

# FECKENHAM

October 2022

# NEWS



Published by Feckenham Church for the village.  
Editor Gilly Cooper - [feckenhamnews@gmail.com](mailto:feckenhamnews@gmail.com)  
(Copy Date 14<sup>th</sup>)

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# Feckenham News in September

## Dates for your Diary

### October

4th	Lunch Club
5th	S&B Gardening Club
11th	Readers Group History Society
14th	Feckenodeon 2
22 <sup>nd</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup>	Feckenham Artisans Exhibition
25 <sup>th</sup>	S&B Village Hall Natters
29th	Feckenodeon

### November

5th	Bonfire Night at the Cricket Club
12th	S&B Annual Quiz
19 <sup>th</sup>	Jazz Night

### Regular Sessions

Mondays Restorative Yoga  
Thursdays Bridge; Hatha Yoga; Pilates  
First Tuesday of the month:  
Feckenham Sessions and  
Feckenham Forest History Society  
Third Monday of the month: WI

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## Front Cover

Photo taken by the editor

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

What a month it has been. Who would have imagined that the country would have a new Prime Minister and a new monarch within a week?



Whatever our political views or thoughts on the monarchy, we have seen the British public and those that serve at their very best.

During most of the mourning period your editor has been abroad, though I was in the village to take a few pictures of our church with the flag at half mast and then at full mast briefly when Charles III was crowned. Since then I have been watching the public reaction and the royal family with interest. I wonder how many villagers joined the huge queue to see the Queen lying in state?

As our own mark of this moment, I asked villagers who had had contact with the Queen to send in their thoughts and memories of the occasions and I include them over a few pages.

Some people have been keeping the magazine for 30 years and more. It is somewhat of an historical record of our small part of the UK. I hope future generations will enjoy looking back at us.

I once saw the Queen, though she didn't see me. It was her last trip on the Royal Yacht Britannia. She stopped at the Isle of Arran where I was on holiday to open the new(ish) distillery in Lochranza. There was new jetty for her in Brodick which I think was only used for that occasion and from there she was driven up the coast to the distillery. There were crowds cheering her along the way and I waved at her as she passed by.

On a much more local and sad note, we say goodbye to James Somers who died aged 31. He is remembered in the magazine in words from his parents.

More lightheartedly, it has been brought to my attention that the man who created a calendar: The Roundabouts of Redditch 2003, has been having another success with his more recent one. This time Kevin

Beresford whose mission is to celebrate the ordinary, has produced one depicting the benches of Redditch which includes one on our village green. On a very cold day earlier this year I went out with my cycling group on a tour of the best of the benches. Someone had created a route that took in most of the benches. It was so cold that we curtailed the ride but we didn't miss out the Feckenham bench and many stopped in the village for a warming cuppa!

There's plenty going on in the village this month coming. It's good to see that the relatively new Feckenham Artisans are having an exhibition and FeckenhamOdeon is offering 2 films. Lots to keep us busy and entertained. One concern is that those organising events and supporting committees are becoming ever older and few new people step up. If you have any spare time to offer, please get in touch. If you want to let me know, I can try to match your interest to a village group. On that note, I'd like to put together a register of village organisations as an insert to the magazine, but that's for another month.

## Village Notices and Letters

I thought I would write to introduce us as we're new to Feckenham. We've taken a house on the Dunstall Estate while we look for an acre plus of land on which to either build our new home or restore/renovate an existing building. We moved here a few weeks ago, I'm Susannah and I'm a philanthropy fundraiser for a national charity. My partner is Stephen who is a self-employed carpenter specialising in the restoration of historic buildings, bespoke kitchens and window installations.

We've found the Rose and Crown :-)) and the village shop and have received a warm welcome at the Cricket Club, we're lucky enough to hear leather on willow from our lovely garden.

I would love to take up riding again so if there are any riding schools in the area or any groups hiring horses for general trekking around the area that would be awesome.

We look forward to a long and happy stay in Feckenham and ideally settling here permanently if we can find a suitable plot of land.

Susannah Mansfield

## Feckenham Artisans: Julian Bull

The Feckenham Artisans group would like to invite everyone to our inaugural Autumn Exhibition on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October in the Village Hall.

Doors will be open between 10 and 4 both days and admission is free.

The exhibition will feature new work by the 11 local artisans and will include a wide range of painting styles, needlework, felting, printing, digital art and photography, artisan flowers, greeting cards, finger rings, ECO t-shirts and small furniture!

What everything has in common is that it is original work that has been made by hand in the village. With Christmas not far away this will be an ideal opportunity to source some individual gifts whilst also supporting our local artisan makers.

