

FECKENHAM

July 2021

NEWS



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village

Editor: Gilly Cooper

feckenhamnews@gmail.com

(Copy Date 14th)

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Feckenham News in July

In the magazine:

Look out for new items: Gardening by Rob Cole, Motoring from Chris Nicholson, a crossword a welcome from Newshound and all the usual updates.

Dates for your diary



July

6th Village Hall AGM

8th Book Club

28th and/or 4th August TBC

Stock Bradley Gardening Club

August

7-14th Feckenham Festival

15th Parish Council Meeting

Regular Activities

Mondays Yoga

Thursdays Pilates

Fridays All Round Theatre School

Production Team

Ian Bellion - What's On whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk 892130

Jen Cary - Newshound jen@28highstreet.co.uk

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Front Cover

Swan and a cygnet from Patricia and Phil Tricklebank

Magazine online at 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.

Editor's Note

As we approach the summer solstice and the weather has turned warmer making our gardens grow it instills a real sense of optimism despite the delay in opening up for larger gatherings. Usually at this time the village is preparing for the Wake and keeping a close eye on the weather forecast. This year the Wake will be deferred till August and there will be events over an 8 day period. More details on page 5. Let's hope we can all come together for a few days of fun.

Many of you will have known the Snel family who lived here for many years. I thought you'd like to see this:

Lt Cdr Karen Snel Barnicoat was appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2021 in recognition of the significant and sustained impact she has had on gender diversity in the military. This comes ahead of her imminent promotion to Commander and selection as the next Commanding Officer of 820 Naval Air Squadron.

I've roped in my son, Jamie, to share a crossword for you. He explains the form in his intro and I've put the solution later in the magazine. No peeking till you have to!

Finally, like many others I've started to ease into socialising, attending the yoga class in the village hall instead of over video, feeling



safe in the small group and fully vaccinated. As a member of the village book club, I was delighted to be able to meet in person again. We met outdoors to discuss Cassandra at the Wedding by Dorothy Baker and suggestions of books about sisters. Some great suggestions, including Jane Austen of course.

Dave Powell Decoration

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Things have been a bit grim recently so Feckenham's Wake Committee thought that we villagers could do with something to cheer us up - something to bring us out of our enforced hibernation - to wake us up....and so the idea of a festival to do just that was born. **The WAKE UP FECKENHAM FESTIVAL** will run from **Saturday, August 7th through to Saturday, August 14th** and will contain a veritable treasure trove of delights guaranteed to cheer us up after a truly horrible 18th months.

THE FESTIVAL

Obviously ongoing pandemic restrictions may affect some activities but village organisations have pitched in with some great ideas. Some of this may change -there'll be full details at the start of August - but the programme so far is:

Saturday, 7th August : The FeckenOdeon Cinema reopens with a matinee for youngsters and an evening feelgood film for adults.

Sunday, 8th or Wednesday, 11th August : A professional music show from Live & Local (Shindig) in the Village Hall.

Thursday, 12th August: A Race Night at Feckenham Football Club

Friday, 13th August: Wine & Cheese with music organised by Friends of Feckenham Church.

Other events planned during the week include a spectacular Duck Race, a show involving hot air balloons and another sporting activity.

The week will end with something not dissimilar to Feckenham Wake

THE WAKE

In 2020 The Wake was cancelled for the first time in many a long year. It seemed that 2021's event would suffer a similar fate - but you can't keep a good Wake down - **It's back on 14th August!** Perhaps not quite as big as usual but just as much fun as ever. It won't be advertised far and wide - this is going to be a Wake primarily for Feckenham folk to enjoy.

All the favourite attractions will be there - the Classic cars, the Dog Show, the Pig Roast, the Silver Band, Games for Kids and those in their second childhood. Mr Punch will be in his usual position on The Square and there'll be other entertainers on hand. There'll be a real ale bar, fizz & gin bar, samosa bar, candy floss bar, ice cream bar and, new for this year, a pizza bar. There'll be stalls of all sorts, a raffle and everything else that makes the Wake a great afternoon out.

GET INVOLVED!

