

FECKENHAM NEWS

September

2021



Published by Feckenham Church for the Village

Editor: Gilly Cooper

feckenhamnews@gmail.com

THOMAS BROTHERS



An Independent Family Owned Funeral Directors

Family owned funeral homes in Redditch, Bromsgrove, Wythall & Alvechurch. We provide a friendly, dignified service paying special attention to detail.

REDDITCH
01527 547777

BROMSGROVE
01527 831700

WYTHALL
01564 822001

ALVECHURCH
0121 445 3422



"A family concern"

www.thomasbrothers.co.uk

Email: admin@thomasbrothers.co.uk



TAPCAST
computer services



Local, trusted IT support done remotely & onsite

IT Support • Microsoft Office 365 & Cloud
Remote Working Solutions • Computer Equipment
Security Services • Backup & Disaster Recovery

Call 01386 792196

jane.neal@tapcast.co.uk



www.tapcast.co.uk

ANDREW SMITH CHIMNEY SWEEP

Traditional and Power Sweeping
Clean, reliable and fully insured
smoke test, CCTV and certificates.
Evening and weekend appointments
also available



Member of the
Institute of Chimney
Sweeps

Based locally in Inkberrow

Phone: 01386 793248

Mobile: 07789 721303



A. PULLEN MEMORIALS

Additional Inscriptions & Renovations

SHOWROOM AND WORKSHOP
338 ALCESTER ROAD, BURCOT
BROMSGROVE B60 1BH

Tel: (01527) 876200



As Time Goes By

**YOUR LOCAL FAMILY RUN
MEMORIAL SUPPLIER**

Head Stones, Cremation Tablets,
Additional Inscriptions and
Renovation Work

Web: astimegoesby.org.uk

Email: kfporter@blueyonder.co.uk



Please call 01527 550505

To arrange a home visit or to find out our opening times

Unit 5, Dunlop Road, Hunt End Industrial Estate
Redditch B97 5XP

"MEMORIALS THAT REFLECT A LIFETIME"

Beauty
by Elizabeth
MOBT, VICT
Skin Therapist



dermalogica
facial
mapping



*Flexible appointment
times available*

Telephone: 01527 822698

Mobile: 07890 978059

Microdermabrasion, LVL and Collagen lift facials,
bio sculpture, massage, gel nails, waxing,
eyelash tinting, manicure, pedicure and many more!

Cider Mill House
Cider Mill Lane, Bradley Green
Redditch, Worcestershire B96 6TH

Feckenham News in September

In the magazine:

This month look out for intros from Newshound, information on our local artists including a new venture from Julian Bull and pictures from the very successful Feckenham Wakes Up!

Dates for your diary



September

Stock and Bradley Gardening	1st
Book Club	8th
Astwood Bank Carnival	11th
Visibull Open Day 1	18th
Village Shop AGM	22nd
Feckenodeon	25th

October

Visibull Open Day 2	2nd
Flats and Sharps	16th
Art Exhibition	23rd/24th

Production Team

Ian Bellion - What's On	whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk 892130
Jen Cary - Newshound	jen@28highstreet.co.uk
Jo Warrilow - Distribution	892059
Mary Smith - Advertising	fnadvertising@btinternet.com
Gilly Cooper - Editor	feckenhamnews@gmail.com 07500115581

Contents

	Page
Editor's note	4
Newshound	5
Village Notices	6
Church Services	7
Introducing	8
Book Club	8
Visibull	9
WAKE	10-11
Classic Cars	12
Village Shop	13
T4U Shoe Boxes	14
Kathy's Flowers	15
Rob Cole Gardening Tips	16
Stock & Bradley Garden Club	17
Feckenodeon	18
Village Hall	18
Swansbrook Radio	19
Police Notice	20
Cricket	21

Front Cover

Freya Silcock with cockapoo, Lexi, winning Dog Show: Best in Show category

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

Where do I start? On Saturday afternoon Feckenham really did Wake Up with style and, at the same time, I became a first-time grandmother. Sophie was born to Emma and Kev who celebrated their marriage on the village green 2 years ago. Somehow it all seems fitting. *Also, as we go to press, Esther was born to Rachel, my other daughter and her husband Joe. What a week!*



This last week's events brought people back together, whether you went to Fecknodeon, the Race Night at the cricket club, Ian Ridley's art demonstration or the treasure Hunt and BBQ in the churchyard, the Wake itself, there has been something for everyone.

Our village fete, the Wake, deferred from June to August, was a little more typical than the one in the Archers this week. They had a protest about the scarecrows and Jackie Weaver was their guest of honour. Our Wake had our very own fabulous team to making it all possible with the help of a band of other villagers wo/manning the stalls. Of course the Wake committee and some of our parish councillors were ever present and working very hard. It is difficult to single out one person in the loyal team and risk of leaving others out, so I give a hearty thanks from all the villagers to those who made it happen whether they set up the gazebos, roasted the hog, managed sounds and announcements, filled the duck pond, or baked cakes as well as all the other tasks done for the day to work seamlessly. It shows what can be done when we all pull together.

The car show, of which more later in the magazine, was bigger and better than ever and the evening event was, to my mind, perfect. Sitting around on the green with friends and neighbours, music from Swansbrook Radio's DJ Colin James and local busker, Chris, with two hot air balloons going over. As someone said, "It doesn't get better."

