

FECKENHAM NEWS

July 2023



— F O C —
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Editor Gilly Cooper - feckenhamnews@gmail.com
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Feckenham News in July

Dates for your Diary

July

8th	John Calvert Memorial
12th	S&B Gardening Club Church Drop In
15th	Fun on the Square
17th	WI
26th	Church Drop In

September

23rd	George Egg's Set Menu
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Regular Sessions

Mondays	Restorative Yoga
Wednesdays	Playgroup
Thursdays	Bridge; Hatha Yoga; Pilates
Fridays	Meditation Class
First Tuesday of the month:	
Lunch Club, Feckenham Sessions and Feckenham Forest History Society	
First and Third Wednesday: Community Choir	
Third Monday of the month: WI	
2nd and 4th Fridays : Erstwhile Morris dancers	

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Front Cover

Photo by Rosemary
Morris: Bluetits
nesting in the cigarette
bin at the Cricket Club

Magazine online at
[www.feckenham-
parishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

Many articles in
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the publishers can be
held responsible for
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assertions contained
therein.

Editor's Note

By the time this edition of the magazine comes through your door, the village Wake will have come and gone. I hope the weather has been kind and that everyone had a lot of fun. The committee and all their helpers will be having a well deserved rest. I'm afraid I shall be away over that weekend, so please will people send me their photos and any comments or thoughts on the day to be published in the August magazine. The Wake Committee is always looking for new members with new ideas and practical help.



There's a very important planning application for a very large Battery Storage Facility. Hugo Hammersley, from the Parish Council, has written a detailed article explaining that, while we support the move to green energy, this is not something that is well planned or well sited for the population at large. Please read the article. You may comment using the link provided which is easily found on the Parish Council website.

I think people appreciate receiving the magazine each month. We rely on a small team who regularly give their time to contribute or distribute the magazine each month. This month has been difficult due to holidays and I wonder if there's anyone who has a spare an hour or two each month who can help with distributing. I know we are always asking for people to come forward to support many village activities.

The shop is constantly looking for volunteers as is the Feckenodeon and the Wake to mention just a few. The village will not remain the active inclusive community it has been if new people don't come forward. Please think about offering some of your time. If you'd like to help with the magazine please let me know by emailing feckenhamsnews@gmail.com or calling me on 07500115581.

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, 2023

Further enquiries/applications to:

Mrs J. Bate (Clerk to the Trustees)

'Wychway', Droitwich Road
Hanbury, BROMSGROVE

B60 4DB

Tel 01527 821285

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, 2023

For more information and an
application form contact:

Mrs J. Bate (Clerk to the Trustees)

'Wychway', Droitwich Road
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Tel 01527 821285

Feckenham Couple Celebrate Platinum Wedding Anniversary

Leonard and Enid Burley of Astwood Lane have reached the milestone of seventy years of marriage. Leonard (aged 93) and Enid (88) have lived in their cottage in the village for 69 years after buying the property in 1954.

Leonard, who moved to Feckenham at the age of seven, worked for many years at the Austin Motor Company and also served in the RAF. He is also one of the founder members of Feckenham Cricket Club where he played for many years. Enid, from Hanbury, served as a nurse until their marriage at Hanbury Parish Church on 18th July 1953. They have two sons, Melvin and Anthony and a daughter, Sandra.

Family and friends will all be celebrating the occasion this July.



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Remembering John Calvert

John Calvert came to live in Feckenham in the early 1970s after a career in personnel with Triplex and Pilkingtons led ultimately to ITV and the chairmanship of Tyne Tees Television. The son of a Yorkshire clergyman and an organist mother, he was educated at the highly musical Boothams School. He learned piano and organ and developed his strong bass voice together with an interest in choral music and operetta. Soon after arriving in Feckenham he joined the church choir and was choirmaster from 1984 to 2000. Under his direction the choir, augmented by other local singers and actors, gave performances of Britten's Noyes Flood, Handel's Messiah, Mendelssohn's Elijah, T.S. Eliot's Murder in the Cathedral and, for a bit of variety, HMS Pinafore. Along the way we learned the virtues of attendance and punctuality!



The photo here commemorates the performance of Messiah in 2000, after which John retired as choirmaster and rejoined the choir, besides playing the organ for funerals and weddings and sitting on the PCC for many years.

This left time for his next undertaking, for which most villagers will probably best remember him, as chairman of the committee formed in 2008 in response to strong local demand for a village shop. This committee did the groundwork leading to the formation of the company which began trading as the village shop in March 2009.

John remained chairman of the board for several years, showing sound business judgment and helping to create a cheerful and lasting team spirit among the volunteers. The shop has developed and expanded over the years, building on the good start which it had under John's chairmanship.

JC had an expansive personality and expressed firm views on many matters, often at some length; but he was friendly, humorous and interested in other people, enjoying gossip and a good chat. In everything he did he aimed to encourage high standards and to make a difference. If some people found this process demanding, the results justified the pain!

Large characters leave large gaps, and so it has been with JC. I have found aspects of village life rather strange since he left. Although we will remember him in our different ways, it is remembering that is important.

