



# FECKENHAM

March 2023

# NEWS

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

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# Feckenham News in March

## Dates for your Diary

### March

10th	Fecknodeon
12th	Feckenham Village Showcase
14th	Readers Group
20th	WI
25th	Fecknodeon
29th	S&B Village Natters

### May

6th	Coronation Event TBC
	George Egg's Set Menu

### June

24th	Feckenham Wake
------	----------------

### July

15th	Fun on the Square
------	-------------------

### Regular Sessions

Mondays	Restorative Yoga
Wednesdays	Playgroup
Thursdays	Bridge; Hatha Yoga; Pilates
Fridays	Meditation Class
First Tuesday of the month:	
Lunch Club, Feckenham Sessions and Feckenham Forest History Society	
First and Third Wednesday: Community Chior	
Third Monday of the month: WI	
2nd and 4th Fridays : Erstwhile Morris dancers	

## Production Team

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## Contents

	Page
Editor's note	4
Feckenham Directory	5
Square Management	5
Moors Lane Allotments	5
Church Matters	6-8
Spring Fllower Show	8
Fecknodeon and Swansbrook	9
Village Hall: WI	10
Introducing...	11
Kathy's Collection	12
Feckenham Archive	13
What's On	14-15
Morris Dancers: Children's Corner	16
Parish Council	17
Readers Group	17
Feckenham Wake	18
S&B What's On	20
Village Shop	21
Gardening	22-24

## Front Cover

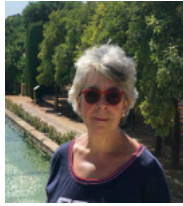
Photo : Snowdrops by the editor

Magazine online at [www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

Many articles in Feckenham News are contributed by members of the public. They remain the responsibility of the writers and neither the production team nor the publishers can be held responsible for the views and assertions contained therein.

## Editor's Note

Firstly may I explain why the magazine arrived so late last month. We changed printer to one who is more economic while offering a good quality print.



Unfortunately they were let down by the delivery company who lost or damaged the parcels in transit - it's rather opaque what actually happened. Suffice to say it was the same company whose driver somehow followed the bridle path to the bridge at the Whirly Hole. It was a long tale of woe but not the printers' error. We are staying with them this month in hope that it all goes smoothly.

In a piece of good news, the Parish Council now has a shiny new website up and running. The village magazine back catalogue to 2012 is available to view and even download if you so desire. Go take a look at <https://www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk/>



I'm so pleased that Spring is getting going. We aren't so cold, so the fuel bills will soon be going down. More importantly, each time I go out, there's a little more life coming back. The snowdrops have been flowering for a few weeks now and the

crocuses have followed. I see the crocuses planted two years ago by Feckenham in Bloom on the green are coming up nicely. I even saw a bee feeding on them this week. Though today, as I write, the rain has returned, last weekend we stopped during a beautiful walk, which I can recommend, near Abberley on the Worcestershire Way for a little picnic. The first of 2023. So much warmth to look forward to. I hope that, not only the weather will be better, but the

state of the world will improve in comparison to the last few difficult years which have been blighted by the pandemic, war and climate change.

Finally, you'll see a message from the Wake committee looking for someone willing to take on the car show as Chris Nicholson is stepping down. It would be such a shame to lose this part of the Wake which is a draw and enjoyed by so many. So, don't be shy, if you are at all interested in helping, put your hand up and get in touch with Julian Bull. You'll not be alone: there are people willing to give support.



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Text: 07548 673 685

# The Feckenham DIRECTORY

## YOUR DIRECTORY'S HERE!

The new edition of The Feckenham Directory is enclosed with this magazine. It contains contact details for almost all of the village's organisations and services. The online version will be available soon at the new Parish Council website. The online version can be updated at any time so, if things change or you're involved in something new, you can let us know and we'll make alterations or additions. Check out:

[www/feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www/feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

# The Feckenham SHOWCASE

**Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March**  
**11pm to 4pm**

**Feckenham Village Hall**

Find out what makes your village tick.

For one day only all the organisations and individuals who make things happen in the village will be gathered under one roof to show you what they do and how they do it.

A village like Feckenham operates on volunteer power. Everything from the shop to the sports clubs, cinema to allotments and from the Parish Council to The Wake all depend on people giving their time, labour and expertise for free. Come along and see how it's done - who knows, you may find something you'd like to try your hand at - or you might find something that you didn't know was available so close to home.

