



FECKENHAM NEWS

October 2021

Published by Feckenham Church for the Village
Editor: Gilly Cooper
feckenhamnews@gmail.com
(Copy Date 14th)

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Feckenham News in October

In the magazine:

Look out for a writing opportunity for young people, the return of the ever popular What's On centre spread and an apology from Hanbury for the road chaos on the day of their show as well as information on planning applications and much much more.

Dates for your diary



October

Feckenham Sessions	5th
Stock & Bradley Gardening Club	6th
Book Club	7th
History Society	12th
Flats and Sharps	16th
Art Exhibition	23rd & 24th
Feckenodeon	30th

Regular Classes

Yoga	Mondays
Pilates	Thursdays

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Front Cover

The new church archway - and the gates now latch again. By Arthur Hind

Magazine online at www.feckenham.com

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

Editor's Note

This looks like a bumper month for the magazine which has expanded to 28 pages. I'm not sure if this a pattern but I do hope you are all enjoying it and that you might feel impelled to put a virtual pen to paper and be published.



The Feckenham News Board met again and some really good ideas came up. You can look forward to some more articles about people in our community, those who are well known and others who keep their light under a bushel so to speak. If you want to introduce a family member, a friend or even yourself, simply send a message to the editor's email and I'll pick it up. Also, we are aware that there are many small businesses in the village who might not be known by the majority. If you count yourself in that group, you might like to send a small article and perhaps a photo; I'm sure other villagers will be interested and you might get some new customers. If you have a hobby or are a member of a group that meets regularly, let us know especially if you are looking for new members. Of course our Newshound will continue to look out especially for new residents but if you would like to be included in Newshound's column please send her an email to jen@28highstreet.co.uk. Children out there, please look out for opportunities to send in words or pictures.

I attended the Parish Council open meeting where Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning at Redditch Borough Council, explained how the planning process works and what they do about concerns which are raised. She also took questions from the audience. I noted a lot of concern from the village over plans and the way objections were managed. There are now quite a few matters which seem not to have been managed well and some that need urgent

resolution. I believe that we as individuals in our beautiful village need to keep a close eye on proposed developments and make our voices heard if we are to allow progress while also preserving the best of Feckenham.

Village Notices

Lunch Club ... is returning

.... at 12.30 on the 1st Tuesday of the month in the back room of the Village Hall.

A two course hot lunch followed by coffee all for £5.00!

If you would like to join us on 5th October it would be helpful if you could book on 892180.

We look forward to welcoming you

Drop-In . . . is back!

Many of you will already be familiar with 'Drop-In', but for those of you who aren't, Drop-In is an informal get-together for coffee, company, good conversation and, who knows, perhaps cake! All are welcome and it would be lovely if you were able to join us.

After eighteen months of 'Zooming' we are, after what seems like an eternity, finally able and confident to meet 'face-to-face'. At the moment, when so many are still feeling the need to be cautious, we gather together in the churchyard by the porch, but as Autumn draws on, or if the weather proves to be inclement, we plan to withdraw to the warmth and comfort of the church, ever-mindful of course of Covid considerations.

We meet fortnightly and our next gathering will be on Wednesday, 29th September @ 10.30am and we look forward very much to welcoming you.

For more information, please contact Revd Barbara barbarawheatley@btinternet.com

Wedding Bells

Dr Hugo Hammersley writes:

Saturday 21st August was a very special day at the Manor House, when my partner Gerri and I hosted my youngest son's wedding. Ben, who works in IT, and Anna, who is a psychologist, officially tied the knot in a church ceremony in Oxford a few days earlier. They repeated their vows in the Manor House Garden in front of a non-denominational celebrant and all their friends. This was followed by a party in a tepee style tent. Hope the noise didn't disturb too many villagers!



...and



On Wednesday 18th August, Niamh Conway, daughter of Chris and Maureen Conway who live on the High Street, married her childhood sweetheart Adam Carroll at Redditch Register Office. Then on Saturday 21st August they had a marquee reception at Morton's View Barn, Mill Lane (thanks to Brett and Sharon Lavin). The bride, her 7 bridesmaids and her parents were taken to the venue by horse and carriage from The Square, and despite the rain everyone had a lovely day, culminating in a 'silent disco' with headphones at the end of the night.

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** 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

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

May I thank all friends and fellow villagers who have sent us such kind messages of condolence over the loss of our mother, Margaret. We have been overwhelmed by the warmth, care and positive regard that mother enjoyed. I think she would have been amazed about how just being seen around the

village with walking poles and pink hat was such a talisman and encouragement to people. We were very blessed in many ways, not least that we were able to be with her in her own house at the end, and were able to be joined by so many at the funeral, falling as it did on the 1st day of restrictions lifting. Thanks again - it means a lot and just confirms what a special place this is.



