

FECKENHAM

JULY 2018

News



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

• MEMORIALS •

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JULY Diary



Tues 3 rd	12.30am	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Tues 3 rd	8pm	Village Hall A.G.M.	Village Hall
Wed 4 th	7.30pm	Stock & Bradley Gardening Club	Meadow Farm
Thur 5 th	7.30pm	Summer Quiz	Rose & Crown
Thur 12 th	7.30pm	Feckenham WI	Village Hall, Back Room
Fri 13 th	8pm	FeckenOdeon-2	Back Room Village Hall
Sat 14 th	4pm - 6pm	Cream Tea at The Rectory	Stoke Prior
Sat 21 st	From 6.30pm	Fun on the Square	The Square
Fri 27 th	10.30- noon	Coffee Morning	33 High Street

Contents

Can You Help?	p5
Charity Grants	p13
Church Services	p4
Cricknet Club	p16
Feckenham W.I.	p17
FeckenOdeon	p12
Flower & Garden Fest.	p7
Gardening Club	p17
Hands of Compassion	p6
My First Year	p15
Parish Council	p5
Square Management	p12
Swansbrook Radio	p13
Torrential Rain.....	p8
Village Shop	p6

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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.

Front Cover

Local bobby Paul Downes gets into the spirit of things at The Wake.

Photo Ian Bellion



Thinking of volunteering? **relate**
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in our centre in Redditch

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www.relate.org.uk/worcestershire

Charity No 1056625



Church Services JULY

PARISH CHURCH
of ST. JOHN
THE BAPTIST



Priest-in-Charge: Rev Wyn Beynon **07595 313035**

Church website: www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk **Email:** info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

Parish Office: Telephone: 01905 778181 Email: bowbrookgroup1@gmail.com

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

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

Readers and Intercessors

Sunday 1st

Trinity 5

11.00am

Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 61: 1-4

James 3: 1-12

Intercessions

Fiona Carter

Oliver White

Walter Richards



Sunday 8th

Trinity 6

8.00am Holy Communion

Romans 6:3

John Eaton

11.00am Worship For All – Christianity - A Point of View

Sunday 15th

Trinity 7

6.30pm Evensong

Isaiah 43: 16-25

Mark 2: 1-12

Intercessions

Ian Hunter

Doug Curtis

John Calvert

Sunday 22nd

Mary Magdalene

11.00am Holy Communion

Song of Solomon 3: 1-4

2 Corinthians 5: 14-17

Intercessions

Bob Fish

Carol Price

Cyril Warrilow

Sunday 29th

10.30am Holy Communion – Bradley Green

All together in one place

“Mixed Bag” 6.30pm in Feckenham Church, Wednesday July 4th

Contact Fiona Carter 07864 867313 fiona-carter@hotmail.co.uk

Feckenham: Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Initial contacts for these should be directed to Rev. Wyn Beynon:

My mobile number is: **07595 313035** or email wynbeynon@gmail.com Thank you! Wyn

Feckenham Roman Catholic Church

St John Fisher & St. Thomas More



Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 10.15am in the Church

Fr. Anthony Rohan, The Presbytery, Redditch. Tel. 01527 63096

Local contact—Phyllis Mott, Feckenham. Tel. 01527 893898

Can You Help?

A Charity Ride in Aid of Mission Morogoro

Mission Morogoro continues to work in support of our friends in that area of Tanzania. This year, as well as supporting the rebuilding of the Church, we are also aiming to help add key resources to the school.

They have recently built a school laboratory, and that is currently empty of equipment. The objective is to get a range of basic kit so that students can learn the sciences promoting more likelihood of Doctors, engineers, soil experts etc being developed locally.

To support that and following on from the Alpine exploits of 2 years ago, Jeff Matthews is undertaking a sponsored bike ride. This time it's the length of Wales in a day. The trip is from castles of Caernarfon to Chepstow (185 miles) starting at 5:00am on 21st July, with the aim of finishing about 8:00pm, all being well. The scenery will be great but the terrain a little demanding.

