

# FECKENHAM



March 2022

# NEWS

Published by Feckenham Church for the village.  
Editor Gilly Cooper - [feckenhamnews@gmail.com](mailto:feckenhamnews@gmail.com)  
(Copy Date 14<sup>th</sup>)

# THOMAS BROTHERS



*An Independent Family Owned Funeral Directors*

*Family owned funeral homes in Redditch, Bromsgrove, Wytball, Alvechurch & Alcester. We provide a friendly, dignified service paying special attention to detail.*

**REDDITCH • BROMSGROVE**  
01527 547777    01527 83170

**WYTHALL • ALVECHURCH • ALCESTER**  
01564 822001    0121 445 3422    01789 330939



*"A family concern"*

[www.thomasbrothers.co.uk](http://www.thomasbrothers.co.uk)  
email: [admin@thomasbrothers.co.uk](mailto:admin@thomasbrothers.co.uk)



**TAPCAST**  
computer services

Local, trusted IT support done remotely  
IT Support • Microsoft Office 365 & Cloud  
Remote Working Solutions • Computer Equipment  
Security Services • Backup & Disaster Recovery

Call 01386 792196  
[support@tapcast.co.uk](mailto:support@tapcast.co.uk)

**Microsoft**  
CERTIFIED  
Partner

[www.tapcast.co.uk](http://www.tapcast.co.uk)

## ANDREW SMITH CHIMNEY SWEEP

Traditional and Power Sweeping  
Clean, reliable and fully insured  
smoke test, CCTV and certificates.  
Evening and weekend appointments  
also available



Member of the  
Institute of Chimney  
Sweeps

Based locally in Inkberrow

Phone: 01386 793248

Mobile: 07789 721303



## A. PULLEN MEMORIALS

*Additional Inscriptions & Renovations*

SHOWROOM AND WORKSHOP  
338 ALCESTER ROAD, BURCOT  
BROMSGROVE B60 1BH  
Tel: (01527) 876200



## As Time Goes By

**YOUR LOCAL FAMILY RUN  
MEMORIAL SUPPLIER**

Head Stones, Cremation Tablets,  
Additional Inscriptions and  
Renovation Work

Web: [astimegoesby.org.uk](http://astimegoesby.org.uk)

Email: [kfporter@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:kfporter@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Please call 01527 550505**

*To arrange a home visit or to find out our opening times*

Unit 5, Dunlop Road, Hunt End Industrial Estate  
Redditch B97 5XP

**"MEMORIALS THAT REFLECT A LIFETIME"**



## Beauty

by Elizabeth

MGBl, VICT  
Skin Therapist



dermatologica  
facials  
mapping



*Flexible appointment  
times available*

Telephone: 01527 822698

Mobile: 07890 978059

Microdermabrasion, LVL and Collagen lift facials,  
bio sculpture, massage, gel nails, waxing,  
eyelash tinting, manicure, pedicure and many more!

Cider Mill House  
Cider Mill Lane, Bradley Green  
Redditch, Worcestershire B96 6TH

# Feckenham News in January

## In the magazine

From updates on the Conservation and Biodiversity project to an article about Alan Jones who describes himself as addicted to volunteering as well as the return of the crossword. Something for everyone?

## Dates for your Diary

### March

|      |                                 |
|------|---------------------------------|
| 1st  | Feckenham Sessions              |
| 2nd  | S&B Gardening Club Meeting      |
| 3rd  | Parish Council Meeting          |
| 8th  | Feckenham History Society       |
| 12th | 'Flo' Smith at the Village Hall |
| 26th | FeckenOdeon - Life of Brian     |

### April

|     |                           |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 2nd | Fundraising Fashion Event |
| 9th | Spring Flower Show        |

### May

|         |                              |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 7th     | Plant Sale Bradley Green     |
| 10th    | Fordante at the Village Hall |
| 14-15th | Flower and Garden Festival   |
| 21st    | Feckenodeon - Local Hero     |

### Regular Sessions

|           |                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Mondays   | Restorative Yoga            |
| Thursdays | Bridge; Hatha Yoga; Pilates |

## Contents

|                               | Page  |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Editor's note                 | 4     |
| Village Notices               | 4-6   |
| FeckenOdeon & Swansbrook      | 7     |
| Conservation and Biodiversity | 8     |
| Rare Butterflies              | 9     |
| Church Matters                | 10-12 |
| Village Hall                  | 13    |
| What's On                     | 14-15 |
| Introducing                   | 16-17 |
| Parish Council                | 18    |
| Village Shop                  | 19    |
| Crossword                     | 20    |
| Spring Flower Show            | 21    |
| Cricket Club                  | 22    |
| Swansbrook Radio              | 22    |
| Kathy's Collections           | 23    |
| Gardening                     | 24    |

## Front Cover

Photo courtesy of Abby Ford

Magazine online at [www.feckenham.com](http://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.

## Production Team

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Gilly Cooper - Editor      | feckenhamnews@gmail.com<br>07500115581 |
| Ian Bellion - What's On    | whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk             |
| Jen Cary - NewsHound       | jen@28highstreet.co.uk                 |
| Jo Warrilow - Distribution | 01527 892059                           |
| Mary Smith - Advertising   | fnadvertising@btinternet.com           |

2022. Published by Feckenham PCC  
Printed by Solopress

It seems that, though the weather is rather stormy as I write, Spring is on its way. I look with delight at the appearance of snowdrops and crocuses, wondering if the ones we planted on the verges at the entrance to the village and on the green will come into bloom.



As the days grow longer it seems we are emerging cautiously from the restrictions caused by Covid 19 and the village is getting ready for some fun. The Flower Show will be back, our gardeners will be sprucing up their flower beds in readiness for the Flower and Garden Festival and of course we shall begin to see the results of much planning by the Bio-Diversity Group.

FeckenOdeon is fully back in action, there's live entertainment and we have not one but two new yoga classes in the village hall.

What a full magazine we have this month as so much is going on in the village. I've been inundated with pieces to include but, sadly, no offers to take over Jo Warrilow's role of magazine distribution unless we take up the kind offer from Alan Jones, who, at 85, I think deserves a rest.

Finally, I know that not everyone picks up the print copy of the magazine. I put a link to it on the Facebook Group page and with help from Ian Bellion and Tim Smith, it's on the village website at [www.feckenham.com](http://www.feckenham.com) under the Feckenham News tab, along with an archive going back to 2012.

### Feckenham WI – Reboot

After being in existence for over 100 years, I was really sad to read about the disbanding of Feckenham Women's Institute and the more I thought about it, the more I thought that I should give re-starting it a go. After having spoken with the now ex-President Linda Harris, I think there is enough interest in the village and wider community to make it viable again, so Linda and I shall be meeting with the WI Area Adviser in early February to see what needs to happen. I've not got much experience of what WI is all about so their help will be invaluable but it also means that I'm coming at it with a fresh pair of eyes. The kinds of things that I would like to do will utilise expertise and facilities that we have right here in Feckenham and I'd also like to use our group purchasing power to get discounts to places like the Snow Dome in Tamworth and the RSC in Stratford. However, as many ideas as I have, I want our group to be run by its members so it's going to be really important that people come with a willingness to participate. I currently know of about 10 women in the village that are interested in joining but it would be great to hear of any more who would like to join in. If you are interested, please feel free to email me at [Jennifer.clements@openreach.co.uk](mailto:Jennifer.clements@openreach.co.uk) or call me on 07773 883 039. I'm thinking of getting the group started again in late Spring, hopefully still in its original evening slot on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month in Feckenham Village Hall but details are all to be finalised. Thanks, Jen Cary.

