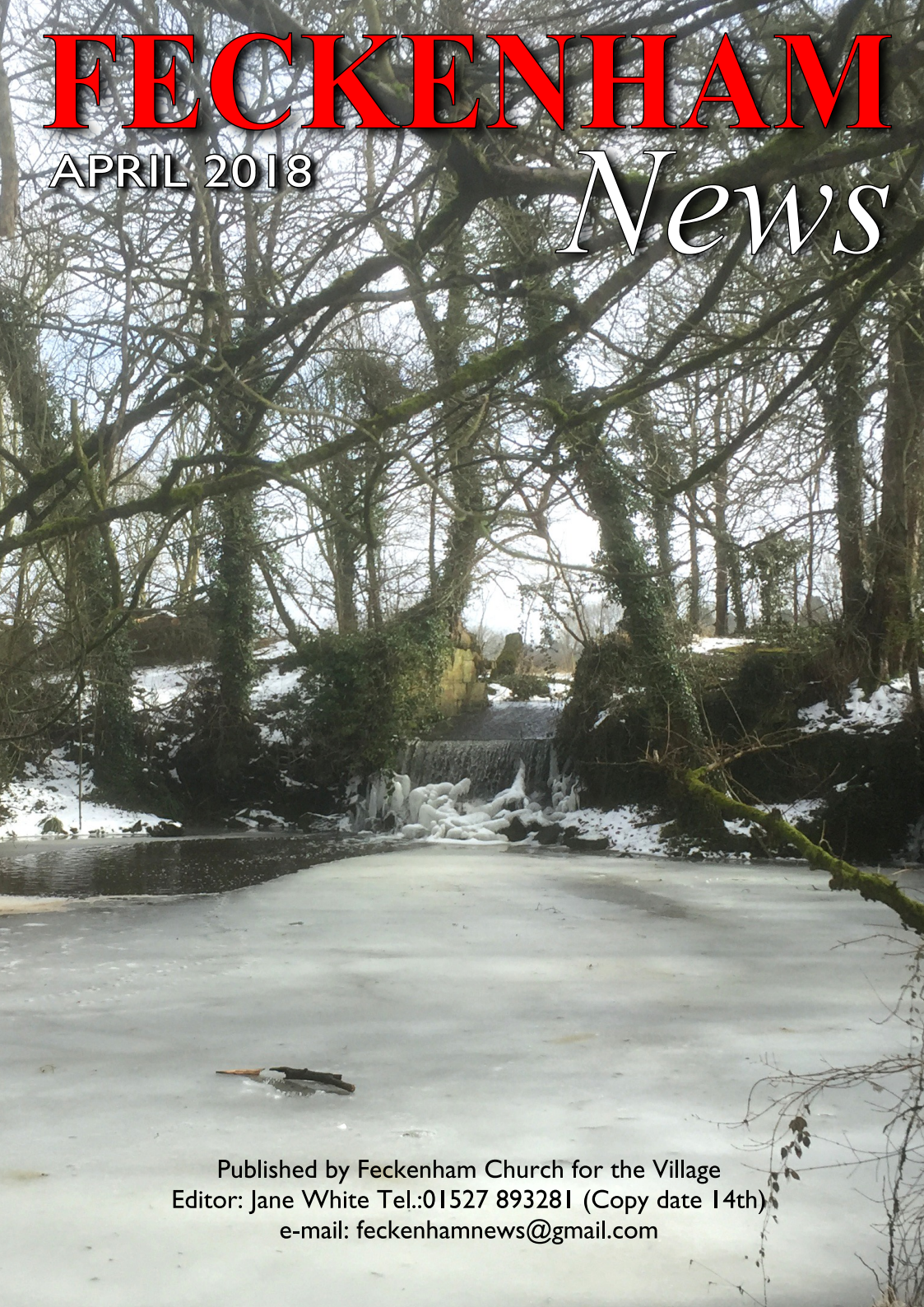


FECKENHAM

APRIL 2018

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 3 rd	12.30am	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Wed 4 th	7.30pm	Gardening Club	Bradley Village Hall
Sat 7 th	2.30pm	Spring Flower Show	Village Hall
Tues 10 th	7.30pm	Feckenham Forest History Society	Webheath Village Hall
Thur 12 th	7.30pm	Feckenham WI	Village Hall, Back Room
Fri 13 th	8pm	FeckenOdeon-2	Back Room Village Hall
Sat 14 th	7.30pm	Tribute to Elvis	Village Hall
Thur 19 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall Back Room
Sat 22 nd	7.30pm	Kel's Music & Mischief	Village Hall
Sat 28 th	7.30pm	FeckenOdeon	Village Hall

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www.feckenham.com

Front Cover

Whirley Hole in March 2018!
Photo by Phil Guise



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.



