

The background image shows the interior of a church. In the foreground, a group of people, including a woman in a patterned dress and several others, are gathered. A large, intricate arrangement of red flowers hangs from the ceiling. In the background, there is a large stained glass window with blue and red tones, and a wooden altar area. The church has high ceilings and stone pillars.

FECKENHAM

September 2022 NEWS

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

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Feckenham News in September

Dates for your Diary

September

6th	Readers Group
7th	Stock and Bradley Gardening Club Studley Daytime WI
13th	Feckenham Forest History Society
15th	Parish Council Meeting
10th	Feckenham Flower show
15th	Parish Council meeting
19th	Feckenham WI
22nd	Village Shop AGM
24th	Feckenodeon
27th	Stock and Bradley Village Natters

October

4th	Lunch Club
14th	Feckenodeon

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 courtesy of Jen Clements - WI visit to to Feckenham Church

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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

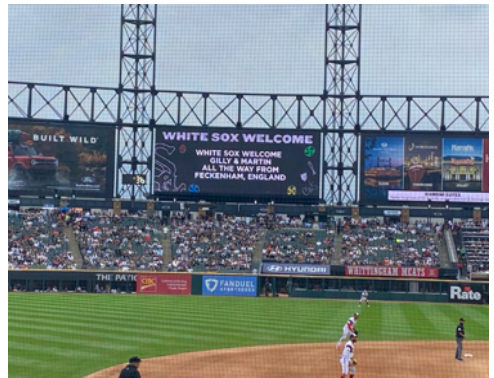
When you read this the heat wave will be receding into the past and we'll be readjusting. Meantime your editor has been doubling as a roving reporter, taking the opportunity to visit our very own crossword compiler, Jamie Hubball, who left the UK with his wife Emma who hails from Inkberrow, to teach in Chicago..Many of you know he is also my son. I arrived back just in time for the very successful Pirate-themed Fun on the Square.

It's been a bit of a roller coaster of a trip. We managed to collect Covid on the outbound journey despite mask wearing throughout. The airport at Birmingham was horrendously busy and two days into our trip, while in Boston, infection struck. This entailed isolation for 5 days and using the drug Paxlovid which, in the USA, is routinely given to over 65s unlike in the UK. Unfortunately it doesn't always prevent the infection though it does reduce death and hospitalisation. It often gives what's known as rebound Covid a few days after stopping the drug and that's what happened to us. So we had to isolate twice. Despite that, we visited Boston, New York and Chicago as well as places in between.

Chicago, known as the windy city, does not have the name because of the weather but because of the talkativeness of the people, especially the politicians apparently. It's a beautiful place on Lake Michigan with beaches very near the high rise city. The Architectural Boat Tour is a great way to see and learn about the history of the city and its buildings.



Jamie lives not far from the centre in a leafy neighbourhood and can cycle about the city with no need for a car. The pictures were taken at the White Sox ground where I watched a baseball match for the first time. A complicated sport to my mind but it was exciting and our team won on the day. Look at the big screen in the photo below - Feckenham mentioned.



There's no crossword this month but I hope there will be many more. Jamie would really like to have some feedback. How many of you actually attempt the crossword and do you enjoy it? Should we continue to include it in the magazine? Just let me know or email Jamie himself jamiehubball@gmail.com.

Village Notices and Letters

New Arrival

Dave and Jo Peate are delighted to announce the arrival of baby Leon Peate. He was born on the 2nd July and weighed 7lbs 8oz. We wanted to say a big thank you for all your well wishes, cards and gifts that we have received. They say it takes a village to raise a child!

A response from JBM Solar to the letter last month from Phil Coathup, Chair, Roundhill Wood Solar Farm Opposition Group:

JBM Solar is proposing to deliver a temporary 49.9MW solar and battery storage installation near Inkberrow, known as Roundhill Solar Farm. The plans form part of the UK's much-needed move towards a fully renewable electricity grid by 2035 and will provide enough clean renewable energy to power the equivalent of 18,000 homes. It will also help to increase the UK's energy independence and deliver on the aims set out in the Government's energy security strategy.

In addition to the wider benefits, the proposals also look to deliver a 94 per cent net gain in biodiversity on the site through the planting of wildflower meadows and extensive habitat creation. There will also be substantial new planting of over 4.6km of hedgerows along the site boundary to both encourage new wildlife and to help screen the proposals from surrounding areas. The plans also allow for 95 per cent of the site's current agricultural usage to remain in the form of sheep grazing.

JBM Solar has listened to the feedback provided by the local community at our two consultation events and through our postal survey. We have made several changes to

the proposals, including increased setback of the panels, additional hedgerow and tree planting, parking for recreational users and more than trebling the Community Fund to £180,000. This money will help to fund solar installations on local buildings and other sustainable initiatives.

Some residents have raised questions about the site's historic link to the author J.R.R. Tolkien. Whilst Tolkien would have known the surrounding countryside, there are no references in consulted sources of any specific connection with the Application Site. In fact, Tolkien himself stated that 'The Shire' was "inspired by a few cherished square miles of actual countryside at Sarehole" (his former home - then a village, now a suburb of Birmingham).