All of these activities are run by volunteers and help is always needed. If you can spare a bit of time the organisers would love to hear from you. In particular we need people to help run Wake day attractions - man the coconut shy or mini-golf. Could you organise a cake stall? Are you a qualified first-aider? Even if you just fancy helping us put the tents up we'd love to hear from you - just call 01527 892522 and ask for Julian.



PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



Services for July 2021

4th July	10.30am	Eucharist led by Fr Glenn
11th July	9.00am	BCP communion led by J Green
18th July	6.30pm	Said Evensong led by Fiona Carter
25th July	10.30am	Eucharist led by Fr Glenn

FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St John Fisher & Thomas More

There is a live-streamed Mass on Sundays at 4.30pm. Fr. Tony Rohan will officiate. The link is: www.eventcast.uk/live

Note: Type the link into your browser on your computer. Do not use a search engine.



Fr. Anthony Rohan, The Presbytery, Redditch. Tel 63096
Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898

Fr Glenn Writes...

Sitting down to write today's letter for the magazine, we have been enjoying a few days of lovely weather.

I have always found that good weather helps to lift the spirit, life seems a little easier and more joyful if the weather is fine. It is on those fine summer days that I sometimes encounter what I call a perfect moment. An instance where everything in my world seems perfect and going well. Such a moment may be a small thing, it could be a pleasant drive to Tesco's when the air conditioning in the car is working well, a pleasant walk around the park and meeting people who I've had the pleasure of knowing in my role as a parish priest. Or it may be the joy of family barbeque, where the worries of the world seem far away. Simply put it is enjoying every aspect of that moment. I am sure we've all had those occasions in our lives.

Sadly, it seems not to last long, eventually the reality of the world around us breaks in and the bubble is burst.

This last 18 months have been immensely hard for people as we have battled a pandemic and been challenged by numerous outcries of injustice from various parts of society.

We may well ask ourselves 'where are we going'

When I find myself asking that question I turn to the Christian Scriptures and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the message I see is one of love. The Gospel, the good news of Jesus is about restoring each one of us in our brokenness to a relationship with God, that reconciliation changes us and changes the way we see the world and those around us. The world, amongst all the noise and chaos would do well to listen for the still small voice of God. In that small voice of God we find Grace and peace, we find redemption. As S. Augustine of Hippo wrote of God 'Our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you'

I pray that over the summer holidays you know the joy and blessing of God who is love and that you find time to rest.



On 20th May Feckenham Parish Council met face to face for the first time since March 2020. The public were given the option of attending by Zoom. This was the Annual Meeting of the Council at which officials and representatives were elected or appointed. Cllr. Alan Smith was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr. Slade Arthur will continue as Vice-Chairman.

- The annual accounts were agreed.
- An application for a grant was made by Feckenham Football Club to cover the cost of the purchase of movable goalposts for the use of the junior teams. The Council awarded the grant but asked that the posts should be secured to prevent unauthorised use.
- The main complaints received from the public concerned dog waste and speeding traffic. Recently elected County Councillors Craig Warhurst, and Mike Rouse and Redditch Borough Councillor Brandon Clayton attended the meeting and offered assistance with these ongoing problems.
- The Council expressed concern at recent Borough Council planning decisions which seemed to disregard the unusual and historical importance of the village.
- The Parish Council is continues to offer a medicine collection service for Parishioners who are unable to get to local pharmacies or surgeries. Contact the Clerk for further information.

- Feckenham in Bloom is due to meet shortly. Anyone who would like to be involved (not necessarily having to lift a spade) are asked to get in touch.

To read the full minutes of Parish Council Meetings you can go to www.feckenham.com and select the Parish Council tab. Draft minutes are also posted on the notice board at the Turton Gardens junction. The next Meeting of the Council will be on Thursday, August 15th at 7.30pm. At the time of writing this will take place in person at Feckenham Village Hall but this, along with attendance arrangements for the public, is dependent on Government Covid-19 restrictions in force at the time - please check with the Clerk or on www.feckenham.com.

