

# FECKENHAM

FEBRUARY 2012

*News*



**Published by Feckenham Church for the Village**  
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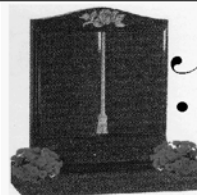
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# FEBRUARY Diary



Wed 1st	7.30pm	S & B Garden Club	Bradley V.H.
Tues 7th	12.30am	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Wed 8th	10.30am - noon	"Drop in" for coffee and a chat	Parish Church
Thur 9th	7.30pm	Feckenham WI	Village Hall Back Room
Fri 10th	8pm	FeckenOdeon 2	Village Hall Back Room
Sun 12th	7.30pm	New Perspectives Theatre Co.	Village Hall
Tues 14th	7.30pm	Feckenham Forest History Society	Village Hall
Sat 18th	7.30pm	Boiler Quiz	Village Hall
Wed 22nd	10.30am - noon	"Drop in" for coffee and a chat	Parish Church
Thur 23rd	7.30pm	Flower Show AGM	Village Hall
Sat 25th	2.30pm	FeckenOdeon	Village Hall
Sat 25th	7.30pm	FeckenOdeon	Village Hall

## Village Hall Improvement Fund 2011/12



### January Winners

44 Warwick & Beverley Bladen	£25
61 Enid Whitehead	£15
80 Tim & Alison Smith	£10

The February Draw will be held in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012

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## Front Cover

The Church over the frosty trees from Berrow Hill, 2011. Photo by Peter Teisen.

## Production Team

Ian Bellion – What's On

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**Churchwarden:** Ann Matthews 01527 892180

**Associate Priest:** Bididi Kings 01684 311922

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### Readers & Intercessors



#### Sunday 5th

Lent-3

#### 11-00 am Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 40 : vs. 21-end

1 Corinthians 9 : vs. 16-23

Intercessions

Jenny Snel

Jenny Goode

Pat Onions

#### Sunday 12th

Lent-2

#### 08-00 am Holy Communion

2 Corinthians 11 : vs. 19-31

Peter Horsley

#### 11-00 am Family Service "Love is all around"

#### Sunday 19

Sunday next before Lent

#### 6-30 pm Evensong

2 Kings 2 : vs. 1-12

Mark 9 : vs. 2-9

Intercessions

John Pulsford

Carol Price

John Calvert

#### Saturday 26th 11-00 am Family Communion

First Sunday of Lent

1 Peter 3 : vs. 18-end

Intercessions

Vicky Nicod

Barbara Wheatley

### X Box Sunday School

Will be held in Church on Sunday 5th February. All children will be warmly welcomed.

### Morning Fellowship

9.15am every Wednesday in church, for about ½ an hour of ecumenical prayer & contemplation.

# 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

# Feckenham Bell Ringers

Ron Russ

The packed Carols by Candlelight Service on 18 December was heralded by another quarter peal. This was 1,260 changes of Grandsire Doubles, rung in 45 minutes. It was Elliott Psaila's turn to ring the big tenor bell following on from Joshua Taylor's success earlier in the year. Elliott, age 15, rang it immaculately and with Joshua on the treble this time, it was the first quarter peal in which our boys have rung together. Congratulations to them and it augers well for their progress in campanology during 2012. We rang it with best wishes to Sheila Lawes, who will be unable to ring now for some time having unfortunately broken her ankle.

# Newshound



**On Wednesday 4th January 2012** the Funeral Service of Vera Tatlow took place. Canon John Green took the Service. Vera had lived at Bredon View Farm, Love Lyne, Callow Hill for many years, where the family had farmed, and she then moved to live at Webheath. She was interred in Feckenham Churchyard, next to her husband.

**On Monday 9th January 2012** the Funeral Service of Edith Savage of Moors Lane took place. She was interred in the Churchyard and Canon John Green took the Service.

