

FECKENHAM NEWS



August 2023

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

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Feckenham News in August

Dates for your Diary

August

2nd	S&B Gardening
8th	Readers Group
9th & 23rd	Church drop in
19/20/26/27/28th	Open Studios
26th - 28th	R&C Beerfest

September

7th	Parish Council
22nd	Golf Competition
	Genesis - S&B
23rd	George Egg

October

7-8th	Scarecrows
14th	Steak Night

Regular Sessions

Mondays	Restorative Yoga
Wednesdays	Playgroup
Thursdays	Bridge; Hatha Yoga; Pilates
Fridays	Meditation Class
First Tuesday of the month:	
Lunch Club, Feckenham Sessions	
First and Third Wednesday: Community Choir	
Third Monday of the month: WI	
2nd and 4th Fridays : Erstwhile Morris dancers	

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Front Cover

Photo of Wake Day
from Julian Bull

Magazine online at
www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

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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Editor's Note

Welcome to the August Feckenham News. It's a relatively quiet month as many are on holiday. Look out for Worcestershire Open Studios featuring some of our Feckenham Artisans. See the information on Page 6 and there's lots to look forward to in September.



You may know that Marion Chute, curator of the Feckenham Archive, has arranged for the videos of the Feckenham Footpads Pantomimes to be put on You Tube for all to see. Those were wonderful times as not only we were entertained but we built up relationships which have been long lasting. I remember Michael Mott describing the time as the Glory Days. James Butler, who directed following Frances Andrew's retirement has kindly written about the pantos and I hope for more reflections to follow from other villagers.

The weather this summer has been a very strange as we all know and it was very sad that Fun on the Square had to be cancelled. That event is the main fundraiser for the maintenance of the village green and without it the budget will be very stretched. I understand that some of the money raised on the Scarecrow Weekend will go towards the Square. I hope the weather will be more settled in early October and the Scarecrows are a draw to large numbers in support of the event.

I put a call out for help in getting last month's magazine batched and ready for distribution while I was at Glastonbury - of which more later. You may not know the amount of organisation that goes into getting the magazine out to the whole parish but it isn't very simple. We have a very loyal team of distributors who go out in all weathers to get each edition to our readers. Thanks to Jackie Newland, one of the team, who kindly stepped up.

FECKENHAM CHARITY

Funds are dispensed from this ancient charity to individuals and organisations within the boundaries of the Ancient Parish of Feckenham, as the Trustees think fit.

Closing date for receipt of applications

30th September, 2023

Further enquiries/applications to:

Mrs J. Bate (Clerk to the Trustees)

'Wychway', Droitwich Road

Hanbury, BROMSGROVE

B60 4DB

Tel 01527 821285

FECKENHAM EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT

The endowment makes grants to young people in the pursuit of further education or training. If you are under 25 and live in the Ancient Parish of Feckenham or the District of Redditch you may be eligible for a grant. Any such grants are divided on the basis of 4/5 to the Ancient Parish and 1/5 to the District of Redditch. All applications will be carefully considered. An individual may make a maximum of three applications. The decision of the Trustees is final.

Closing date for receipt of applications

30th September, 2023

For more information and an application form contact:

Mrs J. Bate (Clerk to the Trustees)

'Wychway', Droitwich Road

Hanbury, BROMSGROVE

B60 4DB

Tel 01527 821285

Annual Rose & Bandit Cup Competition

2023 sees the Bandit Cup being played at Droitwich Golf Club, Ford Lane, Droitwich WR9 0BH

Date – Friday 22nd September 2023

Time – first tee time 12:30

Format - 18 hole Stableford Competition open to Ladies and Gents.
Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places plus nearest the pin, longest drive and the hotly contested Turkey award.

Cost - £39.00 per person (green fee and prizes). Buggies to be booked with Droitwich Golf Club at a cost of £25.00 per buggy.

Dinner at the Rose & Crown from 7.30pm for meal and prize giving. Partners welcome.

All golfers and bandits welcome, please let Steve Dalloway know if you wish to participate in this year's event.

RSVP to steve.dalloway@byretech.com by 1st September 2023

Jenny Dalloway



FRIENDS OF
**FECKENHAM
CHURCH**

On behalf of the Trustees, we should like to thank Shirley and Geoff, their helpers and all who contributed, for all their hard work and tremendous achievement in raising over a thousand pounds at their coffee morning event on the 16th June. The proceeds will go towards the maintenance of our Historic Parish Church and Churchyard which is of such importance to the village.

Andrew Fisher

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I'm taking part in



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Open Studios

19-28 August 2023

FECKENHAM - ART DESTINATION



Julian Bull * Ian Ridley * Jude Sullivan * Deborah Watton

AUGUST 19, 20, 26, 27, 28 open 10-30 am to 4-30 pm

A chance to meet 4 local artists, explore their work, learn what inspires them and how and where they make it.

Why not make a day of it and include a visit to:

- >Lygon Arms - sample the artist inspired cocktail menu & view the 'gallery @the lygon'
- >Village Shop /Cafe - pop in for a coffee and artisan cake
- >Rose & Crown - Beer Festival running 26th to 28th Aug

Artist venues will be signposted in the village and all are within a 5 min walk of each other. SatNav B96 6JE

SUPPORT LOCAL

contact info@feckenhamartisans.co.uk

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Artisans

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PLEASE ACT NOW!

