

# FECKENHAM

February 2023 NEWS



Published by Feckenham Church for the village.  
Editor Gilly Cooper - [feckenhamnews@gmail.com](mailto:feckenhamnews@gmail.com)  
(Copy Date 14<sup>th</sup>)

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# Feckenham News in February

## Dates for your Diary

### February

1st	S&B Gardening Club
5th	Christingle
7th	Lunch Club
10th	Feckenodeon: The Lost King
14th	Book Club History Society
20th	WI
25th	Feckenodeon: Gaslight
26th	Ma Bessie's Prohibition Party Village Hall

### March

12th	Village Showcase
------	------------------

### Regular Sessions

Mondays	Restorative Yoga
Wednesdays	Playgroup
Thursdays	Bridge; Hatha Yoga; Pilates
First Tuesday of the month:	Feckenham Sessions and Feckenham Forest History Society
Third Monday of the month:	WI

## Production Team

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## Front Cover

Photo Trees in Winter  
by Steve Dallaway

Magazine online at  
[www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

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

## Editor's Note

This month's magazine is bit thinner than usual. I think we are all recovering from the excitement of the holiday period and are having a well earned rest.



Costs of printing the magazine have skyrocketed like everything else and, I think villagers should know, that advertising costs are not covering the expense of printing at the moment. We have slightly increased the advertising costs and hope that printing might be cheaper soon but that may be a pipe dream. It may be that we need to do some fund-raising to support the magazine in the future. I'll keep you posted. The magazine is delivered free to everyone in and around the village and this will not change.

Lastly, one has to feel for the intrepid delivery driver who was rescued having driven down to the footbridge from Berrow Hill Lane.



## Notices and Letters

### Atlantic Rowing 2023 – an update

Hi all,

Late last year I gave a preamble of what I am hoping to do in December 2023 – Row the Atlantic. I promised to fill in a few blanks about me so here goes.

I'm 25 and, although I am currently in London, I have lived all my life at Perry Mill which is on the boundary of Feckenham and Bradley Green – the top of our drive is in Bradley Green, the bottom in Feckenham: and no, it's not that big a drive! Although in London I do come back – a lot; I can feel my Father's eyes rolling heavenward as I say I'm coming home again this weekend'.

My Community Social activities have not been entirely confined to the local hostelrys! You may have been a lucky (?) recipient of me topping your field, have seen me helping out at Feckenham Horse Show (having progressed from entering classes) or seen me at this year's Summer Solstice at the top of Berrow Hill: I'd like to claim credit for the balloon show that appeared but that's a stretch too far I feel!

I've obviously attended many village events, church services etc over the years and love the Community Spirit that we have in the local villages. It is this sense of belonging as a part of others that has inspired me to help Acorns on behalf of children like Jack who lost his life. As a quick update on our progress we have found a boat and... but more of that next time!

George Farmiloe



## Teresa McWalter 24.9.42-29.11.22

Former Landlady of the Rose & Crown,  
Feckenham 1983 to 2008

Based on a eulogy given by Steph Pritchard  
(niece)

Teresa McWalter (Terry) was born in the small village of Whitegate, County Clare in Ireland – the third child in a family of seven. Life revolved around a strong Catholic faith. Terry was very bright and while at school showed an aptitude for maths and numbers. Her school days ended at the age of thirteen because she had to help her mother at home with her younger brothers and sisters while her father was working in England. He was living in Droitwich, and at the age of fifteen she joined him, eventually taking a job at the Raven Hotel. She was careful with money and quickly gained financial independence – later in life she impressed on her children, “always have a driving licence and your own money!”



Terry met Paddy at this time and at the age of 23, married him in a double wedding with her sister Marie and husband Walter in 1965. They bought a house in Droitwich and Terry worked with Marie and Walter to renovate The Old Cock Inn prior to reopening and managing it.