Michael Mott

John Calvert, our old choir master in Feckenham has passed away. He was a wonderful bloke with an incredible voice. He was a huge influence on a number of us in our generation in the village. We made films inspired by him, radio plays, he always just seemed so cool and otherworldly. Sometimes a bit scary, of course, but only because he hated bad singing. Lastly, John always used to tell us to stare up at the stained glass window if we were nervous doing a solo. He was pushing us to try harder. So here's to Feckenham's stained glass window, ever present and encouraging us through pivotal moments, no doubt to the day we join him.

Thank you Mr Calvert.

John and Pete Butler, and the rest of Feckenham's Little Balloon crew

John Calvert

Passed away peacefully on
Sunday 14th May, 2023
aged 85 years.

**A service of Thanksgiving
for the life and work of John
will take place at**

**St. John the Baptist Church, Feckenham
on Saturday 8th July, 2023 at 12 noon,
followed by refreshments and a time to
share memories at
Redhouse Barn, Shaw Lane, Stoke Prior
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Please wear colourful clothing

Donations if so desired to
**Worcestershire NHS Mental Health Trust
(where John was chairman for fourteen
years)**

may be sent via telephone or cheque to:
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CONTACT FROM BELOW

Just to prove that Swansbrook Radio can be heard all over the world, we've had an email from a community radio station "down under"! Ray Hewitt from TYGA-FM 98.9 in New Norfolk, Tasmania, has written to tell us that he's been listening to our programmes. Ray says that our programmes are "like no others" - we're not sure if that's meant as a compliment...

We've had a look at TYGA-FM's website. Like most countries other than the UK, getting a licence to broadcast on FM frequencies is relatively cheap and easy so TYGA can be heard on ordinary radios. We're green with envy... still, programmes "like no others" make it worthwhile finding us on the internet!

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Planning Application for 200MW Battery Storage Facility, Astwood Lane

Times are changing; global warming is heating up, energy prices are soaring, and we must look after our planet. Feckenham needs to assist. The government has set ambitious targets for the UK to reach Net-Zero by 2050, which includes stopping the production of petrol and diesel cars by 2030 in favour of electric vehicles. Central heating systems will soon need to employ heat exchangers, which are exclusively electric-powered. Power generation will be from renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, backed up by Battery Storage (BESS) facilities to ensure continuity of supplies. These measures are inevitable and in everyone's interests. However, we need to plan CAREFULLY for the future and make the right choices to achieve these goals. Above all, we need to think before acting and check that initiatives are backed by evidence that guarantees those goals. This is where Feckenham Parish Council (FPC) comes in; our role is to represent our lovely village's residents. We are currently responding to a recent planning application by a small energy company called Immersa for a gigantic 200 Mega Watt (MW) BESS facility covering 13 acres of historic Green Belt pastureland north of Astwood Lane, opposite the entrance to the National Grid's substation. This would be the second BESS facility for Feckenham; Statkraft, an established multinational utility company, already has planning consent for a five-acre 50MW BESS east of the substation and is due to commence construction in the next 18 months.

We all know the electricity station on Astwood Lane, which is supplied by a spider's web of pylons and cables. Most people don't know that National Grid has to offer grid connections to anyone who requests one. There has been an avalanche of recent speculative applications by companies keen to profit from the expanding energy market with BESS and solar farm projects. FPC has met with senior technical staff at National Grid, who have

shown us the "pipeline" of agreed connections in Feckenham – containing a staggering list of 2,200MW of electrical hardware. Were all these to come to fruition (which we sincerely hope won't be the case), we have calculated that it will cover 11,500 acres of agricultural land with solar panels and BESS containers, all of which will need to be located within a few miles of Feckenham substation. This prospect is unconscionable and cannot possibly be allowed. FPC says that Feckenham's contribution to the inevitable green energy revolution should be limited to the consented scheme for a 50MW BESS facility by Statkraft. When this has been built, we think we have done our bit for green energy locally. Anything more risks destroying our precious countryside in favour of a grim industrial wilderness that would wreck our surroundings.

So, what is Immersa proposing, and what is wrong with it?

1. Planning application 23/00417/FUL changes a 13-acre parcel of historic pastureland into an industrial site with 240 lorry containers housing Lithium-ion batteries. It contains transformers, inverters, control rooms, CCTV and a tall communication tower, all surrounded by high-security fencing. Confusingly, Immersa's planning statement says on page 6 that a large rectangle of land in the southwest corner will be empty, whereas, on page 9, it appears full of electrical hardware. They go on to supply "expert reports" on conservation and landscape matters on the assumption that this area is free from development. Yet, we have checked with National Grid, who say emphatically that the BESS facility cannot function without this connection hardware – which is up to 10m tall. This means that their expert reports are misleading, and indeed the Council's Conservation Officer has based her assessment on the assumption that the corner of the plot is empty. In truth, the industrial nature of this facility will be glaringly apparent from Astwood Lane and appear completely incongruous. It will also harm the setting of Grade II Mutton Hall Farm and distant views from the Grade II* Listed Village Church and Conservation Area.

