

FECKENHAM

MARCH 2014

News



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village
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• MEMORIALS •

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MARCH Diary



Sat 1st	3-5pm	Fairtrade BIG Brew	Parish Church
Tues 4th	12.30am	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Wed 5th	7.30pm	Gardening Club	Bradley Village Hall
Tues 11th	7.30pm	Feckenham Forest History Society	Webheath Village Hall
Wed 12th	10.30am - noon	"Drop in" for coffee and a chat	Parish Church
Thur 13th	7.30pm	W.I.	Village Hall Back Room
Fri 14th	8pm	FeckenOdeon2 "The Band's Visit"	Village Hall Back Room
Sun 16th	3pm	Flower & Garden Festival 2015 preparatory meeting	Village Hall Back Room
Wed 26th	10.30am - noon	"Drop in" for coffee and a chat	Parish Church
Sat 29th	7.30pm	FeckenOdeon "Hitchcock"	Village Hall
Sun 30th	11am	"Mothering Sunday" Service	Parish Church



Flood protection on the corner of Swansbrook & Astwood Land.
Photo by Ian Bellion

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Front Cover

Photo by Peter Teisen.
Andrew Baldwin leading his sheep along Berrow Hill Lane in early January. Peter says they trooped past his car in total silence with the sheep-dog behind.

Production Team

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Magazine online at
www.feckenham.com

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

Mon. Closed: Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 10am-1pm & 2-5pm: Fri. Closed

at - *The Bowbrook Group, The Parish Office, St Andrew's Street, DROITWICH, WR9 8DY*

Readers and Intercessors



Sunday 2nd

Sunday next

Before Lent

11-00am Sung Eucharist

Exodus 24 : vs. 12-end

2 Peter 1 : vs. 16-end

Intercessions

Patricia Collins

Jane White

Ian Hunter

Sunday 9th

1st Sunday

of Lent

8-00am Holy Communion

2 Corinthians 6 : vs. 1-10

Pam Eaton

11-00am Family Service "Reflecting on Your Spiritual Journey"

Sunday 16th

Lent 2

6-30pm Evensong

Genesis 12 : vs. 1-4a

3 : vs. 1-17

Intercessions

Jenny Snel John

John Pulsford

Peter Horsley

Sunday 23rd

Lent 3

11-00am Family Communion

Romans 5 : vs. 1-11

Intercessions

Alison Crellin

Lin Preece

Sunday 30th

Lent 4

11-00am

MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE

X Box Sunday School

Will be held in Church on Sunday 2nd March. All children will be warmly welcomed.

Partners in Prayer

Ecumenical lay led service of prayer for the community, Wednesdays at 9.15am for 30 minutes

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

Thought for the month

Wyn Beynon

Dear Friends,

We're battling with rain and wind but as I write the sun has come out and there is a respite before the next Atlantic low rushes in, and maybe the worse we've seen yet.

The pundits will blame climate change, and I'm sure there's some truth in that, though how much is unknown. The politicians start sniping at each other. A sure sign that they've lost the plot - again!

And the catkins hang. And the snowdrops droop in profusion and the buds and shoots sneak out and grin. Those are the important things. Whilst politicians and media contemplate their own seating arrangements and General Synod is grinding on to get to the goal of making it possible for women to be Bishops the sun warms the desk through the window and the blue sky waves from behind the hurrying clouds.

The news moves on to the latest thing. But it's all the same as before. Wars and rumours of wars, economic uncertainty, floods and gales and lives turned upside down, or tragically ended by the barrel of a gun.

The Victorians taught us to be optimistic. They thought science would solve everything. And we got two world wars and nuclear weapons. Our children are not optimistic. They are cynical at worst, resigned at best.

And the daffodils stretch their leaves and with complete cheek refuse to be bothered by the threat of a late frost or a carpet of snow.

There is a place I have discovered by the Salwarpe when walking our little dog. There's a 1 in 5 or 6 chance that I can spot a perching Kingfisher. But if it gets the slightest clue I'm there it's gone in a flash of iridescence. Breathtaking, every time.

