

# FECKENHAM

MAY 2018

*News*

Published by Feckenham Church for the Village  
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# A. Pullen

• MEMORIALS •

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# MAY Diary



Tues 1 <sup>st</sup>	12.30am	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Stock & Bradley Gardening Club	Bradley Village Hall
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Feckenham Forest History Society	Feckenham Village Hall
Thur 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Feckenham WI	Village Hall, Back Room
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	FeckenOdeon-2	Village Hall, Back Room
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	10am- 12noon	Gardening Club Annual Plant Sale	Bradley Village Hall
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Quiz - in aid of Mission Morogoro	Village Hall
Thur 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, Back Room
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> & Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	11am - 5pm	Flower & Garden Festival	The Village
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	4pm	Licensing of Rev. Gary Crellin	St Peter's Church Powick

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*Magazine online at*  
**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.

## Front Cover

Jo & Cyrils's tulips at "Timber End".

Photo by Ian Bellion.



# Church Services MAY

PARISH CHURCH  
of ST. JOHN  
THE BAPTIST



**Priest-in-Charge:** Rev Wyn Beynon **07595 313035**

**Church website:** [www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk](http://www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk) **Email:** [info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk)

**Parish Office:** Telephone: 01905 778181 Email: [bowbrookgroup1@gmail.com](mailto:bowbrookgroup1@gmail.com)

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

at - The Wychebrook Group, The Parish Centre, St Andrew's Street, DROITWICH, WR9 8DY

## Readers and Intercessors

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>**

Easter 6

**11.00am Sung Eucharist**

1 John 5:1-6

Acts 10:44-48

Intercessor

Jane White

Tony Mortimer

Alison Crellin



**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>**

Ascension Day

**10.45am Communion at Wychbold**

**7.30pm Communion at Hanbury**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>**

Easter 7

**8.00am Holy Communion**

1 Peter 4:7-11

Walter Richards

**11.00am Lay led service**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**

**6.30pm Thanksgiving for Garden Festival**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>**

Trinity Sunday

**11.00am Sung Eucharist**

Isaiah 6:1-8

Romans 8:12-17

Intercessor

Angela Fletcher

David Street

Barbara Wheatley

**“Mixed Bag”** 6.30pm in Feckenham Church, Wednesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

Contact Fiona Carter 07864 867313 [fiona-carter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fiona-carter@hotmail.co.uk)

## Feckenham: Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Initial contacts for these should be directed to Rev. Wyn Beynon:

My mobile number is: **07595 313035** or email [wynbeynon@gmail.com](mailto:wynbeynon@gmail.com) Thank you! Wyn

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



Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 10.15am in the Church

**Fr. Anthony Rohan**, The Presbytery, Redditch. Tel. 01527 63096

Local contact—Phyllis Mott, Feckenham. Tel. 01527 893898

# Thought for the month

Rev. Gary Crellin

Well, the time has come. This will be my last Pastoral Letter. It all seems rather unreal as I write this, thinking that in a few weeks, after four years as the curate in our Wychebrook Group of churches, Alison and the girls and I will be venturing to pastures new over in the Malverns. It is an exciting prospect as well as a rather scary one. The boxing up for a start!

Certainly, the one thing that I won't be without is the catalogue of wonderfully happy memories that I have. I want to say thank you for all your love, encouragement and support because it hasn't always been easy. There have been some tough times to work through across a benefice that is still, in management speak "storming, forming and norming" and on a personal level, I think I have been storming, forming and norming too.

Rev'd Wyn, last month, stole my thunder through the use of this quote of the late great Ken Dodd - "*if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans*". Little did I know what was in store for me when we moved to the area 15 years ago - as well as having a delightful area to raise our family, it was - surprisingly - preparation to get me ready to be a Priest and to serve.

Jesus regarded His disciples as friends and that is certainly how I view you. I have never pretended to be perfect or to have all the answers. I apologise now to anyone who feels that I have let them down or irritated because it was never intentional. Some of you have irritated me along the way, but that has been useful and formative. My main concern has always been to communicate and share the incredible love that God has for each of you, whether you're Church members or not, believers or not. I have tried, in my own limited and all too human way, to demonstrate that love to you in deed as well as word. Thank

you for supporting the foodbanks and the Romanian Shoe Box appeals. I hope they will last.