It would be great to get your support. And you can be sure 100% of your donation will reach its destination. (Hopefully like Jeff)

There is a sponsor sheet at the back of the Church or go to the MyDonate page that has been set up.

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/jeffmatthews2>

Jeff can be reached on jeff@the-madison-group.co.uk and Mission Morogoro also has its own website, <http://www.missionmorogoro.org.uk/>

Your support both verbal and financial would be welcome.

Jeff Matthews



Parish Council

Jane Bull

Do you have difficulty getting to hospital and medical appointments because you have no access to your own transport, or have problems accessing or using public transport? (this is the criteria for community transport)
The service can be used for any reason, not just medical, so Day Centres, Clubs, shopping, etc.

The Community Transport service is still running in our area (Feckenham). The Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) closed their own scheme at the end of March, but Wyre Forest Community Transport are currently continuing their service as much as possible. Contact Wyre Forest Community Transport on **01299 405820**.

Please don't be put off by the fact they are in Bewdley; the ex-RVS volunteer drivers are still providing the journeys so are very familiar with your area. Fares apply for this service, please ask for details. Residents will need to register and pre-book their journey's a minimum of 48 hours in advance.

There is also Redditch Borough Council's **Dial a Ride Service** for Redditch based appointments / social appointments for Redditch residents, they can be contacted on **01527 64910**. Please contact them for your individual circumstances. Fares will apply and journeys need to be booked in advance.

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Hands of Compassion

Carol Onions & Shirley Harman

We hope that lots of you will come to our Coffee Morning on 27th July, at Shirley Harman's house 33 High Street. This year we will be splitting the profits between Friends of Feckenham Church to help maintain the fabric of our village church and Hands of Compassion.

You may remember that last year the school Wendy Ely started and supported for 17 years was unexpectedly taken over by the local Education Authority in Zambia as a Community School, unknown to Wendy and her Trustees. Wendy has recently been over for a visit and was allowed to speak to the pupils and will continue to support some ex pupils who are in university and is sending money to help to repair some water pumps at the school. Of course supporters had to be told about all this and many decided to withdraw their contributions.

Meanwhile H of C have been looking for other projects to support and have found 2 small schools one quite near Ndola and the other 350 km away near the capital Lusaka to raise money for to help them extend the scope of the schools such as extra classrooms and basic toilet facilities. Wendy has asked if she can visit Feckenham Church again as she has done several times in the past. I have asked the PCC to think about this and also hope that any of you who have stopped giving to H of C will reconsider in the light of what I have just written.

THE IRONING CENTRE



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Village Shop

Jeff Matthews

Shop Welcomes New Coffee Machine

To meet the increasing demand for coffee we have had to upgrade our machine, the last one having given us 8 years good service.

To celebrate this for July, there will be the ability to get a free top up on your coffee, throughout the month.

We have recently expanded the range of olives available, and a new Tiramisu, to give a Mediterranean feel to things. Closer to home, syrup sponge provides a comforting food thought. If you add a new range of fish pies, sound like you could put together an evening meal.

COACH TRIP TO OXFORD 10 October, 2018

EXECUTIVE COACH FROM FECKENHAM
(Johnsons of Henley-in-Arden)

Depart Feckenham 08.30
Returning approx 18.00

Day at leisure to enjoy:

- Ø Ashmolean Museum
- Ø Pitt Rivers Museum
- Ø Free lunchtime organ recital at The Queen's College Chapel
- Ø New Westgate shopping centre for pre-Christmas shopping!

