

# FECKENHAM

September 2023

# NEWS



Published by Feckenham Church for the village.  
Editor Gilly Cooper - [feckenhamnews@gmail.com](mailto:feckenhamnews@gmail.com)  
(Copy Date 14<sup>th</sup>)

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# Feckenham News in September

## Dates for your Diary

### September

6th	S&B Gardening Club
7th	Parish Council
9th	Archeology Presentation
19th	Readers Group
22nd	Golf Competition Genesis - S&B Village Hall
23rd	George Egg at the Village Hall
25th	Shop AGM
29th	Macmillan Coffee Morning
30th	The Fecknodeon

### October

1st	Harvest Lunch
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

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Marion Chute

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[www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

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Feckenham News are  
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## Editor's Note

We are nearing autumn and, though we haven't had the sunniest of summers, harvests look as if they will be good. The hedgerows are full of blackberries and we are picking some lovely sweet plums, other fruits and much else to eat now or preserve for over the winter. This has been the routine of the village for centuries. Now there is a serious potential threat to our village in the form of the proposed battery storage proposal. I believe that there are very many reasons to oppose the proposal which puts the nature of our village under threat. Please carefully read the article from the Parish Council on the next page and the enclosed leaflet. It's important that we make our voices heard by the planners.



**Rose & Crown** 48 High Street  
Feckenham B96 6HS

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with Food - owned and run by the  
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**Tuesday, 5th September - 8pm**  
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**28th & 29th September**

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Enjoy our huge selection of delicious  
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[www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk](http://www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk)

Stock & Bradley Village Hall, B96 6RW  
Village Hall Natters - 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.sbvh.org.uk)... A village hall fundraising event.

**BATTERY PLANNING APPLICATION  
PUBLIC MEETING**

It is unusual for a parish to meet in August however this is no normal year due to the proposed Feckenham Batteries application. The proposal even made front page news on The Redditch Standard newspaper dated 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

A large number of Parishioners attended an informal meeting on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August. This was not an official Council meeting and was called to ensure that residents had a better understanding of what was proposed. Villagers discussed forming an action group to represent Feckenham. There was unanimous agreement to oppose the planning application (23/00417/ FUL) on grounds including:

1. The proximity of Feckenham School.
2. Safety Matters and Fire Risk.
3. Additional Noise interference.
4. Increased traffic through the village during construction and beyond with

- potential damage to listed buildings from vibration of trucks and machinery.
5. Harm to the Green Belt.
6. Potential to damage heritage assets.
7. Cumulative effects of multiple applications surrounding Feckenham.

It was emphasised that every individual comment submitted in relation to this application has to be considered by the planning department and parishioners were encouraged to make their opinions known as soon as possible. You can find information on how to submit comments to the Borough Council planners by going to [feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk](http://feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

*To help you put together your comment we've included a simple form inside this edition of Feckenham News.*

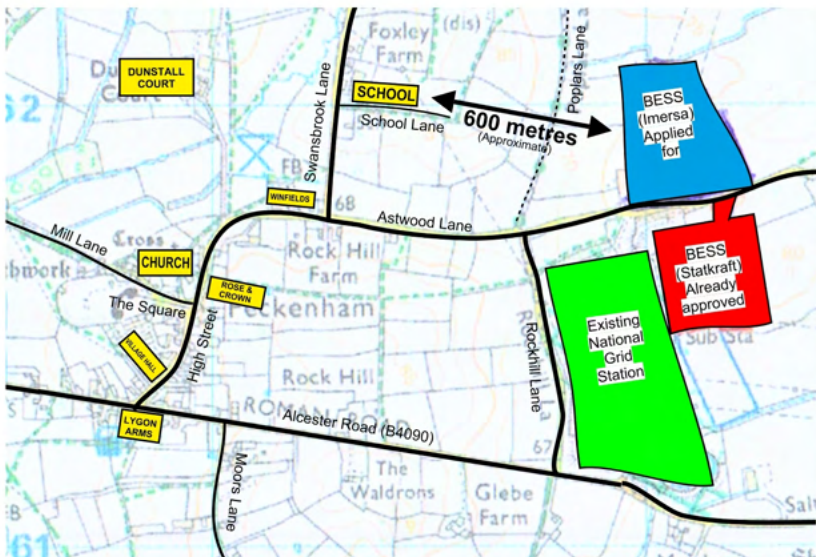
**NEXT MEETING**

The parish council will meet again on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the back room at the village hall. Meetings are open to the public and you may raise questions during the public forum or bring matters to the attention of the council.

