



FECKENHAM NEWS

May 2026

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

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"

BRAMM

British Register of Accredited
Memorial Masons



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 May

Dates for your Diary

May

6th	S&B Gardening Club
7th	Readers Group
9th	S&B Plant Sale
14th	Parish Council Meeting
18th	WI
22nd	Feckenodeon 2

June

16th	Coffee morning
20th	Wake

Regular Sessions

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
Second Tuesday of the month: Craft and Natter
First and Third Wednesday: Community Choir
Second Wednesday: Art Club
Third Monday of the month: WI
1st and 3rd Fridays : Erstwhile Morris Dancers

Contents

	Page
Editor's Note	4
Obituary	4
Feckenham Wake	5
Square Management	6
FeckenOdeon	7
Village Hall	7
Parish Council	8-9
Church Matters	10-11
Swansbrook Radio	11
What's On	12-13
Magazine 2016	14
Feckenham Archive	16
Village Shop	18
Gardening	19-21
WI	22
Cricket Club	22

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

©2026. 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: The Whirly Hole in the morning courtesy of Ian Ridley

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

Spring seems really to have sprung while I was away for a few weeks. I'm sitting looking at my garden and can see some sweet little wrens who seem to be exhibiting mating behaviour. I get lots of joy, each morning watching the birds at the feeder and have had a greater spotted woodpecker and a buzzard amongst many other species. I am trying to encourage wildlife and am leaving a part of the lawn to go wild as a mini-meadow. Recently I've been debating whether to stop feeding the birds for the summer. Guidance from RSPB asks that households stop feeding birds to prevent the spread of a disease called trichomonosis which has led to reduction in the numbers of finches because the parasite survives on warmer bird feeders. So, reluctantly, I'll be pausing from 1st May till the end of October.



I have to say that I had a wonderful holiday in Japan at cherry blossom time but I really think our blossom is also spectacular. We don't celebrate it in the same way - perhaps we should.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, 12th June 2026

**Grand Summer Coffee Morning
in aid of
Feckenham Church Roof**

Obituary

Lionel Hill 1937-2026

I was saddened to hear that Lionel Hill of Dunstall Court died recently. You'll see some detail later in the magazine about how he helped us take over the Village Square but there was much much more to him.

Lionel's connection with Feckenham began when he and Helen bought Dunstall Court from the Barrett family.

He was appointed MBE in the Queen's New Year honours list in 2002 in recognition of his outstanding commitment and long service to Young Farmers Clubs. He went onto to serve as FNYFC president from 2006 to 2011. His commitment to the development of young people led him to support th Feckenham Youth Clubs in the Village Hall which at that time were well attended by children from Feckenham School. On a memorable occasion he supplied a lighting system at very short notice to save an outdoor fundraising concert from total darkness.

Lionel was also a pioneer the use of wood chips of willow and poplar at Dunstall Court to heat his house and other buildings, installing a wood-burning boiler in 1992 fed by his own plantations. The advantage of burning plants is that the carbon dioxide produced is offset by the CO2 taken out of the atmosphere when the plants were growing.

Lionel will be remembered for his farsighted for philanthropy; nationally recognised, a man of the village and of the people.

Lionel's funeral will take place at Feckenham Church at 11 am on 13th of May 2026



IT'S ALL HAPPENING!

Things are taking shape now in advance of our village celebration on 20th June.

ALL DRESSED UP

One of the new things we are introducing this year is to encourage children to come in fancy dress (any theme). To enable visiting children to also dress up we are asking for donations of unwanted children's dressing up clothes/fancy dress – please deposit these at the village shop in the box provided, and thanks to the shop for facilitating this .

On the day there will be a children's craft and activity stand which will display the donated outfits so that visiting young children can choose something and join in the fun (sorry did you say chaos?)



MUSIC, DOGS AND MR PUNCH

Things will be slightly different this time round with a new layout and new attractions - but rest assured that the tried and tested favourites will be in place as always. Punch & Judy and the Arrow Valley Brass Band will be on The Square. The pig will be roasted in The Pound, there'll be a real ale bar, a Prosecco bar and all sorts of things for young and old to enjoy. Of course the

Traditional Fun Dog Show will be open for entries and there'll be hundreds of vintage cars on display alongside steam engines and other fantastic contraptions.

New this year will be a performance by an up and coming Feckenham Band and there'll be dancers from the village school as well as troupes of Morris and contemporary dancers. The Square will be home to a "craft village" with all sorts of fascinating things to try and buy.