There is still time to comment on the planning application for a Battery Storage System (BESS) on Astwood Lane. This would have an enormous and long-lasting impact upon our village.

If this is permitted the fields opposite the National Grid station on Astwood Lane would be covered with 240 shipping container sized lithium battery packs and other equipment. This is in addition to the existing National Grid station and the Stakraft BESS facility already approved.

To find out more about this application and make a comment go to the Parish Council website (www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk) where you will also find a link to Redditch Borough Council's planning portal. The planning reference is 23/00417/FUL. You can also comment directly by emailing Principal Planning Officer Paul Lester - paul.lester@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

At the parish meeting in May residents attending were unanimously against the scheme. The Parish Council has objected to the application. The whole objection can be found on the Parish Council website alongside an executive summary.

It is vital that people enter their own individual comments. Every comment counts however a 100-person petition only counts as one comment. Similarly a comment from a household of two or three people will also only be registered as one unless all members write their own comments. If you need any further assistance, please do contact Jane, the parish clerk on telephone 01527 892522.

PARKING PROBLEMS

The Parish Council has received complaints about inconsiderate parking in the village. Often people park cars on the pavement as they think this is safe, but this means those with push chairs, prams or wheelchairs must go around the vehicle, often in the road, putting them at significant risk. If someone is visually impaired their dog or their

white cane will touch the vehicle, but it does not let the person know where the wing mirrors are in relation to them. Often the person will suffer an injury or, at the very least, they too end up walking in



the road. Parking services do patrol the village and do issue fines - and this does include weekends. The Parish Council is very aware of the pressure on available parking spaces but does ask people who live, work, and visit to park carefully.

MONEY MATTERS

The Parish Council has had its annual accounts returned from the Internal Auditor. There was an error of 1p in the current account and 15p in the deposit account. The actual figures remained the same and have been forwarded to the external auditor. The Council has recently approved a small grant to the football club to help pay for new nets. Small grants for village organisations can be applied for. Details and an application form can be downloaded from the website.

feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk



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To read more go to feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

Feckenham Village Hall

COMING VERY SOON...

LIVE & LOCAL

Feckenham Village Hall has worked with Live & Local (and its predecessor, Shindig!) for over 20 years to bring top class live music and theatre to the village. We're

delighted to report that this collaboration continues this year and that the programme has been boosted by increased funding from Arts Council England. Further funding comes from Worcestershire County and Redditch Borough Councils. The programme for 2023/24 has been announced:

Saturday SEPTEMBER 23rd:

GEORGE EGG'S SET MENU



A hilarious combination of haute cuisine and brute force as George demonstrates his unique kitchen techniques. Expect cement mixers and trouser presses ... and a taste of the remarkable results. *(Originally scheduled for 8th May but postponed due to illness)*

Saturday NOVEMBER 11th

ASHLEY HUTCHINGS & BECKY MILLS

The founding father of English folk-rock on tour to celebrate the release of his 100th album. The show's called "100 Not Out" and features music from the early days of Fairport Convention and Steeleye Span as well as new tunes.



Saturday DECEMBER 2nd

THE ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN

"The finest chamber orchestra in the UK" brings us a sparkling programme entitled "Midwinter" - a seasonal selection featuring everything from Vivaldi to The Pogues.



Saturday MARCH 9th

MAYBE DICK

Hambleton Theatre in a show that features more lampoons than harpoons. A very light hearted version of a classic whaling tale.



Sunday APRIL 14th

DESERT ISLAND FLICKS

Spilt Milk Dance present a fast moving and hilarious tour of major movies



TICKETS for all shows are now on sale at www.feckhall.org



IT'S NO MIS-STEAK...

Sometimes the simple things in life give the greatest pleasure and there's nothing simpler or more satisfying than a fine

steak, cooked to your liking and served with fresh cooked chips. Top that off with a nice bottle of wine, a wicked pud with custard... and good company. What's not to like?

You can enjoy such simple pleasures at the Village Hall's **STEAK NIGHT on Saturday 14th October** - just £20 for a slap up feast - and every penny will go to help with the Hall's programme of repairs and improvements. **Tickets are on sale NOW!**

TICKETS FOR ALL EVENTS AT FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

Are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.

Book online through www.feckhall.org

Book by phone on 0333 666 3366

NEW COMMITTEE TACKLES NEW PROJECTS

The Village Hall AGM was held on July 4th and we're pleased to report that there are some new members joining the stalwarts. The new Committee of Trustees consists of: Phil Tricklebank (Chair), Peter Stephens (Vice-chair), Ian Bellion (Secretary), Peter Chute (Treasurer), Liz Teisen (Booking Secretary), Judy Hooker, Linda Harris, Claire Cull, Jen Cary, Sarah Bayliss and Mary Smith.

Projects on the list for action this year include a scheme to replace all the doors and windows in the Back Room and kitchen and replacement of the stage lighting system.

To book the Hall please contact the Booking Secretary on 01527 821233

Draw results

Feckenham Village Hall Improvement Fund July draw.

The draw was carried out following the meeting of the Trustees on 4th July 2023.

