

# FECKENHAM

July 2022

# NEWS



Published by Feckenham Church for the village.  
Editor Gilly Cooper - [feckenhamnews@gmail.com](mailto:feckenhamnews@gmail.com)  
(Copy Date 14<sup>th</sup>)

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# Feckenham News in July

## Dates for your Diary

### July

5th	Village Hall AGM
6th	Readers Group
9th	Astwood Bank Carnival
10th	Parish Council Meeting
15th	Feckenodeon 2

### August

20th	Fun on the Square
27th	Feckenodeon

### Regular Sessions

Mondays Restorative Yoga  
Thursdays Bridge; Hatha Yoga; Pilates  
First Tuesday of the month:  
Feckenham Sessions and  
Feckenham Forest History Society  
Third Monday of the month: WI

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## Front Cover

Photo courtesy of Fiona Hawker taken as a hot air balloon went over her house on the High Street

Magazine online at [www.feckenham.com](http://www.feckenham.com)

Many articles in Feckenham News are contributed by members of the public. They remain the responsibility of the writers and neither the production team nor the publishers can be held responsible for the views and assertions contained therein.

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## Editor's Note



Many of us are venturing further on holiday as before the pandemic. If anyone wishes to write a piece about their travels - perhaps something relevant to our village however tenuous the link - please send it in.



**B**on jour to all from somewhere in France. Today we are camping near Carcassonne but by the time the magazine reaches you we will probably be in the French Alps. I said last month that I'd bring my desk with me and I'm currently sitting in our VW camper van aka Little Miss Sunshine managing to concentrate before the temperature soars to almost 40°C.

I understand that while I've been away there has been lots going on in the village. I'm not a great user of Facebook for posting about myself but I do like to follow Feckenham Community and News. People posted some great photos of the hot air balloons from the festival at Radley Hall and others of the lighting of the beacon on Berrow Hill for the Jubilee as well as, of course, the picnic on the green.

Also by the time you read this the Wake will have happened and I hope it has been a wonderful day full of village fun. We came across a very lovely village called Auvillar on the Garonne near the Canal des Deux Mers which we have been following since we reached Bordeaux and also on the Chemin de Saint Jacques to Santiago de Compostela. The village is bigger than ours but the sense of cohesion was the same. It just happened to be the weekend when they celebrate the Feast of St Noé which comes the week after Pentecost. Everyone dresses up in peasant costume: the men in white shirts, black waistcoats, red cummerbunds, berets and clogs; the women in white tops and calf length dirndle skirts. There were processions around the village on both days to much music and chanting. There was folk dancing and food and wine was consumed in copious amounts around the circular market hall in the centre of the village. If only we had similar we would save a lot of time as we wouldn't need gazebos! They had not been able to have the festival during the pandemic and were even more enthusiastic to celebrate than normal we were told.

Au revoir for now.



The wonderful Rev Gary Crelin kindly came back to the parish for one day only to conduct our wedding ceremony.

Our wedding took place on Friday 22nd April 2022 and our old neighbour and good friend Gary married us at our beautiful village church.

My Husband (David) and I have lived in the village for 5 years with our two children James, 12 and Olivia, 9, who both played a big part in the day. James was bestman and Olivia one of three bridesmaids.

Our special day was delayed for 12 months due to the Covid restrictions but was certainly worth the wait, we had an incredible day from start to finish and carried on our celebrations at Billesley Manor in Stratford Upon Avon for our wedding reception. We then spent a week in Cornwall for our mini moon.

Rebecca & David Dudley



## Artisans

Final preparations are taking place for our next event which is a presence at the Wake with work on display by 10 of our group.

We will be exhibiting both in the back room of the Village Hall and on the Square where you will be able to view a varied selection of work.

Our main group show will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of October in the main hall and if you would like to stay in touch why not follow our Facebook page 'Feckenham Artisans'

## A request from Wren & Bramble

Are you an allotment holder or gardener with any flowers to spare this month? I have an event coming up soon and am aiming to source flowers as locally as possible! I'm in search of a good quantity of the following : poppies of different varieties, cornflowers, love-in-the-mist, scabious, white and red cosmos, tanacetum.

Payment in kind or on a 'per bucket' basis! Call Clare on 07548 832771

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## FECKENHAM FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

After an early spring, and two years of Covid restrictions our triennial Festival finally went ahead on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May. Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> May turned out to be the most perfect, warm, sunny day with approximately 1000 visitors attending the Festival. We experienced more inclement and somewhat mixed weather on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> but still welcomed c500 visitors. Walking around the village, the later Spring flowering plants, in particular the wisteria, clematis and peonies looked quite magnificent.

