

FECKENHAM

October 2025

NEWS



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

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Feckenham News in October

Dates for your Diary

October

1st	S&B Gardening Club
5th	Harvest Lunch
10th	FeckenOdeon 2
11th	Concert in the Church
17th	Oompah Band
18th	Village Hall Theatre Show
20th	WI
25th	FeckenOdeon

November

8th	Bonfire and Fireworks
-----	-----------------------

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

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Courtesy of Iona
Rarcliffe

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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

As I left Feckenham nearly a week ago, the weather had turned cold and wet which was such a relief for the plants. Our tomato plants were still producing much more than we could eat, so as well as giving some away we froze many so that the freezer was near capacity by the time we added the plums and green bean which have also been prolific.



So, where is she this time, I hear you ask yourself? Getting some September warmth in Greece I reply, along with my trusty laptop ready to send off this edition. Currently I'm sitting in the morning sun on the island of Symi not far from Rhodes and will be moving on tomorrow - island hopping. It's glorious here - not a cloud in the sky. Only problem is finding enough shade!

This is a very full magazine. Schools are back and lots of activities are restarting too, so there's much to do in the village as you'll see if you look on the previous page where you'll see dates for your diary or check out the What's On pages in the centre..

Anglela Fletcher has kindly written about the replacement of the church flagpole (P9). We are used to seeing the flag flying on the calander of dates as Angela explains and it a lovely thing.

I've spent quite a lot of time thinking about the profusion of flags being flown on many lamp posts and what it means to be British. I feel British rather than English, probably because I spent my formative years in Scotland and most of my adult life in England. I'm also, like so many Brits, here as a result of immigration. My great-grandparents

came here at the end of the 1800s or early 1900s. I'm proud of our country and hope I can continue to be so but, for the first time, I feel that our stability is under threat and we need to find a way through, so that everyone feels safe on our streets. It is not for me, especially on these pages to suggest any solutions, but I do think that Feckenham is a place where we are kind to each other and the wider community. Although, I admit, we don't face the same challenges that many towns and cities do, we can be an example of kindness and tolerance: from our next door neighbours, in the village as a whole, the county, country and the wider world. There are some examples of how we help in this edition: the Christmas shoe boxes helping children in other countries, the Christmas card supporting Shelter, and Alma's appreciation of the kindness she has experienced on losing her dog, Maggie.

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7pm - in aid of BICA charities
22nd to 24th October
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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As many will know, objections to the battery developments cannot be predicated on emotional grounds - only on a statutory or material basis and again as many will know the capital and reserves on a company's balance sheet can either be positive (meaning that the company's assets exceeds its liabilities) or a negative position showing the opposite - so no money to support the business operations.

Our friends at Boom sit on £9500 of negative assets and are a micro company which means they have less staff and a much worse cash position than our village shop and less first teamers than our cricketers.

Greenergy sits on a negative £5k.

I haven't checked out all of the unfortunates but the pattern is clear and well established - create a shell company, win a contract, spend the proceeds, fail to do the job and then go bust leaving the taxpayer to (directly or indirectly) pay the bill.

You are not guilty of law breaking - just of exploiting the naïveté of those innocents who make the decisions.

Yours sincerely,

Howard Bellaby

20 High Street B96 6HS

Dear Editor

May I, through Feckenham News, thank everyone who has been so kind following the sudden loss of my lovely little Border Terrier Maggie at the end of August. She was a dear companion and was much loved by me, of course, and also by everyone who met her, and their dogs - especially the males, to whom she could be quite responsive, no matter her age (13) or the size of the dog!

I have been touched by the reaction of everyone who knew her and those who didn't, but heard about my loss. She was a special little dog, a friend to all, and will be much missed but remembered fondly.

With love and thanks

Alma

Village Christmas Card

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

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

FOOTBALL

You may be aware that Feckenham Football Club ceased playing on the Recreation ground a while ago as a result of losing players and their coaching staff. The Parish Council is pleased to announce that the Club will now be hosting Unity Sports Club CIC. This is an organisation specialising in sport for young children.