**On 30th December 2011** the Ashes of Richard Brown were interred in the Churchyard and were placed in the grave of his Grandparents. He had emigrated to Australia where he died, only in his early 40's.

**On 12th January 2012** a Service for the Ashes of Iris and Kenneth Sealey took place in the Churchyard.

We have just heard news of the death of Barbara Henshall who for many years lived at Dunstall Court before moving to Inkberrow. We send our sympathy to her family.

## BIRTHS

Seth and Amy Bray have two additions to the family. Twins Maisey and Fred were born on 20th December and are brother and sister to Georgia and Harry. The family live at Yeates' Acre.

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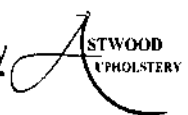
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# Feckenham High Street in 1960 *Jane Bird*

When I moved to Feckenham in 1960, having lived in the middle of nowhere for years, I was pleasantly surprised to find myself living in a village with 8 shops.

Starting at the Lygon Arms and walking up the High Street, the first shop on the left hand side was Mrs Watton's drapery and haberdashers. Mrs Watton was a very intimidating character and one had to be extremely clever to leave her shop empty handed. I was a "new girl" in the village and had not been warned of her reputation. I went into Mrs Watton's to buy some elastic for my daughter's school knickers; half an hour later I emerged with the knicker elastic, some pink wool, some knitting needles, a knitting pattern, half a dozen buttons and a packet of Kirby grips. Apparently I had got off lightly.

From Mrs Watton's, going up the High Street, the next was Eddie Betterton's Butcher which sold excellent meat obtained from the Slaughterhouse behind it. The noise from the Slaughterhouse was unnerving but the meat was good.

Keep walking and you came to Hicks' Newsagent. This sold the most trashy magazines for girls and my daughters would come home with them hidden in their clothes so I couldn't confiscate them. The Hicks boys did the paper round before they went to school. They were cherub looking - just like choirboys - in fact they were choirboys now I come to think of it.

Onwards now to Granny Parker's sweet shop which was beloved by all the children. Shelves of giant glass jars filled with different coloured layers of sherbet, jelly babies, chocolate limes, jazz drops, I could go on..... The bow window contained some sun-faded boxes of liquorice allsorts and a bowl of eggs on which slept a marmalade cat. Health and Safety would have a field day nowadays.

From here we walk quite a long way to Barretts the Sadlers. As you entered, a bell rang above the door and old Mr. Barrett could be found behind the counter making saddles and stitching bridles. We would take broken bits of tack and he would mend them beautifully. The place smelled of leather, saddle soap and ponies.

We now walk back down the village, just before the needle mill. is a grocery shop with an enormous counter which sold just about everything you needed and a lot that you didn't. It eventually closed down and became a fashion shop and then an antique shop.

The Bakery and General Stores were run by Mr and Mrs Hicks. Mr Hicks ran the Bakery and Mrs Hicks organised the groceries. There were no plastic bags in those days and Mrs Hicks would arrange your goods very neatly in cardboard boxes.

After this came the Co-op which had high rails with tin canisters. The shop keeper would put your money in the canister and pull a lever. The money shot round the rail up to the office where the office staff took the money, put in your change, pulled another lever and it whizzed along and down the rails to the shop keeper.

A blacksmith was on the corner of the Co-op and Alcester road and we are back to the Lygon Arms where we started.

In the harsh winter of 1963 we were snowed up for two weeks and none of the children could get to school. The High Street became a tobogganing slope, all the shops stayed open to feed and clothe us and old Mr Yates delivered milk from the farm on his horse and cart. The milk was in big churns and we filled our jugs from them.

Today these shops are closed and have been turned into houses. The village is busier than it used to be, most of the locals have gone and the traffic has multiplied twentyfold. However, all is not lost because we have a new Village Shop and Café, run entirely by volunteers and the heart of the village lives on.

We are indeed blessed.



