

FECKENHAM

JUNE 2016

News



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village
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• MEMORIALS •



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JUNE Diary



Tues 7th	12.30am	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Wed 8th	9.am	Stock & Bradley Gardening Club	Bradley Village Hall
Thur 9th	7.30pm	Feckenham WI	Back Room Village Hall
Sat 11th	5pm	Queen's Birthday Picnic	The Square
Tues 14th	7.30pm	Feckenham Forest History Society	Feckenham Village Hall
Sat 18th	2.30pm	WWI Commemorative Walk and Teas	From the Church
Sat 18th	7.30pm	WWI Commemorative Concert	Parish Church
Sat 25th		Swansbrook Radio starts transmission	
Sat 25th		Feckenham Horse Show	Berrow Hill Lane
Sat 25th	1pm	Feckenham Wake	The Square & Field

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Front Cover

This month's cover photograph was sent in by Peter Chute.



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

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Magazine online at
www.feckenham.com

Church Services JUNE

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 Bowbrook Group, The Parish Centre, St Andrew's Street, DROITWICH, WR9 8DY

Readers and intercessors



Sunday 5th June

Trinity 2

11.00am Sung Eucharist

1 Kings 17:17-end
Galatians 1: 11-end
Intercessions

Walter Richards
Jenny Goode
Fiona Carter

Sunday 12th June

Trinity 3

8.00am Holy Communion

1 Peter 5: 5-11

Elizabeth Atkins

11.00am All Age Worship

"Reflections on the Battle of the Somme 100 years on"

Sunday 19th June

Trinity 4

6.30 pm Evensong

Isaiah 65: 1-9
Luke 8: 26-29
Intercessions

Erica Dilger
Gerry Eost
Peter Horsley

Sunday 26th June

Trinity 5

11.00am Family Communion Patronal Festival

Isaiah 40: 1-11
Intercessions

Katrina Powles
Ian Hunter

Feckenham: Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Initial contacts for these should be directed to Rev. Wyn Beynon: mobile number is the best:

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

Newshound



Diamond wedding celebration.

On April 23rd Patrick and Carol Onions held a lunch party in the village hall to celebrate their sixty years of marriage. They actually got married on February 11th 1956 in Ickenham, Middlesex, but it suited the travel arrangements of guests coming from France (daughter) Newcastle and Brighton (grand-daughters) and other family members from Somerset and Wales to have the party at a later date.

Malcolm and Vanda Cookes roasted and served a pig and John Morris provided salads and sweets. Friends and family helped with setting up the hall and clearing away afterward.

After the meal they had an "Open Mike" started off by the choir singing "All in an April Evening" a special request from Pat & Carol. Pat then sang his version of "We've been together sixty years." and the entertainment continued with music from their son and grand daughters.

Carol told the story of how she and Pat met, how they came to live in Feckenham and then run the village shop for 15 years. Although the couple no longer live in the village they are both still very involved in life here. Pat sings in the church choir, Carol did too until recently, and they do more than their share in helping with the upkeep of the churchyard and taking turns with other church events and services. Carol is a volunteer in the village shop and also helps in the hospital coffee shop.

So we wish this hardworking and generous couple many sincere congratulations for their diamond wedding anniversary and hope they enjoy many more years together.

Christening

Baby Adelyn King, daughter of Tom and Ellie King of Peartree cottage was christened in the village church in April. The date also happened to be her first birthday so the family held a party for friends and family in the village hall afterwards.

21st Birthday

Thea Matthews, younger daughter of Jeff and Ann Matthews, celebrated her 21st birthday on Monday 9th May. Congratulations to her!

We were sad to hear of the death of **Adrian Bedford-Smith** on 15th May. His funeral is on Tuesday 31st May at 11am.

Thanks

Heartfelt thanks to an exceptional Church Warden.

Ann Matthews is stepping down from the position of Church Warden of St. John the Baptist Church Feckenham after nine years of sterling service in the role. During this time, Ann has been Church Warden to three different Priests-in-Charge and has successfully overseen the parish through two interregna (when we were 'between priests') and has been the Warden at approximately 90 baptisms, 36 weddings and 100 funerals. The position of Church Warden is an ancient one and includes all aspects of church routine, including the practical up-keep of the church, fulfilling certain specific legal roles and ensuring that regular services are delivered. Over her term in office, Ann has been absolutely exemplary in the execution of all of these diverse duties and furthermore, she has repeatedly gone far 'above and beyond' normal expectations of a Church Warden. To say that Ann has been dependable, efficient, energetic and organised in her role as Church Warden is true but severely understates her sustained contributions to our church and the wider Parish of Feckenham. Furthermore, in addition to delivering the traditional aspects of a Church Warden's duties, Ann's gifts in pastoral care have been invaluable around the parish and a great comfort to many in times of distress. As Ann's term as Church Warden comes to an end and she returns to the pew as a member of our congregation, the PCC on behalf of the congregation, would like to thank her for the total commitment that she has given to our village church over the best part of a decade.

Professor Mark Wheatley (Lay-Chair, PCC)

From the P.C.C.

