

# FECKENHAM

NOVEMBER 2014

*News*



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village  
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# NOVEMBER Diary



Sat 1st	6.30pm	Village Bonfire Night	Cricket Club
Tues 4th	12.30am	Lunch Club	Village Hall, Back Room
Wed 5th	10.30am - noon	"Drop in" for coffee and a chat	Parish Church
Wed 5th	10.30am - noon	Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning	Rose & Crown
Wed 5th	7.30pm	Stock & Bradley Gardening Club	Bradley Village Hall
Sun 9th	10.45am	Remembrance Service	Parish Church
Tues 11th	7.30pm	Feckenham Forest History Society	Feckenham Village Hall
Thur 13th	7.30pm	Feckenham WI	Back Room Village Hall
Fri 14th	8pm	FeckenOdeon-2	Back Room Village Hall
Sat 15th	1.30pm	Table Top Sale	Village Hall
Wed 19th	10.30am - noon	"Drop in" for coffee and a chat	Parish Church
Sat 29th	7.30pm	FeckenOdeon	Village Hall

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## Production Team

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*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.

## Front Cover

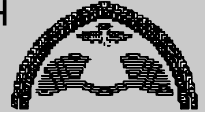
Morris Dancers on the Square Photo by Arthur Hind.

There were three teams of Morris dancers based at the village hall on 4th October for their annual tour. Teams from Chester, Cardiff and Alcester danced at 20 different venues before returning to Feckenham to dance on The Square - and then repaired for well earned beers and a hearty stew at The Rose & Crown. Pub goers were unexpectedly entertained by the combined bands of all three teams.



# Church Services NOVEMBER

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 2nd

Advent-4

### 11-00am Sung Eucharist

Revelation 7 : vs. 9-end

| John 3 : vs. 1-3

Intercessions

Doug Curtis

Jane White

Ian Hunter

### Sunday 9th

Advent-3

### 10-45am REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Wisdom 6 : vs. 12-16

| Thessalonians 4 : vs. 13-end

Intercessions

John Calvert

Alison Crellin

Walter Richards

### Sunday 16th

Advent-2

### 6-30pm Evensong

Zephaniah 1 : vs. 12-end

Matthew 25 : vs. 14-30

Intercessions

Tim Powell

Clare Furey

Jeff Matthews

### Sunday 23rd

Advent-1

### 11-00am Family Communion

Ephesians 1 : vs. 1-end

Intercessions

Vianne Furey

Helen Deegan

### Sunday 30th

Advent Sunday

### 10-30am GROUP EUCHARIST ODDINGLEY

## X Box Sunday School

Will be held in Church on Sunday 2nd November. 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

## Communal Christmas Card



This year we shall again be producing the communal Christmas card. For those unfamiliar with the card scheme, instead of sending lots of cards to people you see all the time, you make a donation and send a message (each in it's own box with up to 20 words) to your friends and neighbours. A card is delivered to everyone with the December Feckenham News. I have room for a maximum of 44 messages, first come first served! This year the donations will go to the Redditch Food Bank which our church is supporting. I will need entries by 14th November.

*Example message & size of box*

A very **Happy Christmas and New Year** to all our friends and neighbours.

..... & ..... .....

Please deliver your message (20 words max.) and donation, by 14th November, to -

A. Matthews, Chestnut House, 8 The Square, Feckenham, B96 6HR

or

J. White, 55 Alcester Road, Feckenham B96 6JP

If paying by cheque, please make it payable to "Feckenham P.C.C." *Jane White*

## As Time Goes By

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## Poppy Appeal 2014 Coffee Morning

10.30am - 12 noon

**Wednesday 5th November**  
**Rose & Crown, Feckenham.**

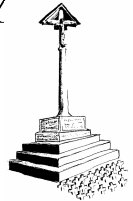
Raffle, Cake Stall or Bring & Buy donations can be left at the pub or brought on the day.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

9th November

10.45am

Parish Church



## The Children's Society

Jo Warrilow



## THANKS

Thanks to everyone who helped and supported The Children's Society Coffee Morning held on Saturday, 18th October.

The event raised an amazing £618.50

Boxes are being emptied - watch this space next month for the total.

Jo Warrilow (Local Sec.)

