

FECKENHAM

May 2023

NEWS



Published by Feckenham Church for the village.
Editor Gilly Cooper - feckenhamnews@gmail.com
(Copy Date 14th)

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Feckenham News in May

Dates for your Diary

<u>May</u>	
6th	George Egg's Set Menu
7th	Coronation Event
9th	History Society
10th	Church Drop In
13th	S&B Plant Sale
15th	WI
16th	Annual Parish Meeting
18th	Parish Council Meeting
	Readers Group
24th	Church Drop In
25th	Annual Parochial Church Meet
31st	Flower Show AGM
<u>June</u>	
3rd	Astwood Hill Ho Open Garden
24th	Feckenham Wake
<u>July</u>	
15th	Fun on the Square

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Regular Sessions

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

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Front Cover

Photo by the editor at the Spring Flower Show

Magazine online at www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Editor's Note

Hello and welcome to the May magazine. After a rather cold and wet start to the year we are now getting out more to tend to the gardens and enjoy the newness of Spring in the countryside.



Personally, apart from tidying up the garden and appreciating the blossoming of bulbs, we have been out completing stretches of the Cotswold Way which is beautiful especially at this time of year.

In the past, as new people moved into the village they were contacted to see if they would like to be mentioned in the magazine as a way for us to welcome them to the village. This has really not continued in the usual way since the pandemic and I'd like to see it revived in some form. Everyone has a magazine delivered and, I hope the those who are new take an opportunity to read about what's going on. If you are new, whether you have bought your home or are renting, we'd love to hear from you. Someone will be in touch soon, but if you haven't received a contact, please get in touch with me by email to feckenhamnews@gmail.com

The second issue, Roundhill Solar Farm, has been mentioned previously and a leaflet has been distributed recently. The closing date for comments will have passed by the time you receive this magazine but I believe if the decision made by Wychavon planning committee allows the construction to go ahead, it will significantly affect us and the wildlife around the site. You are probably aware of the Heart of England Forest, a charity who plant new forest and maintains other forested areas. They have recently acquired Roundhill Wood, a 600 acre mature and ancient woodland and a remnant of the ancient Feckenham Forest. The new solar farm would be adjacent to the wood and think there will be concern about the wildlife in and around the wood if the solar farm goes ahead.

Closer to home, and still within the timescale for comments is the application to install a battery park on Astwood Lane. This may significantly affect the village, so please attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 16th May to learn more. Please see the notice from the Parish Council on the next page.

The Flower Show AGM is coming up. If you want to see the show continue, help is needed. Please see the notice.

Finally, I hope for fine weather for the Coronation Celebration on The Square and to see many villagers there picnicing - maybe partaking of Spinach and Broadbean Quiche.



CORONATION CELEBRATION

On The Square

Sunday, 7th May: 1pm - 5pm

Buckingham Palace has declared that Sunday, 7th May (the day after the Coronation) should be the day for public rejoicing in the form of street parties and general jollity. Feckenham's loyal citizens are invited to an afternoon party on The Square starting at 1pm (weather permitting). There'll be live music, games for the youngsters and a bar for the adults (also serving soft drinks for the kids). You're invited to bring along your own food, tables and chairs to enjoy a picnic celebration.

The bar will be run by the Square Committee and any proceeds will be used to maintain and enhance Feckenham's "village green".



COUNCIL UPDATE

There will be an additional meeting on 16th May at 7.30pm in the back room of the village hall which is called an Annual Parish Meeting and is for anyone to attend. There will be a short report from the Parish Council Chair Alan Smith regarding matters in the previous 12 months.

The meeting will be an opportunity to seek people's views on the proposed **planning application for the battery park on Astwood Lane** which would be at the entrance to our village opposite National Grid. It is vital people share their thoughts whether they agree with the application or wish to object.

For more information, please see Redditch Borough Council's planning portal and search for **23/00417/FUL**. Should anybody have any difficulty with this please contact the Parish Clerk on telephone 01527 892522. It is very important residents look at the detail of the application and upload their own comments as well as letting the parish council know their thoughts.

After the parish meeting there will be a further Annual Parish Council meeting on Thursday 18th May where the Council will form their response to the application as well as deal with other business. This meeting will as with every parish council meeting be open to the public.

There will not be a parish council election as there were no additional volunteers who wished to stand for election. This means the current six Councillors will stand for another term of office. There will be one co-opted vacancy available after 9th May which will be advertised should anyone wish to be a part of the council. More

information will be available in due course, on the website or from the clerk. Congratulations to the council members.

