

FECKENHAM

APRIL 2019

News

Published by Feckenham Church for the Village
Editor: Jane White Tel.:01527 893281 (Copy date 14th)
e-mail: feckenhamnews@gmail.com



A. Pullen

• MEMORIALS •

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APRIL Diary



Tues 2 nd	12.30pm	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Wed 3 rd	7.30pm	Stock & Bradley Gardening Club	Bradley Village Hall
Sat 6 th	2.30pm	Spring Flower Show	Village Hall,
Fri 8 th	8pm	FeckenOdeon-2	Back Room Village Hall
Tues 9 th	7.30pm	Feckenham Forest History Society	Village Hall
Thur 11 th	7.30pm	Feckenham WI, Members' Centenary Supper	Village Hall, Back Room
Thur 11 th	7.30pm	Charity Quiz Night	Rose & Crown
Sat 13 th	10.30am -12.30	Jasper's Coffee Morning	The Old Coach House, Droitwich Rd
Sun 21 st	11.00am	EASTER DAY Communion	Parish Church
Sat 27 th	11.0am-1.30pm	"Monuments & Meaning"	Hanbury Church
Sat 27 th	7.30pm	FeckenOdeon	Village Hall
Mon 29 th	7.30pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Parish Church

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Production Team

Ian Bellion – What's On
892130 whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk

Jen Cary – Newshound
89 jen@28highstreet.co.uk

Antonia Pulsford – Reviews
892268

Jo Warrilow – Advertising, Mags by post
892059

Jane White – Editor 893281
feckenhamnews@gmail.com

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.

Front Cover

Feckenham Surgery - End of an era.
See Page 18

Photo by Ian Bellion



Church Services APRIL

PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



Priest-in-Charge: Rev Wyn Beynon **07595 313035**

Church website: www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk **Email:** info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

Parish Office: Telephone: 01905 778181 Email: bowbrookgroup1@gmail.com

Open Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 10am-1pm & 2-5pm: Mon. & Fri. Closed

at - *The Wychebrook Group, The Parish Centre, St Andrew's Street, DROITWICH, WR9 8DY*

Sunday 7th	11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Readers and Intercessors
5 th Sunday of Lent		Isaiah 43: 16-21	Oliver White
		Philippians 3: 4-14	Doug Curtis
		Intercessions	John Green

Sunday 14th **10.30am** **Palm Sunday Procession from the village car park and Communion**

Philippians 2: 5-11 Tony Perryman
Intercessions Tony Mortimer

Holy Week

Mon. 15th, Tues. 16th & Wed. 17th **9.00pm Compline**

Maundy Thursday 7.30pm Holy Communion, foot washing and stripping of the altar

Exodus 12: 1-14 Doug Curtis
1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 Angela Fletcher
Intercessions Ann Matthews

Good Friday 19th 10.30-12.00 **Easter activities at the Gazebo in Callow Hill for children and families**

7.00pm Evening service

Sunday 21st **11.00am** **Easter Day Communion**

Acts 10: 34-43 Patricia Collins
1 Corinthians 15: 19-26 John Pulsford
Intercessions Jenny Goode

Sunday 28th **11.00am** **Holy Communion**

Easter 2

Acts 5: 27-32 David Street
Revelation 1: 4-8 Ian Hunter
Intercessions Jeff Matthews

Feckenham: Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Initial contacts for these should be directed to Rev. Wyn Beynon:

My mobile number is: **07595 313035** or email wynbeynon@gmail.com Thank you! Wyn

Feckenham Roman Catholic Church

St John Fisher & St. Thomas More

Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 10.15am in the Church

Fr. Anthony Rohan, The Presbytery, Redditch. Tel. 01527 63096

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



Thanks

A BIG THANK YOU

During the last few months I have been quite overwhelmed by the kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity shown to me and my family by so many in the village; particularly since Gray died. The crematorium was packed to the rafters and it was a great tribute to Gray. He was a very special person and it was so endearing that many others realised this too. I have received a mountain of cards and the cottage is still full of flowers; everyone has been so supportive for which I thank you.

A total of over £850 was donated to the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation.

I would also like to thank the Rose & Crown for hosting the Wake – you did Gray proud! He genuinely loved his early evening visits with Bolt and always came home with a story or two!

Sue Darby

Farewell

WALTER AND MURIEL - WISHING YOU EVERY HAPPINESS IN YOUR NEW HOME.

Walter and Muriel Richards lived at 6 Mill Lane from 1988 until February of this year. The house was built in the 1960's as a vicarage and sold when Feckenham became part of the Bowbrook Group of parishes and no longer had their own Vicar.

