

FECKENHAM

September 2025

NEWS



Published by Feckenham Church for the village.
Editor Gilly Cooper - feckenhamnews@gmail.com

THOMAS BROTHERS



An Independent Family Owned Funeral Directors

Family owned funeral homes in Redditch, Bromsgrove, 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

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"



A. PULLEN MEMORIALS

Additional Inscriptions & Renovations

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

Tel: (01527) 876200



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

3rd	S&B Gardening Club
10th	Readers group
15th	WI
18th	PC Meeting
25th	Shop Macmillan Coffee Morning Shop AGM
27th	FeckenOdeon

October

5th	Harvest Lunch
10th	FeckenOdeon 2
11th	Concert in the Church
17th	Oompah Band
18th	Village Hall Theatre Show

Regular Sessions

Mondays	Junior Dance Class
Tuesdays	Tai Chi
Wednesdays	Playgroup (term time)
Thursdays	Bridge; Hatha Yoga

Second Monday of the month: Mobile Library

First Tuesday of the month:

Lunch Club, Feckenham Sessions

First and Third Wednesday: Community Choir

Second Wednesday Art Club

Third Monday of the month: WI

1st and 3rd Fridays : Erstwhile Morris Dancers

Editor's Note	4
Village Notices	5
Village Square	5
Village Hall	6-7
Church Matters	8-11
Parish Council	12
FABSSS	13
What's On	14-15
FeckenOdeon	16
Swansbrook	16
Feckenham Archive	19
Villager Writes	20
Village Shop	22
WI	23
Gardening	23-25
Cricket Club	26

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
Mary Smith - Advertising	fnadvertising@btinternet.com

©2025. Published by Feckenham PCC

Printed by Solopress

COPY DATE: All articles for inclusion should reach us by 14th of the preceding month

Front Cover

Photo: From Chloe Holmes. Oscar Holmes and Leon Peate having Fun on the Square.

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

I have a few of thank yous to make. Firstly to Doug Curtis who has retired after delivering one of the magazine rounds for around 15 years. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude. Those who deliver the magazine month in and month out quietly without fuss really do a sterling job.



Fun on the Square is mentioned elsewhere in the magazine but I also think we need to thank the committee and their helpers who made the lovely evening possible. It really was fun!

Finally, despite the lack of rain for such a prolonged period, the village is still

looking very colourful. There are many villagers who are regularly tending the plants and watering them. It really makes a difference to one's mood, doesn't it?



Volunteers from Down Under A message from Jan Holmes

I thought this would make you smile. I roped my NZ granddaughter and her friend into delivering the mags, they were intrigued and loved it. A long way to travel every month though!



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

Tuesday, 2nd August in the Bar from 8pm - Free
TRADITIONAL MUSIC
Thursday, 25th September
ITALIAN THEMED MENU
Serving 6-9pm - please call to book

COMING SOON!
October 18th : Race Night
November 13th : Quiz Night

www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk

Village Notices

I should like to start by thanking the person who found Harry, our dog, at the cricket club on Saturday 5th July. They rang the dog warden as they presumed this was the best course of action. Unfortunately



his brass name tag had recently worn through and fallen off. He's very old at 14 and can't usually be persuaded to leave the garden so we hadn't replaced it. We are describing what then followed to make all aware of the dog warden/pound procedure, especially at weekends. Once a dog is taken by the dog warden there is no access to the pound until the following day or Monday after 9 am if it's the weekend. Even though Harry has diabetes and needs twice daily injections and has never been away from home they were totally intransigent, not letting us collect him. The location of the pound is not made available and no contact can be made with the dogs 'carers'. On Monday after paying a hefty bill (mostly to cover emergency vet call outs) we were told to meet outside Malvern police station to collect him. When poor Harry was released from his prison cell he was in a sorry state having obviously laid in his own urine. The whole episode was extremely upsetting and to my mind unnecessary and avoidable. If the dog wardens had a mobile chip scanner in the call out van then dogs would not need to be taken to the pound - that seems obvious.

It is a legal obligation for a dog to be chipped AND wear a name tag, so we were in the wrong, but the whole episode was heavy handed and lacking in reason and understanding.

Please make sure your dog has a name tag and is chipped, Liz Teisen

Feckenham Square Management Committee

THERE WAS FUN IN THE SUN

When it was first mooted that this year's Fun on The Square was to be a "Bring Your Own" affair there were those that doubted that it would work.... but they were proved wrong. As the baking sun dipped a little lower in the sky on the evening of 26th July people could be seen heading towards The Square dragging garden chairs, camping stools, folding tables and all manner of coolers and mobile drinks cabinets.

Soon the village green was full of happy chatting people, the drink flowed and the communal barbecue sizzled merrily away. Alan Smith and his little band of musicians strummed and sang and everyone mixed and mingled happily.