Enthusiastic visitors arrived in their dozens from far and wide, keen to enjoy the event after the long period of restrictions. They related many heart-warming stories and were delighted with the welcome they received.

After many months of hard work, 31 gardens opened to visitors. I am extremely grateful to all those who so generously agreed to open their gardens and for their enthusiasm, hard work and support - thank you. Once again, the Flower Group produced another outstanding Flower Festival in our historic Church themed 'Thankfulness' - which was so relevant to all of us in many different ways.

Approximately fifteen hundred visitors came to the Festival during the weekend and I cannot thank enough our car-parking and admission volunteers for their much valued assistance and commitment. A huge thank you to them all and to Tom Edwards, Lionel Hill, Winfields and Simon and Vicki Sharp for the use of their fields. Our thanks also to all the residents who helped to make the Village look at its best.

Inkberrow WI provided a warm and friendly welcome in the Village Hall and some much needed rest and sustenance for all our visitors. This was supplemented by the hugely successful pig roast and BBQ at the Catholic Church where All Round Voices

Choir gave a performance each day. The Square was busy both days with numerous stalls and ice cream sales - many thanks to all the stall holders who have contributed to our funds. Both pubs and the Village Shop were also kept busy all day boosting their own funds.

In addition, I would like to thank those special people (you know who you are) who have helped me with the enormous amount of preparation required for the Festival and without whom this kind of event would not be possible.

A special mention also to Pat and Carol Onions, who have now stepped down from their role in the Field Car Park over many previous Festivals, for their much-valued assistance and support.

The total sum raised for the Maintenance of our Parish Church and Churchyard, after all the numerous costs and contributions made, is a fantastic £11,800.

Catherine Fisher



## Roman Bridge Near Feckenham

A chance conversation with Jan and Martin Wilkes in May led me to go and look for a Roman bridge just 3km from Feckenham. It's not marked on the Ordnance Survey map, I couldn't find anything online about it, and you certainly wouldn't notice that it was anything special if you went over it. However, thankfully Natural England have put up an information board about it with a better picture of the bridge than I could get on the day. The structure is probably all that is visibly left of the abandoned section of the Roman road that ran straight from Droitwich to Alcester. Standing on the bridge, I felt incredibly lucky to have such a well-preserved ancient piece of architecture just up the road from my house.

If you would like to go and have a look for yourself (and I would, the meadows surrounding the bridge are full of flowers), it is just to the West of Bradley House Farm. The footpath off the Saltway is next to The Villa, on the right hand side as you go towards Droitwich, just as you go down the hill to the little humpback bridge (which is the modern equivalent of the Roman one 300m away).

Jen Cary



## FECKENHAM EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT

The endowment makes grants to young people in the pursuit of further education or training. If you are under 25 and live in the Ancient Parish of Feckenham or the District of Redditch you may be eligible for a grant. Any such grants are divided on the basis of 4/5 to the Ancient Parish and 1/5 to the District of Redditch. All applications will be carefully considered. An individual may make a maximum of three applications. The decision of the Trustees is final.

Closing date for receipt of applications

**30th September, 2022**

For more information and an application form contact:

Mrs J. Bate (Clerk to the Trustees)

'Wychway', Droitwich Road  
Hanbury, BROMSGROVE  
B60 4DB

Tel 01527 821285

## FECKENHAM CHARITY

Funds are dispensed from this ancient charity to individuals and organisations within the boundaries of the Ancient Parish of Feckenham, as the Trustees think fit.

Closing date for receipt of applications

**30th September, 2022**

Further enquiries/applications to:

Mrs J. Bate (Clerk to the Trustees)

'Wychway', Droitwich Road  
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## Biodiversity Project Some questions answered Jeff Matthews

**W**e have had some questions raised about two issues in relation to the Churchyard, specifically the new path and the recent tree felling work.

**The New Path: Why so straight, wide and the material chosen?**

The footpaths are in fact the responsibility of the County Council, and it's their good offices, budget and contractor who did the work. It follows the line of the statutory path, which is in fact straight, so they were re-instating and upgrading. The more sinuous nature the path has adopted recently has been people avoiding the most slippery and muddy parts of the path. The width is a statutory minimum, at 1.3m designed for a wheel chair and someone walking alongside. We expect the grass to grow back and soften the edges soon. It is a permeable surface to allow drainage. Hardened surfaces are a big issue in creating run off and are usually avoided.

