

# FECKENHAM

MAY 2014

# News



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village  
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 email: [jane.neal@tapcast.co.uk](mailto:jane.neal@tapcast.co.uk)



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# MAY Diary



Tues 6th	12.30am	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Sat 3rd	10am-12	Plant Fair	Bradley Village Hall
Wed 7th	10.30am - noon	“Drop in” for coffee and a chat	Parish Church
Wed 7th	7.30pm	Stock & Bradley Gardening Club	Bradley Village Hall
Thurs 8th	7.30pm	Feckenham W.I.	Village Hall Back Room
Fri 9th	8pm	FeckenOdeon 2	Village Hall Back Room
Sat 10th	7.30pm	“Back to the Eighties”	Village Hall
Tues 13th	7.30pm	Feckenham Forest History Society	Webheath Village Hall
Thurs 15th	7.30pm	Parish Council	Village Hall Back Room
Wed 21st	10.30am - noon	“Drop in” for coffee and a chat	Parish Church

## Concert in church

Glamba - A theatrical percussion group will be performing at Feckenham Church  
June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm  
Bar available Tickets £5

A unique fusion of Brazilian, African and Western beats.  
“absolutely spellbinding”  
Don't miss this opportunity  
Tickets available from the village shop and

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## Production Team

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Mags by post 892059

**Jane White** – Letters, Reports etc.  
893281

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

**Front Cover** Feckenham Cricket Club groundsman Steve Daniels puts the finishing touches to the ground in time for the start of the season. Photo by Ian Bellion.

**DO YOU HAVE A PICTURE WE COULD USE?** If you have caught any special moments around the area, we would welcome seeing your pictures with a view to using them on the cover. Contact Ian or myself. JW

# Church Services

## MAY

PARISH CHURCH  
of ST. JOHN  
THE BAPTIST



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

**Churchwarden:** Ann Matthews 01527 892180 **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 Bowbrook Group, The Parish Centre, St Andrew's Street, DROITWICH, WR9 8DY*

### Readers and Intercessors



#### Sunday 4th

Easter 3

#### 11-00am Sung Eucharist

Acts 2 : vs. 14a, 36-41

1 Peter 1: vs. 17-23

Intercessions

Muriel Richards

Carol Price

Cyril Warrilow

#### Sunday 11th

Easter 4

#### 8-00am Holy Communion

1 Peter 2 : vs. 11-17

Elizabeth Atkins

#### 11-00am FAMILY SERVICE "Pilgrims Progress"

#### Sunday 18th

Easter 5

#### 6-30pm Evensong

Acts 7 : vs. 55-end

John 14 : vs. 1-14

Intercessions

Gerry Eost

Antonia Pulsford

Ian Hunter

#### Sunday 25th

Easter 6

#### 11-00am Family Communion

1 Peter 3 : vs. 13-end

Intercessions

Angela Fletcher

Walter Richards

### X Box Sunday School

Will be held in Church on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May. All children will be warmly welcomed.

### Partners in Prayer

Ecumenical lay led service of prayer for the community, Wednesdays at 9.15am for 30 minutes in the Parish church. **All welcome.**

# Feckenham Roman Catholic Church

## St John Fisher & St. Thomas More

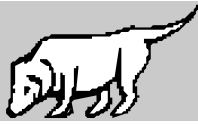


Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 10.15am in the Church

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

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

# Newshound



## Potholes claim more victims!

Mr Peter Bolton from Wellesbourne is a longtime supporter of Feckenodeon. While travelling to a recent event his car hit a deep pothole on the Alcester Road near the Shurnock bend. He sustained £1000 of damage as a result. The driver of the recovery vehicle told him that he had been called to six similar situations in that area.

Mr Bolton just wants to warn everyone about the poor state of the road...take extra care at night on this and other local roads.

## Plant pots pilfered!

Thieves have also been active on the Feckenodeon night. Plants in their pots were stolen from outside two properties on the High Street. This is annoying and disheartening! I write as one of the victims who lost two nice box plants and their containers. So again a warning: chain your pots to the wall if you want to keep them safe. But what a shame that it is necessary to do so!

