

# FECKENHAM

FEBRUARY 2014

News



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village  
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# FEBRUARY Diary



Tues 4th	12.30am	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Sun 9th	7.30pm	"The Hungry Heart"	Village Hall
Tues 11th	7.30pm	Feckenham Forest History Society	Feckenham Village Hall
Wed 12th	10.30am - noon	"Drop in" for coffee and a chat	Parish Church
Thurs 13th	7.30pm	Feckenham WI	Village Hall Back Room
Fri 14th	8pm	FeckenOdeon2	Village Hall Back Room
Thurs 20th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Sat 22nd	7.30pm	FeckenOdeon	Village Hall
Wed 26th	10.30am - noon	"Drop in" for coffee and a chat	Parish Church
Thurs 27th	7.30pm	Flower Show & Over 60's A.G.M.	Village Hall

# Contents

Allotments Society	p18
Boxing Day Walk	p14
Children's Society	p13
Church Services	p4
Feckenham School	p16
FeckenOdeon	p12
Flower Show A.G.M.	p6
From the Warden	p8
Gardening Club	p18
Local Police	p5
Mill Lane	p5
Parish Council	p17
Poem	p7
Rural Dean	p9
Square	p13
Thought for the month	p8
Village Hall	p12
Village Shop	p6
W.I.	p18

## Front Cover

The pot holes in Mill Lane in need of attention, see page 5.  
Photo by Ian Bellion

## Production Team

**Ian Bellion** – What's On

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# 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](http://www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk)

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

**Parish Office:** Telephone: 01905 778181 Email: [bowbrookgroup1@gmail.com](mailto:bowbrookgroup1@gmail.com)

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

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

## Readers and Intercessors



### Sunday 2nd

Candlemas

### 11-00am Sung Eucharist

Malachi 3 : vs. 1-5  
Hebrews 2 : vs. 14-end  
Intercessions

Angela Fletcher  
Jane Mcnaughton  
Tony Mortimer

### Sunday 9th

Lent-4

### 8-00am Holy Communion

Colossians 3 : vs. 12-17

Antonia Pulsford

### 11-00am Family Service "Continuing the Journey ....."

### Sunday 19th

Lent-3

### 6-30pm Evensong

Deuteronomy 30 : vs. 15-end  
Matthew 5 : vs. 21-37  
Intercessions

Clare Furey  
Tim Powell  
John Calvert

### Sunday 23rd

Lent-2

### 11-00am Family Communion

Romans 8 : vs. 18-25  
Intercessions

David Street  
Jeff Matthews

## X Box Sunday School

Will be held in Church on Sunday 2nd February. All children will be warmly welcomed.

## Partners in Prayer

Ecumenical lay led service of prayer for the community, Wednesdays at 9.15am for 30 minutes in the Parish church. **All welcome.**

# 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

# Local Policing

Richard Waterhouse

## Local Vehicle Crime

It appears that someone is trying doors of vehicles that are parked overnight. If they are found to be open they are being searched and property stolen. Could I remind residents to be vigilant and to secure vehicles and remove valuable property from within.

Thank you

Richard

PC 1824 Richard Waterhouse

Local Police Officer

Redditch South West & Rural

Tel. Mob 07771 618654

Tel.101 ext 3817

# Improvements to Mill Lane

Rhys Williams

## Appeal for Donations to an improvement fund

Residents will have noticed an item in the Parish Council Report, that the Council is arranging the repair of the unadopted part of Mill Lane near the Cricket Club. We are pleased to say that considerable progress has been made. A formal specification has been issued and three tenders have been received. The cost of the repair is going to be in the region of between 7,500 to £9,500 plus VAT, and we have already raised a considerable amount by means of generous donations from some residents and from County Council funds at the disposal of Cllr Philip Gretton and the Traffic Management Group. There is still a shortfall and I would be very glad to hear from other villagers who would like to contribute. This is an amenity for the whole village, not just Mill Lane residents and the Cricket Club, as it is a bridleway much used by walkers as well as riders, not only by residents but also by visitors. Please make payment to Feckenham Parish Council and send or deliver to me - Rhys Williams, Chairman, Feckenham Parish Council, 1 The Square, Feckenham, B96 6HR, as soon as possible to enable contractors to be instructed."

