

FECKENHAM

MARCH 2020

News



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village
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A. Pullen

• MEMORIALS •

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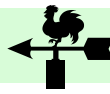
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MARCH Diary



Mon 2 nd	7.30-9pm	Lent <i>together</i> 'Wilderness Grace'	Catholic Church
Tues 3 rd	12.30pm	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Wed 4 th	7.30pm	Stock & Bradley Gardening Club	Bradley Village Hall
Mon 9 th	7.30-9pm	Lent <i>together</i> 'Wilderness Grace'	Catholic Church
Thur 12 th	7.30pm	Feckenham WI	Village Hall, Back Room
Fri 13 th	8pm	FeckenOdeon-2	Village Hall Back Room
Tues 10 th	7.30pm	Feckenham Forest History Society	Webheath Village Hall
Sun 15 th	7.30pm	The Victorians	Village Hall
Mon 16 th	7.30-9pm	Lent <i>together</i> 'Wilderness Grace'	Catholic Church
Sat 21 st	9.30 - 4.30	Art, Design & Makers Group	Village Hall
Mon 25 th	7.30-9pm	Lent <i>together</i> 'Wilderness Grace'	Catholic Church
Sat 28 th	2.30pm	FeckenOdeon Family Matinee	Village Hall
Sat 28 th	7.30pm	FeckenOdeon	Village Hall
Mon 30 th	7.30-9pm	Lent <i>together</i> 'Wilderness Grace'	Catholic Church

APRIL

Thur 2 nd		Charity Quiz	Rose & Crown
Sat 4 th		Spring Flower Show	Village Hall

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Front Cover

Men from Burcot Lane
Nurseries planting the new tree
on The Square.
Photo by Arthur Hind

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They remain the responsibility of the
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therein.

Church Services MARCH

PARISH CHURCH
of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



Rector: Rev Wyn Beynon **07595 313035**

Parish Administrator Wychebrook Parishes & assistant Minister: Angela Kovacevic
01527 861247 or 07808 708428 email: angelakov2202@gmail.com

Please contact for Weddings, Baptism & Funerals

Church website: www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk **Email:** info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

Readers and Intercessors

Sunday 1st
Lent 1

11.00am Holy Communion
Genesis 2:15-17, 3: 1-7
Romans 5: 12-19
Intercessions

Michael Goode
David Street
Jenny Goode
Lin Preece



Sunday 8th
Lent 2

8.00am BCP Eucharist
I Thessalonians 4:1

Barbara Wheatley
Mark Wheatley

11.00am Worship for All
Reading TBC
Intercessions

Fiona Carter
Erica Dilger
Pat Onions

Sunday 15th
Lent 3

6.30pm Sung Evensong
Romans 5: 1-11
John 4: 5-42
Intercessions

Peter Charlesworth
Patricia Collins
Gerry East
Jeff Matthews

Sunday 22nd March
Mothering Sunday

11.00am Holy Communion
Samuel 16: 1-13
Ephesians 5: 8-14
Intercessions

Wyn Beynon
Oliver White
Angela Fletcher
Ian Hunter

Sunday 29th
Lent 4

10.30am Wychebrook Parishes Eucharist at Feckenham

Wyn Beynon

Feckenham Roman Catholic Church

St John Fisher & St. Thomas More



Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 10.15am in the Church
Fr. Anthony Rohan, The Presbytery, Redditch. Tel. 01527 63096
Local contact—Phyllis Mott, Feckenham. Tel. 01527 893898

Square Management Committee

GREAT OAKS AND SOME GRAVEL

As you can see from the cover picture, a new tree has been planted on The Square. This replaces the felled Horse Chestnut. The Committee will be watering and cossetting it to ensure that it grows to match its predecessor.

On 29th February the Committee will be taking delivery of a load of gravel which will be used to refurbish the gravel road down the side of The Square. Prior to that, on the afternoon of 28th, the roadway will be treated with weed killer. This will be of a "pet friendly" variety - but we would suggest that pet owners might like to keep their animals away from The Square for 24 hours.

If your magazine arrives in time we'd welcome help in spreading the gravel - just turn up (bringing a large rake if you have one) any time after 9am on the morning of 29th February.