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# Thought for the month

John Green

## Is it really necessary for the Vicar's sermon to make sense and be less than ten minutes long?

I am sure you have listened to many sermons and have come away feeling either irritated or perplexed. Perhaps the sermon has just been far too long and just a little boring or even a touch obscure? "What was all that about?" you might have said, and "Why did he or she need to go on so long to still leave me completely bewildered?"

These reflections on sermons come out of some quite lively criticism about my Christmas sermon which, I have to confess, was rather too long and somewhat complex in design! Indeed, when I read it back in the cool light of an early January day, I was a little unsure as to the main focus of my own sermon! It was rather long, especially when preached at midnight and my wife commented on my rather over loud and somewhat noisy/preachy style of delivery. Others commented on it being just *far* too long.

It is always rather dismaying that a sermon which you really wanted to take off and go places has failed to hit the spot but it does, at least, raise the issue about what a sermon is meant to be. Obviously it is not a lecture designed to reveal the academic prowess of the preacher although sometimes sermons turn into them! It is not meant to be a public platform on which the vicar can indulge his or her hobbyhorses, although sometimes we do! It is definitely not meant to be just sparkling entertainment to get the folks rolling in the aisles although, of course, preachers are human and sometimes succumb to the temptation! I guess that it is really about the preacher opening his or her heart and life to be a channel so that the word of God might speak to and within the lives of all those present at the service. In order for this to happen the preacher needs to let go of self and open his or her heart, so that scripture might be related to the needs and pressures of our day to day lives.

Although I think that there were a number of really good points made in the sermon, I am convinced that it failed to allow the Christmas story to live which, alas, became covered with too much complexity borne out of the needs of this

preacher!! I think I failed to take account of the level of my emotion in this my last Christmas in office. At a human level, I wanted it to be a huge success so spent time looking around for ways to make it splendidly different! Therefore I became completely besotted with Carol Ann Duffy's poem deciding that I was going to use it come what may, so forcing the whole of the rest of the sermon to fit into the words of her poetry! My usual style is to be far more simple and direct, preaching from the words of scripture and allowing them to resonate in the lives of others – so why did I need to change course?

The reason that I'm spending time telling this story is to make the point that God will always bless and use what we say and do if we trust and let go and allow him to live within us and speak through our words. The problem comes when our own needs and emotions take centre stage. Then things go wrong, so pride comes before a fall! Finally, the one thing that I'm sure about is that even when we muck things up God can still use the situation to bless others, even if it only to provide them with an opportunity to switch off and have a doze within the service.

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# WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

Feckenham Forest  
History Society  
**BOUNDARIES**  
with Dr Richard Churchley  
Tuesday, 14th February -  
7.30pm Feckenham Village  
Hall

## FECKENHAM WI Feckenham Village Hall

Thursday, 9th February - 7.30pm  
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## FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

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### THE GREAT BOILER

# QUIZ

Saturday, 18th February - 7.30pm

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Proceeds to Village Hall Boiler Fund



# WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

**FeckenOdeon 2**  
The Cinema in the Back Room

Catherine Deneuve - Gerard Depardieu  
in a new comedy <sup>15</sup>

**POTICHE**

Friday, 10th February - 8pm

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Saturday, 25th February at 2.30pm

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**THE DAM BUSTERS** <sup>U</sup>

Michael Redgrave  
Richard Todd

Saturday, 25th February at 7.30pm

The FeckenOdeon Cinema at Feckenham Village Hall  
Tickets for all shows from The Rose & Crown and Village Shop  
Online Booking and full information at  
[www.fecknodeon.co.uk](http://www.fecknodeon.co.uk)

For technical reasons the What's On Pages have been reformatted for viewing online

For free listings of Feckenham events just e-mail the details to:

[whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk](mailto:whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk)

# The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

## A WOMAN'S PLACE....

In the 1970s there was still some controversy over working women - should they or shouldn't they? The new (2011) comedy "Potiche" tackles the question. Catherine Deneuve is married to the boss of an umbrella making empire who believes that his wife belongs firmly in the home. Things get turned on their head when he has a heart attack and the Potiche (Trophy Wife) has to take over the business.... and rediscovers an old flame in the form of communist mayor Gerard Depardieu. Le chat est au milieu des pigeons!