Marion Chute won the raffle - the single prize, a wheelbarrow load of mixed goodies, was severely depleted before it was trundled homewards and, though there may have been some tender heads the following morning, everyone agreed that this was the one of the greatest non-events the village had ever seen and that the reason for its success was rooted in its simple simplicity...

NOT THIS YEAR WURZEL!

People have been asking about the Scarecrows. They will return - but not this year. We felt that, as the residents of the village have had to cope with two large events (Garden Festival and The Wake) this year, it would be a bit much to inundate them for a third time - so, the straw people can have a year off. It's expected that they'll be back in October 2026.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Oh, yes it is! The next major event on The Square will be Carols on The Square on Christmas Eve. You have been warned.

A Gentle Reminder

Don't forget that there are two village charities who will make grants to young people under 25 for their education or training or to organisations.

Applications should be in by 30th September

Please see the next page

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 the receipt of applications

30th September, 2025

Further enquiries / applications to:

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

Tel 01527 821285

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 the receipt of applications

30th September, 2025

Further enquiries / applications to:

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

Tel 01527 821285

Live at the Village Hall

LIVE
& LOCAL

NEW SEASON

The first event in our new season of shows from Live and Local is detailed below. These are professional performances of a very high standard and come to Feckenham as part of a scheme aimed at bringing the very best touring shows to rural communities. The programme is subsidised by The Arts Council, Worcestershire County Council and Redditch Borough Council



TV CHEF SCANDAL EXPOSED

What happens to a TV food programme presenter when she's "let go" by the network... and suddenly her face doesn't fit? Nobody will employ her so perhaps she'd better try to do it herself. Perhaps she can make her own cooking programme and get it shown on the internet. It can't be that hard...can it??

In Baddapple Theatre Company's "Crumbs" you can be in the studio audience when our hero goes it alone as she tries to re-style herself within the fast-paced and cut-throat world of influencers and social media millionaires. We follow her hilarious slips and trips in her live baking show as she tries to keep the lights (and the oven) on in the face of almost certain doom...

This comedy written by Kate Bramley comes to Feckenham straight from a sell out run at York Theatre Royal. One woman, one oven, a certain amount of smoke... and even the promise of a piece of cake at the end!

Baddapple Theatre in

CRUMBS

Saturday, 18th October at 7.30pm

TICKETS for shows at the Village Hall
are on sale at The Village Shop
and The Rose & Crown.

Book online through www.feckhall.org
Book by phone on 0333 666 3366

Feckenham Village Hall

BRIGHT AND CLEAN

Feckenham Village Hall is one of the busiest community halls in the county but this success comes at a price. Each year hundreds of events, classes, meetings and performances welcome thousands of people... and thousands of people leave their mark on the building. Scuffs and scrapes, spills and scratches all take their toll.



Many of the problems are dealt with straightaway but there comes a point when concerted action is needed - and that action takes the form of a painting day.

Some years ago the Committee discovered that paying a contractor to repaint the interior of the Hall would be financially crippling - so Do-It-Yourself was the only option. Each year for the last 20 or so years the Committee and village volunteers have gathered on a Saturday in August to fill, clean, paint and polish so that the Hall can be in tip top condition before the busy autumn season of events. This year was no exception.

On Saturday August 9th a motley crew of decorators set to work. Inside the Hall walls in the main hall had a fresh coat of emulsion, the large cupboards in the back room were treated to a new silky finish, woodwork was cleaned and retouched and everything else that needed refreshment was refreshed -



including the crew who enjoyed coffee, biscuits and donuts. Outdoors, drains were unblocked, bushes trimmed and debris cleared.

The work was achieved in record time and the Hall is now bright, clean and cheerful - ready for another year of action.

Further improvements are afoot with the new side benches due to be fitted during September.

The Hall wishes to thank non-committee members David Rowe, Maggie Stephens and Janie Anderson for pitching in so enthusiastically.

BRUSHES GALORE: Special thanks are due to Lauren Shaw of Harris Brushes of Stoke Prior who noticed the Hall's appeal for help in Feckenham News and immediately offered to donate equipment.

The Hall now has enough brushes and rollers to last until the 21st century - and some nice new coffee mugs as well!



The Village Hall decorating crew enjoy a coffee break. Left to right: Phil Tricklebank, David Rowe, Maggie Stephens, Lis Teisen, Ian Ridley, Peter Chute, Judy Hooker.

Photo by Ian Bellion. Mugs by Harris Brushes.

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 2025

7th	September	10.30am	Eucharist	Rev Fiona Carter
14th	September	10.30am	Family Service	Rev Fiona Carter
21st	September	6.30pm	Evensong	Fr Glenn Reading
28th	September	10.30am	Eucharist	Fr Glenn Reading

Drop in (in church)



Wednesday at 10.30am - 12.00pm
13th August and 27th August



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)

Local contact: Phylis Mott, Feckenham. Tel 893898



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

HARVEST *Lunch*



SUNDAY OCTOBER 5TH, 12 NOON

£8.50

(FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12)

You are warmly invited to a Harvest Festival lunch! Enjoy the beautiful flower displays in the church and seasonal food - pork baps with all the trimmings, salad 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 at Sunday services or by contacting Angela:
angelaletcher8@gmail.com
07709 911053*



T4U Christmas Shoe Box Appeal



It's almost time to start thinking about what to put in our boxes. This year's Christmas Shoebox appeal is about to begin!