As always it'll be a grand day out for all the family with plenty to eat drink and make merry.



GIVE US A HAND!

Also a reminder that we will need some additional volunteers this year to help with new attractions. Watch out for a Facebook post from Maggie Stephens who will be coordinating volunteers. All aspects of the Wake are delivered by volunteers to benefit the village, so please consider helping us on the day with a couple of hours of your time.



Feckenham Square Management Committee

LIONEL HILL AND THE SQUARE

Feckenham owes a particular debt of gratitude to Lionel Hill, MBE, who passed away recently. Back in the 1980s Feckenham's village green – or The Square, to give it its proper name – had fallen into the hands of someone who perhaps didn't have the interests of the village at heart. When this individual departed in the early 90s The Square was put up for sale. Lionel, who had a soft spot for children, saw an opportunity. He offered to buy The Square and donate it to the village... but only on condition that the village raised enough money to buy an urgently needed specialist incubator for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The villagers responded with a will. Events were organised – concerts, music halls, dinner parties, games nights. The village was a hive of enthusiasm and activity – and by 1993 £15,000 had been raised, the hospital had its incubator and the ownership of The Square had passed into the hands of a specially formed charitable trust – saved for the use of villagers in perpetuity. The structure of Feckenham Village Amenity Trust was designed to ensure that, even if there are changes in local government, The Square will continue to be run for the use and benefit of the people of Feckenham. The Parish Council as a body is the charity's Trustee and the land is in the care of the Charity Commissioner - thereby ensuring that it can't be bought or used for any other purpose. But Lionel had done more than just preserve a bit of land, he'd started a landslide of creative involvement. People had enjoyed coming together to make music, organise things or simply to eat and drink together. New organisations were formed, some of which continue today and a spirit of community was kick started by Lionel's idea. Lionel proudly sported an MBE after his name – given for his work with the Young Farmer's movement - but in Feckenham he'll mainly be remembered for saving our village centre – and for bringing our community together. It's entirely appropriate that a large marquee will be erected on The Square to be used on the day of Lionel's funeral on May 13th.



Beautiful flowers for special events

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)

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>

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



paddock-care@outlook.com
07970 710769

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
glenn.bowbrook@live.com

The FeckenOdeon Cinema Society

SUMMERTIME

The FeckenOdeon's main season is over and it has been one of the most successful ever. There have been full houses for all sort of films. The crew are taking a well earned rest during the summer - but keeping their hand in with a couple of interesting movies in FeckenOdeon 2.



WITH ONE MIGHTY BOUND...

Some are born to have kangaroos and some have kangaroos thrust upon them... and it's fair to say that a TV weatherman isn't the most suited to wildlife welfare. After an accident in the bush leaves Chris with a mini-skipper to look after and no transport he finds his life changing. This easy going Aussie comedy doesn't have any big name stars but it does have the great outdoors and some very cute kangaroos. Kangaroo has broken all box office records in Australia... where they know a thing or two about roos... and weathermen...

KANGAROO (PG)

Friday, 22nd May at 8pm

There'll be no show in June but in July we have a heart warming story about a Mexican teacher taking on the roughest of students in an unconventional way...

RADICAL (12a)

Friday, 17th July at 8pm

The FeckenOdeon's main season - our 25th - begins in September. There are full details at www.fecknodeon.co.uk and in brochures available at the Village Hall, the Village Shop and The Rose & Crown

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

Feckenham Village Hall

BUSY BUT STILL SOME ROOM

Feckenham Village Hall is one of the busiest in the county. It tends to be booked very day of the week with everything from children's parties to lunch clubs and from yoga to Morris dancing. However there is now some space in the schedule. The Hall was the first home for a dance academy that has become so successful that it needs to be able to operate in several rooms at the same time and needs more space than the Hall can offer. They're found an alternative venue - so the Hall now has some sessions available. If you think your activity would fit in at Feckenham Village Hall please get in touch with our Booking Secretary, Liz Teisen, on 01527 821233 or email liz.teisen@btinternet.com You can also contact us through the website at www.feckhall.org

Draw results

Feckenham Village Hall Improvement Fund

Draw. Carried out on 7th April 2026.