1st (£25)	68	Jeremy & Fiona Hawker
2nd (£15)	59	Ian Bellion
3rd (10)	94	Minky Waters

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

NEW SEASON

Since the FeckenOdeon opened its doors back in 2001 around 350 films have been projected onto the giant screen... and there have been very few repeats! Our new programme, which starts on 30th September, contains the now customary mix of new films and classics all designed to entertain and inspire. Details can be found on the cinema's website at

www.fecknodeon.co.uk
and in brochures which you can pick up at Feckenham Village Hall, The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown. Season tickets are now on sale online and by phone!



*Tickets for all FeckenOdeon films 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*

Stock & Bradley Village Hall, B96 6RW
Village Hall Natters - 22nd Sept - 7.30pm

Love Rock or just love
Genesis?
you'll love this...



Richard Macphail - talks about his life on the road with Genesis.
His book 'My Book of Genesis' will be on sale.
Free glass of wine & bar open afterwards. Tickets £10 limited to 100
So book now at www.sbvh.org.uk... A village hall fundraising event.

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Tuesday, 1st August - 8pm

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August Bank Holiday Weekend
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Feckenham Wake



The Wake was a great success this year as big crowds turned out to enjoy some fun in the sun. Our quintessential English event was made even more eccentric with the addition of a couple of 7ft tall squirrels and a procession of over 70 Morris men and women.

Facilities were enhanced this year with the inclusion of 6 Wake run card payment points, printed tickets for children's attractions, improved parking and walkie talkies for the organisers!

In the end we made a surplus which had funded around 50% of our new investment



in 9 colourful and robust gazebos as well as repairs to the hog roast and the introduction of re-usable glasses.

I would like to strongly thank the rest of the Wake committee; all those that turned out on Friday and Sunday to help with set up and take down; plus those who volunteered on the day.

Like most good events and activities in our village, they are only possible due to the hard work of volunteers so if you have yet to volunteer some help with an event or village group, please do so soon before that group winds down as organisers retire.

Julian Bull, Chair Wake Committee



Feckenham Pantomime James (Doc) Butler



I was 15 when I directed my first Feckenham Pantomime. Like most leadership roles in my life, I had inherited it resentfully and involuntarily. Since the late 80s Frances Andrews had pioneered a movement that lasted over a decade in the village and became a drunken institution of passion, fun, or escapism for a disparate group of villagers. Frances then retired and the reins had been snatched by some stragglers from the rear of the stage, who'd decided to meet at the Crown to brainstorm for the future of the Feckenham Footpads. After a few sessions (and I mean drinking sessions) and some storms of the brain, the group had been whittled by the winds to the heartwood of the [j]oak. My family. My Dad was renowned in the village for his quick wit, toxic bonfires, and inability for his head to fit any hat crafted by man. My mother was a mild mannered deeply rooted Feckenhamite, with family going back to at least the 1500s, and whom I still affectionately call "Sweet". In her spare time, she reared snails and arm-wrestled truck drivers that drove over 30 through the village. Although there was a lot of support in particular from Vanda Cookes, Helen Chambers, Margaret Moyes, and Dai Barrett Meade. I hope you read this, Dai, and appreciate that I didn't spell it "Di", although, I think this is a cooler way to spell it because it infers that you're a gambler, chancer, roguish kind of character.

The Panto had fallen into The Butlers' laps. My Dad: The Writer. My Mom: Initially Director, but by means and credit, a Producer. And Me: The Director. How I

happened on this was being called into help choreograph a YMCA dance by my Auntie Helen. From there, it was understood that I had the confidence and arrogance to steer the ship from paper to caper.

I spoke to several people from that period before I wrote this to get some sort of grasp on the real narrative. But then was ushered on from the cemetery to the Cricket Club by Vanda Cookes who'd been stealing flowers from graves and panicked thinking I was Jason Mamoia (I get that a lot). I was about to join the ruddy faced droolers on the balcony of the Cricket Club and then spotted Henry Hubball eating worms in the compost. I hadn't seen him for a while, so moonwalked towards making eye-contact and offered him a natterjack toad. Other than myself and my brother Pete, he'd been in almost every Pantomime. He agreed with me, that although the scripts were great and each approach was unique, the whole saga felt homogeneous. Because the experience is what was important to everyone involved. There was no sense or sensibility, there was raw comradery. It was what is at the essence of a great village and more. People from towns or cities don't get to share the borders of their garden with a labourer, a farmer, a CEO, and aristocracy, they become tribal. And the beauty about the Pantomime and Feckenham is we were all on the boards together. This attitude and experience lead a great number of those from a community of 600 people to go on and pursue their dreams. I am an actor and writer now in London and for a time us Feckenhamites called Lambeth "Little Feckenham". Because of the amount of people from this tiny hamlet who started on a stage in the village hall and gained that grounded belief that we can do what we love and make people smile or purr.





Taking advantage of the longer days around mid-Summer, we repeated our air rifle shooting session as we enjoyed it so much last year. Huge thanks go to Hugo and Gerri for being so kind as to host us and lend us a gun, Paul Furey for once again keeping us safe as Range Master, and Ben Sinclair for providing expert tuition. The evening was a great success and one that epitomised the core value of the WI - education (closely followed by the second value of having lots of fun). Special mention must go to Pauline Jennings who won our Crack Shot competition (by miles). We know who to call for pest control now!