Unity Sports Club have sent this message to villagers:

"Over the past few weeks, many of our volunteers have been working alongside Peter, & Reg from Feckenham Football Club to re-energise the facilities and bring youth sport back to the village. It has been wonderful to meet so many residents who have stopped by to thank us for our efforts — and have told us that it is great to see the pitches being used again by local children. Please feel free to pop down, say hello, and introduce yourself.

We are here to build something together. Our partnership with Feckenham Football Club is central to this journey. We are deeply appreciative of their support and look forward to working closely with them to maximise the facilities and create a vibrant hub for community sport.

To ensure minimal disruption to residents and preserve the grounds, our match schedule has been carefully planned: we will host a maximum of two games on Saturday mornings and one game fortnightly on Sundays.

We are committed to working in partnership with the Parish Council and local residents to ensure our initiatives reflect the needs and values of Feckenham.

Whether it is engaging young families, enhancing local well being, or creating opportunities for community involvement, we are here to contribute positively and collaboratively."

BATTERIES

Redditch Borough Council has received an application from Boom Power for a further BESS facility at Wheaten Hill. The planning reference is 25/00888/FUL. The Council encourages you to view the application and leave comments. Should you have any issues accessing the information please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk

FLOODING

Members of The Parish Council attended a meeting with Borough and County councillors and Jodie Hawkins from North Worcestershire Water Management to discuss flood prevention on Astwood Lane and Swansbrook Lane. If you have dated pictures of flooding you'd be happy to share, please send them to the clerk who will pass them on. If water has entered your property please let us have details.

GRANTS

The Parish Council are encouraging local organisations to apply for a grant towards local projects. The group does need to comply with the requirements as stated on the grant application information. Application forms can be downloaded from the Parish Council website or by contacting the clerk.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th October at 7.30pm in the back room at the Village Hall. 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.

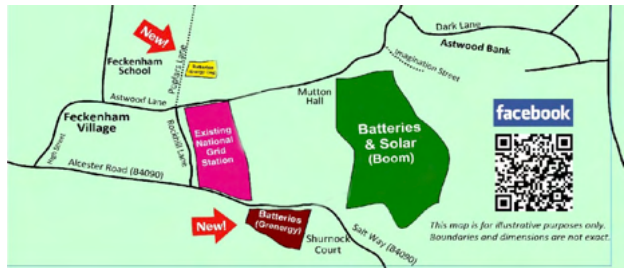
Latest news on BESS from FABSSS Group

Although the nominal date for objections will have passed by the time that you read this, you can still put in your objections to Boom Energy plans. Go to the Redditch Planning Portal and look for 25/00888/FUL or quote this on your emails/letters .

The team are planning to ramp things up by producing some catchy banners and bin stickers. When these are ready we will be asking everyone (especially those at key visibility sites in the Parish) to offer their hedges, fences, bins and anywhere else, a place to anchor these banners so that Boom Energy know our feelings about their money grubbing plans!

FABSSS is working with others to reveal the weaknesses in the many applications currently in the planning process.

Here is a map of the current applications for Battery Storage.



Acupuncture | Physiotherapy | Osteopathy | Laser Treatment
Neurological Physiotherapy | Pregnancy Massage | Shockwave Therapy
Lymphatic Drainage | Sports Massage | Sports Therapy
Vestibular Rehabilitation | Women's Health | Indian Head Massage
Prehab & Rehab | Clinical Pilates | Gym Memberships | Personal Training
Yoga | Strong & Steady Classes | Parkinson's Classes

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CHURCH SERVICES



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Church Warden: Vacant

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Website: www.feckenhamchurch.org.uk



PARISH CHURCH
OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
FECKENHAM

Services for October 2025

5th October	10.30am Eucharist	Rev Fiona Carter
12th October	10.30am Family Service	Rev Fiona Carter
19th October	3pm Eucharist at Astwood Bank Church Father Glenn's last service with us	Fr Glenn Reading
26th October	10.30am Eucharist	TBA



