

FECKENHAM NEWS

June 2024

Published by Feckenham Church for the village.
Editor Gilly Cooper - feckenhamnews@gmail.com
(Copy Date 14th)

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Feckenham News in June

Dates for your Diary

June

5th	S&B Gardening Club
7th	Oh What a Lovely War
17th	WI
18th	Readers Group
21st	S&B Coach Trip
22nd	Wake
29th	Feckenham Horse Show

Various Dates - Open Studios - see Page 8

July

4th	Parish Council Meeting
9th	Lunch Club
19th	FeckenOdeon 2
27th	Fun on the Square

Regular Sessions

Wednesdays Playgroup
Thursdays Bridge; Hatha Yoga; Pilates
Fridays Meditation Class
Second Monday of the month: Mobile Library
First Tuesday of the month:
Lunch Club, Feckenham Sessions
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

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Aurora Borealis

Magazine online at
www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

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Editor's Note

This month I don't really have much to comment on from the village other than my sadness at the closure of the Lygon as I've been away welcoming a new granddaughter to the world.



I have seen the new bench at the top of the recreation ground and it is really lovely. People will be able to rest and take a little time looking at the view, pondering or having a picnic perhaps.

This got me thinking about where I'd take a visitor to the village who had an hour or two to spare. My top choices are:

For walkers and cyclists:

Resting a while on a bench on the square, by the church or the new one on the recreation field.

For those interested in history:

A visit to the church and read the information boards on the recreation ground describing King John's Hunting

Lodge and the local wildlife. Also spot the plaques in the windows marking those houses of men who died or came back from WW1.

For birdspotters:

A walk down Moors Lane to Feckenham Wyldre Moor and the view from the hide

For shoppers:

A browse around Winfields (that I still call Barretts) followed by a walk to the village shop to pickup groceries, have a coffee or maybe an ice cream.

I love to take my visitors on a walk down Mill Lane to the Whirly Hole, follow the path up to Berrow Hill for the views and a picnic on a sunny day, back down and past the millwheel and to see the swans and their cygnets at Mill House, drop into the shop and make a final stop at the church where I always point out the crown of poppies.

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Feckenham WAKE

Saturday, 22nd June

IN THE OLDEN DAYS...

In days of old when knights were bold Feckenham was far from the rural backwater it is today. Royalty used to drop in to the Hunting Lodge in the middle of Feckenham Forest. They were so impressed with the village's hospitality that in the year 1223 King Henry III issued a charter giving the Feckenhamsters the right Royal right to hold a great big party every year... and it's been happening ever since.

A FINE FECKENHAM FROLIC...

This year **Feckenham Wake** (as it's been called since before anyone can remember) is on **Saturday, 22nd June**. It features lots of attractions guaranteed to appeal to all ages and tastes – there'll be games and things to bounce on for the youngster, a trial of strength for the dads (and mums) and a Fun Dog Show for Fido. The terrifying Climbing Wall is back and, for the first time, there'll be a genuine Fairground Organ and this year's Prize Draw features some amazing prizes.

There'll be an enormous Classic Car Show with over 100 shiny motors on display. Also featuring will be Professor Chandler's Punch and Judy Show, The Arrow Valley Brass Band, All Round Voices Choir, Massed Morris Dancers and Feckenham Country Dancers. Circus performer Thomas Trilby will prove that it is possible to juggle on stilts whilst riding a unicycle.

There'll be lots to see and plenty to eat and drink – a real ale bar, a prosecco bar, cream teas, a pig roast, pizzas, home-made samosas, ices and candy floss... and there'll be Roo'd – a pair of giant bouncing kangaroos – seeing is believing!

IT'S YOUR WAKE

This is a local thing for local people - It's Feckenham's biggest outdoor event of the year and it takes a lot of organising. It's not about making money - it's about having a great day - and showing off the best that our village can offer.... And any money taken is used to make next year's Wake even better!