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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

Readers and intercessors

Sunday 1st
Easter Day

11.00am Sung Eucharist

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
Acts 10: 34-43
Intercessor

Ann Matthews
Shirley Harman
Jeff Matthews



Sunday 8th
Easter 2

8.00am Holy Communion

1 John 5:4

John Eaton

11.00am Anne Tomkins of St Richards Hospice
Intercessor

Erica Dilger

Sunday 15th
Easter 3

6.30pm Evensong

Acts 3: 3-19
Luke 24:36-48
Intercessor

Jenny Snel
Gerry Eost
Fiona Carter

Sunday 22nd
Easter 4

11.00am Sung Eucharist

1 John 3:16-24
Acts 4:5-12
Intercessor

Bob Fish
Angela Fletcher
Tony Mortimer

Sunday 29th
Easter 5

10.30am Living Communion at Stoke Prior

Followed by a bring and share lunch

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

Thought for the month

Rev. Wyn Beynon

Dear Friends,

I write this on hearing of the death of Ken Dodd, a comic hero who kept me laughing for the past 60 years.

April. This is a daft month, starting with Day and feast of All Fools. This year the 1st April is also Ester Day when Christians are foolish enough to proclaim that Christ is risen from the dead.

Such a claim should be daft. But 2000 of human experience proves otherwise. That in some way, some inexplicable way, Life and Love and bigger than death and hate.

Many have laughed *at* this idea over the centuries. Many others have laughed *with* this claim, finding in its foolishness a truth which releases joy, even in the midst of hard times.

Joy, and all real humour, are about identifying with something that is to be celebrated, and laughing *with* it, not *at* it. The best humour always invites us to laugh *with* the joker, *not* at them. Ken Dodd's humour drew you in and you laughed *with* him.

April is a joker. The warm sunshine is suddenly blocked out by showers and cold winds. Winter can sneak back in and some days we can have the whole 4 seasons in a matter of a few hours. But because it's spring we know that bit by bit the days are getting warmer, the trees and hedgerows are greening up and the joke is not on us, or on April, but we can laugh together at the miracle of new life emerging from the long death of winter. Even if we get soaked when we forget about the sneaky showers.

And if we catch the truth of that then we can begin to catch the truth of the good news of Resurrection. There is a foolishness in it all... and we all need a little foolishness if we are to be truly alive.

"Comedians are jesters and jesters have a fools' licence," Ken Dodd said (according the BBC

website!) . "Political correctness doesn't apply to us. We are encouraged to say things that everybody would love to say but are scared stiff of saying. A jester is part-entertainer, part Mr Happy, part-anarchist."

Christ lived the life of the jester-fool... and it turns out, his best gag is that Love is stronger than hate, Life is stronger than death. Many laughed *at* him for preaching that... but we can laugh *with* him!

That's joy, the deepest, longest laugh of all.

RIP Ken... and as you said, "What a wonderful day of for making God laugh..... by telling him your plans..."

best wishes, Wyn

Obituary



Eileen Rose Robson

29th August 1943 - 22nd January 2018

I would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral, sent emotional condolence cards and gave me so much support, following the death of my wife. I can't thank you enough.

Eileen suffered from myeloma (bone cancer) for fifteen years, but it was only last year that she needed treatment. Had it not been for unexpected complications, she could have lived for many more years.

I met Eileen through a chance encounter in 1993 and we spent twenty four happy years together. We worked in Worcester, but on retiring in 2001 decided to move to my cottage in Feckenham and set about involving ourselves in village activities. Eileen worked in the Village Shop from day one, was a member of the W.I. and enjoyed singing in both Church and Village Choirs. She was an important part of the community.

I miss her so much.

