

FECKENHAM

August 2021

NEWS



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village

Editor: Gilly Cooper

feckenhamnews@gmail.com

(Copy Date 14th)

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Feckenham News in August

In the magazine:

You'll find detail of all the events that make up Wake Up Feckenham Festival! Also introducing our Shop Chairman and articles about gardening. Sorry to say, for the meantime and possibly for ever: it's a goodbye from the WI.

Dates for your diary



August

- 4th Stock & Bradley Garden Visit
- 7th Fecknodeon Mission Impossible
- 8th or 11th TBC Shindig Live Music Village Hall
- 10th Art Talk in the Village Hall
- 12th Race Night at Feckenham Football Club
- 13th Treasure Hunt and Picnic Churchyard
- 14th FECKENHAM WAKE

SEPTEMBER

- 1st Stock & Bradley Gardening Club Meeting

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Front Cover

Dave Powell cutting the grass on the green.

Magazine online at www.feckenham.com

Many articles in Feckenham News are contributed by members of the public. They remain the responsibility of the writers and neither the production team nor the publishers can be held responsible for the views and assertions contained therein.

Editor's Note

As August begins we are all waiting expectantly for the Wake, an opportunity to get together for a bit of a harmless fun with friends and family. There's lots of information in the magazine about what's on in the week running up to Saturday 14th August.

I am concerned about how we are going to be affected by the third wave of the virus. Cases are certainly rising quickly and many are being 'pinged'. It's hard to know how best to deal with this. In our household, we are going to play it very safe and avoid much indoor contact meantime. No shops or indoor entertainment for a while yet. Let's hope for sunshine and moderate heat.

I've been gathering ideas for the magazine:

I hope to publish a list of village organisations, clubs and businesses with contact details in the magazine on regular basis. If you or a group you belong to wish to be included, please email me. Don't be shy, I can't do this on my own.

With thanks to Erica Guise for the idea; to develop an archive of what the experience of the pandemic has been locally I'd like to have a section or a special edition of the Feckenham News in which villagers send in something about their experience of the pandemic. It could be prose, a poem, or a picture - anything which gives a feel of what the last 18 months has been like for you. All you need to do is to send it to feckenhamnews@gmail.com by the end of September.

Also thanks to Botany Bay Nurseries who kindly donated plants which are blooming lovely in the tubs at both ends of the village green.

Finally I note that the Parish Council heard about a revised planning application for 25 houses to be built on land adjacent to Feckenham Gardens. This is a revision from a



permission previously applied for. The revision includes a number of affordable houses plus access to the site and traffic. It's been noted that very few comments have been made and is the village aware? The reference is 21/1004/OUT and its on RBC website.



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We knew that the last 12 months would be a record breaking year for The Shop, however, the latest annual accounts have exceeded all of our expectations. The year-end figures for 2020/21 are showing-

- 37% increase in total sales
- 80% increase in operating profit
- 31% increase to the balance sheet

The annual gross profit has risen to over 30% for the first time since The Shop opened, mainly due to an improved buying policy and a substantial reduction in product wastage.

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held on the 23rd September at the Village Hall, we will be able to present the financial performance in greater detail and I encourage as many Shareholders to attend as possible.

The improvement to our financial situation has also enabled us to invest heavily in the fabric of the shop building. A complete external refurbishment and redecoration, the enhancement to the shop fittings and the installation of a covered veranda have all taken place within the last

12-18 months at a cost of over £20,000.

It should also be mentioned that The Shop has donated nearly £7000 in sponsorships towards projects that enhance the appearance of the village. So, it is a pleasure to be able to report such positive news, but none of this would be possible without the continued dedication of the amazing team of volunteers who keep The Shop trading. An exceptional effort has been necessary to maintain the trading hours during the pandemic, especially as so many of our long-standing helpers have either retired or have had to temporarily step down. We are indebted to those team members who have performed additional shifts and to the new volunteers who have joined us within the last year.

The first quarter of our trading year has started well and I am looking forward to another successful year ahead.

Book Club



The July meeting was the first to be face to face for over a year. The group met outdoors to discuss *Small Pleasures* by Clare Chambers.

