

FECKENHAM NEWS



August 2026

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

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Feckenham News in August

Dates for your Diary

August

5th	S&B Gardening Club
8th	Village Hall Painting
15th	Open Air Theatre
19th	S&B Gardening Club
22-23rd	Open Studios
23rd	Songs of Praise
29th-31st	Open Studios

September

3rd	Parish Council Meeting
6th	Spetchley Festival of Trees
25th	R&C Golf Bandit Cup

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

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

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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

It's a bumper month, so I'll be brief.

I'd like to make an apology to the Friends of Feckenham Church. I was sent an article for the July edition but unfortunately it landed in the junk folder which I only check if prompted. It is included in this month's magazine on pages 16-17. If you do send me something to publish I will always endeavour to send an acknowledgement. Please, if you do not get a reply, message me again or phone me.



I hope everyone has an exciting time over the summer, especially the children. Maybe this is an opportunity for them to submit something for the September magazine: a photo, a drawing, prose or a poem.

In September we welcome the new headteacher at Feckenham School, maybe this is an opportunity to renew our connection to the school.

FECKENHAM CHARITY

Funds are dispensed from this ancient charity to individuals and organisations within the boundaries of the Ancient Parish of Feckenham, as the Trustees think fit.

Closing date for the receipt of applications

30th September, 2026

Further enquiries / applications to:
Mrs J. Bate (Clerk to the Trustees),
'Wychway', Droitwich Road,
Hanbury, BROMSGROVE.
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FECKENHAM EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT

The endowment makes grants to young people in the pursuit of further education or training. If you are under 25 and live in the Ancient Parish of Feckenham or the District of Redditch you may be eligible for a grant. Any such grants are divided on the basis of 4/5 to the Ancient Parish and 1/5 to the District of Redditch. All applications will be carefully considered. An individual may make a maximum of three applications. The decision of the Trustees is final.

Closing date for the receipt of applications:

30th September, 2026

Further enquiries / applications to:
Mrs J. Bate (Clerk to the Trustees),
'Wychway', Droitwich Road, Hanbury,
Bromsgrove. B60 4DB
Tel 01527 821285
Email: judy.bate@hotmail.com

Feckenham Village Hall

OPEN AIR THEATRE

Many of you may remember the highly enjoyable "Shakespeare in The Garden" performance a couple of years ago. We're delighted to announce that we're able to return to the same venue for another show this month.

THREE MEN, A BOAT, A DOG

You're invited to enjoy a balmy summer evening of open air entertainment in the company of Jerome as he recounts the hilarious story of his boating holiday along the magnificent River Thames with his two companions and Montmorency the dog. Come and join in the fun as Giles Shenton expertly takes the helm and pilots you through the ridiculous tale of men behaving badly while messing about in boats!

Jerome K. Jerome's timeless tale of epic adventure will be brought vividly to life in a professional production presented by Stratford Theatre Company.

It'll be a gloriously funny evening in the lovely setting of the "Art Garden" at 7 Droitwich Road. (If wet, in the Village Hall).

We are grateful to Jane and Julian Bull for accommodating the show.

There'll be a fully licensed bar - featuring our special Summer Punch as well as cooling beers, ciders and wine - and a chance of some bubbly if the fancy takes you.

Proceeds to Feckenham Village Hall (Reg Charity 523140) Improvement Fund.

THREE MEN IN A BOAT
Saturday 15th August at 7.30
in the Garden of 7 Droitwich Road
(Doors open 6.45 - Licenced Bar)

PLEASE NOTE: There is no parking at the venue. If you come by car please park in the public car park behind the Village Hall

TICKETS (£15) are on sale at The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown.
Book online through www.feckhall.org
Book by phone on 0333 666 3366



Three Men in A Boat stars Giles Shenton.

PAINTING DAY

Every year the Hall Committee and friends tackle the interior decoration of the Hall with the aim of having all spick and span for the upcoming year. You're all welcome to join us on **Saturday, 8th August from 10am**. Just bring yourself dressed in your oldest clothes - we'll supply materials and tools... and a cuppa or two!

CHANGES TO HALL HIRE FEES

Sadly, it has eventually become necessary to increase our hall hire fees for the first time for many years.

As we all know, the cost of virtually everything increases exponentially all the time - year on year. Since before Covid, we have been able to absorb the increases in utilities, maintenance, insurance and other costs by increased hall usage, by shopping around, and other astute innovations.