**Tree Felling in the Nesting Season? Why?**

Two trees have recently been felled in the Churchyard. The 1st one was the last remaining Ash tree (on the border of the cricket pitch and the churchyard). That has had to be felled as it was considered dangerous, and professional advice has been to monolith it ASAP, particularly after the other one fell in the gales of February.

The other tree was removed from the closed Churchyard by the Council (the trees there are their responsibility). Concern has been expressed about this being done in the nesting season, and rightly so. The tree removed was one of the non-native Lawson Cypress (there

was some unhelpful speculation on Facebook that it was a Yew). We were surprised this work was carried out when it was. Although listed to be removed, we had understood that no further work would be done before late summer to avoid interfering with nesting. However, in the Council's defence not much nests in the Lawson's which is why we are taking them out and they had got behind with work of this type owing to the tree damage in the Feb storms. The matter has been raised with the Council as there are further trees to be removed and we are seeking assurances as to the timing of those. New trees will be planted in the autumn, as planned to replace them.

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## Feckenham WI

On the evening of the Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May you might have seen 13 rather soggy women heading up the High Street! That was Feckenham WI heading back home after a surprisingly very enjoyable walk in the pouring rain around Feckenham Wylde Moor. The reserve is run by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and we are extremely lucky to have it right on our doorsteps – it's one of the largest reedbeds in the county and is one of only a handful of active peat beds in Worcestershire. 17 species of dragonfly have been recorded at the reserve and it plays host to rare migratory species such as snipe. However, on such a wet night as we chose to go and explore it, we didn't see very much, just a deer and the lovely sound of a cuckoo.

Our next meeting is on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June when we shall be doing air rifle shooting, hosted very generously by one of our members at their smallholding down Moors Lane. Meet at Taylor's Close, Moors Lane at

7.45pm for an 8pm start. If you have an air gun, please bring it along. We will have a professional Range Master in the form of Paul Furey who has very kindly agreed to keep us all safe!

Meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month and if you would like to join it is £44 for the year's 11 meetings but guests are welcome to come to any meetings at £5 each per meeting. For more information please contact Jen Cary:

[Jennifer.clements@openreach.co.uk](mailto:Jennifer.clements@openreach.co.uk)

### Meeting dates:

June 20<sup>th</sup>  
July 18<sup>th</sup>  
August 15<sup>th</sup>  
September 19<sup>th</sup>  
October 17<sup>th</sup>  
November 21<sup>st</sup>  
December 19<sup>th</sup>  
January 16<sup>th</sup>  
February 20<sup>th</sup>  
March 20<sup>th</sup>



# JULY CHURCH SERVICES



## PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Priest-in-charge: Fr Glenn Reading 01527 894436

Church Warden: Ann Mathews 892180

Please contact Ann for Weddings at [ann@the-madison-group.co.uk](mailto:ann@the-madison-group.co.uk)

Glen for Baptisms & Funerals at [glenn.reading@googlemail.com](mailto:glenn.reading@googlemail.com)

Website: <http://feckenhamchurch.org.uk/>

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



PARISH CHURCH  
OF  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
FECKENHAM

3 <sup>rd</sup> July	10.30am	Eucharist	Rev Barbara Wheatley
10 <sup>th</sup> July	9.00am	BCP Eucharist	Rev Barbara Wheatley
17 <sup>th</sup> July	6.30pm	Evensong	Fr Glenn Reading
24 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading
31 <sup>st</sup> July	10.00am	Benefice Eucharist at St Peter's Crabbs Cross	

## FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St John Fisher & Thomas More

Due to illness, Mass will not be held at St John Fisher and Thomas More until further notice.

Mount Carmel 6 pm Sunday Mass is now the Live Streamed Mass.

Link: [www.eventcast.uk/live](http://www.eventcast.uk/live) (Type the link into the browser)

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

Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898

## Letter from a Bird Feeder

We're not twitchers or ornithologists, but we've always loved having birds in the garden – such a variety and so entertaining.

Since we moved to Feckenham over a quarter of a century ago, we seem to have acquired an increasing number of feeders, and consequently the birds that take advantage of them.