Originally they came from Lancashire and Walter started his career in the Inland Revenue and rose to be a Tax inspector. Later they moved to Barnt Green and he worked for GKN in Redditch and finally he and Muriel set up a Tax Consultancy business in Bromsgrove and moved to live in Feckenham.

Since coming to Feckenham they have fully embraced village life. Walter was Church Warden and was many years on the Church Council. He also was administrator for the Vicar for some years and also served on a committee in the Worcester Diocese. At the coming of the Village Shop Muriel did a shift behind the counter on a Monday and Walter cashed up and banked the money for the last ten years. Muriel has cooked and served at the Lunch Club held in the Village Hall on the first Tuesday in the month since it started. She also took over from Elizabeth Nixon organising the 'Drop In'. They opened their garden for Open Gardens Festivals and competed at Flower and vegetable shows and were to be seen at all village events.

Recently they were finding the large house and garden too much for them and decided to move to a new retirement development near to Evesham. They will be greatly missed but they don't live too far away and I am sure we will see them at village events later in the year.

Carol and Pat Onions

I am sure we all join with Pat and Carol's thanks and good wishes. Ed.



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Casque Marque Award for quality beers

Tuesday, 2nd April in the Bar from 8pm - Free
Traditional Music
Thursday, 11th April
CHARITY QUIZ
In aid of Bromsgrove Basement Project
Teams of 6 (max) - sign up at the pub.

Sunday 21st April EASTER SUNDAY
Easter Lunch - 12 'til 3pm - Reservations advised
EGG HUNT in the Garden at 3pm

www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk

Thought for the month

Rev. Wyn Beynon

Dear Friends,

Paul Simon, the singer song-writer, wrote this in the 1960's.

April come she will

When streams are ripe and swelled with rain

May, she will stay resting in my arms again

June, she'll change her tune

In restless walks she'll prowl the night

July, she will fly and give no warning to her flight

August, die she must

The autumn winds blow chilly and cold

*September I'll remember a love once new has
now grown old*

It's a beautiful little song full of teenage angst about life and love but it rings true for all of us. We start out full of hope and sometimes, anyway, that hope is dashed by some accident of life.

Hope is a curious virtue, for virtue it is. It's not just us, but many animals who live in simple hope that down the track, over the woods, a mile away, food, shelter and safety can be found. Hope is the basis of the universe.

But human hope needs to be intelligent, informed and realistic. On what can we hope? We can hope that other people will really be doing their best for the common good. But we know that they don't always fulfill that hope. We can hope that sane voices will triumph over populist madness. But we know from history that hysteria can sometimes win the day. We can hope that answers can be found. But sometimes they cannot, or come too late. So, I'm not making a very good case for hope!

Hope is not wishful thinking, that it'll all turn out all for the best. Hope must be based on a sober judgement of how things are. If you've been following my letters over the past few months you'll know I'm taking a sombre view of how things are in our nation, western society and the world.

The centre of the economic world has been moving the Pacific Rim for at least the past half century. The British Isles are a small archipelago at the top left hand corner of the map. Our power and influence is waning, and will doubtless wane faster and faster. We're not finished, but we must adjust to being one of the smaller nations and less influential player as the "Far East" - what an arrogant 'Brito-centric' name! - flexes its growing economic muscles.

So what is our hope? Not in economics, not in social cohesion. But in the ability of love to rise out of the ashes of hate. Or as Christians would put it... the hope of the resurrection, sure and certain. That's the Easter Hope. Christ is risen, he is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Best wishes,

Wyn

HANBURY CHURCH

'Monuments and Meaning'

An exploration of art and symbolism found among the sculptures in the Vernon Chapel and examples of antique jewellery

Saturday lunchtime - 27 April 2019

11.00 am – 1.30 pm

Tickets £15.00

- Coffee on arrival
- Talk by Geoff Whitefield
- Light lunch
- An opportunity to consult Geoff about the content and worth of your own jewellery or silver – bring an item along
- Tickets through Tricia 01527 402302 – Judith 01527 821443

All proceeds to Mission Morogoro

Geoff has been a National Association of Jewellers, Institute Registered Valuer since 2005, now based at Jinney Ring Craft Centre's nostalgic 'Galantique'. While exploring Hanbury church last year, Geoff was struck by the wealth of decorative symbolism in the chapel and has enthusiastically agreed to gift his expertise in support of our African project.

www.hanburychurch.org

Jasper's Coffee Morning

Jasper, grandson of Jillian and David Rowe, was born some 20 weeks ago with life-threatening internal deformities. Rushed to Addenbrookes Hospital (and later Gt. Ormand Street) he underwent 3 major operations. Thanks to amazing surgical skills and superb nursing care he has been restored to (so far) good health. Throughout this worrying time his parents, Hannah and Simon, were able to stay in the Hospital in accommodation provided by the Sick Children's Trust, a charity funded solely by donation. It enables the parents of very sick children to be close to, and take part in, the healing process. This is incredibly important for all concerned.