As many of you know our Shoebox Gifts will be distributed to some of the most disadvantaged children in Eastern Europe, to orphanages, hospitals, schools, families in need and the homeless throughout Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia, Belarus.

If you are new to the 'Christmas Shoebox Appeal', please consider giving a Christmas Shoebox Gift to a child in need this year. Hand knits are always welcome too, Do please personalise your box by adding a photo of yourself and a Christmas card as the children really treasure them, and if you don't feel able to make up a box there is a basket in church for donations for the boxes.



Please pop into church and pick up a leaflet with all the information you will need to get you started, find an empty shoebox wrap it in some festive paper and you are away. Or if you prefer pick up a flat pack box from church. Leaflets and boxes will also be available from the passageway of Kopper Cottage Droitwich Road.

Please take you boxes to church before Tuesday 25th November
For more information and ideas you may wish to take a look at the T4U website

Thank you, in anticipation
Lin

YOUR BOXES REALLY DO CHANGE LIVES



In Loving Memory of Fr Anthony Joseph Rohan

14th March 1950 – 19th July 2025

Father Tony died on Saturday 19 July after a long illness.

He was ordained to the priesthood on 3rd January 1976 and came to Mount Carmel as a curate in 1977 until 1981 returning in 2013 as Parish Priest.

A kind and caring priest, always there if you needed him; we were blessed to have him as our parish priest.

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>

Fields of Gold

A Seasonal Concert for Charity

The Choir of Feckenham, St John the Baptist

The Ballard Singers

The Long Room Singers

The Feckenham Flute Players

SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER

7:30 PM

Church of St John the Baptist, Feckenham

Tickets £10 including a glass of wine

(tickets free for children)

from **The Village Shop**, choir members and

www.ticketsource.co.uk/feckenham-st-john-the-baptist

for more info contact cf@paulfurey.com



In aid of the Church Fabric Fund & The Leprosy Mission

Raffle on the night!



MORE HOUSES?

Under new Government housing targets Redditch Borough Council has to find sites for an extra 4,000 new houses to be built. If the Borough doesn't make sufficient land available for building the Government will select the sites itself. It is thought that some of the housing may be allocated within the Parish of Feckenham. The Borough is preparing a new Local Plan which will take the new requirements into account.

With this in mind Feckenham Parish Council has decided to commission a Housing Needs Survey designed to discover what residents feel about additional housing in the Parish and what, if any, additional housing provision is actually needed by local people. It is hoped that the resulting report will assist efforts to get the Borough Council to recognise Feckenham as a separate entity in their Plan. The survey will be carried out by an independent and impartial provider.

Copies of the questionnaire will be dropping through your letterbox soon. The Parish Council would be most grateful if you could take this opportunity to make your feelings known. You can complete the paper survey provided or give your answers online. The matter will be discussed further at the next parish Council Meeting on 18th September.

MORE BATTERIES?

A new proposal for a Battery Energy Storage System for land off Astwood and Poplar Lanes has been put forward. The Parish Council is concerned that there has been very little public consultation about this and has raised the matter with the company (Energy Cog).

The Parish Council has submitted a detailed objection to the Planning Application made by Grenergy for a site off The Saltway. If you wish to read the text of this, it can be found on the

Redditch Borough Council Public Access website – search for application number 25/0062/FUL. The objection is under the “Documents” tab.

GRANTS

Village organisations are welcome to apply to the Parish Council for a grant to assist with their work. For further information go to the Parish Council website (feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk) and look under the Applying for a Grant tab. If you wish to discuss this in more detail you can contact the clerk by phone on 01527 892522 or email clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

NEXT MEETING

There was no Parish Council meeting in August although the work did not stop! The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18th September at 7.30pm in the back room at the Village Hall (please note change of date). Everyone is welcome to attend. There is an “open forum” section at the beginning of all Council meetings where you can raise matters of concern or ask questions of the Council.

GET IN TOUCH

If you have queries or need help with local problems you are very welcome to contact the Council. Initially you can call the Parish Clerk on 01527 892522 or Email:

clerk@feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

NEED INFORMATION?

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



Latest news on BESS from FABSSS Group



I'm sure everyone in the village is aware of the FABSSS.co.uk website and over the past month there have been some significant developments in terms of proposed Battery sites around the substation on Astwood Lane and Alcester Road.