As we emerge from our respective versions of lockdown I see village activities returning tentatively to normal. Meetings have been face to face more

often, still taking the opportunity to meet out doors. The gazebos in the Rose and Crown garden are ideal meeting places and we can have a little drink as we talk. How we used to take this simple activity for granted!

FECKENHAM CHARITY

Funds are dispensed from this ancient charity to individuals and organisations within the boundaries of the Ancient Parish of Feckenham, as the Trustees think fit.

Closing date for receipt of applications

30th September, 2021

Further enquiries/applications to:

Mrs J. Bate (Clerk to the Trustees)

'Wychway', Droitwich Road

Hanbury, BROMSGROVE

B60 4DB

Tel 01527 821285

Dave Powell Decoration

M: 07747 691461

**for Quality
painting and
decorating**

**Based in
Feckenham**

E: dave.powell@blueyonder.co.uk



In late Spring, Karen and Alex Reynolds and their 2 daughters moved into Feckenham House, 41 High Street. Their eldest daughter Caoimhe (for those non-Irish speakers it's pronounced Queeva) is 4 and a half and will be starting Feckenham Primary School in September, and Sadhbh (pronounced like 'hive' but with an 'S' instead of the 'H') is 16 months. Karen and Alex are both in their 40's; Karen works at the University of Birmingham and is a Deputy Institute Manager. As part of her role she manages a team of simulated patients who help to train medical students through role play. Alex is an investment manager who also works in Birmingham (when he's not working from home). They moved to Feckenham from Harborne so that the girls can enjoy a village upbringing. Alex loves cricket and used to play for Harborne. He has played against Feckenham in the past. Karen enjoys catching up with friends/making new friends and experimenting with recipes in the kitchen. They are all very much looking forward to joining in with village life (when it finally gets back to normal!).

Hi, we are the Bayliss-Kearns family which consists of my partner, Stephen, my son, James, and me, Sarah. Stephen and I are in our forties, though I am considerably closer to fifty than he is. James is in his 20s, and living with us whilst he saves for his own home.

We moved into Feckenham in March, from the Slough in Studley and are delighted with our decision. We always wanted to move to a quiet, more rural location and when 15 High

Street came up we instantly fell in love with it. Although we haven't had much opportunity to meet the community, our neighbours and those we have met so far have been incredibly warm and friendly and we feel at home already.

Stephen and I are both in the teaching profession. Stephen is a deputy headteacher at a secondary school in Tipton, and I teach English, philosophy and RE at a secondary school in Alcester. My son is a finance officer and is training to be an accountant. I am also a qualified meditation and Reiki teacher and an advocate of a mindful and gentle existence. Living in Feckenham is certainly conducive to this. It is just lovely sitting in the front room and hearing horses trot past rather than the continual drone of traffic we have been used to.

We are an active family and we all love the great outdoors. We try very hard to look after the planet as best we can by leading an environmentally friendly existence, but as is always the case, we could do more. I would be very happy to be involved with any initiatives that supports the community with this. James and I are avid readers and would love to join a local book club if there is one. I like to write and draw too.

We can't wait to meet more of the residents in our new village and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for making us feel so welcome already.

Village Notices

From Barb and Pete Masters:
We would like to congratulate our granddaughter, Lottie, who gained a first class honours degree in Hospitality & Business Management and, also, for obtaining employment with Baxter Storey, a catering company, in Soho Square London. Good Luck Lottie.

Wanted: some volunteers to join the Church Cleaning teams.
For some years since I took over from Joy and Eric Styler we have had 6 teams of 4 cleaners for the church but unfortunately due to illness and changes of family circumstances 2 teams have retired this year. I have asked the congregation without success and wonder if anyone in the village would like the job. Each team has 4 members and is called upon twice a year for 4 weeks. Teams decide whether to work together or singly and what days they would like to work. Not all are regular churchgoers either. If you could help please telephone me, Carol Onions on 01527 404055 or email ptcmo@blueyonder.co.uk

Warrilow Family Double

Cyril and Jo Warrilow of 'Timber End', High Street have been busy celebrating. Their daughter Adele was married to Ryan Cooper, previously of Thornbury near Bristol, on Tuesday 3rd August on Rydal Water in the Lake District. They will continue to live in their family home in Oxford. Both work for the Taylor Francis Group of academic publishers, where Adele is Head of Rights U.K. and Ryan Sales Director for International Printed Books. Their elder Grandson, Samuel Warrilow has

successfully passed his 'A' levels in media, I.T. and psychology and will attend The British and Irish Modern Music Institute in Birmingham to study music production and business. Many thanks to Vaynor First School, Walkwood C of E Middle School and Trinity High School for their support and encouragement.

Foil Recycling

Sometimes it can be a bit tricky to know what you can and can't put in the green recycling bin. Foil is one of those things that isn't allowed in the bin, but that doesn't mean it can't be recycled. At the Hanbury tip there is a dedicated foil collection bin, but it's rather tucked away! You can find it on the left hand side as you drive down the ramp, it's just before the bottle banks.



September Church Services



PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



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

Church Warden: Ann Mathews **892180**

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

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

Website: achurchnearlyou.com/church/18729

Email: info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk

Services for September 2021

5th August 10.30am Eucharist led by Rev B Wheatley

12th August 9.00am BCP communion Rev B Wheatley

19th August 6.30pm Said Evensong led by Fiona Carter

26th August 10.30am Eucharist led by Fr Glenn

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.