Jeff Matthews

Sad news from Hanbury

Rhona Panton who lived in Hanbury, opposite the entrance to Hanbury Hall, was leaving her garden on 31st August and was killed by a passing car. She was known to some people in Feckenham. I knew her well as she was a member of the NHS Board In Worcestershire which I chaired and also by our involvement with her in providing music for Hanbury events. A statement will feature in the next Hanbury magazine of which she was Editor.

John and Elizabeth Nixon return home

On the sunny afternoon of August 23rd, with Feckenham village aglow with late summer flowers and the parish church aflame after the skills of its flower team, the ashes of John and Elizabeth were "returned home" to be buried in the peace of the churchyard.

They had married and arrived to live in Callow Hill over sixty years earlier. Elizabeth had lived to be 99 and John 92, only leaving 12 years ago to retire to a Malvern apartment.

The service was conducted by their son David, currently a vicar in Exeter, who was lovingly assisted by their daughter Rosy.

Both regular and active members of Feckenham Parish Church, John had served in all the major offices, besides representing the church at deanery level.

Prior to marriage Elizabeth worked on the staff of Cadbury where she was in charge of keep-fit and outdoor activities for the entire female staff. Besides her own great input into the Christian life in local worship, she found time to support the schools where David and Rosy were educated including the now defunct Bradley Moor High School. Later in her life she served as a local magistrate. If you wanted an opinion Elizabeth always had four or five!

All who knew and admired them, although sad at this time, are extremely grateful for lives well lived where others always mattered.

Colleagues and Friends

Letters to the Editor

I would like to bring to wider notice in the village the proposal to build 25 houses in the green belt field opposite Winfields which extends up to the fields behind the Rose and Crown and cannot be regarded as infill. This is in contradiction of the current Redditch development plan.

The outline plans as submitted are in any case impractical. It is not believable that any commercial builder would consider a plan that requires such a very high proportion of rental and affordable dwellings in a village with few amenities. These plans seem designed to catch the imagination rather than to propose a viable project and, as with the previous application opposite Winfields which originally was also for affordable housing, the final detail plan will probably be for luxury properties.

For many years Astwood Lane, below this proposal was subject to flooding and has recently had a lot of work done by the council to improve this. I am aware that further work is proposed but unless great care is taken with peak flow mitigation there seems to be a severe risk of a return to the problems that the residents have had to endure in previous stormy periods.

Also we all know that Feckenham is poorly served by public transport. Therefore practically all households require two cars for commuting, shopping, medical or any other activity. Another fifty cars on the already very crowded country lanes that access the village and also using the High St, where most households have to park on the road, will increase congestion with a consequent drop in the local air quality.

The idea of putting another group of houses in a cul de sac will further reduce the integrity of the village and lead to a less cohesive structure. All who have the privilege to live in Feckenham, or to visit and enjoy, will see a village which developed over many years in a piecemeal fashion. The juxtaposition of houses of many styles and sizes has resulted in a harmonious

whole which has been preserved by a relative low level of development and the complete absence of larger developments. All this combines to make it such a special place that is surely worthy of preservation.

It is also worth noting that the footpath that goes through the top end of the property passes through the part of my garden that has been made into a wildlife area before entering High St near to the Rose and Crown. This will become the most direct route to the village for all the people in these houses. The increase in frequentation will draw unwelcome attention to a way of accessing the rear of all the houses in this stretch of the High St.

Whilst I am aware that Feckenham may need additional housing I feel that it is important that it is not built en masse, spoiling the very thing that makes our village such a very special place. If this plan is passed it surely opens the floodgates for similar applications that will soon leave Feckenham village as just a memory in an Inkberrow like modern dormitory with uniform estates surrounding and swamping the original village.

Chris West

The full detail of this application can be found on the Redditch Council planning portal with the address :- <https://publicaccess.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QV3MTOSE00V00>



Dear Mr. Nicholson,

I understand that you are one of the team that was responsible for organising the Feckenham Wake Car Show, Veteran Cycle run, Motorcycle display & the balloon ascent, on 14th August.

I must say that the cars, m/cycles, cycles & Hot Air Balloons were quite amazing.

The display of vehicles was breathtaking & I was amazed at, how generous the owners were in preparing their beloved vehicles & then most graciously allowing all of us to enjoy their public display.

Myself, my wife & our children enjoyed them all immensely.

Well done to the exhibitors! Please pass on our thanks & admiration to them all.

However, *we were shocked & disgusted at some dreadful behaviour which we had the misfortune to witness during our visit to,*

Feckenham village.

My good wife & I will certainly not be bringing our children to the Feckenham Wake Car Show ever again!