Like most village events, The Wake is totally dependent on volunteers to make it work. When it works it's magic but it takes a lot of effort to conjure up that magic. The organisers would love to hear from you if you can **spare**

some time to help keep this Feckenham tradition running smoothly.

Perhaps you can help on a stall, man an attraction - or just help us put things up and take things down again? **No need to spend the whole day working** - there's a shift system so that people can just man a stall or attraction for an hour and then be free to join in the fun. Whatever you can do, it will be much appreciated. Please get in touch to find out more.

Call Julian Bull on 01527 892522 or email julianbull.777@gmail.com

FECKENHAM WAKE

Saturday, 22nd June from 12.30pm

On The Square and Recreation Ground



Village Notices and Letters

Lunch Club - Change of Date

July's Lunch Club will be held on July 9th instead of July 2nd due to holiday arrangements.

Jill Rowe

Cricket Club Thoughts - Phil Guise

We are very lucky to live in Mill lane within yards of the Churchyard and the Cricket Club. For all of us the last nine months has been wet dreary and difficult. Especially for the dog walkers!

I went down to the Cricket Club this afternoon for the first home match of the season. During the week I have watched Bob Gordon and Steve Daniels work tirelessly to get the ground ready. This has involved repairing and painting the boundary fences, an essential when a cricket ball costs £20! The mowing of the outfield has taken two weeks almost on a daily basis to get it to its current condition - let alone the square, probably the biggest in the County! It looked a picture today. Sun shining and a beautifully presented ground: a credit to those who work hard to make it so. All we do is turn up and watch!

I am sure everyone in the Village appreciates the work that goes in to maintain this wonderful community facility.

I am very fortunate from my garden to hear ball on willow and the sound of children playing in the summer

Pet hair could be harmful to wildlife

Most people have now heard of neonicotinoid pesticides and how they are harmful to pollinators such as bees, but how many of us are aware that we are putting those same chemicals onto our pets? Fipronil and imidacloprid are widely used in flea treatments, which are typically applied to the back of the pet's neck once a month, but are no longer approved for use in

outdoor agriculture. Imidacloprid belongs to a group of pesticides known as neonicotinoids. Studies are now being undertaken to see if pet hair containing these chemicals is harmful to birds when they use it to line their nests, and if it is harmful to aquatic habitats when dogs treated with these chemicals go into waterways (see Dave Goulson's work at the Uni. of Sussex etc.). So if you are in the habit of treating your pet regularly for fleas (even if they don't have them), you might want to put their fur in the bin rather than in the garden and think twice about letting them go for a swim in the brook.

Jen Cary

Stock & Bradley Gardening Club Summer Coach Trip Friday 21st June 2024

Opened to non-members

In the morning a visit to Kingsbridge Farm Gardens in Steeple Claydon, Bucks - a stunning 6-acre garden; includes a short introductory talk, free time to wander, tea/coffee and biscuits.

Lunch at Buckingham Nurseries. The nursery stocks plants and shrubs which are not commonly found. There is a coffee shop / restaurant or bring your own picnic - seating available.

The final stop is at Thenford Gardens and Arboretum. Spread out over 70 acres, the garden contains over three thousand plants/trees, beautiful sculpture area and rose garden, medieval fishponds and lake. Lord and Lady Heseltine have created an impressive garden of importance over the past 40 years. Refreshments available.

Price is £50, which includes all entry fees, coach transport, and refreshments at Kingsbridge. Coach leaves Stock and Bradley Green Village Hall car park B96 6RW at 08.30am PROMPT, Leaving Thenford gardens at 16.00pm, returning to the Village Hall, approximately 17.00 hrs . Please contact Gay Bligh - m.gbligh49@gmail.com to book a place.