Mark Wheatley

Review of Feckenham Church's Year

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held on the 21st April in St John the Baptist Church. The Electoral Roll Officer reported that there are currently 64 names on the electoral role of our church. This annual meeting gives the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the congregation an opportunity to review the church's year. In addition to reports on the fabric of the church building plus a financial review, reports were also presented that covered the range of our activities not only within the church building but also in our wider village community. These reports can be seen at the back of the church and cover the choir, maintenance of the churchyard, the church flower group, the 'Mixed Bag' youth group and the Old Rectory Retreat House, 'Open the Book', the 'Second Sunday Group', the 'Drop-in' coffee mornings and Feckenham Christian Fellowship, the ecumenical prayer service 'Partners in Prayer', our interaction with Feckenham First (CofE) School, Feckenham Nursery Group and Parklands Nursing Home, the monthly Lunch Club held by the church in the village hall and our collective donations to the Redditch Food Bank. So there is a lot going on in our church in addition to the regular range of services, with their different worship styles, that are listed every month in the Feckenham News.

The APCM is also a time when the PCC, on behalf of the congregation, can publicly thank those people who are stepping down after giving service in various capacities. This year saw John Calvert step down from singing bass in the church choir after 40 years of service. This also included a total of 18 years as choir leader, and we would like to thank John for all his years of service and his unwavering support of our choir. Although no longer singing in the choir, we are pleased that John will continue to play the organ for some of our services.

Another person who is stepping down is Pam

Eaton who has been an integral member of our financial team. Pam has been responsible for keeping the cash book for our church for the last 5 years and the PCC would like to thank Pam for her quiet professionalism and dependability.

Ann Matthews is stepping down as Church Warden. Ann's exceptional contribution to our parish and the profound gratitude of the PCC and congregation are the subject of a separate article in this month's magazine.

Professor Mark Wheatley
(Lay-Chair of the PCC)

Local Interest

Jon Ratcliffe

A PRICKLY PAIR

As part of the ongoing conservation of hedgehogs in Feckenham a breeding pair of hedgehogs have been released into the churchyard on May 15th. They are microchipped, and I will be monitoring their success; so if the unfortunate happens and an injured or dead hedgehog is found in the village can you please contact me at 51 High St or 894571. Hedgehogs love a free meal; dog/cat food, boiled eggs, weetabix (mixed with water not milk) are best. Remember to check hedgerows, long grass carefully this summer when mowing/strimming and control slugs by using beer traps, crushed egg shells or spent coffee grounds rather than resorting to pellets.

British Hedgehog Preservation Society



Obituary



Eric Styler - 1923 - 2016

Eric was born prematurely in 1923 in an isolation hospital as his mum had Scarlet Fever. He attended the village school, then the County High School in Redditch and went into an apprenticeship at Terry's Springs. This was a reserved occupation during the war but he served in the Home Guard.

After the war he did his National Service in the RAF as an aircraft engineer and had happy memories of that time working in particular on the Lancaster Bomber, therefore he was always keen to go to air shows. After national service he returned to Terrys and remained there until he took redundancy at 59 and then started a new job gardening which he had enjoyed doing all his life.

He was always a practical person, a toolmaker by trade, always happy making things in his shed. The shed was and still is stacked with wood, tools, nuts, bolts, washers etc., which might come in useful. Friends needing something would often say "ask Eric, he may have it in his shed".

Eric and Joy were married in May 1951 and Joy moved into Mill Lane with him and his widowed father. They were happily married for nearly 65 years.

In 1961 he discovered church bell ringing and became hooked. He learnt to ring and became part of the new team helped by a lot of ringers from Studley Church as the bells had not been rung for many years. Shortly after starting one of the bells broke and another was badly cracked so they set about fundraising to get the repairs done. He got together a band of young lads from the village and they learnt to ring tunes on the hand bells and helped fundraise particularly by playing carols in the pubs and houses at Christmas. Christmas morning after ringing became the time for ringers to go back to our home, have a drink and open the tin to see how much money had been raised. Over

the years he taught a great number of children and adults to ring and kept the band going. He was also Worcestershire Southern Branch ringing master for a time.

He wound the church clock for many years from the 1980's and would go up the ladder to the clock every couple of days to make sure it kept good time. He was pleased to see the automatic winding mechanism put in.

He loved making homemade wine and beer and often won prizes at the flower show. His favourites being elderflower and blackberry and damson. There are still demijohns under the floor and in the roof. He was known for his bonfires in the churchyard but he always made sure the wind was blowing in the right direction across the fields.

He lived his whole life in the village at 10 Mill Lane. He had a very strong sense of community and had served on most of the village committees including the Over 60's, the Flower Show, the Parish Council, Church PCC and Feckenham Charity to name a few. He set a good example for us to try and follow.

He was outnumbered by females in his family, 2 daughters and 4 granddaughters, he was never happier when we were all together. He taught both of us to drive, a very stressful time for him! He was always busy in his garden growing vegetables especially French and Runner Beans. We were always glad to see the end of the runner bean season.

Even when old age set in for both Mum and Dad, he never complained and accepted help graciously. He was very fond of their live in carers Sandra and Lindie. Our grateful thanks go to them both, who have been with us over three years and also Gary, Nina and others from Caremark who called in to help.

