

# FECKENHAM

May 2022

# NEWS



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

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# Feckenham News in May

## Dates for your Diary

### May

3rd	Lunch Club at 1230
7th	Plant Sale Bradley Green
10 <sup>th</sup>	History Society Meeting
12th	Parish Council Meeting
14-15th	Flower and Garden Festival
19th	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
21st	Fecknodeon - Local Hero
23rd	WI Meeting
25th	Flower Show AGM

### June

2nd	Jubilee: Lighting of Berrow Hill Beacon
5th	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Picnic
15th	Friends of the Church Charity AGM
20th	Hanging Basket -Judging starts
25th	WAKE Feckenham Horse Show

### August

20th	Fun on the Square
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### Regular Sessions

Mondays	Restorative Yoga
Thursdays	Bridge; Hatha Yoga; Pilates
First Tuesday of the month:	
Feckenham Sessions	
Feckenham Forest History Society	

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## Front Cover

Winning Flower arrangement - Spring Flower Show

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

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

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## Editor's Note

As usual, Feckenham is very busy from what I can see. Over the last few weeks we have pulled together to raise funds for Ukraine and I know some are offering, or considering offering, accommodation to those fleeing the war. I



am still finding it difficult to believe that, after decades of peace in Europe, we have a war going on almost on our doorstep. After having to limit the amount of news I absorbed on Covid for so long, it's hard to read every day about more loss of life in war. I would have hoped that humanity had learned from previous wars how to avoid them - maybe we couldn't factor in someone like Putin.

The Spring Fayre and Craft Show, an Evening of Music from the Musicals performed by Fordante and the Bric-a-Brac sale have taken place and the Great Feckenham Breakfast is coming up and will have happened by the time you receive this magazine: all raising funds for Ukraine. I hope to be able to give news of the total raised in the June magazine.



Jill and David Rowe came up with the idea of a bring and buy Bric-a-Brac sale and did a huge amount of work. My partner, Martin Strange and I helped organise the event with them. It took place on Easter



Saturday and I'd like to give a massive thanks to Jill and David, the army of volunteers who ran the many stalls and all the villagers who donated so many items it was almost overwhelming. Despite having mountains of leftover donations which are going to charity, we raised in the region of £1000. Final figures next month.

Enough of looking back, now that Spring is well and truly here we are in eager anticipation of our traditional summer events which were deferred due to the pandemic. I know many have had Covid recently and that it has been disruptive, but at least it seems a mild condition for most of us, so it seems safe enough to be resuming an almost normal life especially as our summer events are outdoors in the main. I look forward to a busy summer in the village. Look out in the magazine for all that's on over the next few weeks.

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14th & 15th May  
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**ITALIAN THEMED MENU** - 26th May  
Please call or pop in for details

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

## Letter to the Editor

Information for dog owners using footpaths 604(C) & 624 (C) from the point between our land (Dunstall Court) and Winfields.

Having observed a large number of dog owners, who seem to consider that it is perfectly acceptable to use the majority of the field to exercise their dogs, allowing them to foul the grassland without then clearing it up. This is can only be described as inconsiderate and irresponsible.

I would respectfully point out that this land is permanent grassland used for grazing cattle and sheep. Without doubt, some of these dogs will be carrying the neosporosis virus which can result in cattle and sheep aborting or producing a deformed foetus.

If this is not bad enough, some owners are also deviating off the public footpath and walking around the perimeter and along the stream again allowing the dogs to run freely into the undergrowth disturbing wildlife, such as ground nesting birds, ducks, moorhens, etc.

In addition to all of this there are also dog owners who think it is acceptable to walk up the main Dunstall drive (which

is a private drive) then force their way through the hedgeway to gain access to the field to again let their dogs run free.

Recently a Lancashire farmer has received a prison sentence following an incident which occurred on a public footpath where an 83 years old gentleman was fatally attacked by cattle. After the hearing Health & Safety Executive inspector Julian Franklin, explained that a number of measures could have been used to safeguard the path. He added that farmers should ensure that all they take all reasonable practical precautions to protect walkers.

Therefore we will shortly be taking steps to mitigate all of the above.

Lionel Hill, Dunstall Court.