Tickets £18 *Tickets limited*

Contact: Tricia Mortimer 01527 402302

tricia.mortimer@gmail.com

In aid of Mission Morogoro
www.missionmorogoro.org.uk

Flower & Garden Festival 2018

Cathy Fisher

After a long, cold, wet winter and a very late spring, the wonderful month of May arrived bringing some much needed sunshine and hope. At long last we could enjoy working in our gardens without rain, hail or squelchy mud. The 19th and 20th May turned out to be the most perfect of weekends in every way to host our triennial Flower and Garden Festival and I have never seen the country side or village look more beautiful (cow parsley, hawthorn blossom and horse chestnut). Walking around the village, the later Spring flowering plants, in particular the wisteria, clematis and peonies looked quite magnificent.

Visitors arrived in their dozens from all over the country (as far away as Yorkshire and Sussex and some from overseas). We also welcomed coaches bringing members from Swansea and Bristol Horticultural and Gardening Clubs.

After many months of hard work 35 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 themed 'Celebration and Commemoration' which was most thought provoking and extremely moving - many congratulations.

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

The WI were magnificent, as usual, in providing 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. 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.

In addition, I would like to thank all the 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.

The total sum raised for the Maintenance of our Parish Church and Churchyard, after all the numerous costs and contributions made and a generous additional donation, is a fantastic £11,000.

Thanks

Feckenham W.I. would like to give a very big thank you to everyone who donated cakes and helped in preparing the sandwiches, light lunches, washing up, putting up and taking down chairs and tables over the festival weekend. The young lads who worked so hard on Saturday and Sunday. We are a small WI and outside help is always much appreciated on these occasions. We donated £1,000 to the Festival grand total.

Linda Harris, President.

Found

Two items found during the Flower and Garden Festival weekend :

1. A 5 lever mortice lock key found in the Field Car Park
2. EW - 82 Cannon camera flange found in Chesterfield House Garden

Please contact
Catherine Fisher on 07931 338291

Torrential rain and trepidation in Tanzania

A journey with Mission Morogoro

Four of us from MM had decided that our visit to Tanzania in 2018 should coincide with the 'long rains' - an unpredictable, capricious period from March to May that brings with it hope of abundant crops and the resulting subsistence income that is so badly needed. Alongside the hope, though, the 'long rains' bring many dangers, as pothole-ridden, treacherous mud roads quickly become like ice rinks. Sometimes, too, the monsoon rains bring destruction in their path, and it was just such destruction that was wreaked upon St Elizabeth's Church, Tunguli, in February, 2016. It was a day etched into the memories of many of the congregation and the community. After a church service on the Sunday of our visit they told us how local people stood and wept when they saw that their much-loved church had been razed to the ground by torrential flood water from the hills behind the village. As the torrent cascaded down the hill it carried St Elizabeth's church as mere debris in its path.

Three days later, on the Wednesday, we found ourselves at the heart of Tunguli community, sitting on small chairs at a training day for 40+ community representatives –village leaders, committee members, faith leaders, councillors, local government officers, and headteachers, amongst others. Together we shared a tired, whitewashed classroom in Tunguli Primary School - a simple, single-storey building with a corrugated iron roof and mosquito mesh covering the otherwise bare windows. We listened and watched animated exchanges in Swahili, and it was impossible not to feel moved by the enthusiasm and engagement of everyone in the room. Three inspirational trainers from our partners, a Tanzanian NGO called SAWA (Sanitation and Water Action) have already installed 5 rope pumps in the area on our behalf, and are now working with the community on an Action Plan to improve hygiene. Ideas were thrashed out and targets were drawn up to improve toilet and hand-

washing facilities in homes and schools, in the drive to reduce disease in the community. The longer sessions of concentration were regularly punctuated with rhythmic clapping, after which we all jumped to our feet to share 'mini keep fit' routines, apparently to keep us from dozing in the humid atmosphere!

