

FECKENHAM

FEBRUARY 2020

News



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village
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A. Pullen

• MEMORIALS •

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FEBRUARY Diary



Tues 4 th	12.30pm	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Wed 5 th	7.30pm	Stock & Bradley Gardening Club	Bradley Village Hall
Fri 7 th	8pm	FeckenOdeon-2	Back Room Village Hall
Tues 11 th	7.30pm	Feckenham Forest History Society	Feckenham Village Hall
Wed 12 th	10 - 1	Age UK pop up event	Village Shop
Wed 12 th	10.30 - 12	Drop In for Coffee and a chat.	Parish Church
Thur 13 th	7.30pm	Feckenham WI	Village Hall, Back Room
Sun 23 rd	3pm	Flower & Garden Festival 2021 meeting	Back Room Village Hall
Wed 26 th	10.30 - 12	Drop In for Coffee and a chat.	Parish Church
Sat 29 th	7.30pm	FeckenOdeon	Village Hall
MARCH			
Sun 7 th		"The Victorians"	Village Hall
Wed 18 th	6.30pm	Fashion Show	Bradley Village Hall
Sat 21 st	9.30- 4.30	Art, Design & Makers Group	Village Hall Back Room

Contents

Art, Design & Makers	p8
Charity Football Match	p14
Church Services	p4
Churchyard	p6
Cricket Club	p16
Drop In restarts	p5
FeckenOdeon	p12
Flower & Garden Festival 2021	p5
Fashion Show	p9
Gardening Club	p17
Local Interest	p13
Recycling	p14
Small Ads	p5
Swansbrook Radio	p12
Square Management	p15
Thanks	p6
Thought for the Month	p9
Village Hall	p13
Village Shop	p7
W.I.	p18

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Front Cover

A Mill Lane Robin

Photo by Ian Bellion



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.

Church Services FEBRUARY

PARISH CHURCH
of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



Priest-in-Charge: Rev Wyn Beynon **07595 313035**

Parish Administrator Wychebrook Parishes & assistant Minister: Angela Kovacevic
01527 861247 or 07808 708428 email: angelakov2202@gmail.com

Please contact for Weddings, Baptism & Funerals

Church website: www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk **Email:** info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

Readers and Intercessors

Sunday 2nd

Candlemas

11.00am

Holy Communion

Malachi 3: 1-5
Hebrews 2: 14-1
Intercessions

Tony Mortimer
Tricia Mortimer
Cyril Warrilow



Sunday 9th

3rd Sunday
before Lent

8.00am

BCP Eucharist

1 Corinthians 9:24

Antonia Pulsford

11.00am

Maggs Day Centre – Val Turner

Intercessions

Erica Dilger

Sunday 16th

6.30pm

Sung Evensong

Genesis 1: 1-2.3
Matthew 6: 25-35
Intercessions

Stephen Cox
Vanda Cookes
John Calvert

Sunday 23rd

11.00am

Holy Communion

Exodus 14: 12-18 Ian Hunter
2 Peter 1: 16-21 Margaret Perryman
Intercessions Mark Wheatley

Feckenham Roman Catholic Church

St John Fisher & St. Thomas More



Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 10.15am in the Church

Fr. Anthony Rohan, The Presbytery, Redditch. Tel. 01527 63096

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

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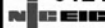
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Breaking News for a New Year

Marg Eost

Drop-In has started again.

Our first one was on 15th January. We meet in the back room of the church from 10.30 to 12 noon. It will take place every fortnight and we welcome all age groups and genders.



Come and join us for coffee/tea biscuits and a friendly chat. A great way to meet people if you are new to Feckenham. Looking forward to seeing you. The next date is Wednesday 12th February.

If you want more information ring me on 893735.

Flower & Garden Festival 2021

Cathy Fisher

MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL MAY 2021

With next year's Festival on the horizon I would like to invite all garden owners who have opened in the past and those who might like to open in the future, members of the Flower Group and the WI, all volunteers and anyone else who may be interested, to tea/coffee and biscuits in the back room of Village Hall at 3pm on Sunday 23rd February 2020.

