

FECKENHAM

April 2022

NEWS

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

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Feckenham News in April

In the magazine

There's a lot coming up over the Spring and Summer, so get your diary out so you don't miss anything. Marion Chute will be sending articles from the archive starting this month.

Dates for your Diary

April

5th	Feckenham Sessions
6th	S&B Gardening Club Meeting Studley Daytime WI 2-4pm
9th	Spring Fayre and Craft Show
10th	Fordante in the Village Hall
12th	Feckenham History Society
16th	Recycle for the Refugees
23rd	Great Fecken Breakfast for Ukraine
30th	FeckenOdeon - The Man in the Hat

May

7th	Plant Sale Bradley Green
14-15th	Flower and Garden Festival
21st	Feckenodeon - Local Hero

June

5th	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Event
20th	Hanging Basket -Judging starts
25th	WAKE

Regular Sessions

Mondays	Restorative Yoga
Thursdays	Bridge; Hatha Yoga; Pilates
First Tuesday of the month:	
Feckenham Sessions	
Feckenham Forest History Society	

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Front Cover

Crocuses on the Village Green taken by the editor

Magazine online at www.feckenham.com

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.

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

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Editor's Note

There's lots happening in the village over the Spring and Summer, from our traditional events like the Garden Festival and Spring Flower Show which have been delayed for a year due to the pandemic, to events in support of the Ukrainian people. I've included information in a vaguely chronological order and, of course, the What's On pages include everything. You could keep those pages on your notice board or fridge door for easy reference.



You may have noticed the crocuses planted in the Autumn by Feckenham in Bloom, a celebration by Rotary of the worldwide success of almost eradicating polio. It shows how well humanity can do when we pull together. I only hope that sense prevails soon over the war in Ukraine. Meantime, each of us can help in our own way, from sending funds, donating goods, offering homes for refugees or practical support for refugees arriving in our area.

I had a bit of a shock last week, which was almost two years to the day since my personal lockdown began, a couple of weeks before our leaders took the decision. I had decided to isolate as best I could until there was a vaccine or a good treatment for Covid 19. I know that infection is increasing in the over 55s but considered that it was about time to be brave and go out a bit more using my FFP2 mask. I got a bit of a head cold and my lateral flow tests were negative. I reported on the Zoe Covid Symptom App which is about to be defunded by the government, prematurely in my opinion. With millions of others, I've been reporting throughout the pandemic and they have been able to use data to advise on the most common symptoms of the different variants. They realised early on that loss of taste and smell was very significant with the original virus and

pressed the powers that be to make that symptom justification for testing. Back to me, despite feeling well, my PCR was positive. Such a surprise to me. I have had very mild symptoms and LFT was never positive. Isolation is no longer mandated but I followed the previous rules and am now out of isolation but avoiding crowds and anyone vulnerable.

Due to circumstances beyond my control, the magazine was late last month. The printer, who originally provided a good service, has let us down too often, so we are trying out an alternative. It remains to be seen how that goes.

Martin Strange, my partner, and I, will distribute the magazine unless we are away when there is some back up. Thanks again to Jo Warrilow for all the many hours of hard work she has put into the magazine over the years.

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TRADITIONAL MUSIC 1st Apr - 8pm
EASTER SUNDAY EGG HUNT
3pm - All little ones welcome
Sunday Lunch - Choice of Easter Roasts - 12 - 3pm
Open all day Good Friday to Easter Monday
THEMED MENU - 28th April

www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk

Spring Fayre and Craft Show

Saturday 9th April 2022

This year the show is extended to 1pm to 5pm as it will feature 10 craft stalls from the New Feckenham Artisans group as well as some craft demonstrations.

SPRINGTIME IN FECKENHAM - COMPETITIVE CLASSES

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

Adult Classes

- 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)

Exhibits in classes 7, 8, 9, and 10 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.

Swansbrook Suite

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FECKENHAM FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th May 2022

This hugely successful triennial Festival is now in its 37th year. The funds raised go towards the general maintenance of our historic Parish Church and Churchyard, with many village organisations also benefitting significantly from the weekend.

In 2018, over 30 gardens opened to the public. It was a great weekend with a real buzz around the village. I am most grateful to those garden owners who have already agreed to open their gardens once again or have agreed to do so for the first time.

As you may be aware, many of our gardens are hidden and vary enormously in size and style from the smallest courtyard gardens to those rather larger. This variety creates a huge amount of interest, plus an element of surprise. I hope to be able to visit most of the gardens during the next month. Due to safety, traffic and other regulations, the boundaries for open gardens fall between Winfields, Moors Lane and Brook House on the B4090. Please do get in touch with me if you might also be willing to open your garden or if you want any more information about the Festival.

We also need volunteers to assist, including a First Aider(s) to be available on call for a period during the Festival – although, fortunately, their assistance has never actually been called upon during previous Festivals.

Volunteers are also required to take payment and give out programmes in the field car park. Please spare an hour or two on either the Saturday or Sunday between

11am and 5pm and let me know if you can help.

