

FECKENHAM

APRIL 2012

News



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village
Editor: Jane White Tel.:01527 893281 (Copy date 14th)
e-mail: jwhite@thewhites55.wanadoo.co.uk
or: ejw55@hotmail.co.uk

Tapcast Ltd

COMPUTER SERVICES

Tapcast is a family business, based in Inkberrow, with over 20 years experience, supporting computer systems in businesses and homes



For: Computers, Laptops, Networking, Broadband, Email, Upgrades, Repairs, Support and more

web: www.tapcast.co.uk tel: 01386 792196
email: jane.neal@tapcast.co.uk

All About Feet

Nichola Dean DIP CFHP, MFSRACT, VRFHP
QUALIFIED FOOT PRACTITIONER

Range of Treatments

Nails Trimmed - Thick Nails Reduced
Corn Removal - Callus Reduction
Pedicure & Polish - Warm Wax Treatments
Reflexology

At Grey Gable Surgery, Inkberrow. Tel: 01386 793007

Home 01386 792 555 - Mobile 07584 162 219

Also in the comfort of your own home - Concessions for Senior Citizens

JEFF LYNN

Painter and Decorator

Interior and Exterior
Work



Inkberrow (01386) 792198

KESTREL

Carpet And Upholstery
Cleaning Services

A Family Business founded in 1985

Sanitizing

Stain Removal

Protection

Free Quotation

Guaranteed

Insured

Proclean Members

NEW TECHNOLOGY

We now offer the
most advanced
system in the
industry...

CARPETS DRY IN 30

MINUTES



01527 542515
01386 792762

Ridgeway

Nurseries

Flowers & Plants for the Home & Garden
National Garden Tokens on sale and exchanged

Open 7 Days a Week

Evesham Road, Cookhill. B49 5JR

Tel: 01527 894111



A. Pullen

• MEMORIALS •

Additional Inscriptions
& Renovations

All work is to the Highest Standard

Burcot Forge, Unit 4, 338 Alcester Road,
Burcot, Nr Bromsgrove B60 1HH

Tel: (01527) 876200 Mobile 07710 976744

THOMAS BROTHERS

The Funeral Directors

Pre-payment Plan, Private Chapels, Woodland Burial, Daimler Fleet
24 hour Service

A family owned funeral directors offering a friendly,
dignified service paying attention to detail

01527 547777

Birchfield House, 494 Evesham Road, Crabbs Cross, Redditch. B97 5JF

APRIL Diary



Tues 3rd	12.30am	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Wed 4th	10.30am - noon	“Drop in” for coffee and a chat	Parish Church
Wed 4th	7.30pm	Stock& Bradley Gardening Club	Bradley Village Hall
Sun 8th	11am	EASTER DAY Communion	Parish church
Tues 10th	7.30pm	Feck. Forest Hist. Society	Feckenham Village Hall
Thur 12th	7.30pm	Feckenham WI	Village Hall Back Room
Fri 13th	8pm	FeckenOdeon 2	Back Room Village Hall
Sat 14th	2.30pm	Spring Flower Show	Village Hall
Wed 18th	10.30am - noon	“Drop in” for coffee and a chat	Parish Church
Thur 19th	7.30pm	Parochial Church Council A.G.M.	Parish Church
Thur 19th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Back Room Village Hall
Sat 28th	7.30pm	FeckenOdeon	Village Hall

MAY

Sat & Sun 12th & 13th	Flower and Garden Festival	The Village
Sat 19th	School Spring Fayre	School

Contents

Bell Ringers	p7
Church Services	p4
Easter Lilies	p18
FeckenOdeon	p12
Festival	p5
Flower Show	p17
Gardening Club	p18
Holy Week	p7
Local Matters	p7
Newshound	p5
Parish Council	p16
Personal Ads	p8
Square	p8
Thanks	p6
Thought for.....	P6
Village Hall	p13
Village School	p5
Village Shop	p7
Wake	p8
What's On	p10
What's On in BG	p13
W.I.	p18

Front Cover

Swan on the lake at The Brookhouse, Droitwich Road.
Photo by Ian Bellion

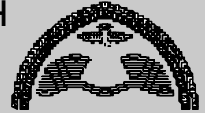
Production Team

Ian Bellion – What's On
892130 whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk
Adrienne Newland – Newshound
821760
Antonia Pulsford – Reviews
892268
Jo Warrilow – Ads, Mags by post
892059
Jane White – Letters, Reports etc.
893281 ejw55@hotmail.co.uk

Church Services

APRIL

PARISH CHURCH
of ST. JOHN
THE BAPTIST



Priest-in-Charge: Canon John Green 01905 345242

Churchwarden: Ann Matthews 01527 892180

Associate Priest: Biddi Kings 01684 311922

Parish Office: Tel: 01527 821826 email: bowbrookgroup@btinternet.com

Mon. Closed: Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 10am-1pm & 2-5pm: Fri. 10am- 1pm
at West End Office, Upper Berrow Farm, Feckenham, B96 6QS

Readers and Intercessors



Sunday 1st 10-30am **GROUP EUCHARIST** (Palm Sunday Procession)
PALM SUNDAY

Sunday 8th 11-00am **Holy Communion**
EASTER DAY
Acts 10 : vs. 34-43
1 Corinthians 15 : vs. 1-11
Intercessions

Doug Curtis
Muriel Richards
Gary Crellin

Sunday 15th 6-30pm **Evensong**
Easter 2
Acts 4 : vs. 32-35
John 20 : vs. 19-end
Intercessions

Gerry East
Oliver White
Carol Onions

Sunday 22nd 11-00am **Family Communion**
Easter 3
1 John 3 : vs. 1-7
Intercessions

Alison Crellin
Walter Richards

Sunday 29th 10-30am **GROUP FAMILY EUCHARIST HIMBLETON**

X Box Sunday School

Will be held in Church on Sunday 1st APRIL. All children will be warmly welcomed.

