

FECKENHAM

AUGUST 2013

News



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village
Editor: Jane White Tel.:01527 893281 (Copy date 14th)
e-mail: jwhite@thewhites55.wanadoo.co.uk
or: ejw55@hotmail.co.uk



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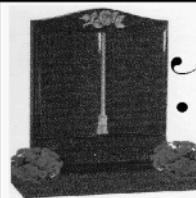
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AUGUST Diary



Fri 2nd		FeckenOdeon2	Village Hall Back Room
Tues 6th	12.30am	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Sat 10th	All day	Refreshing the Village Hall p13	V.H.
Wed 14th	10.30am - noon	"Drop in" for coffee and a chat	Parish Church
Sat 17th	All day	Refreshing the Village Hall p13	V.H.
Wed 28th	10.30am - noon	"Drop in" for coffee and a chat	Parish Church
Sat 31st	2.30pm & 7.30pm	FeckenOdeon - BondFest	Village Hall

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Production Team

Ian Bellion – What's On
892130 whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk
Chris Fletcher – Newshound 894568
 cefletcher44@gmail.com **Antonia**
Pulsford – Reviews
 892268
Jo Warrilow – Advertising, Mags by
 post 892059
Jane White – Letters, Reports etc.
 893281 ejw55@hotmail.co.uk

Magazine online at
www.feckenham.com

Front Cover

Kathy Gee M.B.E. and Ian Bellion presenting "Family Favourites" on W.A.K.E. FM. Photo by Arthur Hind.

Ian has written a big thank you to everyone concerned (p7), but as merely a listener I would like to say WELL DONE for all your hard work, I parted from R4 for the duration! I have heard a lot of villagers commenting enthusiastically about the results - THANK YOU.

Jane (Editor)

The Village Shop

...drop in to sample our deli
 fresh local produce on your doorstep

Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm **Saturday** 9am - 4pm **Sunday** 10am - 1pm
 Droitwich Road, Feckenham, Redditch, B96 6JE.

Telephone: 01527 894475

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Church Services AUGUST

PARISH CHURCH
of ST. JOHN
THE BAPTIST



Priest-in-Charge: Rev Wyn Beynon

Churchwarden: Ann Matthews 01527 892180 **Church website:** www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk

•• **Email:** info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

Parish Office: Telephone: 01905 778181 Email: bowbrookgroup1@gmail.com

Mon. Closed: Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 10am-1pm & 2-5pm: Fri. Closed

at - *The Bowbrook Group, The Parish Office, St Andrew's Street, DROITWICH, WR9 8DY*

Readers and Intercessors



Sunday 4th

Trinity 10

11-00am Sung Eucharist

Ecclesiastes 1 :vs. 2,12-14. 2 : vs. 18-23

Colossians 3 : vs. 1-11

Intercessions

Muriel Richards

John Calvert

Jeff Matthews

Sunday 11th

Trinity 11

8-00am Holy Communion

1 Corinthians 15 : vs. 1-11

Pam Eaton

11-00am Family Service - "Words, Images, & Songs of Praise"

Sunday 18th

Trinity 12

6-30pm Evensong

Jeremiah 23 : vs. 23-29

Luke 12 : vs. 49-56

Intercessions

Tim Powell

Pat Onions

Carol Onions

Sunday 25th

Trinity 13

11-00am Family Communion

Hebrews 12 : vs. 18-end

Intercessions

Jane White

Walter Richards

X Box Sunday School

Will be held in Church on Sunday 4th August . All children will be warmly welcomed.

Partners in Prayer

Ecumenical lay led service of prayer for the community, Wednesdays at 9.15am for 30 minutes in the Parish church. **All welcome.**

Feckenham Roman Catholic Church

St John Fisher & St. Thomas More

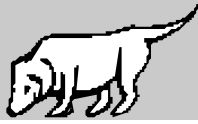


Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 10.15am in the Church

Fr. Edward Clare, The Presbytery, Redditch. Tel. 01527 63096

Local contact—Phyllis Mott, Feckenham. Tel. 01527 893898

Newshound



New Baby.

Libby and Rob Clements of Yeates Acre are now the proud parents of Martha Grace who was born on Monday 15th July. Congratulations to first time grandparents Anne Marie and Dave Mitchell.