Eric's funeral was well-attended on the 25th February and over £800 was given in his memory for the restoration of the hand bells and the Church Clock. The family would like to thank Canon John Green, the undertakers and all their friends and neighbours for the help, support and the many thoughtful messages and memories of Eric they received.

Thought for the month

Rev. Wyn Beynon

Dear Friends,

John has emailed me twice to remind me to write the Magazine Letter. Some months I get an idea and it flows. Other months I get writer's block.

How easily I forget about things I don't want to do. It was only because I was at the Stoke Parish Council AGM where someone mentioned the Magazine and I remembered. I rushed home full of the good intention to write it straight away.

But then, instead of writing, I found I suddenly needed to clean the dashboard of the car, saw a small slit in a piece of wood, change a fuse in a plug, and look for a missing piece of paper.

Then I can feed the cats and make a fuss of the dog. Anything but write that letter.

It's called diversion activity. And most of us do it from time to time - we'll find anything and everything must be done before the one thing we ought to do and we put that off and put it off.

So here I am writing a letter about not being about to find anything to write about. Which is something to write about, I suppose.

I know some very conscientious people who will read this in disbelief. They seem to be the folk who get everything done to time. It may well be that they too are tempted to find something else to do, but somehow they resist that temptation and get the important thing done. I'm impressed and full of admiration. But I'm not one of them!

So I tell people I work better under pressure - which is actually true to some extent.

Of course, what I mean is, it's only when I'm late, past the deadline and the train is nearly out of the station that I get myself into gear and get on board.

So here, with apologies to all the magazine editors, is my composition for June.

Some people in teams are called "completer-

finishers". They aren't happy until the job is thoroughly done and all the "i's" are dotted and the "t's" crossed. I'm not one of them, I like to help get things going, but I sometimes get bored with the detail, and the long slog, and look for something new. What about you? Where do you fit into the team? I guess Jesus had all sort on his team!

Best wishes, Wyn

Village Shop

Jeff Matthews

A decidedly Italian twist to things in this month's new shop products, fresh pasta in the form of Bertagni ravioli from Italy. Add the Mattarello Fusilli and sauces and the options for a quick and tasty meal become apparent. There is also fresh bread and salad to compliment.

And if you want a starter, how about Delphi dips and Alfez houmous.

Cream teas are in full swing at the bargain price of £2.95.

Feckenham Flower Show & Over 60's Party Fund

Margaret East

The Over 60's Summer Outing

Saturday 10th July 2016

The outing this year will be to Windsor on Saturday 10th July and is organised by the committee of then Feckenham Flower show and Over 60's Party Fund.

Invitations will be sent out to all those we know are eligible, but if you do not receive your invitation or have recently turned 60 and live within one mile of The Square, please contact Angela Fletcher on 01527 893231 so that you can be added to the list of invitees.

Friends of Feckenham Church



As planned, the first meeting took place on May 11th of the Friends of Feckenham Church. This Charitable Trust has been established with the purpose of raising funds to maintain both buildings and Churchyard. It will be separate to the PCC, which continues to look after the religious activities of the Church and its Christian mission.

Seven Trustees were appointed with Andrew Fisher duly elected as Chair. Other trustees are Lionel Hill, David Street, John Eaton, Louise Denne, Toby Denne and Simon Sharpe. Ian Hunter will act as liaison between Friends Group and the PCC and Jeff Matthews agreed to act as Secretary for the trust.

Formal application for charitable status is now underway, and then planning for fund raising events grants and other activities will begin in earnest. Andrew was quick to acknowledge the work done by an army of volunteers already to maintain both Church and its grounds – including that of his wife Cathy and the triennial garden festival, which is the major source of funding, at the moment. “Our aim is to build on the great work that is already being done, and to continue to have the church buildings as a focus for this community.”

There is capacity for up to 10 trustees, so if anyone would like to be considered, please contact the Secretary, Jeff Matthews (894387) or jeff@the-madison-group.co.uk for further information.

Small Ads.



Wanted - Long-term secure storage for touring caravan in local area.
Tony Mortimer 01527 402302

Shoebboxes for Christmas

CHANGING LIVES | BOX AT A TIME..
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For many years, the village, parish and our village school children have supported Operation Christmas Child, as operated by the US charity, Samaritans Purse. Operation Christmas Child is most often associated with the Christmas Shoebox Appeal - an appeal that on average sees 140 shoeboxes leaving Feckenham each November, crammed full of toys and gifts delivered to disadvantaged children, often from the former Soviet countries of Eastern Europe.

In recent years, and more so this year, there have been concerns raised in the media and online about the messages being put across by Samaritans Purse. Some of these messages, from the leadership of the charity, **are disturbing - particularly in relation to homophobia and Islamophobia.**

We feel that it is right to explore other ways of donating to such a good cause, without the worrying noise we are hearing about. We are delighted to confirm that through Teams4U, we can continue the village tradition of packing a shoebox and having it delivered to Eastern Europe. The Teams4U charity is run by Dave Cooke, who in 1990 originated the idea of the 'Christmas Shoebox' - a gift filled shoebox sent to a child in need with no strings attached. This simple concept continues in his work today. Teams4U is allied to The Smiles Foundation which has extensive charitable programmes in Romania. It is through this partnership that we can continue the fun and delight of creating our shoebox gifts, these simple gifts are our way of showing these children that they are not forgotten, and ensuring they get to the children by Christmas.