I have laughed with those who laugh and I have certainly cried with those who cried. I thank you for allowing me the privilege of being part of your lives especially during those special life moments: the fun at the *Star Wars* or *Paddington* themed baptisms; weddings on horseback or on a double decker bus, or with dog ring bearers; the huge village funerals, the nursing home communions. The immense fun of a packed church for a school service - the pressure of judging cakes and Easter bonnets. Presenting "church" reverently but not in a stuffy manner. Trying different things, working in new areas such as Callow Hill. I hope that I have left a legacy of love, service and the left in you with a memory of someone who made you happy so you can enjoy being a child of God. I am sorry if you are still in therapy for the mere mention of your curate in speedo's!

Curates come and go, but the love of God remains, so does the freedom that God offers to each of us. With grateful thanks to Rev Wyn and the ministry and worship team across the benefice for creating such a rich and valuable training environment for me. Remember your church, and all that it stands for, is in the centre of the community. Good luck and blessings to each and every one of you.

Rev Gary

## **The Reverend Gary Crellin**

will be installed and licensed by The Bishop of Dudley as the Vicar of Powick with Callow End, Guarlford with Madresfield and Newland in Malvern on:

**Sunday 27th May at 4pm**

St Peters Church, Upton Road  
Powick, Worcester WR2 4QT

with a reception afterwards at  
Powick Village Hall. All are welcome!

# Flower & Garden Festival 2018

Cathy

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

**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 Lionel Hill, Tom Edwards and Winfields, where admission stickers and a programme can be purchased (for residents and disabled these can be purchased at the Information Desk on the Square).

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, Churchfield's Ice Cream and Feckenham History Society). During previous Festivals residents have been most helpful in this regard and we are most grateful.

The WI would be most grateful to receive any donations of cakes for their Village Hall Teas (n.b. any nut ingredients should be labelled), please contact Linda Harris on 892850.

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving in our Parish Church at 6.30pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May, to be officiated by Rev Gary Crellin, to which everyone is welcome to attend.

The P.C.C. greatly appreciate everyone's efforts for the Festival weekend and would like to say 'thank you' to all those who have helped or participated, by inviting them for a glass of wine in the Church on Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> May from 6.00p.m. when the Flower Festival will still be at its best.

We are crossing our fingers for fine weather after such a long winter and late Spring, 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 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

Catherine Fisher  
E: catherine.fisher@talk21.com  
T: 07931 338291

## Community Archaeology Project

Jen Cary

Hi everyone,

It's been some time since I updated you on the progress we're making towards getting our biggest Scheduled Ancient Monument off Historic England's 'At Risk' register.

In February 2016 we were unsuccessful in our second attempt to gain Heritage Lottery funding for a big project to discover more about the site under the Recreation Ground. Since then we have shifted our focus onto getting the Conservation Management Plan in place with Redditch Borough Council (the landowner). To this end we have asked for an updated quote from our preferred contractor (their lead on our project was made redundant in the Summer), which we are hoping will now come in within our current level of funds. To this end, we recently met with a representative from Worcs. Archaeology Services and from Historic England. We hope this year to achieve the Management Plan and make a final, third submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund for money to do activities such as geo-physical survey and also pay for an interpretation board and better signage. I expect to be able to update you in the next few months with good news on how we have spent the generous donations the project has received from individuals and organisations within Feckenham towards the cost of the Management Plan.

If you would like to know more about the site, maybe join us on a walk of the moat during the Wake.

# World War I Centenary Commemoration

Steve Fletcher



The life of the Feckenham villager **Stephen Rumsey**, who died in World War One, will be commemorated on Sunday 13th May 2018 at the Family Service to be held in the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Feckenham.

Stephen was born in early 1875 in Huntley, Gloucestershire, to Stephen and Ruth Rumsey, who were married in Westbury on Severn in 1873. By 1891 the family were living in High Street Feckenham, probably at No. 42 or No. 46. By 1901, though the family were still living there, Stephen had moved away and was working as a groom in Nuneaton.

He married Agnes Rutherford in Edinburgh on 7th November 1902, just before the birth of their first son Stephen on 17th February 1903. They had a second son, Nance (??), born on 26th June 1918 in Colchester.

