



Additional Inscriptions and Renovation Work

Web: astimegoesby.org.uk Email: kfporter@blueyonder.co.uk

#### Please call 01527 550505

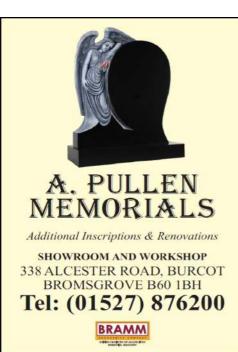
To arrange a home visit or to find out our opening times

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

"MEMORIALS THAT REFLECT A LIFETIME"

# **BRAMM**

British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons





#### **Feckenham News in November**

#### **Dates for your Diary**

#### November 5th **S&B** Gardening Club 8th Christmas Decoration Sale Bonfire and Fireworks 12th Readers Group Parish Council Meeting 13th FeckenOdeon 2 14th 17th W/I 29th FeckenOdeon

#### <u>December</u>

6th	Christmas Tree Erection
13th	Big Band Village Hall
24th	Carols on the Square

#### **Regular Sessions**

Mondays Dance Academy 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

1<sup>st</sup> and 3rd Fridays: Erstwhile Morris Dancers

#### Contents

Editor's Note Letter, Obituary, Christmas Card Parish Council FeckenOdeon Village Hall Village Square Management Swansbrook Church Matters WI What's On Travelogue Feckenham Archive	Page 4 4 5 6 6 7 7 8-10 11 12-13 14-15
Travelogue	14-15

#### Production Team

Gilly Cooper - Editor feckenhamnews@gmail.com
07500115581

Neil Newland - Distribution neil.newland@btinternet.com
lan 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: by the Editor. Harvest festival Flowers

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.

#### **Fditor's Note**

Your editor is not away this time, but looking out at the pouring rain and feeling just a bit sorry for herself as she's had Covid for a week and just wants to get back to normal! Meantime it's a lesson



in patience and an opportunity to read and relax while remembering how good it is to feel well.

One of the books I've had on the go is called The Book About Getting Older by Dr Lucy Pollock, a geriatrician. It's full of good advice for all ages and is very readable. I can thoroughly recommend it.

Back to the magazine and thanks to Judy Hooker who is stepping back from years of tending to tubs on the village green. Good luck to Miranda who has taken on the job at the bottom of the Square.

Amanda and Bob Gordon's Interrail journey must have been quite an adventure. There's a flavour of the trip on pages 14-15.

Next it's the Bonfire on Saturday 8th November then full steam ahead to Christmas

## Swansbrook Radio Christmas Music Requests

Although only November I have to start preparing the annual Christmas music playlist for Classical Swansbrook on Swansbrook radio. So please if you would like to choose a favourite carol or piece of Christmas music I'd be delighted to include it. Just let me know what you would like to hear and a dedication if you wish. Send your requests to me, Chris Fletcher on cefletcher44@gmail.com as soon as possible please.

I look forward to hearing from you and especially from anyone new to

Feckenham.

#### **Village Christmas Card**

#### A reminder:

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.

### **Obituary**

Some of you will remember Hilary Gosling, barrister, circuit judge, member of the Parish Council, devout catholic, who lived with his wife and 4 children - and animals - in Chesterfield House on the Droitwich Road. After he retired, he and Diana moved to Cheltenham where he died recently, surviving well into his nineties.

He was for decades our humorous, entertaining and faithful friend, with whom there was no comparison.

Michael and Phyllis Mott



#### HOUSING NEEDS

The Parish Council has commissioned a "Housing Needs Survey" which all homes should receive this month. Due to the Governments housing targets it is likely that Feckenham will face a large number of planning applications of varying sizes for new housing. In view of this the Parish Council needs to find out your thoughts and wishes. Please be sure to complete the form and return it as soon as possible so that the Parish Council can act in accordance with the will of the Parish.

#### **BETTER BROADBAND**

Feckenham would like to be near the front of the queue for the government's **Project Gigabit**, bringing faster, more reliable internet to our village. Openreach's Community Fibre Partnership team has been made aware of the inconsistent broadband speeds in our area.