Feckenham Parish Council held two meetings in April. The second meeting was held for a discussion regarding the Wychavon planning application for a solar farm and for the parish council to form their objection to the application. The Parish Council chose to object to the application. You can view the Parish Council's full objection on the parish council website: - **www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk**. The planning application in its entirety can be found on the Wychavon District Council website at: - **<https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/23/00270/FUL>**

To contact the Parish Council please email the Clerk at clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.org.uk or call 01527 892522



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LOCATIONS

Redditch / Studley
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Barnt Green / Alvechurch
Bromsgrove / Droitwich

Feckenham Village Hall

CORONATION EGG

It won't have escaped your notice that there's a Coronation on **6th May** - a day full of pomp and ceremony - so it may be a relief to learn that you can escape all of that in the evening. **George Egg**, chef and raconteur extraordinaire, will be whipping up a spectacular meal in his own inimitable style using anything but conventional implements - think cement mixers and blowtorches... Mr Egg has cooked for royalty in the past, but has chosen to cook for us on this special day! George, who has appeared on numerous TV shows, will concoct three complete meals on stage... and invite the audience to taste them.

Note: George will be offering a taste of his food – not a full meal. So, don't skip your tea before you come! The Hall's licensed bar will be open.



**LIVE
& LOCAL**

"It's a hilarious show, with surprisingly good food" The Times

"it is refreshing to encounter a performer who really is unique" The Telegraph

"Go see George Egg... you'll never look at a Corby trouser press in the same way again."

Brilliant" Jay Rayner (Observer Food Critic)



GEORGE EGG'S SET MENU

Saturday, 6th May at 7.30pm

(Doors open 7pm)

Tickets (£13.50) from The Village Shop and
The Rose & Crown.

Book online through www.feckhall.org

Book by phone on 0333 666 3366

Presented by Feckenham Village Hall in association with
Live&Local. Sponsored by Arts Council England, Redditch
Borough Council and Worcestershire County Council

Draw results

Feckenham Village Hall Improvement Fund

April draw.

The draw was carried out following the meeting
of the Trustees on 4th April 2023.

1st (£25)	16	Paul & Gill Richardson
2nd (£15)	148	Archie Clarke
3rd (£10)	155	Q & Jen Cary

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

Glen for Baptisms & Funerals at glenn.reading@googlemail.com

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

Email: info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

Ann has left the village: for up to date information please see
<https://www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk/community/churches>



PARISH CHURCH
OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
FECKENHAM

Services for May 2023

7 th May	10.30am	Eucharist	TBC
14 th May	9.00am	BCP	Fr Glenn Reading
21 st May	6.30pm	Evensong	Fiona Carter
28 th May	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading

Drop in (In church)
Wednesday at 10.30am- 12.00pm
10th and 24th May
All welcome

FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St John Fisher & Thomas More

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

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

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

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

Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898

Easter Lilies in the Church



FRIENDS OF
FECKENHAM
CHURCH

OPEN GARDEN

**ASTWOOD HILL HOUSE, ASTWOOD
LANE, B96 6PT**

3RD JUNE 2023 2.00 – 6.00PM

Roger and Felicity Burman have kindly offered to open their garden in support of The Friends of Feckenham Church (raising funds for the maintenance of our Parish Church and Churchyard).

Parking available
Refreshments

Admission: £6.00

Children: Free

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

will be held in St John the Baptist Church,
Feckenham

Thursday 25th May 2023 at 7:30 pm

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

PCC Secretary



Friends of Feckenham Church Charity

As you may be aware, the Village/Parish is now responsible both practically and financially for the maintenance of our lovely historic Church and churchyard. Friends recent activities have included:

The clock is back working! It's great to hear the chimes and what's more it's on time – all thanks to the efforts of John Eaton, who has overseen the project over the past 12 months, and raised the costs of over £8000 to get it in good working order. This was raised locally through John's "Buy a Bong" initiative and other generous donations.

The flags for the flagpole have been refurbished to cope with excessive winds and to prevent future fraying. A new flag has also been purchased. The flags are the Flag of St George and one of the Diocesan Shield for the Diocese of Worcester. Health & Safety requires 2 people to go to the roof to change and put up a flag. We restored the access to the roof 2/3 years ago to be safe and regulations-compliant. We all like to see the flags flying, to hear our clock chiming and to hear our bells ringing! Thank you to all our volunteers who make this happen. Anyone who would be prepared to join the flag team please let us know.

The Biodiversity Project has been handled superbly by Jeff Matthews over the past two years. It has covered the felling of 7 trees in the churchyard to improve airflow and the planting of 15 new trees around the churchyard and the village. New areas of bulb planting and wildflower meadows have been established around the churchyard and village. The funding was met by European Grants and local donations.