Morning Fellowship

Daily during **HOLY WEEK**, 9.15am – 9.45am at the R.C. Church, Feckenham (2nd - 7th April)
This lay led prayer service continues weekly on Wednesdays for 30 minutes in the Parish church.
All welcome.

Thursday 19th April, Parish Church A.G.M. 7.30pm, in church

Feckenham Roman Catholic Church

St John Fisher & St. Thomas More



Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 10.15am in the Church

Fr. Edward Clare, The Presbytery, Redditch. Tel. 01527 63096

Local contact—Phyllis Mott, Feckenham. Tel. 01527 893898

Feckenham Flower & Garden Festival

12 & 13th May 2012 *Cathy Fisher*

This hugely successful triennial Festival is now in its 27th year. The purpose of the Festival is to raise funds for the Church Fabric Fund (general maintenance of our parish church of St. John the Baptist).

In 2009, over 30 gardens opened to the public. It was a great weekend with a real buzz around the village. I am extremely 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. 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. As you may be aware, many of our gardens are hidden and vary enormously in size and style. This variety creates a huge amount of interest, plus an element of surprise. For those who may be unsure and might think your gardens are not show gardens, this Festival is not about "show gardens" - this is not Chelsea!! Please call or email me.

We also need volunteers to assist. If you think you can spare an hour or two on either the Saturday or Sunday between 12noon and 6pm please get in touch.

The W.I. have agreed to provide their magnificent teas in the Village Hall (volunteers to make cakes etc. are needed, please call Linda Harris on 892850). There will be a pig roast/barbecue at the Catholic Church. On The Square will be plant sales, garden accessories, Churchfield's ice cream and Feckenham Forest History Society.

A highlight of the weekend is the magnificent Flower Festival in the Church and this year's theme will be "With hearts and hands and voices".

If you would be willing to open your garden 12 noon - 6pm, Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th May 2012, please contact me. Due to safety, traffic and other regulations, the boundaries for

open gardens fall between Winfields, Moors Lane and Brook House on the B4090.

This is a wonderful village event with an enormous number of jobs to be done. So if you feel you can help in any way, your assistance would be most welcome.

Tel: 01527 821412

Email: catherine.fisher@talk21.com

Newshound



Baptisms

On 26th February during the Morning Service the baptism took place of Kat Moran and Stephen Powles, both of Enfield Road, Redditch. They are regular attenders at St. John the Baptist Church and are planning to marry next year in Feckenham.

On 11th March at St John the Baptist Church the baptism took place of Vianne and Sasha Furey. They are the daughters of Paul and Clare who live in Alcester Road. The service was taken by Cannon John Green and was attended by more than 40 of their family and friends.

Wedding

On Saturday 17th the wedding took place between Zoe Jarvis and Richard Burgess of Puddleduck Cottage, Alcester Road. The honeymoon will take place in Scotland and baby Ben will go too.

Feckenham School Parents' Forum

Feckenham First School's Spring Fayre will be held on Saturday, 19th May. If anyone from the village is interested in having a stall at the Fayre (there will be a charge of £10 per stall), please can they contact the school or email us at: parents@feckenhamfirst.worcs.sch.uk. The event is normally held out doors so all stalls will be outside on the playground.

Thought for the month

John Green

A TINGLE DOWN THE SPINE

"I was once a firm believer in Jesus, and wanted to be a priest in the Church of England, but I found I was more at home in the pub than the pulpit. Working as a journalist my faith ebbed away . . . but I find I'm once again fascinated by the figure of Jesus.

I've been reminded that, whatever happened during his lifetime, after death, he became the man accepted by almost all as the most important figure of the last 2,000 years. But that man was probably a failure in his own lifetime. That's what I've learnt from historians. He didn't prophesy correctly, he taught in strange riddles, he didn't convince his fellow Jews and he didn't overthrow Rome.

From that failure, I've come to what, for me, is the most important conclusion of all: that the hardest, apparently least historical article of the Christian faith, the resurrection, must have happened. If there had been no miracle after Jesus' death, there would have been no grounds for faith in a failed life. No resurrection – no Church. What exactly happened, we may never know. But I now believe that if Jesus' companions were prepared to die for their faith in the resurrection, there's no historical reason why we shouldn't live in that faith".

Mark Tully

from *LIVES OF JESUS – a BBC Television production*

When I heard these words of Mark Tully for the first time, I couldn't believe it! Then a tingle went down the back of my spine; a sensation that can never be explained but only felt. Quite frankly, I was elated to hear somebody so eminent speaking in such committed and moving terms about the resurrection. In a few words, he captured the sense of hope, joy and mystery that I and so many others feel when we contemplate the events of that first Easter morning. How good

that he was willing to forsake the language of dispassionate, measured objectivity for the warm, moving, mysterious and committed language of faith.