This year we welcome Inkberrow WI who have kindly agreed to take on the provision of Teas and refreshments in the Village Hall. There will also be a pig roast/barbecue at the Catholic Church. On The Square will be plant sales, garden accessories, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and Feckenham Forest History Society.

A highlight of the weekend is the Flower Festival in the Church and this year's theme will be "Thankfulness".

This is a wonderful village event with an enormous number of jobs to be done. So please consider whether you can help in any way, your assistance is very much needed and would be most welcome.

I should be most grateful if all garden owners and volunteers, who have not already done so, would contact me by email at catherine.fisher@talk21.com which will enable me to make direct contact with you all – thank you.

Catherine Fisher

Tel: **07931 338291**

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Save The Date

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Sunday 5th June

Village Celebration on The Square

Bring Your Own Picnic

(More detail in May)

WAKE 2022

Fun times in dark days -
All the fun of the fayre on June 25th

Yes we're back! Make sure you keep Saturday 25th June free for a day of family fun with all the usual entertainments and a couple of new ones. We have the famous Fun Dog Show, the scrummy Hog roast, the climbing wall, the mega car show and much more.....oh and Mr Punch will be there too....oh and balloons!



Feckenham Village Green Committee

Fun on The Square

After two years of cancellations this popular summer evening event is now scheduled to return on **Saturday, August 20th** - and it's rumoured that it'll have a distinctly Latin feel and that we'll be heading south of the border, down Mexico way.... Or perhaps even to the Caribbean - more details soon but reserve the date!

Recycle for the Refugees of Ukraine

Saturday 16th April. 1.30pm to 4pm
Feckenham Village Hall

For the Disasters Emergency Committee's
Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Pictures, pots, pans, vases, lamps, teapots, books (except tatty paperbacks), ornaments, chairs, small tables and other small items of furniture.

Clothing which is clean and in good condition; vintage clothing is especially welcome.

Jewellery, woodworking and garden tools and garden furniture.

Please, no damaged or worn-out items.

The Village Hall will be open from 8am to 12.30pm on the day to receive donated items.

For further information: see page 12

Poem submitted by MW

A House that's Lived In

I love a house that's lived in
With clutter here and there
A magazine left open
A jacket on a chair
A smell of something cooking
A special recipe
An over anxious welcome
Of hospitality
I love a house that's lived in
It seems to stand apart
For in it lives a woman
Who has a loving heart
Anonymous

Feckenham Artisans An update - Julian Bull

In January an invitation went out to any artists and makers in the village to join a new group 'Feckenham Artisans'

Two meetings later there are 12 of us who work across varied disciplines including Painting in different media, Photography, Printmaking, Woodwork, Felting, Tufting, Embroidery, Floral Displays, Calligraphy, Hand stitched miniatures and others.

Our aims are to create a mutually supportive network where we can share and grow our creative experience and knowledge, and leading to opportunities to exhibit and sell our work.

We have 3 group events booked in so far:

- The Spring Fayre and Craft Show in the village Hall on 9th April will include 10 craft stalls plus demonstrations in addition to the Spring floral exhibits
- The Wake on 25th June will include an exhibition and sale of our work
- A group Exhibition on 22nd and 23rd October will be a weekend long event of Art and Craft

Last but not least we have a page of Facebook – search for 'Feckenham Artisans'

FECKENHAM Artisans

Feckenham Forest History Society

Interested in the history of your area?

Why not attend a meeting of the Feckenham Forest History Society?

Meetings alternate between Webheath Village Hall and Feckenham Village Hall.

2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. Members and visitors most welcome.

Meetings Spring and Summer 2022

12 April Feckenham. Richard Churchley – Local Pubs Revisited


10 May Webheath. Chris Jackson – A History of the Post in Worcestershire

14 June Feckenham. Carmel Langridge – A Potted History of Evesham

Members: admission fee £2. Visitors: £3.50.


More information on the society's website:



www.feckenham-history-society.org.uk




STUDLEY DAYTIME


Tales From The Shed



 **Guest Speaker: Anne Rolfe** 



Competition: A Salt & Pepper Set



Refreshments - Raffle - Good Company

STUDLEY VILLAGE HALL
WEDNESDAY 6th APRIL 2022 2.00 - 4.00 P.M.
VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Feckenham's Own...



Listen at
www.swansbrook.com

SWANSBROOK Radio

IT'S ALL HAPPENING

The unfortunate combination of the end of restrictions and the invasion of Ukraine seems to have had the effect of bringing Feckenham out of hibernation. All of a sudden there are events and activities being planned and the place is buzzing. As ever, Swansbrook Radio is here to serve the community and, apart from attending and reporting on the goings on, we're always glad to help spread the word.

If you're involved in an event, charitable or just for fun, we'll be glad to help get the news out. Just drop us an email to radio@swansbrook.com and we'll mention it in our programmes and pop it on the front page of our website. If you think your activity or organisation would make a good story - let us know and we'll have you on the air in no time.

