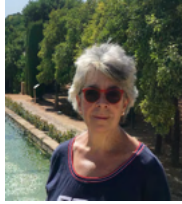
Photo from William Burley: Len Burley celebrating St Patrick's Day in the Rose and Crown.

Magazine online at www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

Many articles in Feckenham News are contributed by members of the public. They remain the responsibility of the writers and neither the production team nor the publishers can be held responsible for the views and assertions contained therein.

Editor's Note

Welcome to the April magazine. It is a bit thinner than usual, in part because I've been away. Sadly I missed the Feckenham Showcase event which seems to have been a great success. The Directory which was delivered with the March magazine has all the information you might need about all the village organisations.



The magazine wouldn't be the success it is without the help of those who regularly contribute and the team who deliver the magazine come rain or shine. We had a get-together on 4th March. Most of the team don't see each other, so this was an opportunity to catch up and share stories. I found a copy of the magazine from 1984 which we all had a chance to look at. The change is significant but the essence of our village life is still the same. I think I kept it as the editor had included a recipe from myself for Cloutie Dumpling that month. I do like to include recipes, so if you have one you'd like to share, please send it in.

Easter Lilies

A reminder for anyone still wishing to have lilies displayed in the church at Easter in memory of loved ones: please send your donation to Shirley Harman, Honeysuckle House, 33 High Street, Feckenham B96 6HN clearly marked: Easter Lilies and to whom the donation is in memory. Cheques should be made payable to Feckenham PCC. Thank you Margaret and Marg

Coronation Celebrations

ON THE SQUARE...

Details are incomplete as we go to press but we do know that it's intended to hold a celebration gathering on The Square (Village Hall if wet) on Sunday, 7th May - which is the day the palace has suggested that such things should take place. The event will follow the pattern of recent Jubilee celebrations with villagers bringing their own picnics, chairs and tables. The Square Committee will be providing a cash bar. It is expected that there will be entertainment and games for children. Full details are expected to be in May's Feckenham News.

CORONATION CELEBRATION

On The Square

Sunday, 7th May: 1pm - 5pm

Death Notice

Doris Burley, born in Feckenham, sadly passed away peacefully on 16th March 2023 (aged 96). Funeral service at Feckenham Parish Church on 12th April at 1.30pm.



whitespace
MEDITATION

Regular meditation classes at Feckenham Village Hall

Visit www.whitespacemeditation.co.uk to book a free taster session

Have a question?

Email: whitespacemeditation@gmail.com

Text: 07548 673 685

Farewell to Ann and Jeff Matthews

May we offer a few thoughts about Jeff and Ann.

We are losing the best and most reliable neighbours one could wish for, whose presence we have, I am afraid, taken too much for granted. So it was a great blow to learn about Ann's health problems.

Then came the news, which was bad for us, that they are going to live near their elder daughter Emma in the south.

Ann was church warden for many years and was the go-to person for christenings, weddings and funerals. She has always been a huge help to the organists in putting them in touch with the various parties, and ensuring that they had the correct dates in their diaries! Jeff has been in the forefront of the transformation of the churchyard through the biodiversity project.

In our view their most enduring and unmatched legacy can be seen every time you walk or drive down the Droitwich

Road. Jeff and Ann were founder members of the village shop, now in its 15th year. Jeff was on the original committee which acquired the premises and raised the funds to buy equipment and stock and to provide a financial cushion until the business could be self supporting. Ann was one of a small group which took charge of the vital job of buying the stock and fulfilling a founding concept that as far as possible the shop sold goods that were reasonably priced and locally produced, but left room for the ethical niche of Fairtrade. This, together with arduous periodic stocktaking, created an onerous workload for Ann and her colleagues.

In all their endeavours they have tried selflessly to put others first, and have helped to create a community from which we all benefit.

Michael and Phyllis Mott

Feckenham Archive - Marion Chute



It seems like the right time to show a photo from the archive about the opening of Feckenham Village Shop in March 2009. The success of this venture is due in no small part to a group who set about the idea after the need was identified in the Parish Plan of 2006. Jeff and Ann Matthews were part of the group and as they now set off for pastures new, here's a photo to remind them of the day the local MP (and Home Secretary) Jacqui Smith came to make the official opening of the Shop.

CHURCH SERVICES



PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Priest-in-charge: Fr Glenn Reading 01527 894436

Church Warden: Ann Mathews 892180

Please contact Ann for Weddings at ann@the-madison-group.co.uk

Glen for Baptisms & Funerals at glenn.reading@googlemail.com

Website: <http://feckenhamchurch.org.uk/>

Email: info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk



PARISH CHURCH
OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
FECKENHAM

Services for April 2023

2 nd April	10.30am	Palm Sunday	Fr Glenn Reading
6 th April	7.30pm	Eucharist and foot washing	Fr Glenn Reading
9 th April	10.30am	Easter Sunday	TBC
16 th April	6.30pm	Evensong	Fr Glenn Reading
23 rd April	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading

FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St John Fisher & Thomas More

Due to illness, Mass will not be held at St John Fisher and Thomas More until further notice.

Mount Carmel 6 pm Sunday Mass is now the Live Streamed Mass.

