

# FECKENHAM

November 2021 NEWS



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village

Editor: Gilly Cooper

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(Copy Date 14th)

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# Feckenham News in November

## In the magazine:

This month look out for the Children's Art and Writing competition, the Cricket Club Bonfire, I introduce (as if she needs an introduction) Lin Preece and we have a recipe from Paul Bradley. I've tried it and it's very very good.

## Dates for your diary



### November

2nd	Feckenham Sessions
3rd	Book Club
3rd	Stock & Bradley Gardening Club
6th	Bonfire
12th	Feckenodeon Back Room - Green Book
21st	Hefted - Village Hall
27th	Feckenodeon - The Good Liar

### December

5th	The Ghost of a Smile - Village Hall
9th	Parish Council Surgery
24th	Carols on the Square

### Regular Sessions

Yoga	Mondays
Pilates	Thursdays

## Production Team

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## Contents

	Page
Editor's note and Newshound	4
Cricket Club	5
Feckenham in Bloom	6
Parish Council and Harvest Festival	7
Village Shop	8
Children and Youth Page	9
Church Matters	10-11
Feckenham Small Business	12
Feckenodeon and Book Club	13
What's On	14-15
Introducing...	16-17
Crossword	18
Recipe	19
Village Hall	20
Square Management Committee	21
Swansbrook Radio	22
Kathy's Flowers	23
Gardening	24-25

## Front Cover

Harvest flowers in the church by Marg Kings

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

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

## Editor's Note

It seems that life is becoming more normal and village events are taking place in person once more. Let's hope that continues to be the case into the winter.



I'm sure we are all looking forward to the village bonfire at the Cricket Club, a lovely time to see friends and have a bit of fun. We will have to keep our fingers crossed for a clear sky to get the best of the fireworks.

Children are among the most important people in the village and I'd love to see more involvement in the magazine. You'll see I've included a children's page which includes a writing or art competition sponsored by the Village Shop and also an invitation to the children to write to Santa and post their letter at the Village Shop. I'm hoping for many entries to the competition. So, kids, get thinking, and don't hold back, send photos, drawings or written word anything that could be included in the magazine. I'll include as many as I can.

Looking forward to the Spring of next year, we have the Open Gardens so, gardeners amongst you, start getting ready for the event. I'm sure Kathy Fisher will soon be approaching us to take part and she's very persuasive - be warned!

## Village Notices

### FECKENHAM FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

Save the Date for 2022

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022

## Newshound Marion Chute



Vicky and Emily have just moved into 53 High St with their cat. They moved from Dickens Heath in Solihull to Feckenham in July to be closer to family (Brother and sister in law and niece live in the village) and to move away from busy town life after getting married in June.

They both run letting agents in the Solihull area and said "We are excited to be in the village, everyone has welcomed us, and we look forward to many happy years here!"

They have already volunteered to join the Wake Committee!

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

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

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

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



## Bonfire Night

**B**last off!  
The club is pleased to confirm that the village's annual firework display



returns at the club after the Covid hiatus in 2020. It takes place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November, we will be open from 5:30pm, offering a full bar and the traditional barbecue and a trader will be selling hot drinks, doughnuts and candy floss. The bonfire will be lit at around 6:45pm, with the firework display from 7:30.

We hope to see many villagers there – there is no entry fee but we hope that visitors will contribute to the bucket collection, which is what pays for the fireworks each year.

### Other club news

**I**n mid-October we held joyous presentations for our junior cricketers who have achieved so much in 2021 and will take much promise into next season.

In the shed, we have traded in our 45-year old Allett 36-inch mower for a younger equivalent, a Ransomes Mastiff. This will be used to cut the “square” next season, its weight being important in early season to gently roll the surface when the ground is soft in the spring.

Other equipment is receiving appropriate care, such as oil changes, filter cleaning and general lubrication. The heavy roller has had the water removed from the front and rear rollers in order to lighten it for the early season. Wicket covers and sight screens have been stripped and stored away.

Inside the clubhouse, we have had radiators installed by club sponsor John Bayliss Plumbing & Heating Ltd. Following carpet cleaning and a very recent painting exercise, it will be a warm and welcoming space this winter. Come on down and find out for yourselves!