The species we see have changed somewhat over the years. There have always been the stalwarts – great tit, blue tit, robin, dunnock, great spotted woodpecker, coal tit, long-tailed tit on the feeders, and wood pigeon, collared dove, blackbird, chaffinch, jackdaw, magpie, pied wagtail picking up the bits that the others drop on the ground underneath.

When we arrived in the mid-90's, the most numerous visitors were greenfinches and goldfinches (both incredibly colourful), even outnumbering the tits, but about 20 years ago their numbers took a catastrophic tumble due to disease, and we had many years when we saw none at all. The goldfinches have gradually returned, but in massively fewer numbers, and this year we were ecstatic to spot at least one greenfinch visiting again.

Strangely, so we thought when we first came, we had none of the birds that were common in our previous, more urban, gardens – sparrows and starlings particularly. We still virtually never see a sparrow. Dunnocks are not sparrows, by the way, even though they look similar. So, it was rather nice to see some starlings take up residence last year – such beautiful green/blue/black sheened plumage when you see them close-up.

BUT – then they decided to breed, and each pair (I think we had about 4 pairs) seemed

to produce about 10 chicks, which all survived, and when they left the nest, became a ravening hoard – Alfred Hitchcockesque. Consequently, my spending on bird seed & suet feed has considerably more than doubled since April despite changing to a much cheaper on-line supplier. Basically, this, on top of the spiralling cost of gas, electric, diesel, beer, asparagus, strawberries and trouser presses, means that we will be on the bread line before long. One can have too much of a good thing, so we'd quite like most of them to go forth and murmurate somewhere else soon.....but we will be happy, if poorer, to welcome them back next year.

I think our favourite regulars this year have been a pair of bullfinches who seem to have reared at least one chick to be self-sufficient – quite a coup, and such astonishingly beautiful birds.

Our favourite long-term regulars are the nuthatches – we just love the way they feed upside down.....

Our least favourite visitors are the pesky grey squirrels – we've come to the conclusion that there is no such thing as a squirrel-proof feeder! Mind you, having a dog does help!



# WHAT'S ON IN

Feckenham Square Management Committee

FUN ON THE SQUARE

# PIRATES Of the CARIBBEAN



**Saturday, 20th August**

**FROM 6.30PM**

**WALK THE PLANK  
AND OTHER PIRATICAL GAMES**

**CIRQUE L'AMOUR  
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# FECKENHAM

## Feckenham READERS GROUP

Meets on

Wednesday, 6th July - 7.45

This month's book:

## THE GIRL WITH THE LOUDING VOICE

By Abi Dare



## THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH IN



THE ELECTRICAL LIFE OF LOUIS WAIN <sup>12a</sup>

FeckenOdeon 2

Friday, 15th July at 8pm



DANIEL CRAIG as JAMES BOND in  
**NO TIME TO DIE**

FeckenOdeon 1

Saturday, 27th August at 7.30pm

## FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL



AGM

Tuesday, 5th July - 8pm

Village Hall - Back Room

All welcome

The FeckenOdeon Cinemas  
at Feckenham Village Hall

Tickets for all shows from **The Rose & Crown and Village Shop**  
Telephone Booking 0333 666 3366\* Online Booking\* & full information at

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

\*Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings

\*Phone calls answered by Ticketsource and charged at standard rates - NOT a premium line



## THE FECKENHAM SESSIONS

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First Tuesday of every month from 8pm

NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 5th July

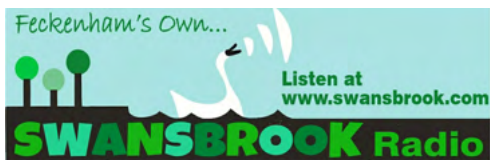
## Feckenham Parish Council MEETING

Thursday, 10th July  
at 7.30pm

Feckenham Village Hall  
Back Room

All welcome.

[whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk](mailto:whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk) or call 892130



## BE OUR GUEST...

We're delighted to welcome a new presenter to the Swansbrook airwaves. **Howard Bellaby is joining us as guest presenter of Classical Swansbrook** - for one month only. Howard is planning to revolutionise the programme by playing 80s classics - his programme will be streaming and available on demand from 4th July.

We're delighted that Howard has come forward and we'd love to welcome more guest presenters. We understand that you may not have time to make a regular commitment - but, if you'd like to try your hand we'd be delighted to guide you through the process and make sure that you, and your programme, sound good on air. Just drop us an email to [radio@swansbrook.com](mailto:radio@swansbrook.com) and we'll talk about the possibilities.