The Church Roof - the ceiling has recently had to be netted to protect from falling plaster and a re-roofing of the Chancel and South Nave are in prospect. We are currently awaiting the Church Architect's report and we shall need to plan a campaign to raise the substantial funds that will be required.

Meanwhile our lovely birds continue to cause problems by trying to nest in our windows – so we are intending to install protective mesh to prevent this.

Garden Visit Felicity Burman, a Trustee, has kindly offered to open her beautiful garden on 3rd June 2023 in support of Friends – see separate notice.

Grateful Thanks On behalf of the Trustees and the village we express our grateful thanks to David Street and Jeff Matthews who have both retired from the village. David was instrumental in establishing Friends and has been a most kind and generous Trustee since its creation. Jeff was our Secretary and has throughout been incredibly generous with his time and support.

Whether you are a Churchgoer or not, our lovely historic Church and Churchyard are an important feature of our wonderful village. Its upkeep and maintenance is an ongoing challenge. If you feel able to help or support us with this please contact Phil Guise on philguise1@gmail.com 01527 32831. We should be only too pleased to hear from you!

Andrew Fisher, Chair and Phil Guise, Secretary.



Feckenham Parish Church Allotments and Conservation Garden Society

Interested in having an allotment to grow your own vegetables and soft fruit or flowers? We currently have one full and two half plots available. Cost - £50/£25 per annum including access to a [polytunnel](#) for growing seeds, tomatoes, and other tender plants. Also, a full range of gardening tools.

Contact: Gay Bligh, Secretary, m.gbligh49@gmail.com or

Paul Bradley, Treasurer, paulbradley007@gmail.com

Pictures from the Flower Show and Craft Fair



Feckenham Flower Show

Notice of the Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Thursday 31st of May 2023 at 7.30 PM in the Back Room of Feckenham Village Hall.

Introduction

The present makeup of the Committee plus the lack of helpers (essential on the day of events) means that the future of the Spring and Autumn Shows are at serious risk. For these reasons the Agenda will have a flexible form to reflect whether an adequate committee can be elected and there are indications that there will be sufficient helpers likely to be in place.

AGENDA

1 Minutes of the last meeting.

2 Secretary's report.

3 Treasurer's report.

4 Election of Secretary, Chairman, Treasurer and four other Committee members. Persons willing to stand for these posts should indicate to the present Secretary Linda Harris, phone 01527 892850, their willingness to stand for office (preferably by 24th of May 2023).

5 **If, and only if, it is not possible to form an adequate committee the motions 5a and 5b will be taken.**

5a That the Feckenham Flower Show Organization be closed and that suggestions be discussed on how the assets of the Feckenham Flower Show be past on to an organization with similar ends or distributed to other village organizations.

5b That a group of at least 4 people be elected to form a Group of Trustees be elected and be given the authority to oversee the distribution of the present Feckenham Flower Show assets.

If agenda items 5 are not applicable the meeting will close and will be followed by an ordinary meeting of the Committee.

Feckenham Archive - Marion Chute



Here's the shop at 10 High Street showing some staff and customers in their Sunday best. I can just about make out some large boxes of chocolate in the window. I wonder what the Hudson's Dry Soap was like, to say nothing of Watson's Miracle cleaner?

Feckenham WI

Our April meeting was our first ever proper AGM as a re-formed WI. We took the opportunity to vote to allow the Worcestershire Federation's delegate to the national conference to vote in favour of the WI's motion to campaign on cleaning up our rivers. Following the environmental theme, we then went on to craft some embroidered cards as part of the WI's campaign on the climate crisis. These will be sent to our MP, Rachel McLean, urging her to vote agreeing with measures that will protect our climate rather than damage it further.

Our next meeting will be the start of our season of outdoor meetings. It's on Monday 15th May and we will be meeting at Feckenham Village Hall at 7.45pm and then car sharing at 8pm up to Foster's/Ead's Meadow, a Worcestershire Wildlife Trust wildflower meadow 4 miles away. We are hoping to have a guided walk where we will be shown orchids and other rare flowers. If anyone would like to cycle up and meet us there (as there is very little parking), the What3Words to meet us at is annual.lengthen.skunks.

Subs for the year were due in April and full membership is £46 for 11 meetings. Guests and other categories of WI membership are £5 per meeting. Contact Jen Cary on 07773 883 039 for payment details.