It was around midday when the sky began to darken over the hills surrounding the school. Darkening skies were quickly followed by that ominous first sound of a few, single but heavy drops of rain on the corrugated iron roof. Those spasmodic heavy raindrops were harbingers of something much more dramatic, and quickly rain of the legendary 'stair rod' variety thundered down. Both the sound and the sight we witnessed through the mesh windows were dramatic. Voices were all but drowned out by the relentless hammering of rain on the roof and, as Charles, the trainer, raised his voice, people milled around, straining to hear him. Some moved from their small chairs to the front of the classroom, to no avail. Group work, it was decided, was the only option, and the session continued. None of the locals appeared the slightest bit surprised or distracted by what was happening outside, but we stood at the windows watching as a swirling river of terracotta-coloured water surrounded us. I thought in that moment about the day the church – originally a short distance up the hill - was no more. I understood now. We witnessed for ourselves the power of the 'long rains' to turn roads to rivers within minutes.

It was two days later that we were able to turn our attention to St Elizabeth's and the plight of



the church once again. Dave and Tony joined the many locals as they spent the day working on foundations for the new church. They wanted to be there with them, to show support. It was heartening to see the progress they had made since our last visit 16 months ago, and their hope and enthusiasm is very strong. The foundations are nearly finished now, but progress is inevitably painfully slow as people are already struggling to provide for their families on a daily basis. There was a great sense of togetherness that morning, as everyone worked to move and level the soil and to 'tamp' the surface ready for the next stage, whenever that may come. Pastor Dickson Dyahila, a cheerful and energetic young priest, worked long and hard as he played a full part in this community project. For the congregation it is clearly a case of 'when' rather than 'if' a new church will be built. They are working on it – slowly.

And so it was with some sadness that we came to the end of our stay. How quickly time had passed. We said goodbye to our friends in Tunguli once again, knowing that both we and they had a journey to go on. There is one built on hope as they work hard to survive day-to-day, as well as one of prayer that they can rebuild the precious church at the heart of their community.

Our homeward journey, it soon became clear, was a rather more risky one than on previous visits. Our decision to make the trip during



the long rains brought us face to face with a harsh reality – the collapsing bridge over the river in Berega.

This was our only route and as the locals stood on the banks watching and discussing that day's torrent of a river we remembered that for them it is a daily threat. As we sat waiting in our vehicle, the engine running, we faced a swirling, treacherous mass of muddy water rising and falling around the approach to the concertina-like bridge. Its spans appeared to be breaking up and its supporting pillars, one of which had been reinforced by a makeshift pile of stones, offered little reassurance of a safe passage. As the minutes ticked by we all studied the ebb and flow of water around the entrance to the bridge and eventually - suddenly - in the hands of our very experienced driver, we made the move. We felt some relief as we progressed over the bridge, only to be confronted once again with a moving mass of water, now on the other side and covering our escape route. This time we didn't stop and our vehicle ploughed on until it delivered us safely onto dry land. Despite the many people standing watching the river that morning, we were the only ones who ventured across the bridge. That is a day none of us will ever forget and it is one for which we will give thanks for a safe passage. But it is also one that helped us to fully understand what our friends in Tanzania live with and have to deal with on an almost daily basis – the cruel realities of a climate that delivers both famine and flood. Our journey has come to an end. Theirs goes on.

Tricia Mortimer -Trustee
www.missionmorogoro.org.uk

Village Hall

Improvement Fund 2017/18



June Winners

39	Ailbhe Clarke	£25
1	Alan Jones	£15
20	Richard & Rebecca Eost	£10

The July Draw will be held in the Village Hall at
 8.00 pm on Tuesday 3rd July 2018

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



THE
FECKENHAM
SESSIONS
TRADITIONAL
MUSICMAKING
at THE ROSE & CROWN

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 3rd July

Feckenham Readers Group
Wednesday, 11th July - 7.45



This Month:
ICE ROAD by Gillian Slovo
Details from Marion Chate - 892285

the **WI** FECKENHAM WI
INSPIRING WOMEN At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL
MEMORY BEARS with CLARE CAMPION
Thursday, 12th July - 7.30pm
Visitors Welcome at all meetings - £4



**SUMMER
QUIZ**

At the Rose & Crown
Thursday 5th July 2018 7.30 pm
Teams of up to six.

