

FECKENHAM

June 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 June

In the magazine:

This month we are looking forward with cautious optimism. In the magazine there's information on what's planned and opportunities to become more involved in village life. Look out for Feckenham in Bloom, the Shop, the Horse Show and the new Wake and much, much more.

Dates for your diary



June

2nd Stock & Bradley Gardening Club
9th Book Club
26th Horse Show

July

6th Feckenham First School Sports day
15th Parish Council Meeting

August 9th-14th Wake Up Feckenham Festival

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Front Cover

The new look Village Shop - open for refreshment indoor and out; and so much more

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

Here I am writing just after the next step out of lockdown has occurred and we are now able to eat and drink indoors within the rules and even have family to stay and to hug them at last.

As the weather has been less kind to us this year, being indoors will be a treat, we can take the opportunity to visit our very own village pub and get back to socialising with our friends and neighbours. What could be more important than contact with others for our wellbeing?

I have just returned from a trip by camper van to Scotland where we could go to indoor restaurants so long as they didn't serve alcohol. It was a real pleasure after a hill walk in changeable weather. From Scotland we drove to Northumberland which seems so much larger than expected! Our highlights were Alnwick: the gardens and Barter Books, a favourite second hand bookshop housed in a disused railway station with a model railway in action. Another hidden gem was the Nidderdale Valley near Harrowgate. Wonderful walking there.

Now I am rejuvenated, I am still looking for people to come forward to write for the magazine. You'll see that Gerry East has kindly written about



birdwatching. Does anyone out there want to share recommended local walks or even re-start the local walking group?

Look out for the Introducing... Jane Bull article. She is an inspiration.

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June Church Services



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Priest-in-charge: Fr Glenn Reading **01527 894436**

Church Warden: Ann Mathews **892180**

Please contact Ann for Weddings at ann@the-madison-group.co.uk

Glen for Baptisms & Funerals at glenn.reading@gmail.com

Website: achurchnearyou.com/church/18729

Email: info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

30th May 10.30am Trinity Sunday Eucharist

This will be our first service where our new vicar Fr Glenn Reading will preside. Come along to meet him and welcome him to Feckenham.

6th June 10.30am Eucharist led by Revd Barbara Wheatley

13th June 9.00am BCP service led by Barbara Wheatley

20th June 6.30pm Said Evensong led by Fiona Carter

27th June 10.30am Patronal Festival and goodbye to Wyn as he celebrates his last service in the benefice before his retirement.

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...

As I sit in my study in Astwood Bank on a wet Thursday in May I am preparing to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension later tonight.

The Feast of the Ascension is a key moment for Christians in their lives and the life of the Church. Today on this feast we recall how Jesus left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Today we trust in Jesus the Christ, in his reign over all creation and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule.

Today on this Feast day we are left in no doubt that God's Kingdom has been established, a Kingdom where all things are made new, a Kingdom where God restores, redeems and brings peace to his creation.

This idea of starting anew, redeeming and rebuilding is very much at the forefront of our minds at the moment as we start to emerge from the lockdowns and the restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We are cautiously looking to the future, hoping to return to the freedoms and lives we enjoy. The future will bring many changes, hopefully many changes for the better. Where we can address some of the challenges and injustices that have been exposed by the pandemic.

There will also be change for the Church. St. John the Baptist in Feckenham will say Goodbye to Rev Wyn as he retires and we give thanks for his ministry. It is my privilege to be the new Vicar of Feckenham and I look forward to being amongst you and sharing with you our journey into a cautious but hopeful future. Feckenham parish church will become part of a new benefice which includes the churches of Headless Cross, Crabbs Cross and Astwood Bank, the Benefice of Christ the King, where I have been Vicar for the last 8 years along with our Curate Mother Victoria.