The baby arrived three weeks early, just in time for Libby's birthday on the 16th!

Death

We were very sad to hear of the death of Fred Wilkes. We send our condolences to Mary and all the family. We hope to have an obituary next month

Pub News

THE LYGON ARMS...

BECOMES "THE FOREST AT FECKENHAM"

The freehold of The Lygon Arms has been bought by CD Pub Co of Lapworth. The company runs two other pubs - The Stag at Offchurch and the Moorings at Myton - and has a reputation for excellent food. Extensive building work has already started to turn The Lygon into a high quality gastropub seating 80 diners. They're aiming to completely restyle the building both inside and out and re-open it under its new name "The Forest at Feckenham" in late August or early September.

THE ROSE & CROWN...

FAMILY CELEBRATES 3 YEARS IN FECKENHAM

On 21st July the Clarke family celebrated 3 years at The Rose & Crown with a garden party and pig roast. The family have undertaken major restoration work at the Crown (which is a listed building) and have made the pub a welcoming social centre for the village. This month they'll tackle their third beer festival with 24 real ales, ciders and other delights - as ever, some of the proceeds will go to charity.

Thought for the month

Wyn Beynon

Dear Friends,

Do you know this story?

It's the 1960s. A man is driving his Morris 1000 through one of the Yorkshire dales when, at some remote spot, it conks out. He looks under the bonnet and realises that had he brought his spanner with him he could have fixed the problem. But's he 3 miles from the nearest village. Then he notices a farm gate and, half a mile up the hill side, a farm house. So off he goes to ask for the loan of a spanner. (Naturally it's a Whitworth 1/2 inch he's after, not one of these new fangled metric things)

As he walks up the track he starts to think to himself, "I hope the farmer is friendly. I'm sure he will be. These Yorkshire people are great when you're in a tight spot" Then he thinks, "But what if he isn't? It would be just my luck to find a gruff old farmer he tells me to shove off". He dwells on this thought. "Some people are so unkind", he says to himself. He continues to think about this and after a few minutes he gets to the farmhouse door. By now he has decided he's not going to get much of a welcome from this remote farmer. He bangs on the door.

It's dinner time and the farmer soon opens up. Imagine the farmer's surprise. There is a man, standing outside his home who shouts at him, "Well you can keep your ruddy spanner", and storms off back down the track.

Imagining yourself into a problem that doesn't exist. We've all done it. I call it "Suffering from Farmer's Spanner".

I hope you're enjoying the summer!

best wishes,

Wyn

Thanks

A very successful Coffee Morning.

On 5th July a Coffee Morning was held at Honeysuckle Cottage, Feckenham in aid of Hands of Compassion School in Ndola, Zambia. Connections with Ndola started in 1999 when Pat and Carol Onions went there to help build a school and later when Shirley Harman did a sponsored walk on the Great Wall of China. Wendy Ely who runs the school has spoken in Feckenham on several occasions over the years. To date the amount raised £591-47, a really amazing sum from such a small and generous community. Thank you all so very much.

Shirley Harman and Carol Onions.

THANK YOU My heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make my ordination day such a special occasion: those who turned out to support me at Worcester Cathedral on the morning of the 30th June and also everyone who came to the Celebration Eucharist in Feckenham Church later that same day. It was a truly memorable day and I was very moved by the thought, time and effort that had clearly gone into all the preparations.

The flowers in the church were absolutely beautiful - a worthy testament to the amazing talents of our resident Flower Group; the music, played by Michael Mott and the singing, directed by Claire Furey, more than hinted at many hours of planning and practice, and the 'fizz & nibbles' afterwards were a real treat - although, probably because I talked so much (I can see John Green smiling as I write this), I completely missed out on the sticky sausages! And all of this expertly choreographed and coordinated by Ann Matthews, as only Ann can.

It was wonderful to have both the Revd Wyn Beynon and the Revd Canon Sheila Banyard at my very first 'official' service and I was extremely grateful on the night for their steady and experienced hands on the tiller - it had been a very emotionally charged day! During the service Ann, in her capacity as Churchwarden, presented me with a stunning,

hand-embroidered clerical stole: a very generous and very beautiful gift from the congregation, and one which I shall treasure always.