In 1983 Terry and Paddy purchased the freehold on the Rose & Crown in Feckenham. By this time they had several children and were welcomed by the local Primary School to swell the numbers at a time when it was under threat of closure. They worked hard, transforming the pub into a successful business and much-loved village asset. The old saying, “Behind every successful man there is a strong, wise and hardworking woman” was particularly true. Paddy was the ‘front of house’ while Terry

kept things in order behind the scenes. She ordered supplies, managed the accounts and prepared food, and always said, in another life, she would have wished to be an accountant. Together, they created an institution popular with locals and visitors alike, as it remains today.

Terry’s real sense of pride and achievement, though, was with Paddy, in the bringing up of their six children, Geraldine, Austin, Patricia, Brigitte, Therese and Martine. She was supportive of all her children in many ways: early mornings before school, stable visits, driving across the country to dance competitions, airport pick-ups – always in their best interests. Fortunately, she loved driving and in her time covered thousands of miles in her distinctive purple ‘Polo’. Sadly, after a short illness, Paddy died. Terry and her daughters continued to run the Rose & Crown until 2010 when it was sold. Terry moved to Alcester to be near her daughters, and during well-earned retirement enjoyed regular visits from family, including, as time went by, her three grandchildren.

Terry died, surrounded by family, on November 29<sup>th</sup>, and, after a funeral mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Redditch, she was buried with Paddy at Hadzor Cemetery near Droitwich. Poignantly, on her final journey, the cortège stopped briefly outside the Rose & Crown. She was carried to her grave in a coffin draped with the Irish flag, topped with a beautiful arrangement of white flowers including her favourites – white Amaryllis.

### Swansbrook Suite

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### **CHRISTMAS GENEROSITY**

As predicted last month, the Carols on The Square event on Christmas Eve was a resounding success. Generous carollers dug deep in their pockets and the bucket collection in aid of the Air Ambulance yielded over £770. This has now been donated to the charity. The committee would like to thank everyone who gave so freely.

### **TREE SAFETY**

The bi-annual safety inspection of the trees on The Square has recently carried out. All the trees were found to be in good condition and are deemed to be safe. Work is to be carried out on the large Lime tree near Chestnut House to remove some dead branches. This will be done within the next month or so.

The Red House by Mark Haddon provided an interesting evening for us all although the book was felt by most to have failed to grip the reader. The dysfunctional family had a variety of characters, stropky teenagers, a wife with a sad past that won't go away, an uncomfortable brother in law relationship and a young boy full of anxieties about death. The themes involved in the book allowed us to discuss these topics. We gave it, at best, a 6 out of 10.

The next meeting is 14th February and the book is The Word is Murder by Anthony Horowitz.

## **What's On at Stock & Bradley Village Hall? ([sbvh.org.uk](http://sbvh.org.uk))**

The Perfect Venue for wedding receptions, parties & 'socialising'  
**BURNS NIGHT SOCIAL & CEILIDH DANCE - 28th Jan - 7.30pm**

Help drive out those Post-Xmas Blues. A light buffet with a Scottish theme and bar & raffle.

**Guidance in traditional dancing by The Inkberrow Scottish Country Dance Club**

### **Regular Events/Activities**

Puppy Training—Sunday mornings  
Dog Training— Monday evenings  
Scottish Country Dancing—Thursday nights  
Morris Dancing—Friday nights  
Drop-in Social—Wednesday mornings

Pilates—Friday mornings  
Yoga—Coming soon  
Art class—Monday mornings  
Gardening club—Wednesday evenings  
And more besides—Contact as below

**All tickets on-line at [sbvh.org.uk/shop](http://sbvh.org.uk/shop) or phone 07976165191 for details**

## Feckenham Village Hall



### SUNDAY AT THE SPEAKEASY

Sunday night is going to be a little bit different on 26<sup>th</sup> February. For one night only the Village Hall will be converted to a Chicago speakeasy - an illicit drinking den in the days of prohibition. You can order all sorts of "soft" drinks (but expect them to have an extra kick in them). On the stage of this "coffee bar" will be one of the finest entertainers of the age...