My prayer for the people of Feckenham is that God will bless us as we move into a new future in the knowledge that in God's Kingdom his creation is being restored and redeemed and that we are all children of God and heirs in his Kingdom. May God bless you and those you love and I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Letter to the Editor

I have been researching my maternal ancestors who originated in Feckenham parish in the late 1700's and moved to Birmingham in the late 1800's. Some of my (distant) cousins remained in Feckenham, including the Ladds family. One, Hilda May Ladds, married Wilfrid James Slade of Feckenham before they moved to Stechford around 1906 where they were teachers. Wilfrid died in 1917 and was buried at Coxyde Military Cemetery in Belgium. The verse on his tomb is (almost) identical to that at St John the Baptist Feckenham where his

family are buried. His brother Albert Slade is buried here and his death in 1947 shows "Vine Cottage, Feckenham". I see in your May 2012 edition of the Feckenham News that there is a "Vine Cottage" in the High Street.

A question I have is are these "Vine Cottage"s likely to be one and the same? Any information you may have would be gratefully received by email at busrobin@nildram.co.uk.

Thank you for your patience!

Best wishes,

Martin Robinson

Burscough, Lancashire

Spotted in the village



Three brand new planters have been installed on the corner of High Street and the Droitwich Road. These replace the previous set which had started to fall apart. The new versions have been designed by David Rowe, have been made from recycled plastic and are intended to last many years. The project was funded by Feckenham Parish Council and this was made possible by a generous donation from The Village Shop - a part of the shop's community engagement scheme. Once installed a team of volunteers set about stocking the new planters. Tracy and Scot Cater donated topsoil and the working parties consisted of Judy Hooker, Judy Underwood, Jen Cary and David and Jill Rowe. The Council and the Shop are grateful to all those who volunteered to help this corner of Feckenham look bright and welcoming.

Village Notices

WAKE UP!

Dust off your sun hats and join the Wake Committee, the Square Committee and other village groups to have some fun! The 'Wake Up Feckenham Festival' will be a Pandora's box of several evening events run by different village groups and will take place from 9th Aug and culminate in the 'Wake' on Sat 14th Aug.

As usual this is a volunteer run event and we expect some anti-Covid precautions will still apply. This year's main event will be scaled down a little but will include most of the usual favourites such as the Classic Car Show, Fun Dog Show, Hog roast, as well as bars to tempt all tastes, and of course, Punch & Judy.

If you are in a village group and would like to take part or you are an individual and would have a hour or so to spare on the day then please get in touch with one of the organising group which this year is Marion Chute, Erica Guise, Alan Smith, Ian Bellion, Louise Jordan, Chris Nicholson , Charlotte Dixon and myself. Pencil in your diaries now!

Julian Bull 01527 892522

FECKENHAM IN BLOOM

Where and What would you like to see ?

Plans are coming together for our "Feckenham in Bloom" initiative. We are gathering together names of those who want to be hands-on involved, but just as important is input from residents.

So over to you residents, let's have your ideas: –

WHERE would you like to see some bulb planting (feel free to specify what if you have any ideas)?

WHERE would you like to see more planters/ flowering trees etc?

Any ideas are good ideas!

Send these to Erica Guise at ericaguise@live.co.uk or text 07977 007365.



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Hoorah, At last we've made it !! After more than a year of closure, our café is now fully open. The recent lifting of restrictions is enabling us to accommodate customers both indoors, and on our new attractive decking area but to comply with all the necessary legal requirements, and to ensure customer safety, we have introduced a revised set of Covid protocols. So we look forward to welcoming back those of you who have been shielding since last year. All we need now is some decent weather as it hasn't stopped raining since the May Bank Holiday.

Although the weather does impact on the level of our trade (especially the passing variety), shop sales are holding up remarkably well when compared to the Covid surge we experienced twelve months ago. I hope it's because the newly found lockdown customers, having discovered the benefit of shopping locally, are continuing to support us, as are our much appreciated village regulars. Such level of support enables the Board to continue it's policy of allocating a share of Shop profit to support local events, organisations and infrastructure. So it's especially pleasing to announce that the Shop will be a major sponsor of the Feckenham Horse Show on June 26th. It is also our intention to support the reformatted Wake in August, again underlining the point I repeatedly make, that by supporting the Shop with

your custom, you are also supporting your Village Community.