Next month's meeting is on 4th August and the book is Monique Roffey's *Mermaid of Black Conch*.

Introducing...

Today I spent a very pleasant hour having a cuppa on the shop's new terrace getting to know Alan Slater, the chair of the Village Shop Board. Why I hadn't come across him sooner is a mystery.

Alan and his wife Geraldine came to live in the village about 6 years ago and they live on the High Street near the junction with the Saltway.

First he completed teacher training and then had an initial career with Bass, which later became Mitchells and Butlers; he was regional director running 85 pubs and then national director before becoming the national HR manager. His second career was as CEO of the National Trade Association for Funeral Directors. Quite a change one would think but, actually, he brought his many skills from one role to the other. As Alan says, "I went from cask to casket." During this time he was involved in the formation of 4 parliamentary groups covering the 4 UK nations and he set up the National Funeral Exhibition at Stoneleigh. With some humility, he told me he had been awarded an MBE for this work. He is the fourth holder of an MBE I've met in the village.

We went on to discuss his introduction to village life and the shop chairmanship. When they arrived in Feckenham about a year prior to his retirement, his wife immediately started to volunteer in the shop and, as men sometimes do, he followed her lead! The rest is history. He soon joined the shop team, then the board and some 2 years ago was elected chair.

As you doubtless know, the shop has thrived over recent years and, though Covid-19 is a curse in so many ways, it brought more customers through the doors of the shop and Alan has been a catalyst for many improvements. He said that there's no expectation that people will do a weekly shop but you should be able to find those small items which may be forgotten or a speciality you can find nowhere else. Of course it's a community hub where people meet, often over coffee and delicious cake in the newly refurbished terrace.

We went on to discuss the support the thriving shop can give to other village organisations and events from the Horse Show, and the Wake to the appearance of the village. Alan is also the vice-chair of the Over Sixties Committee who, as we know, organises the flower shows.

I'm sure we will all get to know Alan a lot better as the pandemic eases and village life returns to something like normal. We owe him (and all the volunteers at the shop) a huge debt of gratitude for all the hard work done on our behalf.



August Church Services



PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



Priest-in-charge: Fr Glenn Reading **01527 894436**

Church Warden: Ann Mathews **892180**

Please contact Ann for Weddings at ann@the-madison-group.co.uk

Glen for Baptisms & Funerals at glenn.reading@googlemail.com

Website: achurchnearlyou.com/church/18729

Email: info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

Services for August 2021

1st August	10.30am	Eucharist led by Rev B Wheatley
8th August	9.00am	BCP communion Rev B Wheatley
15th August	6.30pm	Said Evensong led by Fiona Carter
22nd August	10.30am	Eucharist led by Fr Glenn
29th August	10.30am	Eucharist led by Fr Glenn

FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St John Fisher & Thomas More



There is a live-streamed Mass on Sundays at 4.30pm. Fr. Tony Rohan will officiate. The link is: www.eventcast.uk/live

Note: Type the link into your browser on your computer. Do not use a search engine.

Fr. Anthony Rohan, The Presbytery, Redditch. Tel 63096
Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898

Church Clock Stoppage



You may have noticed that the church clock has not been working for some time. For the last 3 years we have been having trouble with the electric winding system and despite repairs to one of the motors and various microswitches it is still giving trouble. The chiming is also not reliable and the main part of that component is malfunctioning

The service engineer attended at the beginning of the year and we found that the hands were crossing at 5.25 and that was now stopping the clock.

He disconnected the hands and left the clock running and chiming the hour but

again that went out of phase and then the clock stopped.

After a long discussion with Cumbria Clocks it has now been decided that the electrical winding system, that is 20 years old, is no longer economic to repair.

We have been quoted £10,000 inc VAT for the clock to be dismantled and taken back to Cumbria where the new electric rewind will be fitted, a new auto regulator which will ensure the clock keeps time and automatically adjust the hour between GMT and BST

Of course there are hoops to be negotiated. We need an inspection by the Diocesan Advisory Committee member expert on tower clocks. We are assured by Cumbria Clocks that he will approve the system being proposed, then we have to apply for a faculty.