CHURCH SERVICES



PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Vicar: Fr Glenn Reading 01527 894436
vicar@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

Church Warden: Vacant

For Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals please contact Fr Glenn

Website: www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk



PARISH CHURCH
OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
FECKENHAM

Services for June 2024

2nd June	10.30am	Eucharist	Rev John Green
9th June	9.00am	BCP Communion	Fr Glenn Reading
	10.30am	Family Service	Rev Fiona Carter
16th June	6.30pm	Evensong	Fr Glenn Reading
23rd June	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading
30th June	10.30am	Benefice Eucharist (Compassion Sunday)	Fr Glenn Reading Rev Fiona Carter



Drop in (in church)
Wednesday at 10.30am - 12.00pm

12th June and 26th June

All are welcome (coffee and cake)



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



For this month we have a view of The Eight Bells pub on High street. Presumably the name was from the church bells, can anyone tell me anything different? A private house for many years - Just think, a village with three pubs, and now it looks as though we're down to one!

Feckenham Artisans & Open Studios 2024

The artisan group has now increased to 15 members which is a great indication of the creative talent within our village. 5 of the group are shortly to open their doors to the public as part of Warwickshire Open Studios which runs from 22nd June to 7th July. You will be able to view their latest work, buy or commission work and observe live demonstrations of technique and process. Sadly Worcestershire Open Studios is not taking place this year but since we are near the border we've decided to join the larger Warwickshire event.

June 22nd and 23rd Ian Ridley and Jude Sullivan in the Village Hall
Deborah Watton and Jacqui Berry at 16 High St

June 29th and 30th Julian Bull at 7 Droitwich Rd
Ian Ridley and Jude Sullivan in the Village Hall
Deborah Watton and Jackie Berry at 16 High St

July 6th and 7th Julian Bull at 7 Droitwich Rd
Deborah Watton and Jackie Berry at 16 High St

Brochures are available at The Rose & Crown, Village Shop and Village Hall.

A further event is planned in October by the whole group.

Update on Feckenham Community Renew Projects

As reported in the April Feckenham News, both local artist Julian Bull, and the Feckenham in Bloom group were both awarded small grants administered by the New Cultural Compact for North East Worcs, for renewal projects around the churchyard.

Julian's project to celebrate the fallen trees in the churchyard will shortly be complete. The outcomes are 4 striking prints which appear to show the shapes of faces and shells. A bespoke table joins the work and documents the journey of a tree from discarded firewood to being repurposed as a useful and attractive object.

You are invited to view this work in the church on display in the church from June 19th (tbc).

Copies of the prints are available to buy, with 25% going to church funds, whilst the

table has been donated for use by the church.

The Feckenham in Bloom group have been making plans to improve Church Walk. By the time of The Wake, the Walk should be tidied and ready for planting shortly after.

Both projects have been funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and administered by the ReNEW Cultural Compact for North East Worcs.





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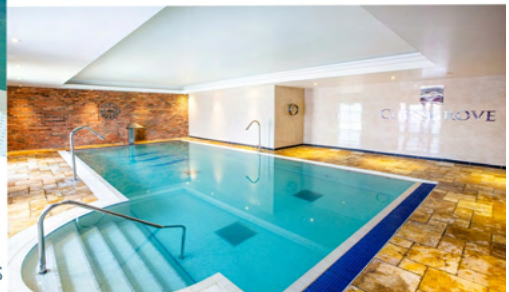
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OFFICERS AND MEETINGS

The Parish Council met for the annual Parish Council meeting on 9th May. The council re-elected Cllr Alan Smith as Chair and Cllr Hugo Hammersley as Vice-Chair. From July 2024 the Parish Council will meet monthly and there will be a minimum of 11 meetings per year. The public are welcome to attend any meeting to raise issues important to them or simply to listen to Council business.

NEW COUNCILLOR

Due to the resignation of Cllr Quintus Cary the Parish Council had a vacancy which could be filled by co-option. The vacancy was advertised, and Paul Downes applied. The Council unanimously agreed to co-opt Paul as a Parish Councillor at the annual meeting. Paul has lived and worked in Feckenham for many years and his experience and expertise will be a great asset to the Council.