## Update on Proposed Roundhill Wood Solar Development

On 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022, Wychavon District Council issued their response to JBM Solar's Screening Application (W/22/01154/SCR). Their conclusion was that they agreed with the objectors to the scheme that the proposal was of sufficient scale and scope that the developers need to provide a full Environmental Impact Assessment with their planning application. JBM Solar have stated that they, *'haven't had time yet to assess a revised timescale for submission, but it will inevitably take at least a month or two to prepare the necessary environmental statement. The application will be submitted at some point this year, hopefully in late Autumn.'* Details on the scheme can be found here: [www.rwsf.co.uk](http://www.rwsf.co.uk)

## Update on Church Clock John Eaton

This week I spoke to Cumbria Clock Company. The addition of new electric winding gear, timing mechanism and sorted out the chiming gear is completed. It has been on test and is now ready to be returned to Feckenham and installed in the tower. The total cost is confirmed at £8000 and so far our Buy a Bong appeal has raised £4833 including some Gift Aid where applicable. We are short of £3167 although I do have some pledges which are still to come in and will get us close to the target.

It is not too late to buy a bong or make a donation. Any money left over after we have paid Cumbria Clocks will go into a fund known as Clock Maintenance Fund. Cumbria Clocks visit the clock each year and carry out ongoing maintenance for which we pay an annual fee which will be paid from the Clock Maintenance Fund.

We are expecting the clock to be back and working within a month. Anyone wishing to buy a bong or donate money : please see the leaflet enclosed with the magazine.

**BOLT 23.4.2011-12.9.2022**

As Bolt loved his walks in and around Feckenham so much and especially meeting up with lots of his 'doggie' friends each day I wanted to pass on the sad news that he died peacefully at home yesterday. He was a lovely old boy and when meeting dog walkers would greet the owner first in the hope of a treat.

Sue Darby

## Villagers' Memories of HRH Queen Elizabeth II



I have been lucky enough to visit Buckingham Palace as a guest on two occasions. My first trip was to attend a garden party and had official parking permit to park on the mall which felt very grand! On our way to the entrance an Australian couple asked us where we were going, and I said, "to have tea with the Queen" to which they replied, "that sounds like fun" and promptly joined the queue. I did not feel it was up to me to tell them it was invitation only...

I was amazed at the size of the gardens and the sheer number of people tucking into the dainty sandwiches, scones and cakes all washed down with copious cups of tea all served in China cups. Even the portable toilets were beautiful!

We were allowed to wander and catch sight of the indoor swimming pool, summer house and amazing plants and trees. As we were making our way around, we were asked to wait as the royal party were about to return to their private apartment. They passed by and I was close enough to touch but thought they may not have appreciated it. I would

have enjoyed a chat with the Queen.

As we left the Palace through one of their many exits, the footman waved goodbye and said he looked forward to meeting us all again when we returned for our honours. Never did I think this would happen to me.

I was wrong and was invited back to Buckingham Palace for an MBE in 2002. You are allowed to take three guests, and as we were allowed to park in the Palace grounds itself Julian drove in. The first question from Palace security being, was he the Chauffeur? As soon as you enter the Palace you are parted from your guests and wait in one of the formal rooms for your turn. Eventually one of the Equerries came to talk to us about the proceedings. We were told it was Ma'am as in Jam and not 'Maam' and to walk on the second syllable of your surname and on no account to show the Queen your back! We also had a quick lesson in how to curtsy or bow. At that point, my nerves kicked in.

There was an older lady in front of me whose nerves also kicked in and as she walked towards the Queen was pirouetting around as she had completely forgotten what she had to do! Despite showing the Queen her back, it was not held against her, and she duly collected her award for services to swimming,

Upon the second syllable, I walked towards the Queen and made my curtsy without falling over. I was asked "what does one do?" and "where did one live?" My medal was pinned to my dress, and I exited right, it was all over. I moved to the side and went to join my guests. There were official photos and the opportunity to buy the video. It was an amazing day and experience; one I will never forget.

Jane Bull

Like everyone else, I imagine, I have many memories of the Queen Elizabeth II. As a very young child, I discovered that she had come to the throne the year after I was born, and thought this was such a significant fact (for her) that I had to be dissuaded from writing to tell her about it. Just into senior school, my class were allowed to go and line the street as she arrived in York for some event or other. We were held back by the police until, to my amazement, they allowed us to surge forward as the car passed. Telling my parents about it later, I was equally amazed to find out that this was normal



behaviour. Strange things, adults. Some decades later I stood outside Hereford Cathedral as a representative of the Heritage Lottery Fund and there is a picture of her walking past me with a general smile. I did talk to The Duke of Edinburgh though. Finally, I was pleased to be given my MBE by Her Majesty a few years ago when I was told she was doing "light duties. Only 80 investitures today". We had a brief chat about the difficulty of giving away lottery players' money "and doing it fairly" as she insisted firmly.

It seems strange that, having worked alongside Her Majesty's government in my professional life, it would now be His Majesty's. Strange, but right. As an historian, I approve of continuity. As a modern Brit, I am prepared for change.