We are holding a coffee morning at The Old Coach House, Droitwich Road, Feckenham

**on Saturday 13th April
from 10.30 to 12.30**

to raise funds for this wonderful cause. £2 per person provides coffee (or tea) and homemade biscuits.

We also have:

Cakes and produce: A Raffle: Bring-and-buy: Bookstall: Bric-a-brac: Plants

All are most welcome.

Village Shop

April is a busy month for the shop.....

First of all, join us at the Spring Show on 6th April in the Village Hall for a Wine and Cheese tasting from 2.30 - 4pm (it's the Grand National that day!)

Then there is Easter at the end of the month, we have lots of Easter eggs £1.50 for a standard egg, many other chocolate options, along with Easter cards and hot cross buns. Remember fresh eggs are delivered on Thursdays! And what about the Lavender Hampers at £17.99 which make for a super Easter gift.

Also look out for new lines in the chiller, ready meals 2 for £5, along with puddings - frozen spotted dick & apple crumble and ambient chocolate and treacle sponge puddings, delicious! Cooked meats & salami also in stock.

We hope you will agree that the Shop is an essential Village amenity having recently celebrated the first successful ten years, we are all looking forward to continuing confidently for the next ten, but only with your help and backing.

Many thanks to you all who already support The Village Shop, we look forward to welcoming newcomers with open arms.

Church Flower Group

Margaret Perry

Easter Lilies



The Flower group will be decorating the church for Easter and included in these arrangements will be Lilies in remembrance of village families loved ones.

Anyone wishing to contribute towards the lilies this year are welcome to send their donations to Ann Matthews 8 The Square B96 6HR (cheques payable to Feckenham PCC)

Margaret and Marg.

What's On this month in STOCK & BRADLEY

- 3rd BREAKAWAY**
Sugar Floristry Art
Pansy Demonstration
10.30am - Village Hall
- 3rd GARDENING CLUB**
Annual Bulb Show
7.30pm - Village Hall
- 10th ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**
7.30pm - Village Hall
- 14th WALKING CLUB**
Meet at Bradley Church - 10am

For more information see
STOCK & BRADLEY CHRONICLE

Feckenham Women's Institute

April 1919 - April 2019



Jane White

In April this year Feckenham W.I. will celebrate it's centenary birthday. This is a wonderful milestone and a tribute to all members past and present.

In 1919 we were jointly Bradley and Feckenham W.I.. We are uncertain when Bradley became a separate Institute but somewhere in 1950's early 60's. Our records go back to the first President, Mrs Newton Jones, and there were 51 members.

100 years ago Feckenham was an industrial village, and a lot of members would have worked in the needle or fish hook business.

John English opposite the Square, and Goulds at Brook House Farm were the main manufactures. Also Barretts Saddlery, 4 Inns, 2 Bakers, 2 Grocers, a Butcher, a Bone Dealer, a Drapers, a Boot Maker, a Shoemaker and Feckenham Garage, then on the Square. There were also Farmers and agricultural workers, as in Bradley. Now Feckenham has a very different demographic. Perhaps this is reflected in our current membership of 16! However the W.I. does move with the times and with the help of new members Feckenham WI can grow & become viable for the 21st Century.



*A meeting in Bradley Village Hall - probably late 50's with glasses in hand, ?1959 50th anniversary!
I think I recognise Joy Styler, Frances Tongue, Gerty Johnson and Mabel Hunt any others please contact me.*



Serving teas for the Village Open Garden Weekends and enjoying the occasion. Joy Styler & Linda Harris

Here are a few pictures showing changing times and reflecting some of what we have done in the community, the learning, and a group of ladies having friendship and fun together.

This month we are having a members supper, and in June a celebration with other W.I.s, County members and past members. And just may be our Centenary Banner will be ready for that meeting!

Fun, Friendship and Food - a bountiful buffet for our 75th Anniversary.





One of our Christmas Markets - homemade Christmas Cakes, Mince Pies and Christmas Puddings and much more. Handmade craft items, with Christmas Crackers after we had an evening demonstration on how to make them! Jane White on crafts, Lin Preece customer. Joy Styler and Barbara Baylis on cakes.

