



# FECKENHAM NEWS

August 2024

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 August

## Dates for your Diary

### August

7th S&B Gardening Club  
13th Readers Group  
14th Shakespeare in the Garden  
17th Village Hall Spruce Up

### September

4th S&B gardening Club  
5th Parish Council Meeting  
27th R&C Bandits Golf Cup  
28th FeckenOdeon

### October

5-6th Scarecrow Weekend

### Regular Sessions

Wednesdays Playgroup  
Thursdays Bridge; Hatha Yoga; Pilates  
Fridays Meditation Class  
Second Monday of the month: Mobile Library  
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

Picture by: The editor

Magazine online at  
[www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk](http://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



Since I last wrote we've been to Glastonbury as volunteers. What I find most interesting are the non-music elements - things going on that do not get much of a mention in the main stream news. There's

performance poetry, circus acts in the big tent and in the circus field and lots of installations which are often surprising and relevant to environmental issues. Pete, who writes in the magazine about his organic allotment, has his caravan on display, so we went to have a look at it.



Recently I met my new grandson. It was a Monday and a very busy day so we took the opportunity to try out pizza from the Old Dough Hook parked at the Village Shop. We were not disappointed and will be returning for more.

May I draw your attention to the article about natural burial. Heart of England Forest charity have a facility for natural burial. Not all of us can be buried in our beautiful churchyard and, for me, a natural burial is a tempting idea. I believe that it's important to face up to the fact of death. As Benjamin Franklin said, "Nothing is certain except death and taxes." My friends and family know that I think death conversations are important and shouldn't be avoided. It's better to talk before illness strikes in my opinion. I therefore asked James Booth, who looks after the burial ground run by the HoE Forest, to write a piece for the magazine. I hope it is of interest. Finally, our new MP has written to us, introducing himself and specifically offering to help us with current challenges.

## **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, 2024**

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

## **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, 2024**

Further enquiries/applications to:

Mrs J. Bate (Clerk to the Trustees)

'Wychway', Droitwich Road

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Tel 01527 821285

# THEY'RE COMING BACK!



Those scary creatures that frightened the life out of residents and visitors alike are set to walk our village streets once more. There's going to be another **Feckenham Scarecrow Weekend** and it'll all happen on **5th and 6th October**.

The date has been set, the Scarecrows have put it in their diaries - so they're coming regardless - there's no stopping them now!

They'll all be arranging themselves along the Scarecrow Trail for the delight of children aged 9 to 99 and there'll be Teas and Barbecues and all sorts of other delights to go with them.

Of course, none of this can work without YOUR HELP! Once again 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. There'll be prizes for the BEST SCARECROW. There's no charge for entering - so get started now!

There'll be more details in next month's Feckenham News but we do urge you to start Scarecrow manufacture early! There's an entry form below and we'll print another next month - or you can pick one up at the Village Shop, the Rose & Crown or the Village Hall later in August.

## Feckenham Scarecrow Competition 2024 - 5th & 6th 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 6pm on Monday, 30th September.

*You'll also be able to enter online at [willumconker.wixsite.com/feckenham-scarecrows](http://willumconker.wixsite.com/feckenham-scarecrows) from late August onwards.*



There have been Scarecrow Festivals held in Feckenham since 2004. The sinister specimen on the left was an entry dating from 2008. The event has always been free to enter and to visit - a marked contrast to other similar Festivals in the area. Income comes solely from food and drink sales and a collection box at the Trail start.

## A hello from our new MP



It's been a whirlwind couple of weeks since I was elected as the new Member of Parliament for Redditch in the early hours of the morning on July 5<sup>th</sup>. A sturdy brown envelope was handed to me after the result was announced detailing to me what happened next and just twenty-four hours later, I was in Westminster starting my induction.

That induction has now finished, and the process of setting up my office and hiring staff has now begun in earnest.

There is a lot to do, and that process has now started with me having the honour of standing in the House of Lords to listen to His Majesty detail the government's legislative agenda for the new Parliament to deliver our manifesto.