2. Immersa has supplied a Transport Report, claiming their gigantic project can be built

with 3 HGV deliveries a day over 40 weeks, whilst Statkraft, in their original application, said that their project, which is a quarter of the size, will take up to 58 HGV's daily over 78 weeks. Immersa has omitted to say that the only access roads to this land (Astwood Lane & Rockhill Lane) both have 7.5-ton weight restrictions – and each BESS container weighs 19 tons. The Council's Highways Officer seems to have been taken in by Immersa's transport claims – which we think are wholly inaccurate.

3. Immersa fails to mention that the BESS containers have a limited lifespan and will need to be replaced five times during the forty-year lifetime of this project. This will create 22,800 tons of heavy-duty industrial waste containing at least 5,000 tons of highly toxic Lithium.

4. Immersa has submitted a woefully inadequate "Battery Safety Management Plan", which does not include a single fire hydrant for the entire facility. There have been around 100 serious fire incidents at BESS facilities worldwide, where catastrophic thermal runaway causes explosions, fireballs, and the release of intense heat with the highly toxic gas clouds containing hydrofluoric acid and hydrogen cyanide. Firefighting experience shows that these fires are difficult to extinguish and require vast volumes of water over prolonged periods – all of which needs to be recovered and decontaminated. A fire in two Tesla-designed BESS containers in Victoria, Australia, in 2021 required 900,000 litres over six hours – which would fill half an Olympic swimming pool – and remember that was for two containers – Immersa's facility has 240 containers. FPC has compared Immersa's Safety Management Plan with the latest BESS planning guideline produced by the National Fire Chief's Council; it fails to meet almost all of its essential recommendations. In short, without proper fire and safety precautions, FPC thinks that this BESS facility will pose a significant risk to the locality – including Feckenham Primary School (which is only 600m distant), and the electrical substation (which is only 100m distant).

5. Lastly, while we agree that more BESS facilities are needed nationally, we do not

accept that Feckenham is the correct location. Joule's Law – which is the Physics Law which calculates the energy losses in electricity cables, shows conclusively that stand-alone BESS facilities should be located near the SOURCES of renewable energy (and not at distant sites like Feckenham). These sources are predominately the wind farms on the east coast of England and in Scotland, and this is the optimal site for a stand-alone BESS, when considering energy conservation. Immersa's BESS is entirely dependent on distant energy sources and is NOT connected to any local renewable sources. Thus, locating this BESS in Feckenham will inevitably cause unnecessary energy wastage in transmission cables, which is certainly NOT in the national interest. This simple scientific fact, completely invalidates Immersa's claim that their BESS project represents a "Very Special Circumstance", justifying breaching local and national planning policies protecting Gren Belt Land from development.

Feckenham Parish Council detailed objection to Redditch Planning Authority, can be seen on the Parish Council website: look for the section on Astwood Lane Battery Storage (bottom left-hand corner of the page):

<https://www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk/>

If you wish to comment to the Planning Dept on the application, here is the web link; press "Make a Comment". We suggest using the headings listed above if you wish to object.

<https://publicaccess.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=RSDQJ3SEFPF00&activeTab=summary>

Alternatively, you can email the Planning Officer directly, stating your name and address and the application number 23/00417/FUL

paul.lester@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Dr Hugo N Hammersley
Vice-Chairman Feckenham Parish Council

Feckenham Flower Show and Over 60s Party Fund

The Feckenham Flower Show AGM was held on May 31st 2023 and at this small (but quorate and advertised) meeting the future of the Feckenham Flowers Show and Spring Fair was discussed.

Taking into account that interest in the shows and the number of exhibitors was diminishing year by year, and that there were fewer villagers interested in helping with organising the shows to such an extent that were now unable to fill the statutory roles of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer the **meeting unanimously resolved to organise no further Feckenham Flower Show and Spring Fair** and to, as a result, dispose of the assets of the Flower Show.

The committee wished to thank all those who have organised and supported the Flower Shows and the over 60's parties in the past.

A group of FOUR Trustees were appointed to organise the disposal of the Flower Show assets (monetary and material) to (in accordance with the Constitution) a new village organisation with the aims of the existing Feckenham Flower Show, or to a number of separate village organisations with some of the same aims as the Feckenham Flower Show.

These aims were seen as an interest in organising a Flower Show, public flowers and the over 60 residents of the village.

The Trustees will take no hasty or precipitant actions or decisions in order to allow any group of residents who wish to form a new flower show organisation to do so. To contact the Trustees please email cassy.harris@outlook.com.

The present signatories for the bank account will remain in post until the monetary assets are disposed of.

Will anyone who won a trophy at the last Flower Shows please return them to Angela Fletcher in the next two months. The trophies will be stored securely in the hope that a new Flower Show organisation will come into being.

Feckenham Square Management Committee

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR ON THE SQUARE!

Fun on The Square is just for Feckenham folk! It's our yearly night out on our very own village green and this year there'll be a fairground feel... perhaps with a bit of circus thrown in for good measure.

There won't be any big thundering rides and there's no room for dodgems but there will be umpteen side shows for you to try your luck at - a coconut shy, darts, hoopla and many more - there may even be a return of the infamous "Bung-a-bogroll" game.

The main attraction will be the amazing aerial artistes of **Cirque l'Amour** who will perform way above the heads of the astonished onlookers. Our local **Erstwhile Border Morris Team** will entertain at ground level.

