

# FECKENHAM

February 2021

News



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village

Editor: Sasha Furey

[feckenhamnews@gmail.com](mailto:feckenhamnews@gmail.com)

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## Editor's Note

Hello everyone,

We hope you enjoy this latest issue. February looks to be another quiet one, but if it is anything like January we will be able to get out and enjoy our lovely countryside - who knows, we might even get more snow! Wishing everyone the best for February!

Sasha

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**Sasha Furey** - Editor

## Famous February Dates

St. Valentine's Day takes its name from a martyred Christian saint, but there's confusion, as some historians believe the holiday originates from Lupercalia, a pagan Roman festival of fertility. At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I declared that Lupercalia be replaced with St. Valentine's Day. By the 14th C. the day had become associated with love. By the late 1700's commercially printed cards depicted Cupid, the Roman god of love, hearts representing emotion, and birds to herald the coming of spring.

A famous Valentine's Day quote: If I had a flower for every time I thought of you ... I could walk through my garden forever. —Alfred Tennyson

## Front Cover

A view of the hot air balloons on 2nd January captured by Lucie Demetre.

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.

# February Church Services

## PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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

**Church Warden:** Ann Mathews **892180**

**Please contact Wyn for Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals at [wynbeynon@gmail.com](mailto:wynbeynon@gmail.com) or Ann at [ann@the-madison-group.co.uk](mailto:ann@the-madison-group.co.uk)**

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

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

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.

Due to the ongoing pandemic we are still not able to say whether there will be any services in church in February. Up-to-date information can be found on the church noticeboard at the end of Church Walk and on the church website [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18729](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18729)

If you would like to be kept up to date on events in the church and would like to join our e mail mailing list please send your details to [jeff@the-madison-group.co.uk](mailto:jeff@the-madison-group.co.uk)

Every weekday evening at 9.00pm there is a service of Compline on Zoom. Compline is a short contemplative service lasting about 15 minutes. If you would like to join, again e-mail Jeff for the link.



## 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**



# COULD THIS



# BE YOU?

As you know, the current editor of the *Feckenham News* is Sasha Furey. However, when Sasha took on this role, it was on the understanding that this could only be for a short time due to her having to prepare for her school exams/assessments in May, after which she will be embarking on the next stage of her education and career. The April issue of the *Feckenham News*, which is produced during March, will be the last issue with Sasha as editor. As a result we are looking for someone to volunteer to take over from Sasha. Although this may initially sound daunting, there is lots of support to help you 'learn the ropes'. The new person could actually work alongside Sasha in March to produce the April issue and get hands-on experience under her guidance. In addition to Sasha's mentoring, Ian Bellion is happy to give his support. As a final encouragement, it is worth saying that Sasha volunteered to be editor of *Feckenham News* with absolutely no prior experience and has subsequently done a really splendid job in the role. Moreover, she has thoroughly enjoyed the experience. So, the next editor of *Feckenham News*.....Could it be you?

If you are tempted to explore this further, then feel free to give me a bell in the first instance for an informal chat (tel: 892969).

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

## Dog Fouling

The Feckenham Community and News Facebook group has recently been actively discussing this unpleasant subject. Feckenham News has been asked to include a plea to all dog walkers to clean up after their pets. Let's keep the footpaths and pavements of Feckenham clean and pleasant for all to enjoy!

## Newshound

In November, Chloe (29) and Simon (30) Holmes moved next door to the Village Shop from Solihull. They have been overwhelmed with how welcome everyone has made them feel! They fell in love with the house and the village when they first viewed their now home, and can't wait to take part in the many village events when it's safe to do so. You will find them walking their little Romanian rescue dog, Buddy, around the many trails of Feckenham.

Emma, daughter of Jeff and Ann Matthews, and her husband Harry Broadbent-Combe welcomed Annabelle Elizabeth Frances into the world on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020. She weighed in at 6lbs and 4 oz. All doing well, thankfully.

## David Potts

Mr Potts printed Feckenham News in his garage for many years. Just before Christmas, he was tragically killed by a car after carol singing in Cookhill. He was 83. At one time, he printed a number of local Parish magazines and newsletters, including The Feckenham News. We send our deepest sympathies to his family.

Dear Friends,

Our church buildings have been around a long time. The 12thC Feckenham Church with its ancient arches and stones has seen the various civil wars of early England, the plagues, the revolts and uprisings, the whole social change of the post medieval world. And the past 150 years of wars, and social changes... It's no wonder that Christians take a long view of things. We have been around a long time.