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# Village Notices

## Flower Show and Over 60s Committee

The proposal is to change the constitution at the AGM on May 25<sup>th</sup>, to be held in the back room of the Village Hall, at 7 30pm,

To remove the Christmas Party as it is felt that this is no longer viable. We propose still to hold a spring and autumn flower show.

It will have to be discussed at the AGM what the proceeds will be used for.

## Feckenham Horse Show

The Horse Show takes place on Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> on Berrow Hill Lane. For a schedule please go to [www.horse-events.co.uk](http://www.horse-events.co.uk)

## Square Management Committee

### SOUTH OF THE BORDER...

Just a reminder that The Square Management Committee's popular Fun on The Square event will be revived on August 20th after a two year "rest". The event, which aims to raise funds for the upkeep of Feckenham's village green, will feature food, drink and fun activities. There'll be a South American/ Caribbean theme so start knitting your sombreros and... put the date in your diaries!

## The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Please join us to celebrate the Queen's

Platinum Jubilee Beacon on top of

Berrow Hill on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June from

7pm onwards.

Please bring your own refreshments.

The Beacon will be lit at 9.30pm.

Fancy dress encouraged!

## HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Picnic on the square  
June 5 2022 2pm. - 5pm

Bring your own refreshments - tables, chairs or picnic rugs.

Music provided

### **HELP FOR YOU if you are self-isolating** From Volunteers Co-ordinated by Feckenham Facebook Group & Parish Council

A group of local volunteers from the village are available to assist you with PICKING UP SHOPPING, or POSTING MAIL, picking up URGENT SUPPLIES (including medications) or just having a FRIENDLY PHONE CALL during this challenging time when many people are being advised to self-isolate if they are either vulnerable or ill.

If you would like some help then please contact JANE BULL, Clerk to Feckenham Parish Council either on 892522 or [clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com](mailto:clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com) and we will be in touch (& the help is free!). Any goods will be left on your doorstep. More updates on our local radio: [swansbrook.com](http://swansbrook.com)

NOTE: Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness - Avoid physical contact (keep at least 2m distance from others) and Wash your hands regularly

# FECKENHAM FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

**14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> May 2022**  
**11.00am – 5.00pm.**



We should be most grateful if all residents and visitors would keep the Square as clear as possible of cars to provide access for our visitors and the stallholders (plant sales, garden accessories and Feckenham History Society). During previous Festivals residents have been most helpful in this regard and we are most grateful.

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving in our Parish Church at 6.30pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May, to which everyone is welcome to attend.

The Friends of Feckenham Church greatly appreciate everyone's efforts for the Festival weekend and would like to say 'thank you' to the open garden owners, flower group and volunteers who have helped with the Festival by inviting them for a glass of wine in the Church on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> May from 6.00p.m. when the Flower Festival will still be at its best.

The arrangements for this year's Festival are progressing well and I am extremely grateful to all those who have kindly volunteered to participate, without whom this kind of event could not take place.

As usual all visitors will be directed to park in the Festival Car Park by Dunstall Court, with kind permission of Lionel Hill and Tom Edwards, where admission stickers and a programme can be purchased (for village residents these can be purchased at the Information Desk on the Square).



We are crossing our fingers for fine weather and looking forward to a most enjoyable village weekend. If there are any garden owners who have not yet been in touch who would be willing to open their gardens please get in touch by the latest Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022.

Catherine Fisher  
E: [catherine.fisher@talk21.com](mailto:catherine.fisher@talk21.com)  
T: 07931 338291

# WAKE 2022

## All the Fun of Feckenham Wake 22

June 25<sup>th</sup> is suddenly looking very soon and so much is going on this year lets get preparing....

We are looking forward to welcoming any stall holders, commercial and local charities. Just get in touch with any member of the Wake team. We are also looking for volunteers. The more the merrier but let us know as soon as you can. The more people the wider the work is spread so that everyone can have a good time. If you can spend an hour or two looking after one of our attractions then let us know.

In recent years we have trained first aiders for the day but we're hoping that there may be someone out there who has the up to date qualification and



might be able to be on hand?

There will be the usual Wakes Cakes stall and all donations will be welcome!