**CONTACT THE COUNCIL**

Should you require any help or further information please do not hesitate to contact Feckenham Parish Council on telephone number 01527 892522 or check the website at

**[www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk)**



## Feckenham Village Hall

### IF AT FIRST... TRY ANOTHER RECIPE!

On Coronation day, way back in May, the Village Hall was bracing itself for a visit from **George Egg**, eccentric chef, TV star and all round funny man. Tickets had been sold, the bar had been stocked and additional fire extinguishers had been ordered. But then the horrible Covid 19 struck - George was laid low and unable to get out of bed let alone cook a herring on a trouser press.

Thankfully our hero has beaten the terrible bug. He's back on his feet - and will be towing his cement mixer to Feckenham on **Saturday 23rd September** for a performance which is like nothing you've ever seen before. He's called it "**George Egg's Set Menu**" and it's a compilation of the best bits from three previous shows.

If you haven't seen George before you're in for a treat - and if you have seen him before you'll come prepared. During an inspiring and inventive evening of stand-up, live cooking and comedy lecture George prepares a breakfast, a lunch and a dinner using, amongst other things, a wallpaper stripper, a heat gun, a paper shredder and a whole host of other power tools, office equipment, hair-dressing appliances and gardening implements. And YOU, the audience, get to eat the food at the end... and it's great. Don't take our word for it - this is what the papers said:

*"It's a hilarious show, with surprisingly good food"* The Times

*"it is refreshing to encounter a performer who really is unique"* The Telegraph

*"Go see George Egg... you'll never look at a Corby trouser press in the same way again. Brilliant"* Jay Rayner (Observer Food Critic)

**GEORGE EGG'S SET MENU**  
**Saturday, 23rd**  
**September**  
**at 7.30pm**



### 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!**

### COMING SOON

Saturday, 11th November - 7.30pm

#### ASHLEY HUTCHINGS

#### 100 Not Out

The Godfather of British folk/rock celebrates the issue of his 100th album - songs from his days with Fairport Convention and Steeleye Span as well as some new music. With him is singer Becky Mills.

Saturday 2nd December - 7.30pm

#### ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN

#### MIDWINTER

One of the UK's finest chamber ensembles present a seasonal concert - from Vivaldi to the Pogues - great start to the festive season.

**TICKETS FOR BOTH OF THESE SHOWS ARE SELLING FAST - BOOK 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](http://www.feckhall.org)

Book by phone on 0333 666 3366

### Draw results

**Feckenham Village Hall Improvement Fund**  
August draw.

The draw was carried out on 9th August 2023.

1st (£25)	97	Mark & Lisa Brock
2nd (£15)	99	Rachel Walsh
3rd (10)	153	Gary & Tracy Somers

### Feckenham Past

Here is a timely reminder of an early Scarecrow festival where Mr Paul Nicholson produced this magnificent Lord Nelson and Van Gogh was brought to life by Lew Howe Bennett.

Time to get your thinking caps on....



### New Residents

In July we welcomed to the village Nick and Lynne Reading. They have moved into The Stables, just off the High Street, where Pam and John Eaton used to live. Nick is a retired conservation architect who likes cricket, drawing and art of all kinds and Lynne is a retired secondary school history teacher who likes antiques and collecting. They have a daughter, a 7 year old granddaughter and an 18 month old grandson. They have moved to Feckenham from Lower Bentley in order to take advantage of village life and they have been very touched by the warm and friendly welcome they have received. They are also already fans of the village shop and Rose & Crown. They are very much looking forward to trying The Lygon soon.



returning to Feckenham  
on Saturday 18th November 2023  
**SAVE THE DATE !**

## Feckenham WI

Last September we did apple juicing, this September we're upping the ante by trying cider making. The venue is TBC but the date is Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September and we will be starting our meeting at 8pm. Please bring any apples you can lay your hands on and plenty of bottles and demi-johns. Members are free and guests are £5. Please contact Jen Cary for more details [jen@thecarys.co.uk](mailto:jen@thecarys.co.uk) 07773 883 039

# CHURCH SERVICES



## PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Vicar: Fr Glenn Reading 01527 894436  
[vicar@feckenhamchurch.org.uk](mailto:vicar@feckenhamchurch.org.uk)