There'll be demonstrations and displays with people on hand to chat to and there'll be things to have a go at.

There'll be teas and cakes for the adults and the kids can enjoy a Puppet Making Workshop with Professor Clive Chandler (the Wake's Punch & Judy man). We hope it'll make for a fun day for everyone.

If you're new to the village or a long standing Feckenhamster please drop in and find out how Feckenham, your village, works and enjoys itself.

## Feckenham Square Management Committee

### NO HORSES PLEASE

Jay Neale, Chair of the Square Management Committee writes:

"Horse riders - could we respectfully request that horses are not ridden or left to graze on the green. Whilst we all welcome horses in and around the village, and there is no intention to cause any offence, it causes some damage to the grass and bulbs and its amenity for other users, especially during the winter months which I hope you can appreciate. Thanks in advance for your cooperation."

### FUN AHEAD

The lazy hazy days of summer may seem far off but the Square Committee are planning ahead. Put 15<sup>th</sup> July in your diary - that's the date for Fun on The Square, 2023. More details will follow soon.

## Moors Lane Allotments

### GROW YOUR OWN VEGETABLES

Come and join us at our community allotments. Manageable plots, friendly gardeners, some tools provided, great views of the Malverns. Space in a Polytunnel for starting seeds in spring and growing Tomatoes in summer. Starting at £25, great value for a countryside haven!

For more details contact Judy Hooker on 01527 892130 or email [judyhooker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:judyhooker@hotmail.co.uk).



# 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

## Services for March 2023

5 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am	Eucharist	Rev John Green
12 <sup>th</sup> March	9.00am	BCP Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading
19 <sup>th</sup> March	6.30pm	Evensong	Fiona Carter
26 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading

## FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St John Fisher & Thomas More

Due to illness, Mass will not be held at St John Fisher and Thomas More until further notice.

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

Link: [www.eventcast.uk/live](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 Matters

### The Ceiling in the Church.

Following the fall of plaster from the Nave ceiling last August, the Architect reported that there was a risk of further falls with potential to cause injury. He therefore recommended that unless immediate permanent repairs could be undertaken, protective netting should be installed to catch any more falls of plaster. Cooper-Whyte Conservation of Lichfield have now been appointed to install translucent bird netting under all areas of the Nave ceiling. They will start work on Monday 6 March and expect to require two weeks. It will therefore be necessary to close the church during that time with no access at all.

The PCC have instructed the Architect to prepare proposals and budget cost estimates for the permanent repairs to the ceilings and also for renewing the all the external roof coverings. This will be a major project involving significant fund raising and may take some years to fulfil.

Ian Hunter Feckenham PCC

### Easter Lilies

Easter Sunday is on 9th April for which the Church Flower Group will be arranging spring flowers together with lilies in memory of loved ones.

This year there is a change to where donations should be posted - would you please send them to Shirley Harman, Honeysuckle House, 33 High Street, Feckenham B96 6HN. Clearly marked 'Easter Lilies' and to whom the donation is in memory of. (Cheques should be made payable to Feckenham P.C.C.)

Thank you for your support enabling this tradition to continue.

Margaret and Marg

### Thanks from the Trussell Trust for funds raised by the Village Christmas Card

Ann Matthews received a letter from the Trussell Trust acknowledging and thanking us for the gift of £1250.00 in support of the Trussell Trust.

"With your help we support a network of food banks across the UK and together we provide emergency food parcels and support to people locked in poverty. We are incredibly grateful that around 800 of our food banks are run from local church buildings and 79% of our food banks receive donations and financial support.

Lisa Neaverson

Supporter Care Manager"



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**Tuesday, 7th March - 8pm**  
**TRADITIONAL MUSIC**  
**Friday, 17th March**  
**ST PATRICKS NIGHT**  
Bacon & Cabbage - Guinness & Jamesons  
**6 Nations Rugby** showing in the bar  
Final Super Saturday Games **Saturday, 18th March**  
**Sunday, 19th March**  
**MOTHER'S DAY**  
Full Menus & Roasts - 12noon to 3pm

---

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

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. A Leaflet containing details of the Lent Course and Services can be found in church, please pop by and take one.  
May God Bless you and walk with you this Lent.