## CARNIVAL

We'll be popping up our pop-up studio at **Astwood Bank Carnival on Saturday, 9th July** - do please take the opportunity to pop-in and see us. Just look for our banners. We'll be making programmes from the Carnival field and reporting on all the goings on - so, if you can't get there, you can tune in to Swansbrook and enjoy all the fun of the fair

## LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Go to [www.swansbrook.com](http://www.swansbrook.com) and follow the instructions you'll find there. Our programmes are available for you to play ON DEMAND - listen when and where you like - as often as you like.

**FECKENHAM'S OWN Local Radio**  
[www.swansbrook.com](http://www.swansbrook.com)

## The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



### ELECTRIC CATS

FeckenOdeon 2 reopens with Benedict Cumberbatch playing an eccentric cat loving artist in **"The Electrical Life of Louis Wain"**. This whimsical comedy is based on the the extraordinary true story of eccentric British artist Louis Wain (Benedict Cumberbatch), whose playful, sometimes even psychedelic pictures helped to transform the public's perception of cats forever. TMr Wain seeks to unlock the "electrical" mysteries of the world and, in so doing, to better understand his own life and the profound love he shared with his wife Emily Richardson (Claire Foy). A delight of a film - as eccentric as its subject.

### THE ELECTRICAL LIFE OF LOUIS WAIN

Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July - 8pm

Coming soon...

**Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> August** - a Bank Holiday treat as the latest Bond movie roars onto the screen. **"No Time to Die"** stars Daniel Craig in his final spectacular outing as 007.

### OUR 21st SEASON

Subscriptions are now on sale for the 2022/23 FeckenOdeon Season. Just £30 buys you a seat for eight Saturday night films from September to April. Full details can be found at [www.fecknodeon.co.uk](http://www.fecknodeon.co.uk) and in leaflets to be found in most venues around the village.

*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)*



## PIRATICAL FUN!

Patch up your parrots, wooden legs, jolly rogers and dodgy ooo arr accents - the **Pirates of The Caribbean** are heading for Feckenham! On **Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> August**, the treacherous waters of the Caribbean will be sloshing around on The Square. There'll be Caribbean music, a privateers' bar, a tavern serving food fit for the King of the Pirates... and all sorts of dastardly games and entertainment.

The favourite attraction will certainly be THE PLANK! Just pay us a dubloon or two and we'll make your Dad, your teacher or your granny walk the plank into the shark infested sea.

High above the poop deck the daring swash bucklers of Cirque D'amour will amaze with a gravity defying aerial display.

This is Fun on the Square - the annual fundraising effort that keeps The Square all scrubbed up and in fine financial fettle - so please **DON'T bring your own food and drink** - there'll be plenty of sensibly priced rations at our tavern and bar - and every penny will go to look after The Square.

**Pirates of the Caribbean - The Square - Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> August from 6.30pm.**



## HELP NEEDED!

Feckenham Village Hall serves the entire village - and all age groups - yet its management committee is largely made up of older people. We're justifiably proud of the improvements we've made to the Hall, the increased use of its facilities and of its ability to survive in trying times - but we really do need the help of younger people so that we can continue to provide the service the village needs. It needn't involve a huge amount of time - we meet for an hour on the first Tuesday of each month and we undertake occasional caretaking and maintenance tasks. It's an informal and lighthearted committee that likes to get things done. So if you'd like to join us you'd be welcomed with open arms. **The AGM is on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July at 8pm in the Back Room.** Please feel free to come along without obligation - we'll be glad to explain what's involved. Alternatively please send us an email to [hall@feckenham,f9.co.uk](mailto:hall@feckenham,f9.co.uk) or call 01527 892130.

## DRAW

The **Improvement Fund Draw for June, 2022** was made at the meeting of The Trustees on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Winners:	106	Q & Jen Cary	£25
	110	Tim Smith & Alli Taylor	£15
	3	Brian Robson	£10

### **HELP FOR YOU if you are self-isolating** From Volunteers Co-ordinated by Feckenham Facebook Group & Parish Council

A group of local volunteers from the village are available to assist you with **PICKING UP SHOPPING**, or **POSTING MAIL**, picking up **URGENT SUPPLIES** (including medications) or just having a **FRIENDLY PHONE CALL** during this challenging time when many people are being advised to self-isolate if they are either vulnerable or ill.