LISTENERS IN KYIV

Swansbrook's Internet streaming software reports on the rough location of our listeners. We've noticed in recent weeks that we're getting a small but regular number of listeners in Ukraine. Perhaps our gentle mix of music, chat and news of peaceful things is soothing in a country full of horror and fear. We can only hope we're helping....

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



An unusual and interesting film for April at The FeckenOdeon... **The Man In The Hat** sets off from Marseilles in a small Fiat 500. On the seat beside him is a framed photograph of an unknown woman. Behind him is a 2CV into which is squeezed Five Bald Men. Why are they chasing him? And how can he shake them off? So begins a picturesque odyssey across the French countryside, the best Provençal driving holiday you've never had. It's a British film with a French feel. It was made in 2020 but it's timeless. It's funny, it's beautiful, it's accompanied by incredible music. It's a thriller, it's a romance - it's certainly a gift to the French Tourist Board. It's a film to enjoy with a glass of wine - so it's fortunate that the cinema bar is well stocked. Ciaran Hinds plays the man. The Hat plays itself.

The Man in The Hat (12A)
Saturday, 30th April at 7.30pm

HERO REVIVED!

"Local Hero" fell victim to the pandemic in December. Thankfully it's turned out to be a postponement rather than a cancellation. The film will now be shown on **Saturday, 21st May at 7.30pm.**

*Tickets for all FeckenOdeon shows 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

April 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

Glenn 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 2022

3rd Apr	10.30am	Eucharist – Rev B Wheatley
10th April	10.30am	Palm Sunday procession starting from the village car park
16th Apr	7.30pm	Easter Eve Vigil – Fr Glenn
17th April	10.30am	Easter Eucharist -Rev B Wheatley
24th Apr	10.30am	Eucharist – Fr Glenn Reading

FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St John Fisher & Thomas More

The Mass service is held every Sunday at 10.15 am.

At the moment we are requested to wear masks during the service.

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



We are a beauty and holistic salon based within the Botany Bay Nurseries at Astwood Bank

We offer lots of treatments including massage, facials, pedicures and gel polish - Please take a look at our monthly offers.

For bookings please call 077660 01408

or visit our website : www.thebaysalon.com

With free parking there's plenty of time to visit the Salon, hairdressers, florist & cafe

Feckenham Church Flower Group Margaret Perry

Easter Lilies

A reminder for anyone who wishes to have lilies arranged in church for Easter in memory of loved ones to please send your donation to Ann Matthews, Chestnut House, 8 The Square, B96 6HR. 01527 892180. (Cheques should be made payable to Feckenham P. C. C)

Thank you for your support enabling the tradition to continue.

Margaret and Marg.

Friends of Feckenham Church

On behalf of the Trustees of Friends we should like to express our gratitude to Lionel Hill, Toby and Louise Denne who have now stepped down as Trustees. They have all gone out of their way and played a vital part in fundraising efforts to help maintain our wonderful historic church and churchyard - for which we as a parish now have sole financial responsibility - as an important feature of our community, for all the village, whether churchgoers or not.

We are most grateful for their contributions and we wish them well for the future.

Andrew Fisher - Chair

HELP FOR YOU if you are self-isolating **From Volunteers Co-ordinated by Feckenham Facebook Group & Parish Council**

A group of local volunteers from the village are available to assist you with PICKING UP SHOPPING, or POSTING MAIL, picking up URGENT SUPPLIES (including medications) or just having a FRIENDLY PHONE CALL during this challenging time when many people are being advised to self-isolate if they are either vulnerable or ill.

If you would like some help then please contact JANE BULL, Clerk to Feckenham Parish Council either on **892522** or clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com and we will be in touch (& the help is free!). Any goods will be left on your doorstep. More updates on our local radio: swansbrook.com

NOTE: Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness - Avoid physical contact (keep at least 2m distance from others) and Wash your hands regularly



Recycle for the Refugees

of Ukraine. Saturday 16th April.

Spring is here!
Time to declutter and clear
your once loved items:-
Books, lamps, pictures, pots and pans.
A chair now not needed at all,
that pot stand lurking in the hall.
Clothes that no longer fit
are too short or long and just sit
in a wardrobe unworn.
Just look around,
be brave and say,
"Someone may treasure these another day!"
NO TAT, please, but yes,
Good quality bric-a-brac !

All takings and donations will go to the
Disasters Emergency Committee
Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Please bring your items to the
Village Hall, Feckenham, between
8am & 12.30pm on 16th April 2022.
Doors open for the sale 1.30pm to 4pm.

Teas / coffees / hot-cross buns

Enquiries, contact: jillianrowe@hotmail.co.uk
or phone 01527-892666
or gillian.r.cooper@gmail.com

UPDATE RE ARCHAEOLOGY AT FECKENHAM'S SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT

Things have been fairly quiet over the last few months regarding the community archaeology project involved in conserving and researching the moated site around Feckenham's recreation ground, but we are pleased to say that things have started moving again.

