

FECKENHAM



FEBRUARY 2016

News

Published by Feckenham Church for the Village
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FEBUARY Diary



Tues 2nd	12.30am	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Wed 3rd	7.30pm	Stock & Bradley Gardening Club	Bradley Village Hall
Sat 6th	7.30pm	“End to End”	Village Hall
Tues 9th	7.30pm	Feckenham Forest History Society	Feckenham Village Hall
Wed 10th	2 - 4 pm	Defibrillator Train- ing	Back Room Village Hall
Thurs 11th	7.30pm	Feckenham WI	Back Room Village Hall
Fri 12th	8pm	FeckenOdeon-2	Back Room Village Hall
Tues 16th	7.30pm - 9pm	Lent Course	Catholic Church, High St.
Sun 21st	10.30 am - 3.30pm	Allotment Open Day	Moors Lane
Tues 23rd	7.30pm - 9pm	Lent Course	Catholic Church, High St.
Thurs 25th	7.30pm	Flower Show AGM	Village Hall
Sat 27th	7.30pm	FeckenOdeon	Village Hall

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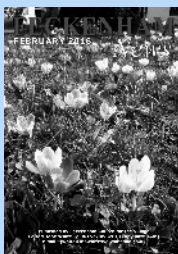
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www.feckenham.com

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.

Front Cover

Crocuses on the Square.

Photo by Ian Bellion



Church Services FEBRUARY

PARISH CHURCH
of ST. JOHN
THE BAPTIST



Priest-in-Charge: Rev Wyn Beynon

Churchwarden: Ann Matthews 01527 892180 **Church website:** www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk

•• **Email:** info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

Parish Office: Telephone: 01905 778181 Email: bowbrookgroup1@gmail.com

Open Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 10am-1pm & 2-5pm: Mon. & Fri. Closed

at - *The Bowbrook Group, The Parish Centre, St Andrew's Street, DROITWICH, WR9 8DY*

Readers & Intercessors



Sunday 7th 11.00am Sung Eucharist

Sunday next before Lent Exodus 34:29-end
2 Corinthians 3: 12- 4:2
Intercessions

David Street
Angela Fletcher
Erica Dilger

Wednesday 10th ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion with imposition of ashes

10.30am Wychbold

8.00pm Oddingley

Sunday 14th 8.00am Holy Communion

1st Sunday of Lent 2 Corinthians 6: 1-10 Antonia Pulsford

11.00am Family Service

Open the Book; Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Sunday 21st 6.30pm Evensong

2nd Sunday of Lent Genesis 15 :1-12, 17-18 Richard Hillman
Philippians 3: 17 – 4:1 Carol Onions
Intercessions Lin Preece

Sunday 28th 11.00am Family Eucharist

3rd Sunday of Lent 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 Fiona Carter
Intercessions Tony Mortimer

“Mixed Bag”

Will be held in Church on Sunday 7th February - a group for young people and activities for younger children. All children will be warmly welcomed.

Feckenham Roman Catholic Church

St John Fisher & St. Thomas More

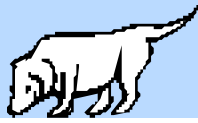


Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 10.15am in the Church

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

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

Newshound



Welcome to new residents

More Stylers move into Feckenham! Dave and Sarah Styler, who come from longstanding Redditch families have recently moved to the High Street from Webheath. They have three children, Katie, Jake, and Sam, only Sam is still at school. They also have three dogs! Sara works part time for the NHS in Redditch and Bromsgrove but has already volunteered to help in the shop and is currently being trained. Dave is Engineering Manager at a Redditch company. They are looking forward to life in Feckenham and we hope they will be very happy here.