## Feckenham Spring Flower Show

Saturday 1st April 2023

### SPRINGTIME IN FECKENHAM - COMPETITIVE CLASSES

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

- 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.**

## The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



### FLICKERING AWAY...

Members of Bradford Movie Makers – a British, amateur film making club – grow old together amid flickering memories. Clinging to their dreams, and to each other, fuelled by endless cups of tea, this gently comedic, profoundly moving portrait of shared artistic folly speaks to the escapist dreamer in us all and to the enduring power of face-to-face time together, in an increasingly lonely, digital age. A film full of character and characters and a demonstration of good old British dogged determination. (UK 2022)

### A BUNCH OF AMATEURS (12A)

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> March - 8pm



### VERA GETS HIGH..

When life is unkind and things turn out not to be as you expect them to be you might be forgiven for bending the law. Grace has green fingers. In this British comedy Matthew has some plants Grace can grow. So she grows them.... Very successfully. Will she be caught out? Will the WI every recover from Grace's scones? Brenda Blethyn is Grace in a role far removed from her popular TV detective, Vera. (UK 2000)

### SAVING GRACE (15)

Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> March - 7.30pm

*Tickets for all FeckenOdeon films 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](http://www.fecknodeon.co.uk)**

Feckenham's Own...



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

**SWANSBROOK** Radio

## IT COULD BE YOU!

Swansbrook Radio will be at the Feckenham Showcase event on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March - and we'll be LIVE on air from the Showcase. We'll be presenting our programmes from the "studio" at the Village Hall. We'll be talking to the people manning the various displays, playing some lovely music and giving YOU the chance to star! Pop into our studio and you can have a go at introducing your favourite music track LIVE on air.

We're hoping that the broadcast will give you a taste of what's on offer in Feckenham - even if you can't attend the event in person. There'll also be an hour of recorded highlights to available to listen to from Monday 13<sup>th</sup>, March.

All of our presenters will be there - drop in for a chat and tell us what you'd like to hear on Feckenham's Own Swansbrook Radio.

### Feckenham Showcase - LIVE

Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March - 11am to 4pm

To listen go to [swansbrook.com](http://swansbrook.com) and click the play button at the top of the page.

## A NEW VOICE

Joining the station is Laura Carney. Laura, who lives in Droitwich Road, will soon be presenting a new programme of lively music and chat designed for younger Feckenham folk. Laura's a popular music graduate who, in real life, is an events organiser. Watch out for Laura's launch!

## 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)**

## Feckenham Village Hall

### FULL STEAM AHEAD

The Village Hall is now operating at almost the same level as it was before the pandemic put the brakes on in early 2020. Regular activities include a highly successful Toddler Group on Wednesday mornings, Bridge Clubs on Wednesdays and Thursdays, Yoga sessions on Mondays and Thursdays, Pilates also on Thursdays, Art Classes on Wednesdays and Meditation sessions on Friday evenings. That's on top of various monthly and occasional bookings for the WI, Parish Council, History Society, etc. Studley Operatic Society have been rehearsing at the Hall since Christmas and there's been a dramatic increase in the number of children's parties held at the Hall. Once again we find that we have one of the busiest community halls in the county. To enquire about hiring the Hall call Liz Teisen on 01527 821233 or check [www.feckhall.org](http://www.feckhall.org)

### CORONATION COOKERY

It won't have escaped your notice that there's a Coronation on **6<sup>th</sup> May** - a day full of pomp and ceremony - so it may be a relief to learn that you can escape all that in the evening. **George Egg**, chef extraordinaire, will be whipping up a spectacular meal in his own inimitable style using anything but conventional implements - think cement mixers and blowtorches... George has cooked for royalty but has chosen to cook for us!

### GEORGE EGG'S SET MENU

**Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm**

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)

### IMPROVEMENT FUND DRAW

The February draw took place at the meeting of the Trustees on 7<sup>th</sup> February with the following results:

1 <sup>st</sup> (£25)	30	Ian & Sue Ridley
2 <sup>nd</sup> (£15)	112	Eunice O'Brien
3 <sup>rd</sup> (£10)	208	John & Sue Ross

## WI- Jen Cary

Our February meeting was a talk by 'The Compost King' Mick Poultney. Mick took us through a year on his extremely productive and low maintenance Halesowen allotment. A highlight from his very interesting talk was how to have compost ready within 1 month of the container being full. We are all now inspired ready for the imminent growing season!