In December 1915, aged 41, Stephen enlisted into the Remount Squadron of the Army Service Corps in Colchester; who were responsible for the obtaining of horses for the Army. Three months later he sailed for Rouen from Southampton on the SS Glemhead, and was posted to the HQ of VIII Corps on 1st April 1916.

In early April 1918 Stephen was stationed near Mount Kemmel, and was quite badly wounded in action there. He was taken to one of the casualty clearing stations at Brandhoek, to the west of Ypres, where he died of his wounds on 9th April 1918. He was buried in Brandhoek New Military Cemetery No.3.

Stephen is remembered on the Colchester Town War memorial, the West Kilbride War Memorial, and on the family headstone in Feckenham Churchyard.

## WW1 Commemoration

The group of villagers who have been working on the World War One commemorations are nearing the end of their work, with a booklet being prepared for November 2018, at the centenary of the end of the war.

PLEASE HELP US with any information that you have on :-

- Your own, or family members', awareness of impacts of the war on the village.
- The villagers who died in the war.
- People still living in the area who are related to those who died in the war.

Information can be sent to Steve Fletcher at [steve.fletcher100.sf@gmail.com](mailto:steve.fletcher100.sf@gmail.com), Tel. 01527 271234; or to Kathy Gee on 01527 893753.

We will also be contactable at the Flower Festival and at the Wake.

## Newshound



**Great grandparents.** Andy and Jane Bray have their first great grandchild. Finlay Andrew John Dumbavin was born on 1st March. Congratulations to mother Lydia Bray and father Shaun Dumbavin, who live in Cookhill.

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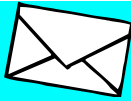
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# Letters



## Dog Fouling on Droitwich Road

We have noticed recently that a dog walker has been collecting their dog's poo in poo bags but have then left the bags in the hedgerow alongside the footpath above the bank of daffodils on Droitwich Road. Sometimes they are left there for days or weeks, but at other times they seem

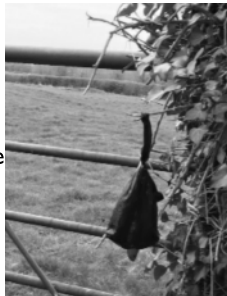
to be removed at a later date. The current bags are pink with blue spots, so if you recognise this



*And Also*

## Waiting for the Pooh Fairy

Photo taken Sunday April 8th on bridle path between Berrow Hill Lane and The Whirly Pool.



*Here is a little song to go with it (to the tune of 'Early One Morning')*

Early one morning, just as the sun was rising  
I saw a lonely pooh bag, hanging by the gate  
Oh do not leave me  
How could you leave me  
How could you leave a pooh bag so ?

*Peter Teisen, Berrow Hill House*

# Square Management Committee

## REPAIRS AND REPLENISHMENTS

Those of you who have been out and about will have noticed that the mess at the High Street end of The Square has been cleared away and that all of the parking and border areas have been levelled, edged and resurfaced. The messiness was the combined effects of a road accident, tree replanting and utilities excavations along with normal wear and tear. It's hoped that the current spruce appearance will endure... please drive carefully!

By the time you read this it's expected that the various flower tubs around The Square will have been replanted. The new plants have been donated by Tom and Ellie King who live on High Street. Keeping these planters replenished and tidy is a major task so the Committee is most grateful to Tom and Ellie for their generosity - a great help in keeping the village centre in fine fettle - just in time for the Garden Festival.

## BRONCO TO THE RESCUE!

Repairs and improvements don't come cheap - even if the insurance companies will pay for some of the work - so this year's Fun on The Square event is even more vital than usual. This July fundraiser is the Square Committee's biggest source of income and it's hoped that this year's will be a record breaker - weather permitting.

Star attraction will be the Bucking Bronco - a full sized mechanical steer that provides a challenge to any would be cow hands - how long can you stay on its back? There'll be prizes for those who cling on the longest.

For more sedate souls there'll be a Square Dance on The Square - complete with band and caller.. and, as usual there'll be lots of lovely things to eat and drink.

Youngsters will be invited to join in the hobby horse making competition and there'll be more games for them to enjoy.

Please note the date : **Saturday, 21st July from 6.30pm** - be there or be Square!

# Mission Morogoro

Tony Mortimer

## Saving lives through clean water and improved sanitation

Four MM trustees have just returned from a successful two-week visit to Tunguli. We can report good progress on a range of projects and over coming weeks you will be able to read about these on our website.