## Residents of the square alarmed by development threat!

At the beginning of April a notice appeared on the Square announcing that the land was for sale with potential for development. An executive news style house was a possibility. This was to be marketed by the well known Mayfair estate agent Prilla Loof and co! However to everyone's relief the notice was taken down by the end of the day. We have no further information.

**The wedding** took place on 15<sup>th</sup> March of Claire Mortimer, daughter of Pat and Tony Mortimer of Callow Hill and Harry Thangavel. They had a Hindu ceremony at The Red Barn before travelling by coach to Feckenham Church where Rev'd Wyn Beynon officiated. The couple are both doctors in Surrey and they spent their honeymoon in Scotland.

## A Nearly Home-Grown Winner

This year's winner of the Grand National, Pineau-de-Re, is owned and was trained by Dr. Richard Newland, Adrienne and Bob's nephew, who lives near Worcester. As you can imagine Adrienne and her family, especially David and Patricia Newland, Richard's parents, are absolutely delighted. I hope the various family members backed Pineau-de-Re well! *Antonia*

## Obituary



### John Melville-Smith

After a short stay at the Alexandra Hospital, where he received exemplary care, John died on the morning of 4th April aged 93 3/4.

Over the years he transformed Glebe Farm and, from there, hosted many events for the Bentley Drivers club. In his day, apart from running his Malvern business, in very accurately weighing and packaging products, he raced yachts, flew his own aircraft, raced his horses, hunted, fished for salmon in Ireland and Scotland and three weeks ago beat the writer at snooker!

A true gentleman, he will be missed for his manner and hospitality particularly by Jane Bird whom he escorted for over 25 years after the loss of her husband Ronnie.

We hold in our thoughts, Jane and his daughters Jane from Somerset, Susie from Australia and son Jonathan from Cornwall.

## DOGGY PADDLE

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# Mission Morogoro

John Green

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED !

### A FINAL REPORT AND THANK YOU FROM THE KILIMANJARO 2013 CLIMBERS.

As the person who pushed the idea of a Kilimanjaro climb to raise money for Berega Hospital in the Morogoro Diocese in Tanzania, it falls to me to say a few final words to all those many of you who supported us with your prayers, money, good wishes and much needed practical assistance. At the end of August last year, thirteen of us set out to walk up Africa's highest mountain, including our former Bishop of Dudley, and you will be as thrilled as us to know that the climb raised the grand total of. **£17, 069.74**

This marvellous result would not have been possible without your generosity in so many ways, not least in encouraging us to remain steadfast when some of us were beginning to doubt our sanity for signing up in the first place!

All of us look back on an experience of both struggle and togetherness, which will stay in our memories for a lifetime. The awesome majesty of the mountain was the constant backdrop to our day to day sleeping, waking, walking, and to so many wonderful meals shared in the mess tent. The struggle to escape from our tents to visit the 'loo' tent in the freezing night air was more than compensated for by the immense and wonderful beauty of the night sky in all its mysterious grandeur. We have all come back so thankful to the God who beckoned us onwards to discover him once again in the challenges of the journey.

Already your money has begun to benefit Berega Hospital as it seeks to develop better maternal health provisions, which we hope will empower women to create a better environment for both pregnancy and in which the newly born can grow and thrive.

Before we set off we were all given a T-shirt with the following quotation from T.S. Eliot emblazoned on the back,

“ Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far they can go “

Thank you for helping us to step out just a little beyond our own safety zones and for your generosity in giving, which will mean that those making the risky journey into this world in the area around Berega Hospital will do so more safely and with fewer risks.

## Local Matters

Jen Clements

### Numbers to deter thieves

While I was enjoying watching Hitchcock at the FeckenOdeon on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> March between 7.15 and 10.30pm, a thieving scumbag was helping themselves to the pots on my porch, next to the doctor's. I've heard other people on the High Street were also targeted but someone gave me a really good idea that might help stop it happening again: Conspicuously write your house number on your pots. So on my next set of pots, if you see '28' written in HUGE numbers on them, you'll know why and we'll see if it works!