One of our many outings - this time to a Cider Making Farm, which included a light supper. Vivien Hunter, Shirley Harman and visitor.



Charity QUIZ NIGHT

The popular quizzes at **The Rose and Crown** have raised thousands of pounds for good causes over the past couple of years.

The Easter Charity Quiz on Thursday, 11th April will be in aid of The Bromsgrove Basement Project which provides support to young people (under 25) in and around North Worcestershire who are homeless or are facing homelessness. The aim is to help people find a home and keep it and to live independently, whilst considering their future.

Every penny taken at the Quiz will go to this valuable safety net for local youngsters - doing a bit of good while having fun. Regular Quiz goers will know that these are fun events rather than brain twisting exams - that's not to say that you'll know all the answers - but you won't need to be a genius to stand a chance of winning!

Entry is £2 per person - you can enter teams of up to 6 people and entry lists are in both bar and lounge at the pub. Just gather up a few friends, make up a team name and pop into the Crown to enter. There'll be a raffle, a snack or two - and, of course, the pub will be glad to serve the tipples of your choice.

The Quiz starts at 7.30 sharp - a fun way to help young folk who find themselves in a pickle. Don't delay - enter today!!



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WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM




Fordante
Present

Romance to the Movies



Fordante return with a Spellbinding Concert, blending Waltzes, popular Romantic Classics & Movie Love Themes with a beautiful mix of Fordante's songs

* Swen Lake Waltz * Moon River * Intermezzo * A Summer Place *
* Gold & Silver Waltz * The Gladly Romance * La Traviata *
And many more...

"Like Amore, but with a smaller orchestra!"

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL 

SUNDAY, 7TH APRIL - 7.30PM

TICKETS £10 From The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.

Phone 0333 666 3366 Book Online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham

FeckenOdeon 2
The Cinema in the Back Room

BOY ¹⁵ NEW ZEALAND'S TOP COMEDY

DON'T CALL ME DAD!



FROM DIRECTOR TANA WAIWAI

Friday, 12th April at 8pm

Tickets: £5 (Students/Pensioners £3.50)
from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown, Feckenham
or book by phone on 0333 666 3366 or online* at
www.fecknodeon.co.uk

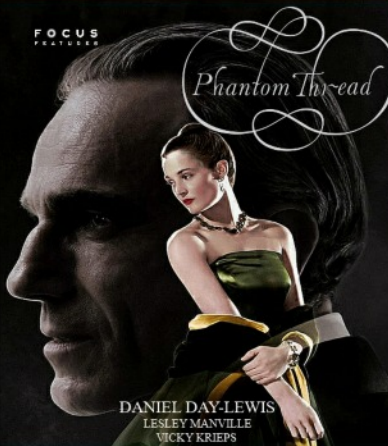
*Booking fee applies to phone and online bookings - email the fee - book in person

FeckenOdeon 2 at Feckenham Village Hall

TO THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

FOCUS FEATURES

Phantom Thread



DANIEL DAY-LEWIS
LESLEY MANVILLE
VICKY KRIEPS

Saturday, 27th April - 7.30pm

at The FeckenOdeon Cinema in Feckenham Village Hall
Tickets: £5 from The Rose & Crown and Village Shop, Feckenham
Telephone 0333 666 3366* or BOOK ONLINE* at
www.fecknodeon.co.uk

*BOOKING FEE APPLIES TO TELEPHONE AND ONLINE BOOKINGS. APPLIC. THE FEE. BUY IN PERSON LOCAL PHONE BILL ONLY.

Send details of events for FREE listing to: whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk or call 892130

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



THE
FECKENHAM
SESSIONS
TRADITIONAL
MUSICMAKING
at THE ROSE & CROWN

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 2nd April

Feckenham Readers Group



Wednesday, 10th April - 7.45

This Month: LINCOLN IN THE BARDO
by George Saunders
Details from Marion Chute - 892285

Feckenham Forest History Society

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

Talk by Howard F Robinson
Tuesday, 9th April - 7.30pm
Webheath Village Hall
www.feckenham-forest-history-society.org.uk

the **WI** **FECKENHAM WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL
CENTENARY CELEBRATION
100 years of Feckenham WI
Thursday, 11th April - 7.30pm
Visitors Welcome at all meetings - £4



Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB

ANNUAL BULB SHOW

Daffodil Competition

Wednesday, 3rd April

7.30pm - Bradley Village Hall



Spring Flower Show

Feckenham Village Hall

Saturday, 6th April - 2.30pm

COFFEE MORNING

In aid of The Sick Children's Trust

Saturday, 13th April - 10.30 to 12.30

The Old Coach House, Droitwich Road

Coffee & Homemade Biscuits £2



The Sick
Children's
Trust



EASTER QUIZ

THURSDAY 11TH April 2019

7.30p.m.