Thanking you very glad.

Rhys Williams

Tel: 07812 03 44 55 (+ voicemail)

Email: [Grw@grwilliamsandco.com](mailto:Grw@grwilliamsandco.com)

## Village Hall

Improvement Fund 2013/14



### January Winners

179	Gemma Lane	£25
89	Paul & Gwyn Bradley	£15
95	Ivor & Jenny Mason	£10

February Draw will be held in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 4th February 2014

"The Journey continues....."

**Sunday  
9th February  
at 11 am**

continuing our exploration  
of what it means  
to be on a rich  
and shared spiritual journey...

All age  
worship service  
with refreshments  
served after

# Village Shop

Jeff Matthews

New for February, a thank you for regular Café people, a Loyalty Card

We thought it would be an idea to reward the regular users of the café with a bonus hot drink. Come and collect your card and start getting stamps. Every time you buy a drink, you get a stamp on your card. Collect six and you get the 7<sup>th</sup> drink free. The café continues to be hugely popular with cyclists, village people and passing road warriors all who seem to value the friendly ambience, relaxing surrounding and the free Wi-Fi.

We have two new recipes to tempt you with, this month. Tony has collected one for a warming stew. This one features steak and ale, culled from someone's Grandma's recipe book. The ingredients are featured in the shop with the recipe with its magic twist available in store or via the website [www.feckenhamshop.co.uk](http://www.feckenhamshop.co.uk)

The other is for the extraordinary Caperberry, which we have been invited to try. It may be my Brummie upbringing but we didn't have those at home, so I wasn't aware of what they were. Apparently, they are an Olive type fruit, and make an excellent lemon and chicken supper. Again, a recipe available in the shop to try something different for tea (or supper, if you'd rather...).

# Feckenham Flower Show & Over 60's Party Fund

Rob Cole

## AGM

### Thursday 27th February 2014

The 2014 AGM is to be held in the Back Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 27th February 2014, and the meeting will be open to everyone as usual.

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

### Events already confirmed for 2014

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

- |                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Sat. 12th April    | Spring Flower Show        |
| Sat 13th September | Autumn Flower Show        |
| Sat. 6th December  | Over 60's Christmas Party |

It would be a considerable loss to the village if these events became a thing of the past, so do please consider volunteering as a new Committee member.

# The Village Shop

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## Peter Horsley's En SWEET CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

How soon it comes round again  
We're packed and off down the lane  
For Christmas at Chestnut Farm  
Surely no cause for alarm.

Warm home well decorated  
Comfort much appreciated. Around  
the tree, presents stacked Ambience  
perfect. Nothing lacked.

But unknown bathroom problems lurked I  
didn't know how the shower worked.  
Then shelves of bright bottles confused  
Which product did I need, I mused.

Going bald I did not need VEET  
Slow hair growth I'm trying to beat.  
ST.MORIZ instant tanning mousse  
Proclaimed long lasting bronzing juice.

Was this a boon to older men  
To use anti-ageing Q 10.  
VO5 extreme style appealed  
Wayward hair, to the comb, might yield

Could L'OREAL PARIS facial wash  
Transform my skin with one good splosh  
Of Salicylic Acid's balm  
Or would plain water do no harm.

SIMPLE might provide the answer  
With multi vitamin enhancer.  
My legs then might need attention  
JOLEN CRÈME BLEACH deserves a men-  
tion.

SALLY HANSON medium glow  
Might well impart tomo medio But  
where to apply it, I ask  
What imperfections will it mask.

Decisions, decisions 'quell problem '  
I couldn't make out which to use of them  
How I wished for a block of soap Hanging  
from the tap on a piece of rope.

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including a glass of bubbly

or why not make a night of it with our  
FeckenOdeon Meal & Movie deal?