Those of you who know me, are aware of my passion for asking endless questions and my excitement at questioning and debating every word of the Scripture!! Why am I like this? Not because I am sceptical, but quite simply the reverse! Every time I approach the Jesus story, I 'know beyond knowing' that I am in the heart of things – that here is something that has changed my life and is capable of changing the lives of everyone. I want to share it with anyone who will listen.

May the message of the Resurrection cause your body to 'tingle' this Easter!

Thanks

SPONSORED WALK

"Three times round the walls of Jerusalem"

We would like to thank the many people who have enabled us to raise £3,000 for three separate charities:

- Boys orphanage
 - Rehabilitation hospital
 - School for the blind and partially sighted
- Each of these charities will now have £1,000 as a result of your generosity.

We very much appreciate your kindness and support.

John and Margaret Green



Interior Property Services

Office & Home Refurbishments
Ceilings & Partitions
Carpentry & Joinery
Timber Flooring
Painting & Decorating

Marc Bradley
07759 461406
ips@feckenham.com

Feckenham Bell Ringers

Ron Russ

FECKENHAM NEEDS BELL RINGERS

Could that be you? How would you like to be a member of the band that rang to mark HM the Queen's Diamond Jubilee or the summer Olympics?

Not only that but more importantly come and sound the call to worship Sunday by Sunday, with a weekly practice on Tuesday evenings.

Our band has lost several valuable members recently for a variety of reasons and we need to teach replacements to keep Saint John the Baptist's Church Bells doing their job. Maybe you are a lapsed ringer. If so, why not consider coming back to the tower. Never tried it before? Well, becoming a bell ringer is not easy; it calls for dedication and perseverance, but it brings ample rewards in the long run.

However, you will not know whether it is for you unless you come and try.

You can be aged from 10 to 80, you just need to be able to climb the stairs and count, look and listen once you have learnt to handle a rope.

We are ready to teach you, so why not come and find out more? Give Angela Fletcher a call on 01527 893231.

Village Shop

Jeff Matthews

The first signs of Spring – the appearance of the tables and chairs in front of the Shop. Some hardy souls have been braving the March weather already, but April is when you can begin to answer “yes” to the question “is it warm enough to sit outside?” We will be re-starting our cream teas – a special treat to be enjoyed from here on into the summer.

Our special offers include:

A hot drink and a slice of cake for £1.99

Easter – celebrate this year with an Easter egg hunt for your children / grandchildren / nieces or nephews. We have an Easter Egg Hunt Kit, for this very purpose. Or if you prefer you can buy your own Traidcraft chocolates or eggs and create your own. We are also supplying a range of locally made eggs and chocolate goodies. We are also taking orders for Easter cakes with a ready made supply, in stock.

May will see the Garden Festival, which we will be supporting by staying open later on both Saturday and Sunday. We will be serving Pimms and Eton Mess.... More in next month's magazine.

Local Matters

Antonia Pulsford

Possible government help for rural businesses

The Government has recently set aside £60m for grants of £25,000 to more than £1m each to help rural entrepreneurs. Successful applicants will receive up to 40% of the cost of projects, and the areas in which the government expects to give support are farm competitiveness, agri-food, tourism, forestry and micro-enterprises such as digital media technology and small scale, high-value manufacturing.

Applications for grants are being accepted now and further information is available at <http://rdpenetwork.defra.gov.uk/funding-sources/rural-economy-grant>.

“Seeing through the Cross”

an ecumenical prayer journey through Lent & Holy Week

9.15am – 9.45am

R.C. Church, Feckenham

HOLY WEEK

The journey continues with daily prayers at 9.15am throughout Holy Week

ALL WELCOME

Wake 2012

Marion Chute

The Usual but with a FeckenOlympic look!

SATURDAY JUNE 23rd

Plans for this years Wake are underway and will be part of a long summer of events for all the family. Last years Classic Cars were so popular with everyone that we have asked Julian to coordinate the event again. If you have a car that you wish to share with everyone then please contact him julian.bull@virgin.net or contact wake@feckenham.com or let any of the committee know.

Similarly the success of the Food village with our own Village Shop as the centrepiece has resulted in a repeat performance. Remember the family sports? Well we are planning that there will be some special additions to double the fun!

Just get the date in your diary and remember it can't happen without your support, so if you can offer any help it will be gratefully received.

Personal Ads.



2 Bedroom Barn for Rent in Feckenham. From May 2012. Unfurnished, Garden, Parking. Just redecorated. £800.00 PCM. Contact steve.dalloway@byretech.com for more details.

Village Hall

Improvement Fund 2011/12



March Winners

120	Mel Clarke	£25
30	Danielle Chute	£15
59	Dave & Lin Preece	£10

The April Draw will be held in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 3rd April 2012

Square Management Committee

SUMMER IS A'COMIN IN

There's a busy summer ahead for The Square. The volunteer members of the Square Management Committee have been busy sprucing things up in preparation. New flower tubs have been obtained, fitted and planted; the seats and The Pound have been repainted/stained; the area around the notice board has been cleared and tidied.

The first major event will be the Flower & Garden Festival on 12th & 13th May when plants and garden supplies will be sold on The Square. This is followed by a local wedding reception on May 26th. The Wake is on 23rd June and the Committee's own "Fun on The Square" will be on 21st July - this year's theme is the Wild West. It's also expected that the Scarecrows will return in October.