Canal boat enthusiasts come to the High Street! Liz and Howard Bellaby, and Charlie the cat, have moved in to no 20 High Street, having downsized from Astwood Bank. Although their new house is fairly small the shrinkage is not quite so drastic when you factor in the acquisition of a sixty foot narrow boat on the nearby Worcester and Birmingham Canal! Liz is a local and works in Housing. She was at the forefront of recent work to drive down anti-social behavior in Redditch. She enjoys cooking, entertaining, Caribbean beaches and talking! Howard works in procurement and supply chain management allied to the construction equipment industry. He has travelled extensively and enjoys reading the classics anything relating to history, politics or biography. We wish them well in their new life on land and water.

A belated but warm welcome to Erica and Phil Guise who moved into Bramley Cottage last July having spent the previous 32 years in Fin-stall, Bromsgrove. They enjoyed their first Christmas in Feckenham and are now looking forward to getting more involved in what they describe as "a very friendly and vibrant community". Phil and Erica wish everyone a very happy 2016.

On Sunday January 17th, worshippers from the Roman Catholic chapel of St John Fisher

and St Thomas More were welcomed to a joint service at Feckenham Parish church. This was at the beginning of the week of prayer for Christian unity 2016. The service was led by Rev Sue Barratt and the preacher was Rev Fr David Doran. This year's liturgy was arranged by the Christians in Latvia and their theme was "Salt of the Earth". This was reflected in the choice of readings and hymns. The Catholic community would like to thank the Feckenham parishioners for their hospitality and warm welcome.

Village Hall

Improvement Fund 2015/16



January Winners

35	Phyllis Mott	£25
84	John & Sue May	£15
17	Katie Styler	£10

The February Draw will be held in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 2nd February 2016

Small Ads.



Looking to buy 2 or 3 bed property with parking in Feckenham or surrounding area. Alison 07714209463.

Can anyone help please? I am anxious to move back to my grassroots so am actively looking to buy a property in Feckenham. I am a cash buyer and would much appreciate a phone call if you are thinking of selling your property. I do need a garden. Many thanks 07812586530.



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Local Matters

I am grateful to Jen Cary for updating us (in the December News) on the projected resurfacing of the B4090 through the village. It certainly needs doing but I would take some issue with Highways in their conceding that the red-brown surface was a mistake. The reason for the choice of this particular material was part of an effort to reduce traffic speed - the colour and texture gave the visual impression of a 'lane', and this in combination with the deliberate omission of a central white line was to create a certain caution among drivers, thus inducing them to slow down. To some extent it worked but was then ruined by the addition of white lines down each side. This had the adverse effect of making the road look longer and straighter again, cancelling out the advantage gained (long straight roads means 'put your foot down' to some people!). The other big benefit of the red-brown surface (which has been pretty durable, given time (5 - 6 years at least) and heavy usage) has been a significant reduction in road noise (tyre noise) and I think most fellow Droitwich Road residents would agree that this should be a significant factor in the choice of a replacement surface. I would also make a plea that no white lines of any kind will be used. Back in 2006 the former Feckenham Traffic Group, of which I was a member, prepared detailed proposals to calm traffic speed and generally improve road safety, but unfortunately these have been largely ignored by Worcestershire Highways. There is a suggestion that the Feckenham Traffic Group should be reinstated to get something done about traffic nuisance through the Village. If anyone feels that they would like to take part please communicate this to the Editor.

• David Rowe

It's official, we're definitely getting fibre!

It's been an interesting 2-year struggle but WCC has now formally confirmed that Feckenham is getting fibre. Cabinet 6 on the Square is now definitely in the plans. Feckenham

are included, go to

<http://www.superfastworcestershire.com/when-where> and put your full landline phone number into the search box. When we will get fibre though is a bit up in the air still but when we hear more we'll update you.

Although getting fibre is great news for the village, with the added choice and enhanced performance that it brings, unfortunately it's likely that not everyone will be able to benefit as the technology stands at the moment. If you live right at the end of line, as it were, it is unlikely that the signal will be able to reach you. However, Openreach is developing new technology to effectively 'boost' the signal but this will take time to roll out.