£15 for 2 courses - includes a ticket for "The  
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# Thought for the month

Wyn Beynon

Dear Friends,

I found myself having a Turkish Bath in Turkey. It wasn't one of those great life experiences I'd been planning on, but when the opportunity presented itself I was pleased to give it a go. I discovered I have tickly soles and a knots in my calves. But the most interesting thing was that I kept folding my arms across my chest. And I know what that means. It's a defensive/aggressive position. It's something you do when you feel under threat or feel the need to assert yourself. "Well," we say, folding our arms and looking stern, "well, we'll soon see about that". Folding the arms is both defensive and aggressive. We're ready for a fight. We may feel uncomfortable and defensive, or we may feel annoyed and want to assert that we wish things to change. But behind the posture of arm folding is a something else. A subconscious feeling of being at a disadvantage, of not being in control. Being subjected to all that massage and the hot and cold bowls of water was very much like not being in control!

We all want be in control. Most polite behaviour is designed to ensure that we deal with each other in a way that respects other people's space and right be in control. Things go wrong when we trespass across the boundaries and things get difficult when we feel our control is being eroded. That's all fair enough. But. We spent a great deal of energy, subconsciously though it may be, in maintaining our boundaries and trying to stay in control because deep down we are afraid of the letting down our guard. We don't know what will happen next so we keep our arms folded - either really or metaphorically.

Sometimes that's a very sensible thing. When crossing the road or using a power tool we need to be in defensive mode. But mostly, with each other, we don't. But just try letting your guard down with other people! Sometimes it's

obvious that they are very unnerved by openness, and even offended. Yet at other times a whole new and deeper relationship emerges and the risk is worth unfolding our arms. I guess that's why Jesus both attracted and repelled people. I don't think he ever folded his arms!

best wishes, Wyn

## From the Church Warden

Downing Street has announced that the next Bishop of Dudley will be Revd Canon Graham Usher. Graham, 43, spent his early years in Ghana and was educated in Yorkshire before going to Edinburgh University to study ecology. A degree in Theology from Cambridge was gained whilst he studied for ordination. After his ordination he worked in Middlesborough, was a chaplain at a remand centre and part time producer with BBC Radio. Since 2004 he has been Rector and Lecturer of Hexham. Graham is married to Rachel a GP and they have two children, Chad 13 and Olivia 11. Graham will be ordained Bishop in St Paul's cathedral on 25<sup>th</sup> March and a service of welcome will be held in Dudley on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### What's On this month in STOCK & BRADLEY

- 5th Breakaway**  
Estate Changes at Ragley.  
Talk by Jon Parker  
13.30 am - Bradley Village Hall
- 5th Gardening Club**  
Alpines - talk by Vic Asland
- 5th Walking Club**  
Meet at Bradley Green Church  
at 10 am
- 12th & 26th Drop In**  
Drop in for a Coffee and a Chat  
10 am - 12noon

For more information see  
**STOCK & BRADLEY CHRONICLE**

# From the Rural Dean

Sheila Banyard

## Kingdom People – growing and resourcing healthy churches

During 2014 we are going to use the deanery synod meetings to explore some of the new diocesan 'Signs of the Kingdom' material. We had a great introduction to it from the Archdeacon of Worcester in October and we are planning three meetings for 2014 to look at themes we believe will be of help to all parishes. Two dates are already arranged (both at 7.30pm):

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February** at Ombersley church – 'Grasping the financial nettle.' The speakers will be Robert Higham, Diocesan Secretary, and Chris Worsley, Kingdom People Development Officer.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June**, venue tbc – 'Viable, sustainable and thriving churches.'

The speakers will be John Preston, C of E National Stewardship and Resources Officer, and Andrew Mottram, Diocesan Heritage Buildings and Community Development Officer.

**The autumn meeting** will focus on encouraging and developing the ministry of volunteers and on supporting parish officers. Do put these dates in your diary and look out for more information. As always, these evenings are open to everyone, not just synod representatives.


## Exploring faith group

Are you interested in learning more about the Christian faith, with a view to perhaps being baptised and/or confirmed? Do you know anyone from your church who might like to join such a group? We are planning a deanery group for adults (16s and over) which will start during the Spring. Joining does not commit you to any particular course of action at the end – it is genuinely an opportunity to enquire, explore and learn in the company of others. Please let me know if you would like more information as it becomes available.