The winding system was installed in memory of Jean and Arthur Newbould and given by their family. Arthur had served on the PCC and as a churchwarden for many years. He was also a bellringer, as were two of his children.

It is proposed that the funding is raised by The Friends of the Parish Church who will be launching an appeal.

John Eaton

Treasurer Friends of the Parish Church

Fr Glenn Writes...

Looking out from my study window, it is a lovely July evening and a quick glance at my calendar tells me that the summer holidays are not far away.

Next week the schools will finish and the sound of children playing in the school next door will fade until September. A few weeks after that I too will be taking some time away from the emails and the dog collar.

Reading the news earlier this week I noted that Wales and Cumbria are the most popular holiday destinations for Brits this year, which is no surprise when we think of the uncertainties that surround international travel and development of a third wave of the Covid-19 virus.

My sense at this point in the year is that everybody is tired and it is a tiredness that is a deep-seated weariness of the soul. People need a break, a rest, if you like respite from the trials of everyday life.

This is something Jesus knew all too well and from time to time in the Gospels (Mark 6. 31), we see Jesus taking himself and the disciples away to a quiet place where they could find rest and reflection.

It is my hope and prayer that the summer holidays will bring you some normality as we once knew, times of rest and refreshment. Time spent with family and friends enjoying each other's company, enjoying good food and drink. Perhaps a chance to read a good book instead of another report or risk assessment!

I hope that you can make and find time to do whatever it is that nourishes your soul and restores your energy and vibrancy. I have just ordered my summer reading and I am drawing up some plans for the garden. Whatever it is you do, enjoy it, and lay aside the cares of the world if only for a short time. The world and its challenges will still be there when we return in September.

I hope that when September comes things will be easier and I look forward to wandering around the village and meeting people and if you see me out

and about (I am quite easy to spot) do stop and say hello.

With my prayers for you all. Fr Glenn

Church Chest Ian Hunter



A feature of many parish churches is the chest that was used to securely store vestments, plate and documents. Such a chest can be seen here in Feckenham in the Church of St John the Baptist.

The chest is of the dugout type - that is to say it has been hollowed out from a solid tree trunk. With many examples the lid was fashioned from the same tree trunk but ours has a later lid in two halves (probably 19th Century) There are three locks with the keys being held by the Priest and the two Church Wardens so that all had to be present when the chest was opened.

Rachel Sycamore has been undertaking a study of church chests in Herefordshire and Worcestershire as part of her Masters Degree in Medieval Archaeology at the University of Worcester. As part of this study, she obtained funding to have six chests dated using dendrochronology (tree ring dating). Although Rachel has not completed her study, she did give a progress report to a recent online meeting of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society. She was able to reveal that the tree from which our chest was created was felled some time between 1435 and 1465.

Our C15th chest is thus, apart from the C14th Tower, the oldest feature of the church

Sadly it was decided at a special meeting held on 4 May 2021 to suspend Feckenham WI. The meeting was held at Redhouse Barn, Shaw Lane, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove in the Tractor Shed, the venue having been loaned to us by the owner, Jane Finch, as rain was forecast. The number of people present was limited due to Covid restrictions. The reasons for suspension were lack of committee members, low membership and no Secretary. There had been a secret ballot and the majority of members were in favour of the suspension. Although it is called a suspension, officially we are no longer an active WI. There was a discussion about the disposal of the WI's property and it was agreed that the Church would be offered our cups and saucers.

This has been a difficult decision to take, but over the last few years membership has dwindled to unsustainably low numbers and the committee members have not changed over the last 15 years.

We have many happy memories of events held in the village. I think that providing the catering for the Garden and Church Flower Festival was probably the most challenging. Over the years the number of cakes made and cups of tea poured increased dramatically and we were only able to cope thanks to the hard work and dedication of our members, family and friends who helped out. At the last Festival I worked out that only a third of those helping and cooking were WI members, the rest were volunteers to whom we were eternally grateful. It was fun but hard work.