Our next meeting is on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March and will be an Easter craft session where we shall be blowing and dyeing eggs for Easter decorations.

*Our meetings are every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month and are held in the back room of Feckenham Village Hall. Doors open 7.45pm and meetings start at 8pm. Members are free, guests are £5*

## Swansbrook Suite

### Guest Accommodation

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with double bed, ensuite bathroom with walk in shower, kitchenette, TV and Wifi.

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## Introducing... Debbie Watton

So, what would you do if you couldn't take a good photo of your young curly coated retriever? I'd try again I suppose till I got something half reasonable. Not Debbie Watton. She signed up for a Worcester

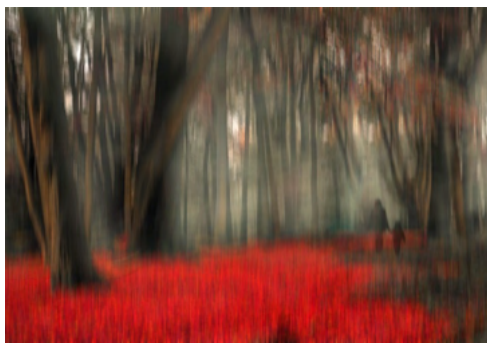


College photography night class and has become an expert. At first she realised she liked photo-editing but more recently she has taken up painting botanicals. She is a member of the Feckenham Artisans. Feckenhamsters will be familiar with some of her work as she kindly let us use a picture she made for the Christmas card which sold so well in the shop last year and the notelets, also available in the shop, are her work.

Debbie grew up in Kidderminster and her husband, John hails from Morton Baggot - neither far from Feckenham. The name Watton, is unusual and you may have noticed it is the name uncovered on the draper's shop on the High Street. We did wonder if John's family might be related. They have moved around a bit. They lived in the village from 2008-2013, spent some time in Cornwall, eventually returning to Feckenham just after lockdown when they bought Forest Cottage which, to many of us, is also called Antonia and John's house. They run an online retail business.

Debbie had always been interested in Arts and Crafts. She did an art A'level at school and always liked to visit Art and Craft fairs. Though her photos are digital, each piece is unique and will only be sold once, then the image de commissioned and archived. Her technique involves editing the original photo, adding or removing parts, and, using multiple overlays and blending techniques

to make the image appear like it has been painted. She also enjoys taking abstract photography which is mainly created in camera. She has a website: <http://www.digicamartz.co.uk> where her work is available to purchase.



Her work has been in various shows and competitions. Last year she exhibited at Bromsgrove Creative Art Showcase, won first prize in the digital section and sold the piece into the bargain. She has also been shortlisted in the Royal Birmingham Society of Arts Gallery 2023 photography competition and will be exhibiting there for a month very soon. She is also a member of the Birmingham Society of Botanical Artists where she is learning the art of drawing and painting botanicals.

What talent we have in the village.



## Kathy's Collection



To find this bridge, go through Hanbury up through the woods at Dodderhill Common and take the first left down Astwood Lane. At the end of the narrow road, park on the muddy triangle. This is the view north, Astwood Top Lock is to the south.

To find these beautiful winter reflections, park behind the Droitwich Leisure Centre, WR9 0RZ. Take the path under the bridge and continue to the south west. Lots of birds and far enough from the bypass to be not too noisy!



And finally, somewhat further away, park on the canal bridge just before Wilmcote station, just outside Stratford. You can even do a round trip, walking to Stratford then getting the train back. Or vice versa of course.



This postcard of the Old School House in Mill Lane is understandably of interest to me! This probably dates back to the thirties and shows where that much has changed as the boundary is shown by the rail fencing. However, it remains unmistakably the Old School House. The School was built in 1611 and endowed by Charles 1 for the Blue Coat boys. A stained glass window in the Feckenham Church has a depiction of the King giving the Charter for the School.

Still a school in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the it advertised for a Head teacher, "*Feckenham School will reopen for young gentlemen on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1803. Wanted immediately: a person of good, sober moral character capable of teaching classics*". On Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> the Feckenham Showcase event in the Village Hall will include some of the Digital Archive photos of people and homes from the past.



