

FECKENHAM NEWS

August 2025

Published by Feckenham Church for the village.
Editor Gilly Cooper - feckenhamnews@gmail.com

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Feckenham News in August

Dates for your Diary

August

6th	S&B Gardening Club
9th	Village Hall Painting
14th	Readers group
16-17th	Open Studios
23-25th	Open Studios

September

11th	PC Meeting
27th	FeckenOdeon

Regular Sessions

Mondays	Junior Dance Class
Tuesdays	Tai Chi
Wednesdays	Playgroup (term time)
Thursdays	Bridge; Hatha Yoga

Second Monday of the month: Mobile Library

First Tuesday of the month:

Lunch Club, Feckenham Sessions

First and Third Wednesday: Community Choir

Second Wednesday Art Club

Third Monday of the month: WI

1st and 3rd Fridays : Erstwhile Morris Dancers

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Production Team

Gilly Cooper - Editor	feckenhamnews@gmail.com 07500115581
Neil Newland - Distribution	neil.newland@btinternet.com
Ian Bellion - What's On	whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk
Mary Smith - Advertising	fnadvertising@btinternet.com

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Photo: Planters on the Square by Ian Bellion

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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.

Editor's Note

Hello to all from the incredibly beautiful Isle of Arran where I'm staying for a few days. I've been coming here since I was a small child and never tire of it. I'm still finding new walks all these years later.



I want to take this opportunity to thank the Wake Committee and their extra helpers for all their efforts. Only they know the amount of work that goes into making the day such fun. I know they had to make some very difficult decisions due to the heat and that meant cancelling the Dog Show. I'm sure that was for the best and hope it will be back next year. My personal highlight was watching my 3

year old granddaughter as she saw Punch and Judy for the first time. She was so excited and thoroughly engaged along with the rest of the children (and some adults) shouting and pointing out where Mr Punch had gone.

Village Notices

FABSSS - An Update on the BESS applications

As of the time of writing this update there is still one active application for the Grenergy BESS and although the closing date has gone for this it is still possible to email your objections to paul.lester@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Three of the other projects have currently withdrawn although nothing will stop them coming back in at a later date.

We all need to be vigilant and any information will be useful in our campaign. At the recent Feckenham Wake you may have seen our tent where we were able to talk to people from inside and outside the Parish. We signed up a few more people to our newsletter and enjoyed some lively discussions!



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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 the receipt of applications

30th September, 2025

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 the receipt of applications

30th September, 2025

Further enquiries / applications to:

Mrs J. Bate (Clerk to the Trustees),
'Wychway", Droitwich Road,
Hanbury, BROMSGROVE.
B60 4DB

Tel 01527 821285



A GREAT SUCCESS

This year's Wake, against all the odds, proved to be yet another triumph. Overall visitor numbers were a little bit down on previous years - this was largely due to dire warnings from television weather forecasters and "the powers that be" which guaranteed that we'd all fry in the baking heat and be better off sweltering at home. In the event we were treated to a torrential downpour just as the event was declared open but, once they had got that out of their systems, the weather gods were kind (if a little sulky).

DOGLESS

Unfortunately, because of the warnings of extreme heat, it was thought wise to cancel the dog show. The numbers exhibiting in the classic car show were also affected by the forecasts. In the run up to the event it appeared that the authorities were keen that the road through the village should be closed for the event but, after protracted negotiations, this turned out not to be necessary after all.

All then went to plan. Giant Seagulls roamed the recreation ground, the band played, the juggler juggled and poor Judy and the Policeman fell foul of Mr Punch's temper yet again. Food and drink of various descriptions were consumed in vast quantities and a good time appeared to be had by all - which is what it's all about really.

THANKS!

The Wake Committee would like to thank everyone (far too many to mention by name) who helped make this year's Wake such a great success. From the folk who came out of the woodwork to help put the tents up, those who manned the various stalls and attractions, helped run the car park, served the pig, poured the booze... and those who helped tidy up afterwards - we couldn't do it without you!

...and, if you enjoyed helping us this time, how about joining our Committee next year?! We start planning The Wake in January - we'll make sure that you know how to contact us so that you can be involved right from the start in 2026.

