

A painting of a winter forest scene. The foreground shows a stream with a small waterfall, surrounded by snow and ice. The middle ground features several tall, bare trees with intricate branch structures. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with more trees and a pale sky. The overall style is impressionistic with visible brushstrokes.

# FECKENHAM

December 2020

News

Published by Feckenham Church for the Village

Editor: Sasha Furey

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(Copy Date 14th)

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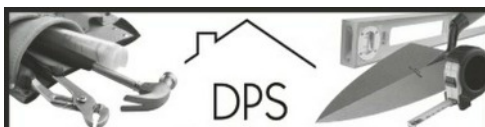
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## Editor's Note

Hello everyone, we're back! I am so pleased to be involved in this well-loved part of Feckenham life. I'd like to thank everyone who helps the magazine get to your door. Wishing everyone the very best for the festive season! Sasha Furey

## Dates for December



Send your articles for the January issue of Feckenham News **as soon as possible** and by 14th December at the latest.

**2nd December onwards:** Christmas Fayre meals at The Rose & Crown

**10th December:** Deadline for Swansbrook Radio recordings (see page 12)

**18th December:** Deadline for Christmas greeting and requests submission to Swansbrook Radio (see page 12)

**20th December 5:00 pm:** Lessons and Carols on Swansbrook Radio

For details about The Village Shop's opening hours over the festive period, see page 11.

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## Front Cover

A painting of the Whirly Hole by Ian Ridley. For sale to raise money for the Air Ambulance - see page 5

Magazine online at  
[www.feckenham.com](http://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.



## PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

**Priest-in-charge:** Rev Wyn Beynon **07595313035**

**Parish Administrator Wychebrook Parishes & Assistant Minister:** Angela Kovacevic **861247**  
or **07808708428** email: [angelakov2202@gmail.com](mailto:angelakov2202@gmail.com)

**Please contact Angela for Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals**

**Church Website:** [achurchnearyou.com/church/18729](http://achurchnearyou.com/church/18729) **Email:** [info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk)

**Wychebrook Website:** <http://www.wychebrook.co.uk>

At the time of going to press Government restrictions do not allow for church services. How this will unfold over the Christmas period we cannot say at the moment. It is hoped that we will be able to hold a service on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Morning depending on availability of clergy and Covid restrictions. Up to date information can be found on the noticeboard at the end of Church Walk and on the church website. [achurchnearyou.com/church/18729](http://achurchnearyou.com/church/18729)



Swansbrook Radio will be broadcasting a service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday 20th December.



There will be a service on zoom every Sunday at 11.00am. Please phone Ann Matthews for details 892180 or e mail [ann@the-madison-group.co.uk](mailto:ann@the-madison-group.co.uk) for the link to join.



## 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](http://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**



## Lockdown babies

**B**ack in the Spring there were several new additions to families in the village. Here we introduce you to two of them:

Andrew and Catherine Fisher welcomed their fourth grandchild Xavier Louis Phillimore, brother to Dominic, born on the 13<sup>th</sup> April. Their daughter Lara, husband Chris, little Dominic and newborn Xavier were fortunate to be able to spend their lockdown at Lara's childhood home here in Feckenham. The family will share many memories of this extraordinary time in all our lives.

Jen and Quintus Cary welcomed a sister to little Fred – Beatriz Kate Susan Cary was born at Worcester 08.01 on the 6<sup>th</sup> May weighing 8lbs 3oz. Jen and Q would like to apologise for speeding through the village but once Bea decided she wanted to arrive, she didn't hang about!

## Moving on

Over the last few months there have been quite a few moves in and out and around the village. To start us off, here are just two:

It is with great sadness that we had to say goodbye in August to John and Antonia Pulsford, formerly of Forest Cottage on the High Street. After several decades playing a very active role in village life they have now moved to easier accommodation in Wood Norton near Evesham. We wish them all the very best and hope to see them still when village events resume next year.

As well as welcoming a new baby to the family, Jen and Q also moved house this year. Having lived in Valentine Cottage on the High Street for 16 years, they are now in The Old Black Boy on the Droitwich Road. Q is looking forward to using the cellar to brew his beer in, Fred now has space for all his toys and Jen is very much looking forward to seeing how many animals she can persuade Q to let her have. Although they miss their old neighbours very much, they have been delighted to find that their new ones are just as lovely.