# Thought for the month

Wyn Beynon

Dear Friends,

If this letter gets in to your magazine it will be amazing as I'm 7 days late writing it. The trouble with a deadline is you have to keep to it, which is a real problem when you haven't got anything to say.

But then I was cutting a rose back on Friday and it struck me that, in the end the beautiful rose that grows up over the study windows is, really, just a bramble with attitude. A bramble with a sense of self, a sense of purpose, maybe a touch of the snob. A rose has breeding and has been given the very best of starts in life.

But there's a problem with roses. When it comes to trimming them back - very drastically is my way - roses do exactly what brambles do. They fight back. I end up lacerated when I hack back the brambles. Those long tentacles wrap around your legs, wrap around your arms, they claw and you face and rip your sleeves. And, it turns out, so do roses.

When the chips are down the rose gives the game away. When push comes to shove the rose is just a bramble, wrapping its thorny tentacles round my legs, getting caught in my sleeves and trousers, drawing blood from a dozens puncture points in my hands and fingers. In the end the breeding vanishes and, like the bramble from which it came, the rose reverts to lashing out and striking back.

We can dress ourselves up as people, think of ourselves as superior, or better bred, or better behaved. But when the pressure gets too great it turns out we're all the same under the facade.

Of course the rose doesn't know it's supposed to be setting an example as the queen of the garden. It doesn't know what it is. But we, and we are sometimes too defensive to simply be ourselves, preferring to hide behind a facade, a role, a habit, so that the real me doesn't emerge.

The more we do this the harder it is accept that when life pushes us over the line we'll forget ourselves and the real me will emerge perhaps ripping and clawing at those around me.

My rose will never learn humility. But I might!

Best wishes, Wyn

*Wyn was not the only one running late this month. Ed.*

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

## Church Flower Group

Many thanks to the ladies of the flower group for their highly colourful harvest arrangements.

Very many thanks also to Michael Crump for providing us with the beautiful dahlias and michaelmas daisies which we were happy to include in our arrangements.

The flowers were much admired and enjoyed by both the children of Feckenham School together with their parents, and the congregation at the Sunday Harvest Festival Service.

*Margaret & Marg. Co-ordinators*

## Square Management Committee

### CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

...and, as reported last month, it's on the same date as usual. The Annual **Carols on The Square** event will be on **Christmas Eve, 6.30pm** - hot punch, mince pies, happy warbling - a great start to Christmas. Put it in your diary! Full details in December's Feckenham News.

### TREMENDOUS RESPONSE

Following our appeals in these pages we've had not one, but two offers of lovely big Christmas trees to grace The Square over the festive season. Many thanks to those who offered - our chainsaw team will be in action in early December.

### NOT SO HAPPY TREES

The Square Committee has just received the three yearly safety report on the trees on The Square. While most of them are in fine fettle, it's not good news for two of them. The Committee will be considering the action that needs to be taken. We'll keep you informed.



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## FECKENHAM GARAGE



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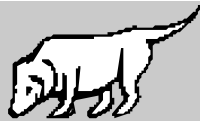
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## **New Baby**

Anne-Marie and David Mitchell are delighted with the arrival of their second grand daughter on August 31st. Meredith Lily is the first child of Ross and Jennifer Mitchell who are both teachers and live and work in Qatar.

## **New House**

Ed and Danielle Chute have finally moved into their house, 53 High Street! From knocking down the old building work to fixing a new name plate took 16 months. For the most part the renovations were a family affair carried out on top of a normal working week and they are rightfully proud of the end result.

Lots of passersby stopped and enquired about the progress of the renovations and they were grateful for the interest and support. Now they are happily awaiting the arrival of their second child. Meanwhile grandparents Peter and Marion Chute are making up for the absence of little grand daughter Peggy, who stayed with them during the renovations, by looking after two adorable newly hatched chicks!

## **Lejog: Lands End to John O' Groats with Gilly Cooper**

If a year ago one had suggested to Gilly that she could cycle from Lands End to John o' Groats, she would probably have reacted with disbelief or even laughed at the idea. Yet that is exactly what she has just done, and it has been a magnificent achievement.