In my recent radio interview at the wonderful Feckenham Wake with Swansbrook Radio I detailed my connection to Feckenham and the many times it nearly became my home. I recognise the current challenges that the village faces and I'm ready to stand alongside you to preserve and maintain this beautiful village.

Whilst my office is being set up and surgeries at local venues arranged, please do contact me on

[chris.bloore.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:chris.bloore.mp@parliament.uk)

## The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



### A MONTH OFF....

There are no films showing at The FeckenOdeon in August - but we're gearing up for a grand reopening on **28th September**. The first film may be a shock to sensitive ears but will also tickle your funny bone. It's **Wicked Little Letters** starring Olivia Coleman.

The main programme for the 2024/25 Season is now open for booking. There are details to be found at [www.fecknodeon.co.uk](http://www.fecknodeon.co.uk) and in leaflets available at the Shop, The Village Hall and The Rose & Crown. It's worth considering becoming a Member of The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society - Members enjoy guaranteed seats at all Saturday night shows - 8 films for just £30 (£3.75 per film) - as well as reduced prices at all other shows. Films showing include: Wicked Little Letters, The Treasure of the Sierra Madre, Bob Marley - One Love, South Pacific, The Great Escaper, The Producers and A Haunting in Venice.

*Tickets for all FeckenOdeon shows are on sale at*

*The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.*

*You can also book by phone on 0333 666 3366*

*or online at [www.fecknodeon.co.uk](http://www.fecknodeon.co.uk)*

An advertisement for 'Wren &amp; Bramble' floral designs. The text 'WREN &amp; BRAMBLE' is arched at the top in a purple serif font. Below it is a stylized illustration of a bird, possibly a wren, whose body is composed of various colorful flowers and leaves. Underneath the bird, the words 'flowers - eco - foraged' are written in a light green, lowercase font. At the bottom, the text 'Bespoke floral designs &amp; bouquets' is in a purple serif font, followed by 'call Clare on 07548 832771' and 'thewren@wrenandbramble.co.uk' in a purple sans-serif font. The background is a light green with faint floral patterns.



The Parish Council met on 18th July. The meeting was moved from 4th July because the village hall was in use as a Polling Station for the election.

## DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Recently the Parish Council organised two Defib/CPR training sessions. The trainers were from Redditch & Bromsgrove Community First Responders who are all volunteers trained by West Midlands Ambulance Service. They play a vital role in our communities and will often be sent to patients experiencing cardiac events. Often, they reach the patients before the ambulance crew. The training was excellent, and although only a small number of people attended the training, we all felt it was a valuable exercise. If anyone would like further information or would like to volunteer, please do contact the clerk and their details will be passed on. The Parish Council gave a donation towards this worthy course.

## CHURCH WALK

You may have noticed the entrance to the church (Church Walk) has been tidied up and looks much better. Bulbs and plants will be planted to refresh the whole area. These works were being carried out in conjunction with Feckenham in Bloom who were awarded a Renew grant from the North East Worcestershire Compact (Redditch Borough Council).

## BATTERY AND SOLAR

The rearranged Parish Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July included discussions about the latest battery park proposed by Innova. There is a very real threat of at least 9 other applicants coming in the not too distant future. This doesn't include existing applications from Statkraft and Immersa. The main cables will also pass through the village from Inkberrow to connect to National Grid from the solar farm at JBM.

The latest developer, Innova, (whose site will be around the same size as 250 large shipping

containers) held a public "drop in" session on 23rd July. This was followed by a Parish meeting organised by the Parish Council.

The Parish Meeting was intended to gauge public interest in such a development and to seek out Parishioners opinions. It may be that you are in favour of such developments or you may be against - either way it is very important that the Parish Council understands these feelings.

Last month's Feckenham News contained a map of the proposed sites and their sizes and this, along with other information, can be found on the Parish Council's website.

*(Both meetings will have taken place after this publication went to press. Minutes and notes will be on the Council website in due course).*

## CLARIFICATION ON PARAGRAPH TWO OF THE ARTICLE IN JULY'S MAGAZINE

The Parish Council have been contacted regarding paragraph two of the article relating to the anticipated BESS and Solar Farms in the July issue of the Village Magazine.