Rose & Crown 48 High Street
Feckenham
B96 6HS

01527 892188

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

WHAT'S ON

8th April – Easter Sunday

Special Lunch Menu - 12 'til 3pm

2 Course £12.50 - 3 Course £14.50

Under 10's half price

Followed by a **Grand Easter Egg Hunt**
in the garden at 3pm

Proper Pub Food at Proper Prices

Quality meat from the Old Yarr Estate

Real Ales & Ciders

Camra Redditch & Bromsgrove

Pub of the Summer 2011

Weekday Lunch 3 Courses £6.75

Dish of the Day £4.75

**Full Menu available daily,
Lunch & Evenings**

www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk

The Brown Hairstreak Butterfly

Rob Cole

I have been interested in butterflies ever since I was a boy, and it was my interest in butterflies which lead to my interest in wild flowers, and eventually to horticulture and gardening generally. To know where to look for butterflies, you need to know the food plants on which the caterpillars live, and you then quickly become interested in the habitat in which you will find the food plants. One thing leads to another.

During last summer, I visited Grafton Wood in Worcestershire on one of the Butterfly Conservation open days, and was fascinated to learn about the local and elusive Brown Hairstreak butterfly, one of the rarest butterflies in Worcestershire, now only found in a relatively small area around Grafton Flyford, Feckenham, and Inkberrow.

A few months later, on the BBC 'Countryfile' programme the Brown Hairstreak was featured, and my interest was aroused again. The female butterfly lays its eggs on young Blackthorn bushes, and the males often congregate high in a nearby prominent tree, often an Ash. In March 2001 we had planted a small area of woodland in our small meadow, and had included Blackthorn on the woodland edge. Nearby is a prominent and very large Ash tree..... !

The eggs of the Brown Hairstreak are like tiny white sea urchins, and are laid in the angle between the main stems and the side branches and/or thorns, and can be found during the winter months by diligent hunting. Realising that conditions in our meadow met the criteria, we began to look for eggs and almost immediately found three. We contacted Butterfly Conservation who responded by sending out three of their local enthusiasts who found eleven eggs in total. We were advised that it is essential that the Blackthorn is managed so as to avoid cutting when the eggs

and caterpillars are resident, otherwise they will be lost.

We are delighted to have found evidence of this rare butterfly in our district, and will be keeping a close watch in the coming months for the caterpillars and eventual butterflies. Plenty of information about the Brown Hairstreak is available on the internet, and particularly on www.butterfly-conservation.org

DOGGY PADDLE

Canine Hydrotherapy



Earls Common
WR9 7LB

01905 391501

www.doggypaddle.net

Able Maintenance

General Handyman Painter & Decorator

External and Internal

Phone Bill On

01527 550172 or 07795 556685

Free Quotes - Public Liability - Reliable



Heating Engineer

Gas appliances serviced & repaired:
central heating boilers, gas fires, cookers,
water heaters & warm air heating units.

- Landlord Certification
- Commercial boilers serviced & repaired
- LPG services

Tel/Fax: 0121 258 2941
Mobile: 07973110138



WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM




Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB
Spring Bulb & Photo Show
Wednesday, April 4th - 7.30pm
Bradley Green Village Hall
call 821156 for details

**Feckenham Forest
History Society**
**The Civil War
in Worcestershire**
with Max Keen
Tuesday, 10th April - 7.30pm
Feckenham Village Hall



Feckenham Readers Group
Wednesday, 11th April - 7.45
This Month: **THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL**
by Deborah Moggach
Details from Marion Charle - 892285



FECKENHAM WI
Feckenham Village Hall
Thursday, 12th April - 7.30pm
Osteoporosis
- what you need to know
and how to avoid it.
Visitors welcome - £3



pilates EVERY THURSDAY
with Juanita Ochoa
7.15pm - Feckenham Village Hall
All welcome - just come along

Springtime in Feckenham
**FLOWER
SHOW**
Saturday, 14th April - 2.30pm
Display of Spring Flowers
Stalls - Tombola - Raffle - Cream Teas



**FECKENHAM FLOWER &
GARDEN FESTIVAL**
12th & 13th May, 2012



12 Noon to 6pm
Approximately **30 Gardens Open.**
Flower Festival in Church.
Local Nurseries selling Plants.
Garden Accessories and Products.
Local History display
Pig Roast, Barbecue
Homemade W.I. Teas
Celebration Service in Church at 7pm on Sunday 13th May
FECKENHAM is located off the B4090
Alcester to Droitwich Road
Ample **PARKING** - follow signs to Festival Car Park.
Satnav users enter postcode **B96 6QH**
ADMISSION by lapel sticker
Adults £5.00 - Children under 16 free
All proceeds to Feckenham Church Maintenance Fund
www.feckenham.com

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

FeckenOdeon 2 Friday, 13th April
The Cinema in the Back Room at 8pm

15

SUBMARINE

The best British
Comedy in years

THE
FECKENODEON CINEMA
SOCIETY

Saturday, 28th April
at 7.30pm

MORRIS ^{12A}



A LIFE WITH
BELLS ON

Derek Jacobi - Greg Wise - Ian Hart
Naomi Harris - Charles Thomas Oldham

The FeckenOdeon Cinema
at Feckenham Village Hall

Tickets for all shows from The Rose &
Crown and Village Shop

Online Booking and full information
at

www.feckencodeon.co.uk



FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

In association with *Shindig!* - Live arts on YOUR doorstep

VAMOS
theatre

inspired by
London
2012



"A theatrical tale of Olympian feats...it's a winner!"