This is a wonderfully frothy French farce firmly rooted in the 70s - even the acting style and photography recall that colourful era... And it's a wonderful vehicle for Catherine Deneuve who looks and sounds wonderful at 68 - and who proves that a serious actress can make a rip roaring comedy part her own. Showing in **FeckenOdeon 2 on Fri, 10th Feb. at 8pm.**

## MONSTERS SCARED

Pixar Animation Studios were 25 years old in 2011. It occurred to us that today's youngsters would never have had the chance to see the ground breaking early Pixar films on the big screen. Some of these are as deserving of the term "classics" as the early Disney films are... so we've decided to show one from 2001.

"Monsters, Inc." is an everyday story of scary folk - or, to be more precise, the things that make the things go bump in the night. If you've ever though you saw something move in the half light, fancied that there might be a monster in the wardrobe or a phantom under the floorboards... you've probably been visited by the staff of Monsters, inc. - the biggest and scariest organisation in the underworld. But they have a secret weakness - they're terrified of humans - and when a very small human gets into the factory there's chaos!

Monstrous fun for all ages  
**Saturday, 25th Februar  
at 2.30pm.**

YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYE



## HOW THEY BUST THOSE DAMS

There are some films that belong on the big screen alone and "The Dam Busters" is one of them. American war films tend to be gung-ho tales of heroism - the British aim to be more truthful. This re-enactment of the development and deployment of the bouncing bomb is almost a documentary. It's not without heroes but they're not larger than life or exaggerated in any way. They're real people getting on with a job that had to be done under difficult and dangerous circumstances. This is probably the key to the film's enduring success - even with those who are too young to remember. When Richard Todd makes is last desperate bombing run the audience is as one - willing him to succeed. This is a true classic and it's been meticulously restored for the High Definition age - and of course there's that theme tune - all together now "Daa-daa - da-daadadadadaa...."

Showing on **Sat., 25th February at 7.30pm**



Tickets for all these shows are on sale at  
The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown  
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# Village Hall

Ian Bellion



## FECKENHAM GOES TO WEMBLEY

Imagine the excitement - a football team made up of local characters is on a winning streak and looks likely to win the FA Cup! The talk in Feckenham would be of nothing else... well, in Steeple Sinderby it's actually happening. Is it possible? Could a humble village team really have taken on football's finest and triumphed? When an enigmatic trainer with revolutionary theories, two of the best players ever to have disappeared from football's top flight, and a chairman of Napoleonic ability all find themselves in the same place at the same time, it just might be!

This tale of the unstoppable rise of the ultimate underdog is retold in a funny and touching new show from New Perspectives Theatre Company - prepare to laugh, prepare to cry, and above all prepare to believe every word in **"How Steeple Sinderby Wanderers Won the FA Cup"** on **Sunday, 12th February** at 7.30pm. ... and for those of you who aren't keen on football, you might like to know that this show is about village life as much as it is about football - it could happen here!

New Perspectives Theatre Company are regular Shindig visitors. They brought us the amazing musical "The Hired Man", the tale of "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight" and the unforgettable spectacle of "Those Magnificent Men" (complete with onstage biplane).

*Tickets (£8) are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown. You can book online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham) or by phone on 0844 884 2920 - or from any Committee member.*

## MORE SHINDIGS COMING SOON

March 25th : "Spaghetti Swing". A fantastic Italian band, glamorous dancers... and a meal cooked on stage - an amazing mix!

May 23rd: On the day that the Olympic Torch arrives in Worcestershire we present the story of the original Olympic Games which were held in Much Wenlock in 1850 courtesy of Vamos Theatre Company.

Tickets for both of these shows are now on sale



## QUICK QUIZ

Can you answer any of these questions?