# FECKENHAM FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022

The arrangements for this year's Festival are going well and I am extremely grateful to all those who have kindly volunteered to participate, without whom this event could not take place. This hugely successful triennial Festival, now in its 37<sup>th</sup> year, raises funds for the maintenance of our Parish Church and Churchyard.

In 2018, over 30 gardens opened to the public. It was a wonderful weekend with a real buzz around the village. I am extremely grateful to those garden owners who have already agreed to open their gardens once again or have agreed to do so for the first time. Please do get in touch with me if you might also be willing to open your garden or if you want any more information about the Festival. For those who may be unsure and might think your gardens are not show gardens, this Festival is not about show gardens - this is not Chelsea! Please call or email me if you would be willing to open your garden 11am - 5pm, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022. However due to safety, traffic and other regulations, the boundaries for open gardens fall between Winfields of Feckenham, Moors Lane and Brook House on the B4090.

This is a wonderful village event with an enormous number of jobs to be done. So if you feel you can help in any way, your assistance would be very welcome.

I should be most grateful if all garden owners could confirm their email addresses to [catherine.fisher@talk21.com](mailto:catherine.fisher@talk21.com) for ease of communication.

Catherine Fisher

Tel: 07931 338291

## Platinum Celebrations Of A Different Kind!

Her Majesty is not the only one to be celebrating a platinum anniversary this year, for just a few weeks after Princess Elizabeth became Queen, Fred & Mary Wilkes took up residence on Berrow Hill, taking possession of Moat Farm on February 25<sup>th</sup> 1952.

They purchased 23 acres & 9 perches, house & buildings for the princely sum of £5000 ! Utility services were minimal, there being no electricity or running water. The land was described by Mary's father as being 2 horse plough land.

Over the years, Fred ran successful dairy & beef enterprises until his retirement, since when the land has been farmed by J.H. Wormington & Son Ltd, who have family connections. Fred sadly passed away in 2013, leaving Mary to carry on living at Moat House, the bungalow that Fred had built for their retirement.

There are some who think that Mary does in fact bear some resemblance to our sovereign. One of her great grandsons actually identified a photo in The Times as being that of his Great Gran!

Congratulations Mary on 70 years of Berrow Hill life!

M, M, & J. W

### **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](mailto: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](http://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

# A fond farewell

Nearly eight years ago we drove into Feckenham with a couple of large removal vans and found that our arrival here was a complete surprise. That didn't, however, stop us receiving a very warm welcome from everyone we met. We chose the village because it had a shop, two pubs, a doctor's surgery (at the time), a cricket ground and a beautiful setting ... we went on to discover so much more! We have had a very happy time in Feckenham, met some extraordinarily talented people and made, what we hope are, long-lasting friendships.

We moved here for work ... and it is with regret and for the same reason that we now move on. Some of you may know that Toby has been working with an overseas company and it is becoming increasingly difficult, notwithstanding the move to home working, to do that from Feckenham.

We shall be around for a bit longer – we hand the keys of the house over to new owners in April. Thank you everyone for a wonderful chapter in our lives. Au revoir.

Toby and Louise Denne



flowers - eco - foraged

[thewren@wrenandbramble.co.uk](mailto:thewren@wrenandbramble.co.uk)

Call Clare on 07548 832771  
to order Mothering Sunday flowers

## BOTANY BAY

Nurseries, Garden Centre & Café



- \* Super Quality Plants
- \* Garden Furniture
- \* Garden Care & Pots
- \* Houseplants
- \* Bird & Wildlife Care
- \* Gifts & Home



Botany Bay Nurseries, Garden Centre & Café  
Edgioake Lane, Astwood Bank, Redditch, B96 6BG  
01527 893 885 [www.botany-bay.co.uk](http://www.botany-bay.co.uk)

## Swansbrook Suite

Guest Accommodation

**Large, comfortable room** in Feckenham  
with double bed, ensuite bathroom with walk in  
shower, kitchenette, TV and Wifi.

Has own entrance off patio garden overlooking  
Swansbrook stream and surrounding countryside.  
Off street parking. Continental breakfast available.

07522 836032

[rosemary.wormington@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.wormington@gmail.com)

## The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



March's film at the FeckenOdeon is a bit controversial so let's get something straight at the start - this is not about any religious figure. Brian is not The Messiah. He's just a very naughty boy.... who happens to have been born on the same night as The Messiah in an adjacent stable. No blasphemy is intended. It's taken us 20 years to convince the distributors that Monty Python's inspired comedy won't cause a religious riot in Feckenham!

To make it even clearer: The film tells the story of Brian Cohen, a young Jewish-Roman man who is born on the same day as—and next door to—Jesus, and is subsequently mistaken for the Messiah... and he, and the film, are very silly and very funny... but not at all holy. It's also quite spectacular. The producer (George Harrison) spent quite a lot of his pocket money on the sets and costumes so it's worth seeing it on the BIG screen.

Monty Python's Life of Brian (15)  
Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm

### HERO REVIVED!

"Local Hero" fell victim to the pandemic in December. Thankfully it's turned out to be a postponement rather than a cancellation. The film will now be shown on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30pm.

*Tickets for all FeckenOdeon shows are on sale at*

*The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.*

*You can also book by phone (through*

*TicketSource) on 0333 666 3366 or online at*

***www.fecknodeon.co.uk***

Feckenham's Own...



Listen at  
[www.swansbrook.com](http://www.swansbrook.com)

**SWANSBROOK** Radio

## GREEN SHOOTS...

Throughout the colder months Swansbrook's programmes have, understandably, been studio based - but now the sap is rising and the daffs are starting to bloom so it's time to think of the great outdoors again. We'll certainly be out and about at major events like the Garden Festival and the Wake but we're keen to put all sorts of events and happenings on the air. One of the station's founding ambitions was to make an audio archive - a sound picture of life in Feckenham for future generations to dip into - so, if you know of something happening that might make interesting radio, we'd love to hear from you. Just email us at [radio@swansbrook.com](mailto:radio@swansbrook.com) and we'll dust off our outside broadcast kit and spring into action.

## COULD IT BE YOU?

Regular readers will be familiar with Swansbrook's pleas for budding broadcasters to join the crew - but, if you're new here, you may not be aware that your local radio station would welcome you with open arms if you want to present, produce or edit programmes - or if you want to work behind the scenes. Just drop us an email to [radio@swansbrook.com](mailto:radio@swansbrook.com) and we'll be in touch.

## LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Go to [www.swansbrook.com](http://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](http://www.swansbrook.com)**

Feckenahm Conservaton and  
Biodiversity Project  
Update: Jeff Matthews

**Work to Start**

By the time you read this the work on the various aspects of the Bio-Diversity Project, the renovation of the King John's Hunting Lodge and Feckenham in Bloom should have started in earnest.

We have been successful in obtaining a grant for 45% of the eligible work from Natural Networks (a grant available via money from a European Union Fund), that with grants from The Shop, Feckenham Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, Feckenham Charity, Friends of Feckenham Church, we have sum with which we can make a constructive difference to the environment around Feckenham to the benefit of everyone.

The work will be in 4 phases.