The Parish Council has been advised that only three more telegraph poles are needed to make the project work, meaning improved internet could be closer than ever!

**Residents can help:** Just register your interest with Openreach via:

#### www.openreach.com/broadband network/fibre-availability

The more people who register, the stronger the case for Feckenham to get upgraded sooner. Do not miss this opportunity to help bring faster broadband to our community!

#### HEALTHY WORCESTERSHIRE

Worcestershire County Council may have money available to put on free sessions at the Village Hall as they have been successful in other areas. The sessions include gentle exercise (including seated), specific topics such as doorstep crime, mental and emotional well being and finally a time to sit and chat. If the County Council isn't able to arrange this for Feckenham then we may

be able to get a grant to fund something similar. If anyone is interested, please contact the clerk in the first instance.

#### **GETTING ABOUT**

Redditch Dial A Ride is a door-to-door transport service for residents of Redditch Borough who cannot use public transport. You can make any journey within Redditch Borough in their fleet of modern wheelchair accessible minibuses which have low rise steps for easy access. If you need to get to the shops, visit friends, attend a medical appointment, etc. this service may be able to help. It's run by Redditch Borough Council and you can register with the service by calling 01527 64910 or email

dialaride@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Our County Councillors are making efforts to get
community bus services to and from Worcester
extended to include Feckenham. The Parish
Council will keep you informed of any developments.

#### COUNCIL FINANCES

Parish Council accounts are subject to rigorous auditing by independent inspectors. At the meeting on 9th October it was reported that the annual audits had been conducted with no issues arising.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13th November 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
NFFD 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

#### The FeckenOdeon Cinema Socety



#### COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED HERE?

A sleepy village is shaken from its postwar complacency when widow Florence (Emily Mortimer) opens a bookshop promoting the latest in modernist fiction. As if her championing of books like "Lolita" wasn't enough, Florence also manages to upset local bigwig Mrs. Gamart (Patricia Clarkson). Before long the town is awash with intrigue and Florence will have to rely on the support of her sole ally, reclusive bookworm Mr. Brundish (Bill Nighy). A film full of small town intrigue - sound familiar? (UK 2017)

THE BOOK SHOP (PG) Friday, 14th November at 8pm



#### CHANGIN' TIMES...

New York, 1961. Against the backdrop of a vibrant music scene and tumultuous cultural upheaval, an enigmatic 19-year-old from Minnesota arrives with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music. The story culminates in the groundbreaking and controversial performance that reverberates worldwide. Timothée Chalamet stars and sings as Bob Dylan in a film that reveals the man behind the music. (USA 2024)

A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (12A) Saturday, 29th November 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.feckenodeon.co.uk

#### Feckenham Village Hall

#### SLEIGH BELLS SWING

Following their sell out concert in 2024, Neil Coley and his Big Band return by popular demand! The Neil Coley Big Band has been entertaining audiences across the West Midlands for the past 27 years. The 17 piece band was formed in 1998 by keyboard player Neil Coley and boasts a varied musical mixture of well-loved tunes and exciting new arrangements.

This year's Feckenham show will include a few festive favourites which is why they've called it "Sleigh Bells Ring Swing"

#### THE NEIL COLEY BIG BAND Saturday, 13th December 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

#### IMPROVEMENT FUND DRAW

You will note that the October Improvement Fund winners are printed below. This was the last draw for the 2024/25 year. The first draws for the 2025/26 year will take place at the Village Hall Trustee's meeting on the first Tuesday in December. Three cash prizes are drawn each month - £25, £15 and £10 (£600 in total over the year). A £12 contribution buys you entry to each of the 12 monthly draws.

Most village households will receive a letter inviting you to contribute during the next month, with an explanation as to how to pay by cash, cheque or bank transfer.

Last year's Fund contributed £1,044 towards covering the cost of improvements to the Hall and its facilities.

If you've got room for a flutter, thanks in advance for any £12ses you can afford.

#### **Draw results**

Feckenham Village Hall Improvement Fund October draw. Carried out on 7th October, 2025.