CHURCH SERVICES



PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Vicar: Fr Glenn Reading 01527 894436
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 2025

3 rd August	10.30am	Eucharist	Rev Fiona Carter
10 th August	10.30am	Family Service	Rev Fiona Carter
17 th August	6:30pm	Evensong	Rev Fiona Carter
24 th August	10.30am	Eucharist	Father Glenn Reading
31 st August	10.30am	Eucharist	Rev Fiona Carter

Drop in (in church)



Wednesday at 10.30am - 12.00pm
13th August and 27th 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 (Type the link into the browser)

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

Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898

Reverend Fiona writes...

At the time of writing, we will be having the pleasure of the reception mums in the church next week with some of the children who will be starting in September. We are really looking forward to seeing them all. They will all be very excited and some a little worried as well. But it will be a pleasure to have them all in the church for coffee and cakes, toys and activities on this momentous day - your first day in school. We probably never had that settling in day the term before, but it is a very good idea and if it makes starting school easier that's great. Starting school is one of those days you never forget. We have days and moments in life that are unforgettable - the day we got married, the birth of our children, our first day at work. And probably negative days as well when certain family members died, or when we were made redundant. But there is a lot of mundane ordinary time in life as well which is also a blessing. Time spent with family and friends, working, shopping just living our lives. However, the Church does not see ordinary time as mundane as it refers to the ordinal which counts the weeks between Christmastide and Lent and Eastertide and Advent.

It is the same in the church we have Christmas and Easter and other feast days that we celebrate but we also have ordinary time, and quite a lot of it, which is also a blessing. We don't always want to be on the mountaintop or in the valley, sometimes we just want to appreciate normal life. For the church it is a period to reflect on the teachings of Jesus focusing on his ministry and the implications of his message for everyday life. The liturgical colour for the priest's vestments and the altar covering is green the colour of hope and symbolizing growth.

Ordinary time reminds us that holiness is not confined to special seasons in the church like Christmas and Easter but is found in the everyday moments of life. It's a time to recognise God's Presence and grace in ordinary activities and relationships.

We have just had the news that Father Glenn will be leaving us and moving on to The Arch Benefice in the Worcester Diocese which includes the parishes of Abbots Morton, Rous Lench, Church Lench and Harvington. We will all miss Father Glenn as he has been very popular and, speaking personally, has been an absolute pleasure to work with and a very good teacher for me during my curacy. But we wish him Helen and the children well in the next stage of his ministry.

God bless them all and God bless all of you as well as we as a parish enter a period of waiting for whoever will eventually take the position of rector in this Benefice of Christ the King, which includes the churches of Feckenham, Astwood Bank, Crabbs Cross, and Headless Cross.

From Phil Tricklebank:

On Sunday 6th July our morning communion service was led by Bishop Martin The Bishop Of Dudley (acting Bishop Of Worcester), and Reverend Fiona Carter. Martin joined Angela and the bell ringers before the service to enjoy some campanology. Bishop Martin was a joy to receive in Feckenham, and preached a very interesting sermon. We enjoyed coffee and cake after the service while Bishop Martin circulated to chat among the parishioners. It was a memorable occasion for all of us.

Feckenham Church Bellringing

You will be hearing the church bells ringing more frequently in July and August. The bells are in demand at the moment. There are three weddings at Feckenham church this summer and all have requested to have the bells rung. For weddings the tradition at Feckenham has been to ring before the wedding as guests are arriving and stop as the bride enters the church. We then ring again as the bride and groom leave the church. As we ring from a ringing room up some stairs with a glass window overlooking the body of the church we have a wonderful "birds eye" view of the wedding service.



We have three groups of ringers from different parts of the country who have requested ringing the bells at Feckenham. We have ringers from Holmer in Herefordshire coming on the afternoon of Saturday 2nd August. On Wednesday 13th August, ringers from St Mary Abbots, Kensington, London are ringing here as part of their annual ringing week based in Worcester this year. Finally, on Sunday 17th August, the Cambridge University Guild of students and alumni are ringing at 9.15am as part of their tour to this area. The church service is actually in the evening that day so don't panic that you are late for church!