- Phase 1: Get as much of the tree and shrub work done before March 1st. This will be undertaken by Redditch Borough Council, Biosphere Ltd and Jack Cotterill Tree Surgeons. It will include clearing non - native species as well as clearing paths around the Ancient monument and tree work in the Churchyard. We will also be planting a flower meadow in the area between the Play Ground and the monument bank.

Amazingly, there is a national shortage of seed and bulbs at the moment, so much of the meadow planting, particularly in the churchyard will have to wait until Autumn. However, we do have 2000 bulbs (wood anemones, snow drops, wild garlic) which will be planted now, across the three main sites of the project.

We are also looking at getting permissions on tree planting, at various points around the village, coordinated by Feckenham in Bloom, but we await various permissions on that - it may be October before we can do that.

Tree felling will also be taking place in the church. Two ash trees will be monolithed



(they are suffering die-back and have become dangerous). Two of the old Lawson Cypress will be taken down, and replaced by Oak and other native flowering trees. You can find details on a display in the Church. Again, that will all be contingent on the weather.

- Phase 2: Various paths, building of habitats, installation of interpretation boards, putting up of bat and bird boxes. Stalls at the Garden Festival and Wake to tell everyone about it.

- Phase 3: Completion of the hedge restoration around the church yard, cricket pitch and ancient monument, preparation of remaining flower meadow areas, bulb planting on all 3 sites and around the village. Completion of remaining tree work and tree planting

We hope very much to be able to get more people involved beyond the steering group few, so look out for that, and be able to show the progress being made in time for this year's garden festival.

Bio-Diversity Steering Group

## Feckenham's Rare Butterflies

There are lots of special things about our lovely village – two scheduled ancient monuments, a gypsy queen's grave, a fantastic volunteer shop etc. – but none are quite so fragile and vulnerable as butterflies. The village is home to at least two colonies of the endangered Brown Hairstreak butterfly, which is considered a priority species and a species of principle importance. Because it likes to lay its eggs on young suckers of blackthorn, modern hedgerow management techniques (mainly flailing) and hedgerow removal have led to a massive decline in the last 40 years. Our two village sites are a meadow in Noah's Green and then at the other end of the Saltway in the substation grounds. If you would like to see if your hedges are home to this beautiful butterfly, Winter is the time to check. The eggs are white and the size of a pin head, so they can be very difficult to spot! They are very distinctive though as they look like tiny little sea urchins and they tend to be laid at the base of a branch with the stem. Feckenham is perfectly sited for butterfly and wild flower enthusiasts as we have the Wylde



**Rose & Crown**

**48 High Street  
Feckenham  
B96 6HS**

---

**01527 892188**

**A traditional freehouse village pub  
with Food - owned and run by the  
Clarke family**

---

**Proper Pub Food  
at Proper Prices**  
*Special Dishes - every day*  
**Quality locally sourced meat  
Real Ales & Ciders**  
*3 real ales on hand pumps every day.  
Traditional ciders - fine wines*

---

**Open at 12 each day**  
*Open for drinks all day Friday, Saturday & Sunday*  
**Heated outdoor dining and drinking areas**

*We're Covid conscious - but the show goes on!*  
**TRADITIONAL MUSIC** 1st Mar - 8pm  
**ST PATRICK'S NIGHT** 17th March  
*Special menu - Good Music & Grand Craic!*  
**CHINESE THEMED MENU** - 31st March  
*Please call to book your table*

---

**[www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk](http://www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk)**

Moor on our doorstep, as well as Grafton Wood and Foster's Green Meadow, up Chessgrove way. Both sites are a haven for all kinds of rare plants, insects and animals. Check out the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and Butterfly Conservation websites for more details.



# MARCH CHURCH SERVICES



## PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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](mailto:ann@the-madison-group.co.uk)

Glen for Baptisms & Funerals at  
[glenn.reading@googlemail.com](mailto:glenn.reading@googlemail.com)

Website: <http://feckenhamchurch.org.uk/>

Email: [info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk)



PARISH CHURCH  
OF  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
FECKENHAM

|          |         |                                       |
|----------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 2nd Mar  | 7.30pm  | Ash Wednesday – Astwood Bank          |
| 6th Mar  | 10.30am | Eucharist - Rev B Wheatley            |
| 13th Mar | 9.00am  | BCP Eucharist - Rev B Wheatley        |
| 20th Mar | 6.30pm  | Sung Evensong – Mthr Victoria         |
| 27th Mar | 10.30am | Mothering Sunday Eucharist - Fr Glenn |

## FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### St John Fisher & Thomas More

The Mass service is held every Sunday at 10.15 am.

At the moment we are requested to wear masks during the service.

Mount Carmel 6 pm Sunday Mass is now the Live Streamed Mass.

Link: [www.eventcast.uk/live](http://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**

## Feckenham Church Clock Repair Appeal Fund

## Church Yard Working Party Days

The clock mechanism is due to be taken to Cumbria Clocks for repair April/May time.

In previous articles it has been explained that completely new electric winding and timing systems will be fitted. The chiming mechanism and the hands on the clock face will also be realigned.

The total estimate for this work is £8000 plus VAT although we hope to recover the VAT from the Government fund covering Grade 2 listed churches if it is renewed from 1 April 2022.

Our Bong Appeal has now raised £4000 including some Gift Aid.

We are now halfway to the target.

Contact John Eaton if you have any queries or would like to buy a "Bong"

01527 894272

[john@eatonconsulting.co.uk](mailto:john@eatonconsulting.co.uk)

If you are in a position to offer some support to the upkeep of the church yard, we have a number of Saturday mornings where if you can donate a couple of hours that would be greatly appreciated. It's anytime between 9:30 and 1:00.

There are a variety of jobs both big and small.

Here are those dates:

- 5th March

- 7th May

- 2nd July

-10th September

-5th Nov

## Benefice Lent Course

**This year's benefice lent course uses material by Paula Gooder, reflecting on the television series 'Broken'. All are welcome, and a zoom link will be available soon**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 11am  
St. Matthias & George

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 7.30pm  
Zoom

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 11am  
The Bridge Church Hall

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm  
Zoom

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 11am  
St Peter's, Crabbs Cross

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm  
Zoom

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 11am  
St John the Baptist, Feckenham

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm  
Zoom

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 11am  
The Bridge Church Hall

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 7.30pm  
Zoom

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 11am  
St John the Baptist, Feckenham