These are difficult times and we are not the only WI casualty of decreasing numbers. Our funds at the time of closure will be held by the Worcestershire Federation of WIs for a period of three years. If at the end of that time a new WI is not established in Feckenham, the monies will be absorbed into County funds. There are several photograph albums and Minutes – hand written – from 1919. These will be held in Feckenham Village Hall for three years, as they also include other village events.

If the WI is not reformed after this period, all material will be archived at The Hive in Worcester.

Finally a very big thank you to all those who have supported us over the years in time, energy and, of course, baking cakes.

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Feckenham Flower Show and Over 60s Margaret East

Recipe from Belinda-a Robinson

It has been over a year since our last event, but I can now announce that we have booked the Spring Fair for Saturday 9th April 2022 and the Flower Show on Saturday 10th September 2022.

Gardens and allotments have benefitted and we hope that you will support these events, they are part of the fabric of the Village and it would be very sad to see them come to an end. Times have changed, we can only be optimistic and hope the shows will take place.

If you have moved into the Village or have not participated in these events before, take up the challenge and enter, the classes are advertised two months before the events, giving you time to nurture your entries. At the Spring Fair we invite stall holders to come and display their crafts, in the past we have had home made cards, Fair Trade and a plant stall. Display your pot plants or use your imagination and enter a Spring arrangement in any container. Before the afternoon ends we auction off the cut flowers, all other entries are returned. We also offer tea and home made cakes.

At the Flower Show in September we can expand our talents even further as there are domestic classes including home made jams, chutneys, cakes, home made breads and – if you have chickens – eggs. All these classes are judged and points awarded, giving you the opportunity to win a cup. There are also vegetable, fruit and flower classes. We also have home made cakes and teas to enjoy. Social events are what we have no doubt all missed, and the Spring Fair and September Flower show will give us an opportunity to enjoy a long standing Village event.

Goosegog Ice Cream

4 egg yolks
100g caster sugar
1 tsp vanilla extract
400ml double cream
200ml whole milk

Gooseberry puree

500g gooseberries, topped, tailed and washed
3 tbsp caster sugar

Place the gooseberries and sugar in a pan with 4 tbsp water. Simmer gently, occasionally stirring until the fruit starts to burst. Pour into a food processor or use a hand blender and blend to a purée. Put it through a sieve to get rid of pips and skin allow to cool.

Whisk the eggs, sugar and vanilla in a large bowl until pale. Warm the milk and cream to just below boiling then gently pour onto the eggs, whisking continuously.

Pour the custard mix back into the pan heat gently, stirring continuously with a wooden spoon until your custard thickens and coats the back of the spoon then allow to cool.

Mix your cooled gooseberry purée with the custard then churn in an ice-cream maker until thick. Place in a freezerproof container and freeze until needed.

Feckenham Parish Council

Feckenham Parish Council met at Feckenham Village Hall on Tuesday 13th July. The public were given the options of attending by Zoom or in person.

- Flooding: In partnership with North Worcestershire Water Management, the Parish Council will be funding improvements aimed at reducing flooding in the village. The Council is working with local land owners and divisional funds have been allocated by Worcs County Councillors Craig Warhurst and Mike Rouse. It is hoped the work will start shortly and will be completed by Christmas. The Parish Council would like to thank Tom Curwell from NWWM for his commitment as well as the land owners involved and our WCC Councillors.

- A number of planning applications were discussed along with matters concerning the Council's relationship with the Redditch Borough Council's Planning Department. A meeting is to be arranged in the near future with the Borough's Head of Planning. The public were reminded that comments regarding planning applications should be made directly to the Borough. The Parish Clerk can advise how this can be done.

- The Council approved a grant of £1,500 to the Feckenham Biodiversity Group for the provision of Interpretation boards at sites of interest within the village.

- West Mercia Police have pointed out that matters of concern should be reported directly to them. Remarks on Facebook are not always seen and acted upon. Call 101 in the first instance or 999 in an emergency.