Link: www.eventcast.uk/live (Type the link into the browser)

Fr. Anthony Rohan, The Presbytery, Redditch. Tel 63096

Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898

Feckenham Church Matters



FRIENDS OF
FECKENHAM
CHURCH

SAVE THE DATE

OPEN GARDEN

ASTWOOD HILL HOUSE

3RD JUNE 2023 2.00 – 6.00PM

Roger and Felicity Burman have kindly offered to open their garden in support of The Friends of Feckenham Church (raising funds for the maintenance of our Parish Church and Churchyard).

Parking and Refreshments available

Admission: £6.00 Children Free

Further details in next month's magazine

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

will be held in St John the Baptist Church,
Feckenham

Thursday 25th May 2023 at 7:30 pm

For the election of churchwardens, parochial representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council and representatives to the Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery Synod.

PCC Secretary

Children's Society Collection Boxes.

These are now due for emptying. If you have one please return it as soon as possible to Vivien Hunter. If you would like me to collect it please contact me on 01527 402360 or at vehunter@blueyonder.co.uk. Alternatively hand it over to me at a Church service.



Canine Connections

Bespoke training
Behaviour & canine health
programmes

☎ 07855 793971

✉ info@canine-connections.co.uk

🌐 www.canine-connections.co.uk

📍 Covering Worcestershire, Warwickshire
and South Birmingham

Rose & Crown 48 High Street
Feckenham
B96 6HS

01527 892188

A traditional freehouse village pub
with Food - owned and run by the
Clarke family

Proper Pub Food
at Proper Prices

Special Dishes - every day

Quality locally sourced meat
Real Ales & Ciders

3 real ales on hand pumps every day.
Traditional ciders - fine wines

Tuesday, 4th April - 8pm
TRADITIONAL MUSIC

EASTER

Open all day Good Friday to Bank Hol Monday
Sunday food 12 to 3pm only
Followed by **EGG HUNT**

Thursday, 27th April
SPANISH MENU
6 'til 9pm

www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk

Easter is only a few days away, it feels like we've been waiting a long time. Yet, suddenly, a rush of activity unfolds. We've waited patiently for the arrival of spring, the warmer weather and nature returning to life. For Christians we have also been waiting for a return to life.

The promise of God in the gift of the baby Jesus is finally realised in the resurrection of Jesus the Man, the Messiah! In that moment the waiting, the uncertainty, the question of how things will be is answered. With the resurrection of Jesus there is a cosmic adjustment as creation responds to events of Calvary.

A broken creation is offered the chance of redemption, a broken humanity is offered a restored relationship with the God the Father. Suddenly, everything is better, everything is right. Easter is the high point of the Christian year and the central focus of our faith. Everything in history has been leading us to the events of that first Easter Day. It is a time when the promises of God are fulfilled.

Such is the enormity and importance of Easter, Easter is not just a day, but a season. Easter is a period of joy and celebration. We feast, we party, Some Christians decorate their homes at Easter, some celebrate with fireworks! It is a time of joy and thanksgiving for our salvation freely offered by Jesus because of his cross.

We'll celebrate for 7 weeks when we reach the feast of Pentecost. During this time, we remember Jesus ascending back to his Father's side and we remember the sending of the Holy Spirit on the fledging church at Pentecost.

This time is a time of joy and re-birth it is fitting as we begin our celebrations we re-open the church and we look forward to serving our community with the same joy and grace we have received from Jesus.

We pray that you and those you love will be blessed this Eastertide and remember all are welcome to worship with us at Easter and every Sunday when we gather together to give thanks for God's goodness to us.

Feckenham Spring Flower Show

Saturday 1st April 2023

SPRINGTIME IN FECKENHAM - COMPETITIVE CLASSES

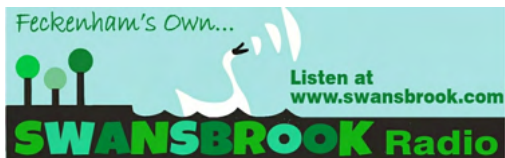
The Hall will be open from 10.30am until noon for you to stage your exhibits

- 1 3 cut Daffodils - long trumpet (all same variety)
- 2 3 cut Daffodils - short trumpet (all same variety)
- 3 3 cut Daffodils - double (all same variety)
- 4 3 cut miniature spring flowers (all same variety)
- 5 3 cut Tulips (all same variety)
- 6 3 cut flowers (all same variety)
- 7 A Spring arrangement in any container
- 8 A bowl of Spring bulbs
- 9 A pot plant in flower
- 10 A pot plant for foliage effect (no flower)
- 11 1 item – handmade craft – any subject



Exhibits in classes 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 will be returned to you. All other flowers will be auctioned at the end of the Show after prizes have been awarded.

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE **NO CHILDREN'S CLASSES THIS YEAR.**



LIVE AND VERY LOCAL

For many reasons, most of them to do with the pandemic, Swansbrook Radio hasn't done many live broadcasts recently so it was a bit of a novelty to have a team on air for a solid 5 hours from the Feckenham Showcase event on 12th March. The planned simple popup studio rapidly became something much more complicated with multiple microphones, mixers and wires connecting who knows what to who knows where. Despite some pre-show hitches, it all worked and at exactly 11am the Swansbrook signature tune proclaimed



Paul interviews Jay Neale

that transmission had started. Paul Furey, Laura Carney and Ian Bellion sallied forth to interview anyone who couldn't get out of the way quickly enough while Colin James held it all together at Mission

Control. The result was a programme that demonstrated what Feckenham has to offer - if you're prepared to get involved. If you missed it, you can hear an hour long edited version On Demand at swansbrook.com.



LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Go to www.swansbrook.com and follow the instructions you'll find there. Our programmes are available for you to play ON DEMAND - listen when and where you like - as often as you like.

FECKENHAM'S OWN Local Radio

www.swansbrook.com

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



JUST ONE MORE...

There's a theory that modest intoxication opens our minds to the world around us, diminishing our problems and increasing our creativity. Heartened by that theory, Martin and three of his friends, all tired high school teachers, embark on an experiment to uphold a constant level of intoxication throughout the workday. In this Oscar winning Danish comedy, things get just a little bit out of hand. (*Denmark 2020*) (In Danish with English Supertitles)

ANOTHER ROUND (12A)

Friday, 14th April - 8pm



MURDER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In the West End of 1950s London, a murder interrupts a hit play. When Inspector Stoppard (Sam Rockwell) and eager rookie Constable Stalker (Saoirse Ronan) take on the case, the two find themselves thrown into a puzzling whodunit within the glamorously sordid theatre underground, investigating the mysterious homicide at their own peril. A cracking yarn with its tongue firmly in its cheek. (*UK 2022*)

SEE HOW THEY RUN (12A)

Saturday, 29th April - 7.30pm

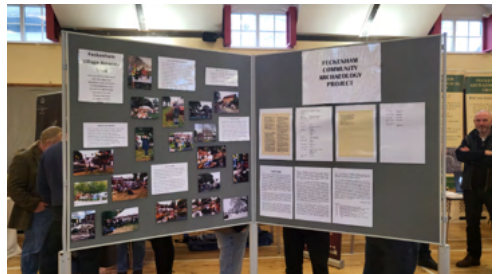
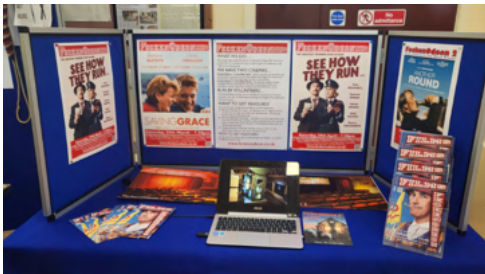
Tickets for all FeckenOdeon films are on sale at *The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.*

You can also book by phone (through TicketSource) on 0333 666 3366 or online at

www.fecknodeon.co.uk

FECKENHAM SHOWCASE

If you were anywhere near the Village Hall on Sunday 12th March you may well have noticed strange sounds and sights. There were Border Morris dancers outside and inside a cornucopia of Village organisations showcasing their interests. Everything from flower arrangers to bell ringers, from the artisans to Meditation. At this free event, sponsored by Feckenham Parish Council, delicious cakes and tea were provided by the WI and the excellent Professor Clive Chandler was on hand to entertain any younger visitors with a puppet making workshop. This was the opportunity for parishioners to find out what goes on and who is making it happen. Swansbrook radio was broadcasting the whole event. The organisers are keen to know what you thought if you came to the event and if you didn't come, what stopped you? Contact marionchute@me.com.



SHOWCASE CONTINUED



Whitespace Meditation offers regular meditation evenings to both beginners and experienced meditators. Sessions take place at Feckenham Village Hall on Fridays at 7pm.



The contents of **The Feckenham Directory**, distributed with 1st month's Feckenham News, are now available online at www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk - click on the Communities tab. This information will be kept up to date so, if something in your organisation has changed or if you want to add a new organisation or activity to the list, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

Feckenham Village Hall

MORRIS AND SHOWMEN...

The Village Hall is delighted to welcome Erstwhile Border Morris who have made Feckenham their main base. The Morris will dance at the Hall on the second and fourth Friday evenings of each month. They welcome new members so just pop along if you fancy a go.

To enquire about hiring the Hall call Liz Teisen on 01527 821233 or check www.feckhall.org

CORONATION COOKERY

It won't have escaped your notice that there's a Coronation on **6th May** - a day full of pomp and ceremony - so it may be a relief to learn that you can escape all that in the evening. **George Egg**, chef and raconteur extraordinaire, will be whipping up a spectacular meal in his own inimitable style using anything but conventional



implements - think cement mixers and blowtorches... Mr Egg has cooked for royalty but has chosen to cook for us! George, who has appeared on numerous TV shows, will whip up three complete meals on stage... and invite the audience to taste them.

GEORGE EGG'S SET MENU

(Coronation Special)

Saturday, 6th May at 7.30pm

Tickets for shows at Feckenham Village Hall are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.