Kathy Gee

## What's On at Stock & Bradley Village Hall? (sbvh.org.uk)

### The Perfect Venue for wedding receptions, parties & 'socialising'

#### Village Hall Natters—Voices of the Past—Tues. Sept 27th 7.45

Dr. Mike Jenkins from Hanbury will talk about the history of our local place names and what they say about life in years gone by. We will be giving away a copy of Mike's book to one lucky entry ticket holder. Glass of wine or beer included with entry.—£5



#### Village Hall Natters—Travels with my Camera —Oct 25th 7.45

Rosemary Morris from Inkberrow is a passionate wildlife photographer who will talk about her experiences with her camera and again we will be giving away a copy of Rosemary's book to one lucky entry ticket holder. Glass of wine or beer included with entry.—£5



#### The Annual Stock & Bradley Quiz— Nov 12th - Details to follow

The quiz (with food & bar) will be compiled and hosted by local man Harry Heath who has appeared in both Mastermind and University Challenge! He assures us that it wont be too taxing!!

Tickets - [chair@sbvh.org.uk](mailto:chair@sbvh.org.uk) - Roger Pask 07976165191 or [secretary@sbvh.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sbvh.org.uk) - Nikki Dean - 01386 792555

In the spring of 2007 the company I was running procurement for won the Queens Award for Innovation ( formerly Export ) for the second time in three years making us the only the second



multi-award winner in the region after Rolls Royce. I'd passed on the chance to collect the award on the first time – but not this time especially when I

learned that second award winners are granted a private audience with Her Majesty. What an amazing day it was ; I was presented to the Queen and the Duke, met the majority of the family and had a fascinating conversation with a very well-informed Princess Anne on the threats and opportunities posed by the emerging BRIC nations. G & T and canapes were endlessly offered and the whole event ran for 5 or 6 hours before I left aglow from a remarkable experience stepping out – slightly light-headed - into the warm London night.

Howard Bellaby

My 2 sisters and I were on a trip to Windsor and we knew The Queen was in residence because the flag was raised. We asked a local policeman if the Queen was actually at home. He told us she had gone to church and was having a cup of tea with Prince Andrew in Ascot then she was coming back to the castle driving a Jag with her body guard sitting next to her. He told us to stand at the rear gate which we did and much to our delight after a short wait she arrived and waved to the three of us. It made our day .

Annie Fieldhouse



My mum and dad outside Buckingham palace. Dad was being presented to HM The Queen for services to policing. He was chief of police, often looked after the royals. We were living in the old police house in Alcester Road at the time.

Sarah Coyne

I clearly remember when the the King died in 1952. I was 5 and went to school in Eltham, and our class room teacher was called Mrs. King. One morning when I got to school, all the children were saying that Mrs King had died during the night. So we were all surprised and a bit confused when she came in and took the register.

Still in London, shortly after the Coronation in 1953 The Queen came past our house in an open car waving to the people lining the street. I waved my Union Jack as instructed, as she came past waving to everybody on the opposite side of the street.

Peter Teisen

## James Somers



his young adult life working long hard hours in various establishments never very far from home. He had a real passion for food both cooking and eating it but his real foodie love was when he did desserts in a pastry kitchen. While he was well enough he made the lovely brownies that were sold in the village shop which proved very popular.

In February 2016 his daughter Olivia was born here in the village, he was immediately smitten with her from the moment he first met her. He proved to be a loving and caring father who had endless patience with her and even though the relationship with her mother didn't last and she moved to Derby he would have her every weekend and holiday and just be a wonderful Daddy.

Unfortunately over the last couple of years James's health declined but as he wasn't suitable for a heart lung transplant he was life limited. Throughout all he had to endure he never complained, always making the best of the situation and still interested in people and always had a smile for them and bore what life threw at him with great dignity.

RIP our beloved son James Somers

For donations in James' memory please send to the Somerville Heart Foundation <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tracey-somers2>

Gareth & Tracey Somers

We have been overwhelmed by the kindness and support that has been extended to us at a very sad time and for all the people that came to the funeral to celebrate James's life and share their memories of him. We would like to thank everyone for their kind words, the cards, the flowers, the offers of help that has been extended to us immediately after his death and ongoing.

James touched many peoples lives, as we witnessed at the funeral, many of whom he grew up with in this village where he was born. He was born with a congenital heart condition and spent quite a lot of his formative years in and out of hospital having his first open heart surgery at just three months old, followed by many more procedures and operations. James attended the nursery school before moving on to the village school, he went to Youth Club and took part in many village events including the pantomimes. Although paths diverged when he left the village school as they all went to different senior schools, he still kept in contact with many of his friends in the village. James went on to train as a chef and spent

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## Feckenham Flower Show

After the sad death of HM Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday 8 September there was much discussion and deliberation as to whether the Flower Show should go ahead on Saturday 10 September. It was agreed it should, as it was generally felt Her Majesty who had a great love of flowers and Flower Shows, would have been happy for it to do so. A letter of condolence was sent to HM King Charles III and a photo of Her Majesty, together with the wording of our letter of condolence, in a black frame was displayed at the show. Several people who came to the show also thought the Queen would have been supportive of it going ahead.



The children from Feckenham First School had prepared artwork on the theme of the Platinum Jubilee which became a celebration of her life. We are grateful to the staff at the school for continuing to support the Children's classes in the show, and also all our other exhibitors without whom we



would not have a Show.