- The clerk has been in contact with one of the footpaths officers at WCC regarding paths near Bean Hall. The officers are in talks about the matter and have a meeting arranged with Worcestershire Wildlife to discuss improving

the access through the marshlands and making it suitable for horses. If Worcestershire Wildlife agree to this, permission would still be needed from Natural England.

- With effect from 1st August the parish clerk's email will change to clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk. The Councillors will also be changing their emails to a [.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk) email from the same date. www.feckenham.com will be updated with their contact details or you can email the clerk.

To read the full minutes of Parish Council Meetings you can go to www.feckenham.com and select the Parish Council tab. Draft minutes are also posted on the notice board at the Turton Gardens junction. The next Meeting of the Council will be on Thursday, September 23rd at 7.30pm. At the time of writing this will take place in person at Feckenham Village Hall but this, along with attendance arrangements for the public, is dependent on Government Covid-19 restrictions in force at the time - please check with the Clerk or on www.feckenham.com.

To get in touch with the Council please contact the Clerk, Jane Bull, on 01527 892522 or email: clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

HELP FOR YOU if you are self-isolating From Volunteers Co-ordinated by Feckenham Facebook Group & Parish Council

A group of local volunteers from the village are available to assist you with PICKING UP SHOPPING, or POSTING MAIL, picking up URGENT SUPPLIES (including medications) or just having a FRIENDLY PHONE CALL during this challenging time when many people are being advised to self-isolate if they are either vulnerable or ill.

If you would like some help then please contact JANE BULL, Clerk to Feckenham Parish Council either on 892522 or clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com and we will be in touch (& the help is free!). Any goods will be left on your doorstep. More updates on our local radio: swansbrook.com

NOTE: Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness - Avoid physical contact (keep at least 2m distance from others) and Wash your hands regularly



Now that restrictions have been removed we can confirm that the **WAKE UP FECKENHAM FESTIVAL** will run from **Saturday, August 7th through to Saturday, August 14th** and will contain a veritable treasure trove of delights guaranteed to cheer us up after a truly horrible 18th months.

THE FESTIVAL

Because things are far from normal at the moment some events aren't full confirmed at the time of writing - check the Wake Up Feckenham Festival page at www.feckhall.org, watch the Feckenham Community facebook page or look out for posters on the village notice boards for latest information.

Saturday, 7th August at 7.30pm: The FeckenOdeon Cinema reopens with a spectacular celebration of the 25th birthday of **Mission Impossible (15)**.

More details in the FeckenOdeon column and on www.fecknodeon.co.uk

Sunday, 8th or Wednesday, 11th August : A professional music show from Live & Local (Shindig) in the Village Hall - not confirmed at the time of going to press. Check www.feckhall.org for latest information

Tuesday, 10th August at 7.30pm : Art Talk and Demo by Feckenham artist **Ian Ridley** (Village Hall).



For the many villagers who have one of Ian's paintings on their wall, or for those who have visited his exhibitions in the past this provides an opportunity to see the artist at work and hear what and who has provided him with inspiration over the years. Ian also hopes to encourage people to pick up a brush and give it a go.

Thursday, 12th August: A Race Night at Feckenham Football Club. See flyer for details.

Friday, 13th August at 5.30pm: THERE IS TREASURE AT THE BOTTOM OF OUR CHURCHYARD!!! Come along and see what you can find!! Bring a picnic and bring the whole family!!

TREASURE HUNTS for both younger and older children(prizes for everyone and a special pot of gold for each category)

MUSIC from JAMMA the Steel band man. SING ALONG with All Round voices Community Choir. There'll be a bar serving wine, beer and soft drinks. A free event - donations to Church maintenance welcome.

GET INVOLVED!

All of these activities are run by volunteers and help is always needed. If you can spare a bit of time the organisers would love to hear from you. In particular we need people to help run Wake day attractions - man the coconut shy or mini-golf. Could you organise a cake stall? Are you a qualified first-aider? Even if you just fancy helping us put the tents up we'd love to hear from you - just call 01527 892522 and ask for Julian.

Feckenham WAKE Committee

The WAKE

Saturday, 14th August, 2021 - 1pm to 5pm

on The Square and Recreation Ground

All the traditional attractions - and more!

