

FECKENHAM NEWS



September 2024

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

THOMAS BROTHERS



An Independent Family Owned Funeral Directors

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


REDDITCH • BROMSGROVE
01527 547777 01527 83170

WYTHALL • ALVECHURCH • ALCESTER
01564 822001 0121 445 3422 01789 330939




"A family concern"

www.thomasbrothers.co.uk
email: admin@thomasbrothers.co.uk



A. PULLEN MEMORIALS

Additional Inscriptions & Renovations

SHOWROOM AND WORKSHOP
338 ALCESTER ROAD, BURCOT
BROMSGROVE B60 1BH
Tel: (01527) 876200



**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**



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"



**ALL GLAZING
&
LOCKSMITHS**

All double glazing repairs
Misted/broken glass replaced
Doors & windows re-aligned
Anti-snap locks

 **35 years experience**

For free advice & 100% honest,
reliable service, call or text
Jason on 07789 761 412

Feckenham News in September

Dates for your Diary

Contents

September

- 4th S&B gardening Club
- 7th Churchyard Working Party
- 10th Parish Council Meeting
- 10th Readers Group
- 21st Churchyard Working Party
- 26th Shop AGM
- 27th Macmillan Coffee Morning
- 27th R&C Bandits Golf Cup
- 28th FeckenOdeon

October

- 5-6th Scarecrow Weekend
- 18th FeckenOdeon 2

	Page
Editor's Note	4
Village Square Management	5
Parish Council	6-7
FeckenOdeon	7
Village Hall	8
Swansbrook	8
Feckenham Archive	9
Church Matters	10-13
What's On	14-15
Feckenham in Pictures	16-17
Village Shop	20
Gardening	21-23
Football Club	24
Cricket Club	25

Regular Sessions

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

Production Team

Gilly Cooper - Editor feckenhamnews@gmail.com
07500115581

Neil Newland - Distribution neil.newland@btinternet.com

Ian Bellion - What's On whatson@feckenham.f9.co.uk

Jen Cary - NewsHound jen@28highstreet.co.uk

Mary Smith - Advertising fnadvertising@btinternet.com

©2024. Published by Feckenham PCC
Printed by Solopress

Front Cover

Picture by: The editor - Shakespeare in the Garden

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

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

Editor's Note



This month we have managed to enjoy a bit of summer at last. The Square Committee, who decided to have a simplified Fun on the Square event excelled themselves. The green was looking at its best,

spruced up for the occasion and lit with strings of fairy lights along with the bunting. They provided us with a barbecue on which to cook our own food and entertainment from Erstwhile Border Morris dancers who have regularly been practicing in the village hall. All we needed to do was bring chairs, tables, our picnic and some drinks. The pleasant, pure Feckenham evening was a delight - for me anyway - in the company of village friends. It was well attended though I did wonder if a few more of the younger residents might like to join us next year.

This week we were treated to Shakespeare in the Garden, organised by the Village Hall Committee and hosted in Jane and Julian Bull's garden. It was a real treat. As we sat watching snippets of the Bard's plays and poetry, the evening drew in and as it became dark we could see swallows flying over us.

I had a message from Erica Guise suggesting we celebrate the flower planting which has resulted in a wonderful display of colour around the village over the last couple of months. She said that thanks must go to the Village Shop, Feckenham in Bloom, The Village Hall, The Post Box Garden, The Village Square Committee, and last but not least the many residents who supply and tend tubs and baskets outside their front doors.

In other news... your editor has been as busy as ever. My 4th grandchild arrived safely, a boy named Zach. Once we knew all was well and the weather perfect, we went for a night at the Three Choirs Vineyard near Newent. I can definitely recommend it as a day out or a night away.

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, 2024

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

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, 2024

Further enquiries/applications to:

Mrs J. Bate (Clerk to the Trustees)
 'Wychway', Droitwich Road
 Hanbury, BROMSGROVE
 B60 4DB
 Tel 01527 821285

Feckenham Square Management Committee

MAKE HASTE AND CREATE!



Feckenham has a great reputation for putting on fantastic events and one of the best loved by locals and visitors alike is our **Scarecrow Weekend**. This year's is approaching fast. It's on the weekend of **5th and 6th October** and we're looking forward to a great weekend of scarecrow fun. There'll be the usual teas on The Square, games for the kids and even some live entertainment - but the principle attractions are the Scarecrows - which is where YOU come in! **PLEASE MAKE A SCARECROW!**

Once again we want you to make the most eye-catching and original scarecrows you can imagine. There's no theme and very few rules so let your imagination go wild! Scarecrows can be as big or as small as you wish, can be by themselves or in a group. There'll be prizes for the **BEST SCARECROW**.

Your creation can be situated at home - or, if you haven't space or live outside the village centre, it can be exhibited on The Square.

And... do remember that, despite the "scare" in their name, they don't have to be scary - they can be cuddly, funny or even lovable - and, please, though they can sometimes be a bit rude, don't make them disgusting! We're aiming at fun for all the family! You may win a prize but the best reward will be the laughter and appreciation of the people who come to see them (and who will vote for the best Scarecrow).

DON'T DELAY - START MAKING TODAY!