## T4U Shoeboxes for Christmas Appeal 2020

Lin Preece

**A**s our boxes are not leaving Feckenham until the end of the month, I am unable to tell you how many we will be sending this year. But I thought that you would all like to know that the boxes are coming in thick and fast! I will let you know all the details in next month's issue when we will also know their destination.

I am sure that at some point on Christmas Day our thoughts will turn to the children. We will be able to smile as we think of them having the time of their lives with their very own special presents, sent with love from you to them.

If you would like to learn more about T4U please visit their website.

Happy Christmas and thank you!

Lin



## Air Ambulance Square Management Committee

**I**t is traditional to raise money for the Air Ambulance yearly at our Carols on the Square event. As the event has had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, we are selling one of Ian Ridley's paintings in lieu of the collection.

The painting of the Whirly Hole (featured on this month's cover) is painted in acrylics on canvas board measuring 18" by 14" and priced at a "mates rates" price of £175. If anyone is interested and/or would like a viewing please contact Ian on 01527 894010.



## Thought for the Month

Rev. Wyn Beynon

**D**ear Friends,  
Welcome back to the Feckenham News and welcome to Sasha Furey, our new editor. Thank you, Sasha, for taking up the pen from Jane White who has been a faithful editor for many years. Thank you Jane for a long commitment which has benefited the village community immeasurably. Every blessing to Oliver and to you on your move to Bristol. You will be missed.

It's good to have something positive to celebrate. As I write these words we are about to start the second national lockdown. This is not good news for anyone, but there really is no alternative, unless you put material wealth above human life, which it seems, some do. There are of course other health problems associated with lockdown (not least mental health issues) and this makes it all the harder to bear. But, let's be clear, the cause of those other health problems isn't lockdown. It's the pandemic that made the lockdowns necessary. The scientists told us at the start that pandemics come in three waves. This is wave two. Expect another one, who knows when? - early 2021? Pandemics don't go away by pretending that they are not there.

2020 will doubtless go down as a year for the history books. Or so we might think. But I suspect that in the big scheme of things it will not register in the way that other momentous human events have shaken our world. But I may be quite wrong - it's not over yet, after all.

2021 sees Feckenham ecclesiastical parish begin to shape up a new area of ministry with our neighbours in Webheath, Crabbs Cross, Headless Cross and Astwood Bank. It's a fresh start which will be very timely as we face a different world to the one we left behind in 2019.

My job during the last 6 months of being Rector of Wychebrook Benefice is to see it dispersed in 3 different directions and, I hope, help facilitate that change so that it is as smooth and as positive as possible.

Change is the only constant in life. Even the cycles of the years do not bring us back to where we were before. Time, someone said, is what allows new things to happen.

We're going to celebrate Christmas as the Church in exactly the same way as we always do - that is by rejoicing in the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. But time has moved on and we shall have to do that rejoicing in new and innovative ways.

The older I get the more I realise how much I have to change to stay in the one place worth being in.

May God bless us all through these dark months and long nights. The spring will come, but not until we've made the journey. I'm reminded of that famous poem by Minnie Louise Haskins that King George VI quoted in his Christmas radio address in 1939.

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!' So I went forth and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night."

Best wishes, Wyn

## Tea at Three Chris Fletcher



**E**arlier in the year at a hospital in Cambridge a venture known as Tea at Three began. Put simply, in an attempt to boost the morale of staff caring for COVID patients, people in the community undertook to bake a cake everyday so that the staff could have a short break for a cup of tea and a slice of cake. This idea spread to Liverpool and has now started in Feckenham.

In less than a week over 20 villagers have agreed to bake and there are also a few joining in in Studley.

This is for the high dependency respiratory ward (1) at the Alex. Cakes have already been delivered and the staff are delighted!

If anyone else would like to get involved please contact Chris Fletcher on 01527 271234 with your contact details.

## Feckenham Cricket Club Bob Gordon



I wrote the last article on March 14<sup>th</sup> as Covid-19 emerged as a very real threat and am writing this as the second full lockdown is starting.