CHARITY

Bromsgrove Basement Project

(supporting young homeless people
in North Worcestershire)

Usual Exciting Raffle

Prize donations welcome



Hatha Yoga Classes

Feckenham Village Hall - Mondays at 7.15

NEW! Additional classes on Wednesdays at 7.15

Contact Melissa Caddick on 07814753927

yourlifeyoga@outlook.com

Send details of events for FREE listing to: whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk or call 892130

FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

Ian Bellion



WHEN DAD'S BEEN BAD...

In this comedy from New Zealand, Boy lives with his grandmother. His best friend is a goat and he has a vivid imagination. But when his ne'er-do-well father rolls up after a seven-year prison sentence. Boy wants to be like him... until he realises that Dad is clueless and clumsy - and can't even remember where he's hidden the loot. A warm hearted and funny film from Taika Waititi, the director of "Hunt for The Wilderpeople".

"Boy"

at 8pm on Friday, 12th April



A STITCH TO END WITH...

The final film in the current main FeckenOdeon season is also the final film of its star. Daniel Day-Lewis announced that this was to be his final film - and he's chosen to go out in style. In 1950's London, renowned dressmaker Reynolds Woodcock (Day-Lewis) is the choice of royalty, movie stars, and more. Women come and go through Woodcock's life, providing the bachelor with inspiration and companionship, until he meets a young, strong-willed woman named Alma.... A powerful swansong for Daniel.

"PHANTOM THREAD"

Saturday, 27th April 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



LOCAL NEWS, LOCAL PEOPLE

Things are happening in Feckenham and **Swansbrook Radio** is always anxious to be the first with local news. Recently we heard that that the Village Shop might be closing - so we talked to the people in charge and to the people that really matter - the customers and the volunteers. We've been following the saga of the GP Surgery. We broadcast the opinions of the doctors and those affected by the shut down - and, by the time you read this, we will have brought listeners the result of the enquiry as soon as it was announced. We're keeping a close eye on the situation at the Forest at Feckenham and we're watching the progress of proposed development sites around the village.

We're your first stop for joined up news. Social media may give you the rumours but Swansbrook's facts are fully checked before we broadcast them - no fake news - no gossip! So take a listen to the most reliable Feckenham news on the internet - there are bulletins on the hour, every hour - and downloadable versions available On Demand.

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD

If you know of something newsworthy that we ought to look into just drop us an email at radio@swansbrook.com and our reporting team will spring into action. Of course our reporting team would be more effective if was larger - so, if you've ever wondered what it might be like to be at the heart of the action, just get in touch - you might be Feckenham's answer to Kate Adie!

LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Just go to www.swansbrook.com and follow the instructions you'll find there. **Listen to what you like when and where you like - as often as you like.**

FECKENHAM'S OWN Local Radio
www.swansbrook.com

Feckenham Spring Flower Show

Saturday 6th April 2019

Linda Harris

The 'Springtime in Feckenham' Flower Show will be held on Saturday 6th 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 Hat Parade**, with prizes. Other attractions include the usual stalls, 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 3 cut Daffodils - long trumpet (all same variety)
- 2 3 cut Daffodils - short trumpet (all same variety)
- 3 3 cut Daffodils - double (all same variety)
- 4 3 cut miniature spring flowers (all same variety)
- 5 3 cut Tulips (all same variety)
- 6 3 cut flowers (all same variety)
- 7 A Spring arrangement in any container
- 8 A bowl of Spring bulbs
- 9 A pot plant in flower
- 10 A pot plant for foliage effect (no flower)
- 11 1 item – handmade craft – any subject

Children's Classes

- 1 A Spring Posy
 - 2 Make a flower (out of any material of your choice)
 - 3 Illustrate 'Springtime in Feckenham' in any way you choose
- There are separate prizes for pre-schoolchildren and children under 9 years old

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

The Flower Show Committee will run a **cake stall** and would be very grateful for donations of cakes of any sort.