Village Shop

Jenny Mason

On Wednesday 1st April the shop will be offering Afternoon Tea Specials with a hot drink (excluding Mochas) and a traybake cake at a special price. We intend this to become a once a month event.

Great news we are pleased to report that we now stock the very popular & local 'Fatherson Bakery' cakes including sponges, loaf and butterfly cakes, cupcakes & homemade fruit pies.

Keep Sunday 22nd March in your diary for Mothering Sunday, we have boxes of chocolates, cards & gifts for the occasion. New to the cheese deli is a delicious Brie only £1.35 per 100g, and if you haven't tried the Belvoir alcohol free white & red wines they have a lovely flavour and great if you want to keep a clear head!

Church Flower Group

Margaret Perry

Easter Lilies



Easter Sunday is on 12th April this year and we would like to invite anyone who wishes us to arrange lilies in memory of loved ones to make a contribution towards the purchase of the Easter Lilies.

Would you please send your donations to Ann Matthews, 8 The Square, B96 6HR. (Cheques should be made payable to Feckenham P.C.C.)

Thank you for your support enabling the tradition to continue.

Margaret and Marg.

Rose & Crown 48 High Street
Feckenham B96 6HS

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Tuesday, 17th March

PADDY'S DAY

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Sunday, 22nd March

MOTHERS DAY

Serving Lunches 12 to 3pm

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www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk

A Tribute

Dennis Baylis

02.05.1929 – 29.11.2019

Born to Ada and Charles, Dennis was the eldest of two brothers. He and Anthony, two years younger, were the third generation of Baylis' born into the village. Dennis' boast was that he still slept in the same room that he was born in, No.1 Mill Lane. However, he didn't live in the same house all his life.

Charles had the chance to purchase No. 1, 3 and 5 Mill Lane, which included 3 dwellings, 3 brew houses and 1 outside toilet, all for £240, but it was Dennis who later took up this opportunity.

In the early 1930s, Charles became a co-founder of Feckenham Football Club, so the boys grew up with football. Dennis was a good player and captained the side. He left Feckenham School at 14 and started work at High Duty Alloys in Redditch, cycling to work, as most people in Feckenham did back then. He went into the RAF for two years to complete his National Service during which he played for the RAF football team and still returned to Feckenham on his motorbike to play at weekends.

After his release from the RAF he returned to work at HDA where he met Barbara who had recently started work in the wages office. They married after three years in 1954 and moved into No.5 Mill Lane together. In 1956 they had their first son David, shortly followed by Kevin the year after and Simon the year after that. Three boys in three years...

Dennis had to give up football due to bad knees but in 1960 he got together with Mike Brundle, Mike Heath and Len Burley to form Feckenham Cricket Club. Len and his brother Ken, organised a bingo game in the village hall every Saturday night to raise money for the club. It was so successful that on some occasions there weren't enough seats and it raised thousands of pounds. This enabled Den, Len and the two Mikes to buy the 5 and 1/8th acre field down

Mill Lane and with enough funds left over to build the pavilion.

In 1961 Dennis and Barbara's fourth son Timothy was born and the wicket was laid down on the cricket pitch, half turf and half seeded. Over the winter of 1961/1962 Dennis set about the building work with help from brother Tone, and anyone else who could spare the time, and later added changing rooms when the bingo made more money.

In 1963, Dennis had gone to work at Triplex as an instrument technician and Sara, the first and only daughter, came along. No. 5 Mill Lane was now bulging at the seams with 5 children so Dennis took a year off from the cricket club (as groundsman but not from playing) and decided to buy No.1 and No.3 Mill Lane which he combined to make one house, which has been No.1 ever since.

As his sons grew up, they all inherited Dennis' sporting appetite and for a time, they all played cricket together. Dennis finally gave up playing cricket but continued to maintain the ground. Eventually he had to retire as groundsman after 3 hip operations but continued to watch the home matches. As time went on, and for the last 10 years of his life, he found it easier to watch games from home. Dennis never did complete the renovation of No.1 but Feckenham Cricket Club still stands in his legacy.

