

FECKENHAM

May 2025

NEWS



Published by Feckenham Church for the village.
Editor Gilly Cooper - feckenhamnews@gmail.com

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Feckenham News in May

Dates for your Diary

May

7th	S&B Gardening Club
7th/8th	Readers Group
8th	Parish Council Meeting
10th	S&B Plant Sale
15th	S&B Visit to Morton Hall
17-18th	Flower and Garden Festival
23rd	FeckenOdeon 2

June

13th	Grand Summer Coffee Morning
21st	Feckenham Wake

Regular Sessions

Mondays	Junior Dance Class
Tuesdays	Tai Chi
Wednesdays	Playgroup (term time); Bridge
Thursdays	Bridge; Hatha Yoga

Second Monday of the month: Mobile Library

First Tuesday of the month:

Lunch Club, Feckenham Sessions

First and Third Wednesday: Community Choir

Second Wednesday Art Club

Third Monday of the month: WI

2nd and 4th Fridays : Erstwhile Morris Dancers

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Front Cover

Photo: by Editor. View from Churchyard up to Berraw Hill

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.

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Editor's Note

Hello everyone, I must say that it's good to be back home although we had an absolutely brilliant time in New Zealand. If anyone is even half tempted to go there, I'd



encourage you to make the plans and spend as much time as you can over there. I certainly wouldn't go for less than a month, given that it's such a long journey There's so much to see from the amazing scenery to all the different flora and fauna and the people are incredibly helpful. I could write at length about our trip but that may not be what's wanted here. Let me know if you want to hear about our journey.

I have to say how grateful I am to Ian Bellion for editing the last two magazines. He's busy enough already supplying much of the content of the magazine and putting the articles in a format that I can simply add in the right place.

On page 3 you can find a diary of what's coming up in the village. Most of this is also in the Centre Spread "What's On". Don't forget to look at the separate list of the regular sessions which may be weekly like playgroup in term time or monthly such as library or art club.

I must mention the upcoming Flower and Garden Festival. Our gardeners, encouraged by Cathy Fisher once more, and cake makers, lead by the WI, are in full swing preparing for the Weekend Extravaganza which happens on a three yearly basis. Let's hope for good weather and large numbers to make it another massive success.

Village Notices

Grand Summer Coffee Morning in aid of Feckenham Church Roof

Honeysuckle House
33 High Street

Friday, 13 June 2025
10:30 am to 12 noon
Admission £3

Cakes, jams, preserves, gifts,
raffle, jewellery and much
much more.

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Feckenham Flower and Garden Festival

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th May 2025 11.00am – 5.00pm.

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 Tom Edwards and Lionel Hill, where admission stickers and a programme can be purchased (for village residents and other visitors these can be purchased at the Information Desk on the Square). Many volunteers are always needed to assist with car parking. If anyone is able to spare an hour or two over the weekend to help, please let me know if you have not already done so.

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

Feckenham WI will be providing Teas in the Village Hall over the weekend and any donations of cakes would be most welcome.

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving in our Parish Church at 6.30pm on Sunday 18th 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 19th May from 6.00p.m. when the Flower Festival will still be at its best.

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 Friday 2nd May 2025.



Catherine Fisher
E: catherine.fisher@talk21.com
T: 07931 338291
www.feckenham-open-gardens.co.uk

Call to all BAKERS - Your village needs YOU



make sure any containers you want back are clearly labelled.

We also need a lot of people to help serve on the day as well. If you can spare any time on either the Saturday or Sunday, we would be really grateful. Also, we would like to give the village's young people the chance to earn some money, so if anyone has any teenagers that would like to earn £10 per hour clearing tables, please do get in touch.

Feckenham W.I. is providing the teas and cakes for the Garden Festival on the 17th & 18th May. We're going to need about 100 cakes in total, and that's a lot for our little group. Several people have already very kindly committed to helping us out but we're going to need many more.

Half of the profits from the cakes & teas go to the church maintenance fund, which is what the festival is in aid of, so by helping the W.I. to provide a lovely afternoon tea for our visitors, you're helping preserve our beautiful church.