## Rous Lench & Inkberrow Royal British Legion inc. Feckenham Roger Hunt

**Sunday June 29th - National Service Day Parade and Service at Alrewas 11am.**  
Dudleys Coach leaving Radford at 8am with local pick-ups. £10  
Contact Roger Hunt 01527 853116.

The branch meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 8pm at The Wheelbarrow & Castle, Radford. This is an open meeting, all interested persons are welcome. The chat is good and the bar is open.

# Manorial Site

Ian Bellion

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN OUR MIDST



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Following a good response to information in Feckenham News, English Heritage's "at risk" officer Imogen Sambrook met with residents on 10th March to talk about conserving and investigating Feckenham's "Manorial Moated Site" - known to most of us as the Recreation Ground. As reported in March, the site is a scheduled monument and is considered to be at risk because of erosion and unmanaged vegetation.

As a first step it was suggested that a community group should be formed to apply for funds so that an investigation could be made of what the site contained and what could be done to preserve it. This would take the form of an extensive geophysical survey. Although a good deal of research has been done in to the "hunting lodge" on the site, it is thought that the origins of the moats and earthworks could be very much earlier. The knowledge gained from the survey would hopefully give an idea of what the area would have looked like in different stages in its history - and some form of display could be devised to make people aware of this.

Later in the project remedial work would be undertaken to manage the trees and shrubs which are currently making the moat and the ramparts of the monument unstable.

A preliminary steering group was informally set up with Jen Clements as Chair, Judy Underwood and Secretary and Alan Jones as Treasurer.

## Village Shop

Jeff Matthews

We are pleased to announce that we have a new supplier of meat to the shop. Partridge's Meat, well known to a number of

villagers as suppliers of excellent produce have agreed to offer a range of their products. "Oh yes, we know Partridge's" said one of the Committee Members, "we've been using them for nearly 20 years, they are excellent". Well, don't take our word for it - come and try them for yourselves.

We have also added freshly made Danish pastries to the range offered by Artisan Bakers, who are supplying us with their fresh bread, Wednesday to Saturday. They are absolutely delicious with a cup of fresh made coffee - so why not treat yourself one of these fine May mornings.

Whilst we are on the subject of treats, the hot chocolate has now got the option of a twizzle stick that has marshmallows on it with a generous covering of Belgian chocolate. One for the chocoholics we suspect there. Come on - you know you want to!

If you are baking this month, the shop carries a full range of the things you need, including now all sorts of flour from the plain and ordinary, through whole meal and gluten free. Having been asked to expand the range, we have been pleased to do so.

Don't forget the special offer of a cream tea, and also the loyalty card that gets you a free cup of coffee on your seventh purchase. That has proved very popular and we aim to continue rewarding our loyal customers.

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

<b>3rd</b>	<b>Gardening Club</b> Annual Plant Fair Bradley Village Hall - 10am
<b>7th</b>	<b>Breakaway</b> Hanbury Hall and the Vernon with Michelle Hill Bradley Village Hall - 11.30 am
<b>31st</b>	<b>HUNDRED CLUB</b> Annual Draw

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

# Thought for the month

Wyn Beynon

Dear Friends,

The end is nigh! You can all breathe easier. I'm hoping to persuade David to write at least every other letter for the mags! I am delighted that The Revd David Morris was licensed to be Bowbrook's Priest in Charge. At the same time I was licensed as Associate Priest in Bowbrook and David continues as Associate Priest in the United Parish of Stoke Prior, Wychbold and Upton Warren. He's well known to many of us already but we hope that with Kerry and their girls, Hannah and Abigail, they will quickly settle in to Tibberton.