It was wonderful to see so many of you throughout the day from all quarters of our communities: to be blessed with so much love and support is immensely humbling and the greatest of gifts. You have all been such an important part of my journey to ordination and, thankfully, the journey is set to continue. I look forward very much to the privilege of serving you.

With my love and thanks to you all,

Barbara Wheatley

World War I Centenary Celebration 2014

Jeff Matthews

There has been significant interest in an event or events to commemorate the outbreak of World War I, which will be this time next year (4th August, 2014 to be exact).

The work done by Richard Pearce in researching the fallen, as shown on the War Memorial, has captured people's imagination, particularly and could form the basis of what we choose to do. There are ideas of an exhibition, links with the school and various other projects that might be thought about. Importantly, there is National Lottery Fund monies available, however we need to apply with plans.

I am very happy to coordinate an application, with a small group of interested people and to form the basis of an organising group. If you would like to be involved (or just want to wish the project well!) please contact me, Jeff Matthews, and we can arrange an initial group meeting. You can reach me on 01527 894801 or jeff@the-madison-group.co.uk. We would look to meet before end August or early September, to get things moving.



VERY LOCAL RADIO

In the early hours of 20th June a switch was thrown in a spare room in the High Street and the radio frequency 87.9fm went live with the sound of Feckenham's very own radio station - W.A.K.E FM Feckenham was back on the air. For the following four days local

listeners were able to hear a varied diet of locally produced programmes and features - local music, local events, local news. Feckenham Radio for Feckenham people. Most of the output was live with four main presenters (Stuart Knowles, Paul Furey, Chris Fletcher and Ian Bellion) aided and abetted by news readers (Thea Mathews, Victoria Davies and David Elliot) and supported by reporters and co-presenters (Kathy Gee, Gilly Cooper, Cathy Fisher, Phil Talbot and Colin Pemberton). Mention must again be made of the generosity of Alan Jones who allowed us to invade his home and interrupt his life (not to mention his telly). We're also grateful to the Chutes for the loan of their green tent which served as our green room.

STARTING FROM SCRATCH

Putting together a radio station from scratch is no easy matter. Fortunately Stuart Knowles has done it before and undertook the massive task of getting the necessary licences and sourcing the equipment. Stuart also undertook the Station Manager's role and made tough decisions when tough decisions had to be made. The entire operation would have been impossible without the involvement of James Vaughton. James was the indefatigable technical genius who made it all work and kept it all working from 7am to midnight and beyond - we're quite sure he didn't sleep for the entire 4 days.

MONEY

Radio broadcasting isn't cheap. The four days cost an astonishing £1,777. Most of that was spent on licences from OFCOM, and copyright charges (for music) from PRS and PPL. The hire and installation of the transmitter and studio equipment accounted for £600. We're extremely grateful to Feckenham Charity and

Feckenham Parish Council for financial support and to our sponsors Air-band, Fewes Marquees and Electrodyne. The enterprise was underwritten by Feckenham Entertainments Committee ... and, as there was a small shortfall, we shall be making efforts to reduce our debt to the Committee.

CHIEFLY, YOURSELVES!

It is a tribute to the community spirit that prevails here in Feckenham that so many people willingly appeared - either in the studio or as recordings - on the air. It was also fascinating, and in some cases revealing, to listen to people talk about themselves, their activities and their lives. There were local performers, singers, instrumentalists, choirs and readers (Judith Hooker, Oliver White included) and there was YOU - freely talking, offering opinions, giving information. 75 of you recorded your choice of music and told us why you liked it - and we'd have recorded more if time had permitted. Thanks to you all for taking part so willingly.

WAS IT WORTH IT?

Of course it was! Despite the incredible amount of work involved those of us at the sharp end found the experience exciting and rewarding. We also hope that our wireless exploration of life in Feckenham was at least interesting and possible enlightening - as well as being a great deal of fun.

Would we do it again? Almost certainly - but there would have to be a different way of funding the station and a larger back up team... but that is for another time and another edition of Feckenham News.