During the afternoon we visited the 'Square' & witnessed a rather strange man suffering from a severe deformity, arguing with his partner, who was carrying a tiny baby.

This vile man began violently striking the poor young woman until a policeman from the West Mercia display arrived.

This didn't help very much either, as the man managed to wrestle the policeman's truncheon from him & then began shouting vile abuse while repeatedly & violently hitting out at anyone nearby.

Then, as if that was not enough? & to 'top it all'..... a crocodile stole all the sausages!

I've never seen anything like this at a Car Show before & I think it was dreadful!

Yours, 'Disgusted', Little Hampton.

An apology from: Hanbury Summer Show

The Hanbury Summer Show took place on Bank Holiday Monday 30th August 2021. This event was held as a replacement for the larger Hanbury Countryside Show which traditionally takes place on the first Saturday in July and was cancelled back in April due to the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic.

The organisers of the Show would like to apologise to the residents of Feckenham; the event was attended by a much larger crowd than was anticipated. There was significant congestion in the area and the show's infrastructure was overwhelmed by the volume of traffic which showed up.

We recognise that the congestion would have caused inconvenience to many local residents and for this we are sorry.

The 2022 Hanbury Countryside Show will be held on Saturday 2nd July. For updates please visit www.hanburyshow.co.uk.



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Introducing...

Chris the Busker and his wife Claire

Last year Chris, who is retired, and his wife Claire, a postwoman, moved into The Bird House just near the shop. I first met Chris on the night of The Wake when he entertained us in the evening playing his guitar and singing many favourite songs of the 60s up to the present day. I was immediately curious about him and he agreed to tell me a bit about his life.

Until recently they lived in Tardebigge but Chris has moved around Birmingham and the Redditch area over the years with a short spell in Halifax. Born in Selly Oak, he left school at sixteen, found a job and left home the year after. I pricked up my ears when he said he'd lived in California. Smiling he explained it was California in south Birmingham!

Most of his day jobs have involved driving, his first was using a BSA Bantam 125 delivering telegrams but his first love is performing. He began learning guitar at school and took it up again in his early 30s. With a friend they developed a set, he learned to sing - something he had always believed impossible - and off they went. Saturdays were his busking days. Sometimes in a Redditch underpass for better acoustics and shelter, other times on Bromsgrove High Street. People in our towns were more generous than the Stratford tourists apparently. The time they were in Stratford, after the expense of a licence and petrol they came out about 10p up!

While I was in their garden, Claire gave me a tour. Since they have been here, she has transformed the garden. There are lovely hanging baskets and tubs, many places to sit and relax as well as a wild flower area. Though she said it's not ready, perhaps with a bit of arm twisting, they may be persuaded to open the garden next year - you never know.



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October Church Services



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Church Warden: Ann Mathews **892180**

Please contact Ann for Weddings at ann@the-madison-group.co.uk

Glen for Baptisms & Funerals at glenn.reading@googlemail.com

Website: achurchnearyou.com/church/18729

Email: info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

Services for October 2021

3rd Oct	10.30am	Harvest Eucharist Rev B Wheatley
10th Oct	9.00am	BCP communion- Rev B Wheatley
17th Oct	6.30pm	Sung Evensong - Mother Victoria
24th Oct	10.30am	Eucharist - Fr Glenn
31st Oct	4.00pm	Farewell to Rev Wyn Beynon

FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St John Fisher & Thomas More



There is a live-streamed Mass on Sundays at 4.30pm. Fr. Tony Rohan will officiate. The link is: www.eventcast.uk/live

Note: Type the link into your browser on your computer. Do not use a search engine.

As we go to print, again there's no confirmation that in person services are recommencing, so look out for information in the next magazine.

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

Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898

The Village Shop Alan Slater



It has certainly been a busy September at the Village Shop. Not only have our sales held up well but also we have continued our re-investment programme with the installation of two new chiller units and a retail freezer. The previous refrigeration equipment was at least twelve years old and had become unreliable thus requiring constant repair. The new units are more energy efficient and allow us to merchandise our extensive range of chilled and frozen product range more effectively. Although it is a major expenditure for us, I believe it will prove to be money well spent over the next few years.

You may have also noticed that we have relined the front and side car park areas and in the process created additional spaces for both vehicles and cycles. As a result of the increased popularity of our outside café, especially at weekends, a re-organisation had become a necessity. I hope our visitors appreciate the effort we have made and make full use of the dedicated spaces provided.

In other news, I'm pleased to advise Villagers that we are stocking Covid lateral flow tests. Obviously they are free, so if you require a testing kit, just call into the Shop anytime and collect a box. We are proud to be of service to the Community.