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Tuesday, 2nd May - 8pm
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*6th - 8th May - Open all weekend
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Thursday, 25th May
GREEK MENU
6 'til 9pm

www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



WE'RE TAKING A BREAK...

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society's 21st season has ended and the volunteer "staff" are taking a well earned break - but they're not all heading off to Weston for a summer of whelks and Mr Whippys. They'll be carrying out repairs and improvements - including, it's hoped, the installation of a brand new eco-friendly stage lighting system. That should all be in place in time for the opening of Season 22 in September...

NEW SEASON

Since the FeckenOdeon opened its doors back in 2001 around 350 films have been projected onto the giant screen... and there have been very few repeats! Our new programme, which starts in September, contains the now customary mix of new films and classics all designed to entertain and inspire. Details can be found on the cinema's website at

www.fecknodeon.co.uk

and in brochures which you can pick up at Feckenham Village Hall, The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.

Season tickets are now on sale online and by phone!



Tickets for all FeckenOdeon films are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.

You can also book by phone (through TicketSource) on 0333 666 3366 or online at

www.fecknodeon.co.uk

Burial Lane

A favourite haunt for dog and I.
The narrow trail leads from the hill
as hanging trees blot out the sky,
and we wander slowly at our will.

The narrow trail leads from the hill.
Footsteps sound from long ago.
As we wander slowly at our will,
their souls are with us as we go.

Footsteps sound from long ago,
carrying a coffin to church below.
Their souls are with us as we go,
death just part of nature's flow.

Carrying a coffin to church below,
as hanging trees blot out the sky.
A walk that follows nature's flow,
a favourite haunt for dog and I.

Anon.

A logo for 'WREN & BRAMBLE' featuring a bird silhouette filled with various flowers like roses and hydrangeas. The text 'WREN & BRAMBLE' is arched over the bird. Below the bird, it says 'flowers - eco - foraged'. At the bottom, it reads 'Bespoke floral designs & bouquets', 'call Clare on 07548 832771', and 'thewren@wrenandbramble.co.uk'. The background has a green leaf pattern.

WREN & BRAMBLE

flowers - eco - foraged

Bespoke floral designs & bouquets

call Clare on 07548 832771
thewren@wrenandbramble.co.uk

WHAT'S ON IN

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL



GEORGE EGG'S SET MENU CORONATION SPECIAL

Come and celebrate as George whips up some marvellous meals in unconventional ways - and you get the chance to taste the results!

"The best smelling show on stage" - Jay Rayner

"Hilarious - really unique" - The Telegraph

LIVE
& LOCAL

SATURDAY 6th MAY - 7.30PM

Tickets £13.50 from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown

Book online at www.feckhall.org

Phone bookings: 0333 666 3366



CORONATION CELEBRATION

Join us on The Square for a

Coronation Picnic on Sunday, 7th May 1pm - 5pm

Bring your own food, chairs & tables. Live music & Children's Games

There will be a licensed bar in aid of the Square (so please don't bring your own drinks)

Presented by Feckenham Wake Committee and Feckenham Square Management Committee

With the assistance of Feckenham Parish Council and The Village Shop

Send details of events for FREE listing to:

FECKENHAM



THE
FECKENHAM
SESSIONS
TRADITIONAL
MUSICMAKING
at THE ROSE & CROWN

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 2nd May

THE
FECKENODEON CINEMA
SOCIETY

WE'RE TAKING A SUMMER BREAK
We'll be back in September
Our 22nd Season is now open for
bookings and subscriptions.
Pick up a brochure at the Village Hall,
The Village Shop or The Rose & Crown
or visit www.fecknodeon.co.uk

Feckenham Parish Council ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday, 16th May at 7.30 pm
Feckenham Village Hall

To discuss the proposed

BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

at ASTWOOD LANE

And

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 18th May at 7.30pm
Feckenham Village Hall

*For the agendas of these meetings,
minutes of past meetings and other
information please visit:*

www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB PLANT SALE



at Bradley Village Hall
Saturday, 13th May
10am to 12 noon

ERSTWHILE



BORDER MORRIS

Twice monthly Sessions
at Feckenham Village Hall
2nd and 4th Fridays - 7pm

The Feckenham Forest History Society



THE BATTLES OF EVESHAM & The Siege of Kennilworth

An illustrated talk by Antony Rich
Tuesday, 9th May - 7.30pm
Webheath Village Hall

Feckenham READERS GROUP

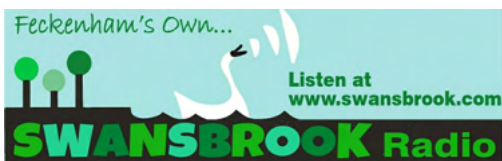
Meets on Thursday, 18th May - 7.45
This month's book:

AWAY WITH THE PENGUINS

By Hazel Prior Details: 892285



whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk or call 892130



TRULY LOCAL

The BBC is about to decimate its local radio services. Stations like BBC Hereford and Worcester will only broadcast limited local content in the early mornings. Afternoons are to be covered by "group" broadcasts - half a dozen local stations covered by a single programme... and in the evenings there'll be a single national programme. It's the same story with the "local" commercial stations who have been bought up by large conglomerates and have had their local programming "merged". So where do you go for truly local programmes? Swansbrook Radio of course! Our programmes are made right here in Feckenham by Feckenham people for Feckenham people. We'd love to increase our local news output and the only thing that's stopping us is the need for more reporters. So... this is your chance to be Feckenham's radio newshound! Why not join our motley crew and root out the stories Feckenhamsters need to hear? Drop us an email and we'll set the ball rolling - radio@swansbrook.com is the address to use. Get in touch and you'll soon be on your way to your first scoop!



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



ALL SYSTEMS GO!

Plans are now well in hand for Feckenham's biggest outdoor event of the year. Feckenham Wake will take place on Saturday, 24th June on The Square and the Recreation Ground. All the traditional attractions will be there - the Pig Roast, the Car Show, Dog Show and the Silver Band. This year will see the return of children's country dancing and there'll be lots of activities for youngsters and the young of heart to join in. There'll be lots to see and lots of food and drink to enjoy - a great afternoon for everyone! Other major attractions will be announced in time for next month's Feckenham News - so, put the date in your diary, calendar or phone : **Feckenham Wake - 24th June!**

CAN YOU HELP?

Like all local events, The Wake is run entirely by volunteers. We urgently need villagers to help us put things together, to help us run the show and to clear up afterwards. If you can spare a little time on the afternoon/evening before the event, on the day itself or on the morning after, please get in touch. Email : julianbull.777@gmail.com
 Your help will be much appreciated.

Moors Lane Allotments

GROW YOUR OWN VEGETABLES

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

For more details contact Judy Hooker on 01527 892130 or email judyhooker@hotmail.co.uk.

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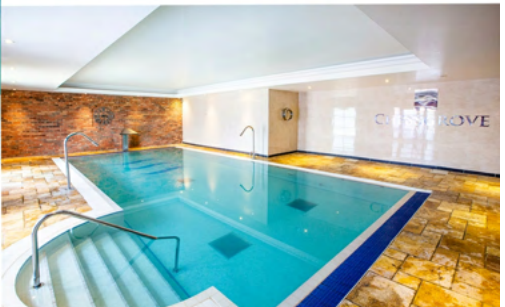
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Feckenham Village Shop - Alan Slater

Whilst browsing the Buckingham Palace website, yes I know I should get out more but the weather has been terrible of late, I was interested to note that the extra bank holiday for the King's Coronation is being dedicated to volunteering in the community. To quote the Royal Website,



“The Big Help Out on Monday 8th May is intended to encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas and bring communities together”

Of course in Feckenham we know all about volunteering. Without our eighty volunteers the Shop would cease to exist, however, as I have repeatedly stated in the Village News, we always need more help. This is particularly true at weekends, so why not heed the 'King's Command' and volunteer for service at your Community Shop? We are not asking you to make a huge commitment, just a couple of hours a week or even a month would make a huge difference to us especially on a Saturday or Sunday. You can choose the hours and frequency that suits you best. Maybe some of our younger village members who are over fourteen would like to help? Volunteering always reads well on your CV if you are applying for your first job or seeking a place at College or University. We are a friendly bunch at the Shop and you won't be asked to do anything with which you are not comfortable.

If volunteering is something you would like to do, then just call into the Shop and give us your details, alternatively contact Kate Farmilloe on 07968 516989 and she will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

I can't finish this article without offering a round of applause to our champion knitter and Thursday volunteer Margaret Green. The sale of her hand knitted Easter Bunnies

raised an amazing £700 which has been sent to the DEC Earthquake Appeal. An incredible effort by a lovely lady. Thank you for supporting Margaret and of course your Village Shop.

Finally, there are a few bank holidays this month so many of our Volunteers will be forgoing a dance around the village maypole and instead be staffing the Shop and Cafe for you during the following hours :-

May 1st 9 a.m - 4 p.m

6th May Coronation Day 9 a.m - 4 p.m

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29th May Whitsun 9 a.m – 4.p.m

All other days this month will be normal trading hours.