For clarification this should read

**"This is now the third current proposal ( 26 acres), in addition to Statkraft (20 acres) and Immersa (16.5acres), covering a combined total area of some 60 acres of land with approximately 650mw of battery storage in 500 metal shipping containers."**

We apologise to the land owner if it was read as being all relating to the Innova application



Visit the Parish Council's website for information about the Council, planning issues, local organisations and useful contact details to help you solve problems. You'll also find digital editions of Feckenham news going back to 2012.

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



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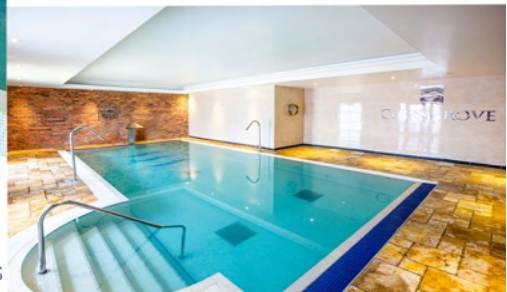
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PARISH CHURCH  
OF  
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FECKENHAM

## Services for August 2024

4th August	10.30am	Eucharist	Rev Fiona Carter
11th August	10.30am	Family Service <small>(no BCP service this month)</small>	Rev Fiona Carter
18th August	6.30pm	Evensong	Fr Glenn Reading
25th August	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading



Drop in (in church)  
Wednesday at 10.30am - 12.00pm

14<sup>th</sup> August and 28th August

All are 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

## Father Glenn Writes

I recently came across a new term 'TATT', apparently it stands for 'Tired All the Time' a term being used by people when they feel constantly rung out either physically, mentally or spiritually. As we approach August and the summer holiday, it is a sentiment most of us may relate to.

July often feels like a busy time, whether we are trying to finish work off before the holidays, whether we are preparing to finish school and have taken exams, whether we are busy making plans for big events like a wedding, it often seems there is more to do than we have time for and we can be left feeling stretched a little too thin.

If any of that feels familiar, then I pray that the summer will give you chance to find a bit of space to stop and relax, to rest and reconnect with loved ones around you.

I am often struck that in New Testament when we read of Jesus with his disciples in situations where it's becoming a bit too much, Jesus leads the disciples to a quiet place to rest a while. To a place where they can reconnect with each other and with God and rediscover the core of their calling and work.

We live in a fast-paced society where we seldom have a chance to catch our breath before the next thing is here demanding our time and attention. This fast-paced life has crept up on us and we seem not to have noticed how fast things now move.

From time to time, normally when it all gets too much and often when we drop all the

things we've been juggling we may ask ourselves the question. 'What am I doing, is it worth it? Recently there have been a few television shows that have followed a couple or a young family that have swapped a stressful city lifestyle for a slower pace of life in the country. These are the people who have stopped and asked themselves the question 'what am I doing, is it worth it?'

Not all of us may have the option or the desire to drop everything and embrace a new life, but we do have the chance to slow down, to pause and reflect and wonder if our priorities are right and our lives moving in the right direction.

If you find yourself pondering such questions, then take time over the summer to slow down, to reflect on your life journey to date, meditate, pray! (church is a wonderful place to pray). It's when we slow down, when we create space that God normally speaks if we allow ourselves to be attentive to his call. What God has to say may come as a fresh breath and a chance to rest in his presence. Whatever God calls us to, he promises, 'my yoke is easy, and my burden is light'.

I pray that over the summer you will find space to rest and reflect and discern where you are being called next on your life Journey and in this time, may God Bless you and those you love.