More about this later in the year, but please support the fundraising stall at the Wake where further information will be available all being well. In addition, Rev Gary Crellin will be going on a distribution trip with the new Teams4U set up to see what is involved and how we can further support, as required.

For more information, you may wish to visit the Teams4U website at www.Teams4u.com

Lin Preece and Rev. Gary Crellin

World War I Centenary Commemoration



We have two major events in the programme for the month of June:-

A Concert: A Response to the Great War

in Words and Music. 7:30pm, 18th June in the Church

The choirs of All Round Voices, All Round Theatre School, Feckenham Church Choir and Feckenham First School have been rehearsing since the start of the year to bring the first of two musical concerts to feature in 2016.

The concert will feature the first performance of selected movements from *A Suite for the Fallen Soldier*, the piece of music commissioned by the WWI Commemoration Group and composed by Phil Mountford. This will be complemented by drama and poetry prepared and performed by the young people of both the school and ARTS group. It should make for a great evening.

The concert takes place on 18th June, at 6:30pm in the Church. Tickets are £5 and available from

The Rose & Crown, The Village Shop or on line at www.feckenhamww1.org or by phone on 0333 666 3366.

There is likely to be a high demand for tickets, so book early, to avoid disappointment.

Commemorative Walk and Tea from 2:30pm 18th June

You can make an afternoon of it. From 2:30pm, there will be teas served from a tent outside the Church to mark the formal re-launch of the Commemorative Walk, created to link the houses where those that

part of a final year degree project, the files will be added to in the coming months. You will find articles on each of the soldiers together with an overview of the history of the village at that time. The audio files can be downloaded onto a phone or i-pod and then listened to, offering a further perspective on life in the village 100 years ago.

At the moment, all this can be found at: www.commemorationblog.wordpress.com

In time it will be merged with the main WWI Commemorative website.

Each of the houses on the walk is now marked with either a red (for the fallen) or green (for those that served) plaque. We would like to thank the householders concerned for agreeing to have a plaque displayed. We aim to keep these up until 2018.

World Premier of A Suite for the Fallen Soldier – Nov 11th and 12th, 7:30pm, in the Church.

This is an event not to be missed. The full work composed by Phil Mountford with narrative from local poet and writer Kathy Gee gets its premier on Armistice Day with a second performance the day after, a Saturday. Following on from the excerpts in June, the choirs will continue to rehearse to perform the full work in November, joined by accomplished local musicians Polly Natynczuk, Amanda Gordon, Vianne Furey and Charlotte Goodall. Claire Fowler and Karen Heard also feature as solo vocalists with the composer's son Josh Mountford on cello. Clare Furey will be conducting the assembled voices of nearly 100 members, all drawn from the local area.

We know demand will be high for tickets, and you can purchase them in advance at The Wake, where the WWI Commemoration Group will have a stall. That means you can buy them early, as members of the village community to avoid disappointment. They are just £10 per ticket, with proceeds going to the work of the Commemoration Project.

James Crook

The life of James Crook, who was killed in action on 10th July 1916, will be commemorated on the exact centenary of his death, at the Family Service to be held in the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Feckenham on Sunday 10th July 2016.

James was born at Callow Hill, Feckenham in early 1894, the son of William and Sarah [née Mealin] Crook. William came from Norfolk and was a coachman and groom prior to, by 1911, becoming a farmer. Sarah came from Gloucestershire.

James attended Feckenham School and, by 1911, was working as a shop assistant at an ironmongers and garage. He had five brothers and sisters; Annie, Charles, James (died 1892), Nellie and Arthur. His brothers Charles and James were twins, who both died in March 1892, just over two weeks after they were born.

In the First World War, James initially enlisted in the Worcestershire Regiment (Service Number 27280), before transferring into the 5th Battalion Special Brigade of the Royal Engineers, where his Service Number was 129246. By June 1916 the 5th Battalion had been sent to locations around the town of Albert in the Somme, France, and on 10th July the mortars in his unit were providing a smoke screen to the south west of Mametz wood to help cover the infantry's advance.

James was killed at around 4 a.m. on the morning of 10th July 1916, when a shell hit the dug-out that he was in. His family received letters from colleagues in his unit giving their sympathy and confirmation of his qualities and friendship, and stating that he was killed instantaneously, without suffering any pain. He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing at the Somme, and on the Feckenham Churchyard, Feckenham School, and Headless Cross War Memorials.

His father died in 1919. His mother moved to the "Star and Garter" in Crabbs Cross, and died in 1927.