- 1) Which is the largest state in Mexico?
- 2) Where is the headquarters of Interpol?
- 3) Who was Derek in "Derek and The Dominos"?

If you can you're in fine form to take part in our **Great Feckenham QUIZ on Saturday, 18th February** at 7.30pm. (The answers are at the bottom of the page).

No need to aspire to the standards of Mastermind or University Challenge - this is a fun quiz for ordinary sized brains. Gather up a group of friends to form a team (maximum size 6) or just come along and let us find you a team to join. There'll be a licensed bar to oil the thinking muscles and some nice prizes to make it all worthwhile. The modest entry charge (£5 per person) will go to the Village Hall's Boiler Fund.

Tickets are on sale at the Shop and The Rose & Crown - or from any Village Hall Committee member.

Quiz Answers: 1) Chihuahua, 2) Lyon, 3) Eric Clapton.



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# Family Service

Gary Crellin

## Love is all around

### Family Service

12th February 2012, 11am

This month, we celebrate Valentine's day in the Family Service - couple days earlier than the day itself to remind you romantic types to get that card or roses in time! Valentine's Day is not exactly a Christian Festival of celebration, given the pagan roots of it, but hey, Valentine's Day is a reminder that sometimes, it is perfectly alright to have a glass of wine in a bubble-bath, to eat a few fairly traded morsels of chocolate, and to celebrate love and friendship. Hopefully by the time you read this, both the Lygon and the R&C will be offering great romantic meal offers and the Village Shop will do a good trade in Fairtrade cards and chocolates.

St. Valentine was an actual historical figure. There are actually a couple versions of the Valentine's Day story. One version has it that Valentine was so loved by the children of the town that they would constantly write him notes speaking of their affection--hence the origin of exchanging valentines messages, often unsigned to keep folks guessing. In the other version of the story, Valentine is working to heal a blind boy and sends him a treat in a letter. He is arrested by the Romans for his work as an "undercover priest" and is shortly thereafter sentenced to die. According to this story, when the boy eats the treat his eyesight is miraculously restored, and he is able to see well enough to read Valentine's note--which is, of course, at the exact same moment that Valentine is executed.

With all the commercialisation of Valentine's day, the red roses, the cards etc it is a shame that the person that was Valentine is hardly remembered. But as we celebrate this day of love and kindness, let us all remember that God and His Son Jesus also loves us and His love IS eternal. Many a marriage service in our church uses this bible reading - try relating our love for each other to the love of God:-

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres (1 Corinthians 13 verse 4-7)

Now - where did I put that chocolate and card, and that Wet Wet Wet CD.....

## Bowbrook Group Lent 2012



**ASH WEDNESDAY**, 22 February at 8.00 pm  
Himbleton Church Holy Communion with imposition of ashes

### LENT COURSE SO THEN!

Five hard questions for us to reflect on.

Wed. 29 February 8.00-9.30 pm, at The Jinney Ring.

*Are we really free to make our own decisions?*

Wed. 7 March 8.00-9.30 pm, at the Galton Arms  
(upstairs meeting room)

*Is there really such a thing as a miracle?*

Wed. 14 March 8.00-9.30 pm, at The Jinney Ring

*Does having a faith make us better people?*

Wed. 21 March 8.00-9.30 pm, at the Galton Arms  
(upstairs meeting room)

*What is prayer and does it work?*

Wed. 28 March 8.00-9.30 pm, at The Jinney Ring

*Is there really life beyond death?*

Do come along, air your own views and be prepared to be challenged and hopefully to be surprised by new insights into some fairly hard questions which we all ask from time to time.

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# Village Shop

*Jeff Matthews*

**W**e had a record week, Christmas week – thanks to all our customers for their support, which rounds off our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of trading, and we are continuing to grow and make enough of a surplus to keep the business flourishing. I think we can regard this as some achievement at a time of difficult trading for much of the retail sector. Looks like we are about 10% up on last year.