With her friend Victoria, Gilly joined a group of 24 cyclists aged from late twenties to sixties and set out on the 1000 mile journey at the beginning of September. They were supported by a company called Peak Tours who gave superb backup in the form of the all important 'brew van' which as well as providing very welcome sustenance along the way, also transported their luggage and helped to maintain the bikes.

In order to improve her motivation, Gilly decided that she would try to raise money for the charity Women's Aid which provides support for victims of domestic abuse. Knowing that she was being sponsored gave her another reason to keep on pedalling! In the end she raised over £4000 and would like to thank all those who gave so generously. I asked Gilly what had been the best bit of her journey and she said that coming through the Clyde Valley to see Ben Lomond in the distance was the real highlight.

And the worst bit? She actually struggled to recall any 'worst bit'! Gilly was undeterred by the mist and steep hills on Dartmoor, losing her way in Herefordshire, heavy rain and saddle soreness in Manchester or even a near fall at speed on a 1-7 gradient. She did concede that the A56 was boring and heavily trafficked, but insisted that she enjoyed almost every minute of what for most of us would be an arduous and daunting undertaking.

During the two weeks she was travelling, Gilly wrote a daily diary which she sent to her friends and family. These 'blogs', consisting of commentaries about the route, humorous musings, and reminiscences of childhood holidays in Scotland or student adventures, were very much enjoyed and appreciated and indeed eagerly anticipated by their recipients. The positive feedback has encouraged Gilly to explore the possibility of writing more seriously in the future.

Since taking up cycling Gilly has not only improved her fitness level but has also made lots of new friends especially through the Hopwood Ladies Cycling Group and would encourage all of us to 'get on our bikes' if we can. She now says that she would like to encourage all of us to find a challenge: "something difficult but not likely to be impossible. Find encouragement from family, friends or even a coach. Plan. Train. Give yourselves a reasonable timetable and then it becomes possible....even quite easy!"



# Community Archaeology Project

Jen Clements

A meeting was held in the Rose & Crown on Wednesday 1st October. The full minutes are on the Feckenham website, and have been emailed to everyone who got in touch expressing an interest.

Here is a summary though:

- Our moated manor site is 'at risk', according to English Heritage.
- The group will be applying for money to do a geophysical survey of the site and put up information boards.
- The bushes around the recreation ground will be tidied up (timescales from Redditch Council to come).
- There are no plans to disturb the football pitch.

By hopefully securing the necessary funding, we aim to preserve and protect Feckenham's heritage and educate our young people and visitors about a special Feckenham landmark.

If you would like more information, please contact Jen Clements (28 High St.).

## Letters



The Editor

I have just come home from the R&C, which is not unusual, and a group of musicians are using it as a venue to play and 'jam' and it was brilliant.

They are going to do the same on the first Tuesday of the month. If you like traditional / folk music that's the place to be.

If you feel like a Strum, Scrape, Warble, Squeeze, or just listen, be there.

I recommend it.

Arthur Hind

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# WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

## Feckenham Readers Group

Wednesday, 5th November - 7.45

This month's book:

**THE TURN OF THE SCREW**

by Henry James

Details from Marion Chate - 892285



## **Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB**

### **BRISTOL BOTANIC GARDEN**

with Nick Wray

Wednesday, 5th November - 7.30pm

Bradley Village Hall

Feckenham Forest History Society

## **OLIVER CROMWELL**

A Costumed and Illustrated Talk by  
Max Keen

Tuesday, 11th November - 7.30pm

Feckenham Village Hall

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

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## **FECKENHAM WI** At FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY, 13th November - 7.30pm

### **FAT GIRLS & FAIRY CAKES**

With author **SUE WATSON**

Non-members welcome - £3.50



Dates for your Diaries....

## **FECKENHAM FLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL**

16th & 17th May, 2015

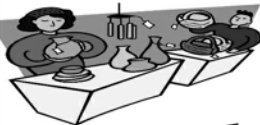


## **BONFIRE NIGHT**

SATURDAY, 1st NOVEMBER - 6.30pm

FIREWORK DISPLAY at 7.30pm

Bonfire materials welcome - please deliver to the ground on  
31st Oct or the morning of 1st Nov



## **TABLE TOP SALE**

Feckenham Village Hall

Saturday, 15th November

Doors open 1.30pm - **BARGAINS GALORE**

Teas, cakes - and thousands of items for sale!

