

spectrum

February 2010

FENSTANTON & HILTON VILLAGE NEWS



One copy delivered free to each household ten times per year. Available online at

www.hilton-village.com and www.fenstanton-village.co.uk

spectrumparishnews@googlemail.com

USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergency:

Doctors	496243	Police	0845 4564564
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Council:

Fenstanton Parish Council	465300	County Councillor	830250
Hilton Parish Council	830839	District Councillor (Hilton)	830250
District Councillor (Fenst.)	465034	<i>To report street lights not working</i>	0800 253529

Education:

Primary School	375055	Swavesey VC	01954 230366
Fenstanton Pre-School	496156	Sunshine Day Nursery Hilton	830351
Fenst. Baby & Toddler Group	493067	Hilton Baby & Toddler Group	831524

Churches:

Fenst. United Reformed Church	352958	Fenstanton Church Centre	01954 230471
Fenstanton Parish Church	301068	Hilton Methodist Chapel	830686
Catholic Church (St Ives)	462192	Hilton Parish Church	830466/ 866
Men's Christian Fellowship	468718	Rev. Katy Dunn	830314

Clubs:

Hilton Aerobics	832321	Fenstanton WI	395564
Hilton Flower Club	830363	Hilton WI	830358
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	831715	Hilton Senior Citizens	830169
Fenstanton Brownies	464939	Over 60's Fenstanton	384977
Hilton Brownies	830156	Hilton Art Club	830289
Hilton Rainbows	464101	Hilton Pilates	07733 307475
Slimming World	461098	Fenstanton Bowls	498050
Fenstanton Village Sports	370973	Fenstanton Cricket Club	468522
Fenstanton Football Club	07786318959	Fenstanton Indoor Bowls	497202
Fenstanton Amateur Dramatics	370973	Tennis	01954 231752
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Fenstanton Youth Football	395338	Fenstanton Fishing	497728

Community:

Hilton Feast Week	831787	Hilton Visiting Scheme	830239/ 866
Fenstanton Village Hall	461751	Hilton Village Hall	07922 014991
Fenstanton Pharmacy	495159	Hilton Neighbourhood Watch	831986
Hilton Town Trust	831454	Village Cars Taxi	01954 232715
Fenstanton Neighbourhood Watch	395284		

If you run a club or are involved in a village activity and think your telephone number would be useful on this page, please let us know. Please advise us of any errors or of amendments needed to any of the above.

Village Websites

Fenstanton: www.fenstanton-village.co.uk

Hilton: www.hilton-village.com

SPECTRUM TEAM

Editor: Margaret Guthrie
Assistant Editor: John Guthrie
Advertising Secretary: Kay Pulley
Accounts Secretary: Mickey Pallett
Website Co-ordinator: Peter Frazier

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Editor would prefer email material for publication due to timescale however material can be written or typed and delivered to Fenstanton Post Office or Hilton Post Office.

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LETTERS & NOTICES

Editor's Letter

Happy New Year!

The time has come to move on and let others take over the Spectrum. Margaret and John Guthrie are your new editors and they have been busy working alongside us for February's issue. May I take this opportunity to thank all our contributors for supplying the news we love to know about; the advertisers for their continued support in enabling the Spectrum to exist; the network of volunteers that produce and distribute the magazine and of course all our readers. Teresa and I have enjoyed working on the Spectrum and it has helped us settle into the village we now call home. I hope you have enjoyed the small changes we have made to your parish newsletter and I wish Margaret and John every success.

See some of you round the village soon.

Amanda

A Big Thank You—Many, many thanks to all the people in the village who helped the Parish Church to raise a grand total of £772 for charity during the Christmas period. A sum of £550 from the collection at our Christmas services, and from the Teenage Christians' carol singing, went to Jimmy's Night Shelter, the charity we supported in 2009. A further £95 will be sent to the same charity in the New Year. We also sent £132, donated at the Christingle service, to The Children's Society.

Joy Saunders

Letters from our Readers

Thank You

Val and Tony would like to thank everyone who sent cards and flowers following the death of Val's Mum in December. We are especially grateful for the prayers, kindness and support that we received. We have been truly helped and comforted at this difficult time,

Val and Tony Spain.

COFFEE MORNING

**Thursday 11th February 10-12noon
The Old Barn, Graveley Way**

As many of you know my husband died some years ago from Motor Neurone Disease, an awful disease that leaves the mind untouched whilst the body shuts down.

My eldest son, Stuart, did the Plymouth/Dakar old banger rally a couple years ago and now my younger son, Simon, is running the London Marathon in memory of his dad.

I have decided to "do my bit" by holding a coffee morning, bring and buy and raffle at my home as well as sponsoring him.

Please join me and help raise as much money as we can for this worthwhile charity.

