

# FECKENHAM

JANUARY 2020

*News*



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village  
Editor: Jane White Tel.:01527 893281 (Copy date 14th)  
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# A. Pullen

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# JANUARY Diary



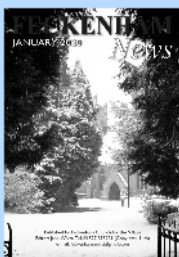
|           |              |  |                         |
|-----------|--------------|--|-------------------------|
| Tues 7th  | 8pm          | Traditional Music                            | Rose & Crown            |
| Tues 7th  | 12.30pm      | Lunch Club                                   | Village Hall, Back Room |
| Thur 9th  | 7.30pm       | Feckenham WI                                 | Village Hall, Back Room |
| Tues 14th | 7.30pm       | Feckenham Forest History Society             | Webheath Village Hall   |
| Wed 15th  | 7 for 7.30pm | Stock & Bradley Gardening Club Annual Dinner | Wheelbarrow & Castle    |
| Sat 25th  | 7.30pm       | FeckenOdeon                                  | Village Hall            |



## Front Cover

A wintery picture of the walk up to the Parish Church.

Photo by Ian Bellion



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*Magazine online at*  
**www.feckenham.com**

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# Church Services JANUARY

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](mailto:angelakov2202@gmail.com)

Please contact for Weddings, Baptism & Funerals

**Church website:** [www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk](http://www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk) **Email:** [info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk)

## Readers and Intercessors

**Sunday 5th**

Epiphany

**11.00am**

**Sung Eucharist**

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Intercessions

Jeff Matthews

Gerry East

Barbara Wheatley



**Sunday 12th**

Birth of Christ

**8.00am BCP Eucharist**

Romans 12: 1

John Pulsford

**11.00am**

**Ian Donnan - Redditch Foodbank**

**Sunday 19th**

**6.30pm Christian Unity Service**

**Sunday 26th**

**11.00am**

**Holy Communion and Confirmation**

Isaiah 9: 2-4

Corinthians 1:10-18

Intercessions

Philip Tricklebank

Shirley Harman

Ian Hunter

## 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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# Village Shop

Jenny Mason

Happy New Year to you all.

The shop will be hosting the following event in February, please come along if this subject affects you in any way, and if there is enough interest the organisation is happy to hold another Pop up Event at the shop.

**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/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/brwf/)

Logs and kindling are in stock and the very popular porridge is perfect on cold days, try it with Feckenham honey it's delicious and good for the immune system.

## Square Management Committee

### CHRISTMAS GRATITUDE

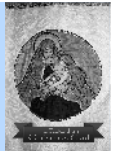
As this magazine goes to press well before Christmas we can't know whether the annual Carols on The Square were a success or a damp squib. However, we can say that the Christmas Tree looks lovely. Many thanks to Mrs Bird for donating it and to Richard Dormer for felling and transporting it. We would also like to thank all of those who promised mince pies and cakes and those who helped us mount the event.

### DON'T PANIC!

It's seven months before we need prepare for Fun on The Square - but we give you fair warning so that you can save your food coupons for the occasion. This year's theme will be based around Dad's Army - so dig out your wooden rifles and your tin hats. You have been warned!

## Communal Christmas Card

Jane White



The 2019 Christmas card was again full, and thanks to your generosity, and an extremely generous anonymous donation we have been able to send £1,400 to 'Crisis'.

The charity say for £28.87 they can give accommodation, support and help for a better future to one homeless person.

Thank you all very much, from Jane and Ann

# Teams4u Shoeboxes for Christmas

2019 Appeal Lin Preece

We have had another amazing year! Together with our friends and neighbours we were able to send 312 boxes, plus an extra 207 with the proceeds from donations and Wake. Making it a grand total of 519.

I cannot thank you enough for your support! Thanks to your generosity all of those children will have had the best Christmas ever. Thanks to you, those children will know that we care about them and that was most probably their best gift of all as it would have given them hope for the future! This year our boxes went to some very poor and forgotten areas in Eastern Romania.

Any cuddly toys for my stall at the Wake would be very much appreciated. Thank you! Lin

## Feckenham First School



## Callow Hill Village



## Stoke Prior and School / Wychbold / Upton Warren



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## Feckenham Flower Show & Over 60's Party Fund Christmas Party

Very many thanks to the Flower Show Committee for organising and putting on the excellent Over Sixties supper on December 7th. Excellent company, food and mulled wine and the waiting was superb. We did find the music rather loud, but I should not have switched off the electricity feed all the same. It didn't do any good and I apologise!

Antonia

## Lunch Club

Jane White

The Village Lunch Club celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in August and continues to carry on. We have an excellent team of seven to provide their skills in producing delicious lunches - the puddings are always a favourite.

We had a great turnout for the Christmas Lunch and we were delighted by a group of children from the Village School coming to sing for us and take round the mince pies! Thank you boys and girls and staff. We were very grateful to The Village Shop who donated the wine and fruit juices that were enjoyed - we only drink this at Christmas!! They have also donated £50 to support this village amenity.