## WREN & BRAMBLE

Bespoke floral designs all year round:  
from gift bouquets to special  
occasion displays

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## Feckenham in Bloom Crocus Planting



Over the weekend of 16th and 17th October, a team from Feckenham in Bloom started the planting of 4000 crocuses around the village. Look out for a show of purple crocuses in the Spring as you drive in and out of the village to Astwood Bank and Hanbury as well as in the centre of the village green which will be planted by a working party on the morning of 30th October. Any extra pairs of hands on that morning will be appreciated.

Here's some information from Peter Williams of Redditch Rotary:

Thirty five years ago Rotary International came up with a plan to eradicate Polio. At that time it was to be found in virtually every country in the world, including the UK. Rotary clubs throughout the world linked with the World Health Organisation and the Bill Gates Foundation and \$2.1 billion has been spent vaccinating three billion children. Covid rang alarm bells as eradication stalled and cases shot up. Remarkably cases of wild polio have now fallen back from 140 in 2020 to guess what? TWO CASES. One is in Pakistan and one in Afghanistan. What a fantastic achievement. Fortunately the Taliban



have children too and seem supportive of the continuing vaccination effort.

As part of the awareness campaign, the Rotary movement has teamed up with community groups to transform public spaces and brighten up the local community by planting purple crocus corms across the area. Purple has been chosen as it represents the colour of the dye which is painted on the little fingers of children on mass immunisation days, when literally millions of children worldwide have been protected against the disease.

Rotary has worked tirelessly to ensure polio is eradicated for good, and the Redditch Club are appreciative of the involvement of Feckenham residents.

### MINUTES

The draft minutes for the last Parish Council Meeting and the parish meeting are now available online at [feckenham.com](http://feckenham.com) – select “Parish Council” and then “Minutes”. The Minutes are also posted on the noticeboard near the village post box. If you have any queries arising from the minutes please do contact the clerk.

### PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

Prior to Covid the Parish Council decided it would hold a monthly session in the village hall (Back Room) to give parishioners the opportunity to raise issues or ask questions of the Parish Council. Due to Covid this was postponed, however, the Parish Council is now starting this service on Thursday 9th December from 2pm until 4pm. The following month the “surgery” will be in the evening. This will enable anyone with concerns or questions to ask them face to face. It is worth remembering that all Parish Councillors are volunteers and do not claim any expenses or allowances. The surgeries will be trialled for a period of 6 months. Obviously, you can still contact the Parish Council via the Clerk at any time. Jane’s telephone number is 01527 892522 or email on [clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

### LITTER PICK

There will be a litter pick organised during the winter months which will be advertised in Feckenham news. Volunteers will be very welcome.

It was lovely to see the church filled with colour again for harvest festival.

Thanks go to Mr Crump for once again providing us with so many of his wonderful dahlias and thank you to our flower group ladies who arranged them so well, along with fruit, vegetables and berries, interpreting the season so beautifully. The sale of surplus dahlias, together with Shirley’s jam after the service raised £50! This was donated to the food bank.





Well done to everyone who supported our Coffee Morning last month in aid of Macmillan Nurses. That's a big thank you to the customers who made donations and a huge thank you to our Volunteers who baked the delicious cakes. The Shop provided the drinks and we were able to raise well over three hundred pounds for the Charity. An exceptional effort considering that the decision to hold the event was only made four days in advance of the day. We were also delighted that our local MP Rachel Maclean also dropped by to give us her support. We will shortly be receiving a certificate from Macmillan Nurses advising us of the final amount raised, which will be proudly displayed in the shop.



Since last month we also held our Annual General Meeting for Shareholders. It was a very successful evening as the Board was able to report on a record breaking

year for both sales and profitability. The evening was also an opportunity to thank Jenny Mason for her twelve years of service on the Board of Management. Jenny has decided to stand down and she will be very much missed, however, I am pleased that she will be continuing as a volunteer so we won't be losing her expertise especially on the coffee machine! David Rowe has been elected to join the Board to replace Jenny and he will be responsible for all aspects of property maintenance. David has been instrumental in the organisation of the recent improvements to the Shop and we are fortunate to have secured his continued involvement.

On a totally different subject, I was interested to hear that a recent survey by local estate agents, established that the existence of a local shop, increases the value of property in the immediate area by as much as £10,000. So that's another incentive for all of us to keep supporting our Shop and keep it trading by shopping locally. On a final note some details about new products. We are now offering a limited range of half bottles of spirits to compliment our stock of beers and wines just in case you need an emergency top-up.