You can also book by phone (through TicketSource) on 0333 666 3366 or online at www.feckhall.org

IMPROVEMENT FUND DRAW

The February draw took place at the meeting of the Trustees on 7th March with the following results:

1 st (£25)	84	Cyril & Jo Warrilow
2 nd (£15)	110	Hugo Hammersley
3 rd (£10)	144	Bob & Amanda Gordon

WHAT'S ON IN

The Feckenham Forest
History Society

GRANNY LOCK'S TO THE ROYAL OAK
Old Redditch

An illustrated talk by Chris Jackson
Tuesday, 11th April - 7.30pm
Feckenham Village Hall

ERSTWHILE

BORDER MORRIS

Twice monthly Sessions
at Feckenham Village Hall
2nd and 4th Fridays - 7pm

SPRING FLOWER SHOW

Feckenham Village Hall

Saturday, 1st April at 2.30pm

Display of Spring Flowers - Stalls - Raffle - Teas



**FECKENHAM
VILLAGE HALL**

GEORGE EGG'S SET MENU

CORONATION SPECIAL

Come and celebrate as George whips up some
marvellous meals in unconventional ways - and
you get the chance to taste the results!

"The best smelling show on stage" - Jay Rayner
"Hilarious - really unique" - The Telegraph

**LIVE
& LOCAL**

SATURDAY 6th MAY - 7.30PM

Tickets £13.50 from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown

Book online at www.feckhall.org

Phone bookings: 0333 666 3366

CORONATION CELEBRATION

Join us on The
Square for a
Coronation Picnic
on Sunday,
7th May

1pm - 5pm

Bring your own food,
chairs & tables.

There will be a
licensed bar in aid of
the Square (so please
don't bring your own
drinks)



Send details of events for FREE listing to:

FECKENHAM



THE
FECKENHAM
SESSIONS
TRADITIONAL
MUSICMAKING
at THE ROSE & CROWN

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 4th April

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Next Meeting - 17th April
CLIMATE CHANGE FACTS
8pm - Feckenham Village Hall


Feckenham Parish
Council
MEETING
Thursday, 13th April at 7.30 pm
Feckenham Village Hall, Back Room

*For the agenda of this meeting, minutes of
past meetings and other information
please visit:*

www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

Feckenham READERS GROUP
Meets on
Tuesday, 18th April - 7.45
This month's book:

PIRANESI
By Susan Clarke
Details: 892285



THE
FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

Mads Mikkelsen in



ANOTHER ROUND
"DRUK" - in Danish with English SuperTitles

FeckenOdeon 2 Friday, 14th April at 8pm

THE GREATEST MURDER EVER STAGED



Searchlight Pictures presents

**SEE HOW
THEY RUN**



FeckenOdeon 1 Saturday, 29th April at 7.30pm

The FeckenOdeon Cinemas
at Feckenham Village Hall

Tickets for all shows from The Rose & Crown and Village Shop
Telephone Booking 0333 666 3366* Online Booking* & full information at
www.feckencodeon.co.uk

*Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings
*Phone calls answered by Ticketsource and charged at standard rates - NOT a premium line



COUNCIL UPDATE

At the Meeting on 2nd March 2023 the Parish Council expressed the view that the recent exchange of posts on facebook was found to be offensive and annoying, and explained why this was the case.

The inference that the PC had not, were not, and would not be taking any measures to try and address the perceived speeding through the village was unjustified and completely untrue. Furthermore if the authors of the posts had contacted the PC directly they could have been updated on all the work that had been done over the past five years, and what the PC were continuing to do.

The PC explained how the speed data collected for both the B4090 and Astwood Lane was collated and the speed for all highway use was based on the 85 percentile. That is the speed at which, or lower than, 85% of the traffic uses the highway.

This speed on the B4090 is 36 mph. Community Speed Watch is not allowed where speeds are in excess of 34 mph. It should be noted this is not a decision made by the Parish Council, the decision is made by Safer Roads Partnership.

In addition to this, when community speed watch is allowed, it automatically stops the attendance of Safer Roads and speed check operations which can and do impose fines and points on licences.

The Parish Council had already attended a meeting in February with Paul Waterhouse (West Mercia Police Traffic Management Advisor | Road Safety Team |), Lloyd Stone (West Mercia Police, Cllr Mike Rouse (WCC), Cllr Alan Smith (Chair of FPC) and Jane Bull (clerk to FPC). CSW was discussed again, the decision on the B4090 still stands.

To enable Astwood Lane to be considered (which is not guaranteed) an up-to-date speed test will

be required. Cllr Rouse has requested WCC to conduct a further speed test. When the results are known it will advise Safer Roads if CSW can be considered. This will involve risk assessments, suitable safe locations etc. This may appear to be very bureaucratic, but the safety of volunteers is the principal issue.

Feckenham, in common with many parishes in Worcestershire, operates a parish Lengthsman scheme. This enables the parish to request a trained Lengthsman to carry out some highways work identified locally. Unfortunately, our current Lengthsman will not be continuing in post from 1st April. The Parish Lengthsman is a self-employed person who can really make a difference to the community environment by maintaining roadside verges and drainage in Feckenham. The work may be expanded to include other small-scale maintenance work. Our current Lengthsman works 15 hours per month. Appropriate basic training on the hazards of working in the highway and standards of work to be achieved will be provided by Worcestershire County Council. If this is something of interest, please contact the clerk as soon as possible.