Entry lists are in the lounge and bar.
PROCEEDS TO DEMENTIA UK

Dementia UK
Helping families face dementia

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL - AGM
Tuesday, 3rd July at 8pm
All welcome

THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY



Feckenodeon 2 - Friday, 13th July at 8pm



Feckenodeon 1 - Saturday, 18th August at 7.30pm

IMPORTANT

This performance comes direct from the stage of the Rome Opera house. The Opera will start at 7.30pm prompt. Please arrive by 7.15pm. Latecomers will not be admitted. Bubbly reception from 6.30pm.

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

*Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings
*Phone calls answered by Ticketsource and charged at standard rates - NOT a premium line

Cream Tea
at The Rectory, Stoke Prior
Saturday 14th July 4pm-6pm
Come and enjoy a Proper Cream Tea
includes savoury sandwiches and bites
and of course scones with jam and cream, and a lovely cuppa!
(There is also a rumour that Prosecco is allowed! Shhhh!)

Tickets £5 each from Melissa
melissa04@tiscali.co.uk Tel: 01527 832501
All proceeds to Mission Moregore

Send details of events for FREE listing to: whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk or call 892130

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

FECKENHAMSTER Fun on The Square 2018

HOEDOWN

From 6.30pm - Saturday, 21st July
On The Square

**COWBOY SUPPERS
& BARBECUE**

**DON'T EAT BEFORE YOU COME!
LICENSED SALOON BAR**

PLEASE DONT BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS!

INCREDIBLE RAFFLE - STUPENDOUS PRIZES!

**HOW LONG CAN
YOU STAY ON OUR**

**RODEO
BULL**

**PRIZES FOR THE LONGEST
LASTING!!**

SAFETY NOTE: Bull riders must be at least 4ft (1.2m) tall.

**SQUARE DANCE ON
THE SQUARE**

**WITH THE FECKEN-GOODOLD BOYS
LIVE BAND WITH CALLER**



All proceeds to be used for the upkeep of The Square - presented by Feckenham Square Management Committee
On behalf of Feckenham Village Amenity Trust - Reg. Charity No.: 1060836

Send details of events for FREE listing to: whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk or call 892130

FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

Ian Bellion



3 MESSAGES WRIT LARGE

Mildred Hayes' daughter has been murdered. Weeks pass by and the investigation has gone nowhere. Mildred decides to move things on by hiring three billboards to goad the police into action... but that's not all she does. This is a comedy, very black, very brutal but funny... only sometimes it hurts when you laugh!

"Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" won two Oscars for the incredibly strong performances of the two leading actors - Frances McDormand as the redoubtable Mrs Hayes and Sam Rockwell who plays the cop who crosses her...

**"THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE
EBBING, MISSOURI"**
at 8pm on Friday, 13th July



TUNEFULLY TRAGIC

In August we meet Violetta - a lady who sacrifices her happiness for the honour of the man she loves. A very special production of Verdi's **"La Traviata"** directed by Sophia Coppola and designed by couturier Valentino. This spectacular and stylish production will be beamed from the stage of the Rome Opera.

"LA TRAVIATA"
at 7.30pm on Saturday, 18th August
(Relay from the Rome Opera House)

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

Square Management Committee

HOEDOWN & HANG ON!

This year's Fun on The Square takes the form of a **"Feckenhamster Hoedown"**. There'll be a Square Dance on The Square with music and dancing instructions from the Fecken-Goodold Boys and their caller.

If you're not into dancing there are other things to make it a worthwhile Saturday night out - a **Rodeo Bull** for a start. A giant snorting beast which you're challenged to mount - and to stay on. The person who stays on longest will win a prize (*for safety reasons you have to be over 4 feet tall (1.2m) to ride the bull*).

There'll be fine **Home Cooked Food** - chili con carne and Bostin' baked beans - as well as a barbecue - so don't eat before you come out. We'll also have a fine **Saloon Bar** - but with one ingredient never found in the Wild West - good British Real Ale - alongside fine and fizzy wine, ciders and soft stuff for the kids.