Finally here's a list of Wake contacts:- Julian Bull (chair), Marion Chute, Ann Barratt , Alan Smith, Ian Bellion , Chris Nicholson (Car show), Charlie Willetts (Dog Show), Louise Jordon.



## Feckenham WI April Meeting

For our first 'proper' meeting we voted in March to do something that's very traditionally WI – flower arranging! However, the more modern take we were after was provided by the creative and contemporary Wren & Bramble. In their excellent workshop we not only learned how to make beautiful seasonal Easter arrangements but also the secrets to creating hand tied bouquets.

Our next meeting is on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** – activity TBC. As well as forming the programme for the year, we are still in the process of bringing together the committee so that we can make our group viable. We have a President and Treasurer but we need a Secretary. If you would like to know more about what's involved, please get in touch.

Everyone who is planning on joining our new group needs to pay in April (it's £44 for the year, please contact me for payment details) but if you would like to come to meetings on an ad-hoc basis it's about £3 per meeting.

*We meet on every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month (after May's meeting!) in the back room of Feckenham Village Hall. Doors open at 7.45pm and the meeting runs from 8-9.30pm. Please bring your own mug (with whatever you want in it...), biscuits are provided.*

**Jen Cary**

07773 883 039

[Jennifer.clements@openreach.co.uk](mailto:Jennifer.clements@openreach.co.uk)



## Feckenham Conservation and Biodiversity Project Update from Jeff Matthews

Many of you will have spotted that the first trees to be felled have now been taken down and the cuttings removed. We will be planting new native species in the coming weeks, oak, cherry and perhaps some elm. The hedgerow has been cleared of the invasive Snowberry and hawthorn and dog rose planted. If you look very carefully you will be able to see it in the hedge between the churchyard and the cricket pitch. Habitats have been made with log files, a bug hotel, a hibernaculum and nesting boxes for birds and bats. Look out for the guided walk at the Flower Festival. Autumn will see further work, not least the flower meadow preparation. Hopefully we will be able to get some seed this year!



# April CHURCH SERVICES



## PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Priest-in-charge: Fr Glenn Reading 01527 894436

Church Warden: Ann Mathews 892180

Please contact Ann for Weddings at [ann@the-madison-group.co.uk](mailto:ann@the-madison-group.co.uk)

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

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

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



PARISH CHURCH  
OF  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
FECKENHAM

### Services for May 2022

<b>1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Rev B Wheatley</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>BCP Eucharist</b>	<b>Rev B Wheatley</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Service of thanksgiving for the Flower and Garden Festival</b>	<b>Fr Glenn Reading</b>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Fr Glenn Reading</b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>	

### FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

#### St John Fisher & Thomas More

The Mass service is held every Sunday at 10.15 am.

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

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

Link: [www.eventcast.uk/live](http://www.eventcast.uk/live) (Type the link into the browser)

**Fr. Anthony Rohan, The Presbytery, Redditch. Tel 63096**

**Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898**



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## **An update on the Village Clock**

The cherry picker is booked for Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May to come and clear the church high level gutters and review the tiles on the roof of the south side. It will also be available for Stuart the engineer from Cumbria Clocks. He intends to carry out the work on the clock face hands to stop them catching. He is also taking the opportunity of dismantling the clock and taking it back to Cumbria to overhaul and replace the electric winding mechanism plus the timing mechanism. They will also be repairing the mechanism that enables the clock to strike on the hour. It will be away for a few months but we are hoping the work will be completed by the autumn.

We are now halfway towards raising the £8,000 towards the cost of this maintenance to the clock. We still need a further £4,000 so it is not too late to buy a bong if you have not already done so. This project is being organised by "The friends of Feckenham Parish Church" a Registered Charity number 1168889. We are grateful for the support already received. Contact me John Eaton for further information. [john@eatonconsulting.co.uk](mailto:john@eatonconsulting.co.uk) 01527 894272

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

will be held in St John the Baptist Church, Feckenham

**Thursday 19th May 2022 at 7:30 pm**

For the election of **two** churchwardens, **five** parochial representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council and **one** representative to the Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery Synod.