So, from 1st September, the hall hire fees will increase - for the first time in over 5 years - by an average of not more than 10%. Whether you are a regular or a potential new user, The Booking Secretary will be able to inform you of the revised hire fees.

DRAW RESULTS

Feckenham Village Hall Improvement Fund
Draws. Carried out on 7th July 2026.

June:

1st (£25)	62	Ailbhe Clarke
2nd (£15)	171	A.L.Cope
3rd (£10)	76	Harold Richardson

July:

1st (£25)	126	Gilly Cooper
2nd (£15)	34	Arthur Brassington
3rd (£10)	166	Bea Cary

Feckenham Square Management Committee

THEY WILL COME...



Those scary creatures that frightened the life out of residents and visitors alike are set to walk our village streets once more.

There's going to be another **Feckenham Scarecrow Weekend** and it'll all happen on **10th and 11th October**. The date has been set, the

Scarecrows have put it in their diaries - so they're coming regardless - there's no stopping them now!

They'll all be arranging themselves along the Scarecrow Trail for the delight of children aged 9 to 99 and there'll be Teas and Barbecues and all sorts of other delights to go with them.

PLEASE START EARLY!

Of course, none of this can work without **YOUR HELP!** Once again we want you to make the most eye-catching and original scarecrows you can imagine. There's no theme and very few rules so let your imagination go wild! Scarecrows can be as big or as small as you wish, can be by themselves or in a group - as long as they're visible and sited in the main village. There'll be prizes for the **BEST SCARECROW**. There's no charge for entering - so get started **NOW!** There'll be an entry form in September's Feckenham News and on leaflets around the village.

GRAVEL

Every now and then parts of The Square need a bit of TLC to keep them up to scratch... which is the reason why you may have noticed people with shovels and rakes toiling away on a Sunday morning recently. They were spreading new gravel and shale over the High Street part of The Square. Of course, if you'd like to join the band of volunteers that look after our village green you only have to email: square@feckenham.f9.co.uk



SPETCHLEY FESTIVAL OF TREES



Wake Committee Chair, Julian Bull is combining his interest in trees and wood along with experience gained from organising The Wake to Co-ordinate a new event, The Spetchley Festival of Trees on 6th Sept.

Located at Spetchley Park Gardens, just outside Worcester, this family-friendly event will be a celebration of all things trees and wood, set within the stunning historic parkland, renowned for its beautiful collection of trees and plants.

Attractions include Chainsaw Carvers, Artists, Woodturners, Tree Growers, Arborists, Forest Bathing, Forest School for Children and many more, with a combination of Retail and Information Stalls, Demonstrations, Talks and Tree Tours.

Joining Julian will be villagers Paul Furey on announcing duties, and Ian Ridley and Deborah Watton with nature themed art for sale and demonstration.

A flyer is included with this month's Feckenham News



Once again Feckenham will be hosting 5 village artists participating in the Worcestershire Open Studios event. Julian Bull will be opening his studio and gardens to talk about his new wooden garden sculptures alongside his usual tree work. Sara Lightning, Ian Ridley, Jude Sullivan and Debbie Watton will be relocating their studios to the village hall, temporarily renamed as Feckenham Arts Hub.

Previous years' visitors will know the work of these artists to include oils, watercolours, pastels and professional pencils but there will be a lot of new work exhibited with the usual opportunity to chat to the artists and observe their processes in action. Further details of opening times and links to artists' information can be found on the Worcestershire Open Studios website : www.worcestershireopenstudios.org

For most readers it's just a short walk to the village hall or Julian's garden to pop in for a look, chat and a cup of tea or coffee - we hope to see you there.

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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 August 2026

1st	August	10-12pm	Messy Church	
2nd	August	10.30am	Eucharist	Rev Fiona Carter
9th	August		No service	
16th	August	6.30pm	Evensong	Rev Fiona Carter
23rd	August	10.30am	Songs of Praise	Phil Tricklebank ALM
30th	August	10.30am	Benefice Eucharist	Archdeacon Nikki Groake at

Astwood Bank Church with bring and share lunch

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 01527 89389



You may have noticed an advert for Songs Of Praise. It's not going to be televised or anything like that.

The idea is to encourage anybody and everybody to come along and enjoy a community event together at Feckenham Church.

And it's free!

There used to be an unspoken dress code for church half a century or so ago, but, you can come along in your gardening clothes if you want. No need to dress up or stand on ceremony, just come as you are. You never know, you might just enjoy it!