Ma Bessie and her Pig Foot Band will bring us the very best of the Prohibition era's blues and jazz, with a brilliant homage to the Empress of Blues herself. Julia Titus, as Ma Bessie, treats us to a host of blues standards as well as many of her own compositions all perfectly in tune with the music of the time.

Feel free to dress appropriately - spats and feather boas were very popular (not necessarily worn together!).

### MA BESSIE'S PROHIBITION PARTY

**Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm**

This is a professional show from Live & Local - sponsored by Arts Council England, Worcestershire County Council and Redditch Borough Council. Any proceeds from ticket and bar sales are used to maintain Feckenham Village Hall.

Tickets for shows at Feckenham Village Hall are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.

You can also book by phone (through TicketSource) on 0333 666 3366 or online at [www.feckhall.org](http://www.feckhall.org)

### IMPROVEMENT FUND DRAW

The January draw took place at the meeting of the Trustees on 3<sup>rd</sup> January with the following results:

1 <sup>st</sup> (£25)	3	Liz Teisen
2 <sup>nd</sup> (£15)	46	Danielle Chute
3 <sup>rd</sup> (£10)	152	John & Pam Eaton

# The Feckenham DIRECTORY

## YOUR DIRECTORY'S ON THE WAY...

The new edition of The Feckenham Directory is on its way to you. It will be delivered with the March edition of Feckenham News and will contain contact details for almost all of the village's organisations and services. It's now too late for additions to the printed version but there'll be an online version available soon at the new Parish Council website. The online version can be updated at any time - check out:

[www/feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www/feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

## ...AND SO IS THE VILLAGE SHOWCASE!

For one day only on **Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March** you'll be able to find out what makes things tick in Feckenham and how you can be involved.

**Feckenham Showcase** will be held in the Village Hall and will feature displays, demonstrations and activities - and a chance to meet the people who make things happen... There'll also be entertainment, refreshments and games for the kids (and big kids too).

**Watch out for more details in next month's Feckenham News.**

We're contacting all the organisations in the Directory to invite them to take part but, if you're an organiser and you haven't been contacted, please email [jen@thecarys.co.uk](mailto:jen@thecarys.co.uk)

# The Feckenham SHOWCASE

## The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



### A HORSE! A HORSE!

A controversial film starts 2023's offering in FeckenOdeon 2... In 2012, having been lost for over 500 years, the remains of King Richard III were discovered beneath a car park in Leicester. The search had been orchestrated by an amateur historian, Philipa Langley in the face of considerable scepticism from experts and academics. "A life-affirming true story of a woman who refused to be ignored" - the archaeological establishment don't agree with the film's publicity but it's an entertaining tale despite that. Starring Sally Hawkins and Steve Coogan. (UK 2022)

### THE LOST KING (12A)

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> February - 8pm



### I'M ALMOST SURE I'M NOT MAD....

THIS IS LOVE... clouded by evil... darkened by a secret no one dared to tell! A suspense-filled thriller fuelled by a long-ago murder and a husband's nefarious ill-will towards his new wife. Charles Boyer is deliciously creepy as the husband. Ingrid Bergman is movingly convincing as the terrified wife (in a role that gained her an Oscar). Angela Lansbury plays a mysterious housemaid. (USA 1944)

### GASLIGHT (PG)

Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> February - 7.30pm

*Tickets for all FeckenOdeon films are on sale at  
The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.*

*You can also book by phone (through  
TicketSource) on 0333 666 3366 or online at*

**[www.fecknodeon.co.uk](http://www.fecknodeon.co.uk)**

Feckenham's Own...



Listen at  
[www.swansbrook.com](http://www.swansbrook.com)

**SWANSBROOK** Radio

## ON AIR THIS MONTH

Programmes on air this month include:

**Just One Word** with Clive James - a weekly hour of tracks all of which have the Word of The Week in the title. Everything from Elvis to Little Eva and from Lulu to Lou Reed.