It is possible that the RC church in Feckenham will resume operations sometime in September. As we go to print there's no confirmation, so look out for information in the October magazine.



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

Introducing... Jenny Mason

This month I'd like to introduce you to an unsung hero of the village. Many of you will know of The Steps B&B at the bottom the High Street. That's where Jenny and her husband, Ivor, have lived for almost 40 years. They found the village by serendipity. Back in 1982, after Jenny from the South moved to be with Ivor, a Wolverhampton lad. They had been living in Bromsgrove and, on a drive to look at other properties, they happened to be passing through Feckenham and saw the For Sale sign at The Steps. They knew at once this was the place for them and the rest is history.

Soon after they moved and well before Oli, their son, now 29, was born, Jenny was becoming established as someone to go to when help was needed. Quietly she has supported so many village activities, from helping at Feckenham Youth Club on and off for decades, to being a member of the church cleaning rota though she is not a churchgoer, and travelling on the school bus with children from 1st school to help with their swimming lessons at the old Hewell Road Baths as well as volunteering to help children learn to write. She recalls some people complaining that the Youth Club Children made too much noise when they were allowed out of the village hall to play games such as Hare and Hounds. We agreed that was one of the things that helped the children have such a fun time growing up - being free to roam (within limits of course).

Probably her main impact has been through the Village Shop. She has been an active board member since the shop was first mooted and was responsible for applying and being awarded lottery funding to support it. The shop was opened by our then MP, Jacqui Smith, almost 13 years ago and is a huge asset to village life. She is currently responsible for maintenance of the shop interior and liaising with the Landlord regarding exterior issues as well as covering 2 sessions in the shop. As she lives so near, she is often called when there are large or small problems. When she tells Ivor she needs to pop over to the shop as there's a minor

glitch, he will say, "See you in a couple hours, then!"

She said that really what makes the village so special, other than the large number of activities on offer, are the people who actively support those activities. A large gang of villagers who are happy to help and, though we might worry that nobody will come forward when someone steps back, once the call goes out, someone else nearly always steps forward and we go on.



Book Club



The group discussed *The Mermaid of Black Conch* by Monique Roffey. It's a strange story told from the points of view of mermaid and the man who falls love with her set on a fictional island resembling Tobago. Definitely worth a read if you like magic realism. We were given a real feel for the place and the characters were well drawn. As ever our conversation was wide-ranging including thoughts on why the cover of the book was changed on re-print.

The next meeting is on 8th September when we'll discuss *All Among the Barley* by Melissa Harrison.

VISIBULL' : LAUNCH OF A NEW CREATIVE BUSINESS IN FECKENHAM



Feckenham resident Julian Bull is behind the launch of a new creative business from September called Visibull.

He summarises the work as 'the art of printing trees' since it is based around a technique he has developed to create original and unique prints from sections of fallen trees to reveal the surprising and hidden beauty within.

The log sections used are sourced mainly from the historical Forest of Feckenham area of North Worcs and comprise many species and sizes and are typically printed in black ink, but also in bolder colours to suit modern interiors.

Every print is handmade and unique due to the variations in inking and print pressure. The results may be considered a fingerprint or scan of the tree trunk at a particular point along the trunk including evidence of the effects of insects or man.

The current prints include trees that have been felled in Moors Lane, Mill Lane and Droitwich Road and Julian is always interested in hearing about any sources.

An important consideration is that the techniques and materials used are sustainable and environmentally friendly. Sales will be made at events, exhibitions, galleries and through his website www.visibull.co.uk

In addition to the core print range, Julian offers bespoke printing of your own trees as well as prints in contemporary light boxes, original t-shirts and greetings cards all using the tree ring images.

Why trees? - well aside from being beautiful, fundamentally they release oxygen to allow us to exist, so in an era of increased and vital focus on climate change should we not all examine our environment more and act on what we find.



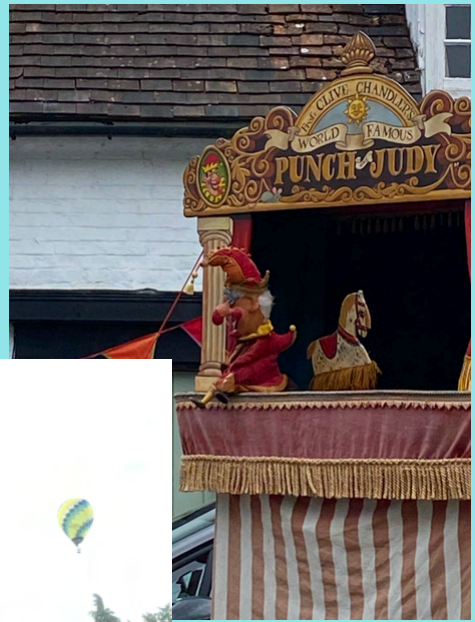
Julian is running 2 open days from his studio at 7 Droitwich Rd on Sat 18th Sept and Sat 2nd Oct 10,30am to 4.00 pm where you are welcome to browse and find out more

On October 23rd and 24th Julian will be joining established local landscape artist Ian Ridley where they will be hosting a joint exhibition of new work 'Celebrating Nature' in Feckenham Village Hall – more details in next month's News.