Brian

World War I Centenary Commemoration

Steve Fletcher



William Alfred Styler

The life of the Feckenham villager William Alfred Styler, who died in World War One on

23rd March 1918, will be commemorated on Sunday 8th April 2018 at the Family Service to be

held in the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist, Feckenham.

William was born in late 1895 to Thomas and Elizabeth (nee Willies) Styler, who were married in Feckenham Church on 29th March 1880. William was baptised there on 17th February 1896.

Thomas and Elizabeth had had fifteen children by

1911, but nine of them had already died by then. With so many children their house at 6 Mill Lane

must have been quite crowded, which probably explains why on the 1901 census William is shown as being at the house of his widowed maternal grandmother, Rebecca Willies, three doors away from his parents' house. By 1911 he was living at his parents' house, with them and his sisters Emily, Jane and Bertha. In 1901 William's parents, and his aunts and uncles at Rebecca's house, all worked in the needle industry. In 1911 William was working as a cycle enameller. This may be an indication of the progressive decline of the local needle making industry.

By November 1915 William had enlisted in the Somerset Light Infantry, but he subsequently transferred into the Worcestershire Regiment, and then into the Wiltshire Regiment. We do not know the reasons for these transfers, but they may have been due to periods of medical evacuation. In late March 1918 the Wiltshire Regiment was involved in heavy fighting in the vicinity of Achiet-Le-Grand, and by 23rd March they were in the Corps line between Vaulx and

details are not known because his service records are missing, probably because they were in the archives that were burnt in the blitz during World War 2. Unfortunately, William's body was never found. He is remembered on the Arras memorial to the missing, and on the village school memorial.

William was directly related to Frank Wilson Styler, who had enlisted in the Warwickshire Regiment, and died on 30th May 1917. They had the same great great grandfather, Edward Styler, who died in 1861 aged 73 and is buried in Feckenham Churchyard.

Newshound



Welcome to Tom and Michelle Norris and their young son Charlie who have moved into Hill Cottage, Alcester Road.

Well done to the children, staff and families at Feckenham school for raising £327 in their Great Feckenham Bake Off on Thursday. This sum will be put towards the restoration and cleaning of church windows at Feckenham Church. The 55+ cakes and savouries were auctioned off afterwards over refreshments, after Rev Gary and fellow judges had their fill.

Friends of Feckenham Church

Cathy Fisher



A Night at the Musicals

We would like to thank all those who helped and supported the 'Night at the Musicals' Event held in the Village Hall on the 17th February. In particular we must thank The Studley Operatic Society, All Round Voices Choir, Ian Bellion and Carole Corden. It was a sell out evening and much enjoyed by all. The event raised £1,340 towards the maintenance of our Parish Church and Churchyard.

Reg. Charity No. 1168889

Parish Council

Jane Bull

CRIMEFIGHTING KITS NOW AVAILABLE IN FECKENHAM!

The Parish Council still has a limited number of Smartwater kits available free of charge for residents within the Parish. Smartwater is well known amongst criminals and is thought to be one of the most powerful crime deterrents available today!

All you need do is dab a small amount of the liquid onto your valuables. The liquid which is invisible to the naked eye contains unique information which may enable the Police to reunite you with your goods if they are stolen. It can also help with prosecutions as the stolen items will have your unique information on them which is virtually impossible to remove. You will shortly see signs displaying 'Smartwater used here' being put around the village. If you would like your own crime fighting kit please email

clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com

or contact the Clerk, Jane Bull on 892522.

FLOOD PICTURES NEEDED

Have you taken any pictures of flooding on Astwood or Swansbrook Lanes?

Works will be undertaken this summer between Astwood Hill and the National Grid station but more will need to be done. Joseph Baker of North Worcestershire Water Management is working to make a case for funding to re-route the watercourse to stop flooding at the Swansbrook Lane junction and nearby. Joseph needs photographic evidence to bolster the case - so, if you have any pictures of flooding in Astwood or Swansbrook Lane please send them to joseph.baker@nwwm.org.uk - or contact the Clerk who can pass them on. Brief details of the date, location and frequency of flooding would be helpful.

COME TO A MEETING!

The Parish Council can't help with problems if they don't know about them. Council meetings start with an open forum for YOU to have your say - next chance: **Thursday, 19th April - 7.30pm at the Village Hall**

Moors Lane ALLOTMENTS

NOW THE WEATHER'S IMPROVING...