**Happy Hour** with Ian Bellion - each week we search out things to go to, things to take part in and things you never really wanted to know - all laced with music from any and every genre.

**Classical Swansbrook** with Chris Fletcher - a monthly mix of classical favourites and lesser known works.

**Longer Listens** - Complete works or entire albums played without interruption for your listening pleasure.

All the above are available in our live stream - programmes are also available On Demand. For more details visit [www.swansbrook.com](http://www.swansbrook.com)

## LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Go to [www.swansbrook.com](http://www.swansbrook.com) and follow the instructions you'll find there. Our programmes are available for you to play ON DEMAND - listen when and where you like - as often as you like.

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## Feckenham Playgroup

Last Wednesday, your editor took a walk round to the village hall to see Hayley who is running the playgroup and to see the set up. It looked really fun and is a place to bring pre-school children whether they are local or visiting family.

From Hayley:

🧸 Looking for a friendly place to meet other parents/grandparents/carers/guardians, in a warm room where your child can play? Come and visit us at Feckenham Playgroup, located at the Village Hall in Feckenham. Each week there will be different themes, from fairytales to space, teddy bears picnic and of course all of the traditional holidays we like to celebrate. With snacks, toast, fruit and biscuits for children and parents. We will be there every Wednesday, during term time. Ages 0-4. From 9am - 11am. We look forward to seeing you there 🧸



### COUNCIL UPDATE

Feckenham Parish Council have a new website which can now be found at [www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk) The new website was developed in line with accessibility requirements and the transparency audit regulations. A huge debt of thanks is owed to Tim Smith who managed feckenham.com for many years and uploaded all the parish council information. We hope you find the new site helpful. More pages will be added including an updated Feckenham Directory. Feckenham News will also be using the site

The Parish Council met 12<sup>th</sup> January. The main item on the agenda was the discussion around the Precept demand. This is the money which pays for the parish council to carry out its regulatory duties but can also award grants to organisations which benefit the parish. Please see the website for more details.

The Precept demand requested from the Borough Council will be £20,000. An increase of £5,000 from last year. In part the additional monies will enable the parish council to meet its commitments whilst trying to grow some small reserves which have previously helped with the flood works as one example.

There will be parish council elections on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 23. Parish Councillors are democratically elected unpaid volunteers who work incredibly hard to make our parish such a lovely place to live. If this is something you would be interested in, please look at [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk) or [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk) Alternatively, please contact the clerk; Jane Bull on telephone number 01527 892522. [www/feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www/feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk)



# CHURCH SERVICES



## PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Priest-in-charge: Fr Glenn Reading 01527 894436

Church Warden: Ann Mathews 892180

Please contact Ann for Weddings at [ann@the-madison-group.co.uk](mailto:ann@the-madison-group.co.uk)

Glen for Baptisms & Funerals at [glenn.reading@googlemail.com](mailto:glenn.reading@googlemail.com)

Website: <http://feckenhamchurch.org.uk/>

Email: [info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk)



PARISH CHURCH  
OF  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
FECKENHAM

## Services for February 2023

5 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30am	Eucharist	Rev John Green
5 <sup>th</sup> February	4.00pm	Make your own Christingle Everyone welcome	Fiona Carter
12 <sup>th</sup> February	9.00am	BCP Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading
19 <sup>th</sup> February	6.30pm	Evensong	Fr Glenn Reading
26 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading

## FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St John Fisher & Thomas More

Due to illness, Mass will not be held at St John Fisher and Thomas More until further notice.

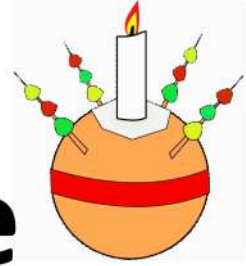
Mount Carmel 6 pm Sunday Mass is now the Live Streamed Mass.