With the summer ahead and hopefully the barbeque season soon upon us, we'll be offering a range of products to ensure that your outdoor soirees aren't short of fuel both liquid and solid !! There will be no need for you to make an emergency ten mile dash to the supermarket in the event of unexpected guests, or heaven forbid, cremated sausages. We'll also be able to meet your alcohol requirements as well.



Finally, it was most encouraging this week to receive more customer compliments on our Facebook page.

`Nice cuppa and homemade cakes, very friendly staff`

`Superb facility and very well run by Volunteers`

So if you can spare a couple of hours a week why not join our friendly team. You'll be made more than welcome.



Feckenham Horse Show

Saturday 26th June

On the wall in my study is a framed poster of an advert for Feckenham Horse Show dated Sat 15th August 1964. The writer, at that time, hadn't yet made the transition from his cot to a bed and although I have now served on the show for a good few years we still have some members of the original committee who were serving in 1964. This is a testament not just to the longevity of the Horse Show but also the time, commitment and dedication people give to local events such as this.

The show itself has reinvented itself many times over the intervening years and heralds the start of what were the three villages' Equestrian Shows (Feckenham, Hanbury & Inkberrow). It gives an opportunity

for novices or experienced riders to take part in a variety of different classes – either taking it seriously or just there to have fun! And yes, there are plenty of cups to be won – for all age groups.

So, whether you need to pull your Pony from the field for The Fancy Dress Parade, decide that instead he really does resemble a Thelwell cartoon and is bound to win a prize in that category, or want to compete more as a Working Hunter or at Dressage, please come and support us. There are bound to be a number of classes you will be able to take part in and no, we haven't forgotten the Veterans – Equine that is.... So maybe your Veteran deserves just one more Show to bring back the Glory Days.

Spectators are welcome, neigh (!) encouraged, and we are so excited to be holding it on 26th of June. This will probably be the first full Covid free weekend giving everyone a chance to meet friends old and new. Do come along even if just for a wander around in the fresh air in the beautiful Feckenham countryside.

Details can be found at www.feckenhamhorseshow.co.uk and the schedule will also be available at the Village Shop, one of our key sponsors.

Gordon Farmiloe

Back to nature

STOCK AND BRADLEY GARDENING CLUB

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 speaker was Laura Wilgoss of Wildegoose Nursery in Shropshire and she gave an excellent talk entitled 'Creating Beautiful Borders', showing inspirational examples of plant and colour combinations, mainly from the display garden which she and her husband, Jack, have created in an old walled garden site, which forms their nursery.

NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 2nd June 2021 at 7.30pm

Heartened by the success of last month's venture into Zoom, the June meeting will again be via Zoom, and we will welcome Helen Picton from

Old Court Nurseries in Colwall, famous for their Michaelmas Daisies. Helen's talk, however is entitled 'The Picton Garden in the 21st century - and not a Daisy in Sight - Almost'. A link to join the Zoom meeting will be sent out by email to club members on 29th May.

Note that the usual monthly competition is planned to resume in 2022.

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.

Birdlife in Spring

Gerry East

We tend to think of Spring as a time when new birds like Swallows, Cookoo, House Martins and Swifts arrive in England but also it is a time when many winter visitors like Geese, Ducks and wading birds travel further north to breed in places like Greenland, Scandinavia and the Baltic.

Recently, I travelled to East Suffolk to try to see some of the species that we don't get in inland Worcestershire.

East Suffolk has large areas of heathland, which is becoming a rare habitat in England. Birds inhabiting these heaths include the rare Dartford Warbler, the strange and elusive Stone Curlew, the night flying Nightjar and the rarely seen Nightingale, which has all but disappeared from large parts of the British Isles.

Happily, I managed to locate all but the Nightjar which had not arrived in this country from its wintering grounds in central and southern Africa, probably due to the strong north winds that have held up migration this year.