What's On this month in STOCK & BRADLEY

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 4th | Breakaway:
Spring Lunch
Village Hall - 11.30a.m |
| 4th | Gardening Club
The Art of Pruning.
Village Hall - 7.30pm |
| 18th | FASHION SHOW
In aid of Church Project.
Village Hall - 6.30pm |

For more information see
STOCK & BRADLEY CHRONICLE

Thought for the month

Rev. Wyn Beynon

Dear Friends,

I heard a story about Albert Einstein, probably apocryphal. He was travelling to New York on a train when he saw the guard approaching and panicked when he couldn't find his ticket. He looked in his coat and jacket pockets and was most embarrassed when he had to explain that he couldn't find it. The guard said, "It's all right Mr Einstein, I know who you are!"

A few minutes later the guard came back, having reached the end of the train. Einstein was still looking for his ticket. It was not in his pockets, not in his briefcase. Einstein got more and more agitated and seeing him so worried the guard said, "It's all right Mr Einstein, I know who you are!" "Yes," replied the professor, "You know who I am, and I know who I am, but I don't know where I'm going!"

Looking round our world these days we could also ask "where are we going?" It seems that no misdemeanour need bring down a politician, no lies are to be ashamed of, no bullying to be embarrassed about. Children are bombed daily and don't make headlines, but some personal crisis of a celebrity is centre stage. Doubtless it was ever thus.

What worries me more, as I get older, is that I am increasingly aware that most of us have absolutely no idea who we are. We are simply characters playing our part in the drama – or is it a farce? – we call "life". And nobody seems much bothered.

There's a "meme" that goes around Facebook that's worth pondering. It says, 'At your funeral no one is going to stand up and say, "She had great taste in shoes and handbags."'

This is the month of Lent. No story more effectively challenges us to ask why the innocent suffer, why truth is expendable and why does aggression win than Jesus struggling with the

temptations to power, control and celebrity. What's at all about? Who are we? Where are we going. And does it matter? Looking at my grandchildren I know those questions are the only ones worth asking.

A thoughtful spring, lengthening, lengthening, to you all!



St John the Baptist Church &
Ss John Fisher & Thomas More Church
- Feckenham

'Wilderness Grace'

a paradoxical journey to the hope, joy
and reassurance of Easter

Monday evenings 7.30pm – 9.00pm

2nd March – 30th March 2020

**at Ss John Fisher & Thomas More
RC Church**

for more information, please contact

Revd Barbara Wheatley 01527 892969

FECKENHAM
GARAGE 

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Confirmation Service on 26th January 2020.

Left to right - Melissa Beynon, Wyn Beynon, Fiona Carter, Bishop Michael Hooper, Barbara Wheatley, Alison and Frank Hicks, Mike from Malvern, Catherine and Tom Kings.

A large congregation enjoyed a very moving service lead by Bishop Michael. The occasion was very special for those confirmed. It was made more so by having Proseco afterwards with cake provided by two ladies of the congregation.

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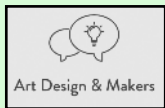
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Art, Design & Makers Group



When: commencing Saturday 21st March

Time: 9.30am-4.30pm

Where: Back Room of the Village Hall

Are you creative but don't give your art and design as much time as you'd like? Maybe you are nervous of "having a go" or rekindling an old hobby or skill?

The Group is for those creatives, whether in art, design or making, who would like to meet once a month for a full day to improve their practice, experiment and work on their projects. It will be a space to cross-pollinate ideas and skills in a fun relaxed environment.

Starting out I am aiming to keep it as affordable as possible for people just to cover the cost of the hall, but if there is appetite I'd be interested in getting in tutors to give demos or tuition in certain skills, arrange models or similar to suit what people want to do and learn.

Please contact Cate Statham to register your interest or for any queries. 07788 280 832

cate@hawkesedwards.com

Charity Quiz

EASTER PUZZLEMENT!

A date for your diaries: The popular Quiz nights at the Rose & Crown continue with the **Easter Quiz on Thursday, 2nd April**. These quizzes have made thousands of pounds for local and national good causes over the past few years. This event will donate all of its proceeds to the Your Ideas Youth & Community Project which supports children and young people in the Redditch area.