Link: [www.eventcast.uk/live](http://www.eventcast.uk/live) (Type the link into the browser)

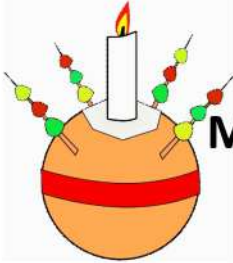
Fr. Anthony Rohan, The Presbytery, Redditch. Tel 63096

Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898

At St John the Baptist Church,  
Feckenham  
B96 6HR



# Christingle



Come along and celebrate  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 4pm  
**Make your own Christingle!!**

(everything you need provided)

**A short service, refreshments**  
All ages welcome - just turn up.

For more information contact Fiona Carter 07864 867313  
[fiona-carter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fiona-carter@hotmail.co.uk)

## Church Clock Back in Action

The clock was reinstalled during the 3 days beginning Wednesday 4 January so has now been going 9 days and today, 13<sup>th</sup>, was only 3 minutes fast. Cumbria Clocks wanted it to settle down before they came back and fitted the timing mechanism which will keep it to time every hour and make the changes from GMT and BST every half year.

John Eaton



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# WHAT'S ON IN

## FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

### MA BESSIE'S PROHIBITION PARTY

Sharing the Jazz & Blues  
of Bessie Smith  
and her contemporaries  
with a new audience



LIVE  
LOCAL

FEATURING  
MA BESSIE  
AND HER  
DIGFOOT  
BAND

**SUNDAY 26th FEBRUARY - 7.30PM**

Tickets £13.50 from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown

Book online at [www.feckhall.org](http://www.feckhall.org)

Phone bookings: 0333 666 3366

### Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB NEXT MEETING



at Bradley Village Hall  
Wednesday, 1st February  
7.30pm

### theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

Next Meeting - 20th February

### VEGETABLE GROWING

8pm - Feckenham Village Hall

### ERSTWHILE



### BORDER MORRIS

NEW - Twice monthly Sessions  
at Feckenham Village Hall  
Starting in March 2023  
More details next month

## The Feckenham SHOWCASE

**HOW DOES YOUR VILLAGE WORK?  
WHO DOES WHAT IN FECKENHAM?  
HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Come and find out on **Sunday, 12th March** at Feckenham Village Hall

An exciting day of demonstrations, activities and information.

There'll be entertainment, refreshments and fun things to do.

*More details in the March edition of Feckenham News.*

Send details of events for **FREE** listing to:

# FECKENHAM



THE  
**FECKENHAM  
SESSIONS**  
TRADITIONAL  
MUSICMAKING  
at THE ROSE & CROWN

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm  
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 7th February

The Feckenham Forest  
History Society

## The History of THE SEYMOURS OF RAGLEY HALL

An illustrated talk by Julian Davey  
Tuesday, 14th February - 7.30pm  
Feckenham Village Hall

## Feckenham READERS GROUP

Meets on  
Tuesday, 14th February - 7.45  
This month's book:

## THE WORD IS MURDER

By Anthony Horowitz  
Details: 892285



## THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

Sally  
HAWKINS Steve  
COOGAN

The  
**LOST  
KING**

12A



FeckenOdeon 2 Friday, 10th February at 8pm

CHARLES BOYER · INGRID BERGMAN · JOSEPH COTTEN



FeckenOdeon 1 Saturday, 25th February at 7.30pm

COMING SOON  
A Bunch of Amateurs  
Saving Grace  
See How They Run

The FeckenOdeon Cinemas  
at Feckenham Village Hall

Tickets for all shows from The Rose & Crown and Village Shop  
Telephone Booking 0333 666 3366\* Online Booking\* & full information at  
[www.feckenodeon.co.uk](http://www.feckenodeon.co.uk)

\*Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings

\*Phone calls answered by Ticketsource and charged at standard rates - NOT a premium line

whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk or call 892130

## Feckenham WI - Jen Cary

January's meeting of Feckenham WI was a very enjoyable overview session on watercolours, something which most of the members hadn't touched since school. We were very fortunate to have resident Feckenham artist Ian Ridley as our tutor for the night and through Ian's very capable teaching, we all managed to produce a wash, a landscape and some trees. A very relaxing and creative start to 2023.