There'll be information about timings and the other attractions in next month's Feckenham News but please make a start by filling in one of our entry forms. You can use the one we've printed below or, if you don't want to cut up your magazine, there are forms at The Village Shop, The Rose & Crown and The Village Hall.



Feckenham Scarecrow Competition 2024 - 5th & 6th October

ENTRY FORM

Your Name.....

Address.....

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

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

We **MUST** receive your entry by 6pm on Monday, 30th September.

You can also enter online at willumconker.wixsite.com/feckenham-scarecrows

POSSIBLE BESS STATIONS AND SOLAR FARMS IN THE PARISH

An update from the Chair of the Parish council

Following the “pop up meeting” by Innova, and the subsequent Parish Meeting, held on 23rd July 2024, I thought I should advise on the current position in relation to the planning application for a “BESS” (Battery Energy Storage System) station adjacent to the existing electricity substation.

Approximately 70 to 80 parishioners attended the parish meeting, and a presentation was given regarding the possible BESS station being applied for by Innova. This set out information regarding the safety of electricity storage in Lithium batteries, the Governments desire to reach “net Zero”, fire risk, the possible reasons for an objection, and the possible extent of BESS and solar farms as a result of licences issued by National Grid.

There was a period of question, and answers followed by a show of hands as to whether the parishioners thought we should object to the proposal. The response was a majority in favour of objection.

The PC asked if there were any volunteers that may be willing to assist in taking this matter forward, approximately seventeen people left their names.

Following the meeting I have now been able to discuss this matter at some length with our MP, Chris Bloore, who reiterated that, going forward, he would support the PC regarding the application. He also allayed my fears regarding government policy on such applications. However, we will have to await the publication of the Ministerial Statement, and revised NPPF (National Planning

Policy Framework) to know the detail of that policy.

There are some additional points which I feel need consideration in order that parishioners assess their own opinion of the situation, may like to respond, or require additional information

1. It is imperative that the PC obtain the best possible outcome for the Parish and care must be taken in moving forwards. It is important, therefore, that the PC are aware of the public view.
2. The population of the parish varies, but at this time it is thought to be between 650 – 700. There is some dispute as to the actual number of people attending the meeting, but the numbers would equate to between 10 – 14 % of the population.
3. A scheme of this nature, at the earliest, will not be able to connect to the grid until 2032 and technology is moving with increasing speed. Will there be safer battery technology systems in place before then? Will nuclear fusion be viable? Will hydrogen become the way forward? Will government finally realise roof top solar panels are the way forward, reducing the need for electricity from the grid? Will off shore wind farms on Crown Land supply the needs of the country?
4. At the meeting with Innova, I had a lengthy conversation with the Team Leader regarding what was the benefit to our Parish, and that the suggested £28,000 per year contribution nowhere near made up for the inconvenience and disruption the scheme would cause. The idea for free electricity for the Parish, fell on “stony ground”. However, the possibility for some form of subsidised electricity did not. In principle, a possible charity, set up by the parish into which funds could be deposited and then granted back to parishioners, or used to undertake other projects to enhance the Parish
5. As stated previously this is the tip of the “iceberg”, for the impending “tsunami” of similar applications. At the time of writing there are SIX such schemes in the pipeline.

Please feel free to contact Chris Bloore MP, should you wish to do so, to express your views

His email address is:

chris.bloore.mp@parliament.uk

If you were not at the meeting and would like some background information you can contact me on:

alansmith@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

You can also contact the Parish Clerk: Jane Bull - clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

In summary

- It is essential that the Parish Council have a clear understanding as to the views of the Parish as to how to proceed.
- It is essential that care is then taken to ensure the best possible result is achieved for the Parish, whatever the decision to go forward may be.

The PC will try to keep you updated through Feckenham News, the Parish Council Web Site, and Facebook.

The time to lobby the Local Planning Authority is when a formal application has been submitted.

Alan J Smith
Chair Feckenham Parish Council

OTHER MATTERS

Traffic Calming: The new Village gates should have been installed by the time the magazine goes to press, as will the new VAS machines to both Astwood Lane, and the B4090.

Flooding: The scheme for flood alleviation on Astwood Lane / Swansbrook Lane is progressing.



Visit the Parish Council’s website for information about the Council, planning issues, local organisations and useful contact details to help you solve problems. You’ll also find digital editions of Feckenham News going back to 2012.

feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



NAUGHTY NOTES...

When the FeckenOdeon began in 2001 it would have been unthinkable that a film with rude words in it would ever be shown in Feckenham. Now, as we open our 23rd season, we’re delighted to present a movie that contains a huge quantity of hilarious cusswords - Mary Whitehouse must be spinning like a top in her grave.

In **Wicked Little Letters** a 1920s English seaside town bears witness to a dark, absurd scandal in this riotous mystery comedy based on a true story. When Edith (Olivia Colman) and fellow residents start to receive wicked letters full of unintentionally hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose (Jessie Buckley) is charged with the crime - but all is not as it seems and the local ladies decide to investigate for themselves.

Note: This is a very funny film but it does contain some VERY RUDE WORDS! If likely to be offended please bring earplugs.