The Meeting will consider reports on the Electoral Roll, proceedings of the PCC and activities of the parish, report on the Redditch & Bromsgrove Deanery Synod and the Financial Statement for 2021.

Formal notice of the meeting will be displayed on the church door for at least two Sundays before the meeting

Sally Eost  
(PCC Secretary)

**'The Friends of Feckenham Parish Church Charity AGM** will take place at St John's Church Feckenham at 7pm. on Wednesday 15th June 2022

Anyone wishing to attend will be very welcome to hear details of the work undertaken during the last 3 years and future projects.

Phil Guise  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

# WHAT'S ON IN



## THE FECKENHAM SESSIONS TRADITIONAL MUSICMAKING

at THE ROSE & CROWN

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm

NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 3rd May

## Feckenham Parish Council MEETING

Thursday, 12th May

at 7.30pm

Feckenham Village

Hall Back Room

*All welcome.*



## FECKENHAM FLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL

14th & 15th May, 2022

11am to 5pm

Approximately **30 Gardens Open.**

**Flower Festival** in the Church

Homemade Teas - Hog Roast

Admission £7.50 (Under 16s free).

Ample parking - Feckenham is on the B4090

Alcester to Droitwich Road - B96 6QH

Proceeds to Feckenham Church Maintenance Fund

An illustration of a woman in a red corset and a large, ornate red hat. She is smiling and looking towards the viewer. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds, a hot air balloon, and a string of colorful bunting flags.

## Feckenham WAKE Saturday, 25th June

Send details of events for FREE listing to:

# FECKENHAM

FECKENHAM  
VILLAGE HALL



**Mondays:** Restorative  
Yoga - 7.30pm

**Wednesdays:** All Round  
Voices Community Choir

**Thursdays:** Bridge Club -  
10am

Hatha Yoga - 6pm

Pilates - 7.30pm

We also host regular  
monthly meetings of  
various organisations.  
Check our website for  
details.

The Hall is now fully  
open and welcomes  
bookings.

Contact the Booking  
Secretary on  
01527 821233

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

THE  
**FECKENODEON** CINEMA  
SOCIETY

**THE MAN IN THE HAT**

**FeckenOdeon 1 - Saturday, 30th April at 7.30pm**

**LOCAL HERO**

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY BILL FORSYTH  
PRODUCED BY DAVID PUTTNAM



**FeckenOdeon 1 - Saturday, 21st May at 7.30pm**

The FeckenOdeon Cinemas  
at Feckenham Village Hall

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

\*Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings

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

The Feckenham Forest History Society

## THE HISTORY OF THE POST

IN WORCESTERSHIRE

A talk by Chris Jackson

Tuesday, 10th May - 7.30pm

Webheath Village Hall

Stock & Bradley  
Gardening Club

## PLANT SALE

Saturday, 7th May

10 am to 12 noon

Bradley Village Hall

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

## The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



A spike in local Covid-19 infections put paid to the planned Christmas showing of **"Local Hero"**. Now it's back - tacked neatly onto the tail end of the FeckenOdeon's season. Members can enjoy it as part of their subscription and non-members can book seats for just a fiver as usual.

In this warm hearted British Comedy Texan oil magnate Felix Happer (Burt Lancaster) gets the idea that a small Scottish fishing village would be a marvellous acquisition for his so-rich-it-makes-you-sick company, Knox Oil and Gas. Not surprisingly the locals don't share his vision. A lovely, quirky, funny film. Bill Forsyth directs Peter Capaldi, Fulton Mackay and Denis Lawson - and the beauty of the Scottish countryside is the real star.

### **Local Hero (PG)**

**Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30pm**

### **CATS AND BONDS**

During the summer the FeckenOdeon will screen two fine films. The first, on **15<sup>th</sup> July** in FeckenOdeon 2, stars Benedict Cumberbatch as an eccentric cat loving artist in **"The Electrical Life of Louis Wain"**.

On **27<sup>th</sup> August** the latest Bond movie roars onto the screen. **"No Time to Die"** stars Daniel Craig in his last spectacular outing as 007.

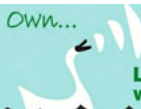
Tickets for both summer films are on sale now

*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](http://www.fecknodeon.co.uk)**

Feckenham's Own...