At the moment the Buying Team are having a challenging time in maintaining our extensive product range, as one or two of our suppliers are struggling to meet our orders. So far there have been very few gaps on our shelves but please bear with us if in the unlikely event we are unable to meet your every purchasing need. Even the large supermarkets are finding it difficult, so under the present circumstances our Buyers are doing a brilliant job.

I'll conclude with my usual request for more volunteers to join our Shop Team. If you fancy doing something different for a couple of hours a week, call into the Shop and have a chat with us. We'll be delighted to see you.



POPPING UP.....

Following its successful live appearance at Feckenham Wake Swansbrook Radio's pop-up studio has popped-up at Astwood Bank Carnival to give listeners a taste of life on the Bank. An edition of Happy Hour was recorded amid the fun of the fair - which this year was held at Ridgeway School - and listeners were able to enjoy the sights and sounds of one of the areas biggest events.

Swansbrook may be "Feckenham's Own" radio station but we're more than happy to stray beyond the boundaries of the parish to report on goings on in our neighbouring communities - so, if you know of something happening in the area that might make good radio, please let us know about it - radio@swansbrook.com is the address to use.

WHO LISTENS?

We're often asked how many listeners we have. It's been difficult to give an answer... until now. We've started to use a new transmission system and this gives us more precise figures. Swansbrook is listened to by around 500 people every week. This doesn't seem a very large figure until you realise that Feckenham's population is only around 800 and the circulation of this magazine is about 450. Most listeners are in the UK... but we do have a few regular listeners in Turkey, Thailand and Japan. We're not sure what they make of items about beer festivals, coffee mornings and Punch & Judy....

Feckenham Conservation and Biodiversity Project

Update from Jeff Matthews

We are very much hoping to begin the work on the Bio-Diversity Project, as planned this Autumn.

Feckenham in Bloom have joined the project which means the areas of planting they want to look after in the village will be included in the plan and the funding.

As regards to getting the work started, getting all the various forms and permissions is all taking rather longer with the pandemic etc.

The Archaeological Site (King John's Hunting Lodge, the Ancient Monument) are ready to go, but are still waiting on the bodies that look after the Churchyard. With luck that will be in next week or so, which means we can apply for the matched funding - and we can't do that until we have all the permissions!

Once we get the green light we are very hopeful that the appointed sub-contractors can begin preparing the flower meadows, clearing the Snowberry and carrying out tree and hedgerow maintenance.

The bigger work - tree felling and paths, looks like that will be next year, but we should be set for Spring.

We will keep you in touch with progress from here on, as hopefully we will all be able to see it!

Feckenham Village Hall Ian Bellion

BOUNCING BACK

The Village Hall is getting back into its stride after its enforced closure. Regular activities, clubs and societies have restarted and there has been a series of celebrations and parties - and it is being used and enjoyed by villagers as it always has been since its opening in 1935. Now, to complete the recovery, live professional entertainment makes a welcome reappearance...

FOOT STOMPING FUN

First up on Saturday, 16th October is the great bluegrass/folk/rock band Flats & Sharps - all the way from Penzance. This lively outfit have been delivering energetic, enthusiastic and spirited music to audiences all around the world for over ten years. Their powerful and well-crafted original songs blend strong harmonies and stonking solos... and their incredible stage presence and energy will create an evening that'll have you dancing, laughing and singing along in no time.

The Hall's bar will be open to help keep the spirits up. Tickets (£12) are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown and you can book online through www.feckhall.org or by phone on 0333 666 3366.

DRAW

The Village Hall's Improvement Fund Draw for August and September, 2021 was made at the meeting of The Trustees on 6th July.

Winners:

August:

156	Alan & Pat Moore	£25
117	John & Susie Hinton	£15
32	Mark & Lisa Brock	£10

September:

113	Jeremy & Pam Lincoln-Lewis	£25
34	Minkie Waters	£15
80	Geoff Knock	£10

Book Club



This month's book was All Among the Barley by Melissa Harrison. The members were able to meet outside on a pleasant summer's evening. Generally the book was enjoyed very much though there were reservations about the rather hurried ending.

Next time it's Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell.

ART EXHIBITION : "CELEBRATING NATURE"

October 23rd and 24th



As nature is central to the work of Feckenham artists Ian Ridley and Julian Bull they decided earlier in the year to hold a joint exhibition celebrating its beauty and diversity through their art. With over 150 paintings and prints together with Julian's other printed work the exhibition will be held in the main room of the village hall which will also enable a comfortable degree of social distancing.