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An Organic Allotment by Pete Delaney

Don't cast a clout till May is out. Don't cast a cloth till the may is off.

Those were 2 sayings told to me by elder relatives every spring when I was young. Both sayings refer to not putting aside any winter clothing until the may flower has finished its annual bloom or, in modern terms, the month of May has ended. Every vegetable gardener should take heed of this old proverb. Any cloches, fleece or straw laid over young seedlings or crops, I leave on until the end of the month especially at night. A late frost can ruin early crops and waste a lot of effort. Also many early flies and pests hatch out at this time and are soon looking for places to lay eggs, so I net brassicas against butterflies, build see through 18inch high barriers around carrots and parsnips or have them in raised boxes, as the carrot fly can't fly higher or indeed take the air pressure any higher than 16 inches, keep cloches over onions until late May when the onion fly has finished its early flight.

In the polytunnel, leeks sown in February are growing well, during April I did the labourious task of pricking out leek seedlings from the sowing tray and planting each one into its own pot, then put back in the polytunnel to grow on. During May I bring them out on good days to acclimatise ready for their planting out time in June. May is the month when I would hope to plant out all the produce I have sown last month and have waiting in pots for when the season is warm enough to get them out into their prepared beds. French beans, climbing and dwarf, I get out by mid-May keeping an eye out for a surprise late frost. If the weather is cold runner beans don't mind the wait. If they have to be planted out late they will soon catch up once in the ground. While waiting for beans to grow I erect the cane structures for them to grow up. I also fill in the runner bean trench that I have filled with veg peelings for several weeks. I mark the edges of the trench with strings so

as to be sure to plant the runner bean saplings in the best place to benefit from the compost trench.



Even plants to be grown in the polytunnel such as tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers I keep warm indoors until later in the month as they are particularly susceptible to the cold. Once the weather is warm enough I transplant them into their pre-fed beds. Plenty of homemade compost in the beds in the polytunnel as tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers are hungry plants. I top dress them with more compost periodically throughout the growing seasons. Back outside our winter lettuce is thriving and gave us a strong early salad crop all through spring. Broad beans will soon flower and start to give us their welcome harvest. Our spring sown salads of chard, mustard, rocket, red lettuce, butter head lettuce and radicchio are heads up and on the grow to give us our summer salads. Spring's preparations are all done and the harvesting season can soon begin.

Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

Kniphofia - Cool Pokers

The genus *Kniphofia* is named after Johann Hieronymus Kniphof (1704-63), a German professor of medicine. The correct (?) pronunciation is Ker-nip-hoff-ear, but nobody seems to dare, and it remains incorrectly pronounced as Knife-o-fear wherever you go. The common name is Red Hot Poker, and whilst many species and forms have red and yellow spikes of flowers, there are many desirable forms which I call Cool Pokers.

Kniphofia 'Tawny King' is one of my favourites, vigorous, with caramel coloured flowers on strong stems over a long period from July onwards. 'Toffee Nosed' is similar but shorter.



For a complete change, 'Ice Queen' has green and pale cream flowers and associates well with pale *Achilleas* or variegated foliage plants for a really cool show. It grows to about 4 feet (1.2m) and is sturdy and floriferous.

In the yellow spectrum, 'Dorset Sentry' and 'Drummore Apricot' with acid yellow and apricot flowers respectively, give a good display especially in a group rather than as a single clump. 'Percy's Pride' is a pale canary yellow with a hint of green and was raised at Bressingham Nursery, in Norfolk, by Alan Bloom who named it after his foreman Percy Piper. 'Maid of Orleans' was raised by Amos Perry around 1950 and is a pale ivory yellow. It does well, and sets lots of seed for the adventurous to experiment with.



According to the books, *Kniphofia* grows best in a well drained soil which is moist in summer and drier in winter – not an easy combination. But I have found that provided the evergreen foliage is left intact during the winter, it will deflect rain from the rootball and provide an adequately dry zone. As far as summer moisture goes, *Kniphofias* never, ever, needed watering on our heavy clay which dried to concrete hardness, so perhaps the books are wrong or I was just lucky.

Each year I raise a batch of seedling from most of our named cultivars in the hope of finding something new and worthwhile. I sow the seed in the first week of January in pots, and place them outdoors, unprotected from the weather. Wall to wall germination occurs around April time, and they are ready for pricking out individually into 4" pots by the beginning of June. Most flower in their second year and I then have the pleasure of assessing their worth. None has been bad, and one or two rival the named forms and were grown on in the garden where they established quickly, but it takes a few years before they show their true habit, size, and colour.