April:

1st (£25)	3	J & A Facer
2nd (£15)	9	C & TE Tyler
3rd (£10)	126	Gilly Cooper



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

01527 459776
07748 801658

Which? HomeTrust

ncca
NATIONAL CARPET CLEANERS ASSOCIATION

www.WainwrightsCarpetCleaning.co.uk



The Annual Parish Meeting took place on 7th April. Alan Smith, Parish Council Chair, presented the following Annual Report:

Another year passes us by during which the Parish Council has been very busy. Legislation and compliance have significantly affected the cost of running the parish council, as has the need to instruct energy and planning consultants to act on our behalf. We have only been able to undertake these matters by increasing the precept this current year by 10%. The Council is now in a position to act on planning applications relating to the significant housing and energy sites as a result of this decision. We have also been able to enable the flood alleviation works to Astwood Lane

ENERGY APPLICATIONS.

The good news: three major applications for BESS storage sites have been withdrawn by their applicants. However, there are two major applications currently with the Planning Department, Boom Energy at Wheaton Hill and Grenergy, on the Saltway. The PC has submitted detailed objections to both of these applications via our Energy Consultant Dr. Christopher Ford.

THE NEW LOCAL PLAN FOR THE BOROUGH OF REDDITCH

At the time of writing the Local planning Authority has undertaken a "call for sites" in order to try and assess how they are going to provide 8500 homes by 2040. It would be foolish to think that Feckenham will escape this need, and it is most likely that land will be allocated for residential development. We will be prepared to act on the views of the parishioners if and when this happens.

UNITARY AUTHORITY

As all will be aware, the government have decreed that our area will become unitary. At the time of writing we are still unaware as to whether this will

be a single or dual Authority. We are lead to believe that this should be decided in June or July this year. Once that has been decided elections for shadow councillors will take place in May 2027. The Shadow Council will take control in May 2028, at which time The Borough of Redditch will no longer exist.

At the time of writing our understanding is that parish councils will remain, and may or may not be given additional responsibilities

As part of his process the parish council commissioned a "housing need survey", which has been submitted to the LPA.

FLOOD ALLEVIATION

ASTWOOD / SWANSBROOK LANE

A scheme for flood alleviation has now been prepared, costed. and funding obtained. Funding from the PC has enabled additional funding to be obtained to undertake the work. We are now awaiting the final consent from the land owner for works to commence

HIGHWAYS

The Parish Council are currently in talks with the highways authority regarding routing of HGV's through the village. This a constant problem which will only be exacerbated should any of the possible energy planning applications gain consent.

ADDITIONAL PARKING PROVISION

In conjunction with our local council representatives, we had hoped to provide additional parking spaces to the existing public car park. Unfortunately, the planning department failed to support the application and this is now unlikely to happen, at least in the near future.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME

Discussions are on going with the County Council to bring community transport to Feckenham. This would be in addition to "Dial a Ride", which is already available

FECKENHAM IN BLOOM

The Feckenham in Bloom group continues to carry out sterling work enhancing the village, our thanks must go to them for all their hard work

Alan Smith
Chair Feckenham Parish council

At the Ordinary Meeting (which followed the Parish Meeting) on 7th April additional matters were discussed:

BUDGET

Proposals for the Parish Council's budget for the year until 31st March, 2027 were discussed and approved. You can read full details of the Council's financial plans on the Council's website at feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

LITTER PICK

The annual Parish Council litter pick has been arranged for Saturday 16th May from 12.00 until 2.00 pm. All equipment will be provided for both adults and children. The rubbish bags are collected around the routes so there'll be no lugging of heavy bags. This annual village spruce up can only happen if we have volunteers. If you are able to spare an hour to take part please register with the clerk (Jane) on 01527 892522.

SOLAR FARM

The Council has been made aware of a proposal for a large solar farm scheme which would be built in Warwickshire with a connection to the grid in Feckenham. The exact routing of the cable isn't yet clear and the Council is actively seeking clarification.

FOOTPATH WARDEN

The Parish Council is delighted to report that a volunteer has come forward to take over the role of Parish Path Warden. The volunteer will take up his duties as soon as training can be arranged by the County Council. In the meantime we are grateful to the retiring warden for continuing to undertake basic maintenance.

TRAFFIC CALMING

It is generally agreed that the striped bollards and road markings (officially known as Jision Satellites) have had some effect in slowing traffic down. Years of exposure to passing traffic has meant that the bollards have become discoloured and the reflective surfaces no longer reflect. The Parish Council has purchased replacement covers to restore the bollards to their former effective state and is now waiting for them to be fitted.