PUNCH & JUDY (Sponsored by The Village Shop)

CLASSIC CAR SHOW - over 100 cars

Arrow Valley BRASS BAND - Fun DOG SHOW

CRAZY GOLF - FEED the CLOWN - Ye Olde STOCKS

Grand DUCK RACE - Strolling PLAYERS

PIG ROAST - Real Ale BAR

PROSECCO Bar - Woodfire Baked PIZZAS

Home made SAMOSAS - CANDY FLOSS - ICES

TOMBOLA - Craft and other STALLS - CAKES



**WAKE UP
FECKENHAM!**

Subject to any Covid 19 regulations that may be in force. The organisers will make every effort to keep the event Covid safe. You are asked to help by wearing a face covering and avoiding close contact with others.

Please note that this event takes place in a public space and people may be taking photographs. If this concerns you please be vigilant and move away from areas being photographed.

WAKE UP FECKENHAM!
FESTIVAL
PARISH

FECKENHAM CHURCH

Invites you to an evening of fun for the whole family

Friday
13th August at 5.30

TREASURE HUNT

JAMMA STEEL BAND MAN

COMMUNITY CHOIR

HAND BELLS

THERE WILL BE A BAR FOR BEER, WINE AND SOFT DRINKS AND PICNICS
WELCOME (INSIDE IF WET)

FREE ENTRY BUT DONATIONS TO THE TRUSTEES' FUND FOR
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Feckenham FUN Dog Show
14th August 2021
(At the Feckenham Wake)

Classes: Registration at gazebo from 1PM
(Please bring along a face covering)

1:30PM Cutest Puppy
1:55PM Prettiest Eyes
2:20PM Loveliest Lady
2:45PM Most Handsome Boy
Break (3:10 - 3:30)
3:30PM Best Rescue
3:55PM Finest Pedigree
4:20PM Best Crossbreed
4:45PM **BEST IN SHOW** (for dogs that have placed 1st/2nd in one of the previous classes)

Rosettes and Prizes to 3rd Place
£2 Per Class

All money raised this year goes to The Farm Animal Sanctuary

The Recreation Ground (field off the square)
Feckenham, B96 6HY

Kathy's Flowers

Two views of agrimony, raising its graceful yellow spires along the road to Astwood Bank. Until I moved south, I'd never seen this before and had to be told that on a warm day it smells faintly of apricots. In the old days, the flowers in lemonade were said to relieve colds. Less likely, perhaps, was the claim that it could cure snake bite. Never the less, you can still buy agrimony tea and essential oil, although these days, the producers are a little more cautious about claiming miraculous properties!



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Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

Roses, Worth Growing

Roses are supposed to be the nation's favourite flower, but I have to confess that although the flower is often sublimely beautiful, the bush on which it grows is equally often an inelegant, twiggy and disease ridden mess. My apologies are due now to all the rose lovers, but as a garden plant, I think the rose bush can be quite unattractive. Breeders have constantly strived to produce better flowers, in an ever wider range of colours and forms, but no one seems to have concentrated on producing a neat and attractive plant on which they are displayed. And many roses 'go over' badly and need constant dead-heading to keep the appearance acceptable.

But having said all that, I have grown many roses in my time. I find the climbers very useful to give colourful height on pillars and pergolas and among those I have grown are 'Dublin Bay', 'Altissimo', 'Constance Spry' and 'Open Arms'. My favourite is perhaps 'Narrow Water' (classified as a Rambler but quite genteel) which has clusters of soft lilac-pink semi double flowers. 'Super Excelsa' is another mild mannered Rambler and completely smothers itself in clusters of red pink double flowers. Both are repeat flowering.

Of the smaller growing 'ground cover' roses, 'Centre Stage' has been just wonderful. Bought from Ashwood Nurseries in August 2002, it covered itself every year in soft pink flowers from June to November and rarely needed pruning to keep it in shape or under control. Its habit is tight and compact, it never looks as if it has gone over (many roses hang on to their dying flowers) and it has never shown any signs of disease or mildew.