As Q and I find out more, we'll be back in touch and in the meantime, if you have any questions about broadband either by landline or over Airband, please do get in touch with us via Parish Cllr Cary by this email address quintus@28highstreet.co.uk or contact the Parish Council - we have put ourselves forward to represent Feckenham on Worcestershire's broadband forum.

Jen Cary

Feckenham Parish Church

February 14th Sunday 11am

come to 'open the book' as ...

... baby Jesus goes to town.

Refreshments served after

Parish Council

YOU COULD SAVE A LIFE!

At the back of the Village Hall you'll find a defibrillator - a device for resuscitating people who have suffered a cardiac arrest. It's a highly sophisticated piece of equipment that has the potential to save lives. BUT it's not much use unless people know how to use it.

The Parish Council, which installed the machine, has arranged two training sessions which will show you when the machine can be used and how it should be used. It won't take long, it's not complicated but it will be of enormous value if there is a team of trained people in the village.

On **Wednesday, 10 February 2:00-4:00pm** Matthew Dormer of H&W Fire & Rescue Service will be the trainer and on **Tuesday, 15 March 7:00-9:00pm** Mr Lewis of West Midlands Ambulance Service will be in charge. Both sessions will be in the Back Room of the Village Hall.

You don't need to have any previous training - you just need to be willing to help in an emergency. The more people who know how to operate the defibrillator, the more useful it will be - and that might mean the difference between life and death for someone.

Please contact the Parish Council's Clerk, Sean Arble to book a place. Call 01789 490501 or e-mail clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com

Feckenham Flower Show & Over 60's Party Fund

Margaret East

The AGM will be held on Thursday 25th February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This will be followed by a short committee meeting to focus on the Spring Flower Show, which is on Saturday 9th April.

We are looking for new people to join our merry band so that these popular village events can continue. If you are interested please do come along.

Village Shop

Jeff Matthews

It's gone cold now - logs, hot chocolate, cake...

You will find all creature comforts at the shop, we look forward to seeing you.

Hay Fever?

As the years have gone by, my hay fever has got worse. Actually, it's not hay, it's tree pollen.

Bad news in it starts in January with Alder and goes through to end of July.

Comparing notes with fellow sufferers we commiserate with one another, and get fed up taking the anti-histamine. One idea, that I had heard before, but never tried, is taking a spoonful of local honey. I know a few folk who swear by this daily, natural remedy, so I'm trying it.

Saltway honey is stocked by the shop and comes from a producer who has hives dotted around Feckenham and down towards Hanbury. There are two of us sufferers trying it - my pal since mid November and so far so good, it appears to be working.

Wine, Women & Wisdom

*Thursday 11th feb 7.30pm
at: The Eagle and Sun,
Hanbury Rd, Droitwich WR9 7DX*

*Order food and wine as you wish -
Discuss current news, controversies
& topics of interest in the company
of friends*

*For more information
Rosie 01527 836307
or Melissa 07891 779871*

Thought for the month

Rev. Wyn Beynon

Dear Friends,

Health warning: I don't usually preach in the magazine letter, but today... well... I have spent most of the past 35 year quietly getting on with my ministry. I've moved from one parish to another and plodded away at what, for me, is the best job in world. Though for me, course, it's not a job, it's a way of life. A farmer would say the same, and, having grown up on farms, Rectory life and farmhouse life are surprisingly similar.

But I wasn't always a dutiful chap who just kept his head down and got on with it.

Once, when I was four I was in church, at Sunday school. And bored brainless. So I wandered over to the radiator and spotted the bleed tap. And turned it. It was my first baptism. A squirt of water shot up and sprayed the other children. I was told off. But I couldn't see the problem and was a bit niffed with the teacher.