Firstly, many thanks to the team at Redditch Borough Council who have recently cleared the moat itself which had become very overgrown. It is looking like a real moat again!

Plans are also afoot to replace the gate from The Square into the Recreation Ground which is in a very dilapidated state. Thanks to the Parish Council for their generous grant towards this project which is going to be undertaken by the team from Redditch Borough Council following consultation with all interested parties.

someone with a device like a large garden fork surveying the ground. The device picks up signals from anything underground such as remains of walls, post holes, drainage pipes etc. This information is then put together in a plan which will enable us to see if there are any archaeological remains from the royal hunting lodge and associated buildings which were once present on the site.

It is hoped that the geophysical survey team will do a short presentation during their visit to explain to any interested residents exactly how it all works and what they hope they may find. Once we have finalised the date for the survey, we will let everyone know when it is taking place.

Once we receive the geophysical survey report we plan to organise an "archaeology evening" for residents so we can present all the findings and provide further insights into the history of the site.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the archeology project, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Jen Cary, Chair
Judy Underwood, Secretary
(unjudy@hotmail.com)



The most exciting news we have saved for last! Thanks to grant support from Feckenham Charities, technical and practical support from South Worcestershire Archaeology Group, and a kind offer of hosting from the Football Club, we are planning a geophysical survey of parts of the site during April, subject to obtaining the necessary consents. Those of you who remember Time Team will recall that a geophysical survey is non-invasive and involves

A colorful advertisement for Botany Bay Nurseries, Garden Centre & Café. The background is a bright blue gradient. At the top, the text "BOTANY BAY" is written in large, bold, black letters, with a butterfly logo to the right. Below this, "Nurseries, Garden Centre & Café" is written in a smaller, black font. The main text, "Plants, Garden Care, Furniture Pots, Gifts & Home, Birdcare plus the fantastic Bay Café", is in a mix of blue and purple fonts. In the center, there is a photograph of a smiling woman with blonde hair in a braid, wearing a blue shirt, standing in front of white flowers. A red heart-shaped graphic is overlaid on the photo, containing the text "Frenchic Furniture Point SOLD HERE". At the bottom, the address "Edgioake Lane, Astwood Bank, Redditch, B96 6BG" and phone number "Tel: 01527 893885" are listed, along with "Find Us On Facebook & Instagram". The website "www.botany-bay.co.uk" is at the very bottom in a large, white font on a blue background.

WHAT'S ON IN

**FECKENHAM
VILLAGE HALL**

UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL



All proceeds to DEC Ukraine Appeal

Fordante

Presents

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Sunday, 10th April - 7.30pm

Tickets £12 from the Village Shop, The Rose & Crown, online through www.feckhall.org or by phone on 0333 666 3366

Recycle for the Refugees of Ukraine

Feckenham Village Hall - Saturday, 16th April

Bring along your pre-loved items - no tat please - from 8am

Sale opens 1.30pm. Teas, coffees & Hot Cross Buns

All proceeds to DEC Ukraine Appeal

Enquiries : 01257 892666

**FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL IN COOPERATION WITH
THE VILLAGE SHOP presents**

THE GREAT FECKEN



BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, 23rd APRIL : 8.30 - 12.30

£10 - PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE

There will be some tickets for sale on the day but we can't guarantee availability

Tickets from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown

Book online through www.feckhall.org or by phone on 0333 666 3366

ALL PROCEEDS TO

DEC UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

Send details of events for FREE listing to:

FECKENHAM

FECKENHAM SESSIONS

TRADITIONAL
MUSICMAKING
at THE ROSE & CROWN

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm

NEXT SESSION:

Tuesday, 5th April

FECKENHAM FLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL

14th & 15th
May, 2022

THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY



FeckenOdeon 1 - Saturday, 30th 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.fecknodeon.co.uk

*Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings

*Phone calls answered by Ticketsource and charged at standard rates - NOT a premium line

SPRING FAYRE & CRAFT SHOW

Feckenham Village Hall - Saturday, 9th April at 1pm TO 5pm

Flower Display Competition - 10 Art and Craft Stalls
Craft Demonstrations - Raffle - Teas - Tradecraft - Books

FECKENHAM
Artisans



The Feckenham Forest History Society

LOCAL PUBS REVISITED

A talk by Dr Richard Churchley
Tuesday, 12th April - 7.30pm
Feckenham Village Hall

Feckenham Parish Council

MEETING

Thursday, 14th April at 7.30pm
Feckenham Village Hall
Back Room
All welcome.

whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk or call 892130



MOVIE MUSIC FOR UKRAINE

Shropshire film composer Phil Mountford brings his award winning ensemble Fordante back to Feckenham Village Hall on Sunday, 10th April, for a charity concert of hits from the movies, including Love Actually, Slumdog Millionaire, Braveheart, Ladies in Lavender and Lord of The Rings. The concert contains stunning projected visuals and computer controlled lighting and is presented in a light hearted and entertaining manner.