Children and young people will be particularly welcome, and we would ask parents to allow their children to wander around the church during the service, and explore as they wish, quietly or noisily!

Come and sing a few well known hymns together, or if you don't sing, just hum along.

It will be a one hour service and there'll be refreshments afterwards.

Oh, and you may or may not have heard, I am a man of the cloth now!

My official title is ALM or Authorised Lay

Minister.

You'll be able to see me in my vestments too.

My mother, Wendy Tricklebank will be pulling out all the stops on the church organ.

Phil Tricklebank ALM

PS Sunday 23rd August 10.30am

Drop In

For many years now we have had a twice monthly 'Drop In' for coffee and a chat. For the last three years, Glenda Smith has organised this but she is now relinquishing this role. The PCC offers its grateful thanks to Glenda for her commitment and for the nearly £700 that she has raised for church funds.

It does mean however unless someone comes forward to take on the role there will be no Drop In from August onwards.

Thank you and Best Wishes,
Ian

HARVEST LUNCH



Sunday 4th October, 12pm

AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

£10.00

(FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12)

You are warmly invited to Harvest Festival Lunch
Pork baps, all the trimmings, salads & desserts
(vegetarian option available)

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

 **Enjoy the Harvest flowers** 

PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT THE UPKEEP OF THE CHURCH

Help us to plan and buy your tickets in advance at
Sunday services or by contacting Angela Fletcher
angelaletcher8.com 07709 911053



Reverend Fiona Writes...

Summer Holidays: A Time to Rest, Reflect and Rejoice

As this parish magazine reaches you, many of us will be looking forward to the summer holidays. Schools break up, suitcases come down from the loft, and families begin making plans for days out, visits to relatives, holidays abroad, or simply a little more time spent in the garden enjoying the longer days.

Summer offers a welcome change of pace. After months of busy schedules, it is an opportunity to rest and recharge. In a culture that often celebrates busyness, it is worth remembering that rest is not a luxury but a gift from God. From the very beginning of creation, the rhythm of work and rest was woven into human life. Even Jesus took time away from the crowds to pray, reflect and renew his strength.

For some, the summer holidays will mean adventure and travel. For others, rising costs or family commitments may mean staying close to home. Yet holiday experiences are not measured by the distance we travel. Some of our most treasured memories are created through simple moments: a picnic in the park, a walk along the coast, an evening spent with friends, or the laughter of children playing in the garden.

The slower pace of summer can also provide an opportunity for reflection. When our diaries are less crowded, we may find time to notice the beauty of God's creation around us. The colours of flowers, the songs

of birds, the warmth of the sun and the changing landscapes all remind us of God's generosity and care. As the Psalmist writes, "The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord."

For Christians, summer can be a time to deepen our faith as well as our tan. A few extra minutes for prayer, reading a Christian book, or simply sitting quietly in a church can nourish the soul. Many people find that stepping away from their normal routine helps them hear God's voice more clearly.

Of course, not everyone finds the summer months easy. Some may be facing illness, bereavement, financial worries or loneliness. While others are away, those left behind can sometimes feel isolated. As a church community, we are called to be mindful of one another, offering friendship, encouragement and practical support wherever it is needed.

As we enjoy the weeks ahead, let us give thanks for the blessings of summer: for rest, for family and friends, for opportunities to explore, and for the beauty of God's world. May we return from our holidays refreshed in body, mind and spirit, ready once again to serve God and our neighbours.

Wherever this summer takes you—whether across the world or simply across the road—may it be a season of joy, peace and renewed hope.

God Bless

Reverend Fiona

Mission Morogoro - Tony Mortimer

SMALL LOANS - BIG DREAMS

Imagine this. You live in a remote village in Africa and are poor, but you have dreams of improving life for your family. You have ideas about how you might achieve this but don't have the money to do it. There are no banks in your community but even if there were, they wouldn't deal with you because you are too poor. So with no bank account, no savings account and no loan, you have no way of investing in your family's future. All of these **WE** take for granted. What if **we** had nowhere secure to keep our savings, no means of providing a family home, of funding our children's education or even starting a micro business. This is the reality for many of our friends in Tunguli. They are trapped in poverty.