Whilst we have worked hard to listen to local concerns about the proposals, we have also received a substantial amount of support from residents who recognise the vital role that the site plays in helping to deliver sustainable energy for future generations.


If you have any questions about the proposals, you can email us at jbmroundhill@mpc.email or call us on 0800 148 8911 (freephone).

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Feckenham Artisans:

Julian Bull

Between 20th and 29th August over 100 artists across Worcestershire will be opening their studios for visitors to learn more about their work.



Feckenham artist Julian Bull will be opening his Visibull studio at 7 Droitwich Road on 20th, 21st, 24th, 27th, 28th and 29th Aug from 10.30 to 5.00 and all are welcome to browse including seeing their private sculpture garden.

There will be a comprehensive display of tree ring prints as well as many new designs of ECO T-shirt and other tree themed homewares.

Full detail of all participating artists can be found at www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk

I'm taking part in



Worcestershire
Open Studios

20–29 August 2022

Feckenham Flower Show

Saturday 10th September

Another note from Linda:

I am sure we are all looking forward to entering our produce at the Flower Show; flowers, fruit and vegetables all tenderly nurtured over the year to peak condition. Meeting friends and enjoying a lovely home-made tea. This year will be a challenge as the committee and friends who usually help, are somewhat depleted in numbers, so if you feel you able to help set up the Hall on Friday night, from 8 o'clock, and clear the Village Hall after the event on Saturday, it would be much appreciated. The Flower Show has been in existence for many years and – like all organisations in the Village – those that have supported and helped over many years, are not always able to now. If you feel that you can spare time to assist, please contact either Margaret East on 893735 Linda Harris on 892850.

Lunch Club

Please note, there will not be a lunch club in September due to volunteer's holidays. We shall be back on October 4th.

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Local Beekeeper Seeking Locations for Expanding Apiary

Hi, I'm Colin Davenport and I'm a local beekeeper seeking locations to house my expanding apiary.

I'm reaching out to collaborative landowners, estate managers and homeowners within the Redditch Parishes who would be interested in providing locations for my hives.



As you're probably aware, honeybees are under threat like never before and protecting this remarkable species is something we should all take seriously. Humanity depends upon their survival for our own. We rely on approximately two thirds of crop pollination from bees.

I'm fortunate to have had a successful Beekeeping season with a young colony who have proven extremely productive. My bees are very calm and are derived from some of the best bees to have ever been cultivated, Buckfast bees, something we can thank our Roman friends for!

Ideal sites for locating bees are quiet, often isolated, and relatively accessible. Good sites are not always the most obvious, for example rooftop locations, churchyards and gardens of rest are sometimes overlooked but can provide excellent beekeeping opportunities.

The benefits of keeping bees in the locality are numerous. In our immediate vicinity they'll help pollinate our gardens and crops, increase our biodiversity and aid seed production for next year's harvest.

Lesser-known health benefits from consuming honey produced by local bees include raising immunity to hay fever, reducing the lifespan of the common cold and seasonal flu while providing a delightful sugar substitute for the sweet toothed amongst us.

In return for housing my bees I can offer a share of the proceeds from the honey produced, and beeswax.

It would be lovely to produce some Feckenham Honey.

If you are interested in knowing more and would like to discuss this opportunity, feel free to email me at cfadavenport@icloud.com or call me on 07464 474 735.

An invitation.... Come and join our team

The FeckenOdeon Cinema is run by a small band of volunteers and we'd love to welcome new team members.

You could be

- an usherette
- a bar steward
- a film booker
- a projectionist
- a rigger
- a film researcher
- a publicist...
- or do any other job that helps keep the reels turning.

No experience needed - we'll show you the ropes

We aim to create a fantastic cinema experience for our audiences - but we also have a great deal of fun in the process. Meetings are informal and often held in the pub. A sociable group running a great community facility.

If you'd like to find out more just email us at:
films@fecknodeon.co.uk

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SEPTEMBER CHURCH SERVICES



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Church Warden: Ann Mathews 892180

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

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

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

Email: info@feckenhamchurch.org.uk



PARISH CHURCH
OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
FECKENHAM

Services for September 2022

4 th September	10.30am	Eucharist	Revd Paul Taylor
11 th September	9.00am	BCP Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading
18 th September	6.30pm	Evensong	Fr Glenn Reading
25 th September	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 (Type the link into the browser)

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

Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898

Phew, what a scorcher!.....

It may be noteworthy, that during the two exceedingly hot days in July when temperatures reached over 40°C for the first time ever in the UK, the temperature inside Feckenham church was a relatively cool 25°C. The frequency of such extreme heatwaves is predicted to increase, so the next time the mercury rises towards 40°C, it might be worth thinking about popping into church as a remedial strategy, you'll be very welcome – perhaps take a flask of chilled tea, or a good book, just sit with your thoughts, or maybe say a prayer (for rain?). Whatever you do when you are in there, the lower temperature might just be a Godsend.....

Prof. Mark Wheatley
(Lay-Chair, Feckenham Church PCC)



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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 – Roger Pask 07976165191 or secretary@sbvh.org.uk—Nikki Dean—01386 792555

Fr Glen writes...