August:

1st (£25) 1 Marion Chute

2nd (£15) 46 Michael & Katie Wormington

3rd (£10) 131 Ashley Beldham

#### Feckenham Square Management Committee

#### **SQUARE REPAIR**

The long hot summer hasn't been kind to The Square. There are numerous bald patches where the grass hasn't survived. The Square Committee's Bill Rollins is on the case and has re-seeded the affected areas. Green shoots have appeared and it's hoped that the village green will soon be back to its former glory.

For many years the flower tubs have been planted and maintained by Judy Hooker. Judy has now retired and handed the trowel, and the hard work, on to Miranda Powell.

#### CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Plans are in hand for the festive season. Over the next few weeks Committee members will be preparing for the installation of the Christmas lights and the arrival of the village Christmas tree. If you have an hour or so to spare on Saturday, December 6th you can help us erect the tree - meet at 10am on The Square.

Carols on The Square is scheduled, as usual, for 6.30 on Christmas Eve. Mince pies, mulled wine and a hearty sing to welcome the Christmas spirit. Slight tweaks to the format are being planned to make it a livelier occasion.



#### YULE REGRET IT...

...if you don't get your seasonal greetings in early. Swansbrook Radio has regular listeners dotted all over the former British Empire and beyond. So - if you have friends and relatives in far flung places, this could be an ideal chance to send them a Christmas greeting. You can even record your message on your phone and send it to us for transmission. Your messages and requests will be played in our programmes all over the festive season and we're planning those programmes now. If you'd like to send a greeting to anyone, near or far, please send us an email to: radio@swansbrook.com and we'll do the rest.

#### **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



Mind | Body | Gym



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

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



#### **CHURCH SERVICES**



#### PARISH CHURCH of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Vicar - Vacant following the appointment of Fr Glenn to the Arch Benefice near Evesham.

Assistant Curate - The Rev Fiona Carter (unpaid volunteer - part time only)

Church Wardens - Vacant.

Weddings and Baptisms please contact the Rev Fiona Carter on fiona-carter@hotmail.co.uk

To arrange a Funeral please contact your Funeral Director

For all other enquiries please contact Ian Hunter, Secretary to the Parochial Church Council preferably by email to secretary@feckenhamchurch.org.uk or 07874 800108

Website www.feckenhamchurch.or.uk



PARISH CHURCH ST.JOHN THE BAPTIST **FECKENHAM** 

# **Services for November 2025**

2nd November 10.30am Eucharist **Rev Fiona Carter** 

9<sup>th</sup> November 10.20am Remembrance Service **Rev Fiona Carter** 

16th November 6.30pm Evensong **Rev Fiona Carter** 

23rd November No service at Feckenham

3pm St James' Church, Harvington - Fr Glenn's licensing \*

30th November 10.30am Eucharist & Shoebox service Rev Fiona Carter

\*Fr Glenn would like to know how many people are coming, so please let him know if you are.

#### Coffee Stop (in church)

Tuesday 11th November at 2.00pm to 3.45pm. Take a break before or after school. Toys for children

#### Drop in (in church)

Wednesday 12th November and 26th November at 10.30am - 12.00pm. All are welcome (coffee and cake)

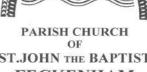
#### FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

8





#### **Fields of Gold**

A fund-raising concert in aid of the Leprosy Mission and the restoration of the church roof was held in the church on Saturday 11th October. The programme consisted of pieces by 3 local choirs: The Ballard Singers from Inkberrow: The Long Room Madrigal Singers based in Feckenham: and our own church choir; supported and supplemented by organ, keyboard and pieces for flutes. The event was organised by Clare Furey who also sang, and played all 3 instruments! The music was of generally high quality and ranged from the popular, including the title song Fields of Gold, to Vivaldi's Gloria through Rutter's All Things Bright, and madrigals very well sung unaccompanied. To the relief of us all the church was packed, the audience enthusiastic, doing its bit by patronising





the bar and buying lots of raffle tickets. We were grateful to all who organised the drinks and who were responsible for the beautiful flowers.

