

FECKENHAM

October 2023

NEWS

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

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Feckenham News in Octoberr

Dates for your Diary

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November

11th Ashley Hutchings - 100 Not Out

December

2nd Orchestra of the Swan

Regular Sessions

Mondays Restorative Yoga
Wednesdays Playgroup
Thursdays Bridge; Hatha Yoga; Pilates
Fridays Meditation Class
First Tuesday of the month:
Lunch Club, Feckenham Sessions
First and Third Wednesday: Community Choir
Third Monday of the month: WI
2nd and 4th Fridays : Erstwhile Morris dancers

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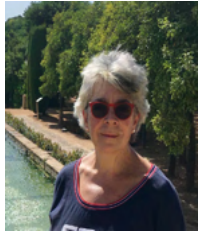
Photo sent courtesy of
Ian Bellion.

Magazine online at
www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

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therein.

Editor's Note

I'm afraid I've been away again and haven't had my finger on the Feckenham pulse though I have heard there was a very successful meeting to celebrate the work of the archeology group. There's an article about the evening later in the magazine.



I also note that our MP, Rachel Maclean, in her role as the Government's Planning Minister, has announced regulations for industrial lithium-ion batteries will be updated to more properly take into account potential fire hazards. She has said that these facilities will now require an industrial installations permit and planning guidance has been strengthened in response to concerns raised by communities about the safety of Battery Energy Storage Systems. It's good to know that we as a community are being listened to. Let's hope that these particular changes apply to the proposed BESS close to the village.

Like many of you, I receive the weekly email about what's going to be on Swansbrook Radio and I noted that it was written while Ian was away in Portugal. Similarly, I'm editing the magazine 'out of the office'. In my case during a tour of France by camper van. Finding time and good enough WiFi as I go is a challenge. It's been another fun trip. We've been walking in the Alps, sunned ourselves in the Côte d'Azur, and along the Rhone, eaten very well and met quite a few rugby fans on the way. Now we are in the Beaujolais area during the grape harvest. This morning I took a bike ride around the villages Morgon, Fleurie and Julienas. I saw the grapes being picked which meant I was surrounded by the scent of early fermentation. That memory will really enhance my enjoyment of the Beaujolais wines we bring back!

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Village Christmas Card

Most of you will be aware of the village tradition of sending greetings to friends and neighbours through the village card. Instead of sending lots of cards, you can send just one greeting to all and a donation for charity. This is financially supported by the church and distributed by the magazine so all your donations go to charity. The card will be circulated with the December magazine and donations will be divided equally between the charities: Crisis and Shelter.

Contributions can be made by cheque (or even cash), but BACS payments to the Church Account with a clear reference "Xmas Card" are preferred. The Church account details are: Feckenham PCC Sort Code: 30 96 97 Account 01231863 Please send you wording to feckenhamnews@gmail.com or post with your donation to Angela Fletcher 12 Mill Lane, B96 6HY, Feckenham by 14th November.

**Feckenham Square
Management Committee
& Feckenham Wake**



THEY'RE BACK!

For the first time since 2019 Feckenham's Scarecrows are coming to town on **7th and 8th of October**. It's a weekend when the people of the village display their home made scarecrows in their front gardens - and people from all over come to enjoy them - and vote for the best effort.

By the time you read this we hope that everyone will be busy making their scary creations. If you haven't yet entered yours there's just time - the closing date is 2nd October - just fill in the form below and drop it into the letterbox at the Village Hall or, even better, go to:

willumconker.wixsite.com/feckenham-scarecrows ... and fill in the form you'll find there. There's no charge for entering but we have to have your details so that we can include your scarecrow on the Scarecrow Trail.

Visitors will be given a free map so that they can navigate their way around the crows - and work out who to vote for. The trail is FREE - but donations are welcome.