Small Ads.



GARAGE SALE

at 16 High Street, Feckenham

Saturday 21st March 10.00 – midday

Surplus household items including china, glass, ornaments, kitchen equipment, garden furniture etc and other miscellaneous useful items that John & Antonia can't fit into their new flat.

Proceeds to Feckenham Village Hall and St John the Baptist Church

To Rent

A five bed detached property in Turton Gardens available to rent from 1st February for short or long term let. Use of a garage - ample parking. Two bedrooms are ensuite. Well appointed family accommodation. Good sized and maintained gardens front/rear (countryside/playing field views). Modern Kitchen. Recently re-windowed and benefits from Solar Panel electricity. Alarmed. For further details, please contact Rev Gary Crellin on 01905 830270 for agent or further details.

The Moors Lane Allotments

FANCY AN ALLOTMENT?

Want to grow your own fruit and veg? Now's your chance! If you would like an allotment this is just the right time to start - just before the planting season begins. The Moors Lane Allotments now have a number of plots of varying sizes available for new gardeners. You're welcome to come along and take a look to see what's involved and the first year's rental is FREE!

To find out more just give us a call on 01527 892130 or 01527 894147.

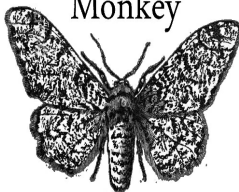
WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



First Tuesday of every month from 8pm
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 4th February

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

Harp
& a
Monkey



Purveyors of Quality Original and Traditional Songs and Stories

An evening of
Music
Stories
&
Odes

Feckenhams Readers Group



Wednesday, 11th March - 7.45

This Month: MRS BRIDGE
by EVAN CONNELL

Details from Marion Chute - 892285

THE VICTORIANS

SUNDAY 15th MARCH - 7.30PM

Tickets £11 from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown

Book online at www.feckhall.org

Phone bookings: 0333 666 3366

Feckenhams Forest History Society

HEREWARD

THE WAKE

The Last True Englishman?

Talk by Max Keen

Tuesday, 10th March - 7.30pm

Webheath Village Hall

www.feckenhams-forest-history-society.org.uk



Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB

THE ART OF PRUNING

With Timothy Walker

Wednesday, 4th March

7.30pm - Bradley Village Hall



Art Design & Makers

The Art, Design & Makers Group is beginning for those creatives, whether in art, design or making, who would like to meet once a month for a full day to improve their practice, experiment and work on their projects. It will be a space to cross-pollinate ideas and skills in a fun relaxed environment.

First session: Saturday, 21st March
Feckenhams Village Hall

the **WI** FECKENHAM WI
INSPIRING WOMEN At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

Children in the Mills

THE REAL JERUSALEM

With Paddy Hannigan

Thursday, 12th March - 7.30pm

Visitors Welcome at all meetings - £4

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

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

**BOURVIL
LOUIS DE FUNES
TERRY-THOMAS in**

LA **GRANDE VADROUILLE** PG



FRANCE'S FAVOURITE COMEDY

FeckenOdeon 2 - Friday, 13th March at 8pm

A Shaun the Sheep™ MOVIE U

FARMAGEDDON

FeckenOdeon 1 - Saturday, 28th March at 2.30pm



FeckenOdeon 1 - Saturday, 28th 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.feckencodeon.co.uk

*Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings

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

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

FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

Ian Bellion



NE PANIQUEZ PAS!

We're accustomed to British comedies about the French and the Germans in WW2 - *Allo Allo* and the like - but this month's French film in FeckenOdeon 2 takes a comic look at the British and the Germans. "*La Grande Vadrouille*" follows three British airmen who are shot down over Paris. The English chaps and their Nazi pursuers may be the butt of many of the jokes - but the bumbling French resistance also comes in for ridicule. This is the most popular French comedy ever made and it's truly hilarious. It stars the French equivalent of Morcambe & Wise, Bourvil and Louis de Funès - as well as our own Terry-Thomas. Fast, slick and very funny!

"LA GRANDE VADROUILLE"

Friday, 13th March at 8pm



WEDDINGS GALORE...