WICKED LITTLE LETTERS (15)

Saturday 28th September at 7.30pm

Doors open at 7pm - Licenced Bar

It’s not too late to join **The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society**. Members get a guaranteed seat at all 8 of our Saturday night films (last Saturday of the month - September to April) for just £30. That’s £3.75 per show - a bargain if ever there was one! Members also get reduced prices for Friday FeckenOdeon 2 shows. Check our website for details - fecknodeon.co.uk

Coming to FeckenOdeon2: The Taste of Things (12A)

Friday, 18th October at 8pm.

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

Feckenham Village Hall

LIVE & LOCAL

The 2024/25 Season of shows from Live & Local have been announced. These professional performances are sponsored by Arts Council England and the Borough and County Councils. The line up for Feckenham is:

22nd November: Make Good- The Post Office Scandal

A new musical from Pentabus Theatre and New Perspectives Theatre

9th February: Four Hands and a Horn

Music and comedy from Mumbo Jumbo

23 March: The Tim Kliphuis Trio

Fantastic fiddling from the Dutch virtuoso

In addition the Hall will host a big band concert in December and a chamber orchestra in April

ENHANCEMENTS

Doors: The Main Hall's oak doors have been professionally refurbished and now look better than ever. The Hall appeals to everybody to refrain from sticking notices on them which damages their finish.

Lighting: Installation is now complete of the new LED stage lighting system. As well as being more versatile the new system is expected to reduce energy consumption by around 75%. This is a joint project with The FeckenOdeon with both organisations paying 50% of the cost.

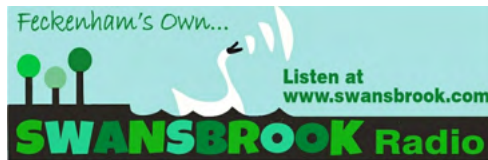
Benches: The Committee is working on the replacement of the side benches in the Main Hall which are showing signs of aging. It's hoped that a new design will make them more durable and easier to maintain.

THANKS

Thanks Part 1: Thanks are due to everyone who helped make Shakespeare in The Garden such a great success. In particular to Jane and Julian Bull for the use of their lovely garden. To Mr & Mrs Vrijland for so generously sponsoring the event. To The Globe Players for interrupting their journey to Edinburgh... and to the many villagers and committee members who put in three days of hard slog to get everything in place and to make it work so magically.

Thanks Part 2: Thanks are due to everybody who joined forces with the Committee on 17th August to paint, clean and generally spruce up the Hall. There's still more to do but we achieved a lot.

www.feckhall.org



WE'RE BIG IN ARGENTINA

It's difficult to tell how many people listen to Swansbrook Radio. The automated systems we use to transmit our programmes give us a rough idea but, because people listen using so many different routes, we can't get accurate figures. What we can tell is that more people listen when we attend large events. The graph went off the scale for our recent live transmission from the Wake and the streaming figures for a programme recorded at Astwood Bank Carnival saw a similar rise. What we can tell is how many people are listening to the live stream - and the country they're listening in. So we know that we have regular listeners in the USA, India and even in Russia. Quite what they make of our local concerns isn't known.

We do occasionally get emails from afar - as we did last month when a lady called Yolanda got in touch to say she was enjoying our programmes. Yolanda lives in a city called Zarate some 90km north of Buenos Aires. It's a major port and the main administrative centre for its province. We'd never heard of it so we looked it up - and now have a vision of Yolande sitting under swaying palm trees with a Pina Collada as Swansbrook Radio gives her the details of the latest events at Feckenham Village Hall, moans about the state of the roads and plays obscure music that only presenters of a certain age would choose... The magic of internet radio!

LISTEN TO THE SWANS

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

FECKENHAM'S OWN Local Radio

www.swansbrook.com

Feckenham Archive - Marion Chute



Back to school at the turn of the twentieth century Feckenham style. Posed outside the First School in those polished boots and starched white collars. Are there still some families in Feckenham whose relatives are in this picture. I think the young lady may be what was called a pupil teacher?

Are you tired of spending hours ironing?

Let us take care of it for you!

I'm here to handle your extra chores and lighten your load, giving you more time to enjoy with family and friends.

Contact Theresa today!

07927 362475

Beauty
by Elizabeth
MGBI, VICT
Skin Therapist

dermatologica
mapping
BIO SCULPTURE GEL

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

CHURCH SERVICES



PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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

Church Warden: Vacant

For Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals please contact Fr Glenn

Website: www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk



PARISH CHURCH
OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
FECKENHAM

Services for September 2024

1st September	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading
		(including commemoration of the Ann Matthews pew cushions)	
8th September	9:00am	BCP Communion	Fr Glenn Reading
	10.30am	Family Service	Rev Fiona Carter
15th September	6.30pm	Evensong	Rev Fiona Carter
22nd September	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading
29th September	10.30am	Group Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading

Drop in (in church)

Wednesday at 10.30am - 12.00pm

11th September and 25th September

All are welcome (coffee and cake)



FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St John Fisher & Thomas More

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

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

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

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

Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898

HARVEST LUNCH



Sunday 29th September, 12pm

AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

£8.00

(FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12)

You are warmly invited to the Harvest Festival lunch!