The trail opens at 11.30 each day and starts on The Square. There'll be Teas, a barbecue and a bar as well as a pudding shop for those with a sweet tooth. Free parking will be provided and this will be signposted in the village. The voting will close at 4pm on Sunday and the winners will be announced at 4.30pm

Feckenham's Swansbrook Radio is delighted to sponsor the Feckenham Scarecrow Trail at this year's Scarecrow weekend on 7th & 8th October.

Looking back through our archive we find that we have recordings of the reactions of visitors to a number of previous events - and they're all highly complimentary. People love the imagination and inventiveness employed in making the exhibits, they love the village atmosphere and they love the fact that this isn't a commercial operation. Any money made through teas and other sales and through donations goes to help pay for the upkeep of The Square - our village green.

Swansbrook will again be around and about throughout the weekend - talking to visitors and creators alike in the hope that we can once more make a record of one of Feckenham's happiest occasions.

LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Go to **www.swansbrook.com** and follow the instructions you'll find there. Our programmes are available for you to play **ON DEMAND** - listen when and where you like - as often as you like.

FECKENHAM'S OWN Local Radio

www.swansbrook.com

Feckenham Scarecrow Competition 2023 - 7th & 8th October

Name of your Scarecrow

Your Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Will your Scarecrow be at home? or on The Square (Tick box as appropriate)

Please drop this form into the letterbox at Feckenham Village Hall (in the porch).

We MUST receive your entry by Monday, 2nd October.



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Refreshments

Village Hall

B96 6HN

Sunday 22nd October

10.30 - 4.30

Demonstrations
Charity Raffle



Feckenham WI

A very belated but heartfelt thank you to Pete and Barbara Masters for hosting us the other Monday. We were supposed to be playing French cricket on the field and eating our puddings (not simultaneously), after enjoying a glass of Prosecco in Barbara's beautiful garden. But what with the gloomy weather stopping play (like normal cricket!) one glass led to two and we just never made it out to play. We all had a really good time though and it was nice to take the time to just chat.



Last year for our September meeting we did apple juicing and this year we decided to progress on to cider. Thank you very much to Simon Statham for all his time, help, knowledge, equipment, apples and cider on Monday night! We would have been stuck without you and we really enjoyed hearing about all your experiments over the years.

We were really down on apples (thank you so much for helping us out with your emergency bag Si!) so we've only managed to make a demi-john's worth but we're taking the opportunity to do an experiment: we've put bought yeast in one and wild yeast we've got in the other one. Our Christmas meeting will hopefully involve tasting the outcome!

Our next meeting is on Monday 16th October and we will be in the back room of the village hall for a talk about The Samaritans.

If you would like to join, membership is about £22 from the 1st October (for 6 meetings)



OUT OF THE BLUE BIG BAND
featuring vocalists Jan Harris & Lee Hamblett
in concert
in aid of



returning to Feckenham
on Saturday 18th November 2023
SAVE THE DATE !

A Halloween-themed poster for 'THE MUSIC OF THE NIGHT' at Feckenham Village Hall. The poster has a black background with orange and yellow accents. At the top, it says 'STUDLEY OPERATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS'. The main title 'THE MUSIC OF THE NIGHT' is in large, white, bold letters with a black outline. Below the title, it says 'A HALLOWEEN SPECIAL EXPLORING THE DARKER SIDE OF MUSICAL THEATRE!'. The venue 'FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL' and the date '21ST OCTOBER 2023' are prominently displayed. At the bottom, it lists 'TWO SHOWINGS: 2.30PM MATINEE & 7.30PM EVENING', 'TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW', 'ADULTS £10 - CHILDREN £5', and 'BOOKING ENQUIRIES: STUDLEYOPERATIC@GMAIL.COM - 07522 411957'. The poster is decorated with various Halloween icons like spiders, pumpkins, and a ghost.