I hope that this 'get together' will provide the perfect opportunity to confirm the Festival weekend date, for further discussion and Any feedback from you all. It will also be great To catch up!

If you are unable to join us but would like to express any views or thoughts, please send an email to: catherine.fisher@talk21.com

Hope to see you all on the 23rd February

Small Ads.



Barn Storage or Garaging required.

I plan to move to Feckenham later this year and need somewhere very local to store my 1935 Raleigh Safety Seven car. Originally my grandfather's, this heirloom only sees light of day, on it's trailer, to go to the very occasional car show - like Feckenham's own show at the Wake a couple of years ago. Ideally, we would also like to dry store a VW T2 Camper van, which gets used occasionally over the summer months. Space is tight, even with our new garage! Please contact me, Martin Strange, on 07976 543201 or martin@strangefamily.org.uk Or Gilly Cooper at 19 The Square 07500 115581

To Rent

A five bed detached property in Turton Gardens available to rent from 1st February for short or long term let. Use of a garage - ample parking. Two bedrooms are ensuite. Well appointed family accommodation. Good sized and maintained gardens front/rear (countryside/playing field views). Modern kitchen. Recently re-windowed and benefits from Solar Panel electricity. Alarmed. For further details, please contact Rev Gary Crellin on 01905 830270 for agent or further details.

The Churchyard

Jeff Matthews

Plans for the next year

- and can you help?

As ever, we are very grateful for the support we get from folk in keeping the Churchyard tidy and well maintained. After many years, Brian Robson is standing down from putting together the grass cutting rota and generally coordinating activity, which I have said I will take on. So, if you think you can spare a couple of hours to cut grass, then please let me know and I can get you onto the list. From the numbers I have it should be a maximum of twice. You can reach me at jeff@the-madison-group.co.uk or 07976 921106.

We also plan to have 4 Saturday's in the year for a Churchyard task group, to keep on top of those jobs that need doing like clearing ivy, pruning, trimming, clearing and various other perennial tasks. The dates for those are: Saturday 7th March, 6th June, 12th Sept and Jan 9th '21. Be great to see you there.

With the support of the PCC and Friends of Feckenham Church, the aim is to make the churchyard even more of a community resource, in particular an oasis for wildlife, so this year our plans include:

- Creation of three wild meadow areas in Churchyard by restricting the mowing
- We will stop use of pesticides and encourage wildflowers
- Creating various habitats – see if you can spot the new bug hotel that Alan Moore has built, together with areas with planned piles of rotting wood, and vegetation corridors. It does mean certain areas will be left deliberately wild
- Putting up bird boxes for various species. Alan will be doing this and indeed, if you'd like a birdbox put up for you, or to sponsor one for a child or grandchild and keep track of what lives in it, we'd love to hear from you.

- Creation of three new grass bins, and moving of the two old ones.
- Creation of new (but small) car parking area to the left of the Church door
- Worcestershire Wildlife have carried out an initial survey walk of the churchyard, and to do a species audit in later Spring.
- Re-instate hedge where gap at North border with Cricket club
- Add more benches and areas for seating, together with a leaflet on the history and wildlife of the Churchyard
- Begin restoring the Plinth Tombs
- Renovate the path from the North Door

And we'll look to keep you up to date on what's happening and what's been spied in the Churchyard. So, if you fancy a seat for a quiet moment, you'll find one in the Churchyard. If you'd like to be involved, let me know, Jeff Matthews



Rous Lench & Inkberrow Royal British Legion inc. Feckenham

Thanks

Rous Lench and Inkberrow Royal British Legion branch would like to thank all those who contributed to the £9100.24 raised for the Poppy Fund in 2019. This amount includes poppy boxes in shops and businesses, individual donations and our loyal band of house to house poppy collectors. Also included are proceeds from our three coffee mornings and Remembrance Service Collection.
Chris Bonehill, Poppy Co-ordinator.

Village Shop

Jenny Mason

Just a short reminder about the Age UK pop up event in the shop on the morning of Wednesday 12th February which will be of interest to anyone needing help for themselves or a relative/friend or neighbour. See *opposite*.