STOCK AND BRADLEY GARDENING CLUB

Our April 5th meeting was our Annual Bulb Show. Members brought along three cut blooms each of as many daffodil varieties as they could muster, and everyone judged each entry to decide the winner in each of the nine classes - the sight of so many different blooms was inspiring. Each member also brought along a few nibbles to share and the event was deemed to be a most enjoyable experience.

NEXT CLUB MEETING - Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 7:30pm

Our next meeting is a talk by Paul Green entitled 'Plants of the Season', and Paul will bring along plants to describe and discuss. Paul runs Greens Leaves nursery in Herefordshire and grows a very wide range of shrubs, bulbs and perennials.

PLANT SALE - at Bradley Green Village Hal, Church Road, Bradley Green

Our annual Plant Sale will be held on Saturday 13th May 2023 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. The event is an ideal opportunity to buy excellent plants at keen prices and is open to EVERYONE, not just Club members. Spread the word, and bring your friends.

There will be coffee and tea available, and home made cakes. There is no charge for entry, but we do appreciate it if you buy a raffle ticket at the door.

Membership of the Gardening Club is currently by £5.00 annual subscription which becomes due on 1st January each year, so please come prepared to renew if you haven't already done so. Please make cheques payable to 'Stock and Bradley Gardening Club'. We welcome new members to join us at any time throughout the year.

Club meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £5.00 for 2023. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting. If you require any further information, ring Dinny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527 821355 or Rob Cole (Chairman) on 07544 832052.

The advertisement features a purple background with a yellow border. On the left, the VIP Fitness logo is displayed, consisting of a stylized figure and the text 'VIP FITNESS'. To the right of the logo, the headline reads 'GET YOUR HEALTH & WELL BEING BACK ON TRACK'. Below this, two lines of text describe the service: 'ONE TO ONE TRAINING EXPERT GUIDANCE IN A PRIVATE FACILITY' and 'TAILORED TO YOU ENSURING THAT YOU EXCEED THOSE PERSONAL GOALS'. At the bottom left, a call to action says 'SIGN UP TODAY' followed by the website 'WWW.VIPFITNESSONLINE.COM'. At the bottom right, a WhatsApp icon is next to the phone number '07561 549488'. On the far right, there is a photograph of a gym interior with various exercise machines. Below the photo, the text 'PRIVATE CLIENT' is written next to a small logo.



bought in to what we are trying to achieve here at Feckenham. The team spirit in the dressing room is vitality important when faced with such a fixture backlog.

The recent victory against Pershore Town one of our nearest challengers puts us in a strong position of title contenders for what we are sure will be a tense run in. We need 5 wins from our last 7 games to secure the title. 6 of these will be at Mill Lane where we are unbeaten so far this year.

Off the field we continue to drive the club forward by enhancing the facilities at Mill Lane to the maximum we can reach for the area. The work put in by the volunteers in particular Reg Bubb who is the oldest and long standing trustee of the club.

On Good Friday we entertained Shipston in the semi final of the Bluefin Supplementary challenge cup, quite an achievement as the competition involves clubs from a higher division than ourselves.

The day was enhanced by the fact that the game was selected by Ground Hoppers UK a organisation which supports grass roots football at the lower levels.

It turned out to be a great day for the club as we saw a crowd of around 250 watch us progress to the final with a 3-0 hard fought victory in difficult conditions.



At the time of writing its safe to say that the recent run of fixtures has been challenging and taxing for the lads as that was our 11th game in 35 days this has seen us having to rotate players as much as we can in what is not the biggest of squads.

That said, we are delighted with the response from our players who have really

The growth of the club is important on and off the field. As we continue to go from strength to strength, we have now hosted a baby shower and a 30th birthday party at the club for residents of the village and we would love the opportunity to welcome more villagers into the club.

Finally the cup final will take place on Bank holiday Monday the 1st of May at Westfields F.C. in Hereford. As yet we do not know our opponents as Abbingdon (Oxford) and Bourton (Gloucestershire) have yet to play, two teams from a division higher but the lads, I know, will give their all.

A coach will be going to the game if any one is interested and would like to go contact me at petephi@btinternet.com



The first reference to Feckenham is in Birches *Cart.Saxiconicom* 804A.D. The football pitch and play area of today are surrounded by an unusually large protective earthwork. An early-medieval moated manor used to stand here. It was owned by the king who used the manor whenever he came to hunt deer in the Royal Forest of Feckenham. For over 300 years, the king had legal ownership of all game, timber, and rights to forage pigs on acorn and beech nuts. Anyone who broke Forest Law could expect harsh punishment from the courts, possibly even execution at Gallows Green near Hanbury.