You are all most welcome

Thank you.

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A PURRFECT CHRISTMAS

On behalf of myself and all the volunteers at St Neots & District Cats Protection, we would like to wish you a Happy New Year. Thank you all so much for your continued support during what has been a difficult year for all of us in terms of the financial climate. We have still managed to re-home at least 110 cats this year and neuter free of charge some 250.

Any medical enquiries and emergencies should be referred to your local vet. In respect of enquiries relating to a cat you adopted from Cats Protection, where possible please contact us, messages can be left, but there may be some delay in receiving a response.

Our cat pens remain full with several on our waiting list. It will be business as usual in 2010 and our volunteers will continue to work tirelessly to rescue, neuter, re-home, feed, manage and protect as many cats as possible.

Many thanks once again

Dawn Cooke

Dear Editor,

In the 40-plus years since I obtained my first appointment with the Scout Association, there have been many changes. Some for the better (like changing from shorts to long trousers and admitting the girls) and others not so good.

The one thing that the Movement has always been very good at was 'ganging together' and getting on with it. No matter what the adversity placed before it, the members always found a way to carry on.

Unfortunately, it is with deep sadness, therefore, that I have to advise you all that I have decided to resign my position as Group Scout Leader.

I would, however, like to take this opportunity to thank all the past Leaders, Executive Committee members and parents who have given me, and the Group, so much support in the 28 years I have been with Fenstanton. More importantly, I would also like to thank all those boys and girls that have passed through the various sections in that time. After all, without them, us adults could never have had the fun we did have.

And let's face it – we did have some fun!!
Thank you.

Geoff Pryke

Wot no Christmas Fayre in Hilton?

Many people were disappointed to hear that we had cancelled the Christmas Fayre in Hilton this year, having announced it already in Spectrum.

It is not a decision we took lightly but the Church Roof fundraising committee is only a very small group and we did not have enough people with enough time to organise the event and make sure everything runs smoothly on the day.

We desperately need some more people with energy & fresh ideas to join us! It does not have to take up a lot of time - you could volunteer to help organise just one event during the year or, if organising is not your thing, you could put yourself down on the "Helpers" list so that we know who we can contact if we need extra pairs of hands at the event itself.

We have done really well so far and have raised over £22,000 of the £57,000 we need to top up the English Heritage grant but we are "running out of steam".

If you care about our beautiful church building and would like to play a part, no matter how small, in the fundraising activities for the roof restoration then please, please get in touch with me.

Thanks!

Rachel Wood
tel: 830866.

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FENSTANTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Many thanks to everyone who joined us at the Clock Tower for the switching-on of the Christmas Lights by Father Christmas on 8th December.

Thanks to donations by Ladybird Nursery and the Parish Council, we were able to install a Christmas tree for the first time and a splendid array of lights and this really helped to create a festive air, especially when mulled wine and mince pies and the Scouts' hot drinks and gingerbread were to hand.

We were extremely lucky with the weather as it was not too cold and the rain came only after the event was over.

We thank Father Christmas for putting in an appearance and starting off the drawing of the tickets in the Grand Draw and also Keith Page for leading the carol-singing on the keyboard. Photographs should be available on www.fenstanton-village.co.uk. Because the prizes were donated, our profits for the Grand Draw and the Christmas Lights event came to £2,200 which will go towards Village Hall funds.

We thank the Scouts for their contribution to the event and are pleased to say they plan to link up with us again this coming year.

We continue with our fund-raising. Don't forget the monthly Quiz Nights at The George, courtesy of Dai and Jo Heafield, on 13th January, 10th February, 10th March and every four weeks thereafter.

Have you bought a Fenstanton Village Recipe Book yet? Compiled by Tracey Jacob of our committee and Serena Hasberry for the Pre-School, these recipes provided by Fenstanton residents offer ideas for all ages and tastes and are available from Tracey (07785971868), Ron Jacob's Farm Shop, the Post Office, Fenstanton Family Butchers and at every Village Hall event.

So, on 21st February, in conjunction with the Youth Football Club, we will be laying on Pancake Races and Refreshments (and selling recipe books!) from 2pm to 4pm at the Headlands Play Area – we will provide the pancakes, you and your families just have to run!

Jane Blunt



Fenstanton Village Hall Committee
and Fenstanton Youth Football Club



Fenstanton Pancake Races

Sunday 21st February

at Headlands Play Area

Races start at 2.00pm Registration at 1.30pm

Refreshments and Pancakes Available

£1 per individual and £2 per family race entry

Individual and family races. Just bring your running shoes

Cambridge Science Festival

8-21 March 2010

Family fun days: 13 and 20 March 2010

The vast majority of events are free of charge

The full programme will be available from www.cambridgescience.org from January 2010 or to request a hard copy of the programme, please call 01223 766766

The theme for 2010 will be 'Diverse science' to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity and there'll be many opportunities to delve into diversity at events for all ages during our family fun days and adult evening lecture series.