Our July meeting was on the 17th July and we went for a walk around the village, practising our map reading skills and doing some litter picking as we went (and we might have had a gin and tonic on the top of the hill but I really couldn't say).

Our August meeting is on Monday 21st at 8pm at Feckenham Village Hall. If it's dry we will be on the playing field playing French cricket in between scoffing puddings (the theory being, have your dinner then come to WI with your dessert and eat it with everyone). No experience or equipment is necessary, but your dessert, chair, utensils, drink etc. are. Members are free, guests are £5, payable on the night in either cash or by

transfer. If anyone would like to join, the fee for the year is £34.50 between July and September (the membership year running March to April). Contact Jen Cary for more details jen@thecarys.co.uk 07773 883 039.

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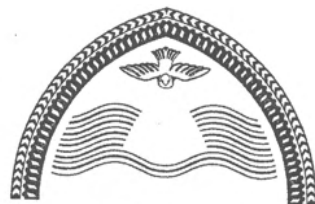
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vicar@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

Church Warden: Vacant

For Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals please contact
Fr Glenn

Website: www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk



PARISH CHURCH
OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
FECKENHAM

Services for August 2023

6th August	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Fiona Carter LLM
13th August	To be arranged.		
20 th August	6.30pm	Evensong	Fr Glenn Reading
27th August	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading

Drop in (in church)

Wednesday at 10.30am - 12.00pm

9th and 23rd August

All welcome

FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St John Fisher & Thomas More

Mass will not be held at St John Fisher and Thomas More until further notice.

Mount Carmel 6 pm Sunday Mass is now the Live Streamed Mass.

Link: www.eventcast.uk/live (Type the link into the browser)

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

Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898

WHAT'S ON IN

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

COMING THIS AUTUMN

"A hilarious show"

The Times

"Brilliantly Funny"
The Observer



GEORGE EGG'S SET MENU

Saturday, 23rd September - 7.30pm

STEAK NIGHT

Saturday, 14th October - 7.30pm



ASHLEY HUTCHINGS 100 NOT OUT! SATURDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER - 7.30PM

Tickets for all Village Hall events are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown

Book online at www.feckhall.org

Phone bookings: 0333 666 3366



Feckenham Scarecrow

October 7th & 8th Weekend

Start planning YOUR scarecrow NOW!

Presented by Feckenham Square Management Committee & Feckenham Wake

Feckenham Church

DROP IN for coffee

Wednesdays 9th & 23rd August
10.30 to 12 noon



Feckenham's Own...



Listen at
www.swansbrook.com

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Send details of events for FREE listing to:

FECKENHAM



THE
**FECKENHAM
SESSIONS**
TRADITIONAL
MUSICMAKING
at THE ROSE & CROWN

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 1st August

Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB



GARDEN VISIT

to Ridgeway Barn

Meet from 6.30pm (own transport):
Ridgeway Barn, Evesham Rd. B49 5LJ

Wednesday, 2nd August
Information from
meadowfarm33@aol.com

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Next Meeting - 21st August
FRENCH CRICKET

& Puds

Meet at 8pm at Feckenham Village Hall

FECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 7th September at 7.30pm
Feckenham Village Hall
www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

WE'RE TAKING A SUMMER BREAK

We'll be back in September

Our 22nd Season is now open for
bookings and subscriptions.

Our films include:

MRS HARRIS GOES TO PARIS
THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD
ELVIS

MY FAIR LADY

OPERATION MINCEMEAT

THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH
A MAN CALLED OTTO

More to be announced soon.

Annual subscription £30 for 8 films

For more details pick up a brochure at
the Village Hall, The Village Shop or The
Rose & Crown or visit

www.fecknodeon.co.uk

ERSTWHILE



BORDER MORRIS

Twice monthly Sessions
at Feckenham Village Hall
2nd and 4th Fridays - 7pm

Feckenham READERS GROUP

Tuesday, 8th August - 7.45pm

This month's book:

A LADDER TO THE SKY

By John Boyle

Details: 892285



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



For this month we have a newly added photo for the archive. It's High Street with the Police House. During the 1920's this was where the local policeman lived, very handy for The Eight Bells pub opposite and the Rose and Crown just up the road. Apparently the son of the policeman was in the Machine Gun Corps during WW1 and returned home alive after the war. (Thanks to Kathy Gee for the info).

Readers Group

In an unusual turn of events, the popular Feckenham Readers Group which has met every month for over 20 years has a space for a new member or two. We only have a couple of rules - no guilt being the main one. You don't have to like a book or finish a book, no pressure. Just enjoy reading a mixture of books. If you might be interested message marionchute@me.com or feckenhamnews@gmail.com.

Next meeting is on Tuesday 8th August when we'll be discussing John Boyne's - Ladder to the Sky with a theme of deception.