As always thank you for your continued support.

### **Writing and Picture Competition:** Prizes

sponsored by the **Village Shop**

The competition mentioned last month is open till after the Christmas break. Please send your piece by email to [feckenhamnews@gmail.com](mailto:feckenhamnews@gmail.com) or drop it into the shop on paper by 14th January.

Are you 18 or under?

The Feckenham News would like to put YOUR words nor pictures in print. Do you enjoy writing stories or poems, photography or making pictures? Then send your work in to our Editor for the chance to be published in our next issues and even win a prize.

Your work should be no longer than 300 words and preferably about Feckenham or your life here. We're accepting pictures, poems, stories or even non-fiction pieces .

Good luck and we look forward to reading your writing!

I hear that Santa is collecting his letters from children in the village shop. Tell Santa you'll be very good and let him know what you'd like in your stocking.



By the time you read the magazine, Halloween will probably be over. I hope there will have been lots of pumpkin lanterns around the village and you may have been very scared when you came to the bottom of the village green.

# November Church Services



## PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



**Priest-in-charge:** Fr Glenn Reading **01527 894436**

**Church Warden:** Ann Mathews **892180**

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

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

**Website:** [achurchnearyou.com/church/18729](http://achurchnearyou.com/church/18729)

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

7th Nov	10.30am	Eucharist - Rev B Wheatley
14th Nov	10.45am	Remembrance - Rev B Wheatley
21st Nov	6.30pm	Christ the King Benefice Evensong - Fr Glenn
28th Nov	10.30am	Advent Sunday Eucharist and dedication of the shoeboxes - Fr Glenn

## FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St John Fisher & Thomas More

The Mass service is held every Sunday at 10.15 am.

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

**Fr. Anthony Rohan, The Presbytery, Redditch. Tel 63096**  
**Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898**

## Fr Glenn Writes...

### Farewell to Summer!

As I start to produce the Monthly Benefice Bulletin for October and the letter for the parish magazine, the warm fair weather of last week is behind us and the rain is lashing the ground. Autumn is on the way and the nights begin to draw in.

I like the changing of the seasons when the leaves fade from green to yellow and brown and people bring out the sweaters and warm winter coats. Lazy summer days give way to the busyness of Autumn, new schools days, back to work and new challenges.

As the climatic seasons change, so do the seasons of the Church. Now we enter a period of Remembrance and Thanksgiving. We mark that beginning when we celebrate Harvest, giving thanks for God's goodness to us. After a difficult 18 months we much to be thankful for, not just the bounty the earth provides, but for human ingenuity seen most recently in vaccine development.

At the same time, we must not lose sight of the challenges we face, whether that be the challenge of those who still live below the bread line here at home and abroad through to the global climate challenge which seems ever more pressing.

As part of the communities of faith in South Redditch we remind ourselves that we are part

of a long unbroken community of faith that has written its story of faith in God over the eons. We now play our part in building the Kingdom of God, building on what was laid before us and leaving secure foundations for those that will come after us.

This season of Remembrance and Thanksgiving culminates in the end of the Church year where we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King on Sunday November 21st when there will be a chance to come and worship together as one Benefice in the Church at Feckenham.

During this autumnal season of change and busyness remember that there is always a place of stillness at the center of the village, a place where within the prayer-soaked stones one has the chance to offer your thoughts and prayers to God. I am reminded of the opening words of a poem by W.H. Davies "What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare." I hope in all the busyness of the next few months you find a moment as you're passing to come into church and spend a moment, to stop and be in the quiet presence of God.

Often in such moments when we offer a prayer or sit in the silence and allow our minds to be still, it is then we offer God the chance to speak to us. Whatever the next few months bring, I hope you find the chance just to be still amongst all the hustle and change.

## Feckenham's Small Businesses

Recently I asked if anyone would like to tell us about a business you are running in the village.

Below is some information about our local florist. I wonder if anyone else would like to let us know what they are doing.

Clare Furey & her eldest daughter, Vianne, are celebrating their first year in business. Wren & Bramble flowers was launched for Christmas 2020 when their designs first went on sale at The Village Shop. With the change to life that the COVID pandemic brought about, it felt like the right time to try something new and an opportunity to develop a creative business in tune with the natural environment. The aim is to create natural-style seasonal and sustainable floral arrangements.