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm  
Zoom

| Feckenham Church Clock Refurbishment Appeal |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
|---|------|----|------|----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|
| BONGOMETER                                  |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| Recording sales of BONGS at £25 each        |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| £8000                                       |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| £7500                                       |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| £7000                                       |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| £6500                                       |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| £6000                                       |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| £5500                                       |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| £5000                                       |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| £4500                                       |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| £4000                                       |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| £3500                                       |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| £3000                                       |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| £2500                                       |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| £2000                                       |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| £1500                                       |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| £1000                                       |      |    |      |    |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
| AM  | NAME | AM | NAME | PM | NAME | PM  | NAME | PM  | NAME | PM  | NAME |
| 1   | ...  | 2  | ...  | 3  | ...  | 4   | ...  | 5   | ...  | 6   | ...  |
| 7   | ...  | 8  | ...  | 9  | ...  | 10  | ...  | 11  | ...  | 12  | ...  |
| 13  | ...  | 14 | ...  | 15 | ...  | 16  | ...  | 17  | ...  | 18  | ...  |
| 19  | ...  | 20 | ...  | 21 | ...  | 22  | ...  | 23  | ...  | 24  | ...  |
| 25  | ...  | 26 | ...  | 27 | ...  | 28  | ...  | 29  | ...  | 30  | ...  |
| 31  | ...  | 32 | ...  | 33 | ...  | 34  | ...  | 35  | ...  | 36  | ...  |
| 37  | ...  | 38 | ...  | 39 | ...  | 40  | ...  | 41  | ...  | 42  | ...  |
| 43  | ...  | 44 | ...  | 45 | ...  | 46  | ...  | 47  | ...  | 48  | ...  |
| 49  | ...  | 50 | ...  | 51 | ...  | 52  | ...  | 53  | ...  | 54  | ...  |
| 55  | ...  | 56 | ...  | 57 | ...  | 58  | ...  | 59  | ...  | 60  | ...  |
| 61  | ...  | 62 | ...  | 63 | ...  | 64  | ...  | 65  | ...  | 66  | ...  |
| 67  | ...  | 68 | ...  | 69 | ...  | 70  | ...  | 71  | ...  | 72  | ...  |
| 73  | ...  | 74 | ...  | 75 | ...  | 76  | ...  | 77  | ...  | 78  | ...  |
| 79  | ...  | 80 | ...  | 81 | ...  | 82  | ...  | 83  | ...  | 84  | ...  |
| 85  | ...  | 86 | ...  | 87 | ...  | 88  | ...  | 89  | ...  | 90  | ...  |
| 91  | ...  | 92 | ...  | 93 | ...  | 94  | ...  | 95  | ...  | 96  | ...  |
| 97  | ...  | 98 | ...  | 99 | ...  | 100 | ...  | 101 | ...  | 102 | ...  |



*We are a beauty and holistic salon  
based within the Botany Bay  
Nurseries at Astwood Bank*

*We offer lots of treatments including massage, facials, pedicures  
and gel polish - Please take a look at our monthly offers.*

*For bookings please call 077660 01408*

*or visit our website : [www.thebaysalon.com](http://www.thebaysalon.com)*

*With free parking there's plenty of time to visit the Salon, hairdressers, florist & cafe*

Fr Glenn writes...

For Christians the world over, the Christian faith revolves around two poles, those of Christmas and Easter.

As you sit and read this month's magazine the Church is preparing to end one chapter and begin another. During this time of change we will take one final look back to Christmas, before turning our heads to the journey that lies ahead, a journey that will take us through the wilderness of Lent and Holy Week and to the Christ's triumph on Easter Day.

As we look back, we fix firmly in our minds that the baby Jesus came to be among us as Emmanuel, we remember that his coming brought hope and joy. As we turn and look to Lent, Holy Week and Easter, we see Jesus the baby becomes Jesus the man.

At the beginning of Mark's Gospel, we see Jesus being baptised by John in the river Jordan and as Jesus emerges from the water, God's Spirit rests upon him. Straight after this event, Mark records that Jesus went out to the wilderness where he spent 40 and nights. During this time Jesus was tempted by the devil in ways that echo the temptations of Adam in the Garden of Eden. The difference this time is that where Adam faltered, Jesus despite his hunger and tiredness remains

resolute in his dependence on God his father. It is in this way that Jesus shows that he is the Messiah, the Christ the one who comes to redeem and restore his Father's creation. Lent, then becomes our time of fasting and denial as we walk with Jesus resisting temptations of false promises and seeking to rely on the goodness of God the Father.

During Lent you will see there will be a range of services taking place in church, which all are welcome to. We also have a Lent course which will run, both in person and separately on Zoom, which all are welcome to join. If you are wanting to do something a little different for Lent this year, instead of giving something up, why not take something on, come and join us for Lent and Easter.

During Holy Week and over the Easter weekend there will be a range of services taking place at Feckenham and in the other benefice churches of Headless Cross, Crabbs Cross and Astwood Bank and you would be most welcome at all of them.

May God Bless you and walk with you this Lent.

## Feckenham Village Hall

### OFF THE BUSES...



Few actors can have had such a varied career as Ursula Mohan. It's not a name that's instantly recognisable but you will almost certainly have seen her work. On the small screen from the 70s when she played the saucy clippie flirting with Reg Varney in

"On The Buses" to the present when she appears as the confused Mrs Robinson in BBC's "Doctors". On the cinema screen in films like "The Bank Job" and "Small World" - and in the theatre where she was the first woman to play King Lear. Now she's coming to Feckenham in a show that's earned her plaudits from press and public alike.

**"Florence 'Flo' Smith - Now and Then"** was created from transcripts of tape recordings taken in writer Christopher Saul's grandmother's North London home in the spring of 1969, recounting her life and all the tales and memories she'd collected along the way. The dramatised recollections are retold in Flo's kitchen with Flo being brought vividly to life by Ursula Mohan.

The show was first performed at Stratford's Bear Pit Theatre in 2018 and has been touring ever since with sell outs and return runs featuring regularly. It's a funny, engaging and moving evening that may even put our present troubles in perspective.

**FLORENCE 'FLO' SMITH - NOW AND THEN**  
**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm**

#### COMING SOON

Returning to our stage on **10<sup>th</sup> May** is **"Fordante"** the spectacular musical ensemble lead by composer Phil Mountford. More details next month.

*Tickets for shows at Feckenham Village Hall 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.feckhall.org](http://www.feckhall.org)*

The Improvement Fund Draw for February, 2022 was made at the meeting of The Trustees on 1st February.

Winners:

|     |                    |     |
|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 162 | Susan Lisle        | £25 |
| 81  | Pat & Carol Onions | £15 |
| 137 | John & Pam Eaton   | £10 |



Ursula Mohan as Flo Smith

### SPRINGING BACK TO LIFE

Feckenham Village Hall is pleased to report that regular activities are at last returning to the Hall - with some new ones to add to the mix.

The popular Monday Yoga sessions have restarted. These are "Restorative Yoga" lessons - a gentle, relaxing form of Yoga.

If you're looking for a more advanced, energetic form of Yoga you can try the "Hatha Yoga" sessions on Thursday evenings.

For the even more energetic it's hoped that Zumba will return soon.

The All Round Theatre School has restarted with classes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and All Round Voices, The Community Choir, will rehearse on Wednesday evenings. Ian Ridley's Art classes have resumed on Wednesday evenings.

Thursday morning bridge tournaments have continued and the Feckenham Forest History Society have restarted their programme of monthly talks.

We can also report that we have hosted a record number of children's parties over recent months.

This is all very encouraging and it's hoped that the Hall's activities will soon be restored to pre-covid levels - it's even whispered that Feckenham WI may be re-opening soon. For full details and times of activities check the Hall's website at [www.feckhall.org](http://www.feckhall.org)

**To enquire about using the Hall for your activity or event please contact Liz Teisen, Booking Secretary, on 01527 821233, email [liz.teisen@btinternet.com](mailto:liz.teisen@btinternet.com)**

# WHAT'S ON IN



## THE FECKENHAM SESSIONS TRADITIONAL MUSICMAKING at THE ROSE & CROWN

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm  
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 1st March

## Feckenham Parish Council MEETING

Thursday, 3rd March  
at 7.30pm  
Feckenham Village  
Hall Back Room  
*All welcome.*

## SPRING FLOWER SHOW

Feckenham Village Hall - Saturday, 9th April at 2.30pm

Display of Spring Flowers - Stalls - Raffle - Teas



**FECKENHAM  
VILLAGE HALL**

Saturday,  
12th March, 2022  
7.30 pm

## FLORENCE 'FLO' SMITH

### NOW AND THEN

by Christopher Saul

Ursula Mohan  
as Flo

Book online at [www.feckhall.org](http://www.feckhall.org)

By phone on 0333 666 3366

Or in person at The Rose & Crown and The Village Shop

**LIVE  
& LOCAL**

Send details of events for FREE listing to:

# FECKENHAM

FECKENHAM  
VILLAGE HALL



## Regular Activities

**Mondays:** Restorative  
Yoga - 6.30pm

**Tuesdays:** All Round  
Theatre School - 7pm  
+ Wednesdays from

5.15pm

**Wednesdays:** Art Club -  
7.30pm

**Thursdays:** Bridge Club -  
9am

Hatha Yoga - 5.30pm  
Pilates - 7pm

**Coming soon:** Zumba

The Hall is now fully  
open and welcomes  
bookings.