As I sit down and turn my thoughts to the September Article for the Feckenham News, its twilight during those dog days of summer and I watch the bats flying across the blue sky that is fast fading to black, as I watch I wonder what September will bring.

This passing year seems to have been busy and full of events, especially in comparison to the previous two years. Locally we've had the Flower Festival and Open Garden's, the Wake, in Church we've had several weddings and life seemed 'almost normal'. There was laughter and joy and fellowship, and it was lovely to see. On the national scene 'normal' things were taking place, Jubilee celebrations, Wimbledon, and the Commonwealth Games to name but a few.

September will bring more of that familiar normal, new starts as children head back to school and we head back to work, and university and we begin preparations for the events of Autumn and on into winter.

That sense of 'almost normal' leaves me with a feeling of unease, knowing there are challenges facing us that seem insurmountable at first glance. How many of us watched in astonishment as the temperature rose to 38, 39...40 degrees in the UK? How many of us worry about the bills going up and up as life becomes ever more expensive?

Such worry and unease can often leave us feeling stuck and feeling helpless, we may say 'these things are too big, what can I do'...I know it's how I feel sometimes. What hope can we hold onto?

I recall the words of the Psalmist in psalm 121 who begins 'I lift my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come' the answer comes in verse two 'my help comes from the Lord. Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley writes 'this psalm is a profound and timeless evocation of hope beyond hope, of God's abiding vision that holds each of us in his sight, at all times'.

Christians are and should be people of hope, we trust that God leads us into lives that are purposeful and make a difference, we trust that God will lead us through good times and bad. In following that leading we find a path of hope, freedom, and salvation for all; for we are all children of God.

As you begin your fresh starts in September and enjoy the new and familiar and wrestle with the challenges this year continues to bring, please be assured of my prayers, and hold on to those words of hope from the Psalmist in psalm 121, which I included below. The prayer at the end is a prayer you can pray yourself as you reflect on those words.

God Bless. Fr Glenn

Psalm 121

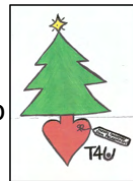
- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble;
he who watches over you will not sleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
neither the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall keep you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep your soul.
- 8 The Lord shall keep watch over your going
out
and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

*Lord, ever watchful and faithful,
we look to you to be our defence
and we lift our hearts to know your help;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

T4U SHOEBOXES FOR CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2022

Lin Preece

25 years ago (where does the time go) I asked the nursery children if they would be kind enough to fill a shoebox with gifts to help a child less fortunate than themselves. I think they all made up a box, we must have sent around 50 boxes that first year. Last year we sent over 500. From those first little acorns what big oak trees have grown.



This ought to be a time for celebrating. 25 years is a long time ! We would expect to see changes for the better, less poverty, less homelessness, a world at peace sharing its resources and riches fairly. Sadly, many of the countries where our boxes are distributed are in turmoil. We are seeing and hearing the unimaginable. So it is with a heavy heart that I am appealing for your much needed support this year.



We all know what a difference our boxes are going to make to children of all ages, not forgetting the family boxes too. So many have nothing left to call their own, so many have lost everything. WE CAN HELP THEM It may be only in a small way, but our boxes will make a huge difference, they will be providing some much needed comfort and joy. The children, their parents and loved ones will know that they aren't forgotten. They will know that we care about them so very much. So please start collecting a little earlier this year. You may just have gathered enough goodies to make up some extra boxes!

Leaflets with all the information you need will be available from September, there will be a limited number of pre-wrapped boxes and flat pack boxes too. Just pop into church them. Donations for the boxes and hand knits are also much appreciated!

Please take your boxes to church no later than Wednesday 23rd November. 'Shoobox Send Off Service', will be held on Sunday 27th November at 10-30am . It is a lovely service Everyone Welcome!

To find out more about Teams 4 U and for inspiration on what to pack take a look on their website. Thank you in anticipation. Lin



The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



THE DUKE AND THE BUS DRIVER

September's film at the FeckenOdeon is set in 1961 when Kempton Bunton, a retired bus driver, stole Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. It was the first (and remains the only) theft in the Gallery's history. Kempton sent ransom notes saying that he would return the painting on condition that the government agreed to provide television for free to the elderly. What happened next became the stuff of legend. Only 50 years later did the full story emerge – a startling revelation of how a good man set out to change the world and in so doing saved his son and his marriage.. Jim Broadbent plays the unlikely thief, Helen Mirren is his long suffering wife in a film full of charm, humour and comforting warmth (UK 2022)

THE DUKE

Saturday, 24th September - 7.30pm

OUR 21st SEASON

The Duke is the first film in our 21st Season. You can buy tickets for individual shows or save a little cash by taking out a subscription for the entire season. Just £30 buys you a seat for eight Saturday night films from September to April - just £3.75 per film - a bargain if there ever was one! Full details can be found at www.fecknodeon.co.uk and in leaflets to be found in most venues around the village and enclosed with delivered copies of this magazine.

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

Feckenham WI

For our August meeting we had a fascinating tour of Feckenham's oldest church, St John the Baptist. We are very grateful to the Church Warden, Ann Matthews, and Angela Fletcher who very kindly agreed to show us around at quite short notice. For those who were familiar with the church it was nice to see parts of it that are normally off limits and for our newer resident members it was a chance to hear of the rich and varied history of one of our best-loved buildings. All of us learned something new and it was surprising to hear of how many groups the church is involved with and the many charitable initiatives it supports.