Safer Roads have recently conducted more speed checks on Astwood lane. The results now show a reduction. This means that, should there be volunteers willing to undertake this, a community

speed watch scheme may be possible. The Council will be contacting the neighbourhood policing team to investigate further.

DIGITAL PHONES

In the coming months homes in Feckenham will be moved from the old copper land line network to Digital Voice, where phone calls are delivered through your broadband connection. Your number will not change, and most people will find the switch straightforward.

You will be contacted by your provider before anything changes. Near your switch date, you will need to plug your phone into your broadband hub and ensure any telecare or alarm devices remain compatible. Extra support will be provided for residents with medical or safety needs.

NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 14th May at 7.30pm in the back room at the Village Hall. This is the "Annual Meeting" of the Council at which roles and responsibilities are allocated for the following year. The meeting has been rescheduled due to the Borough Council elections which take place on 7th May. 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



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
OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
FECKENHAM

Services for May 2026

3rd May	10.30am	Eucharist Followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Rev Fiona Carter
10th May	10.30am	Family Service	Rev Fiona Carter
17th May	6.30pm	Evensong	Rev Fiona Carter
23rd May (Sat)	10am-12pm	Messy Church	
24th May	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Phil Tricklebank ALM
31st May	10.30am	Eucharist	Rev Fiona Carter

Coffee Stop

Tuesday 12th May at 2.00pm to 3.45pm.
Take a break before or after school. Toys for children.



Drop in

Wednesday 27th May at 10.30am - 12.00pm.
All are welcome (coffee and cake)



FECKENHAM ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St John Fisher & Thomas More

**Prayer and coffee morning at 10 am first and third Wednesday of the month
Everyone welcome**

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 89389



Join us on Saturday 23rd May

10-12pm St John the Baptist
Church,

Feckenham

and

2-4pm St Matthias & St Church

Astwood Bank

We will be finding out about

Jesus through craft,

food and our celebration time.

Messy Church is for everyone,
Just turn up and join in.

Feckenham's Own...



Listen at
www.swansbrook.com

SWANSBROOK Radio

LET US KNOW

Feckenham News is a great publication full of essential information and fascinating facts...but, it is prepared weeks ahead of publication. Swansbrook Radio, in contrast, is able to get information out almost instantly. So, if you have an event or a piece of news that needs to get to people fast, why not send the details to us? We can get your info on air and heard by hundreds of Feckenhamsters straightaway - and, if it's possible, we might even put you on air so that you can tell the listeners all about it in person. Just email us at 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

An image of a white paint can with a brush resting on its edge. The can has a small label that says "BENNETT".

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

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

WHAT'S ON IN

theWV
INSPIRING WOMEN

Next Meeting: Monday, 18th May

A FARRIERS LIFE

a farm visit

Contact jen@thecarys.co.uk for details
or call 07773 883 039.

CRAFT AND NATTER

on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
in the bar at the Rose and Crown
from 7pm

You can come along with your craft, watch others -
or have a go at learning something new

Feckenham READERS GROUP

Thursday, 7th May - 7.45pm

This month's book:

THE SALT PATH

By Raynor Winn

Information: 01527 892285



Feckenham's Own...



Listen at
www.swansbrook.com

SWANSBROOK Radio

Feckenham Parish Council

MEETING

Thursday, 14th May - 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.

AN EVENING WITH

HANNAH BRINE

singer, songwriter,
and composer

30th May - Stock & Bradley Village Hall
sbvh.org.uk



LIVE
LOCAL

**Feckenham
WAKE**
Saturday
20th June



SAVE THE DATE!
**Grand Summer
COFFEE MORNING**
Friday 16th June
in aid of Church Roof

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, 5th May



Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

TREES & SHRUBS for the Small Garden

A Talk by Nigel Hopes

Wednesday, 6th May - 7.30pm
Stock & Bradley Village Hall

Annual
Plant Sale
Saturday 9th May 2026
10.00 - 12.00

At Stock & Bradley
Village Hall - B96 6RW

Please, if possible,
bring your own bags.

Cash, & credit cards accepted.
Refreshments available



THE
FECKENODEON CINEMA
SOCIETY

An outback comedy

KANGAROO



FeckenOdeon 2 Friday, 22nd May at 8pm

RADICAL

FeckenOdeon 2 Friday, 17th July at 8pm

The FeckenOdeon Cinemas
at Feckenham Village Hall

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

Join us for our 25th 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.