Drop in (in church)
Wednesday at 10.30am - 12.00pm 8th October and
22nd October
All are welcome (coffee and cake)

Coffee Stop (in church)

Tuesday October 14th
All are welcome (coffee and cake)
And toys for children: 2pm - 3.45pm



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

Raising the Church Flag

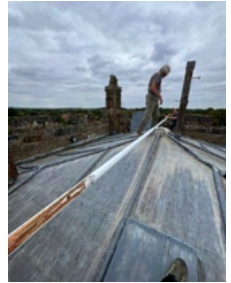
Some of you may be wondering what has happened to the church flag, as it has not been putting in an appearance on the top of the tower for some time. Fear not, it will be back up for the next planned occasion, which will be All Saints Day, 1st November.

Flying the flag actually involves at least 2 people climbing up various ladders inside the tower to access the roof. However, gone are the days when you also had to do a balancing act of walking across the bell frame beams to access the final ladder. For health and safety reasons a new aluminium ladder and platform were installed some years ago in the top part of the tower where the bells are hung, together with a new and safer hatch exit onto the tower roof.



Once out onto the roof, the appropriate flag, which is usually the flag of St George with the Diocese of Worcester emblem in the top left corner next to the flagpole, is attached to the halliard (the rope to which the flag is attached and pulled up into position with this rope sliding through a hole at the top of the flagpole). The problem has been the halliard had badly frayed and it became impossible to get the halliard to move up and down the

flagpole. Fortunately, it was possible to retrieve the flag. Once the halliard becomes frayed the only option is to lower the flagpole in order for a new halliard to be threaded through the hole at the top of the flagpole! The



flagpole is then pulled back up into position and re-secured.

This is what the intrepid three in the attached photos completed this August.



Our church flag is flown for limited times for the main church festivals. We put it up at Easter, Christmas, Pentecost, All Saints' Day & also Remembrance Sunday, St George's day & our church's Patron saint - St John the Baptist.

If anyone would like to help with raising and lowering the flag (and see the views of the village from the tower) please contact Angela Fletcher on angelaletcher8@gmail.com

You just need to be fit and healthy, have a head for heights and work in a team of at least two. Training will be given.

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!

Reverend Fiona writes...

So, we are already in October and “time waits for no man”. It is really a beautiful time of the year with the leaves and all the beautiful colours, but let’s not rush through autumn because of early planning for Christmas. Let’s savour it and enjoy it. October gets its name from the eighth month in the roman calendar “Octo”. I am an October baby, and I find October a very useful month to have a birthday because I often have birthday money and it is a very good time to buy clothes because summer is over, and we are starting to need warmer clothes. So, I use my birthday money for that very reason.

All the season’s vegetables we see are beautiful, aren’t they? Pumpkins, swede, butternut squash to name a few. And warming soups seem to be so much more appealing this time of year rather than in the spring or summer. Each season has something special about it and there is something very familiar about each season and autumn is no different. We have the cooler weather but still have some brighter days with that golden autumn sun.

I hope you all enjoy all these autumn colours and that you enjoy this season in all its beauty. In the church this season is called Ordinary time before the season of Advent and Christmastide. The latter are seasons of celebration, but we all need Ordinary time as we can’t go from one celebration to another. We need that period of the ordinary where we can

appreciate the simple things of life.

In church there is more Ordinary time than anything else and during this time we just walk with Jesus praying and just being with him. We walk through his story and our own stories. There is nothing ordinary about Ordinary time as every day Jesus calls us into communion with him. So don’t rush into preparing for Advent or Christmas but have a blessed Ordinary time.

Blessings Rev’d Fiona



This photo typifies the blustery conditions at the choir bbq after morning service on Sunday 31st August. It was with thanks to Gerry Eost and Marg that some 20 of us enjoyed a most convivial lunch dodging the showers. Paul Richards

T4U Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Just a little reminder that there is still plenty of time to make up a box for a child in need this Christmas..