Proceeds to Feckenham Village Hall Improvement Fund

# WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

## FeckenOdeon 2

The Cinema in the Back Room



BRENDAN GLEESON  
**CALVARY**<sup>15</sup>

FROM THE WRITER AND DIRECTOR OF 'THE GUARD'

★★★★★ "A WICKEDLY FUNNY BLACK COMEDY" ★★★★★

SUNDANCE BERLIN



**Friday, 14th November 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.fecknodeon.co.uk](http://www.fecknodeon.co.uk)

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



FeckenOdeon 2 at Feckenham Village Hall

THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

JUDI DENCH STEVE COOGAN

**PHILOMENA**



**Saturday, 29th November - 7.30pm**

at The FeckenOdeon Cinema in Feckenham Village Hall  
Tickets: £5 from The Rose & Crown and Village Shop, Feckenham  
Telephone 0333 666 3366\* or BOOK ONLINE\* at  
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★★★★★ Broadway Baby  
★★★★★ EdFringe Review  
★★★★★ ViewsFromTheGods

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*Broadway Baby*

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*London Metro*

ASTIC CULTURE ENGLAND

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REDDITCH HERB 2013

**FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Shendys

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Phone 0333 666 3366 Book Online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham)  
Tickets and Online bookings attract a 50p booking fee - Book in person and save money!

# The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



## A PRIESTLY PUZZLE...

The Irish film industry has a reputation for producing amusing and quirky films - **"Calvary"**, showing on **14th November at 8pm** in FeckenOdeon 2, is just such a film... A country priest hears a confession. "I'm going to kill you Father", says the voice on the confessing side of the confessional, "Would Thursday week be ok?" Brendan Gleeson as Father James has to find who the voice belongs to and hopefully save his own life. This is a true shaggy dog mystery peopled by a cast of Irish characters - notably Chris O'Dowd as the local chop happy butcher and Pat Shortt as the cheerless publican. A clever, darkly witty film set against the Sligo countryside.



## A POIGNANT AND WITTY STORY

We stay in Irish mode for **"Philomena"** on **Saturday, 29th November at 7.30pm**. This highly popular film tells the true story of an elderly woman's search for her son - taken away from her as an infant by nuns while she herself was branded a "fallen woman". Helped by journalist Martin Sixsmith, Philomena travels to the USA to find the boy. It could be a heartrendingly sad tale but it's told with humanity and wit - aided by strong and sensitive performances from Dame Judi Dench and Steve Coogan. This is a film that by turns can make you despair of humanity and rejoice in the human spirit - probably best to bring a hanky!

*Tickets are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown. You can book by phone (through TicketSource) on 0333 666 3366 or online at*

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

# Village Hall

Ian Bellion



## BARGAINS GALORE

On **Saturday, 15th November** the secrets of Feckenham attics and garages will be laid bare! Villagers will be selling all sorts of things from aspidistras to commodes and from bicycles to pram wheels at the Village Hall's **Table Top Sale**. Doors open at **1.30pm** and it's first come first served for an Aladdin's cave of beautiful bargains. When you've bagged your treasures there'll be a chance to rest your feet with tea and cakes.

At the time of writing there are still a few tables available - so make haste and clear that clutter. Just ring 892130 to book your table. Proceeds will go to the Village Hall's Improvement Fund.

## LOTTERY

Collectors will be knocking on doors asking you to take part in the Hall's monthly draws. A £12 annual stake puts you in the draw for cash prizes. If no-one calls on you and you'd like to take part contact John Pulsford on 892268

## MUSIC ON THE GO

The all-singing, all-dancing string quartet, **Bowjangles** are set to amaze with an athletic and musical run down of an average day on the telly entitled **"On the Box"**.

In a comprehensive TV listing like none you have ever experienced before, the group follow a schedule which includes morning TV, news and weather as well as a soap opera, children's programme and a nature documentary. The four performers take on all the necessary roles between them, all of course whilst playing their instruments to a jaw droppingly high level, in a clever and unique take on the cultural phenomenon that is TV. This is a string quartet like no other you have seen or heard - fantastic, energetic and very, very funny.