Thanks for listening! The W.A.K.E. FM team

THE IRONING CENTRE

16 Feckenham Road
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(Next to the old Coach House pub)



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Village Shop

Jeff Matthews

Feckenham community shop wins top UK award

We thought you might like to see the press release that was issued to celebrate our village shop winning a prestigious national award. Up against over 200 shops from across the country, Feckenham Village shop was selected as being outstanding in its approach to volunteers and volunteering. Here it is.

Feckenham community shop in Worcestershire has won a prestigious award from the Plunkett Foundation

The Feckenham community rallied to open a village shop in 2009 after 20 years without one. Following a successful community effort, the shop now thrives thanks to its volunteer involvement and the contribution it makes to community life.

The community's efforts have now been recognised by the Plunkett Foundation who has announced it as the winner of the Rewarding Volunteers category sponsored by CAN Invest in its first UK Community Shop Awards, designed to recognise the very best examples of community shops from across the UK. The winners were announced at a ceremony on Wednesday 26th June in Oxfordshire.

James Alcock, Head of Frontline at Plunkett Foundation said: "Feckenham community shop represents a fantastic example of community enterprise. Winning the Rewarding Volunteers award clearly demonstrates a community shop at the top of its game. We wish them every success for the future."

Community shops are sustainable, democratic forms of businesses that succeed where commercial ventures have failed. In a climate that sees around 400 commercial village shops close each year, community-owned shops not only represent a better form of business, they directly respond to some of the key challenges facing rural communities today like lack of services and isolation.

Plunkett Foundation is the only national organisation supporting the development of

community-owned shops. Today in the UK there are 311 open and trading, and in the past 20 years only 13 have ever closed, giving the model a 96% success rate – which compares extremely favourably with the average 5 year survival rate of small businesses in the UK, which is at around 47% (Office for National Statistics).

Congratulations to all, in particular thanks to Tony Mortimer and Jenny Mason who put together a video, as part of the entry. Lasting 3 minutes, it can be seen on the shop website and offers a succinct overview of why the shop has been so successful with its volunteers. If you would like to join the team, then that would be great. Either call in at the shop or call on 894475.



Rosemary Wormington and Tony Mortimer receiving the award at the recent Plunkett Foundation AGM.

August in the Shop

Ice cream is the order of the month, with new flavours being added all the while. Churchfields have just celebrated 8 years of being in business making Ice Cream. A local enterprise, founded by the eldest daughter of an established farming family, as way of keeping their business growing and viable, we were invited to their open day recently. We are very pleased to be able to stock their quality products – Plum Ice cream made with the plums from the farm next door, and a Cheddar Ice cream which sounds great with pears... You will find cones and tubs of their range in the shop, so why not walk down for an ice cream on a warm summer's afternoon.

A new range of **cards for all occasions** is also in store. Again produced by local artist

“Grady”, they have been created for birthdays and other special events. This adds to the range of cards featuring “buildings of note” in and around Feckenham, which have proved popular. Look out for more and different cards in the coming months. As we look to expand our range of quality cards.

Ecover, the producers of ecologically sound cleaning and washing products are also featured this month. The shop has refillable washing up liquid and laundry liquid, together with floor cleaners and dishwasher tablets. So, if you are of a mind to make a difference to the planet – or have been meaning to make the changes to a more sustainable lifestyle, check out how we can support you in doing that. If you have ideas for products of this type that you would like to see, then let us know.

Wish 4 Beauty – indeed! Not an introduction to a brothers Grimm story, but a range of (yes, local) beauty care products that we are stocking to see what people think. We have them on special offer and they include a full range of lotions and potions that can be made into a quality gift set. The magic spells, however, are extra and come with a health warning of being careful what you wish for.

Words, Images, and Songs of Praise

August 11th
at 11am

St. John the Baptist Church

A summer celebration of
best loved songs, hymns, verse,
pictures and prose

REFRESHMENTS SERVED AFTER

Feckenham Flower Show

Rob Cole

Sat. 14th September

The Autumn Flower Show will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 14th September 2013, and staging of exhibits will be between 10.00am and 12 noon. Judging will then take place behind closed doors, and after calculating the results the Show will open at 2.30pm, for visitors to admire the exhibits.

A full Schedule of Classes will be included in the September issue of Feckenham News, along with more details of the Show. Making entries to the Show is very easy, and there are plenty of helpers available to advise first-time exhibitors. The more exhibits there are, the more interesting the Show, and whilst not everyone can be a winner, all of the exhibitors enjoy taking part in this traditional village event.