Here we describe a new and exciting initiative focused on Water and Sanitation. Lack of clean water together with poor sanitation facilities and practices are the causes of 8 of the top 10 killer illnesses found in Tunguli. So we are thrilled to have formed a partnership with a local, Tanzanian NGO called SAWA (Sanitation And Water Action) aimed at tackling these problems. SAWA has long experience of delivering successful sanitation projects to deprived rural areas of Tanzania and during our visit we were together able to launch a similar project in Tunguli. The aim of this work is to educate, mobilise and support the people of Tunguli to improve their water supply and sanitation systems in ways that are sustainable over the long term. In the first phase of this project SAWA will also work with the villagers to collect baseline data on matters such as the number of people who have access to latrines and clean water, which will allow improvements to be measured over the life of the project. Work is beginning on simple interventions such as hand washing practices and the building, by the community, of new latrines at the schools.



Simple hand-washing methods at school

MM is also supporting the building and rehabilitation of wells and the fitting of simple rope pumps. We were able to see working the first five pumps already installed by SAWA on our behalf. The initial phase of this project will run until the end of 2018 and further, lighter touch, monitoring and supervision will take place for the following two years to ensure that the lessons are well embedded and implemented.

We were extremely impressed by the inspirational quality of the training and support provided by SAWA, and feel fortunate to have them as MM partners.

We thank you, all of our supporters, for your encouragement and financial support without which this work would not be possible.

See our website [www.missionmorogoro.org.uk](http://www.missionmorogoro.org.uk) for future update

## Parish Council

Jane Bull

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Every year, in May, Parish Councils throughout the land hold their Annual Parish Meetings. This is an opportunity for anyone to come along and bring matters of concern to the attention of the Council and to ask the Council for progress reports on matters that are already in hand. **This year's Parish Meeting in Feckenham will be held on 17th May at 7.30pm at Feckenham Village Hall (Back Room).** It will be preceded by another short meeting at which officers will be elected to Chair the Council and to serve on the various sub-groups. You're all welcome to come along and have your say.

It's worth pointing out that every ordinary Parish Council meeting allows fifteen minutes for the public to bring up things that may be concerning them and to ask questions of the Council. You can also get in touch with the Council through the Clerk - [clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com](mailto:clerk.feckenhampc@feckenham.com) -

Tel: 01527 892522.

# WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



THE  
FECKENHAM  
SESSIONS  
TRADITIONAL  
MUSICMAKING  
at THE ROSE & CROWN

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



**Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB**

**ANNUAL PLANT SALE**

Saturday, 12th May - 10am-12noon  
Bradley Village Hall - 01527 821355

Feckenham Readers Group

Tuesday, 15th May - 7.45

This Month:

THE AGE OF INNOCENCE by Edith Wharton  
Details from Marion Chute - 892285



the **WI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

**FECKENHAM WI**  
At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

**AGM & RESOLUTIONS**

Thursday, 10th MAY - 7.30pm  
Visitors Welcome at all meetings - £4

Feckenham Forest History Society

**CLERGY vs PARISHIONERS**

1660-1720

Talk by Dr Maureen Harris  
Tuesday, 8th May - 7.30pm  
Feckenham Village Hall

[www.feckenham-forest-history-society.org.uk](http://www.feckenham-forest-history-society.org.uk)

**Quiz** in aid of Mission Morogoro  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm - Feckenham Village Hall  
Teams of six - £10.00 each  
to include fish and chip supper or sausage and chips  
Tickets from Ann Matthews 01527 892180  
Dave Plummer 01905 391143  
Bar and Raffle



Feckenham's Own...



Listen at

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

**SWANSBROOK** Radio



**SUMMER QUIZ**

**At the Rose & Crown**

Thursday 5th July 2018 7.30p.m.

Teams of up to six.

Entry lists are in the lounge and bar.