## Lent quiet day – 7<sup>th</sup> April

Lent might seem a distant prospect, but it's not too soon to put a date in your diary. On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April there will be a deanery day at Holland House, Cropthorne, that you might like to use as part of your keeping of Lent and as preparation for Holy Week and Easter. There will be talks based on the story of Elijah and some quiet time for personal reflection in between, all set in the context of the Eucharist. It's open to anyone in the deanery and runs from 10am to 4pm. The cost is £15 per person and includes lunch (which, like coffee time, will not be quiet!) Bursaries are available – please contact me. The day will be led by Canon David Rogers and David is offering a day like this as a gift to every deanery in the diocese during 2014. What a wonderful idea. Contact me to book a place and please encourage others to come with you.

For more information contact me on 01905 773134 or at [sk.banyard@virgin.net](mailto:sk.banyard@virgin.net).  
Sheila Banyard




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# WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



**Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB**

## ALPINES

A Talk by Vic Astand

Wednesday, 5th February - 7.30pm  
Bradley Village Hall

## Feckenham Readers Group



Wednesday, 5th February - 7.45

This month's book:

HARVEST by Jim Grace

Details from Marion Gbate - 892285

Feckenham Forest History Society

## LOCAL FARMHOUSES & THEIR HISTORY

A talk by Dr Richard Churchley  
Tuesday, 11th February - 7.30pm  
Feckenham Village Hall

[www.feckenham-forest-history-society.org.uk](http://www.feckenham-forest-history-society.org.uk)

the **WI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## FECKENHAM WI

At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY, 13th FEBRUARY - 7.30pm

## BROTHER WILLIAM

AND THE LIFE OF A 12TH CENTURY  
CISTERCIAN MONK

Non-members welcome - £3.50

Feckenham and Astwood Bank Conservatives

## QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 1st March at 7p.m.


Feckenham Village Hall

Tickets £10 to include a light supper with puds  
in advance from Antonia on 892268

Pay Bar

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Cat Weatherill in

# The HUNGRY Heart

"A magical Performer"  
The Times

*Seductive Stories  
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Not recommended for children under 14

Feckenham Village Hall   
Sunday, 9th February - 7.30pm   
Tickets £10 From The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.  
Phone 0844 8700 887 Book Online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham)

# WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

## FeckenOdeon 2

The Cinema in the Back Room



A FEELGOOD COMEDY  
FOR VALENTINE'S NIGHT

CHRIS O'DOWD in

# THE SAPPHIRES



"SPARKLES LIKE A WELL-SHIMMIED SEQUIN"  
Daily Telegraph

Friday, 14th February at 8pm

Tickets £5 (FeckenOdeon Members £3.50)  
from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown, Feckenham  
or book by phone on 0844 8700 887 or online\* at  
[www.feckenodeon.co.uk](http://www.feckenodeon.co.uk)

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



FeckenOdeon 2 at Feckenham Village Hall




**THE FECKENODEON** & **Rose & Crown**  
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## A Valentines Special



A Romantic Meal and A warm hearted feelgood movie in FeckenOdeon 2

MENU	
Chicken Stuffed with Ricotta Cheese	In a tomato sauce
Saffron Fillet	In a White Champagne Sauce
Kumpi Steak	done to your liking
Followed by:	
A Sharing Platter of desserts	Mini hot chocolate, mini lemon tart, strawberry polenta with ice cream
Served from 6pm	



Showing at 8pm

All for £15 - Book now!

Buy your **MOVIE & MEAL DEAL** tickets from The Rose & Crown and The Village Shop  
Phone bookings: 0333 666 3366 - book online at [www.feckenodeon.co.uk](http://www.feckenodeon.co.uk)  
**IMPORTANT!** Once you've bought your ticket you **MUST** call the Rose & Crown to reserve your table. Advanced booking **ONLY** (no sales on the day).

## THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

JACK LEMMON SHIRLEY MACLAINE FRED MACMURRAY



Saturday, 22nd 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](http://www.feckenodeon.co.uk)



\*BOOKING FEE APPLIES TO THE PHONE AND ONLINE BOOKINGS - AVOID THE FEE - BOOK IN PERSON

# The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



## AUSSIE BLUES BEATERS

You'll have heard of The Supremes but probably not heard of **The Sapphires** - and yet they were as famous and as loved... in their own areas.