How times change. When I was trained clergy were encouraged to see themselves as owners of their parish (and it was only 1 parish, even if there were "daughter churches). The structure of the Church of England (and its sister, The Church in Wales) reflected late medieval views of ownership and control. As a Rector in Wales (in the 1980s) my congregation only elected one Churchwarden - the Rector appointed the other. It was like that in England up until the early 70s too, I think! A "mother" Parish Church, had little "daughter" churches controlled by the Parish Church. It was all about hierarchy.

Clergy only collaborated by inviting each other to preach at Harvest or Patronal Festivals, and we never, ever, ever shared our problems, because stiff-upper-lippery was thought to be a Christian virtue. Which it most certainly is not. And of course they visited, Well they could. They had fewer communities to care for. I guess that's one thing I do miss.

But the rest of it was anachronistic and destructive. Don't be tempted to wish those days back. What I remember is small mindedness. Parochialism. Prejudice against anything new or different. Unwillingness to change. Happily we live in different times today when church members

have learned to appreciate difference, sharing and variety. Which is much closer to God's heart!

Who knows what this year will bring across our unhappy world. But TOGETHER we can make a difference, if only here. Welcome David!

Best wishes,  
Wyn

## Church Flower Group

### Easter Lilies.

The Easter Lily arrangements in memory of loved ones were again enjoyed and appreciated by everyone.

Many thanks from the Church Flower Group to all those who donated towards them.

*from Margaret and Marg Co-ordinators.*

## An all age worship service Pilgrims Progress



Sunday  
11th May  
11 am

@ St John the Baptist  
Feckenham

Please stay for  after.

# From the Rural Dean

Sheila Banyard

## Authorised Lay Ministry – take a look

Opportunities to find out more about ALM, for yourself or for your parish(es):

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 7.30pm, Ombersley church;**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm, Feckenham church;**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30am, St Andrew's Parish Centre, Droitwich**

There are courses for Administrators, Children and Youth Workers, Community Workers, Evangelists, Pastoral Assistants and Worship Leaders. They begin in October and applications should be in by mid- June. See also the diocesan website: [www.cofe.worcester.org.uk/FH/221](http://www.cofe.worcester.org.uk/FH/221) or ask me for more information.

## Reflect, renew, recharge

Come and explore some resources for the Christian journey over the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May at St Andrew's church, Droitwich (in the town centre). On Friday, Saturday and Sunday you can drop into the church any time and use the opportunities you'll find displayed there to think about the journey of faith. On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May in the Parish Centre (next to the church) you are invited to any of these short sessions to find out more about each topic – just turn up, no need to book:

**10.30am Discovering ministry** – find out more about Authorised Lay Ministry (see also above);

**2.00pm Exploring spirituality** – ways of praying, trying a quiet day, finding a 'god-friend' or spiritual companion;

**3.00pm Learning and growing** – digging deeper into the Christian story on the Bishop's Certificate course.

This is a weekend for helping everyone with food for the journey. Look out or ask for more details.

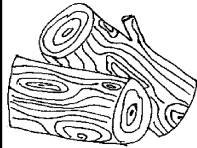
## Bishop of Dudley's visit – 11<sup>th</sup> June

The new Bishop of Dudley, Graham Usher, will be visiting the deanery on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June. Please put the date in your personal and parish diaries. There will be an open meeting in the evening at St Peter's First School, Droitwich, from 7pm for everyone to come and meet Bishop Graham and he will also be visiting various places round the deanery during the day.

For more information contact me on 01905

773134 or at [sk.banyard@virgin.net](mailto:sk.banyard@virgin.net).