There'll be **food and drink aplenty** - don't have your tea before you come! Home cooked stomach pleasing main courses (including vegetarian options), satisfying puds featuring locally grown fruit and there'll also be a barbecue for lovers of burgers and hot dogs.

There'll be a **well stocked bar** featuring beers, wines, ciders and soft drinks.

This is a fundraising occasion and if we all spend a little it'll add up to enough cash to pay for another year's worth of insurance cover, tree maintenance, mower repairs, plants for the planters, etc., etc - **so PLEASE, don't bring your own booze or food.** The bar and food stalls will be very reasonably priced and every penny made will go to make sure Feckenham's village green remains a place to be proud of!

We shall be able to take card/electronic payments at all attractions and stalls.

FUN ON THE SQUARE

Saturday, 15th July

From 6.30pm

Note: Feckenham Square is owned and cared for on behalf of the village by Feckenham Village Amenity Trust (Reg Charity No.:1060836).

Feckenham Readers Group

A small group of six met to discuss *The Last Runaway* by Tracy Chevalier, a story of Honor a young Quaker woman who left her home in Dorset for a new life in Ohio.

It was generally enjoyed with praise for the level of research the author must have undertaken showing in her understanding of quilting and its importance to the Quaker Community. There were some doubts about being able to send parcels to and from the UK in 6 weeks.

There was discussion on the law (Federal or State?) requiring all to assist Slave Catchers in catching runaway slaves and the problems this gave Quakers who felt all persons were equal but feared imprisonment and fines for breaking this law.

The death of Grace (Honor's sister) and Mathew (Adam's brother) illustrated how fragile life was. Houses had a separate sick room. The marriages that followed showed the need for a woman of that time and place to find a husband. Honor's marriage to Jack Haymaker upset his sister Dorcas who felt he was promised to her friend.

The courage and skills of black runaways and their helpers such as Mrs. Reed and Bell Mills showed how widespread support was for Runaways.

Honor's reluctant attachment to Donovan, the slave catcher, Belle's Brother to add confusion, was, in the view of some, inserted by the book's editor to add a bit of spice.

Our theme was Slavery and the suggestions on the theme were: *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *Gone with the Wind*, *The Help*, Guardian editorial (12th of June) on Benjamin Lay and the podcast Empire.

Alan Jones

Feckenham WI

Our July meeting will be a walk around Feckenham, incorporating a bit of map reading and litter picking as we go (and maybe a pint in the Rose & Crown...). Last Summer we hoped our July meeting would be rounders, but when the thermometer reached 33 degrees we felt it was a bit hot to be running around so we went for a walk instead. We enjoyed it so much that this Summer we are taking the gamble that we again have fine weather (although hopefully nowhere near as hot as that!) and we aim to enjoy an evening stroll around our beautiful village.

We will be setting out from Feckenham Village Hall at 8pm (please gather from 7.45pm) on Monday 17th July. Members are free, guests are £5. Please bring a carrier bag, washing up or disposable gloves, a water bottle, some money and wear good shoes. For more details or membership enquiries, please contact Jen Cary on 07773 883 039.

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cabins on the boat... albeit on the trailer! The next day we put it in the water at Itchenor, it is a remarkably gentle slipway and all went smoothly until we realised we had forgotten to take the electric board off the trailer before backing her in. Oops, but all a learning experience.

Since then we have been out on the water for three consecutive weekends and on one of those weekends we over-nighted on the boat in the middle of Chichester estuary. An interesting experience where it is very important that you understand the tidal range as otherwise you could ground or alternatively pull your anchor and drift. We almost did both but managed to rescue the situation with 2am and 5.30am rowing to reposition ourselves and make sure everything was OK. On the plus side I'm not sure we are going to be using the anchor too much in the Middle of the Atlantic!

Cooking on the boat is going to be interesting. This will only be outside for safety reasons and will solely consist of one small gas canister with one ring on which we will boil whatever is needed. Our water requirements will be met by a water-maker which will take sea water and purify it into drinking water. This is one of the most important pieces of equipment for obvious reasons and will be powered by two batteries which in turn are powered by a solar panel on each cabin. We really don't want this to break as otherwise after our personal stint of two hours rowing we would have to manually operate a pump to make water – 20 minutes of continuous pumping will make one litre of water, when our arms will already be tired and we will just want to go to bed.

Having had a fantastic start to our campaign, we are still badly in need of sponsorship and if anybody is reading this who thinks their Company may be able or willing to help, in return for branding and more – get in touch! Everything raised will be going to Acorns Children's Hospice which is the most fantastic cause we could wish to do something so stupid for. Thanks!

George Farmiloe 07950 687 089

To donate go to WorcesterBuoys on JustGiving.com

ATLANTIC CHALLENGE UPDATE

I have realised that I have been a bit remiss in not keeping you updated with the progress of my Atlantic rowing challenge later this year. So here goes...

The first bit of big news is that we have managed to buy our boat! We held a large fundraising event in Worcester and with the proceeds, together with some badly needed sponsorship, were able to procure Pegasus – our 23 foot rowing boat. She arrived back into the UK last month (from crossing the Atlantic in December 2022) and I am pleased to report that she is now safely in Chichester harbour from where my colleague Matt and I have started to become acquainted with her. A few facts about the boat:

There is a cabin at each end – so my partner and I aren't cheek by jowl 24 hours a day: these will primarily be our sleeping quarters.