This lively and good humoured film tells the story of a group of ladies who had to fight that bit harder to kick start their career. They started with a major disadvantage - being brought up in an Aboriginal reserve in 1960s Australia wasn't exactly a passport to success. But succeed they did with the help of an Irishman who spotted them and took them to the top - and to Vietnam. It's a gutsy, funny and moving tale based on truth - **The Sapphires** did exist and their music was great! Find out how great on Valentine's Night, **Friday, 14th February, 8pm** FeckenOdeon 2.



## THE KEY TO PARADISE... FOR SOME

When the boss borrows the key to Bud Baxter's apartment for a very private meeting it's not a big deal.... but then everybody has the same idea and things get out of hand. Soon Bud is reduced to sleeping on park benches as the world and everybody else's wives check in and out. Thankfully Bud falls in love with a lift attendant and... well, nothing is ever as simple as that in a Billy Wilder film. Jack Lemmon and Shirley Maclaine star in the multi-Oscar winning "**The Apartment**". It's a true comedy classic with sharp dialogue and a true sense of farce. Showing at **7.30pm on Saturday, 22nd February.**

Tickets for these shows are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown. Book by phone on 0844 8700 887 or online at [www.fecknodeon.co.uk](http://www.fecknodeon.co.uk)

## Village Hall

Ian Bellion



## INTERNATIONAL SENSATION

Jetting in from Peru just 2 days before appearing in Feckenham is internationally renowned raconteuse (storyteller) Cat Weatherill. Cat is

undisputedly the creme de la creme when it comes to spinning a yarn - she'll hold you spellbound, believing every word and wrapped up in a world she creates in your mind.

It's no use resisting - on Sunday, **February 9th at 7.30pm** she'll spirit you away to the warm heart of Italy as she reveals "**The Hungry Heart**" - a collection of seductive stories guaranteed to transport you away from a cold Sunday evening in February.....

This show is filled with tantalising tales and glorious singing... sensazionale!! Love, lust, adultery, murder - Italian folk tales are as full bodied as their wine! So fill your glass, relax, and fly away with Cat to the most romantic country in the world. We'll even offer you a bowl of pasta so leave some room after your Sunday tea.

*Still to come in the Shindig season:*

### 6th April - Shooting the Moon

Strangeface Theatre Company with the story of Georges Melies - fantasy and magic aplenty. Tickets (£10) for all shows are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown - you can book online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham) or by phone on 0844 8700 887

**COMING SOON:** Returning to Feckenham is the rootsy, rocky, folky band **WHALEBONE**. This time they're joined by American singer/songwriter **Kelley Mcrae**. Tickets at £10 are on sale now.



# Square Management Committee

## MERRY EXPLODING STAR

By the time you read this Christmas will be but a fading memory... but hopefully you will retain some recollection of the events on The Square on Christmas Eve. Record numbers of you turned out on a damp evening to enjoy gallons of mulled wine and tons of mince pies. Walter Richards, former Treasurer of The Square Management Committee, had the ceremonial duty of switching on the Christmas Tree lights and, after some words of festive wisdom, he started the countdown. At "zero" the tree lights twinkled into life... and a great star rose in the West (from the football pitch to be exact) and exploded with great force and much glitter right above the heads of the multitude. Once order had been restored and pacemakers restarted, the carol singing started. Despite the sterling efforts of choirmaster Steve Dalloway and his Dallowettes the enthusiasm of the merry throng ran away with itself and, at one point, there appeared to be three separate choirs all singing at different tempi. It mattered not a jot and a good noisy time was had by all. Christmas 2013 had been well and truly welcomed to Feckenham!

## GREAT GIFTS

All of this was provided free by The Square Management Committee as their way of thanking villagers for their support throughout the year. However, there was a collection in aid of the County Air Ambulance Service and this year the loose change in the bucket amounted to an astonishing £561.30. It's certainly a record and the Committee would like to thank all of you for being so generous.

Thanks are also due to Barbara Masters, Margaret Matthews, Mona Hickman, Rob Southwell, Richard Dormer and Judy

Underwood for pitching in. Phil Tricklebank generously provided the spectacular rocket.

The Committee is Ian Ridley, Barry Hamilton, Ian Bellion, Judy Hooker, Peter Masters, Tim Smith, Rhys Williams and Dawn Southwell.