If you would like some help then please contact **JANE BULL**, Clerk to Feckenham Parish Council either on **892522** or [clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com](mailto:clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com) and we will be in touch (& the help is free!). Any goods will be left on your doorstep. More updates on our local radio: [swansbrook.com](http://swansbrook.com)

**NOTE:** Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness - Avoid physical contact (keep at least 2m distance from others) and Wash your hands regularly

## FECKENHAM READERS GROUP

The June choice was A Song for Summer by Eva Ibbotson. It was universally enjoyed by the group. Alan Jones, who was unable to attend sent his thoughts:

I thought the book was absolutely super (thanks Lizzie). Such an array of characters which were well drawn if constantly shifting (one day the gardener handyman and then a freedom fighter and then an international composer musician). A charming kitchen maid who becomes a local star and above all Ellen who was charmingly tutored by 3 eccentric Suffragettes and sowed her real talent by Henny.

An insight into the problems of Austria and Czechoslovakia caused by Hitler. Ukraine is, in a way, an echo.

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## Feckenham Archive - Marion Chute



This month's memory from the archive is courtesy of Paul Bradley and shows the Needle Factory with celebrating, fancy dressed children at the Coronation in 1953.

I'm not sure how happy I would be if that was my daughter up there as Britannia – looks decidedly precipitous! I love the guardsman looking as though he could have been trooping the colour at jubilee weekend.

## Feckenham Celebrates the Platinum Jubilee



## Feckenham Village Shop Alan Slater



With The Shop bedecked in bunting and our new planters and hanging baskets in full bloom , we were delighted to welcome a very special guest over the Jubilee weekend. Obviously our reputation for excellent coffee and cakes has spread beyond the boundaries of Feckenham and our volunteers Rhian and Gay were thrilled when HM dropped by on an unexpected visit. She was not the only surprise visitor as we had a very busy bank holiday.

Encouragingly we are getting a lot more visitors from beyond our local area and many of them are kind enough to leave extremely complimentary comments on our social media platforms. We do welcome feedback so don't hesitate to make a posting or if you prefer let us know your views personally by speaking to one of our Board Members. Positive comments always encourage our volunteers or if you believe that we can improve our service, that's equally

helpful for us to know.

Last month we were proud sponsors of both the Feckenham Horse Show and the Feckenham Wake , events that enable us to reinvest in our Community. Until next month continue to enjoy your summer and remember we're well stocked with cold drinks and ice cream



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## Feckenham Cricket Club - Bob Gordon

I'll start the cricket report with the news that Graeme Rankin scored 265 not out for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Team in a recent match against Five Ways Old Edwardians. An extraordinary performance and the second highest individual score in the history of the Worcestershire County League. Oh, and we won the match, well done Graeme!

The first team is sitting in fifth place in Division 3 of the Worcestershire County League, with good wins over Redditch, Martley and Old Hill. Luke Jackson rolled back the years with an unbeaten 97 against Old Hill (our Yasir Mehmood taking 5 wickets in the match) and 68 against Martley. Raheem Basharat hit 93 not out against Redditch's second team and young Owen Rae acquitted himself well with bat and ball this season in the first team, stepping up effortlessly from the junior game.

Speaking of the juniors, the Under-15s started their season with a 5-wicket win against Alvechurch and Hopwood, with Ben East, Sam Curtis and Owen Rae amongst the runs in the game, which uses the "hundred" format. The Under 13s lost narrowly to Barnt Green with Ben and Sam joined by Liam Banks in excelling with the bat. The Under 12s are having a great season, with Tommie East and Tom Natrass amongst the runs and Will Reynolds taking wickets.

In recent weeks we have hosted two county matches, the first involving Worcs U13s against Shropshire U13s, the second being Worcs Over 60s hosting Bucks Over 60s. Both were very entertaining games and it is testament to our ground staff that the county asks the club to stage these prestigious matches.

In the shed there has been much activity, with several mowers needing major work to replace parts. Thanks goodness for Rob Banner! Use of an E10 fuel additive does seem to have positive results on machines that struggled with the new ethanol-heavy form of petrol.

Finally, the club was part of the hugely successful Open Gardens weekend and saw large numbers of visitors to our picturesque ground.