# WHAT'S ON IN

## The Feckenham SHOWCASE

### IT ALL HAPPENS IN FECKENHAM!

COME AND MEET THE PEOPLE  
WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

There'll be

**DISPLAYS, EXHIBITS & DEMONSTRATIONS**

from CLUBS & SOCIETIES, ARTS & SPORTS GROUPS and LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Learn about our FESTIVALS, EVENTS, SHOWS AND COMPETITIONS

A fun day for everyone with...

**TEAS, COFFEES AND CAKES**

*and for the kids...*

**PROFESSOR CHANDLER'S**

**PUPPET MAKING WORKSHOP**

COME ALONG AND FIND OUT HOW YOUR VILLAGE WORKS

**SUNDAY, 12th MARCH, 2023**

**FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL - 11am TO 4pm**

**FECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**



The Feckenham Forest  
History Society

**BROMSGROVE**  
**THE HISTORY OF A MARKET TOWN**

An illustrated talk by Julian Hunt

Tuesday, 14th February - 7.30pm

Webheath Village Hall

**ERSTWHILE**



**BORDER MORRIS**

NEW - Twice monthly Sessions

at Feckenham Village Hall

Starting in March 2023

## SPRING FLOWER SHOW

Feckenham Village Hall

Saturday, 1st April at 2.30pm

Display of Spring Flowers - Stalls - Raffle - Teas



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Next Meeting - 20th March  
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8pm - Feckenham Village Hall

Feckenham Parish  
Council  
**MEETING**

Thursday, 2nd March at 7.30 pm  
Feckenham Village Hall, Back Room

*For the agenda of this meeting, minutes of  
past meetings and other information  
please visit:*

[www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

Feckenham READERS GROUP

Meets on  
Tuesday, 14th March - 7.45

This month's book:

**PIRANESI**

By Susan Clarke

Details: 892285



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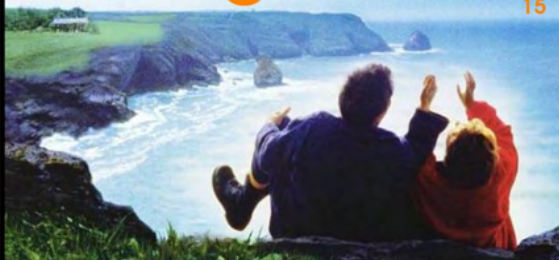
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**FeckenOdeon 2 Friday, 10th March at 8pm**

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## Erstwhile Border Morris

Erstwhile, from the Old English words 'aer' and 'hwil', means from a former time. Indeed, some believe the earliest mention of Morris dancing to be from 1448. Our aim, in this new Morris side, is to ensure that the age-old tradition of Morris dancing continues and at the same time adapts to be a more modern showcase of English traditional dancing.

In Erstwhile we put our own twist on traditional folk dances with most of these dances originating from traditional border Morris dances - a form of Morris dancing that comes from the border between England and Wales. We have choreographed a number of our own dances too, taking inspiration from traditional border dance figures. At the heart of our side are 8 musicians who play a variety of instruments from recorder to double bass and all give support to our dancers with an extensive collection of folk tunes.

Erstwhile was formed in September 2021 with just 4 members and we are very proud of the achievements we have made already. Our members have increased to a total of 15 with people of all ages and genders. We have performed at 2 folk festivals and supported a dance out with another local long standing North West Morris Side, Nancy Butterfly. In November, last year, we danced for the Feckenham Women's Institute which was very well attended and all members took part and had great fun.

In the future, we hope to perform at more folk festivals and local events, and we even have our sights on possible dance-outs abroad. We are eager to develop our repertoire of dances and tunes to ensure this wonderful tradition is kept alive.

Finally, we aim to inspire more members to join our side and hope they come to feel as passionately about the joy Morris dancing can bring to both spectator and participant as we do!

If you are interested in trying Morris Dancing, then please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are always looking for new members to join the side and no previous experience is required! We practice every second and fourth Friday of the month at Feckenham Village Hall from 7pm-9pm

## Children's Corner - Editor

### PLAYDOUGH RECIPE

I used to make this when my children were small and now do the same with my grandchildren. It's easy and much cheaper than buying ready-made dough. They will play for hours with it.

