FECKENHAM

MARCH 2016

News

Published by Feckenham Church for the Village
Editor: Jane White Tel.:01527 893281 (Copy date 14th)
e-mail: jwhite@thewhites55.wanadoo.co.uk

Ridgeway Nurseries

- Hardy Home Grown Bedding Plants
- Trees, Shrubs, Roses, Alpines & Perennials
- Glazed & Terracotta Pots
- Fresh Cut Flowers, Wild Bird Feed
- National Garden Gift Vouchers Accepted

Your Local Plant Centre!

Evesham Rd (A441), Cookhill, Alcester, Warks., B49 5JR
Tel: 01527 894 111 www.ridgewaynurseries.co.uk
Open Mon-Sat: 9am-5.30pm, Sun: 10am-4.30pm

HTA
NATIONAL GARDEN GIFT VOUCHERS

JEFF LYNN

Painter and Decorator

Interior and Exterior Work

Inkberrow (01386) 792198

ANDREW SMITH CHIMNEY SWEEP

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

Based locally in Inkberrow

Phone: 01386 793248
Mobile: 07789 721303

Member of the Institute of Chimney Sweeps

ICS

Tapcast Ltd

COMPUTER SERVICES

Tapcast is a family business, based in Inkberrow, with over 20 years experience, supporting computer systems in businesses and homes

For: Computers, Laptops, Networking, Broadband, Email, Upgrades, Repairs, Support and more

web: www.tapcast.co.uk tel: 01386 792196
email: jane.neal@tapcast.co.uk

A. Pullen

• MEMORIALS •

Additional Inscriptions & Renovations

All work is to the Highest Standard

Burcot Forge, Unit 4, 338 Alcester Road,
Burcot, Nr Bromsgrove B60 1BH
Tel: (01527) 876200 Mobile 07710 976744

An Independent Family Owned Funeral Directors

Thomas Brothers The Funeral Directors

The only family owned funeral homes in Redditch, Wythall & Alvechurch.
We provide a friendly, dignified service
paying special attention to detail.

01564 822 001
100 Alcester Road,
Wythall.
B47 5HA

01527 547777
Birchfield House,
494 Evesham Road, Redditch.
B97 5JF

0121 445 3422
12A Red Lion Street,
Alvechurch.
B48 7LF

www.thomasbrothers.co.uk
A family concern

SAIF

MARCH Diary

Tues 1st	12.30am	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Wed 2nd	7.30pm	Stock & Bradley Gardening Club	Bradley Village Hall
Tues 8th	7.30pm	Feckenham Forest History Society	Webheath Village Hall
Thur 10th	7.30pm	Feckenham WI	Back Room Village Hall
Sun 13th	7.30pm	"Canterbury Tales"	Village Hall
Tues 15th	7pm-9pm	Defibrillator Training	Village Hall
Sat 19th	7.30pm	FeckenOdeon	Village Hall
Thur 24th	7.30pm	Proposal of Friends of Feckenham Church Trust	Parish Church
Sun 27th	11.00am	EASTER DAY COMMUNION SERVICE	Parish Church

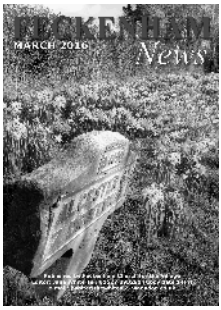
Daffodils, with apology to Willy Wordsworth !

I rode down to the village shop
Hoof on tarmac, clip clop, clip clop,
Suddenly a sight caught my eye
As bright as any dawn lit sky

Two hundred golden daffodils
Each year, pleasure if I take the pills !
They tossed their heads as traffic passed
Happy and joyful, a spell they cast

For when I'm spent, slightly dozy
On my couch rested and cosy
Year after year this bright lovely flower
Brings to memory, Barry Power.

P.J.H.



Contents

Church Services	p4
Cricket Club	p17
Easter Lilies	p7
FeckenOdeon	p12
Friends of Feck. Church	p6
Gardening Club	p17
Help needed	p5
Letters	p8
Newshound	p5
Parish Council	p13
Thanks	p5
Thought for the month	p7
Small Ads	p8
Spring Flower Show	p15
Square Management	p13
Village Hall	p13
Village Shop	p16
Wake 2016	p8
WI	p16
WW1 Comemoration	p9

Front Cover

The daffodils on Droitwich Road. (Reference Peter's poem) Photo by Arthur Hind

Production Team

Ian Bellion – What's On
892130 whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk
Chris Fletcher – Newshound
894568 cefletcher44@gmail.com
Antonia Pulsford – Reviews
892268
Jo Warrilow – Advertising, Mags by post 892059
Jane White – Editor 893281
jwhite@thewhites55.wanadoo.co.uk

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.