**"On the Box" is at Feckenham Village Hall on Sunday, 7th December at 7.30pm**  
You can get tickets (£10) from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown, by phone on 0833 666 3366 or online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham), or from any Village Hall Committee Member

# Feckenham ENTERTAINMENTS Committee

## CROWING WITH SUCCESS

Against all the odds and certainly against a terrible weather forecast **Feckenham Scarecrow Weekend** was another triumph. There were more entries than ever before - 53 scarecrows plus a few unofficial interlopers. Villagers excelled themselves with imaginative, scary and determinedly dotty creations. The weather was kind and the visitors came in a steady stream. There was universal appreciation for the efforts taken by exhibitors and organisers alike.

As ever, the organisers avoided the blame for the outcome of the competition by making the public take the responsibility. Each visitor was handed a voting slip to chose their favourite and the votes were counted - and recounted twice - because this year's results were really close. The winners were:

**First Prize - Best Scarecrow :** "**Witchcrow**" by Alan Smith - more of a tableau vivant than a traditional scarecrow but it delighted the crowds with its creepy smoke, bubbling cauldron and a black clad figure that remained motionless for most of the time but suddenly came to life - prompting screams of terror and delight.

**Second Prize: "Feckenham Frozen Frolics"** by Emma Brownilow and Judy Underwood - an icy tableau based on the film.

**Third Prize: "Game of Crows"** by Judith Hooker - a chess game in which all the pieces are scarecrows or crows. An incredibly intricate design all handmade with perfect and tiny details.

**Best Scarecrow by an entrant under the age of 12: "Busy Bee"** by Ethan and William of Class R at Feckenham First School.

Thanks are due to everyone who helped make the event such a success. They're too numerous to mention individually - the rigging crew who put up the tent and took it down again in a gale.

The transporters, providers of tales and chairs, people who leapt into action behind the cake counter - thanks to everyone. The Entertainments Committee is Ian Bellion, Alan Jones, Judy Underwood, Judy Hooker, John Pulsford, Tim Smith and Lew Bennett.



Witchcrow



Game of Crows

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

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>5th</b>             | <b>Gardening Club</b><br>Bristol Botanic Garden<br>a talk by Nick Wray<br>Bradley Village Hall - 7.30pm |
| <b>16th</b>            | <b>WALKING CLUB</b><br>leaving Bradley Church<br>at 10am  |
| <b>12th &amp; 26th</b> | <b>Drop in</b><br>10am to 12 noon   |
| <b>29th</b>            | <b>Quiz Night</b><br>7pm - Bradley Village Hall   |

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

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## Village Shop

This month's excitement is a range of rather special footwear, which we are trying out for the first time. Swiss designed Elevefik laced wellies, in a range of rather funky colours. If



you fancy kicking up the leaves in something a bit different, and retiring your green Hunter wellies, come and try them.

For those who are Gluten intolerant, we now have a wider range of gluten free products. Notably porridge, cereals and a range of snack bars.

We have stocked up on our lovely spotty crockery - why not make up a Christmas hamper to include some specialist tea and a selection of the delicious Franks biscuits.

We will again be offering Christmas stockings filled with goodies for humans, canines & felines. If you would like something very particular, we can make them up to order. The Christmas stock is beginning to arrive, so don't miss out. There are many more lovely Christmas products and gifts in stock.

We will be offering through Partridges, our meat suppliers turkeys and any other meats for the festive season.

Cafe offers continue – piping hot soup and a roll for £2.95, a teacake and a drink at the bargain price of £2.20. And of course the ever popular Loyalty Card continues, giving you your 7<sup>th</sup> drink free.

### STOP PRESS

The Village shop is one of eight contenders in The **Champion of Champions** competition run by The Countryside Alliance. You are encouraged to join in the public vote. Details are in the shop and on the Website.

## Neighbourhood Development Plan

### KEEPING YOU IN THE PICTURE

The Feckenham Neighbourhood Development Plan working group has made a small start on its daunting task. Over the next week or so every household in the Parish will receive a leaflet describing the purpose of the plan and the processes involved. The Group and the Parish Council are determined that everyone knows what is happening and gets a chance to have their say. The same mailing will contain Redditch Borough Council's notice of the Parish's application for Neighbourhood Area status. PLEASE read the leaflet carefully. This Plan will determine planning policies for the entire Parish and, if you have opinions on how Feckenham should look in the future, it's essential that you take part.