MORE BATTERIES

The Parish Council were made aware at the meeting of yet another likely planning application for a further Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to be sited in Feckenham. The new application is twice the size of the existing Immersa application for 200 megawatts and four times the size of the first application from Statkraft. The Parish Council will continue to keep Parishioners updated regarding these developments.

BLOOMING SUCCESS

Feckenham in Bloom, a working party of the Parish Council finally received permission from Historic England to have a bench sited on the recreation grounds between the trees. This is now in place and it is hoped that villagers and visitors will make use of it to sit a while and take in one of the many lovely landscapes within our village. Cllr Crair Warhurst (WCC & RBC) has given a donation from his divisional funds to the group.

SPEED REDUCTION

Feckenham will soon have two additional Vehicle Activated Signs to encourage motorists to comply with the speed limits within the village. One will be on Astwood Lane and the other close to Moors Lane. These were paid for by a grant from John Campion (Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia).

There will also be new white gates at the entrances into the village, these were paid for by Worcestershire County Council divisional funds from Cllr Mike Rouse and Cllr Craig Warhurst. The gates will be larger and more eye catching than the existing ones and will be sited more effectively. The aim is to emphasise to motorists that they are entering a village and that they should moderate their speed accordingly.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 4th July at 7.30pm in the Back Room of Feckenham Village Hall. All are welcome to attend and, as always, there will be a 15 minute "public forum" when you can ask questions and bring matters of concern to the attention of councillors.

CONTACT THE COUNCIL

Should you require any help or further information please do not hesitate to contact Feckenham Parish Council on 01527 892522, email: clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk



[Website for Feckenham Parish Council](http://www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

[Next Parish Council Meetings](#)

Visit the Parish Council's website for information about the Council, planning issues, local organisations and useful contact details to help you solve problems. You'll also find digital editions of Feckenham news going back to 2012.

feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

WHAT'S ON IN

Feckenham Horse Show Saturday 29th June 2024

Berrow Hill Lane, Feckenham, B96 6RU



EQUIFEST QUALIFYING SHOW - WWW.EQUIFEST.ORG.UK

Hunters - ROR - Working Hunter Ponies - Cobs - Coloureds -
Mountain & Moorland - Show Jumping Dressage - Children's classes -
Veterans - Fancy Dress - Gymkhana/mounted games

Family friendly show – everyone welcome!

Entries on the day or online from 1st May, closing date 24th June 2024
WWW.HORSE-EVENTS.CO.UK

Entries secretary: Mrs T Gaunt, feckenhamhorseshow@hotmail.com
- tel: 07764260061

Feckenham Square Management Committee



FUN ON THE SQUARE

Saturday, 27th July

Full details in July's Feckenham News

ERSTWHILE



BORDER MORRIS

Twice monthly Sessions
at Feckenham Village Mall
2nd and 4th Fridays - 7pm

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Feckenham's Own...



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SWANSBROOK Radio

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Next Meeting - Monday, 17th June

CAR MAINTENANCE

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& Col's Minis

8pm at Feckenham Village Hall

Contact jen@thecarys.co.uk for details

Feckenham READERS GROUP

Wednesday, 18th June - 7.45pm

This month's book:

LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY

By BONNIE GARMUS

Details: 892285



Send details of events for FREE listing to:


FECKENHAM



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NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 4th June

Stock & Bradley
GARDENING CLUB



PLANTS FOR
JUNE

With JOSEPH Egan Wyre

Bradley Green Village Hall
Wednesday, 8th June
at 7.30pm



Feckenham
Scarecrow
Weekend
5th & 6th October

Feckenham Parish Council

MEETING

Thursday, 4th July - 7.30pm
Feckenham Village Hall
(Back Room)

All welcome - Meetings include a Public Forum where parishioners can bring matters to the attention of the Council and ask questions.



Feckenham WAKE

Saturday, 22nd June
12.30pm to 5pm



Watch out!
You might get ROO'D!

