

FECKENHAM

APRIL 2017

News



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



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APRIL Diary



Sat 1 st	2.30pm	Spring Flower Show	Village Hall
Tues 4 th	12.30am	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Wed 5 th	7pm	“Jesus My Boy”	Parish Church
Wed 5 th	7.30pm	Stock & Bradley Gardening Club	Bradley Village Hall
Sun 9 th	7.30pm	“Fordante”	Village Hall
Tues 11 th	7.30pm	Feckenham Forest History Society	Feckenham Village Hall
Thurs 13 th	7.30pm	Feckenham WI	Back Room Village Hall
Thurs 20 th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall Back Room
Thurs 20 th	7.30pm	Annual Church Meetings	Parish Church
Fri 21 st	7.30pm	FeckenOdeon-2	Back Room Village Hall
Wed 26 th	7.30pm	Defibrillator Training	Village Hall
Sat 29 th	7.30pm	FeckenOdeon	Village Hall

Front Cover

“Spring Chicken” - supplied by James & Sue Barrett. Photo by Ian Bellion.

We would welcome any photos you may wish to share for our Front Cover. However they do need to be at full resolution (minimum 300 dpi) and preferably as a file (eg jpg)



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Production Team

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

Chris Fletcher – Newshound
894568 cefletcher44@gmail.com

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.

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 Bowbrook Group, The Parish Centre, St Andrew's Street, DROITWICH, WR9 8DY*

Readers and Intercessors

Sunday 2nd
Lent 5

11.00am Sung Eucharist

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Romans 8: 6-11

Intercessor

Bob Fish

Alison Crellin

Ian Hunter



Sunday 9th
Palm Sunday

10.30am Crowle - Palm Sunday Procession

10.30 am Stoke Prior - Liturgy of Palms

Friday 14th
Good Friday

10.30am Stations of the Cross at the Catholic church

7.00pm Good Friday Service

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:5

Isaiah 53:6-12

Alison Crellin

Jeff Matthews

Sunday 16th
Easter

11.00am Easter Day Communion

Acts 10: 34-43

Colossians 3:1-4

Intercessor

David Street

Patricia Collins

Emma Matthews

Sunday 23rd
Easter 2

11.00am Holy Communion

Acts 2: 14a, 22 -32

1 Peter 1: 3-9

Intercessor

Angela Fletcher

Elizabeth Atkins

Cyril Warrilow

Sunday 30th
Easter 3

10.30am Living Communion Bradley Green

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

Church Flower Group

Margaret Perry

Easter Lilies

Just a reminder for anyone wishing to have lilies purchased to be arranged in church at Easter in memory of loved-ones.



Please send your donation to Ann Matthews, 8 The Square, B96 6HR. (Cheques payable to Feckenham P.C.C. please)

Margaret and Marg

Village Shop

Jeff Matthews

Easter is on the horizon and we have a wide range of unusual gifts, cards, eggs and beautiful handmade novelty chocolates.

Back in stock Mattarello Ravioli and Tortelloni, which together with a pasta sauces makes for a quick and easy meal. There are both meat and vegetarian options, should you wish. You could add some ciabatta Artisan bread to give the whole thing a Mediterranean flavour.

We also have some new chilled desserts. Belgian Boy crepes, lemon cheesecake and sticky toffee pudding all from Cartmel.

The cafe special is a small hot drink and a toasted teacake or hot cross bun at the bargain price £2.50. Get in quick before the greedy cyclists eat it all.

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Feckenham Parish Council

LEARN TO SAVE A LIFE

You may have noticed the yellow box outside the back entrance to the Village Hall. It contains a device that can save lives. Unfortunately it's not much use unless people know how to use it.



The device is called a defibrillator and it can be used to give a high energy electric shock to the heart through the chest wall to someone who is in cardiac arrest. This high energy shock is called defibrillation, and it's an essential life saving step in the chain of survival.

Heart attacks strike without warning so the Parish Council is anxious that as many villagers as possible learn how and when to use the defibrillator - and, equally importantly, when not to use it. This affects all age groups and all activity levels so please consider this chance to learn to save somebody's life - imagine how you'd feel if you were unable to help someone whose heart had stopped.