It has a parachute anchor which acts like a parachute in the sea if we need to deploy it. This is really useful as if the wind is blowing the wrong way it will stop us being blown backwards quite so much, which would undo all our hard earned progress.

It has an autopilot to keep us on the right heading, as well as hand and foot steering.

There are four rowing gates which means both Matt and I can row together, although realistically one of us will be resting while the other is rowing as our two hours on, two hours off routine, 24 hours a days means we will want to rest as much as possible.

Post arrival of the boat the first weekend we spent hours sorting out the equipment and getting to look in every nook and cranny – not that there are many of those. We have to spend 120 hours on the water before December to qualify for the race so with that in mind we spent our first visit down in Chichester closely acquainting ourselves with her to the extent of sleeping in the





FRIENDS OF
FECKENHAM
CHURCH

Open Garden

Many thanks to Roger and Felicity Burman who kindly opened their wonderful gardens at Astwood Hill House to visitors on Saturday 3rd June. The gardens looked magnificent and the sun shone all day. Thank you to all those who supported the event. Visitors enjoyed tea and cakes in the gardens and had the opportunity to purchase a variety of interesting plants. The event raised in excess of £700 for the maintenance of our historic Parish Church and Churchyard.

Coffee Morning

On 16th June Shirley Harman hosted a Grand Coffee Morning and raised £1049.37. She wishes to thank all the helpers and all those who attended and supported her.



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Feckenham Village Hall

IT'S YOUR HALL SO PLEASE HELP!

For 88 years Feckenham Village Hall has been at the centre of village life. Right from the start it has been looked after and operated by a Committee of volunteers - and the same is still true today. The current band of volunteers are as keen as ever to provide a great venue for local activities - but they are conscious that the average age of the Committee is creeping up and that there's a need for younger people to be involved. The duties of a Committee member aren't onerous - a monthly hour long meeting and occasional help at events and with maintenance.

If you'd like to know more you could come along to the Hall's AGM on Tuesday, 4th July at 8pm - or email hall@feckenham.f9.co.uk You can also take a look at the Hall's website at feckhall.org

GEORGE EGG'S SET MENU

After a nasty bout of Covid forced Mr Egg to cancel his show in May we're delighted that he's sharpening his chain saw and oiling his cement mixer for a show of culinary lunacy in September - tickets are now on sale!

Saturday, 23rd September at 7.30pm

Tickets for shows at Feckenham Village Hall 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.feckhall.org

IMPROVEMENT FUND DRAW

The June draw took place following the meeting of the Trustees on 6th June with the following results:

1 st (£25)	119	Jane Bird
2 nd (£15)	54	Val Neale
3 rd (£10)	44	Marion Chute

HIRING THE VILLAGE HALL

To enquire about hiring the Hall call Liz Teisen on 01527 821233 or check www.feckhall.org

WHAT'S ON IN



THE FECKENHAM SESSIONS
TRADITIONAL MUSICMAKING
at THE ROSE & CROWN

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 4th July

Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB



ANNUAL COACH OUTING
Visiting gardens in Oxfordshire

Wednesday, 12th July
Information and bookings from meadowfarm33@aol.com

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Next Meeting - 17th July
A SUMMER RAMBLE
Meet at 7.45pm at Feckenham Village Hall



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, 4th July at 8pm
in The Back Room
All welcome
New Committee Members will be extra welcome!!

THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

WE'RE TAKING A SUMMER BREAK
We'll be back in September
Our 22nd Season is now open for bookings and subscriptions.
Our films include:
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THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD
ELVIS
MY FAIR LADY
OPERATION MINCEMEAT
THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH
A MAN CALLED OTTO
More to be announced soon.
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Twice monthly Sessions
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2nd and 4th Fridays - 7pm

Feckenham READERS GROUP
Meeting date to be confirmed
This month's book:
A LADDER TO THE SKY
By John Boyle
Details: 892285



Send details of events for FREE listing to:

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SATURDAY, 15TH JULY

FROM 6.30pm



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vicar@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

Church Warden: Vacant

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Fr Glenn

Website: www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk



PARISH CHURCH
OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
FECKENHAM

Services for July 2023

2nd July	10.30am	Eucharist	Rev John Green
9th July	9.00am	BCP Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading
16th July	6.30pm	Evensong	Fiona Carter LLM
23rd July	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading
30th July	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading

8th July 12.00pm Memorial Service for John Calvert Rev G Crellin

Drop in (in church)
Wednesday at 10.30am - 12.00pm
12th and 26th July
All welcome

FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St John Fisher & Thomas More

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 (Type the link into the browser)

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

Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898

Fr Glenn Writes

Looking out from my study window, it is a lovely June evening and a quick glance at my calendar tells me that the summer holidays are not far away.

Soon the schools will finish and the sound of children playing in the school next door will fade until September. A few weeks after that I too will be taking some time away from the emails and the dog collar.