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WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

Feckenham WAKE presents

25th

June

1-5 pm

A GRAND

DAY OUT



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

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM




First Tuesday of every month from 8pm
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 7th June

Feckenham Forest History Society
WORCESTERSHIRE CHURCHES
with Tim Bridges
Tuesday, 14th June - 7.30pm
Feckenham Village Hall
www.feckenham-forest-history-society.org.uk

theWI **FECKENHAM WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL
THURSDAY, 9th JUNE - 7.30pm
RECIPE SWAP & FOOD QUIZ
Bring along your favourite recipe and some samples
Visitors Welcome - £3.50

**STREET PARTY PICNIC**
SATURDAY, 11TH JUNE
FROM 5PM ON THE SQUARE
BRING YOUR OWN TABLES, CHAIRS,
PICNIC & DRINKS

Feckenham Readers Group
Thursday, 9th June - 7.45
This month's book: A MAN CALLED OVE
by Frederik Backman
Details from Marton Ghate - 892285



A CONCERT

SATURDAY, 18th JUNE AT 6.30pm
Church of St John the Baptist
Feckenham

Featuring the first performance of movements from
A SUITE FOR THE FALLEN SOLDIER
by Phil Mountford
(The full work will be premiered at the same venue on November 11th and 12th)
Complemented by DRAMA AND POETRY

TICKETS (£5)
from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown
Book online at www.feckenhamww1.org
or by phone on 0333 666 3366

REFRESHMENT TENT open from 5pm
Combine this Concert with Feckenham's
Commemorative Walk
www.feckenhamww1.org

Feckenham Square Management Committee
presents

**CHRISTMAS 'in
AUSTRALIA**

A bonza BEACH PARTY

Saturday, 23rd July
on The Square from 6.30

Bush Tucker, Amber
Nectar, Water Games,
Didgeridoo experts,
Christmas Carols and
a Kakacatos in a gum
tree...



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

The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration

The **Village Street Party Picnic** will take place on Saturday the **11th June 2016** on the Square. Bring your own tables, chairs, picnic and drinks. Set up from 4.00pm with the party commencing at 5.00pm. The theme of the Party for dress and table decoration will be 'A Touch of Royalty' (optional!). We shall have face painting (small charge), 'Splat the Rat' and music. Churchfield's ice cream trike will also be attending with their delicious home made ice creams for sale.

We hope this will be a fun family event and we look forward to seeing you there.

C Fisher, P Lincoln Lewis, J Mason and P Mott

Wake 2016

Marion Chute

Come along for a Grand Day Out at Feckenham Wake

On **25th June at 1pm** once again our village celebrates its amazing history. This year we have the usual fun and games for all the family, a delicious hog roast, a choir in the church whilst you enjoy your tea and cake; an Art show in the Village hall; Classic cars, Land zorbs, Climbing tower, tug-o-war and much more. In addition this year we have a novelty Dog Show so if your dog has the waggiest tail, is most handsome or pretty, likes dressing up or is just the best puppy, there will be a class for you. Please come and support the young people who are organising this and bring your dog, there are lots of prizes to be won. Talking of prizes, we have an even grander Prize Draw than last year with tickets to a Medieval banquet at Warwick Castle and a trip in the car used to transport the Peaky Blinders in the current TV drama amongst others.

Feckenham Horse Show

Peter Horsley

The 2015 show produced profit which enabled donations of £100 to be made to the following:-

Feckenham Village School

Feckenham Nursery School

The Worcestershire Hunt

The Worcestershire Pony Club

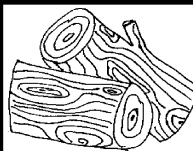
The Primrose Hospice.

This year the show will be held on Saturday **25th June** on fields owned by Kate and Gordon Farmiloe with gate entrance off Berrow Hill Lane.

Costs of approximately £6000 have to be covered which include insurance, marquee hire, jump hire etc., and income is derived from membership, competitors entry fees, donations, raffle, sponsorship trade stands and car parking .

Thank you to all volunteers, committee and supporters whose efforts enable this prestigious, traditional local event to be held each year for the competitors and public.

(Membership entitlement, Free ringside parking, lunch in judges/sponsors marquee. Contact Pam Lincoln-Lewis...01527893246. Bridget Gill 01527 821709.)



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Australian Christmas On the Square

TWO CHRISTMASSES IN 2016!

...AND one of them's going to be a hot one! The annual Fun on The Square event is taking us down under on **Saturday 23rd July** for **An Australian Christmas** - so dig out your Santa hats (though forget those Christmas jumpers) and prepare for Christmas on the beach! Once again The Square will be transported to the seaside so all you'll need are your bikinis and your budgie smugglers... and we'll supply the rest!

There'll be fun for all ages - surfing for the kids - volleyball for the older kids and lots of booze and tucker for the adults. FeckenRoo Burgers, Roo Stoo and Sidney Pies all washed down with amber nectar - and good Aussie wine. Music will be supplied by the Outback Pirates and there might even be some carol singing... And rumour has it that a certain jovial bearded fellow is thinking of taking an unseasonable trip from his summer quarters at the South Pole...

More details in next month's Feckenham News - but put the date in your diaries. It's all in aid of the upkeep of The Square.