Teas will be available during the afternoon, and there will be an auction of exhibits towards the end of the Show.



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WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB

AMERICAN SUPPER

Meadow Farm, Feckenham
Wednesday, 7th August
Call 01527 821355 to book

Feckenham Readers Group



Wednesday, 7th August - 7.45

This month's book:
DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

by Donna Leon

Details from Marion Chate - 892285

FeckenOdeon-2

The Cinema in the Back Room



The COMMITMENTS

From the novel by **RODDY DOYLE**

Friday, 2nd August at 8pm

The FeckenOdeon Cinemas at Feckenham Village Hall

Tickets for all shows from **The Rose & Crown** and **Village Shop**
Telephone Booking 0844 8700 887* Online Booking* & full information at

www.fecknodeon.co.uk

* Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings

What's On this month in STOCK & BRADLEY

- 7th Gardening Club**
American Supper
7pm - Meadow Farm
- 14th Drop In**
Drop in for a Coffee and a Chat
10 am - 12noon
The Bird in Hand
- 11th Walking Club**
Meet at Bradley Church - 10am
- 28th Drop In**
Drop in for a Coffee and a Chat
10 am - 12noon
Bradley Green Village Hall

For more information see

STOCK & BRADLEY CHRONICLE

Feckenham Flower Show

Saturday, 14th September

2.45pm - Feckenham Village Hall

Displays of Flowers and Produce

Teas - sale of produce.

Exhibitors - staging from 10am



FOCUS ON FECKENHAM 2013

Feckenham
PHOTOGRAPHER
of the YEAR
Award

You could be Feckenham Photographer of the year! For full details pick up a leaflet and entry form at the shop, the pub or the village hall - entries have to be in by 13th September. All of your pictures will be exhibited at the Flower Show on 14th September and the prize will also be awarded at that event

ENTER NOW! OPEN TO EVERYONE

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

Two ages of JAMES BOND in One Day

DANIEL CRAIG

SKYFALL

007

12A



Saturday, August 31st at 7.30pm

Sean Connery

GOLDFINGER

PG

007



Saturday, August 31st at 2.30pm

See these great movies the way they're meant to be
seen - on the BIG screen.

£5 per show or £8 for both.

The FeckenOdeon Cinema at Feckenham Village Hall
Tickets are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown

Telephone Bookings: 0844 87002 887 - Book ONLINE at

www.feckencodeon.co.uk



The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



COMMITTED SOULS

FeckenOdeon 2's Summer Season comes to a riotous close on **Friday, 2nd August at 8pm** with Alan Parker's hilarious adaptation of Roddy Doyle's **"The Commitments"**.

In the rough badlands of Ireland Jimmy Rabbitte forms the "World's Hardest Working Band" and brings soul music to Dublin. No matter that soul is black music and Mr Rabbitte and his mates are white - he argues that the inhabitants of North Dublin are the downtrodden black people of Ireland. As the poster line said "They Had Absolutely Nothing. But They Were Willing To Risk It All" - and they risk it with charm and vigour. This is an enduring, gutsy, gritty and funny film with really fantastic music - ideal for the start of a summer weekend....and, if the warm weather continues, FeckenOdeon 2 will be air-conditioned for this showing.



TWO BONDS - ONE DAY

The FeckenOdeon's main cinema re-opens early this year for a full day of action from the most enduring of British film franchises. For 50 years James Bond has entertained millions. On **Saturday, 31st August** there's a chance to see agent 007 in his first and his most recent incarnations as The FeckenOdeon presents its **FeckenBond Festival**. Spend an afternoon and an evening with Mr Bond - presented on our BIG screen in the very highest digital picture and sound quality possible. The FeckenOdeon's surround sound system has recently been upgraded - you'll be both shaken and stirred!

HE LOVES ONLY GOLD...

The day kicks off at **2.30pm** with the original James Bond, Sean Connery sipping his martini and revving his Aston Martin. **"Goldfinger"** has been on the telly a million times but how many of you have seen it on the big screen? It's a big movie with a big soundtrack - and it's been digitally restored so that it looks as if it was made yesterday and sounds fantastic.