There were 28 adult exhibitors entering the various classes, 3 more than in 2019 which was encouraging. The total number of items entered was down largely due to the effects of the hot weather this summer. The judges deliberate over the winner of the Flower Show Shield at each show and this year they "unanimously awarded it to Jackie Cartwright" for her beautifully decorated cake in the shape of the church. The cup for the most classes entered was won by Tracey Styler with 19 classes entered, and she also won four other cups for her flower & vegetable entries. Other cup winners were Steve Fletcher, Arthur Brassington, Gay Bligh, Jan Holmes and Jon Ratcliffe for most points by a new exhibitor. The Children's Craft Trophy was won by Alexa, from the First School, for her beautiful painting of a crown of flowers on the Queen's head.

Our thanks go to all the extra volunteers who set up the hall on the Friday evening, cleared the hall Saturday afternoon and produced the cakes and cups of tea served in the afternoon. We would also like to thank the Rose & Crown, Botany Bay Nurseries and Winfields and other unknown donors for their generous donation of raffle prizes.

Alan Jones, President of Feckenham Flower Show



## BIG BAND JAZZ

The glorious sound of the Big Band is returning to Feckenham in November! The 18-piece *Out of the Blue Jazz Band* will be generously performing at the Village Hall at 7pm on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November in aid of the Sick Children's Trust, and will feature vocalist Jan Harris. There will be something for everyone: classic swing, latin, blues, soul, pop and even rock & roll. There'll be a bar and a raffle – all in aid of the SCT which provides support and accommodation for the families of chronically sick children while in hospital – a benefit that assists in the healing process. Tickets £10 each from The Village Shop, The Rose & Crown, Jill Rowe (892666) or Shirley Harman (892140).

## Feckenham Village Hall

### NURSERY

The new operators of Feckenham Nursery regret to announce that the facility at Feckenham Village Hall will not operate this autumn. Little Men and Misses Nurseries have invested in new equipment at the Hall but have been unable to recruit sufficient staff to operate safely. This is a problem being experienced throughout the early learning sector. It is hoped that the nursery will be able to reopen in the near future.



### BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES!

The first show in the new Live & Local (formerly Shindig) season arrives at Feckenham Village Hall next month.

**"The Head Gardener"** features real garden design, visual surprises and delights a plenty - this horticultural theatre show is perfect for those who love their garden or those who don't quite know what to do with their green space.

Gardening is good for you! It seems more and more people have been embracing the simple pleasure of growing things. Brothers Jake and Warren Oldershaw have propagated a delightful theatre show during which they'll design, draught and bring to life a unique and beautiful garden; share fascinating stories of different plants and species; tell personal tales of why gardening is good for you... and throw a few songs into the mix. They'll even let you walk around the garden they create on stage!

### THE HEAD GARDENER

**Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm**

Tickets for shows at Feckenham Village Hall 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.feckhall.org](http://www.feckhall.org)

# OCTOBER CHURCH SERVICES



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Church Warden: Ann Mathews 892180

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

Website: <http://feckenhamchurch.org.uk/>

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



PARISH CHURCH  
OF  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
FECKENHAM

## Services for October 2022

2 <sup>nd</sup> October	10.30am	Eucharist	Revd B. Wheatley
9 <sup>th</sup> October	10.30am	Harvest Eucharist	Revd B. Wheatley
16 <sup>th</sup> October	6.30pm	Evensong	Fr Glenn Reading
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading
30 <sup>th</sup> October	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading

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

Due to illness, Mass will not be held at St John Fisher and Thomas More until further notice.

Mount Carmel 6 pm Sunday Mass is now the Live Streamed Mass.

Link: [www.eventcast.uk/live](http://www.eventcast.uk/live) (Type the link into the browser)

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

Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898

## Fr Glen writes...

Sometimes when I sit to write an article for a parish magazine, I struggle to know what to write, today the challenge seems to be there is so much to write about.

As I write we are still in a time of national mourning for our late sovereign Queen Elizabeth. I am sure we've all been touched by some of the memories and tributes that people have paid over the last few days. We've had the chance to record our own thanks and memories in the book of condolence in Church. The Queen's life and reign was blessed by God for its longevity and for many of us she has always been a permanent presence in our nation and culture. Her Majesty's life was one of outstanding public service and a bold example of a life lived in the Christian faith. It is only right and proper that we have this time of mourning, reflection, and remembrance.

This time of year is often one where we look both forward to the future and new things beginning, but also backwards in a time of remembering. We look forward to a new era as King Charles III becomes monarch, while also having a new Prime Minister. We pray for both the King and the Prime Minister as they take of these new roles and challenges.

This time of year is also one of remembrance. We remember and give thanks to God for his goodness and abundance at the time of the harvest and in November we will pause once again and rightfully remember all those that made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

The act of remembering and giving thanks also asks for a response from us. As we give thanks for God's blessings to us, as we reflect on lives given in service, the challenge for us is to commit ourselves to serving our community and playing our part to build a world and future where everyone can thrive together.