Village Hall Ian Bellion



KITCHEN RENEWAL

Plans are in an advanced stage for the complete refurbishment of the Village Hall's kitchen. The existing set up was installed during the refurbishment of 2003 and it's been worked hard ever since. The kitchen is in use virtually every day of the year for everything from nursery lunches to five course banquets so it's not surprising that it's looking a bit frayed round the edges. The work will be done during August so the Hall is generally not accepting bookings throughout that month to allow it to proceed unhampered. The chance will be taken to do the annual spruce up of the rest of the building during the same period.

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society Ian Bellion



SHEEP ON ICE

Iceland is an unlikely source for an international comedy sensation - so it has to be said that **"Rams"** is not a laugh-a-minute slapstick, funfest. It's more of a slow burn study in eccentricity and human nature... with sheep. The story tells of two brothers who keep sheep who haven't spoken for years... apart from messages carried by a dog. But then there's a problem that has to be solved...

Showing on Friday, 8th July at 8pm



IS IT A BIRD, IS IT A PLANE?

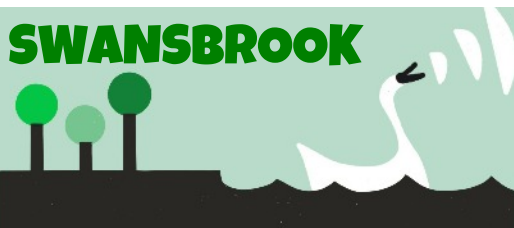
"Eddie The Eagle" turns a long-running joke of British sport into a crowd-pleasing story of inspiration. When Eddie Edwards is turned down by the British Olympic team he spots a loophole - no one else has entered the Ski Jump event because no-one in the UK can ski jump. Neither can Eddie! A true story with a few white lies thrown in to add to the fun!

Showing on Friday, 19th August at 8pm

*Tickets for 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*

NEVILLE THE POST

Most of us already know that Neville has been quite seriously ill. He is now back home but it seems likely he will take an early retirement. Several villagers feel that it would be appropriate to either have a collection or 'a bit of a do' (or both) to show our appreciation to him for all his years of service to us all. If you are interested of joining in a collective village response then, without obligation, let Alan Jones know by leaving a message ('yes collection, yes bit of a do or both' will do) by emailing to 'nevillethepost @gmail.com



ON THE AIR!

It's been some time in the egg but Feckenham's own radio station is about to hatch! **Swansbrook Radio** will begin transmissions this month. Test transmissions start on June 1st and the service proper will begin on **25th June**. The idea is to provide an entertaining mix of local news, information and fun - produced right here in Feckenham and serving the village and the surrounding area.

FROM LITTLE CYGNETS...

The initial service will be limited but it's hoped that, as people listen and begin to realise that this is their own station and that they can contribute to it, it'll grow into a true community station for the area. Following the success of two short FM stations (W.A.K.E FM) it was decided to work on a more sustainable model to broadcast year round - and, as a byproduct, to create an archive of interviews and local stories for future generations to enjoy. Swansbrook wants to involve as many people as possible - so YOU could be on the air soon!

HOW TO LISTEN

Swansbrook will be an internet only radio station. To hear the transmissions just go to www.swansbrook.com and press the "Listen Live" button. As time goes by there'll be other ways to listen and it's hoped that Swansbrook will be added to the lists of stations on wi-fi radios. Please bear in mind that the programmes during the test period are just that - tests - and may contain out of date reports, etc.

AT THE WAKE

Swansbrook will have a studio on The Square at The Wake on 25th June and some of the first "proper" programmes will be recorded there. Pop in to find out more about the station, meet the people behind the microphones and perhaps find yourself broadcasting!

Feckenham Parish Council

B4090 RESURFACING SOON

At last Worcester Highways have found the money to resurface the B4090, or at least a major part of it, through the village. The old surface removal will be carried out in the working day and not at night as it could be noisy. There will be access to frontages only when the work is carried out and diversion signs will be erected either side of Feckenham. It is possible that on some days the road will be closed for up to 5 hours while the surface is ripped up but the Highways Department will do their best to keep this to a minimum.

We're awaiting an exact date for the work but we know that it will be in the school holidays. Once a more exact time window is given the Parish Council will publish it in the next issue of Feckenham News and notify the shop, garage and the Forest so they can give guidance to customers during this period.

DRAINAGE OFFER

Does your roof rain water discharge onto the back of the pavement and run across the Pavement? Worcestershire County Council Road Department may be willing to fit 'grooved surface drains so the hazard of the water freezing in cold weather and creating a safety hazard will be eliminated. If you are interested in taking up this offer please let Alan Jones know (without obligation) by emailing pavementdrainage@gmail.com or drop a note to him at 39 High Street.

Mission Morogoro

Rev. John Green

The work of the Mission Morogoro charity continues to grow and develop in exciting and challenging ways which could never have been foreseen when it was first initiated. The last couple of years have seen a tractor arrive in Tunguli, which was greeted with joy and happiness by all those living in the village. The result of this has been that MM has become involved with plans to provide better irrigation for the soil and in the significant task of enhancing the crop rotation skills of the local farmers. MM is also involved, with the medical profession, in a major project to reduce maternal mortality and early child death by enhancing the confidence and autonomy of local women to make decisions about the issues that they identify as being vital to bringing about change. As a result a group of mainly women from the Charity will be travelling to Morogoro in July to forge links with these newly created groups. Here MM is truly at the cutting edge of a project which will provide significant change to a culture which has hitherto been dominated by men, poverty and superstition.