Church Warden: Vacant

For Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals please contact Fr  
Glenn

Website: [www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk](http://www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk)



PARISH CHURCH  
OF  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
FECKENHAM

## Services for September 2023

3rd September	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Fiona Carter LLM
10th September	9.00am	BCP Communion	Fr Glenn Reading
	10.30am	Family Service	Fiona Carter LLM
17 <sup>th</sup> September	6.30pm	Evensong	Fr Glenn Reading
24th September	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading

### Drop in (in church)

Wednesday at 10.30am - 12.00pm

13<sup>th</sup> and 27th September

All welcome (coffee and cake)

## 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](http://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



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

# HARVEST *Lunch*

SUNDAY OCTOBER 1ST, 12 NOON

**£7.50**

(FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12)

You are warmly invited to a Harvest Festival lunch! Enjoy the beautiful flower displays in the church and seasonal food - pork baps with all the trimmings, salad and desserts (a vegetarian option will be available)

The lunch will follow on from a Thanksgiving Service at 10.30am - all welcome

Proceeds to support the upkeep of the church

*To help us gauge numbers, please  
buy a ticket on sale at Sunday  
services or email*

*Clare Furey [cf@paulfurey.com](mailto:cf@paulfurey.com)  
07548 832771*



## Pantomime Memories



## Family Service

Begins Sunday 10th September at 10:30  
St John the Baptist, Feckenham B96 6HU



With children's activities, songs and refreshments afterwards  
All ages welcome

**BRING A FRIEND**  
**2 for the price of 1 OFFER!**  
*(Must be a friend who's never attended).*

**Tuesdays Hatha Flow**  
7pm-8pm  
Beginners/Intermediate  
Stock & Bradley Village Hall

**Thursdays Hatha Flow**  
6pm-7pm  
Beginners/Intermediate  
Feckenham Village Hall

0753228282  
jessicabyatt\_yogaandmeditation  
Jessica Byatt Yoga & Meditation  
£8.00pp - Cash or Bank Transfer  
Please contact me for Yoga Mats as limited availability.  
Please arrive 5/10 minutes early for the class to start on time.

It all began with the Kurds in 1992. A group of us had organised a fundraising fashion show for these poor people and it had been quite a success.

At a meeting following this we were thinking, what could we do next? Pam LL said "what about a village pantomime" and Frances Andrews, who was part of our team, said "I'll write it" and she did! Now Frances was a retired English teacher and a very strong talented lady.

True to her word, she wrote the whole thing, which was to be "Cinderella" The whole of the nursery school was involved, village children and adults - so we had a huge cast many of whom were talented. Rehearsals began in October and continued through until January.

Those who had speaking parts just HAD to learn their lines. Frances was very strict and directed it all.

Having mastered all the songs and dance routines we were at last ready to perform. We had the support of an army of helpers, make up artists, costume makers, lighting technicians, musicians and set designers - the lot. Performances of the show were on a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night plus a Saturday matinee. Did it go down well? It was Magic!!

Now Cinderella was just the start - perhaps others may recall what happened next.

Shirley Harman

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## T4U Christmas Sheobox Appeal 2023



The 'Shoebox Season', is almost upon us, and I am once again asking if you would please support some of the worlds most vulnerable children ! It is so sad that children in the countries our appeal reaches out to

continue to be in desperate need of help. Nothings changed! there is still so much poverty, so much hardship and in Ukraine so much turmoil, so much fear and so much sadness. We can all help! Albeit in a very small way, we can send them a 'Shoebox Gift', this Christmas. Something of their own to treasure, something that will bring a little fun and joy into their lives.



Leaflets with all the information you will need to make up a Christmas Shoebox are available in Church and in passageway at Kopper Cottage Droitwich Road. You can also pick up a pre-wrapped shoebox to get you started.

Please add a Christmas card and a photo for the children to keep, it will remind them that we do care about them, that they are not forgotten. Family Boxes, donations for the boxes and hand knits are always much appreciated too!

Please take your boxes to church no later than Wednesday 22nd November.

Thank you in anticipation, Lin Preece

TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE LIVES ONE BOX  
AT A TIME



## THE CAPTAINS CABIN

Feckenham  
B96 6HY

Situated in the heart of the Historic Village of Feckenham the accommodation boasts a king size bed with ensuite shower room, kitchenette,

dining - living room, garden room with ancillary dining area and log burner, full use of the walled garden area, and on site parking.