To get in touch with the Council please contact the Clerk, Jane Bull, on [01527 892522](tel:01527892522) or email: clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com

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 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

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

Village Notices

Citizens Advice have been in touch about their annual scam awareness campaign. You can visit the website using the link here:

Be #ScamAware. Stop, report, talk. Visit citizensadvice.org.uk/sa21/ to find out more.



I'm staying ahead of scams. Are you?

Be #ScamAware

Think twice before you act. Contact the Citizens Advice consumer service online or at 0808 223 1133 for advice and support.

citizens advice

NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS

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HSBC UK is establishing four new branch formats. Following this announcement, we are writing to customers of Redditch today to let them know that the branch is changing to become a Digital Service Branch. The branch will temporarily close around 6th September 2021, whilst these changes are made.

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, 2021

For more information and an application form contact:

Mrs J. Bate (Clerk to the Trustees)
'Wychway', Droitwich Road
Hanbury, BROMSGROVE
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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, 2021

Further enquiries/applications to:

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A recent article in a national newspaper caught my attention, it concerned a community in Cumbria who were attempting to save their last remaining village shop. The parallel with Feckenham was obvious. Whereas we lost our last shop in the 1980s and then some twenty years later our community managed to open a new one, the villagers in Cumbria are desperately trying to keep their existing shop trading. Through a combination of grants and local fundraising, they have almost reached their target of £200,000. So credit to them for their commitment and I hope they achieve their goal.

If evidence of the importance of a village shop was needed, the events of the last eighteen months have underlined the unique role a shop plays within a small community. Nowhere is that more true than in Feckenham!! Not only does the Shop provide a useful social hub for the village but it's also an important retail amenity. To illustrate that point, the 2021 National Rural Shop Report stated that, One in Five rural consumers depended on a local shop.

During the pandemic 21% of rural consumers felt safer in their local shop than in a large supermarket.

Rural communities have a higher proportion of residents over 65, of whom 11.2% live alone and rely more heavily on a local shop.

There is also the not insignificant matter that the existence of a village shop increases local property values, another good reason for us to shop within the Village whenever possible. All these benefits have been recognised by many of you during the last months, for which the Board is extremely grateful. Sadly the COVID restrictions continue, however, we remain fully open with our new outside café terrace proving to be extremely popular. The area is looking very attractive and thanks to Martin Strange who gave his time to cut the overgrown hedge.

Finally a reminder (again) that we are stocked to meet your barbeque requirements, so fingers crossed, that the lovely June weather continues.



Newshound

Jen Cary



Welcome to Jayne, Nick, Oliver and Aaron Smith:

We have moved here from Stratford-upon-Avon, where we lived for 10 years, watching the town progressively get busier and more congested, until in the end we decided enough was enough, and we craved the quiet of the countryside - and where better than Feckenham! Nick and I have always preferred fields to the hustle and bustle of towns.

We moved into Meadow Farm in the Spring, with our two sons, Oliver and Aaron, and our grumpy, geriatric dog Chloe. Chloe is a Standard Schnauzer, 16 years of age, who sleeps most of the day, but when she IS awake enjoys walks in the garden, and barking at the birds and squirrels on our bird table! Oliver and Aaron are both in their 20's, and their favourite pastimes are football, gaming and socializing (not necessarily in that order!!). Nick has a love of classic cars, and can usually be found in the garage, working with one car or another. I have a feeling that my new hobby is going to have to be GARDENING!!!! The garden at Meadow Farm is amazing, and we feel very privileged to have such a beautiful place to live... I just hope that feeling

continues when we have been here for a year or two... It's going to be a VERY steep learning curve - we had very little garden previously!! I thought maybe we should have a 'Garden Party' - literally - 'bring a bottle & a spade'!!

Aaron and I still both work in Stratford, at the Rosebird Pharmacy, so we still have to brave some of the dreaded traffic, but it's so lovely to leave it behind when we come home in the evening... and I have to say that we already feel as if this is home. Oliver now has a short (8 minute - he's timed it) drive to work in Alcester, which is great.