Now I'm on General Sunday I feel like I have to return to my infancy. Once again I'm upsetting the other children, because once again they need to be baptised, or at least put in mind of their baptism. Baptism is the sign that God's love for us has no bounds, no limits, no if, but or maybes. But the Church, being made up of human beings, doesn't quite believe that so it invents rules and regulations, insisting that God can't love you if.... And the "if" has varied over the centuries. "If you're a women and don't do as you're told by men, if you're the wrong race, if you're disabled, if you're gay, if you're a communist, if you're different, if you're not like me".

So, sometimes, people tell me, "I haven't been such a bad chap". I think,"So? It doesn't bother me even if you have been bad, and you'd be pretty unique anyway. I've been a bad chap lots. But God will love you and me anyway."

If your self worth comes from feeling you've been successful, it is pretty worthless, in my

experience. My self worth comes from the fact that I'm made in God's image. That's it. Everything follows from that.

So I'm spraying you with water too. Not radiator water, but the water of life, the life that is our gift. The life that is God disguised, because, it turns out we're his reflection! And I got all that from just page 1 of the Bible!

Best wishes,

Wyn

Can You Help?

STAMPS for the Alexandra Hospital League of Friends.

If like us the only time you get many stamps is at Christmas, we hope you have been saving them and will take them to the Village Shop very soon. The League of Friends usually make around £2000pa from stamps, a total not to be sneezed at. This is used to buy equipment and comforts for the wards and help a little towards saving our hospital.

Carol and Pat Onions

Re. Request for news of the **Brazier family** in Feckenham from France.

We have received a reply from Wales and passed this on to the French gentleman. We have no further details to tell you but will let you know if we do hear.

Carol and Pat Onions.

ALLOTMENT OPEN DAY

Moors Lane Allotments are holding an **Open Day on Sunday 21st February** from 10.30am until 3.30pm. If you think you might like to take on a plot but are not sure, come and have a chat over a cup of tea. You can have a look at what's available and meet some other plot holders. For more info ring Judy on 892130.

SPECIAL FOOD BANK COLLECTION FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES IN CALAIS

Can you be kind enough to donate anything from the following list for the **SPECIAL FOOD BANK COLLECTION** that is underway this month:-

- Tinned Tomatoes
- Beans (Lentils, Chick Peas, kidney beans and the like) not baked beans please
- Sugar = small packets or cubes - or even "hotel" sachets
- Sachets of salt
- Chilli flakes
- Multi pack bars of chocolate (that can be split)
- Tinned Soup
- Coffee sachets and tea bags - again anything that can be split
- Cereal Bars.
small UHT milk cartons -• smaller the better.
- Sealable medium or large freezer or other storage bags (see below)

Our friends at The Bridge, St George & St Matthias in Astwood Bank and Churches in Studley are coming together to create individual food parcels in sealable bags in order that these parcels can be handed out easily when on site. The bags can then be used to put phones and things in to keep them dry.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY DONATIONS IN
THE FOOD BANK BOX IN CHURCH

Many thanks
Revd. Gary Crellin.

LENT COURSE 2016

Feckenham - St John the Baptist and
S's John Fisher & Thomas More

“Living as Disciples”

At: Ss John Fisher & Thomas More
On: 16; 23 February; 01; 08; 15 March
From: 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm

Our Lent Course this year, offers an opportunity to explore some key aspects of discipleship. It will comprise five weekly sessions and draw upon a course recently compiled by the Revd Canon Jonathan Kimber, Director of Ministry & Discipleship for Worcester Diocese.

Within the sessions, five different aspects of discipleship are identified in the hope of shedding fresh light on what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ in the 21st century.

- Disciples as Learners
- Disciples as Followers
- Disciples as Friends
- Disciples as those who Serve
- Gathering it together in the light of the Resurrection

Particular attention will be paid to our:

understanding: helping to explain and explore some of the concepts and rationale of Christian living today;

practices: how our following of Christ influences what we do, and how what we do impacts on our discipleship;

disposition: following Christ is not solely about what we do, but also about the manner or the attitude with which we do it.