Our ringers also take part in ringing tours to other areas of the country and on 9th August one of our ringers has organised a tour to five towers in the Cotswolds. Tours always include good morning coffee and lunch stops.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about this traditional skill, which is both good physical exercise and mental challenge, please contact either Angela Fletcher (mobile 07709911053 or email: angela@2fletchers.co.uk) or Tim Haslam (mobile 07976723095 or email: timhaslam@quartzllp.co.uk)



Bishop Martin, the Bishop of Dudley and acting Bishop of Worcester, led our 10.30am service at Feckenham on Sunday 6th July. We organised a band of ringers from various towers around Redditch to ring for the service and were delighted that Bishop Martin, also a ringer, found the time to join in our ringing and even took a selfie with the band.

Forthcoming Concert in Church 'Fields of Gold'



On **Saturday 11th October, 7.30pm**, St John the Baptist Church will be hosting an evening of music with performances from the Church Choir, the Ballard Singers, The Long Room Madrigal Singers and a flute trio which has come together especially for the event!

So put the date in your diary and look forward to joining the musicians, friends and fellow villagers for a glass of wine and music to suit all tastes. The money raised will go towards the Church Fabric Fund and The Leprosy Mission. Tickets go on sale next month.

Clare Furey
07548 832771 cf@paulfurey.com

Church Announcement from Ian Hunter

The Acting Bishop of Worcester is pleased to announce the appointment of The Revd Glenn Reading as Rector of the Benefice of Church Lench w Rous Lench & Abbots Morton & Harvington (ARCH Benefice).

Glenn is currently Team Vicar in the Benefice of Christ the King, Redditch. He is married to Helen and they have five children: Phoebe, Toby, Edward, Henry and Thomas.

A date for the Licensing will be confirmed shortly.

Please remember Glenn and Helen and their family in your prayers as they prepare to move.

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



A QUARTER OF A CENTURY OF MOVIES

The village's community cinema, The FeckenOdeon, is taking a break this month but the volunteers who run the shows are busy renovating and improving the cinema ready for its reopening in September. It's 25 years since the first film was shown and this is our 24th Season (we lost one due to Covid). Once again the programme reflects the diverse tastes of Feckenham audiences - from brand new films to timeless classics. The programme is available to view online at fecknodeon.co.uk or you can pick up a brochure from the Village Shop, The Rose & Crown or the Village Hall.



PAPAL INTRIGUE

The opening film of the new season will be "Conclave". An absorbing fast-moving thriller based on the novel by Richard Harris. After the unexpected death of the Pope, Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with managing the ancient ritual of electing a new one. Lawrence finds himself at the centre of a conspiracy that could lead to catastrophe.

CONCLAVE (12A)

Saturday, 27th September at 7.30pm
Doors open at 7pm - Licenced Bar

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

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Feckenham Village Hall

LOOK FORWARD TO...

In the darker months of the year, when the current heatwaves are just a memory, we'll be grateful for some light and colour to brighten our chilly evenings - so, we're delighted to be able to announce a season of events at our own Village Hall - top notch entertainment right on your doorstep:-

18th October: Badapple Theatre in CRUMBS*

A brand new comedy from one of the UK's foremost touring theatre companies. A famous TV baking show host has been "let go" and must try to continue her career in front of a live audience - there may be cake... and smoke...

13th December: THE NEIL COLEY BIG BAND

This superb 20 piece big band returns with a brand new show.

7th February: Morganisation in HOW THE BEATLES GOT ME A JOB WITH ELO*

Dave Morgan, former Guitar player with ELO, presents an evening of music and amusing memories of a life spent amongst the giants of rock.

7th March THE MIDLAND SINFONIA

A orchestral concert of great music including Bach's Brandenburg Concertos.

22nd March: Just Some Theatre in EYES DOWN*

It's Bingo Night at The Stairway To Heaven Social Club. As games are played, houses are called, tension mounts, and before long a body is discovered... but whose number is up?
*Shows marked * are part of the Live & Local (LiLo) touring arts scheme. This year Bradley Green Village Hall will also be staging LiLo events.*

Draw results

Feckenham Village Hall Improvement Fund July draw.