# WHAT'S ON IN

THE GLOBE PLAYERS PRESENT

## SHAKESPEARE IN THE GARDEN



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'Capturing the emotional heart.' The List



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# FECKENHAM



## THE FECKENHAM SESSIONS

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First Tuesday of every month from 8pm

NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 6th August

## Feckenham READERS GROUP

Wednesday, 13th August - 7.45pm

This month's book:

## THE HOUSE OF DOORS

By TAN TWAN ENG

Details: 892285



## Feckenham Scarecrow

Weekend

5th & 6th October

Feckenham Parish Council

## MEETING

Thursday, 5th September -

7.30pm

Feckenham Village Hall

(Back Room)

*All welcome - Meetings include a Public Forum where parishioners can bring matters to the attention of the Council and ask questions.*

## THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

2024/25 programme now out  
Check [fecknodeon.co.uk](http://fecknodeon.co.uk) for details

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*Jessie*  
**BUCKLEY**



## WICKED<sup>15</sup> LITTLE LETTERS

FeckenOdeon 1 Saturday, 28th September at 7.30pm

The FeckenOdeon Cinemas  
at Feckenham Village Hall

Tickets for all shows from The Rose & Crown and Village Shop  
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## Natural Burial – Is it time to discuss it?

The first UK Natural Burial ground was established in 1992 in response to a request for a less formal choice than a traditional graveyard. At this time the ecological benefit would have been less of a factor, but recent research has shown the potential impact of our funeral choices on the planet. While we may think it doesn't matter as we'll be gone, I believe it shows the importance of considering our funeral plans and discussing them with our loved ones, not only with the environment in mind but also for some important social reasons.

Almost 80% of people who die each year in the UK are cremated, although this is often arrived at without much consideration. My own experience when my Mum died, involved visiting a funeral director and following a default path ending at the local crematorium. We did not consider the impact this could have or whether it was what my Mum would have wanted as it was too late to discuss it.

Having this conversation can be tricky, it can feel morbid or tempting fate. In reality though it's neither of these and is often empowering, providing the time to properly research, consider and discuss the options, often with unexpected financial benefits. Family members can express their thoughts, funeral wishes can be recorded, reducing conflict and feelings of guilt. In addition, often overlooked factors such as the environmental impact can be considered. According to research by PlanetMark, by choosing funeral options more consciously, over 400,000 tonnes of carbon emissions could be reduced each year in the UK alone.

Natural Burial has been shown to be one of the most environmentally

friendly choices. It requires un-embalmed bodies to be buried in compostable shrouds or coffins at a shallower depth to allow faster decomposition. Natural burial grounds are often maintained as a wildflower meadow or woodland, with minimal mowing that still allows access to graves. Tributes are limited to cut flowers or plants, tied with natural twine. Memorials, if allowed, are typically made from wood or locally sourced stone. From a social point of view, families are given the time and flexibility on how the funeral can be conducted, not having to follow a formula or be hurried away. Finally, after the funeral, a natural burial ground provides a peaceful space, for visitors to remember and reflect in, surrounded by nature.

So, I know what my choice is when I die, as do my family. This is a personal choice though and I'd encourage everyone to have their own conversation with their loved ones on this important topic.

James Booth – Alne Wood Park Natural Burial Ground Manager –  
[www.alnewoodpark.co.uk](http://www.alnewoodpark.co.uk)



## Feckenham Village Hall



### ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE...

...even when it's a garden on a summer's evening. The Village Hall is delighted to announce a performance by the renowned Globe Players which will take place in the lovely garden of 7 Droitwich Road. The Players are based in London and have been taking high quality shows to unusual places for over 50 years.

The show "Shakespeare in the Garden" is packed with comedy, tragedy, romance and mystery. The players will take us on a whistle stop tour of the Bard's life and work with plenty of magic, scandal, love and gore for all the family!

There'll be a bar and a lovely atmosphere - and fear not, if it's wet, we'll relocate to the Village Hall

**SHAKESPEARE IN THE GARDEN**  
**Wednesday, 14th August at 7.30pm**

In the garden of 7 Droitwich Road  
*By kind permission of Julian & Jane Bull*

#### TICKETS

Are on sale at The Village Shop  
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**CALLING ALL HANDYPEOPLE!** If you're a dab hand with a paintbrush, an ace with the Polyfilla or just handy with a screwdriver, you'll be welcome at our Annual Spruce Up morning. We'll be setting the Hall to rights from 10.30am on Saturday 17th August. No equipment needed - just bring yourself!