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 and Belarus

Your support, your kindness and generosity over the years has been truly amazing! Thanks to Feckenham and all of our shoebox friends, thousands of children in need have had a Christmas Shoebox Gift, something of their very own to treasure. These simple gifts are life changing as the children that receive our boxes have so very little. Some of these poor children have nothing at all to call their own! No two boxes will be the same, no two children will be the same, but ALL of our boxes will change ALL of their lives this Christmas. The children will know that we haven't forgotten them, they will know that we care about them, they will ALL have hope for a brighter future!

Please continue to help these vulnerable children and their families by sending them a box full of love this Christmas ! 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.

Shoebox Send off Service will be held on Sunday 30th November at 10-30am. Please come along to this lovely service and help us to see our boxes begin their journey. A member of T4U will be there to bring us all up to date with the latest Shoebox News.

Thank you, in anticipation
Lin

YOUR BOXES REALLY DO CHANGE LIVES



Feckenham Artisans

The past 12 months have proved an exploration of new horizons for the Feckenham Artisans, starting with displays for the Scarecrow festival last October in the Village hall and in the Church, followed by exhibiting at Pershore No. 8 gallery from November to January, our first foray into pastures new. Our paintings and 3D art were very well received there, as has been the case with our other new exhibition venues during 2025. We also welcomed Louise and Sara to exhibiting with us for the first time. We are sorry that Ros, Julian, Lauren and Clare have left the Artisans this year as they move on with different avenues to explore, and wish them every success for the future.

We spent over 2 weeks in the Long Gallery, NT Hanbury Hall, which was very successful with all the Artisans exhibiting enjoying sales. We had many visitors through the doors and received numerous complimentary comments in our visitors book. We learnt valuable lessons in space planning, accounting, negotiating and staffing for this event which have been useful as we move forward.



Hanbury Hall was followed by 6 of us participating in Worcestershire Open Studios in the Village hall, and Julian in his own delightful garden, over two weekends in August. We were delighted to see familiar faces from the village coming to see our new work prepared for the event as it is always lovely to see friendly faces amongst the visitors to this prestigious countywide art show. We have followed this with an exhibition at Spetchley Park and Gardens from 18-21 September, another new venue for us as we spread our wings around the area.

We have all evolved our work into new areas over the past year, working with new materials, techniques and subject matter, and look forward to continuing this development in



the future while showcasing our work in the village and elsewhere. We would like to thank Feckenham for the continued support and interest in our varied art and craftwork. We can be found on FaceBook, Instagram and our website, www.feckenhamartisans.co.uk for those wishing to keep up to date with our new work and to see our exhibition dates for 2026.

Can't think what to do with your garden?
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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

Rose & Crown

RACE NIGHT



**SATURDAY, 7PM
18TH OCTOBER**

**PROCEEDS TO
BIRMINGHAM
IRISH CYCLE
APPEAL CHARITIES**



Feckenham READERS GROUP

Monday, 10th September - 7.45pm

This month's book:
**RIVER IN
THE SKY**

By Elif Shafak

Information: 01527 892285



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Next Meeting: Monday, 20th October

CRAFT AND NATTER EVENING

8pm - Feckenham Village Hall

Contact jen@thecarys.co.uk for details

FECKENHAM CRICKET CLUB PRESENTS

OOMPANIGHT



FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2025

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF GERMAN
BEERS & LIVE MUSIC FROM THE
BIERKELLER SCHUNKLERS OOMPAN BAND



AT FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

DOORS OPEN AT 7PM

TICKETS £10 PER ADULT / £5 FOR U16S

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM FECKENHAM
CRICKET CLUB

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, 7th October



Stock & Bradley Gardening Club
TALES FROM THE POTTING SHED
A talk by
KATHERINE KEAR
Wednesday, 1st October - 7.30pm
Stock & Bradley Village Hall