In this season of looking forward with hope and looking back with thanks everyone will be welcome in church to bring our own thanks and prayers before God, do look out for details of upcoming services and please come and join us.

May God bless you and those you love.



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# WHAT'S ON IN

## FECKENHAM Artisans

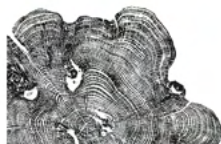


### AUTUMN EXHIBITION

OCTOBER 22nd & 23rd  
10 - 4

Feckenham Village Hall  
High St, B96 6HN

Free Admission



## FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

Untied Artists present

### THE HEAD GARDENER

BLOOMING  
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SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER - 7.30PM

Tickets £13.50 from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown

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Phone bookings: 0333 666 3366

## JAZZ for CHARITY

### Out of the Blue

Jazz Band

With vocalist JAN HARRIS

Saturday, 19th November - 7pm

Feckenham Village Hall

Proceeds to The Sick Children's Trust

Tickets (£10) from The Village Shop.

The Rose & Crown or call 01527 892666



### The Sick Children's Trust

We're here, so families can be together

Send details of events for FREE listing to:

# FECKENHAM



THE  
FECKENHAM  
SESSIONS  
TRADITIONAL  
MUSICMAKING  
at THE ROSE & CROWN

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm  
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 4th October

**FIREWORK  
DISPLAY**

**Saturday,  
5th November**

At Feckenham Cricket Club

**Bonfire lighting at**

**about 6.45 pm**

**Fireworks at 7.30pm**

Feckenham READERS GROUP

Meets on

Tuesday, 11th October - 7.45

This month's book:

**QUARANTINE**

By JIM CRACE



THE  
FECKENODEON CINEMA  
SOCIETY



**The French Minister**  
Quai d'Orsay 15

**FeckenOdeon 2 Friday, 14th October at 8pm**

SIDNEY POITIER ROD STEIGER  
**IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT** 12A



**FeckenOdeon 1 Saturday, 29th October at 7.30pm**

The FeckenOdeon Cinemas  
at Feckenham Village Hall

Tickets for all shows from **The Rose & Crown and Village Shop**  
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\*Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings

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

The Feckenham Forest History Society

**GORDON OF KHARTOUM**

A talk by Max Keen

Tuesday, 11th October - 7.30pm

Feckenham Village Hall

whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk or call 892130

## The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



### A FRENCH SCANDAL...

The FeckenOdeon's smaller cinema, FeckenOdeon 2, is hosting two events as part of the 2022 French Film Festival UK.

The first of these films is **The French Minister** (Quai d'Orsay) a razor-sharp comedy about dodgy dealings in high places. Young graduate Arthur Vlamrick is hired as a speechwriter for the tough-talking Minister of Foreign Affairs and, rather than idealism, what he finds is a world filled with ambition and dirty deals. Think "Yes Minister" with subtitles - and a hard edge! (FR 2013)

### THE FRENCH MINISTER

Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> October - 8pm



### A HARD MAN FOR A HARD JOB

"In the Heat of The Night" is showing as a tribute to the great Sidney Poitier, who died early this year. Mr Poitier plays an African-American detective, Virgil Tibbs, who investigates the death of a businessman in Mississippi and comes face-to-face with racism in the southern United States in the process. Rod Steiger is the police chief who can't believe a black man can be a cop. Superb performances in a whodunnit with very hard edges. (USA 1967)

### IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT

Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> October - 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  
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[www.fecknodeon.co.uk](http://www.fecknodeon.co.uk)

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## Weekly Fraud and Scam update from West Mercia Police - Economic Crime Unit - 06/09/2022

### THE RISING COST OF LIVING

We are all very aware of the current rising cost of living and no more so than the Scammers and Fraudsters who prey on the public's emotions with tempting offers of rebates, discounts and prize awards. It is quite likely that these will be on the increase in the coming months.

At over one third of the reported crime, Fraud is extremely high on the number of the reported crimes in the region. Even more worryingly the actual number of Frauds and Scams may well be much higher as many victims are too ashamed or embarrassed to report the crime.

Never be afraid to report any such Frauds immediately to **Action Fraud** at the contact details at the foot of this message.

Whilst everyone wants to make savings, our awareness must be raised to the many and various, very authentic looking e-mails and texts, as the Fraudsters up their game in light of the current crisis.

For example, Scammers are taking advantage of the cost of living crisis and impersonating energy providers in very authentic looking emails to trick people into sharing their personal details.

A typical example of a current scam, now circulating, comes from British Gas offering an energy bill rebate of £315.

- ï The email looks genuine as it uses the British Gas logo and brand and may even contain the account number
- ï However it is not addressed to the account holder, only the email address of the customer
- ï British Gas will always address you by your full name or surname, and will never ask you confirm or provide personal details via an email

- ï Always check such emails for spelling and grammar errors, and check out the sender's email address to make sure it is, as listed, on the company website or on any invoices you have
  - ï Finally, never click on any links within such emails. The email may not ask for cash, but sharing your personal details may open the door for scammers to access your bank accounts
- Whilst this is just one example, the tricks and ploys used by Scammers are many and various, as highlighted in previous messages.