There'll be all sorts of other wild attractions - including a giant **Raffle** with lots of prizes.

This is The Square's big fund raising event of the year with all of the money raised going to pay for the upkeep of Feckenham's centrepiece. If you're new to the village you may not know that The Square is owned by the village - through a Charitable Trust set up for that purpose. When something goes wrong or needs repairing there's no sending for the Council - all repairs and maintenance items are paid for out of the Trust's funds - so this event is very important. **Please DON'T bring your own drinks or food** - there'll be plenty available at very reasonable prices. There's always a shortage of seating so please feel free to bring your own chairs and picnic tables if you wish.

Saturday, 21st July from 6.30pm - be there or be Square!





WAKEY WAKEY!

For those of you of a "certain age" that phrase means the Billy Cotton Band Show - but Billy went to the great dressing room in the sky many years ago and Swansbrook's presenters, last time they checked, are all still very much alive - and, by the time you read this, they will have been broadcasting from The Wake using the station's amazing popup studio. Colin James will be talking to all sorts of people in the studio and the other presenters will be contributing from various attractions around the Wake site. It'll all be amazing and hopefully amusing - and it's on the air now - have a listen at www.swansbrook.com

AL FRESCO BROADCASTING

The Wake and the Flower & Garden Festival have given Swansbrook Radio a chance to get out of the studio with the entire team roving the streets with their lightweight digital recorders at the ready. Such technology means that we can report from almost anywhere with a minimum of fuss - and, as Happy Hour listeners will know, we can even present programmes from abroad. What used to involve a shoulder breaking tape machine and battery pack can now be carried in one hand - and the quality of the recording is faultless. The same thing applies to the outside broadcast studio that you may have seen at recent events. In the old days we'd have needed a control van and a small army of technicians - now the same thing is achieved with just a laptop, a tiny media interface box and a couple of microphones. Sometimes progress is great!

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.**

FECKENHAM'S OWN Local Radio
www.swansbrook.com

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

31st August, 2018

For more information and 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

31st August, 2018

Further enquiries/applications to:

Mrs J. Bate (Clerk to the Trustees)
'Wychway', Droitwich Road
Hanbury, BROMSGROVE, B60 4DB

Tel 01527 821285



48 High Street
Feckenham
B96 6HS

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My First Year

Reflections by Rachel Maclean MP

I can't believe that just over one year ago I was elected as the MP for Redditch County. Every day I feel honoured and privileged to be your MP and I have been fighting and working hard for you since day one.

As I reflect on my first year as your MP, perhaps what makes it even more special is that 2018 also marks 100 years since Parliament passed a law which allowed women to vote for the very first time. Look at how much progress we've made in that time. 100 years ago, I wouldn't have been able to vote, let alone stand for Parliament. 100 years later I have the honour of representing you in the House of Commons as our constituency's third female MP. We still have a lot of progress to make in the fight for gender equality, but let's also celebrate how far we have come as a country.

From my first day as your MP, the Alex has been and continues to be my top priority. I have had many meetings with the Health & Social Care Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, talked about the Alex at every opportunity there is in the Chamber, and continue to hold regular meetings with the Chief Executive of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, Michelle McKay. I'm not all talk and no action either. I've lobbied the Government to release £16million of the capital funding that has been promised to the Acute Trust in order to make the Alex a centre of excellence.

You've all made me and my family feel very welcome since I moved to the constituency in January. I can't thank you all enough.



Perhaps one of the most important parts of my job is casework. Constituents come to see me in their time of need and I will always do

everything I can to help. I hold surgeries every month where constituents can talk to me about issues I can help with. As you can imagine I receive a large volume of emails, since I was first elected I have received more than 50,000 emails! I've also sent more than 2,000 letters and I have responded to more than 3,000 casework and policy requests.