Since its inception Mission Morogoro has been overwhelmed by your support, encouragement and generosity.....but now... here is another way you can provide funds, as our challenging work continues to develop....so please,

Support Jeff Matthews in his Ride Across The Alps which will be taking place at the same time as the MM group will be in Morogoro.

Starting on July 24th just outside Geneva, Jeff will be riding for the next 6 days to arrive at Antibes, on the Mediterranean coast, a distance of 730Km. However, the route follows that built by Napoleon across the Alps, climbing over 30 cols and a total height of over 16,300m.

"I felt I wanted to do something after Ann and Thea climbed Kilimanjaro two years ago in aid of the charity, so I thought this would make a

suitable challenge. Although I do a lot of riding, I'm not the greatest climber, and it is the trial of riding consecutive days that makes it tough."

The route includes the legendary Col D'Iseran made famous in the Tour de France and the Col de la Bonette, claimed to be Europe's highest road pass at 2,803m (although that is controversial!).

If you would like to sponsor Jeff, there is a form at the back of the Church, on the large oak table, or you can donate on line at <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/jeffmatthews1>.

Once again, thank you Jeff, from all the team at Mission Morogoro. Please look after yourself and come back safely and we look forward to seeing the pictures !



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19th - FATHER'S DAY lunches 'til 3pm
25th - THE WAKE - OPEN ALL DAY

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Square Management Committee

DIGGING AND PLANTING

Two replacement trees are now in situ at the top (High Street end) of The Square. It's the end of a long and arduous story involving a lot of planning, a lot of money and a huge amount of generosity.

Planting a tree to replace an ailing or dead one would seem to be a simple business - not so! The Square is at the centre of the Feckenham Conservation Area and at the centre of the ancient Feckenham Forest. Before anything could



happen permission had to be sought from the local authorities and consultations had to be undertaken about permitted breeds of tree,

suitability of sites, etc. Once this had been established all the utilities had to be consulted to ensure that no pipes, cables, ducts or sewers were hidden under the proposed sites.... So, it was with some considerable trepidation that members of The Square Management Committee watched as the digger took the first bite at the soil on Saturday, 23rd April. Thankfully all was well - no obstructions, no ancient relics or bones - just good Worcestershire clay.



The new trees made their appearance on Tuesday 26th June in an enormous lorry. With their roots encased in sacking, they were craned into position, righted and anchored into

place by the use of pylons driven deep into the ground by pneumatic hammers. First a Tilia Cordata was established by the phone box and then a London Plane took its place on the corner of the "parking area". Both were bedded in comfortably on cushions of compost, given doses of high tech fertiliser and fitted with sophisticated watering systems. The site was levelled and tidied and later in the day protective railings were fitted to prevent accidental damage. The trees, even in their newly planted state looked lovely - and the Tilia celebrated its arrival in its new home by bursting into full leaf within days of its planting. The Committee has now instituted a strict routine of watering to ensure that both trees thrive through their first two years at The Square.

THANKS.....

Planting trees of this size is no small undertaking and the cost would certainly have been beyond the means of The Square's Committee. We are immensely grateful to everyone who has helped to ensure that The Square remains the green heart of Feckenham. Pride of place in the list of donors has to go to Pauline Luget Owen and John Hunt of 12 The Square who picked up the tab for the purchase and planting of the Tilia Cordata which, though

at the moment not quite as tall as the other tree, is quick growing, beautifully shaped and will soon overtake its neighbours. Pauline and John were involved throughout the project and we are indebted to them for sharing their knowledge and for their incredible generosity. The tree is to be dedicated to Pauline's late parents and their contemporaries - all residents of The Square. The London Plane Tree was the gift of Louise and Toby Denne of The Old Vicarage - our thanks to them and we hope



they enjoy watching "their" tree flourish just outside their gates.

The metal surrounds were made in record time by James Barrett and were funded by a grant from the Parish Council.

Paul Chadderton, Arboriculturalist of Alvechurch, supervised the site preparation free of charge.

AND we're most grateful to everyone who has offered to join the watering rota - many thanks and, if you're not yet on the rota, your turn will come! Thanks to you all!

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"MEMORIALS THAT REFLECT A LIFETIME"

Feckenham C. of E. First School

Sharon Simpson

The children have been as busy as ever over the last few months with very unsettled weather conditions that have seen all the seasons in one day at times!

Despite this the children have been very involved in various sporting events which was kick started by Year 4 pupils completing the 'Bikeability' course within school.

Our Quicksticks hockey team took part in the Worcestershire Winter Games at Worcester University and although the children were not overall winners, Miss Tyler & Mrs. Barker were delighted with their sportsmanship towards other teams and were very proud of their play and behaviour.

In addition, our cross country runners came 4th overall in the Redditch Cross Country Finals. Everyone ran with such enthusiasm and determination to warrant their overall position.

On 17th March all the children came to school in sporty attire (with lots of red) and completed a sponsored mile of running/skipping/hopping/jumping around the school grounds. A fantastic amount of £1077.25 was raised which is a massive amount for such a little school as ours!