Skilfully produced bespoke musical arrangements result in a much bigger sound than would be expected from a five piece ensemble. They've been described as "Like André Rieu with a smaller orchestra", Fordante perform another spellbinding concert suitable for absolutely anyone who enjoys music – not just for classical aficionados!

ALL PROCEEDS OF THIS CONCERT WILL BE DONATED TO THE DEC UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

FORDANTE - A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Sunday, 10th April 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

The Improvement Fund Draw for March, 2022 was made at the meeting of The Trustees on 1st March.

Winners:	19 Marion Chute	£25
	99 Dave & Lin Preece	£15
	30 Judy Hooker	£10

UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

THE GREAT FECKEN-BREAKFAST for UKRAINE

All of us have been appalled by the tragic scenes we've seen on our televisions. All of us have felt helpless in the face of such horror. Many of us have made donations to help the people made homeless and displaced or given items to be taken to the people in need.

The Village Hall Committee thought that it would be good if we could come together as a community to do something to help - and what better to come together over than breakfast. So we're going to offer... **a slap up breakfast for everyone to enjoy on Saturday, 23rd April, in the Village Hall, from 8.30 to 12.30.**

We're delighted to report that the Village Shop has joined us in this effort and will be providing all of the food - so every penny you spend will go straight to where it's needed. All the proceeds will go to the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

COME AND ENJOY

All you need to do is come along and enjoy! For £10 you'll get a bowl of cereals, fruit juice, a Full English (bacon, sausages, eggs, tomatoes, baked beans, etc), toast... and as much coffee or tea as you can drink. A vegetarian option will be available. Bucks fizz will be on offer for those who need a kick start. There'll be a raffle with stupendous prizes - and a cake stall so that you can take something nice home for your tea.

BOOK NOW!

So we can manage the catering we'd be glad if you'd book in advance. We're offering 3 time bands. Come along when it suits you within the band:

Early Birds - from 8.30 to 9.30

Gentle Starters - from 9.30 to 11am

Sleepy Heads - from 11am to 12.30

Tickets are on sale at The Village Shop and the Rose & Crown, online at feckhall.org and by phone on 0333 666 3366

Meeting 5th March.

Feckenham Football Club updated the council on their future plans which include resurrecting Feckenham teams: juniors, veterans and for the first time a ladies' team. The club are mindful of the possible disruptions to the village and want to minimise this as much as possible. The Parish Council will debate any proposed changes at their next meeting on 14th April.

Planning issues were discussed at length including land adjacent to Meadow Farm 22/00214/FUL. Please see the statement regarding planning at the end of this article.

Currently the Parish Council are looking at having their own website as this is a necessary requirement to comply with the transparency code, part of the accounts and audit regulations.

Feckenham in Bloom, a Parish Council working group, are cooperating with the Feckenham Flower and Garden Festival (14-15 May) and the Bio-Diversity project to make Feckenham even more beautiful. They are hoping parishioners may like to enter their own hanging baskets, planter, or manger into a Feckenham in Bloom competition in time for the Festival. They will need to be seen from the footpath or road and will be judged during the week commencing 20 June in readiness for Feckenham Wake on Saturday 25th June where the winners will be announced. Prizes will include a meal for two at The Rose and Crown and a garden voucher.

There was disappointing news regarding phase 2 of the flood works which cannot now be carried out. This is beyond the Parish Council's control.

CCTV will shortly be installed in the car park to reduce incidents of car damage and thefts.

Works are still planned by Worcestershire County Council for the Bridle Path and the

public footpath from Dunstall Court leading into the churchyard. This has understandably been delayed due to the weather.

If you have any concerns or queries' please do not hesitate to contact Jane, the clerk on 01527 892522 or email clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

A statement from the Chair

Feckenham Parish Council are aware of comment on Facebook relating to a planning application at Meadow Farm, Reference 22/00214/OUT.

The PC contacted the planning department on the day that the works were being undertaken requesting them to take action to stop the work. Their response was " No formal action from a planning perspective is justified. The planning case is now closed." This response was based on the principle that no application had been submitted, and that none of the work undertaken was in fact a planning matter.

However, the basis of the comment is flawed as an application was submitted to the Local Planning Authority on the 14th February, this being prior to our request for action.

The PC will be strongly opposing this application as they have for -: The additional dwelling at Rockhill Farm reference 19/01264/FUL And at Berrow Hill Lane reference 21/00249/FUL. (To access Redditch Borough Council planning site; <https://publicaccess.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk/online-applications/> Please enter the planning references in the search box.) Both of which were recommended for approval by the Local Planning Department and were withdrawn from the planning committee because of the objections from the Parish Council.

It may be more informative to contact the Parish Council, or attend the meetings, to see what action may have already been entered into in such matters.

Alan Smith, Chair, Feckenham Parish Council.