ALLISON PREBBLE
WELLBEING

Registered Kinesiologist Dip KA, MSc NUTH, BA Hons

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✉: enquiries@allisonprebble.co.uk

Feckenham's Biggest Scheduled Monument - no longer 'At Risk'

Jen Cary

Since 2014 Feckenham Archaeology Group has been working closely with Redditch Borough Council and Historic England to achieve the aim of getting Feckenham's biggest Scheduled Monument off the 'At Risk' register. The work we have done to the site itself over the years, clearing scrub and managing the trees, as well as making our community aware of the site's character and significance through things like events and these signs (with a couple more to come than are in the photos) mean that Historic England are satisfied that our nationally important site is now in a position to be taken off the 'At Risk' register. This is a really big achievement and I'm very proud of the hard work and tenacity of the group over the years. It's been a real pleasure and we've had a lot of fun. We are having a celebratory thank you party at the beginning of September for all of our supporters, which will be very kindly hosted by the Football Club.

One of the main things Historic England wanted to see before they would take it off the register, was improved community

information about the site. To this end, we have commissioned 4 signs to go by the entrances to the site. Very special thanks must go to Kathy Gee for leading the design of these and project managing them, as well as Judy Underwood and Cate Statham for all of their support. Many thanks also to David Rowe who very kindly used his artistic talent to draw us a representation of what the site might have looked like before it was levelled and built on. We hope that the signs, to soon be supported by information on the Parish Council website, will help visitors and residents alike understand the very special nature of what we have in our village. Through this knowledge we hope to foster appreciation, which will then help to protect this nationally important site for future generations.

As Chair of the Feckenham Archaeology Group I would like to say a very big thank you to all the hard work, expertise and money, generously given to this specific project by the following people and organisations: Kathy Gee, Judy Underwood, Cate Statham, David Rowe, Chris Bristow, Jeff Matthews, Alan Jones, The Village Shop, Stuart Dixon and DPS Building Ltd, RBC, WCC, Historic England, Feckenham Charity, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Natural Networks, The European Union, Feckenham Parish Council, the Football Club.

FORMER ROYAL MANOR OF FECKENHAM

This project (2023) was part funded by the European Union and carried out by the Feckenham Planning Project Site Community Archaeology Project with support from The Feckenham Bio-Diversity Project. Text by Kathy Gee.

An early-medieval moated manor used to stand here. It was owned by the king and enclosed by an unusually large protective earthwork. He used the manor whenever he came to hunt deer and it was also the administrative hub for the Royal Forest of Feckenham. For over 300 years, the king had legal ownership of all game, timber, and rights to forage pigs on acorn and beech nuts. Ordinary people who broke Forest Law could expect harsh punishment from the courts, possibly even execution at Gallops Green near Hanbury.

Encouraging biodiversity

The manor site has been used by Feckenham residents for hundreds of years. However, in 2013, Historic England identified the Scheduled Ancient Monument as 'At Risk' due to inappropriate scrub and tree growth. Whigge commissioned a Conservation Management Plan in 2017 and, over time, a Biodiversity Enhancement Amendment was introduced with the following suggestions:

- Expose the earthwork and raise awareness of its importance. Supervised clearance of non-native species by hand tools.
- Contribute to biodiversity by providing habitat for wildlife. Cutting growth and tree galls are kept as homes for reptiles and invertebrates.
- Add to existing wildlife corridors, particularly to encourage red lists and the rare brown harewood butterfly.

What would have been here?

- The earliest record of the manor is in a land charter of AD 802.
- We know that in 1181-1182, the manor included a long chamber, chapel, palace, kitchen and a well, probably by the flow bank, west of the earthwork.
- The chapel was rebuilt in stone in 1242 and the foregate, courtyard bridge and palings were also repaired.
- In the 1250s, a new kitchen was erected, and the chapel, and king and queen's chambers were extended again.
- Edward I (1272-1307) assigned the manor to his mother Queen Eleanor. It was subsequently held by three English Queens.
- In 1273 the buildings were 'in good order' but by 1336 the manor house was in such poor condition that Queen Philippa sold it to the Abbot of Evesham for partial demolition.

Later history

- In the 16th century, forest law was largely relaxed but the court and prison were still active.
- In 1611 a new schoolhouse was built 'behind the court'.
- In 1629 the Royal Forest of Feckenham was disafforested - removed out of royal ownership.
- During the reign of Charles II, the site was used for game releases.
- From c1790, housing was built within the north east ditch of the moat and Feckenham football club was established in 1881.
- The moated site was listed as a Scheduled Ancient Monument in 1948.

Restoring the biodiversity of the site was initially undertaken by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. Maintenance is now undertaken by Redditch Borough Council.

No metal detecting is allowed on this site which is a scheduled monument and legally protected under the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Using a metal detector or removing any objects found on the scheduled monument without a licence from Historic England would be a criminal offence.

Logos for Shop, Evesham Market, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Natural Networks, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Feckenham Bio-Diversity Project, and Feckenham Charity are visible at the bottom.

SCARECROWS

THEY'RE COMING BACK!



It's been 4 long years since the Scarecrows last came to Feckenham but in 2023 they're preparing to return. The Wake and Square Committees are joining forces for a great **SCARECROW WEEKEND on 7th and 8th October.**

Once again the plan is to have wacky and wonderful

scarecrows on parade throughout the village. Details are still being thrashed out but one thing is certain - it won't work unless YOU, the folk of Feckenham set to to create marvellous scarecrows - there'll be prizes for the best! So this is advance warning - start planning your entry now! There'll be more information in next month's Feckenham news.