The purpose of our microfinance project is to break this poverty trap and bring hope for our friends. It is a savings-based project that is providing the community with a secure place to save, the opportunity for a small loan, and training on money-management skills. The scheme is special, as from the outset people save from their own income. In time their personal savings 'pot' gives them the right to take a loan to fund the project that is important to them. There are no 'handouts' here. With close supervision and training from our Tanzanian delivery partner 'Five Talents', the community fully owns this 3-year project and it is flourishing.

Here two members of the savings and loans group tell us of their wonderful achievements:

"My name is Ayoub, a member of Neema saving and loan group. I took a loan of Tsh 300,000 for farming one acre of potatoes. I thank that



yielding is good.. now selling potatoes and collected over one million tanzanian shillings thus able to refund the loan. I thank MISSION MOROGORO for supporting establishment of this group, and now we are starting benefiting from it."

(Note: 300,000 Tanzanian shillings = £85
1,000,000 Tanzanian shillings = £285 approx.)



"My name is Tito, a chairperson of Tunguli village government, also a member of Neema saving and loan group. In fact, the group is very helpful. It helped me to pay college fee for my son Samweli Tito who is pursuing nursing studies

at Berega Nursing College. I took a loan of Tsh 600,000 and expect to refund it on summer season this year."

We are proud of everything that is being achieved and the way this project is changing people's lives in Tunguli. We thank all our generous supporters for making this possible.

Tony Mortimer
Mission Morogoro

www.missionmorogoro.org.uk



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Bags of Hope Redditch Mission Area Hub - Saturday 22 August

On 22 August, the Redditch Mission Area churches will launch Bags of Hope from the Kingfisher Centre Mission Hub, working alongside Worcestershire County Council's School Uniform Bank.

They are hoping to place a backpack filled with essential school supplies into the hands of every child who needs one, while reminding them—and their families—that they are seen, valued and deeply loved by God.

You could:

-  Donate new backpacks.
-  Donate new school stationery.
-  Make a financial gift so we can purchase supplies. We estimate it costs £10 to equip one child for school.
-  Volunteer just one hour at the Mission Hub on 22 August to welcome families and help distribute Bags of Hope.

Feckenham Church will act as a collection point for the village and ensure anything donated is delivered to the Kingfisher Mission Hub. For further information please contact Elaine Whitfield via email: elaine@cofe-redditch.org.uk or Angela Fletcher via email: angelaletcher8@gmail.com



**Join us on Saturday 1st August
10-12pm St John the Baptist,
Feckenham**

**2-4pm St Matthias & St George,
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.**



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WHAT'S ON IN

FECKENHAM VILLAGE HALL

THEATRE in the GARDEN

Stratford Theatre Company in

Three Men in a Boat

Based on the book by
Jerome K Jerome

Starring
Giles Shenton

"Seriously funny"
The Guardian

"Timeless appeal"
The Independent

"95 minutes of pure delight"

In the Garden of 7 Droitchich Road, Feckenham

By kind permission of Mr & Mrs Bull (*If wet, in the Village Hall*)

Saturday, 15th August at 7.30pm

Tickets (£15) from The Village Shop and The Rose & Crown
Book Online through feckhall.org or by phone on 0333 666 3366

Proceeds to Feckenham Village Hall (Improvement Fund) Reg Charity No: 523140

ERSTWHILE



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

CRAFT AND
NATTER

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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
Scarecrow
Weekend
10th & 11th October

Feckenham's Own...



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SWANSBROOK Radio

SONGS
of Praise

Sunday
23rd
of August

10:30 am
at
Feckenham
Church



All welcome

All your favourite hymns
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Phil Tricklebank ALM

SPETCHLEY FESTIVAL OF TREES



6th SEPTEMBER : 10.30 - 4.30
WR5 1RS

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, 4th August



Stock & Bradley Gardening Club

AFTERNOON VISITS

Wednesday, 5th August

OVERBURY COURT

Wednesday 29th August

ANNA BRIAN'S FLOWER FARM

Advance booking essential
Please contact Rob Cole for details
on 07544 832052



Feckenham Parish Council MEETING

Thursday, 3rd September - 7.30pm

Feckenham Village Hall

(Back Room) All welcome

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

THE FECKENODEON CINEMA SOCIETY

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theWII INSPIRING WOMEN

Next Meeting: Monday, 17th August

STAY FIT

Taster Session

8pm - Feckenham Village Hall

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

WORCESTERSHIRE OPEN STUDIOS art week 22-31 AUGUST 2026

MEET 180+ ARTISTS & MAKERS | 104 LOCATIONS | ART EXHIBITIONS | DEMOS | WORKSHOPS
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22, 23, 29, 30, 31 August - 10.30 to 5pm

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

Future-Proofing Feckenham Church

Andrew Fisher and Nick Reading

Preserving Feckenham's church heritage and community access.