Ian, a member of the Birmingham Watercolour Society, is an award winning artist in both watercolours and acrylics and taking over from friend and mentor, Lew Bennett, he ran the Art Society here in Feckenham until lockdown last year



Essentially a landscape artist with his forest scenes being instantly recognisable by those who know his style, he enjoys painting all aspects of nature . Biographical details, examples of his work and information on his work for cancer charities can be found on his website : www.ianridleywatercolours.co.uk



Julian has produced a number of sculptures and was commissioned to create a statement piece about health for display at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital and another for an event at the Banqueting House in Whitehall, London

Julian has now decided to pursue his creative interests full time with the launch of Visibull Art and Design which focusses on releasing the hidden beauty within nature through a technique to make striking prints from sections of trees. Based from his garden studio, the work also features a range of Eco T-shirts and Greetings cards. See www.visibull.co.uk

Julian hopes his work will make people stop and consider things for a moment- in times of climate change and national pandemics, something we should all do more of?

Further details can be found on the enclosed flyer and a contribution from sales will be made to the "Music for Dementia" charities.

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



THE
FECKENHAM
SESSIONS
TRADITIONAL
MUSICMAKING
at THE ROSE & CROWN

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 5th October

Feckenham READERS GROUP

Meets on

Thursday, 7th October - 7.45

This month's book:

HAMNET

By Maggie O'Farrell



Hatha
YOGA
Classes

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WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL



FLATS & SHARPS IN CONCERT

LIVE
& LOCAL

SATURDAY 16th OCTOBER - 7.30PM

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

Book online at www.feckhall.org

Phone bookings: 0333 666 3366



The Feckenham Forest History Society

The Story of SELLY MANOR

A talk by DANIEL CALLICOT

Tuesday, 12th October - 7.30pm

Feckenham Village Hall

Feckenham's Own...



Listen at
www.swansbrook.com

SWANSBROOK Radio

Send details of events for FREE listing to: whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk or call 892130

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FeckenOdeon 1 - Saturday, 30th October at 7.30pm

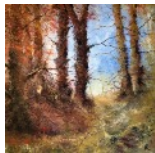
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CELEBRATING NATURE

An Exhibition of work by



Ian Ridley
& Julian Bull



Feckenham Village Hall
Saturday & Sunday, October 23rd & 24th
10am to 4pm

Send details of events for FREE listing to: whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk or call 892130

Feckenham Sessions



On a fine and pleasant summers evening in the garden at the Rose and Crown, the "Feckenham Sessions" restart after eighteen months of being unable to play as a result of the Covid 19 virus.

As for many, these have been testing times for musicians being unable to perform, and so the first session since "lockdown" was a much awaited event.

The sessions started some years ago now when Matt and Mel were approached to see if they would be interested in a group of musicians playing in their Pub perhaps once a month. Since then they have welcomed the event which has steadily become well known in the area, with between ten and twenty musicians turning out to play on the evening of the first Tuesday of the month.

The music, and song, is mainly from, but not restricted to, the "folk" genre, with melodeons, fiddles, citterns, concertinas, guitars, whistles, the occasional double bass, and even a hurdy gurdy on one occasion. Any acoustic based music, or song, is welcome, whether it be from the eighteenth or the twenty first century. Or if you just fancy a pleasant evening in the pub listening, then all are welcome to come along. You might even catch Mel singing, when she is not busy running the pub, she has a great voice.

Hopefully this will now continue, subject to any restrictions being imposed on such events, on the first Tuesday of each month, at around 8.00 pm, in the bar at the Rose and Crown.

Perhaps see you there

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How Feckenham answered the Wake Up Call!

Marion Chute

Early in 2021 the Wake Committee discussed the possibility of a Wake celebration this year but at that time it was unclear what rules there might be in June (attached to the Church Saints Day on the 21st). We decided to work towards a summer date and keep our fingers crossed that something would happen. We asked if anyone wanted to join in and



make it a Feckenham Wake Up and the Square Committee offered to work with us to



put on a summer event. The Friends of Feckenham Church, Feckenham Football Club, The FeckenOdeon and Ian Ridley also joined us in a week long Festival.



Initially our concerns were that we might not be able to comply with government rules for Covid safety but as the Spring progressed it seemed that the relaxation of regulations was happening,— we thought maybe we can and started to book some attractions. The Car Show was first to gather momentum and although we had decided not to advertise too widely, it was clear that there was lots of interest. Then local Covid cases began rising....and then fell quickly after the end of the school term. We were ON!

The FeckenOdeon show was first and showed the original Mission Impossible film. Once that was successfully accomplished, Ian Ridley offered a fascinating insight into his work as an artist. This was well attended and much enjoyed by everyone, I even got my watercolours out again after 30 odd years! Those who attended the Race Night at the newly refurbished and friendly Football Club enjoyed the usual highs and lows of such events although some people seemed unnaturally lucky! By Friday, the evening of the church treasure hunt, we were blessed with sunny weather and our detective work was accompanied by the calming music of a steel band and wine.