In Parliament I have spoken in more than 114 debates, making me one of the hardest working MPs in the House of Commons. And nine months into my new role, I was honoured to be asked to take on the role of Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Home Office. My new role involves working closely with and assisting Home Office Ministers in their parliamentary duties, including the Home Secretary, and covers a wide variety of subjects including vulnerability, safeguarding and counter extremism, domestic abuse and knife crime.

What a year it has been. Every day has been an absolute privilege representing you in Parliament. Thank you again for electing me and for giving me this amazing opportunity to make Feckenham and the constituency a better place to live, work and play. I look forward to serving you for the coming years ahead.

Contact me - Phone: 01527 591 334

Email: rachel.maclean.mp@parliament.uk

Address: Grosvenor House, Prospect Hill, Redditch, B97 4DL.

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Feckenham Cricket Club

Bob Gordon



"Cricket to us was more than play, it was a worship in the summer sun" (Edmund Blunden).

Yes summer did arrive late in May and toyed with us on and off through June. The warmer conditions have produced better pitches than were imaginable when the season was due to start in late April and the ground was covered in puddles. Now we have flatter pitches, giving more bounce and producing more exciting matches.

Unfortunately that excitement did not coincide with good fortune and the first team fell to successive single-wicket defeats against Cookley at home and Worcester away – very close matches which it was galling to lose. Josh Stacey is going well at present, scoring 51 against Cookley and taking 3 wickets while Tom Coulson took 3 wickets against Cookley and six against

Worcester. The brief losing run was halted when the first team achieved a "winning draw" against Bewdley over the late May bank holiday, just failing to take the final wicket which would have resulted in the win. However, there was no mistake in the home match against Pedmore, the hosts reaching 220 in their 50 overs in which Jamie Griffith stood out with an unbeaten 86. The result leaves the team in 5th place in the Division One table.

The second team have had a mixed time, achieving a winning draw away at Cookley (Matt Grubb 79, Andy J Kings 64) before losing to Worcester by two wickets (Ryan Humphries taking 4 wickets) and ending May in fine style by winning by 8 wickets at Bewdley (Neil Evans taking 5 wickets) then losing to Colwall by 17 runs in June's first home fixture. Having put Colwall in to bat, they made 234 and Feckenham seemed on course for victory, founded on Andy J Kings' classy 86 but a flurry of wickets fell when the finish line was coming in to sight. The next match away to Pedmore was a heavy defeat.

The third team's competitive season began with a losing draw away at Redditch Entaco in which two of our 13-year-old juniors played – Ollie Campbell took a wicket and Jay Blackburn made a useful 14 runs. Jon Dean knocked off 92 runs from the teams total of 165. A loss to Old Halesonians followed, despite Jon Dean scoring 104 and John Raxster 57. June began with a fine victory at Himley (Richard Eost top-scored with 44, John Raxster led the bowling with 6 for 24).

This was followed by a 2-wicket win against Coombs Wood where Jon Dean was again amongst the runs, making 73, Guy Hales supporting with 30.

A friendly match against Cookhill drew a respectable

crowd on a sunny Sunday, which saw a makeshift Feckenham team win comfortably. A highlight was again the contribution from a pair of our juniors who were not overawed by the occasion, in fact Jay Blackburn took 5 wickets for 15 runs. There was a period during the game when Jay joined Joe Davis at the crease – have there been many games when there are more than 60 years difference in age between batsmen!

Speaking of Joe, he has been consistently scoring runs for the Worcestershire 70+ team, the highlight being 70 against Somerset and 62 against Warwickshire, with good scores also against Wales, Gloucestershire and Cheshire.

Junior players that make the step up to the senior game is down to their hard work and that of their coaches.