Is it really over 25 years since "*Four Weddings and a Funeral*" first delighted the world? Deftly written by Richard Curtis and directed by the versatile Mike Newell, *Four Weddings* is as good as its word, breezily following a small circle of friends through every one of the events the title promises. The pitch-perfect profanity, bumbling romanticism and Hugh Grant's floppy-fringed charm remain enduringly, endearingly funny. The film has been digitally restored and revived so it's as crisp and fresh as it was in 1994.

"FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL"

Saturday, 28th March at 7.30pm



SHEEPISH FUN

Raising the baa once again, Aardman Animation bring us a sweet, effortlessly likeable (and extremely British) treat for lamb and mutton alike. When an alien possessing strange powers crash-lands near Mossy Bottom Farm, Shaun the Sheep quickly makes a new friend.

With something for all ages "*Farmageddon*" is an ideal FeckenOdeon Family Matinee - come with your kids, your grandkids - or just with your inner child.

"FARMAGEDDON"

Saturday, 28th March at 2.30pm

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

Cookhill Garden Club

presents an evening with

Chris Beardshaw

"The English Garden"

including its history and more!

Starts at 7.30 pm

on **Wednesday 15th April**

at Cookhill Village Hall.

Non- members are welcome!

Bar open from 6.45pm

Tickets £15 -

To order call 01527 894317 or use the contact form at

www.cookhillgarden.club

Village Hall

Ian Bellion



THE MANCHESTER MOTH

What is a Manchester moth? Well that'd be telling and the telling will be done when "**The Victorians**" comes to Feckenham on **Sunday, 15th March**. The answers, along with fascinating tales and scintillating songs about life in the Victorian era, will be genially delivered by the musicians and storytellers of electro-folk band **Harp and a Monkey** - who describe themselves as "purveyors of quality original songs and stories".

The show has recently been featured on BBC Radio 2 and the band has been picking up "Best Band" and "Band of the Year" awards throughout the last couple of years. Certainly talent on the way up - catch them on the way to stardom!

A lively and tuneful evening of music and artfully told tales - a lovely way to end the weekend.

A Live and Local (formerly Shindig) event.

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE - Sunday, 15th March
- NOT 7th as published in last month's edition!

Tickets for this show are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown, by phone on 0333 666 3366 (local call rates)

and online at

www.feckhall.org

The Village Hall's **Improvement Fund Draw for February** was made at the meeting of The Trustees on 3rd January.

Winners:

February:	174 Richard Fletcher	£25
	155 Linda Harris	£15
	136 Tom & Eli King	£10

Feckenham's Own...



Listen at
www.swansbrook.com

SWANSBROOK Radio

REST OR RIP-OFF?

It's a dilemma many of us will face as we get older. Should we stay in our family home - or should we move to somewhere more secure and perhaps more suitable for our needs? Many of us may be tempted by the purpose built "retirement villages" being offered by specialist building companies. Are they all they're cracked up to be? Are they good value for your hard earned retirement savings? The Swansbrook team has been investigating. Reporter Carole Price has some personal experience of these villages and she (aided by Chris Fletcher, Colin James and Stuart Knowles), has been asking some serious questions - and you can hear what she found out in a special Broadsheet report "**Living in a Retirement Village**" which is now available to listen to at swansbrook.com

MOVING ON A DECADE...

For the past 3 years Swansbrook's Colin James has presented his pick of the music of the 1950s and 60s so it's not surprising that he's been running out of records. Thankfully Colin's been back up into the attic and brought down another packing case full of vinyl - more 33s than 45s and 78s this time because these discs all come from the 1970's. Colin's new programme, "The Way We Were" starts this month. As ever he'll be playing the tunes you may not have heard backed up with facts you'd never have thought of and personal recollections of the performers and producers. You can listen to Colin "live" or choose On Demand to listen at a time to suit you.

LISTEN TO THE SWANS

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

FECKENHAM'S OWN Local Radio
www.swansbrook.com

Parish Council

Jane Bull

Flooding Update 17th February 2020

Feckenham Parish Council together with North Worcestershire Water Management are currently working together to resolve the flooding problems at the junction of Swansbrook Lane and Astwood Lane.