CHURCH SERVICES



PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Vicar: Fr Glenn Reading 01527 894436
vicar@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

Church Warden: Vacant

For Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals please contact Fr
Glenn

Website: www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk



PARISH CHURCH
OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
FECKENHAM

Services for October 2023

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|------------------|------------------|
| 1st October | 10.30am | Harvest Festival | Fr Glenn Reading |
| 8th October | 9.00am | No service | |
| | 10.30am | Family Service | Fiona Carter |
| 15 th October | 6.30pm | Evensong | Fiona Carter |
| 22nd October | 10.30am | Eucharist | Fr Glenn Reading |
| 29 th October | 10.30am | Eucharist | Fr Glenn Reading |

Drop in (in church)

Wednesday at 10.30am - 12.00pm

11th and 25th October

All welcome (coffee and cake)

FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St John Fisher & Thomas More

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 (Type the link into the browser)

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

Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898

Feckenham Churchyard

An important element of the work that was undertaken last year to improve the biodiversity of the churchyard was the creation of a wild flower meadow on the right hand side of the footpath behind the Old Vicarage. The management of this area involves annual mowing and removal of the hay in order to reduce the fertility and encourage the growth of wildflowers.

A work party at the beginning of September saw the long grass cut, thanks to the efforts of Frank Alexandre, and a start made to remove the hay. A further work party will be held on **Saturday 14 October** between 10 am and 12 noon to finish this task and other tidying up. Please consider joining us then – even if only for half an hour - many hands!

Ian Hunter on behalf of Feckenham PCC.
ihunter@blueyonder.co.uk

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7th & 8th October

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25th to 28th October

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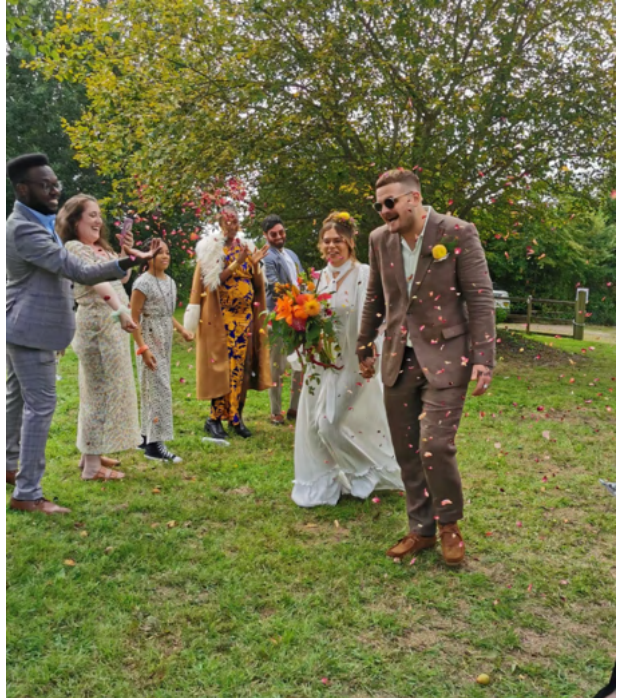
Mind | Body | Gym

Wedding of Jess Morris and Tom Holmes

Saturday 2nd September saw the wedding celebration of Jess Morris and Tom Holmes. Jess, the daughter of John and Dulci, was born and bred in Feckenham and so the celebration took place at her childhood home at Manor Farm, Moors Lane. The sun shone as friends and family joined in the party of pizzas, music, drink and dancing.

Thank you to our Feckenham friends for your gifts and good wishes. We couldn't have wished for a better day.

Dulci and John Morris



Feckenham Village Hall



IT'S NO MIS-STEAK...

Sometimes the simple things in life give the greatest pleasure and there's nothing simpler or more satisfying than a

fine steak, cooked to your liking and served with fresh cooked chips. Top that off with a nice bottle of wine, a wicked pud with custard... and good company. What's not to like?

You can enjoy such simple pleasures at the Village Hall's **STEAK NIGHT on Saturday 14th October** - just £20 for a slap up feast - and every penny will go to help with the Hall's programme of repairs and improvements.