Highlights for families include:

- Hands on activities in Colourful creatures at the Museum of Zoology
- The opportunity to make your own 'Jigglebot' in Robots for beginners
- Discover the world of waves, gases and chemistry with The Naked Scientists as they detonate bombs, electrocute vegetables, and turn air into a liquid!



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NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE CHURCHES

Greetings from Rev Catherine Ball (URC Minister)

Winter greetings! February and March are usually when we start thinking about spring, however this year we have had a proper winter and although we missed much of the snow the rest of the nation had, we still experienced the cold and frost. Coming from Canada, I don't mind the snow and have to admit I would have liked to have more of it, so that we, too, could join with others sledging and building snowmen. However, I know it can cause havoc for travellers, since we are not really prepared for snow in these parts, and is a worry for those who don't want to slip on pavement, so I suppose I should be grateful that we have not had as much as others.

Nevertheless I think the cold is good for the gardens and good for us to see and feel the change of seasons. When I went to South Thailand weather was not a topic of conversation as every day was about 80° F and sunny except for two months in the autumn which was the rainy season. Some might like that consistency!! But I found it rather boring and rather samey. Variety is the spice of life! We need variety as well as routine in life to make it interesting.

With four seasons we have different weather, need different clothing, enjoy different flowers and plants and have different festivals to provide rhythm and ritual to life. In the church calendar during February and March, we remember two saints: in February St Valentine's Day on the 14th, celebrating romantic love, and in March St Patrick, remembering one who shared the love of God with people in Ireland. We also celebrate Pancake Tuesday on the 16th and Ash Wednesday on the 17th February as we journey through the period of Lent, a time of preparation for Easter, which will be held this year on Sunday the 4th of April. Our Churches Together will be meeting each week for the five weeks starting Wednesday 24th February at 7.30 pm at Fenstanton United Reformed Church. Do come along if you would like to join us for a time of prayer and reflection. We will be thinking and talking about the death and resurrection of Jesus 2,000 years ago and what it might mean for us in 2010.

After the time of cold and hibernation, we watch for the signs of spring to appear as the snow melts and snowdrops appear and birds sing. Following the starkness of winter, buds appear on branches and trees come back to life. So, instead of moaning about the weather, why don't we enjoy the stimulation of its changing patterns and rise to its challenges? It will continue to be a talking point, but may also be a pleasure to enjoy.

Catherine

FENSTANTON & HILTON PARISH CHURCHES

From the Vicar—Do phone or email me with any questions or issues about faith, or about matters of pastoral concern. For more regular matters such as baptisms, weddings and funerals, please first contact one of the churchwardens:

For **Fenstanton**, Martyn Saunders, 01480 301068 (baptisms, weddings and funerals) or Ian Hucklesby 01480 465211 (general enquiries)

For **Hilton**, Rachel Wood 01480 830866 (weddings and baptisms) or Ralph Slayter (funerals) 01480 830466

I work Sunday on parish business, together with Thursday and one other day in the week. I listen to my answer-phone regularly. Please do call on 01480 466162 with a 1571 service, or email mckenzie_robin@hotmail.com

FENSTANTON & HILTON PARISH CHURCHES—FEBRUARY SERVICES

Thursday 4th		
Fenstanton	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Fenstanton	3.30pm	Jaffa Club
Sunday 7th 2nd Sunday before Lent		
Hilton	8.15am	Holy Communion (BCP) with Healing
Fenstanton	9.30am	Parish Communion with Healing & Sunday Club
Fenstanton	6.00pm	Said Evensong
Thursday 11th		
Fenstanton	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 14th Sunday next before Lent		
Fenstanton	10.00am	Worship for All
Hilton	11.00am	United Service at Methodist Chapel with Sunday Club in Methodist school room
Wednesday 17th Ash Wednesday		
Fenstanton	7.30pm	Holy Communion
Thursday 18th		
Fenstanton	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 21st 1st Sunday of Lent		
Hilton	8.15am	Holy Communion by extension
Fenstanton	9.30am	Parish Communion by extension & Sunday Club
Fenstanton	6.00pm	Evensong
Tuesday 23rd		
Hilton	1.30pm	Tot's Praise
Sunday 28th 2nd Sunday of Lent		
Fenstanton	9.30am	Family Communion
Hilton	11.15am	Family Worship, Coffee beforehand at 11.00am
Regular Weekly Events		
Wednesdays at Hilton	11.00am	Morning Prayer/Communion at 20 Chequers Croft
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HILTON METHODIST CHURCH - FEBRUARY SERVICES

Sunday 7th	10 00 am	Miss Pat Paddon
Sunday 14th	11.00am	United Holy Communion with Rev. Katy Dunn at the Methodist Church Childrens' Sunday Club in Hall
Sunday 21st	10 00 am	Mr David Bushby
Sunday 28th	10 00 am 6 pm	Mr Peter Adams Circuit Service at Over Methodist Church

Monday 8th February is our next Church Council meeting.