#### Ingredients:

1 cup plain flour  
1 cup water  
½ cup salt  
2 tspn cream of tartar (optional)  
1 tbspn oil  
Food colouring

#### Method:

Put all the ingredients except the colouring in a pan, warm till thickened and then knead. Split the dough into portions and add the colouring of your choice to each ball.

## Parish Council

In May there will be Parish Council elections, this time it is different as you will need to have photo ID. There is a list of accepted forms at [www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need](http://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need)

If you do not have any forms of photo identification you can apply for a voter ID certificate using this link [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate). If you wish to apply for this you must do so by 5pm Tuesday 25th April. If you have any difficulty with the form or photo, you can ask the Borough Council for help or the Parish Clerk, you will need to be registered as a voter on the electoral role.

Local councils can only be as helpful, connected and energetic as the people elected to run them, so we need councillors capable, enthusiastic and engaged to reflect their communities. You can find out more about becoming a councillor on The Electoral Commission and Local Government Association website. There are three ways that you can become a councillor; standing for election, filling a vacant seat after an election (co-opted) or filling a casual vacancy.

Recently the Parish Council met with WCC Cllr Mike Rouse, Lloyd Stone (West Mercia Police) and Paul Waterhouse (West Mercia Police-Traffic Management Advisor | Road Safety Team) to discuss the on-going traffic issues. The B4090 is deemed unsafe for Community Speed Watch. WCC Cllr Rouse has asked for further speed testing along Astwood Lane. Depending upon the results it may be possible to look at Community Speed

Watch, but it will depend upon the results. As soon as the parish council receive this information it will be shared at the following meeting, this may not necessarily be in March.

The Parish Council website is now live and information on the Parish Council is readily available. If you cannot find the answer to your question, there is a contact us form and the clerk will respond. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public and Parishioners have an opportunity during the public forum to ask questions.

## Readers Group



This month the group read *The Word is Murder* by Anthony Horowitz. Horowitz is best known as a successful screen writer with credits including *Foyle's War* but also his teen novels like the *Alex Rider* series as well as his adult novels, more than 40 works to date. The group generally enjoyed his easy style in this book but also it's clever take on the detective story. No spoilers here!

Next month's meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> March and the book we are discussing is *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke.

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## Feckenham Wake

Looking forward to sunnier times, this year's Wake will be held on 24th June.



We are looking for any car mad folk to help out with stewarding and/or management of the successful Classic Car Show that forms a big part of the day. After many years of sterling service building up this event, Chris Nicholson is looking for a rest from these duties so if you are interested in helping out in any way please contact me in the first instance [julianbull.777@gmail.com](mailto:julianbull.777@gmail.com)



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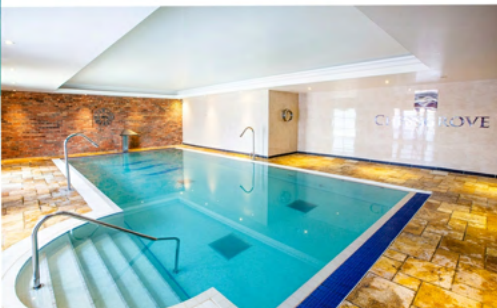
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Coronation Event—May 8th (Details TBC); Summer Social—June 24th (Details TBC)

### Regular Events & Activities

Puppy Training—Sunday mornings 11.00am

Pilates—Friday mornings 11.00

Dog Training— Monday evenings 6.00pm

Yoga—Tuesday Evenings (TBA)

Scottish Country Dancing—Thursday nights 7.30pm

Art class—Monday mornings 9.30am

Zumba—Tuesday Mornings 10.30am

Gardening club—Wednesday evenings 7.30pm

Drop-in Social—Wednesday mornings 10.00am

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## Feckenham Village Shop - Alan Slater

Last week I read an interesting newspaper article that compared the strength and quality of coffee sold by the four most popular high street coffee chains. You know, the ones that sell froth with a hint of coffee and charge you about £4 a cup, unless it's at a motorway service station and then best take out a second mortgage! The researcher was scathing in his criticism of all the coffee on offer, a view that was echoed by many of the customer comments that were also included in the article. Those customers obviously haven't visited our village café, where for under £3 you can enjoy excellent tasting coffee from freshly ground beans sourced from a local coffee merchant. We know how good it is from the regular feedback we receive from our satisfied customers, however, you may not know that you can also enjoy our coffee at home.