How does our following of Christ influence our posture and perspective on the world?

**Everyone Welcome – we do hope you
can come**
(coffee/tea available from 7.00 pm)

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



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

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 2nd February

FOLK in the Rose Room
THE RHYTHM PIRATES
with **SPECIAL GUEST**

Sunday, 20th March - 8pm - Rose & Crown
£6 in advance - £7.50 on the door
Ticket on sale at The Rose & Crown



Feckenham Forest History Society

The WORCESTER CANAL

with Ian Hunter

Tuesday, 9th February - 7.30pm

Feckenham Village Hall

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

theWI FECKENHAM WI
INSPIRING WOMEN At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY, 11th FEBRUARY - 7.30pm

WOK COOKING

with BOON YENG

Visitors Welcome - £3.50

MOORS LANE
ALLOTMENTS OPEN DAY

SUNDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY : 1030AM to 3.30PM

Feckenham and Astwood Bank Conservatives

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 12th March at 7 p.m.

in Bradley Green Village Hall

Tickets to include a light supper with puds
£12.50 in advance before 5th March - limited numbers
from Antonia Pulsford on 892268



An Evening with...

DON MACLEAN



Saturday, 27th February - 7.30pm Norbury Theatre Droitwich

Tickets - 01905 770154

or through www.missionmorogoro.org



Feckenham Readers Group

Monday, 8th February - 7.45

This month's book: A BIT ON THE SIDE
by MARGARET COOK

Details from Marion Chate - 892285



PILATES

at Feckenham
Village Hall
Every Thursday at
7.30pm

Feckenham Parish Council
DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Learn how to save a life using the device
installed at the Village Hall. Free short courses:

Wednesday, 10th February - 2pm to 4pm

Tuesday, 15th March - 7pm to 9pm

Call 01789 490501 to book a place.

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

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

FeckenOdeon 2

The Cinema in the Back Room

RHYS IFANS - CHARLOTTE CHURCH



UNDER MILK WOOD

by DYLAN THOMAS ¹⁵

"A fabulous visualisation that brings to mind the work of the great Ken Russell" Mark Kermode

Friday, 12th February at 8pm

Tickets £5 (FeckenOdeon Members £3.50)
from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown, Feckenham
or book by phone on 0333 666 3366 or online* at
www.feckenodeon.co.uk

*Booking fee applies to phone and online bookings - avoid the fee - book in person!



FeckenOdeon 2 at Feckenham Village Hall

FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

I'm All Right Jack

Peter Sellers

Irene Handl

Ian Carmichael



Saturday, 27th February - 7.30pm

at The FeckenOdeon Cinema in Feckenham Village Hall
Tickets: £5 from The Rose & Crown and Village Shop, Feckenham
Telephone 0333 666 3366* or BOOK ONLINE* at
www.feckenodeon.co.uk

*Booking fee applies to telephone and online bookings - avoid the fee - book in person please. Local only.



FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

The Gramophones Theatre Company

End to End

The story of three women's journey
from one end of Great Britain to the other.
And then home.

Shindig



FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL worcestershire

SATURDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY - 7.30PM ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

TICKETS £10 From The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.

Phone 0333 666 3366 Book Online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham

*Phone and Online bookings attract a 50p booking fee. Book in person and save money!

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

Shindig

Blast from the Past presents

The Canterbury Tales



An irreverent new adaptation of the medieval masterpiece!

"Brash, bawdy and brilliant"
(Leicester Mercury)

"The Middle Ages made easy - enjoyed"
(Woman's News)

"An ingenious reinvention"
(York Press)

The show is suitable for under 13s
with the advice of the Arts Council of Great Britain

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL worcestershire

SUNDAY, 13TH MARCH - 7.30PM ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

TICKETS £10 From The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.