Feckenham Parish Council **MEETING**

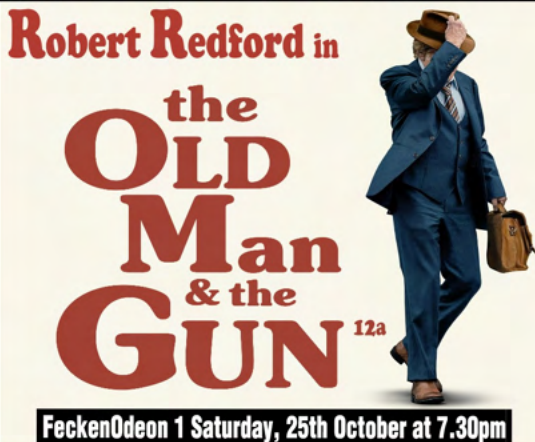
Thursday, 9th October - 7.30pm
Feckenham Village Hall
(Back Room) All welcome

Meetings include a Public Forum where parishioners can bring matters to the attention of the Council and ask questions.

THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY
A FILM ABOUT LIFE, LOVE & CHEESE
HOLY COW™ 15
FeckenOdeon 2 Friday, 10th October at 8pm



Robert Redford in
the OLD Man & the GUN 12a
FeckenOdeon 1 Saturday, 25th October at 7.30pm



The FeckenOdeon Cinemas
at Feckenham Village Hall
Tickets for all shows from **The Rose & Crown** and **Village Shop**
Telephone Booking 0333 666 3366* Online Booking* & full information at
www.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

FECKENHAM CRICKET CLUB
BONFIRE NIGHT



SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
FROM 7PM
Bonfire - BBQ
FIREWORKS
Music

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

Feckenham Village Hall

AUTUMN ACTIVITY

The Village Hall's regular activity programme is back to full steam after the summer break. Dance Academy on Mondays, Tai Chi on Tuesdays, Community Choir on Wednesdays, Bridge and Yoga on Thursdays and Morris Dancing on Fridays have all restarted together with the various monthly and bi-monthly activities. There's still a bit of space in the schedule so, if you're thinking of starting and activity or club, get in touch with the Booking Secretary on 01527 821233 and we'll try to fit you in.

BEAUTIFUL BENCHES

The Hall's latest improvement project is now complete. Redditch Joinery have tailor made and installed new oak benches running down the sides of the Main Hall. These replace the old MDF benches which had become worn and unstable. The Committee is grateful to Feckenham Charity for a substantial grant made towards this work. The remainder came from the Hall's Improvement Fund which is the beneficiary of the monthly draws (see results below).



Draw results

Feckenham Village Hall Improvement Fund August and September draws.

Carried out on 2nd September, 2025.

August:

1st (£25)	136	Andrew & Karen Henson
2nd (£15)	93	Mandy Beck
3rd (£10)	34	Alan & Pat Moore

September:

1st (£25)	116	Cyril & Jo Warrilow
2nd (£15)	85	Q & Jen Cary
3rd (£10)	126	David McNaughton

Live at the Village Hall

LIVE
LOCAL



BAKE OFF - LIVE!

The new season of The Great British Bake Off is well underway on the telly and the disasters and triumphs of aspiring champions are being enjoyed by millions - but these glossy shows are cleverly edited. Have you ever wondered what actually happens when a cookery show goes wrong? Now's your chance to find out!

In Badapple Theatre Company's new comedy "Crumbs" we join a television cook when she's "let go" by the network... and suddenly finds her face doesn't fit. Nobody will employ her so she tries 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??