Feckenham Square Management Committee

NO FUN!

Fun on The Square, due to take place on 15th July, was shaping up nicely. There were to have been aerial acrobats, morris dancers and musical entertainment. Sideshows and games had been organised, a fine menu prepared and drinks orders were at the ready... and then **DOWN CAME THE RAIN!**

On Wednesday the forecast looked dodgy, on Thursday it looked worse and on Friday the heavens opened. The prediction for Saturday included thunderstorms, 45mph winds and unseasonably cool temperatures. In addition The Square was distinctly soggy underfoot. Reluctantly the decision was arrived at to cancel. It simply wouldn't have been safe or sensible to continue - and even the most resolute stiff upper lip might have quivered at being asked to sit outdoors in a raging storm.

The Committee apologises for any disappointment or inconvenience - but some times common sense has to prevail. Alternative fundraising options are being considered!

Feckenham's Own...



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

June and July are months when the British like to risk going outdoors... and hold outdoor events. Swansbrook Radio rashly honoured this tradition and the Swansbrook pop-up studio popped up at a couple of events.

The first, The Wake, was a delight - lovely weather, lovely people - a very happy day. We think we managed to capture the spirit of that day in a special Happy Hour programme in which Colin James and Paul Furey dived about talking to participants, organisers and practically anything else that moved while Ian Bellion linked it all from the blue gazebo... inbetween making announcements about dog shows and lost children. True to its name, it's a very happy programme - and you can still listen to it by going to the On Demand page at swansbrook.com (the programme title is "Our Day Out").

Our second outing was to Astwood Bank Carnival where our resolve was put to the test. British weather intervened and the pop-up studio was nearly popped down by high winds and torrential rain. The weather relented slightly during the afternoon but the resulting programme has an air of desperation about it - as if we're all expecting to be blown/swept away at any minute. This programme is also available to listen to and is titled "Raining on Our Parade".

We do notice a sharp upturn in our listening figures after we do one of these outside broadcasts so we'd be glad to do more. If you're involved in the organisation of a local event and think that we could cover it please contact us at radio@swansbrook.com

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Reflections on Glastonbury Festival

Your editor was away at the end of June at Glastonbury and, many people have asked what it was like, so I have taken the liberty of using these pages to say something about it.

We were lucky. We were volunteering at what are called the Lockups. These are large tents where people can leave stuff securely. We take anything so long as it's not alive i.e. no children or pets, otherwise it can be keys or ID, to trolleys of beer. We were on duty 4 hours a day and an overnight during the 5 days of the festival. This meant we couldn't see all the acts but it gave us a place, with other volunteers, to put our camper van and, more importantly, showers and better loos than on the rest of the site.



We set ourselves up a day before the festival proper started and the following day, which included a very heavy downpour - the last rain till the festival ended - we watched people their many thousands arrive bearing huge backpacks, wheeling trolleys or even wheelbarrows loaded with tents, food, drink - everything they might need - of course quite a few brought toddlers. In total I think there were 250,000 people there. Apparently for those few days it's the fourth largest 'town' in the South West. It's amazing how the infrastructure is managed - not least the plumbing - so to speak - water in - sewage out. Also so many food stalls and a pop-up Co-op.

Once you have your camp set up, its time to explore. What I hadn't realised is that it's

not just the music which is amazing even if, like me, you've lost track of what's popular. There are the big stages and so many smaller stages and tents - something for everyone - honestly. In addition, the place is a feast for the senses - there is a beautiful woodland walk best seen in the evening when it's lit up, street entertainment, artworks everywhere and spoken word events which range from poetry to political discussion - mainly on green issues. I could go on and on. One day we walked 9 miles, and that was before the entertainment really got going.

Everyone asks whether I saw Elton John. Well, I can't say I did, except on the big screens. We were at the very back of the audience of an estimated 120,000 people. My favourites were Max Richter playing on a sunny morning to a crowd of a few hundred. His guest was Tilda Swinton and his music, if you don't know it, might be described as post-minimalist modern classical - absolutely mesmeric. The other big name I loved was Cat Stevens. I used to listen to him back in the early 1970s and he partially defined my late teenage years. I'd never seen him live. This was a real treat.

My lasting thought about Glastonbury is this: Don't look down - you don't need to. At the toilet blocks in particular you might not like what you see and there's so much around you to be amazed by.

Don't look down - a response to Glastonbury and its loos

Look up
Look to the side
Look askance, ahead, around.

Look forward
Look the other way
Look on the bright side

Look at both sides
Look before you leap
Look outwards - see

Don't look down

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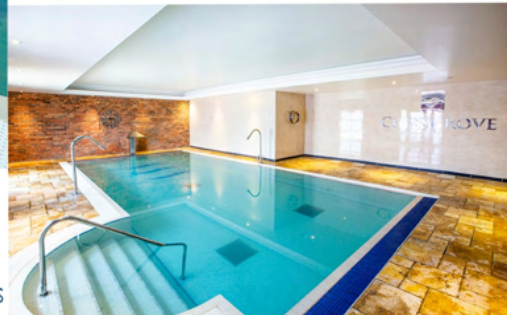
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Feckeham Village Shop

The addition of our rather splendid terrace two years ago, that created such an attractive outside area for the café has certainly provided a tremendous boost to our annual takings. Nearly 30% of our weekly sales are now taken through the Shop café. It has not only provided an all year round attraction for an increasing number of cyclists and dog walkers but also doubled the number of customers that we can accommodate and cater for. However there is another reason why our café has become so popular and that is because we serve excellent coffee and the most fantastic cakes. A while ago I extolled the quality of our coffee, so this month I'm going to do likewise about our cakes, or should I say Traceys Cakes as they are known in Feckenham.