Phone 0333 666 3366 Book Online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham

*Phone and Online bookings attract a 50p booking fee. Book in person and save money!

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

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

If you get your magazine early we're just in time to remind you that **"The Hundred-Foot Journey"** is showing at The FeckenOdeon on **30th January** at 7.30pm



A WELSH FANTASY IN ENGLISH

A brand new adaptation of Dylan Thomas' portrait of a fishing village **"Under Milk Wood"** is a spicy, boisterous and funny version of the much loved play for voices with Rhys Ifans and Charlotte Church. Dylan's "play for voices" is brought to vivid life in a joyful and earthy way. It's in English quite simply because the writer didn't speak Welsh! In FeckenOdeon 2 on **Friday, 12th February at 8pm.**



EVERYBODY OUT!

No matter which side of the political divide people were on, few could deny that industrial Britain in the late 1950s was a shambles. Bosses and workers clung to outdated attitudes and rules - petty corruption was the order of the day. In 1959 the Boulting Brothers could stand no more and lashed out with a biting satire that lambasted both sides. **"I'm All Right Jack"** is a hilarious comedy with a kick - Peter Sellers has rarely been better as the stubborn union man, Ian Carmichael is the clueless toff - and there are cameos from an army of British character actors of the 50s. Showing at **7.30pm on Saturday, 27th February.**

*Tickets for 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*

Village Hall

Ian Bellion



A BRISK STROLL FROM END TO END

Join us on an expedition! We're going to travel from Lands End to John O'Groats ... all on a budget of £1 per day! Impossible? Not at all! It's been done - and if you don't believe it you can come along and see it proved as the athletic thespians of The Gramophones Theatre Company demonstrate exactly how it was achieved. In April 2012 three women set off to travel from one end of Great Britain to the other. Trusting only to their resourcefulness and the kindness of strangers they made the 18-day, 874-mile journey from End to End of the UK. They completed their unusual expedition on as many varieties of transport as they possibly could.

In **"End to End"** - we meet the characters the ladies met on their epic journey and share their remarkable and often hilarious experiences. If you've ever wanted to take off on a great adventure of your own this could be the night you decide to get up and go! A grand show to brighten up a February night.

"End to End" hikes into Feckenham Village Hall on **Saturday, 6th February at 7.30pm** This show is brought to Feckenham by Shindig - the County Council's scheme designed to bring top quality professional shows right to your doorstep.

Coming soon from Shindig:

On Sunday, 13th March we're visited by a highly amusing and colourful version of "Canterbury Tales" and on Sunday, 15th May The Opera Dudes bring us their hilarious "Licensed to Trill".

Tickets for all these 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.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham

Square Management Committee

A MERRY DING DONG!

The annual Carols on The Square on Christmas Eve attracted record numbers and we're delighted to report that £570 was collected from revelers and that the entire sum will be donated to the County Air Ambulance. This year's total is a record - the best yet. This is the 12th of these popular events and the records show that a total of over £4,000 has been raised to keep the flying rescuers aloft.

The event again provided a good start to Christmas proper with people enjoying a light hearted sing with some warming punch and mince pies. Shirley Harman set the proceedings well and truly underway by switching on the Christmas lights (with a bang) - thanks Shirley!

The Committee is most grateful to everyone who helped - in particular the singers who made up the impromptu choir, the good folk who unbidden turned up with boxes of mince pies, Alan and Pat Moor who gave us free electricity, Max Melson who warmed 10 large vats of punch in her kitchen, Phil Tricklebank for the rocket, Jane Bird who gave us the tree - and anyone else who helped make the evening so enjoyable.

Thanks to you, the people of Feckenham, for your generosity and for joining in with the spirit of this ever popular event - and if you're good boys and girls we'll do it all again next year.