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

I wonder if it is generally known that back editions of the magazine are available via the Parish Council website.

Since there was space this month I looked back a decade and found these snippets. I recall the WW1 commemoration including the wonderful Suite for the Fallen Soldier later in the year around Armistice Day. We still see the plaques on the homes where soldiers from the village lived: larger ones for those who sadly did not return. The trees, after a lot of initial concern are thriving.

World War I Centenary Commemoration



The WWI Commemoration Group
invites you to a **CONCERT** on
Sat 18th June, 6:30pm
at **St John the Baptist, Feckenham**

Square Management Committee

TREE NEWS

By the time you receive this edition of Feckenham News there should be two new long term residents of The Square. Two new trees should have been planted by Majestic Trees - a company which specialises in the relocation of mature trees. At the time of writing it's impossible to say whether all will have gone to plan but all is in place and we're hoping for a smooth operation to maintain The Square's leafy look. All we can do is to apologise for any disruption you may have experienced.

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

BANK HOLIDAYS

Open all Day on both holidays this month

Tuesday, 5th May - in the Bar from 8pm - Free

TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Sunday, 10th MAY - 7pm

BICA CHARITY CYCLE RIDE

Pop into the pub for details

Thursday 30th April - GREEK THEMED MENU

www.roseandcrownfeckenham.co.uk

Landscaping Jeff Annand Contracting

Blockpaving - Ponds - Patios - Groundwork
& General Property Maintenance

Free Quotes

References available

Fully insured

Tel: 07968 668906
or 01527 894745

Beauty
by Elizabeth
MGBI, VICT
Skin Therapist



dermatologica
facial
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 B95 6TH



Bespoke Made to Measure Joinery

Doors & Windows
Orangeries & Conservatories
Garage Doors & Gates
Oak Framed Porches
Bespoke Staircases
Listed Building Work

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

T: 01527 68179 M: 07852 177453
www.redditch-joinery.co.uk

N A Jones Plumbing & Heating Ltd

Specialists in Aga Rayburn appliances

We service Gas and oil appliances

**Supply and fit e-control and electric
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



REVIVAL
HEALTH & WELLBEING CENTRE

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



Feckenham Archive - Marion Chute

We have just been given a selection of photos belonging to the late Eric Styler. The village shop when it was on High Street looks like as welcoming a space as the current one. Who remembers this?



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

BABIES

NURSERY AGE

SCHOOL AGE

SWIMMING LESSONS

Private, Purpose Built Pool

Free Parking

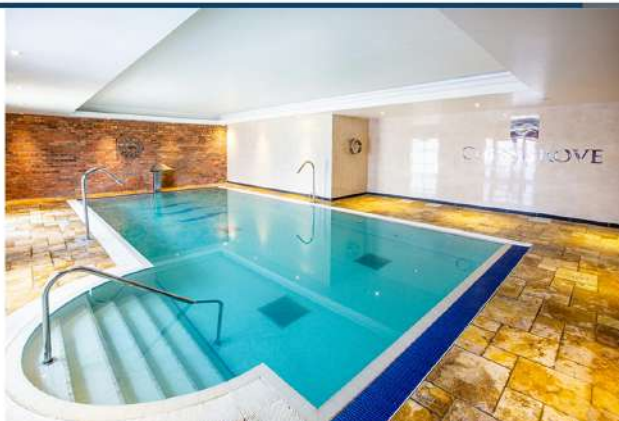
Highly Trained Teachers

01527 821978

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



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



Village Shop - Alan Slater

Why the Shop is better than Lanzarote

Having just returned from a week's spring break, my travel experience made me wonder why on earth I bothered. Take your belt off, take your shoes off, stand in the body scanner and now thanks to new EU rules I had to stand in an hour long queue to be finger printed and biometrically photographed. My passport was then checked three times before being allowed to go and find the taxi rank. Added to which the horrendously over priced airport food, the delayed flight and the surly customs officers from Vladimir Putin's Charm School. I have decided to spend the summer months in Feckenham. There is the temptation to go away this month but my advice is to resist it at all costs.