Reading the news earlier this week I noted that Wales and Cumbria are the most popular holiday destinations for Brits this year, I've always said Britain is one of the most beautiful places in the world, even more so when the sun shines!

My sense at this point in the year is that everybody is tired and it is a tiredness that is a deep-seated weariness of the soul. People need a break, a rest, if you like respite from the trials of everyday life.

This is something Jesus knew all too well and from time to time in the Gospels (Mark 6. 31), we see Jesus taking himself and the disciples away to a quiet place where they could find rest and reflection.

It is my hope and prayer that the summer holidays will bring you some normality as we once knew, times of rest and refreshment. Time spent with family and friends enjoying each other's company, enjoying good food and drink. Perhaps a chance to read a good book instead of another report or risk assessment!

I hope that you can make and find time to do whatever it is that nourishes your soul and restores your energy and vibrancy. I have just ordered my summer reading and I am drawing up some plans for the garden. Whatever it is you do, enjoy it, and lay aside the cares of the world if only for a short time. The world and its challenges will still be there when we return in September.

I hope that when September comes things will be easier and I look forward to wandering around the village and meeting people and if you see me out and about (I am quite easy to spot) do stop and say hello.

With my prayers for you all. Fr Glenn

Feckenham Church Matters

The Church of England Children's Society Collection Boxes

The boxes have now been collected and emptied, with the contents banked and transferred to the charity. A big THANK YOU to all the collectors. We have amassed a wonderful £795 which the Society will use to protect needy children.

Our next emptying of the boxes will be in April 2024. If anyone reading this would like to join the group and have a box to collect odd bits of change please contact me Vivien Hunter 01527 402360
vehunter@blueyonder.co.uk.

Churchyard Work Party – Saturday 17th June

Come along between 10 am and Noon and help tidy up in readiness for the wake.

Wake Teas - Saturday 25 June

Tea and cake will be served in the Church from 1pm to 5pm. Offers of cake and help with washing up would be welcome – please contact Margaret Eost - 01527 893735 - margandgel@hotmail.com

John Calvert Memorial Service - 8th July

This will take place in the Church at 12 noon on Saturday 8 July. A large turnout is expected and arrangements have been made for Winfields' field to be available for car parking. Parking within the churchyard will be limited to John's family and some Blue Badge holders. Volunteers would be welcomed to help manage this and for stewarding inside the Church. Please contact Ian Hunter if you could help – 01527 402360 i- hunter@blueyonder.co.uk.



This has been an exceptional year for hawthorn and the village has been draped in May blossom. These two are in the churchyard and down Mill Lane.

The Royal Horticultural Society says “the heatwave in 2022 provided the perfect conditions for bud formation, while the cold February of 2023 prevented early flowering, setting the trees up for perfect blooms – and by avoiding the frost, the blossom has lasted longer.”

According to Icy Sedgwick (<https://www.icsedgwick.com/hawthorn-folklore/May>) “Its name comes from Anglo-Saxon word ‘hagedorn’, which means ‘hedge thorn’. This refers to its use as a boundary plant. Farmers used hawthorn in their hedges to protect their crops or cattle from witches... Its pungent aroma was likened to the smell of death. Medieval people felt it reminded them of plague corpses. This isn’t entirely fanciful. We now know that trimethylamine, found in hawthorn blossom, also forms in decaying tissue (Kendall 2020). People would have been familiar with this smell due to the old practice of keeping corpses in the house before burial.”

So, stay lucky – it’s only safe, according to folklore, to bring May blossom into the house on May Day!



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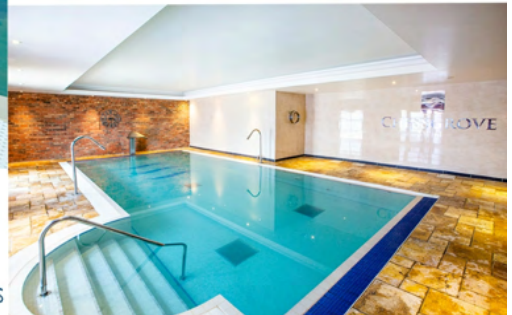
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Volunteering in Feckeham Village Shop

My name is Rhian Thompson and I volunteer in the village shop. I started volunteering in the early stages of the pandemic in May 2020. This was certainly a baptism of fire with masks and screens in place and customers patiently queuing outside waiting to come in. Things have moved on and three years later I am still there. I thoroughly enjoy volunteering in the shop and look forward to my shift on a Friday morning. I am part of a fabulous team and enjoy the camaraderie and giving something back to the community. I work with either one or two volunteers so there is always someone to ask if you are unsure of something or to just have someone there for support. Volunteering has provided me with the opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills and utilise skills I already have. Excellent training is provided including mastering the coffee machine and operating the till. I am a fairly new volunteer and we have a number of volunteers of all ages who have been with the shop since the start which is a testament to the enjoyment and satisfaction they get. Each weekday has a Team Leader who organises the rota well in advance. They understand that volunteers have lives and arrange the rota around volunteers who are available.

There is never a dull moment and the 2.5 hour shift flies by. We get a variety of customers ranging from Feckeham residents, builders, posties, cyclists, horse riders. You name it they come in!

There is an annual Volunteer thank you party which is well attended and volunteers are very much appreciated by the dedicated board members.