Sheila Banyard



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# WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



## Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB

### ANNUAL PLANT FAIR

Excellent Plants at great prices  
Saturday, 3rd May - 10am  
Bradley Village Hall

### The Dorothy Clive Garden

Visit by coach - Wednesday 14th May  
Call 01527 545572 for details



## BACK TO THE EIGHTIES

WITH THE UK'S PREMIER 80S BAND  
BORN IN THE EIGHTIES

A fantastic 80s PARTY night  
with special guests

THE ALL ROUND THEATRE SENIOR STUDENTS

SATURDAY, 10th MAY - 7.30pm

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

Tickets £8 from The Village Shop or call 07722 596339  
Proceeds to Village Hall & ARTS performance fund

## Feckenham Readers Group

Wednesday, 14th May - 7.45

This month's book:

1984 by GEORGE ORWELL

Details from Marion Chute - 892285



## Feckenham Forest History Society HEREFORDSHIRE CHURCHES

An Illustrated Talk by Tim Bridges  
Tuesday, 13th May - 7.30pm  
Webheath Village Hall

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

## All Round Voices

bring you

NEW Singing Sessions  
for 10 to 17 year olds

Wednesdays from 5.45

Feckenham Village Hall

Just turn up or call Karen on  
07722 596339 for details



## theWI FECKENHAM WI INSPIRING WOMEN At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY, 8th MAY - 7.30pm  
RESOLUTIONS MEETING AND AGM

## FAMILY FUN DAY

at THE ROSE & CROWN in aid of Cancer Charities  
Macmillan, Primrose and Birmingham Children's Hosp.

Saturday, May 17th from 2pm

Hog Roast, BBQ, Live Music, Bouncy Castle,  
Pony Rides, Stalls and lots more.



THE VIKINGS  
ARE COMING!

## Feckenham WAKE

Saturday, 21st June

Real Live Vikings. Tug o War. Water Zorbs. Punch and Judy Man. Classic cars. Grand Draw. Arrow Valley Brass and many other attractions.

# WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

FECKENODEON Summer Season 2014

FeckenOdeon 2  
The Cinema in the Back Room



TOM HANKS  
**CAPTAIN  
PHILLIPS** 12a

Friday, May 9th at 8pm

REAL  
MEN  
DANCE



NICK FROST RASHIDA JONES CHRIS O'DOWD AND IAN MESHANE

**CUBAN  
FURY** 12A

FeckenOdeon 2  
The Cinema in the Back Room

Friday, July 4th at 8pm

KEN RUSSELL'S film of the rock opera by THE WHO

FeckenOdeon 2  
The Cinema in the Back Room

**TOMMY** 15

Friday, August 1st at 8pm

FECKENODEON

SANDRA BULLOCK & GEORGE CLOONEY in

**GRAVITY**



Saturday August 30th at 7.30pm

The FeckenOdeon Cinemas at Feckenham Village Hall

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

Telephone Bookings: 0333 666 3366 (local call rates) - Book ONLINE at

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

# The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



## SUMMER and the HIGH SEAS

Summer is a comin' and the FeckenOdeon is embarking on a sizzling season of movies for balmy evenings - and this year FeckenOdeon 2 will be air conditioned!

Opening the batting is a superb thriller set on the high seas. **"Captain Phillips"** is Based on the true story of the Maersk Alabama - a giant freighter hijacked by Somali pirates in 2009. Tom Hanks gives the performance of his life as the Captain who risks his own life for the safety of his crew. A tense, gripping and thought provoking film which gives some insight into the motivation of the pirates. You may need a stiff tot of rum afterwards!

Showing on **Friday, 9th May at 8pm.**



## SALSA, ROCK & THE FINAL FRONTIER!

The FeckenOdeon Summer Season continues on **July 4th** with a showing of **"Cuban Fury"**. In this new British comedy portly Nick Frost gives the dance floor a pounding it was hardly designed to bear!

On **1st August**, Fully restored and in its original "Quintaphonic" sound, Ken Russell's film of The Who's **"Tommy"** returns to the big screen at last. Who could fail to enjoy Tina Turner, Elton John and Eric Clapton in their prime!?

On **30th August** we present a giant picture for our giant screen. Made in the UK and winner of 100s of major awards, **"Gravity"** isn't so much a sci-fi film as a terrific thriller. When something goes wrong in space, how do you get home?