The poet T S Eliot called it midwinter spring,

which he said, was its own season. Our lives are often in midwinter. Yet the joke is that there is always the midwinter spring hiding behind each grey day. And it can jump out and startle us when we least expect it. I suppose that's why I believe in eternity, and the God who giggles behind the inevitable sadness of life.

best wishes,

Wyn

Church Flower Group

Easter Lilies

Although Easter is not until 20th April 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.

Bowbrook Group

Sheila Banyard



Welcoming -

The Revd David Morris.

David will be licensed as priest-in-charge of the Bowbrook parishes by the Bishop of Worcester on **Sunday 13th April** at 4pm at Hanbury church. Refreshments will be served after the service. Everyone is warmly invited to attend this special occasion to welcome David at the start of his new ministry.

Feckenham Manorial Moated Site



ENGLISH
HERITAGE

FECKENHAM'S PAST AT RISK

Feckenham's only scheduled monument is considered to be "at risk" according to Imogen Sambrook of English Heritage - and local help is needed to improve the situation.

The monument, known in the official lists as "Feckenham Manorial Moated Site", is the area of land which contains the recreation ground and children's play area and is locally thought to have been the site of King John's hunting lodge.

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

Although the centre of the site is well maintained by the Council and the Football Club Imogen is concerned that the state of the edge of the site is affecting the archaeological evidence hidden below ground. Years of active public use and unchecked growth of scrub and trees may be putting paid to any chances of eventually finding out exactly what this earthwork was in the past.

As the Heritage at Risk Project Officer for this region, Imogen is now working with the Local Authorities to start a Community Archaeology Project to try and raise awareness about the plight of the monument by providing information for display on the site. She's also encouraging interested community members to get together to apply for funding to reduce the threat to the archaeology around this well-used heritage asset.

YOU CAN HELP

If you'd like to get involved Imogen will be calling a site meeting for interested people and organisations soon. To be invited to the meeting all you need to do is contact Imogen Sambrook on 0121 625 6854 or e-mail:

imogen.sambrook@english-heritage.org.uk

Or, if you'd prefer, you can contact the Square Management Committee (who have already expressed an interest in the project) in order to be kept informed. Call 892130 or 894010 or e-mail square@feckenham.f9.co.uk

So... WHAT IS ACTUALLY UNDER THE FOOTBALL PITCH?

English Heritage has this information on its website culled from ancient writings:

"An oval work called Court Close or Bennett's Bower, is of greater strength than the usual homestead moat type & contains 3 acres. The eastern half has been much cut about & altered, but the western defences are in good condition and comprise a double bank and ditch. On the south side there is this peculiarity: that the outer bank is higher & has kind of interior berm. The inner area, which is level, shows considerable traces of foundations, evidently those of buildings connected with the prison which stood here and which was used for offenders committed from the forest courts."

"... near the church is the site of the old prison, formerly known as Bennett's Bower, which consists of about 4 acres of land surrounded by a ditch and was formerly used for the punishment of offenders in the forest. In the 16th century the manorial courts were held in the upper part of prison. It was evidently allowed to fall into decay after the forest was disafforested in 1629, and in the time of Charles II the ground it had occupied was used for tobacco, which grew very well 'till the planting of it was prohibited by Act of Parliament."

Of King John's hunting lodge there is no mention. When an exploratory trench was dug and a geophysical survey was carried out in 1999 there was no sign of a lodge - but we really don't know - and unless the village supports the project to stop the site deteriorating we shall never have the chance of knowing!



King John appears to have had hunting lodges all over the country - this one is in Axbridge in Somerset



Above and below, the site and the scrub growth affecting the preservation of the ditch.
Photographs by Ian Bellion.