Contact the Booking  
Secretary on  
01527 821233

[www.feckhall.org](http://www.feckhall.org)

THE  
**FECKENODEON** CINEMA  
SOCIETY

## THE DAY OF THE JACKAL

FeckenOdeon 1 - Saturday, 26th February at 7.30pm



FeckenOdeon 1 - Saturday, 26th March at 7.30pm

The FeckenOdeon Cinemas  
at Feckenham Village Hall

Tickets for all shows from **The Rose & Crown and Village Shop**  
Telephone Booking 0333 666 3366\* Online Booking\* & full information at  
**[www.fecknodeon.co.uk](http://www.fecknodeon.co.uk)**

\*Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings

\*Phone calls answered by Ticketsource and charged at standard rates - NOT a premium line

The Feckenham Forest History Society

## THE HISTORY OF ABBERLEY HALL

AND CLOCK TOWER

A talk by Jo Roche

Tuesday, 8th March - 7.30pm

Webheath Village Hall

FECKENHAM  
FLOWER &  
**GARDEN  
FESTIVAL**

14th & 15th

May, 2022

[whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk](mailto:whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk) or call 892130

## Introducing... Alan Jones

Alan has lived in the same house, recognisable as it is pink and at Christmas has a wonderful display of baubles on his pear tree, on the High Street since 1964.

He told me that he was born the youngest of seven children (3 half-brothers, 2 half-sisters and a full-brother) but only knowing five of them, saying " We were all just brothers and sisters. I was incredibly fond of my eldest sister and to this day I maintain the rich have nannies and the poor have eldest sisters."

He has always been addicted to volunteering, joining the scouts at 11, by 19 running a Cub Scout pack and later was Akela to a Cub Scout pack at the local Baptist Church whilst doing his National Service in REME.

After gaining a number of engineering qualifications (and later an OU degree) he took a one year Further Education Teacher Training year at Bolton where he meet Ruth, a fellow student. They married in December 1963 at the Church of John the Baptist, Longbridge, before moving to Feckenham.

At their very first Wake Ruth and Alan ran a balloon race and he was, from then on, identified as a volunteer. Bell ringing led to the Vicar trying to recruit him as the PCC treasurer – this was the only volunteering opportunity that he turned down. As an experienced scout leader he was soon running the Youth Club.

To quote him, "The Church finally recruited/entrapped me to balance unsafely on a long ladder to fix the angel on the yearly Christmas Tree which got taller each year." The church clock was originally powered by a heavy weight which had to

wound up every 3 days. Normally this was done by Eric Styler with Alan standing in, and then Eric was followed by Richard Fletcher. Eric kept the clock running on time by adding the odd penny to the pendulum to allow for Summer and Winter temperatures resulting in different pendulum lengths. Alan believes the new electrical self winding weight and self adjusting pendulum lacks the charm and the reliability of the old clock. His experience also evidently fitted him to raise and lower the flag on the Church Tower.

In 1973 Alan, Ruth and their 3 children left the village to live in Fiji where he taught at the Derrick Technical College.

HMG paid for their return air fare and they used the money to buy tickets to visit 8 countries on the way home.

Later he had a posting as a British Council Officer in Jordan. He has many tales to tell of his time there. Sadly there is not enough space for them here but, if you ask Alan when you see him, he will regale you with many stories.

He has been a member of seven village committees/groups and outside the village he was Chair of Astwood Bank First School Governors and a Staff Governor at the three colleges (home and overseas) where he taught. He said he was always a little miffed at not being invited to be a Governor of Feckenham School so successfully applied when they really got desperate. He spent eight years as a volunteer Citizens Advice Worker specialising in Employment Law. Representing claimants at Employment Tribunals was fascinating for him but left him with, perhaps, an over expectation to see things done 'right'. On occasions this has not been helpful and resulted in his resignation.

In 1998 Ruth was diagnosed with a primary brain tumour which was not

good news as most sufferers die within a few months. Remarkably Ruth survived for 4 years. When friends expressed the wish to visit Ruth told them to stay at home so she could visit them. They then spent those four years travelling, often with no travel insurance, and adding to the total of countries visited. Ruth died in May 2001 and even now he cries at the memory of her death and the support and love of the village community.

He spent the next 2 years travelling overseas on his own but where possible in a group. Ann Hurman, also from the village, asked him to show a friend, Jan, how to book Greyhound coaches in Australia and as a reward Jan invited him to supper. As he left she gave him a hug and all was lost so to speak. When she returned after a 6 month holiday they met again and have spent weekends and holidays (total of countries visited now 41) together for 20 years. They became a support bubble during Covid but NEVER a couple, both having their own houses still.

More recently he worked as a volunteer at Birmingham Hippodrome which he said was great, providing one could put up with poor management and the casual way volunteers are treated. It allowed him to appreciate Opera and Ballet although seeing the Nutcracker 15 times was perhaps too much!

He will soon be 85 and cannot take on new physically challenging volunteer roles so new tasks that attract him are sedate. He is still always willing to help out if there is no one else to do a job, but willing to step aside if younger person steps forward. Living in a listed building makes him a 'pressed' volunteer since he is required to look after a fragile 'old lady' for no pay and this does involve erecting and climbing up a scaffold tower to patch and paint high places.

He impressed on me that Feckenham has many volunteers who have

contributed far more than he has (though I doubt it) to make Feckenham Village such a wonderful community and said the Feckenham News comes as a result of the voluntary input of a whole team starting with the Editor (blush) and ending with the delivery team with all those others involved in its production in between. I hear that Alan has collected a full, or almost full, set of Feckenham News and even now has volunteered to oversee delivery if no-one else comes forward.

He stressed, "Being a volunteer, at least in my case, was not praiseworthy, but a source of great fun and enjoyment and satisfied my addiction. I can recommend volunteering to everyone." adding, "These days work, financial pressure, both parents working full time and maybe having children later makes it difficult for young people to take on volunteering roles but rather than bemoaning the lack of new volunteers we need to understand the difficulties of modern life but still encourage them to volunteer and so keep Feckenham a wonderful place to live."



**PRECEPT**

The Parish Council attended a rearranged meeting on the 26 January. A major issue discussed was the level of the Precept request. In recent years the Parish Council has been spending more than it has received as there were some reserves which could be used. Additional expenditure has been necessary because the clerk's hours have been extended due to increased workload. The rising cost of the Parish Lengthsman had to be met without additional reimbursement from Worcestershire County Council and a number of grants have been awarded to organisations within the Parish. These costs will be reflected by a rise in the Parish Council element of Council Tax bills.