New Craft Class for 2019

We are holding our Annual Springtime in Feckenham on Saturday 6th April 2019 at Feckenham Village Hall, and have added a new class to the Schedule, an **adult craft class**. The entry can be of any subject but must have been made by you. All items will be judged and first, second and third places will be awarded. We look forward to seeing some lovely and interesting items, so come and display your craft and enter into the spirit of Village life. You must

Save the date

The wonderful **Tarantara Choir** is coming back to Feckenham!

Join us on Saturday 15 June 7.30 pm for a fabulous evening of music.

All proceeds will go to the on-going windows restoration project at the Church.

Tickets• (£10 including an interval drink)• are on sale at the Village shop and the Rose and Crown .

For further details contact Louise Denne louiseddenne@aol.com

Village Hall

Ian Bellion



PHIL'S ORCHESTRA RETURNS

Composer Phil Mountford's ensemble Fordante return to Feckenham with a spectacular new concert **"From Romance to the Movies and more..."**

Described as "Andre Rieu with a smaller orchestra", Fordante are an award winning five piece ensemble (cello, violin, viola, oboe, piano) that have been entertaining audiences performing light classical and film music throughout the country for almost a decade.

Fordante's new spellbinding show, "Romance to the Movies", includes a wonderful mix of popular film music from Moon River, The Gladfly, Gone With The Wind, A Summer Place to well known classics such as Swan Lake Waltz, Intermezzo, Gold and Silver Waltz along with a handful of Fordante's original music plus a sprinkle of surprises that will have the audience singing along.

Sunday, 7th April - 7.30pm:

FORDANTE

Tickets (£10) from The Village Shop, The Rose & Crown, by phone on 0333 666 3366 or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham

URN'S RETURN

The Village Hall's missing tea urn has miraculously returned. It had been borrowed by a certain village organisation and put away in one of their cupboards... and forgotten about. There was no felonious intent and no harm done - but we really must ask that nothing is borrowed from the Hall without explicit permission. Other users can find themselves without equipment or facilities if things are in hiding elsewhere. Similarly, if your take things like tablecloths home to wash (for which we thank you) please return them as quickly as you can so that they're available for the next function.

Square Management Committee

WACKY RACER MOBILES NEEDED

Remember the Wacky Races? Dick Dastardly? Muttley? Penelope Pitstop? The Creepy Coupe? Drat and double drat!?

Wacky Races was a TV cartoon series in which a whole cavalcade of bizarre and wonderful cars engaged in a seemingly endless race and with Dastardly and Muttley determined to cheat their way to the winning post - and never succeeding.

Fun on The Square this year is entitled "Cartoon Capers" and the organisers have decided to hold a competition for the **Best Home Made Wacky Racer** - and we're asking everyone to have a go at making the most imaginative (and wacky) fantasy vehicle imaginable. It must be person powered - perhaps by pedals or even just pushing - not motorised. You can use any materials you wish - but it must be robust enough to move and it must be able to transport at least one person. There'll be a prize for the best creation, a grand parade to show off your expertise and of course there'll be a race (Dastardly and Muttley will be kept under control).

We realise that this will be a big project - ideal for the whole family or groups to undertake - and we think that you should get planning NOW! More details soon - but the earlier you start the better it will be!



SQUARE THINGS...

Although the bulbs are blooming lovely The Square is looking a bit threadbare at the moment. Committee members will be adding topsoil to level sunken bits and all the bare bits will be re-seeded.

The Committee is working towards refurbishing the gravel road down one side of the green which has become worn.

Feckenham Church



Dear Feckenham Friends,

One definition of a meeting is “a group of people waiting to go home”.

Meetings, especially business meetings and committees, are not everyone’s cup of tea. But they are unavoidable and essential if we are to organise ourselves successfully for any venture. That is certainly true of the Church.

Each year we have an **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** where important decisions are made, as well as reports and updates received and discussed.

These annual meetings are vital to the proper working of Church life. Attendance doesn’t mean that you will automatically be roped in to doing a job you don’t really want to do! But it will mean you are properly informed and have a chance to have your say and to vote for the PCC membership for the coming year.

Church life in Feckenham is rich and varied and this year we would love to see more people turn up to on

Monday 29th April at 7.30pm in Feckenham Church

to hear about the many things going on; share some coffee and cake as we review the past year and then commit ourselves to the future by voting in the Parochial Church Council. This also gives us an opportunity to mark and celebrate our achievements over the last year and to thank those who have contributed their time and skills to our parish.

Hopefully, we’ll have a backdrop of images telling the story of the past year.

But we have some challenges:

We need 2 Churchwardens

plus there are 7 vacancies on the PCC – and we’re very heavily male dominated!