If you would like to become a member it is now £33 for our remaining meetings but guests (of both sexes) are very welcome to come along for £5 per meeting. We meet on the 3rd Monday of every month and here are details of our programme. If anyone would like to know more, please contact the President, Jen Clements Jen@thecarys.co.uk 07773 883 039 .

Next meetings;

19th September Farm Visit TBC

17th October Feckenham Artisans TBC



In July we played rounders. We worked up quite a sweat– we didn't just spend all evening in the pub, honest!

Feckenham Village Hall

LIVE SHOWS COMING SOON

A new season of live professional shows at Feckenham Village Hall has been announced. These events come from Live and Local and are subsidised by Arts Council England, Worcestershire County Council and Redditch Borough Council. The subsidy means that we can enjoy top quality performances on our doorsteps at very reasonable prices of admission and with no need to travel, pay parking fees or for overpriced city meals!

The shows we're looking forward to presenting are:

Sunday, 13th November, 2022:

THE HEAD GARDENER

One for the green fingered! A real garden will be designed, planted and brought to life onstage.

Saturday, 10th December, 2022:

JES LOWE'S THAT SNOW JOKE

Jeze Lowe's annual Christmas tour is an institution in his native North East. He and his band, The Bad Pennies, invite us to sing along, laugh along, and drive the cold winter away in what's been described as part concert, part music hall review.

Sunday, 26th February, 2023:

MA BESSIE'S PROHIBITION PARTY

Ma Bessie and her Pig Foot Band take us on a trip back to prohibition-era America, bringing us the very best of the period's blues and jazz in a recreation of a speakeasy.

Saturday, 6th May, 2023:

GEORGE EGG'S SET MENU

George Egg cooks food while making you laugh. Three meals, cooked live and you even get to try it at the end. As seen on The Great British Bakeoff Extra Slice (C4), Steph's Packed Lunch (C4), and heard on Loose Ends (BBC R4) and online with over 5 million views.

Tickets for all these shows are now on sale.

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



ALL OVER THE WORLD

TV stations tend to count their viewers in millions. Local radio stations have more modest expectations but Swansbrook's latest listening figures are still quite pleasing. 1,500 people a week tune into our live stream which, considering there are only 800 people in the Parish, isn't bad going. Some what more startling is the international mix of listeners - we have regular listeners in Mexico, India and the United States and occasional listeners in 23 other countries. What people in India make of our reports about The Wake and traffic problems on the B4090 we have no way of telling. What we can tell is that the figures leap up whenever we do a programme from a local event as everyone tunes in to see if they're on the radio - so, if you're planning event and would like us to come along, just email us and let us know - radio@swansbrook.com

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

WHAT'S ON IN



Feckenham Flower Show

Saturday, 10th September

2.30pm - Feckenham Village Hall

Displays of Flowers and Produce

Teas - sale of produce.

Exhibitors - staging from 10am to 12noon



THE
**FECKENHAM
SESSIONS**
TRADITIONAL
MUSICMAKING
at THE ROSE & CROWN

First Tuesday of every month from 8pm
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 6th September

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

FECKENHAM WI

Next Meeting - 19th September

8pm - Feckenham Village Hall

STUDLEY DAYTIME WI

Next Meeting - 7th September

2pm - Studley Village Hall

Feckenham Parish Council **MEETING**

Thursday, 15th September at 7.30pm

Feckenham Village Hall Back Room

All welcome.

Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB **PELARGONIUMS**



Talk and demonstration by

Heather Goddard Key

at Bradley Village Hall

Wednesday, 7th September

7.30pm

Send details of events for FREE listing to:

FECKENHAM

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL



Mondays: Restorative Yoga - 7.30pm

Wednesdays: All Round Voices Community Choir

**Thursdays: Bridge Club - 10am
Hatha Yoga - 6pm
Pilates - 7.30pm**

We also host regular monthly meetings of various organisations. Check our website for details.

The Hall is now fully open and welcomes bookings. Contact the Booking Secretary on 01527 821233
www.feckhall.org

Feckenham READERS GROUP

Meets on
Tuesday, 6th September - 7.45
This month's book:

**KLARA
AND
THE SUN**

By KAZUO ISHIGURO



THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

Jim Broadbent & Helen Mirren in

THE DUKE

12A



FeckenOdeon 1 Saturday, 24th September at 7.30pm



The French Minister

Quaid'Orsay

FeckenOdeon 2 Friday, 14th October at 8pm

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

The Feckenham Forest History Society

Redditch Local History Museum

A talk by Derek Coombs
Tuesday, 13th September - 7.30pm
Webheath Village Hall

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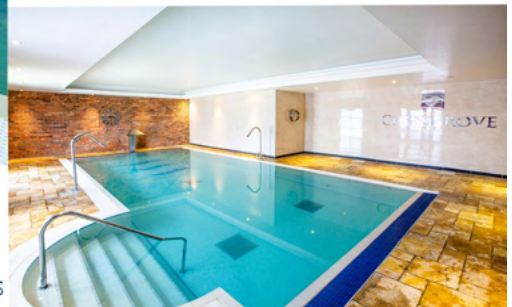
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At the last parish council meeting, a member of public raised the issue of speeding motorists on the B4090 and Astwood Lane. The issue is taken very seriously by the parish council and is regularly discussed with our Redditch Borough Cllr Brandon Clayton and our Worcestershire County Councillors Craig Warhurst and Mike Rouse. It is also the main item of concern raised with West Mercia Police.