On Saturday 18th October 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

This is a professional show brought to Feckenham by Live & Local. Proceeds are used to maintain and improve our Village Hall

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

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society



CHEESE BOARD

The FeckenOdeon's smaller cinema is dedicated to showing films that the mainstream cinemas prefer not to notice. October's offering comes from France and you can't get more French than a drama about cheese. **Holy Cow** is a warm and often funny telling of a coming-of-age story about a teenager from a struggling family of comté-makers in the remote region of Jura. Left alone to look after his sister, 18 year old Totone comes up with a daft get-rich-quick scheme to make €30,000 in a comté competition. How hard can it be to knock out a prize-winning wheel? (FR 2025)

HOLY COW (15)

Friday, 10th October at 8pm



OUT WITH A BANG...

When you're an 82 year old actor and have decided to retire you might as well have fun in your final role. Robert Redford does just that in this good humoured caper in which he plays Forrest Tucker, an infamous criminal and escape artist, who breaks out of San Quentin State Prison to embark on a crime spree using his age and charm as a cover. It's a role that could have been written for Mr Redford and he plays it with gusto - aided and abetted by Sissy Spacek and Tom Waits. Based on a true story... (USA 2016)

THE OLD MAN & THE GUN (12A)

Saturday, 25th October at 7.30pm

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

Feckenham's Own...



OIL GIVE IT FOIVE...

Much is made of the tunes that get to the Top of The Pops - but what about those that don't quite make it? What about the ones that get stuck at number 85 (for example) in the Top 100. Things like "Sweet Talkin' Girl" by The Chiffons, "Swedish Rhapsody" by Mantovani or "Come On Let's Go" by Tommy Steele - surely they deserve to be rescued from obscurity? Swansbrook's Colin James is on a mission to give these forgotten masterpieces a new airing. Each week he delves into his vast collection of discs (ancient and modern) and fishes out a selection of those who made it into the Top 100... but didn't quite get to the top. It makes for a fascinating listen - specially if you're of an appropriate vintage yourself!

Colin James' Top 100 - now streaming and available On Demand.

FILTHY LUCRE

Swansbrook Radio has been going for almost 10 years and it's fair to say that the financial pips were beginning to squeak - so, we're delighted to report that the station has received a substantial donation from a listener in the United States of America through a charitable Trust. This will enable us to continue to broadcast for some considerable time to come.

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.

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Feckenham WI

We had a very enjoyable and informative evening making scones for our September meeting. Master scone maker, Eunice O'Brien, led the session after she had so many compliments about her scones at the Garden Festival in May. We demanded to know how she does them, so she very kindly took us through the recipe she uses, and all her hints and tips. We didn't quite get the hang of the village hall oven, but we did all come away with some delicious scones.

Our next meeting is on Monday 20th October, at 8pm in the back room of the village hall. It will be a crafty one where we will either make something for the W.I. Christmas tree in Worcester cathedral, or we'll just have a craft and

natter session, working on our own personal projects.

Meetings are every 3rd Monday of the month. Members are free and guests are £5. Everybody's welcome to come along and we usually meet in the back room of Feckenham village hall.





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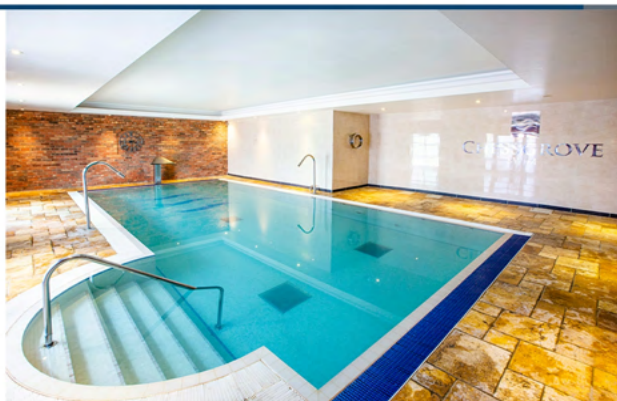
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Feckenham Archive - Marion Chute

A few years ago (2005) a Duck Race took place as part of the Wake celebrations. Many ducks were launched and many supporters witnessed the race where many got wet too!