THANK YOU! A big thank you to all the villagers in Hilton who gave so generously around Christmas time to the various good causes which the churches in the village ask you to support.

The Toy and Gift Service, 13th Dec., received many toys and monetary gifts totalling £256. Carols round the Village raised £210 10 for Save the Children—Thanks to all the singers and collectors who came out in the snow.

Candlelit Carol Service collection for the Salvation Army raised £93 77.

Advent Lunches raised £186 50 for SANDS.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

We are sorry that we had to cancel the workshop for this, way back in November due to illness. There wasn't time to organise another date in the run up to Christmas but we did enter a tree from Hilton. For those of you who didn't get to see all the trees in Huntingdon Methodist Church, you missed a wonderful sight! Proceeds from the Festival amounted to £2040 and were shared between Huntingdonshire Young Carers, East Anglia Childrens' Hospice and The Woodlands Centre at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital.

HILTON TOTS PRAISE

When you read this we shall want you to know that Tots' Praise, 1.30 - 2.30 on the last Tuesday of the month, will be ready to be singing songs, hearing a story, making something to take home, after a welcome coffee and chat. When you come into the church you will see the banners hanging on the scaffolding so bright and cheerful. Thank you to the Sunday Club children who did these for us at the United Covenant Service of which we are so proud. See you on Feb 23rd!

HILTON CHURCHES ROVING SUPPER

By popular request, members of the Parish and Methodist Churches are running another Roving Supper on Saturday, 20th March. The all-inclusive cost will be £10 for hosts and £13 for non-hosts. The proceeds will be split evenly between the Churches; in the case of the Parish Church, the money will go towards the Roofing Fund. Please support us and contact Peter Blake (830137) or Heather Woods (830686) for more information.

FENSTANTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH FEBRUARY SERVICES

Sunday 7th	9:30am	Revd Derek Newton.
Sunday 7th	3:00pm	'Let's Sing' - Favourite Hymns with a wedding theme, plus Refreshments
Sunday 14th	9:30pm	Revd Catherine Ball. Holy Communion.
Sunday 14th	6:00pm	Mrs Drina Hampson
Sunday 21st	9.30am	Mr Martin Ballard
Wed 24th	7:30pm	First of a 5 week Ecumenical Lent Course lead by Revd Catherine Ball
Sunday 28th	9:30am	Revd Catherine Ball

March 2010

Sunday 7th	9:30am	Revd Derek Newton.
Wed 3rd	7:30pm	Lent Course. 2nd of a five week Ecumenical Course.

OTHER EVENTS February 2010

Tuesday 2nd	10.00am	The Open Door Coffee Morning
Tuesday 9th	10.00am	Knitters and Natters
Saturday 13th	8:30am	Men's Fellowship Breakfast. All men welcome. Call John 468718.
Tuesday 16th	10.00am	The Open Door Coffee Morning
Saturday 20th	10:00am	Book Sale
Tuesday 23rd	10.00am	Knitters and Natters.

March 2010

Tuesday 2nd	10:00am	The Open Door Coffee Morning.
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Come and join us. A warm welcome awaits you.

Fenstanton United Reformed Church is part of the St Ives Group of Churches. Contact Revd Catherine Ball on 01480 352058 or the Free Church St Ives on 01480 468535.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Papworth Everard, Methodist Church, Church Lane Saturday Mass 18.00

FENSTANTON & HILTON MEN'S FELLOWSHIP SATURDAY BREAKFAST

We will be meeting for breakfast on Saturday February 13th

This month the breakfast discussion will be lead by John Guthrie and we will be looking at the relevance of John 2: 13-16 to today's church and village needs and requirements.

These interdenominational fellowship breakfasts are for Christian and non-Christian men and are held on the second Saturday of each month in the social centre of the United Reformed church in Chequer Street Fenstanton, (opposite Ron's farm shop); from 8.30 am to approximately 10.00 am.

As always, all local men are welcome to this meeting. Do come and enjoy a hearty breakfast and some lively discussion.

For catering purposes please book in or for further information please contact John Deeks on 468718 or 07748 653443 or john.deeks@ntlworld.com

ITEMS FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ITEMS FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Transport - Over the last 8 years, bus passenger numbers in Cambridgeshire have risen from 15.1 million to 24.2 million, while the Park & Ride Service in Cambridge has seen more than 4 million users during the past year.

Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment of Adult Social Care Services - The annual assessment by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) has concluded that Adult Social Care Services in Cambridgeshire are performing well in almost every area of delivery. The assessment is based on interviews with service users and carers, performance information and a detailed self-assessment. The overall rating is performing "well".

Cambridgeshire is among the UK's Top Recyclers and Composters - The latest Government figures just out show Cambridgeshire County Council as one of the top authorities of its type for recycling and composting in the country. Figures just released by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) show that the County Council is one of the top 'disposal' authorities in the country - re-using, recycling or composting 51.99% of its waste. Leicestershire County Council recycles 52% of its waste but sends a greater percentage of rubbish to landfill than Cambridgeshire. With new recycling centres opening or planned, such as at St Neots and the Mechanical Biological Plant (MBT) at Waterbeach, recycling figures are due to improve even more. Just putting rubbish into landfill is not only bad for the environment but costs Cambridgeshire taxpayers £40 in Landfill Tax for every tonne - this is due to increase by £8 per tonne each year until 2013.

Ian Bates (Leader, Huntingdonshire District Council)

Police report.

During the period 7th October to 10th November 2009 the following incidents had been reported to the Police : 1 theft., 1 attempted burglary, 4 incidents of non payment of fuel., 1 incident of criminal damage.

The Parish Council urges Parishioners to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour to the Police. Telephone 0345 456 456 4, Crimestoppers can be contacted on 0800 55 51 11 or in an emergency 999.

Fen Lane.

The Parish Council have erected signs stating “access is for authorised vehicles only” and, with assistance from the Local Access Team, concrete bollards are to be installed by the Guided Busway to prevent access onto the Busway.

New Bus Service.

Stagecoach is to introduce a new service 20 as a feeder from Fenstanton to the Guided Busway in St Ives. The service was expected to start on 29th November but the delay to the opening of the Busway has postponed the start of the service. No date for the commencement of the service has been confirmed at the time of submission of copy to Spectrum. However, the service is expected to operate Mondays to Saturdays at 30 minute intervals. Full details will be available from Stagecoach once a start date is confirmed. With Stagecoach’s previous history there is concern that if the service is not used it may well be withdrawn.

High Street traffic.

The Police recently conducted a traffic count on the Low Road. Over a 7 day period 36,457 vehicles travelled between St Ives and Fenstanton and vice versa, most of which are rat running through the Village. The statistics highlight the problems the Village is currently encountering in terms of safety in the High Street, of particular concern are drivers disregarding the mini roundabouts at the Chequer Street and Headlands junctions. Being conscious of available funding, it is the Parish Council’s intention to hold a site meeting with County Highways to investigate the possibility of making the existing traffic calming measures more effective.

Parish Precept.

The Finance and Constitution Committee considered the Parish budget and precept at the meeting held on 19th November. To maintain the level service the Parish Council provides it was resolved to recommend a 2% increase to the precept for approval by the full Council at its next meeting.

Next Meeting.

The next meeting of Fenstanton Parish Council will be held on Thursday 11th February 2010 at 7:30pm at Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School, School Lane, Fenstanton. Members of the press and public are welcome.

Please note.**Dark mornings and dogs.**

It has been observed that some dog owners are allowing their pets to run free in the Village, this appears to be happening before dawn breaks which also raises the possibility that these are the same people who allow their dogs to foul the footpaths and pavements. Dog owners are reminded that it is an offence, which carries heavy fines under the Clean Neighbourhoods Act, not to keep dogs on leads whilst on footpaths and pavements, recreation grounds and churchyards or to allow them foul without clearing up.

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Whilst many people have experienced our service (over 7,000 people have used the Citizens Advice Bureau in Huntingdonshire during the past year), others may wonder what kind of advice we give. The subjects we give advice on include, debt, benefits, employment, housing, and consumer issues, with the first three of these accounting for more than half. If you are having any difficulty with these sorts of issues, it's a good idea to get along to the Citizens Advice Bureau sooner rather than later. We are a problem-solving organisation, giving advice independently, impartially and confidentially.

The Citizens Advice Bureau also gives excellent opportunities for volunteering. If you volunteer to be an adviser, you will get full training before you are asked to advise people directly and you will get further training throughout. However, there are many other ways you can help – as an administrator, or receptionist; helping with our IT, or building maintenance. We particularly need a few people with management/financial experience to join our Trustee Board (also volunteers) who take ultimate responsibility for running the Huntingdonshire Bureau.

We are a registered charity and our main source of funding is from Huntingdonshire District Council, with grants also coming from the County Council and a number of Town and Parish Councils. Although there are grant-awarding bodies like the Lottery Fund, these give short-term funding for special projects. We need to grow to meet the need for advice we know exists and we would like to receive more funding from local individuals, organisations and companies.