As previously mentioned, the Church is in need of repair and the Parish has the responsibility of arranging and funding any maintenance required. A small exhibition including some of the architect's drawings has been mounted

in the church to show more graphically some of the works required, in particular, the roof and ceiling problems and proposed solutions.

It is necessary for us to obtain a "Faculty" (a form of planning permission) from the Worcester Diocesan Council and have received a positive response to our application, including from the consultees Historic England, The Church Buildings Council and the Victorian Society. We now await confirmation of formal approval.

In normal cases of repair to church fabric, "Faculty" takes the place of Planning Permission from the Local Council, but because we are proposing a change to some of the roof materials, we also need to apply for formal Planning Permission. This change is to re-cover the north aisle roof in Welsh slate rather than tiles since the lower roof pitch is too shallow for tiles and is the cause of leaks in heavy rain.

Another hurdle in the consent process

concerns our dear friends the bats. An experienced ecologist has been engaged to prepare a report with recommendations for any bat mitigation measures. Fortunately, we do not have a substantial bat population, so are quietly confident that we will not have to build a £100m bat tunnel like HS2!

We are still intending to complete phase 1 in 2027.

FUNDING

The budget costs have now risen to c.£375,000 for Phase 1, the nave roof and ceiling, including all fees, contingencies and provision for inflation. As previously mentioned, we hope that the majority of the funding can be sourced from various grant giving bodies, in particular the National Heritage Lottery Fund.

To this end, preparation of a bid to the Fund for a grant of £250,000 is well advanced. We shall be submitting our application for this first tranche within the next month. It is no mean task and has taken several months to prepare. The letters of support have been much appreciated and form an important part of the application package.

In addition to any other grant funds we manage to source, we shall have to fund something in the region of £70,000 ourselves for this first tranche of works. It is likely we shall have to do the same again for the next tranche in a couple of years' time.

As you may be aware, there have been a number of fundraising events, starting with the Flower and Garden Festival last year raising c.£13,000. More recently, we would like to thank Shirley Harman for her most successful coffee morning, the wonderful Wake Teas at the Church together with a busy Bric-a-Brac stall outside and, most recently, a fundraising lunch in Astwood Hill House Garden, courtesy of Roger and Felicity Burman. Together these functions

have raised a further c.£3,500. However, we have much more to do!

We are very grateful to all our many supporters and friends, many of whom are not regular Church goers but greatly value our historic Parish Church and Churchyard as an important part of and place in our community, for its history, beauty, sanctuary and the many community activities which take place there.

On behalf of The Friends of Feckenham Parish Church

Right: A view of part of the nave ceiling showing one of the plaster losses and the temporary netting to catch any further falls.



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MEMORIAL BENCH

The parish Council has decided to install a bench on The Square in Memory of the late Lionel Hill MBE in recognition of the great contribution he made to life in Feckenham - and, in particular, the role he played in securing The Square for the village. The bench will be of a circular design and placed around one of the trees.

FECKENHAM IN BLOOM

Feckenham in Bloom, the voluntary group which looks after flower planting throughout the village, has now been established as a free standing organisation in its own right. It will now manage its own financial and governance affairs. The Parish Council congratulates the group's volunteers and assures them of its continued support.

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Would you know how to use a defibrillator in an emergency? Please take this chance to learn a simple skill that may save someone's life. The Council is arranging a training session to take place in the autumn. The session will be run by Redditch and Bromsgrove First Responders. They ran similar sessions two years ago and made their training very interactive and engaging. Please contact the clerk if you are interested. We will let you know when the dates are confirmed (and we'll publish them here in Feckenham News).

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Community Speedwatch, the national, police-supported initiative where local volunteers use approved detection devices to monitor vehicle speeds in problem areas, is now being established in Feckenham to cover Astwood Lane. Four volunteers have come forward but another two are needed. Volunteers will be given a short interview and appropriate training by the local police.

If you're interested in taking part please contact the clerk.

UNITARY AUTHORITIES

The long awaited decision regarding local government reorganisation has now been made public. Redditch Borough Council will be abolished and the area will be served by a North Worcestershire authority consisting of Redditch, Bromsgrove and Kidderminster. The remainder of the county will be grouped together into a South Worcestershire Council.