The shop is open 7 days a week so volunteers are needed every day.

If you are new to the village or the surrounding areas, live in the local area and have a spare 2.5 hours per week please consider volunteering in the Village Shop. We all get something different from being a volunteer but collectively we are a great team and our goal is to keep the shop open and provide a service to our customers.

If you would like to join Rhian and our Team of Volunteers then either pick up a form at the Shop or phone Kate Farmilloe on 07968 516989. We look forward to hearing from you so until next month enjoy the summer.



An Organic Allotment by Pete Delaney

A mostly baking June kept us all busy watering down the allotment, before some rains in the latter part of the month pushed on the harvests around the plot and gave the weeds a good boost too.



This month I am enjoying an abundance of new potatoes and broad beans, both of which we have been eating since around mid summer day. Along with peas also, that is when I

manage to get some home from the plot as I tend to eat them straight from the pods like sweets. Also this month dwarf french beans begin their giving harvest.

In the polytunnel our first cucumbers are coming ready and look a healthy harvest. I top dress them and my tomatoes with fresh compost to keep them fed, along with a regular dose of diluted comfrey feed from my steeping comfrey barrel. Last year as my first tomatoes came through I had a problem with 'blossom end rot', a scab on the bottom of the tomato fruit that leaves the core rotten inside. I was informed that this was due to irregular watering and I was advised to add a trowel of lime around the roots of each plant and water it in, this indeed did sort the problem out and a healthy crop followed.

This year's tomatoes are thriving in a bed of my own compost. I tie them to canes as they grow and break off every shoot that springs from a stem/leaf junction. Also I like to remove from below the first set of tomatoes.

Back outside I shall be sowing winter cabbages, Tundra Savoys and Winter Holland. Also I sow a first lot of winter raddish, with more to be sown during August and September so as to keep a crop growing for as long as possible during the winter season. With that cold thought I think I shall dig up some more earlies spuds, pick some more broad beans and make the most of mid summer harvests while I have them.



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Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

Plants and the Doctrine of Signatures

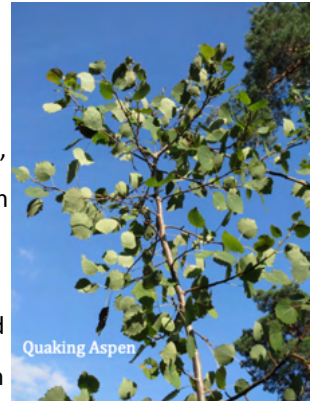
Historically, the Doctrine of Signatures was one of the most important modes of medical thinking to have evolved, and was written about in medical texts from the sixteen hundreds right up to the end of the nineteenth century.

The use of plants formed the backbone of early medicine, and the Doctrine of Signatures was used by early herbalists to determine which plants should be used to treat which ailments. From simple observation, the 'signature' of the Creator would give a clue as to the plant's medicinal qualities. Hollow stemmed herbs were signed as cleansers of the hollow tubes in the body, blood, intestines, and respiratory systems. Plants with thorns were signed as helping with sharp pains, and so on. This belief was often reflected in the common names given to many plants whose shapes or colours were reminiscent of the parts of the body where they might be used for healing. For example, Spleenwort (*Asplenium*) was thought to be useful in treating the spleen, Liverwort, (*Marchantiophyta*) useful in treating the liver, and Toothwort (*Dentaria*) useful in treating tooth ailments.



The 'signature' related not only to the general appearance of a plant, but also to its specific colour, shape, taste, texture, odour, or the environment or site in which the plant grew. It was believed that yellow flowers were signed for use against jaundice, that the spotted leaves of *Pulmonaria* (Lungwort) resembled diseased lungs and could be used in their treatment, and that plants which grew in stony ground would help in breaking kidney stones. The petals of the Iris were commonly used as a poultice for bruising because of the signature of colour, the petals resembling in hue the bruise they were to alleviate. It was also believed that plants tended to grow where they were most needed; for example, dock leaves useful in treating the sting from nettle, grew near nettles.

Of Lily of the Valley, it was written that "It cureth apoplexy by Signature, for as that disease is caused by the dropping of humours into the principal ventricles of the brain, so the flowers of this Lily hanging on the plants as if they were drops, are of wonderful use herein". Poplar or 'Quaking Aspen' leaves were used for Shaking Palsy, and Bryony root, which, with a little imagination could be said to resemble a swollen human foot, was obviously signed for use in cases of Dropsy, which caused swelling of the foot.



The levels of signature often got a little far fetched, and seem nowadays to be attempting to make the known facts fit the popular theory. Scientists now generally interpret the Doctrine of Signatures as mere superstition. Others, however, point out that there may, in some cases, be rational explanations for the apparent success of the Doctrine of Signatures in predicting the medical properties of certain plants.

Stock and Bradley Gardening Club Report



Our June 7th meeting was a talk by Bob Brown entitled 'So Many Plants, So Little Space'. Bob is the founder of Cotswold Garden Flowers nursery, not far away in Badsey, and is renowned as a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker.

NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 12th July 2023

Our next event is our annual coach outing - this year we are visiting Waterperry Garden in Oxfordshire in the morning, followed by an afternoon visit to Upton House in Warwickshire.