### GETTING IT RIGHT

Also in the coming weeks, members of the working group will be attending meetings and courses to ensure that the consultation and delivery of the plan is done correctly. The process is complicated and rigorous so professional advisers have been called in to ensure that everyone understands what they are doing and why they are doing it.

### ANY QUESTIONS?

The leaflet will answer many of your questions but you can contact the Chair of the Working Party, Alan Jones, on 893463 or Marion Chute (Secretary) on 892285 for further information.

In your letterbox soon - if you don't receive a leaflet before the end of the month you'll find extra copies in the Shop, Village Hall and other public buildings in the village.

# Feckenham C. of E. First School

Sharon Simpson

The start of the autumn term brought lots of new faces to school with our reception children joining our school community and they have been warmly welcomed and are busy settling in to their new surroundings.

We bid farewell to Mrs Bray who left our school in July to commence teacher training at Worcester University. We wish her well in the future.

Congratulations are also in order for Miss Evans who married at the end of July and is now Mrs Malone.

All of the children had entries in the Feckenham Flower Show on September 13<sup>th</sup> with much success! Well done all of you for your hard work.

The Rev. Gary Crellin paid school a visit on September 24<sup>th</sup> to introduce himself to our new children. He brought with him a friendly bear for the children to name with the initial 'W' and the result was revealed at the Harvest Festival service on 10<sup>th</sup> October in church. The bear has been suitably named "Willow"!

The Harvest Festival was a wonderful celebration bringing our school together with the local community and together their donations of food were distributed to the Redditch Food Bank to help those less fortunate.

Fundraisers within school held a Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning event at The Rose & Crown, Feckenham on September 26<sup>th</sup>. In addition to lots of homemade cakes and endless cups of tea and coffee, a fabulous raffle and beauty treatments were available from some of our talented moms and a total of £532.10 was raised for this wonderful cause.

Whilst this fundraising event was going ahead, the children came to school dressed as

characters from the much loved books by Roald Dahl and there were many Willy Wonkas and Fantastic Mr Foxes to be seen around school reading and story telling to mark the occasion!

The children have also had the opportunity to see the great work that Operation Christmas Child does around the world providing gifts for children. The children are asked to decorate and fill a shoe box for boys and girls of different ages which are then distributed around the world to very needy children. The children are busy filling their boxes which are collected from school at the beginning of November.

Many of the children enjoyed a spooky time at their early Halloween party held at Bradley Green Village Hall on October 19<sup>th</sup> with lots of Halloween games, fancy dress and party food. The event was held in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and a total of £153.00 was raised. Special thanks to Mrs Stringer for her very kind donation and to everyone who supported the event and helped out at the party.

The children along with many parents and other helpers spent a creative afternoon on October 17<sup>th</sup> making some fabulous scarecrows as part of Feckenham's Scarecrow Weekend (18/19<sup>th</sup> October 2014) to be displayed on the village green.

Just by way of a reminder....

School does have a large **clothing bank** next to the school car park which is emptied regularly for which the school receives money per tonne so if you do have any unwanted clothes/shoes/bedding it would be very gratefully received

We are also collecting **Morrison's 'Lets Grow' vouchers** so if you do have any unwanted vouchers we would be pleased to receive these too.

Cheerio for now from all at school!

Sharon Simpson

Community Governor

Feckenham CofE First School

# Mission Morogoro

Tony Mortimer

**W**ell, what a day we had at Madresfield Court on 25th September! The weather was kind, the house was fantastic and our supporters all gave us glowing feedback on the event. We raised more than £2,500 for the 'Tractor for Tunguli' project which we are running with the Diocese. Our thanks go to Lucy Chenevix-Trench, who made the house and grounds available to us, and all of our supporters who made it such a memorable day. The tractor refurbishment is on track to be completed by the end of 2014 by Moreton Morrell College, who are also helping us to source a suitable disc plough. The only missing element will then be a 3-4 ton tipping trailer. We are hoping to obtain a reasonably priced unit to refurbish but haven't yet found one so if you know of something that might be suitable please contact us. The final hurdle will then be to ship all of this to Tanzania so, again, if you know anyone who is expert in this field and might wish to help please contact us.