You can make whatever you're good at and if you bring us your receipts, we can reimburse you for expenses. We can also freeze them ahead of time for you. It would be great if you could make a note of what's in them but if you can't, that's fine. Please

Please contact Eunice O'Brien at eunice.obrien@gmail.com or see the sign-up sheet in the shop to let us know if you can help. Thank you!

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A DAY TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Preparations are now well under way for this year's Feckenham Wake which will be on Saturday, 21st June.

Lots of attractions have been arranged - there are some you'd expect like the **Arrow Valley Brass Band**, **Professor Chandler's Punch & Judy Show**, the **Fun Dog Show**, **Pig Roast** and, of course, the enormous **Classic Car Show**. The **Fairground Organ** which had to withdraw last year because of the operator's illness promises to make it this time.

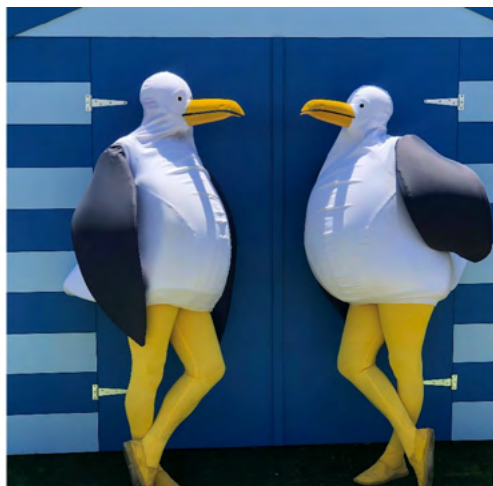
WRESTLING AND DANCING

At the time of writing we're awaiting confirmation of a new **Sumo Wrestling** game and the ever popular **crazy golf** and **football games** have been booked. The **Fun Dog** show will be returning as will the massed **Morris Dancers** and the **Trial of Strength** machine is going to be there.

All Round Voices will entertain in the church, **Thomas Trilby** (the uni-cycling, juggling, stiltwalker) will be back and flying in from the coast will be a flock of **Giant Seagulls** - we're told they love to swoop on people eating pork baps.

FOOD AND DRINK

There'll be teas and cakes in the church, freshly baked pizzas, home made samosas, traditional and artisan ice cream - as well as a real ale bar and a



prosecco bar. There'll be lots of stalls and stands from local organisations and **Grand Prize Draw** with spectacular prizes.

We're looking set fair for a splendid village day - now all we need it good weather... and some more volunteers...

YES - YOU CAN HELP!

Like most village activities, The Wake is entirely run by volunteers. From manning the car park to putting the tents up, from selling raffle tickets to carving the pig roast - there are dozens of tasks undertaken by people willing to give up a few hours of their time to make Feckenham's biggest event of the year go well.

Putting on an event like this is hard work - enjoyable but still hard, and many of our volunteers are no longer young. We urgently need your help - so, please, consider offering your services. It isn't onerous, it is fun - the Wake organisation is sociable and appreciates that people have lots of demands on their time - but a few hours before, during or after the event is all we're asking for.

If you feel you could offer some help do please get in touch and we'll be glad to explain what's involved. Just email: feckenhamwake@gmail.com



FECKENHAM WAKE

Saturday, 21st June

12.30pm to 5pm

On The Square and Recreation Ground



THANKS

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 10th April. The Chair, Cllr Alan Smith, gave a review of the last twelve months. He thanked Feckenham in Bloom for all their hard work which has added to the look of our village. Thanks were also expressed to the volunteer parish path warden, Paul who has transformed many of the footpaths and bridle ways in Feckenham. Paul will be standing down at the end of this year, and so a new volunteer warden is needed. Worcestershire County Council provides training.

The village is lucky to have so many volunteers, but all of the organisations are crying out for more volunteers to join them. Should you wish to find out more about these organisations please do not hesitate to contact the clerk by email or phone.

LITTER PICK

Talking of volunteers, the Parish Council is organising a litter pick on Saturday 10th May (the weekend before The Flower & Garden Festival) between 12 -2pm. Litter pickers, gloves and bags are all provided as well as high vis jackets including smaller ones for children. If you are interested, it would be helpful if you could let the Clerk know you are hoping to attend.