Three developers have given up and gone away and two new ones along with the Explosive guys at "BOOM Energy" are still in the mix. It's a bit like a game of "bash the rat" – You just never know when the next one is coming.

Two new players have emerged wanting to get large battery storage units in and around Feckenham. The first Grenergy which is just 100m from Shurnock Court and the newest one is a company called Energy Cog who have secured land opposite the substation on the opposite side of Astwood Lane. This development is just 250m from Feckenham Primary School. Quite shocking that they are even considering this site so close to a school.

These companies are supposed to have community consultations with the village and the latest one did so, but only on-line.

Our FABSSS Team were online also to put questions to their rather shabby

presentation and these guys didn't disappoint. They avoided questions, blocked and modified others and gave some very spurious answers. We genuinely believe that they have never been to the village other than to do the deal with the landowner. This was simply a tick box exercise for them that's all to prove they have done a "consultation".

If you scan the QR code below with your phones camera, it will take you to our latest full blog post which give much more information and you can even see the videos they put on-line. Give it a watch, it shows you what we are up against to protect our village.

Remember 92% of Feckenham residents oppose these schemes and that's why we are fighting hard on your behalf.

More information is also available on our website www.FABSSS.co.uk in the blog section.



QR Code

BREAKING NEWS:- There is a new planning application in from Boom Energy whom you may remember from the consultation in the Village Hall?

25/00888/FUL

Installation of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) including access tracks and service roads, underground cable route, on-site substation, other ancillary electrical infrastructure, security fencing and CCTV, on-site car parking, drainage and water supply features, temporary construction compound, new landscaping and biodiversity enhancements.

WHAT'S ON IN

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

BADAPPLE THEATRE PRESENTS

CRUMBS

One woman.
One oven.

A new comedy by
Kate Bramley

LIVE LOCAL


Saturday, 18th October at 7.30pm
Book online at feckhall.org
by phone 0333 666 3366
or in person at The Rose & Crown
or The Village Shop

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Next Meeting: Monday, 15th September

SCONE MAKING: A MASTERCLASS

with Eunice O'Brien



8pm - Feckenham Village Hall
Contact jen@thecarys.co.uk for details

Feckenham Cricket Club presents



Bierkeller Schunklers

OOMPAAH BAND

at Feckenham Village Hall
Friday, 17th October at 8pm
Tickets on sale at the Club

Rose & Crown

RACE NIGHT

SATURDAY, 7PM
18TH OCTOBER

PROCEEDS TO
BIRMINGHAM
IRISH CYCLE
APPEAL CHARITIES



Feckenham READERS GROUP
Wednesday, 10th September - 7.45pm
This month's book:

JAMES

By Percival Everett

Information: 01527 892285



ERSTWHILE



BORDER MORRIS

Twice monthly Sessions
at Feckenham Village Hall
2nd and 4th Fridays - 7pm

Send details of events for FREE listing to:

FECKENHAM



THE
FECKENHAM
SESSIONS
TRADITIONAL
MUSICMAKING
at THE ROSE & CROWN
First Tuesday of every month from 8pm
NEXT SESSION: Tuesday, 2nd September



Stock & Bradley Gardening Club
**OVERBURY COURT
GARDENS**

A talk by Head Gardener
HARRY GREEN

Wednesday, 3rd September - 7.30pm
Stock & Bradley Village Hall



Feckenham Parish Council

MEETING

Thursday, 18th September - 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.

Feckenham's Own...

Listen at
www.swansbrook.com

SWANSBROOK Radio

THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

Ralph Fiennes
John Lithgow

Stanley Tucci
Isabella Rosselini



CONCLAVE

12a

FeckenOdeon 1 Saturday, 27th September at 7.30pm

A FILM ABOUT
LIFE, LOVE
& CHEESE



HOLY COW

15

FeckenOdeon 2 Friday, 10th October at 8pm

Join us for our 24th Season of
FILMS

at The FeckenOdeon
for details of our programme
visit feckencodeon.co.uk
or pick up a brochure
at The Village Shop, Rose & Crown or The
Village Hall

Membership only £30 - includes 8 great films
and discounts at all other shows.

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.feckencodeon.co.uk

*Booking Fee applies to Phone and Online Bookings

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

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

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

NEW SEASON

The village's community cinema, The FeckenOdeon, reopens its doors after a summer break this month. If you haven't yet been to a FeckenOdeon show you may not be aware that this isn't the usual wobbly village hall film show. The FeckenOdeon has state of the art projection, superb surround sound, comfy seats and a well stocked bar.

You can buy tickets for individual films (£5) or you can save money by joining the 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

There's a brochure inside this edition of Feckenham News.



PAPAL INTRIGUE

The opening film of the new season will be "Conclave". An absorbing fast-moving thriller based on the novel by Richard Harris. After the unexpected death of the Pope, Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with managing the ancient ritual of electing a new one. Lawrence finds himself at the centre of a conspiracy that could lead to catastrophe.