But all these jobs are lightened when we share them around more people. We are hugely grateful to those who have been carrying the responsibility during the Churchwardens’ vacancies - but let’s see if we can’t step up as a Church community and spread the load.

Best wishes,

Wyn

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

will be held in the Church
**on Monday the 29th day of April
2019 at 7.30 pm**

For the election of **TWO** churchwardens and **SEVEN** Parochial representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council.

Nomination forms are available at the back of the church.

The Meeting will consider reports on the Electoral Roll, the proceedings of the PCC, activities of the parish, the proceedings of the Deanery Synod and the Financial Statement for 2018.

Formal notice of the meeting will be displayed on the Church Door for at least two Sundays before the meeting and may also be found on our website <http://www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk>

Ian Hunter PCC Secretary

Feckenham Parish Council

SURGERY CLOSURE CONFIRMED

The Parish Council has continued to monitor the proposed closure of the Feckenham GP branch surgery.

In January we wrote to the Redditch & Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group (RBCCG) to express our concerns and also highlight difficulties parishioners were having accessing appointments at the main Ridgeway surgery in Astwood Bank.

RBCCG responded with some statistics, which show that there has been a 16% increase in the number of GP appointments in the last year (now at least 330 per week) and, in addition, there are a further 45 appointments per week with the new prescribing pharmacist.

RBCCG has also funded a new telephone system for the Ridgeway surgery, which was installed in February.

THE DECISION

RBCCG produced a very detailed report supporting the case for closure of the branch surgery and, together with information we had submitted, this was all considered in a Committee meeting on 13th March – which has now formally approved the closure.

AFTER THE CLOSURE

We hope that the increase in appointment numbers at the main Ridgeway surgery, plus the new telephone system will ensure that good quality GP services continue to be available to our parishioners in a timely and convenient fashion.

RBCCG and Healthwatch have promised to monitor the situation after the closure and, as always, the Parish Council would also be pleased to assist if parishioners have any difficulties.

The Ridgeway Surgery would also welcome the involvement of patients resident in Feckenham in their Patient Participation Group (contact the practice Manager Ms Navpreet Kaur).

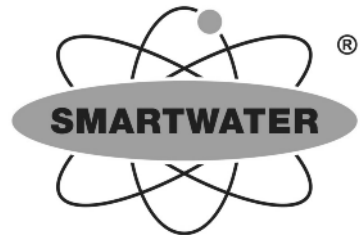
PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Parish Council elections happen every 5 years. The Parish elects seven councillors. The position of Parish Councillor is entirely voluntary and there is no financial remuneration. If there are more than seven candidates an election will be held on Thursday, 2nd May. Application packs can be had from the Parish Clerk and completed applications have to be handed in at Redditch Town Hall before 4pm on Wednesday, 3rd April. For details contact the Parish Clerk at clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com or phone 01527 892522

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of Feckenham Parish Council will be on **Thursday, 18th April at 7.30pm** in the Back Room at Feckenham Village Hal. Everyone is welcome to attend. The agenda will be posted on the Parish notice board (next to the pillar box) and on feckenham.com. Every meeting contains an “open forum” section where members of the public can ask questions and bring matters to the notice of the Council.

If you can't attend the meeting you can contact the Council through the Parish Clerk at clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com or phone 01527 892522



PACKS STILL AVAILABLE

The Parish Council still has plenty of FREE Smartwater packs available. Smartwater allows you to place an invisible mark on your property - meaning that, in the event of a theft, the police can trace the item and return it to its rightful owner. The Smartwater scheme also has a powerful deterrent effect.

If you'd like a pack contact the Parish Clerk: clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com or phone 01527 892522

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Feckenham Cricket Club

Bob Gordon



The season starts soon! The first team's first match will be away at Bewdley on Saturday April 13th, although a friendly on the previous weekend at Mill Lane is possible. The second team starts the season a week later at Droitwich Spa, while the firsts entertain Stourbridge at Mill Lane.

The draw for the Village Knock-out Cup has been made and Feckenham will be playing away at old rivals Chaddesley Corbett on April 28th.

On the ground and of course subject to the weather, the wickets will have been cut and rolled regularly while the outfield will have been cut.

Areas of moss on the outfield have been treated and reseeded. Hedges are being trimmed and the ravages of winter have been steadily dealt with.

One area that is a general topic within the village concerns the appalling way in which some dog owners either do not pick up or simply throw the poo bag into the undergrowth. Steve, one of our groundsmen recently collected 38 such bags that had been chucked into the corner of the field at the junction of the stream and Mill Lane! Such bags are regularly found thrown into the hedges around the ground. I would like to find the money to install good quality CCTV that might record such behaviour I would have no hesitation in naming and shaming those responsible that could be positively identified.