Our next meeting will be on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February in the back

room of Feckenham Village Hall. 7.45pm, meeting starts at 8pm. Members are free and guests are £5, payable by cash or card. Our topic will be vegetable growing and we hope to be inspired ready for the start of the growing season. If anyone would like more information, please contact Jen Cary [jen@28highstreet.co.uk](mailto:jen@28highstreet.co.uk).

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Feckenham B96 6HS

01527 892188

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*3 real ales on hand pumps every day.*

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**Open at 12 each day**

*Open for drinks all day Friday, Saturday & Sunday*

**Tuesday, 7th February - 8pm**

**TRADITIONAL MUSIC**

**Tuesday, 14th February**

**VALENTINES MENU**

*3 courses & a glass of bubbly - £22*

**Thursday, 23rd February**

**North African Menu**

[www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk](http://www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk)



## THE CAPTAINS CABIN

Feckenham  
B96 6HY

Situated in the heart of the Historic Village of Feckenham the accommodation boasts a king size bed with ensuite shower room, kitchenette,

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## Feckenham Archive - Marion Chute



Feckenham Football Club pavilion circa 1975. Not exactly a beauty spot! The club was established in 1881. They were founder members of the Redditch & District League and were league champions in 1920–21. A hundred years later football is still played on the Recreation ground and the club is thriving.



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## Feckenham Village Shop - Alan Slater

The popularity of the Feckenham Christmas Card really surprised us, we sold our initial stock of 200 cards within a month and had to reorder to meet further demand. Perhaps we shouldn't have been surprised as the winter scene of our picturesque High Street was an ideal festive message to send to families and friends far and wide. This success prompted us to commission the card designer Debbie Watton, to create a range of notelets depicting other Feckenham scenes. Priced at just £1.45 including an envelope, these are now on sale at the Shop. So when you are next visiting us take a look at what Debbie has produced, I'm sure you will be impressed. There are more than a dozen different local



On the subject of success, I am very pleased to report that the shop sales of hand knitted hats and gloves raised a magnificent £440 for Project Morogoro in East Africa. All the

items were created by Margaret Green, one of our Volunteers, who has been supporting this wonderful charity for many years. I understand that she is now feverishly knitting Easter bunnies which the Shop will also be selling on her behalf in a couple of months time.



During these cold, dark and rainy post Christmas days, Spring does seem a long time away, and there isn't much colour to look at in the garden. However if you can't wait for the first daffodils to appear why not purchase some primroses from the Village Shop. Individually potted and produced by a local grower, they will bring some much welcome colour to your patio tubs. Alternatively just pop into the shop for some coffee and cake and to hell with the diet. In this weather we just need cheering up!!

# An Organic Allotment in January by Pete Delaney

## GET DOWN AND DIG IT.

This is the period of the winter I like to fork over most of my plot - when the weather allows. I find that February has enough good days to get some bed preparations done. I understand that some growers are getting good results from the modern 'no dig' methods and when I started up my allotment I did consider growing using 'no dig' however I came to conclude that the main medium, 'the Earth', was right there in front of me so I went down the traditional route of opening the ground and feeding it. I fork compost feed (mostly own made) into beds that either last grew a hungry crop or that I did not feed the year before. There is such a thing as overfeeding, giving the ground an imbalance of nutrients for growing certain crops.

I consider what crop grew on a particular patch - potatoes, cabbages, parsnips and leeks all leave the ground needing a good feed. Usually it can be seen when a bed needs a feed by the soil's condition. Is it clods of mud, or easy to fork with a rich look?