Enjoy beautiful flower displays in the church and
seasonal food - pork baps with all the trimmings,
salads and desserts

(a vegetarian option will be available)

The lunch will follow on from a
Thanksgiving Service at 10.30am - all welcome

Proceeds to support the upkeep of the church

*Help us to plan and buy your tickets in advance at Sunday
services or by contacting Clare Furey cf@paulsfurey.com*

07548 832771



Rev Fiona Writes

There is a “back to school” feel in the shops with school uniform and other items now on sale for the new term. And the school uniform adverts on the TV add to this as well. We had the pleasure of having the reception mums in the church last term whose children were starting in September. The children were about to have their induction morning, so were filling in time before they went to school. They were all very excited and some a little worried as well. But it was a pleasure to have them all in the church for coffee and cakes, toys and activities. We absolutely love having the mums, carers and children in the church.

It is a time of new starts for lots of our children and young people. Some children are starting high school, and some are moving schools or going to college for ‘A’ levels. And that is a really big deal for all these children and young people leaving old friends and making new ones. Wondering if they will find their way around their new bigger school or college, where they will have their lunch, and wondering if the work will be really hard and will they be able to do it. There are those starting nursery, and they might or might not be nervous, but their Mums and Dads and Carers definitely will be.

Then there are those starting university and moving away from home for the first time. That is hard for young people and their parents. Believe me, the “empty nest” when they go to university is a very real thing, I have felt it with all my children when they have left and gone to uni. It certainly does take time to readapt.

So, I pray for all those children and young people, their parents and carers who are having a new start this September. I pray that the transferring over will be smooth, and everyone will get used to the new

situation quickly. Amen.

Some of you may also have new starts to negotiate caused by loss of a job, retirement, bereavement, moving house or area. It is hard for adults as well. If this is you, then my prayers are with you.

We will all have to face change in our lives. That is a given, and it is part of being human. And we may wish things hadn’t changed and want to go back, but obviously we can’t. In each new stage in our lives God is doing a new thing, which can be a real source of comfort if we look out for it. And God won’t take us out of our circumstances, but he promises to be with us, like in the poem “Footprints” that most of you probably know or have heard of. When there was only one set of footprints in the sand, the person writing the poem said to God when looking back on his life in a dream, “at the hardest times in my life why was there only one set of footprints in the sand instead of two?”. And the Lord said, “that was when I carried you”.

God bless,

Rev’d Fiona



T4U CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2024

It’s September already and our thoughts are beginning to turn towards Christmas. For many years now the ‘Christmas Shoebox Appeal’, has been very much a part of our village Christmas.



Over the years, your kindness and generosity has enabled thousands of vulnerable children in need to enjoy a truly happy Christmas. Sadly there are still thousands of children today in desperate need of our help and support ! Your shoebox gift will be given to the poorest of children, or families, through schools, nurseries, hospitals and orphanages. Our boxes are distributed in Eastern Europe, Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia Belarus

Please, please support this years appeal and make up a gift box for a vulnerable child.



Please, give ‘Love in a Box’, this Christmas. Your boxes really do change lives. You give these children and their families hope for a better future, they will know that we have not forgotten them, they will know that we care !

Please, pop into church or the passageway of Kopper Cottage and pick up a leaflet with all the information you will need to get you started. Should you need a little help to get

started there will be some pre-wrapped and flat pack boxes available in church too ! You might prefer to donate items that can go into the boxes. Knitted hats, gloves, scarves and toys are also always gratefully received! Please add a Christmas card and a photo, a little something personal that the children will be sure to treasure !

Please take your boxes to church no later than Wednesday 20th November

Thank you in anticipation
Lin Preece

Pew Cushions

Thanks to a bequest from the estate of the late Ann Matthews the PCC has now installed cushions to all the pews in the church. This should improve the comfort of the pews particularly in cold weather. The cushions will be dedicated to the memory of Ann at the Eucharist service on Sunday 1st September when we hope we will be joined by Jeff and his family.

Churchyard Work Parties

Work parties will be held in the churchyard on Saturdays 7th and 21st September between 10 am and 12 noon. The task will be to mow the wildflower meadow on the east side of the church and remove all the hay. This exercise is important if we are to reduce the fertility of the meadow in order to encourage wild flowers.

Do please do consider joining us even for only half an hour – many hands....!

Ian Hunter

WHAT'S ON IN FECKENHAM



Feckenham
Scarecrow
Weekend
5th & 6th October

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING



The Village Shop
Friday, 27th September
8am - 1pm
FeckenJam for **MACMILLAN**
On sale all month

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Feckenham Church
HARVEST LUNCH
Sunday, 29th September
Midday in The Church

Feckenham Churchyard WORKING PARTIES
7th & 21st September
10am - 12 noon
Come along and lend a hand

Village
Shop



AGM
Thursday, 26th September - 7.30pm
Feckenham Village Hall (Back Room)
All welcome
Wine & nibbles provided




THE FECKENHAM SESSIONS
TRADITIONAL MUSICMAKING
at THE ROSE & CROWN
First Tuesday of every month from 8pm
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 3rd September

Stock & Bradley GARDENING CLUB



DAISY DAYS
With HELEN PICTON
Bradley Green Village Hall
Wednesday, 4th September
at 7.30pm

Feckenham READERS GROUP
Tuesday, 10th September - 7.45pm
This month's book:
A SPELL OF WINTER
By HILARY DUNMORE
Details: 892285



Feckenham Parish Council MEETING
Thursday, 10th October - 7.30pm
Feckenham Village Hall
(Back Room)
All welcome - Meetings include a Public Forum where parishioners can bring matters to the attention of the Council and ask questions.

THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

Olivia COLEMAN *Jessie BUCKLEY*



WICKED LITTLE LETTERS¹⁵
FeckenOdeon 1 Saturday, 28th September at 7.30pm



THE TASTE OF THINGS
FeckenOdeon 2 Friday, 18th 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.feckenodeon.co.uk
*Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings
*Phone calls answered by Ticketsource and charged at standard rates - NOT a premium line

Feckenham's Own...



Listen at
www.swansbrook.com
SWANSBROOK Radio

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

Feckenham in Pictures



Chance to
Dance
Dance ~ Happy ~ Healthy
Easy to follow / No partner or
experience necessary / 55+
New mood-boosting Monday
afternoon dance classes at
Feckenham Village Hall,
2.00pm-3.00pm
09 September-09 December 2024
£6 taster-session before
committing to the full term
To book contact Marie,
oldaker_m@hotmail.com
07855595287

FG BEAUTY NAILS AND BEAUTY

INSTAGRAM: @FGBEAUTY_
 WHATSAPP: 07457403950
 WWW.FGBEAUTY.AS.ME

BASED IN FECKENHAM



Wainwright's Eco Friendly
 CLEANER DRIER CARPETS

CARPET & UPHOLSTERY
 CLEANING SPECIALISTS
 DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL
 ECO FRIENDLY
 FAMILY RUN SINCE 1980

01527 459776
 07748 801658

Which? ncca
 NATIONAL CARPET CLEANERS ASSOCIATION

www.WainwrightsCarpetCleaning.co.uk

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
 Full Menu available daily
 Lunch & Evenings (not Sunday evening)

Real Ales & Ciders
 3 real ales on hand pumps every day
 Traditional ciders - fine wines

Open ALL DAY Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Tuesday, 3rd September
 in the Bar from 8pm - Free
Traditional Music
 25th to 27th September **PIE DAYS!**
 A huge selection of PIES
 Friday, 27th September
BANDIT CUP - Golf Tournament & Dinner
 www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk

Helping you live your
 healthiest and happiest life!

Counselling | Mindfulness | Meditation | Hypnotherapy | NLP Therapy | Psychological Services

Acupuncture | Aesthetics | Bowen Therapy | Dermatology | Ear Wax Removal | Laser Treatment |
 Neurological Physiotherapy | Nutrition and Kinesiology | Osteopathy | Paediatric Physiotherapy |
 Physiotherapy | Podiatry | Prehab and Rehab | Pregnancy Massage | Reflexology | Shockwave Therapy |
 Sports Massage | Sports Therapy | Vestibular Rehabilitation | Womens Health

Clinical Pilates | Gym Membership Packages | Personal Training



To find out more visit revival-health.co.uk
 01386 792126
info@revival-health.co.uk

REVIVAL
 HEALTH & WELLBEING CENTRE

Mind | Body | Gym

BABIES NURSERY AGE SCHOOL AGE

SWIMMING LESSONS

Private, Purpose Built Pool Free Parking Highly Trained Teachers

01527 821978
www.chessgroveswim.co.uk
info@chessgroveswim.co.uk

Chessgrove Swim

Ditchford Bank Road, Hanbury,
 Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 4HS



Half Price Fitting
 with all September Orders*
 Recently refurbished Bromsgrove showroom

Made-to-Measure Fitted Bedrooms

Classic and Contemporary Kitchens

AK
 FITTED INTERIORS

Visit us at: Saxon Park, Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove B60 4AD
 Tel: 01527 835924 | Showrooms also at Kenilworth, Knowle and Studley

 www.akfittedinteriors.co.uk  

*T&Cs apply.



Village Shop - Alan Slater

The CrowdStrike global Microsoft meltdown last month caused havoc across the world at airports, hospitals and supermarkets. The impact on business and travel was extensive, so extensive that it even reached the retail outpost of the Feckenham Village Shop. Early on the Friday morning our till and card system crashed which meant that we had to operate on a cash only basis. As we all know, in today's cashless society, many of us have become used to only paying for purchases on our iphones, watches and contactless plastic cards and rarely use cash. Needless to say the situation in the Shop was somewhat chaotic and had a detrimental effect on our takings. Despite the heroic efforts of Paul Bradley and Bob Gordon, who spent the best part of three days trying to get us backup and running, we weren't fully functional until the following Monday morning. However, with some difficulty we managed to keep trading so may I thank Paul, Bob and our weekend Team of volunteers for getting us through a very tricky situation. I must also thank the Wake Committee for the kind use of their portable card reader which eased our problems considerably.

On to more positive news and two dates for your September diary.