In those quiet weeks, the ground was tended as advised by the England Cricket Board and fantastic it looked as the warm and bright Spring replaced the wet winter. But we still could not play cricket.

But we were busy. The dilapidated 1927 pitch roller has nearly finished its refurbishment and will soon be dedicated to the memory of the late Dennis Baylis, a founder of the club. A much younger pitch mower was recently donated to the club by Stuart Moberley, thanks Stuart.

The use of outdoor nets was authorised in May and were soon very busy. Cricket returned in the second half of July, with senior matches organised into local mini-leagues. The junior teams were very successful, our Under 11 team winning the 8 a side pairs league and reaching the semi-final of the play-offs while the Under 13s also won their league.

Our ladies – the Feckenham Fillies - enjoyed a festival at Kidderminster and played home and away matches against the Cookhill Hens. The season ended on 13<sup>th</sup> September with the annual match against BBC Pebble Mill and it was a cracker. Three of our junior squad played and were not over-awed – it was something that they will remember for a long time. It was a truly joyous day.

Fingers crossed that we can start again in April 2021.

Stay safe everybody.



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## Feckenham Flower and Garden Festival Catherine Fisher



The Feckenham Flower and Garden Festival is due to take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

It would be lovely to think that we may be able to go ahead with the Festival but in the light of the current pandemic this is by no means certain.

We shall, no doubt, have to wait until the New Year when the picture for the months ahead will, hopefully, be somewhat clearer. At that time we shall review and make a final decision as to whether the event can go ahead in its usual form or whether we have to consider some other option.

Thank you for your continued support.

Catherine Fisher

## Thank you to our Friends Pat and Carol Onions

On 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 I had a new right hip fitted. It took a few months but now I am out of pain from my hip. I would like to thank everyone who sent me cards, flowers and plants and telephoned me. Unfortunately I have a few other problems with my right knee and my back but at the present time I must be patient until hospitals are back to normal after Covid is defeated.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2020 I had my 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday but by then Covid was in full swing. With the help of our son Tim, I had a 'Virtual Party' on Zoom with relations from all over the UK and some in France. Of course they all had to buy their own food and drink! Daughter Gail and granddaughter Ellen made cakes which we watched them eat but I did get to pretend to blow out the candles. Friends in Feckenham and around sent me many cards and many gifts, it was a lovely occasion.

Thanks to you all, Carol and Pat Onions

### AN OPEN AND SHUT CASE

**F**eckenham Village Hall was closed by Government edict at the end of March. We were allowed to reopen under strict conditions in July. Gradually activities returned. First was Yoga with reduced numbers and wide spacing. Then came the Community Choir and the ARTS Theatre School... soon joined by Pilates. The FeckenOdeon put on a couple of Covid-Safe films... and then the shutters came down again for the second lockdown. The Hall will remain closed until December 2nd at the earliest.

The Hall's Committee has taken action to ensure that the venue is as safe as possible. Strict cleaning rules for all users and activities have been put in place, there's a one way system and a "fogging" machine so that the building can be thoroughly sanitised between activities. All this stands in readiness for reopening - whenever it happens.

### A FLUTTER?

Every month the Hall holds a draw for cash prizes. People buy a yearly "ticket" for £12 and are assigned a number which goes into the draw. The collection of money and assignment of numbers is usually done by door to door calls. Things have had to be a little different this year and people have been contacted by letter. If you've received a letter and haven't yet done anything about it don't worry - it's not too late! You can still be included... and if you haven't had a letter but would like to help keep the Hall solvent during these trying times please call the Hall's Treasurer, Peter Chute, on 892285.

### AMAZON

Another way of helping our Village Hall's finances is through the Amazon Smile scheme. If you buy goods through Amazon you can help the Hall without any cost to yourself. Amazon will pay the Hall 0.05% of the value of any order you place. It may not seem much but it soon adds up. To enrol you just need to go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/523140-0> or you can find a direct link on the Hall's website : [www.feckhall.org](http://www.feckhall.org)

It'll only take a moment!