There will be two training sessions this spring - the first will be on **Wednesday, 26th April in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**. The other will be in on a date to be confirmed in May. There's no charge for this training - all it will take is an hour of your time.

To book a place please call Sean Arble on 01789 490 501 or e-mail clerk.feckenham@feckenham.com

Village Hall

Improvement Fund 2016/17



March Winners

113	Wren Chute	£25
93	Eileen Robson	£15
2	Tim & Ali Smith	£10

The April Draw will be held in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 4th April 2017

Thought for the month

Rev. Gary Crellin

One Easter Sunday, a man was leaving church after the service, and the vicar was standing at the door, as she always was, to shake hands. The vicar grabbed the man by the hand and pulled him aside. The vicar said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!" The man replied, "But I'm already in the Army of the Lord, vicar." The vicar looked a bit confused, and so questioned, "How come then I don't see you in church except at Christmas and Easter?" The man replied with a dramatic whisper and a wink, "Because I'm in the secret service".

Although quite clearly a joke, as with many good jokes, it touches on an element of the truth. There are indeed some who are critical of those who attend church only at Christmas or Easter. In some circles such twice-yearly people are known by the acronym 'CEOs' – Christmas and Easter Onlys. Or even as the 'Hollies and the Lillies' !! Personally, I think that being critical is not the way to look at it – and rather than ask the – "why do they only come twice a year?" question, I think the more positive one is – "What brings people to church on those two occasions a year? Why not more?"

I guess that the answer to the questions would be complex and that people come for a myriad of different reasons. I imagine, though, that some would find it hard to express exactly why they come, that it just feels right and that there's a pull, a tug to come along and participate in worship. Maybe it's a tradition thing, or do they come kicking and screaming. They will be welcomed, whatever! The great festivals of Christmas and Easter speak of newness – of birth, resurrection, possibility and hope, addressing something of the essentials of our humanity as they do. That newness and hope is so needed especially after a reflective and penitent, and hopefully generous, Lent.

Few would deny that we are spiritual beings, as well as physical and emotional ones, and whilst

it's seemingly easy to bury our spirituality within the busyness of life, there are times when the spiritual naturally comes to the fore, such as when life begins or ends. Many come along to church and perhaps, give themselves 'permission' to focus on the faith and health possibilities of prayer, the mystery of the God, - God in human form - Jesus Christ, born as a child, who died on the cross and rose again – as Christians believe.

Page 4 of this magazine has details of all of our services at within this church and the wider group of churches (I hope) for the remaining weeks of Lent and onwards to Easter - the greatest celebration. If you feel the pull to come, for whatever reason, we would be delighted to see you and share in the joy and hope of the season with you. No need to wear a trench coat/trilby and carry a Walther PPK. Come as you are - leave the Aston Martin DB10 at home!

My Easter Blessing to you all... Rev Gary Crellin

**Community Songs of Praise
for Easter**

and Easter Egg hunt!

Sunday 16th April 2017

**at Gazebo
Foxholes Lane
Callow Hill**

11am

Annual Church Meetings

The Annual Parochial Church Meetings will be held **in the Church on Thursday 20th April 2017 at 7.30 pm.**

At the **Vestry Meeting** the churchwardens will be elected. Anyone on the church electoral roll or anyone resident in the ecclesiastical parish and who is on the register of local government electors is entitled to vote.

There will follow the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** which will elect representatives to the Deanery Synod and the Parochial Church Council and appoint an Independent Examiner of the Church Accounts. Anyone on the church electoral roll is entitled to vote.

The meeting will consider reports on :-
Changes to the electoral roll
Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council
Financial Statements for the preceding year.
Proceedings of the Deanery Synod
Activities of Church Groups.
The formal notices of these meetings will be displayed on the church door from the 12th April.

Ian Hunter PCC Secretary

Away Day

Rev. Wyn Beynon

Dear Friends,

AWAY DAY SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

Place is important. Our room, our home, our community - in the end, for all the technology that takes us vast distances either physically or virtually, we all end up wanting a place to say, "This is where I belong"

On **Saturday September 30th** there will be an "away day" for all involved in any way with St John the Baptist Church. It will be at **Stock & Bradley Village Hall from 10am - 4pm** and will look at how we can move forwards in being a community that allows everyone to say "I have a place here". It may be because of the building... it may be because you want you help look after your neighbours, or the churchyard, or be part of the worshipping community... whatever, everyone is welcome, and everyone has a place... that's what I hope we'll discover. Over the next 5 or 6 months we shall be working to put together a day that is a celebration of what we already have and plan for what we might do together next...