As the Saturday continued fine we realised that the Car Show was going to be successful very early on with the stream of classic cars arriving in the Village. As for the rest of the day, it felt like nearly normal Wake. Arrow Valley Brass arrived, Clive Chandler set up his Punch and Judy stall and wowed the crowd (courtesy of sponsorship by The Village Shop), The Hog Roast was as efficient as ever, the Bar, The Dog Show and the Prosecco Bar all did a roaring trade. The duck race took on a new and exciting appearance involving a paddling pool, pond pumps and some dizzy



ducks - What a masterpiece of creative thinking! By evening a collection of exhausted villagers collapsed on the Square and watched hot air balloons float majestically in the air whilst being serenaded by our local busker. What a day! Having expected that we might make a loss we made a profit and some of that was thanks to some generous donations.



Joining a Committee is sometimes seen as something that 'some people love doing but not for me'. It isn't – what we all love is the buzz on the day seeing it all happen. If you have a good idea to make the wake different in 2022 bring it along to us and we will try to make it work. **Thank you Feckenham for making 2021 a very special year.**

Kathy's autumn hedgrow

1 According to the Woodland Trust this is an oak knopper gall. These are on an immature tree at the end of the cricket pitch.

"The knopper gall is a relatively new arrival in the UK as the wasp only arrived in the 1950s. It's found mostly on pendunculate oaks in England and Wales. The wasp, *Andricus quercuscalicis*, lays its eggs on the freshly pollinated flowers of the oak, causing the offspring to deform the acorn for its own uses. This gall develops over the summer and falls to the ground in autumn when the larvae emerge."



2 This year the blackberries have been somewhat mean here in Worcestershire, but these are reasonably succulent. Although they are near Moors Lane allotments, I'm reasonably sure they are wild. In England, the devil spits or urinates on them at Michaelmas, so don't eat them after that! Used with an iron mordant, they make blue or purple dyes.

Calling all young writers of Feckenham

Writing Competition!

Are you 18 or under?

The Feckenham News would like to put YOUR words in print. Do you enjoy writing stories or poems? 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 poems, stories or even non-fiction pieces.

Good luck and we look forward to reading your writing!



DON'T TALK TO STRANGERS...

A thrilling thriller for the night before Halloween from the Master of Suspense... Two strangers meet on a train. They "exchange murders," each killing the person the other wants dead. They would both have airtight alibis for the time of the crime, and there would be no possible connection between killer and victim. One treats it as a joke... the other is deadly serious. Alfred Hitchcock directs Raymond Chandler's tense screenplay - based on Patricia Highsmith's first book. Mr Hitchcock promises that "Strangers on a Train" will make your hair stand on end - always assuming that you have any hair to stand on end... Strangers on a Train (PG) - Saturday, 30th October at 7.30pm



COMING SOON...

November's film is what's described as A cracking comedy thriller starring two of Britain's finest actors, each having a blast playing cat-and-mouse with the other. Ian McKellan and Helen Mirren star in "The Good Liar" showing on November 27th. It is possible that the popular Friday night FeckenOdeon 2 shows may return in November - watch this space!

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

Feckenham Parish Council

PARISH MEETING

A special Parish Meeting took place on 26th August at which Parishioners were able to ask questions about recent planning decisions. At least 30 members of public attended the meeting with Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning at Redditch Borough Council and Matt Dormer, Leader of Redditch Borough Council. Ruth suggested that in future the Parish Council could have a monthly catch-up meeting to discuss any matters of concern. Directly after the Parish Meeting the Parish Council held an extraordinary meeting to discuss further action

which may include a formal complaint to the Ombudsman or legal action. The Parish Council will take up the offer of a monthly meeting.

FECKENHAM IN BLOOM

The Parish Council agree to fund up to a maximum of £500 towards the costs of new planters, plants and bulbs around Feckenham as part of the Feckenham in Bloom project. Bulbs will be planted on the mornings of the 16 & 17 October (10.00-12.00ish). Volunteers are urgently needed as we have over 4,000 bulbs to plant around Feckenham. If you'd like to be involved please contact Jane, the clerk, on 01527 892522. New members are also welcome to join the group which meets monthly.



Community Mental Health – Volunteer Opportunity

ONSIDE is delighted to be supporting the transformation of community mental health services in Worcestershire, aimed at making mental health services more local, accessible and responsive.

In collaboration with Worcestershire Association of Carers and Springfield MIND we provide a range of support designed to address the wider social and practical needs of people living with mental ill health.

Working within the neighbourhood mental health teams alongside clinical and other mental health services, Community Mental Health Link Workers guide patients through local health, social care and neighbourhood services.

Community Mental Health Volunteers support adults:

- who have been signposted to community activities (e.g. walking groups, choirs, art groups), information and advice
- in both individual and group peer support settings

We are looking for volunteers who can offer compassionate practical support to those living with mental ill health.