Finally it is worth reflecting on how fortunate we are to live in a community in which you can go to your local church, pay £10 and enjoy 2 hours of music of such quality - with a glass of wine.

Michael Mott



#### **Feckenham Church Flower Group**

Once again we have Mr Crump to thank for the splendid displays of beautiful dahlias which he grows and kindly donates to us to fill the church for Harvest Festival.

Thank you flower ladies for all your lovely colourful autumnal arrangements of flowers, foliage, fruit, vegetables and produce which truly encaptured the traditional season of harvest. They were very much enjoyed by the Sunday service congregation and again by everyone at the brilliant music concert organised by Clare Furey the following Saturday! Margaret and Marg Co-ordinators



Get ready to make a child's Christmas! The Redditch Mission Area is bringing the community together for the Make Christmas Special Toy Appeal, and you're invited to be part of it. This is a wonderful opportunity to show God's love with generosity and kindness. Help us bring a smile to children's faces across Redditch.

#### How Can you Help?

- Host a collection point. Set up a local collection point for new toys (for ages 0 to 17) at your church.
- Drop off toys. Take the toys to a designated drop-off point for the distribution hub.
- Volunteer your time. You can help sort toys and set up the distribution hub from December 3-5 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m..
- Or, give an hour to staff the hub from December 6-13, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.



#### Feckenham WI

Our October meeting prepared us for Winter as we made scarves and snoods out of super chunky wool. We used a technique that was new to all of us - hand knitting. It involves using just your hands and the yarn and is very quick to pick up. All of us managed to produce something we were pleased with by the end of the night.

Our next meeting is on Monday 17th November at 8pm in the back room of Feckenham village hall. Margaret Green will very kindly be giving us a talk on her work for Mission Morogoro. Members are free and guests are £5.





# **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

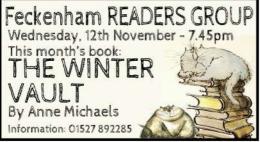




# WHAT'S ON IN







# THE VI

Next Meeting: Monday, 17th November

## MISSION MOROGORO

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





Send details of events for FREE listing to:

# **FECKENHAM**





Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

# THE LATE SUMMER GARDEN

A talk by JACK WILGOSS

Wednesday, 5th November - 7.30pm Stock & Bradley Village Hall



# Feckenham Parish Council **MEETING**

Thursday, 13th November - 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.







FeckenOdeon 1 Saturday, 29th November at 7.30pm 12

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



## Amanda and Bob's European Interrail Adventure



The trickiest bit of the journey was leaving Feckenham by public transport. We started on a Thursday morning by the 354 bus to Redditch, a train to New Street then to Euston, stopping overnight near St Pancras before a Eurostar to Amsterdam.

From Feckenham via Amsterdam then to Istanbul - approximately following the route of the famous Orient Express - then find an alternative route back.

Relying heavily on the website "Man in Seat 61" for vital information on train travel across the continent,





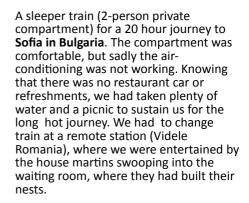
Our third city on the Danube was **Budapest**. We visited the Fisherman's Bastion and nearby castle, giving us spectacular views of the Parliament buildings and the river. Next day went to the old Szechenyi thermal baths, a perfect choice on such a hot day (38 degrees). We found the clean and efficient underground system a cheap (all public transport is free for the over 65s) and reliable way to get around.

# Timisoara in Romania, previously unknown to us. A pleasant surpris. We stayed in their Old Town, which, like Bratislava, was largely pedestrianised with gorgeous buildings and a vibrant cafe culture. It was clear that this town is undergoing much improvement and restoration.





Here were able to obtain the precious sleeper tickets that can only be bought at a station in either Romania or Bulgaria to get us to Istanbul!.







**Istanbul** was hot and mad - traffic was insane and the horn was the most used component on every vehicle. We fortunately had an apartment in the Sultanahmet district, within walking distance of the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia etc. Our highlight was a tour through the Cistern, the underground water system built by the Romans. With our objective being to reach the extremities of Europe, we of course took a ferry trip across to Kadikoy on the Asian side of The Bosphorus.