Honor Blackman purrs as Pussy Galore, Gert Frobe is a villainous villain and it all rockets along at breakneck pace - it's possibly the most (legal) fun you can have on a Saturday afternoon in Feckenham. Doors open at 2pm and the bar will be serving the famous martinis...

BOND FOOD

Matt & Mel at The Rose & Crown will be suitably costumed to welcome diners at the end of Goldfinger. There'll be martinis and a special Bond themed menu. Book in advance (892188) and they guarantee to have you fed and watered in time for Skyfall.



THE MAN WHO FELL...

At **7.30pm** the latest Bond makes a dramatic appearance. 007 is played by Daniel Craig who many believe to be the only successor worthy of filling Mr Connery's shoes. **"Skyfall"** is reckoned to be the best Bond to date. An all action spectacular with a strong story, breathtaking set pieces and jaw dropping locations. Judi Dench is Q, Javier Bardem is the villain and Albert Finney and the car from "Goldfinger" make cameo appearances.

Join us for one or both of these highly enjoyable adventures - book tickets for both shows and we'll refund £2 of the combined price (almost enough for a martini!).

Tickets are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown. Book by phone on 0844 8700 887 or online at www.fecknodeon.co.uk
Annual Membership is available online or from The Membership Secretary, 11 Alcester Road.

Village Hall

Ian Bellion



BRUSH AND WASH UP

There can be few better things to do on a Saturday than enjoy a friendly natter over a cup of coffee. Feckenham Village Hall is offering you the chance to enjoy as much coffee as you like on **Saturday, 10th August and Saturday 17th August. The coffee's free...** but only on condition that you put a bit of time in with a paint brush...

Every year a team of volunteers tackles Feckenham's biggest decorating job. The Hall is one the busiest community buildings in the county and the daily events, both big and small, take their toll on the paintwork. Each August the Committee gives the entire interior a fresh coat or two. It's a daunting task but many hands make light work - which is why we're asking for your help. Please spare us a little of your time on either of the Saturdays - even an hour will help. Doing it ourselves saves an enormous amount of money - and ensures that hire fees to the many voluntary organisations and services that use the Hall remain low.

Just turn up on either day from 10.30am - we'll find you a brush... and put the kettle on.

A SHINDIG ON THE WAY

The new Shindig season of professional shows heading to the Village Hall has been announced. There'll be more details soon but these are the dates:

27th October - The Lovesong of Alfred J Hitchcock by David Rudkin (New Perspectives Theatre Company)

23rd November - The Dr Teeth Big Band
9th February - The Hungry Heart (Cat Wetherill)

6th April - Shooting the Moon (Strangeface Theatre Company)

Tickets for all shows (plus reduced price Season Tickets) are already on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown - you can book online at

www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham or by phone on 0844 8700 887

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 parish you may be eligible for a grant.

Closing date for receipt of applications
31st August, 2013

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
31st August, 2013

Further enquiries/applications to:

Mrs J. Bate
(Clerk to the Trustees) 'Wychway',
Droitwich Road Hanbury,
BROMSGROVE
B60 4DB
Tel 01527 821285

Parish Council

Sean Arble

Chairman R Williams: 07812 034 455

Cllr E Atkins: 01527 542 063

Cllr K White: 01527 458 395

Cllr P Eaton: 01527 894 272

Cllr F Hawker: 01527 894 171

Cllr W Poole: 07825 947 941

2013 Meeting Dates: 19 Sept, 21 Nov & 19 Dec

You may wonder what your Parish Council does for you! We meet eight times annually in the Village Hall, (and we encourage you to attend and let us know what you think). Feckenham Parish Council is lucky that so many of you are willing to help us keep our Parish a beautiful, safe and vibrant community – thank you to all of you who do. Over the last year your Parish Council have done all sorts of things with a little help from their friends:

Feckenham Improvement Group (FIG) worked with children at Feckenham First School to plant spring bulbs on the corner of Swansbrook Lane following on from the glorious display of summer meadow flowers they planted there last year. •FIG also installed and maintained the planters on the corner of the High Street and Hanbury Road. We have kept on top of Japanese Knotweed around the parish borders. We thank Borough Council officers for their help with these matters. With funding from the Parish Council, FIG organized the installation of new street and village signs. A great vote of thanks must go to Antonia Pulsford for all her efforts regarding the signs.