Wake Up Feckenham 2021





Classic Car Corner

Martin Strange, The Square

As a new resident to Feckenham, and having inherited a vintage 'car' through my family, I was keen to attend the 'Reawakening' event this August and to bring the car to display in the Show. I restored the car while living in Leicestershire several years ago and this would be only its second outing in 5 years. What a delight. With massive attendance (a record 197 cars!), friendly people, fantastic organisation, a great atmosphere and worthy causes, it surpassed all expectations. OK, I didn't have far to travel to get there, but well worth the effort.



Mine is not a car that one could call reliable, nor can it be easily towed, so any movement has to be 'insured' by the ready availability of its trailer and a tow vehicle.

I am exploring what other Shows and Meets there are in this area. As a family heirloom and a fairly unusual and rare car, it warrants careful preservation and a wider showing, so I seek information of other show opportunities. There seems to be two categories. Monthly Meets, usually at a Pub; and annual Shows, sometimes

run commercially. Few of which I knew about, so I used the opportunity of talking to attendees at the Wake to find out more. I thought that an occasional article providing updated information to what seems to be a considerable local audience might be useful. Any further information of local meets gratefully received via feckenhamnews@gmail.com, to be published here perhaps quarterly. So far I have only scratched the surface of what is available and they include:

Monthly Meets:

Spetchley Gardens Wheels Wednesday evenings during the summer
<https://www.wheelsonwednesday.co.uk/>

Bowling Green Classic Cars, Shaw Lane, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove <https://www.facebook.com/events/4091188190949576/>

Green Dragon, Sambourne, B96 6NU 1st Thursday of month 7.00pm.
<https://thegreendragoninn.co.uk/>

Annual Meets:

Hanbury County Show Vintage & Classic & Machinery Section 30th August 2021

Astwood Bank Carnival Car Show 11th September 2021





In the August edition of the magazine, I incorrectly mentioned that the AGM this month will be held on Wednesday 23rd. Of course I should have said Wednesday 22nd, so I stand corrected and my apologies for any confusion. The venue is the Village hall and I do hope many of you will come along at 7.30 p.m on that date and share the evening with us. In my 'previous life' AGMs could prove to be tricky occasions, especially if the year's results were less than sparkling. As I stated last month, the Shop has enjoyed a highly successful year, so there's a good story to share with you over a glass of wine!

The importance of the Shop to the fabric of the Village cannot be over stated and is something I have repeatedly written about, however, none of us should take our wonderful amenity for granted. Not only does the continued success of the Shop rely upon your patronage, but it also relies upon an 'army' of Volunteers to keep it operational. Lately we have struggled to find sufficient people to cover all the sessions seven days a week. We especially need a few more helping hands at weekends. So if you can spare us a couple of hours of your time, your help would be much appreciated. Just leave your contact details at the Shop and we will get back to you for a quick chat on how you can make a contribution.

Our outside café terrace is continuing to prove very popular as a great place to meet up with friends for coffee, cake and a chat, thus underlining the fact that the Shop is much more than a retail outlet, but a vital social hub for the Village. So come down and join us whether as a customer or hopefully as a new Team Member. On a final note, it was so nice to be able to provide financial support to both the Wake and the Hanbury Show. Investing our profits in the local Community is something the Shop Board intends to increasingly do throughout the year ahead.

I hope you continue to enjoy what is left of the summer

Barkin in the Bath
Dog Grooming



Tel - 07748634175

Let me pamper your best friend in my relaxing Grooming Salon

I offer:
Full Grooms - Nail Clipping
De-Heading - Handstripping
Teeth Cleaning
Bradley Green - B96

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

FLATS & SHARPS
LIVE & LOCAL IN CONCERT



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

T4U SHOEBOXES FOR CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2021



Despite the challenges and difficulties that we all faced in 2020, your response to the appeal was absolutely amazing (a record breaker) Thank you, all so much!

This year has been much the same. Like me, shopping has most probably been a quick in and out affair, not a leisurely stroll looking for gifts and bargains to fill our boxes. Sadly there are still many, many disadvantaged children in the world that are struggling with poverty and with the pandemic that are desperately in need of our help! These unfortunate children have very little to light up their lives. Our boxes are such simple gifts but they bring joy and hope to each and every child that receives one. The little ones are just thrilled to have a magical box to open at 'Christmas Time', but for the older children and teenagers these boxes really can be really life changing, as they know they are cared about that in turn gives them such hope and optimism for their future.

From 12th September leaflets with all the information that you will need will be available. Please collect one or maybe even two! from Feckenham Church or from the passageway at Kopper Cottage on Droitwich Road. This year there will only be a limited amount of pre-wrapped boxes available as the lady who spent all year wrapping them has sadly passed away. Evesham have promised to do their very best so hopefully there will be enough to go round! Please try to add a Christmas Card and a photograph of yourself as they are lovely keepsakes that the children will treasure. Hand knits are always wanted and gratefully received too as are small gifts and toiletries that can go into the boxes. There will be a basket inside church for your kind donations.

Please leave your boxes in Feckenham Church or the passageway of Copper Cottage throughout November but no later than Wednesday 24th November.

Writing this letter has got me thinking about all the children that you have bought joy to over the years (24) to be exact. Please, please support this wonderful charity.