Carried out on 1st July, 2025.

1st (£25)	115	Geoff Knock
2nd (£15)	124	Mike & Gay Bligh
3rd (£10)	157	Roy and Theresa Hayfield

Feckenham Village Hall

GOT A PAINTBRUSH?

Feckenham Village Hall is kept in fine trim by a committed committee of volunteers. The Hall aims to offer an excellent facility to the village whilst keeping costs down - and therefore keeping hire charges low, meaning that local activities can take place without breaking the bank.

One way we keep the charges down is by doing as much as we can ourselves - and that includes redecorating the inside of the building. Every year we have a good look at the paintwork and decide how much we have to do to get the building back to tip top condition... and then we have a painting day. This year's painting day is on Saturday 9th August - and we'd like to invite YOU to join us. Many hands make light work - so please come along to the Hall and help us bring a sparkle back to the old place. If you have a favourite brush please bring it - If you haven't, don't worry - we'll supply one. Just turn up (not in your best suit) and we'll find you something to paint... and, if you're very good we'll give you a cuppa and some biscuits too!

VILLAGE HALL PAINTING DAY
Saturday, 9th August from 10am

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This year 6 Feckenham artist/creators will be taking part in this event over the weekends of the 16th and 23rd August including the bank holiday on the 25th. Debbie Watton and Jackie Berry will be in the back room of the village hall, Sara Lightning, Ian Ridley and Jude Sullivan will be in the main hall and Julian Bull will be at his house on the Droitwich road. They represent a wide variety of themes, styles and media and will be both exhibiting and demonstrating during the event.

Debbie is a botanical and bird artist working in professional pencil and graphite, Jackie will be demonstrating her process for making her mohair creations, Sara's figurative oil paintings use overlapping textures and patterns, Jude Sullivan paints a variety of subjects using pastel pencils and soft pastels, Ian Ridley is a landscape/seascape artist in watercolours and acrylics and Julian Bull creates

handmade prints from fallen trees and other wood related products.

Nearly all the work exhibited is new this year and there will be something of interest for everybody.

There is no entry charge, refreshments will be available and all the details can be found at www.worcestershireopenstudios.org

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WHAT'S ON IN

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL


BADAPPLE THEATRE PRESENTS

CRUMBS

One woman.
One oven.

A new comedy by
Kate Bramley

LIVE LOCAL



Saturday, 18th October at 7.30pm
Book online at feckhall.org
by phone 0333 666 3366
or in person at The Rose & Crown
or The Village Shop

paint

Portrait painting course
with Sara Lightning



September 23rd and 30th
October 7th & 14th
at Feckenham Village Hall
Contact saralightingart@gmail.com
For more information see:
saralighting.com

FREE ENTRY



**WORCESTERSHIRE
OPEN
STUDIOS
art week
16-25TH AUGUST 2025**

Discover 167 artists across 105 venues across the county. Meet the maker, see art and be inspired!

At Feckenham Village Hall:
Ian Ridley
Deborah Watton
Jackie Berry
Sara Lightning
Jude Sullivan
on 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th & 25th
August
10am to 4pm

At 7 Droitwich Road:
Visibull - Julian Bull
on 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th & 25th
August
10am to 4.30pm

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 August



Stock & Bradley Gardening Club
Wednesday, 6th August
MEMBERS' GARDEN VISIT
Please contact for details:
07544 832052



Feckenham Parish Council

MEETING

Thursday, 11th 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.

It is possible that meeting dates may change please check website for details:

feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

ERSTWHILE



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

THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY



FeckenOdeon 1 Saturday, 27th September at 7.30pm

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www.feckencodeon.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 READERS GROUP

Thursday, 14th August - 7.45pm

This month's book:

JAMES

By Percival Everett

Information: 01527 892285



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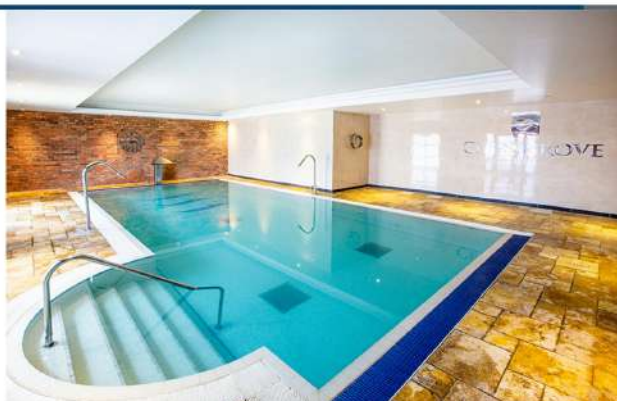
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Ditchford Bank Road, Hanbury,
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Feckenham Archive - Marion Chute

Thanks to Alan Jones for this interesting postcard of Church Cottages 14 High St,
Originally there were 3 cottages built in the late 18th century by the Anglican Parish Church.



It caused quite a bit of puzzling as here they are classic 'black and white' – now brick.





SUPER COUNCILS

The Parish Council met on 10th July. One of the issues on the agenda were the proposals for Unitary Councils. Parishioners may already be aware that the Government is seeking to replace borough /district and county councils with fewer councils covering larger areas. It considers that this will reduce costs and make local government more efficient.

Parish Councils will continue under the new regime, but they may be given greater powers and responsibilities. No information is yet available as to what this may involve.

It's thought that Redditch Borough Council will be abolished and replaced by a town or parish council with other areas of the Borough having parish councils for the first time. Decisions as to how this will work have not yet been made.

The structure for a larger council covering Worcestershire has also not been finalised. Proposals include either one council for the entire County or two councils serving North and South Worcestershire. Redditch Borough councillors are scheduled to meet in September to determine their preferred option, which will then be forwarded to the County Council and subsequently to central Government. The final decision will be made by the Government. Under these changes, functions currently overseen by Redditch Borough Council, including planning, may transfer to the Unitary Authority. There have been concerns expressed that council officers may not have adequate knowledge of specific local needs.

MORE HOUSES?

Redditch Borough Council are working on a new local plan. You may be aware that the Government have given local authorities new targets aimed at building more homes. Redditch, including Feckenham, has been told that it needs to build an additional three thousand, eight hundred dwellings. The Parish Council is keen to discover what local people think about these proposals and

will be shortly sending out a Housing Needs Survey. The Council needs to know if people wish to see more development within the Parish and if so where this should take place. It also seeks to discover whether there is any local need for more housing, and, if so, what type of housing is needed.

The Council needs to gather this information quickly as, if the targets are not met, central Government will impose its own solutions. The Parish Council hopes that it will be able to achieve a separate listing within the Local Plan so that this unique community can maintain its character. The survey will be posted out in the coming weeks and residents are asked to complete and return the forms as soon as possible.

It should be appreciated that the Parish Council does not consider that Feckenham will entirely escape the effects of these targets.

NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council is not due to meet until 11th September. Due to matters beyond the Council's control this date may change. Please check the Council's website for up-to-date information.

GET IN TOUCH

If you have queries or need help with local problems you are very welcome to contact the Council. Initially you can call the Parish Clerk on 01527 892522 or Email:

clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

NEED INFORMATION?

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.

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Village Shop - Alan Slater

A LOCAL AUDIO ARCHIVE?

When we started Swansbrook Radio way back in 2016 one of our declared ambitions was to make programmes that recorded life as it is lived in our village for the benefit of future generations. We made some progress towards this lofty aim in the form of our series "In Conversation" in which we talked to local people about their lives. In all we've made 21 of these fascinating programmes (they're all available to listen to On Demand on our website - swansbrook.com) - but now production has stalled.

CAN YOU HELP?

Making content of this nature takes time. Research has to be done, questions have to be carefully prepared and the editing and post production process is time consuming - and time is what we're short of. Not only the time it takes to produce the programmes but also the simple fact that time is against us if we're to capture the memories of people who may soon "move on". Our tiny volunteer staff's time is entirely taken up with the production of our weekly programmes so, although we're willing to continue to make the shows, we really don't have the time to do the preparatory work.

This is where you could come in - do you have the time to help us do the research and the other vital preparation work? You may not want to be "on the wireless" yourself but you could play a vital part in capturing the audio essence of Feckenham as it is today.