**LITTER PICK**

The first official litter pick took place on a very cold Saturday in February. There were over 20 volunteers picking up rubbish within the Parish; they filled 20 plus sacks, not to mention some guttering, paint cans and a fluffy pink bag! If the bag belongs to you, please contact the clerk who will give you the reference number to quote to West Mercia Police. Thanks to everyone who took part and to Mike Sansom for his suggestion and assistance.

**JUBILEE**

Any Organisation / group wishing to mount an event or activity to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee is welcome to apply to the Parish Council for a grant.

**SURGERY**

The next Parish surgery will be held on Thursday 17 February 2-4pm in the village hall (Back room) for any Parishioner to call in with any query or concerns. The next Parish Council meeting will be Thursday 3rd March at 7.30pm.

Please contact the clerk (Jane) with any queries on tel 01527 892522 or email [clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk)



*Fundraising*  
**FASHION SHOW  
& SHOPPING EVENT**

**YOUR FAVOURITE BRANDS AT UP TO 75% OFF**

DOROTHY PERKINS WHITE STUFF RIVER ISLAND NEXT  
EVANS NEW LOOK MISS SELFRIIDGE TOPSHOP WALLIS  
URBAN OUTFITTERS WAREHOUSE MONSOON & MORE!

**SIZES  
6 TO 30**

**PLUS FRENCH + ITALIAN DESIGNER WEAR**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2022  
2pm**

Feckenham Village Hall, B96 6HN

Tickets: £8 (including tea/coffee & cake) or £9 cash on the door  
Tel: Tricia Mortimer 01527 402302 / Ann Matthews 01527 892180  
email: [tricia.mortimer@gmail.com](mailto:tricia.mortimer@gmail.com)

Mission Morogoro supporting  
maternal health in Tanzania, East Africa  
[www.missionmorogoro.org.uk](http://www.missionmorogoro.org.uk)

**SOS** Charity  
Fashion Shows


DEBIT & CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

[CHARITYFASHIONSHOWS.CO.UK](http://CHARITYFASHIONSHOWS.CO.UK)


**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

**STUDLEY DAYTIME**


**THE LIFE OF A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY ACTRESS**



**GUEST SPEAKER: JENNIFER RIGBY**



**COMPETITION: AN ORNAMENT**



**REFRESHMENTS .... RAFFLE .... GOOD COMPANY**

**STUDLEY VILLAGE HALL  
WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2022 2.00 – 4.00 P.M.  
VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

## Feckenham Village Shop

As well as maintaining a financially viable Shop that serves our local Community, one of the principal objectives of the Board is to use a substantial amount of the profit we generate to support Village events. So now that Feckenham is coming back to life after two years of intermittent lockdown, we can look forward to a busy year ahead. Already we have dates in the village diary for:-

The Open Garden Weekend.

The Village Wake.

The Horse Show

The September Flower Show.

The first village event, however, is the Spring Fair and Craft Show which will be taking place on Saturday 9th April in the Village Hall. Members of the newly formed Feckenham Artisan Group will be taking several stalls to showcase their products and that will add a new dimension to the spring flower competition. I would encourage as many of you as possible to come along and support this well established event. It is the intention of the Shop to support all of the above occasions as they enhance the richness of our village life. I have, however, failed to mention a very special event in June that all of us will only experience once in our lifetime. Of course I am referring to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. At the Shop we are already planning for this special occasion and our Buying Team are giving



thought to what commemorative items we can offer to celebrate Her Majesty's remarkable achievement. The first of those products will be a limited edition of Platinum candles and diffusers which will be available soon. Also at the end of this month is Mothering Sunday, so don't forget that we will have in stock a range of suitable cards and gifts for you to choose from .

My continual plea for new volunteers seems to be working as we have gained several new recruits since Christmas . All of whom are very welcome but we always need more helping hands , so don't hesitate to come forward and join us. We will always be delighted to see you.

**SUPPORT THE SHOP THAT SUPPORTS  
FECKENHAM**

**JESSICA BYATT**

*Yoga & Meditation*

Every Thursday 5:30PM at  
Feckenham Village Hall

☎ 07532282282

📧 jessicabyatt\_yogaandmeditation



# Fecken-crossword: Location, Location, Location

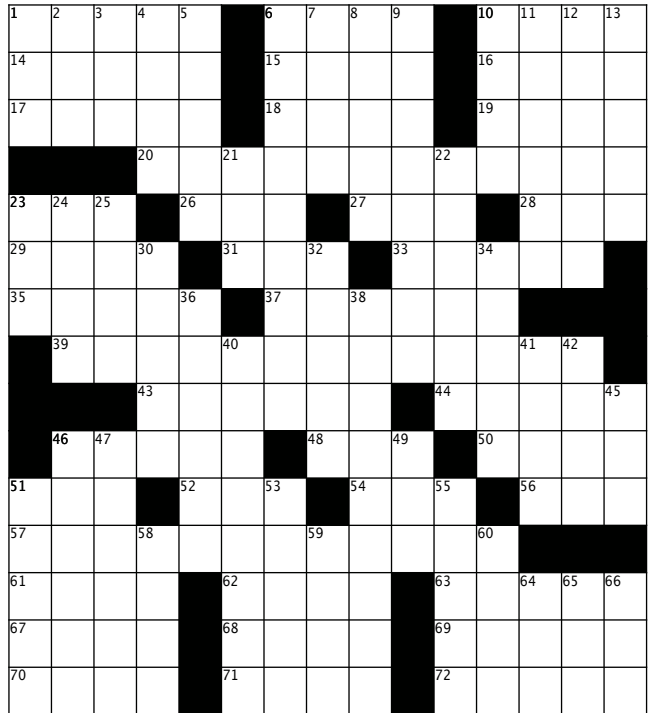
Jamie Hubball

## ACROSS

1. Specks of dust
6. lead-in to boy
10. Ancient Syria
14. "Me too"
15. Upsides
16. Que \_\_\_\_
17. Go home alternative
18. Huff and puff
19. They may be exchanged at 39-across
20. 1 Droitwich Road, Feckenham
23. Sick
26. Prefix with -ceps
27. "I'll take that as \_\_\_\_"
28. Home to the Burj Khalifa, for short
29. Near
31. Half of a blackjack
33. 10 \_\_\_\_ or less
35. It's stuck on a grill
37. How one can be loved
39. The Square, Feckenham
43. "Understood"
44. Sign of availability
46. Chest
48. Finish
50. "You've Got Mail" director Ephron
51. Beat
52. 1-1, for example
54. Good news for the bowlers
56. Muscle above an ab
57. 48 High Street, Feckenham
61. Big believer in the freedom of assembly?
62. As above, in citations
63. Letters between thetas and kappas
67. Quibbles
68. \_\_\_\_ Asher-Smith
69. Fairy tale figure
70. Long and short of it
71. It makes an impression
72. "Later!"