There are full booking details for all the summer shows on Page 12 or visit [www.fecknodeon.co.uk](http://www.fecknodeon.co.uk)



## RESERVATIONS NOW BEING TAKEN

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society's main programme for 2014-15 has been announced. Your local cinema has been going for over 13 years and this season will be the fourteenth. The last Saturday night every month sees the village hall transformed into Feckenham's very own super cinema and in all about 400 feature films have been shown since 2001. After all this time and all those films you'd think it would be more difficult to chose the programme - but each year the FeckenOdeon's members suggest films and vote in a survey. It's the members' choice - and this is the result:

27th September: The Grand Budapest Hotel

25th October: Double Indemnity

29th November: Philomena

27th December: Those Magnificent Men in  
Their Flying Machines

31st January: Saving Mr Banks

31st January (Matinee): Mary Poppins 28th

February: The Big Country

28th March: Laughter in Paradise

25th April: The Invisible Woman

As ever, it's a mixed bag - new and old, comedy and drama - we hope there's something for everyone and we also hope that there'll be a surprise for everyone. One of the delights of signing up for a season like this is in discovering films you might not otherwise have thought of seeing - and the £30 subscription is a bargain! It buys you a seat at all of the above shows - where else could you see a big screen movie for £3.30?! You also get reduced prices in FeckenOdeon 2 and other special shows - not to mention the best picture and sound quality for miles around!

For full details pick up a leaflet at the shop, the Rose & Crown or the Village Hall - or visit us at

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

# Village Hall

Ian Bellion



## MANY HAPPY SHINDIGS

The Village Hall has just completed its 10th season of shows from Shindig, Worcestershire's touring performing arts programme. Over that time the hall has hosted 38 performances and has used the proceeds to keep hire charges down for local users.. All of the shows have been professional and most of them have been highly enjoyable - though we try not to think of a recent play that was staged in such a way that the audience couldn't see the actors and we still shudder when we think of the unicyclist and the crack in the stage... Anyway, it's all going to happen again. Bids are now in for the 2014/15 season and we expect to hear which marvels will be heading to Feckenham... though we wonder if it was wise to bid for a show called "My Big Fat Cow Pat Wedding".... Watch this space for the results!

## Square Management Committee

### THE CELTS ARE COMING - HELP!

Just a reminder that the Square's Celtic Fun on The Square will erupt into the centre of the village on 19th July. There'll be an plethora of all things Celtic - dancers, singers, food, drink and games, Fun for all the family - keep the date free!

We're looking for a flat floor for our Irish and Scottish dancers to perform on (the Welsh will dance on anything). The grass is a bit bumpy for Michael Flatley, If anybody can give us a clue as to where we can beg, borrow or steal a portable dance surface from we'd love to hear from you. E-mail

[square@feckenham.f9.co.uk](mailto:square@feckenham.f9.co.uk) or call 892130 - If it works out we'll be so grateful that we'll give you a free Irish Stew!

## Do Something amazing this Easter!

Onside is a registered charity providing independent advocacy to vulnerable adults We provide our service across Worcestershire and we are currently looking to train more volunteers from your local area.

Advocacy is a way of supporting and empowering people to ensure that they have their voice heard and their wishes made known to others. Mentoring involves supporting people back into their community who may have become isolated.

Onside's Volunteer Co-ordinator, Claire Watkins, said "Our volunteers give their time, their passion and enthusiasm, we need continued help from willing volunteers who would enjoy supporting vulnerable people in their local community."

If you are interested in finding out more, or keen to do something amazing, please contact Claire on 01905 27525 or e mail

[volunteering@onside-advocacy.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@onside-advocacy.org.uk)

Web: [www.onside-advocacy.org.uk](http://www.onside-advocacy.org.uk)

## Community Choir

### A CHANCE TO SING...

The community choir All Round Voices already meet weekly at the Village Hall and offer an informal and fun way of enjoying singing together. Now the choir's leader Karen Hill is adding sessions on Wednesdays aimed at younger folk. Anyone in the age group 10 to 17 years is invited to join in with sessions and will have the chance to learn various singing styles (including pop and musical theatre) aided by qualified vocal coaches and professional singers. The sessions are informal and fun and start at 5.45pm. To cover costs there's a charge of £5 a session. You can get more information and book a place by calling Karen on 07722 596339 or e-mail [allroundvoices@gmail.com](mailto:allroundvoices@gmail.com)