CONCLAVE (12A)

Saturday, 27th September at 7.30pm

Doors open at 7pm - Licenced Bar

COMING IN OCTOBER:

October 10th: Holy Cow (15)

October 25th: the Old Man and the Gun (12A)

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



ON YOUR LOCAL STATION...

Local Radio for Feckenham people - radio programmes made for local people, by local people. **Programmes** currently live streaming and available On Demand:

Happy Hour with Ian Bellion.

Light hearted chat about local things, hints about things you might like to do or see... and a selection of music so varied that you're bound to find something you love and something you hate in every programme.

Numbers with Colin James.

Colin delves into decades of discs to pull out an intriguing weekly selection - all decided by a system of Magic Numbers involving the Top 100.

Classical Swanbrook with Chris Fletcher.

Chris presents her monthly selection of the very best in classical music - Old ones, loved ones, remembered ones, neglected ones...

I Like it Like That with Nick Ledbury.

Nick plays a mix of World Music, Electro, Nu Folk, Singer Songwriter, Reggae, Art Rock, Global Grooves & unusual cover versions. Live on Saturday night (7pm) - repeated on Sundays at 10pm.

In Conversation with Paul Furey.

Delve into our On Demand selection of conversations with Feckenham characters.

The Stage Door with Andrew Easton.

A monthly backstage programme featuring performers and creatives at Malvern Theatres.

The Great Prog Rock Show with Nick Ledbury.

Nick dives into the pool of great prog rock recordings and pulls out the best from prog rockers past and present. Live on 1st Wednesday of the month at 8pm.

LISTEN TO THE SWANS

Go to www.swansbrook.com and follow the instructions you'll find there. Most of 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

Handcrafted Fayre

Saturday 27th September
10am - 3pm

Come and support local artists
with a variety of stalls selling
handmade crafts and produce



Stock & Bradley Village Hall, Church Road
Bradley Green
B96 6AW



Free tea and coffee
available



Contact Keith or May on paintbox2112@yahoo.com for more information, some tables still available

Bennett Decoration

Painting & Decorating

Interior & Exterior

First Class Work

Tel: 01527 893162

Mob: 0797 3627269

Free Estimates

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



Seasonal floral designs & bouquets

www.wrenandbramble.co.uk

Call Clare on 07548 832771

[f](https://www.facebook.com/wrenandbramble) [i](https://www.instagram.com/wrenandbramble) [@wrenandbramble](https://www.twitter.com/wrenandbramble)

Paddock Care & Cutting Services
Feckenham & surrounding areas
Orchards / large lawns also cut

paddock-care@outlook.com

07970 710769

N A Jones Plumbing & Heating Ltd

Specialists in Aga Rayburn appliances

We service Gas and oil appliances

Supply and fit e-control and electric kit
electric conversions to your existing
Aga Cooker

Supply and install
preloved/refurbished Agas

Free quotes for replacement Gas & Oil
boilers

www.najonesplumbingandheating.co.uk
Email: najonesplumbingandheating@gmail.com

Tel 01562 752659
Mob 07770698073



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

01527 459776
07748 801658



www.WainwrightsCarpetCleaning.co.uk

Beauty
by Elizabeth
MOBE, VICI
Skin Therapist



dermatologica
mapping



Flexible appointment
times available

Telephone: 01527 822698

Mobile: 07890 978059

Microdermabrasion, LV 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

BABIES

NURSERY AGE

SCHOOL AGE

SWIMMING LESSONS

Private, Purpose Built Pool

Free Parking

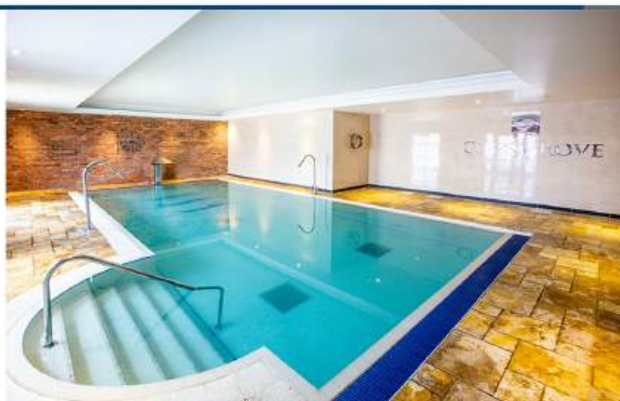
Highly Trained Teachers

01527 821978

www.chessgroveswim.co.uk
info@chessgroveswim.co.uk



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



Feckenham Archive - Marion Chute



Aerial views of Feckenham taken from hot air balloon. No Turton Gardens here.



The cricket field in play and the recreation field looking set for a football game. Remember the barriers? How much building has there been since these were taken?

When it mattered most...