Making a runner beans compost trench is essential at this time of year to give the plant and vegetable matter time to compost.



I am reasonably pleased with our targeting for more winter produce with last summer's sowings and plantings. We are still eating meals in which all of the vegetables are from our plot, namely cabbage, parsnips, leeks, winter radishes, Jerusalem artichokes and, incredibly, lettuce (under a cloche) all straight from the ground, with garlic still hanging up and pickled onions, courgette chutney and pickled beetroot in the kitchen cupboard. Also I have only just finished my dried thyme, but still have dried AND fresh sage as well as dried rosemary. Broad beans and next winter's leeks are sown in trays. I keep them in the poly tunnel, with extra protection of glass or plastic. If it looks to be a frost I cover them with some garden fleece.

On a dry day in February I plant out shallots sets. I do quite a few as they are the source of our pickled onions for next winter. I have had birds pull them from the ground, checking them out as food at this barren time of the year for them. If this happens I just poke them back in the ground and the local bird community seem to learn that they are not a food fit for them. Also at this time I begin chitting potatoes (in a light dry, vermin free place). Starting with Earlys and Second Earlys and soon after (a couple of weeks) I begin chitting the Main Crop. Another job I am up to at this time is fixing up raised bed boxes, and I also burn in a can certain plant material such as tomato stems or cabbage roots that I do not like to go to compost to avoid disease. I let them dry out in a can with a lid until they are suitable to burn. Also this year I am putting smooth plastic on my shed roof so that water can run off in to gutterings and barrels so as to collect more natural water that is without chlorine, fluoride and other additives. Also rain water has many nutrients that are their own plant fertilisers. In February the allotment begins to be the busy place it shall be for the rest of the growing seasons, I enjoy this time of preparation and anticipation.

# Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

## ONE PLANT - BUT MANY NAMES



Some years ago we visited the garden of Philip Aubury (ex Birmingham Botanical Gardens), in Alvechurch. His wife Elisabeth had a stall with some interesting plants and amongst them Diane spotted, and bought, a beautiful variegated succulent named as Echeveria 'Persore Cream'. It spent the rest of the summer in a pot on our patio where it attracted much admiration from our garden visitors. It has formed a large single rosette of pale green leaves with a wide cream margin to each leaf. We decided we needed to know more - easier said than done!

It would appear that Philip and Elisabeth bought their original plant from the Plant Centre at Persore College. However, Margaret Shewell at the College tells us that they didn't give it the cultivar name 'Persore Cream', selling it as *E. glauca* 'Variegata'. Their original plant came, via a colleague, from California in 2006. They only propagated a few, by leaf cuttings, which were sold in the Plant Centre. We couldn't find anything on the internet, it wasn't in the Plant Finder, and no-one else

had heard of anything like it. Diane tried a few leaf cuttings which failed miserably, but then noticed that there were two tiny baby rosettes forming at the base of the stem, perfect as propagation material. Both cuttings rooted well and over the years have themselves produced offsets which have enabled her to produce many more plants.

The mystery of the correct name was finally solved one evening whilst watching a television coverage of the Chelsea Flower Show. One of the featured display stands was a collection of succulents - and there in the middle was what looked very much like our Echeveria. We noted the name of the nursery, contacted them and found that the true and correct name of our plant is in fact Echeveria 'Compton Carousel'.

Since discovering the correct name, I have been able to source much more information. The Californian connection is now confirmed as it was apparently found by David Sheppard, a horticulturalist and garden designer, as a mutant amongst ordinary Echeveria *secunda* in a garden at Compton, south of Los Angeles owned by an elderly lady named Lenora Dean. The plant was originally known as Echeveria *secunda* DS-2009 and sometimes distributed as Echeveria *secunda* 'Lenora Dean' or as 'Lenore Dean'.