Examples of other fake messages circulation at the moment include the following:

- ï An email claiming to be from OFGEM claiming the recipient is due a refund; OFGEM would never make such an offer and the email address of the sender [info@rebate-ogem.com](mailto:info@rebate-ogem.com) is obviously fake.
  - ï Phone Calls claiming to be from your local authority asking for bank details to make payments for Energy Rebates or Household Support Funds. Local Authorities will never ask for such details over the phone.
  - ï Fake parcel delivery messages claiming to be from genuine Parcel Delivery services, with clickable links to make a payment of a delivery charge or provide personal details – *never be tempted to "Click"*
  - ï A plethora of fake money saving schemes such as food giveaways and fuel gift cards
- Finally, as people search for bargains through online second hand sales sites they become easy targets by paying for items which never arrive or even exist. Research the seller first, then try and pay by credit card where possible or select another secure method of payment that protects the payer.

### Take Five To Stop Fraud

- Stop: Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- Challenge: Could it be fake? It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- Protect: If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at [actionfraud.police.uk](https://actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

For further information visit:

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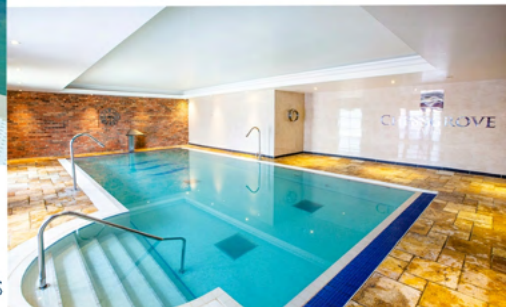
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## State of the Church Ceiling and Roof

A quick update on the condition of the Church ceiling and roof. As many will know we recently suffered a plaster fall in the church, for no apparent reason, which was concerning, although the heat wave almost certainly contributed. A full inspection was carried out by the Church's Architect (using a hoist, so up close). The verdict is that both ceiling and roof have "reached the end of their working life" (they were put up we think in about 1850) and so need replacing the in 'short to medium term' which means in the next 5 years.

This will be a significant project and will require funds in the order of £250k (from the very rough estimates we have). This eventuality was one of the major motivations behind the formation of The Friends of Feckenham Parish Church, following the formal decision of the PCC to waive its ancient right to levy the costs on the local community (you'll be pleased to know!). However, the money still needs to be raised. Grants are available but they often take the form of matched funding which requires the community to raise monies and it's a competitive process. Your support on this would be very gratefully received and look out for developments on that.

In practical terms, the view of the PCC is that the Church is safe to open, with no imminent threat of further falls of plaster. However, members of the PCC will be undertaking regular (ie weekly) safety checks to assess and spot any further developing risk. We have a protocol using pictures taken from the same places and then comparing week on week.

We are now moving into the planting / re-planting phase of this project in the Churchyard. During the autumn the flower meadows will be planted, indeed the preparation for that has already begun. We will also be planting several new trees. If you walk around the Churchyard you will see posts marking the position and variety we are planning to plant. They include three Oaks, a Black Pear, a Cherry, a Juniper / Golden Yew, Hawthorn, a Maple and if we are allowed, some disease resistant Elms. We will also be adding further log piles and a further hibernaculum. There is also more bulb and plug planting to be carried out.

We continue to be very grateful to all the volunteers who mow, strim and generally tend the churchyard and keep it 'managed' (ie the bits we want to look tidy are tidy and the rest is managed to encourage wildlife). We have a number of people retiring from that group this year, having done their stint, so if you have a couple of hours in the year to join the mowing rota, or to take a small patch to strim, I'd really like to hear from you - Jeff Matthews 892180 [jeff@the-madison-group.co.uk](mailto:jeff@the-madison-group.co.uk) .

### Dedicate a Tree to Someone Special

As mentioned, we are planting between 9 to 12 new trees in the churchyard. If you would like to dedicate one to someone special then please get in touch. In return for a donation (which will go to the bio-diversity project) we can make one of the trees your natural memorial to a lost loved one or ones. We will arrange for a plaque to mark it with an agreed message. Get in touch with either Ann or Jeff Matthews 892180 [jeff@the-madison-group.co.uk](mailto:jeff@the-madison-group.co.uk) to discuss what you might want.

Who knows what is hidden in the Recreation Ground ? Many of us in Feckenham may not be aware of the extent and importance of the archeological site which is listed as a “Scheduled Ancient Monument” (SAM) in the heart of the village. The local Archeology Group has commissioned a series of surveys and Worcester CC Archeology Department has prepared a report and Conservation Management Plan (Plan) to restore and maintain the site.

The SAM consists of an unusual large double moat surrounding most of the playing field but is obscured by vegetation that has taken over. It is owned by Redditch BC which is responsible by law for its protection and maintenance.