## The Children's Society Jo Warrilow



## 21 years of Coffee Mornings

During our annual "Coffee Morning" held on Saturday 19th October 2013 I was asked "How many coffee mornings have there been and how much have they raised over the years?"

To answer these questions

The first "Coffee Morning" was held on Wednesday 6th October 1993, making 19th October 2013 the 21st "Coffee Morning".

They were originally held on Wednesdays and this arrangement continued until 1999 when for convenience the day was changed to Saturday. This produced more people and a steady increase in proceeds.

Twenty one "Coffee Mornings" have raised a grand total of £10,072.39. Please note this figure does NOT include money collected from house boxes.

This is a staggering amount and due entirely to the generosity of the people of Feckenham who never fail.

On behalf of the Children's Society a huge "Thank You" to everyone involved - helpers supporters alike and to repeat Susan Price's words again "please keep going, they need you".

See you in October 2014!

ED. *Congratulations to Jo for her 21 years, and counting, of energy and enthusiasm she puts into supporting this charity. Well done.*

# Boxing Day Walk

Ian Bellion

About 30 hardy villagers ventured out on a not very encouraging Boxing Day afternoon to tackle the annual yomp across the fields devised by Angela and Richard Fletcher. The weather improved and the sun appeared in time for a tea break in Love Lyne at the home of Janie Anderson. Liquid refreshments were served by Judy Hooker and the chocolate biscuits generously provided by Janie defeated any thoughts of fighting the Christmas flab. Most walkers returned to the village by nightfall invigorated and thoroughly deserving their Boxing Night suppers.



The 2014 walk will be the 40th and it is hoped that there'll be an enormous turn out to mark the anniversary.

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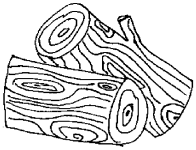
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**"MEMORIALS THAT REFLECT A LIFETIME"**

# Feckenham C. of E. First School

Sharon Simpson

The children and staff of Feckenham Cof E Primary School enjoyed a very busy end of term with their various Christmas trips, nativity plays and a carol service held in church.

The Christmas Fayre on November 30<sup>th</sup> was very well attended and raised an excellent sum of £1635.00 with all proceeds going to the school. Well done to all those who helped and supported the event.

The community group within school also began work on fundraising initiatives for the school of Hope & Kindness in Kenya. This was kick started by a Fish & Chip lunch in school on December 11<sup>th</sup> organised by Mrs Wendy Bayliss with all proceeds to the charity.

We have also firmly re-established communications with Terry & Judi Mott at Hope & Kindness to find out what has been achieved there since September and most importantly what their future aims/needs are in a bid to help them realise their goals with the help of fundraising within school and perhaps the local community.

On December 8<sup>th</sup> Judi wrote; *"Having now had the best part of a full term working out here with the teachers and spending the last two weeks doing some extra holiday English tuition for some of our weaker pupils in lower school, I'm more in tune than ever with just how big the challenge is for any of these children to 'make it'."*

Judi told us that the school now has the potential to facilitate up to 360 children in the primary & high schools and currently has 200 children on roll with a further 25 children joining in January 2014. She highlighted one fundraising option that the children/community might be interested in which is to connect with one particular child to be a child's sponsor and pay for them to come to school for the year (it costs approximately £180 a year to feed and educate each child at the school).

Judi explained the monthly challenge to provide uniforms and porridge for breakfast and cooked

lunches for the children highlighting the fact that hungry children struggle to stay awake let alone learn.

The children face daily challenges getting to and from school due to the stony and rocky land. Heavy rainfall has gouged out the rocks further making walking in the inadequate footwear that the children wear treacherous. Proper school shoes are expensive and difficult to obtain in the correct size but there is a kind of thick plastic/rubber moulded slip on sandal called 'floaters' available at a cost of £3.00 which would be extremely beneficial to the children.

Judi related the plight of a beautiful bright young girl called Alidet. Her father died two years ago and her mother is HIV positive and living in a roughly built mud hut with a tin sheet roof measuring approximately 10 by 5 feet. Recently her mother became very ill and was diagnosed with malaria, typhoid and TB and without doubt if the school had not controlled her admission and transport to hospital where one week's in patient treatment costs £30.00, Alidet and her three siblings would now be what is called 'total' orphans.