Apparently the plant was eventually given, in 2003, to Southfield Nurseries, near Spalding, 'to help propagate' it, and the donor who was a landscape gardener said it had no name, but that 'Compton Carousel' would be appropriate in the light of its origin. In 2008 the plant was awarded the RHS Award of Merit.

Plants offered for sale on the internet seem to command very high prices, and are the Holy Grail of enthusiasts, so our purchase at a local 'open garden' turned out to be not only an interesting detective story, but also a good investment!



Our January event was our annual dinner at The Boot at Flyford Flavell when thirty members enjoyed an excellent meal and a very sociable evening.

## **NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 7:30pm**

Our first meeting at Bradley Green Village Hall this year is a talk by Duncan Coombs entitled 'The Spring Garden'. Duncan has been our speaker many times over the years and he will give us a preview of the many spring flowering plants which we can look forward to in the coming months.

The subject for the monthly competition is 'three winter flowers - the same or different - with foliage'

Membership of the Gardening Club is currently by £5.00 annual subscription which becomes due on 1st January each year, so please come prepared to renew. Please make cheques payable to 'Stock and Bradley Gardening Club'. We welcome new members to join us at any time throughout the year.

*Club meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £5.00 for 2023. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting.*

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

The advertisement features a purple background with a yellow border. On the left, the VIP Fitness logo is displayed, consisting of a stylized white figure and the text 'VIP FITNESS'. The main headline reads 'GET YOUR HEALTH & WELL BEING BACK ON TRACK' in large white letters. Below this, two lines of text describe the service: 'ONE TO ONE TRAINING EXPERT GUIDANCE IN A PRIVATE FACILITY' and 'TAILORED TO YOU ENSURING THAT YOU EXCEED THOSE PERSONAL GOALS'. At the bottom left, it says 'SIGN UP TODAY' in yellow, followed by the website 'WWW.VIPFITNESSONLINE.COM'. At the bottom center, there is a WhatsApp icon and the phone number '07561 549488'. On the right, a photograph shows the interior of a gym with various exercise machines. At the bottom right, there is a small logo and the text 'PRIVATE CLIENT'.

## Feckenham Cricket Club - Bob Gordon

Work to reduce the large bough of the ash tree by the club's pedestrian entrance is still to be scheduled and we will advise when we have a date and time.

In the clubhouse the Christmas Jumper competition on the weekend prior to Christmas was great fun and something that we need to do annually while on New Year's Eve the karaoke party was very popular indeed and highlighted our members' very wide range of singing styles.

We have events scheduled for 2023 to raise funds for new permanent nets. These include a Pre-Season Quiz in the Village Hall on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March (teams of up to 6, £5 per person) - more details will follow, both here and on the village and club Facebook pages.

As the cricket season approaches, our 1st XI will again play in Division 3 of the in the Worcestershire County League and will be competing against: Belbroughton; Himbleton; Barnards Green; Avoncroft; Stourbridge; Martley; Old Elizabethans; Brockhampton; Old Vigornians; Netherton and Lye.

The 2nd XI will play in Division 7 (North) against: Himley; Cleobury Mortimer; Five Ways; Oldswinford; Bromsgrove; Alvechurch & Hopwood; Halesowen; Romsley & Hunnington; Kidderminster; Harborne and Cookhill.

The 3rd XI will play in Division 9 South against: Droitwich Spa 5th XI; Harvington 2nd XI; Malvern 3rd XI; Rushwick 3rd XI; Barnards Green 4th XI; Brockhampton 4th XI and Ledbury 2nd XI.

This year the Marches League Clubs from Herefordshire are being integrated into the

Worcestershire County League lower divisions and our 3rd XI will be playing some of them.

The midweek Feckenham Ramblers team has a full list of Wednesday evening games. At the junior level we will field U9s in festival formats, U12 T20 and Pairs league, U13 T20 and Pairs league, U14 T20 and Pairs league. Coaching and practice sessions take place on Friday evenings, when we will also run eight weeks of ECB All Stars sessions starting at 5:30pm on May 19th.



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