The research we conducted recently, was also very positive. “Friendly” and “light and airy” were two descriptors – the first being the people, the second the building, or was it the other way round. Anyway, people like coming and they come back. There was also some constructive feedback, which we have taken on board. Congrats to Sally Roberts, who won the Hamper.

*Can I draw your attention this month to:*

- The good value “**Tea Cake and a Drink**” for £1.99, which continues to be hugely popular, is on offer this month. We have quite a few regulars now, who are dropping by and talking to each other and the staff and generally idling, a vice we cannot encourage, but clearly one we will have to tolerate. We suggest that if you are suffering from this, that you collect in the shop from time to time and distract each other, rather than doing it on your own. We have a special area for you.
- **February = Valentine’s day.** the 13<sup>th</sup> is a Monday, we are open until 6:00pm. We have chocolate, we have fizz, we have cards. There’s no excuse.

- For those who took advantage of the fresh meat, available through the shop over Christmas, just a reminder that **meat isn’t just for Christmas**, we have it all year round. In the freezer, you will find, frozen (as we can’t do fresh butchering on the premises – not yet, anyway) chicken, lamb, pork chops, steak – rump and fillet. It’s a bit hidden away in that freezer which is why you may not have seen it. Ask a “light and airy” member of staff and they will be pleased to help you find what you are looking for.

## Feckenham Flower Show & Over 60’s Party Fund

### AGM Tues. 23rd February 2012

Open to all as usual the meeting is in the Back Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The existing Committee have all been involved for many years and are deserving of retirement, and for the tradition to continue, new Committee members are needed. Anyone who would be willing to join the Committee is invited to have a chat with Rob Cole (Secretary) on 01527 821156, or with Angela Fletcher (Treasurer) on 01527 893231, or to come to the meeting.

### Events already confirmed for 2012

You may wish to make a note of the following events coming up this year :-

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 14th April 2012 | Spring Flower Show                                      |
| 27th May 2012   | Open Afternoon at Meadow Farm Garden, 33 Droitwich Road |
| 8th Sept. 2012  | Autumn Flower Show                                      |
| 8th Dec. 2012   | Over 60’s Christmas Party                               |

It would be a considerable loss to the village if these events became a thing of the past.

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## Feckenham W.I. *theWI* Jane White INSPIRING WOMEN

In January we welcomed many visitors, and we were shown numerous examples of 20th century corsetry by Rod Quilter. Whalebone, metal and spiral stays (the latter the least uncomfortable looking!) - cotton, elastic, rubber, synthetic silk and woven string (German wartime) - together with laces and hooks, hooks and more hooks....., and just a few zips!

This month's meeting on the **9th February** is titled "**Drilling, Filling & Pulling for Kenya**" by Jan Denning. We meet in the Back Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors a very welcome, £3.

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

The branch meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 8pm at The Wheelbarrow & Castle, Radford. This is an open meeting, all interested persons are welcome. The chat is good and the bar is open.

### Stock & Bradley Gardening Club *Rob Cole*

**1st February 2012** we will welcome Robin Pearce of Worlds End Nurseries who will give a talk on 'Dahlias'. There has been a resurgence of interest in Dahlias as garden plants, and Robin has a particular interest in their history, varieties, and cultivation.

**7th March 2012** We will be welcoming Tim Walker, Director of Oxford Botanic Gardens. Tim is a highly entertaining speaker and we are fortunate indeed to have him to visit our Club. Everyone who has seen Tim in action wants to see him again! Tim has recently presented a 3 part series on BBC4 entitled 'Botany - A Blooming History' which has been widely acclaimed.

All 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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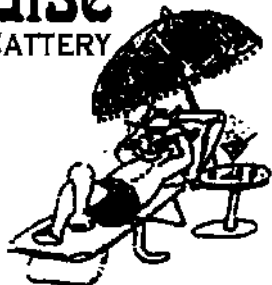
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