Social Prescribing – Volunteer Opportunity

Working in partnership with Primary Care Networks (PCN's) across Worcestershire, Social Prescribing links patients with non-medical support to address people's needs in a holistic way. Social Prescribing aims to support individuals to take greater control of their health and feel more empowered to look after themselves.

Social Prescribing Volunteers support adults in a person-centred way, tailoring to the needs of the individual. This may be through practical, social and/or emotional support. Volunteers work one to one with individuals who may be experiencing lack of confidence, social

isolation, anxiety in social settings, lack of skills to access services.

Volunteers can support people to improve their health and wellbeing by

- connecting them to community/social groups and services
- support them in attending activities, mentoring and goal setting, signposting and guidance, wellbeing advice
- practical support such as helping with housing forms or travelling with a client due to poor mobility issues

The volunteer will be able to listen and understand the needs of the individual. Working with them on a either a one off basis, or several, typically up to 6 sessions.

Please get in touch

If either of these role's appeal to you and you want to make a positive difference to someone's wellbeing, we would really like to hear from you. We provide a DBS check and full training for the role.

Please contact:

Community Mental Health John Turner

John.turner@onside-advocacy.org.uk

Social Prescribing Rosie Cook Rosie.Cook@onside-advocacy.org.uk

www.onside-advocacy.org.uk



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Fecken-Crossword

Once again, Jamie, who is living in Chicago and has been unable to return

home for almost two years, has sent us his latest compilation in the New York Times style. He hopes you enjoy puzzling it out. Solution is on page 24.

Kitted Out

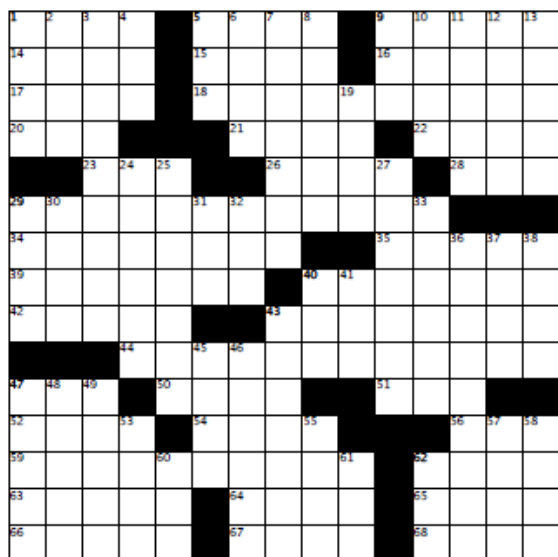
ACROSS

1. Start of an incantation
5. Computer clickers
9. End of a hangman's rope
14. Snake eyes
15. Opposite of rich
16. Hearing-related
17. Giraffe's prominent feature
18. Signal to start playing billiards?
20. Sense of self
21. Intermediate choir voice
22. Serenaded
23. Neither's partner
26. Designer Christian
28. For example
29. Loud noise from the court?
34. Taken to help you nod off
35. Vatican-related
39. Bacardi Breezer, e.g.
40. Wart
42. "OMG, that is soooo funny!"
43. Femme fatale
44. Weapon for breaking down barriers?
47. Soak (up)
50. Penn name
51. ___ Marino
52. Enterprise Rival
54. Raw materials
56. "Mr. Blue Sky" band, for short
59. Mr. Stewart, catching dinner?
62. Concept
63. ___ Milan
64. Egg cell
65. End-of-week cry
66. Must-haves
67. Drains
68. High ___

DOWN

1. Top of the line
2. Rare blood type, for short
3. Catch up

Jamie Hubball



4. Query
5. U.K. election winners
6. Inner Hebrides isle
7. Hip father
8. Blue
9. When doubled, a 2010s dance
10. Not just mine
11. Killer whales
12. Place for a sweater
13. Words of farewell
19. Nutcase
24. Something not repeated
25. Undulations
27. Stifle, as one's feelings
29. Old Russian ruler
30. Cockney greeting
31. ___ Paulo
32. Gravestone letters
33. Pacific battle site of 1943
36. Make anxious
37. HP competitor
38. Kosher bakery no-no
40. Moving vehicle
41. The Three Lions, on scoreboards
43. Roman goddess of wisdom
45. Illuminating gas
46. Ships' contents
47. 2000 U.S. Open winner
48. Sheepish
49. Ski trail
53. Take off
55. You may put stock in it
57. Sci-fi leader of the resistance
58. Fools
60. U.S. tax-collecting agency
61. Private social media exchanges, for short
62. "___ the least I can do"

Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

Seed Collecting and Sowing

I have been collecting seed of hardy perennials and bulbs in my garden since June, but the main collecting season is between August and the end of October.