We have a very good special offer 2 bottles of Barefoot Wine, 3 types including their gold medal winning red at £12. A great party buy is a 10 can box of Thatchers Gold Cider for £11, and for soft drinks there's a wide range of delicious Belvoir Fruit Presse's & Codials, plus many flavours of Fever-Tree tonic water.

There's a new range of Franks loaf cakes - Dark Ginger, Crunchy Lemon, Cherry Delight, Bara Brith and Chocolate Fudge, and 2 new biscuits Franks Luxury Apple & Cinnamon and Double Chunk Butter Bite at £2.05 per box.

Don't forget Valentines Day on Friday 14th February we shall be stocking cards and gifts for the occasion.




Can't think what to do with your garden?
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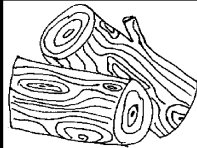
 07773 101750 or 01527 894745

Local charity Age UK Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest (Age UK BRWF), which provides support and services for people aged 50+, is holding a **'Pop Up Information & Advice Surgery'** at **Feckenham Village Shop** on **Wednesday 12th February 2020 (10am-1pm)**.

Having access to information and advice that we can trust and help us make informed decisions is especially important as we get older which is why core to Age UK BRWF is its free and confidential Information and Advice (I&A) service. Age UK BRWF's I&A team are trained to help people on a range of topics, including social care, benefits and pension advice, staying safe, warm and independent at home, as well as support for carers.

As part of the 'surgery' on the 12th, an Age UK BRWF I&A Advisor will be available in the Village Shop to talk to and provide information and advice to local residents, plus there will be an opportunity to find out more about the charity's work.

For more information about the 'Pop Up' I&A surgery and the charity's support and services, please contact Jo Hughes at Age UK BRWF on 01527 868855 or visit www.ageuk.org.uk/brwf/



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More Breaking News for a New Year Cate Statham

Monthly Art, Design & Makers Group Starting

When: -

Monthly commencing Sat. 21st March

Time: -

9.30am-4.30pm

Where: -

Back Room of the Village Hall

Are you creative but don't give your art and design as much time as you'd like? Maybe you struggle to find the time on a weekly basis? Maybe you are nervous of "having a go" or rekindling an old hobby or skill? Perhaps an hour or two in the evenings isn't long enough to get your teeth into a project? If so then this is the club for you!

The Art, Design & Makers Group is beginning for those creatives, whether in art, design or making, who would like to meet once a month for a full day to improve their practice, experiment and work on their projects. It will be a space to cross-pollinate ideas and skills in a fun relaxed environment.

This is perfect for those who would like to meet like-minded people, learn from each other and have the opportunity to try out new techniques or simply improve those you already have. Starting out I am aiming to keep it as affordable as possible for people just to cover the cost of the hall, but if there is appetite I'd be interested in getting in tutors to give demos or tuition in certain skills, arrange models or similar to suit what people want to do and learn.

Please contact Cate Statham to register your interest or for any queries.

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cate@hawkesedwards.com



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Thought for the month

Rev. Wyn Beynon

Dear Friends,

The snowdrops are just coming out on the grass bank between the churchyard and Hanbury road. There are 6 or 7 weeks of meteorological winter until spring starts on 1st march. The weather might have different ideas, of course.

The Christmas decs are long gone and the trees off to be chipped. But the Nativity scenes stayed up in Church until the 2nd February and the Feast of Candlemas.

Both the snowdrops and the Nativity scenes are simple signs that all is not what it seems. It's a grey windy and chilly winter's day as I write this. But beneath the surface things are stirring in the hope that the lengthening days will bring the necessary warmth and the strengthening light will work its magic and cook the seeds and soil into the amazing dish we call spring.

All around are lots of worrying news stories. Barely a fortnight old, already 2020 has brought us the reality of what climate change really means in Australia and the increasing chance of major conflict in the Persian Gulf which could, in fact, engulf us all. As I write things have quietened down between Iran and the U.S. and at the same time we look at the return of a functioning Stormont optimistically.

By the time you read this we shall have officially left the E.U. But now one knows what that will actually mean.

In the parish many people struggle with health issues and we hear bad news and some good.

The recent election should have reminded us all that politicians are just human beings with none of the magic of snowdrops. Sometimes they get it right. Often they don't. Snowdrops always get it right.