The stream in question causing issues is called the Plack Brook, it flows from Poplars lane into a highway culvert below Astwood Lane before emerging to the west of Swansbrook Lane. Discussions are currently taking place with land owners through which the Plack Brook passes.

The first stage of the proposals are to improve water flow in the Plack Brook

channel between Swansbrook Lane and where it discharges into the Swansbrook known locally as the "whirley hole", it is hoped that this work can be carried out once all land owners have been contacted, and the weather/ ground conditions improve.

The second phase of the proposal would be to install a new, larger, culvert under Swansbrook Lane, followed by improvements to existing field drainage from Poplars Lane to the new culvert. This will reduce the flow into the existing culvert along Astwood Lane and free up capacity for it to more effectively drain the highway.

Worcester County Council suggest for adverse weather and road conditions:

Follow @WorcsTravel on Twitter for the latest updates

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Feckenham Spring Flower Show

Saturday 4th April 2020

Linda Harris



The 'Springtime in Feckenham' Flower Show will be held on Saturday 4th April in the Village Hall. Teas will be served throughout the afternoon with home-made cakes and fresh baked scones.

There will be competitive entries for the best **spring blooms** (see below for a schedule of classes), and a **Children's Springtime Hat Parade**, with prizes. Other attractions include the usual stalls, cakes and plants for sale, and the ever popular tombola and raffle. Please join us to welcome the coming of Spring - the Show opens at 2.30pm.

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)
- 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

Children's Classes

- 1 A Spring Posy
- 2 Make a flower (out of any material of your choice)
- 3 Illustrate 'Springtime in Feckenham' in any way you choose

There are separate prizes for pre-school children and children under 9 years old

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.

ADULT CRAFT CLASS - The subject can be of any subject but MUST be made by you. All items will be judged and 1st, 2nd & 3rd places will be awarded. We look forward to seeing some lovely and interesting items, so come and display your craft and enter into the spirit of Village life. You must collect your entry at the end of the afternoon.

The Flower Show Committee will run a cake stall and would be very grateful for donations of cakes of any sort.



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Feckenham C. C.

Bob Gordon



Well, no sign of the wet weather letting up with storms Ciara and Dennis hitting the country within a week of each other in February. The cricket ground is looking more like a sanctuary for ducks and waders and the heron is making repeated appearances.

This has so far prevented the pre-season activities required to reach readiness for cricket resuming in mid-April. Cutting and rolling the square (the pitches) is a key activity but the surface is far too boggy for the roller to be tempted from its shed. There has been some work carried out, including tidying up of a large tree branch that had fallen across the stream. Hand-saws were used to lop off smaller branches while Chris Walker lent a hand with his chain saw to make the larger cuts. A villager has offered to cut up and take away the rest.

The first league match at Mill Lane is scheduled for Saturday April 18th, when the first team meet Cookley in a Division One game – subject to the ground drying out of course.

Over the weekend of March 28th/29th will take place the annual CricketForce tidy up work intended to get the ground ready for the season start. Last year, a number of junior members lent a hand and enjoyed the annual ritual of painting the boundary fences while others helped repaint the historic score-box. Yours truly will be making another four boundary fences, to replace those damaged beyond repair.

The winter fettling of our aging equipment continues. Led by member and villager Rob Banner, a £200 seed spreader has been repaired and our Allett wicket mower is undergoing gearbox work. The Westwood general-purpose mower is having a cover fabricated that will reduce the ingress of sticks to the belt drive area, hopefully reducing the frequency of broken drive belts.

The set of three gang mowers are being fettled one by one. The cutting cylinder of the first is to be sent away for sharpening, along with the complete Ransome Super Certes 51 is going back to the seller for sharpening.

With three senior teams and junior teams at several junior teams at U9, U10, U11 and U13 levels, organising use of the ground for matches on several days a week over the summer is a complicated business and meetings are being held with captains and coaches. We will also be offering the ground for some Worcester County Cricket Club U11 boys and U13 girls matches as it is expected that Feckenham CC will have representatives in both WCCC teams.