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

**SWANSBROOK Radio**

## **COBWEBS BEGONE!**

The clocks have changed, the days are longer and the nights are shorter - so Swansbrook Radio's outside broadcast kit has been dusted off and charged up and we're ready to head out to where it's happening - whatever it is. We've already broadcast from the Spring Fayre - all those Feckenham Artisans demonstrating their visual arts on the radio... We'll be at the Garden Festival in May, The Wake in June, a nearby Carnival in July. We'll be chatting to people at all of them and making sure that folk who can't be at the actual event get a flavour of Feckenham life delivered to their headphones or speakers. If you've any suggestions for events we could attend and broadcast from please give us a shout - **radio@swansbrook.com** is the address to use.

## **SPRUCED UP**

We've given our website a spring clean to make it easier to navigate and neater to look at. We've also completed improvements to our streaming service - programmes now flow seamlessly from one to another. The proof of the pudding is in the listening so head over to **swansbrook.com** to hear what it's all about.

## **LISTEN TO THE SWANS**

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

**FECKENHAM'S OWN Local Radio**

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

## UKRAINE FUNDRAISING

Feckenham News goes to press in the middle of the month so the financial results of the Village Hall's fundraising efforts for the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal will have to be reported in June's magazine. However, we can report that a large number of people enjoyed a concert of film music played by Phil Mountford's mini-orchestra, Fordante, on the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> April. Not only was the music very much appreciated but it appeared that for many of the people attending this was their first chance to meet and mingle for some time.

At the time of writing preparations are in full swing for The Great FeckenBreakfast for Ukraine - due to take place on 23rd April. By the time you read this it will all be over and the bacon fumes will have almost dispelled. Again, financial results will have to wait until next month, but we can thank The Village Shop for sponsoring the event and a most generous raffle prize, Charlie Willetts of Everything EPOS and Julian Bull of Visi-Bull for raffle prizes and The Rose & Crown for provision of coffee and endless help.

## NEW BOARD AND LEVEL PATHWAYS

You may have noticed that a new notice board has been erected at the front of the Hall. This replaces the one that was destroyed by a storm last autumn. At the same time the Committee has taken the opportunity to attend to the block paving that surrounds the Hall. This had become uneven and discoloured. By the time you read this it should be level, cleaned and re-sanded.

## LIVE AND LOCAL SHOWS

The Live and Local touring arts scheme has again been funded by the Art Council and local authorities - which means that we will once again be welcoming professional performers to the Village Hall stage. Schedules will be announced in June - so watch this space!

The **Improvement Fund Draw for March, 2022** was made at the meeting of The Trustees on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Winners:	123 Cyril & Jo Warrilow	£25
	26 Penny Swinson	£15
	160 Ned & Sheila Lammas	£10

As ever the Parish Council are working hard for the parishioners of Feckenham. One of their key tasks is to comment on any planning applications for Feckenham which have been submitted to the Borough Council. There have been many meetings and discussions between the two councils to try and ensure applications are made in advance rather than retrospectively and to ensure the applicants consider the history of the area and its historical importance - including what lies beneath the surface.

The Parish Council requested use of CCTV in the public car park. This is now up and running with the aim of preventing car damage and crime. The cameras have been in place for over two weeks and there have been no issues reported.

Since January, the Parish Council have run monthly surgeries for anyone to attend and raise matter of concern. To date no parishioners have attended. The council will, therefore, consider whether to continue or cancel the remaining surgeries. Obviously if anyone has a query at any time and think the Parish Council can help, they can contact the parish clerk (Jane) by phone 01527 892522 or email: [clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

The annual Parish Meeting will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. This is a Meeting where the Chairman presents his report and reports are received from other organisations. All are welcome to attend. The annual Parish Council meeting will follow at approximately 7.45pm. This meeting elects the Chairman for the next year and Councillors are nominated for various sub-committees and other roles. Regular Parish Council business will also be conducted at this meeting.