Feckenham Forest History Society

Richard Churchley



The Feckenham Forest History Society has just published a new magazine. It is called The Feckenham Forester, price £3.50. It contains articles and snippets about the history of the Redditch, Feckenham, Tardebigge, Hanbury and Inkberrow area. Topics in this first issue include fairground folk from Astwood Bank, Hanbury's district nurse, a Hanbury curate who became rector of Kington (Worcestershire), an Inkberrow windmill, the Inkberrow Association for the Prosecution of Felons, the early years of Lower Grinsty Farm, Feckenham, an Astwood Bank childhood, the disafforestation of Feckenham Forest, the collapse of two local churches, a Redditch Riot, a Redditch Murder, the history of the White Hart pub at Headless Cross and also the story that Shakespeare's skull may lurk in the vault of a local church.

The topics cover a variety of periods from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries in different local parishes. The magazine is on sale at Feckenham Forest History Society monthly meetings. Non-members are welcome at all Feckenham Forest History Society's monthly meetings. See the society's website www.feckenham-forest-history-society.org.uk

The magazine is also on sale at various local shops including ASAP Printing, Birchfield Road, Headless Cross, Inkberrow PO, Crabbs Cross PO, **Feckenham Village Shop**, Hancox Store, Astwood Bank, and The Forge Needle Museum, Redditch. For more details about the magazine or to have the magazine delivered by post please contact the editor Dr Richard Churchley on 01527 892361 or rchurchley@totalise.co.uk.

Flower & Garden Festival 2015

Cathy Fisher

Meeting to discuss the Flower and Garden Festival 2015

With next year's Festival on the horizon I would like to invite all garden owners who have opened in the past and those who might like to open in the future, flower group and WI representatives, all volunteers and anyone else who may be interested, to tea/coffee and biscuits in the **back room of village hall at 3pm on Sunday 16th March**.

I hope that this 'get together' will provide the perfect opportunity for further discussion and some most welcome feedback from you all. It will also be great to catch up!

If you are unable to join us but would like to express any views or thoughts, please send an email to: catherine.fisher@talk21.com

Hope to see you on the 16th March,

Catherine Fisher

Thanks

Shop Anniversary Party

This took place on 31st January this year in the Rose and Crown, thanks to our winning a prize from Plunkett for the way we involve volunteers, so it seemed a good idea to use the money to reward the volunteers. It was a great success. A lot of volunteers were able to come and Matt and Mel and their staff looked after us magnificently, providing the most delicious finger buffet and even a birthday cake. The five candles were blown out by the Chairman, John Eaton, who fortunately had enough puff left after his visit to Australia! Thank you very much to everyone involved.

Antonia Pulsford

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB

VEGETABLES in a SMALL GARDEN

A Talk by Richard Baldwin
Wednesday, 5th March - 7.30pm
Bradley Village Hall

Feckenham Readers Group



Thursday, 6th February - 7.45

This month's book:

DEAR FATTY by Dawn French

Details from Marion Chafe - 892285

Feckenham Forest History Society

ROYAL REGALIA AND RESIDENCES

A talk by Bernard Pumphrey
Tuesday, 11th March - 7.30pm
Webheath Village Hall

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

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

FECKENHAM WI At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY, 13th MARCH - 7.30pm

MALVERN MEMORIES

AND MARVELS

WITH RAY STURDY

Non-members welcome - £3.50

Feckenham and Astwood Bank Conservatives

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 1st March at 7p.m.

Feckenham Village Hall

Tickets £10 to include a light supper with puds
in advance from Antonia on 892268

Pay Bar

PRIZES

Raffle

Feckenham Flower & Garden Festival 2015

MEETING to discuss the Festival

All gardeners, flower people, volunteers
and anybody who is interested are invited to join
us at 3pm on Sunday, March 16th
at Feckenham Village Hall



WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

THE **FECKENODEON** CINEMA SOCIETY

Friday, 14th March at 8pm

THE EGYPTIAN POLICE BAND ARE LOST
....IN ISRAEL

THE BAND'S VISIT

Feckenodeon 2
The Cinema in the Back Room

"A gentle comedy with fantastic,
well timed performances" *Time Out*

Saturday, 29th March at 7.30pm

HITCHCOCK

STARRING
ALICIA HOPKINS
ANDREW SCOTT
MIRREN
DIRECTED BY
JOHANSSON
CASTING BY
COLLETTE
EDITED BY
HUSTON
PRODUCTION DESIGNER
BIEL
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D'ARCY

Saturday, 26th April at 7.30pm

MURDER
ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

The FeckenOdeon Cinema at Feckenham Village Hall

Tickets for these shows are on sale at
The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown

Telephone Bookings: 0844 8700 887 - Book ONLINE at
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Fairtrade Fortnight

BIG Brew


Saturday 1st March

Feckenham Church

Tea and cake will be served from 3 - 5pm

Gifts, jewellery and a small range of clothes will be available for sale.