CLASSIC CAR SHOW
over 100 cars

Juggling and japes
With THOMAS TRILBY

PUNCH & JUDY - Fun DOG SHOW
CLIMBING WALL - FAIRGROUND ORGAN
CRAZY GOLF - BRASS BAND
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FeckenOdeon 2 Friday, 19th July at 8pm



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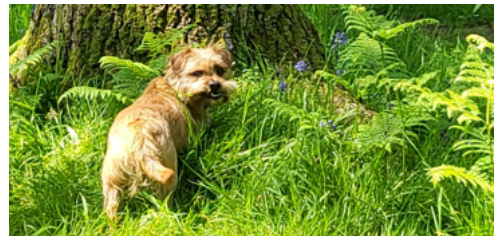
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Kathy's Collection: Blue April



This year I tried to visit several bluebell woods. I may have left it a week late, but the sun and birdsong more than made up for it. Native bluebells carry their scented flowers to one side of the delicate stem, unlike the more robust, unscented Spanish bluebell which I have in my garden.



"They're associated with ancient woodland and are often used in combination with other species as a clue that a wood is ancient. Woodland butterflies, bees and hoverflies all feed on their nectar - bees can 'steal' the nectar from bluebells by biting a hole in the bottom of the flower, reaching the nectar without the need to pollinate the flower. In the language of flowers, the bluebell is a symbol of humility, constancy, gratitude and everlasting love. It is said that if you turn a bluebell flower inside-out without tearing it, you will win the one you love, and if you wear a wreath of bluebells you will only be able to speak the truth."
(<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/plants/wild-flowers/bluebell/>)

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The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



COMING SOON:

Friday, 19th July : PAUL (15)

OUR 23rd SEASON:

The main programme for the FeckenOdeon's 2024/25 Season has been announced. There are details to be found at

www.fecknodeon.co.uk and in leaflets available at the Shop, The Village Hall and The Rose & Crown. Films showing include: Wicked Little Letters, The Treasure of the Sierra Madre, Bob Marley - One Love, South Pacific, The Great Escaper, The Producers and A Haunting in Venice.



For full details visit
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SWAN WAKE...

Swansbrook Radio has a soft spot for The Wake. It was at the Wake that we started our regular transmissions - way back in 2016 - eight whole years ago... and we started broadcasting the day after the Brexit Referendum result was declared - immaculate timing! We didn't dodge the issue. Our fearless reporters went out and about to ask the great Feckenham public what they thought of it - and soon came back shocked by the vitriol that poured from both sides. It did make for entertaining radio but we're still plucking up courage to ask the same questions today... Swansbrook will be at this year's Wake on 22nd June - our announcers will be doing the announcements and we'll be recording some of the action for our programmes. We might even be live on air from The Square but we can't confirm that at the time of writing. We'll certainly be available to chat and answer any questions you may have about how our station works, how you could be involved and how you can have fun with a used cereal box and some sticky backed plastic.

Please come and see us - we've got lots of Swansbrook badges and car stickers as well as some lovely Swansbrook coasters - all free! You can ask us to play requests, send messages and even make suggestions (polite please). We're always looking for new programme ideas - and for new people to join us to make those ideas happen. Look for the big banners with swans on - we're easy to spot!

LISTEN TO THE SWANS

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

FECKENHAM'S OWN Local Radio
www.swansbrook.com

BACK TO BASIC FUN

Last year's **Fun On The Square** was quite literally a wash out - cancelled due to torrential rain. This year the Committee has decided that discretion is the better part of valour and decided to go for a simple, low key event aimed at bringing villagers together on what, it is to be hoped, will turn out to be a pleasant summer evening.

On the evening of **Saturday, 27th July** you're invited to come to The Square - bring your own food, bring your own drink - a DIY celebration! There'll be a barbecue for you to cook your own food on and there'll be entertainment from local musicians. The Erstwhile Border Morris will dance for us.