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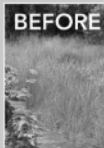
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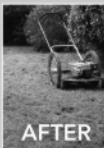
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# Wake 2014

Marion Chute

**Rat splatter needed!** Our very small committee is looking for some volunteers to run the Splat the Rat and Plate smashing stall for us? It has traditionally been run for the Wake so that we don't need to charge the community groups. All the equipment is ready and there will be help to put it up but we need people to man it from 2 until 5 and help clear it away?

**We need power** For the last few eons Rhys and Andrea have kindly provided electricity to run the bar, and since their departure we are looking for another kind person on the square, preferably on the gravel drive side. We can pay a contribution to you if we can have some power?

**We need classic vehicles** Have you an interesting motor bike or other vehicle that you would like to display at our static classic car event? Join the fun and bring it along. Please contact any of the names below.

**It's a big day with a Big Draw** We are making 2014 Wake our biggest for a while and there will be an invasion of Norsemen with a Tug of War as well as the popular water Zorbs and the Punch and Judy Man. There will still be the old favourites, the hog roast, the bar (supported by The Rose and Crown), the stalls, the cakes, the art exhibition, the cars, Arrow Valley Band, football penalties, and much more. We have invested in a second marquee as an insurance against the vagaries of the weather and so we are also having a Grand Draw.

**And in the evening** Once the day is done you can make your way to Feckenham Cricket Club for a relaxed Tapas evening.

Contact Feckenham Wake on Facebook, or Marion Chute on 892285, or by email [marionchute@me.com](mailto:marionchute@me.com). Otherwise speak to any of the committee, Julian Bull, Alan Jones, Gilly Cooper, Charlie Barrett Meade or Louise Jordan, all volunteers will be very welcome to support all of the activities on the day.

## From the Church Warden

At Hanbury, on Palm Sunday, The Bishop of Worcester installed and licensed Rev'd David Morris to the Bowbrook Group of parishes. David will live in The Parsonage at Tibberton with his wife Kerry and their two daughters Hannah and Abigail. He will have special responsibility for Crowle, Himbleton, Oddingley, Huddington, Tibberton, Bredicot and Hanbury. This will be his first full time parish post and he joins us from Bunzl where he worked as a supply chain manager. At the same service Bishop John licensed Wyn as an Associate Priest to the Bowbrook parishes with special responsibility for Feckenham and Stock and Bradley Green as well as being Priest in Charge of Upton Warren, Stoke Prior and Wychbold.

We wish David and his family all the best and look forward to working with him in the future.



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# NOT Super-Fast Broadband coming to a village near you.

Quintus Cary

**B**ecause we have Airband, we have had it confirmed that we are now **not** included in the plans to roll out fibre in Worcestershire.

This means:

- Lower house prices
- Slower speeds
- Less choice

As most of you are aware, Feckenham's standard broadband speed is very poor, with the best available speed being around 2Mbs. This makes working from home, using iPlayer and watching online movies quite difficult. Fortunately, most of us currently have the option to buy a service from a single Communication Provider (CP), AirBand; this will give you an internet speed of between 5Mbs and 15Mbs depending upon the time of day and the atmospheric conditions.

You may have heard in the press and via friends and colleagues that the government is providing money to help remove this problem in the form of grants to local councils. This is known as Broadband Delivery for the UK (BDUK) and is targeted at rural areas; sounds great and you would hope it means that Feckenham's problem will be solved.