Church Services
MARCH

PARISH CHURCH
of ST. JOHN
THE BAPTIST

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Wyn Beynon
Churchwarden: Ann Matthews 01527 892180 **Church website:** www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk
• • **Email:** info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk
Parish Office: Telephone: 01905 778181 Email: bowbrookgroup1@gmail.com
Open Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 10am-1pm & 2-5pm: Mon. & Fri. Closed
at - The Bowbrook Group, The Parish Centre, St Andrew's Street, DROITWICH, WR9 8DY

		Readers and intercessors
Sunday 6th March Mothering Sunday	**11.00am Sung Eucharist** Exodus 2: 1-10 2 Corinth 1: 3-7 Intercessions	 Gerry Eost Jenny Goode Carol Onions
Sunday 13th March Lent 5	**8.00am Holy Communion** Heb 9: 11-15	 Peter Horsley
	11.00am Family Service Speaker from the charity **Compassion** Isaiah 58:6-12	 Ann Matthews
Sunday 20th March Palm Sunday	**Group service for Palm Sunday at Feckenham** with a presentation of The Passion by Open the Book **10.30am procession from the car park**	
Friday 25th March	**10.30am Stations of the Cross at the Catholic church** **8.00pm Evening service for Good Friday**	
Sunday 27th March Easter Day	**11.00am Family Communion** 1 Corinth 15: 19-26 Intercessions	 Paul Richards Ian Hunter

"Mixed Bag"

Will be held in Church on Sunday 6th March- a group for young people and activities for younger children. All children will be warmly welcomed.

Feckenham Roman Catholic Church
St John Fisher & St. Thomas More

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

Newshound

Peter and Marion Chute's son Tom, who left Feckenham a year ago to live in Australia, was married to Herefordshire born Rhiannon in Tasmania on New Year's Eve. They were married at Lake St Clair in a renovated hydroelectric power station called Pump House Point, which is now a small wilderness hotel. Tom happened upon Pump House Point when travelling last year, just after it had opened. Those who have seen the wedding photographs will appreciate the beauty and originality of the wedding venue. Tom and Rhiannon will now be travelling on towards Perth, via Adelaide, planning to finish their circumnavigation by 2017.

While travelling in Australia, Peter and Marion called on ex Feckenhamsters **Spencer and Brigette McCab** at their home in Copacabana, New South Wales, where they are now well settled, but still check on what is happening here via the Feckenham News.

They thoroughly enjoyed their trip of a lifetime to Australia and New Zealand, including stopping off in Singapore on the way out there, and in Sri Lanka on the way back, and •have now safely returned to the delights of living in Feckenham!

Sue and Graham Darby are delighted to announce the arrival of their fifth grandchild, Sebastian Edward, a brother for Georgia, and son for Giles and Jo, the Leicestershire branch of the Darby family!

Sadly, **Gordon Neal** of Mill Lane passed peacefully away at home at the age of 87 years, on Monday 21st December 2015. A service and burial took place on Wednesday, 6th January at Westall Park. R.I.P.

We also have to report the sad loss of **Eric Styler** who passed away on 9th February this year. He will be sadly missed and we send condolences to his family.

Poorly Postie Feckenham has been fortunate enough to have been served by the same hard working postman for over 30 years - so we're sorry to report that Neville is seriously ill in hospital. His colleagues tell us that he's recovering but will be absent from his round for at least two months. We're sure that villagers will want to send their best wishes to Neville in the hope that he'll soon be well enough to return.

Can You Help?

Volunteer Cleaners Wanted.

Several years ago 6 teams of 4 cleaners were recruited to clean the Parish Church. Each team covers a month twice a year. Having lost a few cleaners over the years we now need 3 replacements. Can be male or female – old or young – churchgoers or not. If you think you could help please telephone 01527 404055 or email ptcmo@blueyonder.co.uk.

PS Many thanks to those who have left used stamps in the village shop for the Alexandra Hospital League of Friends, keep up the good work.

Thanks

I would like to thank all the wonderful committee for helping provide the superb meal for the over 60s. As usual all went well without any problems. Also a massive thank you to all the help on the actual day and during the evening. Special thanks to Alan for good music and help in the kitchen.

Thank you all so much,

Pat Dormer (chair. Feckenham Flower Show)

Friends of Feckenham Church

Keeping St John the Baptist Church, as a Building at the Centre of Our Community: An Appeal for Support.

"Hang on, isn't that the job of the Church?"

It can come as something of a surprise to those that don't routinely get involved with the running of the Church and its affairs that the upkeep of the Church building is a separate thing to what happens in it.

Organised Church activities, the Sunday services and worship, are the ultimate responsibility of the Church of England and the Bishop of Worcester. However, the upkeep of the fabric of the building is actually the responsibility of the community in which the building sits. In times past, when we were all "Religious", this wasn't an issue. The upkeep of the building was simply taken care of by the Chancery Repair Liability, a tax effectively levied on landowners in the Parish. If you have been following the news, there have been a couple of celebrated cases of folks with land suddenly finding themselves liable for a church repair bill – there was one in Wootton Wawen, a few years back.

It may interest you to know that St John the Baptist, here in Feckenham had exactly this arrangement. When the Parochial Church Council (PCC) looked into this, it found that there were indeed landowners who were liable, however many had since sold the land for housing development. When we got to 2000 households who were affected, we decided to stop counting. Can you imagine the task of collecting the levy? And that's before we start making ourselves extraordinarily unpopular in trying to enforce it. So, the PCC decided to lapse this claim on the good people of the Parish. This was a decision we formalised last year.

The Church Building Challenge

That has now left the community with something of a challenge.

The brunt of the burden of the upkeep of the church building is currently falling to the faithful few in the congregation – about 45 on average, weekly, and to the PCC to raise the maintenance funds. The PCC over the years has been very grateful for the bequests it has been left and the triennial garden festival, which have kept the roof on. However, this is not sustainable, nor realistic in the long term.