### A QUIET CHRISTMAS

**F**or obvious reasons there will be no Carols on The Square this Christmas Eve. This event usually attracts hundreds of people who enjoy a good sing, mulled wine and mince pies ...and the chance to welcome Christmas right in the heart of the village. Unfortunately that's just not possible in 2020. However, the Square Committee is making strenuous efforts to ensure that there will be a traditional Christmas Tree on The Square throughout the festive period.

### NORMAL SERVICE

The Square has been kept in trim throughout the summer. The Committee is grateful to the Mayneord family who have manned the mower when Chairman Ian Ridley has been unable to do so. Unfortunately it has not been possible to maintain the flower tubs to their usual high standard - normal service will be resumed as soon as possible. At the time of writing the trees on the green are due to undergo their three yearly safety inspection. It's thought that they're all in good health but, if anything is discovered, remedial work will take place before Christmas.



The square on Christmas Eve 2019 taken by Maxine Melson



## THE GREAT UNKNOWN!

Like all other entertainment venues, The FeckenOdeon has been closed since March. In the hope that things would rapidly improve the Society went ahead and planned a season of films to start in September. Obviously that didn't happen and it wasn't until mid October that it was deemed safe for socially distanced showings of the Irish comedy "Waking Ned". Two separate performances took place on 17th October in fully sanitised conditions. Many filmgoers said that this was one of the first events they had attended since lockdown began and that they had felt safe in the well spaced auditorium. It was hoped that another show could be held in November but recent events have meant that this hasn't been possible. As we go to press it's far too early to predict whether a show in December will be allowed. Any future films will be announced on the FeckenOdeon's website [www.fecknodeon.co.uk](http://www.fecknodeon.co.uk) and on Swansbrook Radio.

## Feckenham Parish Council

### NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A few years ago, a group working on behalf of Feckenham Parish Council attempted to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the village. Such plans, if approved, have to be taken into consideration by the planning authorities when making decisions. The Plan was never completed because of the failure of Parishioners to respond to consultations. Now, with new sweeping changes to the planning regulations being put forward by the Government, it is thought that having such a plan would be beneficial to Feckenham. If you would be willing to be part of a renewed effort to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Feckenham Parish please get in touch with the Council to find out what's involved.

Contact the Parish Clerk at [clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com](mailto:clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com) or phone 01527 892522

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Feckenham Parish Council meetings are, in common with all local council meetings, currently being held using Zoom video conferencing. The public is entitled and welcome to attend all such meetings but, because some Council meetings have been "bombed", we are no longer able to publish access details. The next meeting will be on Thursday, 7th January at 7.30pm. If you would like to attend please contact the Clerk for the access codes: [clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com](mailto:clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com) or phone 01527 892522

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### Changes coming to our parish.....

As many of you will know, our church of St John the Baptist in Feckenham is part of a group of churches known as the Wychebrook Benefice, which includes the church in Bradley Green and three churches in the United Parish (Wychbold, Stoke Prior and Upton Warren). The Wychebrook Benefice is part of the Droitwich Deanery. Deaneries are effectively administration areas within a Diocese. The Diocese of Worcester currently has 13 Deaneries.

As part of the Diocesan strategy to address its current serious financial deficit and to meet the challenges of the next decade, the Diocese of Worcester is being re-organised: 15 stipendiary priest posts will be lost and the number of Deaneries is being reduced from 13 small Deaneries to 6 large Deaneries to create viable groups of clergy working together.

In the new configuration, the Droitwich Deanery will cease to exist and Feckenham will be transferred to a new Deanery. Consequently, on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, our Parish of Feckenham will join the new Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery. This won't affect life in our parish and Revd Canon Wyn Beynon will still be our Rector until he retires in June 2021. However, when Revd Wyn does retire next summer, he will not be replaced. At that point, the Parish of Feckenham will join the Benefice of Christ the King led by Father Glenn Reading assisted by his Curate, Mother Victoria Barlow. This new group of parishes will comprise four churches:

St John the Baptist (Feckenham),  
St Matthias & St George (Astwood Bank),  
St Peter's (Crabbs Cross)  
The Bridge (Headless Cross)

Together we will move into exciting new times on our Christian journey.