The Church, as a human institution, lurches into a new decade still split over many things, not least human sexuality.

In short, things are just as they have always been, and if we want to look for meaning (something many have given up doing) then we might need to look more at the snowdrops than at the human institutions of government or Church. Both are made up of you and me, one way or another, and we need to find our connection with the snowdrops, with the soil, with the living earth. We are made of the dust. So science tells us. So the Jewish-Christian tradition tells us too.

Hope is right here, right now. I is in silence more than noise. it is i listen in rather than talking. Let that hope empower our 2020s.

Best wishes,

Wyn

FUND RAISING FASHION SHOW

18th March at 6.30/7pm

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WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

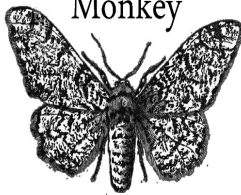


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Phone bookings: 0333 666 3366

Feckenham Readers Group



Wednesday, 12th February - 7.45

This Month: OUT STEALING HORSES

by PER PETERSEN

Details from Marion Chute - 892285

Feckenham Forest History Society

HEREWARD

THE WAKE

The Last True Englishman?

Talk by Max Keen

Tuesday, 11th February - 7.30pm

Webheath Village Hall

www.feckenham-forest-history-society.org.uk



Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB

COLOUR THROUGH THE SEASONS

With Simon Gulliver

Wednesday, 5th February

7.30pm - Bradley Village Hall

the **WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN

FECKENHAM WI

At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

An introduction to NEEDLE FELTING

With Jackie Berry

Thursday, 13th February - 7.30pm

Visitors Welcome at all meetings - £4

Feckenham's Own...



Listen at
www.swansbrook.com

SWANSBROOK Radio

ORGANISERS: did you realise that listings on these pages are FREE for Feckenham voluntary organisations? Just e-mail or phone in the details of your event - contact details are at the bottom of this page

PHOTOGRAPHERS: We're always on the lookout for good quality pictures for our front cover. Send picture files to the e-mail address below. (300dpi minimum in portrait format only).

Send details of events for FREE listing to: whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk or call 892130

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

THE
FECKENODEON CINEMA
SOCIETY

Vanessa REDGRAVE

Timothy SPALL

MRS **LOWRY** & SON

CLASS: PG TBC



FeckenOdeon 2 - Friday, 7th February at 8pm

ROBERT REDFORD - FAYE DUNAWAY



FeckenOdeon 1 - Saturday, 29th February at 7.30pm

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FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

Ian Bellion



WHERE THERE'S MUCK...

Mrs Lowry must be spinning in her grave at the news that a hitherto undiscovered painting by her son, L.S.Lowry, has recently been sold at auction for £2.6 million. In this month's FeckenOdeon 2 film Vanessa Redgrave plays the disproving Mrs Lowry and Timothy Spall plays the artist forever battling against his mother's vitriolic putdowns. In **"Mrs Lowry & Son"** we enter the world of one of the UK's greatest artists at the time when he was working as a rent collector - and struggling to rise above maternal jealousy of his "hobby". Two of our greatest actors give virtuoso performances in this moving and often funny film.

"MRS LOWRY & SON"

Friday, 7th February at 8pm



MURDEROUS CONDOR...

CIA office worker Robert Redford comes back from lunch to find that everyone in his office has been murdered. When an attempt is made on his life, he finds himself on the run from both the CIA and the police. Faye Dunaway is the woman who got caught up in the intrigue. A tense, intelligent thriller from Sydney Pollack - now fully restored to high definition crispness.