We know that Parish Councils will continue but we don't yet know what additional responsibilities and powers (if any) this may entail.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The Parish Council has been informed that Redditch's force of Civil Enforcement Officers (better known as traffic wardens) has been increased in number. The existing force of 1.4 wardens will be joined by a further 3.6 - bringing the total to 5. This will mean that more frequent visits to Feckenham may be made

NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd September at 7.30pm in the Back Room at the Village Hall. 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



feckenham-parishcouncil.gov.uk

Golf

It's that time of year when the weather is improving and our thoughts turn to our annual **Rose & Crown Bandit Cup Competition**.

We will again be running a 9-hole competition again for those who may no longer wish to play the full course, alongside our usual 18-hole stableford competition to find this year's winner of the most prestigious trophy after the Masters – **"The Bandit Cup"**.

Both competitions are open to both Ladies, Gents and Bandits alike.

Venue: Gaudet Luce Golf Club
Middle Lane, Hadzor,
Droitwich WR9 7JR
Tel : 01905 796375

Date: Friday 25th September 2026

Time: First tee 12:04 pm – Meet at 11.
am latest.

Cost: Includes: Hot Bacon bap, tea/
coffee on arrival
£40 for 18-holes or £26 for 9-holes
£10.00 each for prizes please
additional

**Buggies £25 each – Please book your own
with the golf club.**

Dress code: Smart Golf wear please.

Prize giving: At Rose and Crown for 7:00pm
Sit down meal at 7.30 pm.

Partners most welcome to join the 2-course
meal at the pub and prizegiving.

Set menu of gammon with pineapple/egg
and chips with choice of pud.

Food to be paid for on the evening (Do
please advise the R&C directly of any dietary
requirements).

**PLEASE CONTACT STEVE DALLOWAY TO
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Feckenham WI

This was one of our more extraordinary adventures. We are extremely grateful to the team at S.E. Davis, especially Sally, Paul, and Lucy.

Most of us feel we are familiar with S.E. Davis, and we probably think we know what they do. Well after the tour and talk we had, I would say that I didn't really have a clue. Not only do they hold a national museum of vintage heavy machinery, that is regularly used in films and tv - look out for Paul having a house fall on him in Peaky Blinders! They're also inventors and operators of machinery used in quarrying, dredging, and road building. This is alongside their heavy haulage and hire sections, and other things. How they find the time for all of the community work, such as the carnival and Santa run, that they do, I don't know.



It was totally fascinating and we thoroughly enjoyed looking at all the amazing machines, with the particular highlight being the experience of sitting in an HGV cab. We enjoyed it so much that we shall be taking up the very generous offer of an evening of steam engine driving next Summer (which will be a members only meeting).

Our August meeting, on Monday 17th in the village hall back room, will be a 'stay fit' session with Liz, in preparation for her starting her course of classes in the village hall in September. Doors open at 7.45 and the meeting starts at 8pm. Members are free and guests are very welcome, for a recommended donation of £5 each. For further information, contact Jen on 07773 883 039.



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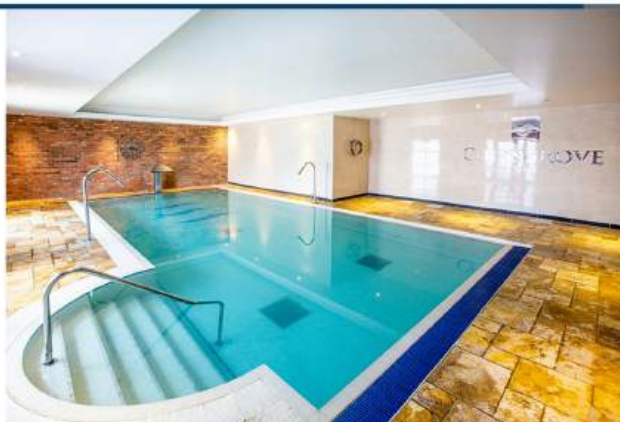
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Feckenham Archive - Marion Chute

Now that the Wake has been put to bed for another year Here is a reminder of the hog/steer roast in previous years (the top 2 from Eric Styler's photos)



This looks like a labour of love from a lot of people and (left) is an enormous beast!



And here are some of the usual suspects for the early shift back in the early 90's. This one courtesy of the Cookes family



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Village Shop - Alan Slater

HOW COOL ARE WE?