Be part of it, put it in your diary now... and this is not just for regular congregation members but for all who identify in any way with St John the Baptist Church... because we all need to be able to say "I have a place here".

Best wishes,
Wyn

Studley Operatic Society

SWEENEY TODD

THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

By Stephen Sondheim

Tuesday 25th - Saturday 29th April
Palace Theatre, Redditch

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Thanks

We would like to say a very big thank you to all our friends in and around Feckenham village who have been so wonderfully caring and supportive during Sue's sudden illness. We have received so many cards, thoughtful present, flowers and lots of lovely food to keep us going, which has helped us enormously during a very difficult time indeed.

Particular thanks firstly, to Phyllis Mott who organised a meeting and coffee at the church on the very day of Sue's operation and indeed, to everyone who went at the time to add their thoughts, prayers and support. Secondly, I also want to express my great appreciation to everyone who offered lifts, lunches and moral support whilst I was incapacitated.

Sue came through a long and difficult operation and is now recovering well, though she tires very easily. She has a bit of a way to go still but we are very hopeful that the doctors, who were quite splendid, have done all that is necessary to bring her successfully through.

Once again, our grateful thanks, we will never forget it.

David and Sue Checkley.

An Old Commie's Birthday

I was amazed when I entered the Village Hall to be greeted by a mass of villagers who had come together to celebrate my 80th Birthday. A secret birthday in Feckenham where secrets rarely survive more than 10 minutes!

Thank you all (especially those who organised the party, cooked, baked and decorated the hall) for your friendship, your cards and presents.

To me it was surprising, wonderful and humbling. A very sincere thank you to everyone who was there and to those unable to attend.

Alan Jones.

Wake 2017

Marion Chute

It's a WAKE up call!

We have a selection of new and old goodies for you to enjoy, take part in, eat and drink on 24th June. Most things that happens at the Wake cost money and we have to cover those costs. We do it for fun and to allow local groups and charities to raise some funds. The insurance alone is eye wateringly expensive so please support our Wake stalls and our Prize Draw. We also need people to help erect the gazebos and on the day we need help to man the attractions. Just offer whatever you can, an hour or two would be great. The more the merrier.

If you think you can help contact anyone below and if you have a stall or represent a local group who might like to fundraise, get in touch with any of the committee or Feckenham Wake Facebook page.

Marion Chute 892285

Charlie Barrett-Meade

Charlie Willetts

Julian Bull

Louise Jordan

Alan Jones

Alan Smith

Erica Guise

Julie Bennett

Flower & Garden

Festival 2018

 Cathy Fisher

Very many thanks to all of you who attended the meeting on 4th March 2017 (also those who made contact in advance and were not able to attend).

After much discussion the date for next year's Festival has been confirmed as Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th May 2018. The opening times will be from 11am to 5pm on both days.

Please get in touch if you would like to be involved either opening your garden or volunteering in some capacity or other.

More news to follow in the coming months.
catherine.fisher@talk21.com

St Michael & All Angels,
Stoke Prior

Tower Appeal **CONCERT**

Alcester Male Voice Choir

with special guests

Worcester Cathedral

6th May 7.30pm

Tickets £15 (unreserved seating)
available from Christine Huzzey
Email: cwahuzzey@btinternet.com
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Cheques made payable to
Stoke Prior Tower Appeal

*There is a possibility of a coach being put on
from this end of the parishes, please contact
Christine Huzzey.*

TOE TAPPING TUESDAYS

When things have been happening regularly for a while people tend to forget about them. The monthly **Feckenham Sessions** are a case in point. In case you've completely forgotten about them and what they are, The Feckenham Sessions happen on the First Tuesday of every month in the bar of the Rose & Crown. Anything up to 20 musicians turn up and play to their hearts content. To be frank, they don't actually need an audience - they're making music for themselves entirely for their own enjoyment - but there's no doubt that the sessions are just as enjoyable for listeners as they are for players.