I have only grown a few Floribunda roses, but 'Hanky Panky' is always an eye-catcher with its orange-red double blooms splashed with white and cream. 'Rhapsody in Blue' is a repeat flowering Shrub rose which is a consistent repeat flowerer. There is no real blue rose yet, and it should really be called 'Rhapsody in Mauve', but I do like it. I have tried another 'blue' rose called 'Blue for You', this time a Floribunda type, which is claimed to be the best 'blue' to date - it opens a purple mauve and fades to a slate blue but doesn't 'go over' very well unfortunately, so deadheading is a must.

Having decried the rose as being an inelegant garden plant, I have checked my database and find that we actually grew over sixty different roses in our garden at Meadow Farm - so they can't all be bad! But we lost fourteen others, and discarded nine more as being unworthy of their room in the garden, so I'm not entirely convinced. In our new garden in Salford Priors we have planted ten roses so far, and I'm waiting to see if I change my attitude towards them.



Not one of Rob's roses. This photo taken by the editor. Blooming in Malcolm and Vanda Cookes' garden on the High Street

Stock and Bradley Gardening Club



The Gardening Club takes a rest from meetings with speakers until September, when we hope that the Covid regulations will allow us to resume our meetings at the Village Hall in Church Road. We have had to cancel our usual Annual Coach Outing again this year, but I am delighted that we will be holding our Evening Garden Visit as follows.

NEXT CLUB EVENT - Evening Garden Visit - 4th August 2021 from 6:30pm

Our club member Jan Bates has agreed to open her garden for an evening visit. Until we know the prevailing Covid guidelines, we cannot be entirely sure how the event will run, but the event will take place on Wednesday 4th August starting at 6:30pm, and refreshments will be provided by the Club's Committee. The event will raise funds for the Smile Train charity.

Jan's address is White Cottage, Earls Common Road, Stock Green, B96 6SZ. Members have been advised by email, and asked to confirm if they intend to participate.

NEXT CLUB MEETING - Wednesday 1st September 2021 at 7:30pm

Hopefully our next meeting will be in the Village Hall in Church Road, and our speaker will be Tamsin Westhorpe who will talk about 'Preparing the Garden for Autumn and Winter'. If government regulations at the time

will not allow us to meet together, the event will take place by Zoom.

Please also note that the next £5.00 annual subscription will become due on 1st January 2022. 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 2022. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting.

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



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The Wake on 14th August

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SPRUCING UP

The Square is looking a bit more cared for this summer thanks to a great deal of voluntary effort and a good deal of generosity. The flower tubs have now been replanted thanks to a very kind gift of flowering plants from Botany Bay Nursery in Edgioke Lane. The Committee's Katherine Neale was able to fill her car boot with flowering goodies and half a dozen Committee members turned out on a Sunday morning to put them in place. The planters themselves have been given some attention and a broken one has been replaced. The green itself has also been receiving extra attention as Dave Powell, Jay Neale and Martin Strange have joined Ian Ridley in maintaining the grassy bits. The Committee is also grateful to Peter Philips of Feckenham Football Club for mowing The Square on a regular basis. All of which means that Feckenham's green heart is looking good to greet summer visitors and is ready to host The Wake, it's first public event in 18 months.



OPEN AT LAST

After the longest closure in its history Feckenham Village Hall is now open and accepting bookings. Some activities have already restarted - Yoga and Pilates classes are happening on Mondays and Thursdays respectively. The All Round Theatre School is holding classes on Fridays. More regular activities will be returning during the summer and, barring any further set backs, the Hall will be back to normal operation in the autumn. Out of an abundance of caution and in the light of local infection rates precautions will still be taken to keep the Hall as a "Covid Safe" facility. For information on which activities are restarting and when please check the Hall notice board and the website at www.feckhall.org

BOOKING THE HALL

To book the Hall or enquire about activities please contact the Booking Secretary, Liz Teisen, on 01527 821233 or use the enquiry form at www.feckhall.org

DRAW

The Village Hall's Improvement Fund Draw for July, 2021 was made at the meeting of The Trustees on 6th July.