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Village Shop - Alan Slater

There maybe no major events to report this month but there is plenty of activity going on at the Shop. As we enter into autumn and the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, our trade is holding up well and we are busily preparing for our annual Coffee Morning in support of Macmillan Nurses. I will report the outcome next month and we are optimistic that we will surpass last year's record total. The Coffee Morning is our major fundraiser, however, the generosity of our customers is not confined to that annual event. As you are probably aware, there is always a charity donation box on the counter that gets filled quickly whether it be in aid of an animal charity or an organisation such as the air ambulance. The kindness of the people in Feckenham has made me reflect on the wonderful community spirit that pervades throughout our Village. Maybe it is looking out for our neighbours in their hour of need or just doing a good turn for someone, but it serves as a reminder that the human spirit is intrinsically good and that Feckenham is a great place to live.

The importance of the shop as a community hub cannot be overstated and our cafe provides an opportunity for us to socialise with friends and family and to catch up on local news (or gossip!). For our Volunteers it provides a means for them to make a worthwhile contribution to village life and as I mention in my annual report to Shareholders, I am extremely grateful for their willingness to cover extra sessions when we are short staffed. Many of our Team travel from outside the village which makes their efforts even more commendable. So at a time when national and world events make grim reading, come along to the Shop and raise your spirits by sharing

some good news and enjoy our lovely coffee and cakes.

Enough of my musings so here's a photo to cheer you up and who cares if the nights are rapidly drawing in.

Keep smiling.



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An Organic Allotment by Pete Delaney

An organic October.

So here we are at the pickling, bottling and preserving time of the year. Having pickled shallots earlier in the year and as I write this in September I am about to harvest a good healthy crop of beetroot, also to pickle and put away.

This is my second year producing my own haricot beans in tomato sauce. I leave the beans in the pods on the plants to dry out. When

opened the beans are ripe and ready to cook. Once the beans are cooked I add plenty of my own skinned and chopped tomatoes and simmer until the sauce reaches the thickness I wish .



To store bottled meals, I heat the jars in hot water, remove from the water, put the meal into the jars leaving a centimetre's gap at the top. Put the jars back into the hot water with the lids on

loose . After 10 minutes remove them from the hot water and immediately tighten the lids shut. Turn the jars over and cover with a cloth to cool. This technique

worked for me to vacuum seal several meals I stored last year. It was satisfying to hear the pop of the breaking seal as I opened each one, proving the vacuum seal was successful. I also bottle and put away several pumpkin based meals .

This year I had a particularly good crop in the brassica net. I grew seven lovely red cabbages that looked like works of art when cut open. Half a dozen greyhound cabbages supplied me with summer cabbage, although there is always a battle with the slugs who like sweet summer cabbage as much as myself. Also I have several green and purple sprout plants forming a good looking crops. I don't get over confident though at this time of the season as previous crops have taught me, pests and diseases can arrive late in the sprouts development. I break off any diseased or dying leaves to try and keep the crop clean and healthy.

The poly-tunnel gave me a good season and harvest, tomatoes were a plenty, with the usual jungle to fight with to regulate crop production and let in light . Cucumbers were reasonable, although there were not as many per plant as with previous crops.

I got over my usual annual two or three pepper plants and this year grew eight plants and was rewarded with a good supply of multi coloured peppers.

Well with the seeing out of the preserving season we shall be entertaining the winter months, when the plot becomes all about looking after pre-prepared winter crops and feeding dormant beds. Preserve and keep well.



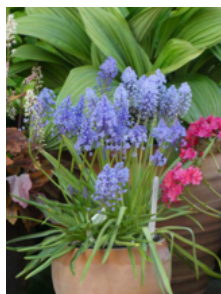
Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

Unusual Plants from Seed

I very much enjoy growing plants from seed and have grown many interesting things which are not readily available commercially. *Nomocharis* is a genus in the lily family and I first grew it from seed obtained from the Alpine Garden Society Seed Exchange scheme. It is notoriously awkward to keep from year to year, but if you sow seed every year (and it sets lots) you can replace any losses as they occur. The various species tend to hybridise quite freely and the picture here is of one such hybrid, now in its fifth year.