In May there will be Parish Council elections, this time it will be different as you will need to have photo ID. There is a list of accepted types of ID at www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need If you do not have any forms of photo identification you can apply for a voter ID certificate using this link www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate **NB: If you wish to apply for this you must do so by 5pm Tuesday 25th April.** If you have any difficulty with the form or photo, you can ask the Borough Council for help or contact the Parish Clerk. You will need to be registered as a voter on the electoral role.

Local councils can only be as helpful, connected and energetic as the people elected to run them, so we need councillors capable, enthusiastic and engaged to reflect their communities. You can find out more about becoming a councillor on The Electoral Commission and Local Government Association website.

ALL GLAZING & LOCKSMITHS



All double glazing repairs
Misted/broken glass replaced
Doors and windows re-aligned
All locks opened/repaired or replaced
ANTI SNAP & 5-LEVER LOCKS
7 day service
35 years experience



***for free advice & 100% honest, reliable service,
message or call Jason 07789 761412***

BABIES

NURSERY AGE

SCHOOL AGE

SWIMMING LESSONS

Highly Qualified Teachers

Private, Purpose Built Pool

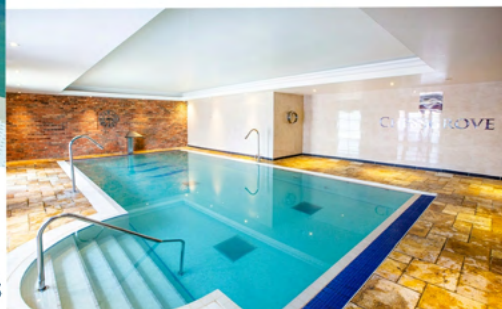
Free Parking



01527 821978

info@chessgroveswim.co.uk
www.chessgroveswim.co.uk

Ditchford Bank Road, Hanbury, Bromsgrove, B60 4HS





THE CAPTAINS CABIN

**Feckenham
B96 6HY**

Situated in the heart of the Historic Village of Feckenham the accommodation boasts a king size bed with ensuite shower room, kitchenette, dining - living room, garden room with ancillary dining area and log burner, full use of the walled garden area, and on site parking.

www.thecaptainscabinfeckenham.co.uk

millane2020@outlook.com or telephone 01527893967



**Inkberrow
Physiotherapy
& Acupuncture**

inkberrowphysioacupuncture.co.uk



01386 792126

Your Centre of Excellence for Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing

How can we help you?

Whether you have an injury, wish to train for a competition or want to maintain your health - our team of expert professionals can deliver the best treatment possible during and beyond your appointment.

Physiotherapy
Neuro Physiotherapy
Acupuncture
Vestibular Therapy

Osteopathy
Sports Massage
Deep Tissue
Massage
Sports Therapy

Gym, Personal Training, Rehabilitation and Classes

Our Members Only Gym has opened!

Equipped with a brand new gym, Personal Trainer and classes scheduled to suit every ability, REVIVAL is sure to keep your body fit and your mind focused!

PROGRAMMES

Personal Training Rehabilitation

CLASSES

Pilates HITT Boxercise Circuits
Strength & Conditioning Functional Fitness

Associate Clinics

Provided by our Associate Team of experts

Podiatry Biomechanical Assessment, Gait Analysis and Orthotics Nutritional Therapy Kinesiology
Hypnotherapy Mindfulness Coaching Clinical Psychology Counselling

Feckenham Village Shop - Alan Slater

Spring is supposed to be the season of renewal, you know, a time for sorting out the garden with new planting, perhaps repainting the house or in the



case of our Local authority, closing the Saltway to fill in the potholes. Yes Folks it's that time of the year when we celebrate the appearance of contractors in their traditional costumes of fluorescent yellow and orange jackets as they participate in the annual Feckenham Tarmac Festival. This year TarmacFest is being held from 20th of April until 3rd of May and we are promised the closure of the B4090 for at least two weeks with all the usual inconvenience and detours we have come to expect when this annual and joyous event takes place. The challenge of finding alternative routes to Alcester and Droitwich may be exciting for some, but for most of us living in the Village, it's two weeks of frustration and irritation. I don't want to sound too flippant as I know road maintenance is important, but just how many potholes do the Council have to fill in? One assumes it must be hundreds if it's going to take them two weeks.

Putting aside the inconvenience to those of us who live in the Village, there is another serious aspect to the closure, and that is the impact it has on local business. Our Village Shop of course falls into that category. About forty percent of our sales come from passing trade and visitors, of whom there will be precious few when the road is closed. The impact on our income and therefore profitability will be substantial. Our Buying Team will have to best guess the potential for lost sales and adjust their orders accordingly and many of our volunteers will have to allow for additional journey time to get to us. If we can take any positive from the situation, it's that we are fortunate in

having an alternative to making detours, we can leave the car on the drive and shop locally at our own village shop. So we're hoping to see a lot more of you during TarmacFest. With almost a thousand product lines in stock and all the basic cupboard items you might need I'm sure we can meet most of requirements.

That's the rant over and done with so I'll end on a more positive note. Many thanks to those of you who helped us to raise an extra £100 for the Earthquake Appeal when you visited our stand at the recent Feckenham Showcase event. The money will be added to the substantial amount you have already donated via the collection boxes in the Shop and I'm hoping to be able to publish the grand total within the next few weeks.

Look out for our Bank Holiday opening times this month and Happy Easter.