Vianne is a student at City & Guilds School of Art in London, helping out with the floristry when she's home from University and taking the lead on creative development and marketing. Clare looks after day-to-day orders and supplying the Village Shop. She enjoys sourcing foraged foliage, berries and British flowers; there is a growing network of British cut flower growers from whom we source flowers ('Flowers from the farm') producing fantastic quality blooms the whole year round.



Clare and Vianne would like to thank the village, and The Shop for their support. Looking ahead to next year, they hope to source flowers from even closer to home, so, if you grow cut flowers in your garden or allotment and anticipate a surplus, do get in touch!

On most Fridays and Saturdays, Wren & Bramble flowers can be found at The Village Shop and can also be ordered directly from Clare at any time. More details can be found at [www.wrenandbramble.co.uk](http://www.wrenandbramble.co.uk) and via Facebook and Instagram @wrenandbramble.





## ANOTHER REOPENING

The Cinema in The Back Room is reopening on 12th November.

FeckenOdeon 2 aims to show excellent films that somehow missed out on a mainstream release. The first Friday night film is a case in point - it won the Oscar for Best Picture but then all the cinemas closed down...

## GREEN BOOK

In the 1960s a guide for black travellers was published in the USA. It gave advice on safe places to stay, places where black people could freely enter....and places where they might expect a lynch mob to greet them. It was known as the Green Book and the characters in this film had cause to use it...

Green Book is inspired by the true friendship of Tony Vallelonga (Viggo Mortensen), an Italian-American chauffeur/bodyguard from the Bronx, and Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali), the black jazz pianist he is hired to drive and protect on a concert tour through the deep South. It's a story of a growing friendship in difficult circumstances and it's told with great warmth and humour - a feel good picture to reopen our littlest cinema.

**Green Book (12A) - Friday, 12th  
November at 8pm**

## OFF WHITE LIES

November's main film is The Good Liar - a cracking comedy thriller starring two of Britain's finest actors, each having a blast playing cat-and-mouse with the other. Ian McKellan is the elderly con artist who thinks he's found an easy victim. Helen Mirren is the victim who is anything but easy. An outrageous and irresistible old-fashioned drama guaranteed to have you on the edge of your seat.

**The Good Liar (15) - Saturday,  
November 27th at 7.30pm**

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)

## Book Club



This month we read Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell and we can definitely recommend it. Nearly all of us really enjoyed it. The story is told from the post of view of young Hamnet aka Hamlet. In those days - late 1500s spelling was more fluid. It's set in Stratford and his father is never mentioned by name. It's well researched and you get a real feel of what life in Stratford, not so far away, was like at that time. There's also a very interesting description of the spread of plague - rather topical considering our pandemic.

# WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



THE  
FECKENHAM  
SESSIONS  
TRADITIONAL  
MUSICMAKING  
at THE ROSE & CROWN

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

## Feckenham READERS GROUP

Meets on

Wednesday, 3rd November - 7.45

This month's book:

### SHUGGIE BAINE

By Douglas Stuart



## Grand **FIREWORK DISPLAY** & Barbecue

### Saturday, 6th November

At Feckenham Cricket Club  
(Foot of Mill Lane)

**Bonfire lighting at about 6.45 pm**

**Fireworks at 7pm**

No entrance fee but please contribute  
to the bucket collection to ensure that we

Can do it again next year

**PLEASE DO NOT BRING OR USE  
SPARKLERS**

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# WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

## FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

### Hefted multi story theatre comedy

a play by David Lane

Stories that span  
600 years of a  
Deep connection  
with the land

LIVE  
& LOCAL



SUNDAY 12th NOVEMBER - 7 PM

Tickets £12 from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown

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NICHOLAS COLLETT & GAVIN ROBERTSON  
PRESENT

LIVE  
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### A GHOST OF A SMILE

An evening of ghost stories before Christmas

SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER - 7.30 PM

Tickets £12 from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown

Book online at [www.feckhall.org](http://www.feckhall.org)