The style is described as "traditional" and very often it's folk - but what's played is entirely dependent on the musicians who turn up on the night. In recent months it's strayed into the Land of the Rising Sun via nostalgia (Those Were the Days) and Victoria Wood (Let's do It!). There have been all manner of instruments - we've seen a hurdy gurdy, a zither, double bass and some very strange things involving bendy pipes...

These sessions are fun and they're free - just wander into the Rose & Crown on the first Tuesday of the month any time from 8pm onwards. The next session is on **Tuesday, 4th April** - see you there?

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WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



THE
FECKENHAM
SESSIONS
TRADITIONAL
MUSICMAKING

at THE ROSE & CROWN

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm

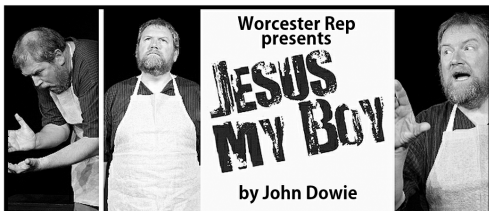
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 4th April

theWI FECKENHAM WI
INSPIRING WOMEN At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL
HISTORY of LOCAL FARMHOUSES
Thursday, 13th April - 7.30pm
FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL
Visitors Welcome at all meetings - £4

Feckenham Readers Group
Tuesday, 11th April - 7.45
This month's book: THE PHOTOGRAPH
by Penelope Lively
Details from Marion Chate - 892285

Feckenham Forest History Society
AGES of ALCESTER
with Alan Godfrey
Tuesday, 11th April - 7.30pm
Feckenham Village Hall
www.feckenham-forest-history-society.org.uk

Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB
ANNUAL BULB SHOW
& Photo Competition
Wednesday, 5th April - 7.30pm
Bradley Village Hall - 01527 821355



Worcester Rep
presents

**JESUS
MY BOY**

by John Dowie

Wednesday 5th April - 7pm

Church of St John the Baptist
Tickets £10 from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown
and from Church Members

SPRING FLOWER SHOW

SATURDAY, 1ST APRIL - 2.30PM - FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

Feckenham Parish Council APRIL MEETING
Thursday, 20th April at 7.30pm
Feckenham Village Hall (Back Room)
Every Council Meeting contains an Open Forum session in which you can bring matters of concern to the attention of the Council.

Would YOU know what to do if
someone has a cardiac arrest?
DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Wednesday, 26th April - 7.30pm
Feckenham Village Hall

Call 01789 490501 to book your place.



Send details of events for FREE listing to

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

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

FeckenOdeon 2

The Cinema in the Back Room

NO MAN'S LAND
HAROLD PINTER
The Film Production

IAN MCKELLAN PATRICK STEWART

'A landmark production.'
The Times

'Ian McKellan and Patrick Stewart are unmissable.'
Daily Telegraph

By special arrangement with The Royal National Theatre
As LIVE relay direct from Wyndham's Theatre London
followed by an exclusive Q&A session with cast and director

Friday, 21st April at 7.30pm

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

ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR*

"IRRESISTIBLE STORYTELLING"
Peter Bradshaw, THE GUARDIAN

"DAVID OYELOWO IS SUPERB"
Kate Ford, THE TIMES

"A ROUSING LOVE STORY...
A REMARKABLE TALE. TRIUMPHANT"
Michael Phillips, THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED KINGDOM
THE TRUE STORY OF A LOVE THAT BROKE AN EMPIRE

Saturday, 29th 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.feckenodeon.co.uk

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'Spectacular.'
★★★★★

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* Skaters Waltz * Madam Butterfly * Sleeping Beauty Waltz *
And many more... along with Fordante's own enchanting music

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

SUNDAY, 9TH 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
Phone and Online bookings attract a 10p booking fee - Book in person and save money!

www.fordante.com

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

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

NATIONAL THEATRE IN FECKENHAM!



By special arrangement with The National Theatre, on Friday 21st April FeckenOdeon 2 offers a rare opportunity to join the audience for an as live performance from a London theatre.