In recent years, the parish council requested traffic calming but WCC Highways stated this was not possible on this section of B4090. With thanks to our previous WCC Councillor Jane Potter, we eventually were allowed to be the experimental location for the bollard system now installed which is effective for most of the day but fails at night and early morning.

Cllr Potter paid for the VAS machines on the B4090 and Astwood Lane.

The parish council paid for the Dragons Teeth to be installed at both ends of the B4090.

A request made to WCC Highways to relocate the village white gates which are designed to slow the traffic as it promotes “entering a village” was rejected.

Attempts have been made for a traffic island at The Lygon, but to date this has also been dismissed by WCC Highways.

The parish council have asked for traffic speed cameras; the police must undertake these, and now do take place.

We explored the possibility of the community traffic option but were told by the “Safer Road Partnership” that the

speeds on the road were too high and it was considered by them TOO DANGEROUS for the scheme to be allowed to go ahead.

We now have new county councillors who are being proactive on our behalf, and a new highways officer whose vocabulary goes beyond “no you can’t”. As a result, we are hopeful that new initiatives may be considered more favourably

The parish Council along with Cllr Mike Rouse, Cllr Craig Warhurst and Cllr Brandon Clayton continue to explore and request Highways to look at all available options. It is hoped the continued requests will bring forward additional solutions.

These include, the parish council currently looking into the possibility of arranging an independent speed test, closer to Moors Lane than has previously been undertaken. The results from this will provide useful data and will form part of on-going discussions, replacement of improved “gates” to the village, and trying again for some form of acceptable speed control that highways and the police will find acceptable.

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

Newshound - Jen Cary

As Newshound it's my job to seek out new people to our village and see if they would like a article in the Feckenham News introducing themselves. It can be quite a challenge sometimes though and Covid has made it harder for several reasons. However, persistence pays off! I took advantage of all three of this edition's interviewees being members of the WI and one night in the pub after a meeting I finally managed to interview them.

Jan and Anthony Facer moved into Field View Barn on Astwood Lane on the 24th September 2021. They previously lived in Sambourne but wanted a new build house with character in a thriving village, ready for their retirement. Anthony has already reached that milestone and no longer works doing grounds maintenance at Bristol Street Motors, but Jan works 3 days a week as an export administrator. They have two grown-up children, Hannah who is 35 and Benjamin who is 33, and they have 2 grandchildren. You might see them out and about with their dogs, a Bernese Mountain Dog called Wilson who is 2 and a black Labrador called Ruby who is 15.

Neighbouring Jan and Anthony is Mandy Beck, in Hayloft Barn. Mandy moved into Feckenham from Stirchley on the 1st December 2021 after she took retirement from 33 years at Cadbury's. She wanted to live in a rural environment that wasn't too far from her 2 daughters and 2 grandsons in Birmingham. Mandy was born in Tanzania when her father was out there teaching plumbing. She moved to the U.K. when she was 18 months old, and so in 2019 she and her family returned to the town she was born in, Moshi, to see where they had spent their early years. Mandy is very much enjoying life in Feckenham and getting to grips with her garden.

A bit further into the village, on the High Street, Becca and Neil Gordon moved into the Eight Bells on the 11th May 2021 with their French Bulldog Stitch. Coming from Cofton Hackett, they wanted to sink their teeth into a project in a friendly village environment that was closer to family. Becca is 45 and is a teacher and Neil is 42 and is a window fitter. They have a 20 year old son, Ben, who is currently in his final year doing History at the University of Manchester.

***Stop Press - Pirate Fun on the Square





BROMSGROVE & REDDITCH WELCOME REFUGEES

We would like to take this opportunity to thank local people who have generously donated many items, supported our refugees by giving their time, and by buying our delicious apple juice - 'Refujuice'.

Please support us at our next fund-raising event - our Fashion Show on Saturday, 1st October (see below) - do come along!

Who are we?

'Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcome Refugees' (BRWR) is a voluntary organisation welcoming refugees who are living in the Bromsgrove and Redditch areas and are mainly part of official Government Resettlement Schemes.

We offer friendship and practical support to refugees - mainly from Syria, Afghanistan and more recently Ukraine - and help them integrate into their communities. We also link closely with Worcestershire County Council, who manage Government programmes for resettling refugees.

We don't receive any Government funding, so rely on donations from supporters, fundraising events organised by volunteers, sale of Redditch lottery tickets and of our popular 'Refujuice, a premium apple juice.

Why not join us as a volunteer? Could you offer ...

- one-to-one befriending and mentoring
- one to one English lessons,
- donations of items such laptops, televisions, etc
- help with lifts for hospital appointments
- much needed help with understanding the paperwork and processes around the provision of Universal Credit, household bills, etc.