I'm not referring to our current excellent trading performance or even how lovely our Volunteers are, but to matters of a climatic nature. Though my American cousin, Donald J Slater did recently post on social media that "Feckenham Village Shop is the best Community shop in the County, everyone says so.....TRUE FACT".

That may be so, but as we endure the third heatwave in three months, for most of us Old Feckers it's an effort to even venture outdoors after mid morning. Unless of course you're visiting the Village Shop. Our aircon system is working overtime, making us the coolest place in the village. If we were owned by Ryanair we would be charging customers an admittance fee! Needless to say we're not, so come down for some heat respite, cool off and stay as long as you wish. It's a serious offer if you are struggling to cope with the heat. Not surprisingly we haven't sold much hot chocolate of late but our ice cream and cold drinks sales are at record levels.



At the end of September we will be holding our annual Coffee Morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Nurses. This means that the jam factory at Vine Cottage is now in full production mode and yours truly has been evicted from the kitchen - no hardship on my part! However, in order to maintain a maximum production level 'Geri the Jam' would welcome any of your surplus soft fruit especially plums, damsons and berries. Also, if you have some jam jars to donate, that would be great as well. If you can help please give me a call on 07775 881136 and

I'll be happy to escape the 'factory' and collect them from you. Alternatively you can leave your fruit and jars at the Shop. Until next month (please not a fourth heatwave) keep cool, safe and visit the Shop for a chill out. The coolest place in town, another TRUE FACT.

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An Organic Allotment - August by Pete Delaney



I love this time of the year when all on my dinner plate has come from the allotment as we go through the peak of the growing season.

This summer tho' has not been an easy grow. A very cold May followed by a summer drought kept me on the go nurturing produce to harvest. So much watering through dry weather also leaves less time for other jobs such as weeding, turning compost and general maintenance. Due to the season's dry heat, some plants across the plot have gone into 'bolt to seed' mode. A row of my romaine lettuce all began to grow up for seed whilst still only half grown. One by one I cut out the growing stem and took the rest home to eat. Leaving one healthy plant to go to seed.

Beetroot also bolted for seed early, I pulled it all up and was still pleased with a good crop which I took home, pickled and put away for later in the year; along with shallots that were ready in July as usual, now also pickled and put away.

Peas did not like the hot weather at all, instead of producing a show of peas with more flowers following through for a period of time, they produced a first glut crop of peas before yellowing and giving up. Runner beans seemed to struggle to transform flowers into pods before finally establishing a crop, I'm sure the crop got better thru' spraying the flowers with water, as well as plenty of water on the roots. Even my indoor tomatoes seemed to take an age to produce red tomatoes and grew tall and leggy before establishing their first flowering sets.

As I say tho', I still have a good abundance of produce flowing out of the plot. Some lovely iceberg lettuce, large and crisp and a mix of salad leaves of romaine lettuce, red lettuce, mustard and chard, with sage and thyme. Cucumbers are coming faster than I can eat them, as with courgettes in large numbers. I store them in a cool place and try to eat them in order of harvest.

Broad beans gave me a great crop this year with an abundance of pods throughout July. Also I now have plenty of onions and garlic hanging hanging up in my shed to use as I please.

Potatoes, I began cropping in early July with a row of second earlies Charlotte of which I harvested 25lb of potatoes. Two rows of main crop spuds, Desiree and Kingsman, have started to show age early and I shall bring them in to store. I store them in paper sacks or a drawer lined with paper, throwing away any that go bad or turn soft, regularly checking the stored crop.

Ok then, back to watering and catching up with the weeding... then I can see what's on the dinner plate.

Rob Cole's Gardening Tips

Grimshaw's Guide to Picking Blackberries

John Grimshaw may well be known to some of you for his involvement in the world of snowdrops. John used to have a regular blog site on the internet, and his entry for Monday 2nd September 2013 is an amusing account, written by his parents, of their experiences over the years picking blackberries. This is what they wrote :

There is a veritable glut of Blackberries this year, they are hanging like bunches of grapes on the bushes. As we have been picking blackberries together for 49 years now, we have written this guide as to how to go about it.

1 Before you set out dress up like a TRAMP. Brambles not only stain your clothes, they also **Rrrrrrrrip** them. Do not forget a hat, brambles also tear at your hair.

2 Take several small containers with lids with you, rather than one large one. If a stray length of bramble surreptitiously trips you up it is less frustrating to spill a small amount of fruit than a big tub-full.