There's a chance to join the Moors Lane Allotment Gang - there are a number of plots vacant - and they're available in sizes to suit your ambitions and abilities. Whether you want to feed a large family or just grow a few flowers, there's a plot for you.

You'll be surprised how low the rents are - in fact the first year on any plot is FREE! Now's the time to start - your new garden can be up and running in time for planting in April and May - and you can look forward to enjoying your own produce in the summer and autumn. Just call Pauline Jennings for a chat - she'll explain what's involved and arrange to visit the allotments and choose your patch.

Call Pauline on 01527 892956 or email: pauline.h.jennings@btopenworld.com

What's On this month in STOCK & BRADLEY

- | | |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4th | BREAKAWAY
SOUTH AFRICA FLORA & FAUNA
Village Hall - 10.30am |
| 4th | GARDENING CLUB
Annual Bulb Show
Village Hall - 7.30pm |
| 11th | VILLAGE HALL AGM
Village Hall - 2.30pm |

For more information see
STOCK & BRADLEY CHRONICLE

Flower & Garden Festival 2018

Cathy Fisher

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th May

This hugely successful triennial Festival is now in its 33rd year. The funds raised go towards the general maintenance of our historic Parish Church of St. John the Baptist, with many village organisations also benefitting significantly from the weekend.

In 2015, 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. 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. If you think you can spare an hour or two on either the Saturday or Sunday between 11am and 5pm please get in touch.

The W.I. have agreed to provide refreshments, including their wonderful 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 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 **"Celebration and Commemoration"**.

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.

I should be most grateful if all garden owners and volunteers 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

Village Shop

Jeff Matthews

The ChocShock that is part of Easter is being suitably encouraged with a range of plain and fancy Easter eggs available. You can add a card and if chocolate isn't yours or the favoured other's thing then there are a range of unusual gifts unlikely to be found elsewhere. Come down and check it out.

New in the deli are delicious Greek olives selling loose by the tub, and if you fancy putting together a Meze for some guests we have Odysea flame roasted red and yellow peppers and Pelagonia cherry peppers with ricotta in jars with no need to chill.

Cafe specials are soup and a roll for £2.95, teacake and a hot drink at the bargain £2.50. We suggest you get in quick before the hordes of cyclists eat them all.

What happens to the contents of your GREEN BIN?

Jane White

Recently a small group of villagers went to find out, on a visit organised by Antonia Pulsford to EnviroSort.

To minimise the mileage and number of vehicles arriving at EnviroSort, the smaller collection vehicles take it to transfer stations around the county and then large vehicles collect and take to the sorting depot. There they use the "Combing Method" where the first sort is automated mechanical sorting 2D (paper & card) from 3D (bottles, jars, tins, cans, plastics

etc.). The separated paper and card is directed to a baling machine.

Everything else goes up a special conveyer that separates the glass items and drops them from the top, the resulting broken glass is collected in a container. Magnets remove the metal items then aluminium cans are separated from plastics. Computer operated sensors detect the different types of plastic which are sent in different directions for baling. Along the way conveyor belts pass through airconditioned cabins where workers check the sorting. There is a final manual sort of anything left, and anything non recoverable is sent to Envirocover (the destination of our black bin contents!) The resulting bales of sorted materials are then sent to the appropriate destinations.



Bales of plastic bottles ready for dispatch.

Inside the plant.

Photos Ian Bellion

The lessons we learnt about what can be recovered and what can't were interesting. And some surprised us.

YES

Paper (staples OK)

Wrapping paper, if it scrunches up and stays that way. If it bounces back - black bin it!

Cardboard flattened

Greetings card (tear off the front if it has glitter and black bin it!)

Cartons, rinsed but do not flatten (3D)

Tins, cans & empty aerosols, rinsed, do not crush

Glass bottles and jars, rinsed. If they have metal tops leave them on!

Plastic bottles, rinsed, with tops on, (unless it is a pump action top eg. spray cleaning products - black bin it).

Plastic food trays, clean

Plastic tubs, clean, with lids but any foil seal removed

NO

Aluminium trays or foil

Pyrex or broken glass

Pottery, it can be taken to certain household rubbish sites, our nearest is Bromsgrove.