If you think you could help please drop us an email to radio@swansbrook.com and we'll arrange to chat about the possibilities.

LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Go to 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.

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Phew what a scorcher!!

Like many others, I've been struggling with the 30 degree temperatures these last few days, however, the recent series of heatwaves are doing wonders for the Shop sales. Apart from being the coolest place in the Village, thanks to our efficient air-con system, it's the only place in Feckenham to buy an ice cream! During the last three months our ice cream sales have increased by almost 200% compared against last year, even our cafe sales are up by 20%. This all adds up to a very strong start to our new financial year. Our first quarter total sales are up by 15% and even taking into account inflation, the Shop is trading well ahead of last year. This increased trade does bring additional pressure on our Volunteers and Buying Team, especially as we now enter the peak holiday season. So my heartfelt thanks to all our Volunteers who are covering extra shifts thus ensuring we maintain the high standard of service that you rightly have come to expect from us.

Also selling well is our new range of Feckenham Greetings Cards.

Competitively priced, they offer an opportunity for you to send a personalised message from our lovely village to friends and family. You can find them on display on the counter next to the till.



Although this month is predicted to be cooler, I'm off to restock the chilled drinks and ice cream cabinets whilst hopefully finding time to water the garden, hosepipe ban permitting.

Keep cool and thanks for your continued support of the Village Shop

An Organic Allotment by Pete Delaney

August is the month of abundance on the allotment, when the year's early sowing, planting and nurturing rewards the grower as plants reach maturity and harvest.

The warmest time in the year, and I find myself cooking more than ever as I try to keep up with the flow of produce coming out of the plot. The hot weather experienced in July had me incorporating most produce into salad meals, cooking up broad beans and runner beans and throwing them into salads along with cucumber, tomatoes, peppers, carrots, onions, peas and lettuce (green and red).

I have been particularly pleased with the Lollo Rosso lettuces I grew this year: large and tasty with the bonus of adding deep colour to the plot.

Most of these salads were eaten with potatoes of which I harvested an abundantly productive row of morfona 2nd earlies during the second half of July. If it's not salad at the moment then it is something with courgettes, which seem to grow new ones each time I turn around and look at them.

Whilst in the heart of the summer and harvest, I cast my thoughts ahead to my winter store to make sure that some of this season's produce will be available to me during the winter. With the overflow of runner beans and courgettes I make runner bean chutney and start bottling a



few tomato + meals to store away. During July I harvested my onions and garlic, hanging up the bulbs of both in the shed to dry and use as I please. Shallots also joined the onion harvest, those I pickled in jars and put away for later in the year.

August is not just about harvests, I also this month sow and plant certain crops to harvest during the winter and next spring. I shall sow winter lettuce, that I keep warm under cloche cover during the cold months, Chinese pink radish, that grow large and are hot to eat and late chard, that harvests all winter. Winter cabbages I have raised in trays, I plant out this month, they will be ready to harvest in late winter/spring. Then there is my winter favourite: Jerusalem Artichokes. This month I cut the plants in half so they give their energy to the tubers.

So, in the heart of harvests, this month still has plenty to do in preparation for future crops to keep busy with... And then of course I must mention the continual plot job.. Weeding.. Good harvests..

Can't think what to do with your garden?
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Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

Some Gardening Snippets

I have, in my time, edited a fair number of garden society newsletters and journals. I very often find that an article doesn't quite fill a page, so I have resorted to some 'snippets' to fill the gaps. So for this month's article, I offer you a selection :-

'Gardening is not just a hobby, it's the main way we honour Planet Earth'
(Quote from Panayoti Kelaidis, 2009)

Cutting your own firewood warms you twice.

A seedsman's trade is not in seeds at all - it is in optimism. (Geoff Hamilton)

Playwright George Bernard Shaw named his shed after the London capital. When visitors called whom he did not wish to see, they could be truthfully told by his housekeeper that he was away in London.

'Weeds are found most abundantly where there is most weeding'.
(Richard Mabey, 'Weeds')

Kniphofia 'Percy's Pride' was named by Alan Bloom after his nursery foreman Percy Piper, who had worked with him for more than 40 years.