42ND

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Lyrics by
AL DUBIN

Redditch Palace Theatre

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An amateur production by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC.

Health Research – what’s it all about?

Alice Madden

Firstly, HUGE thanks to Gilly for letting me write a piece for the Feckenham News. Although not a Feckenham resident I do live just down the road in Hanbury and frequently pop up to the village shop for a delicious takeaway coffee 😊 At first glance you might well wonder what relevance this article has to you. To be honest I’d have been with you a couple of years ago before my journey with in health research with the NHS started!

So, what IS health research?

Simply put health research finds and develops new treatments for the future. It helps find answers to the things that are unknown, filling gaps in knowledge and improving the way that healthcare professionals work and deliver services. It’s absolutely critical as ultimately it drives forward progress.

At some point in our lives we have ALL personally benefitted from clinical and health research. From childhood vaccines, over the counter pain relief, cancer treatments and scans, to investigating new treatments for dementia, talking therapies, mental health and fighting Covid-19, the NHS and its patients benefit from health research every day.

Why get involved in research?

By taking part you are given access to the latest treatments, cutting edge therapies and directly contribute towards improving patient care, treatment and wellbeing. On a personal level research offers hope to the individual. Patient feedback includes: “Someone somewhere will benefit from what you do...” and “*Get involved – you’ve got nothing to lose and everything to gain.*” Credit: Healthtalk.org

You can also take part in research as a ‘well’ participant. Join Dementia Research (JDR) is a collaboration which provides a service enabling people to register their interest in participating in dementia research and be matched to suitable studies by health professionals. You can sign up here: <https://www.joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

What happens here in the Research and Development Team at Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust (HWHCT)**?

We explore a wide array of mental health conditions including depression, psychosis and bipolar disorder. We also undertake research in other fields including dementia, COVID-19, complex neurology, dietetics and musculoskeletal conditions. Some studies currently open:

GLAD study (Genetic Link to Anxiety and Depression): <https://gladstudy.org.uk/>

Maternal wellbeing, mental health life experience questionnaire: <https://t.co/jd5APW1XxU>

Get involved...

On twitter: @HWHCT_Research; <https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/research-and-development>; and you can search for open research studies in any field here: <https://beartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

Health research is not for everyone. I totally appreciate and respect this. But letting people know the research opportunities that are available to them is the important thing enabling them then to make informed choices.

I for one have never looked at a pack of paracetamol in quite the same way since working in the research team at HWHCT. I’m forever thankful to the incredible scientists and research study participants who have enabled this, along with simply hundreds of thousands of other treatments that yesterday seemed like science fiction but today we take for granted.

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- 3 Send your DNA saliva sample kit back to us so we can look at your genetics!

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Don't forget to mention that you heard about this study at Worcesterhire Health and Care NHS Trust.

GLAD GENETIC LINK TO HEALTH & WELLBEING

@GLADStudy @JoinGLADStudy

TELL A FRIEND OR SIGN UP TODAY AT WWW.GLADSTUDY.ORG.UK

Feckenham Village Shop Alan Slater

Isn't it amazing how some sunshine and a burst of spring flowers can lift the spirits? After the gloom and darkness of the last few months, the village is bursting back into life both horticulturally and socially. Over the next few months we have the Flower Show, the Open Gardens Weekend and Feckenham in Bloom to look forward to; not to mention the ongoing work by the Bio-Diversity Project Team that is gathering pace in the churchyard and surrounding areas.

At the Shop, we will be doing our best to add to the colour of the village by improving our outside planting and increasing the number of flower containers. To do so, we would greatly appreciate a bit of help as we are looking for someone to assist with the planting. If you are available for a few hours twice a year, please let us know.

This month we are expanding our range of ready meals to include some traditional favourites that are locally produced. Wherever possible it is the Board's policy to support local suppliers and producers in the same way we encourage the village to support our shop. So please pop in and see the new products in our freezer section this month as we believe you will be pleasantly surprised.

Moving on to more serious matters, at last night's Board Meeting it was decided how the Shop would support the marvellous efforts being made by the Feckenham Community to raise funds for the ongoing humanitarian crisis in

Ukraine. We will be the major sponsor of the Feckenham Breakfast Event by covering the cost of the food and providing a major prize for the fundraising raffle. We are now selling tickets at the Shop so please make sure you book early for what we are sure will be a well-supported and much needed event.



One of our volunteers, Margaret Green, has hand knitted these lovely Easter Bunnies which are on sale at the village shop. All the proceeds are being sent to the Ukrainian refugee appeal

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Feckenham Village Hall

📞 07532282282

📧 jessicabyatt_yogaandmeditation



Fecken-Crossword

Jamie has been compiling crosswords in the New York Times format for a short time and is developing his skills. He would really appreciate feedback from those of you who are doing the crossword. Please see his note below.