JUST DOORS

Door Hanging Service

Doors supplied and fitted from £90
Your doors fitted from £50

Tel: 07307896326



ALLISON PREBBLE

WELLBEING

Registered Kinesiologist Dip KA, MSc NUTH, BA Hons

Gut issues? Aches & pains? Swollen joints? Skin problems?

I am a Systematic Kinesiologist and Nutritional therapist based in Inkberrow. I am able to look at all aspects of your body.

I specialise in gut & skin health, and also work with hormonal issues, pain, tiredness, weight, etc.

☎: 0794 1005850 or
✉: enquiries@allisonprebble.co.uk

An Organic Allotment by Pete Delaney

Spring In To Action.

This is the month for serious seed sowing indoors and out. In the greenhouse, I start runner beans, french beans, (I like the dwarf varieties, less plant more crop!), courgettes, squashes, of which I am repeating last year's sowings with Turkish Turbans, butternut squashes and pumpkins (it was great carving out our own pumpkin to put out at Halloween). Also summer cabbages in trays: Golden Acre, White and Grayhound spring cabbage have proved a success for us. While you wait for the seed to grow, prepare a way to have nets on a frame over the cabbage bed or the butterflies will get at them and caterpillars will scoff the lot. Outdoors, straight into prepared beds, I sow carrots and beetroot, both of which I do repeat sowings at the beginning and end of the month, for crops that follow one another later in the year.

April is also a big month for sowing salad crops, although watch for late frosts and protect early in the month with cloches. Must grow salads for me are chard, mustard, rocket and lettuce of different types: butterheads, cos and some red. I harvest outside leaves from all the plants and only pull the whole head when a particular plant begins to grow out to seed. This has kept us in continuous lettuce for the last two summers. Protect all young plants from slugs - wool pellets are my favourite deterrent.

During the first half of March I planted my 'First Earlies' potatoes, protected from frosts with straw laid over earth, this is to try and have new potatoes by Summer Solstice. At the end of March I planted my 'Second Earlies' and around mid April I shall plant my 'Main Crop' potatoes to be harvested in Autumn.

On other parts of the plot, the garlic I

planted last November is looking good and healthy. Shallots planted in February, always slow to get going, are now doing the biz. Cucumbers and peppers sown into pots in March are all going well and soon will be ready to plant into beds in the poly tunnel.



Parsnips sown outside (with some fleece over them) in late March should soon show their heads, they are always a long, slow wait for germination. Peas sown last month will soon be ready to plant out. And as if all that April bed prep, planting and sowing isn't enough to do, as all the veg springs forward in its growth... So do the weeds. Good sowing

Reiki Treatments

 whitespace

Reiki is a natural healing therapy using universal life force energy to support a greater sense of peace and well being.

- 🌀 *Relieve stress*
- 🌀 *Alleviate pain*
- 🌀 *Connect body-mind*

To book a taster session with our qualified practitioner, or ask for further information:
Text: 07738 096 738 or email: whitespacemeditation@gmail.com

Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

Some Worthy Daffodils

There are more than 29,000 cultivars listed on the RHS International Registration Database, so these notes about some of my favourites are based only upon those few I have grown over the years and which have performed well and are distinct.

I have a great fondness for the smaller species *Narcissus*, many of which I have raised from seed - often the only way to obtain them. My all-time favourite is *Narcissus cyclamineus*, a species like no other, growing only to about 150mm, and with a long narrow trumpet and petals swept back parallel to the trumpet. It really prefers an acid, moist soil, so whilst it can be a challenge, I have managed to keep some bulbs growing happily in pots where they flower in mid February in most years.



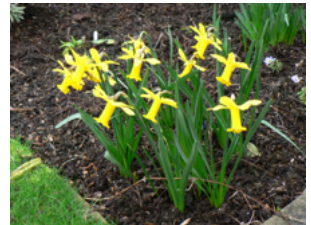
Of the many larger cultivars, 'Pink Charm' is a sturdy, and steadily increasing variety, white with an orange-pink flush to the end of the trumpet. From an initial ten bulbs it eventually filled an area of about four square metres, having been lifted and divided only twice.



For a lovely all-white, go for 'Frostkist', or for a white with a startling bright orange shallow trumpet, try 'Redhill', and for a short yellow cultivar with a long orange trumpet, 'Jetfire' is hard to beat.

Narcissus 'Tête-à-Tête' is so well known and easily and cheaply available that it is easy to dismiss it simply because it is so common. But it is common because it is very, very good ! It was raised by Alec Gray (1895 - 1986) in 1949 and he records that it came from a self-seeded pod of *Narcissus* 'Cyclataz'. There were three seeds in the pod and the other two were introduced as 'Quince' (1953) and 'Jumblee' (1952). However, it is 'Tête-à-Tête', a bulb Gray didn't think too much of to begin with, that is now the most widely grown daffodil of all time, and is produced by the Dutch in millions every year. It is interesting to see that in his 1960 catalogue, Alec Gray listed 'Tête-à-Tête' at 4s 6d each, quite a hefty price at the time.