So, that, in a nutshell, is us... not too much information or we'll have nothing to discuss when we finally get to meet all our neighbours(!), which will be soon, hopefully, now that our lockdown is easing. We are looking forward to getting to know the village, and of course the people here... who knows, some may even know a bit about gardening...



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Gardening by Rob Cole

My wife, Diane, and I no longer live in Feckenham, having moved to Salford Priors last November after 22 years at Meadow Farm on Droitwich Road where we ran a one acre garden and a plant nursery. However, Gilly (the Feckenham News editor) has asked me if I would contribute a monthly garden related article for the magazine. Here is the first.

GARDEN COMPOSTING

Most gardeners have a compost heap of some sort, and have varying degrees of success in producing anything worthwhile.

Four things are critical - volume, shredding, water and contents.

Firstly, volume, and the bigger the heap the better it will heat up and rot down. If you don't have unlimited space, two compost bays set side by side, one 'cooking' and one being filled is the best option. We made ours by sinking a 4" x 4" timber post at each corner and nailing on 6" x 1" gravel boards horizontally to form the back and sides. Each bay needs to be about 1.2m wide, 1.2m deep, and 1.2m high, with slatted removable boards at the front which are added as the heap grows, and removed as it is being emptied. If you have room for three bays, and have plenty of compostable material, then go for three bays.

Secondly, shredding. Since we have been shredding material before adding it to the

heap, we have found that it heats up much more quickly and evenly, and rots down rapidly. We had a petrol shredder for the more woody material, but for light herbaceous material we simply cut it up with secateurs as we collect it. I also used a Honda Izy rotary mower as a shredder for small quantities, simply by tipping the cut material onto a grass area, and running over it with the mower. We used the Honda, too, to collect hedge clippings, and this method does the picking up and the shredding all in one go.

Thirdly, water. The organisms which break down the material in the heap do not thrive and multiply in dry conditions, so we make sure that our compost heaps stay moist by watering them as they are built.

Fourthly, contents. You need a mixture of materials to make a good compost heap. Ours is primarily from the garden-prunings, herbaceous plant material (especially in late autumn), lawn mowings, spent compost etc, but with shredded paper and cardboard (soaked overnight before being added) and green scraps and peelings from the kitchen, too. Keep a separate bin under the sink for these. We never include seed heads or perennial roots in our compost heaps, so these are always cut off, bagged and taken to the tip. This way the resulting compost remains fairly free of weeds.

Many of the articles we have read about composting recommend emptying the heap and rebuilding it, but we have never found the need to do this. The idea of

rebuilding is to get the heap to heat up again by admitting air, but a good mix of shredded coarse material and leafy stuff is sufficiently aerated and rots quickly. And anyway it's hard work! If you turn in new material as you add it, you need do no more, but if you are feeling energetic and your heap has lost temperature, then by all means empty it out and refill it to get things going again.

The heap sinks as it rots and every now and again we top it up with new material. After about four to six months the contents of the heap have cooled down and rotted sufficiently for use. The very top layer is used to feed the next heap, but not far down is brown crumbly compost. Used as a surface mulch, rather than dug in, the soil in your beds will noticeably improve. The more compost you make, the quicker the improvement.

Kathy's Flowers



All that glisters is not a buttercup. Or something like that.

On the left is Wood Aven, also called Herb Bennett. Mostly known to me as an annoying and pungent-smelling garden weed but currently straggling along in hedge banks. You need to look closely because the flowers are small, but I just adore the silver fringes to those sepals, don't you?

Slightly larger, in the middle, is the appealingly named Goldilocks. It is the only British woodland buttercup and is found locally on the bridlepath above the foot bridge. The leaves are quite different to those of the buttercup, much frondier, and the flowers often look very ragged.

And finally, on the right is the biggest of these three flowers, our dearly beloved buttercup. The name actually comes from bitter rather than butter, and most cattle won't eat it. Contrariwise, the flowers, rubbed on a cow's udders were thought to improve the milk.

STILL WAITING...

After a great deal of brinkmanship the Government has now decided to extend the stage 3 measure until 29th July - which means that the Hall remains only partially open.