Throughout the morning of Friday 27th September we will be holding our annual Coffee



Morning in support of Macmillan Nurses. From 8.00 until 13.00 hrs the Shop will be donating all the proceeds from coffee and cake sales to this very worthy charity. In further support of the nurses we will be holding a raffle and selling our homemade FeckenJam which will be available from early this month. All made from donated local soft fruit, the jam comes in a variety of flavours including my favourites rhubarb and ginger and damson. As I write the jam



factory is still in production so any last minute surplus soft fruit and jars would be gratefully received by our Jam Maker, Geri who can be contacted on 07765 939990.

The other date to make a note of is Thursday 26th September when we will be holding our Annual General Meeting at the Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm. As well as reporting on last year's highly successful Shop performance, we would like to hear your suggestions on how we can improve the service we offer to our Community. So I look forward to seeing you on the 26th and 27th this month and thank you in anticipation for your continued support.

An Organic Allotment by Pete Delaney

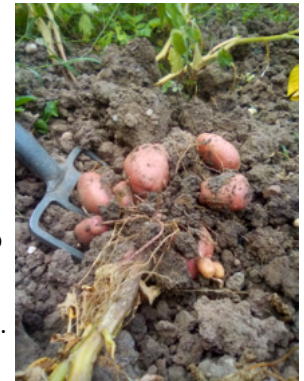
The month of the harvest moon. This month I experienced joy and sadness in the allotment. The joy of abundant harvest tinged with the sadness for the ageing of the year as open spaces begin to appear across the plot as harvests are collected in and plants start to die off.

The month for the making of pickles, beetroot, onions and cucumbers, along with runner bean and courgette chutney. In some chutney this year I shall be putting in nasturtium seeds which are my newest revelation for this year. I have been putting nasturtium leaves in salads, enjoying their peppery taste. Then another grower asked me if I had tried the seeds. The burst of zingy peppery flavour when bitten into has turned them into a regular in my salads. I had been growing nasturtium previously for their appearance only, now it has been promoted to a serious salad crop.

This year I had a good crop of broad beans which I picked as I needed them through the summer leaving those remaining to dry in the pods on the plant. Watching the pods turn black I wondered if I was doing the right thing. Once some of them began to open and shed their seed, I picked all the pods from the plants and was pleased to find that the majority had dried nicely and I was able to store them straight away in jars.



This year I managed to harvest 48lb of mixed potatoes from 4 rows - my best ever haul - with the red Desiree giving more potatoes to each plant than any I have previously grown. This decent harvest was surprising as I suffered a spell of potato blight. I tried to combat it at first by removing any leaf with a spot of the disease. This seemed to work at first with the plants shooting fresh green leaves. However in a short time it was back in the leaves and I could see a brown stained appearance in some stems, so I dug the lot up and although just over a month too early for the main crop I was pleased to get a decent harvest of good sized tubers. In the end the real enemy turned out to be slugs, of which the spuds they had eaten into filled a large bucket.



There is plenty still to harvest this season, sweetcorn and cabbages, squash soon to come, Jerusalem artichoke and leeks yet to come to fruition, plus I am still cropping tomatoes and cucumbers and the slow growing aubergine in the polytunnel. My runner beans which were a late starter look to give a good late harvest. Even in this time of harvests I still do a little sowing, during August and September I sow Chinese Pink raddish and Winter Lettuce to try and grow on under cloches as I begin to have half an eye as to what I shall be harvesting early next spring... and hopefully the plot goes on.

Trentham Gardens, Staffordshire

One of our gardening friends recommended some years ago that we should definitely go and see the new planting areas at Trentham Gardens in Staffordshire. He had been the week before, and was ecstatic about how good they were. We duly followed his advice, and were also impressed at what we found there.

The Trentham Estate has undergone a massive change over the last few years, and the 10 acres of garden have been redesigned by Piet Oudolf and Tom Stuart-Smith, both using a naturalistic approach which we found particularly effective in the late September sunshine.

The prairie style of planting is not new any more, but is carried out with great skill by



Piet Oudolf. His contribution to Trentham is one of those gardens where there is a picture at every turn. From what we saw on our first visit, the garden would be at its best in early Autumn, but we have now been at other times to see it at different seasons.

The planting is primarily of herbaceous perennial material, used in large drifts and repeated in a variety of combinations. At our last visit in August 2023, we thought that more maintenance was required to

keep the beds looking at their best, but we recognised that the Covid issue had been a recent deterrent to full scale maintenance.



As well as the gardens, there are plenty of other attractions to fill a whole day, including a lakeside and woodland walk, a Garden Centre, inexpensive places to eat, a shopping village, boat trips on the lake, and a narrow gauge railway.

The Trentham Estate extends to over 200 acres, so if you have not already been, it should be very close to the top of your list of gardens to visit in late summer and early autumn.

You can find all the information you will need at www.trentham.co.uk



SUNFLOWER
SOFT FURNISHINGS

Sunflower Soft Furnishings offers bespoke curtains, blinds, and soft furnishings to the Worcestershire area. Please contact us to schedule a visit to our studio.

Home consultations available.