TOGETHER WE CAN CONTINUE
TO CHANGE LIVES ONE BOX AT
A TIME

Thank you, in anticipation

Lin Preece

Rose & Crown 48 High Street
Feckenham B96 6HS
01527 892188
A traditional freehouse village pub
with Food - owned and run by the
Clarke family

**Proper Pub Food
at Proper Prices**
Special Dishes - every day
Quality locally sourced meat
Real Ales & Ciders
4 real ales on hand pumps every day.
Traditional ciders - fine wines

Outside heated dining available
Table service always offered.
Covid Safe & always considerate of people's needs

Monthly TRADITIONAL MUSIC
returns
Tuesday, 7th September - in the garden - 7 to 10pm
THEMED MENU NIGHTS
return on Thursday, 30th September
Limited tables - al fresco for those who are still wary.
Theme still a mystery at time of going to press
Please check at the pub for more information

www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk

Kathy's Flowers



New to me, but apparently common near villages and stream sides - soapwort. Also known as bouncing bett or mock gillyflower or wild sweet william or latherwort. This plant of many names is in the fence opposite the back of the cricket club. The boiled roots produce a lather used for washing wool and it was commonly cultivated near woollen mills. And it has scent at 4 in the afternoon! Don't all rush at once.

Later on, the seed heads look like this:



BOTANY BAY

Nurseries, Garden Centre & Café



- * Super Quality Plants
- * Garden Furniture
- * Garden Care & Pots
- * Houseplants
- * Bird & Wildlife Care
- * Gifts & Home



Botany Bay Nurseries, Garden Centre & Café
Edgioake Lane, Astwood Bank, Redditch, B96 6BG
01527 893 885 www.botany-bay.co.uk

FECKENHAM EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT

The endowment makes grants to young people in the pursuit of further education or training. If you are under 25 and live in the Ancient Parish of Feckenham or the District of Redditch you may be eligible for a grant. Any such grants are divided on the basis of 4/5 to the Ancient Parish and 1/5 to the District of Redditch. All applications will be carefully considered. An individual may make a maximum of three applications. The decision of the Trustees is final.

Closing date for receipt of applications

30th September, 2021

For more information and an application form contact:

Mrs J. Bate (Clerk to the Trustees)
'Wychway', Droitwich Road
Hanbury, BROMSGROVE
B60 4DB

Tel 01527 821285

Planting Bulbs for Spring Flowers

Since my very first garden in 1967, I have always been interested in growing bulbs and they still hold a fascination for me today. Over the years I have grown many different genera, species, and cultivars, but the spring flowerers are the ones I really look forward to seeing - heralds of the seasons to come.

Garden centres and mail order specialists are the main ways in which gardeners obtain bulbs for their gardens. The range in garden centres is usually quite limited and repetitive year after year, so if you are looking for a wider range, then mail order specialists are the way to go. Their catalogues are usually well illustrated (temptingly) but I have found it wise to compare prices as they can vary quite widely. They become available in garden centres around September each year, ready for autumn planting which is traditionally 'the right time'.

Mention bulbs, and the first to come to mind are daffodils and tulips. I am particularly fond of daffodils but have never really warmed to tulips, which always seem to go over rapidly once the buds have opened, especially in warm weather. Daffodils resist rain much better with their hanging or horizontal flowers, whereas tulips fill with rain making them too heavy for the stalk. There are thousands of named daffodil hybrids, but of those readily available I can only recommend that you try the ones you like the look of. Daffodils can be planted from September until November, and need to be planted so that the base of the bulb is at least three times deeper than the height of the bulb - so a 50mm high bulb needs to be in a 150mm deep hole. The same is true for tulip bulbs but planting them in November is the best time as it reduces the possibility of the disease known as tulip fire. Daffodils can usually be relied upon to reappear each year and to steadily clump up, but the large hybrid tulips rarely do and should be treated as one-hit wonders and discarded after flowering.

Eranthis (Winter Aconites) and Galanthus (Snowdrops) are the first bulbous genera to make a significant show and are always a welcome sign that winter is beginning to recede. I have grown about 80 cultivars of snowdrops, but the best effect has been achieved by

the deliciously ordinary *Galanthus nivalis* (Common Snowdrop) growing en masse. *Erythronium* is also a wonderful spring flowering genus, but they are not really happy in heavy clay soil although they might survive, but not really flourish. They are best bought as pot grown plants - they do not like being dried out and are not well adapted to garden centre packaging. My best successes have been with 'Pagoda' and 'White Beauty'.

Crocus is a genus that I have always struggled to establish, so I can't give any constructive advice as to the ones to choose. I always envy displays in parks and other people's gardens where they seem to thrive on apparent neglect.

For a nice easy splash of early colour you can do no better than try the various named forms of *Anemone blanda* in varying shades of blue, pink and white. They are cheap to buy and I find that soaking the knobbly tuberous rootstock overnight before planting encourages them to swell and to start into growth. They can be planted at any time in autumn, right up until December.

Scilla and *Chionodoxa* are both excellent spring flowering bulbs for planting in autumn. The sparkling blue of *Scilla sibirica* and the starry pale blue flowers of *Scilla mischtschenkoana* are outstanding especially when grown in clumps or drifts. They are both easy and inexpensive. *Chionodoxa* is a small but showy March/April flowering bulb and is readily available in a range of colours from blue to pink and white. *Chionodoxa luciliae* is a lovely soft but showy blue. *Fritillaria meleagris*, the Snakeshead Fritillary, is always a welcome sight in spring and cheap to buy as bulbs. If you want lots more, let them self seed or collect the seed and sow it as soon as it is ready to fall from the seed capsule - it will take about three years to a flowering sized bulb.