In nature, seed is mostly distributed by simply dropping to the ground, but by other means too, such as wind (think of dandelions and maple keys), by being eaten by birds and then excreted far from the original plant (hawthorn for instance), by sudden 'exploding' seed capsules (Geranium, Lupin, Viola), by sticking to passers-by (Anchusa) or being shaken out of the seed pod as happens with poppies. But the most significant thing to observe when physically collecting seed is whether the seed capsule is ripe. A ripe capsule is usually one which has turned from green to brown and is often partly split open.

Collect the seed when the plant is dry, so probably in the afternoon. I put my seeds into separate, clean, margarine tubs and leave them to dry for a day or two in a warm place, which helps to release the seed. If the seed is of the 'explosive' type simply place the lid loosely on top of the tub (to still allow air circulation and evaporation but to retain the seed when it is discharged). It is absolutely essential to label each batch of seed as it is collected and I use small brown wage packets to both store the seed and to identify it as it is being collected.

Cleaning the seed of chaff is a satisfying procedure. You will need a couple of sieves with different mesh sizes, and two A4 sheets of white paper. The first step is to use the sieves to separate the seed from the dust and chaff by shaking it over one of the sheets of paper. Then

gently shake the sheet of paper, held at a gentle slope, so that the seed runs off the edge, and collect it on the second sheet. Throw away the rubbish left on the first sheet and repeat the process a few times. Any remaining chaff can be removed by hand. You will find that seeds from the various plants you select vary enormously from each other, and you will soon be able to build a useful knowledge of what to look for.

The final step is to packet the seed - as I have already mentioned I use small brown paper wage packets. Don't use plastic packets as they 'sweat'. Store the seed in a cool place until sowing time - I store mine in a cupboard in a north facing room.

For sowing, I use a 3:2:1 mixture of peat free compost, John Innes No.2, and horticultural grit which is passed through a 6mm sieve to ensure a loose friable mix, a boon when you come to separate and prick out the seedlings. Sow the seeds in 9cm pots from mid December to early March (about 25 seeds per pot), add a light covering of horticultural grit, and leave them outside in an open frame protected with a covering of fine mesh to foil hungry mice - set some traps, too, because mice seem to be able to get in anywhere, as I have found to my cost. I give the pots a gentle watering after sowing, but rarely need to water again before they germinate. Don't worry about severe frosts or snowfall as they both help the germination process.

Germination usually takes place readily during the early part of the following spring and they should be ready for potting up singly into 9cm pots by the end of April.

The thrill of seeing your seedlings emerge and flower is reserved only for those who take the trouble to sow them - it's so worth doing.

Stock and Bradley Gardening Club



The Gardening Club recommenced its meetings on 1st September at the Village Hall in Church Road with a splendid turnout of 40 members.

Our speaker should have been Tamsin Westhorpe, but she was unable to visit us due to an injury she suffered in her garden a few days beforehand. So Rob Cole stepped in at the last minute and gave an illustrated talk entitled 'Garden Styles' instead.

NEXT CLUB MEETING - Wednesday 6th October 2021 at 7:30pm

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 6th October and our speaker will be Howard Drury who will give a talk entitled 'An A to Z of Houseplants'. Howard is a regular speaker at our meetings and is a freelance writer and speaker on horticultural subjects.

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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Crossword Solution





The season has now ended, with the First XI finishing fourth in Division 1 of the Worcestershire County League while the Second XI drops to division 8. The Third XI (our development team) has enabled a number of our juniors to move into the senior game, all of whom have acquitted themselves very well.

The seven junior teams managed to fit in the many fixtures at home and away, helped by our tireless coaching team and by Neil Evans, who coordinated the matches and prepared wickets, sometimes several times in a week.

The ladies of the Feckenham Fillies softball team had – as usual – a lot of fun.

So it's all over for 2021 – at least in playing terms...

At the end of each season, we renovate the “square” of 25 pitches, which needs a lots of repair and TLC after a very hectic season. Straight after the last match, a team of volunteers scarified each wicket (to remove the thatch that builds up at soil level) applied a thin coating of fresh loam and then added fresh seed and nutrients. By the time that you read this the work will have been completed and the square fenced off as it recovers.

On September 23rd we hosted the annual sports day for Feckenham First School.

Inside the clubhouse, radiators will be installed and a rather old and inefficient wall heater retired, leading we hope to cosier evenings over the winter! On the equipment side, we will be finalising our winter maintenance plans shortly.

Finally, as the days shorten we begin to look ahead to the annual Bonfire Night, which is likely to take place on Friday 5th or Saturday 6th November - this will be confirmed.

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A man in a white t-shirt and black shorts is riding a roller coaster. The background is outdoors with trees.

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