Plastic film, bags & black plastic



WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



THE
FECKENHAM
SESSIONS
TRADITIONAL
MUSICMAKING
at THE ROSE & CROWN

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 3rd April

Spring FLOWER SHOW

Feckenham Village Hall
Saturday, 7th April - 2.30pm
Hall open for entries from 10.30am

Feckenham Readers Group
Wednesday, 11th April - 7.45



This Month:
A GENTLEMAN IN MOSCOW by Amor Towles
Details from Marion Chute - 892285

the **WI** FECKENHAM WI
INSPIRING WOMEN At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL
THE TRIALS OF A PRISON NURSE
with Margaret Green
Thursday, 12th April - 7.30pm
Visitors Welcome at all meetings - £4

Feckenham Forest History Society
WARWICKSHIRE CHURCHES

Talk by Tim Bridges
Tuesday, 10th April - 7.30pm
Webheath Village Hall
www.feckenham-forest-history-society.org.uk

Gary Lee James
As The King

AWARD
WINNING
ELVIS
TRIBUTE
ARTIST

A Tribute To
ELVIS



Presented by Feckenham Cricket Club
at Feckenham Village Hall
Saturday, 14th April (Doors Open 7.30pm) £12
Tickets on sale from the Club, Feckenham Village Shop
or online at Eventbrite

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

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

FeckenOdeon 2 The Cinema in the Back Room

NOMINATED FOR 2 ACADEMY AWARDS*

BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL BEST-SELLING NOVEL BY FREDRIK BACKMAN

★★★★★

★★★★★

★★★★★

★★★★★

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THE TIMES

"A BEAUTIFUL AND UPLIFTING TALE"
THE OBSERVER

"A FUNNY, FEEL-GOOD FILM"
THE TELEGRAPH

A MAN CALLED OVE

You'll love him
as much as he
hates you



Friday, 13th April at 8pm

Tickets £5 (FeckenOdeon Members £3.50)

from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown, Feckenham
or book by phone on 0333 666 3366 or online* at

www.feckenodeon.co.uk

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



FeckenOdeon 2 at Feckenham Village Hall

THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

Last rites... and wrongs...



Matthew Macfadyen - Rupert Graves - Andy Nyman - Kris Marshall - Peter Dinklage - Keeley Hawes

"A COMEDY TO DIE FOR" Today Magazine

DEATH at a FUNERAL¹⁵

A comedy of grave proportions
Directed by FRANK OZ

Saturday, 24th March - 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

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FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

Shindig **KEL ELLIOT**
AND HER ORCHESTRA

TRUTH AND TALL TALES

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL WORCESTERSHIRE
SUNDAY, 21ST APRIL - 7.30PM
TICKETS £11 From The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.
Phone 0333 666 3366 Book Online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham

Worcestershire Arts Council ENGLAND

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

FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

Ian Bellion



CHEERY CHAPPIE

There are grumpy old men.... And then there's Ove. It has to be admitted that Ove has a few reasons to be grumpy but he does take it to extremes. He's a bit of a failure... even repeatedly bungling his periodic attempts to kill himself. You wouldn't have thought that this film is a bundle of laughs... but it is! A real heart warming comedy. Staying true to the spirit of Fredrik Backman's international best-selling novel "**A Man Called Ove**" is a heartwarming tale of unreliable first impressions and the gentle reminder that life is sweeter when it's shared.

"A Man Called Ove"
at 8pm on Friday, 13th April.



AN ODD COUPLE....

In the final film of the FeckenOdeon's main season national treasure Judi Dench plays Queen Victoria in Stephen Frears' film based on the extraordinary true story of an unexpected friendship between Victoria and her Indian servant, Abdul Karim. As the Queen questions the constrictions of her long-held position, the two forge an unlikely alliance that her household and inner circle all attempt to destroy. The Queen begins to see a changing world through new eyes and joyfully reclaims her humanity.

"Victoria & Abdul"
at 7.30pm on Saturday, 28th April.

Tickets (£5) for 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

Village Hall

Ian Bellion



KEL'S MUSIC AND MISCHIEF

Feckenham has always enjoyed a bit of comedy with its music - there was the total madness of The New Rope String Band (now sadly disbanded), the crazy but brilliant gypsy fiddling of Oua Umplute and the on stage cooking of Spaghetti Swing - so the band playing at the Village Hall on Saturday 21st April should fit the bill perfectly.