MUCH ADO ABOUT
WENLOCK

Wednesday, 23rd May - 7.30pm

Tickets: £8 (Adults), £5 (under 14s)

Book online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenam

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



DANCING SUBMARINERS

Critics have hailed this as one of the best British comedies of recent years: Coming to FeckenOdeon 2 on **Friday, 13th April at 8pm** is a perfect blend of cool, quirky comedy and warm-hearted drama. Adapted from Joe Dunthorne's 2008 novel, **'Submarine'** is the story of Oliver Tate a schoolboy whose life is a movie in his head. He's growing up in South Wales in the 1980s and he's in love... probably. Unlike many "coming of age" films this is genuinely funny, the characters are believable and the plot is clever without being over slick. The '80s may not be everyone's favourite decade but "Submarine" shows us the human and humorous side of life - it wasn't all striking miners and wars in the south Atlantic!



The main FeckenOdeon show this month is a celebration of British eccentricity. Morris dancing is one of our most endearing oddities and its devotees are often pretty odd too. In **"Morris: A Life with Bells On"** the Morris hierarchy is turned upside down when Millsham Morris team decides to pioneer a new form of Morris dancing called Extreme Morris. It's a bit like "The Full Monty" with bells on – a nice film about good people that celebrates the best things about England. With a cast of National Treasures including Derek Jacobi you'd have thought that this

would have been a sure fire hit - but the big cinema circuits refused to show it and it's never been on the telly. Undeterred the film's producer/director Lucy Akherst offered it to village halls and film societies with spectacular success. It's been a sell out wherever it's been shown and audiences have been delighted with this funny and affectionate celebration of country pastimes.

Morris: A Life with Bells On
7.30pm on Saturday, 28th April

Tickets for these shows are on sale at
The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown
or you can book online at:
www.fecknodeon.co.uk

11 GOING ON 12

"Morris: A Life with Bells On" marks the end of the 11th season of films at The FeckenOdeon - but preparations are well in hand for the 12th season which will begin in September. Negotiations are still in progress as we go to press but the new season is almost certain to include such delights as "The Artist", "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" and "The Maltese Falcon" - watch out for the full programme which will be published at the end of April. There'll also be a programme of summer special films - details next month.



GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 6TH

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

10.00 - 12.30, IN THE CHURCH

Village Hall

Ian Bellion



FUN AND COUNTRY GAMES

On your starting blocks! **Vamos Theatre**, in association with The Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, presents its new production, **“Much Ado About Wenlock”**, a play about health, sports, a reforming doctor, and a runaway chicken! The show is part of the Shindig programme and comes to Feckenham Village Hall on **Wednesday, 23rd May** - the starting gun will be fired at 7.30pm

In 1850, the Shropshire market town of Much Wenlock hosted its very own ‘Olympian Games’, an inspiration for the modern Games. In a captivatingly comic production celebrating the Games’ unlikely UK roots, “Much Ado About Wenlock” reveals a local doctor’s determination to improve the health of all. Will Dr Penny Brookes inspire the workers to swap tippie for triple jumping? Will schoolmistress Beatty win over the cynical Reverend Benedict Wayne? Will little Eddie Sankey triumph over the bullying butcher’s boy, Archibald Blockley? And will our national love of the underdog be satisfied in this heroic piece of theatre?

A glorious full mask show, with original music, physical comedy, and dance, Much Ado About Wenlock is an adventure for audiences from 8 to 108!

By a happy co-incidence the show comes to Feckenham on the very day that the Olympic Torch arrives in Worcestershire. Tickets £8 for adults, £5 for under 14s, are available from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown or by phone on 0844 884 2920.

Online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham



BOILER BOOSTED

The Village Hall’s Boiler Quiz on February 18th contributed a handsome £800 to the boiler fund. Added to a substantial grant from Feckenham Charity and the proceeds of a race night this means that the Committee is well over half way to raising the £10,000 needed for the replacement of the heating system. The Committee wishes to thank everyone who helped make the event such a success - as well as to everyone who took part with such enthusiasm.

GREEN GENERATION

At the time of writing the Village Hall Committee is at the point of agreeing to take part in a Community Fund Scheme for the generation of electricity from solar panels mounted on the south facing roof. The entire cost of the scheme will be met by the the government’s feed in tariff for the energy generated and made available to the national grid. The Hall’s power bills will also be reduced because daytime power will effectively be free. The Committee hopes that this will ensure that user fees can be kept lower for longer.

What’s On this month in STOCK & BRADLEY

4th Breakaway

UK to Beijing by Bicycle
Bradley Green VH - 10.30am

8th Walking Club

Meet at Stock & Bradley Church at 10am

11th & 25th Drop In

Drop in for a Coffee and a Chat
10 am - 12noon
Bradley Green Village Hall

17th Village Hall AGM

Followed by Cheese & Wine - 7.30pm

20th Making a Difference Team presents

An Evening with

COSMOTHEKA

DAVE SEALEY remembers
the British Music Hall
Bradley Green Village Hall
Tickets: 01527 821442

For more information see

STOCK & BRADLEY CHRONICLE

PETER R. YARNOLD CARPENTRY & JOINERY

Quality hand made joinery in
hardwood or softwood.