"THREE DAYS OF THE CONDOR"

Saturday, 29th February at 7.30pm

Tickets for all FeckenOdeon shows 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



SHIRLEY AND MICK JAGGER

Not many Feckenham residents can claim to have got up close and personal with the Rolling Stones - but Shirley Harman can. How close and how personal? Well, you'll just have to listen to Shirley **"In Conversation"** on Swansbrook Radio to find



out. In this hour of chat and music she tells us about her childhood in Wales and abroad, her part in the Mersey scene of the swinging sixties, how she came to Feckenham and why she stayed - not to mention her dramatic appearances on stage (pictured above in a village panto). Shirley's is a story of a life filled with joy and tinged with sadness - but lived to the full - here in Feckenham. Listen to "In Conversation" with Shirley Harman at swansbrook.com

SPECIAL REPORT

Local planning issues are often regarded as the proverbial storm in a teacup - but when things start happening nearby that upset villagers Swansbrook Radio plunges into the fray. When it was noticed that work had been started on land on Berrow Hill Lane without planning permission concerned neighbours contacted Swansbrook and we started to investigate. We spoke to both sides and got a report on the air straightaway - you can hear it at swansbrook.com now - and it'll be updated as the controversy develops.

LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Just go to www.swansbrook.com and follow the instructions you'll find there. **Listen to what you like when and where you like - as often as you like.**

FECKENHAM'S OWN Local Radio
www.swansbrook.com

Village Hall

Ian Bellion



NAKED IN PARADISE

How do they cope with a naked man in paradise? What do you do with a returning convict? Where can you get a wife for a shilling? What is a Manchester moth? Just a few of the questions that may be answered in **“The Victorians”** which comes to Feckenham on **Sunday, 7th March**. Fascinating tales and scintillating songs about life in the Victorian era are genially delivered by the musicians and storytellers of electro-folk band **Harp and a Monkey** - who describe themselves as “purveyors of quality original songs and stories”. The show has recently been featured on BBC Radio 2 and the band has been picking up “Best Band” and “Band of the Year” awards throughout the last couple of years. Certainly talent on the way up - catch them on the way to stardom!

A Live and Local (formerly Shindig) event.

Tickets for this show are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown, by phone on 0333 666 3366 (local call rates) and online at www.feckhall.org

LUCKY DIP

The Village Hall's **Improvement Fund Draw for January** was made at the meeting of The Trustees on 7th January. Members of the public are always welcome at the meetings which are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 8pm. Winners:

January:	42 Paul & Jill Richards	£25
	78 Moira Woolley	£15
	157 Susan Lisle	£10

Local Matters

After putting this information in the January magazine I have discovered one reader at least has made use of the service to get to and from Droitwich. It can give you almost 2 hours there. Using to get to Redditch would give you 3 hours there. Perhaps not so useful for Ridgeway Surgery however as your appointment would have to be on Tuesday or Thursday after 10am and finished by 1.10pm.

BUS SERVICE 354

Service runs on
Tuesdays and Thursdays only

Droitwich/ Hanbury/ Feckenham/ Redditch

Droitwich Spa		
Omersley Street East (Stop 2)	09:30	12:30
Droitwich Spa,		
adj Ludlow House	09:32	12:32
Hanbury Wharf,		
opp Eagle & Sun	09:35	12:35
Mere Green, opp Crossroads	09:38	12:38
Hanbury, opp Vernon Arms	09:40	12:40
Bradley Green, adj B. Court	09:43	12:43
Feckenham, adj The Square	09:45	12:45
Astwood Bank, adj Church	09:50	12:50
Redditch Bus Stn. (Stand F)	10:03	13:03

Redditch/ Feckenham/ Hanbury/ Droitwich

Redditch Bus Stn.(Stand F)	10:10	13:10
Astwood Bank, opp Church	10:23	13:23
Feckenham, opp The Square	10:28	13:28
Bradley Green, opp Bradley Ct.	10:30	13:30
Hanbury, adj Vernon Arms	10:33	13:33
Mere Green, adj Crossroads	10:35	13:35
Hanbury Wharf adj Eagle & Sun	10:38	13:38
Droitwich Spa, opp		
Ludlow House	10:41	13:41
Droitwich Spa, adj Waitrose	10:42	13:42
Droitwich Spa		
Omersley St. East (Stop 2)	10:46	13:46

Annual Charity Football Match



In what is becoming an annual event, a bunch of local dads and friends hit the football pitch to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK. Richard Eost and Ed Chute collected a motley crew of mixed ability footballers to run off some Christmas excess in a good cause on a grey day between Christmas and New Year. With the support of Feckenham Football Club, they raised an impressive £460 and enjoyed a fun afternoon in the mud!