That has sometimes made us a bit arrogant... especially when we have been too closely tied to political power. Sometimes we have had too much wealth, as in the middle ages, and sometimes we have held back human flourishing out of fear of change - the place of women, divorce and remarriage and, still continuing, the place of LGBTQI folk. Some Christians were slow to embrace what other pioneering Christians fought for - the abolition of slavery.

Today the Church of England has to take a very modest view of itself as a small presence in a complex world. Our mistakes make us need to be humble. We have got things to share with the world, but having an answer for every political, environmental and economic challenge isn't one of them. It was never about us, it was never about a bunch of human beings after all. It was about a deep and ancient truth, that Love is God's meaning, and we, as God's people must work out what it means to be a people who live in the light of that. That's Good News, and it's all we have to offer, but we gladly share it with everyone.

Best wishes,

Wyn



## May 2021 Flower & Garden Festival

When I last wrote about the forthcoming Flower and Garden Festival due to take place this year in May, I was hopeful that the Coronavirus pandemic would be under control - alas this is very obviously not the case.

With regret, it is now clear that, as a result of the pandemic and the current lockdown, it would be neither sensible nor viable to attempt to hold the Flower and Garden Festival this coming May. Sadly, therefore, we propose to postpone the Festival until the 14th and 15th May next year, when we hope the conditions will be much more favourable for us to host this village event.

I know that many of you have been preparing to open your gardens this year and I am so sorry to disappoint. However, this postponement may, at least, provide more time for everyone to utilise some of their lockdown to enhance their gardens even more, in preparation for a spectacular show next year!

Thank you so much for your continued support and I shall be in touch again with more updates later this year.

Catherine Fisher

**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



The unwelcome news that we are now having to live under greater restrictions, merely serves to underline an increased need for us all to stay and shop local. The purpose of the Feckenham Shop has always been to provide a local retail facility for our village and the surrounding area but with an ethos that a proportion of any profit generated would be reinvested in the village in the form of donations to, or sponsorships of local organisations and events. As I stated last month, we will continue to do just that as opportunities present themselves during the year ahead.

I would, however, like to mention another of the Shop Board's aims. That is to promote local produce and support local suppliers wherever possible. By doing so, we not only receive excellent service but also support the local economy and reduce our carbon footprint. For example most of our fresh produce suppliers are businesses operating within a ten mile radius of the Shop. They supply us with our fruit, vegetables, eggs, meat and deli products, bread, sandwiches and milk. However, during the last few months we've managed to go a step further by promoting items that are actually made in Feckenham. These include:

Our café cakes

Honey

Chocolate Brownies

Floral arrangements

Skin care products

Covid face masks

All have proven popular but a special mention must be given to Margaret Green, one of our

volunteers who made innovative knitted tree decorations and finger puppets that we were able to sell on her behalf. An impressive £339 was raised for her charity (Mission Morogoro), so I hope she has started knitting again in readiness for Christmas 2021. We are proud to state that not only are our Volunteers local, but so are many of the products we sell.

For obvious reasons, we are unable to re-open our café area. Hopefully this situation will change in the not too distant future but in the meantime we are continuing to do a brisk trade in takeaway hot drinks. The Buying Team have asked me to remind you that our shelves are fully stocked with all the essentials you need and our range of fresh produce is delivered throughout the week.

So thanks to you all for continuing to support us during these difficult times as it's never been more necessary to shop safely and shop local.

Alan Slater

Chairman

## SUPPORT THE SHOP THAT SUPPORTS OUR VILLAGE



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### CLOSED BUT CARED FOR...

The Village Hall is now completely closed for the duration of the lockdown. Despite the current situation the Hall continues to be cared for. There are regular inspections and checks and the heating is maintaining a background temperature to ensure there are no freeze ups and to prevent condensation damage. This is aided by a recently installed remote control system. Also recently installed are new LED lighting fittings in both Halls which bring the building into line with current regulations and which will reduce electricity consumption.

Thanks to grants and to the generosity of villagers in contributing to the Improvement Fund, Feckenham Village Hall remains in great condition and will be ready to reopen as soon as restrictions are lifted.

The village will soon have its Nursery back if all goes to plan. A new operator plans to start welcoming children to the Hall in April. This is obviously contingent on the progress made against the Covid-19 problem. There'll be more details in these pages as soon as we have them.

### DRAW

The Village Hall's Improvement Fund Draw for January was made at the meeting of The Trustees on 5th January.