Childrens activities and professionally organised exercise groups are permitted under strict conditions so the following activities are now taking place:

Mondays - Yoga

Thursdays - Pilates

Fridays - All Round Theatre School

Social distancing rules mean that only 30 people can be allowed in the Main Hall and only 10 in the Back Room.

Other activities have confirmed that they will restart as soon as it is practical for them to do so - these include the Local History Society, Bridge Group, Lunch Club and French lessons. The FeckenOdeon cinema is also awaiting the end of restrictions.

The new nursery (Little Men and Misses) has confirmed that it will start operations from September.

All measures are in place to make the Hall a Covid Safe environment. For information on which activities are restarting and when please check the Hall notice board and the website at www.feckhall.org

BOOKING THE HALL

If all goes to plan normal service should be resumed in August. Obviously this depends on the Government finally relaxing restrictions. To book the Hall or enquire about activities please contact the Booking Secretary, Liz Teisen, on 01527 821233 or use the enquiry form at www.feckhall.org

DRAW

The Village Hall's Improvement Fund Draw for June, 2021 was made at the meeting of The Trustees on 1st June.

Winners:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|-----|
| 81 | Malcolm & Vanda Cookes | £25 |
| 192 | Brian Robson | £15 |
| 28 | Harold Richardson | £10 |

The **AGM** of Feckenham Village Hall will be held on Tuesday, 6th July at 8pm. Everybody is welcome to attend. Unfortunately, because of the extended pandemic regulations, the meeting will have to be held by Zoom video conference. If you'd like to be there please email hall@feckenham.f9.co.uk and we will send you the joining code.

The Village Hall (a registered Charity) is run entirely by volunteers for the benefit of the village. New committee members are always welcome. Members attend a monthly meeting (usually less than an hour long) and help with some maintenance tasks as well as helping at occasional events. If you'd like to find out more please email us at the above address, call 01527 892130 or come along to the AGM.



Upcoming senior fixtures at Mill Lane (12:30 start unless stated):

Sat Jul 3rd 2nd XI v Burghill Tillington and Weobley CC - 2nd XI

Sat Jul 10th 1st XI v Oldswinford & Stourbridge Social CC - 1st XI

Sat Jul 17th 2nd XI v Birlingham CC - 1st XI

Sat Jul 24th 1st XI v Droitwich Spa CC - 1st XI

Sat Jul 31st 2nd XI v Cookley CC - 2nd XI

Regular junior matches take place on Sunday mornings and early evening on many Mondays and Tuesdays.

With fine weather succeeding a wet May, the ECB's All Stars programme is up and running on Thursday evenings, with 24 boys and girls aged 5-8 having a whale of a time learning the basics of cricket.

The first team continues its good form, sitting second in the Worcestershire League Division 1, only eight points behind leaders Droitwich.

The second team is yet to hit form, while the third team now regularly includes young players moving into the adult game via our junior section. Feckenham Fillies won their opening tournament of the season.

We have seven junior teams and they are at long last active, with the Under 12s having won all three matches so far, including a 1-run victory over local rivals Astwood Bank. Three of our youngsters played for Worcestershire Under 12s at Mill Lane in a match against Shropshire. The visitors held their nerve to win a close match in which our players did themselves proud, returning the best batting and bowling figures.



Photo courtesy of Patricia and Phil Tricklebank

Feckenham Football Club

As part of the lead up to Wake day the football club will be hosting a horse racing night at the Mill Lane club house on the Thursday 12th August.

This will be a fun night with eight races all with exciting finishes.

We will be limited to a max of 70 people in the club house so tickets will be made available in the first instance to residents of the village.

As many of you know the club has changed hands recently and we are hopeful that the new bar and facilities will be up and running.

We are looking for eight local business to sponsor each race for £25 ,so get your business promoted on the night please contact the club feckenham.united@btinternet.com

Look out for times and ticket information in the August edition.

Proposed Feckenham Tennis Club

The response so far has been great, and we have received more than enough interest to start a club. So now, the really hard work starts initially seeking planning

permission (even pre-planning permission) and of course the crucial fund raising.

This will be very much a village tennis club and we want to try to reassure the residents of Mill Lane that we are alive and sensitive to the ever-present traffic issues - and these will be central in our planning.