Prof. Mark Wheatley,  
(Lay-Chair of Feckenham PCC)

We would like to start by thanking the village for the pumpkin trail they put on for Halloween. Many of the children from the school enjoyed spending time finding them, in fact two pupils were the trail winners.

We held our Annual General Meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October, during which we elected the committee, discussed events that had happened throughout the year and reviewed everything we had supported the school with over the last year. Further details of what was discussed can be found in the minutes which are on the school website.

We are busy planning how we can give the children an exciting build up to Christmas even though we won't be able to hold our usual Christmas Fair and we have been joined this year by several new parents which is fabulous. We are also working to come up with ideas to continue to support the school within the current restrictions we find ourselves in, especially as the school embarks on a new journey becoming an academy and a primary school.

If anyone is having a winter clear out of clothes, please remember the clothes bank that is situated on the school drive. This is collected for a company called UK Textiles Recycling, who recycle all the clothing donated and give a percentage of funds raised to FOFS.

Other ways you can support us are by buying a ticket in the Redditch Community Lottery and selecting us as your charity to support. This is an exciting weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in Redditch Borough and you can do this here - <https://www.redditchcommunitylottery.co.uk/>

Or by selecting us as your charity when buying something using Amazon Smile and this can be done here <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and we will receive a percentage of all sales.

# The Village Shop

## Alan Slater

First of all well done to the editorial team of the Feckenham News for compiling this long awaited Christmas edition. Like every other villager, I have missed my monthly ration of local news and 'What's On' updates. Although the 'what's on' question can be easily answered, i.e. not a lot, there has been a massive amount of action at The Village Shop during the last 6 months.

As I am sure you have noticed, there has been a complete external refurbishment and an installation of a canopy to the outside seating area. Sadly not in time to benefit the al fresco coffee drinkers during this year's glorious summer, but at least it will provide a shelter for those brave enough (or desperate enough) who require a caffeine hit during the winter months ahead.

Throughout the last nine months the shop has been trading at a record level as more of you prefer to shop locally, to avoid the crowded supermarkets. So thank you for continuing to support us, as our overworked Buying Team make herculean efforts to keep the shelves stocked with the products you need.

We are fortunate to have so many volunteers to keep the shop running smoothly and to maintain the current opening hours, however, we always need more help. So if you can spare just a few hours a week of your time then please come forward and volunteer. Whatever you can offer, your contribution will be greatly appreciated. You don't need a degree in retailing, just a willingness to help us out, and we will provide some basic training,

before we let you loose on the customers. Not all of our team are customer facing, so if you prefer to join our back office team of cashiers, buyers and merchandisers, you will be equally welcome.

We are stocking up for Christmas, so don't forget, if you need any emergency cards, wrapping paper, chocolates, beer, wines or even a last minute gift, we can help you out.

We will be open throughout the festive season with the exception of 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> December, as even our dedicated volunteers deserve a couple of days off! So on behalf of all of us at the Village Shop, we hope you have an enjoyable Christmas and a healthy 2021!

### Opening Hours

Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	Closed
Dec 26 <sup>th</sup>	Closed
Dec 27 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Dec 28 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Dec 30 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	Closed
Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9a.m. – 4 p.m.

**SHOP SAFE**  
**SHOP LOCAL**  
**SUPPORT the VILLAGE SHOP**

Alan Slater (Chairman)



## CHRISTMAS ON THE AIR

With most of the usual Christmas activities cancelled or curtailed this year Swansbrook Radio is doing its best to compensate. Join us and join in with us as we try to make this a special Feckenham Christmas for Feckenham people!

### 9 LESSONS & CAROLS

This service is one of the best attended in the Church calendar. This year's won't be in church but you will be able to hear it on Swansbrook Radio. The vicar will introduce the programme and local people will read the lessons. It had been hoped that the church choir could sing the carols but current lockdown regulations have made that impossible. Instead we'll hear great performances of traditional carols. The service usually takes place on the Sunday before Christmas and so our broadcast will begin at 5pm on Sunday, 20th December - of course, after that time, you can listen to it "on demand" - whenever it suits you.

### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND REQUESTS

In normal times we would be busy partying and generally socialising throughout the second half of December... but it seems unlikely that we shall be able to this time - so we'd like to invite you to send greetings to your friends and relations near and far through the medium of Radio. You can send your messages and requests by email to [radio@swansbrook.com](mailto:radio@swansbrook.com) or in writing to Swansbrook Radio, Chapel Cottage, Mill Lane, Feckenham or, even better, you can record your greeting on your smart phone and send the file as an email attachment... We have a vast library of music so request whatever you like! We must have your contributions before **18th December.**

In addition we'll be spending a bit of time at the Village Shop in the hope that we can catch you and record your greetings (from a safe distance). Check the shop notice board for times.

Your greetings, dedications and requests will be broadcast in special festive editions of our regular programmes.

See [www.swansbrook.com](http://www.swansbrook.com) for the schedule.

### CAROLS OFF THE SQUARE

Yes, this Christmas, Carols on the Square is coming from your front room, or kitchen or hallway.

This classic Feckenham event is being replaced thanks to you and your family. In a Swansbrook first, our own radio station is compiling a medley of carols sung by you and your families!

All you have to do is to record yourself and your loved ones singing one of the following carols:

- Ding dong merrily on high
- The Carol of the bells
- We three Kings

... à capella (that means without backing music - we'll provide that!)

Don't fancy singing the whole thing? Not a problem! Just do what you can manage and we'll mash it up (really nicely) with another family's effort.

We welcome solos too!

So, get practising and we'll have you and your clan on the radio before you can say "high profile recording contract".

Just drop us a line at [radio@swansbrook.com](mailto:radio@swansbrook.com) or call Paul on 07921 927 909 to let us know you're joining in and we can answer any technical queries you might have.

Deadline for recordings to us: **10th December**

### WE'RE PLANNING MORE

There'll be more Christmas surprises on Swansbrook - check our website for details.

### LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Just go to [www.swansbrook.com](http://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.

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*Pre bookings & pre orders required 5 days before*

**Open All Day** for drinks from Friday 18th December until Sunday 3rd January

**Christmas Eve** - Food times 12 - 3 & 5.30 - 8pm - Bookings essential for drinks & food

**Christmas Day** - CLOSED THIS YEAR **Boxing Day** - Drinks only NO FOOD

**New Year's Eve** - Food normal at lunchtime 12 - 3 with a special menu in the evening

**New Year's Day** - Food 12 - 3 only Drinks all day

*Obviously all of the above will be in line with whatever restrictions we are put under*

*We will continue takeaways also*

**Christmas Gift Ideas** - Forget Amazon & shop local - send us an email with what you'd like

info@roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk or call 01527 892188 - Pre orders and payment required:

6 lager or cider bottles & bar snacks £20 - 6 bottles of mixed ales & bar snacks £20

Champagne & chocs £45 - Prosecco & chocs £25 - Pink Gin & Tonics with chocs £25

Christmas box: Mixed wine (3) , 4 beers, mixed nuts, olives £45

or just a voucher for food or drink takeaway or eat in valid for 1 year to whatever value you'd like!

**www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk**

## Guidance on COVID-19

We know that people over 60 can be badly affected by the virus. It can make you very poorly, need hospital care and even cause death. This is, of course, very worrying. It also has implications for our NHS. It leads to pressure on our services and creates a rising demand for intensive care beds. We need to act now, to prevent this situation becoming any worse. How can you help? How can you protect yourself and others? Please follow national restrictions during the lockdown period and then any new guidance from 2nd December. You should also keep your distance, wash your hands regularly and wear face coverings where needed. These measures are our best defence against the virus. We know it can be hard, keeping a distance from others, avoiding travelling to places, not meeting up with friends or family. But the virus spreads when we mix and have contact and don't stay apart. Stay local, don't visit areas with higher levels of restrictions. If we can stay local, stop visiting areas with greater numbers of infections, we can protect ourselves and others. Please ensure you self-isolate as soon as you have a symptom of Covid-19.

The symptoms to look out for are:

- A high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.