You can purchase the same coffee we use in 250 g bags, either ready ground or if you prefer whole beans and you have your own grinder. At the reasonable price of between £3.65 and £5.50 a bag, you can even afford to buy one of our souvenir china mugs to enhance the experience of having a proper coffee. Alternatively, drop by and we'll make it for you.

I'm sure that we have all been moved by the harrowing scenes in the recent news coverage from Turkey and Syria. There are insufficient words to describe the horror and suffering being endured by millions in both countries. They are some of the most vulnerable people on the planet, so if you wish to make a donation to the Earthquake Appeal, we have placed a British Red Cross collection box on the Shop counter. Any amount, large or small, will be gratefully received.

I mentioned last month that Margaret Green was again knitting her lovely Easter Bunnies for charity. Margaret has decided that this year all the money she raises will be donated to the Earthquake Appeal. A wonderful gesture, so please give her your support as well.



Hope to see you all in the Shop this month.



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## An Organic Allotment by Pete Delaney

March being the month in which the Spring equinox occurs and the days at last become longer than the nights, is the beginning of the main sowing season. It is also the beginning of the season I have found the most difficult to target with fresh seasonal produce. The leeks and parsnips have just come to the end of their harvest, both give us a good two-and-a-half months winter produce.

This month I shall sow this year's parsnip crop. They are difficult to germinate (don't expect to see them for at least 3 weeks) and sometimes take more than one sowing for success. But ones growing efforts are rewarded next Winter.

Leeks are also slow germinate. I sow plenty in trays and once they are big enough to handle I transplant them into pots. I keep as many as I can in the polytunnel ready to plant out in a prepared bed in June. I had such an abundant crop of Jerusalem



Artichokes (one plant had 36 tubers) I have had to harvest the last of them before they start growing, keeping a few back to make this year's crop. Some say once you have them you can't get rid of them but I think the more the merrier as they make a great winter harvest when the spuds have run out. Garlic, I plant out in November and it's great to see it leading the way shooting up through the late winter. One great winter success for us was pickles. We thought we had made too much but eating runner beans, courgettes and onions from jars all winter was a joy. This year I shall sow especially for

pickles and chutneys. To try to have produce available during the last of the winter barren-ness. With this in mind in February, I planted shallot sets in the bed prepared for them. I grow three rows of 12 and pickle them all. End of February or beginning of March I also plant out my main crop onion sets, which I shall at first cover with cloches to protect them from late frosts and the late April/ early May blight of the Onion Fly who will ruin your onion crop if they get the chance to lay their eggs on them. In the first half of March I shall plant out early and second early potatoes and later in the month the main crop of potatoes. Also this month I sow indoor and outdoor cucumbers and peppers and this year's summer and autumn cabbages, all in trays or pots in the polytunnel. Outside under cloche cover at first I sow chard, early lettuces and mustard, all of which I do secondary sowing next month to grow a continued summer supply.

We harvest our salads by picking away outer leaves from all the plants. When any particular plant starts to grow up to seed we then cut the whole head. This lengthens the harvest period of each plant. Aside from sowing and planting, this month is spent feeding and preparing the beds in which I show grow everything else. This includes forking and feeding the ground in the polytunnel where I shall plant indoor crops. Back outside I shall keep throwing vegetable peelings, muck, ashes and greenery into my runner beans compost trench, have a tidy up and keep warm by burning last season's rubbish.



# Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

better. Some of the walk can be taken along surfaced roads if you prefer, and this is a good way to see local front gardens, too.

At this time of the year, there are plenty of other wild flowers to appreciate along the way and we encountered Celandines, Lady's Smock, Wood Anemone, Marsh Marigold, Dog Violet and many others as well as early butterflies such as the Comma, Brimstone, and Small Tortoiseshell, all fresh from hibernation.

For anyone interested in wild flowers in late March or early April, a walk along The Daffodil Way around Kempley and Dymock in Gloucestershire is a memorable experience.

The route was formalised in 1988 with the support of local authorities, farmers and landowners, and follows a roughly circular route of about 10km along existing rights of way. Apart from being an interesting and varied route, the principal attraction is the display of wild daffodils, *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, a plant which used to be widespread and common in the 16th century but which is now confined to a few scattered localities. In the 1930's the Great Western Railway would run 'Daffodil Special' tourist trains from London to the area around Newent, Dymock and Ledbury, and the region became known as the 'Golden Triangle'.