Finally, *Leucojum* is a genus which provides two successful spring flowerers. *Leucojum vernum*, the Spring Snowflake, flowers first along with the *Eranthis* and *Galanthus* followed by the much taller *Leucojum aestivum*, the Summer Snowflake, which flowers in April and May despite its common name.

At the end of autumn when all we have to look forward to is months of cold grey winter, there is nothing more exciting than scanning the catalogues and then buying and planting some more bulbs. Join me, and look forward to reaping the rewards.

Stock and Bradley Gardening Club



The Club visit to Jane Bates' garden in Stock Green attracted about 40 visitors and was a good evening despite the dampness. It was an opportunity for everyone to be able to get together again and numerous people said how good it was to be able to get out again. Refreshments and cakes were provided by Jan and the Gardening Club Committee members.

The visit raised funds for the Smile Train charity, and people were very generous - the raffle made £65.00 and together with donations for the visit, £250.00 was raised. Not bad for just a small evening event and Jan would like to thank everyone for their support.

The Gardening Club takes a rest from meetings and speakers until September, when we hope that the continued relaxing of Covid regulations will allow us to resume our meetings at the Village Hall in Church Road.

NEXT CLUB MEETING - Wednesday 1st September 2021 at 7:30pm

Our next meeting is planned to be in the Village Hall in Church Road, and our speaker will be Tamsin Westhorpe who will talk about 'Preparing the Garden for Autumn and Winter'. If government regulations at the time will not allow us to meet together, the event will take place by Zoom.

Please also 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.

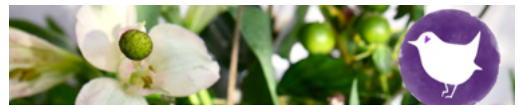
If you require any further information, ring Dinny Pynsent (Secretary) on 01527 821355 or Rob Cole (Chairman) on 07544 832052.

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.feckenhampc@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



WREN & BRAMBLE

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

Contact Clare Furey on 07548 832771
Find us on Facebook @wrenandbramble

eco ♡ foraged ♡ handcrafted





BUSINESS AS USUAL!

Feckenham's village cinema is delighted to announce that it plans to operate a full season of films from September to April. Full details of the programme are contained in the brochure which you'll find inside this magazine but, in case your brochure has gone astray, here's a basic list:

Sept 25 - Dream Horse

Oct 30 - Strangers on a Train

Nov 27 - The Good Liar

Dec 27 - Local Hero

Jan 29th - Knives Out

Feb 26th - The Day of The Jackal

March 26th - Life of Brian

April 30th - The Man in The Hat

We will also be considering restarting showings in FeckenOdeon 2 if it seems safe to do so.

Memberships, which include a guaranteed seat at all eight main season films, cost just £30. In addition members enjoy substantial discounts on all other shows (including FeckenOdeon 2).

You can join by using the form in the brochure or online through www.fecknodeon.co.uk

A ONE HORSE VILLAGE

The opening show is a new British comedy. Imagine what would happen if everybody in Feckenham had a share in a racehorse... and the horse hit a winning streak. "Dream Horse" is based on a true story and is set in a Welsh village where part time barmaid Jan Vokes (Toni Colette) decides to liven her life up by organising a syndicate to buy a racehorse. A warm hearted story full of character and characters.

Dream Horse - Saturday, 25th September at 7.30pm

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

WE'RE OPEN

Following the relaxation of restrictions Feckenham Village Hall has fully reopened and is available for hire. Sanitisation and social distancing facilities continue to be on offer but it is left to the discretion of users whether to take up the offer. To enquire about bookings please contact Liz Teisen (Booking Secretary) on 01527 821233.

LIVE SHOWS ON THE WAY

The Live and Local (formerly Shindig) touring arts programme has restarted and three shows have been allocated to our Village Hall. The first, on **Saturday, October 16th**, features the highly regarded folk/rock (with a touch of bluegrass) band **Flats & Sharps**. Their shows include a wide variety of influences, from a fresh and modern outlook on foot-stomping bluegrass material through to their powerful and well-crafted original songs, with beautiful moments everywhere in between. Their music perfectly blends strong harmonies and stonking solos, their incredible stage presence and energy create an evening that'll have you dancing, laughing and singing along in no time.... and if you enjoyed the music of Noble Jacks who visited us before lockdown, you'll enjoy Flats & Sharps. Tickets are now on sale.

Later in the year we can look forward to a pleasantly chilling evening of Ghost stories for Christmas in "A Ghost of a Smile" and next March will see a bit of history dramatically revived in "Flo Smith - Now and Then"

Tickets for Live & Local shows are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown, by phone on 0333 666 3366 (local call rates) and online at www.feckhall.org



LIVE AND KICKING

Swansbrook Radio took a great step forward on the evening following The Wake. At 5pm on 14th August, after a slight splutter, the station broadcast live directly from The Square. Nothing unusual about that you might think but Swansbrook is an internet station and the complexities of making the web take a live signal have always eluded us and we've only been able to transmit recorded programmes... until now. We've been trying out a new streaming service which allows us to go live whenever we want... and it worked. Colin James was able to present an after Wake party programme for a full four hours of music and chat. Local busker Chris made his live radio debut and listeners were able to enjoy the spectacle of a live hot air balloon lift off (aided by commentary of course). Quite an achievement and we look forward to more live occasions soon. Our thanks are due to Charlie Willetts for the loan of equipment and to Alan Smith for allowing us to borrow a cup of internet.