#### Winners:

166	Alan Smith	£25
115	Enid Whitehead	£15
28	Harold Richrdson	£10

### THANKS

Because the Square Committee's annual Carols on The Square event couldn't take place, Ian Ridley, the Committee's Chairman, offered one of his paintings for sale in aid of the usual beneficiary of the evening's collection - the West Midlands Air Ambulance. The picture was reproduced on the cover of the December edition of Feckenham News. The offer was quickly snapped up and another person was so impressed that they commissioned Ian to paint a similar one. This, combined with some individual donations, resulted in a grand total of £480 being sent to the charity. The Committee is most grateful to those who generously supported Ian's initiative.

### TREE SAFETY

Tree experts have completed their three yearly report on the safety of the trees on The Square. Little of concern was found apart from some deadwood in one of the oaks. This has now been removed and further minor works to some of the other trees will be carried out during the Spring.

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Now that a rather muted Christmas and New Year are behind us the club finds itself in that dead time in which we are waiting temperatures to rise and rainfall to reduce (that part is always unpredictable). At this time of year I always find that the outdoors looks rather sad and dishevelled as winter is in command.

Over the Christmas period we did have some heavy rain which completely submerged the field that sits the other side of the stream. I was heartened to see that our ground had just a few puddles in the usual places north of the car park towards the Whirly Hole, which suggests that the work carried out in in 2020 on stream clearing and on aerating the playing surface was effective.

The clubhouse has been closed for business since early November but due to the sub-zero temperatures in late-December and early January, a heater has been switching itself on and off by a timer in order that the chance of water pipes freezing is reduced. So far, so good.

We are of course now under another national lockdown and so we are all limited – rightly – in what we are permitted to do. In the previous hiatuses the English Cricket Board (ECB) advised that the ground could still be maintained, with social distancing being observed, so I anticipate that something similar will be confirmed soon.

Over the winter we discussed facilities at the club and reached the conclusion that we need good-quality “permanent” practice nets, that can be used by all ages of player. As these are pretty expensive, we have started raising funds and earlier in January, Richard Eost ran another of his legendary online quizzes. Nearly 50 teams took part and over £700 was raised. Well done Richard, I don’t know how you find the time.

I asked our long-standing Head Groundsman, Steve Daniels, to comment on the state of the ground and this was his reply.

*“Unfortunately rain, snow, frost and ice have all*

*been very prevalent this past month and therefore it has not been possible or advisable to work on pitches or outfield. As soon as the temperature rises and the field begins to dry we will trim the square and apply a winter fertiliser to feed the grass.*

*Fingers crossed that the early months of 2021 don’t suffer the floods and storm damage that so badly affected us last year.*

*When the field is suitably dry we look forward to using the gang mowers that Bob Gordon and Rob Banner have spent some hours renovating. The smell of freshly cut grass usually means the cricket season is not too far off (COVID restrictions allowing).”*

And finally, a man goes to see the doctor. “You’ve got to help me,” he said. “I think I’m a cricket ball.” “How’s that?” says the doctor. The man answers, “Don’t you start ...”

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# January in Pictures

Feckenham Community & News  
Facebook Group

On the 2nd January, hot air balloons had flown from Cookley (which is north of Kidderminster). The pilots were David Bareford and Jonathon Tyrell - part of the team that often flies from the recreation ground as part of The Wake.



Rosemary Carter

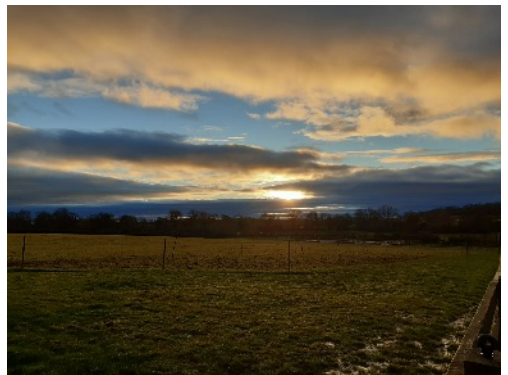


Richard Dormer



Chloe Hughes

January has also seen some gorgeous sunsets, captured by Wendy Powell whilst tending to her horses:



There has also been a fascinating stream of old photos and postcards of the village, making all of us imagine what life was like back then. The people in some of the photos have even been identified!



A postcard of the High Street next to the Square (posted by Jay Neale)



The Lygon will soon open its doors for takeaway only, having restored the pub and its former name. (Posted by Jay Neale)

## The Feckenham News Archive

Ian Hunter

In the last issue Mark Wheatley paid tribute to Jane White for her editorship of this journal since 1987. During that time Jane has maintained an archive of all editions and with her imminent move to Bristol she is seeking a new home for it. I am pleased to report that the Worcestershire Archive at The Hive in Worcester have agreed to accept deposit of this archive.