[www.thecaptainscabinfeckenham.co.uk](http://www.thecaptainscabinfeckenham.co.uk)

millane2020@outlook.com or telephone 01527893967

## Book Exchange



### New for the Village!

You might have already discovered the new book exchange located in the Church (St John the Baptist). The church has kindly given permission for this free community resource and the village shop has generously sponsored the initial start-up costs. All are warmly welcomed to drop in to enjoy browsing the shelves. The church is open all day, every day, for everyone.

We are starting with novels and biographies and are in the process of putting together a children's section. Help yourself to a book and leave one in its place.

Gwyn Bradley, Curator 07952 902908  
[gwynbradley@gmail.com](mailto:gwynbradley@gmail.com)  
Clare Furey, Member of the Parochial Church Council

## The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

### ANOTHER OPENING - THE 22<sup>nd</sup>!

Feckenham's village cinema opens its doors again this month after its summer break. If you haven't been you should really give it a try. This isn't your average film club - this is a proper professional standard cinema with all the trimmings. There's a big bright screen, fantastic quality sound, comfy seats and a bar - as well as a warm welcome from uniformed "staff". All this is included in the ticket price of £5 - but, even better, you can reduce this to £3.50 if you become a member. Just £30 buys you a seat at all of the 8 Saturday night shows in the programme. For details see the brochure enclosed with this magazine or visit

[www.fecknodeon.co.uk](http://www.fecknodeon.co.uk)



### A NEW FROCK

In our first film of the new season cleaning lady Ada Harris wants a new frock - so she decides to go to Paris to get one. She ruffles a few fashionable feathers, organises a strike at the House of Dior... and, after an epic struggle, gets her frock.

This new film is based on the book by Paul Gallico and stars Leslie Manville as the indomitable Mrs Harris. A good tempered film guaranteed to lift the spirits. An old fashioned story charmingly told and a fitting opener for our 22nd season. (UK 2022)

**MRS HARRIS GOES TO PARIS (PG)**  
**Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm**

*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](http://www.fecknodeon.co.uk)

# Feckenham Square Management Committee & Feckenham Wake



## LONG DISTANCE...

Feckenham's Swansbrook Radio can be heard all over the world and, thanks to the wonders of modern technology, we can tell which nations are tuning into us. Until recently we had quite a large following in Russia - but that's dropped off. Can't think why... Last month we had a sudden increase in listener numbers in Mexico - so we played some Mexican music ... and they all switched off. There's a solitary listener in Uzbekistan, a couple of regulars in Peru and a handful in India. We know that there are expats in far flung places who listen in for a taste of home...as well as some who won't listen for fear it will make them feel homesick. So, if you have friends or loved ones in foreign parts you're very welcome to use Swansbrook's airwaves to send greetings, birthday wishes or even marriage proposals - you never know - they might accept. Just drop us an email to [radio@swansbrook.com](mailto:radio@swansbrook.com) and we'll do our level best to keep you in touch with your far away friends.

## LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Go to [www.swansbrook.com](http://www.swansbrook.com) and follow the instructions you'll find there. Our programmes are 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](http://www.swansbrook.com)



## GET STUFFING!

For the first time since 2019 Feckenham's Scarecrows are coming to town. The popular festival will take place on 7th and 8th of October. It's a weekend when the people of the village display their scarecrows in their front gardens - and people from all over come and enjoy them - and vote for the best effort.

Full details of the event will be published soon but one thing is certain - it won't happen unless you Feckenhamsters get to work! Without scarecrows there would be no Scarecrow Weekend so we want you to make the most eye-catching and original scarecrows you can imagine. There's no theme and very few rules so let your imagination go wild! Scarecrows can be as big or as small as you wish, can be by themselves or in a group. Your scarecrow must be placed where the public can see it from the pavement and be within the central village. If you live outside you'll be welcome to display your masterpiece on The Square. There'll be prizes for the BEST SCARECROW. There's no charge for entering - and the public will be the judges.

You do need to enter your scarecrow - just fill in the form below and drop it into the letterbox at the Village Hall. Last date for entries is October 2nd - so get cracking!!

### Feckenham Scarecrow Competition 2023 - 7th & 8th October

#### ENTRY FORM

Your Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Will your Scarecrow be at home?  or on The Square  (Tick box as appropriate)

Please drop this form into the letterbox at Feckenham Village Hall (in the porch).

We MUST receive your entry by Monday, 2nd October.