Tickets are on sale NOW!

Village Hall

STEAK NIGHT

Saturday, 14th October at 7.30pm

COMING SOON

Saturday, 11th November - 7.30pm

ASHLEY HUTCHINGS

100 Not Out

The Godfather of British folk/rock celebrates the issue of his 100th album - songs from his days with Fairport Convention and Steeleye Span as well as some new music. With him is singer Becky Mills.

Saturday 2nd December - 7.30pm

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN

MIDWINTER

One of the UK's finest chamber ensembles present a seasonal concert - from Vivaldi to the Pogues - a great start to the festive season.

**BOOK NOW TO AVOID
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TICKETS FOR ALL EVENTS AT
FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

Are on sale at The Village Shop
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Book by phone on 0333 666 3366

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



SISTERS-IN-WAR!

The FeckenOdeon's smaller cinema, FeckenOdeon 2, reopens after the summer break with a film guaranteed to shake, stir... and raise a laugh. Ria wants to be a stunt performer. Her parents are against it but she's in training anyway. When her sister is drawn into an arranged marriage she uses her new found skills to devastating effect. This new British film playfully expands the parameters of the kitchen-sink family melodrama, wresting the kitchen sink from the wall and throwing it full force at the audience. Action packed and FUN! (UK 2023)

POLITE SOCIETY

Friday, 13th October at 8pm



CHILLED THRILLER

At the height of the Cold War, British spy Alec Leamas is nearly ready to retire, but first he has to take on one last dangerous assignment.

A tense and finely acted thriller based on John le Carre's book of the same name. It's not James Bond but it's totally believable and compelling. Richard Burton heads a fine cast which includes Claire Bloom, Michael Hordern, Sam Wannamaker, Robert Hardy and Rupert Davies. (UK 1965)

THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD

Saturday, 28th October at 7.30pm

Tickets for all FeckenOdeon shows are on sale
at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.
You can also book by phone on 0333 666 3366
or online at www.fecknodeon.co.uk

WHAT'S ON IN

Feckenham Scarecrow Weekend



A Harvest Time
Display of weird and
wonderful creations

7th & 8th October

Trail Open 11.30am

TEAS served all day
Barbecue & Bar
Home made puds

Grand Prizegiving
4.30pm - Sunday

Just for Fun!

Proceeds go to Feckenham Square Maintenance Fund

Presented by Feckenham Square Maintenance Committee & Feckenham WAKE Committee

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

STEAK NIGHT

Saturday, 14th October
7.30pm

A fine steak meal
and a pud
All for £20

Proceeds to Village Hall Improvement Fund



ASHLEY LIVE
MUSIC

HUTCHINGS

100

WITH
BECKY
MILLS

NOT OUT!

SATURDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER - 7.30PM

Tickets for all Village Hall events are on sale at The
Village Shop and The Rose & Crown

Book online at www.feckhall.org

Phone bookings: 0333 666 3366

FIREWORK DISPLAY

Saturday,
4th November

At Feckenham Cricket Club

Bonfire lighting at
about 6.45 pm

Fireworks at 7.30pm

theWVI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Next Meeting - 16th October

THE SAMARITANS

8pm at Feckenham Village Hall

Send details of events for FREE listing to:

FECKENHAM



THE
FECKENHAM
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NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 3rd October

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FECKENHAM
Artisans



Autumn Fayre

Ready for Christmas? We are! Come and join us at our Fayre, meet the artisans and see our work.

Feckenham Village Hall
Saturday, 22nd October - 10am - 5pm

THE
FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY



BIG TROUBLE - LITTLE SISTER!