If you can help as a volunteer, or financially, please contact Charles Looker (charles.looker@virgin.net, or 01480 453270).

In Fenstanton and Hilton, your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau services are:

6 All Saints Passage, HUNTINGDON PE29 3LE	Drop-in Appointments Specialist Advice Tel: 388900	Mon – Thurs 9.30am – 12.30pm Mon – Thurs 12.30pm – 15.30pm Mon – Thurs by appointment Mon – Thurs 11.00pm – 3.30pm
Town Hall, Market Hill, ST IVES PE27 5AL	Mon 9.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. Debt Advice – Tues a.m. by appointment Tel: 07538 547880 for appointments	

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SCOUTS

On the 4th May 1970 the new 1st Fenstanton & Hilton Scout Group was registered with the Scout Association. At that time there 2 Scouters and 21 Scouts. Subs were collected in coins every week, records kept in a book, paper copies given out of any information and photos pinned up on the wall. Scouts learned knots, cooked on fires, camped, tried new sports, helped in their local community and grew as individuals through the opportunities offered. They gained in confidence as they explored the world around them, learning the hard way from their mistakes. as individuals through the opportunities offered. They gain in confidence as they explore the world around them, learning the hard way from their mistakes. In those 40 years literally hundreds and hundreds of local boys and girls have taken part in all that scouting can offer, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the hundreds of adults who have made it all happen. We are proud to be celebrating such a story of success. Perhaps some of the current boys and girls are even the children of some of those from years gone by, if that's the case do let us know! Turn the clock forward 40 yrs. and we usually have about 25 Beavers, 30 Cubs and 28 Scouts—although if we have our way that will soon be around 48 Scouts. But we are grateful that some things haven't changed. Scouts learn knots, cook on fires, camp, try new sports, help in their local community and grow.

Our 2009 'Love in a box' Christmas box campaign

Jenny Stimpson and Alison Fox, on behalf of Mustard Seed Relief Missions, would like to thank all those of you in Fen Drayton, Fenstanton and Hilton who have supported this year's 'Love in a Box' campaign. It was great not only to receive filled, wrapped boxes but also donations, such as toiletries, knitted items, stationary and soft toys, which allowed us to fill extra boxes. We collected 122 boxes in total – 14 more than last year despite the 'credit crunch' - which will surely be much appreciated by the children. In addition, those in Fenstanton provided a really generous contribution of £65 for the onward transport of these boxes. In particular we thank the Brownies in Fenstanton, Vernon Property Management in Fenstanton, the Brownies and Rainbows in Hilton and families and friends of Fen Drayton Primary School. We also wish to acknowledge the support of those who left items on our doorstep or passed them on in a way that meant that we could not thank you personally.

The boxes have now been collected by volunteer drivers for their onward journey to orphanages in Romania, Moldova and the Ukraine, in order to reach children in time for Christmas.

Thank you again for your support. We intend to run the campaign again next year. As ever, it is not too soon to be saving shoeboxes and keeping an eye out for useful items.

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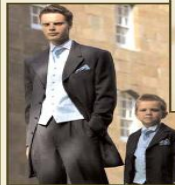
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FENSTANTON VILLAGE SPORTS

Your barely literate sports reporter writes from his top bunk in a cell, sorry, room in the Home for the Totally Bewildered.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all you wonderful people out there in Fenstantonland, and what a wonderful year it promises to be with Sports Day coming up on **Saturday 3rd July.**

One of the reasons why it promises to be a good year is that we now have a full number of committee members hence the reason why we have to share cells, sorry, rooms the other reason is that Matron has got us on a new medication and nobody has smashed up the furniture in the day room or bitten anyone's ear off for at least a month. Mind you, the personal habits of some of the committee are bound to cause friction sooner or later, I won't mention any names but the guy who does the hog roast does some

pretty weird things in his sleep. Anyway, enough about us, I had better finish before my crayon runs out.

Can anybody supply and run a karaoke on Sports Day to keep the little darlings amused for an hour or so. It must be top quality and cheap! Let's face it we will settle for cheap, please let a committee member know if you can or, since we are not allowed visitors yet, call Ray on 01480 370973.

As always we are looking for volunteers to assist at various times over the weekend of Saturday 3rd July and the sooner you can let us know that you **will** be available the sooner Matron can get us off the medication.

Red Cross parcels, crayons and sloe gin may be smuggled in to keep us going, at your discretion.

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FENSTANTON WI

At our December meeting the evening started off with a local knowledge quiz based on photographs taken by Daphne Loveday. It was a great start to an evening full of fun and our thanks go to Anne Groome and Daphne for organising it. First prize went to Val Rodgers.