# WHAT'S ON IN

THE FECKENHAM MANORIAL MOATED SITE  
COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

## The Former Royal Manor of Feckenham

Saturday 9th September 2023

3 pm to 5pm

Feckenham Football Club pavilion

**First drink free!**

We will be celebrating the removal of the archaeological site from the "At Risk" list and thanking everyone who has supported the project

- 3pm Welcome and drinks  
3.30pm Talk about the history of the former Royal Manor and Feckenham Forest. Hear about the project, our plans for the future and how you can get involved  
4pm See the new interpretation signs and enjoy a tour of the moated site

*Presented in partnership with Feckenham Wake*

**FECKENHAM  
VILLAGE HALL**

## GEORGE EGG'S SET MENU

Saturday,  
23rd September  
7.30pm

"A hilarious show"  
*The Times*

"Brilliantly Funny"  
*The Observer*

"A culinary Bill Bailey"  
*The Scotsman*

## STEAK NIGHT

Saturday, 14th October - 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](http://www.feckhall.org)  
Phone bookings: 0333 666 3366

## Feckenham Scarecrow Weekend



A Harvest Time  
Display of weird and  
wonderful creations

7th & 8th October

Trail Open 11.30am

**TEAS served all day**  
Barbecue & Bar  
Home made puds

Grand Prizegiving  
4.30pm - Sunday

**Just for Fun!**

Proceeds go to Feckenham Square Maintenance Fund

*Presented by Feckenham Square Maintenance Committee & Feckenham WAKE Committee*

## Village shop AGM

Monday, 25th September - 7pm  
Feckenham Village Hall  
All welcome

## COFFEE MORNING

Friday 29th September  
In aid of MacMillan Nurses

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

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, 5th September

## Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB



Tales From The  
POTTING SHED

With Katherine Tear  
Wednesday, 6th September  
7.30 - Bradley Village Hall

## ERSTWHILE



### BORDER MORRIS

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

## Feckenham Church

### DROP IN for coffee and a CHAT

Wednesdays  
13th & 27th September  
10.30 to 12 noon



## THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

OPENING OUR 22nd SEASON

Lesley Manville in

Mrs. Harris <sup>PG</sup>  
Goes to PARIS



FeckenOdeon 1 Saturday, 30th September at 7.30pm

The FeckenOdeon Cinemas  
at Feckenham Village Hall

Tickets for all shows from The Rose & Crown and Village Shop  
Telephone Booking 0333 666 3366\* Online Booking\* & full information at  
[www.feckenodeon.co.uk](http://www.feckenodeon.co.uk)

\*Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings

\*Phone calls answered by Ticketsource and charged at standard rates - NOT a premium line

## FECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 7th September at 7.30pm

Feckenham Village Hall

All welcome

[www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Feckenham READERS GROUP

Tuesday, 19th September - 7.45pm

This month's book:

MIDNIGHT LIBRARY

By MATT HAIG

Details: 892285



[whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk](mailto:whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk) or call 892130

If you haven't seen the moats in the playing field it is well worth a visit. Redditch Council teams have cleared the moats and removed the cuttings. You can now walk in both moats almost all the way round. This is a Scheduled Ancient Monument which you can explore without getting your legs stung or scratched by brambles. It's part of the village heritage once hidden but now revealed for everyone to appreciate. Take a look



### Feckenham Archeology Presentation



As mentioned in the Feckenham News previously, the Archaeology Group has managed to get Feckenham's largest Scheduled Monument off the 'At Risk' register. To say thank you to the many people and organisations involved and also to give residents an overview of what we've found out about the site, we are holding a thank you event. It's being very generously hosted by the Football Club on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September from 3pm-5pm. There will be drinks (first drink is free) and nibbles, a talk explaining the site's historic significance and what we have done to protect it, and then there will be a chance to walk round the moats. Everybody's welcome and if you could let me know you're coming, that would help with planning. Please contact me at [jen@thecarys.co.uk](mailto:jen@thecarys.co.uk) or 07773 883 039.



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I suddenly realise that another month has slipped by bringing me ever closer to my challenge to row the Atlantic in December which means Matt and I have to increase our training and fitness as the start date hoves into view.