Unit 17 Stockwood Business Park
Stockwood, Redditch B96 6SX

07976 640307 | 01905 381811
sunflower-softfurnishings.co.uk



CLUB EVENT – evening of Wednesday 7th August 2024

Our evening visit to Celia Montreal's garden in Inkberrow proved to be a very successful event. Celia is one of our members and greeted 38 visitors to her garden on a delightful summer evening. Her garden was picture perfect and as well as delicious cakes, we were treated to a fine display of her artwork. All in all a most enjoyable evening.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 4th September 2024

Our next meeting is a talk by Helen Picton entitled 'Daisy Days'. The theme for the monthly competition will be 'Daisies'.

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 2024. Visitors are made very welcome and may attend for £3.00 per meeting.

If you require any further information, ring Rob Cole (Chairman) on 07544 832052.



The landscapes where we live are the most used and therefore the most important. Scott and his team focus on designing and building gardens and landscapes from concept to completion, with a passion and dedication to create an inspiring space for you and your loved ones to enjoy.

Specialising in a range of services including:

- Landscaping Designs
- Garden Buildings
- Driveways
- Maintenance
- Groundworks
- Drainage
- Planting/ Turfing
- Clearance

Please contact Scott and his team at admin@scglandscapes.com or call **07540476568** if you would like to discuss your garden plans, or would like more information about our company portfolio.



Feckenham Football Club - Peter Philips

With the new season upon us its all change down at Mill Lane .

Last season saw us just fall short of promotion to the next level by just a few points as we fell away in the last three games.

The lads and the club can feel quite proud of themselves coming so close in the first season at this level step 7 of the football league.

We always knew that if we did not make it to the next level it would have a effect on the playing squad, as it has turned out.

We lost some senior players our striker Will Skelton who has given great service to the club (over 60 goals in two seasons) has been snapped up by Sporting Club Inkberrow and has made the move to step 5, we wish him well and will follow his performances. Who knows were he will end up but as he said, "Once a Miller always a Miller".

It seems a shame to me being old school that when clubs have a budget to pay players it can be an incentive to move on. From our point of view at Feckenham the philosophy is you play for us because you want to be here.

We also said good bye to our skipper, Dave Phelan, who has retired. Dave has been a fantastic servant to the club both on and off the field.

The loss of our ever present and probably the best goalkeeper in the league Adam Watson has stood down due to work commitments and we wish him well in his career .

So its onwards and hopefully upwards. The first change is Wayne Bunn who has had much success at the club both as a player and manager has swapped roles with Matt Phillips who did a great job holding things together after the resignation of Glen Adams half way through last season on personal grounds, Matt continues as Waynes assistant for this season.

The squad is looking much different but exciting times ahead as we have through Waynes contacts signed several players in the 17 to 19 age group they are keen to learn and give there all in training and playing being supported by a few of the

older heads it should be good to see them develop.

It goes to show that these young men can be a credit to their age group.

The club financially continues to struggle on ,we are still feeling the effects of the costs of last winters flood and burst pipes which has been financially disastrous

The club cannot survive long term at this level on bar takings alone so we are so grateful to our two sponsors for their financial support again for this season . Steven Phillips Owner of Medicare who specialise in building veterinary hospitals and Gareth Davis from Dash Motors in Studley .

The pre season has started slowly but has steadily improved as we have sought to give as many minutes to the young lads as possible.

The fist game against New Dale Top Hereford prem league was even to the last 30 mins and we lost 5-1

The second game against Earlswood from division above us resulted in a 1-0 defeat The Third game against Cotton Green from two levels higher ended in a 2-1 defeat .

By this time the group was starting to settle down and we ended with wins against Tipton Town from West Midland league 2-1 and against central Ajax from a level higher again saw us run out 3-2 winners

The new season started with a trip to Wolverhampton to take on Gornal F.C and after a close first half ran out 7-2 winners.

As usual the league have given us the first four games at home due to our lack of flood lights so it will be a busy August down at the lane ,and for those who follow there things as like last year September sees us with one home game on the 21st September to Castle Vale Town ko 15.00 all welcome to come and see the young talent we have at Feckenham.

As mentioned the club is struggling to keep going at the moment any new sponsorship would be a great help no matter how small and we are always looking for volunteers on match days .

UP THE MILLERS

Feckenham Cricket Club Bob Gordon

The 1st team had some close matches recently. Of note was a match at Mill Lane against Netherton, who batted first and made an amazing 393 for 8 wickets in their 50 overs. A gritty response resulted in a drawn fixture, Nasir Mehmood scoring 66 and local youngster Ben East finishing with 31 runs and 2 wickets. Harborne away was a great victory, the hosts scoring 313 in their 50 overs (Ben East and Matt Grubb taking 4 wickets each) but our boys sailed past that target after 47 overs, with Josh Stacey hitting 73, Frazer Duggan 60 and 15-year old Sam Curtis with 45.

The 2nd team had a victory at Halesowen – Ryan Humphries with 6 wickets for 18 runs - but remain anchored at the foot of the table.

The 3rd team had a good win over Five Ways Old Edwardians, with Nev Drumm scoring 87 and Jon Dean 71 and young Tommy East was not out on 35.