Please come along with your friends for a cup of tea and a chat.


Feckenham Village Hall 

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Shooting the Moon


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Feckenham Village Hall 

Sunday, 6th April - 7.30pm

Tickets £10 From The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.
Phone 0333 666 3366 Book Online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham

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Feckenham Village Hall

Saturday, 19th April - 7.30pm

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The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



THE BAND PLAYS ON...

The eight men wear sky-blue uniforms with gold braid on the shoulders. They look like extras in an opera. They get off a bus in the middle of nowhere and stand uncertainly on the verge. They are the Egyptian Police Ceremonial Band on a cultural visit and they're lost... in Israel. As one of the locals puts it "No culture here - not Israeli, not Egyptian, not nothing". There's no transport until the morning so the band have to get to know their hosts - and it turns out not to be so bad after all. **The Band's Visit** could have been heavy handed and political - but it's a jolly, funny and warm look at the way strangers can become friends in the most unlikely of ways. Showing on **Friday, 14th March at 8pm.**



THE POWER BEHIND THE SCREAMS

Behind every Psycho there's a good woman - in this case it's Mrs Hitchcock, played with gusto by Helen Mirren. There have been a number of solemn films (and a stage play seen here recently) which concentrate on Alfred Hitchcock's inner workings and motivation. Refreshingly, this is a lively and amusing film about the struggle to make the movie "Psycho". The script was thrown out by all the studios but Hitch (Anthony Hopkins) knew that it was a winner - and the formidable husband and wife team swung into action. **Hitchcock** - showing at **7.30pm on Saturday, 29th March.**

Tickets for these shows are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown. Book by phone on 0333 666 3366 or online at www.fecknodeon.co.uk

Village Hall

Ian Bellion



MAGICAL MOON SHOT

"Touring theatre doesn't come any more magical than this" The Stage

One of the UK's most inventive and entertaining theatre companies returns to Feckenham on Sunday, **6th April** with a startling new show. **Shooting the Moon** is Strangeface Theatre Company's tribute to one of the 20th century's most influential fantasists - Georges Méliès. A visionary who combined his passion for magic with early motion pictures, Méliès' astounding images entranced audiences in France and still inspire today; most notably in the Mighty Boosh and Martin Scorsese's film 'Hugo'.

Told through a series of unreliable and often surreal dreams using masks, puppetry and amazing special effects, **Shooting the Moon** reveals how Méliès escaped his fate as a bootmaker and the wild energy and madcap antics that drove him to fame and obscurity. Funny, poignant and visually enthralling, this is a tale



of an extraordinary life in exceptional times. **Book now** for a highly original and memorable night out.

COMING SOON: Returning to Feckenham on **Saturday, 19th April** is the rootsy, rocky, folky band **WHALEBONE**. This time they're joined by American singer/songwriter **Kelley McRae**. A special concert for Easter Saturday.



Kelley McRae

Tickets (£10) for all shows are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown - you can book online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham or by phone on 0333 666 3366

Square Management Committee

A Date for your diaries - Looking way, way ahead to the (Hopefully) balmy days of summer please pencil in the evening of **Saturday, 19th July** when the annual Fun on The Square jollifications will take place. The event is provisionally billed as taking the form of a "Celtic Night" - more details soon,

At
St. John the Baptist Church
 Reflecting on
 Your
 Spiritual Journey
Sunday 9th March
11am
 The 3rd service in the
 series for
 all age worship
 Refreshments served after

Village Hall

Improvement Fund 2013/14



February Winners

77	Nora Winter	£25
21	Janie Anderson	£15
142	Marion Chute	£10

The March Draw will be held in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 4th March 2014

The Shop is Looking for a Little Admin Support

That's "little" in the amount of time, as opposed to stature by the way. Could you spare an hour (or so) a week to help the Shop keeps its admin in order? We are looking for someone with good enough computer skills (used to Excel, handling computer packages etc.) and has that kind of organised mind that can bring apparent chaos to heel.