Dr Hugo Hammersley

Once there was a man named Tobias Westgate who owned a piece of land that did not yield much. It lay in a hollow between hills, where the soil was thin and the wind stayed longer than it should. At best, it produced rough hay, or offered lean grazing to sheep who didn't seem to care either way.

There were nettles and thistles, and hawthorn that slanted like it had grown tired of standing upright. Children once dared each other to touch it. A painter had sketched it when the light came down just right. No one called it beautiful—only constant.

The land had passed from one quiet hand to another—father to son, cousin to cousin—more out of habit than need. No one expected much of it, and it asked nothing back. It was simply there, like the church bells on a cold Sunday morning.

Then one day, a man with bright teeth and city shoes arrived in a flashy Jaguar that purred up the road like it didn't belong.

"I represent a consortium. This land—well, it's not giving you much. But to us, it's valuable. A node in the system. A future."

Tobias asked what they intended to build.

"Oh, nothing dramatic. Just seal it, secure it, install what must be installed. It's what the country needs. It won't disturb you."

Tobias looked out across the field. The hawthorn shifted in the breeze. The nettles bowed slightly, as if listening.

The papers were signed; the man smiled as he counted: one for you, nineteen for me.

Later, the fences went up—tall, dark, without gaps. Machinery arrived; the facility was built. Then came the hum: low, constant, without rhythm.

They called it clean energy, or grid

support, or something else that sounded correct.

Tobias had a new gate. His kettle boiled faster. For a while, he felt things had improved. But the village felt thinner. At the annual feast, the Morris Dancers omitted the Nettle Dance. No one said anything, but everyone noticed.

In the evenings, Tobias still walked—but not across the field. He walked the ridge above it, looking down through the wire, toward the blinking lights and the place where the hawthorn had once stood—gone now, to make room for the wiring. The money was spent or no longer seemed to make a difference.

Once, a child asked what the humming was.

"It's the sound of keeping up, the progress that was promised". But the child didn't understand.

The years went gently by, then one night, in early spring, Tobias dreamed of the field as it had been. The nettles stirred, bees buzzed, the hawthorn breathed. Someone in the dream asked, "Did it matter?"

"Not then!", he answered. But that's when it mattered most.

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

**Helping you live your
healthiest and happiest life!**



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

Acupuncture | Bowen Therapy | Ear Wax Removal | Laser Treatment
Neurological Physiotherapy | Osteopathy | Physiotherapy | Podiatry
Pregnancy Massage | Shockwave Therapy | Lymphatic Drainage Massage
Sports Massage | Sports Therapy | Private GP | Vestibular Rehabilitation
Women's Health | Indian Head Massage | Varicose Vein Treatment | Prehab & Rehab

Clinical Pilates | Gym Membership Packages | Personal Training | Yoga | Tai Chi

To find out more visit revival-health.co.uk

01386 792126

info@revival-health.co.uk



REVIVAL
HEALTH & WELLBEING CENTRE

Mind | Body | Gym

**Natural Stone, Tile & Vinyl Floor Cleaning,
Restoration, Sealing & Polishing Specialists**

Est 1999. Based in Shurnock, Nr Feckenham

Telephone: Paul Godson 07899 790580 or 0800 197 3838

Website: www.tileandstonemedic.co.uk

email: paul@tileandstonemedic.co.uk



Tile & Stone Medic
Cleaning & Restoration Services

Village Shop - Alan Slater

BLESSED ARE THE JAM MAKERS



From the beginning of this month we will be selling FeckenJam again, with all the proceeds going to support Macmillan Cancer Nurses. Last year we sold over a hundred and twenty jars raising approximately £350 which contributed massively towards our grand total of £1,020 for the charity. As I write, Geri the Jam has already made over 130 jars and counting, so hopefully we will exceed last year's mammoth total. With the exception of the oranges, all the fruit has been foraged and sourced from within the Village, and my thanks go to everyone who have supplied their surplus fruit and jars to make FeckenJam a truly local product. Competitively priced this years varieties

include: Rhubarb and Ginger, Damson, Plum, Blackcurrant, Greengage, Blackberry and Apple as well as Orange and Lemon marmalade and Three Fruit marmalade.

The Shop's Macmillan Coffee Morning is being held on THURSDAY 25th SEPTEMBER between 10 am and 3 pm. There will be a raffle as well as a wide range of homemade cakes for you to enjoy. So please come along to the Shop for a few moments and support our annual fundraiser for this very worthy charity.

On the same day, at 7 pm, we will be holding the Shop's Annual General Meeting in the Village Hall. This is an opportunity for you to share your views about the Shop, discover how we have performed during the last financial year and hear about the plans the Board have for the year ahead. Complimentary drinks will be available and if you are not already a shareholder or Volunteer we will be delighted if you want to sign up and join our Team (no pressure).

So I look forward to seeing you on Thursday 25th either at the Shop for coffee and cakes or at the Village Hall for drinks and the AGM, or ideally both as all are welcome.