## Draw results

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

The draw was carried out on 2nd July, 2024.

1st (£25)	74	Ed Chutel
2nd (£15)	151	Alma Westwood
3rd (£10)	111	Archie Clarke

## Feckenham WI



On Monday 15th July it was tipping it down with rain, so instead of going to visit Inkberrow's Royal Observer Core

post, i.e. nuclear bunker, Andy White very kindly came to us with lots of equipment and gave a fascinating talk. Hopefully at some point, when the ladder is less slippy, we will be able to go and visit.

We meet on the 3rd Monday of every month at Feckenham village hall. Doors open at 7.45 and the meetings start at 8pm. Members are free and guests are £5. All are welcome. Contact Jen Cary on 07773 883 039 for more details.

## Wake 2024

Most people seem to agree that The Wake was the busiest and best ever!

Our arrangements went to plan and even the weather was on our side, meaning that an estimated 2500 people enjoyed a high quality, family day out including a fabulous classic car show, fun dog show, multiple entertainers, and tasty refreshments. The committee would like to thank everyone who helped out – it needs all of you to turn our ideas and plans into reality.

We made a surplus this year and decided to apportion donations to 2 local charities as well as keeping some in reserve to allow us to invest in some new kit for next year.

With the pressures on family finances, and the high entry costs of similar local events, we are determined to keep delivering a traditional family day out that is free to enter and showcases our village so well.

Julian Bull

# Village Shop - Alan Slater

Welcome to our new neighbour



At this time of year the Shop always looks at its most attractive. The lovely hanging baskets and our colourful planters enhance our kerb appeal to any passing customers as well as adding to the attractiveness of the Village. All the credit for our floral displays solely rests with Eunice O'Brien who not only creates them but also ensures that they are maintained and sufficiently watered throughout the summer months. So a huge thank you to Eunice, your efforts are greatly appreciated by both locals and visitors alike.

For many months a feature on Monday nights in Feckenham has been the Pizza Van parked on the Lygon Arms car park. Since its arrival earlier this year, it has become increasingly popular with villagers, so it was with some disappointment that we heard that in future the van's regular pitch was no longer available. With the prospect of many locals having to cook their own meal on Monday evenings we decided to provide a helping hand. I am pleased therefore to announce that the Shop has agreed that Dave can park his Pizza Van in future on our car park and we can continue to enjoy his excellent pizzas between 5 p.m and 9 p.m every Monday. Definitely a good result and a win win for Dave and Feckenham.

I am delighted to report that the Shop has enjoyed yet another financially successful year. For the third year running we have broken our sales and profitability record which is a commendable achievement considering the difficult economic climate that has existed throughout the last twelve months. If you would like to know how we are doing in more detail, then come along to our Annual General Meeting in September (full details in next month's magazine). You are most welcome to attend.



## An Organic Allotment by Pete Delaney

August and September are a time of abundance on the allotment.

This year's mostly wet weather conditions have made for a late growing season and although everything is growing like mad to catch up, the late start doesn't necessarily mean we will get an extended harvest, a large glut of produce across the usual harvest time is probably the most likely. I think my runner beans have disliked the season's damp conditions the most, "runner" has hardly been the apt word for them this year, more like "plodder" beans. Nearing the end of July they were still only half way up the canes with the "haricot" french beans that were sown a time later racing past them in the next row. Also this year's damper soil conditions seems to have made for an ideal environment for slugs to thrive and especially earlier in the season when plants were younger, they have given me a tough battle, defying my usual barriers of wool pellets. At least now we have reached a time of the year when most plants are large enough that slug damage is minimal. July gave me a good crop of mange-tout peas and I am also still harvesting broad beans, using them as I need leaving late ones to dry on the plants before storing. Garlic I also harvested in July ... did split into cloves despite the mild winter... the bulbs were not large, but are very strong in taste. They shall hang on my shed wall slowly drying as we use them from now and into the winter. Hopefully by the end of this month or start of the next they shall be joined there by the onions, which are looking good after a slow start. In the polytunnel cucumbers and tomatoes are certainly giving their abundance. I have 3 types of tomatoes, mostly Money Maker, planted in the ground with a "Shirley", in a large pot, being first through with red tomatoes. The Beef tomatoes also in large pots will be soon to follow suit and the Money Maker look like producing a good crop. As I write this in July, aubergines are in