The Feckenham Fillies will also be trying to fit in a softball tournament against the ladies of neighbouring clubs. Also, Feckenham First School has traditionally been given use of the ground for their annual Sports Day and we will of course try to squeeze that in.

All Stars cricket returns to Mill Lane on Friday 15th May (5:15-6pm), All Stars is an English Cricket Board scheme that introduces the game to boys and girls of 5-8 year, in a safe and enjoyable way.

Finally, we have once again been asked to play a home friendly match against the Pebble Mill BBC team on September 13th.

So, a lot of organisational work is taking place, in the hope that a dry spell enables cricket to take place in April.

Cricket is an expensive sport to put on and so the club is active in raising funds, the most recent being a “Race Night” evening at the club, which proved very enjoyable. The sale of vinyl banners to local companies is also helping. Other activities will include quizzes and bingo and possibly another live music event at the Village Hall in the autumn, following the success of the Elvis night of 2018.

The club will be marking the passing of Dennis Baylis – when dry enough – by sprucing up the old roller at the top of the field (which Dennis used frequently) and putting it on display with a plaque in Dennis's memory. We will also be marking the significant contribution made by Alf Bennett, who also passed recently by having a plaque in his honour above the shed/workshop door. Alf gave a lot of his time and engineering to fix or make a number of things over the years and was still taking an interest just a few months before his death.

The decision has been made to not run Feckfest this year. The effort involved runs to hundreds of hours and falls mainly onto the shoulders of 3-4 people and so we are giving it a miss this year, with a view to relaunching in 2021.

FIXTURES AT MILL LANE

The first confirmed Worcester County League matches for April and May are as follows. These take place on Saturday, with a start time of 12:30 for the first two, then 1pm for the remainder:

Sat Apr 18th – 1st team v Cookley 1st XI

Sat Apr 25th – 2nd team v Barnt Green CC 3rd XI

Sat May 2nd – 1st team v Burghill, Tillington & Weobley 1st XI

Sat May 9th – 2nd team v Old Hill 3rd XI

Sat May 16th - 1st team v Hagley 1st XI

Sat May 23rd - 2nd team v Bromsgrove 4th XI

Sat May 30th - 1st team v Droitwich Spa 1st XI

If you are interested in playing or scoring for Feckenham Cricket Club at any level, please contact Nick Reddish on 07802 212125.

Feckenham W.I.

Glenda Smith



Our February meeting was a fun evening with Feckenham resident Jackie Berry showing us how to do needle felting. We were all able to have a go and proudly took our felt hearts home.

Jackie kept a close eye on us, with strict instructions to be careful with the special needles as they are barbed. We had a beautiful selection of lovely coloured wool to choose from and although we had to concentrate on the stabbing motion with the needle it was very therapeutic.

Jackie brought some of her completed items to show us and we fell in love with a little teddy bear she had made.

We were very pleased to welcome several visitors.

Members were informed of theatre visits, an opportunity to go to a quiz with other WI's, a Spring Group meeting, wall climbing and a chance to play skittles to name just a few of our outings in the next few weeks.

This month's meeting is on **Thursday March 12th** at 7.30 in the Village Hall Back Room. Paddy Hannigan will be giving a talk entitled '**Children in the Mills: life and times of children in the industrial revolution: the real Jerusalem**'

Visitors welcome £4.

OUTINGS

Wed 25th March - "**The Vicar of Dibley**",
The Artrix, Bromsgrove.

Wed 22nd April - "**Guys & Dolls**", The Palace
Theatre, Redditch.

Wed 29th April - visit to "**AKAMBA Metal
Zoo**", Dicken's Heath

If you are a member and not signed up yet, or a non-member and are interested please contact:

Vivien Hunter 01527 402360

Stock & Bradley

Gardening Club Rob Cole

This month's meeting is on Wednesday 4th at 7:30pm

Our speaker is Timothy Walker who will give us a talk entitled 'The Subtle and Exact Art of Pruning'.

The theme for the members' monthly competition will be 'A Small Arrangement from my Garden'.

Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £5.00 for 2020. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting.

If you require any further information, ring Dinny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527 821355 or Rob Cole (Chairman) on 01527 821156.

FUND RAISING FASHION SHOW

18th March at 6.30/7pm

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