Sort of things we are looking for you to do are :

- print name badges
- keep forms up to date, printed and in appropriate places
- design new forms/procedures/posters
- produce labels
- bit of filing
- keep office tidy, stock up paper, till rolls etc

If you think you could help and would like to find out more, then contact Rosemary on 894005. Look forward to hearing from you.

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Feckenham Spring Flower Show

Saturday 12th April 2014

Rob Cole

The '**Springtime in Feckenham**' Flower Show will be held on Saturday 12th 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 selling bric-a-brac, cakes, and plants, as well as 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)

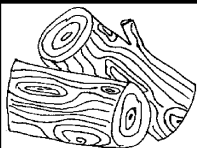
Children's Classes

- 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 6, 7, 8, and 9 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 bric-a-brac stall and a cake stall and would be very grateful for donations of good quality bric-a-brac items, please, and cakes of any sort. Any items can be left in the car port at 'The Paddocks', High Street, Feckenham, at any time, or at the Village Hall on the day from 10.00am until 12 noon.



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"MEMORIALS THAT REFLECT A LIFETIME"

Village Shop

Jeff Matthews

We have sourced fresh Artisan bread on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. From the suppliers to The Forest of Feckenham, we've got them to drive a few more yards down the road and bring us their excellent breads. You might need to make sure your there promptly as its proving rather popular.

Mothering Sunday is 30th March this year, and there is a range of cards, chocolates and other gifts that you will find available in the shop. Traidcraft continue to supply us with a range of exquisite and unusual items that are not expensive. So treat your Mom to something special.

A treat that might also be appreciated is a decent cup of coffee and a cake – or rather a hot cross bun, as Easter approaches. That's this month's special offer. And for those who come regularly, don't forget the loyalty card – buy 6 drinks and the next one is on us.



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What's On this month in STOCK & BRADLEY

- 1st** **Fairtrade Afternoon Tea**
3 pm - 5 pm
Stock & Bradley Church
- 5th** **Gardening Club**
Vegetable Growing
in the Smaller Garden
7.30pm - Bradley Village Hall
- 5th** **Breakaway**
Charity Spring Lunch - 11.30 am
- 9th** **Walking Club**
Meet at Bradley Green Church - 10am
- 12th & 26th**
Drop in for a Coffee and a Chat
10 am - 12noon
Bradley Green Village Hall
- April**
5th **MAKING A DIFFERENCE
SPRING HOP**
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Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

Rob Cole

THE NEXT CLUB MEETING - Wednesday 5th March 2014 is a talk entitled 'Vegetable Growing in the Small Garden' by Richard Baldwin who is a lecturer at Pershore College, who will tell us how to get the most out of a small vegetable plot.

The theme for the monthly competition is '**A Miniature Arrangement**'. 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 next AGM in October 2014.

The following meeting - Wednesday 2nd April 2014 - 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 '**Wild Flowers**', so get snapping !

Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £10.00. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting. If you require any further information, ring Denny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527 821355 or Rob Cole (Chairman) on 01527

Feckenham W.I.

Gay Bligh



Thursday 13 March 2014 at 7.30pm – An illustrated talk on 'Malvern's Memories and Marvels' by Ray Sturdy

All meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the back room of Feckenham village hall. Visitors are welcomed to join us for any meeting at a cost of £3.50 per visit. If you require further information please contact Jane White 01527 893281 or Gay Bligh on 01527 893321.

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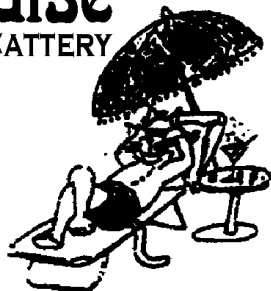
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