- improving the comfort of refugees' homes by installation of TVs,
- computers and soft furnishings
- School Awareness Program - a programme that helps with awareness-raising about the refugee crisis in schools and community groups.



Don't miss our fund-raising FASHION SHOW!
Saturday 1st October
2pm
Bromsgrove Methodist Centre

Our Fashion Show will be an exciting Fundraising Event. Please support us by buying a ticket. If you went to the recent Fashion Show in Feckenham you will know what fun it is and there are real bargains to be had - with well-known brands for up to 75% off.
Tickets are £8 including tea/coffee and cake (£9 on the day)

For your tickets email: info@brwr.uk

'Refujuice'



'Refujuice' is a delicious, premium cloudy apple juice, pressed and bottled at Pershore College. BRWR, as well as refugees and their families, glean apples from orchards in Gloucestershire. The apples are donated free of charge by farmers and, after gleaning, the crop is then pressed, pasteurised and bottled at Pershore College. Delivery can be arranged.

Large 750ml bottles £3 3 x 750ml bottles £8.50 Case of 12 £34

Thank you once again for your support - it really is appreciated

Website: www.brwr.uk

Feckenham Village Shop Alan Slater

Many of you will remember that last year we held a very successful Coffee Morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Despite only deciding to arrange the event at short notice, with the support of so many



villagers, we managed to raise over £300. This year we are repeating the event, but by giving you plenty of advance notice we are confident that we can surpass last years total. The Shop will be providing the hot drinks and many of our

volunteers will be donating their home baked cakes, so every penny raised will be going to support the Macmillan Nurses. I suspect that we all know someone who has been affected by cancer and has been supported by this

magnificent charity, that is why as a Community Shop, we have decided to repeat last years event. We are organising the Coffee Morning on FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 30th between 9.30 a.m – 1.00 p.m , so please come along and spend a fiver and we'll even organise a free raffle. All we need is your support and of course some decent weather.

During last month's heatwaves our over worked Buying Team managed to keep the chillers well stocked with ice cream and cold drinks which gave the August sales figures a timely boost. Our trading figures continue to be buoyant and compare well with last two years exceptional performance. If you would like to know more about how we are doing, how the Shop is managed or wish to raise any item of interest with the Board of Management, then you are welcome to attend our Annual General Meeting which is being held in the Village Hall on Thursday 22nd September at 7.30 p.m.

So I look forward to seeing you at either , or ideally , both events during the next few weeks .

Thank you for continuing to support your Village Shop,

Feckenham Archive - Marion Chute



Feckenham Cricket Club - Bob Gordon

Feckenham Cricket Club – August 2022

As things stand, the first team sit mid-table in division 3, the seconds are looking over their shoulder a little but should survive in division 8 and the thirds ended their season propping up division 10 (East).

This is not a poor season, the club has lost a number of senior players and a couple of first-teamers were at university and did not return until mid-season. It therefore became a challenge to field a competitive first team, resulting in the use of second-teamers – which of course meant that some third-teamers were promoted to the seconds...

That is the reality of village cricket unfortunately and we just have to deal with it. The upside this season particularly is that we have a wonderful group of junior players who are now of an age at which they can transfer to the senior game. This has been a huge positive - if you read last month's article you will understand how good these lads are.

The youngsters are our future and we have the potential for a very strong first team in just a few short years.

Last month the U15s won against Barnt Green, the U13s have been unlucky with weather cancellations, the U12s are top of the Pairs league as they enter the final matches and had a great T20 win against Swindon. The U11s beat Barnt Green in a T20 match and Ombersley in a Pairs game. If you have a son or daughter that would like to play, let us know – we are always looking to welcome new players to the club

There are only a few fixtures left this season so if you haven't been to see us play, come on down and see what village cricket is about.

Remaining games at Mill Lane:

Sat 27 th Aug v	Feckenham 1 st XI Coombs Wood CC - 2 nd XI 12:30pm
Sun 28 th Aug v	Feckenham Under 13s Barnt Green 10:30am
Wed 31 st Aug v	Feckenham Ramblers Thomas Bros (friendly) 6pm
Sat 3 rd Sep v	Feckenham 2 nd XI Kidderminster CC - 4 th XI 12:30pm
Sun 4 th Sep v	Feckenham Ramblers TBC (friendly)
1pm Sat 10 th Sep v	Feckenham 1st XI Old Vigornians CC - 1 st XI 12:30pm



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Flower Show Classes

Linda Harris

VEGETABLES

- | | | |
|----|--|----------|
| 1 | RUNNER BEANS | (6 pods) |
| 2 | FRENCH BEANS | (6 pods) |
| 3 | BEET (long or globe) | (3) |
| 4 | CABBAGE (white) | (1) |
| 5 | CARROTS (short/intermediate,
Trimmed) | (4) |
| 6 | CUCUMBER (indoor or outdoor) | (1) |
| 7 | TOMATOES | (5) |
| 8 | ONIONS (dressed) | (4) |
| 9 | PARSNIPS (trimmed) | (3) |
| 10 | MARROW | (1) |
| 11 | COURGETTES | (3) |
| 12 | POTATOES | (5) |
| 13 | PUMPKIN (best) | (1) |
| 14 | SHALLOTS | (7) |
| 15 | LEEKs (trimmed) | (3) |
| 16 | SWEETCORN | (2) |
| 17 | VEGETABLES (best display of any 4 types) | |