May is a month designed specifically to annoy us. It's that awkward time of year when the weather can't decide whether to give you sunstroke or a mild case of hypothermia, and the Government decides we need two bank holidays just to ensure nothing actually gets done. But here in Feckenham, we have a solution to the general chaos of spring: the Community Shop. Now usually when people hear the words "community" and "volunteer" they think of a draughty hall filled with people in hand-knitted cardigans discussing the tactical placement of a raffle prize. But our Shop is different. It's run entirely by people who have given up their own time to ensure that you can buy your cupboard essentials and a newspaper without having to drive to Redditch, which as we all know, is a fate worse than being stuck in a lift with a man who wants to talk about his pension.

This May, whilst the rest of Worcestershire is busy getting stuck in traffic trying to reach a garden centre or the aforementioned hellish airport,

you can simply stroll down the High Street to our Shop and Cafe. We have local honey that hasn't been flown in from a giant vat in a distant desert, and bacon that actually came from an animal rather than a chemistry set. Our Cafe verandah is the perfect place to sit and watch the world go by, or more accurately, watch a tractor or a horse go by very slowly. It's much more relaxing than a flight on a budget airline, and the coffee is significantly better.

However, there is a catch because, as you probably know, the Shop is run entirely by volunteers and we need more of them. If you have a few hours to spare - and, let's be honest, you do - why not join the Team? It's much more productive than shouting at the news, and you get to wear a very stylish apron. So this month, ignore the lure of the big supermarkets and their "deals" on things you don't need, come to the Feckenham Community Shop. It's local, it's friendly and unlike airport security systems, it actually works.

Finally, our customer policy is always to welcome children and animals (not necessarily in that order), and last week we were delighted to welcome a host of children WITH animals !!

It was lovely to see so many youngsters out enjoying themselves in the fresh air and there wasn't an iPad in sight! Though we did sell out of carrots.



An Organic Allotment by Pete Delaney

May, the first of our summer months. At last, this month, the danger of late frosts finally passes. April this year gave us several sharp frosty mornings and I was keeping my young salad crops shut up in my cold frame. The romaine lettuce I have been keeping warm in the cold frame all winter in an almost dormant state, have now sprung into life and are supplying me with plenty of salads from the large outer leaves, whilst also building good healthy heads along with giant mustard, which is hot and spicy and the two make a lovely spring salad together.

Onions sown in March are thriving now in late April/early May. At this time of the season I keep my onion crops covered with a tent of fine netting or plastic cloche as a protection against the onion fly, the fly takes to the air at this time seeking onions in which to lay their eggs, when they hatch the young pupae eat away at the structure of the onion's



neck, eventually causing the plants to keel over and die. I suffered them one season and it was very disheartening. This year I have covered onions with the same scaffold net as I use as cabbage netting as it has a tight hairy weave. I remove the cover from the onions once mid-May is passed. The onion fly breaks out over the late spring moon, so I think the danger will be past once the month reaches the new moon in mid-May.

As May progresses it becomes a month of planting and repotting. Leek seedlings I transplant from trays into their own small individual pots to grow on until I shall plant them out in to a prepared bed in June. Young peppers I transplant into the larger

pots that I intend to grow them to fruition in the greenhouse. Also in the poly-tunnel I prepare the ground ready to plant cucumber and tomatoes, feeding the beds with much good compost.

I sow early carrots from late April/early May keeping an eye on the late frost, and cover them with fleece if necessary. I wait until May though to sow the fussy to germinate parsnips, as they seem to like the ground a little warmer, although the seed doesn't like dried out ground so I endeavour to keep it lightly damp. I cover the parsnip bed with old windows in frames laid over the top of the bed to keep the soil warm.

This month I fill in my runner bean trench in which I have been throwing compostable materials to feed the bean crop. I lay a run of strings to show where the edges of the trenches were to make sure I plant the bean plants where they will benefit most from the composted feed. I wait till the second half of the month to plant out the bean crop, when all chance of a cold spell has gone.

I sow a first crop of beetroot in late April and cover them with a cloche and then I follow that up with a second sowing in May. Often the May sowings soon catch up with the earlier sowing and they tend to be ready to crop at about the same time later in the season.

From mid-April and on through May I sow 2 or 3 waves of different salad leaves straight into pre-prepared beds. This gives me salad crops throughout the summer season. Once I see the hawthorn/mayflower is out I feel confident in no longer having to cover sowings and seedlings from the cold and danger of late frost.

... and of course whatever the weather or temperature the weeds seem to thrive, so along with sowing and planting, May is a strong month for hoeing.