The local villages now get together and promote the Daffodil Way each year at flowering time as an attraction, but the route is open at any time throughout the year. The period of flowering varies from year to year depending upon weather conditions, so take that into account if you are planning to see the daffodils at their best. Information about the 2023 Kempley Daffodil Weekend, 18th and 19th March, can be found at [www.daffs.org.uk](http://www.daffs.org.uk).

The walk is very varied, in places going through open fields, and elsewhere through or alongside woodland. We found it very useful to have an Ordnance Survey map with us so that we could track where we were and stay on the route. The last time we did the walk we took our Samsung tablet with us, with a Google map downloaded on to it which proved even



We stopped for coffee and cake along the way at both Kempley and Dymock where the locals get together to provide facilities for the walkers on specified dates. There are manned car parks in local fields and even conducted tours if you prefer to walk the route with a leader who knows the area and all of the interesting stories it can offer. It's all very well organised. You can walk the route at any time, but the Daffodil Weekend dates offer these additional facilities.

We have walked the route on three occasions over recent years and can thoroughly recommend it as an opportunity to see not just wild daffodils but other early spring wild flowers, and beautiful countryside too.



Our speaker for our February meeting was Duncan Coombs who gave us a talk on 'The Spring Garden' showing us the wide variety of plants which flower early in the year. As well as very fine photographs, he also brought specimens to show us and to test our knowledge.

## **NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 7:30pm**

Our March meeting is a talk by Simon Gulliver entitled 'All Year Round Fruit and Veg'. Simon will demonstrate how March is an ideal time to start growing fruit and vegetables, both in the garden and on an allotment.

The subject for the monthly competition is 'A Flowering Spring Bulb - cut flower(s) or growing in a pot.'

Membership of the Gardening Club is currently by £5.00 annual subscription which becomes due on 1st January each year, so please come prepared to renew. 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 2023. 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.*



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The large ash bough has been trimmed back, removing the risk of dead elements dropping onto the road.

The mix of wet and boggy conditions with freezing temperatures has made ground work difficult but it was possible to test the towed gang mowers early in February. Mowing of the square cannot be far off now.

We had a visit from Total Play, a firm specialising in artificial practice facilities, to discuss what they could offer by way of a 2-lane installation at the top of the ground. Alongside this, we are engaging in a pre-planning exercise with Redditch Borough Council, to be followed by a full planning application. New practice facilities will be of great value to our youngsters in particular, removing the need for grass wickets to be prepared and providing a consistent bounce and therefore safe environment to improve their game.

Such facilities are very expensive and so we are running fund raisers with a major example being a Pre-Season Quiz, which will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April (moved from March 18<sup>th</sup>) and open to teams of up to six people. Look out for the posters nearer the date.

As the season approaches our senior players have been training at indoor nets in Evesham, having diligently followed their personal diet sheets and exercise plans provided by the club's physio team after the conclusion of last season.

At the younger end, the junior section is also busy with preparations. With several age groups to manage, we would welcome assistance with coaching, especially at the younger age group (under 9s). Anyone interested in this can us via the club's Facebook page or by email to [feckenhamcc@outlook.com](mailto:feckenhamcc@outlook.com).

Finally, the club is open to anybody wishing to play cricket an any level - contact can be made as described above.

## Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose!

### From a magazine in Spring 2013:

Following the PACT post box in the village shop, the Camera safety partnership have obtained speed data of vehicles through the village. As a result of this Feckenham has been added to the Camera safety partnerships community concern programme. They will commence enforcement at some point in the not too distant future. With regards to the potholes in the area, I note that Highways have identified holes that need to be repaired. We have had a spate of crime in the area including thefts from vehicles and farm buildings. I would ask that residents be extra vigilant and report any suspicious vehicles/ persons in the area and not to leave property in vehicles. A reminder that Redditch residents can obtain smart water kits, (a property marking system) from Redditch Town Hall for £15. The new Police number for non emergency calls is 101. Alternatively information can be passed anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.





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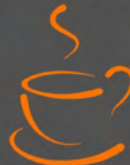
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