Kel Elliott is a double-bass playing singer/songwriter who takes her life experiences and views on the state of the nation, and hammers them out on stage with humour, irony, and with more than a touch of mischief! Kel's vocals are distinctly rich and powerful. It is the impressive combination of voice and double bass that sets her apart from her contemporaries. Drawing from influences as eclectic as Tom Waits, Bonnie Raitt, Regina Spektor and Rufus Wainwright, her set can be soft and sentimental one minute, and unflinchingly eccentric the next. She's backed by her very own 3 man orchestra... and musical mayhem and open warfare may break out at any time. A Merry evening from Shindig and, for once, it's on a Saturday so you can enjoy it without thinking of work tomorrow!

Kel Elliott and Her 3 Man Orchestra
Saturday, 22nd April at 7.30pm

Tickets for this show are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown, by phone on 0333 666 3366 (local call rates) and online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham



NEWS BUT NO BUNNIES

You may have noticed the absence of The Redditch Standard and Advertiser recently. The companies that run these long standing local newspapers have decided that Feckenham's too small to be bothered with and have ceased deliveries. The Parish Council is quite rightly taking them to task - but it does leave us out on a limb when it comes to local news. Feckenham News is printed monthly so can't bring you up to date stories... but Swansbrook Radio is on the air 24 hours a day and, although the station isn't live, it can update its content remarkably quickly. There isn't a vast reporting team, no eyes in the sky - not even a news bunny - so we can only look to YOU to tell us if something is happening that we should report. If you think there's something Swansbrook should follow up all you need to do is email radio@swansbrook.com - and we'll be on it like a speeding(ish) bullet.

MUSICAL MARVELS

Regular Swansbrook listeners will either appreciate or be appalled by the sheer variety of music we play - Colin's Golden Oldies, Thea's brand new tunes, Stuart's middle of the road... and Ian's eccentricities. We're open to anything in any style - so, if you have something strange or unusual you'd like to hear or there's something you remember but just can't find, all you have to do is ask. We have access to a vast library of tracks - just email us on radio@swansbrook.com and we'll give your kind of music a spin.

LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Just go to www.swansbrook.com and follow the instructions you'll find there. **Most programmes are now 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

Square Management Committee

BRONCO DATE BUCKED

Whoops! The Square Committee has realised the annual Fun on The Square event had been booked for the same date as another function - so it has been moved...

Fun on The Square will now happen on Saturday, 21st July - please cross out the previously announced date in your diary! This is now set in stone - the band has been booked and there will certainly be a bucking bronco.... Don't go on the 14th... unless you've been invited to a wedding....

REPAIRS ON THE WAY

Contracts have now been placed for the repairs and restoration work to remedy the damage resulting from the motor accident last autumn. The opportunity is also being taken to repair and spruce up the car parking area. Work should be complete well before the Garden Festival in May.

Village Hall

Improvement Fund 2017/18



March Winners

44	Jeremy & Fiona Hawker	£25
161	Pauline Jennings	£15
63	John Calvert	£10

The April Draw will be held in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 3rd April 2018

Advance Notice

A QUIZ

being held in the Village Hall
 by Mission Morogoro

Saturday 12th May 2018

to raise funds for ongoing projects in Tunguli.

Feckenham Spring Flower Show

Saturday 7th April 2018

Margaret Eost

The 'Springtime in Feckenham' Flower Show will be held on Saturday 1st 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)

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 and 10 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.

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Feckenham Cricket Club

Bob Gordon



“April showers bring May flowers” is an old saying but I do hope that the showers this April are brief and at night. The very damp winter and spring has left the cricket field very soft and the routine tasks of mowing and rolling have been delayed as a consequence. It is quite likely that the friendly games organised for April 7th and 14th may not take place.

Incidentally, I have discovered that the old daying referred to above is actually the result of the jet stream beginning to travel northwards, which results in depressions bringing strong winds and rain in from the Atlantic.

In the clubhouse, work is largely complete on repairs to the shower area in the changing rooms, caused by damp penetrating through to the inner wall. Three burst pipes in the roofspace also needed to be dealt with, these being caused by the spectacular snow and very low temperatures that afflicted the country in early March.