There may well be those in the Parish who wouldn't care if the church ultimately crumbled as a building, but we believe there is a substantial number in the village for whom that would represent an extraordinary loss. Whilst it is not everyone's idea of fun or indeed part of their beliefs, to attend regular services or to worship in an organised way, having a space for christenings, marriages, funerals, village celebrations and a spiritual place of sanctity and quiet that represents the heart of the community of Feckenham, is something very important to the life of this village.

"Friends of Feckenham Church Charitable Trust"; an Answer?

The proposal being progressed, is the creation of a group called Friends of Feckenham Church, a Charitable Trust which will oversee grant applications, fund raising and the giving of grants to Feckenham PCC for the upkeep of the Church building and the Churchyard (as prioritised by the Church Architect – yes, we have one), in order to preserve its use for the community in the future.

So, the punch line of this article is that we are looking for a number of people to act as Trustees. Could that be you?

The Trust will be separate from the PCC, with an emphasis on lay and secular involvement.

We imagine the Trust meeting quarterly, with roles of Chair, Secretary and a Treasurer to be filled.

A Public Meeting: 24th March, 7.30pm, Feckenham Church

If you are interested potentially in getting involved, or just curious and would like to find out more, then we are proposing to have a public meeting. 24th March, 7:30pm, in the Church. There is a Trustees' information pack you can get hold of in advance (and will be made available on the day).

The people to make contact with and speak to if you'd like more information are John Eaton (894272), Jeff Matthews (894387) and David Street. Ian Hunter has also been involved.

Thought for the month

Rev. Wyn Beynon

Dear Friends,

I have a life long interest, no, passion for anything that flies. Birds, planes, rockets. Flying to me is the ultimate human achievement.

I'm with Tim Peake on the Space Station. I'm in the cockpit of every plane. And I'm fascinated by the glorious abundance of bird life - even now as so many British species are finding themselves in danger of extinction.

Birds are as complex as human beings. A blue tit will happily ignore me whilst it feeds just 30 feet away. The greater spotted woodpecker that was there a few moments before would never tolerate me being within 300 hundred yards!

Today, walking the dog, I saw a Kingfisher on the Salwarpe taking a shortcut (at very high speed) across the field and avoiding a big loop in the river. The Little Egret is not unknown as it it visits the reserves at UptonWareen.That's a beautiful snow white bird, that looks like a ¾ sized heron - quite a sight!

Yesterday a flock of Starlings (which didn't become one of those spectacular "murmurations") flew across the garden and our faithful clan of house sparrows (also a species giving cause for concern) started to collect nesting material this week.

But the best thing, this week, was, I suppose, as I pushed the barrow across the lawn. A goldcrest (our smallest bird - smaller than a wren) flew down and washed itself in the pond for about 2 minutes before slipping back up into the cupressus. I just stood still, a few yards away, and watched.

These lovely creatures are all around us, if we have eyes to see.

I've been told there are siskin (a small finch that looks like a half sized greenfinch) in the area. But I have watched in vain, so far.

And last week a pair -yes a pair - of peregrine falcon flew at about 50 feet across Fish House Lane and disappeared behind the churchyard trees. And I saw all of these without making much effort at all.

Imagine what I might see if I actually spent some deliberate time in pursuit of our local avifauna.

In the end it's all about paying attention. Taking notice. Just like life itself, really.

Best wishes,

Church Flower Group

Margaret Perry

Easter Lilies

The flower group will be decorating the church for Easter on Saturday 26th March at which time we will include Easter Lilies. Should anyone wish to contribute towards the lilies would you please send your donation to Ann Matthews, 8, The Square B96 6HR (cheques should made payable to Feckenham PCC) Thank you for enabling this tradition to continue.

Margaret and Marg - Co-ordinators.

13th March at 11am

Compassion

A talk by

Jonathan Bently

from Compassion.org

At St John the Baptist Church

Please stay after for a chat and refreshments

Wake 2016

Marion Chute

Wake balloon goes up!

This year, on 25th June, there will be family fun in all the usual venues: church, village hall, recreation field, square and much more, all topped off with a hot air balloon extravaganza in the evening.

Any one who would like a stall please contact any of the the committee, Marion Chute, Alan Jones, Julian Bull, Charlie Barrett Meade or Alan Smith. As you can see, the organising group has shrunk a little and we are looking for some new members. It is fun and remember that it's all to support local Feckenham groups.

The ever popular Punch and Judy show, and Arrow Valley Band will be there and watch this space for more news as the programme is finalised.

FROM AN award-winning GASTRO TEAM

The Forest at Feckenham

The Forest offers imaginative cuisine, fine wines and real ales all in a friendly atmosphere.

1 Droitwich Road,
Feckenham, B96 6JE.
01527 894422

www.theforestatfeckenham.com

Small Ads.

Looking to buy 2 or 3 bed property with parking in Feckenham or surrounding area. Alison 07714209463.

Can anyone help please? I am anxious to move back to my grassroots so am actively looking to buy a property in Feckenham. I am a cash buyer and would much appreciate a phone call if you are thinking of selling your property. I do need a garden. Many thanks 07812586530.

Letters

School bus services

The Diamond Bus service S70 to Ridgeway and Tudor Grange from Feckenham and Bradkey Green has a dreadful reliability record - as any cursory look at the Redditch local papers' coverage of local bus services shows.••Should you wait for the bus or get a lift? This••is a regular challenge for kids waiting in the••cold on The Square as the clock ticks on. Some parents just give in, which is understandable, and just take their offspring to school. Could they not make space for a couple more? Or should we all get a rota going?••Or at least if they feel concerned, could they call••the Worcestershire Hub to complain - or at least think about doing that as they sail on by leaving others still cold and stranded on The Square.