POLITE SOCIETY 12A

A THRILLING COMEDY
MADE IN THE UK

FeckenOdeon 2 Friday, 13th October at 8pm

RICHARD BURTON - CLAIRE BLOOM



THE SPY
WHO CAME IN
FROM THE
COLD PG

Story by
JOHN LE CARRE

FeckenOdeon 1 Saturday, 28th 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

Feckenham READERS GROUP

Tuesday, 17th October - 7.45pm

This month's book:
IN MEMORIUM
By **ALICE WIN**
Details: 892285



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

On Saturday 9th September, we welcomed guests and residents to join us to celebrate getting Feckenham's largest Scheduled Ancient Monument removed from Historic England's At Risk register and to thank the many individuals and organisations who have supported our project since it started back in 2014.

Our guests included our local MP, Rachel Maclean, Redditch Mayor Salman Akbar and Leader of the Council Matt Dormer, as well as representatives of the many organisations which have supported us. The audience enjoyed a fascinating presentation from Cate Statham on the history and significance of the site, and from Chris Bristow on the biodiversity aspects of the project. Intrepid members then braved the very hot weather and enjoyed a tour of the moat and were able to see the newly installed interpretation panels.

Following her visit, Rachel Maclean commented **"I would like to thank the Feckenham Archaeological Group for inviting me along to the site of what would have been the moat of the former Royal Manor.**

"The group has worked tirelessly for 9 years to rescue the village's largest Scheduled Ancient Monument from at risk status. And amazing community action has ensured this site can be cherished by generations to come.

"I really learned a lot during my visit, and I would encourage residents to visit too. The interpretative signs that have been created really help to bring to life the history of the site.

"We really are lucky to have so much history in our area!"

We have also received some lovely comments and encouragement from many of you who attended.

We would like to thank everyone who came along and we hope you all enjoyed it. Many thanks to Feckenham Football Club for hosting the event for us and for providing the tasty nibbles and serving the drinks (much needed on such a hot day!)

Last, and certainly not least, thank you to everyone, too numerous to mention, who has helped us with the project and enabled us to achieve our initial goal of getting the site off the At Risk register. We couldn't have done it without you! We look forward to carrying on our research and investigations and to ensuring the site, its archaeology and biodiversity are preserved for future generations.

If you would like to learn more about the project and its plans for the future or to join us, please contact Jen Cary, Chair at jen@thecarys.co.uk or Judy Underwood, Secretary at unjudy@hotmail.com





PARKING PROBLEMS

The Parish Council met on 7th September. Matters raised included anti-social parking within the village. There was concern about parking on pavements not leaving sufficient safe room for wheelchairs, pushchairs, etc. as well as parking on double yellow lines. The Parish Council receives complaints from villagers and reports them to the appropriate agency. We have a local charter with West Mercia Police who look at our items of concern every three months and agree to work in partnership. This can result in Parishioners receiving visits from the police.

NEW POLICE CONSTABLE

We now have a new member of West Mercia Police looking after Feckenham. Constable Lloyd Stone has moved to another position and will be replaced by Constable Alice Coley. The Parish Council thanks Lloyd for his help, and welcomes Alice who is hoping to attend the next Parish Council meeting in November.

BATTERY STATION

The BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) planning application continues. Hereford and Worcester Fire Rescue Service have sent a report to the planning department which identifies the dangers associated with this scheme and which supports the huge concerns felt throughout the parish. Should you wish to read this in full, please check the parish council website www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk Alternatively the Parish Clerk (Jane) can make a copy available for you, please call on telephone number 01527 892522. If you are interested in joining a group of like-minded people in the village who are opposed to the application, then again please contact the clerk. It is not too late to make your comments about the BESS application known to Redditch Borough Council Planning department. You can email the planning officer direct:

paul.lester@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk or you can contact the clerk (details below). Whether you are in support or against the application please do make your feelings known.

ARCHEOLOGY

The Parish Council were recently invited to the Archaeology meeting at the football club to hear about the history of Feckenham, clearing of the moat and the information boards. Feckenham was first in existence from 850 AD. The Moated Site is a scheduled Ancient Monument and is an asset which needs looking after. A huge thank you to the willing team of volunteers who take on this task including Jen Cary, Judy Underwood, Cate Statham, Chris Bristow who have worked in partnership with Redditch Borough Council. Next year will be their 10th Anniversary. Congratulations.