Due to neglect and a lack of council funding in recent years the moats have become choked and very overgrown with brambles, stingers and thorn bushes. Access to the moats and ramparts has become severely restricted and the shape and contours are no longer easily discernable. The vegetation is in danger of disturbing the shape and underlying archeology and causing further deterioration to the site.



The Plan was drawn up in consultation with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and Natural Networks as part of the Feckenham Biodiversity programme for the churchyard and cricket field. It includes removing excess vegetation on the banks and in the ditches but retaining healthy mature trees and boundary hedges to preserve the picturesque view surrounding the site.

Redditch BC has agreed step up maintenance by cutting back the excess growth followed by regular mowing to prevent further deterioration and re-growth. Work will start in October when the birds nesting season is over and will be carried out over several years. Some funding has been raised and could be used to carry out additional work not covered by the council.

Weeds, brambles and undergrowth will be cut back and dead and fallen or diseased trees cut down. Tree roots will not be taken out as that would disturb any underlying archeology and expose the soil to erosion. Thorny scrub that prevents easy access will be cleared. This vegetation is not rare or of special worth as wildlife habitat but some cuttings and dead wood will be stacked on site to provide shelter for creepy crawlies etc. Wildflower seeds will be sowed in the area beyond the children’s playground this autumn to create a wildflower meadow and increase biodiversity using native species.

The banks and ditches will be grassed over in due course and mowed regularly. This will create a sward and protect the archeology below ground and allow greater visibility and access. Pathways will be opened up around the whole site.

The aim is to preserve this unusual monument as a special feature of the village and make it a point of interest that can be appreciated and valued by residents and visitors alike. The programme will eventually reveal the true extent and shape of the monument and allow everyone to walk in the moats and along the banks. Information boards will be positioned discretely to explain the history and importance of the site.

Chris Bristow

Questions and comments to Jenny Clements  
Chair of the Archeology Group  
jennifer.clements@openreach.co.uk,

## Feckenham Village Shop Alan Slater

During the last two years, a constant theme of my monthly articles has been the need for more local people to come forward and join our Volunteer Team at the Village Shop. Without such help, the Shop (your Shop) would cease to exist, a situation all of us who live in Feckenham should seek to avoid. As an integral part of our Village, the Shop serves as a local convenient retail outlet, a social hub and a substantial financial supporter of many local events and organisations. Just three examples of the importance the Shop is to our Community. That importance is certainly recognised by Estate Agents who always mention our existence in their particulars when advertising properties for sale in the Village.

My regular pleas for additional help seems to have worked as I'm delighted to report that since the beginning of this year, we have had an influx of new Volunteers - so many that we recently held a get together at the Shop for our newbies where they were able to meet each other and the Members of the Board over a glass of Pimms. It was a lovely occasion that enabled us to welcome them as part of the Team and thank them for coming forward and joining us in our hour of need. Of course that doesn't mean that we have put up the 'no vacancies' sign, we always need more help, so please come forward if you have a couple of hours to spare, you also will be made most welcome. May I thank Kate Farmiloe for organising the event and all our Team Leaders who gave up their time to attend.

Apart from our extensive range of essential everyday items and our excellent café, may I remind you that we also have fresh fruit and vegetables delivered twice a week from a local supplier. So if you are running short of something to go with your evening meal, there is a good chance



that we will be able to come to your rescue and avoid you having to make an emergency dash to the nearest supermarket.

Finally a thank you to all the Volunteers who have agreed to bake cakes for our Macmillan Coffee Morning and to those who have generously donated raffle prizes. I'm looking forward to reporting on what I'm sure will be another successful occasion in next month's magazine.

As always, thank you for continuing to support your local shop.

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## Feckenham Cricket Club - Bob Gordon

The season is over now and if all goes as expected the square will have been scarified, seeded, treated and had its annual dressing of fine loam. Within a few weeks we should have fresh grass visible that will consolidate over winter, be nurtured into spring next year to give us the best possible surface for batting and bowling.

To catch up with our teams finish to the season, it was a little mixed once more. The firsts had a high-scoring win against Old Hill who were put in to bat and reached 308 in 50 overs, young Owen Rae taking 4 wickets. In reply, we passed that total in 46 overs, Fraser Duggan hitting an unbeaten 151. Coombs Wood visited at the end of August and were bowled out for 41 in 15 overs, a target that we reached in the 5<sup>th</sup> over. The first finished 6<sup>th</sup> in Division 3 of the Worcestershire County League.

The seconds and thirds had difficult finishes to the season. Let's move on.

For our juniors, the season came to a formal end on Sunday 11th September with several teams involved in matches. The U12s had already won their Regional Pairs League for the second consecutive season. They unfortunately lost a tight semi-final match at Swindon (Staffs). The U13 lost their T20 match to top of the table Wolverhampton and the U11s had their T20 game at Belbroughton cancelled due to a wet outfield and finished mid-table in that league.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September saw the regular match against a BBC/Pebble Mill XI. This was a close and exciting finish that involved a number of our junior players and resulted in the BBC winning by a few runs.