A Concerned Parent

TLC
the linea clinic

Cosmetic and Laser Specialists
Call for Friendly Advice

Barbourne Health Centre
44 Droitwich Road, Worcester. WR3 7LH
01905 26918 · www.lineaclinic.co.uk

World War I Centenary Commemoration

WORLD WAR I
FECKENHAM

Harry Hopcroft.

The life of Harry Hopcroft, who died on 13th March 1916, will be commemorated on the centenary of the date of his death in the Family Service at the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist, on Sunday 13th March 2016.

Harry was born in late 1878 and Christened in Feckenham Church on 27th October 1878, the son of Benjamin and Mary Ann Hopcroft who ran the Brook Inn at nearby Elcocks Brook. He had two older brothers, Benjamin and William.

Harry attended Feckenham School, and by 1901 was working at Bentley Manor near Bromsgrove as a kennel man / groom. Whilst working there he met Lillie Williamson, who was a kitchen maid at Bentley Manor, and they married on 3rd May 1905 in Lillie's home village of Ridgmont in Bedfordshire.

Harry and Lillie emigrated to Canada in 1907, where they set up home in Sussex, Kings County, New Brunswick. He enlisted in the Canadian armed forces and in January 1916 started his training to be a gunner with the 4th Canadian Siege Battery at "Camp Sussex", near his home. Unfortunately, three months after enlisting he contracted pneumonia and was admitted to hospital in St. Johns, where he died two days later on 13th March 1916. He was buried with Military Honours in Sussex (Roachville) Cemetery in Kings County, New Brunswick, Canada.

In April 1916 his brother William sailed to Canada, presumably to visit Harry's widow Lillie. Sometime later Lillie returned to the UK, and lived there until her death in August 1957, aged 82, in Bedford General Hospital.

It is interesting to note that the Brook Inn at Elcocks Brook was run by the Hopcrofts from the mid 1870s until the 1950s, firstly by Harry's father Benjamin, followed by his mother Mary Ann, then Harry's brother Benjamin, and lastly by Benjamin's widow Amy Hopcroft.

Particular thanks are due to Ruth Cox of New Brunswick Museum and Paul Cox from Sussex Town hall, New Brunswick; who greatly helped in providing details from Canada.

What's On this month in STOCK & BRADLEY

2nd Breakaway Lunch
11.30am
Bradley Green Village Hall

2nd Gardening Club
7.45pm
Bradley Green Village Hall

5th LITTER PICK 11am
Meet at Bradley Green Village Hall

9th & 23rd DROP IN
10am - Bradley Green Village Hall

For more information see
STOCK & BRADLEY CHRONICLE

TAYLORS SOLICITORS
For all your legal needs
Home Visits Available

- Probate
- Affairs of the Elderly
- Lasting Powers of Attorney & Deputyships
- Wills, Trusts and Inheritance Tax matters
- Conveyancing Buying, selling or remortgaging a property

1 Mason Rd, Headless Cross, Redditch. B97 5DA
01527 544221 - www.taylorsolicitors.com
Easy parking
Lexcel Regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority – No 515404
Conveyancing Quality

COLOR CODE MOTORS
ACCIDENT & REPAIR SPECIALIST
COLOUR MATCHING 100% GUARANTEED
LOW BAKE OVEN
FIBREGLASS & RESORATION WORK
FLEET & COMMERCIAL REPAIRS
LEE HALL-ANNISON
Unit A, Green Lane, The Slough, Studley, Warks. B80 7EY
TELEPHONE: 01527 854155

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

THE FECKENHAM SESSIONS
TRADITIONAL MUSICMAKING
at THE ROSE & CROWN

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

FOLK in the Rose Room
THE RHYTHM PIRATES
with SPECIAL GUEST
Sunday, 20th March - 8pm - Rose & Crown
£6 in advance - £7.50 on the door
Ticket on sale at The Rose & Crown

Feckenham Forest History Society
REDDITCH THEN & NOW
with Derek Coombes
Tuesday, 8th March - 7.30pm
Webheath Village Hall
www.feckenham-forest-history-society.org.uk

the WI INSPIRING WOMEN
FECKENHAM WI
At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL
THURSDAY, 10th MARCH - 7.30pm
MY LIFE & TIMES AS A COACH COURIER
with ANN DAVENPORT
Visitors Welcome - £3.50

Feckenham and Astwood Bank Conservatives
QUIZ NIGHT
Saturday 12th March at 7 p.m.
in Bradley Green Village Hall
Tickets to include a light supper with puds
£12.50 in advance before 5th March – limited numbers
from Antonia Pulsford on 892268

Feckenham Parish Council
DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING
Learn how to save a life
Tuesday, 15th March - 7pm to 9pm
Call 01789 490501 to book a place.