With that in mind we have been out on the water at every opportunity and a few weekends ago rowed around the Isle of Wight, starting early Saturday morning aiming to finish Sunday night. We managed to negotiate the 48 hour challenge (with a night sleep at anchor outside Newtown) reasonably successfully even managing to boil some water from our one ring camping gas canister. As this will be the only method of cooking for the

entire passage of 40-45 days we need to get used to it. Suddenly rice and beans on I'm a Celebrity seem quite appetising. Buoyed (!) by that experience, we were going to repeat the experience at the end of July but



became a little concerned on the lead up as high winds and waves were forecast. Yes, I appreciate we will encounter those on our trip, but we decided not to take unnecessary risks at this stage unless we have to. Good decision! This was the weekend of the Fastnet Race where 80 yachts, starting off from Cowes and built for ocean sailing, retired, four were dismasted and one sank. A sobering reminder for us, and our families, that the sea is to be respected at all times and to minimise our risk where possible. At the end of May, Acorns celebrated the official reopening of a hospice following a

major refurbishment. This hospice had been under threat of closure due to financial constraints which saw an urgent appeal and a tremendous rallying of local families to pull together the funding needed to refurbish it and keep it open. When I think of the struggle and heartache families of children with a life limiting or life threatening condition endure, I am sure you can empathise why Matt and I are prepared to push ourselves to the limit to raise as much money as possible. With that in mind we are badly in need of a sponsor for shipping the boat to both the Canaries and back from Antigua, and if you know of anyone either in the shipping industry or a Company who might sponsor this please let me know – either on 07950 687 089 or [info@worcesterbuoys.com](mailto:info@worcesterbuoys.com), or simply Google Worcesterbuoys for our website. Should you wish to personally donate our Justgiving page is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/worcesterbuoys>  
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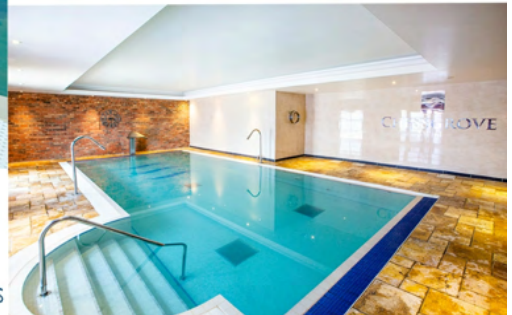
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# Feckenham Village Shop - Alan Slater

On the morning of Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September, we will be holding our Annual Coffee Morning in support of Macmillan Nurses. It will be the third time that we have held the event and with your help we can beat last years impressive total of £660 which was raised for this most worthwhile charity. The Shop will be sponsoring the hot drinks and our team of Volunteers will be providing the cakes. There will also be a raffle and the opportunity to treat yourself to some locally made jams, with all the proceeds going directly to the Macmillan Nurses. So please make a note on your calendar to drop by (and bring a friend), we would really love your support. Let's smash our previous record of £660.

The Shop is enjoying a successful summer. Sales are buoyant, due to an increase in footfall, and our Buying Team are working hard to ensure we meet the extra customer demand. With a thousand products in stock, it means regular trips to our wholesalers and I applaud their dedication and buying skills. They are doing a tremendous job on our behalf. All this effort enables us to continue supporting village events and organisations. For example, we were recently pleased to provide bookcases for the Feckenham Book Exchange which has been relocated to our Parish Church. It's an excellent initiative by another of our local Groups. As a matter of policy the Management Board will continue to invest Shop profits in our Community so that all the Village shares in our success. With your help, long may that continue.



May I ask you to enter another date on your September calendar. The Annual General Meeting for our Shareholders takes place on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7 p.m in the Village Hall. This is an opportunity to ask questions of the Board and hear more about our trading performance during the last twelve months. Non-shareholders can also attend (and hopefully sign up and support the Shop for just £10). If you don't ask the Chairman a difficult question, you might even be offered a couple of glasses of wine!

See you on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and enjoy what's left of the summer.



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Bromsgrove / Droitwich

## An Organic Allotment by Pete Delaney

This month sees the autumn equinox and the shortening of days.

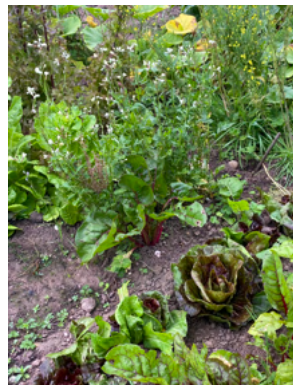
Down the plot it is a time of harvests and preparation for winter. My winter cabbages are coming along in the brassica net, leeks are looking well. I weed regularly between the rows and remove damaged leaves. At the end of last month I cut the Jerusalem Artichoke down to half their size as this makes them put their energy into growing larger tubers.