3 Remember that the best berries are all either just out of reach or deep in a bed of nettles, therefore take a walking stick and a supply of dock leaves with you.

4 Find some bushes in a pleasant rural place. Do not pick from bushes overhanging busy roads. You do not want to be eating chemicals from car exhausts.

5 **Pick carefully.....**the berries should be:

- a) black
- b) glossy, not dull looking
- c) swollen, not hard

To pick, hold the berry gently and give a light tug. If the berry does not come away with a light tug, it is not ripe. If the berry comes away without a tug or if it squishes in your fingers it is over-ripe and should be discarded.

6 Do not pick at a level below which a dog might have cocked his leg.

7 Enjoy the wildlife around you, blackberry bushes are full of interest - Gatekeeper butterflies for example seem to love brambles.

8 Let your imagination run riot, pretend you are a primitive Hunter-Gatherer finding delicious seasonal food for your family. Realise that you have in fact, temporarily, become a Hunter-Gatherer and actually are finding a supply of delicious, healthy, **FREE** food.

Take your berries home and weigh them to see how well you have done.

Before using them, wash them thoroughly unless you want a bit of body in your jam or pie. Blackberries usually harbour a range of small caterpillars, spiders, chafers etc.

You will almost certainly soon discover that a lot of little prickles have embedded themselves in your anatomy, most particularly in your fingers. These can be quite painful. Nine out of ten of them will disappear somehow of their own accord. For the others poke about in your flesh with a sharp needle, (preferably sterilised in the flame of a match) until the thorn comes out. Otherwise apply Germolene and cover with a plaster. ([In the Grimshaw family Germolene is alleged to cure everything.)

You can use your berries to make blackberry jelly or pies, muffins etc.

You will enjoy them all the more knowing the fruit did not cost you a penny.

One last word of warning, NEVER pick any after 1st October because the devil will have had them after that date !

Stock and Bradley Gardening Club Report



CLUB EVENT, afternoon, Wednesday 5th August 2026

Our next event is an afternoon, self-drive, visit to Overbury Court, halfway between Evesham and Tewkesbury. Harry Green, who is the Head Gardener, came to give us a talk about the gardens earlier this year and will be on hand to show us the delights on offer. Full details about the location and timings will be emailed to our members soon.

CLUB EVENT, Wednesday 19th August 2026 at 2:30pm

As an extra to this year's programme, we have arranged an afternoon visit to Anna Brian's Flower Farm which is situated on the road to Droitwich, just opposite the recycling centre. Pre-booking is needed and members have been sent details by email.

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.

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Feckenham Cricket Club

As the long dry spell continues and the green disappears and the brown arrives, the World Cup a distant memory, the sound of leather and willow continues. The firsts are making a decent fist of survival after the return of the 'youth', the seconds sit happily in mid table dreaming of a promotion push that will only be thwarted by poor availability and the 3rds continue to make progress in a higher division. The Under 15's have had a decent season and made their presence felt and the new u10's and u9's have started well.



For the third time this year I must pen a column of sadness after the loss of another friend of the club.

Chris Conway moved to the High Street from Kings Norton in 2017 with wife, Maureen, and moved to the current address on Astwood Lane in October 2023 after the grandchild count rose to 5 and more space was needed.

Chris returned to education as a mature student after working himself up the ladder from apprentice bricklayer, to Associate Professor of the Built Environment at Birmingham City University.

Over the last decade or so Chris tended to travel to France to work on a ruined house during holiday periods. He used to show this writer enough photos of the place that I thought I'd actually visited Heulgoat in Brittany. I used to ask him how it was coming along:

'Oh, it's coming on, I've nearly got the roof in now' or 'the staircase is in I don't need a ladder anymore.'

'Has the wife visited yet?'

Pause....

'It'll be a little while longer for that.....'

I think it had got to the point where Maureen stayed in a hotel but Chris was still on the floor with his sleeping bag, heater & stove. Regretfully, I didn't hear of him going again.

Chris loved watching rugby and I'm told he was an avid guitarist playing along to his love of country music, something I'm not convinced I'm upset at not being introduced to!

We knew him best as the archetypal village cricketer who loved playing the game and having a beer whilst he still could, his service on our committee was highly influential and our combined love of The Villa made drinks and watching games all the more enjoyable. Chris fought his illness privately with dignity and bravery; he will be missed by all at our club and all that knew him.

Rest in peace mate



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