Tracey, who is a volunteer and a member of our Management Board, began baking for the Shop nine years ago. Back in 2014 she was supplying us with approximately 14 cakes a month, now that figure has risen to almost 50 a month which is quite amazing and a testament to the quality of her baking skills. We regularly receive compliments on social media and in person from customers about how delicious Tracey's cakes are and their popularity has meant that Tracey has now had to recruit another of our volunteers, Nancy, to help her keep up with the café's increasing demand. Apart from the quality of the baking, what also appeals to our customers is the variety of cakes that are on offer. There are forty different recipes in Tracey's repertoire from which at least three or four are available for customers to choose from each day. Victoria Sponge and Lemon Drizzle are by far the biggest sellers, however, new additions such as Cornish Hevva Cake and her amazing Bread Pudding have also been notable successes. All baked in Feckenham, we are fortunate to have such a talented baker in our village. If you haven't already sampled Tracey's cakes, then come along this month for afternoon tea or morning coffee and try them for yourselves.

In other news, we have available again the Ecover cleaning range of bio detergent and washing up liquid, so bring along your refillable bottles and take advantage of these excellent value products. As ever thanks to all our Volunteers who keep the



Shop trading throughout the year, seven days a week and a personal thanks to Eunice O'Brien for creating our stunning hanging baskets and flower troughs. Finally of course thanks to all of you who support us with your custom.



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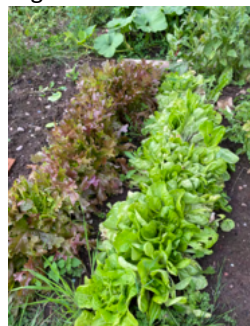
August. I hope this month gives me more time using my new watering can than July did, especially during the first half of the month, when even the usually thirsty runner beans were getting more than enough to drink. Still it seems to have worked for their good, as I have never had such a blooming wall of red flowers as they have given me this year. This month I shall enjoy reaping the resultant abundant crop of runner beans. Dwarf french beans are going for it as usual, at this time of the summer I never go to my plot and there are none to pick. In contrast climbing french beans have made for a poor showing this season.



I had a good few new potatoes and we are still harvesting second earlies, with three rows of main crop spuds yet to come, which I should dig up in the latter half of August and store away in paper or natural fibre sacks.

I have grown 3 courgette plants this year which are giving out courgettes faster than I can eat them, although there is no rush as they store well, I just make sure I eat them in the order I crop them. Also I shall make a few jars of courgette chutney to put away for the winter season.

The salad crops have also thrived on July's regular showers. I have been harvesting



lettuce thinings (red and butter head all year) all summer, during this month I shall thin them down to those left building nice tight heads. Radicchio is just coming ready to crop, I add its deep red and white heads chopped into

the salad bowl. Rocket and mustard I have been harvesting since late spring but that which is left of them is now growing out to seed. This month I shall sow more of both of those alongside of winter lettuce that I shall keep under cloche protection from September onwards. I late cropped lettuce thinings until late December last year, then left them to slow grow in the cloche until the spring and they burst forward with new growth again and I hope to repeat again this winter, but as we know, nothing in the veg plot is guaranteed to give the same result twice. Also at the end of July and the beginning of August I sow winter raddish, Chinese 'daikon', long and pink with a nice hot peppery taste that I was cropping until almost mid winter last year.

Winter cabbage that I sowed at the start of July and planted out in the second half of the month are looking healthy in the brassica net.

Onions are coming ready to crop, I dry them for a few days laid out in the polytunnel, then hang them up in strings in the shed to use as needed.

The end of July saw the end of our peas, the best of which was a tasty sweet crop of mange tout.

In the polytunnel red peppers and banana peppers are just starting to produce. The tomatoes are doing well but are being out done by an abundant crop of cucumbers from 3 large healthy plants, this I am putting down to my own made compost that I have grown them in. Last winter I raked up the leaves (mostly birch) from my parents garden, put them in my compost bay mixed up over time with veg peelings, ashes, horse muck and green waste from the allotment. The result has been the best compost that I have so far managed to produce, fluffy black soil that was nice and warm inside when I turned it over. It even made enough to put on the cabbage and courgette beds also, with plenty left over to use top dressing crops as the season goes on.

Good August harvesting, now I'm off to keep up the slug search.

Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

Hamamelis x intermedia 'Diane'

August is probably the wrong time to be writing about a winter flowering shrub, but I came across a photograph whilst looking for something else and it reminded me that it was one of the plants we left behind when we moved from Feckenham to Salford Priors.

Hamamelis x intermedia 'Diane' is an elegant shrub that is grown for its clusters of sweetly scented dark red flowers (left) which have slender petals that resemble strips of ribbon. They appear in mid to late winter on otherwise bare branches and can make an excellent cut flower.