The Square Management Committee are : Ian Ridley (Chair), Barry Hamilton (Vice-Chair), Dawn Southwell (Treasurer), Ian Bellion (Secretary), Judy Hooker (Punchmaker), Tim Smith (Rocketeer and Lumberjack), Alan Smith (Music and Snow Maker), Peter Masters (Head Bucketeer), Slade Arthur (Tree Logistics).



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World War I Centenary Commemoration

Jeff Matthews



2016 Anniversaries

2016 marks the Centenary of one of the most incomprehensible phases of the Great War – the Battle of the Somme.

It began on July 1st 1915 and dragged on for 4 whole months. During this battle, the village lost three of its young men, **Pioneer James Crook**, remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. He fell in the opening days on 10th July. Then October 1st, **Private Charles Newman**, remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme area, France. And then, on what is regarded as the very last day of the conflict, 18 Nov, **Private Edgar Dolphin**, who is buried in Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme area, France.

The first anniversary of the year is on March 13th, that of **Gunner Harry Hopcroft**, buried in Sussex (Roachville) Cemetery, Kings County, New Brunswick, Canada.

April 5th marks **Private Arthur Watton**, remembered on the Basra Memorial, Iraq.

And the year ends with on Nov 5th **Private Frank Owen**, buried in Salonika (Lembit Road) Military Cemetery, Greece.

Each story will be told on a poster, displayed on an exhibition board in the Church and their memory will be marked by the placing of a poppy for each on the crown of barbed wire in the Church. An act of Remembrance will take place on the Sunday nearest the anniversary.

Music Event Update

You may recall that a portion of the grant money obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund was assigned toward the composing of an original piece of music. The group commissioned Shropshire based composer Phil Mountford, who has been working with Clare Furey, Amanda Gordon and Kathy Gee to shape up the piece.

Kathy has been able to source original letters from serving Worcestershire Regiment soldiers to put together a narrative theme with Phil composing a significant piece of music in a number of short movements. Clare has been pulling together musicians to be involved and at the moment has a range of voices from the three choirs in the village – the Church, the Community and ARTS youth group. They will be joined by children from the school, some yet to be cast spoken voices and up to five musicians.

Clare says, “it will be a significant village event in the four year commemoration cycle. I am hoping to get a guest conductor to be part of it. The music is still being completed, but it is of some of the highest quality I have heard. It will be a great piece to perform.”

Two distinct performances are planned, one geared towards the schools involvement and will be shorter and scheduled for June 18th. The 2nd timed to coincide with Remembrance Day, 11th Nov, which falls on a Friday and is planned to be in the Church. Further details available nearer the time, but hold the date.

What is also clear is that the group will need help. Anyone out there fancy getting involved with the performance? We are looking for volunteers of all sorts, not least a ‘Director’ and a ‘Producer’. If you have experience of putting on shows, building and designing sets or any other part of production, we’d like to hear from you. Please contact either Jeff Matthews (892180) or Clare Furey (894849) if you can help in any way.

Other activities are planned during the year; an upgrade to the commemorative walk, in the form of an audio guide and commemorative markers to be displayed on village properties and sites that mark where the fallen lived in the village.

Work will also begin on developing the website, further.

We are always open and would welcome offers of support from anyone who would like to join our group. It is proving to be a very interesting journey. Give Jeff a call if you’d like to know more and get involved.

Mission Morogoro

Tony Mortimer

Upcoming event and latest news

We would like to thank everyone who supported our MM 2016 Calendar, sales of which raised more than £500. This money is earmarked for patient toilets at Tunguli Health Centre - we will report on progress in weeks to come.

Our next major event -

“An Evening With Don Maclean”
Saturday, February 27, 2016 -
7:30pm
Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

Don, the well-known and much-loved Midlands comedian and all-round entertainer, has generously agreed to appear in a special show locally to support Mission Morogoro. This will be a great way to brighten up a dark February evening and we hope that we will see you there. For full details see our website or contact the Norbury Theatre (01905) 770154. (Tip - No booking fee if you book by 'phone)

We are pleased to report that several projects are progressing well.