We are not allowed to pick on the Droitwich / Alcester Road, Rockhill Lane or Astwood Lane beyond Winfields due to the speed of traffic. The Borough Council will help to pick these areas. You will not have to transport your rubbish sack back to the square as someone will collect them and bring them back ready for the Council to collect. Many hands make light work and in the past we have found one hour is enough.

HIGHWAYS

During the year improvements have been made to try and slow the traffic on all entrances to the village. This has been helped by three more VAS machines. Two were funded from a grant from The Police and Crime Commissioners funds and the

other by divisional funds from Cllr Craig Warhurst and Cllr Mike Rouse. The County Councillors also contributed to the new improved white gates which are intended to create a "village entrance" and slow the traffic down. The Parish Council thanks the Police & Crime Commissioner and our County Council Councillors.

FLOODING

The Parish Council regularly meets with their County and Borough Council colleagues, North Worcestershire Water Management as well as landowners and council Officers to try to prevent flooding within the village. It is hoped the current plan will get the water off Astwood Lane and Swansbrook Lane and direct it through the watercourse. You will be able to see the plans on the parish council website as soon as they become available.

BATTERIES

Much of the year has been taken up with applications for Battery Energy Storage Systems. You will be aware that, in the recent survey, Feckenham people indicated these schemes should be opposed. There is now a separate BESS action group, and the parish council have engaged a consultant to work on responses to these applications.

NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 8th May at 7.30pm in the Back Room of the Village Hall. This will be the Annual Meeting of the Council at which roles and responsibilities are allocated for the following 12 months. All are welcome to attend.

GET IN TOUCH

If you have queries or need help with local problems you are very welcome to contact the Council. Initially you can call the Parish Clerk on 01527 892522 or Email:

clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

NEED INFORMATION?

Visit the Parish Council's website for information about the Council, planning issues, local organisations and useful contact details to help you solve problems. You'll also find digital editions of Feckenham News going back to 2012.

feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

CHURCH SERVICES



PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Vicar: Fr Glenn Reading 01527 894436

vicar@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

Church Warden: Vacant

For Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals please
contact Fr Glenn

Website: www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk



PARISH CHURCH
OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
FECKENHAM

Services for May 2025

4th May	10.30am	Eucharist	Rev Fiona Carter
11 th May	9.00am	Traditional Language Service	Rev Fiona Carter
11 th May	10.30am	Family Service	Rev Fiona Carter
18 th May	6:30pm	Flower Festival Evensong	Fr Glenn Reading
25th May	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading

Drop in (in church)



Wednesday at 10.30am - 12.00pm
7th and 21st May

All are welcome (coffee and cake)



FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St John Fisher & Thomas More

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

Feckenham Village Hall



A FITTING FINALE

A busy Autumn/Winter/Spring season of live performances at Feckenham Village Hall ended on 5th April when a packed audience enjoyed a concert by The Midland Sinfonia. The programme was varied - starting with Ennio Morricone's theme for the film *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly* and ending with a spirited rendition of *The Devil Went Down to Georgia*. In between these fireworks there were more contemplative pieces by Elgar and Shostakovich - and a truly hair raising suite of music from Hitchcock's *Psycho*. It was an impressive show of virtuosity and a fitting end to the season - and the orchestra were sufficiently impressed by the Hall and the audience numbers that they have booked another visit for 7th March 2026. They plan another varied programme but the concert will include two of Bach's Brandenburg Concerti.

BIG BANDS

The season included not one but two big bands - in December we welcomed the Neil Coley Big Band while in March the Out of The Blue Big Band gave a charity concert. Both events attracted large audiences and the Neil Coley band will be returning this December.

TOURING SHOWS

Meanwhile, for the 22nd year running, the Hall staged events from the Live and Local rural touring programme - high standard professional shows made possible by funding from Arts Council England and the County and Borough Councils. A large audience enjoyed Pentabus Theatre's musical about the Post Office Scandal. That was followed by the spectacular musical antics of Mumbo Jumbo and most recently internationally renowned violinist Tim Kliphuis amazed a crowded hall with his trio. Planning is now underway for the next season of live events starting in the autumn - watch this space for details!