Rob Cole's Gardening Tips - May - My Favourite Month

After a winter of bare soil and a gentle awakening in early spring, May brings with it a wonderful fullness in the garden. Not everything is in flower, but the potential is building - there are so many plants which look good as they are emerging and the sight of swelling flower buds is uplifting.

Herbaceous paeonies are particularly good when the new shoots are emerging, most adopting a deep scarlet hue before they expand and change to green. But, of course, it is the flower we are really waiting for, and May is their starring time.



I tend to favour the smaller, single flowered species such as *Paeonia veitchii* which copes with the wind and rain which can damage the bigger, blousier types. The woody tree paeonies are much less affected though, and we have an unnamed, double red form which grows well surrounded by *Persicaria bistorta* 'Superba' which is often in flower at the same time and is a perfect partner.

I think Irises are only successful in a larger garden - in a small garden their fleeting flowers are not a good use of limited space where every plant has to earn its keep - but we still grow a number of them. One of the best performers is *Iris* 'Ola Kala', a golden yellow, which in most years has a second flush of flowers later in the year. Ola Kala is apparently a Greek expression for 'all is well' and is reputed to be the source of OK as a confirmation. Two other *Iris* we particularly enjoy are 'Jane Phillips' and 'Roulette'.



Iris 'Ola Kala'



Iris 'Jane Phillips'



Iris 'Roulette'

Finally, the many forms of *Heuchera* start to flower in May and I think that only a few of them have flowers worthy of the wonderful foliage colours and dramatic effect.



So for the rest I cut off the flowering stems, and I think the plant looks so much better. See the difference



CLUB MEETING – Wednesday 1st April 2026

Our meeting at the Village Hall on Wednesday 1st April was a talk by Pip Smith from Droitwich entitled ‘Nuts About Narcissus’. He described his passion for the Narcissus, giving us an insight into its history, the breeders, the cut flower industry, the various types of Narcissus and ended with some recommended varieties.

NEXT CLUB EVENT – Wednesday 6th May 2026

Our next meeting at the Village Hall is on Wednesday 6th May 2026 and will be a talk by Nigel Hopes entitled ‘Trees and Shrubs for a Small Garden’. Nigel is one of our regular speakers and is Head Gardener at John Massey’s wonderful garden at Ashwood Nurseries.

The subject for the monthly competition is ‘Tree or Shrub Blossom’.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Our Annual Plant Sale this year will be on Saturday 9th May in the Village Hall, from 10:00am to 12:00 noon – put a note in your diary now!

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 2026. 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 WI



normally lasts around 15 minutes. New members are always welcome - it is £47 for a year's membership, which includes 4 magazines and discounts at several places. Guests are also very welcome and are encouraged to contribute £5. For more details, contact Jen Cary 07773 883 039.

Feckenham Cricket Club

The season is upon us & as I write this we are preparing for our first league fixture after an unseasonably dry spell of weather. It hasn't all been plain sailing as we currently have a new landmark of a marooned roller in the middle of the outfield & if it's still there as you read this then we really are in trouble! The bar is open all weekend, from 5pm Fridays, 3pm Saturdays & 1pm Sundays & there's nowhere better for a summer beer. We are also open 6-9pm Thursdays during our training sessions & all potential new members please pop down & introduce yourselves. We are also open match nights during the week, particularly Wednesdays where we have games 3 in every 4 weeks. Finally it is with sorrow we recently heard of the death of our neighbour, Lionel Hill of Dunstall Court. A heavy hitter in the area both for & on behalf of the village for many years, a friend to all who held events around the area with free parking and in any other way he could help. Rest in peace, sir, well batted

Our April meeting was a bit unusual, in that we took part in a Group activity. This is only the third or so time we have managed to do so, since we formed 4 years ago. It was a quiz, involving teams from 4 different local W.I. groups, at Kington & Dormston Village Hall, and it was lovely to spend some time getting to know each other. We managed to field two teams of 4 - The Feckenham Floozies and The Feckenham Four - and we didn't come last and we didn't come first, which we're very pleased with.

Our next meeting is on Monday 18th May, and we shall be visiting Martin Wilkes' farm on Berrow Hill Lane for a talk on his life as a farrier and a look around his fascinating workshop. We will be leaving the village hall car park (on bicycles or in cars) at 8pm. It will also be our AGM that night, which

ANDREW SMITH CHIMNEY SWEEP

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



Feckenham GARAGE



MOT Testing Station
Servicing & Repairs to all makes

01527 892483

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.veckerhamshop.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