Fecken-Crossword April 2021

Jamie Hubball

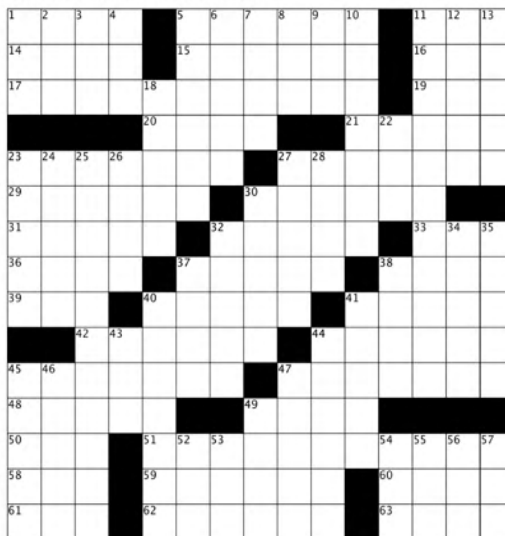
Comments, questions and suggestions welcome: jamiehubball@gmail.com

ACROSS

1. "Stat!"
5. I love, in Lyon
11. To the ___ degree
14. Rubbish holders
15. Winter jacket
16. Alan Partridge refrain
17. "So sad"
19. Pull
20. Rock of ___
21. Had too much to drink
23. Piece of equipment for exploring a reef
27. Source of suffering
29. Polite refusal
30. Water down
31. Took a bow?
32. Pester constantly
33. Abbr. on a business card
36. At capacity
37. An Osmond
38. Jason's ship, in Greek myth
39. Half of dos
40. Arfs
41. Lasting marks
42. Revolt
44. Contests
45. Common Valentine's Day gift
47. Nastiness
48. "Ready ___"
49. Time periods
50. 3-D medical test
51. The Queen, for example
58. Hyperbolic wait time
59. Billy ___
60. Small matter?
61. Mineral-bearing rock
62. Becomes edible
63. "Er, I think I'll pass"

DOWN

1. Easy as 1, 2, 3, apparently
2. "___ Duke" (1976 Stevie Wonder hit)
3. Whichever
4. ... phi, chi, ___, omega



5. ___ Little Pill
6. Photographer Adams
7. Homer Simpson exclamations
8. 60 minuti
9. One making a ewe turn?
10. Just managed
11. Common attraction at woodland centers
12. "___ Song" by Sisqo
13. Ethan of "Training Day"
18. Without a stitch
22. Groove
23. Big mess
24. Disappointing outcome of an inning
25. Over the moon
26. Rod and ___
27. Omens
28. Ali, before he was Ali
30. Thanks in Frankfurt
32. Like Thor or Loki
34. Wading bird
35. Like an MP3 as opposed to a FLAC file
37. Speaker's platform
38. Teenage plague
40. Male sibling
41. Grinch's creator
43. Con's opposite
44. Rough write-ups
45. Shakespeare character who cries "Then I defy you, stars!"
46. Mistake
47. Sing smoothly
49. Actress Falco
52. Hebrew name meaning "my God"
53. Swiss peak
54. Letter after sigma
55. Where you might use a PIN
56. Boatload
57. My Chemical Romance genre

The cricket club is now in the later stages of preparation for the 2022 season and the ground is looking good as temperatures slowly rise and the sun's rays become stronger. I hope that by the time that you read this the fallen tree near the churchyard entrance will have been cleared away.

We have one weekend each pre-season when we cajole as many members as possible to help complete our preparations by tidying and smartening the ground. This year, Sat-Sun April 2/3 will be our CricketForce weekend (now renamed as "#GetSet Weekend"), which will involve the repainting of our boundary fence panels and historic scoreboard, cleaning and preparing chairs and tables, strimming and mowing edges and off-field areas and other tidying and smartening.

New faces are most welcome!

Fixture cards will soon be available on the balcony and as well as senior matches include junior and county/representative matches and tournaments/matches in which our Feckenham Fillies ladies' softball team will be involved.

The club has prioritised the provision of dual-lane artificial surface practice nets which will enable batting and bowling practice without the need for a grass wicket to be prepared - particularly important for our junior members. We are working hard to raise funds for this and we have already added to the pot through the Rock and Roll Bingo event in February. The next fundraiser will be a virtual horse race evening on Saturday 9th April – details can be found on our Facebook page.

Soon after that we start the season, the first senior games being:

- 16/04/2022 Feckenham CC 2nd XI
v Alvechurch & Hopwood CC - 2nd XI
- 23/04/2022 Feckenham CC 1st XI
v Netherton CC, Worcs
- 30/04/2022 Feckenham CC 2nd XI
v Stone CC, Worcs - 1st XI

All matches in April will start at 12 noon (after which it will be 12.30pm). Come on down and support your local team, you will be very welcome.

Memories from the Feckenham Archive

A couple of years ago a small group got together to try and collect photos of Feckenham area and get them digitised. Work has been slow on this (for obvious reasons!) so every month we'll share one here. If you have any old photos or documents that we could digitise and return to you then please get in touch marionchute@me.com.