Feckenham Cricket Club
Feckenham Cricket Club
NEW SEASON Starts in April
Home matches:

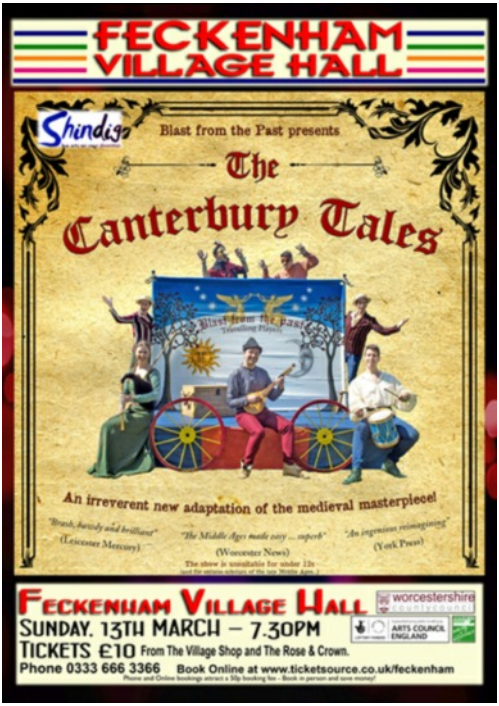
Sat, 9th April	Studley (1st team)
Sat 16th April	Hagley (2nd team)
Sat, 23rd April	Burghill, Tillington & Weobley (2nd Team)
Sat, 30th April	Chaddesley Corbett (1st Team)

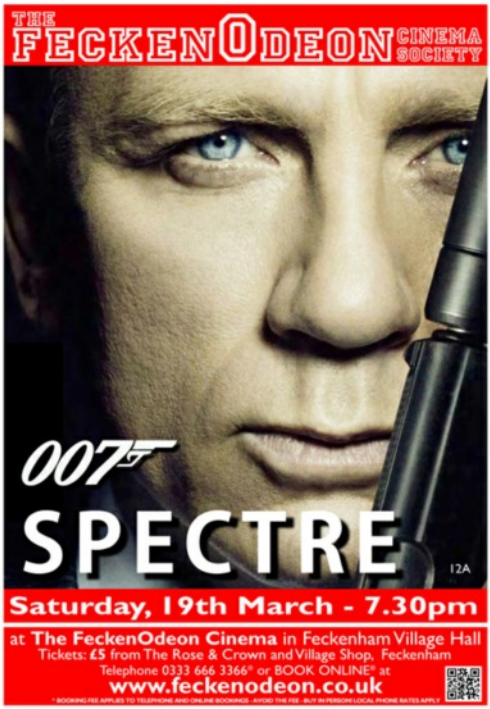
Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB
PROPAGATION & PERENNIALS
with Julie Ritchie
Bradley Village Hall
Wednesday, 2nd March - 7.30pm

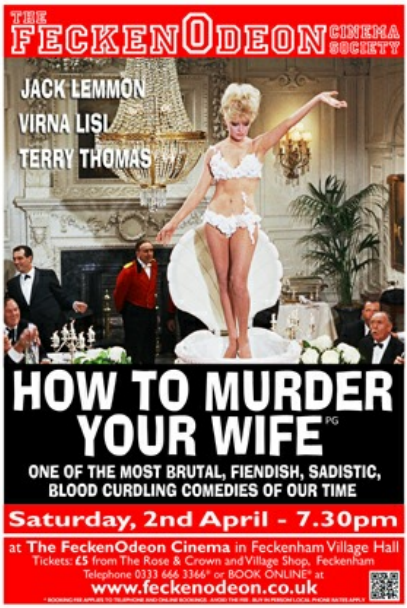
Feckenham Readers Group
Thursday, 17th February - 7.45
This month's book: ISLAND BENEATH THE SEA
by ISABEL ALLENDE
Details from Marion Ghate - 892285

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

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM







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

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

If your magazine delivery is early there's still time to catch **"I'm All Right Jack" at The FeckenOdeon on 27th February** at 7.30pm

24 NOT OUT

There can't be a more enduring film hero than James Bond but after 24 films and 54 years you'd think the old chap would be getting a bit tired and lacklustre - not a bit of it! His latest adventure "Spectre" has all the youthful energy you could possibly wish for. There are globetrotting locations (London, Rome, Tangier), spectacular stunts, impossible intrigue, inconceivable costume changes, laugh-out-loud gags and a plot that is at once utterly preposterous yet totally involving. Bond encounters an old enemy and faces a new challenge but, as with every other Bond movie, there are planes, cars, gadgets, wild women, wisecracks and wonderful escapism.... which is what it's all about really! **"Spectre" is showing at The FeckenOdeon on Saturday, 19th March at 7.30pm**

MURDEROUS FUN

When Jack Lemmon wakes up after a night on the town he vaguely remembers a young woman popping out of a cake... but he doesn't remember marrying her... but there she is, complete with wedding ring, in his apartment and she's adamant that he's her husband 'til death do them part.... which gives the reluctant bridegroom an idea. Assisted by his ingenious butler (Terry Thomas) he decides that the only solution is terminal. The bride (Virna Lissi) must be murdered... but the best laid plans...

It has to be born in mind that **"How to Murder Your Wife"** is a bit of a trip back in time. Attitudes have certainly changed - and for the better. In 1964 feminism had hardly been invented. So while accusations of political incorrectness could be leveled at the story of a confirmed bachelor duped into marrying while drunk, this remains more a study of male folly than misogyny. It's immaculately acted - particularly by Terry Thomas who narrates the whole thing and guides us suavely through the plot... but we can't give too much away about that for fear of ending up in the gloppita-gloppita machine...