## Spotted in the Village



Transformer comes through the village  
Photo by Julian Bull

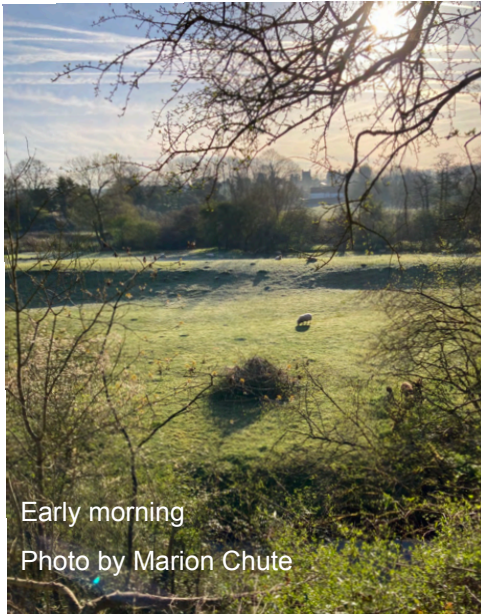


Previous resident Bob Ruffle takes part in the archeological survey of King John's Hunting Lodge





A beautiful sunset  
Photo by Paul Furey



Early morning  
Photo by Marion Chute

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***Resolutions***



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***Competition: A Bookmark***



***Refreshments - Raffle - Good Company***

**STUDLEY VILLAGE HALL  
WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY 2022 2.00 - 4.00 P.M.  
VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

## Feckenham Village Shop Alan Slater

In last month's article I mentioned that Margaret Green, one of our volunteers had knitted some lovely Easter Bunnies for sale in support of the Humanitarian Appeal for Ukrainian refugees. For the last few weeks we have been selling them in The Shop and the final batch were sold at the successful Spring Fair & Craft show held in the Village Hall on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April. Amazingly, Margaret has raised over £500 for Ukraine, an outstanding effort for which she deserves great credit.

We are fortunate, as I have mentioned on numerous occasions, to have a team of such dedicated and committed people giving their time to work in the Shop. Far too numerous to mention individually but I would like to offer a round of applause to the stalwarts who manage the shop on Sundays. Whilst most of us are enjoying a Sunday morning lie-in, Chris, Richard and Brian are up early to sort out the papers and warm up the coffee machine for what invariably will be a very busy morning ahead, especially if the weather is good and the cyclists are out in force. Aply assisted by Ellie, Annita and other young helpers, they are a 'one shift' team that not only open the shop but also have to complete the closure and cleaning process too. Quite often late customers arriving at 12:55 result in their Sunday lunch being delayed, so my personal thanks to them all for all

their efforts over several years in keeping our Sunday show on the road.

I'll sign off by making my usual plea for more volunteers to help with the approaching summer holidays as we will no doubt find ourselves a bit short handed. Even if you are unable to commit to a regular weekly slot, we will still welcome a few hours a month from you on an irregular basis.

Thanks for your continued support and enjoy the month ahead.



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**D**roitwich Road with The Lygon Arms and an interesting fingerpost that seems to be right in the middle of the road! The tall trees on the left are just in front of an orchard. If you have any photos or other items for the archive just drop me a line at [marionchute@me.com](mailto:marionchute@me.com). I can scan and return them to you.



## Feckenham Cricket Club

**A** lot of work has taken place to prepare for the new season which began a couple of weeks ago and it is wonderful to actually be playing cricket again.

The three senior teams are underway in the Worcestershire County League, with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams alternating on the ground at Mill Lane, while the 3<sup>rd</sup> team's "home" is Studley High School. We also have a number of junior matches at Mill Lane, for example our Under 13s will be welcoming Worcester CC on Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>, the match starting at 10:30am. Our Under 12 team follow that with a home match against Old Hill CC on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 6:15pm.

If you would like a more complete list of matches, pick up a free fixture card from the dispenser on the table by the clubhouse doors.

At the Race Night held last month a good night was had by all and importantly it raised over £500 towards our fund for the installation of permanent practice nets, primarily for our junior players – expect more events over the summer.