Phone bookings: 0333 666 3366



### The Feckenham Forest History Society

### VICTORIAN BUILDINGS

A talk by TIM BRIDGES

Tuesday, 9th November - 7.30pm

Webheath Village Hall

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

## THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

**VIGGO MORTNENSEN - MAHERSHALA ALI**



## GREEN BOOK

**FeckenOdeon 2 - Friday, 12th November at 8pm**

**HELEN  
MIRREN**     **IAN  
MCKELLEN**

## THE GOOD LIAR



**FeckenOdeon 1 - Saturday, 27th November at 7.30pm**

The FeckenOdeon Cinemas  
at Feckenham Village Hall

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

\*Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings

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

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

## Introducing... Lin Preece

This month I'm introducing someone who is very well known to those of us whose children went to nursery in the village between 1978



and 2007 and also the pre-school group which followed till 2010, but that is not the only thing Lin has been up to over the 53 years she has lived here. Lin and her husband Dave who grew up in Redditch moved to Kopper Cottage which, at that time, was a very typical village dwelling with no bathroom and a toilet 'down the garden'. Over the years they have made improvements till it's the lovely family home and beautiful garden it is today. It was not until their daughter, Sarah, was born in 1973 that they had a 'proper' bath.

Lin worked at Humphries, the shoe shop, in Redditch until Sarah came along and found her true vocation when she took her to the nursery school which at that time was run by June Heath in what is now Chapel Cottage on Mill Lane. She asked for a job, and the rest is history. June retired very soon after and Lin with her friend Jane Taylor took it on. She said she couldn't have done it without the help of the lovely 'aunties'. After nursery she ran a baby group until 2010.

A long term member of the choir, and with other roles she was too reserved to mention. Her main highlights are Open The Book which she has been doing with at Feckenham First School for 13 years. They take bible stories and bring them to life so to speak. Until the pandemic she and the others in the group would visit the school and the stories were enacted by children and adults dressed up for the parts. Apparently she has a huge store of dressing up clothes for this purpose. Nowadays they make a recording which is shown to the pupils.

We reminisced about the glory days of the village pantomime and I still am in awe of how she managed to corral those preschool actors in the back room till it was their turn to be on stage. She was impressed by how much the parents put into making the costumes.

We couldn't write about Lin without mentioning her incredibly successful Christmas Box project which has been going on for 24 years. The first year 40 boxes were donated by people in the village and the school. It has expanded hugely and now there are around 500 boxes which come from all around including Callow Hill, Stoke Prior and Hanbury. The organisation she supports is Team for U and the boxes mainly go to Eastern Europe. If you are interested in making up a box, it will be gratefully received. You can pick up a shoe box from the church and return it there. If you are looking for ideas of what to put in the box, keep an eye on the window at Kopper Cottage, just opposite the shop.

Lin very kindly showed me the albums she has kept over the years with the annual school photos as well as pictures taken at various events including the pantomimes. Here are a few. If you have been in the village for a few years



# Fecken-Crossword

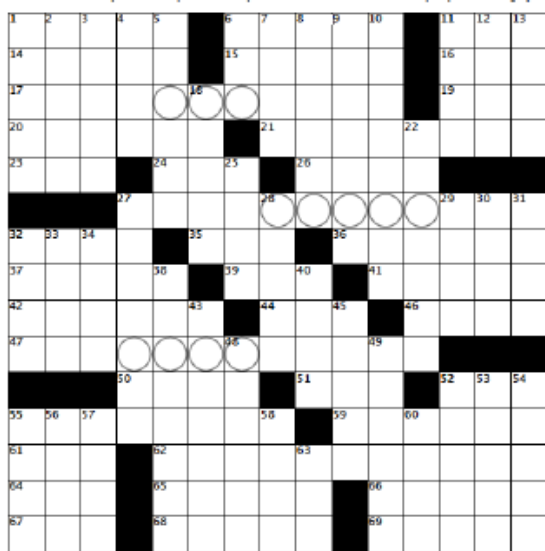
## Fowl Play

Jamie Hubball

Here's another US-style crossword submission. I created this one to submit to the New York Times but have tried my best to transform it for the Feckenham audience (there's even an Eastenders reference!) Don't be ashamed to have to Google the answers to 66-across or 13-down as they contain particularly American references.