Pre-booking is essential, so if you haven't yet booked your place, please contact Rob Cole by email at meadowfarm33@aol.com for more information - you don't have to be a Club Member to book a place. The coach will leave Stock and Bradley Village Hall in Church Road at 8:30am.

Membership of the Gardening Club is currently by £5.00 annual subscription which becomes due on 1st January each year, so please come prepared to renew if you haven't already done so. 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 2023. 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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FECKENHAM F C BALL TEAM

The first season for the club ended in great success by completing the league and cup double by beating Bourton Rovers in the Cup Final in Hereford.

The club were looking for new challenges unfortunately we can't be promoted from division two of Hellenic league which is step 7 of the football league to division one which is step 6 of football league due to our facilities; the primary issue is we have no flood lights .

So to ensure the team and to keep player retention high we have made a sideways move to the Midland League division 3 ,this will be a competitive league but acts as a gate way to div 2 at a higher level .. We feel we can, with help, bring the facilities in line with the requirements of that division. This way the lads have a target to achieve.

The new season will kick off on 5th August and we will post fixtures when we have them.

In the mean time we have a number of preseason games to get the team in shape they are :

Sat 15th	July	Hampton
Sat 22nd	July	Earlswood
Tue 25th	July	Worcester United
Sat 29th	July	Inkberrow.

We look forward to seeing some people at the games.

The club will hold its presentation evening on Saturday 24th June after Wake day ends so if anyone is around and want to come to the club and join us, see the trophies and meet the players and staff and see what we are all about.

Off the field we are in discussion with Redditch Council to see if there is away to have a small 7 aside pitch with small goals behind the playground to try to restart some boys and girls football.

Finally we are looking for any children in the village whose parents are interested in football to join our ball team on a Saturday. Please contact us if you are interested .

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Our senior teams are being a little generous to the opposition and so are well placed for a surge up the table in the second half of the season.

The U12s team has had a strong start to the season with 4 wins across their Pairs and T20 formats and now sit near the top of both leagues. In T20, this included a tense 1 run win against Halesowen where Rory Freeman retired on 30 not out and included a really disciplined team bowling and fielding display. On June 4th the team comfortably beat Wightwick by 5 wickets with excellent batting from skipper Tommy Eost (23 not out) and with seven different bowlers contributing with wickets.

The U13 have had a tough month with two losses. There was a very low scoring T20 match at Old Hill on a testing wet pitch. Feckenham bowled Old Hill out for only 38 which included a hat trick (all bowled) and figures of 4-5 from Will Reynolds. Feckenham then collapsed to 30 all out.

The U14 team lost to Wightwick by 72 runs in a T20 match on 21st May when several key players were unavailable. Will Reynolds was the leading bowler with 3-10 and Finn Davies top scored with 14.

Across this month three U14 Juniors have represented Worcestershire in multiple matches (Liam Banks, Ben East and Sam Curtis). Several juniors have made their debuts in the Men's teams and both Liam Banks and Sam Curtis have gone on to play their first matches in the Men's 1st XI.

If you have any youngsters that would like to play cricket this summer, or you would like to assist us with coaching, or if you have any other questions then please either contact us on our Facebook page, come to the club on Friday evenings or email at feckenhamcc@outlook.com.

On Monday 17th July, the club will again be hosting the annual Sports Day for Feckenham First School.

Upcoming home fixtures are:

Sat	01/07/23	12:30:00	12:30	1st XI	Martley CC - 1st XI
Sun	02/07/23	10:15:00	10:15	Under 12	Stourbridge CC
Mon	03/07/23	18:00:00	18:00	Under 13	Hagley CC
Wed	05/07/23	18:00:00	18:00	Ramblers	Studley High School
Sat	08/07/23	12:30:00	12:30	2nd XI	Kidderminster CC -
4th XI					
Sun	09/07/23	10:15:00	10:15	Under 13	Belbroughton CC
Mon	10/07/23	18:15:00	18:15	Under 14	Astwood Bank CC
Tue	11/07/23	18:15:00	18:15	Under 13	Ombersley
Wed	12/07/23	10:15:00	10:15	Under 12	Avoncroft (pairs)
Sat	15/07/23	12:30:00	12:30	1st XI	Old Elizabethans CC,
Worcs - 2nd XI					
Sun	16/07/23	10:15:00	18:15	Under 14	Droitwich
Wed	19/07/23	18:00:00	18:00	Ramblers	Five Ways
Sat	22/07/23	12:30:00	12:30	2nd XI	Stone CC, Worcs - 1st
XI					
Sun	23/07/23	10:15:00	10:15	Under 13	Old Hill CC
Mon	24/07/23	18:15:00	18:15	Under 15	Halesowen CC
Tue	25/07/23	18:15:00	18:15	Under 15	Earlswood CC
Sat	29/07/23	12:30:00	12:30	1st XI	Lye CC - 2nd XI
Sun	30/07/23	10:15:00	10:15	Under 12	Halesowen CC
T20					



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Stock & Bradley Village Hall,
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Thursday

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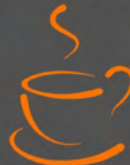
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