The Nightingale, whose song is loud and strident, is easily heard but rarely seen as they generally skulk in thick cover.

Walking the coastal path on a lovely sunny but cold morning I heard a nightingale singing beautifully up ahead. I approached cautiously and to my great surprise he was sat in full view on a bramble beside the path. Quite extraordinary as he continued singing for about twenty minutes! The bird itself is an insignificant brown job but the song is beautiful.

The Stone Curlew, which winters around the Mediterranean, is about the size of a small duck with long yellow legs and a staring yellow eye. It is very secretive and, being well camouflaged, it is difficult to locate. Scanning a large field of bare stony ground, which looked likely, I spied a pair at a distance of about 250 yards. Watching intently, I was suddenly surprised by a loud wailing cry from the other side of the hedge, something I had never heard before. It was another pair of Stone Curlew and they were only 20 yards away, a great sight for a birder.

Some of the rest of my time was spent on the coastal salt marsh, a lovely wild area, where birds like Marsh Harrier, Hobbies, Herons, Skylarks and Lapwings were to be seen.

In the reed beds the secretive Bittern could be heard making its strange 'booming' call but rarely seen.

Returning home, I had a day out in the Wyre Forest along the valley of the Dowles Brook. There were three pairs of Dippers along the brook, one with a nest of young, which I could hear calling, as the parent birds returned with food. Strangely for a bird about the size of a blackbird, the Dipper is able to hunt for its food under water, using its wings to propel itself.

Moving up into the forest itself, a beautiful song of the diminutive Wood Warbler could be heard and, with patience, the bird seen.

Further along, I located a pair of Pied Flycatchers; the male resplendent in his black and white DJ suit.

Moving on I heard the call of the lovely Redstart high in a birch tree—such a smart bird in his spring plumage!

We are very lucky to have such a variety of birds visiting our country, so if you have any interest, get yourself a pair of binoculars and get out there. It's a great hobby!

Kathy's Flowers



I can't help thinking that if they didn't spread so easily, we would value dandelions more. Not only are they a fabulous colour but they are a valuable early source of nectar for pollinators, the young leaves are good in salad, and, as children, our fingers were stained nicotine yellow after an afternoon picking dandelions for wine. Some scholars claim that, in Warwickshire, dandelions were known as golden lads and their seeds as chimney sweepers. If so, it gives me the excuse to quote Shakespeare!

"Golden lads and girls all must, as chimney sweepers, come to dust." (Cymbeline)

Feckenham Village Hall Ian Bellion

WE'RE OPEN!

At last we're allowed to restart some of the activities at Feckenham Village Hall. The popular All Round Theatre School has led the charge with Friday evening sessions divided into small Covid-safe groups. Yoga will soon return on Monday evenings with two sessions on the same evening... and plans are afoot to restart French classes soon. By the time you read this the Parish Council will have held its May meeting at the Hall - the first time councillors have met personally since March 2020.

The Over 50s Lunch Club will start serving on the first Tuesday of each month from August and The Feckenham Forest History Society intends to start meetings in the Autumn. The Committee is working with Live & Local to book a programme of live performances at the Hall and the new Nursery Group, after waiting for inspections to resume, has now been approved by OFSTED.

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 late June. Obviously this depends on the Government 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 May, 2021 was made at the meeting of The Trustees on 3rd May.

Winners:

- 27 Tony Hunt £25
- 61 Tim Smith & Ali Taylor £15
- 135 Michael & Pauline Bastik £10

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society Ian Bellion



The latest step on the Government's Roadmap out of lockdown came into effect on 17th May. This allows cinemas to resume shows but with social distancing restrictions in force. The FeckenOdeon is monitoring developments closely and hopes to restart soon. Efforts are being made to put together a programme but we are aware that the film distribution industry is in a state of chaos and it's difficult to ascertain which films will be available and when. We'll advertise any forthcoming shows in these pages but for up to date information please check our website at www.fecknodeon.co.uk