Landscaping

Jeff Annand Contracting

**Blockpaving - Ponds - Patios - Groundwork
& General Property Maintenance**

Free Quotes
References available
Fully insured

**Tel: 07968 668906
or 01527 894745**

Feckenham WI

Inspired by so many questions during May's Garden Festival about how she manages to keep her garden so beautiful whilst being on crutches, Kathy Gee reached out to the W.I. to very generously offer to share her experiences and tips. We very gratefully took her up on it for our August meeting and we enjoyed a lovely evening in her gorgeous garden as she showed us the many tools and accessories she uses to maintain her garden to such a high standard. Because at any point any of us may have our mobility reduced, and we will probably know someone at some point who can't do as much in their garden as they used to, we all found it very useful to think now about how we would cope.

Our September meeting is on Monday 15th at 8pm in the back room of the village hall. Eunice O'Brien will be giving a practical, follow-along demonstration of how she makes her amazing scones (honestly, the National Trust could easily take lessons from her on this!). If you would like to take part, please bring basic scone ingredients and an apron and baking sheet. Members are free and guests are all very welcome and are £5. For more details, please contact Jen Cary 07773 883 039.

An Organic Allotment by Pete Delaney



Pete has had to take a bit of a break this month so the editor had been down to his allotment to see what's growing despite the very dry weather. Here are a few photos.



Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

Two Asters With A Feckenham Connection



Asters are a wonderful early autumn flower, available in a large range of different forms and colours.

In April 1999 we received a plant of *Aster novi-belgii* 'Beechwood Rival' from the Plant Heritage Plant Exchange. It grew away well and proved to be a 'good doer' with clean foliage and a maroon-red semi double flower (above).

In October 2006 a seedling *Aster* which we had spotted nearby flowered for the first time and proved to be similar, but with both the foliage and the flower a little darker. It, too, grew away strongly and was moved to another part of the garden. We assume that it is a seedling of 'Beechwood Rival'.

Another *Aster* came to us by a very different route. Every September, on the road between Astwood Bank and Feckenham, we would notice a white, frothy flowered plant, about 1.2m high which looked like an *Aster* and which was growing in a hedgerow ditch alongside the road. Eventually in 2006, we stopped the car and, armed with a spade, furtively dug up a small portion of the plant. It established rapidly in the garden in an area with very poor soil, and was often remarked upon by visitors. We could not trace any *Aster* which it might be, and so when we propagated it for sale, we called it *Aster* 'Astwood Ditch'.

We eventually took rooted plants of both of these to Paul Picton during the *Aster*

season to see if he could help us. Paul holds a National Collection at Old Court Nurseries in Colwall, and he instantly recognised 'Astwood Ditch' as a form of *Aster x salignus*, a fairly widely occurring hybrid of *Aster lanceolatus* and *Aster novi-belgii* which grows as a wild plant but which originated as a garden escape. He grew a similar plant, collected in Scotland, which he had named 'Caledonia', but considered our plant to be a better form.



He also thought that our 'Beechwood Rival' seedling was a worthy addition to his National Collection and asked us to give it a name.

We opted for 'Feckenham Rival' to commemorate where it was found and the plant from which we think it was a seedling. It now appears in their nursery catalogue.



Feckenham
GARAGE



MOT Testing Station
Servicing & Repairs to all makes

01527 892483



EVENING GARDEN VISIT – Wednesday 6th August 2025

Our self-drive evening visit this year was to the garden of our member Jean Harper near Bromsgrove.

A steady stream of 36 of our members and friends arrived to enjoy a sociable evening admiring Jean's beautifully maintained garden. The weather was warm and still, and coffee and cake rounded off the evening splendidly.

NEXT CLUB EVENT – Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Our first meeting at the Village Hall after the summer break will be on Wednesday 3rd September and will be a talk about Overbury Court Gardens, given by their Head Gardener, Harry Green. Many of us will remember Harry from his similar role at Morton Hall Gardens near Inkberrow.

The subject for the monthly competition is 'Variegated Foliage'.

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 2025. 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.



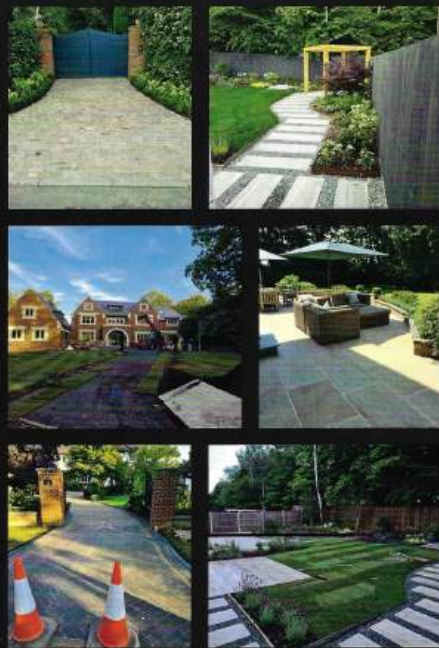
The landscapes where we live are the most used and therefore the most important. Scott and his team focus on designing and building gardens and landscapes from concept to completion, with a passion and dedication to create an inspiring space for you and your loved ones to enjoy.