FRUIT

- | | | |
|----|---|------|
| 18 | PLUMS | (5) |
| 19 | DAMSONS | (10) |
| 20 | RASPBERRIES | (15) |
| 21 | APPLES (culinary) | (5) |
| 22 | APPLES (dessert) | (5) |
| 23 | PEARS | (5) |
| 24 | BLACKBERRIES | (15) |
| 25 | A VARIETY OF WILD FRUIT (on a 7" plate) | |
| 26 | UNUSUAL FRUIT or VEGETABLE (any No.) | |
| 27 | OTHER FRUITS or VEGETABLES (any No.) | |

FLOWERS

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 28 | CHRYSANTHEMUMS | (3) |
| 29 | DAHLIAS (Cactus, any size) | (3) |
| 30 | DAHLIAS (Decorative fully double) | (3) |
| 31 | DAHLIAS (other than Class 29/30) | (3) |

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|------------|
| 32 | ROSE | (1) |
| 33 | ROSES (1 of each of 3 varieties) | (3) |
| 34 | ASTERS | (3) |
| 35 | SWEET PEAS | (6) |
| 36 | GLADIOLI (any colour) | (3 spikes) |
| 37 | PINKS | (6) |
| 38 | GERANIUMS (growing in a pot) | (1 pot) |
| 39 | FLOWERS (any other single variety) | (3) |

MISCELLANEOUS FLOWER CLASSES

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 40 | POSY (ready for presentation) | (1) |
| 41 | BUTTONHOLE (spray) | (1) |
| 42 | POT PLANT (in flower) | (1) |
| 43 | POT PLANT (foliage effect, no flower) | (1) |
| 44 | POT PLANT (cactus or succulent) | (1) |
| 45 | ARRANGEMENT OF FLOWERS (in any container) | (1) |
| 46 | ARRANGEMENT OF FRUIT AND FOLIAGE (in any container) | (1) |
| 47 | ARRANGEMENT OF EXOTIC FLOWERS (in any container) | (1) |
| 48 | HERBS (display of 6 varieties, labelled) | (1) |
| 49 | ARRANGEMENT (1 fruit or vegetable and 1 flower) | (1) |

DOMESTIC CLASSES

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---------|
| 50 | JAM (soft fruit) | (1 jar) |
| 51 | JAM (stoned fruit) | (1 jar) |
| 52 | JELLY PRESERVE | (1 jar) |
| 53 | MARMALADE | (1 jar) |
| 54 | PICKLES (any variety) | (1 jar) |
| 55 | CHUTNEY (any variety) | (1 jar) |
| 56 | TEA LOAF | (1) |
| 57 | FRUIT CAKE | (1) |
| 58 | MADEIRA CAKE | (1) |
| 59 | VICTORIA SPONGE | (1) |
| 60 | DECORATED CAKE | (1) |
| 61 | SMALL CAKES | (6) |
| 62 | SMALL TARTS | (6) |
| 63 | CUP CAKES | (3) |
| 64 | SCONES (fruit) | (6) |
| 65 | SCONES (plain) | (6) |
| 66 | Home-made BREAD (fancy loaf) | (1) |

- 67 Home-made BREAD (machine made) (1)
- 68 Home-made COUNTRY WINE (red) (1 bottle)
- 69 Home-made COUNTRY WINE (rose) (1 bottle)
- 70 Home-made COUNTRY WINE (white) (1 bottle)
- 71 EGGS (white) (6)
- 72 EGGS (brown) (6)

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

- 73 MINIATURE GARDEN (under 5 years)
- 74 MINIATURE GARDEN (5 to under 7 years)
- 75 MINIATURE GARDEN (7 to under 10 years)
- 76 MINIATURE GARDEN (10 to 16 years)
- 77 FLOAT GARDEN (under 5 years)
- 78 FLOAT GARDEN (5 to under 7 years)
- 79 FLOAT GARDEN (7 to under 10 years)
- 80 FLOAT GARDEN (10 to 16 years)
- 81 HUMOROUS VEGETABLE ARRANGEMENT (Under 5 years)
- 82 HUMOROUS VEGETABLE ARRANGEMENT (5 to under 7 years)
- 83 HUMOROUS VEGETABLE ARRANGEMENT (7 to under 10 years)
- 84 HUMOROUS VEGETABLE ARRANGEMENT (10 to 16 years)
- 85 SMALL CAKES OR TARTS (under 5 years) (4)
- 86 SMALL CAKES OR TARTS (5 to under 7 years) (4)
- 87 SMALL CAKES OR TARTS (7 to under 10 years) (4)
- 88 SMALL CAKES OR TARTS (10 to 16 years) (4)
- 89 PAINTING, DRAWING or CRAFT *** (Under 5 years)
- 90 PAINTING, DRAWING or CRAFT *** (5 to under 7 years)
- 91 PAINTING, DRAWING or CRAFT *** (7 to under 10 years)
- 92 PAINTING, DRAWING or CRAFT *** (10 to 16 years)

*** all on the theme **JUBILEE CELEBRATION**

RULES FOR THE FLOWER SHOW

- 1 All exhibits shall be either grown or produced by the exhibitor only.