We abandoned trains briefly and headed for the Adriatic for a week to chill out. Stopping for two nights in **Piran**, Slovenia, an ancient town nestling on the edge of the Adriatic . A charming cluster of houses interwoven with narrow alleyways and a surprise around every corner



A key part of our plan was travel on the Bernina Express route which zig-zags though the **Alps**, with staggering views.

# N A Jones Plumbing & Heating Ltd

Specialists in Aga Rayburn appliances

We service Gas and oil appliances

Supply and fit e-control and electrickit 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





www.WainwrightsCarpetCleaning.co.uk



BABIES

**NURSERY AGE** 

SCHOOL AGE

# SWIMMING LESSONS

Private, Purpose Built Pool

Free Parking

**Highly Trained Teachers** 

01527 821978

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



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



#### Feckenham Archive - Marion Chute

The Village has changed so much but some things remain unchanged. This postcard which I suspect is from 40's or 50's was sent to me by Wendy Ralphs (thankyou). It shows this very familiar scene in High St. Does anyone recognise this gentleman strolling down the road? Please keep sending me your photos for the archive.



#### **BICA APPEAL**

#### CHARITY WINNERS

A charity which supports care for local Cystic Fibrosis patients was the biggest winners at the Race Night held at the Rose and Crown on 18th October. An enthusiastic gathering of horse fanciers crowded into the marquee in the pub garden and gambled recklessly on a series of races whilst enjoying free snacks and drinks from the course bar. Many of them went home a little poorer but the result for charity was much more cheering - over £4,000 was raised.

The money goes to the Birmingham Irish Cycle Appeal. The pub's nominated charity is the West Midlands Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre at Heartlands Hospital.

Thanks are due to all who attended and gave so generously and to those who sponsored the earlier cycle rides.



48 High Street Feckenham B96 6HS

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,4th November in the Bar from 8pm - Free TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Saturday 13th November - QUIZ NIGHT

27th November 80s Food

Nostalgia menu! Served from 6 until 9pm

FESTIVE MENU now available for pre-Christmas dining. Booking essential www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk





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

Based locally in Inkberrow

Phone: 01386 793248 Mobile: 07789 721303 Member of the Institute of Chimney Sweeps

(CS)





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

## Village Shop - Alan Slater

Wow - what a result.

Last month I mentioned the wonderful community spirit that exists in Feckenham and the kindness of so many of the people that live in our village.

That kindness shone brightly at last month's Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan cancer nurses, when we raised a staggering £1400 for the charity.

This amazing total exceeded the previous year's record by £400. My congratulations go to our Thursday Team of volunteers who made it happen. I must also acknowledge those who baked the cakes, made the jam, donated the cat note-lets and all those who provided raffle prizes. By the way, the winner of the raffle

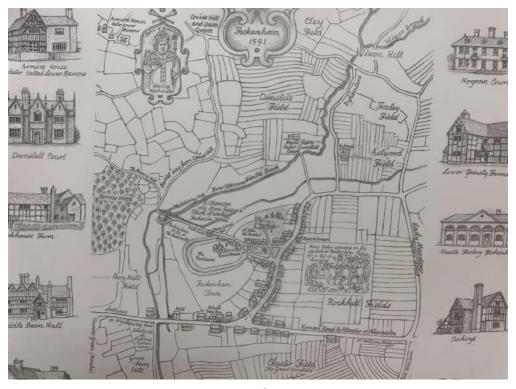
(£125) generously returned the amount to add to add to our final total.

A truly herculean effort and thanks to everyone who helped on the day.

If you are looking for a unique gift we may have just the thing for you. We have a limited number of prints of the 1591 map of the parish of Feckenham - made by Norman Neasom based on the original 16th Century drawing by Blagrave. The prints are on sale at just £5 each (unframed).

There is a framed copy on display in The Shop if you are interested.

Until next month - thanks for the continuing support of the village shop.