## DOWN

1. Flavor-boosting additive, for short



2. Noughts and crosses win
3. Key to advancing one's writing?
4. Give off
5. Vision
6. Candidate
7. It might come with breakfast in bed
8. Island nation near Fiji
9. Floor
10. Home of 60% of the world's people
11. Reverse mantra of "The Shining"
12. Smells
13. En \_\_\_\_
21. Time period
22. Bad news for the bowlers
23. Pen
24. Untruths
25. Rainbow flag initialism
30. Ones who've traveled to Mecca
32. Big name in nail polish
34. Energy giant synonymous with corporate scandal
36. Capital of Colombia
38. "Just pretend everything is fine"
40. Humans, for example
41. Clip partner
42. Register response
45. Tic partner
46. The Chamber of Secrets or The Two Towers
47. Beginnings
49. The Eurythmics were one
51. Dry with a twist
53. Vedder or Van Halen
55. Realises
58. 90° on a compass
59. Wrestling star John
60. \_\_\_\_ of the above
64. Point of a dancer who's en pointe
65. "Arrival" actress Adams
66. Word with level or lion

## Feckenham Spring Flower Show

Saturday 9th April 2022

### SPRINGTIME IN FECKENHAM - COMPETITIVE CLASSES

The Hall will be open from 10.30am until noon for you to stage your exhibits

#### Adult Classes

- 1 3 cut Daffodils - long trumpet (all same variety)
- 2 3 cut Daffodils - short trumpet (all same variety)
- 3 3 cut Daffodils - double (all same variety)
- 4 3 cut miniature spring flowers (all same variety)
- 5 3 cut Tulips (all same variety)
- 6 3 cut flowers (all same variety)
- 7 A Spring arrangement in any container
- 8 A bowl of Spring bulbs
- 9 A pot plant in flower
- 10 A pot plant for foliage effect (no flower)
- 11 1 item – handmade craft – any subject

Exhibits in classes 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 will be returned to you. All other flowers will be auctioned at the end of the Show after prizes have been awarded.

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NO CHILDREN'S CLASSES THIS YEAR.

#### Church flower group Easter Lilies

It has been 2 years since we adorned the whole church for Easter with spring flowers together with beautiful Longiflorum lilies in remembrance of loved ones. The flower group would be pleased to arrange these lilies and we invite anyone wishing to make a donation towards the purchase of them to please contact Ann Matthews 8 The Square, Feckenham B96 6HR tel. No. 01527 892180 (cheques should be made payable to Feckenham P. C. C.)

Thank you for your support and enabling the tradition to continue.  
Margaret and Marg.

**Rosemary Wormington**

*Professional Funeral Celebrant*

Funerals, Celebrations of Life, Memorials, Burials

**07522 836032**

[celebrantrosemary42@gmail.com](mailto:celebrantrosemary42@gmail.com)

## Feckenham Cricket Club – February 2022

“There is always in February some one day, at least, when one smells the yet distant, but surely coming, summer.” Gertrude Jekyll provides encouragement and hope to those involved in cricket, as daylight hours increase and we begin to see the temperature rise. As I write in early February, the square has had its first cut of 2022 and outfield has had its first cut. As you read this, Spring should be properly underway and we can start to imagine sunny afternoons and cricket matches.

The Worcestershire County League have released fixtures for the new season as our fine body of players move towards the end of their gruelling winter fitness regimes in time for the new season to begin again in mid-April. These demi-gods will be ready.

Visitors to the ground will see increased activity – regular mowing will be taking place, the square will be treated to its spring nutrient feed, outside tables and chairs will be cleaned and repaired, hedges and trees will be tidied. The stack of boundary fences near the score-box will have been repaired and moved to join the main group that will receive another coat of white paint in April.

First senior games at the ground will be:

16/04/2022 Feckenham CC 2nd XI  
v Alvechurch & Hopwood CC -  
2nd XI

23/04/2022 Feckenham CC 1st XI  
v Netherton CC, Worcs

30/04/2022 Feckenham CC 2nd XI  
v Stone CC, Worcs - 1st XI

There is also a chance of a pre-season friendly match on 9<sup>th</sup> April and if so this will be confirmed in the next issue of the magazine. If you would like a fixture card, these will be available on the club balcony from early March.

All matches in April will start at 12 noon (after which it will be 12.30pm). Come on down and support your local team, you will be made very welcome.



## Kathy's Collection

A trio of catkins for your delectation. Essentially, catkins are tree flowers which are cross-pollinated by the spring winds. After the winter they are essential food for early bees which play their part in pollination



These are silver birch to be found on the recreation ground. While male catkins hang down, the female catkins are small and erect. And, no. I'm not following that any further – make of it what you will! Birch wood was good for furniture. The twigs were used in brooms and, of course, in the now illegal 'birch' which was a form of punishment both in the home and in prison.

You can find hazel catkins in many local hedgerows, although these are from the bridlepath by Bridge House. Again, the male catkins are long and droopy (known as lamb's tails) and the female small and upright. The pliable stems are used in hurdle and basket making, and as we all know, their cobnuts are deliciously edible.



And finally, this is alder, showing, I think, both male (drooping) and female (small and sturdy) flowers. Very common by streams, this one is growing on the banks of the Bow Brook. Unlike other trees, the wood of the alder actually gets stronger when waterlogged so, historically, it was used in boat building, sluice gates and water pipes.

# Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

## Home Gardening, June 13, 1936

In preparation for our house move in November 2020, we went through all our cupboards, the garage, the loft etc., to eliminate anything we could dispose of to make it easier to pack when the time eventually came.



In one of my chests of drawers I found an old gardening magazine which I think was given to me long ago by someone who knew I was interested in gardening. The magazine was called 'Home Gardening'

and was dated June 13, 1936 - it cost 2d and came out every Friday. It had obviously been going for some time as this issue was Volume 17, No. 432. Now nearly 86 years later it is a fascinating read.

Of the twenty-eight pages, eleven are devoted to advertisements. You could buy a wooden garden barrow for 17/6d, a 10ft x 7ft timber greenhouse for £9 18s 0d, and a portable hexagonal summerhouse for £6 5s 0d. 60ft of solid black ribbed hose, complete with tap union and rose sprayer cost 8/6d.

There are dozens of advertisements for plants. Exhibition Sweet Peas cost 6d for a dozen, or 3/6d for a hundred. Rock Plants

('good clumps') could be had for 4d each and another advertiser offered 25 rock plants for 2/6d post paid. For training roses, a mile of flexible, steel stranded, waterproofed 'government' wire cost 17/6d.

For pest control you could buy Corry's White Fly Death, 'the leading glass-house fumigant' or a product called Renardine which 'protects garden produce from birds and injurious insects'. Limax, at 2/6d for a 7lb drum, 'kills slugs and controls club'. Also available was Quassia Extract at 1/3d a pint. I had never heard of this, so Googled it and found that it is a naturally occurring insecticide derived from boiling chips of *Quassia amara*, a tropical tree, and then removing the chips and using the remaining fluid as a spray.

For weed control you could choose Weed-Death ('better than arsenic') or products called Luda and Eureka, and for a fertiliser you could purchase Ichthemic Guano. Radioliser, described as a 'Radio Active Plant Energiser', could be bought as either a plant fertiliser 'which makes the pictures on the packet come true' or as a Lawn Tonic which 'transforms thin weedy lawns into glorious stretches of thick, fine green grass of perfect colour and texture'. Radio active - crikey!

Most of the articles concentrated on bedding and vegetables, with timely advice and information on propagation, but with scant mention of perennials or trees and shrubs and there are no garden 'personalities' at all. There is a whole page devoted to Readers' Queries, ranging from 'Flowerless Lily of the Valley' to 'Useful Foliage Plants'. An advertisement for a book entitled 'The Children's Garden', priced at five shillings, took my eye as the author was Enid Blyton whose story books I read so avidly as a child.

But what struck me most about the magazine was that the art of gardening itself has changed so very little, only fashion and the costs.