flower but not yet fruiting and the peppers are the same. Four cucumber plants are hard to keep from being a cucumber jungle but have been giving delicious large cucumbers since mid July. In late July I lifted some of my second earlies potatoes, they were a little small and more like small new potatoes. I have left them to grow on a bit into the start of August before I shall bring in the rest of the row. The 3 rows of main crop potatoes are looking good for their later harvest. Next to the spuds on my plot is this year's squash patch, 3 kinds of pumpkin and some butternut squash. I love the large green rambling covering of a healthy squash bed... and that brings me round to my shed and its show of flowering nasturtium, sweet pea and lobelia, that I have included a picture of as I can see no better symbol on my plot of August allotment abundance.



# Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

## *Echinacea* - The Cone Flower

Thumbing through plant catalogues is a favourite pastime of mine, and a lot can be learnt about availability and the differences between cultivars of the same genus.

We have always grown the Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*, in the garden, together with a few of its cultivars, but with the advent of the orange *Echinacea* 'Art's Pride' in 2004, a distinct colour break from the normal pinks and majentas, my interest in them began to grow. I started to look through catalogues, old books, the Plant Finder, and the internet to try to find and record as many of the species and varieties that I could, and was amazed to end up with a database of 75 entries. My database now lists a startling 547 varieties reflecting the surge of interest in hybridising. Some of the earlier cultivars are now unavailable commercially, but the list is a fascinating record of the work of nurserymen seeking to raise new plants.

*Echinacea purpurea*, the Purple Coneflower, is the principal species and is an American native, where it grows in prairies and dry, open woods. The daisy flowers are a pinkish red, and the petals droop around a central cone. It is attractive enough, although I always think that the drooping petals make it look as though it is wilting and sad. Other species I have encountered in my ramblings are *angustifolia*, *pallida*, *paradoxa*, *sanguinea*, *simulata*, and *tennesseensis*.

Hybrids between the various species of *Echinacea* were relatively unknown, but in 1997 the Chicago Botanic Garden began to experiment by controlled crossings. Coneflowers have proved to be very promiscuous, and many of the hybrids are in turn fertile, which makes the potential for combining characteristics almost limitless.

The first hybrid to be released to gardeners was *Echinacea* 'Art's Pride' in 2004, an *Echinacea purpurea* 'Alba' x *Echinacea*

*paradoxa* cross, with bright orange flowers, and named after the financial benefactor, Art Nolan, who made the breeding research possible. The press releases all described it as a vigorous plant, but nearly every purchaser found this was not the case and quickly lost their plants. The press releases also said that it did not set seed, but I collected and sowed viable seed in 2005, and a few of the resulting 88 seedlings were selected as being good reds or oranges and were potted up. The remainder were sent to the compost heap.



Seed from the selected plants was collected the following year, and so began my attempts at raising better and better colours and more vigorous long-living plants. Since the original 2005 sowing, I have raised thousands of seedlings and selected some as worthy of growing on to assess further. Many have since been discarded or lost, but most have done remarkably well (above).

*Echinacea* is an invaluable addition to the garden for Summer and Autumn colour. With us, they begin to flower in early July, and go on flowering until October, especially if they are deadheaded. They require a reasonable soil (why do all gardeners think their soil is awful ?) and an open position is best, although we have found them to be also amenable to a bit of shade for part of the day.