### ACROSS

1. Jewish religious leader
6. Onward
11. U.S. Org. dealing in drug enforcement
14. "My pants are on fire"
15. "Star Wars" queen played by Natalie Portman
16. Ventilate
17. A wild goose-chase for happiness through materialism, according to Bryant McGill
19. Partner of to
20. Basketball play where a player is fouled while scoring
21. Accompanied, often for protection
23. Nintendo Switch ancestor
24. Scottish denial
26. Killer whale
27. Iconic logo of fast food fame
32. "Disgusting!"
35. But still
36. Prattle and prattle on
37. Eastenders character from 1985-2000
39. Badger
41. Slightly drunk
42. Solid alcohol
44. Charged particle
46. On a side
47. Actor originally known for his work with The Funky Bunch
50. "Casablanca" heroine
51. Eastern sundial numeral
52. Article used in many Snoop Dogg album titles
55. Micro-generation bridging Gen X and Millennials
59. Scowled
61. Ex-wife to Woody
62. Give the finger ... or a clue to circled letters
64. \_\_\_ Arbor, Michigan
65. Advanced in years
66. Steve of "Family Matters"
67. Genre of The Specials and Madness
68. Squalid
69. Nation, in Naples



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### DOWN

1. Puerto \_\_\_
2. Unaided
3. Cuffs
4. A peck, to Pablo
5. "Beats me"
6. Orangutan or gorilla
7. Mad as a March \_\_\_
8. Inventor of the phonograph
9. "Get out of here!"
10. Clinton or Obama
11. Off their rocker
12. Bono's birthplace
13. Former baseball player recently separated from J-Lo
18. Rainy
22. \_\_\_ my brain
25. First garden
27. Immature cucumber
28. Online commerce
29. Prefix meaning low
30. \_\_\_ of 25-across
31. Largest island of the Inner Hebrides
32. Polite, old-fashioned agreement
33. Suffix with vend-
34. Sonny's partner
38. Those of poor moral character
40. Desert straddling Mongolia and China
43. Man who claimed Louisiana for France
45. Call from the stall
48. NaCl or ClF, for example
49. Aggravate
52. Early set of wheels
53. "\_\_\_ Johnny!"
54. Confound
55. Abbreviated winter period
56. Kindle display
57. Dog in "Peter Pan"
58. Broke the speed limit
60. Start of a spell
63. Attempt

## Paul Bradley's Savoury Soda Bread



### Ingredients:

- 1 red onion – roughly chopped
- 4 olives (green/brown) roughly chopped
- 1 tomato – roughly chopped
- 1 cup (approx. 250ml) of [chopped] small cubes of cheddar
- 250g of wholemeal bread flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 250ml buttermilk

### Method:

Preheat oven to 200°C / Gas 6  
Roast onion, tomato and olives until cooked ( ~20 mins). Let them cool.  
In a bowl mix the flour, salt, and bicarbonate of soda  
Add the onion-garlic-tomato mix  
Pour the buttermilk into the dry mixture until it all comes together.  
Do not overmix  
Lightly dust a clean work surface with flour and transfer the dough.

Shape the dough into a ball and roll generously with flour\*

Slash a deep cross over the bread using a sharp knife.

Place on a baking sheet and bake in a preheated oven for 25 minutes.  
Turn bread over for another 3 to ensure cooked underneath i.e. not soft; tap middle and get a hollow sound.

Cut thick slices and serve with anything. Great with soups & salads and doesn't need butter, unless you are Paul!

Note\* I occasionally cut the dough into two small loaves, and freeze.

## Crossword Solution

R	A	B	B	I		A	H	E	A	D		D	E	A			
I	L	I	E	D		P	A	D	M	E		A	I	R			
C	O	N	S	U	M	E	R	I	S	M		F	R	O			
A	N	D	O	N	E		E	S	C	O	R	T	E	D			
N	E	S		N	A	E		O	R	C	A						
						G	O	L	D	E	N	A	R	C	H	E	S
Y	E	C	H			Y	E	T			Y	A	K	Y	A	K	
E	T	H	E	L		N	A	G			T	I	P	S	Y		
S	T	E	R	O	L		I	O	N		N	O	T	E			
M	A	R	K	W	A	H		L	B	E	R	G					
						I	L	S	A		I	I			T	H	A
X	E	N	N	I	A	L	S				G	L	A	R	E	D	
M	I	A				F	L	I	P	T	H	E	B	I	R	D	
A	N	N				E	L	D	E	R		U	R	K	E	L	
S	K	A				S	E	E	D	Y		P	A	E	S	E	

## TALES OF THE COUNTRY

A late addition to the Hall's programme of Live and Local events is MultiStory Theatre Company's production of "Hefted" - a play by David Lane  
Sweeping across 600 years, the story begins in 1475 with a supernatural birth before moving through nine different scenarios to an imagined 2075, in which stories from the past are retold to heal the present. Some stories are fantastical, others dramatise real events: all explore the notion of being 'hefted' – deeply connected to the land. MultiStory's actors conjure a score of fascinating characters assisted by songs and a spectacular soundscape, "Hefted" opens the door for the stories of rural communities to be shared.