Specialising in a range of services including:

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

The Men's 1st XI has enjoyed a strong month with 2 wins, 1 winning draw and just 1 defeat. Under 16 wicketkeeper Liam Banks has been in great batting form with scores of 85, 71 and 57. Josh Stacey also scored an 84. Ben Eost (U16) has led the bowling attack including 5-50 against Martley.



The 2nd XI have continued their push for promotion from Division 8. The team has 3 weeks of matches left and sit in second place in the table with a probable promotion playoff looming.

The 3rd XI have completed their Division 9 league games and finished in second place with 8 wins from 14 games & are likely to be promoted. U15 Sam Drumm finished as the leading League wicket taker with 19 wickets. U14 Arnav took 4-12 in only his second match. Prashanth scored 61 and Nev Drumm 55 against Worcester CC 4ths whilst Jamie Smith scored 61 against Cookley 3rd XI. The club is very proud of the fact that it is currently playing ten U16 players in its first 2 teams that should bode us well in future years.

The U15s won their Pairs match at Redditch and are waiting to enter the knock out phases following winning their regional division. The U14 Pairs team have won their Pairs league following two conceded matches by Stourport.

The U14 team has struggled in the T20 format where they have now Played 6, Won 2 and Lost 4. There have been some excellent individual performances however, there has been inconsistency in batting and the team has struggled to take wickets when bowling.

After the season we have 2 notable dates for your diaries. On **Saturday October 17th** we have the **Bierkellers Schunklers Oompah Showband** playing a twin set at the Village Hall from 8pm, finishing at 10pm. There will be a German styled bar available on the night so bring out your lederhosen hidden at the bottom of the drawer & enjoy something different in the village. Tickets will be available from the cricket club bar by the time you read this at £10 an adult & £5 for an u16. All welcome.

Lastly we have our **annual fireworks display & bonfire on November 8th** where there will be a barbecue available & the best fireworks in the area. No set fee for entry as usual but we do ask for a donation to cover the fireworks for next year to enable us to keep doing this event as cheap as possible for the village & the best in the area.



REDDITCH JOINERY

Bespoke Made to Measure Joinery

Doors

Kitchens & Bedrooms

Windows

Orangeries & Conservatories

Gates

Specialists Work

Staircases

Machined Timber

*Producing the most beautiful
bespoke joinery for over 30 years.*

T: 01527 68179 M: 07852 177453

www.redditch-joinery.co.uk

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



Direct Floors

Home service

Carpets | Vinyls | Laminates | Wood Floors | LVT

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



Dave Powell Decoration

M: 07747 691461

for Quality painting and
decorating

Based in Feckenham

E: davidpowell253@gmail.com



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

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



HARDWOOD LOGS FOR SALE

NO DELIVERY CHARGE
ALSO BAGS FOR SALE

Telephone anytime:

01905 620934 or 07811 952949
or text

TAPCAST
computer services

Local, trusted IT support done remotely & onsite
IT Support • Microsoft Office 365 & Cloud
Remote Working Solutions • Computer Equipment
Security Services • Backup & Disaster Recovery

Call 01386 792196
jane.neal@tapcast.co.uk



www.tapcast.co.uk

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

BRAY BROS

TREE SURGEONS

TREE SURGERY • HEDGE TRIMMING
LOPPING, PRUNING • STUMP REMOVAL

Tel: 07970 263779
or 01527 892828

184 THE RIDGEWAY, ASTWOOD BANK

FULLY INSURED • NPTC CERT. NO.552670



Are Your Locks Behaving Badly ?

**NO CALL OUT CHARGE • FREE ESTIMATES
SAME DAY SERVICE • NO VAT ON LABOUR**

All Types Of Door & Window Lock Problems
Locks Opened, Serviced & Repaired

Outdated Locks Upgraded To Current Standards
High Security Anti-Snap Locks Fitted

UPVC Multi-Point Lock Repair Specialist
Jammed & Dropped Doors Realigned & Adjusted

FIX AN ISSUE BEFORE IT BECOMES A PROBLEM

Home Security With Crime Prevention Advice
Additional Door & Window Security
Including Garages, Sheds, Gates & more

A Family Run Business serving Worcestershire
Traditional Skills & Workmanship for 30 Years
For More Help & Advice Contact Stewart

 **THE LOCKSMITH** 

LOCAL • RELIABLE • INDEPENDENT

01905 570 999 07871 44 20 11

www.locksmithworcestershire.co.uk

***WHY REPLACE YOUR DOOR WE'LL REPAIR
" AS GOOD AS NEW "***

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.lecternhamshop.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