## CLUB EVENT - Friday 21st June 2024 Annual Coach Outing

Our Annual Coach Outing this year was to Kingsbridge Farm Garden in the morning, Buckingham Nurseries for lunch and Michael Heseltine's garden (Thenford Garden and Arboretum) in the afternoon. The garden at Kingsbridge Farm was a delightful mix of formal planting and landscape, and we were treated to coffee and cake, too. Thenford Garden and Arboretum was extensive in its scale and was vastly different from the morning visit.

## NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Our next event is an evening visit to Celia Montreal's garden in Inkberrow. Celia is one of our members and will greet us from 6:30pm onwards. We will use individual transport and further details of the address, parking, etc. will be sent out to members by email at least a week before the event.

## NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Our next meeting is a talk by Helen Picton entitled 'Daisy Days'. The theme for the monthly competition will be 'Daisies'.

*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 2024. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting. If you require any further information, ring Rob Cole (Chairman) on 07544 832052.*



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## Feckenham Cricket Club Bob Gordon

The 1<sup>st</sup> team are now only 9 places from the top of Division 3 of the Worcestershire league, a recent highlight being a convincing win over Avoncroft with a fine 58 runs from young Sam Curtis. Nas Mehmood and Matt Grubb have also been among the runs. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team are adrift at the foot of Division 7 (North) but youngsters Owen Rae and Finn Davies have contributed well. The 3<sup>rd</sup>s have been winning matches, including a fine win at Oldwinsford in which openers Nev Drumm (134) and Jon Dean (107) set an insurmountable target for the home team.

We've now reached the mid-point of the Junior cricket season and despite continued mixed weather there has been a lot of cricket matches played.

The U15 team sit in second place in their Hundred competition, with two home wins against Droitwich and Ombersley and two away defeats against Bromsgrove and Ombersley. Highlights include a 51 not out from Sam Curtis, 53 not out and a 43 from Liam Banks and a 38 not out from villager Ben East.

The U14 team have been involved in very close matches in their T20 competition and have been unlucky to end up as the losing side on each occasion. They were defeated by Old Hill with only one ball remaining, following excellent bowling. Sam Drumm bowled fast and with great control to take 2-10 off 3.5 overs. Aiden Cunneen scored 33 not out here and also went on to score 39 against Swindon where the team lost by 14 runs after chasing a target of 165. The star performance in this fixture was a thrilling 50 not out from U13 player Shashank scored from only 28 balls including eight fours and a six.

The U13s sit in second place in their Pairs League after 7 matches and now face big matches against their key top of the table rivals in the coming fortnight. They have recently recorded wins against Barnt Green, Bromsgrove and Earlswood (twice). Rory Freeman has bowled consistently and taken wickets across all matches including 5-11 at Earlswood. Shashank top scored with 39 at Earlswood, Tommy East scored a 26 and Max Alekna 22 in the return fixture. The team also sits second in the T20 league with a game in hand. There was a stunning win against Droitwich where Feckenham bowled the opposition out for only 74 after setting a target of 103. Rory Gavin starred with 20 and 4-4. However the team were then outplayed by a strong Astwood Bank team, suffering a 40 run defeat. Max Alekna's wicketkeeping has been a strong feature in all matches having taken key catches, stumpings and run outs.

Upcoming home fixtures include:

Sat. 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 12:30	- Feckenham 1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Netherton 1 <sup>st</sup> XI
Sun. 4 <sup>th</sup> August 10:00	- Feckenham U13 v Droitwich Spa (T20 match)
Sat. 10 <sup>th</sup> August 12:30	- Feckenham 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI v Alvechurch & Hopwood 2nd XI
Sun. 11 <sup>th</sup> August 10:00	- Feckenham U14 v Hagley (T20 match)
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> August 18:00	- Feckenham Ramblers v Astwood Bank
Sat. 17 <sup>th</sup> August 12:30	- Feckenham 1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Rushwick 1 <sup>st</sup> XI
Sat. 24 <sup>th</sup> August 12:30	- Feckenham 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI v Cookhill 1st XI
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> August 18:00	- Feckenham Ramblers v Thomas Bros
Sat. 31 <sup>st</sup> August 12:30	- Feckenham 1st XI v Himbleton 1st XI



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