This was followed by a buffet meal organised by Pam Hucklesby with many delicious dishes and puddings provided by our members. Crackers were pulled, the wine flowed and Ruby Sainty provided the finishing touch with lovely table decorations. Our special thanks go to Pauline Driver who sent along a large number of fantastic profiteroles even though she was too ill to come. We are pleased she is now making a good recovery after an operation and wish her well for the future.

The entertainment by "Memory Lane"

certainly put us all in the party mood. Carol Crocker gave us an hilarious performance of Nellie the Elephant. Carol was joined by Dina Clayton to perform the jive which encouraged others to join in. After much fun and laughter the evening was rounded off with our lucky dip Christmas present box. Now we look forward to the New Year and hope that more ladies will join us to enjoy our fun and companionship.

Dates for Future Meetings

February 4th Ratty goes to Chelsea by Mrs Angela Potter

March 4th Huntingdon in Bloom by Mr Paul Smith

April 1st Snap out of it by Mr and Mrs Christopher South

We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Church Centre.

If you would like to join our friendly group please come along or phone our Beryl Harvey for more details. (01480) 469278.

HILTON WI

Sausage rolls, special recipe mince pies, plenty of mulled wine, and the entertaining presence of Queen Victoria, known otherwise as Jackie Tevlin, brought Hilton WI into the Christmas spirit at its annual party on 14th December last. The team of ladies who arranged all the goodies did a splendid job, it was a terrific evening. Thanks again to those hard working ladies and to Jackie and her husband for providing such an amusing and enlightening history lesson.

Into a new decade, there was historical theme for our first meeting of the year. Bob Burn Murdoch from the Norris Museum gave a fascinating illustrated talk on the Shaping of St Ives, giving us a refreshing insight into the geology, origins and development of St Ives from Saxon and Roman times to the present. We will all look at the buildings in St Ives with fresh eyes. Who would have thought the pattern of passageways in the town centre were

clues to ancient ridge and furrow ploughing. Or that there are some 17th century bricks still to be seen on buildings in the town if you know where to look.

Celia has been busy planning future events: a visit to the Ice Show in Peterborough on **Thursday 4th February**: the annual Spring Dinner for members, husbands and friends at the Dolphin Hotel, St Ives on the **16th April, not the 9th**. Time, 7.00 for 7.30pm. Celia is also holding a Coffee Morning with raffle and bring and buy sale at her home on **Thursday 11th February** from 10-12, to which all are welcome. Proceeds will go to the Motor Neurone Disease Society.

Next month we are looking forward to a speaker on **Monday 8th February** from the Cuddly Wuddly Chocolate Company who will be telling us the history of chocolate-making and bringing along samples. Just in time for Valentine's Day! If you are interested in coming along, please contact our Secretary Ruth Salem on 830358.



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HILTON FLOWER CLUB

At our November meeting we welcomed a return visit from Lesley Beeton, on a really gorgeous afternoon, with “Christmas Joy” the theme. Her arrangements all gave the opportunity for Christmas Festivity. Little did we know what we had coming! After the 5th arrangement, Leslie suggested the tea ladies put the kettle on since she had a little work to do – so – with putting a few extra items amongst her all ready arrangements, plus a few “extras” in and out, she transformed the tables depicting “The 12 days of Christmas” – Fantastic, and with no more ado, out came her wand and she had us all singing just that carol! absolutely great!

Then in December it was our Christmas party and over 40 members had a great time making their own Christmas decorations, with Christmas carols and ‘of course’ a visit from Father Christmas and a ‘knees up’.

The committee hoped everyone would have a great holiday and wished them a healthy and happy 2010.

Future meetings.

2 o'clock Village Hall.

Monday, February 1st

Beverly Tack Demonstrations

Monday, March 1st

Film on Gardens.

HILTON PRODUCE SHOW

We hope that by the time of printing the colder weather is behind us although the village looked very pretty in the snow. This time of the year gives us an excuse to relax indoors in the warm and peruse the seed catalogues in preparation for the growing season and, of course, the Produce Show in July. Seville oranges may have come and gone so we hope you’ve made your marmalade!

Next month the show schedule will be published in Spectrum so

WATCH THIS SPACE.

Whatever the weather keep topping up food and water for the birds who will reward you with their visits. When the weather permits continue cutting back overgrown hedges and shrubs before nesting starts, as well as planting new ones. Once the weather improves it’s time to start some seeds off indoors in a propagator to get those early crops, but look carefully at the instructions on the packet. Start preparing your vegetable beds outside by digging them over and adding organic matter but be careful not to tread too heavily and compact the wet soil. Now is also the time to ensure that pots, seed-trays and tools are clean and, if your mower needs a service, arrange it in the quiet time before the grass starts to grow.