Another little beauty I raised from seed is *Scilla litardierei*, again from the AGS Seed Exchange. I have not yet had sufficient bulbs to try it in the open garden, but it lives happily in a pot and increases each year. It is commonly known as the Dalmation Squill and in its native habitat in Slovenia it is considered an endangered species. Dozens of deep blue



buds are borne on each stem and open as star shaped flowers in a dense raceme.

It sets lots of seed most years, so is another easy plant to keep going. It is hardy to minus 20°C

and has an AGM (Award of Garden Merit)

Many of the smaller primulas are well and truly over by May, but *Primula sieboldii* flowers around the middle of the month and comes in a wide range of colours and flower shapes. In Japan it is a cult plant in the same way that



Hepatica is, and collectors seek out as many different types as they can afford. I just grow them from seed and see what I get ! I have selected out a few seedlings over the years and they have formed good clumps in the garden. Light shade and a moist soil are important, and they are summer dormant so you need to mark the spot so that you don't inadvertently dig them up.

What Price Spellnig?

This piece was given me some years ago by a lovely gardening friend, sadly now passed away.

Aoccdrnig to rsceearch it deosn't mttair in what oredr ltteers are in as lnog as the frist and lsat ltteers are in the rghit plcae. The rset can be a cmepolte mddule but you can slitl raed the wrdos wouthit too mnay porbelms.

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CLUB MEETING – Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Our first meeting at the Village Hall after the summer break was a talk about Overbury Court Gardens, given by their Head Gardener, Harry Green. Many of us remembered Harry from his similar role at Morton Hall Gardens near Inkberrow. He gave a detailed account of the Overbury Estate and showed the garden and the estate as it evolved during each year.

NEXT CLUB EVENT – Wednesday 1st October 2025

Our next meeting at the Village Hall will be on Wednesday 3rd September and will be a talk entitled 'Tales from the Potting Shed', given by Katherine Kear. This is a fun look at the 'what to do or not do in the garden'. Some of the oldest garden advice was not found in a gardening book, but from the wisdom of green-fingered gardeners from long ago.

The subject for the monthly competition is 'A single flowering stem of a Michaelmas Daisy'.

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.



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The season ended reasonably well with the firsts sitting safely outside the relegation zone, the seconds losing narrowly in a promotion playoff



& the thirds finishing runners up in their division. The club's policy of promoting the youth stands us in good stead with currently ten u16's playing in the first 2 teams, with in particular Fraser Rankin coming to the fore as the season went on.

The juniors continued to have a steady season and the u14's qualified for a semi-final which was unfortunately postponed due to weather.

October 17th is our Bierkeller Oompah night at the village hall with all its foot stomping fun. Tickets are £10 for adults & £5 for u16's & are available from the cricket club bar.

November 8th is the annual bonfire & fireworks night on the ground which is always a great success. The fireworks have been upgraded from an already successful event and we need to beware of the east, as the beast is coming! There is no charge for the evening but all we ask is for donations to pay for the fireworks to keep the standard of the event high. We will also be accepting donations by card this year, and there will be stalls, bar and a bbq as usual. The fire is lit at 7 and there will be music in the clubhouse afterwards until 10pm.

We are in the process of installing Sky and will be showing all the weekend's football for our members. New members are always welcome.

Finally, as the season draws to a close the cricket square will undergo its annual renovation and be roped off for the winter. As at all other times of the year we have no objection to responsible dog

owners walking their pets around the perimeter if on a leash, but the volunteer groundsmen are getting unnecessary extra work clearing up after the irresponsible ones. It's a private ground, not a council one,. Nobody is paid. Many thanks to the vast majority of dog owners that treat our ground with respect.

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[PCC funding helps provide subsidised courses for mature drivers - West Mercia Police Crime Commissioner](#)

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