# STAY HOME STAY SAFE

HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

## Latest advice on how to self-isolate:

If you have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been told to self-isolate you should:

- Go home and stay at home
- Do not leave your home unless for medical reasons
- Stay away from those you live with
- Do not go out for walks or exercise
- Do not meet friends
- Do not go to work or school
- Isolate for 10 days if you are COVID-19 positive
- Isolate for 14 days if you are told you are a contact
- Contact our Here 2 Help service if you have no support:  
[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help)

**You should not go outside at all. This is different advice to during a lockdown.**

**Self-isolating means you must not leave your home, not even for a daily walk.**

**Make sure you have plenty of healthy food and drinks, books, magazines and other activities to keep you busy.**

**Let friends, family and contacts know to stay away.**

## Please stay at home and stop the virus spreading

Get all the latest updates at:  
[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus)



If you have any of these, no matter how mild your symptoms, please self-isolate immediately and book a test.

You can do this online <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

With a second national lockdown in place, the County Council's Here2Help service is on hand to help residents who require extra support. A phone number has been set up to help fill out the form for those who can't access the internet.

The dedicated number is: 01905 768053 and is open Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 5:00pm and Friday 9:00 - 4:30pm.

Guidance for those who are clinically extremely vulnerable has been updated to include additional measures to keep this group safe during lockdown. This information is available on the Here2Help shielding advice page on the county council's website. The Government is encouraging people in this group to register for support on the national website where they, for example, can get access to priority supermarket deliveries. For more information, please visit: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help)

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### 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](mailto: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](http://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

## FECKENHAM



## NEWS



If you'd like to see your article in the Feckenham News, contact Editor Sasha Furey at [feckenhamnews@gmail.com](mailto:feckenhamnews@gmail.com)

Similarly, if you want to place an advertisement, send an email to Mary Smith: [fnadvertising@btinternet.com](mailto:fnadvertising@btinternet.com)



## Progress and how you can get involved

I think we can all agree that 2020 has been some year, but amongst the positive benefits for a number of us, has been the chance to reconnect with our beautiful surroundings, the countryside and the extraordinary place where we live. Witness lots of people walking during the lockdowns, with and without dogs and judging by the flood of pictures on Facebook revelling in the beauty of nature!

Earlier in the year with the aim of improving our surroundings and also as a response to the challenge of climate change and the bio-diversity crisis, three village groups came to together with a view of doing something about it. Each had had separate thoughts and some initial projects, but a scheme offered by Worcestershire CC (with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust - WWT) has galvanised action and brought these strands together. The three groups are the Archaeology Group, Feckenham Cricket Club and The Friends of Feckenham Parish Church.

In the summer, WWT kindly produced a survey that offered sound advice to the groups on how we can create and develop an enhanced local environment in the three village areas of Feckenham Field (around the ancient monument, King John's Hunting Lodge), the Cricket field and the churchyard. The plan includes extensive bush and tree maintenance, clearing brambles and other growth, making paths, planting wildflower meadows, other flower planting, creating habitats for insects and small mammals, putting up nesting boxes and adding interpretive boards to make a heritage walk around the village. In short, making these areas more accessible for everyone whilst encouraging birds, insects (pollinators in particular) and mammals.

Having gone out for initial quotes and a plan of work, the cost looks to be in the region £40k for the whole project. We have been offered 45% of the total by WCC from a European

Fund. At the time of writing, The Village Shop have just pledged their support with one year's profit of £5k to get started, for which we are very grateful indeed. Several other village groups have been approached and are thinking about their responses, but it won't cover all the circa £22k we are looking for.

So, this is where you can come in, and get involved in whatever way suits you. We are able to offer nesting boxes or hedgehog houses that you can buy for nominal rates. That could make a great present! For those looking to make a more substantial donation we can arrange memorial plaques. Indeed, we'd like to make the whole project a living memorial to the sacrifices that were made and continue to be made in 2020, something for future generations to enjoy and to offer those glimmers of hope of a better future.

For more information on donor packs and how you can be involved, contact Jeff Matthews. ([jeff@the-madison-group.co.uk](mailto:jeff@the-madison-group.co.uk))

## Feckenham Church Flower Group Margaret Perry

The flower group ladies have been keeping busy since Easter. Throughout the spring, summer and autumn, whilst the church has been locked, several of our members have taken a turn to arrange flowers in the porch.