**"Hefted" - Sunday, 21st November at 7pm  
(please note early start).**

## CHRISTMAS CREEPINESS

At the start of December there's a show to chill the cockles of your heart and get the festive season off to a spine tingling start... "A Ghost of a Smile" features Charles Dickens' creepy tales – with a comic twist. Tales with a tingle, but also a giggle! Yarns to chill and charm! Stories with a shiver and a smile! And an interval - for drinks! "Like "The Woman in Black" – but funnier!" - It's the perfect pre-Christmas treat...

The stories are adapted by Gavin Robertson and performed by Nicholas Collett who invite you to join them for a Victorian spooky evening... there will be mulled wine to chase away the chills and the Hall's bar will be open to help keep the spirits up....or away....

**"A Ghost of A Smile" - Sunday, 5th December at 7.30pm**

Tickets for both shows (£12) are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown and you can book online through [www.feckhall.org](http://www.feckhall.org) or by phone on 0333 666

## IMPROVEMENT FUND DRAW

The Village Hall's Improvement Fund Draw for October, 2021 was made at the meeting of The Trustees on 5th October.

Winners:

- 113 Jeremy & Pam Lincoln-Lewis £25
- 49 Chris & Claire Loxton £15
- 71 Chris & Tave Bristow £10



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## Square Management Committee



### FLOWERY FINISH...

By the time you read this The Square will have been planted with blooms to take us through the colder months. To begin with the volunteers of Feckenham In Bloom will have planted the Square's share of 4,000 crocus bulbs donated by the Rotary Club in support of their campaign to wipe out Polio. All of the flowers will be purple and it's expected that they'll provide a spectacular centrepiece in the early months of next year.

The Square's own volunteers will have been in action on 30th October. The flower tubs at the Recreation Ground end of The Square are to be replaced. Dave Powell has been busy preparing the new half barrels so that they'll stand up to the elements. They'll be filled and planted with pansies, violas and cyclamen which have been generously donated by Botany Bay Nurseries.

### CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Will Feckenham's Christmas be "business as usual"? Well, there'll certainly be a lovely big Christmas tree as usual. At the time of writing we've been offered a tree and we're checking to see if it's suitable but, if you have a tree in your garden that you'd like to be rid of, please let us know - we can keep it on our list for

future years. Email

[square@feckenham.f9.co.uk](mailto:square@feckenham.f9.co.uk) or call 894010.

The Christmas Eve Carols on The Square event - called off last year because of Covid-19 is, barring a major change, going ahead. We're waiting to see how things develop before making decisions on the exact form it will take - but we're hopeful that Christmas in Feckenham will be a good deal more cheering than it was last year. Check the December edition of Feckenham News for details.

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### NEW WAYS OF DOING THINGS

Feckenham's award winning radio station has been on the air now for over 5 years. Throughout that time the basic format for streaming programmes has been the same - a four hour long sequence of programmes which repeats throughout the day. It's a fairly rigid system that's worked mainly because our volunteer producers and presenters are limited in how much they can produce every week. Now we've switched to a new transmission system which is much more flexible. We can transmit programmes of varying lengths in a varying pattern. We can go on air live pretty much whenever we choose... the possibilities are limitless... In fact the only thing limiting what we do is the number of people willing to give up a little time to work on the station. Have you got an enthusiasm you'd like to share with a wider public? Do you like to chat to people? Are you good at finding the truth behind the headlines? Do you want to play wonderful music? If the answer to any of these questions is yes... then we'd love to hear from you. Just drop us an email to [radio@swansbrook.com](mailto:radio@swansbrook.com) and we'll get together to chat about the possibilities...

no obligations but we'd love to have you on board. In the meantime, if you haven't done so before, please have a listen to our programmes... we hope you'll be pleasantly surprised!

### LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Just go to [www.swansbrook.com](http://www.swansbrook.com) and follow the instructions you'll find there. Most programmes are now available for you to play ON DEMAND - listen when and where you like - as often as you like.