The leaves are hazel-like, rounded and bright green until autumn when they dramatically turn to reds, oranges and yellows that could match any Japanese maple.

It makes a splendid specimen plant and will grow to a height and spread of 4m x 4m in 10-20 years. It is hardy in most places throughout the UK even in severe winters - our plant survived -18°C during the severe 2010/2011 winter.

The Royal Horticultural Society has given it an Award of Garden Merit (AGM).

For best results, all Hamamelis should be grown in well-drained, slightly acidic soil in full sun to part shade. Our plant didn't know this and was on a sunny bank in clay. It is said to be deer resistant, and is most certainly low maintenance except for pruning to shape in spring after flowering and removing any suckers from the rootstock (which is usually Hamamelis virginiana).



It was raised in 1969 at the Kalmthout Arboretum in Belgium. The Arboretum was originally created there in 1858 by Charles Van Geert, who planted varieties of conifers, which were the main interest of the Arboretum at the time. Others eventually succeeded Mr. Van Geert, but during the two Wars the site was abandoned.

In 1952, two horticulturists George and Robert De Belder bought the land. Together with Robert's wife, the agriculturist Jelena De Belder, they created the Arboretum of today, which is now internationally known and since 2003 has been the International Cultivar Registration Authority for the genus Hamamelis. Robert raised 'Diane' there, named after his daughter, as well as 'Jelena' named after his wife.



Our July 12th coach outing was to Waterperry Garden in Oxfordshire in the morning, followed by an afternoon visit to Upton House in Warwickshire. Despite a gloomy weather forecast, 28 of us enjoyed a sunny day with only a few minor showers. The gardens at Waterperry were looking very good and we spent our time wandering around the extensive garden, the plant sales area, the little church and the tea rooms where we took our lunch. In the afternoon, we moved closer to home and visited Upton House, a National Trust property near Edghill in Warwickshire. Our time was spent viewing the art collection in the house and exploring the steeply sloping gardens. All in all, a very successful outing.

NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 2nd August 2023

Our next event is an evening visit to Jon and Jane Segar's extensive garden at Cookhill from 6:30pm onwards (own transport). The postal address is 'Ridgeway Barn', Evesham Road, Cookhill, B49 5LJ and the access is on the right hand side of the road as you head towards Evesham. To ease parking, would you car-share if possible, please.

Membership of the Gardening Club is currently by £5.00 annual subscription which becomes due on 1st January each year, so please come prepared to renew if you haven't already done so. Please make cheques payable to 'Stock and Bradley Gardening Club'. We welcome new members to join us at any time throughout the year.

Club meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £5.00 for 2023. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting.

If you require any further information, ring Dinny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527 821355 or Rob Cole (Chairman) on 07544 832052.

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The 1st XI had a good June, drawing against Belbroughton and Netherton and wins against Old Vigornians and Brockhampton. The latter was a tight game with Brockhampton making 228 for 8 wickets in the 50 overs, our boys reaching 332 for 9 in 47 overs. Nasir Mehmood hitting 83 not out.

The 2nd XI had a mixed month, the highlight being a 10-wicket victory at Mill Lane against Alvechurch & Hopwood. The visitors were bowled out for 193 and villagers Mark Cull and Davey Banks set about the bowlers. On a steamy hot day, they knocked off the runs on 36 overs, with Mark Cull launching the ball into the churchyard to get the six runs needed for victory and to secure his century. A celebration involving chilled drinks then ensued.

The Junior cricket section has been very busy during June and early July. The U12 team are top of their Pairs League of ten teams after winning six of their first seven matches. The team has put in a series of strong collective bowling performances each game and there has also been some notable batting from Tommy Eost, Moin Sultan, Rory Gavin and Benny Reynolds. The team is in third place in the T20 league and has had a win against Wightwick and a narrow defeat to Alvechurch this month.

The U13 T20 team had a tense game against Hagley which finished in a tie with both teams being dismissed for 58. Will Reynolds excelled with 3 wickets for 5 runs here as the opposition top order was dismissed cheaply. The team has suffered with some other rain cancellations.

The U14 squad has now had another two wins. In T20 there was a tense last over win against Ombersley where Sam Curtis retired 50 not out to guide the side to reaching 122. There was also a Hundred win against Astwood Bank where Ben Eost (45) and Finn Davies (20) chased down a total of 115.

Upcoming home fixtures are:

Sat	29/07/23	12:30:00	12:30	1st XI	Lye CC - 2nd XI
Sun	30/07/23	10:15:00	10:15	Under 12	Halesowen CC
Sat	05/08/23	12:30:00	12:30	2nd XI	Harborne CC - Worcs
Lge 3rd XI					
Tue	08/08/23	18:15:00	18:15	Under 13	Barnt Green CC
Sat	12/08/23	12:30:00	12:30	1st XI	Himbleton CC - 1st XI
Sat	19/08/23	12:30:00	12:30	1st XI	Netherton CC, Worcs
- Saturday 2nd XI					
Sat	26/08/23	12:30:00	12:30	2nd XI	Himley CC - 3rd XI
Sun	27/08/23	10:15:00	10:15	Under 12	Alvechurch &
Hopwood CC					



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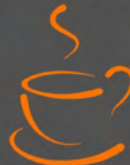
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