The latter not only put in the time on a Friday evening (junior coaching runs from 6pm to 7pm) but of course organise the matches at under-9, under-11 and under-13 levels and manage the team on the day. In addition to our own junior scheme, the club has joined the ECB's "All Stars" programme which seeks to attract boys and girls from 5-8 years to try out cricket. AllStars sessions take place 5:45-6pm on Wednesday evenings and we have 16 or so children registered and enjoying the fun. Tremendous thanks go to Luke Jackson who got this up and running and also leads the sessions, with help from Nicola Campbell.

On the field all junior teams have been doing well. The under 9s started with a tournament at Astwood Bank, winning two (one being a victory over the hosts) of their three matches and surpassed that in early June by beat Astwood Bank, Alvechurch and Barnt Green on their way to winning the tournament at Mill Lane. The under 11s comprehensively beat Five Ways Old Edwardians.

Last month I mentioned that a chain sprocket on our roller stripped its teeth. Fortunately, my neighbour and club supporter Alf Bennett was able to persuade Redditch Gears to grind the old sprocket away and weld a new one in its place. Our 40-year old machine is now back in action and helping to produce fine pitches. We have also just received the great news that The Peoples' Postcode Lottery will provide the money to repair and service our gang mowers, which are used to cut the outfield.

Upcoming fixtures at Mill Lane (1pm start unless stated):

Thu June 28th Worc's 70+ v Cheshire 70+

Sat Jun 30th v Coombs Wood (2nd team)

Sun Jul 1st Worcs U11 v Gloucs. U11 (10am)

Sat Jul 7th v Worcester Nomads (1st team)

Sat Jul 14th v Hagley (2nd team)

Sat Jul 21st v Chaddesley Corbett (1st team) Sun Jul

22nd Worcs U12 v Staffs U12 (10am) Sat Jul 28th v

Cookley (2nd team)

Sat Aug 4th v Worcester (1st team)

The above are mainly 50-over games, come down and join us!

Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

Rob Cole

GARDEN VISIT - Wed. 4th July - 6:30pm

Our evening garden visit this year is to David's Garden at Martin Hussingtree, near Droitwich. After retiring from running their David's Garden Centre, David and Sarah Beauchamp have created this one and a half acre garden during the last two years. The post code is WR3 8TB and members should make their way there by personal transport.

EVENING AT MEADOW FARM, - Wed. 1st August - 6:30pm

As the number of Club members has increased, it has become difficult to find a Club member's garden with large enough 'under cover' facilities to hold the usual American Supper. The Committee has decided to try an Open Garden Evening instead, and our first foray into this new idea is for club members to visit Rob and Diane Cole's garden at Meadow Farm, 33 Droitwich Road, Feckenham.

Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £8.00 for 2018. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting.

If you require any further information, ring Dinny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527 821355 or Rob Cole (Chairman) on 01527 821156.

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Members did a wonderful job over the Festival weekend, a big thank you to everyone for all the baking and hard work that was put in.

This month our meeting is on Thursday 12th in the Village Hall Back Room at 7.30pm. Clare Campion will be talking to us about 'Memory Bears'. Learn about how and why they are made. Light refreshments, visitors welcome (£4)

Garden visit:

Tues 17th July 2.30pm, 74 Meadow Road, Wythall, as seen on Gardener's World on 1st June

Lunch outing:

Wed. 25th July Broadacres
Contact Vivien Hunter 402360 for both

Craft & Natter: Taking a summer break.



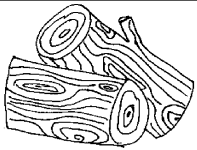
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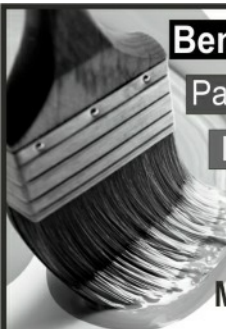
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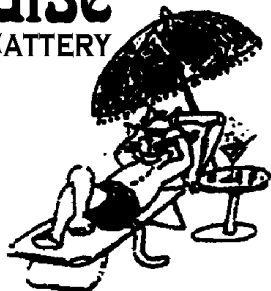
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