Earlier in the day we recorded the sounds of the Wake itself, talked to the people visiting us and to the people working to make the event the success it undoubtedly was. This all made for a jolly programme - and what will be a valuable contribution to our archive of village happenings. If you're organising an event (or happening) please let us know - we'd love to help you publicise it - and to record it for future generations. Just email us on radio@swansbrook.com to let us know what you're planning.

LISTEN TO THE SWANS

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

FECKENHAM'S OWN Local Radio

www.swansbrook.com

THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

Toni Colette - Owen Teale
Damian Lewis - Siân Phillips

DREAM HORSE ^{PG}

FeckenOdeon 1 - Saturday, 25th September at 7.30pm

The FeckenOdeon Cinemas
at Feckenham Village Hall

Tickets for all shows from **The Rose & Crown and Village Shop**
Telephone Booking 0333 666 3366* Online Booking* & full information at
www.fecknodeon.co.uk

*Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings
*Phone calls answered by Ticketsource and charged at standard rates - NOT a premium line

TAYLORS

SOLICITORS

For all your legal needs

- *Probate*
- *Affairs of the Elderly*
- *Lasting Powers of Attorney & Deputyships*
- *Wills, Trusts and Inheritance Tax matters*
- *Conveyancing*
Buying, selling or remortgaging a property

1 Mason Rd, Headless Cross,
Redditch. B97 5DA - *Easy Parking*
Home visits available

01527 544221

Lexcel
Legal Practice Quality Mark
Law Society Accredited

www.taylorssolicitors.com

Conveyancing
Quality

Regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority - No 515404

Your local Policing team are a friendly bunch, Pc Paul Downes Pcs0 Jamie Fisher,
Pcs0 Mike Handford.

Our contact details are at the Village shop along with our photos !
We would like to keep you all update with local issues and one way is "Neighbourhood Matters "

We will endeavour to work with our communities and are willing to listen and support you and partners in keeping
Feckenham a great place to live work and enjoy.



NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS

West Mercia
POLICE

www.westmercia.police.uk

[f westmerciapolice](https://www.facebook.com/westmerciapolice) [@WMerciaPolice](https://twitter.com/WMerciaPolice) [@westmerciapolice](https://www.instagram.com/westmerciapolice)

Sign up to Neighbourhood Matters your community messaging service.

Neighbourhood Matters enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. Through Neighbourhood Matters you may receive:

- Information from your safer neighbourhood team
- Crime alerts
- Details of ongoing incidents
- Witness appeals local to the area in which you live
- Information about drop in sessions and events
- Surveys and opportunities to provide feedback

You can choose exactly what type of alert you wish to receive and how you receive them and how often.

Cricket Club – Aug 2021

A spell of inconsistent form means that the first team has dropped to third place in Division 1, despite a fine win against leaders Droitwich Spa. Meanwhile the Seconds have lifted themselves out of bottom place in Division 7. The Thirds finished July with an away win at Redditch Entaco.

Of our several junior teams, the Under-12s provided the highlight by beating Kidderminster in the Worcestershire Under 12s 9 a-side KO Cup-Quarter Final. Two of our “county” players – Ben Eost and Liam Banks – scored the maximum of 30 runs and had to retire.

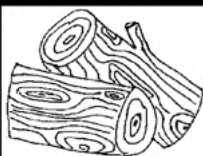
On the junior theme, the All Stars program finished with a couple of games and a presentation ceremony for the participating children. It was heartwarming to see how

much the young folk enjoyed the nine weeks and many parents sent messages of thanks on behalf of their children, who are looking forward to next year. The club’s thanks go to Julie and Steve Bennett who stepped up to run the sessions, with valuable help from Nicola Campbell, Michelle Reddish and Amanda Gordon.

A little rain has freshened up the grass and fixtures are still coming thick and fast, with the season’s end approaching in mid-September. It is appropriate to offer thanks to the ground team Steve Daniels and Neil “Swoop” Evans for the months of mowing, rolling, pitch marking etc.

Upcoming senior fixtures at Mill Lane (12:30 start unless stated):

Sat Aug 28 th	2nd XI v Bartestree & Lugwardine CC - 2nd XI
Sat Sep 4 th	1 st XI v Pedmore
Sun Sep 5 th (10am)	Under-12s v Sep T20
Sat Sep 11 th	2nd XI v Rushwick



HARDWOOD LOGS FOR SALE

NO DELIVERY CHARGE

TREE TOPPING
HEDGE CUTTING
GARDEN CLEARANCE

Telephone anytime:

01905 620934

Cool Climate

Air Conditioning Systems
for your Home, Office or Business

Mr Simon Baker

Tel.: 01527 892823 or 07736 447705

E-mail: simon@coolclimate.co.uk

Web: <http://www.coolclimate.co.uk>

Can't think what to do with your garden?
Let me help!