- Agriculture - Planting is under way using new seeds and better methods. A government officer has been assigned to project manage this work alongside village leaders. This is a crucial step and we are very pleased with progress.
- Internet - For patient care it is vital that Tunguli can communicate with the outside world. It is also important that we can plan and monitor projects from the UK. We are currently investigating the possibility of establishing a basic, affordable Internet connection at Tunguli.
- Sewing - The sewing machines shipped in the container last summer were very

enthusiastically received. Training was delivered by the local Mothers' Union and the machines are now being used by villagers and in the local schools. We are working with another UK charity to send a further batch of 12 sewing, and probably two knitting, machines this year. Also a government teacher has been assigned who will provide training for young people.

- Ambulance - Thanks to a most generous bequest from the estate of a Redditch businessman we have been able to purchase a motorcycle ambulance for Tunguli Health Centre. We are currently arranging shipment and hope to have this in operation by summer 2016. More to follow.

As always we thank you greatly for your encouragement and support. For more details please do look at our website and facebook pages.

www.missionmorogoro.org.uk
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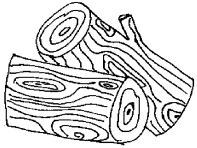
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Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

Rob Cole

Wednesday 3rd Feb 2016 at 7.30pm

Our speaker is Jeff Soulsby who runs a nursery in nearby Harvington. His talk is entitled 'Phenomenal Plants Old and New' and will cover a range of plants which may be familiar to you, as well as some good newcomers.

The theme for the monthly competition is 'Three flowers of a winter bulb'. To take part, just bring along an exhibit for judging by the speaker. 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 be awarded a prize of a year's subscription to the Gardening Club, at the AGM in November.

The annual subscription for 2016 (due 1st January 2016) should be paid at this meeting, please, if you haven't already renewed or joined.

The following Club meeting - Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at 7.30pm is a talk by Julie Ritchie of Hoo House Nursery near Tewkesbury, when she will give a hands on demonstration of the techniques and materials used in the 'Propagation of Perennials and Alpines'.

Make a note in your diary now !

Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to

members for an annual subscription of £10.00 commencing on 1st January. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting. If you require any further information, ring Denny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527

Feckenham W.I.

Jane White



Do you have a wok lurking at the back of a kitchen cupboard?

This month's meeting is on **Thursday 10th at 7.30pm** in the Back Room of the Village Hall.

We are going oriental for the evening, with Boon Yeng talking and cooking "**A Feast for your Senses: Spring Festival Traditions & Wok Magic**". There will be samples! We hope to gain confidence with stretching our cooking skills.

Visitors welcome, £3.50 including refreshments.

SUPER SESSIONS

If you walk down the High Street on the first Tuesday evening of the month a hint of a melody or a rhythm might just reach you and entice you in the general direction of The Rose & Crown. Follow your instincts and allow the music to draw you within... and you'll find a very pleasing scene inside the bar: As many as 20 musicians in a large circle playing as if their lives (or next pint) depends on it. There are all manner of instruments - flutes, mandolins, guitars, squeeze boxes, lutes and bodhrans to name just a few - not an amplifier between them - just the power of music - and what music! Joyful tunes that set your feet a-tapping, laments that tear your heart out and old favourites that that beg to be joined in with. It's all completely spontaneous, if you play an instrument you'll be welcome to join in - and if you don't, you don't have to.

The Feckenham Sessions have to be the best free entertainment on a Tuesday evening in Feckenham - the next one's on **Tuesday, 2nd February starting at 8pm. No charge - everybody welcome!**

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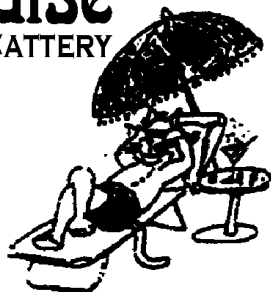
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