No prizes for this one but notice the orchard behind the two pines. Also all the upstairs windows on the right are open. I remember my mum airing the bedrooms every day like this.



Nature in the Village

Bird watching in Feckenham.

Effects of Storm Franklin Photos by Kathy Gee

A “twitcher” ...me?never!but somehow that seems to be what I have become. It all started when I lived in Johannesburg, where there was a great variety of colourful birds around. While there, I had no gardening or decorating/house repairs to do, and I was looking for a hobby,and so it all began!

On returning to Feckenham I continued with this hobby, and was surprised by the number of different birds that are here. On a daily walk you can easily see up to twenty different birds, though binoculars help in identifying distant or rarer ones.so next time you are out walking, why not look and listen for them?

In addition to the common birds, such as blue tits, sparrows, robins and pigeons etc. there are many less common ones that can be seen, such as:-

Grey wagtails, at the stream by Bridge House on the Saltway.

Pied wagtails on the cricket field.



Buzzards, particularly high up on a clear day, when you can hear their “mewing” calls.

Goldcrests, in the churchyard.

Redwings, up to 150 at a time, on the cricket and football fields and other grassy fields.

Water birds, such as swans, moorhens, mallards, geese and herons, on streams and ponds

Sparrowhawks, woodpeckers, jays.

In the first three months of the year I have seen over fifty different types of bird in and around the village, which shows how much is there to be found, if you just look and listen.

So, how about becoming a twitcher? ... You will probably enjoy your walk more!if you see an old man wandering around with binoculars, it might be me, stop and have a chat!

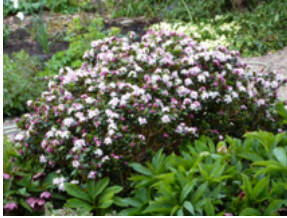
Steve Fletcher



Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

We have grown many thousands of different plants since we created our first garden. Some have been splendid, some have been disappointing, and some have been very different from what we had expected. Here are some thoughts on each category.



I have chosen *Penstemon* 'Garnet' as one of my good plants. It is reliably hardy and flowers prolifically for weeks on end from the middle of June to the end of September. The foliage is narrow and a good fresh green, whilst the flowers are a deep port wine colour with a flush of crimson. It was admired by everyone who saw it in our Meadow Farm garden and was one of our most asked-for plants. But if you are looking for something evergreen I can recommend *Daphne retusa*. Our plant was bought from an Alpine Garden Society show in 2002 as a very small seedling, and after 18 years became a tidy, compact shrub, still only about a metre in height. Its whitish pink fragrant flowers appear profusely in late April and are followed by red berries. It can be raised fairly easily from the single seed contained within each berry. It often has a second, but minor, flush of flowers in August.

It may not be everyone's experience but for my first bad plant I am going to nominate one of the cultivars of the Day Lily. *Hemerocallis* 'Stella de Oro' grew vigorously as a patch of untidy leaves, and only the occasional flower. Having given it a few years to redeem itself, which it never did, we dug it out and threw it away - there are so many better varieties to enjoy. Another

bad plant we discarded was *Helianthus* 'Gullick's Variety'. We bought it having seen its magnificent yellow daisy flowers in a garden we had visited. Big mistake! It's a runner, and within a short time it had started to appear in places far removed from its planting spot. We had also started to propagate it on the nursery, but the pots filled rapidly and the roots made a bid to escape through the drainage holes. We binned them all, not wishing to be the source of such a thug, and eventually got rid of the garden plants by successive applications of Roundup.

For my ugly plant, I will probably upset other keen snowdrop growers. *Galanthus nivalis* 'Boyd's Double' is one of the group referred to as Spiky Doubles and I have never seen it offered for sale at a reasonable price, and so have never grown it. Whilst without doubt being a very unusual curiosity, it is the ugliest duckling imaginable. Not only is it Ugly, it is also Bad, as it flowers shyly and only now and then. Am I looking for a bulb of it to acquire? Yes, of course I am.



Stock and Bradley Gardening Club Report



Our speaker for our March meeting was Julie Ritchie who gave a talk entitled 'Easy Alpines and Low Growing Perennials'. Julie runs Hoo House Nursery, just south of Tewkesbury and gave us information on a wide variety of easy plants which we can grow and which would give us a succession of colour and interest throughout the year.

NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 6th April 2022 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, and a list of Classes will be available on the Show evening. 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	

There will also be a Class 8 for the best photograph (maximum size A5) depicting 'A Tree or Trees in the Landscape'. One entry per member for this Class.

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

Due to the Covid pandemic we were not able to hold our annual Plant Sale in 2020 and 2021, but we are planning to restart this year. It will be held on Saturday 7th May 2022 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.

Please note that the £5.00 annual subscription became due on 1st January 2022. 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 2022. 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.



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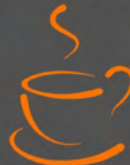
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