On 21st March Year 3 visited Avoncroft Museum whilst the other children held a non school uniform day in aid of the Redditch Food Bank. The Community Club were thrilled with the response with the library so full of donations it resembled a mini supermarket!

The following day families were invited in to school to spend the last half hour of the school day sharing the children's learning experiences and looking through completed work.

The Friends of Feckenham School (FOFS) very kindly organized a Bunny Hop Disco for the children with great music, food and an egg hunt with a 'real' Easter bunny leading the way! There was also an Easter Bonnet Parade which saw 50 very creative and colourful bonnets

adorned and judged and then re shown at the Easter church service.

The children also entered contributions into the Spring Flower show held in the village hall on 9/4/16.

After the Easter holiday break the values for the forthcoming term were established as Honesty and Trust.

Mrs. Dennis and the Year 3 pupils have begun work on a WWI Commemorative project working on a musical commemoration of WWI with the help of Mr. Gosling.

On 21st April the whole school spent a lovely morning decorating birthday cakes, making Union Jack flags and contributing to a rather large bespoke birthday card for Her Majesty. They also sang the National Anthem to an orchestral rendition thanks to Year 4's band.

On 26th April Year 4 held their own cake sale in the hall to raise funds for a new set of class readers. They worked very hard making biscuits and cakes themselves and also received many wonderful cakes made by parents. They raised a wonderful sum of £175.00 for their efforts.

After all that hard work they then embarked on their two night residential trip to Blackwell Court and had a wonderful time taking part in the outdoor activities on offer despite the very unsettled weather.

We are still collecting the Sainsbury's 'Active Kids' vouchers within school and would be pleased to receive any unwanted vouchers that you may have. In addition we would also welcome used stamps which we are collecting for the Acorns Children's Hospice.

Best Wishes from all the staff children and governors looking forward to much improved warmer weather! S. S. - Governor

Village Hall

Improvement Fund 2015/16



May Winners

28	Ali Taylor	£25
146	Paul & Clare Furey	£15
125	Marion Chute	£10

The June Draw will be held in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 7th June 2016

Feckenham Cricket Club

Bob Gordon



Feckenham has made an excellent start to the 2016 cricket season with the whole club unbeaten in every format, including an impressive T20 win over Barnt Green who play in a higher league.

Along with our successes on the pitch we have also received some great news off it as one of our players, Tom Coulson, has been selected to represent the Worcestershire County League II at Bewdley on the 27th of May. As well as scoring runs, Tom made the news last year when he took all 10 wickets in a match. Additional support is more than welcome as Feckenham CC looks to build on this great start - strong support from the village makes a real difference to the players.

Over the weekend of 14-15 May we will have played against our Redditch at home in the Worcester County League and arch-rivals Astwood Bank in the village knock-out cup. With the teams' start to the season we have high hopes for a result in both.

We welcome new players – just drop and introduce yourself. We also need help with scoring – training provided if needed (and you get a free tea!).

Junior coaching/practice takes place starting at 5:30pm each Friday groups from under-8, to under 17.

Fixtures (1pm start)

Sat 4th June	Wormelow (2nd team)
Sat 11th June	Bromyard (1st team)
Sat 18th	Cookley (2nd team)
Sat 25th June	Lye (1st team)
Sat 2nd July	Enville (2nd team)

We also have Worcester Over 60s playing Warwick at the club on Tuesday 14th June, starting at 1:30pm. There is usually a Sunday league game on each week, again starting at 3pm, often in T20 format. We hope to see many new faces in the coming weeks to join our friendly and accommodating club!

Feckenham W.I.

Jane White



Our meeting this month is on **Thursday 9th June** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Back Room. This will be an unusual evening as we are all bringing a dish of our favourite recipe, savoury or sweet. We will find out why they have been chosen and seeing if we agree. Bring a copy of the recipe and a note book to write any you fancy. We are considering putting together a booklet to fund raise.

On Wednesday **15th June** we are visiting Dingle End garden in Inkberrow at 1030am. £3 including refreshments. And on **12th July** we are visiting the Elagar Birthplace Museum.

Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

Rob Cole

THE NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 8th June 2016 - 9.00am start. When we have arranged a coach outing to visit Brian Ellis at his Avondale Nursery at Coventry in the morning, and then travel to Coton Manor in Northamptonshire for lunch and a look around the Manor's garden in the afternoon. Pre-booking and payment is essential, so if you haven't yet booked and would like to join us, please contact Sheila White for more details on 01527 545572.

The following event - Wednesday 6th July 2016 - evening visit to Rob and Diane Cole's garden and nursery at 33, Droitwich Road, Feckenham, B96 6RU. Members are invited to bring friends if they wish, to enjoy a sociable evening in the one acre garden.

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 £10.00. 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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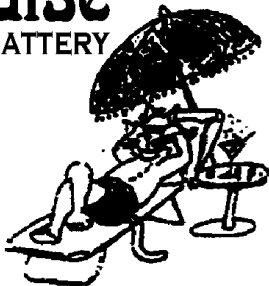
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