Following their hit run on Broadway, Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart return to the West End stage in Harold Pinter's **No Man's Land**, relayed to cinemas from Wyndham's Theatre, London.

The plot concerns two ageing writers, Hirst and Spooner, who meet in a Hampstead pub and continue their drinking into the night at Hirst's stately house nearby. As the pair become increasingly inebriated, and their stories increasingly unbelievable, the lively conversation soon turns into a revealing power game. Don't miss this glorious revival of Pinter's comic classic.

"Two of the greatest actors ever born in one of the greatest plays ever written." Time Out

The FeckenOdeon is delighted to be able to offer this very special event at normal cinema prices (£5 / Members £3.50).

"No Man's Land" - FeckenOdeon 2 at 7.30pm on Friday, 21st April.

Please note that the play will start promptly at 7.30pm. Latecomers cannot be admitted until the interval.

AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR

The final film in the FeckenOdeon's 16th Season is a brand new account of a romance with a difference...

'**A United Kingdom**' is the incredible true story of Seretse Khama and Ruth Williams, an African prince and a salesman's daughter who fell in love in the 1940s.

As heir to the throne of Bechuanaland, Seretse had to return home and take up his duties, but he couldn't bear to leave Ruth behind. And so, against the demands of the British government and apartheid South Africa, they got married,



causing an international incident that would shake the foundations of the British Empire.

David Oyelowo and Rosamund Pike star in a

powerful and thought-provoking true story.

"A United Kingdom" showing at 7.30pm on Saturday, 29th April.

Preparation are in hand for the FeckenOdeon's 17th Season starting in September and a Summer Season running from May to August. Check for details at www.feckencodeon.co.uk and in next month's Feckenham News.

Tickets for FeckenOdeon shows are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown. You can also book by phone (through Ticket-Source) on 0333 666 3366 or online at www.feckencodeon.co.uk

Village Hall

Ian Bellion



PHIL'S BACK

Phil Mountford, composer of "The Suite for The Fallen Soldier", premiered in Feckenham last year, is heading back to Feckenham in this month with a very different sort of ensemble. He's leader of **"Fordante"** - four ladies and a lad who will present a programme of music "From Puccini to The Movies" - A spectacular concert of some of the most beautiful classics and film music ever written. With stunning projected visuals and computer controlled lighting, Fordante have been described as *"Like André Rieu with a smaller orchestra"* There'll be music by Ravel, Strauss, Offenbach and many more - and including some of their own compositions. Don't miss them!

**Fordante - Feckenham Village Hall
Sunday, 9th April at 7.30pm**

Tickets for this show (£10) 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





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Swansbrook's presenters are a varied bunch - a collection of grizzled old pros, lawyers, poets, doctors and vicars. Most of them can be described as "mature" so it's good to report that they're being joined by a youthful voice in the form of Thea Matthews. Thea will be presenting a monthly show "NEO" in which she guides us through some new music from the Swansbrook area - what's being performed, what's being written and what's being played locally - and she reckons that, no matter what your musical taste, there'll be something to savour for everyone.



Elsewhere in the schedule Stuart Knowles is looking into garden Happenings yet to come, Paul Furey is tempting listeners with audio wine tastings, Gary Crellin is going undercover, Colin James is delving into his bottomless archive and Ian Bellion is making it up as he goes along in his weekly Happy Hour.

Check www.swansbrook.com for details and timings.

LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Just go to www.swansbrook.com and follow the instructions you'll find there. You'll also find programme times and details of how to register for updates.

Most programmes are now available for you to play ON DEMAND - listen when and where you like - as often as you like.

Our e-mail address is radio@swansbrook.com - you can send us programme ideas, requests, suggestions, recipes - and book on air advertising

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Feckenham Spring Flower Show

Saturday 1st April 2017

Margaret East

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 C. of E. First School

Community Club

The school Community Club thought you may like to find out what we have been up to recently, so here goes...

The very end of February brought us a fantastic reason to indulge in some 'homemade' pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Mrs Dennis managed to cook 120 of the yummy yellow discs for us all to enjoy with a topping of our choice. The staff got their trainers on and had a very competitive 'Pancake Race'; the eventual winner was Mr Small even though he was up against some serious runners! Thanks to Reverend Crellin for also getting us Swansbrook Radio that day! As well as having fun we also collected lots of food for Redditch Foodbank which we support each term. Our families have been very generous and our collections have seriously helped to top up the much needed supplies for people who are struggling to find money for food.