THE GREEN GREEN GRASS

The Square is maintained by a small Committee of villagers. The intention is to keep the village's centrepiece in prime condition for everybody to enjoy. Recently a couple of active members have moved away which leaves the group a bit stretched. While it's appreciated that people don't always find the prospect of serving on a committee very enticing it's worth pointing out that this particular committee is very informal and even meets in the pub - and, if you really don't fancy the committee, you can still help by doing a bit of mowing or by turning up to help when needed. If you'd like to help us to look after Feckenham's village green please get in touch with Ian Ridley on 01527 894010 or email: square@feckenham.f9.co.uk

HEAVY HOOVES

A small request which would help the Square's volunteers a great deal - if you ride a horse please don't ride it onto the grass. Horses are heavy and the ground is soft and the deep hoof prints play havoc with the mower. Please be so kind as to stick to the paved areas or the gravel parts wherever possible.

A very different read was discussed this month in *The Buried Giant*, not universally enjoyed but certainly worthy of an evening's discussion. Next meeting is on June 9th to discuss Dorothy Baker - Cassandra at the wedding. July's meeting will be Thursday 8th. The book choice is *Small Pleasures* by Clare Chambers


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Another programme that's been produced right from the start is "In Conversation" in which local people talk about their early days, experiences, careers and their lives in Feckenham. There are over 20 of these hour long conversations available to listen to On Demand - and Paul Furey is about to start recording new programmes now that the pandemic has receded.

OUT AND ABOUT

Swansbrook Radio has been a bit studio bound during lockdown - it hasn't been safe or sensible to conduct interviews face to face and telephone and zoom calls tend to be stilted and crackly... So we're delighted that we can once again get out and about. As the village puts itself back together you can expect to see Swansbrook's presenters at events and activities and our pop-up studio will be popping up wherever possible. If you're planning an event, restarting something or simply have something you want to say just drop us an email to radio@swansbrook.com and we'll be glad to report on it.

GOING STRONG

Feckenham's own local radio station will celebrate its fifth birthday this year and one programme, Ian Bellion's "Happy Hour", has just passed its 250th edition. This quirky mix of local happenings and unusual music has been on air weekly since June 2016. By the time you read this it will have transmitted programme number 254.. But, if you've missed any editions they're all available to listen to - all 15,240 minutes of them - through the On Demand page at swansbrook.com

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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FECKENHAM IN BLOOM

Got green fingers? Love gardening? Fancy joining a sociable group meeting every now and then to help keep Feckenham looking flowery? The Parish Council is looking to follow the example of nearby communities to start a group that will look after planters, tubs and flowerbeds throughout the village to make Feckenham blooming lovely throughout the year. These groups aim to be a friendly meeting point for like minded people - as much a social occasion as a work group. The great thing is that they are eligible for funding from local authorities and grants and sponsorships as well. If you'd like to be part of Feckenham in Bloom or would like more information please contact ericaguise@live.co.uk or clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com Telephone 01527 892522

DOGGY BINS

Keen eyed dog walkers have noticed that one of the dog waste bins has moved. The bin that sat on the pavement by the entrance to the village car park has been moved to a site on the Droitwich Road near to Brook House. This is in response to complaints that there were no bins in this area of the village. The car park already has a general waste bin and it's

worth pointing out that bagged dog mess can safely be deposited in any council waste bin - including those in the car park and on The Square. People have expressed concern that this may result in smells and swarms of flies but this should not be the case if the bags are sealed or tied. Dog bins are provided by Redditch Borough Council who have indicated that Feckenham already has more dog bins than any other area and that additional bins cannot be supplied.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will take place at Feckenham Village Hall on Thursday, 15th July at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and there will be an opportunity during the meeting for the public to make the Council aware of any concerns and to ask questions. The meeting will be subject to any Covid_19 restrictions applicable at that time. To contact the Council please email or call Jane Bull, the Parish Clerk, at clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com or call 01527 892522.

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

Introducing... Jane Bull M.B.E.