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## Kathy's Flowers

I'm running short of things to say. But, you know, it's autumn, there aren't many flowers! But here are three red seeds:

I don't ever remember seeing yew flowers (tiny, male and female on different trees in March), but here are the fruits - from the churchyard, of course. Birds like the red fruit 'cups' but the actual seeds inside are poisonous, as are the leaves. Excellent wood for long-bows, their presence in graveyards may be a link to pre-Christian holy places.



And these are positively tactile. Horse chestnut seed on The Square. The child's game was originally played with snail shells (conkers). I never knew that! So common now that it's interesting to read that it was introduced as a decorative tree for avenues. Apparently ground conkers helped horses with

breathing trouble, hence the name. Well, well, well.



Finally, back in May I found the ethereal flowers of black bryony down by Brook House, and here are the flamboyant berries, twining clockwise like a string of beads. Poisonous - especially to children.



## Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

### Hedgerow Fruiting Treasures

At this time of the year, gardeners look forward to the rich autumn colours of their garden trees and shrubs, and to the fruits which they bear. But the fruits and colours are often ignored on our native hedgerow plants simply because we take them for granted. Their leaves and fruits are every bit as valuable as their non-native garden centre offerings and because they are native they can be relied upon to survive and perform in our local conditions.

The humble Hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna*, is absolutely laden with red berries this year and should provide a good source of food for the local birds. The white blossom in spring is another of its assets and if it was rare and grew in the Himalayas everyone would be clamouring for it. As it is we rarely cast it a glance. Another wonderful berrying shrub is the Guelder Rose (stupid name as it is not a rose at all, nor even in the rose family), *Viburnum opulus*, which at this time of year is covered in clusters of almost translucent red fruits which dangle from every stem. Birds seem to leave these fruits alone until everything else has been consumed, so the effect is long lasting. The leaves of this shrub change from green to a soft orange in September which enhances the overall effect of this easily grown native. Gin drinkers often wax lyrical about Sloe Gin, but fail to notice the glaucous blue fruits on the native Blackthorn from which the taste is derived. Blackthorn, *Prunus spinosa*, is looked

upon as a bit of a nuisance by farmers as it can run by suckering, but the white clouds of blossom in Spring and the showy fruits in autumn make it a valuable contributor to the British landscape. It is also the food plant of the rare Brown Hairstreak butterfly, the eggs of which we once found in our hedgerow when we lived at Meadow Farm. In August 2016, I was lucky enough to find a freshly emerged female specimen drying its wings before flying off, but not before I took her photograph.

Elder, *Sambucus nigra*, is another rather thuggish British native, but much loved by home brewers for the flowers from which Elderflower cordial can be made and for the bunches of small shiny berries which can be turned into elderberry wine.

Although it is not a British native, the Snowberry, *Symphoricarpos albus*, has spread widely since its introduction in the early 1800's. Its tiny pink flowers in spring are hardly noticed, but give way to Mint Imperial sized white fruits in the Autumn, much loved by blackbirds in a hard winter. They are apparently known as 'lardy balls' in Wiltshire.

The fruits of the native Dog Rose are plump and showy and I remember when I was very young that my mother used to administer spoonfuls of rose hip syrup to me and my twin sister, telling us that it would prevent colds and give us a good dose of Vitamin C. It came in little bottles and it was not until many years later that I realised it was derived from the fruit of the wild rose, the hip. As a youngster I always looked upon rose as a colour and hip as a part of the body, so always thought that it was also to stop my hips from turning pink - such innocent days.

## Stock and Bradley Gardening Club



Our speaker at the October meeting was Howard Drury who gave a talk about the current resurgence of interest in houseplants. His talk was particularly aimed at showing how the Covid pandemic has changed the public's buying habits when it came to choosing houseplants, and how the industry was developing to increase the range of plants available.

NEXT CLUB MEETING - Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at 7:30pm

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 3rd November and our speaker will be Tim Walker who will give a talk entitled 'Plants, Borders and Gardens'. Due to a medical condition, Tim is unable to drive at the moment so we are going to hold the

meeting via Zoom - but with a difference. We will project his talk as a live presentation onto the screen at the Village Hall, so it will be almost as good as having him with us in person and will still enable us to have our monthly get-together.

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

Club meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall, Church Road, Bradley Green starting at 7.30pm, and are free to members for an annual subscription of £5.00 for 2022. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting. If you require any further information, ring Dinny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527 821355 or Rob Cole (Chairman) on 07544 832052.

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