Showing at the FeckenOdeon on Saturday, April 2nd at 7.30pm

Regular attendees will note that, due to the dates of Easter, our usual last Saturday in the month pattern has been broken - normal service will be resumed with "The Lady in The Van" on 30th April

Tickets for FeckenOdeon shows are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown. You can also book by phone (through TicketSource) on 0333 666 3366 or online at ***www.feckenodeon.co.uk***

BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

We're delighted to report that the "House Full" signs have been in use at The FeckenOdeon on a number of occasions this season. We'd just like to point out that we have 84 members who have paid for a seat at all of our Saturday night shows. We sell a number of tickets over and above that number to the general public - and, when they're gone they're gone. It does sometimes happen that not all of our members attend a show and that, despite the "Full" notices there have been a few empty seats. Our advice to non-members has to be "**book early to avoid disappointment**". If we are sold out and you still come along on the night we can't guarantee that we'll be able to find you a seat - but we can guarantee that you'll have to wait outside until we're sure that no further members or ticket holders are going to arrive!

Village Hall

Ian Bellion

RISQUÉ AND FRISQUÉ

If you're under the impression that Chaucer is an ancient writer worthy only of academic study - think again! A group of travelling players is about to prove that you can have seriously bawdy fun with old Geoffrey.

Blast from The Past are blasting into the village with their high energy version of **"The Canterbury Tales"** and the emphasis is most definitely on comedy and music. The company will present six of the best-loved tales, told in a variety of styles. The tales are cleverly staged and come complete with a touring set which has been specially constructed to resemble a medieval travelling theatre. The cast use drama, verse, physical theatre and song to bring Chaucer's characters to riotous life, telling tales packed with colourful characters and strange situations. This is definitely not a dry academic take on English literature – the show is fast, furious, quite often filthy and invariably funny!

Note: The show is bawdy but not obscene. Young people over the age of 12 are welcome.

"The Canterbury Tales" romp into Feckenham Village Hall on **Sunday, 13th March at 7.30pm**

This show is brought to Feckenham by Shindig - the County Council's scheme designed to bring top quality professional shows right to your doorstep.

Coming soon from Shindig:

On **Sunday, 15th May** The Opera Dudes in their hilarious **"Licensed to Trill"**. You'll be shaken with laughter - and stirred by the music!

Tickets for both of these shows are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown, by phone on 0333 666 3366 (local call rates) and online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham

Square Management Committee

TREES

If you're wondering what's happening about filling the blank spots left by the two trees that were removed from The Square you'll be glad to know that things are moving. A generous donor has offered to cover the costs of purchasing and planting a mature tree near the phone box and it's hoped that this will be in place later this month. The Committee is also moving towards ordering a second tree which will also be situated on the High Street section of The Square. Great care is being taken to ensure that these replacements satisfy the needs of the Conservation Area. Watch that space!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING.... AGAIN!!

Deck the Halls - Christmas is coming.... on the **23rd July**! The annual Fun On The Square will take the form of an **Australian Christmas** - complete with beach barbie and shark infested sea! More details soon - but put the date in your diary!

Parish Council

DEFIBRILLATOR SESSIONS

The Parish Council regrets any inconvenience caused by the cancellation of February's training session. This was unavoidable and entirely due to the illness of the trainer. There's another session on 15th March at 7pm and if, as seems likely, this is oversubscribed the Council will arrange a further date.

TRAFFIC CALMING

Considerable progress has been made in conjunction with the County Council and local landowners towards making the junctions at both ends of Rockhill Lane safer and making large vehicles avoid the High Street. A new Parish Council working party has been set up to look at the problems of the B4090 through the village.

MIND YOUR MAIL

The Police and residents have warned us that mail has been stolen from freestanding letter boxes in Berrow Hill and the thieves have made fraudulent use of the contents. You're urged to be vigilant!

From Feckenham Church Choir

Feckenham church choir is currently looking for new members. We are keen to invite anyone (both young and old) who would like to join us, to help us continue to produce good quality music at services and occasional weddings. No previous experience is required, just commitment to attend whenever possible.

We are a 4 part harmony choir and sing for 3 Sundays per month meeting to rehearse for an hour and a quarter before services.

At Christmas and Easter there may be extra rehearsals, and we are currently working on a specially commissioned work to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.

Some benefits of being a choir member - A chance to sing with others who share a love of music - to learn and perform music to a high standard- Can improve health and mental well being - improve your listening skills - have fun! Juniors will have the opportunity to learn music theory and work towards music badges and an annual trip is provided. There is an annual Christmas party for all members and occasional social events.

The choir meet ;
1st Sunday in the month 9.45 until 12.
3rd Sunday (seniors only) 5.15 until 7.30.
4th Sunday in the month 9.45 until 12.

For more information
Please contact
Amanda Gordon
01527894286

PETER R. YARNOLD
CARPENTRY & JOINERY
Quality hand made joinery in hardwood or softwood.
Windows, door, stairs, conservatories and furniture
Meadow Cottage, Agmore Lane, Tardebigge, Bromsgrove.
Tel.: 01527 873552
Mobile: 07717 102604

DOGGY PADDLE
Canine Hydrotherapy
Earls Common
WR9 7LB
01905 391501
www.doggypaddle.net

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

BMS
Bray Maintenance Services Limited
Your LOCAL Gardening Service
Lawnmowing - Turfing
Garden Clearance - Fencing
High Pressure Surface Cleaning of driveways, patios, etc.
For FREE quote call Carl Bray
01527 453163 or 07970 271653

Feckenham Spring Flower Show

Saturday 9th April 2016

Margaret Eost

The 'Springtime in Feckenham' Flower Show will be held on Saturday 9th 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 Bonnet 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 5 cut Daffodils - long trumpet (all same variety)
2 5 cut Daffodils - short trumpet (all same variety)
3 5 cut Daffodils - double (all same variety)
4 3 cut miniature spring flowers (all same variety)
5 3 cut Tulips (all same variety)
6 5 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)