I had the pleasure of meeting up with Jane Bull, the Clerk to the Parish Council, to hear about her role. The very first thing she said was that people invariably think that the Parish Council is associated with the church and this is most definitely not the case: that would be the Parochial Church Council.

Jane took on the role with gusto over 3 years ago having retired from the Redditch Job Centre and quickly realised that the role is much more than someone who produces the minutes of the regular and extraordinary meetings. Despite her long experience she felt she had lots to learn and set about doing courses to better equip herself for the job. She is definitely into life-long learning and is still completing a course. There's a comprehensive rule book which she now knows well. She also has support of others for guidance as she needs to be able to inform the councillors on the regulations and often has to research what's possible.

So, what is she most proud of? At the start of the pandemic a team of volunteers came forward and have

supported villagers particularly in prescription collection and also getting shopping. This is ongoing. She has been a part of making our lives in the village that much better - things that we take for granted. For example she will coordinate the filling of the green grit bins which is done by the lengthsman, amongst their many other tasks, which go to keep the village neat and tidy. Who knew they clean the gates at the entry to the village? If you remember the bench on the green was destroyed in an RTA: the PC funded the replacement; they also supported the new planters opposite the shop.

And, what are the most common issues brought to the PC? No surprises: traffic, dog poo and planning. Plus ça change...!

As if she is not busy enough Jane helps the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and is a trustee for the Heartlands Cystic Fibrosis Ward 26 which cares for over 360 patients in the West Midlands and, of course, is training her puppy, Watson.

You can hear Jane interviewed on Swansbrook Radio if you look for On Demand: In Conversation with Jane Bull M.B.E.

Feckenham Cricket Club Bob Gordon



By the time that you read this the club's ECB-sponsored All Stars program will be well underway despite the first session on May 13th being rained off. All Stars introduces 6-8 year old boys and girls (24 of them this year) to the game in a safe and fun way.

The first team has had a good start to the season, winning their first three matches – the highlight being a 9-wicket demolition of Coombs Wood. Unfortunately the most recent game against Droitwich was abandoned due to rain. As we approach mid-May, rain now seems to have succeeded freezing nights as the dominant weather theme. The second team have been very unlucky and await their first victory and the third team are hoping to find their form very soon.

The junior teams have not played to date due to a combination of bad weather and the opposition conceding.

The club has recently agreed to host Feckenham First School's annual Sports Day, which will take place on Tuesday 6th July.

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

Sat May 29th	1st XI v Hagley
Sat Jun 5th	2nd XI v Ombersley CC-3rd XI
Sat Jun 12th	1st XI v Lye CC- 1st XI
Sat Jun 19th	2nd XI v Kidderminster CC- 4th XI
Sat Jun 26th	1st XI v Worcester Nomads CC- 1st XI

Don't forget that there are also regular junior matches on Sunday mornings (and possibly afternoons) as well as early evening on many Mondays and Tuesdays.

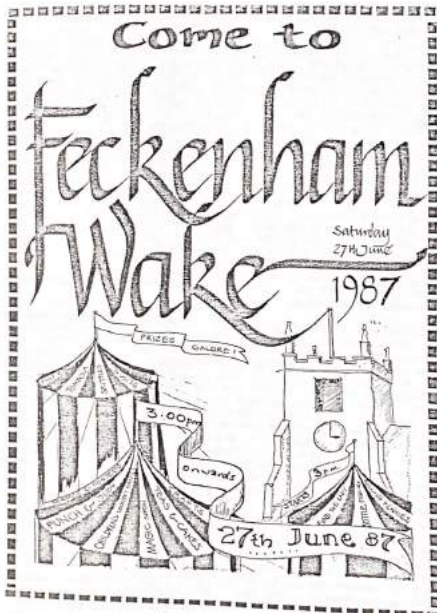
Proposed Feckenham Tennis Club

To follow up on last month's article, we're very excited about the interest already shown and progress we're making so far....