**Opportunity to
be more green**



I thought a New Year reminder about the recycling of your empty toothpaste tubes, old plastic toothbrushes and their wrappers, also the heads off electric tooth brushes too, even old Tepees or equivalent, was a good idea.

There is a recycling bin for them available for everyone in the community to use, in reception at Feckenham First School. Our dentist also has one, so maybe yours does too. They accept any brand but please no dental floss boxes. All these items are currently non-recyclable through your green bin system.

If you are unable to get these items to school during their opening hours you can drop them through the letter box of Iona Ratcliffe at 9 Alcester Road. Funds from this go to schools and organisations.

Editor

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Square Management Committee

YULETIDE BOUNTY

Christmas Eve's **Carols On The Square** attracted record numbers of revelers who joined in the singing with gusto, consumed mince pies and mulled wine with relish and contributed to the charity collection with great generosity. A record £840 was raised for the County Air Ambulance - the money was dropped into collecting buckets rattled around the Square by a team of merry Santas.

The evening kicked off with a bang as Paul Sawbridge Nicholson ceremonially pressed the plunger to light the tree. Many gallons of mulled wine disappeared, many hundreds of mince pies were munched - and Feckenham was the only place in the Midlands to receive a dusting of slightly sudsy snow.

The Square Committee puts on this annual "welcome to Christmas" as a thank you gesture to the village for the support given to its efforts to maintain the village's centrepiece. We're grateful to all who helped to make the event such a success. In particular to Phil Talbot (ladder monkey), Phil Tricklebank (head choirboy), Karen Heard and Claire Fowler (angelic voices), Judy Underwood, Linda Harris & Barbara Masters (wine ladlers), Alan Moore (power supply and switch master), Jane Bull (wallet opener), Maxine Melson (Head Pie Warmer).

Committee members are: Ian Ridley (Chair), Ian Bellion (Secretary and MC), Barry Hamilton (Vice-Chair and wine porter), Judy Hooker (loaves and fishes), Alan Smith (Head of Snow and noises), Dawn Southwell (Treasurer and Cup Caker), Peter Masters and Slade Arthur (bucket rattlers), Tim Mayneord (Transport and Saws).

The Christmas Tree was generously donated by Mrs Bird and was felled and transported by Richard Dormer. The Committee is also very grateful to all those (too numerous to mention) who made or donated mince pies and cakes.

Unless something catastrophic happens, the Committee intends to do it all again on the same date in 2020 - so pop it in your diary now - **Carols On The Square, 24th December, 2020.**



Two merry bucket rattlers - Slade Arthur and Peter Masters (Photo: Maxine Melson)

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Feckenham C. C.

Bob Gordon



We find ourselves in the year 2020 and personally I find that very satisfying. The number 2020 is nicely symmetrical and tidy, which just suits me fine after the prime number appearance of 2019. Does that matter? Of course not, but if the decade brings better news than we seem to have had in recent years we will all I think be happier. Unfortunately that old doom-monger Nostradamus has some pretty dire predictions for this year, including:

- The death of our Queen
- World War 3
- The assassination of President Putin
- Donald Trump will suffer from a mysterious disease
- Boris Johnson's hair will fall out

And much more of equally apocalyptic nature. I did of course made up the last one but have a feeling that it will be as accurate as the predictions from Nostradamus.

At the turn of the year, the cricket season somehow feels a lot closer than it did pre-Christmas. It takes a little imagination to visualise leather on willow at present with the ground still very very damp and no imminent sign of dryer conditions, but the sight of a junior player and his dad practicing in the nets earl in January did raise spirits.

When cricket does resume in April, the club will be in our 61st year and it is interested to reflect on the world as it was back in 1959 at its foundation. For example. Henry Cooper became British and European heavyweight boxing champion, Buddy Holly died in a plan crash, the Mini car first appeared on the roads and postcodes were introduced.

The world of cricket itself in 1959 included India visiting the country to play a 5-match test series against England.

The England team were full professionals, while Indian players had to take time off work to go on tour, a far cry from the money-laden Indian Premier League! The series was a mis-match

and India lost all five Tests by large margins, and their batsmen looked completely out of their depth against England's pace attack, led by "fiery" Fred Trueman and Brian Statham.