Phlox subulata 'G. F. Wilson' (correctly called *Phlox subulata* 'Lilacina') is named after George Fergusson Wilson (1822-1902), a successful merchant and managing director of a candle-making company. In 1878 he purchased the Oakwood estate at Wisley, which was subsequently purchased in 1903 by Sir Thomas Hanbury for the RHS.

Leucanthemum x superbum 'Esther Read' is named after the daughter of a Norfolk nurseryman, Horace Read. Travelling by steam train to Great Yarmouth for the day, he spotted a semi double ox-eye daisy on an embankment. Intrigued by

what he had seen, on the way back he pulled the communication cord, jumped off the train, dug up the plant, and jumped back on! After breeding offspring of this plant with *Chrysanthemum maximum*, he eventually introduced 'Esther Read' in 1931.

It is often thought that that the apple named 'Newton Wonder' commemorates the story of Isaac Newton and his notions about gravity - but not so. The name is derived from the village of Kings Newton, near Melbourne in Derbyshire, where the original tree grew in the area behind 'The Hardinge Arms' public house where an orchard had once stood. Accounts of the discovery vary, but it seems to have come from a seedling found either on the thatched roof or in the gutter of the pub, and subsequently cultivated by the then landlord William Taylor. One account, however, refers to the finder as Samuel Taylor.

Paeonia lactiflora 'Sarah Bernhardt' is named after a French actress, born in 1844, who began her acting career in 1862. Later in life, she also took up painting and sculpture, and in 1899 she founded Theatre Sarah Bernhardt in Paris. She continued her acting career until she died in March 1923.



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ANNUAL COACH OUTING – 9th July 2025

Our annual coach outing this year took us to two beautiful gardens, one in Derbyshire and the other in Staffordshire. Both gardens were exceptional, especially in view of the prolonged hot and dry weather, and were much appreciated by our 43 members who came on the trip. Lunch was taken at a nearby garden centre.

NEXT CLUB EVENT – Wednesday 6th August 2025

Our next event is a self-drive evening visit, commencing at 6:30pm, to the garden of our member Jean Harper near Bromsgrove. Full details will be sent to all members nearer the time.

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 2025. 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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07540476568 if you would like to discuss your garden plans, or would like more information about our company portfolio.



Feckenham Cricket Club

The Men's 1st XI have continued to struggle in Division 3 this season and remain in the relegation zone. The highlight

has been a win against Cookley where we posted 282 with 85 from Taz Mirza and 55 from Luke Jackson and 7-57 from Nasir Mehmood. Taz Mirza also scored 126 in the drawn match against Old Elizabethans where after an early collapse 650 runs were scored on the day.



The 2nd XI remain top of Division 8 East with recent wins against Five Ways, Pershore, Harvington and Avoncroft. The batting has been strong with centuries from Mark Cull, Matt Kings and Nick Fowkes. Will Reynolds has been in great form with the ball including figures of 6-4-5-3 against Pershore. Finn Davies and Alex Hardy have been taking regular wickets for the team.

The 3rd XI have had another good month & now sit third in Division 9 (North). There have been key performances from U15 Sam Drumm with 4-12 against Cookley, 65 from Nev Drumm against Five Ways, stunning figures of 6-9 by U15 leg spinner Will Alekna at Pedmore and Max Alekna scoring 73 not out against top of the table Stone.

It's been a sensational Junior Cricket season for Feckenham so far. The Under 15 squad has already clinched their League title with three wins in their first three fixtures. There was a 28 not out from Moin together with 2-4 from Will Reynolds and 2-7 from Sam Drumm in the

latest win against Ombersley.

The Under 14 Pairs team has won their first 6 matches and sit top of their league with only two remaining games. The Under 14 T20 team has struggled more in the longer format with 2 wins and 2 defeats to date. Key performances include a 50 not out for Tommy East, 50 not out for Rory Gavin and 4-18 by Rory Freeman against Droitwich in an exciting narrow defeat. Skipper Tommy East has taken a hat-trick and Henry Owen 3 wickets in 4 balls against Himbleton.

New members welcome to enjoy the club surrounds & we hope to have outside food caterers on Friday nights throughout August



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