The aim is to mount a pleasant evening for villagers to socialise and enjoy - a simple village party. There'll be more details next month

SCARECROWS' RETURN

It's confirmed! After 2023's highly successful event, the **Feckenham Scarecrow Weekend** will return on **5th and 6th October**. You'll again be invited to make the most remarkable straw creations for display around the village. Full details soon - but start working on ideas - **only 15 weeks to go!**



Feckenham Village Hall



ROLL UP! ROLL UP!

Take your seat for the ever-popular 'War Game'!

Auntie Jen Productions brings a brand-new production of Joan Littlewood's classic musical to Feckenham Village Hall.

A cornerstone of modern musical theatre and one of the very greatest stage satires, *Oh What A Lovely War* is an extraordinary theatrical journey bringing to life the folly, farce and tragedy of the First World War.

Packed with timeless songs, razor-sharp satire and high jinks the show is a hilarious, heart-breaking snapshot of life for those caught in the crossfire of conflict.

Aunty Jen Productions is an award winning professional theatre company based in Studley. They work with local businesses and grass-roots venues to ensure that their productions are accessible to all by keeping ticket prices as low as possible and supporting local freelance actors.

OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR

Friday, 7th June at 7pm

(Doors open 6.30pm - Licensed Bar)

Tickets are on sale at The Village Shop in Feckenham. You can also book online through

www.feckhall.org

Draw results

Feckenham Village Hall Improvement Fund May draw.

The draw was carried out on 7th May, 2024.

1st (£25)	173	Arthur Brassington
2nd (£15)	174	Bob & Amanda Gordon
3rd (£10)	73	Anne-Marie Mitchell

Village Shop - Alan Slater

There is no doubt that our Village Shop is a great community asset, both as a convenience store and as a social hub. We would certainly miss it if it wasn't there. Why is it so successful? The answer is easy... it is due to the dedication of our team of volunteers who are prepared to give freely of their time every day of the year, with the only exception being for the three days we are closed during the Christmas festive period. This month it is appropriate that I acknowledge how amazing our Shop Volunteers are because from the 3rd to the 9th of June it is National Volunteers Week across the UK. The week celebrates the wonderful work that volunteers make to communities across the Country and is a chance to recognise, celebrate and thank them for all they contribute. whether it is locally or to society as a whole.

So, on behalf of the Board may I thank our 85 volunteers for all their hard work during the last twelve months and for their continued commitment and enthusiasm. The Shop has enjoyed another record breaking year and we could not have achieved that success without them.

I am delighted to report the encouraging news that following our recent social media campaign, we have recruited a further six new volunteers who are about to join the Shop Team once they have completed their training.

Finally something new to try this month. We have just brought into stock a range of individually wrapped cake slices to supplement our delicious home baked offering. Ideal to take home for an afternoon treat or alternatively enjoy with a cup of our excellent and competitively priced coffee.



An Organic Allotment by Pete Delaney

June already, the month that hosts midsummer's day, and yet it feels as if the summer has hardly begun. Almost everything has had a late start as the ground has been so wet during spring this year. Seeds that germinated seemed to grow on reluctantly, even my radishes grew in slow motion.

I have mentioned my parsnip germination battles before. This year I sowed three different types, only the 2 rows of 'Gladiator F1' came up which was strange in that the two rows were of two different seed companies, Kings and Fothergills, respectively. I have resown the barren rows with more Gladiator F1.

My onion family are thriving, the garlic looks strong, will it have split cloves after the last practically frost free winter? I'll soon be finding out as I should be harvesting it by the end of this month and it's leaves are already showing signs of its age. Most of my 2 beds of shallots are growing well, except for a few on one of the beds that seems to have something nibbling the leaves. This month I shall plant out leeks (that have been growing in trays in the polytunnel, then pots in the cold frame) into their final growing bed outside, dibbing them in by poking a hole with a broom handle, dropping the young leeks in without back filling the hole, leaving the weather and the leeks growth to fill it up.

Runner beans that I planted out mid May are climbing the canes, I made a long row with a section of haricot french beans that I am trying out this year.