Please continue to sign up by filling in the simple membership application on www.FeckenhamTennis.com

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Stock and Bradley Gardening Club Report

Because of the Covid pandemic, we have been unable to hold our usual meetings for over a year. However, it was decided that we should experiment using Zoom for our meetings, and our first venture proved to be very successful, with almost 40 participating devices, many of which were viewed by couples.

Our second Zoom meeting was less successful however, because our speaker's internet connection failed.

As a result the talk was rescheduled for the following week and all went well. Our speaker was Helen Picton from Old Court Nurseries in Colwall, famous for their Michaelamas Daisies. Helen's talk, was entitled 'The Picton Garden in the 21st century - and not a Daisy in Sight - Almost' and described the latest developments on their family nursery and garden.

[NEXT CLUB EVENT - Garden Visit in late July and/or early August](#)

Our club member Jan Bates has agreed to open her garden for an

evening visit. Until we know the prevailing Covid guidelines, we cannot yet be sure how the event will run, but depending on the numbers and the guidelines, the event will take place on Wednesday 28th July and/or Wednesday 4th August. Members will be advised as soon as a firm decision can be made. Refreshments will be provided by the Club's Committee.

Please also note that the next £5.00 annual subscription will become due on 1st January 2022. 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.



Swansbrook Radio, Feckenham's very local radio station would love to hear from anyone who fancies a go at presenting or producing radio programmes. It may be something that you've always thought you might try your hand at or something you want to eventually make a career out of. Perhaps you're a student aiming at a media career who'd like the chance of some "on the job" experience to add to your CV. Perhaps you work in a completely different field and would like an outlet for your creative urges... or maybe you're the next Radio One star with a need to get a bit more experience. Whatever your motivation we'd love it if you'd get in touch. We can offer training and the use of equipment, endless advice and encouragement. Just drop us an email to radio@swansbrook.com and we'll chat about the possibilities.

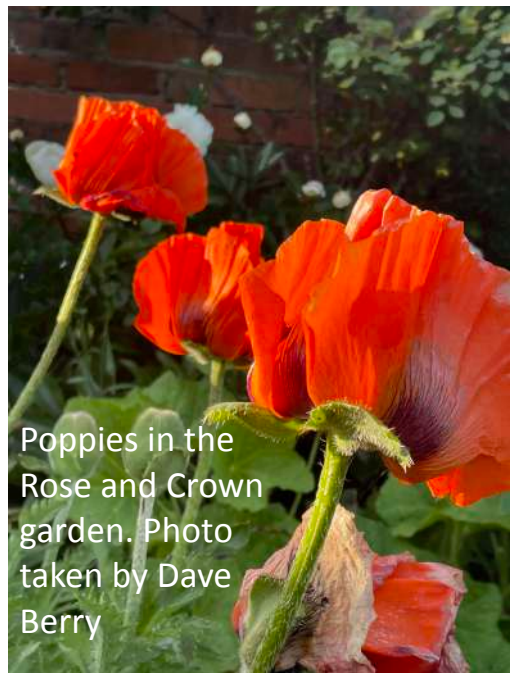
LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Just go to www.swansbrook.com and follow the instructions you'll find there. Most programmes are now available for you to play ON DEMAND - listen when and where you like - as often as you like.

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The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society
Ian Bellion

Despite the lack of clarity surrounding the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, the FeckenOdeon is forging ahead with plans for reopening. There are plans for special shows as part of the Wake Up Feckenham Festival - details soon. A full programme of monthly showings has also been devised to run, as usual, from September through until April. Full details in next month's Feckenham News.



Poppies in the Rose and Crown garden. Photo taken by Dave Berry

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Motoring Section

Chris Nicholson

Nobody likes the volume & speed of the traffic that passes through Feckenham these days, but were it not for a busy transport system the village would not even exist.

'Fecca's Ham' sprang up on an ancient trackway (The Saltway) long before the Romans invaded, although the Romans were probably the first to 'metal' the surface.