Children's Classes

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

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

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

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

Building, Roofing,
Maintenance & Repair
Structural Alterations
Re-roofing,Landscaping
Brickwork Contractor
Garden Design
Venables
Property Services
t : 01386 793 164
Bean hall mill, moors lane,
feckenham, worcs B96 6JJ

THE IRONING CENTRE

16 Feckenham Road
Astwood Bank
(Next to Astwood Smiles Nursery
The Old Coach House)
IRONING
LAUNDERING
DRY CLEANING
REPAIRS & ALTERATIONS
SHOE REPAIRS
COLLECTION & DELIVERY
01527 894040

Village Shop

Jeff Matthews

New to the shop this month and to be found in the deli are the famous award winning pies, quiches and faggots from Fladbury. Local and lovely, come and try these out this month.

For those whose organisational skills are not of the highest, you may like to know that the shop stocks a very extensive range of cards for all occasions. A number of villagers (names withheld) discovered this on Feb 13th, when, by all accounts, there was a steady stream of people buying Valentine's Cards. As part of our unending service to the village, here are the reminders for this month's special events that may require a shopping moment for a suitable card.

Mothering Sunday is 6th March and not just a lovely selection of cards but also a range of speciality chocolates is available. We will also have fresh daffodils at pocket money prices.

For Easter Sunday on 27th March there's a variety of novelty chocolates, for something a bit different and of course many gorgeous chocolate eggs.

Actually, the range of cards available are worth making a special visit for. Local artist Gray Derby has extended his range of fine watercolour prints to create cards with a Feckenham flavour to mark most occasions. Another local company has also begun supplying the shop. Tastefully done, the cards can be found in the café area. Come and get a 'Special' - a drink and toasted teacake or Hot Cross Bun £2.20, and have a look at the range of cards at the same time.

The all important Easter opening hours are:

normal times on Good Friday 8am-6pm, 9am-4pm Saturday. 10-1 Easter Sunday and 10-1 on Monday.

Feckenham W.I.

Jane White

Our meeting this month is on **10th March at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall Back Room. The speaker will be Ann Davenport on "My Life and times as a Coach Courier". She will be recounting tales of her 25 years in the job.

Village Hall

Improvement Fund 2015/16

February Winners

151	Judith Milne	£25
103	Fran Robertson	£15
111	Graham Taylor	£10

The March Draw will be held in the Village Hall at

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

Full Menu available daily

Lunch & Evenings *(not Sunday evening)*

Real Ales & Ciders

4 real ales on hand pumps every day.

Traditional ciders - fine wines

We're in the 2016 GOOD BEER GUIDE

Special this month...

6 NATIONS RUGBY - SEE THE GAMES LIVE

MOTHERS DAY LUNCHES - 6th March

12 - 3pm - Half Price for under 10s

St Patrick's Day - 17th March

Bacon & Cabbage £8.95 - Irish Music

EASTER SUNDAY LUNCHES - 27th March

12 - 3pm - Egg Hunt in the garden at 3pm

www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk

Feckenham Cricket Club

Bob Gordon

Come and support your local cricket club as the new season is upon us - our picturesque ground is at the bottom of Mill Lane.

All matches start at 1pm unless otherwise stated – April-May fixtures are below, the highlight perhaps being the knock-out match against local rivals Astwood Bank on 15th May – this is the National Village Cricket competition where the final is played at the home of cricket - Lords.

For those liking the shorter game there is a T20 match against Barnt Green on Sun 8th May

Date	Fixture
Sat 9th April	Studley (1st team)
Sat 16th April	Hagley (2nd team)
Sat 23rd April	Burghill, Tillington and Weobley (2nd team)
Sat 30th April	Chaddesley Corbett (1st team)
Sat 7th May	Oldswinford & Stour Social (2nd team)
Sun 8th May, 3pm	Barnt Green (T20)
Sat 14th May	Redditch (1st team)
Sun 15th May	Astwood Bank (Knock-out cup)
Sat 21st May	Rushwick (2nd team)
Sat 28th May	Alvechurch & Hopwood (1st team)

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

URGENT: The club is in urgent need of a first team scorer – no experience necessary, instruction will be provided and for the lucky applicant(s) a free tea is provided on match days! If you are interested please contact Matt Henning on 07766 396337.

Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

Rob Cole

THE NEXT CLUB MEETING - Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at 7.30pm is a talk by Julie Ritchie of Hoo House Nursery near Tewkesbury, when she will give a hands-on demonstration of the techniques and materials used in the 'Propagation of Perennials and Alpines'.

The theme for the monthly competition is '*A Hellebore Flower*'. To take part, just bring along an exhibit for judging by the speaker. Every entry will win a point, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd will be awarded additional points. The member with the most number of points in the year will be awarded a prize of a year's subscription to the Gardening Club, at the AGM in November.

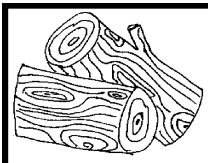
The £10 annual subscription for 2016 (which became due on 1st January 2016) should be paid at this meeting, please, if you haven't already renewed or joined.