But of all the daffodils we grow, the one I look forward to most each year is 'Bartley', an early flowering *N. cyclamineus* hybrid. Every



year it is the first to flower (often at the end of February) and the longest lasting (often for five weeks). I bought 10 bulbs for £6.00 from Walkers Bulbs in 2004, but have never seen it offered anywhere since, not even by Walkers again. It has a wonderfully long trumpet, flared at the mouth, and withstands all that the weather can throw at it so early in the year. 'Peeping Tom' and 'Tweety Bird' are quite similar and more readily available, but neither is as good as 'Bartley' in my experience.

Finally, if you get hooked, one of the best websites for identifying daffodil cultivars and discovering their origins is www.daffseek.org and is a site to which I constantly refer.

Stock and Bradley Gardening Club Report



Our speaker for our March 1st meeting was Simon Gulliver who gave us a talk entitled 'All Year Round Fruit and Veg'. He showed us how to grow all kinds of produce in a relatively small space, and how to store or preserve them for future consumption as well as giving us information on soil preparation and timings for sowing and harvesting.

NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 5th April 2023 at 7:30pm

The April meeting will be our Annual Bulb Show. Members bring along three cut blooms each of as many daffodil varieties as they can muster, and everyone judges each entry to decide the winner in each class. Lots of help is available for anyone not sure of which Class to enter. Make sure that you bring your own vases. More than one entry can be made in each Class, except for Class 8.

Class 1	Planted container of bulbs, any variety or varieties
Class 2	3 cut flowers Trumpet Daffodil or Large Cupped Daffodil
Class 3	3 cut flowers Small Cupped Daffodil or Poeticus Daffodil
Class 4	3 cut flowers Double Daffodil
Class 5	3 cut flowers Jonquil Daffodil, Tazetta Daffodil, or Triandrus Daffodil
Class 6	3 cut flowers Cyclamineus Daffodil or Dwarf Daffodil
Class 7	A Spring arrangement including at least one bulbous variety
Class 8	Photograph (maximum size A5) depicting 'A Specimen Flower or Plant'. One entry per member for this Class.
Class 9	3 cut flowers of bulbs, any variety of varieties

Note that there is no monthly competition at the April meeting, but the overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd scores from the Bulb Show will count towards the totals.

It has become a tradition that we each bring along a few nibbles to share, so please feel free to do so !

PLANT SALE AT BRADLEY GREEN VILLAGE HALL, CHURCH ROAD

Our annual Plant Sale will be held on Saturday 13th May 2023 from 10am to 12 noon so make a note in your diary now! If you can donate plants to add to those grown by our members, it would be greatly appreciated. There will also be a stall run by a professional nurseryman, and another selling plant supports.

Membership of the Gardening Club is currently by £5.00 annual subscription which becomes due on 1st January each year, so please come prepared to renew if you haven't already done so. Please make cheques payable to 'Stock and Bradley Gardening Club'. We welcome new members to join us at any time throughout the year.

Club meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £5.00 for 2023. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting.

If you require any further information, ring Dinny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527 821355 or Rob Cole (Chairman) on 07544 832052.

VIP FITNESS

GET YOUR HEALTH & WELL BEING BACK ON TRACK

ONE TO ONE TRAINING EXPERT GUIDANCE IN A PRIVATE FACILITY

TAILORED TO YOU ENSURING THAT YOU EXCEED THOSE PERSONAL GOALS

SIGN UP TODAY WWW.VIPFITNESSONLINE.COM **07561 549488**

PRIVATE CLIENT

Our ground team is working around the weather to prepare for the season, which commences in mid-April. The outfield and square are being mown and soon the twenty-five pitches will be painstakingly marked out.

Over the weekend of 1-2 April, we will be gathering as many club members and volunteers as possible to prepare for the season. The biggest task it to re-paint our boundary fences, but we will also carrying out repairs, painting the old scoreboard, jet-washing outside furniture, strimming and tidying field edges and generally smartening the ground. If you would like to help, come on down to the ground any time from 10am on the Saturday and Sunday – but wear old clothes!

We are awaiting information from Total Play regarding our proposed artificial practice net facilities, including the all-important cost. We anticipate that this will be in the region of £40,000, which is why our new and dynamic fundraising team led by Julie Rae are so active.

The recent sponsored walk was a great success, with around 25 hardy parents and children completing the walk from Arrow Valley Lake to the club, a distance of around 7.5miles! This raised over £1,300 toward the funding of the practice nets, a big step forward. The next event is the Pre-Season Quiz, which will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 8th April, which is open to teams of up to six people, £5 per person. A buffet will be provided and in addition to the quiz, there will be tombola and a raffle. Tables are going fast so please contact Julie via the club's Facebook page.

We are already receiving applications for All Stars, which starts on Friday May 19th and runs for eight weeks. All Stars provides a fun and safe introduction to the game of cricket for 5-8 year old boys and girls. For more information or to book, search for "All Stars Feckenham" or enter the direct link <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/BookCourse/0b51fcc3-981a-4648-bcba-a94562dbf374>

Our home fixtures in April will be:

Sat. 15th April 12:30 – Feckenham CC 2nd XI v Romsley & Hunnington CC- 2nd XI
Sat. 22nd April 12:00 – Feckenham CC 1st XI v Avoncroft CC- 1st XI
Wed 26th April 19:00 – Feckenham Ramblers v Belbroughton
Sat. 29th April 12:30 – Feckenham CC 2nd XI v Five Ways Old Edwardians CC- 2nd XI

Finally, the club is open to anybody wishing to play cricket an any level - contact can be made as described above.