Feckenham's Own...



ANDREW EASTON JOINS SWANSBROOK RADIO



Joining the "staff" at Swansbrook Radio is a voice that many people in the area will be familiar with. Andrew Easton presented BBC Hereford and Worcester's daily drive time programme for many years. He left the station last year as a result of the BBC's

reduction in the output of local stations. We're delighted to welcome him onto the Swansbrook airwaves as our Malvern arts correspondent - at the start of every month Andrew will host a programme about the events happening at Malvern Theatres. He'll be talking to the artists playing there and getting all the back stage gossip. His first programme will be broadcast on 5th May and will be available to stream or to listen to On Demand.

Andrew is Vice President of Hereford Hospital Radio Station, musical director of the Kays Theatre Company in Worcester and was the stadium announcer and host for the Worcester Warriors Rugby Team.

We look forward to working with such an experienced broadcaster on Feckenham's own very local radio station.

Could you be part of our team?

We're always on the look out for people to join us - either on air or behind the scenes. Whether you want to present, report or just make the tea just email us on radio@swansbrook.com - we'll be glad to chat

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

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



TRIBUTE TO A FIGHTER

The Main FeckenOdeon season is over - but there are a couple of films showing over the summer months to whet your appetite for things to come: The first is a slightly belated contribution to the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of VE Day. It's a tribute to the aircraft that made victory possible and helped bring peace back to Europe.

"Spitfire" is a documentary that tells an epic, sweeping tale of determination, vision and courage. It is the story of an aeroplane that was forged in competition, shaped as the war clouds gathered, and refined in the white heat of combat – going on to become the most famous fighter plane ever made. The film features spectacular aerial photography of the plane in action as well as the recollections of the people who built it and who flew it. "Spitfire" also explores how this extraordinary plane thrives today and how it has become an international icon. (UK 2018)

SPITFIRE (PG)

Friday, 23rd May at 8pm

Doors open at 7.30pm - Licenced Bar

Also booking:

THELMA (12A)

Friday, 18th July at 8pm

How a 93 year old took on the scammers - and won! Comedy with a sharp edge.

NEW SEASON STARTS SEPTEMBER

Pick up a brochure from the Shop, Rose & Crown or The Village Hall - or see feckencodeon.com

Tickets for all FeckenOdeon shows are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown. You can also book by phone on 0333 666 3366 or online at www.feckencodeon.co.uk

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Thursday, 29th MAY

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WHAT'S ON IN



FECKENHAM FLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL

17th & 18th May, 2025

11am to 5pm

Approx. 25 Gardens Open.
Flower Festival in the Church

Homemade WI 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

www.feckenham-open-gardens.co.uk



GRAND SUMMER COFFEE MORNING

in aid of the Church Roof
Friday, 13th June - 10.30-12noon

Honeysuckle House,

33 High Street

Admission £3

Cakes, Jams, Jewellery,

Raffle, etc.

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

17th & 18th May - catering
for the Garden Festival Teas

**CAKES
NEEDED!**

Contact jen@thecarys.co.uk

Feckenham

WAKE

Saturday, 21st June



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, 6th May



Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

PAYBACK!

Are your plants earning their space?
A talk by Bob Brown

Wednesday, 7th May - 7.30pm

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday 10th May - 10 to 12 noon
Bradley Village Hall

Visit to Morton Hall

May 15th - 07544 832052 for details



Feckenham Parish Council

MEETING

Thursday, 8th May - 7.30pm

Feckenham Village Hall

(Back Room)

All welcome

*Meetings include a Public Forum where
parishioners can bring matters to the attention
of the Council and ask questions.*

THE
FECKENODEON CINEMA
SOCIETY

INSPIRATION OF A NATION

SPITFIRE



FeckenOdeon 2 Friday, 23rd MAY at 8pm

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

*Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings

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

Feckenham READERS GROUP
Tuesday, 7th OR 8th May* - 7.45pm

This month's book:

WHITE THORN

By BRUCE COURTENAY

*Call for confirmation of date:

01527 892285



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

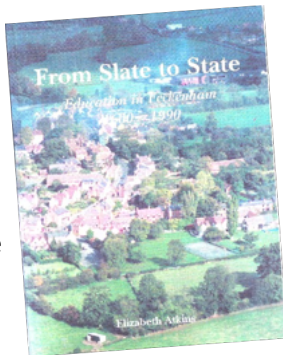
Feckenham Archive - Marion Chute



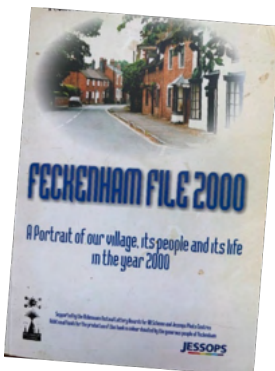
This month we look at Feckenham in published works. An occasional magazine called The Feckenham Forester was produced by local historian Richard Churchley. I'm not sure how many of these useful magazines

are still around - does anyone out there have one?

Much missed local historian Elizabeth Atkins produced 'Slate to State – Education in Feckenham 1600 – 1900' in 2003 which includes plenty of class photos and documents from both the Free School to the National School which became the Church of England School.



There are other pamphlets produced by the Church as well as other organisations. In 2003 The Entertainments Committee of the time produced the amazing snapshot of life in Feckenham at the turn of the millennium.



Addendum from Editor:

I have a copy of this booklet, also sent by Brian Robson, which I think was produced 60 years after the start of WW2. It's full of memories from evacuees and villagers

and I remember when a group of evacuees gathered with villagers on this anniversary and dedicated the bench on the approach to the church. The wording is a bit faded but still visible.



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Attention: Horses

Nina Willison

Hello, I live in Bradley Green and ride out regularly on my horse Gino. I am not sure how many people are aware of the new law which asks drivers to pass a horse at a maximum of 10mph and to pass 2 meters away if possible. If not possible then to allow the rider time to find a suitable, safe place for the driver to pass.

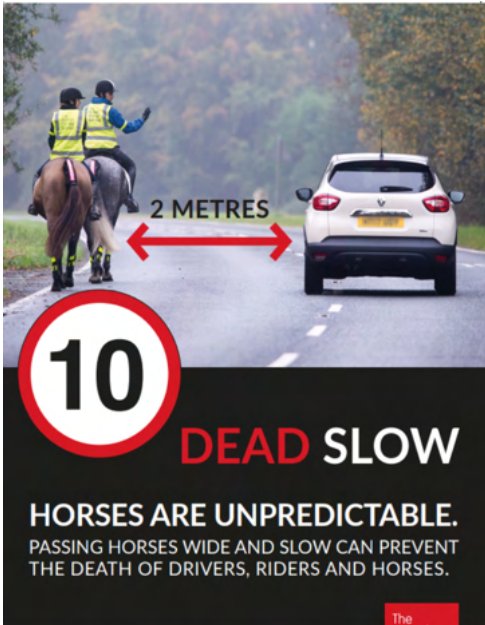
You may ask why riders continue to ride on roads, with the increasing volume of traffic? For some riders this is the only option they have, it may be to access a bridleway. For others it's a way of exercising horses in straight lines which is much better for them mentally and physically than going round in circles.

You may ask why a rider goes out on a horse who is playing up on the road? In most cases a horse is settled when a rider sets off out on a ride and riders work hard to educate their horses on the roads so they become confident in everyday situations. Unfortunately sometimes when a rider is out riding they can be faced with a lorry, tractor, delivery driver, dog barking at a gate, a car being pressure washed, etc, all within a few 100yards. As you can appreciate, even the most well trained horse or pony may get unsettled in these situations, but the rider still has to get the horse home.

I wondered if those of you who see this article could make family members, staff, & other drivers you come across regularly, aware of the new rules for drivers.

We have so many Horses, Ponies, and riders of all ages still riding on the roads and lanes in our wonderful villages and countryside. If this prevents just one accident, then I thank you for reading this article and passing on the message.