Claire Ellis

Complete Gardens

Design & Planting
Maintenance & Rejuvenation
Consultancy

☎ 07773 101750 or 01527 894745

FECKENHAM GARAGE



MOT Testing Station

Servicing & Repair to all makes

Tel: 01527 892483



Inkberrow Physiotherapy & Acupuncture

CLINICAL SPECIALIST PHYSIOTHERAPIST
EXPERIENCED ACUPUNCTURIST
INDIVIDUALLY TAILORED TREATMENT PLANS
FLEXIBLE APPOINTMENTS TO SUIT YOU
RECOGNISED BY MOST HEALTHCARE INSURERS

www.inkberrowphysioacupuncture.co.uk

T: 01386 792126 M: 07801 993125

THE IRONING CENTRE



16 Feckenham Road
Astwood Bank

(Next to Astwood Smiles Nursery
The Old Coach House)

IRONING
LAUNDERING
DRY CLEANING
REPAIRS & ALTERATIONS
COLLECTION & DELIVERY

01527 894040

L.E. Plasterer & Decorator

all aspects of plastering and decoration undertaken

for a free estimate call

07909 911833

01905 772890

realistic prices

Fencing

Groundworks – Foundations

Equestrian – Agricultural – Domestic

Free estimates – over 25y experience

Based locally in Bradley Green

WD & NM Willison Ltd

Mob: 07825034320 Tel : 01527 821589

Email : wwdandnmltd@gmail.com

JW & A J BARRETT LTD

Craftsmen in Metal

Traditional Blacksmithing

Restoration/repair

Metal work for home & garden

Mobile Welding

www.artmetal.co.uk

Tel/Fax 01527 821500

Mobile 07973 517781



Direct Floors

Home service

Carpets • Vinyls • Wood-floors • Laminates

- Mobile showroom to your home
- Save up to 30% on shop prices
- Over 3000 samples on our van



01527-894777



www.direct-floors.co.uk

Furniture moved & carpets uplifted
for OAP'S & disabled free of charge



Landscaping

Jeff Annand Contracting Ltd.

Blockpaving • Ponds • Patios • Groundwork
& General Property Maintenance

Free Quotes
References available
Fully Insured

Tel: 07968 668906
or 01527 894745

Bowbrook Gardens

Imaginative high quality landscaping
Patios & garden walls

Ponds & water features

Swimming pool & ponds fibreglassed

Also Pond & Patio cleaning

Fencing & Hedge cutting

Local, friendly service, references available

Call Glenn - 01905 937852

Mobile 07792613020



CORNELL

Established Over 40 Years

Chimney Sweep

Clean & Efficient - Brush & Vacuum
Competitive Prices - Cowl Fitting

Graeme Butlin
0121 445 5913
0754 587 6475

46 Oxford Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9ER

Bennett Decoration

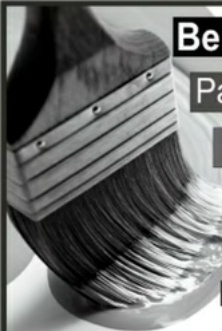
Painting & Decorating

Interior & Exterior

First Class Work

Tel: 01527 893162
Mob: 0797 3627269

Free Estimates



COLOR CODE MOTORS LTD

Accident repair specialists
Colour matching 100% guaranteed
Fleet & commercial vans

Complete restoration & fibreglass work
Fully equipped purpose built work shop

Established 35 Years

Telephone: 01527 854155

Email: colorcodemotors@btconnect.com

Unit A, Green Lane, The Slough, Studley, Warks. B80 7EY



Venables
Property Services

Building, Roofing,
Maintenance & Repair

Structural Alterations
Re-roofing, Landscaping
Brickwork Contractor
Garden Design

t : 01386 793 164

m: 07958 948460

Mark Venables
Bean hall mill, feckenham,

BRAY BROS

TREE SURGEONS

TREE SURGERY - HEDGE TRIMMING
LOPPING, PRUNING - STUMP REMOVAL

TEL: 01527 892828

MOBILE: 07970 263779

184 THE RIDGEWAY, ASTWOOD BANK

FULLY INSURED - NPTC CERT. NO.552670



S.E. Davis & Son Ltd

FIRST CHOICE FOR LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES



DAILY DELIVERIES TO YOUR AREA -
CAN BE DELIVERED LOOSE OR IN BULK BAGS

OPEN TO
THE TRADE
& PUBLIC



COMPLETE RANGE OF SAND & GRAVELS, ROCKERY STONE,
WATER FEATURES, DECORATIVE CHIPPINGS, RECYCLED &
QUARRIED STONE, TOP SOIL, TURF, BARK & CEMENT.

READY MIX CONCRETE & CPC'S TRAINING
ALSO AVAILABLE ON SITE

Sandhills Farm, Edgioake Lane, Astwood Bank, B96 6BG
01527 893343 • www.sedavis.co.uk

FECKENHAM VILLAGE SHOP

Support the Shop
that Supports
THE VILLAGE

- Coffee Shop
- Wide Variety of Products
- Improved Range of Beers & Wines
- Deli & Cakes



Weekdays 8am - 5pm

Saturday 9am - 4pm

Sunday 10am - 1pm



W feckenhamshop.co.uk

T 01527 894475

FREE
SECURE



JONATHAN SPROULE DEVELOPMENTS

(MASTER BUILDERS)

SPECIALISTS IN INDIVIDUAL, CHARACTER,
TIMBER FRAME & PERIOD PROPERTIES

30 Years Experience

BESPOKE & INDIVIDUAL NEW BUILDS

RENOVATIONS AND CONVERSIONS

EXTENSIONS AND ALTERATIONS

TIMBER/OAK FRAME OUTBUILDINGS/GARAGES

BARN CONVERSIONS

Mere Green Cottage, Hanbury, Droitwich, Worcs. WR9 7DZ



Tel: 07973 445048

Email: sarah@jonathansproulebuilders.co.uk

www.jonathansproulebuilders.co.uk