We also recognised the Patronal and Harvest festivals with a joint effort to fill the porch on those occasions.

We have tried to ensure families have not been forgotten whenever funerals have taken place. From the many comments we have received these arrangements have been much appreciated by villagers taking their exercise through the churchyard and indeed some make a point of walking there particularly to see the flowers. It is gratifying to us to know our efforts are appreciated!

We are now beginning Advent and although we don't have details as yet of whether any services may take place during the Christmas period, we will endeavour to create some festive atmosphere for everyone!

Margaret Perry, Co-ordinator.



## Voyages of the Drunken Rambler

Howard Bellaby



When the Great Plague of 2020 took hold, we - my wife Liz and I – listened. “You can only go stay overnight on your boat if it’s your primary residence.” So, we moved onto our boat and it was so. Off north through Hanbury with not another boat in sight then up the lengthy Tardebigge flight. Into Birmingham then Wolverhampton through waters thick with the crude jetsam of a thousand houses. Then 21 locks from Wolverhampton down to Autherley Junction and a right onto the Birmingham navigations then onto the Shropshire Canal. No rush, as we headed north westward. We crossed from Shropshire onto Cheshire and into Audlem as lockdown ended. Off again through Nantwich then right onto the Middlewich canal and right again and southwards on the Trent and Mersey. Towards the Potteries and then left onto the Macclesfield Canal and north east through wonderful countryside as the Peak District asserted itself to starboard. Into Greater Manchester and the Peak Forest Canal overshadowed by Kinder Scout. To Derbyshire and we soon gained our furthest point - the historical and remarkable Bugsworth Basin which used to be an interchange between boats and quarry-bound tramways. Homewards now. Onto the Trent and Mersey southbound via the narrow, low Harecastle Tunnel. Then the Potteries surrounded everywhere by industrial decay. Where once was Doulton there is demolition. What was Wedgwood is now wasteland. South now onto the Staffordshire and Worcestershire through the grounds of Shugborough and the idyllic Tixall Wide. Left and onto the wide Severn and left again onto the Droitwich canal the town into Droitwich marina. Back to quiet Feckenham by road - three months, 246 locks, 260 miles and 8 bottles of gin that won’t see the light of day again.

## Look what I found!

Sasha Furey

Amongst some fascinating snippets of old articles and news from the village, I found this poem:

### THE FECKENHAM MEN

The jolly men at Feckenham  
Don't count their goods as common men,  
Their heads are full of silly dreams  
From half-past ten to half-past ten.  
They'll tell you why the stars are bright,  
And some sheep black and some sheep white.

The jolly men at Feckenham  
Draw wages of the sun and rain,  
And count as good as golden coin  
The blossoms on the window-pane,  
And Lord! they love a sinewy tale  
Told over pots of foaming ale.

Now here's a tale of Feckenham  
Told to me by a Feckenham man,  
Who, being only eighty years,  
Ran always when the red fox ran,  
And looked upon the earth with eyes  
As quiet as unclouded skies.

These jolly men of Feckenham  
One day when summer strode in power  
Went down, it seems among their lands  
And saw their bean fields all in flower -  
"Wheat-ricks," they said, "be good to see;  
What would a rick of blossoms be?"

So straight they brought the sickles out  
And worked all day till day was done,  
And builded them a good square rick  
Of scented bloom beneath the sun.  
And was not this I tell to you  
A fiery-hearted thing to do?

- John Drinkwater



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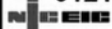
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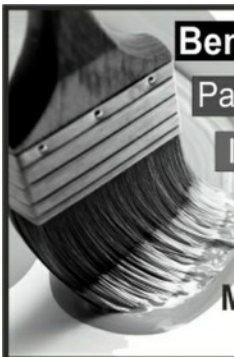
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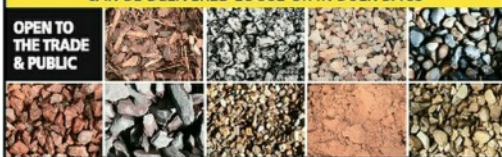
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