**PROCEEDS TO DEMENTIA UK**

Send details of events for FREE listing to: [whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk](mailto:whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk) or call 892130

# WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



## FECKENHAM FLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL

19th & 20th May, 2018



11am to 5pm

Approximately **30 Gardens Open.**

### Flower Festival in Church.

- Local Nurseries selling Plants.
- Garden Accessories and Supplies.
- Local History display
- Pig Roast, Barbecue
- Homemade W.I. Teas

**FECKENHAM** is located off the B4090  
Alcester to Droitwich Road

**Ample PARKING** - follow signs to Festival Car Park.

**Satnav (GPS)** users enter postcode **B96 6QH**

**ADMISSION** by lapel sticker

Adults £6.00 - Children under 16 free

All proceeds to Feckenham Church Maintenance Fund

[www.feckenham.com](http://www.feckenham.com)

## FeckenOdeon 2

The Cinema in the Back Room

JONATHAN PRYCE JEROME HOLDER PHILIP DAVIS IAN HART PAULINE COLLINS



It's not just the bread that's getting baked



A FILM BY JOHN SOLESDORF  
**Dough** 12A

Friday, 11th May at 8pm

Tickets £5 (FeckenOdeon Members £3.50)

from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown, Feckenham  
or book by phone on 0333 666 3366 or online\* at

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

\*Booking fee applies for phone and online bookings - avoid the fee - book in person!



FeckenOdeon 2 at Feckenham Village H

Send details of events for FREE listing to: [whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk](mailto:whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk) or call 892130

# FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

Ian Bellion



## ALL YOU KNEAD IS LOVE...

In FeckenOdeon 2 we seem to make a habit of finding films that the main cinemas couldn't be bothered to show. **"Dough"** is just such a film. It's a truly British comedy featuring Jews and Muslims and drugs... and old people and young people.... and that's probably the reason the posh London critics couldn't understand it. It's about young and old of mixed races and religions helping each other and, if it has a message, it puts it across on a charming and gentle way. Yes, there are drugs... and they get into the bread mix... There are delightful performances from a whole array of British stalwarts - Jonathon Pryce, Pauline Collins and Phil Davis among them. An under-appreciated gem for a Friday night..

**"Dough"**

at 8pm on Friday, 11th May.

## STRONG LADIES FOR SUMMER

The FeckenOdeon continues through the summer with two ladies of character. First comes Mildred Hayes who isn't going to stand for police inaction when her daughter is murdered - a strong Oscar contending performance from Frances McDormand.

And then there's Violetta - a lady who sacrifices her happiness for the honour of the man she loves. Two ladies - both strong in different ways

**"THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE  
EBBING, MISSOURI"**

at 8pm on Friday, 13th July

**"LA TRAVIATA"**

at 7.30pm on Saturday, 18th August

(Relay from the Rome Opera House)

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

## GREEN FINGERS ON THE AIR

The Feckenham Flower & Garden Festival is one of the biggest events staged in the village - so Swansbrook will be there. We'll be around during the weekend itself but we'll also be talking to the people who make it all possible - the gardeners and flower people of Feckenham. In the week before the Festival we'll have a programme of insights into what's growing where and by whom - so, if you want the lowdown on the best gardens to visit the only thing to do is to tune in to Swansbrook Radio. As the weekend progresses we'll be chatting to the visitors and volunteers - and playing their favourite tunes too.

## KIDNAPPED DOWN UNDER

We are not alone! Other places have their own community radio stations. Swansbrook's Stuart Knowles recently visited Kidnapper's Radio in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand where he was amazed to discover that community radio is state funded. No such luck in the UK where all the government does is extract money in the form of licence fees... Swansbrook receives no financial support from anywhere...



Stuart entertains the kidnappers

## LISTEN TO THE SWANS

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# Wake 2018

Marion Chute

## Ye Olde Medieval Wake

This year's fabulous event will have a medieval theme so you can slip on your wimple or buckle your gipon and come along on 23<sup>rd</sup> June for a Hog roast fit for a knight, some inflatable archery, some castle walls to scale and plenty more.

Of course there will be a load of favourites like the classic cars, (and some bicycles) teas and music in the church and a bar that should satisfy a squire or a damsel: and the much acclaimed Prosecco tent returns, as does ye yummy pancakes and candy floss! There will be stalls suited to all tastes and purses and plenty of attractions too. Let's not forget the grand finale tug-o-war between revolting peasants and ghastly gentry and a spectacular Duck Race to top it off.