Judi goes on to explain how funding for a laminator/visual aids would be particularly helpful due to the constant challenge of dust or mud within the school.

Judi ends her email by saying;

*"Some days this seems to be such a crazy thing to even be attempting and yet it feels so much the right thing to be doing. I guess we just have to keep trusting that the God we believe sent us here, who has brought us 'thus far' will not abandon us now!"*

*"Rightly or wrongly through Hope & Kindness we are trying to right the wrongs of the past and give these children the chance of a childhood now and a better future for themselves and their families. On their behalf, we send very grateful thanks and our very best wishes to everyone in Feckenham."*

Anyone interested in helping with fundraising or making a donation to the School of Hope Kindness please contact Judi & Terry Mott [terry@hopeandkindness.org](mailto:terry@hopeandkindness.org)

From all of the children and staff and governors of Feckenham CofE First School, we wish you all a very Happy New Year!

# Parish Council

Sean Arble

Chairman R Williams: 07812 034 455  
Cllr E Atkins: 01527 542 063  
Cllr K White: 01527 458 395  
Cllr P Eaton: 01527 894 272  
Cllr F Hawker: 01527 894 171  
Cllr L Jordan: 01527 893 074  
Cllr A Slade: 07860 240 331

**Future Meeting Dates:** 7.30pm - 20 Feb, 17 April, 15 May, 17 July, 18 Sept, 20 Nov & 18 Dec  
There is also the possibility of a June meeting.

The Parish Council met on 19 December in the back room of the Village Hall. Numerous matters were discussed and progressed, including the following.

With regard to the intended upgrading of the surface of Mill Lane adjacent to the cricket club, a group has been formed to progress this further, and tenders for the work have been received. Despite extensive efforts it has not been possible thus far to establish ownership of the piece of road in question. If you own it, or can shed light on who may own it, or indeed have any comments on the project, please do get in touch. We are not looking to the owners for a contribution (though all contributions gratefully received!) but we do want to be sure we are acting properly.

The recent rain brought to mind the flooding we used to see in the village. We have been offered Floodsax, a modern product to be used like sandbags, but much lighter when dry so easier to move around. If you would like to read about them, <http://www.floodsax.co.uk/>. If you would like to see one, our Chairman has some samples, and if you wish to order some, they are free to you and we can arrange delivery to your house. Please make contact.

Our Borough Councillor reported to us on the numerous matters he has taken up with the Borough Council officers on our behalf. One matter he reported to us was that a decision has

been made not to oppose further the planned development at Webheath. Whilst the timing of any building is unknown, it appears that this will now go ahead.

As you will know the Parish Council makes occasional small donations to support local groups and good causes. This month we made a modest donation to the football club towards the provision of low level toilets for junior team members. If you have a local initiative and would like to apply for a grant, we would like to hear from you.

Minutes of Council meetings are posted on the Feckenham website once they have been approved at the following meeting.  
[www.feckenham.com](http://www.feckenham.com).

Finally, the Clerk would like to thank Tim Smith for his much appreciated work on updating the Parish Council section of the Feckenham website. I encourage all parishioners to peruse the site and make suggestions as to how it can be improved.

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Gay Bligh



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Feckenham Parish Church

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## Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

Rob Cole

**THE NEXT CLUB MEETING -  
Wednesday 5th February 2014** - is a talk by  
Vic Aspland entitled 'Alpines', in which he will  
show the wide range of small plants which can  
easily be grown in a small garden situation. Vic  
is a founder member of the Cyclamen Society  
and writes regularly for the Alpine Garden  
Society's quarterly journal.

The theme for the monthly competition is  
'Coloured Stems'. 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 next AGM in October  
2014.

**The following meeting - Wednesday 5th  
March 2014** - is a talk entitled 'Vegetable  
Growing in the Small Garden' by Richard  
Baldwin who is a lecturer at Pershore College.

**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.  
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.*

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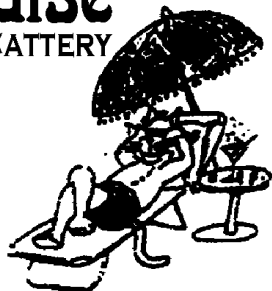
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