.... So, if you want to see a tennis club in Feckenham, please go to our website www.FeckenhamTennis.com and fill in a simple membership application.

We can't do it without you and really hope to see you at the new courts one day soon!

From the June Feckenham
News Archive.
Courtesy of Alan Jones



By Norman Ward

June 1997

Feckenham Spring Garden Festival

As I write this hailstones are rattling on the windows and water is gushing down the Alcester Road. It is five days to the Garden Festival and we are diving into the tomes of hagiography to find the patron saint of good weather.

By the time you read this I shall be basking on a secluded beach in Menorca but I must say 'thank you' before the event to some of the people who have been working hard since February. They are so many that I could fill the magazine and I shall try to thank all those involved when my mind clears a little.

But first to all the garden owners without whom there would be no festival – they have been marvellous – even Mr Seaton has nearly forgiven me for not being a Lancastrian! Next, Margaret and her 'flower ladies'. I know the display in the church will be magnificent and the management will be augmented by the 'Arts Festival' and the Bells.

Then the 'car parkers'. We are grateful to Alan for his help and guidance and to Bob and Ann for taking over a very difficult job.

Most important have been Ian Bellion and Arthur Newbold who have done our graphics and printing for our publicity.

Thanks also to our caterers in the two pubs, the WI in the Hall, John Morris and his team and we may even need ice cream.

I cannot close without thanking Elizabeth Nixon my mentor and Guardian Angel. I am grateful for the help of Joy and the Church Wardens and for the support of John Rothwell. He is the one you may praise/blame for the weather.

Many thanks to all so far unmentioned. I have my fingers crossed for a super weekend!

Frances Andrews

Recipes from Belinda-a Robinson

Rainbow Cabbage

Ingredients

1 savoy cabbage
1 red onion, sliced
1 sweet red pepper sliced
1 red chilli stabbed a few times
1 garlic clove crushed
60g butter
200g smoked lardon, or diced bacon
Tsp ground black pepper
150ml boiling water

Method

STEP 1

Fry the onion, red pepper and garlic in butter for 2 mins, then add the bacon and cook for a few mins more until golden.

STEP 2

Stir in the cabbage, stabbed chilli and boiling water. Cook for 2 mins over a medium heat until wilted, then cover, turn the heat to low and cook for another 5/10 mins.

STEP 3

Uncover and stir well; the cabbage should have a little colour. If not, increase the heat and cook for a few moments more. Once cooked drain, add a tsp of black pepper, add a tbsp of butter, then season to taste.

Spicy Nettle Soup

Ingredients

1 tbsp rapeseed oil , plus extra for drizzling
25g butter

1 onion , finely diced
1 leek , finely diced
2 celery sticks, thinly sliced
1 carrot , finely diced
1 to half a red chilli finely diced
1 small potato , peeled and diced
1.2l good-quality vegetable stock
300g young nettle leaves
200g wild garlic leaves (keep any flowers if you have them)
3 tbsp milk

Method

STEP 1

Heat the oil and butter in a large saucepan. Add the onion, leek, celery, carrot, chilli, potato and a good pinch of salt and pepper, and stir until everything is well coated. Cover and sweat gently for 15-20 mins, stirring every so often to make sure that the vegetables don't catch on the bottom of the pan.

STEP 2

Pour in the stock and simmer for 10 mins. Add the nettles in several batches, stirring, then add the wild garlic leaves and simmer for 2 mins.

STEP 3

Remove from the heat and blend using a stick blender or tip into a blender. Return to the heat and stir through the milk, then taste for seasoning. Ladle into bowls and drizzle over a little extra oil, then top with a few wild garlic flowers, if you have them or deep fried wild garlic leaves can make a decorative finish, wild garlic croutons can be tasty crunchy extra.



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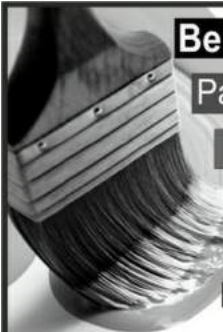
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