We need lots of help on the day so if you want to join the crew or just make some suggestions contact any of the team - Julie Bennett , Charlie Barrett-Meade, Julian Bull, Chris Nicholson, Erica Guise, Alan Smith and Charlie Willetts for the Dog Show or for anything else try Marion Chute 892285 (marionchute@me.com) or Feckenham Wake Facebook Page.



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**On Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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01386 791313

## What's On this month in STOCK & BRADLEY

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>2nd</b>  | <b>BREAKAWAY</b><br>Victim Support - Marg Fish<br>Village Hall - 10.30am                                  |
| <b>2nd</b>  | <b>GARDENING CLUB</b><br>Pictures from the Library Garden<br>Talk by Brian Ellis<br>Village Hall - 7.30pm |
| <b>12th</b> | <b>GARDENING CLUB</b><br>Annual Plant Sale<br>Village Hall - 10 am to 12 noon                             |

For more information see  
**STOCK & BRADLEY CHRONICLE**

## Feckenham Flower Show & Over 60's Party Fund

A.G.M.

At the A.G.M. held at the end of March Margaret Eost was again elected Chairman. In her report Mrs Eost thanked her committee for their support and hard work, and also villagers who supported and assisted in organising the Spring and Autumn Flower Shows, the summer Outing and Christmas Party. During the last year there have been only four committee members and outside help has been invaluable. It was agreed that due to lack of support and high costs, the Summer Outing would be removed and, accordingly, the constitution was amended and this event will no longer be organised.

Mrs Eost was delighted several new members were elected onto the committee. But despite this it was felt that unless more community support for these events was received it would be doubtful that the Flower Show and Christmas Party would be held next year, as funds raised during the year were not sufficient to cover the expenses of putting on these events.

Times are changing but Feckenham as a village has supported the Flower Shows for over 50 years and it would be sad to see them no longer take place. If anyone is interested in joining the support team please contact either

Margaret Eost 01527 893735 or

Linda Harris 01527 892850.

## Village Hall

Improvement Fund 2017/18



### April Winners

165	Tim & Ali Smith	£25
131	Paul & Clare Furey	£15
37	Archie Clarke	£10

The May Draw will be held in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 1st May 2018

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## Quiz

in aid of Mission Morogoro

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

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# Feckenham Cricket Club

Bob Gordon



Has this been the longest and dreariest winter in recent memory? By the time that you read this, Spring must surely have arrived and we are all enjoying the best season of the year, fresh misty mornings turning into blue sky and sunshine, warming both the body and the soul. My next-door neighbour last week reported seeing the first swallow of the year, the traditional harbinger of summer – I just hope that it has found a warm place to nest. On the bird theme, I am told that rooks are nesting high in the trees this year and this means that a good summer is heading our way – fingers crossed. Personally, I am looking forward to the house martins returning and seeing how many pairs (six last year) will nest under the eaves. It was a joy to watch them racing around the sky above the house and repeatedly delivering insect food to their young.

As I write in the second week of April, the cricket field is still very damp and the club's ground staff are not confident of matches being played in Feckenham (or elsewhere in the Midlands) during this month. In fact the Worcester County League asked its clubs whether all matches on the proposed season start of April 21st be postponed (clubs in fact voted against this idea).

The first mowing of the square took place this week, at least a month later than normal. Ideally the pitch and outfield will have been rolled and mowed for a month before the season start, which gives you some idea of this season's issues. To heighten the contrast with last year, Google reminded me of some photos taken at the club on April 7th 2017, these showing blue skies, sunshine and shirt-sleeves! Next week is looking warmer and drier and so it should be possible for groundstaff to get to work as while tidying up and smartening the ground and its surroundings, including refreshing some of the rather tired-looking wooden benches and tables. Whenever we actually start playing, we hope that the club will be as smart as it can be.

Senior players have been meeting for indoor net practice for several weeks now and they have recently been joined by Tom Coulson, Jamie Griffiths and Josh Stacey who are just returned from 6 months playing cricket in Australia. I'm sure that they will have benefited from both the life experience of such a trip but also new skills gained down under that can be used in the coming

domestic season. We are also hopeful that Travis Bartels will be returning from New Zealand to join us for the 2018 season. Travis provided fast-bowling support to Tom Coulson last year, proved to be an exceptional fielder and provided the occasional batting cameo.