Our lunch this month is on 7<sup>th</sup> January 12.30pm, new members are always very welcome. It has been decided that it is a long time since we had to increase the charge from £3.50 20 years ago, to £4.00 and we now feel we must raise it to £5 so that we can maintain standards.

If you would like to think about coming along, and would like to speak to someone first, please ring Ann Matthews on 892180 or myself on 893281.

Happy New Year!

## Local Matters

### BUS SERVICE 354

Service runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays only

#### Droitwich/ Hanbury/ Feckenham/ Redditch

|                                |       |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Droitwich Spa                  |       |       |
| Ombersley 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                  |       |       |
| Ombersley St. East (Stop 2)    | 10:46 | 13:46 |

This might be useful information for some of you.

### THE IRONING CENTRE



**01527 894040**

# WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



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

## Feckenham Readers Group



Wednesday, 9th January - 7.45

This Month: JAPANESE LOVER  
by Isabelle Allende  
Details from Marion Chute - 892285

## Feckenham Forest History Society

### THE HISTORY OF St NICHOLAS CHURCH ALCESTER

Talk by Richard Osborne  
Tuesday, 14th January - 7.30pm  
Webheath Village Hall

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

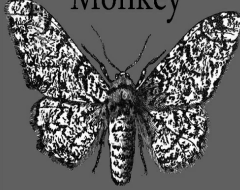
**theWI** **FECKENHAM WI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

### THE RIVER SALWARPE from the Lickey Hills to the River Severn

Thursday, 10th January - 7.30pm  
Visitors Welcome at all meetings - £4

## FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

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& a  
Monkey



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Phone bookings: 0333 666 3366

Feckenham's Own...



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### SWANSBROOK Radio



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# WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

## THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

Kenneth Branagh  
Judi Dench Ian McKellan

12a

### ALL IS TRUE



**FeckenOdeon 1 - Saturday, 25th January at 7.30pm**

Vanessa REDGRAVE

Timothy SPALL

### MRS LOWRY & SON

CS: PG 15C



**FeckenOdeon 2 - Friday, 7th February at 8pm**

The FeckenOdeon Cinemas  
at Feckenham Village Hall

Tickets for all shows from **The Rose & Crown and Village Shop**

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# FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

Ian Bellion



## A BARD RETURNS...

The FeckenOdeon's first offering of 2020 is a beautifully made film shot locally in Stratford upon Avon.

The year is 1613, and Shakespeare is acknowledged as the greatest writer of the age. But disaster strikes when his renowned Globe Theatre burns to the ground – and it is in the aftermath of that disaster that “**All is True**” begins. Shakespeare, vowing that he is “done with stories”, returns home to his family in Stratford to live out the rest of his days. But he has been absent for so long that his arrival disrupts their life more than completes it.

Despite the title the film takes some liberties with the truth - we have no way of knowing exactly what did happen during that period of Will's life - but this is a rich, sympathetic and highly enjoyable film

Directed by Kenneth Branagh who also plays the troubled bard and co-starring Judi Dench and Ian McKellan

**“ALL IS TRUE”**

**Saturday, 25th January at 7.30pm**

## REDGRAVE & SPALL

Two great players, Vanessa Redgrave and Timothy Spall, spark off each other in “Mrs Lowry & Son”. The film takes us into the world of one of the UK's greatest artists at the time when he was working as a rent collector - and struggling with his elderly and dominating mother's disapproval. More details next month.

**“MRS LOWRY & SON”**

**Friday, 7th February at 8pm**

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



## “GIVE ‘EM A LOT” CONFESSES

A retired judge and a retiring butcher are among the latest crop of Feckenhamsters to chat with us on Swansbrook's popular series “In Conversation”.

**Judge Michael Mott**, who retired from the bench in 2005, reveals how he met and married Phyllis in Kenya, how they found Feckenham and how he found himself on the stage.

**Pete Lawton**, better known as Pete the Meat, tells us how he built his business - and reveals a few of the secrets of the trade.

These, and many other conversations, are available to listen to by going to the “On Demand” page at [swansbrook.com](http://swansbrook.com) - past subjects include Peter Masters, Doris Burley, Mark Wheatley and many more. These programmes are part of Swansbrook's project to make a sound picture of life in Feckenham to be archived for future generations.

## ALSO IN JANUARY....

Swansbrook's team are working on a major enquiry into retirement living due for broadcast mid-January. Can older people continue to live independently in a community like Feckenham? What are the pros and cons of moving to retirement villages? We're talking to people with first hand experience.

Also this January we'll have a new selection in Chris Fletcher's Classical Swansbrook, Colin James has been delving ever deeper into the Golden Age of Pop and Ian Bellion's Happy Hour will explore the feelgood factor once a week - all this and News Bulletins too.

## LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Just go to [www.swansbrook.com](http://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](http://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 their journey 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.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham)**

## LUCKY DIP

The Village Hall's Improvement Fund Draws have started. Each year generous contributors to the scheme pay £12 for a stake - but there are prizes to be had too. Here are the latest winners:

|                  |                           |     |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----|
| <b>November:</b> | 03 Carol Onions           | £25 |
|                  | 159 Mike & Francis Sansom | £15 |
|                  | 27 Cathy & Andrew Fisher  | £10 |
| <b>December:</b> | 04 Gary & Tracy Somers    | £25 |
|                  | 157 Susan Lisle           | £15 |
|                  | 113 Mike & Pam Timmins    | £10 |

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**Traditional Music**

Thursday, 30th January - from 6pm

**CURRY Night**

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Well, the incessant damp weather paused for a few days to become sunny at times during the daylight hours and piercingly cold otherwise – an improvement in my opinion as walking across the recreation ground required concentration in order to remain reasonably upright. Trying to look on the bright side, it is just about possible to benefit from these conditions:

- legs have to work harder, to maintain grip and stop you sliding sideways
- the stomach muscles become more active while helping to maintain balance
- the vocal chords get a workout as you curse the conditions

This increases the number of calories burnt and makes the reward of a couple of mince pies on returning home less of a guilty pleasure.

The wetness at the cricket ground has limited our attempts to clear up the large bonfire. This usually involves gathering the detritus into up to 70 or more strong/large plastic sacks and transporting to the recycling centre. This is hard work and time-consuming, so if anyone out there has a better alternative we would be very happy to hear it.

The stream running along the northern edge of the ground is currently rather overgrown, with a build up of silt in places, which does not help water to be carried away when we have a lot of rain. Fortunately the club has received an award from the Feckenham Charity that will enable us to have vegetation cleared and the bed dredged. Of course, we now have to wait for the ground to become dryer before carrying this out, as the tracked machinery involved would quickly create our own small version of the Somme.

On the rebuild/repair project for the pavilion, we are currently establishing costs and by the time that you read this, will have had an Arboricultural Survey carried out. That survey

will establish whether and how our project could impact any trees, mitigation if so and will form part of the planning application.

As I write this early in December many peoples' focus turns to Christmas (whether they like it or not) and so you might be interested that:

- from 1647 to 1659, Christmas was banned by notorious killjoy Oliver Cromwell
- Oliver Cromwell also banned Christmas pudding and mince pies and this law has never been rescinded.
- The needles of a (real) Christmas tree are high in vitamin C
- Santa Claus is based on the Dutch folk tale of Saint Nicholas who gave gifts on December 6
- Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer was invented for a US firm's advertising in 1938
- Sadly, a 2016 survey revealed that 57% of UK adults would be happy to not see their relatives on Christmas day if it meant they could spend more time on Facebook

A sign of the times.

A plea to dog walkers (again). We are happy for people to use our private cricket ground for dog walking but unfortunately not all "pick up" after their animals. This is of course illegal and inconsiderate and creates a health hazard – any perpetrators that are spotted and identified will be reported to the police. I know that this is a cause of concern for villagers generally and I would urge them to do the same – we must all try to defeat this selfish and lazy practice.

Inside the clubhouse, we will be sadly saying goodbye to our bar/clubhouse management team, Jane and Matt, who have worked hard for us since 2012. Matt has in fact been at the club for 31 years as a player, being a key fast bowler and very good batsman. We will be saying goodbye to them on New Year's Eve, their last day in charge. Bon voyage both.

**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

**ANNUAL DINNER - Wednesday 15th January 2020 at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.** We return to the Wheelbarrow Castle at Radford, near Inkberrow for our annual dinner event. Note that prior booking is essential and if you have not yet booked, please contact Niki Dean on 01386 792555 to receive a menu and Booking Form. The cost of the dinner is £19.95 per person. Any drinks, wine, tea/coffee etc. can be purchased individually as required during the evening.

### **THE NEXT CLUB MEETING - Wednesday 5th February 2020 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 meet 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'.

*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. 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 December meeting saw members enjoying Georgia Jacobs entertaining us with music and songs. Georgia played a variety of instruments, guitar, mandolin and dulcimer. We joined in with a light hearted rendition of a Victoria Wood song and some festive songs.

Our own member Jayne Walker told us about her work for the Food Bank. It is sad that there is need for a food bank but thankfully there are people like Jayne willing to give their time and energy to such a worthy cause. Members brought items for Jayne to take to the Food bank plus a raffle was held. The committee provided food and our president Linda wished everyone a happy Christmas.

**Our January meeting** will be held on Thursday 9th, with David Wornham talking about the River Salwarpe - from the Lickey Hills to the River Severn. Visitors very welcome £4.

On 11th January members will be gathering at The Rose & Crown to enjoy a winter lunch together.  
Happy New Year!

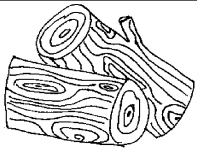


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