CONTACT THE COUNCIL

Should you require any help or further information please do not hesitate to contact Feckenham Parish Council on telephone number 01527 892522, email clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk or check the website at www.feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk



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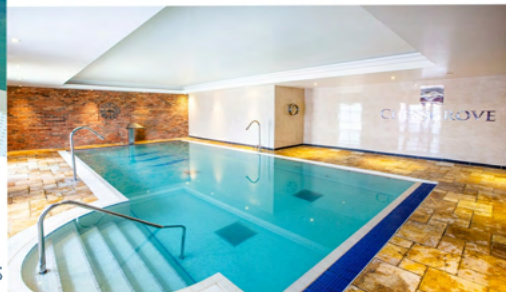
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Feckenham Village Shop - Alan Slater



There seems to be an increasing recognition of the importance to village life of having a local shop. This fact was brought home to me by a recent article in The Times newspaper which featured the opening of a Community led shop in a small village in Devon. The circumstances of the villagers of Parracombe were strikingly similar to ours 14 years ago, insomuch that, their only shop had closed several years ago. Residents had to make a ten mile round trip to even purchase essentials such as a bottle of milk. An Action Group of locals was formed, grants were obtained and a new village shop was opened last year. It is run entirely by volunteers. It is flourishing, providing not only a much needed retail outlet but also a social focal point for the village.

It all sounds rather familiar doesn't it? Our Village Shop is certainly not unique, (although many of us would like to think so) as many small and rural communities throughout the Country recognise the important role a local shop plays in community life. In fact there has been quite a resurgence in village shops during the last ten years. The Number of outlets have almost doubled due to a combination of factors. More people are no longer commuting and are choosing to work from home, the Pandemic encouraged many to shun supermarkets and shop locally, and

it's often financially more viable to walk to the village shop rather than drive several miles to buy just a few items. Whatever the reasons, like our colleagues in Devon, we are enjoying record sales in the Feckenham shop.

As previously mentioned, being a centre of the community is of paramount importance to us and by the time you receive this report we will have hosted our Coffee Morning for Macmillan Nurses and look forward to participating in the Feckenham Scarecrow Weekend. I do hope that you will come along and join us, after all the Shop belongs to you so please make the most of it.



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An Organic Allotment by Pete Delaney

... and so the summer comes to an end. Did it really get started this year? A wet July and most of August made some crops harvest to the extreme of either abundant or sparse. Runner beans, outdoor cucumbers, salads and soft fruit thrived in the damp conditions whilst cabbages and root crops of carrots and parsnips struggled in early growth. Butternut squash in particular seemed to dislike the daily rain of July, growing very slowly and producing small fruits late. Even the usually abundant courgettes grew fewer fruit per plant and seemed to swell large quickly. I learnt a new lesson about squash this season, as I played a surprise practical joke on myself. Last year I had saved the seeds from one of my orange pumpkins to grow this year. However this year when the plants fruited they all came as marrows...! I have since read up on squash and, to quote an article in The Kitchen Garden Magazine "Don't save the seeds of squash, pumpkins, marrows or courgettes unless you have followed strict seed saving procedures, isolating the flowers and hand pollinating. They cross pollinate freely over a wide area. This means that it is unlikely that seeds will produce a fruit resembling the parent plant". Well I know now, but for this season it's marrow soup, marrow burgers and marrow fritters for us and we shall have to make do with a hollowed marrow for Halloween!

Of course this is the seed saving season and there are plenty of seeds that can be saved to germinate the following year. I am into the third generation of my own 'all year' butter head lettuce seed which I sow in autumn and spring. I am, at this time, eating the outer leaves of lettuce sown in late August with more sown in late September, all under cloches of fleece, along with other late sowing salads, mizuna (a first time for me) and

rocket, to extend produce into the winter season.