The U15 Hundred team have completed their eight matches and sit top of the Table but Avoncroft, Ombersley and Bromsgrove are to play their final matches and we wait to see if they can hold onto that position. This team had a commanding 87 run win against bottom of the table Droitwich where they posted 148 courtesy of Sam Curtis (50 not out) and Ben East (48). Will Reynolds (2-2-0-2) and Tommy East (2-9) were the leading wicket takers.

The U14 sit bottom of their T20 league after suffering a 51 run defeat away at Himley who posted an impressive 137-3. Will Reynolds took 2-21 in 4 overs and there was a strong all round performance from Sam Drumm with 36 not out and bowling 4 overs for only 7 runs. There was also a 5 wicket defeat to Hagley where Shashank starred with a 52 not out innings.

The U13 have concluded their Pairs league and sit comfortably in third place behind the very strong Astwood Bank & Alvechurch teams. They also sit third in the T20 league with a good chance of finishing second once the final fixtures are played. Recent highlights included a dominating 42-run win in the Pairs competition over Avoncroft despite only having 7 fielders. There was also a sensational 159 run win against Redditch in the T20 where we scored 181-4 with Shashank, Rory Gavin and Tommy East all retiring not out on scores of 30. Redditch were then dismissed for only 22 with Rory Freeman taking his first 5 wicket haul (4-1-7-5)

Upcoming home fixtures include:

Sat. 31 st August 12:30	- Feckenham 1st XI v Himbleton 1st XI
Sat. 7 th September 12:30	- Feckenham 2 nd XI v Harborne 3rd XI
Sun. 8 th September 10:00	- Feckenham U14 v Swindon
Sun. 8 th September 14:30	- Feckenham XI (mixed adult and junior team) v Inkberrow
Sat. 14 th September 12:30	- Feckenham 1 st XI v Stourport-On-Severn CC- 2nd XI
Sun. 15 th September 13:30	- Feckenham XI v Hagley (BBC team, friendly)

Finally, I can't believe that we now have the end of the season in sight, it seems only yesterday that we were contemplating a move to playing water polo.



HARDWOOD LOGS FOR SALE
NO DELIVERY CHARGE
ALSO BAGS FOR SALE
 Telephone anytime:
01905 620934 or 07811 952949
 or text

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

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

Microsoft CERTIFIED
 Partner

www.tapcast.co.uk

20 **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

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

01527-894777
 www.direct-floors.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 & Repairs to all makes
01527 892483

Dave Powell Decoration
M: 07747 691461
 for Quality painting and decorating
 Based in Feckenham
 E: davidpowell253@gmail.com



Bennett Decoration
 Painting & Decorating
 Interior & Exterior
 First Class Work
 Tel: 01527 893162
 Mob: 0797 3627269
 Free Estimates



ALLISON PREBBLE
 WELLBEING

Registered Kinesiologist Dip KA, MSc NUTH, BA Hons
 Gut issues? Aches & pains? Swollen joints? Skin problems?
 I am a Systematic Kinesiologist and Nutritional therapist based in Inkberrow. I am able to look at all aspects of your body. I specialise in gut & skin health, and also work with hormonal issues, pain, tiredness, weight, etc.
 ☎: 0794 1005850 or
 ✉: enquiries@allisonprebble.co.uk

FOOT HEALTH
 BY HELEN

Nail Trimming & Reduction
 Callus & Corn removal - Ingrowing Toenails
 Fungal Nail & Foot Treatment
 Verruca Treatment
 Diabetic Footcare & Advice

foothealthbyhelen@gmail.com
 07842 269813

Helen Bacon
 DipCFHP MPSPract

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
 Also Pond & Patio cleaning
 Fencing & Hedge cutting
 Local, friendly service, references available
 Call Glenn - 07792 613020
 glen.bowbrook@live.com


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
 Email : wwdandnmltd@gmail.com

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


YOGA
 BALANCE YOUR MIND & BODY



FIRST CLASS FREE!

Tuesdays | 19:00pm
 Stock & Bradley Hall
 Thursdays | 18:00pm
 Feckenham Hall

☎ 07532282282
 📍 Jessica Byatt Yoga & Meditation
 📧 @jessicabyatt.yogaandmeditation



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



Are Your Locks Behaving Badly ?

- NO CALL OUT CHARGE •
- FREE ONSITE ESTIMATES •
- NO VAT ON LABOUR •

**FIXING ISSUES BEFORE THEY
BECOME BIGGER PROBLEMS**

All Types Doors & Windows Locks
Serviced, Repaired, Upgraded
Multi-Point Lock Repair Specialist
Door Realignment & Adjustments
Home Insurance Security Surveys
Family Business With Traditional
Skills & Workmanship for 30 Years
Need Some Advice Contact Stewart

THE LOCKSMITH

LOCAL • RELIABLE • INDEPENDENT
01905 570 999 07871 44 20 11
www.locksmithworcestershire.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

01527 894475

Please support the Shop that supports the Village

Steve Woodward Ltd

LOGS FOR SALE

Based in Bradley Green - free local delivery

All wood is seasoned and ready to burn

Call Steve - 07973 735233

We sell in Dumpy bags or loose from a trailer.



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