- 2 All exhibits to be exactly as stated in the Schedule and to be staged between 10.00am and 12 noon.
- 3 No persons other than the officials will be allowed in the Hall during judging.
- 4 The Judges' decision shall be final, and they reserve the right to withhold any prize where there are no exhibits of sufficient merit.
- 5 All exhibits shall bear an exhibitor's number.
- 6 All exhibits (**except** those in Classes, 38, 42-49, and 73 - 92) will be sold by auction.
- 7 All exhibits in classes 42, 43, and 44 must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for a minimum of six months.

CASH PRIZES - Children's Classes only

First (3 points) £1: Second (2 points) 50p: Third (1 point) 20p.

TROPHIES

There are lots of trophies to be won, some open to all, and some restricted to villagers and children attending the schools.

The Committee wishes to thank exhibitors, and all who in any way contribute to the success of the show.



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Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

Dark-leaved Meadow Cranesbill

I have always been attracted to our native Meadow Cranesbill, *Geranium pratense*, and over twenty years ago I was particularly interested to learn of a dark leaved variant developed by Victor Reiter, a plantsman from San Francisco. In his 2000 seed catalogue, Ray Brown of Plant World Seeds in Newton Abbot, offered seed from descendants of this plant which he called 'Purple Haze', and I ordered four packets, little realising the journey it was to take me on.

I sowed the 32 seeds on 3rd December 2000, and 20 seedlings were raised, only 4 of which had bronzy dark foliage. Of these four dark seedlings, three flowered typically blue, and the fourth, to my surprise and delight, flowered white with pink veining. The foliage colour of the white flowered seedling remained bronzy dark for most of the spring, but at flowering time had changed to a dark green. The stem colour, however, remained distinctly reddish. For reference purposes I named this white seedling as 'Meadow Moon', and patiently collected all of its seed as it ripened.

A total of 124 seeds from this white seedling were collected and sown on 1st January 2001, eventually producing 41 plants, but only 6 with dark foliage. These 6 were eventually potted into 2 litre pots and flowered in June 2003. Five of the seedlings had white flowers with pink veining, and the sixth flowered blue and was discarded.

The original 'Meadow Moon' plant, was eventually divided into eight plants. Six were planted in the garden in two separate locations, and two were sent for trial to Bransford Nurseries as a possible introduction, but were eventually rejected by them on the grounds that it was 'too big for a pot' !!!

Geranium pratense is renowned for ping its seed around, and a dark leaved, self sown seedling from one of the 'Meadow Moon' plants in the garden was noticed and nurtured during 2002, and flowered in mid June 2003. It had a slightly pinker flower, almost a bi-colour effect, and was

provisionally called 'Ettie' (my mother's Christian name).

A further batch of seed from 'Meadow Moon' was sown in December 2002 to test its ability to come true from seed. One of the seedlings retained the dark foliage but had a persistently pale pink flower and was potted up, and for reference purposes called 'Meadow Blush'. Unfortunately this plant died the winter after flowering, but not before yielding a good crop of seed.

In mid June 2004 another self sown seedling from the original 'Meadow Moon' plant flowered clear white from a pale pink bud, and had very dark, almost black foliage, and was a significant improvement on the original white seedling as the very dark leaf colour was retained at flowering.

Two hundred and fifty seedlings were selected from sowings made in November 2004, and began to flower in 2005. These were rigorously compared and selected for worthwhile variants. One of these retains the dark foliage at flowering, but has a soft pale blue flower and another has a clear white flower without any hint of pink. Seed from all of the selected plants was collected and sown at the end of November 2005. Many were germinating freely by the end of January 2006, and the proportion of dark leaved forms was very high. I kept the best of them for propagation for the nursery.

It appeared that the selection procedure was paying dividends after only a few years, and the annual sowings which I still make from these selected plants have very few green leaved seedlings at all. All you need is patience, dedication, an obsessive trait and twenty-odd years of your life!





Our 3rd of August event was an evening visit to Rob and Diane Cole's new garden, created since their move to Salford Priors in November 2020. Forty members attended and enjoyed a very sociable evening together. From donations by members, £55.50 was also raised for the Brain Tumour Research charity.

NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 7th September 2022 from 7:00pm

We restart our programme of meetings with a talk and demonstration by Heather Goddard Key about 'Pelargoniums'. Heather is from Fibrex Nurseries at nearby Pebworth, and she will describe the many different forms of Pelargonium available. She will also advise us on propagation and plant care.

The subject for the monthly competition is 'A Pelargonium' 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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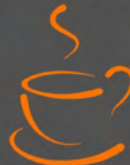
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E: dave.powell@blueyonder.co.uk

Village Shop



Coffee Shop with Veranda
Locally-sourced Products
Deli, Cakes, Beers and Wines
Household Essentials

Weekdays open 8am - 5pm
Saturdays open 9am - 4pm
Sundays open 10am - 1pm



www.feckenhamshop.co.uk

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