Winners:

- 139 John & Sue May £25
- 5 Jeremy & Fiona Hawker £15
- 184 Penny Swinson £10



The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society Ian Bellion



WE'LL BE SEEING YOU...

The pandemic and its associated lockdowns has meant that Feckenham's local Radio station hasn't been out and about as much as it would normally be. If all goes to plan we'll be much more visible as restrictions are lifted.

We're planning to be at Feckenham Wake on 14th August and at the various events in the Festival week leading up to it. We'll be chatting to participants and spectators and trying to give a flavour of what's happening for people who either can't attend or perhaps are still nervous about mixing at large public gatherings.

At the Wake itself the Swansbrook Radio pop-up studio will pop up and, if the technical gods permit, we'll be live on air for at least some of the time - and there'll be a live and lively party programme in the evening.

...SO COME AND SEE US...

You can't miss our pop-up studio - it's bright blue and has our Swansbrook banners outside it - so pop in and see us. We'll be glad to chat about anything you fancy - and you might even find yourself on air. It'll be a chance for us to meet listeners and potential listeners... and possibly some new broadcasters. Drop in when you're passing - we'll be delighted to see you.

Full details of what's on and when it'll be on www.swansbrook.com in the run up to the events.

LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Just go to www.swansbrook.com and follow the instructions you'll find there. Most programmes are now 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

When Covid closed our community cinema down we promised that we'd be back. It's been a lot longer than we expected but we're about to keep our promise. We're starting with a special show as part of the Wake Up Feckenham Festival:

MAYHEM AND MYSTERY

We wanted to reopen our cinema with a film with a bit of life in it - and then we noticed that Tom Cruise's first **Mission Impossible** film was about to celebrate its 25th birthday. It's probably as well if you don't pay much heed to the plot - but the action and fun will sweep you along. Based on the much loved 1960s TV series, the film sees Mr Cruise enmeshed in espionage and subterfuge, chased (always at high speed) and executing some audacious stunts involving trains and unusual methods of suspension. Fast, furious and fun - not often seen on a big screen these days and an ideal way start things with a bang (or two).

Mission Impossible (15) - Saturday, 7th August at 7.30pm

Online or telephone bookings only. Book online at www.fecknodeon.co.uk or call 0333 666 3366. Covid safe measures will be in place.

NEW SEASON

The FeckenOdeon has planned a full season for 2021-22 in the hope that the best laid plans will not be disrupted again. As always it's a mixture of great classics and fantastic new films - full details in September's Feckenham News and at www.fecknodeon.co.uk



Feckenham Cricket Club – July 2021

As I write this in early July, the first team is still jockeying with Droitwich Spa for top spot in Division 1 of the Worcestershire County League having trounced Burghill & Tillington by 222 runs in Herefordshire. At the same time our second team played a home match against Burghill’s second string.

Following rain, we had to chase a revised target of 149 to win and with three overs remaining, we needed 27 runs. Then it was 10 from the final over and 14-year old Owen Rae faced the final ball, knowing that a win was now impossible with 7 runs still required. Defeat seemed almost certain but Owen struck the ball beautifully and it sailed majestically... into the hands of a fielder on the boundary.

We’ve lost, or so we thought. However, the fielder told the umpires that his foot had been on the boundary rope, meaning that we had SIX runs and a tie! Owen and the onlookers will remember that strike for a very long time indeed!

On Friday evenings, junior group coaching brings a large crowd to the ground and on 9th July they were able to purchase Indian street food when Let’s Curry visited Mill

Lane. It was a huge success and we hope to make such visits a regular occurrence.

Upcoming senior fixtures at Mill Lane (12:30 start unless stated):

Sat Jul 31 st	2 nd XI v Cookley CC -
2 nd XI	
Sat Aug 7 th	1 st XI v Belbroughton
Sat Aug 14 th	2 nd XI v Cookley CC -
2 nd XI	
Sat Aug 21 st	1 st XI v Chaddesley
Corbett CC	
Sat Aug 28 th	2 nd XI v Bartestree &
	Lugwardine CC - 2 nd XI

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