Windows, door, stairs, conservatories
and furniture

Meadow Cottage, Agmore Lane,
Tardebigge, Bromsgrove.

Tel: 01527 873552

Mobile: 07717 102604

Traditional, Domestic
& Contract Upholstery



- Curtains & Blinds
- Soft Furnishings - Loose Covers
- Cushion Inserts and Foam
- Fabric Sales
- Unique Restored pieces of furniture for sale

Odd View Cottage, Foregate Street, Astwood Bank

Tel 01527 893465 & 07929 973776

www.astwoodupholstery.co.uk



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

BMS

Bray Maintenance Services Limited

Your LOCAL Gardening Service

Lawnmowing - Turfing
Garden Clearance - Fencing
High Pressure Surface Cleaning

For FREE quote call Carl Bray

01527 453163 or 07970 271653

Formerly **Bray Services**

Aluminium & Wood Venetians
Roman & Woven Wood Blinds
Pleated Blinds for
Conservatory Roof & Sides
Roller & Verticals

3 for
£99
on selected
Verticals

CREATIVE
BLINDS

Tel: 01527 460103

Free Home Visits • Free Measuring • Free Fitting

www.creativeblinds.co.uk

COLOR CODE MOTORS

ACCIDENT & REPAIR SPECIALIST
COLOUR MATCHING 100% GUARANTEED
LOW BAKE OVEN
FIBREGLASS & RESORATION WORK
FLEET & COMMERCIAL REPAIRS

LEE HALL-ANNISON

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

TELEPHONE: 01527 854155

The Village Shop

...drop in to sample our deli
fresh local produce on your doorstep

Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm Saturday 9am - 4pm Sunday 10am - 1pm

Droitwich Road, Feckenham, Redditch, B96 6JE.

Telephone: 01527 894475

Open Now

Coffee • Tea • Cake • Fresh Sandwiches



CLICK 4 PC NO FIX = NO FEE



- PC Crashing - very slow
- Internet Connections
- Virus Problems
- Upgrades & advice
- Windows & Office Problems
- Hardware & Software issues
- Networking solutions
- Custom built PCs

**SAME DAY RESPONSE
NO CALL OUT CHARGE**

**01527 576 611 or
0800 085 2143** Mon-Sun ♦ 8am-6pm
Open Bank Holidays

www.click4pc.co.uk
178a Austin Road, Bromsgrove B60 3NS

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
Bsc (Hons): Horticulture
HND: Garden Design & Management

Complete Gardens

Design & Planting
Maintenance & Rejuvenation
Consultancy

☎ 07773 101750 or 01527 894745

Lewis Allen
Plumbing & Heating Ltd

- Central Heating / Boiler installations and servicing
- Power flushing
- Landlord Gas safety Checks
- Bathrooms
- Installation of kitchen appliances
- New build and extension plumbing/heating
- Leaks and emergency work

Tel: 01527 892398
Mobile: 07817596943



**Tony & Dean at
FECKENHAM
GARAGE**



MOT Testing Station
Service & Repair to all makes
Tel: 01527 892483

Landscaping

Jeff Annand Contracting Ltd.

Blockpaving - Ponds - Patios - Groundwork
& General Property Maintenance

Free Quotes
References available
Fully Insured

**Tel: 07968 668906
or 01527 894745**



MAIDS WITH CARE

Maids with Care is a family run cleaning company for the domestic and commercial business sectors.

Our services include:
Regular and one-off cleans • Deep and spring cleans
Moving in and out cleans • Property letting
Holiday cover • Oven cleaning • Window cleaning
Ironing • Carpet and upholstery cleaning
We employ, insure and CRB check our staff.

To arrange a sparkling clean ring **01527 401822**
e mail: info@maidswithcare.co.uk
www.maidswithcare.co.uk

As Time Goes By

*YOUR LOCAL FAMILY RUN
MEMORIAL SUPPLIER*

Head Stones, Cremation Tablets,
Additional Inscriptions and
Renovation Work



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"

Parish Council - March

Sean Arble

Chairman R Williams: 07812 034 455

Cllr A Pulsford: 01527 892268

Cllr E Atkins: 01527 542 063

Cllr K White: 01527 458 395

Cllr P Eaton: 01527 894 272

2012 Meeting Dates: 19 April, 17 May, 20 June, 19 July,
20 Sept, 15 Nov & 20 Dec

The Council recently awarded grants to the following local organizations: **Village Shop** to improve security etc.; **St John's Church** to maintain churchyard and produce the local magazine; **Feckenham Cricket Club** to improve clubhouse. The Council budgeted £1400 in 2012/13 for local donations. Any local groups interested in applying for grant should contact the Clerk for an application.

This winter the Council purchased seven additional grit bins placed at strategic locations in the parish. The Council is happy to assume responsibility for keeping the bins topped up, but it would be very helpful if parishioners informed the Council when a bin is low on supply. It must also be noted that it is the responsibility of residents to spread the grit as and when they see fit.