Peas are following suit climbing the net fencing set out for them. During June they shall flower and hopefully by the end of the month, yield their first harvest.

Give thanks for broad beans... As I write this in May, my broad beans are just beginning to lose their first flowers and grow small bean pods and I can see we shall be cropping them in June. I look forward to



their harvest but shall miss the vivid display of fragrant flowers that they add to the plot in early summer.

My fruit net area is looking nice this season. Raspberries are showing plenty of flowers and the 2 gooseberry bushes are laden with unripe green fruit that turns into a red sweet berry as it ripens. The grape that I planted 2 years ago looks the best it has been and I am hoping I may see flowers and a bit of fruit this year.

I also planted 3 column miniature fruit trees this spring, an apple, a pear and a cherry. All 3 seem to be establishing well although I would expect no fruit until at least next year. They are a novelty tree really but sit well in the fruit net with the raspberries and gooseberries.

Well often a late start can mean a late finish with extended harvests...so here's to a fruitful midsummer and on....

Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

COMING OUT !

I take lots of photographs in the garden, not only as a record of what we grow, but also to follow the progress of the garden as it changes and matures over the years.

In so doing, I have realised that many plants are just as exciting when they are coming out as when they are in full flower, so I have started to take photographs at this stage, too, and have been surprised at how many come into this category.

Not every plant goes through this attractive 'coming out' stage, but some are quite outstanding. Every year in early Spring, I eagerly await the new shoots of the Paeonies as they begin to pierce the ground. Paeonia mlokosewitschii (known as Molly the Witch by those who can't pronounce its real name) is particularly good at this stage, and its magenta new shoots last a lot longer than the fleeting flowers. Christopher Lloyd, with his customary wit, said 'it flowers for about five days in early May, and is at its ravishing best for about four hours', and he is right !

Poppies are a very good example of plants which look good when they are not yet fully out. The buds of *Papaver orientale* 'May Queen' are particularly attractive, and when they start to split and reveal the sumptuous orange-red tissue within, they are just wonderful. I first encountered this poppy in Pat Stuart's garden in Wanaka in New Zealand some years ago, but she did not know its identity. Since then, I have found it growing, and labelled, in the Hiller Garden at Dunnington where it is occasionally offered for sale.

Many of the Alliums are good when they are first coming out, and often give no clue as to the final flower which will emerge. We grow Allium 'Purple Sensation' in a number of

places and the fat buds gradually burst open, firstly to reveal a crumpled mass of petals, and eventually the typical starburst of flowers. Anticipation of what is to come is very much part of its appeal. The leaves of most Alliums are going over when the flowers are coming out, so we try to conceal these dying leaves with a good ground cover plant through which the flower stems will rise. We have found that Geranium 'Mavis Simpson' is a perfect height for this purpose, and the flower colour complements the purple of the Allium beautifully.

Allium atropurpureum is one of our 'most asked about' plants and the name is well demonstrated when in tight bud. The colour pales a little when in full flower, but is still striking. It sets lots of seed and can be raised easily, but most of the bulb companies have it in their catalogues if you want a head start. I am surprised that it is not more widely grown.

My final choice is Hosta, many of which are at their best when newly emerging, rather than when in full leaf. Hosta 'Wide Brim' is a perfect example, with erect stems and immature leaves which are crumpled like a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis.

Plants which have a long season of interest are so valuable, especially in a small garden, and a period of beauty when they are coming out is always a feature to be considered when choosing what to buy, and is an added bonus.

Stock and Bradley Gardening Club Report



Our 1st May meeting was a talk by Philip Smith entitled 'The Fragrant Garden'. Philip, or Pip as he prefers to be known, is a landscape designer from Droitwich and showed us a wide range of plants which would bring a whole new scented dimension to our gardens.