The following Club meeting - Wednesday 6th April 2016 at 7.30pm will be our Annual Bulb Show. Members bring along three blooms each of as many daffodil varieties as they can muster, and everyone judges each entry to decide the winner in each class. Lots of help is available for anyone not sure of which Class to enter, and a list of Classes will be available at the March meeting as well as on the Show evening.

There will also be a Competition for the best photograph depicting '**FLOWER POWER**', so get snapping !

Make a note in your diary now !

Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £10.00 commencing on 1st January. 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.



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
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**

Heating Engineer

Gas appliances serviced & repaired: central heating boilers, gas fires, cookers, water heaters & warm air heating units.

- ☑ Landlord Certification
- ☑ Commercial boilers serviced & repaired
- ☑ LPG services

Tel/Fax: 0121 258 2941
Mobile: 07973110138

GAS safe REGISTER

FECKENHAM GARAGE

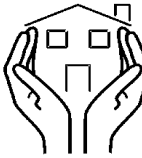
MOT Testing Station
Servicing & Repair to all makes
Tel: 01527 892483

Landscaping
Jeff Annand Contracting Ltd.

Blockpaving - Ponds - Patios - Groundwork & General Property Maintenance

Free Quotes
References available
Fully Insured

Tel: 07968 668906 or 01527 894745



MAIDS WITH CARE

Maids with Care is a family run cleaning company for the domestic and commercial business sectors.

Our services include:
Regular and one-off cleans • Deep and spring cleans
Moving in and out cleans • Property letting
Holiday cover • Oven cleaning • Window cleaning
Ironing • Carpet and upholstery cleaning
We employ, insure and CRB check our staff.
To arrange a sparkling clean ring **01527 401822**
e-mail:info@maidswithcare.co.uk
www.maidswithcare.co.uk

As Time Goes By

YOUR LOCAL FAMILY RUN MEMORIAL SUPPLIER

Head Stones, Cremation Tablets, Additional Inscriptions and Renovation Work

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"

J W & A J BARRETT LTD

Craftsmen in Metal

Traditional Blacksmithing
Restoration/repair
Metal work for home & garden
Mobile Welding

www.artmetal.co uk
Tel/Fax 01527 821500
Mobile 07973 517781

THE GUILD OF MASTER CRAFTSMEN

Direct Floors

Home service

Carpets • Vinyls • Wood-floors • Laminates

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

01527-894777
www.direct-floors.co.uk

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

CAR AIR CONDITIONING SERVICING

AUTOTECH

Motor Vehicle Services - MOT Centre
TEL: 01527 892254
1 Queen Street. Astwood Bank
All Car & Light Vehicle Repairs & Servicing
Free Collection & Delivery – Breakdown & Recovery
Tyre Fitting While U Wait
TYRES EXHAUSTS BATTERIES TYRES

Bowbrook Gardens

Imaginative high quality landscaping
Patios & garden walls
Ponds & water features
Swimming pool & ponds fibreglassed
Also Pond & Patio cleaning
Fencing & Hedge cutting
Local, friendly service, references available
Call Glenn - 01905 937852
Mobile 07792613020

Roz Lowe

McTimoney Chiropractor
and Homoeopath
For information and appointments
Phone 07989 986889

McTIMONEY CHIROPRACTIC

www.mctimoneychiropractic.co.uk

'Purradise'

BOARDING CATTERY

Earls Common
Himbleton

01905 391648
Jane Moule

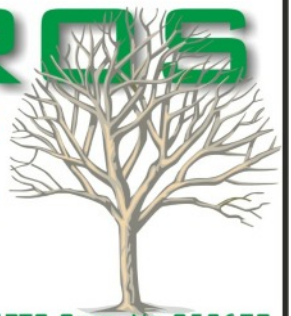
NICEIC APPROVED CONTRACTOR
MARK Registered through: NICEIC
NICEIC DOMESTIC INSTALLER

Electrician

All types of domestic, retail and commercial electrical work
Fully Qualified 17th Edition, Design, Testing, Replacing Consumer Units
Installation and Maintenance. All work fully certified and insured

Tel:- 01527 853141 Mob:- 07771 616189
Marchwood Maintenance Company
Trevor@marchwoodmaintenance.co.uk

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.S52670

S.E. Davis & Son Ltd
FIRST CHOICE IN LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES
COMPLETE RANGE OF SAND & GRAVELS,
ROCKERY STONE & WATER FEATURES,
RECYCLED & QUARRIED STONE,
TOP SOIL, TURF, BARK & CEMENT
READY MIX CONCRETE &
CPCS TRAINING ALSO AVAILABLE ON SITE
CAN BE DELIVERED LOOSE OR IN BULK BAGS
DAILY DELIVERIES TO YOUR AREA
01527 893343

www.sedavis.co.uk

NATIONAL AWARD WINNING COMMUNITY SHOP

The Village Shop
Droitwich Road, Feckenham

- Coffee Shop
- Local Produce
- Deli

Weekdays 8am - 6pm
Saturday 9am - 4pm
Sunday 10am - 1pm

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

W feckenhamshop.co.uk
T 01527 894475

FREE SECURE WiFi

JONATHAN SPROULE & SONS LTD
(MASTER BUILDERS)

20 Years Experience
SPECIALISTS IN
CHARACTER & PERIOD PROPERTIES
HOUSE EXTENSIONS & RENOVATIONS
Mere Green Cottage, Hanbury, Worcs. WR9 7DZ

Tel: 07973 445048 & 07976 826065 Fax: 01527 821452

© 2016. Published by Feckenham PCC - Printed by Sarum Graphics Ltd