At the end of the series English critics and newspapers were agreed that India did not deserve the honour of a full tour and for decades it was limited to playing three or four tests and sharing the summer with another touring team.

After playing 27 matches, the Indian team and officials returned home on a 2-week journey by sea, having made a profit of £5,000 on the tour, a good amount of money in those days.

It was 2014 before another 5-test series against India took place in England.

Back at the club's ground, persistent rain has made the ground too saturated to carry out the usual aeration procedure on the pitches. This usually takes place in the autumn or winter using a vertical spiking machine that punches holes into the turf to a depth of 5 inches – this is to relieve compaction of the soil and enable oxygen to get to the grass roots to reinvigorate the grass before the new season starts.

However, we finally managed to apply winter fertiliser to the pitches at the beginning of January.

This type of fertiliser is high in potassium and phosphates which strengthen the root mass of the plant and is low in nitrogen, which can produce an undesirable spurt of soft leaf growth that is then prone to fungal diseases that may kill the plant. Iron sulphate is also included and this inhibits the spread of moss which is a problem when wet conditions persist.

We hope to see the benefit of this work in March and April.

Hopefully we will soon be able clear the bonfire site and deal with a with a fallen tree at the top of the field. We also need a dry period in which to clear the stream that runs along the North side of the pitch.

Looking ahead to next season, we are constantly seeking players so: If you are interested in playing for Feckenham Cricket Club at any level, please contact Nick Reddish on 07802 212125.

Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

Rob Cole

NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 5th February at 7.30pm Our speaker is Simon Gulliver, and he will give a talk entitled 'Colour Through the Seasons'. Simon is the Gardens and Parks consultant for the north-west region of the National Trust. He worked for the Birmingham Botanical Gardens for 10 years and for Plant Heritage, based at Kew.

For this meeting, the theme for our members' monthly competition will be 'Five Snowdrop Flowers - the same or five different'. Our speaker will act as judge, and every entry will win a point, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd will be awarded additional points. The member with the most number of points in the year will then be awarded a prize of a £20 gift token at the December 2020 meeting.

Please note that the £5.00 annual subscription becomes due on 1st January 2020, and that because we met for the dinner event in January, unpaid subscriptions should now be paid at the February meeting. Please make cheques payable to 'Stock and Bradley Gardening Club'.

The following event - Wednesday 4th March at 7:30pm Our speaker is Timothy Walker who will give us a talk entitled 'The Subtle and Exact Art of Pruning'.

The theme for the members' monthly competition will be 'A Small Arrangement from my Garden'.

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 £5.00 for 2020. 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 01527 821156.

Feckenham W.I.

Glenda Smith



Our first meeting of the year was held on Thursday 9th January. Our president Linda wished everyone a happy new year. After business was dealt with, our speaker for the evening was David Wornham. He entertained us with his talk and video on the River Salwarpe. 'From the Lickey Hills to the River Severn'. This proved to be popular with members as we followed its journey from the source, a spring in a private garden at the Lickey Hills, through Catshill, Saunders Park, Webb's, the Chateau Impney and Salwarpe to the village of Hawford where it joins the River Severn.

This was followed by social time & light refreshments. Members were reminded of our annual winter lunch at the Rose & Crown & names were taken of people interested in Wall Climbing at Worcester, a theatre visit and a visit to Envirosort Recycling Centre. The WI really is what you make it, friendship, information and fun.

This month's meeting is on Thursday 13th February in the back room of the Village Hall at 7.30 when our speaker will be Jackie Berry giving us an "Introduction to needle felting", with a talk and demonstration with an opportunity to make a heart.

Visitors very welcome £4.

OUTINGS

11th March - 'Orpheus in the Underworld' at The Palace, Redditch.

Contact Vivien Hunter 01527 402360



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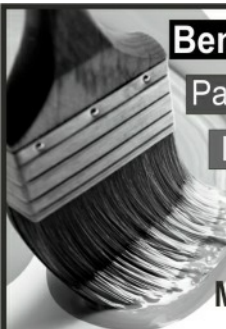
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