Also at the end of last month, I dug up my main crop potatoes and stored them in nets and put them in a metal trunk lined with straw. I'm determined to keep them away from the mice this winter along with any stored squashes. Some squashes have come ripe early this season. I am putting this down to the amount of rain we experienced this summer; this seemed to cause some to swell quickly and ripen sooner than usual. Except for Butternut squash which struggled to grow on in damp conditions and is fruiting late.

I think runner beans benefited most from the damp summer giving an abundant harvest. I make runner bean chutney from the excess of beans. I use a simple recipe. To make 6 jars of chutney, boil 2 quarts of chopped runner beans. In a pan heat 1.5 pints of vinegar, 1 pound brown sugar, a quarter of a teacup of mustard (I use french mustard), half cup of corn flour, 1 table spoon of turmeric. On a gentle heat stir until mixture thickens, add runner beans. Remove from heat and put into warm jars. I then put them in the cupboard and leave them till the end of December, it's a wonder to open a jar at mid winter and see all those lovely green beans.

Summer salad beds are all grown up to go to seed. I collected seeds from my "all year, butter head lettuce" and sowed them straight away. They are already a healthy row of young lettuce saplings. Sometime

this month, as weather demands, I cover them with a fleece or transparent plastic cloche. I have also collected red lettuce, mustard and rocket seed to sow next spring. Winter radish sown last month will soon be ready to harvest .



In the polytunnel an abundant harvest of cucumbers came to an end last month. Tomatoes have given a good crop with lots still ripening. I top dress with own made compost. Next to them one of my favourites



banana peppers have plenty of their long fruit turning from green to yellow to orange, they are a sweet tasting pepper that ripen late in the autumn. Chilli and sweet peppers have all done well under cover this year.

Out in my fruit net I had a particular good crop of gooseberries this year. After pruning my two bushes of all older branches 2 years ago, last year they grew a lot of young shoot branches with only a small harvest following, then this year I have had the best crop I have had from them. I managed to hold off eating them all as I picked them and made a few jars of gooseberry jam to put away in the winter store with the chutney.

Harvest on.

# Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

## THE BROWN HAIRSTREAK BUTTERFLY

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

During late summer in 2011, I visited Grafton Wood in Worcestershire on one of the Butterfly Conservation open days, and



was fascinated to learn about the local and elusive Brown Hairstreak butterfly, one of the rarest butterflies in Worcestershire, now only found in a relatively small area around Grafton Flyford, Feckenham, and Inkberrow.

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

The eggs of the Brown Hairstreak are like tiny white sea urchins, and are laid in August and September in the angle between the main stems and the side branches on Blackthorn, and can be found during the winter months by diligent hunting. Realising that conditions in our meadow met the criteria, we began to look for eggs and

almost immediately found three. We contacted Butterfly Conservation who responded by sending out three of their local enthusiasts who found eleven eggs in total. We were advised that it is essential that the Blackthorn is managed so as to avoid cutting when the eggs and caterpillars are resident, otherwise they will be lost. Modern hedge management by flailing has led to a significant reduction in butterfly numbers.



We were delighted to have found evidence of this rare butterfly in our meadow, but had never seen one.

However, in mid

August of 2013 a female Brown Hairstreak landed on the outdoor nursery bench where I was working and I was able to watch her for a minute or so. In 2016 on 1st August I was lucky enough to be walking around the meadow with my camera and was able to photograph a newly emerged female basking in the sunshine.

Plenty of information about the Brown Hairstreak is available on the internet, and particularly on [www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org)

Appropriate habitat is the key to the success of any wildlife, and William Shakespeare recognised this in these few words :-

***'You take my life when you do take the means whereby I live'.***

*Shylock, 'The Merchant of Venice', Act 4, Scene 1*

Little did we know what we were creating when we planted our little bit of woodland !

# Stock and Bradley Gardening Club Report



## STOCK AND BRADLEY GARDENING CLUB

Our evening visit on 2nd August was to Jon and Jane Segar's extensive garden, 'Ridgeway Barn', at Cookhill. Forty-one of our members spent a delightful evening exploring this remarkable three acre site, created from a field, with extensive views to the Malvern Hills. Jon and Jane provided us all with coffee and cake to round off a highly successful visit.

NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 6th September 2023 at 7:30pm

We resume our programme of talks at the Stock and Bradley Village Hall on Wednesday 6th September with a visit from Katherine Kear, a florist from Gloucester, who will give us a talk entitled 'Tales from the Potting Shed' about what we should and should not be doing in our garden.

The subject for the monthly competition is 'Three Dahlia flowers - the same or different'

---

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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Upcoming home fixtures are:

Sat	02/09/23	12:30	2nd XI	Oldswinford CC - 2nd XI
Sun	03/09/23	10:15	Under 12	Weoley Hill CC (T20 match)
Sun	03/09/23	15:00	Under 12/13 + parents	Inkberrow
Sat	09/09/23	12:30	1st XI	Brockhampton CC - 2nd XI
Sun	10/09/23	10:15	Under 14	Ombersley
Sun	17/09/23	14:00	Under 13	Lads and Dads

The 1st XI struggled last month, losing to Lye, with Stourbridge and Barnards Green games cancelled due to the wet conditions and the fixture against Old Elizabethans being abandoned for the same reason. This leaves the team third from bottom of Division 3 of the Worcestershire County League, just above Himbleton and well-placed for a late charge to mid-table.

The 2nd XI suffered no less than three cancellations, but when the rain eased strode to a fine victory against Bromsgrove that included an impressive 61 runs from 14-year old local lad Ben East. They sit in 8th place in Division 7 (North).

The 3rd team were also victims of the weather, losing a foreshortened match against Droitwich but beating Malvern by eight wickets (with a masterful 6 wickets for 13 runs from James Reynolds, his son Will also taking a wicket).

The last month has been very frustrating for the Junior cricket section with many games being cancelled due to rain and wet grounds.

The U15 team had a defeat in the Hundred competition against top placed Earlswood. The highlight of this match was a 50 by Liam Banks. The U14s have progressed through the T20 Knockout Cup after defeating Avoncroft by 29 runs where strong batting from Ben Taylor (21 not out) and good bowling from Will Reynolds (3 wickets) and Ben East (2 wickets) played key roles. In the U14 T20 League the team had a narrow 3 run defeat to Wightwick where Will Reynolds (3 wickets) and Sam Curtis (47)

were key performers.

The U13 lost to Old Hill in the T20 league by 8 wickets where Shashank (38 not out) posted the highest score. There have been two narrow defeats in the Pairs league to Ombersley (by 15 runs) and top placed Kidderminster (by 9 runs). The team has bowled and fielded well in these games. The U12 team has only managed to play two T20 matches this month. This included a defeat to Swindon (Staffs) where Moin Sultan starred with another 30 not out score from Moin Sultan. The team easily defeated Halesowen by 46 runs through three batters retiring with scores of 30 (Rory Gavin, Shashank and Tommy East). Tommy East also took 4-13 in this match. The U12 team remains at the top of their Pairs league.



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After last year's success in winning both league and cup the club were looking for a new challenge for 23/24 season.

As we were unable to be promoted to the Hellenic league division one due to the fact this is step 6 on the football association pyramid and our ground facilities would not meet their standards.

We opted for a sideways move to the Midland football league into division three with the chance of promotion with a few more tweaks to the facilities.

Pre-season went well. We only lost two players from last season's squad and despite pressure on our key players to move on they have all re-signed for this season.

We have picked up some exciting talent in Josh Bowen from Inkberrow, Jack Niel from Alcester and Brooklyn Smith from Redditch Borough also a exciting young 16 year old in Bradley Deehan who will all add to the strength of the squad.

Managers Glyn Adams and Matt Phillips have their eye on a couple more to balance the squad in what will be a much tougher campaign this season.

Pre-season results went well with wins over Worcester Utd Bourton Rovers and Inkberrow plus a creditable draw with Hampton F.C. with just the one defeat to Earlswood.

We played our first game in the the new league August on the 5th and decent crowd despite the weather saw us pick up three points in a 3\_1 over Gornal F.C.

The league have given us the first five games at home. The logic in this is: as we don't have flood lights it means we

can play away later in the season to clubs with lights.

The next fixtures are :  
12/8/ Ballsall and Berkswell

19/9 Birmingham Tigers

26/8/ Coventry Alvis Cup match

28/8 Castle Vale F.C.

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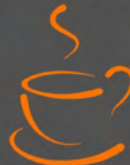
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