This reinforced the view that our young players have developed really well this season – the future is bright indeed.

With the season over, activity is focussed on ground and equipment maintenance. Mowing of course continues until the grass stops growing and machinery is prepared for winter hibernation. A large branch had partially broken from a tree at the top of the ground and we are arranging its removal.

Outside cricket, we have started preparation for the village's annual bonfire and firework display, which this year will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Anything wooden that you no longer need can be left under the trees at the Whirly Hole corner of the ground.



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## Feckenham Square Management Committee



### SQUARE PIRATES

For the first time in three years Fun on The Square actually happened. On the 20<sup>th</sup> August the Square Committee's (normally) annual fundraiser swung into action with a lively evening themed around the Pirates of the Caribbean. The original centrepiece was to be a large rock pool into which people could be made to walk the piratical plank - but the threat of a drought put paid to that idea - instead, youngsters were invited to fling wet sponges at hapless parents trapped in the stocks. Entertainment was supplied by the aerial gymnasts of Cirque L'Amour and by the Caribbean sounds of The Mighty Jamma - the Birmingham Steelpan Soloist.

Caribbean curries and other delicacies were on offer alongside a barbecue and the licensed bar did a roaring trade. The weather for once behaved itself and the event attracted large numbers of village people to enjoy a pleasant evening in the heart of the community.

As we go to press the financial calculations are not complete but it's safe to say that the event will have made a very substantial contribution to the Square's Maintenance fund and will have helped to keep Feckenham's centrepiece in fine fettle for another year.

The Committee would like to thank everyone who came to the event - especially those who came in costume - as well as everyone who gave their time and effort to make it such a success. In particular thanks are due to Tom Edwards who supplied hay bales and Charlie Willetts who organised the card payment infrastructure which is so essential to events these days.

Financial results will be published when the sums are complete.



## Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

### THINGS I DON'T LIKE ABOUT GARDENING

I would not be at all happy without a garden to nurture - it gives me such continual pleasure, exercise and excitement. But there are lots of things which I don't like or which annoy.

Why is it, for instance, after I have spent an entire morning weeding an area in the garden, that I go out in the afternoon and find seedlings, and even larger weeds, that I have missed?

Why does it start to rain on the morning when I had planned to mow the lawns, and why, when I have managed to set aside a whole afternoon to do a particular job, do friends come round for a chat? And why when they ask to see the garden did it look better last week, or will look better next week?

And do you also find, when you get out your hedge trimmer, shredder, strimmer, etc. that it decides to malfunction or that you run out of fuel and have none in the spare can.

Plants which fail are often a mystery and a disappointment, especially when two in a group of three are successful and the third dies. Why is that? Is it me, or is it the plant or maybe the soil? Either way it's annoying, but something we have to live with as gardeners.

Visitors to the garden are always a pleasure however, but I did have one gentleman who came to me clutching three different flower heads which he had picked to ask me what they were. I was speechless, and had to walk away to avoid a confrontation. Ten

minutes later he came back to me, pushed forward by his wife, to apologise. He was not a gardener, merely the mode of transport for his wife, but I bet that he won't ever pick flowers again! He's now a good friend.

Still on the subject of garden visitors and garden visiting, there are three cardinal rules - don't arrive early, don't arrive late, and don't talk about your own garden to the garden owners unless they ask you. But do ask them about the plants in their garden which attract your attention, they will be only too happy to chat with you and compare experiences.

My final annoyance is seeing a plant thriving vigorously in someone else's garden, but which is one I have lost several times. You'll know the feeling!

### Book Group

**K**lara and the Sun by Kasuo Ishiguro was the subject of last month's meeting. The narrator, Klara, is an AF or Artificial Friend. We come to know that in a place, not so very different from a city near us, though probably in the USA - it's not stated explicitly - children may have an AF bought for them. We meet Klara in the shop awaiting a buyer and come to know that there are different models of AF. Klara seems to have more "emotional intelligence" than most. Afs run on solar energy so she seems to understand the power of the sun.

The book was enjoyed by many but certainly not all which lead to a very interesting discussion on what it means to be human and what robots might be like in the future.

Next month's meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> October. The book is Quarantine by Jim Crace



Our 7th of September event was a talk and demonstration by Heather Goddard Key about 'Pelargoniums'. Heather is from Fibrex Nurseries at nearby Pebworth, and she described the many different forms of Pelargonium available and advised on their propagation and care.

## **NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 5th October 2022 at 7:30pm**

Our speaker for the October meeting is Gary Farmer who will give us an illustrated talk on 'The Wildlife of Worcestershire'. Gary has been a popular speaker with our members over the years and always gives an entertaining and informative talk.

The subject for the monthly competition is '3 Dahlia Flowers - the same or different - with foliage' and will be judged by our speaker.

Membership of the Gardening Club is currently by £5.00 annual subscription which becomes due on 1st January each year. 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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## Dave Powell Decoration

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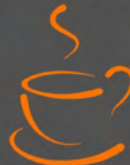
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