This archive is complete from April 1983 (apart from August 1985) and if anyone has copies of before that time I would be pleased to hear from you.

In the Church's own archive we have copies of the *Feckenham Parish Magazine* from 1986-87. There are odd examples of the *Deanery of Feckenham Messenger* from 1950 and 1961 and then in the 1970s there was the *Feckenham, Stock & Bradley News*. It would appear that the *Feckenham News* in its present form emerged in 1983 following the departure of the Revd Herbert Bill in 1983.

Ian Hunter 01527 402360

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## AWARD WINNERS!

We're delighted to report that Swansbrook Radio is the winner of a Bronze Award (Best Digital Station of the year) at the Community Radio Awards 2020. Feckenham's local station beat off a strong field to take the trophy with the judges noting Swansbrook's strong commitment to the community and its high programme and technical standards. The entire team is delighted that their efforts have been recognised in this way - though the delight is tinged with sadness. The success of the station and of the submission to the awards has been driven by the enthusiasm and skill of Stuart Knowles who sadly died last August. The award is a fitting tribute to his efforts.

## AUDIENCE FIGURES UP!

Swansbrook Radio has achieved record audience figures recently. Particularly gratifying has been the response to a couple of special events in the form of the relayed Nine Lessons and Carols and the summer's Wake Night Party. On both occasions the audience graph shot to record breaking heights - obviously there is a desire for live village occasions. If you have any ideas for similar special occasion broadcasts please do let us know at [radio@swansbrook.com](mailto:radio@swansbrook.com)

## JUST ANOTHER WORD

Colin James has embarked on a brand new series. Each week Colin takes a word - and themes his entire show around it - so, if you want to challenge him by suggesting a word, just email him at [colin@swansbrook.com](mailto:colin@swansbrook.com)

## The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society Ian Bellion



## HANGING ON IN THERE...

Sadly, under the current lockdown regulations, the silver screen remains dark. The FeckenOdeon team are monitoring the situation closely and will take the earliest opportunity to bring the magic of the movies back to Feckenham's village picture palace.

## 2020 Poppy Appeal Janice Briney

Rous Lench and Inkberrow Royal British Legion branch would like to thank all those who contributed towards the £ 2864.10 raised for the Poppy Fund in 2020. This amount includes poppy boxes in shops, schools, businesses and individual donations. Sadly, due to COVID-19 restrictions, our loyal band of house-to-house donation collectors were not able to do this nor were they able to hold annual Poppy Events during the year, which has greatly reduced the amount we normally raise.

Janice Briney, Chairman

The village has had a proud and successful connection with the football club going back over 100 years. The first photograph we have is the team from 1920 which I believe may have been taken in the garden of the Rose and Crown public house .



The reputation and success of the football club grew as can see from the trophy haul of the 1962 team with a young Roger Hawkes as a mascot, who went on to play many times for the club.



It was around this time in 1963 the work on the club house and changing rooms began.

The trustees of the first club were Arthur Davis, Sidney Pearce and Charles Baylis, all of whom lived in the village. Mr Baylis was a prominent figure in local football and had a trophy named in his honour which was hotly contested by local clubs. His family still live in the village to this date. It was the one trophy Feckenham wanted to win each year. The club moved on collecting more trophies and moving up what would be known today as the league pyramid.

By 1986, the club house as we see it today. It was built by local builders Hawkes and Bubb, and they along with Albert Chatterly and Kevin Baylis became the new trustees and oversaw the progress of the club.

A decision was taken by Redditch council in 2013 after discussion with the Parish council to limit game time to Saturday morning and Sunday



morning, which forced the Saturday teams away from Feckenham. At the time of the restrictions placed on the club they were fielding a first team and a reserve team who played in the local village league.

## PRESENT

The club still has a team which plays in local football and play games against other local teams from Inkberrow, Badsey, Astwood Bank to name a few.

It was always a great spectacle down Mill Lane ground when Astwood Bank came to visit. Sadly due to the restriction, the team plays its home games in Studley.

We have a thriving junior section with teams up to the age of 16. Sadly, we lose these lads at 16 as we can not offer youth football so they move on to other clubs.

Due to the sudden death of Mr Hawkes who did so much for the club and the retirement of some of the existing trustees, new trustees have been appointed. Thankfully Mr Bubb has remained the chairman, they are busy refurbishing the club and hope later in the year to be able to offer it as a suitable venue for use of the village community.



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