Related to **traffic calming**, the Council is working on the unfortunate positioning (not as we planned!) of the estate gates at the approaches to Feckenham Village. •While on the subject of roads and pathways...

The Council monitored changes to **bridle and footpaths**. •We thank the Whites for taking on the important role of Footpath Officers for the Parish and thank the Fletchers for their sterling work in this role over past years. Footpath Officers do an important job; they •make sure our local bridle ways and footpaths are clear so access for all is maintained.

GRIT BINS The County Council have supplied three yellow grit bins for use in the parish, which they are responsible for keeping filled at the beginning of winter. They are situated as follows:

One opposite School Lane in Swansbrook Lane No. N892

One by the wall of the Old Vicarage in the Square. No. N891

One at the beginning of Love Lyne Lane No. N669

One in the Car Park. This one does not appear to have a number, and is empty at the moment. It is uncertain who is responsible for this bin.

In September 2011 it was agreed to purchase extra grit bins which are coloured green as part of the parish council's responsibility. These were to be purchased at a cost of £175 each. The Parish Council is responsible for re-filling of the bins; however, it is the responsibility of parishioners to spread the grit. At present there are seven green bins installed situated as follows:

One in Moors Lane opposite Manor Farm

Two in Berrow Hill Lane (one on the corner of Droitwich Road and one further along on the right where the road starts going along downhill)

One in Littleworth Lane

One in Mill Lane up a few steps by the narrow entrance to the playing field near the Football Club

Two in Ham Green. One half way up Cruise Hill by Burial Lane and the other at the top of the hill leading down to Sillins Lane, opposite Mr. & Mrs. Cox

By November 2011 the grit bins had been installed with thanks to Chairman Williams and R Cotton for preparing the sites and M Hawkes for making the Mill Lane site available. Mr. White and Mr. Cox volunteered to spread the sand and grit when necessary. By February 2012 all the grit bins had been installed. During the bad weather of January 2013 it was necessary to buy more sand and grit for the green bins at a total outlay of £250. Many thanks are due to Mr Richard Dormer for his assistance.

FLOOD RELIEF We have been monitoring road flooding problems, and meeting •with representatives of •the highway authority about

this issue which, as you will have noticed, is ongoing. •Flooding generally is a topical issue which will always be an ongoing concern.

We are liaising with Redditch Borough Council concerning the path between Coupass Cottages and the car park which has been reported as slippery. Watch this space!

Through funds provided by Worcestershire County Council, the Parish Council partakes in the Lengthsman Scheme. Our Lengthsman is the front line against flooding. His main duties are as follows:

Drainage:• clear gully grates, dig out blocked gullies, clear verge grips, clear headwalls & outfalls, rod blocked drains if practical and advise landowners & frontagers when their ditches need cleaning.

Vegetation: remove vegetation obstructing signs, remove vegetation at junction visibility splays, pulling/cutting of noxious weeds following site specific approval from the Manager, side out footways to normal width and spread arisings on verge where possible, negotiate with frontagers for them to cut back overhanging vegetation and removal of basal tree growth from highway trees.

PLANNING

Planning is important to the parish – we have a lovely, rural community with some beautiful properties and views. Due to very a very short response time in the consultation process, we operate a Delegated Planning Scheme which enables the Council to respond in a timely manner. There are some applications which are considered to be very important and will be fully discussed in open Council. In either situation, the Council scrutinise all planning applications and endeavour to reflect the local view.

We also formed a group last summer which considered whether we should draft a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the new legislation.••The group concluded that given the Local Plan #4 is not calling for development in Feckenham a plan at this time is unnecessary.

Chair Williams spearheaded a Council effort to join a consortium of five Parish Councils to obtain funding from the County Council for the provision of fast broadband.••A tender exercise appointed AirBand and Feckenham was the first area to benefit.••Installations have started and early reports are very positive.

Parish Councillors are also actively involved in other bodies on behalf of our community:

A number of councillors are Trustees of the Feckenham Amenity Trust which owns and looks after the Square in the centre of Feckenham and the allotments at Moors Lane. One councillor is a Trustee of the charity that owns and runs Feckenham Village Hall.