#### An Organic Allotment by Pete Delaney

This month sees the allotment become a bleaker looking place, with most harvests reaped and green foliage dying away across the plot. Gather it in and throw it on the compost heap.

Turning over heaps and creating new compost is an important job at this time of the year, dying leaf mould makes

excellent plant feed compost.

In late October I bring in the rest of my squashes and pumpkins, storing them in a chest with a glass window over the top to let in light to aid the pumpkin and butternut squash in their curing.

A first success for me in this season's harvests was sweet potatoes. When dug up they are found to be growing hugging around each other and I was lifting the whole cluster of each plant as one. Tomatoes in the poly-tunnel provided ripe tomatoes until early November . I



stop watering them to panic them into ripening

This month, later, also do my first planting out for next year's harvest and get my

garlic in the ground.

I strongly weed and fork over unused beds, keeping them as weed free as possible during the fallow winter months - what a result.

# Landscaping **Jeff Annand Contracting**

Blockpaving - Ponds - Patios - Groundwork & General Property Maintenance

> Free Quotes References available Fully insured

Tel: 07968 668906 or 01527 894745



Design & Planting Maintenance & Rejuvenation Consultancy

2 07773 101750 or 01527 894745



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



# Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

#### **Early Winter Berries and Fruits**

Amongst the golds and browns of fading shrubs, grasses and perennials, the bright colours of berries and fruits stand out in a way that they never would in the height of summer when there is so much floral competition.

Although holly is king at Christmas time, I think that *Pyracantha* is much showier - certainly until the blackbirds and thrushes strip the berries. Many cultivars are available, with white



flowers in the spring and masses of berries in the early winter, but 'Orange Charmer' (left) is my favourite.

The various forms of *Cornus* are renowned for their coloured stems in

the winter garden, but 'Kesselingii' not only has autumn colour in the leaf and black coloured stems all year round, it also produces terminal bunches of white berries for an early winter bonus (right)



I was initially surprised by *Euonymus* 'Emerald 'n' Gold', firstly that the shrub favoured by supermarket car park designers would also climb unaided if you plant it next to a wall, but also that it will produce a subtle show of fruits if left unpruned. As with the fruits of most of the *Euonymus* clan, they will

eventually emerge from the calyx and dangle on slender threads, before finally breaking free and falling to the ground.



Gardeners always like to grow something 'out of the ordinary' and the purple berries of



Callicarpa bodinieri var. giraldii 'Profusion' come into this category (right).

We grew two plants, close to each other, and they both produced berries, sometimes lots, but often only a few. We always thought that it might get going next year, but it never did.

Another plant in the 'out of the ordinary' category is *Decaisnea fargesii*, known as Dead Man's Fingers' - a name amply explained when the fruits arrive in late October (left).

I always remember picking a bunch and getting Diane to paint the tips of each 'finger' with red nail varnish. We took it to a gardening club meeting and claimed we had raised a new variety which we called Dead Lady's Fingers. Tee hee!



#### Stock and Bradley Gardening Club Report



#### CLUB MEETING - Wednesday 1st October 2025

We had a talk entitled 'Tales from the Potting Shed', given by Katherine Kear. This was a fun look at some of the oldest garden advice, not found in a gardening book, but from the wisdom of green-fingered gardeners from long ago. A most entertaining and informative talk, delivered with great skill.

#### NEXT CLUB EVENT - Wednesday 5th November 2025

Our next meeting at the Village Hall will be on Wednesday 5th November and will be a talk entitled 'The Late Summer Garden', given by Jack Wilgoss. Jack and his wife Laura run Wildegoose Nursery in Shropshire and many of you will remember our visit some years ago.

The subject for the monthly competition is 'Autumn Colour'.

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.



## YOGA

BALANCE YOUR MIND & BODY

FIRST CLASS

FREE!





Tuesdays | 19:00pm Stock & Bradley Hall

**C** 07532282282

Thursdays | 18:00pm Feckenham Hall

- Jessica Byatt Yoga & Meditation
- @ @jessicabyatt.yogaandmeditation



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



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



#### 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"







Graeme Butlin **0121 445 5913 0754 587 6475** 

46 Oxford Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9ER