HARDWOOD LOGS FOR SALE

NO DELIVERY CHARGE

TREE TOPPING

HEDGE CUTTING

GARDEN CLEARANCE

Telephone anytime:

01905 620934

Cool Climate

Air Conditioning Systems
for your Home, Office or Business

Mr Simon Baker

Tel.: 01527 892823 or 07736 447705

E-mail: simon@coolclimate.co.uk

Web: <http://www.coolclimate.co.uk>

Can't think what to do with your garden?
Let me help!



Claire Ellis Complete Gardens

Design & Planting
Maintenance & Rejuvenation
Consultancy

☎ 07773 101750 or 01527 894745

Feckenham GARAGE



MOT Testing Station
Servicing & Repairs to all makes

01527 892483

JESSICA BYATT

Yoga & Meditation

Every Thursday 6PM at
Feckenham Village Hall



☎ 07532282282

📧 jessicabyatt_yogaandmeditation

FOOT HEALTH

BY HELEN

Nail Trimming & Reduction
Callus & Corn removal - Ingrowing Toenails
Fungal Nail & Foot Treatment
Verruca Treatment
Diabetic Footcare & Advice

foothealthbyhelen@gmail.com
07842 269813

Helen Bacon
DipCFHP MPSPract



L.E. Plasterer & Decorator

all aspects of plastering and decoration undertaken

for a free estimate call

07909 911833

01905 772890

realistic prices

Fencing

Groundworks – Foundations
Equestrian – Agricultural – Domestic

Free estimates – over 25y experience

Based locally in Bradley Green

WD & NM Willison Ltd

Mob: 07825034320 Tel : 01527 821589

Email : wvdandnmltd@gmail.com

BOTANY BAY



Nurseries, Garden Centre & Café

Plants, Garden Care, Furniture
Pots, Gifts & Home, Birdcare

plus the fantastic **Bay Café**



Edgioake Lane, Astwood Bank, Redditch, B96 6BG
Tel: 01527 893885 Find Us On Facebook & Instagram

www.botany-bay.co.uk

Direct Floors
Home service

Celebrating 20 Years

Carpets • Vinyls • Wood-floors • Laminates

- ◆ Mobile showroom to your home
- ◆ Save up to 30% on shop prices
- ◆ Over 3000 samples on our van

Furniture moved & carpets uplifted for OAP'S & disabled free of charge

01527-894777
www.direct-floors.co.uk

Bennett Decoration

Painting & Decorating

Interior & Exterior

First Class Work

Tel: 01527 893162
Mob: 0797 3627269
Free Estimates

Landscaping

Jeff Annand Contracting Ltd.

Blockpaving - Ponds - Patios - Groundwork
& General Property Maintenance

Free Quotes
References available
Fully Insured

Tel: 07968 668906
or 01527 894745

BOWBROOK GARDENS

Imaginative high quality landscaping

Patios & garden walls

Ponds & water features

Also Pond & Patio cleaning

Fencing & Hedge cutting

Local, friendly service, references available

Call Glenn - 07792 613020

glenn.bowbrook@live.com

COLOR CODE MOTORS LTD

Accident repair specialists
Colour matching 100% guaranteed
Fleet & commercial vans

Complete restoration & fibreglass work
Fully equipped purpose built work shop

Established 35 Years

Telephone: 01527 854155

Email: colorcodemotors@btconnect.com

Unit A, Green Lane, The Slough, Studley, Warks. B80 7EY

Building & Roofing
Maintenance & Repair
Structural Alterations
General building work

Venables
Property Services

Tel: 07958948460
07854424667

Mark Venables: Bean Hall Mill, Feckenham

BRAY BROS

TREE SURGEONS

TREE SURGERY • HEDGE TRIMMING
LOPPING, PRUNING • STUMP REMOVAL

TEL: 01527 892828

MOBILE: 07970 263779

184 THE RIDGEWAY, ASTWOOD BANK

FULLY INSURED • NPTC CERT. NO.552670



Dave Powell Decoration

M: 07747 691461

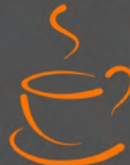
for Quality
painting and
decorating



Based in
Feckenham

E: dave.powell@blueyonder.co.uk

Village Shop



Coffee Shop with Veranda
Locally-sourced Products
Deli, Cakes, Beers and Wines
Household Essentials

Weekdays open 8am - 5pm
Saturdays open 9am - 4pm
Sundays open 10am - 1pm



www.feckenhamshop.co.uk

01527 894475

Please support the Shop that supports the Village

Barkin in the Bath
Dog Grooming

Let me pamper your best
friend in my relaxing
Grooming Salon



I offer:
Full Grooms
Nail Clipping
Deshedding
Handstripping
Teeth Cleaning

Bradley Green - B96

Tel - 07748634175



CORNELL

Established Over 40 Years
Chimney Sweep

Clean & Efficient - Brush & Vacuum
Competitive Prices - Cowl Fitting

Graeme Butlin
0121 445 5913
0754 587 6475

46 Oxford Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9ER