If you are a rider who has had an accident or a near miss whilst out riding please log the incident at www.horseincidents.org.uk or Horse i app. To place signage up in villages the BHS needs to show evidence of areas where they would be beneficial, and obtain permission from the local Parish Council and or highways department.



2 METRES

10

DEAD SLOW

HORSES ARE UNPREDICTABLE.
PASSING HORSES WIDE AND SLOW CAN PREVENT
THE DEATH OF DRIVERS, RIDERS AND HORSES.

#thinkhorsethink10

The British Horse Society is a Registered Charity No. 1030804 and 1030805

The
British
Horse
Society

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- 4 Drive slowly away

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Village Shop - Alan Slater

Following on from last month's article where I introduced the members of the Management Board I thought it would be useful to remind the village of the legalities and ethos behind the establishment of the Shop. So I have asked our Treasurer Vickie Whitehouse to explain further and this is what she reported:

The business was registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 on 14 August 2008 and is now governed by the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, as well as the Companies Act 2006. This means that it is a business run for the benefit of the community as opposed to its shareholders, the usual requirement for an incorporated entity.

In all other aspects it is subject to the same laws and regulations as all businesses and is obliged to follow good corporate practices. The shop does have shareholders and always welcomes new subscriptions. Unlike shares held in other limited companies, the shares are neither withdrawable nor transferable and carry no right to interest, dividend or bonus.

The objectives of the Shop, as laid out in its Rules, are for the benefit of the community to sustain, encourage, provide and facilitate the operation of a shop. Whilst the shop should not trade for a profit, it is required to cover its operating costs and should then apply any surplus to the continuation and development of the shop, as well as to make payments for social or charitable purposes, for the benefit of the community.

Over the years, the shop has been successfully run and as such has built a considerable reserve to ensure it is able to continue for the foreseeable future. The Management Board are always open to development opportunities and how to be able to take advantage of any when they arise.

Hopefully, this has been a useful insight into the rules under which the Management Board look to operate the Shop and to safeguard its future.



We have now introduced the option for customers to add syrups to their coffee. These are offered by many coffee shops and, when possible, we strive to try to offer new options for customers in order to keep the business fresh and to encourage customers to return.

In the coming months the type of decaffeinated coffee sold will also change. We know customer feedback has never been good in respect of our decaffeinated offering so we were delighted when Coffee Masters, our supplier, informed us that they are changing supplier. We will be able to offer a ground coffee that has been decaffeinated via the water process rather than using chemicals. So if you prefer a decaf coffee in the afternoon, ask in the shop and you may be able to sample the new blend ahead of the switch over.

Finally, we are delighted to have sold many Easter knitted animals on behalf of Mission Morogoro again, raising over £1,200. I'm sure Margaret is looking forward to break from knitting until she starts to stock up for Christmas!

An Organic Allotment by Pete Delaney



Hi veg growers,

As this is my first article this year, I shall be telling of preparations already done during the early months of the year to reach the time we are at now in April when when all the early showings are springing up and out. During the first two months of the year I continued the winter long job of throwing muck and compostables onto the beds around the plot. I was pleased with the results at the bottom of my three compost heaps when I turned them over in February and dug out the composted soil underneath. I wheelbarrowed it into heaps on chosen beds and raked it over them. I have already dug two trenches, filled them with compostables and covered them back over to make feed for runner beans.

Early sowings in February and March have been - leeks, one of my favourite

annual winter crops. I left a few poor looking ones in the ground and now, in April, they are looking good sturdy leeks, an unexpected small spring harvest. Broad beans sown in February, I have recently put in to the ground, they are now 6 to 8 inches high and looking healthy. Lettuce sown in march is now pushing up, along with radicchio, a salad favourite of mine. Early carrots are also showing. I have sown them along side garlic (that has been growing since last November) in the hope that the carrot will help hide the garlic from the onion fly and the garlic will help hide the carrot from the carrot fly.