### Upcoming games at Mill Lane:

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jul	Feckenham CC 1st XI	v	Brockhampton CC 2nd XI	12:30pm
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jul	Feckenham Under 13s	v	Wolverhampton	10:30am
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Feckenham Under 11s	v	Ombersley	6pm
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Feckenham 2nd XI	v	Old Elizabethans CC 3rd XI	12:30pm
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Feckenham Under 12s	v	Astwood Bank	10:30am
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Feckenham Under 12s	v	Lye	6pm
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Feckenham CC 1st XI	v	Barnards Green CC 2nd XI	12:30pm
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Feckenham Under 11s	v	Halesowen	10:30am
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Feckenham Under 13s	v	Romsley & Hunnington	10:30am
Tue 19 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Feckenham Under 11s	v	Worcester	10:30am
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jul	Feckenham 2nd XI	v	Worcester CC - 3rd XI	12:30pm
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Feckenham Under 11s	v	Bromsgrove	6pm
Tue 26 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Feckenham Under 11s	v	Kidderminster	6pm
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Feckenham Under 12s	v	Hagley	6pm
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Feckenham CC 1st XI	v	Redditch CC 2nd XI	12:30pm
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> Jul	Feckenham Under 13s	v	Bromsgrove	10:30pm

# Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

## Lawns for the Enthusiast !

**T**here is no doubt that a good, green lawn and neat edges add considerably to the look of a garden. Achieving that look, however, calls for some effort and enthusiasm.

When we lived at Meadow Farm our garden lawns were a mixture of old grassland and areas which were sown when we created the garden in 1999. There is no doubt that the sown areas were much better than the old grassland areas, because we carefully selected the seed to give us a range of superior dwarf and resilient grasses. Nevertheless, regular mowing eventually tamed the old grassland to an acceptable finish. It took me an hour and a half to complete a cut.

Our new garden in Salford Priors is very much smaller. The lawn area was sown in April 2021 and established readily and now takes five minutes to cut. The only drawback to a small lawn is that it doesn't yield very much for the compost heap!

Regular mowing is definitely the key to a successful lawn - and by regular I mean at least twice a week. I set the mower (a 16" Hayter rotary with a rear roller) to cut leaving an inch of growth and I always remove the clippings by fitting the grass box. Cutting to this length allows the roller to bend over the remaining grass as it

passes, giving you the stripes which traditionally indicate a cared-for lawn. I usually start mowing in late March and continue into late Autumn, and I always try to mow when the grass is dry. If it is even slightly wet, the clippings do not 'fly' into the collection box but instead clog the machine.

I use a weed/feed/mosskiller product in mid April using a Scotts Evergreen spreader when the lawn is dry, but try to ensure that rain is imminent so as to dissolve and wash in the granules. Within days of the rain arriving, the moss turns brown, the weeds begin to curl and the grass starts to green. Some years, we repeat the process in early July. To keep on top of persistent ground hugging weeds such as Clover and Black Medick I will spot treat them now and again with a selective weedkiller applied with a sprayer.

But a good lawn can easily be overshadowed by scruffy edges. Our lawns at Meadow Farm were edged by steel strip edgings, made for us by James Barrett who used to be our local metalworker in Feckenham. They make edge cutting very precise and easy using a pair of edging shears, and I trim the edges about every second or third cut depending upon the need.

Done regularly, lawn maintenance will give you a lawn which greatly enhances your garden. You do need to be something of an enthusiast, but the better your lawn becomes, the more the enthusiasm grows.



Our June 1st meeting was a talk by Josh Egan-Wyer who runs the Plant Centre at Pershore Horticultural College. He gave a lively demonstration using the many plants which he had brought with him, most of which were for sale and which were readily snapped up by our members.

## **NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 13th July 2022 at 10:45am**

We have arranged a group visit to the beautiful Bourton House Garden near Moreton-in-Marsh for the morning of Wednesday 13th July. We will take advantage of the reduced group entrance rate of £7 per person. This is a self-drive visit, which you can combine with a visit in the afternoon to nearby Batsford Arboretum if you wish to make a day of it.

If you haven't yet booked your place, please contact Diane Cole by email at meadowfarm33@aol.com for full details and a booking form.

Membership of the Gardening Club is currently by £5.00 annual subscription which becomes due on 1st January each year. Please make cheques payable to 'Stock and Bradley Gardening Club'. We welcome new members to join us at any time throughout the year.

*Club meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £5.00 for 2022. 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 07544 832052.*

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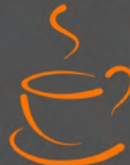
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