PLANT SALE - at Bradley Green Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green

Our annual fundraising Plant Sale was held on Saturday 11th May 2024 and proved to be an enormous success. The plants for sale were all raised by our members. Our visiting nurseries and plant supports table all did equally brisk trade. Entry queues formed well before opening time at 10am, and by 10:45am the majority of plants on display had been sold! Our visitors enjoyed tea/coffee and cake and went away with boxes crammed with keenly priced plants. Provisional figures recorded a total income for the Gardening Club, after expenses, of around £1,400 - an all time record. This event allows us to keep our membership subscriptions low, and to subsidise the cost of our coach outings.

NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 5th June 2024 at 7:30pm

Our next meeting is a talk by Josh Egan-Wyer entitled 'The Very Best Plants for June' which he will demonstrate with live plant material.

The subject for the monthly competition is 'My Favourite June Plant'.

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 2024. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting.

If you require any further information, ring Rob Cole (Chairman) on 07544 832052.



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Feckenham Cricket Club Bob Gordon

The sun is shining and it is warm – perhaps we will be able to get a match on at Mill Lane!

As I write the ground team have been working hard to make the best of the improved weather. Steve Daniels has excelled himself with the stripes he has mown into the square and adjacent areas, while strimmers and utility mowers have been busy tidying non-playing parts of the ground. The boundary boards are in place and we are ready to go.

In addition to the 1st and 2nd teams playing on Saturdays, junior matches on almost any day and Feckenham Ramblers on a number of Wednesday evenings, we will also be hosting the Worcestershire Over 70s team on Thursday 30th May for a fixture against Wales.

After a frustrating wet start to the 2024 season with several cancelled fixtures (both home and away), junior cricket finally started on Sunday May 12th. The Under 13 team delivered a very convincing win against Redditch in the T20 league. Our boys dismissed Redditch for 60 in 12.3 overs through a disciplined all round bowling performance and we then scored 64 without losing a wicket. Shashank scored 32 not out and Rory Gavin was 30 not out.

Perhaps you have a child in your family that is interested in playing cricket? If so, we are running Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 teams during 2024 and these include a combination of both midweek and Sunday fixtures. If you know any juniors that might be interested in playing cricket this season then please contact James Reynolds for more details on 07841615410

We are on the lookout for new players and anyone that would like to help with either Junior Coaching, umpiring or scoring games. Please contact the club by email to feckenhamcc@outlook.com or send a message on the club's Facebook page.

Ladies cricket - we had a ladies/girls softball team before Covid struck and would like to revive this - if you are interested please get in touch.

Upcoming home fixtures are:

Thu. 30 th May 13:00	- Worcestershire Over 70s v Wales Over 70s
Sat. 1 st June 12:30	- Feckenham 2 nd XI v Himley 4 th XI
Mon. 3 rd June 18:00	- Feckenham U13 v Avoncroft (pairs match)
Wed. 5 th June 18:00	- Feckenham Ramblers v Studley High School
Sat. 8 th June 12:30	- Feckenham 1 st XI v Harborne 1st XI
Sun. 9 th June 14:30	- Feckenham v Worcs Train Staff (Friendly T20)
Wed. 12 th June 18:00	- Feckenham U13 v Bromsgrove (pairs match)
Sat. 15 th June 12:30	- Feckenham 2 nd XI v Romsley & Hunnington 2nd XI
Sun. 16 th June 10:00	- Feckenham U14 v Old Hill (T20)
Wed. 19 th June 18:00	- Feckenham Ramblers v Old Elizabethans
Sat. 22 nd June 12:30	- Feckenham 1st XI v Avoncroft 1st XI
Mon 24 th June 18:00	- Feckenham U15 v Droitwich
Wed 26 th June 18:00	- Feckenham U15 v Ombersley
Sat. 29 th June 12:30	- Feckenham 2 nd XI v Enville 2nd XI
Tue. 2 nd July 18:00	- Feckenham U13 v Earlswood (pairs match)



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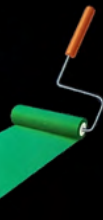
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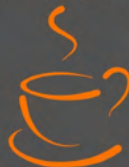
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