# Stock and Bradley Gardening Club Report



Our speaker for our February meeting was John Tilt who gave a talk entitled 'Searching for British Orchids'. John is the warden for the Grafton Woods Nature Reserve but his interests spread much wider and he gave a wonderful account of the 51 species of orchid to be found in the British Isles. His talk was beautifully illustrated with photographs of many of them as well as maps showing where they can be found.

## **NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 7:30pm**

Our speaker for our March meeting is Julie Ritchie, who owns Hoo House Nursery, just south of Tewkesbury. Julie is a regular speaker at our Club meetings and will give us a talk entitled 'Easy Alpines and Low Growing Perennials'.

The subject of the monthly competition is '3 different early flowers from my garden'.

## **PLANT SALE AT BRADLEY GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

Due to the Covid pandemic we were not able to hold our annual Plant Sale in 2020 and 2021, but we are planning to restart this year. It will be held on Saturday 7th May 2022 from 10am to 12 noon so make a note in your diary now!

Please note that the £5.00 annual subscription became 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.*



# HARDWOOD LOGS FOR SALE

NO DELIVERY CHARGE

TREE TOPPING

HEDGE CUTTING

GARDEN CLEARANCE

Telephone anytime:

**01905 620934**

# Cool Climate

Air Conditioning Systems  
for your Home, Office or Business

Mr Simon Baker

Tel.: 01527 892823 or 07736 447705

E-mail: [simon@coolclimate.co.uk](mailto:simon@coolclimate.co.uk)

Web: <http://www.coolclimate.co.uk>

Can't think what to do with your garden?  
Let me help!



## Claire Ellis Complete Gardens

Design & Planting  
Maintenance & Rejuvenation  
Consultancy

☎ 07773 101750 or 01527 894745

## Feckenham GARAGE



MOT Testing Station  
Servicing & Repairs to all makes

**01527 892483**



## Inkberrow Physiotherapy & Acupuncture

CLINICAL SPECIALIST PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
EXPERIENCED ACUPUNCTURIST  
INDIVIDUALLY TAILORED TREATMENT PLANS  
FLEXIBLE APPOINTMENTS TO SUIT YOU  
RECOGNISED BY MOST HEALTHCARE INSURERS

[www.inkberrowphysioacupuncture.co.uk](http://www.inkberrowphysioacupuncture.co.uk)

T: 01386 792126 M: 07801 993125

## THE IRONING CENTRE



16 Feckenham Road  
Astwood Bank  
(Next to Astwood Smiles Nursery  
The Old Coach House)

IRONING  
LAUNDERING  
DRY CLEANING  
REPAIRS & ALTERATIONS  
COLLECTION & DELIVERY

**01527 894040**

## L.E. Plasterer & Decorator

*all aspects of plastering and decoration undertaken*

*for a free estimate call*

**07909 911833**

**01905 772890**

*realistic prices*

## Fencing

Groundworks – Foundations  
Equestrian – Agricultural – Domestic

Free estimates – over 25y experience

Based locally in Bradley Green

**WD & NM Willison Ltd**

Mob: 07825034320 Tel: 01527 821589

Email: [wvdandnmltd@gmail.com](mailto:wvdandnmltd@gmail.com)

*Barkin in the Bath*  
Dog Grooming

Let me pamper your best friend in my relaxing Grooming Salon



I offer:  
Full Grooms  
Nail Clipping  
Deshedding  
Handstripping  
Teeth Cleaning

**Bradley Green - B96**  
**Tel - 07748634175**

**Direct Floors**  
Home service

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Carpets • Vinyls • Wood-floors • Laminates

- ◆ Mobile showroom to your home
- ◆ Save up to 30% on shop prices
- ◆ Over 3000 samples on our van

Furniture moved & carpets uplifted for OAP'S & disabled free of charge

 **01527-894777**  
[www.direct-floors.co.uk](http://www.direct-floors.co.uk)



**Landscaping**  
**Jeff Annand Contracting Ltd.**

Blockpaving - Ponds - Patios - Groundwork & General Property Maintenance

Free Quotes  
References available  
Fully Insured

**Tel: 07968 668906**  
**or 01527 894745**

**Bennett Decoration**  
Painting & Decorating  
Interior & Exterior  
First Class Work

Tel: 01527 893162  
Mob: 0797 3627269  
Free Estimates



 **CORNELL**  
Established Over 40 Years  
**Chimney Sweep**

Clean & Efficient - Brush & Vacuum  
Competitive Prices - Cowl Fitting

**Graeme Butlin**  
**0121 445 5913**  
**0754 587 6475**  
46 Oxford Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9ER

**BOWBROOK GARDENS**

Imaginative high quality landscaping  
Patios & garden walls  
Ponds & water features  
Also Pond & Patio cleaning  
Fencing & Hedge cutting  
*Local, friendly service, references available*  
**Call Glenn - 07792 613020**  
[glenn.bowbrook@live.com](mailto:glenn.bowbrook@live.com)

**COLOR CODE MOTORS LTD**

Accident repair specialists  
Colour matching 100% guaranteed  
Fleet & commercial vans  
Complete restoration & fibreglass work  
Fully equipped purpose built work shop  
*Established 35 Years*

**Telephone: 01527 854155**  
Email: [colorcodemotors@btconnect.com](mailto:colorcodemotors@btconnect.com)  
Unit A, Green Lane, The Slough, Studley, Warks. B80 7EY

 Building & Roofing  
Maintenance & Repair  
Structural Alterations  
General building work

  
**Venables**  
Property Services

Tel: 07958948460  
07854424667

Mark Venables: Bean Hall Mill, Feckenham

# BRAY BROS

## TREE SURGEONS

TREE SURGERY • HEDGE TRIMMING  
LOPPING, PRUNING • STUMP REMOVAL

TEL: 01527 892828

MOBILE: 07970 263779

184 THE RIDGEWAY, ASTWOOD BANK

FULLY INSURED • NPTC CERT. NO.552670



## Dave Powell Decoration

M: 07747 691461

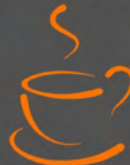
for Quality  
painting and  
decorating



Based in  
Feckenham

E: dave.powell@blueyonder.co.uk

## Village Shop



Coffee Shop with Veranda  
Locally-sourced Products  
Deli, Cakes, Beers and Wines  
Household Essentials

Weekdays open 8am - 5pm  
Saturdays open 9am - 4pm  
Sundays open 10am - 1pm



[www.feckenhamshop.co.uk](http://www.feckenhamshop.co.uk)

01527 894475

Please support the Shop that supports the Village

## JONATHAN SPROULE DEVELOPMENTS

(MASTER BUILDERS)

SPECIALISTS IN INDIVIDUAL, CHARACTER,  
TIMBER FRAME & PERIOD PROPERTIES

*30 Years Experience*

BESPOKE & INDIVIDUAL NEW BUILDS  
RENOVATIONS AND CONVERSIONS  
EXTENSIONS AND ALTERATIONS

TIMBER/OAK FRAME OUTBUILDINGS/GARAGES  
BARN CONVERSIONS



Mere Green Cottage, Hanbury, Droitwich, Worcs. WR9 7DZ

Tel: 07973 445048

Email: [sarah@jonathansproulebuilders.co.uk](mailto:sarah@jonathansproulebuilders.co.uk)

[www.jonathansproulebuilders.co.uk](http://www.jonathansproulebuilders.co.uk)