Reverend Crellin has once again got us thinking about our responsibilities towards others less fortunate and therefore throughout Lent we are collecting loose change and bringing it into school. Each class will then bring their collection to our Easter Service on Thursday 6th April. The money raised will go to charity. We are wondering which class will collect the most money?

Sporting events have been booked (and postponed due to the weather!) but so far we have taken part in the Winter Games over at Worcester University. The sport played was hockey – with real wooden hockey sticks (ouch!). The event was really well organised and in the end we came 4th in the small schools' category. Later this term we hope to do just as well in the Redditch Cross Country Competition; we will let you know.

Music is very much alive and kicking at Feckenham, Mrs Dennis has been teaching the Year 3 and 4 classes the recorder and after many weeks of hard work and dedication to succeed we will be holding a concert for parents to showcase the fruits of our labour. Listen carefully and you may even hear us in the village!

Mothering Sunday is quickly coming round again; for the first time, we are inviting Mums, Grandmas

and Aunts to join our youngest children in our Reception class for a well-deserved cup of tea and a piece of cake. Don't tell anyone but they may have a special surprise for the ladies too!

Please pray for some sunshine as our Daffodil Competition in aid of Marie Curie is almost coming to its climax, but we need a bit more warmth if all the flowers are to bloom in time! Mr Howard, our Forest School Leader had the idea for the competition as a way of encouraging a new generation of green fingered gardeners and raising money for a very deserving charity. Good luck to all the growers.

Many thanks to Tudor Grange Academy for inviting our year 3 and 4 classes to watch their musical theatre performance. The children and staff are very excited about their trip back to Tudor Grange following their previous visit to work with the art students on their Picasso project.

A bit of prior notice, there may be a bit of loud music coming out of the school hall in a few weeks time when our parent fundraising team, 'Friends of Feckenham School' will be holding their Easter Bunny Hope Disco for the whole school.

Please don't forget that we have a Clothes Bank on School Lane that can be used by everyone in the village and if you want to help us help the Redditch Foodbank, we have collection boxes that are always in school.

Many thanks for reading our latest news.

What's On this month in STOCK & BRADLEY

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 5th | BREAKAWAY
The Trouble with Being a Tudor
with Pat Ellis - 10.30am |
| 5th | GARDENING CLUB
ANNUAL BULB SHOW - 7.30pm |
| 12th | PARISH COUNCIL
& Annual Parish Meeting
Village Hall - 7.30pm |
| 22nd | Stock & Bradley 100+ Club
ANNUAL DRAW & SUPPER
Village Hall - 7pm |

For more information see
STOCK & BRADLEY CHRONICLE

Feckenham Cricket Club

Bob Gordon



“Now the Earth with many flowers puts on her spring embroidery”*

Spring is on its way! Crocuses have been blooming for a while, daffodils are everywhere and birds are returning from their winter holidays. The village jackdaws seem more visible, eyeing up uncovered chimney pots for nesting places and chattering amongst themselves in their distinctive raucous manner. Do you know that there are 1.4 million breeding pairs of jackdaws in the UK? I suspect that Feckenham is one of their strongholds.

But it's raining... which must mean that the cricket season is approaching.

The outfield is looking very soggy in parts but groundsman Steve and his team are beavering away to prepare for the club's first spell in Division I for decades. Apart from tending to the pitches and outfield, winter brings a lot of debris in the form of twigs, branches and leaves – the work eases off over the winter period, but only just.

At this time of year, thoughts turn to spring-cleaning and that includes Feckenham Cricket Club. The pavilion exterior is looking a little tired and so there has been discussion about repainting and staining. The latter has got a bit technical as much of the cladding is cedar and there are suggestions that applying a fresh stain may be rather more complicated than just whacking on some Cuprinol (other brands are available). If there are any cedar experts out there, please contact the club!

On April 1st, the annual ritual of painting the dozens of sections of perimeter fencing will take place. Anyone willing to wield a brush would be most welcome.