We continue with our projects at Tunguli, thanks to your support. Current work at the Health Centre includes refurbishment of various rooms, repair of old water tanks (rainwater harvesting works very well) and a micro-finance scheme. We are also working with the primary and secondary schools for the first time. Neither school had a supply of water and badly needed rainwater harvesting systems, so we are providing two 5000 litre tanks to each school. For the students this means less time carrying water and more in the classroom! We are very encouraged by the pro-active approach of the community who, when given a budget for this work, suggested that villagers should do the work and provide building materials, rather than pay a contractor. In this way they could afford two tanks at each school rather than one – a very positive outcome.

Another positive development is the support we are now receiving from North Worcestershire Rotary Club. MM is their

nominated charity for the year (thanks Sue and David Plummer for promoting MM) and they have already raised more than £1,000 for our work. One of their areas of focus is working to eradicate malaria and they have funded 240 mosquito nets, which will cover all beds at the Health Centre and those of staff. We are currently discussing with them future focused projects for which they could fund-raise.

Can we appeal again for any unwanted coins, foreign or otherwise, which we can turn into £'s? Last years' appeal raised around £200 so please root around in your drawers for any leftover pesetas (they do still have a value) or diram, every little helps!

**STOP PRESS** - Would you like to join MM on a visit to The Houses of Parliament? We are running a coach trip from Feckenham on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and places are limited, so book early. Tickets are £25 for the day and a free guided tour of the Palace of Westminster is booked. There will also be some free time in the afternoon. Contact Tricia Mortimer on 402302 to book.

Asante Sana

Tony

Book your place now to

## Tour the Houses of Parliament

**Monday, 9 February, 2015**

Travel by coach from Feckenham, enjoy a full tour of **the Houses of Parliament** - in election year! - and then spend some time at leisure in London before our journey home.

### *Draft schedule:*

Depart 7.45am Return approx 9pm

Tours 11.20am and last 1½ hours

Free time approx 2-6pm

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Please contact Tricia Mortimer

(01527) 402302 or

[tricia.mortimer@gmail.com](mailto:tricia.mortimer@gmail.com)

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# Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

Rob Cole

The next Club meeting - **Wednesday 5th November**, will welcome Nick Wray who will talk about 'The Development of the New University of Bristol Botanic Garden'. Some of you may remember Nick as a former presenter on Gardeners' World.

The AGM originally proposed for this meeting is to be held at the December meeting instead, and subscriptions for 2015 will become due on January 1st, and can be paid at that meeting. The theme for the monthly competition is 'Berries'. To take part, just bring along an exhibit for judging by the speaker. Remember that this is NOT a flower arranging competition, and that a single stem can be a winner. Every entry will win a point, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd will be awarded additional points. The member with the most number of points in the year will be awarded a prize of a year's subscription to the Gardening Club, at the forthcoming AGM.

*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 Rob Cole on 01527 821156.*

## Village Hall

Improvement Fund 2013/14



### October Winners

52	Pam Eaton	£25
147	David & Sue Checkley	£15
145	Malcolm Hawkes	£10

**This was the Final Draw for the 2013 /14 Fund which raised £1,452.00 for the Village Hall.**

The first draw for the **2014 /15 Fund** will be held in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014.

## Feckenham W.I.

Jane White



**Our November meeting** is on Thursday 13th at 7.30pm.

Under the title 'Fat girls and Fairy Cakes', author Sue Watson will tell us how and why she gave up her TV career with the BBC, while juggling it with motherhood and family life, and wrote a novel. The meeting is in the Back Room of the Village Hall. Visitors welcome.

We shall also be running a stall at the **Table Top Sale** on 15th November - cakes, Christmas puddings and other goodies will be on sale and ideas for Christmas presents. Hope to see you there.



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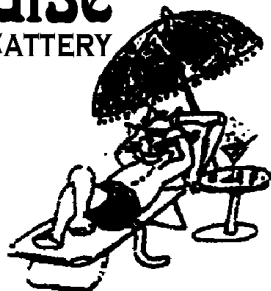
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