The Feckenham Improvement Group has continued their work of improving the aesthetics of the village. The program of street nameplate replacement has progressed in recent months and been generally well received. The new planters on the B4090 have also been smartened up with new plantings in recent weeks and shall no doubt continue to enhance the area with spring/summer plantings.

On a similar note of Feckenham improvement, following an application made by Feckenham Parish Council and a detailed assessment by Worcestershire CC Highways, WCC assisted by a donation from Feckenham Traffic Group, have agreed to the erection of white 'Estate Gates' at all entrances to the village, to be positioned near the speed restriction signs. It is hoped the gates will further raise the profile of the village and remind drivers that they are entering into an

area where residents care about speed restriction and the upkeep of the village environment.

Continuing the theme of Feckenham improvement, work at Swansbrook and Astwood Lane is due to start 19 March. Thomas Vale plan to do the following: 1) Lower the kerb on the corner and install a concrete slab about 18" wide 2) Re-site the crossing point over Swansbrook Lane to give pedestrians better visibility 3) Re-lay the tarmac path and re-concrete the approach to the field. The work includes altering road levels to eliminate pooling. 4) Re-lay as necessary, the grass in the triangle and the verge by the hedge as both are likely to get very chewed up during the course of this work. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of March and should allow time for RBC to prepare the ground to sow wild flower seed on the triangle and verges by the footpath and the road in April. RBC hopes to enlist the services of Feckenham 1st School students for this job.

The Council approved its 2012/13 budget in November. The requested precept is £8,300. It is expected the precept combined with other receipts will not be sufficient and that some of the reserves will be employed to balance the budget. While this situation isn't ideal, the Council was very mindful of the current economic climate and wished to keep the rise in the precept to a minimum. If any parishioner wishes to obtain a copy of the budget please contact the Clerk.

All are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in the Village Hall at 7:30pm on 17 May. The Parish Council Meeting will take place immediately afterwards. More details to be published when known.

Finally, the Council is hoping to co-opt two additional members. For those interested in becoming a councillor, please contact Chair Williams or the Clerk.

Sean Arble

Clerk to the Council

01789 490 501

sean.arble@gmail.com



An example of white "Estate Gates", obviously at Harvington, coming to Feckenham soon.

Feckenham Spring Flower Show - Saturday 14th April

The '**Springtime in Feckenham**' Flower Show will be held on Saturday 14th April in the Village Hall. Teas will be served throughout the afternoon with home-made cakes and fresh baked scones.

There will be competitive entries for the best **spring blooms** (see below for a schedule of classes), and a Children's Springtime Bonnet Parade, with prizes. Other attractions include the usual stalls, together with bric-a-brac, cakes, and plants for sale, and the ever popular tombola and raffle. Please join us to welcome the coming of Spring - the Show opens at 2.30pm.

SPRINGTIME IN FECKENHAM - COMPETITIVE CLASSES

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

Adult Classes

- 1 5 cut Daffodils - long trumpet (all same variety)
- 2 5 cut Daffodils - short trumpet (all same variety)
- 3 5 cut Daffodils - double (all same variety)
- 4 3 cut miniature spring flowers (all same variety)
- 5 3 cut Tulips (all same variety)
- 6 5 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)

Children's Classes

- 1 A Spring Posy
- 2 Make a flower (out of any material of your choice)
- 3 Illustrate 'Springtime' in any way you choose

There are separate prizes for pre-school children and children under 9 years old

Exhibits in classes 6, 7, 8, and 9 will be returned to you. All other flowers will be auctioned at the end of the Show after prizes have been awarded.

The Flower Show Committee will run a bric-a-brac stall and a cake stall and would be very grateful for donations of good quality bric-a-brac items, please, and cakes of any sort. Any items can be left in the car port at 'The Paddocks', High Street, Feckenham, at any time, or at the Village Hall on the day from 10.00am until 12 noon. (or call Rob Cole, 01527 821156)

Feckenham W.I.

Adrienne Newland



On the 8th March we enjoyed a talk by Mark Wilkins on the work of the County Air Ambulance. After being a Royal Navy Helicopter Pilot he joined the Scottish Air Ambulance which has a lot of difficult terrain to cover. When he gave up flying he joined the Midland Area managing the fund raising. This area has 7 helicopters spread so that each covers an area reachable within 20 minutes flight. The service in England and Wales is, like the R.N.L.I., dependant on donations from fundraising, legacies etc.. A very worthy cause. Interestingly in Scotland it became Government funded on devolution, and now costs about twice as much to run!

Many thanks to all who left items at the hall for our Jumble Sale in March.

On the 12th April, Angela Hugman is coming to talk on Osteoporosis. 7.30pm in the Back Room of the Village Hall. Visitors welcome £3.

Rous Lench & Inkberrow Royal British Legion inc.

Feckenham

Roger Hunt

The branch meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 8pm at The Wheelbarrow & Castle, Radford. This is an open meeting, all interested persons are welcome. The chat is good and the bar is open.

EVENTS FOR 2012

19th April - Quiz'n Chicken Evening. Raffle.

9th June - Cheese & Wine Evening at The Poplars, Radford.

13th September - Day out at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas.

Contact Roger Hunt 01527 853116 for details and tickets for any of the above.

ARCHIVE - the Branch produces a quarterly News Sheet, and there is an ongoing archive. This can be viewed on open days. Items of interest, both old and new can be sent to Major Davidson, Branch President, 01386 792772.

Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

Rob Cole

Wednesday 4th April 2012, we will be holding our Annual Bulb and Photographic Show. Members bring along three 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.

There will also be a competition for the best photograph depicting '**A Winter Scene**'. Any size of photograph is acceptable, up to a maximum of A4 size.

May: on Wednesday 2nd May 2012, we will welcome Terry Walton who will speak about 'Vegetables, Flowers, and the Media'. Terry has worked with Richard Fishbourne of Wiggly Wiggles fame, and is well known as the vegetable growing specialist on the Jeremy Vine Show on BBC Radio 2.

All club meetings are 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 £10.00. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting. If you require any further information, ring Jan Bates on 01386 792414 or Rob Cole on 01527 821156.

Church Flower Group

Easter Lilies

We are planning the decoration of our church for the festival of Easter when once again we will include arrangements of Easter lilies in memory of loved ones. If you wish to donate towards the lilies will you please send your contribution to Ann Matthews, 8 The Square, Feckenham B96 6HR.

Thank you for your support enabling the tradition to continue. *Jo & Marg.*

JW & A J BARRETT LTD

Craftsmen in Metal

Traditional Blacksmithing

Restoration/repair

Metal work for home & garden

Mobile Welding

www.artmetal.co.uk

Tel/Fax 01527 893866

Mobile 07973 517781

Direct Floors Ltd

HOME SERVICE

Need a new carpet, vinyl or wood floor?
With over 1000 samples brought to your
home, call now for a free no obligation
quotation.

Tel: 01527 894777

Mob: 07968 023456

7 Days a week

www.direct-floors.co.uk



CAR AIR CONDITIONING SERVICING



AUTOTECH

Motor Vehicle Services - MOT Centre

TEL: 01527 892254

1 Queen Street, Astwood Bank

All Car & Light Vehicle Repairs & Servicing

Free Collection & Delivery - Breakdown & Recovery

Tyre Fitting While U Wait

TYRES EXHAUSTS BATTERIES TYRES

Bowbrook Gardens

Imaginative high quality landscaping

Patios & garden walls

Ponds & water features

Swimming pool & ponds fibreglassed

Also Pond & Patio cleaning

Fencing & Hedge cutting

Local, friendly service, references available

Call Glenn - Crowle 01905 380128

Mobile 07792613020

15 Astwood Lane
Feckenham
Worcs. B98 6HG

6 Burns Close
Headless Cross
Redditch. B97 5BS

BRAY & WARRING

Established 1966

GENERAL BUILDERS

Tel.: 01527 893480

or 01527 545238

Ryan L. Bennett

PAINTER AND DECORATOR

ESTIMATES FREE

1188 Evesham Road
Astwood Bank, Redditch,
Worcestershire. B96 6 DT

☎ (01527) 893162

'Purradise'

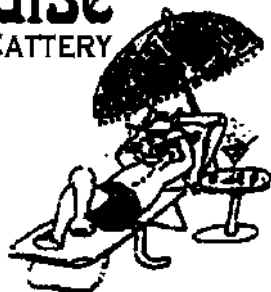
BOARDING CATTERY

Earls Common

Himbleton

01905 391648

Jane Moule



Town&Country

Private Hire & Driving Services

Prompt and reliable

local transport to all Airports

Social travel, short or long journeys, transport to corporate &
sporting events, wedding car available, business travel,
seaports and rail stations.

Driver only service - Fully Licensed and CRB checked Drivers

Chauffeur vehicle available

01386 793156 / 07910 361707 / 07905 406686

e-mail: info@tcexecutivetravel.co.uk

Website: www.tcexecutivetravel.co.uk

BRAY BROS

TREE SURGEONS

TREE SURGERY - HEDGE TRIMMING
LOPPING, PRUNING - STUMP REMOVAL

TEL: 01527 892828

MOBILE: 07970 263779
67 WESTONHILL CLOSE, ASTWOOD BANK

FULLY INSURED - NPTC CERT. NO.952670



S.E.DAVIS & SON LTD.

Tel: 892716 & 893343

*Broken Slabs, Brick Hardcore,
Sand, Gravel, Ashes, Cotswold
Stone, Cement, Topsoil, etc.*

LARGE OR SMALL QUANTITIES DELIVERED
PLANT HIRE AVAILABLE



We supply
building
materials
to help
transform
your
garden

The Farmshop

Mon - Sat 9am - 5pm

Sunday 10am - 4pm



The Stables

FARM SHOP

Tearoom & Butchery

The Tearoom

Mon - Sat 10am - 4pm

Sunday 10am - 4pm

Our aim is to provide quality fresh local
produce from small independent growers
and producers.

The Cheese Counter

• Finest Local Cellar Matured Cheeses

The Stables Butchery

• Friendly Service • Finest Fresh Local Produce

www.thestablesfarmshop.co.uk

01527 894167

Astwood Lane, Astwood Bank, Redditch,
Worcestershire B96 6PS



JONATHAN SPROULE & SONS LTD

(MASTER BUILDERS)



20 Years Experience

SPECIALISTS IN

CHARACTER & PERIOD PROPERTIES

HOUSE EXTENSIONS & RENOVATIONS

Mere Green Cottage, Hanbury, Worcs. WR9 7DZ



Tel: 07973 445048 & 07976 826065 Fax: 01527 821452