Internal renovation is continuing and after Lockley Homes were kind enough to paint the changing rooms their threadbare floor coverings will soon be replaced.

Players have been in training for a few weeks now, working on physical condition while also ridding themselves of the rustiness that follows a long break from cricket. The club's coaches use a number of innovative techniques to optimise player techniques, with fielding being an interesting example.

Intercepting or catching the ball requires not just fitness and reaction time but also involves unconscious or instinctive actions – there is often little time for thought as the ball takes an edge and rockets into the slip area. It is however possible to develop the use of the unconscious mind. To this end, the coaching team have been holding indoor sessions at which catching practice takes place in progressively darker conditions, forcing the players' brains to use other senses to estimate where the ball is going. Persevering with the sessions after early setbacks involving loosened teeth and mild concussion, the techniques are now paying off; some players are now being able to make a catch in near total darkness. This could be a significant advantage in early season games, which can often be in rather gloomy conditions.

With the effort being put into all elements of training and mental preparation, we will be ready for Division I and in particular, we are looking forward to the matches against local rivals Redditch.

The early season fixtures at Mill Lane will be:

Thurs 20th April – Friendly v AMS (5:30pm)

Sat 22nd April - 1st XI v Cookley (1pm)

Sat 29th April - 2nd XI v Harborne (1pm)

Sat 6th May - 2nd XI v Worcester (1pm)

Sun 7th May – Under 12s v Worfield (10am)

Sun 7th May – T20 v Old Hill (3pm)

Sat 13th May - 1st XI v Pedmore (1pm)

Sat 20th May - 2nd XI v Redditch (1pm)

Sun 21st May – Under 10s v Bewdley (10am)

Sun 21st May – T20 v Worcester (3pm)

Sat 27th May - 1st XI v Stourport (1pm)

Sat 3rd June - 2nd XI Home v Bewdley (1pm)

All fixtures can be found on <http://feckenham.play-cricket.com/> and will soon be on village notice boards.

Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

Rob Cole

THE NEXT CLUB MEETING - Wed. 5th April 2017 - 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 '**Trees in the Landscape**'.

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. 3rd May 2017 - 7:30pm Leila Jackson will give a talk entitled 'Nursery Life - the Ups and Downs' telling us about the extremes of life on her Wall End Nursery near Leominster.

The monthly Competition theme will be 'Blue'.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE - Saturday 13th May 2017 - 10.00am to 12.00 noon will be held on Saturday 13th May 2017 from 10.00am to 12.00 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.

COACH VISIT TO RALPH COURT AND LOWER HOPE GARDENS

Wednesday 24th May 2017

This year, our all-day coach outing will be to Herefordshire and we will visit two gardens during the day. Pre booking is essential, so if you haven't booked already you should contact Sheila White as soon as possible on 01527 545572.

Feckenham W.I.

Jane White



The meeting this month is on Thursday 13th April. Our speaker for the evening is local historian Richard Churchley and he will be talking to us about "Local Farmhouses and their Histories". We have some very old houses and farms in the area so this should be particularly interesting. We conclude with light refreshments, visitors very welcome (£4).

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Feckenham

Roger Hunt

Monthly Meeting

Everyone is most welcome to our monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month and held at the Wheelbarrow Castle, Radford. Meeting at 11:00 and lunch from 12:00

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EASTER SUNDAY - 16th April

Lunch: 12 - 3pm (including roasts) - Dinner: 6 - 9pm
EGG HUNT in the garden at 3pm

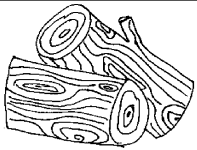
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Thursday, 27th April - 6pm - 9pm

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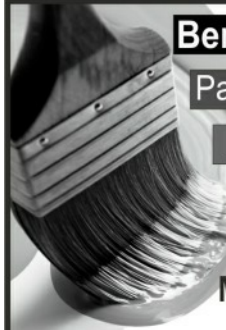
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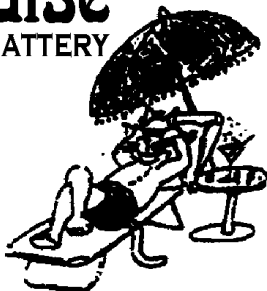


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