The club will be fielding three junior teams in 2018 (U9, U11 and U13) and they will hope to have another successful and enjoyable season. There are nearly 40 youngsters that are involved with the club and we have expectations that the ECB's "All Stars" scheme will attract more. All Stars is a scheme that encourages children aged between 5 and 8 to try cricket in a safe environment over eight one-hour sessions at their chosen club. Above all, it is designed to be fun and was very successful when launched last year.

Outside of cricket, the club of course continues to offer regular events for its members and their guests. In mid-April the club organised a successful concert at the village hall involving an award-winning Elvis impersonator and there are regular special evenings at the club. Planned for the next few months are Rock and Roll Bingo (a mix of "name that tune" and bingo), a quiz night and a return of our highly successful horse-race evening. Look out for the posters on the notice-board at The Square.

## **Upcoming fixtures at Mill Lane (1pm start unless stated):**

Sat April 28<sup>th</sup> v Hagley (1<sup>st</sup> team)

Sun April 29<sup>th</sup> v Dumbleton (Village Knock-out Round 1)

Sat May 5<sup>th</sup> v Harborne (2<sup>nd</sup> team)

Sat May 12<sup>th</sup> v Cookley (1<sup>st</sup> team)

Sun May 13<sup>th</sup> v Astwood Bank or Wixford (VKO, assuming of course that we beat Dumbleton!)

Sat May 19<sup>th</sup> v Worcester (2<sup>nd</sup> team)

Sun May 20<sup>th</sup> v Pebble Mill (2pm friendly v BBC team)

Sat May 26<sup>th</sup> v Bewdley (1<sup>st</sup> team)

Sat Jun 2<sup>nd</sup> v Colwall (2<sup>nd</sup> team)

Sun Jun 3<sup>rd</sup> v Cookhill (friendly, 1:30pm start)

Sat Jun 9<sup>th</sup> v Pedmore (1<sup>st</sup> team)

The above are all 50-over games, except for the friendlies and Village Knock-out Cup games which are 40 overs.

To conclude, I will just let you all know that the first Saturday in May is *World Naked Gardening Day* (yes really!), not something that I have seen observed in Feckenham, thankfully.

# Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

Rob Cole

**Wednesday 2nd May - 7:30pm** Brian Ellis will give a talk entitled 'Pictures from the Library Garden' telling us about the display garden at his Avondale Nursery in Coventry.

The monthly Competition theme will be 'A Flower from my Garden (single specimen)'.

**ANNUAL PLANT SALE - Saturday 12th May 2018 - 10.00am to 12.00 noon** at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green. Plants grown by members will be for sale, and two specialist local nurseries will also be in attendance with an interesting range of plants.

The event is an ideal opportunity to buy excellent plants at keen prices and is open to everyone.

There will 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.

## **THE FOLLOWING CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 6th June 2018**

Our coach outing this year is to Wildegoose Nursery and to Windy Ridge garden, both situated in Shropshire. Prior booking is essential, and if you have not yet booked, please

contact Sheila White on 01527 545572 or by email to sheilawhite8@googlemail.com. The cost is £24.00 per person, including tea and cake at Windy Ridge garden. Lunch will be taken at Wildegoose Nursery, to be booked as an extra beforehand.

*Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £8.00 for 2018. 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*

# Feckenham W.I.

Jane White



**W**e meet in the Village Hall Back Room at 7.30pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May for our A.G.M. and voting on this year's national resolution about Mental Health. Members - don't forget it is a "Bring and Share Supper" evening.

We shall also be finalising all the arrangements for the Lunchs and Teas over the Festival weekend. It will be a busy time.

## **Garden visits:**

Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> May Pear Tree Cottage, Wichenford (garden includes 'Shed of the Year' runner-up)

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> June, Morton Hall

Tues 14<sup>th</sup> June Long Hyde House, S. Littleton.

Contact Vivien Hunter 402360

## **Craft & Natter:**

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2pm

Contact Jane White 893281 to check in whose home we are meeting.

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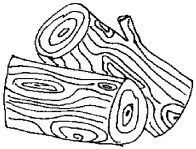
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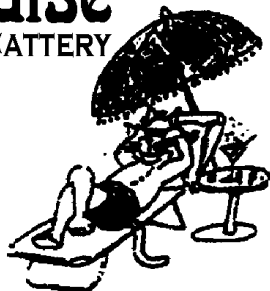
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