Something else you may be aware of is that my partner and I work for Openreach, the part of BT Group plc. that is rolling out Super-Fast Broadband (SFBB) in partnership with the councils, and my role is linked to SFBB. Over the past year or so I have been trying to help improve the likelihood of getting us on the BDUK roll out plan; my major concern, and I have raised this on several occasions, is that Worcestershire County Council (WCC) will exclude Feckenham from their plans because we have AirBand. Unfortunately this concern appears to have come to fruition; WCC have

now agreed which areas are to be included in the implementation and I am afraid Feckenham's cabinet has not been included. I have also had confirmation that this is specifically because we already have AirBand.

Contrary to what appears to be the general consensus, AirBand is not a true alternative to SFBB:

- The speed it provides means it actually cannot be categorised as SFBB, it in fact provides similar speeds to the current standard UK broadband services that are now being replaced by SFBB.
- The technology that is used to provide the AirBand service means that it is only a connection into the internet, and it bypasses the local telephone exchange. This means that any specific services and/or treatments added by a CP will never reach the AirBand service. An example is the way the BBC distribute iPlayer; they add a feed into the home broadband service at the telephone exchange level, meaning that even for our slower speeds we get an ok standard picture. Looking into the future, this is going to be the way CPs manage their offerings, from TV, media streaming, and interactive services; we are already seeing this with the BT Sport offering and the YouView TV-on-demand service.

Not only can we not take advantage of the technical benefits SFBB brings, but if you do want to enjoy increased internet speeds (and I do and do use AirBand), then using AirBand is your only choice; as a CP they hold a monopoly for access greater than 2Mbs in Feckenham. It is not possible to use them as a conduit and choose your own CP such as Sky or TalkTalk to name a few. If you want to remain on the local telephone exchange with the protection of always available emergency services you will also need to keep your existing telephone line. This makes AirBand fairly expensive compared to the current SFBB offering from Sky, TalkTalk and BT.

Finally, would you move to a house that had slow broadband? According to a survey of estate agents and property experts by

The Guardian, house buyers now view broadband as the fourth utility and consider it an essential. As much as 20% could be knocked from the value of your home if it hasn't got a reasonable broadband speed, and in this day and age, 2Mbs is considered to be the bare minimum.

So if we want a better service, more choice and protect our house prices, we need to make it clear to Worcestershire Council that Feckenham needs to be part of the SFBB BDUK roll out. So let's start off a petition; over the next few weeks I will be drawing one up, so if you would like to get involved please let me know. You can contact me via email: [quintus@gqbd.co.uk](mailto:quintus@gqbd.co.uk).

If anyone would like a copy of the correspondence I've had with WCC, or more detail about anything in this article, please get in touch.

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Rob Cole

## ANNUAL PLANT FAIR -

**Saturday 3rd May 2014 -  
10am to 12 noon**

The annual Plant Sale will be held on Saturday 4th May 2013 from 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 would buy a raffle ticket at the door.

## Wednesday 14th May 2014

The next event is an **all-day outing by coach**. We start with a visit to the Dorothy Clive Garden in Sraffordshire, with plenty of time to look around the garden and from where we can purchase our lunch if required. We shall visit another garden on the way home.

For those members who have not yet booked their place, please contact Sheila White on 01527 545572 as soon as possible.

*Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £10.00. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting. If you require any further information, ring Dinny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527 821355 or Rob Cole (Chairman) on 01527 821156.*

## Feckenham W.I.

Jane White



**Our May meeting** on 8th May is our AGM, and our opportunity to discuss and vote on the resolution to be put to The National Federation AGM. This is about Organ Donation. There will be a "Bring and Share Supper". 7.30pm, Village Hall Back Room.

## Village Hall

Improvement Fund 2013/14



### April Winners

106	Michael & Katie Wormington	£25
39	Margaret Matthews	£15
66	Lew Howe Bennett	£10

*The May Draw will be held in the Village Hall  
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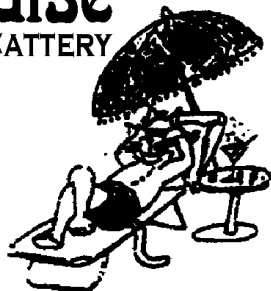
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