Among the work on the ground, a large team of helpers, including juniors and their parents, players and social members will be spending (again, weather permitting) much of Saturday April 6th with paintbrushes in hand, repainting the boundary boards and the score-box and generally tidying. It is hoped that a short fun game involving juniors and members of the third team will take place once the work is finished.

A few weeks ago, Steve Daniels our groundsmen received his award for over 50 years' service to the club at a grand dinner organised by the Midlands Club Cricket Conference at Edgbaston. Very well deserved recognition of all the work that Steve has put in – and is still putting in – over the decades.

An exciting development is the likelihood that a ladies team will be assembled, to play friendly softball games at festivals hosted by the Worcester Cricket Board and some clubs. This is intended to be fun and sociable events, as described by the Board:

Soft Ball Cricket is about getting out and playing: maximum fun, minimum fuss. No pads, no hard ball, no heavy bat, no head-scratching rules. It's a game for absolutely everybody, no matter your skill level, fitness, or age. Playing time at Festivals is usually about two to four hours, so it never gets boring!

Turn up and we promise you a warm welcome, a free T-shirt, free coaching, music, and food: basically all the good things about a festival with none of the grunge.

This form of cricket for ladies of 14+ is often referred to as the "Prosecco League", which hints at its sociable and fun nature – and no, Prosecco is NOT provided! If any ladies in the village are interested in playing – even if only occasionally – please email amandagordon677@gmail.com.

Back to the male form, the club is keen to attract new players at all levels, particularly as the first team will be playing in the new Premier Division of the Worcestershire County League. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY, PLEASE CONTACT NICK REDDISH ON 07802 212125. We also need a scorer so again please call Nick if you are interested – no experience is needed and you can also take advantage of the wonderful cricket teas that Carly creates for us.

On the social side, the club ran a very successful and fun Horse Race evening on Saturday March 2nd and planning is underway for a couple of junior cricket festivals in the summer and as a bit of fun, a rounders tournament nearer to the end of summer, involving teams from the village.

Fixtures at Mill Lane over April and into May:

Sat April 20th at 1pm – Stourbridge (1st team)

Sat April 27th at 1pm – Malvern (2nd team)

Sat May 4th at 1pm – Pershore (1st team)

Sat May 11th at 1pm – Hagley (2nd team)

Come down and watch – you will be very welcome. In the meantime, find us online at <https://www.feckenhamcc.co.uk/>.

Stock & Bradley Gardening Club Rob Cole

Wednesday 3rd April at 7.30pm

The April meeting will be our Annual Bulb 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. Make sure that you bring your own vases. More than one entry can be made in each Class. Because of the earliness of this year's flowering season we will also have an additional Class for three blooms of Tulip. There will also be a Class for the best photograph (maximum size A5) depicting 'Bright Colours'. One entry per member for this Class.

Note that there is no monthly competition at the April meeting, but the overall 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!

The 1st May meeting will be a talk by Jeff Soulsby entitled 'May in the Garden - Gearing up for Summer'. Jeff is a local nurseryman and is a keen grower of hardy perennials. The theme for the Monthly Competition will be 'Three Hardy Perennial Flowers'.

If you require any further information, ring Dinny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527 821355 or Rob Cole (Chairman) on 01527 821156.

Village Hall

Improvement Fund 2018/19



March Winners

145 Geoff Knock	£25
118 Dave & Lin Preece	£15
114 David & Jill Rowe	£10

The April Draw will be held in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 2nd April 2019

Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday 11th May

10.00am - 12.00 noon

Our Annual Plant Sale will be held at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green. Plants grown by members will be for sale, and two specialist local nurseries will also be in attendance with an interesting range of plants.

The event is an ideal opportunity to buy excellent plants at keen prices and is open to everyone.

There will coffee and tea available, and home made cakes. There is no charge for entry, but we do appreciate it if you buy a raffle ticket at the door.

Make a note in your diary now !

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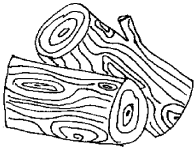
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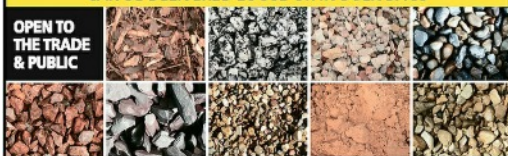
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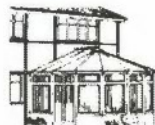
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