### Upcoming senior games:

30/04/2022	Feckenham CC 2nd XI v Stone 1st XI
07/05/2022	Feckenham CC 1st XI v Old Elizabethans 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
14/05/2022	Feckenham CC 2nd XI v Cookley 2nd XI
21/05/2022	Feckenham CC 1st XI v Martley 1st XI
28/05/2022	Feckenham CC 2nd XI v Halesowen 1st XI

All matches will start at 12.30pm, come down and support your local team!

# Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

## Weatherproof Paeonies

In the years we have been growing Paeonies, I have noticed that as soon as they begin to flower, it starts to rain and becomes windy! As a result, many of the large flowered double forms fill up with water and the stems fall to the ground where they sway around, upside down, in the wind. But if you choose some of the smaller flowered single forms, this problem is greatly reduced.



My favourite Paeony is *Paeonia veitchii*, which I bought at an Alpine Garden Society show in March 2002 for £4 and which flourished against a yew hedge where it got only morning sunshine and not much rainfall. Nevertheless, it carried dozens of majenta pink, single flowers each year on a compact plant no more than 600mm high. The foliage is neat and tidy, and when the leaves first emerge, they are a deep maroon, rapidly changing to green. By Autumn, they colour up in reds and yellows, adding to the plant's appeal. The large black seeds can be sown in a pot as soon as collected, and then left outside to germinate - most take two years. They usually flower in their

fourth year.

Another fine Paeony, literally, is *Paeonia tenuifolia*. The species name means long and thin, and the foliage is very finely divided, neat and compact. The flowers are a brilliant red and its only fault is that the flowers are produced sparingly, so we use this Paeony primarily as a foliage plant, but with the bonus of some flowers in a good year.

We look forward to *Paeonia cambessedesii* every year. It is endemic to Majorca and grows nowhere else in the world as a true native. I grew our original plant from Alpine Garden Society seed sown in December 2003. It requires a warm sunny position. Although the deep pink, single, flowers are very attractive, again it is the foliage which is its main attraction, being grey green on the upper surface and a rich maroon red on the underside.

If you can pronounce it, *Paeonia mlokosewitschii* is an absolute stunner when in full flower. For those who avoid such tongue twisters, it is known as Molly the Witch. Again our original plant was grown from seed, sown in January 2002. The soft yellow flowers appear in May and in some years I counted over 50 blooms.

My final suggestion for weatherproof Paeonies is *Paeonia obovata alba* which comes from Siberia and China and thus happier in our British climate. The leaves are grey green, flushed with copper, and each stem holds a largish pure white, crystalline, cup shaped flower. The combination of leaf and flower colour is quite dramatic.

Paeony flowers are swiftly transient, no more than a couple of weeks, so it is important to choose varieties which are attractive as foliage plants too - all of the ones I have mentioned do just that and are worthy of the space they occupy.



Our April meeting was our Annual Bulb Show. Fifty-seven entries in eight different classes produced a wonderful show of flowers. Each entrant judged the exhibits and Easter Egg prizes were awarded for each class and for an overall winner who also received the Annual Trophy. Everyone brought along a few nibbles to share and a very sociable evening was enjoyed by all.

## **NEXT CLUB MEETING - Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 7:30pm**

Our speaker for the May meeting will be Margie Hoffnung who will give a talk entitled 'Garden Visiting' - an insight into this great British passion. Margie worked for the great plantswoman Rosemary Verey for 10 years and for some years at Highgrove for Prince Charles before joining The Gardens Trust as their Conservation Officer.

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

**Saturday 7th May 2022 - 10:00am to 12 noon**

Due to the Covid pandemic we were not able to hold our annual Plant Sale in 2020 and 2021, but we are restarting this year. It will be held on Saturday 7th May 2022 from 10am to 12 noon so make a note in your diary now! If you can donate plants to add to those grown by our members, it would be greatly appreciated. There will also be a stall run by a professional nurseryman, and another selling plant supports.

Please note that the £5.00 annual subscription became due on 1st January 2022. Please make cheques payable to 'Stock and Bradley Gardening Club'. We welcome new members to join us at any time throughout the year.

*Club meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £5.00 for 2022. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting.*

*If you require any further information, ring Dinny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527 821355 or Rob Cole (Chairman) on 07544 832052.*

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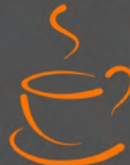
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