Speaking of winter produce my Chinese 'daikon' pink winter radish sown in August and September are coming on nicely. I have sown them in approximately 3 weekly intervals and our first row is just ready to begin harvesting. Winter cabbages are finally beginning to get some growth in. They had a slow start in wet July. My leeks look great and full of health and growth; still I shall be watching over them carefully as last year in late season I noticed brown streaks on some leeks. These turned out to be marks left by 'thrips', small insects that make their way up the leek between layers. On examination I found the insects infest the leeks layer by layer starting with the outer layer. To try and combat this I stripped each leek inhabited by thrips of it's layers until reaching a clear layer (no tell tale brown streaks), peeling the layers open down to the soil I then cut them with a knife through root and soil, effectively thinning the leek down. This not only worked and removed the infestation from the leeks, but also they continued to grow and finished not far off the same thickness as the non infested leeks.

In the poly-tunnel I had a great crop of tomatoes that are still holding on to a few and cucumbers coming out of my ears. Banana peppers remain a favourite, a good grower and sweet to eat.

As I clear and tidy around the plot this autumn, I keep on adding green foliage, horse muck, ashes and veg peelings to the compost heap, preparing food to lay on barren beds this winter to sustain next year's crops.

Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

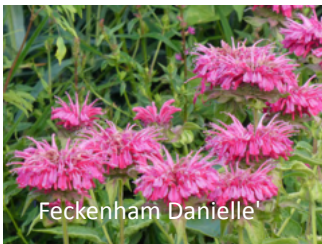
***Monarda* - Successes and Failures**

The very first *Monarda* purchase, when we lived in Moseley, was back in August 1992 when we bought *Monarda* 'Squaw' for 60p from Red House Farm Garden and Nursery near Feckenham. When we moved in September 1998 to Meadow Farm with its heavy clay soil, it took us a long while to prepare the planting beds and the first *Monarda* we bought was 'Cambridge Scarlet' in April 2001 - but it didn't last long. In August of the same year we bought 'Violet Queen' which persisted well, followed by 'Fishes' and 'Fireball', both of which quickly disappeared.

Monarda 'Gardenview Scarlet' and 'Hartwood Wine' were both bought at the RHS Tatton Park Show in July 2005 and grew very well, especially 'Gardenview Scarlet' which survived until we left in 2020, enabling us to bring pieces with us to our new garden in Priors Crescent.

But the purchase in 2004 of 'Petite Delight', described as being short and mildew resistant, was the start of a spell of saving its seed each year and raising seedlings to see what might occur. Some of the seedlings were binned when they flowered, or when they showed mildew, but some were 'interesting' and they were labelled as ones to grow on and to watch to see how they performed as more mature plants.

I took seed from a few of these seedlings, as well as from the original 'Petite Delight' again, and gradually built up a small collection of different coloured plants, all of which showed some resistance to mildew. Divisions were made, and we began to sell them, having given each a name in what we called the Feckenham Series - 'Feckenham Danielle', 'Feckenham Delight', 'Feckenham Fanfare', 'Feckenham Frills', and 'Feckenham Nikki'.



Feckenham Danielle



'Feckenham Nikki'



'Feckenham Fanfare'



'Feckenham Frills'

I now very much miss not having the space to raise hundreds of seedlings each year, but at least I can look back on some lucky finds.



'Feckenham Delight'



STOCK AND BRADLEY GARDENING CLUB

Our first talk of the new season of meetings had to be changed at short notice as our intended speaker Katherine Kear has been admitted to hospital. We wish her a successful recovery.

As a result, the chairman Rob Cole stepped in as our speaker and gave a talk entitled 'A Passion for Seed' showing how to save seed, clean it and sow it, and raise the resulting seedlings into flowering plants.

NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 4th October 2023 at 7:30pm

Our next meeting is a very special 'tickets only' event when we welcome Chris Beardshaw as our speaker to give a talk entitled 'Painting With Plants'. Chris is a renowned garden designer, Chelsea Gold Medal winner and television presenter, and is much in demand as a speaker to gardening clubs and horticultural societies.

This event is open to non-members as well as members and tickets are £10 for members and £15 for non members. Tickets can be obtained at the 6th September meeting or by contacting Nicki Dean by email on njdean50@outlook.com.

The subject for the members' monthly competition is 'An Arrangement using Michaelmas Daisies' 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, so please come prepared to renew if you haven't already done so. 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 2023. 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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The 1st XI finished the season well, by beating Old Vignornians comfortably and then Brockhampton at home on the final day of the season. That match was a tense affair, with relegation being a possibility for the losing team. Brockhampton chased our target of 254, but were bowled out for 211 (aided by some superb fielding and two run-outs). The 2nd team completed their fixtures in unspectacular fashion.

The Junior cricket season concluded on the morning of Sunday September 10th with an excellent win by the U14s against a strong Ombersley team. Below is a summary of the 2023 Junior Season.

The U12s have had a fantastic season and have been the most successful team in the entire club (including the Men's section) with a total of 13 wins and only 4 defeats (a 76% win percentage). They finished second in their Pairs League and were unlucky not to progress into the semi-final stages of that competition. They also finished a very strong third place in the T20 league, given that the outstanding Alvechurch and Swindon were in this division. The season was characterised by accurate and disciplined bowling by the whole team but particularly from the top wicket takers of Henry Owen, Tommy Eost and Moin Sultan. The batting performances have significantly improved this year and several players have been able to retire on 30 not out including the aggressive Rory Gavin, the classy Tommy Eost, the reliable Shashank and stellar performances from two U11s in Rory Freeman and Moin Sultan.

The U13s had a really positive final month of their season where they beat both Redditch and Coombs Wood in Pairs fixtures and finished fourth in that League. The team had an excellent 7 wicket win against Hagley in the T20 league where Man of the Match Rory Gavin achieved a Hat-trick and then retired 33 not out. Auden Cunneen supported the run chase with 31 retired not out too and the result meant a third place finish in the T20 league. The season has had consistently strong bowling performances from Will Reynolds and Sam Drumm. The batting has been inconsistent though which has prevented the team from finishing any higher than mid-table in their respective Leagues.

The U14s produced a comfortable win against Ombersley through strong bowling from Ben Eost, Will Reynolds, Sonny Johnston and Ethan Elmes. The total was chased down through an unbroken 70 run partnership from Ben Eost (40 not out) and Fraser Rankin (32 not out). This meant Feckenham finished fourth in the T20 league with 4 wins from their 7 completed matches. The same squad finished fourth in the U15 Hundred league where they registered one match win and also picked up a conceded result. The key performers in the squad this year have been Ben Eost, Finn Davies and Will Reynolds on the bowling front and then Liam Banks, Sam Curtis, Ben Eost and Fraser Rankin on the batting side.

The Junior section has significantly contributed towards the Men's Saturday team each week during 2023, with three Under 14s regularly playing in the 1st XI and another three Juniors regularly playing in the 2nd XI. The 3rd XI has provided opportunities for a range of youngsters to play Men's cricket and to adapt towards 22 yard pitches, full size balls and boundaries for the first time.

Thank you to everyone who has come and supported the Juniors at Mill Lane this summer.

Many thanks from me to James Reynolds for the summaries of our junior cricket during this season.

As we move towards Autumn and Winter, we are already planning the annual Village Firework Night, which takes place on the evening of Saturday 4th November. This event needs a lot of help, including stewards and bucket collectors – if you would like to help, contact me on 07749 884062 or via the club's Facebook page.

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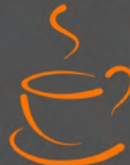
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