We have the only Parish Council voice on the Standards Committee of Redditch Borough Council which is the public body that ensures Parish Councillors and Borough Councillors adhere to their Code of Conduct and the Nolan principles of public life.

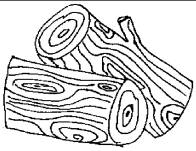
Other than FIG, Councillors also represent the community on various other groups and committees, and try to pursue community concerns. For instance, The Parish Council liaised with our local GP practice about the recent closure of the much valued surgery on Feckenham High Street.

Feckenham Parish Council is a statutory body. Members are elected for a term of four years and councils are funded principally by an annual precept. The precept is added to council tax, collected by Redditch Borough Council (principal authority) and paid to the Parish Council in two six-monthly instalments. Parish and town councils can apply for other funding such as grant and funding awards, but they do not receive funds direct from central government. The Council has been mindful of the difficult financial times and has not increased the precept above the 2010/11 precept of £8300. The Parish Council is financially sound! •We use the money•for all of the above activities, but also to support, by way of modest grants, charitable and community projects.• This past year these have included:

- W.A.K.E. community radio station
- Electronic Point of Sale (EPOS) equipment for the Village Shop
- A second hand•lawnmower for the allotments
- The upkeep of St Johns churchyard
- Feckenham News

Please apply to us if you think your project is one which benefits the Parish.

We are•your•Parish Council, here to serve our community. We would love to see you at our meetings, hear your comments and concerns, and work with you on behalf of all our neighbours, families and friends.



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Feckenham W.I.

Gay Bligh



**Thursday 12 September 2013 at 7.30pm
in the Back Room, Village Hall**

This will be an **'open meeting'** when WI member Shirley Harman will talk about her **'African Adventure'**. There will be a **Bring and Buy in addition to a raffle in aid of St Basil's charity** for the homeless young.

All are welcome to attend - £3.50 for non members. If you require further information please contact Jane White on 01527 893281 or Gay Bligh on 01527 893321.

Collection of Foil in Aid of Acorn's Hospice Please note that our WI is no longer able to collect foil for this worthy charity but would like to thank all readers who have contributed to the collection in the past; your support has been much appreciated.

**Rous Lench & Inkberrow
Royal British Legion inc.
Feckenham** Roger Hunt

Sunday 8th September

The Friends of RL&IRBL have organised a Dudleys Day Trip to **DCAE COSFORD** for an Area Battle of Britain Parade & Service. The Parade muster is at 11am at Cosford. Contact Roger Hunt 01527 854116.

£10 pp. Start Radford at 8am, plus local pick-up points en-route

Village Hall

Improvement Fund 2012/13



July Winners

127	Rob & Diane Cole	£25
163	Dennis & Barbara Baylis	£15
15	Malcolm Hawkes	£10

The August & September Draws will be held in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 3rd September.

Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

Rob Cole

AMERICAN SUPPER - Wednesday 7th August 2013 - 7.00pm, when Rob and Diane Cole will host an American Supper at their 'Meadow Farm' garden in Feckenham. (Note that this is a revised venue from that shown on the club's programme).

The full postal address is 'Meadow Farm', 33 Droitwich Road, Feckenham, Worcestershire, B96 6RU, and members should aim to arrive at 7.00pm.

Please bring a plate of food to share, a plate, and some cutlery. There is plenty of space under cover at Meadow Farm if the weather turns out to be wet. This annual event is always popular and gives our members a social opportunity in a garden setting. If you have any queries, please contact Rob Cole on 01527 821156.

The next Club meeting - Wednesday 4th September 2013 is a talk by Gary Farmer on the 'Bugs and Weeds of Worcestershire'. Gary is a nature reserve officer for Solihull Council, and has had a lifelong interest in natural history.

Club meetings are 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 £10.00. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting. If you require any further information, ring Jan Bates on 01386 792414 or Rob Cole on 01527 821156.

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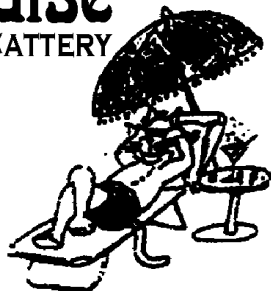
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