End of March/start of April I have planted 4 rows of potatoes, one row of 2nd earlies and 3 main crop. Pentland dell and Desiree, which gave a good harvest of tubers at the bottom of each plant for me last year. Cabbages are growing on in 3 inch pots as I prepare the ground and cabbage net to keep out the butterflies. Their emerging caterpillars can destroy a brassica crop. In the greenhouse and filling my window ledge in pots are sapling - tomatoes, pepper's, sweetcorn, butternut squash, pumpkin and courgettes. Peas in long trays are just springing up... and so are the weeds, keep hoeing.

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Rob Cole's Gardening Tips: Spring Foliage



May is a time of year when any splashes of colour are welcome in the garden, and even more so when the colour comes from long lasting foliage rather than short-lived bloom.

- but worth the wait if you have the patience.



Although lots of people despise the Loosestrife, I find that the variegated form *Lysimachia punctata* 'Alexander' is a lot less vigorous than the roguish species, and its new creamy coloured foliage is strongly flushed with pink for a longish period in late April. It eventually turns to green and cream, and then its yellow flowers appear and last until August.



My first choice is an Iris, a genus more renowned for its flowers than its foliage, but some have good coloured foliage in late April. *Iris pallida* 'Variegata' has typical leaves, but strongly striped in pale green, gold, and cream. The foliage stands at about 450mm, and the soft blue flowers overtop the leaves to about 750mm.

A number of plants have spring foliage appeal which is transient. One such plant is the Honeysuckle *Lonicera caprifolium* 'Anna Fletcher', which has round leaves through which the stem penetrates (perfoliate). In early spring, before the stems extend, the layers of leaves are close together and give a most unusual foliage effect. Another fine plant is *Valeriana phu* 'Aurea' which shines a brilliant yellow in the Spring when its new foliage emerges, but by the time its loose heads of small white flowers appear, it is time to cut it back hard and then enjoy another round of emerging leaves later in the year.

For a foliage plant, *Veratrum nigrum* takes a lot of beating, and in spring the fresh and pleated leaves are simply stunning. It is very slow to bulk up for propagation, and even slower from seed

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NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 7th May 2025

A talk by Bob Brown entitled 'Payback – Are Your Plants Earning Their Space'. Bob is founder of the Cotswold Garden Flowers nursery in Badsey. The theme for the monthly competition will be 'Spring Blossom'.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE – Saturday 10th May 2025

Our Annual Plant Sale will be held at our usual meeting place, the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green on Saturday 10th May 2025 from 10:00am to 12 Noon. The event is open to the public and has become a major event in our calendar. There will be plants for sale grown by our members, a stall selling metal plant supports, and a local wholesale nursery will also take a stand. Donations of plants for sale are welcome from non-members, too, so if you can help, please get in touch to arrange delivery.

VISIT TO MORTON HALL GARDENS – Thursday 15th May 2025

Members of the Gardening Club are invited to join us on a visit (own transport) to MortonHall Gardens, near Inkberrow, at 2:00pm on Thursday 15th May 2025. The cost is £13.00 with tea. Pre- booking is essential.

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 2025. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting.

If you require any further information, ring Rob Cole (Chairman) on 07544 832052.



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Feckenham Cricket Club

As I write this the weather is fair and the cricket season looks to start on time, but we all know the sting in the tail of the English weather!



Preparation of the ground has been greatly helped by the good weather as quite often over the years we've had to get league games on with bare minimum of notice and this has been the driest build up since the pandemic.

The first team will already have played 2 league fixtures in April before the 2nds & 3rds kick into action in the first week of May, so there will be a home fixture every Saturday from now on.

The bar opens each Saturday at 2.30pm and new members are always welcome, particularly to try our new range of Purity ales.

Fridays, we open at 5pm and it's junior training night so we always try to have food available. Sisters Fish n' Chips are in residence on May 9th and we'll be announcing other food nights in due course so keep an eye out on Facebook for updates.

Thursdays are open during the season 6-9pm, Sundays 1-8pm.

We're also open during the week when matches are scheduled so, weather allowing, during May we will be open on the 7, 12, 13, 20 & 21 during midweek as well as our scheduled opening hours.

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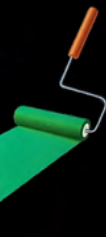
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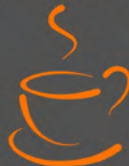
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