Interestingly, the term 'Road Metal' was first used in the early 1800's. Crushed stone was passed over a metal grid & the smaller stones fell through & thus became known as 'metal'.



Feckenham was never close to a railway or canal network and has continued to rely upon the road network for all its needs.

As time went by, various Feckenham companies involved in making 'wire products' sprang up & many springs,

pins & needles etc were produced for industries both at home & abroad.

The Royal Enfield Factory No. 4 which closed in 1950, is now a private home, opposite the 'square' & many wire products were produced there inc. some for the motor industry. In 1901 parts for the Royal Enfield Cyclecar were produced. This lightweight 'motorcar' was made only a couple of miles away at Hunt End.

Obviously, there's very little industry left in Feckenham today, but huge companies like Halfords & GKN, still have their headquarters close by in Redditch.

One of the events which celebrate the transport industry is the Car Show, which is held annually as part of the Feckenham Wake.

I help to organise the car show and I'm always thrilled & amazed at the variety of superb machinery which turns up every year.

Last time we had over 120 cars, steam traction engines, a steam roller & over two dozen bicycles dating back to the late 1800's.

This year due to Covid-19 we will be holding the show on the 14th August, instead of mid-June.

If you own an 'interesting' form of transport with any number of wheels, with or without an engine, which you'd like to display, please contact [<chrisnic9@gmail.com>](mailto:chrisnic9@gmail.com).

Be aware that any vehicles that are not pre-registered, will not be allowed onto the field.

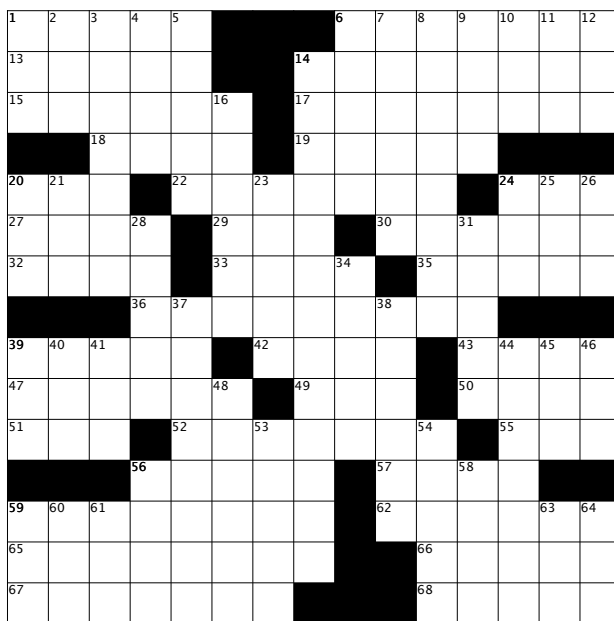
Crossword #1

Jamie Hubball

I'm very happy to present the Feckenham News' inaugural crossword which, as son of the editor, I've managed to get crowbarred into this edition. I grew up in Feckenham but have since moved to Chicago and grown obsessed with completing and writing New York Times-style crosswords. You'll notice some different conventions to British crosswords: a lot less gaps, no numbers of letters or indication of multiple words. American crosswords also have to be rotationally symmetrical and usually contain a theme of which the clues must also be rotationally symmetrical. This makes designing the grid a puzzle in itself! I hope those in Feckenham and elsewhere enjoy!

ACROSS

1. French & Saunders sitcom, affectionately
6. By the water
13. Had in mind
14. Road in 36-across
15. Shoe part
17. 18, to drink in the UK
18. Rip
19. Praised to the skies
20. Launch on the stock exchange, abbr.
22. A dog of mixed breed
24. Farm animal that sounds like you?
27. Cold and humid
29. Pakistani leader who overthrew Bhutto
30. Pacified
32. "Understood"
33. Unit of area
35. Poetic feet
36. You're probably there right now
39. 304, to Caesar
42. "Make ___!"
43. Magazine filler
47. ___ Larsson, Sweden and Celtic football legend
49. Cleaning implement
50. ___ Johnson, director of Knives Out and The Last Jedi
51. A very long time
52. Worker
55. View
56. ___ Amsterdam, of the Dick van Dyke Show
57. Hit the ___
59. Greeting from a sailor
62. Former Seattle NBA team, maybe named after a famous hedgehog?
65. ___ of 36-across, now Winfields
66. Colin ___, deceased rally driver
67. Purify
68. "Later!"