We know that in 1161-1162, the manor included a king's chamber, chapel, palisade, fishpond and a mill. In 1273 the buildings were 'in good order' but by 1356 the manor house was in such poor condition that Queen Philippa sold it to the Abbot of Evesham for partial demolition. During the reign of Charles II, the site was used to grow tobacco. From c1790, housing was built within the north-east ditch of the moat and Feckenham football club was established in 1881.

At that date, many of the footballers would have probably been needle-makers. Needles were scoured at the watermill down Mill Lane, 'pointed' by piecework in local houses,

and then carried by wheelbarrow to be finished in John English's factory at 42 High Street. Even in 1911, when needle-making was waning, the census lists 58 people who worked in the production of needles and fish hooks.

Parish registers suggest a core of four or five surnames that were local to the village from the 1750's right through to WW1. Two in particular – Pretty and Styler are more or less continuous and included several branches which were related to other village families including the Hicks.

Much of the social activity of the village was centred round the church. The Wake is a very ancient festival held in honour of St. John the Baptist, on four days nearest to his birthday of 24th June. The Wake was celebrated by various services being held on the Sunday with other sporting events held on the Monday.

The former royal manor, within which the football field sits, is now owned and managed by Redditch Borough Council and legally protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1975. Using a metal detector or removing any items found on this scheduled monument without a licence from Historic England would be a criminal offence.



In the corner on the far left of The Square was the overnight lock-up for miscreants, housed there before being taken to Redditch Police Station, between the two cars, the small square building. Beyond the lock-up was the Pound (on your left as you enter the football field) which was used for stray animals.

Kathy Gee is working with the archaeology group to install interpretive signs on the earthwork. These will include some of the text used here and should be in place by the summer. More news to come.

As we all know, March was at its wettest for 40 years, so the re-painting of our boundary fences was delayed and a club member managed to trim low-hanging branches around the top of the field.

Mowing of the square became possible and the stripes made all the difference – it looks like a cricket ground again.

The proposal for artificial practice net facilities arrived and looks impressive - but comes with a price tag of over £50,000. To help with funding, the Pre-Season Quiz was held in the Village Hall, and was very well attended, raising around £700 towards the project. Thanks go out to Julie Rae and her team, who not only set all the questions but also organised the buffet, the tombola and the raffle and did a great deal of work on the day.

The Feckenham Junior Cricket season is about to start. Outdoor nets will commence on Friday evenings at 6pm from April 21st. Youngsters aged 10 and over are welcome to join us.

The U13 team have their first league T20 match on Sunday 30th April at Belbroughton, the U12s start their Pairs league season on Wednesday 3rd May at Worcester CC and the U14s commence their T20 matches on Sunday 7th May at Droitwich.

We are once again running All Stars Cricket sessions for 5-8 year olds. These will start on Friday May 19th at 5:30pm and will run for 8 weeks. As I write this here are just a few remaining places available.

If you have any juniors that would like to join us this summer, if you would like to assist us with coaching or if you have any other questions then please either contact us on our Facebook page, come to the club or email at feckenhamcc@outlook.com.

Upcoming home fixtures:

Sat. 29 th April 12:30	-
Feckenham CC 2 nd XI v Five Ways Old Edwardians CC- 2nd XI	
Tue. 2 nd May 18:15	-
Feckenham U13 v Coombs Wood CC	
Wed 3 rd May 18:00	-
Feckenham Ramblers v Great Alne	
Sat 6 th May 12:30	-
Feckenham CC 1 st XI v Stourbridge CC 2nd XI	
Sun 7 th May 10:15	-
Feckenham U12 v Swindon CC	
Wed 10 th May 18:00	-
Feckenham Ramblers v Five Ways Old Edwardians CC - 2nd XI	
Sat 13 th May 12:30	-
Feckenham 2nd XI v Bromsgrove CC - 4th XI	
Sat 20 th May 12:30	-
Feckenham 1st XI v Barnards Green CC - 2nd XI	
Mon 22 nd May 18:15	-
Feckenham U12 v Alvechurch & Hopwood CC - Under 12	
Wed 24 th May 18:15	-
Feckenham U12 v Coombs Wood	
Sat 27 th May 12:30	-
Feckenham 2nd XI v Halesowen CC 4th XI	
Sun 28 th May 10:15	-
Feckenham U13 v Wombourne CC	



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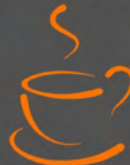
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