As some might recall, one of the club's members applied for permission to use one of his fields off Moors Lane for use by the 3rd team. This application was rejected by Redditch Borough Council, for reasons that the club considers to be invalid – an appeal has been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate. Unfortunately, it appears that such appeals can take several months before they are heard and so the 3rd team must again make use of a ground outside of the village.

55 Years at Feckenham Cricket Club by Steve Daniels – part 3 of 3

Last month, Steve told us how he became Fixture Secretary for the Worcestershire Sunday Club Cricket League. Now enjoy the final part of Steve's story...

Regarding my lifetime enthusiasm for ever improving the ground at FCC my early role as Assistant Groundsman to Dennis Baylis expanded over the years and with the help of my father and Alan Watkin we spent many winter months on drainage improvement projects attempting to overcome the problems of a cricket ground situated on a flood plain of heavy clay.

I have attended specialised training courses for cricket groundsmen so that the pitches at FCC are maintained properly and to a high standard and the ground has received commendations from the Worcestershire County League. FCC is consistently placed in the top four of all Clubs playing in the League (65 Clubs take part). FCC is also highly regarded by the Worcestershire Cricket Authorities who regularly request use of the ground for Inter County Youth matches and Senior County matches at Over 60 and Over 70 Ages.

I am currently the Worcestershire Pitch Adviser for the Worcestershire County Board. This is a position created by the England and Wales Cricket Board to help raise the standards of cricket pitches across the UK and I inspect pitches at other grounds where problems arise.

However the real reason for getting involved in my non-playing roles at FCC was to increase my enjoyment of playing cricket at a beautiful location with and against the good friends that came along and enjoyed the game with me. Having played for 55 years and scoring over 25,000 runs including 10 centuries for Feckenham CC and representing Worcestershire at both ends of the age spectrum, I have also played against International stars at Feckenham CC including Basil D'Oliviera, MJK Smith, Glen Turner, Kapil Dev and Imran Khan.

I can truly say that I have enjoyed all of it. Long may it continue.

Upcoming fixtures at Mill Lane (1pm start unless stated):

- Sat April 7th v Droitwich (1st team friendly)
- Sat April 14th v Studley (2nd team friendly)
- Sun April 15th v Kingfisher Warriors (1st team friendly)
- Sat April 21st v Worcester Nomads (2nd team)
- Sat April 28th v Hagley (1st team)
- Sun April 29th v Dumbleton (Village Knock-out Round 1)
- Sat May 5th v Harborne (2nd team)

The above are all 50-over games, except for the Village Knock-out Cup games which are 40 overs.

Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

Rob Cole

Wednesday 4th - 7:30pm is the 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 at the Show. For the flower arrangers, there is a Class for "A Spring Arrangement including at least one bulbous plant", and there is also a Class for the best photograph depicting 'Water'.

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 FOLLOWING CLUB MEETING -

Wed. 2nd May - 7:30pm Brian Ellis will give a talk entitled 'Pictures from the Library Garden' telling us about the display garden at his Avondale Nursery in Coventry.

The monthly Competition theme will be 'A Flower from my Garden (single specimen)'.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE - Saturday 12th

May - 10am to 12 noon 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.

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 £8.00 for 2018. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting.

If you require any further information, ring Dinny Pynsent

Feckenham W.I.

Jane White



We meet in the Village Hall Back Room at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th when Margaret Green will be talking to us about her nursing experiences with the title **"The trials of a prison nurse"**.

Visitors welcome.

Up coming visits

24th April, "Oklahoma" at The Palace theatre

5th June, Morton Hall Gardens

Contact Vivien Hunter 01527 402360

Craft & natter group continues

Wed 4th & 18th April

Contact Jane White 893281 for details.



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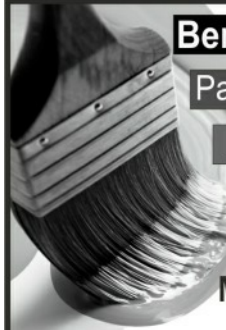
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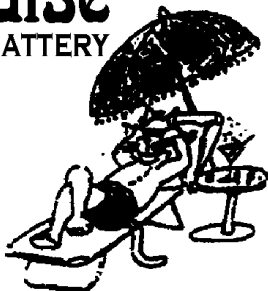


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