DOWN

1. Friend in France

2. "Big" name in London
3. What a scammer might pull
4. Up the ___
5. Second string
6. Churchill prop
7. Preceder of GCSE
8. "Thank the lord!"
9. Lost traction
10. ___ o' shanter, Scottish cap
11. Darth Vader's nickname, as a boy
12. Allow
14. Former leader of the 36-across youth club
16. Antidepressant brand
20. Dictator Amin
21. Faux ___
23. Singer and rapper Minaj
24. Wood resistant to splitting
25. Place to surf
26. Balls and Sheeran, for two
28. Fermented milk drink
31. Rapper Kendrick
34. Belgian painter James
37. It's a bad sign
38. Optimists
39. Friend of Fidel
40. Corporate VIP
41. Fox News rival
44. Ignition problem
45. Flirtatious wife in "Of Mice and Men"
46. The loneliest number
48. Gold standards
53. Singer Midler
54. Hotel offerings
56. Serial killer Hindley
58. First word in a fairy tale
59. Easy as ___
60. "2001: A Space Odyssey" antagonist
61. Mined matter
63. Low island
64. Neptune's realm

Recipes from Belinda-a Robinson

Chilli Prawn Sizzle with Orzo or Pasta Salad

Ingredients:

200g of prawns, raw and peeled
 30g of butter
 1 or 2 red chillies, in oil, thinly sliced
 1 garlic clove, thinly sliced
 1 pinch of smoked paprika
 1 pinch of cayenne pepper
 salt
 pepper
 1 tbsp of flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped

For the salad

150g of orzo or pasta
 14 baby plum tomatoes, halved
 1 tbsp of olive oil
 1/4 tsp salt
 1/4 tsp black pepper
 2 tbsp of flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped
 2 tbsp of basil leaf torn
 1 tbsp of thyme leaves
 1 tbsp of dill, finely chopped
 1/2 lime, zested
 1 tbsp of lime juice

First prepare the orzo or pasta salad. Boil a large pan of salted water and cook the orzo until just tender approx 8 mins.

In a bowl mix together the olive oil, salt, herbs, lime juice and zest

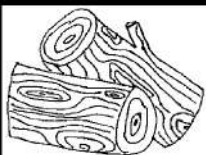
Drain the pasta and toss with the olive oil and herb mixture then stir through the tomatoes and set aside for later.

Heat the butter on a medium heat in a saucepan for the prawns. Add the chillies and garlic and cook for a minute until fragrant aromas release and the garlic has softened slightly.

Turn the heat up a fraction throw in the prawns, smoked paprika and cayenne and cook for a couple of minutes on each side, or until they turn pink. Season well and scatter with the parsley. Share the orzo or pasta salad between 2 plates/bowls. Spoon the prawns and butter over the top then serve. Wild garlic bread always an option with this spicy dish

Crossword Solution

A	B	F	A	B				C	O	A	S	T	A	L		
M	E	A	N	T				M	I	L	L	L	A	N	E	
I	N	S	T	E	P			A	G	E	L	I	M	I	T	
			T	E	A	R			R	A	V	E	D			
I	P	O			M	O	N	G	R	E	L			E	W	E
D	A	N	K			Z	I	A			L	U	L	L	E	D
I	S	E	E			A	C	R	E			I	A	M	B	S
						F	E	C	K	E	N	H	A	M		
C	C	C	I	V			I	T	S	O			A	M	M	O
H	E	N	R	I	K			M	O	P		R	I	A	N	
E	O	N			L	A	B	O	R	E	R			S	E	E
					M	O	R	E	Y			R	O	O	F	
A	H	O	Y	M	A	T	E				S	O	N	I	C	S
B	A	R	R	E	T	T	S					M	C	R	A	E
C	L	E	A	N	S	E						S	E	E	Y	A



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