*For any horticultural advice please call Herbie on 830838.

For organisational advice email Jane on jane.ernie@talktalk.net or 830896, and you can also find us in the events section on the village website - www.hilton-village.com

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HILTON FEAST WEEK

The Feast Week Committee would like to thank everyone that turned up to make the Hilton Live Nativity Tableau such a wonderful occasion, helping raise funds for the Church Roof Restoration Appeal and for Feast Week. Hilary Holmes must be congratulated on coordinating such a wonderful festive event as must all the participants. From the builders of the manger, the mince pie makers/donators, Huntingdon Town Band, the readers, shepherds and not least the angelic children that kept looking angelic despite the cold.

Thanks to all of you that demonstrated your support for Feast Week by buying a Winter Grand Draw ticket. The sale of these tickets really does help toward staging Feast Week. Proof that you 'have to be in it to win it?' the lucky winners are: 1st Place £100 - J Rounce - Maze Road, 2nd Place £75 - A Cockwell – Westbrook, 3rd Place - £50 - D Ruddy - Kidmans

Time to use those 2010 calendars, desk diaries or those that you hang from your door/wall that are festooned with pictures of glamorous celebs, popstars, footballers or Feast Week Committee Members (watch this space for 2011 must have calendar!) – Contact any committee member to secure a ticket (see below)

Saturday 27th February – ‘**Feast Week Party Night**’ with tickets costing just £5 per couple to include a free drink. Fancy dress will be optional with a prize for the best costume. Come and ‘shake the cobwebs out of your system’ Dance, drink, chat and have fun!

Saturday 27th March – With the popularity of the Adult quiz showing no signs of fading we thought it would be a great idea to see who Hilton’s brainiest families are? We invite you and yours to participate in our ‘**Family Quiz**’ entry only £5 per family with an adult bar, ‘raffle’, kids bar, hot dogs.

Saturday 24th April – ‘**Bavarian night with Oom-pah band and bratwurst**’ If you haven’t experienced the unbridled joy that is a night with good company, good food, good beer and wine accompanied by an Oom-pah band then you are missing out on one of the best nights of this years fundraising calendar.

I am happy to announce the theme for Feast Week will be ‘**Disney.**’

Adults and children alike have all been charmed by the magic of Disney and will, I am sure be able to draw inspiration from all that fine body of work to put toward their floats and artwork creative contributions.

We continue to work closely with the fantastic Village Website so we can bring you updates on how preparations and fundraising for Feast Week is progressing along with pictures from previous events. These will be found at:

www.hilton-village.com

The new committee details are
Chairman: Justo Perez 831106 – matfel@aol.com

Vice Chair: Sara Sampson 830383

Treasurer: Graeme Gribbin 830481

Secretary: Tracy Wilkinson 831302

Other committee members:

Craig Sutherland, Gill Gill, Hilary Holmes, Keith Miller, Adrian Snooke, Ett McCarthy, Sharon Walker

Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School PTA Christmas Fayre

We are very pleased to report that the school Christmas Fayre was a great success. Enjoyed by many parents and children on the evening, we had numerous stalls and activities and raised £1219. Thank you to all those that came along and supported us.

We had lots of fantastic prizes donated for our grand raffle, many of which were from local businesses in the village who we would like to thank very much for their support – we couldn't do it without you!

We would particularly like to acknowledge and thank:

Oaklands Beauty
Dairy Crest for the digital camera
Fenstanton Family Butchers
Mo's Motors
Ash's Shop
The Post Office
King William Pub

Barkers the Bakers
Menzies Golf Club, Bar Hill
Waitrose, St.Ives
Vindis Garage, St.Ives
Swavesey Garage
Sultan's Curry House, St.Ives
Jones Boatyard, St.Ives
Wicksteed Park

We look forward to more successful events in 2010!

Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School PTA

BABY & TODDLER GROUPS

Fenstanton Group

We are a friendly group which meets every Wednesday in Fenstanton Church Centre from 10.00 - 11.30am.

We welcome children from birth to school age and have a good selection of toys for all as well as a secure area for babies. If you fancy a tea or coffee while the children play please join us. Sessions cost £2 - first visit is free! If you would like any further information contact Becky on 01480 493067 or email

rebecca.reynolds76@btconnect.com.



Hilton Group

We are a friendly group with babies and toddlers of all ages. We have a great range of toys and a well stocked biscuit tin so feel

free to come along and have a chat while the little ones burn off some energy!

Sessions cost £2 and run from 10.00 - 11.30am every Tuesday, including school holidays.

For more information call Jo on 831524.



> > >

Fenstanton Pre-School

Girls Night Out!

Friday 19th March, 7:30pm

Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School

> > > > > > > > > > > >

*Catch-up with friends
Indulge in shopping, wine, and chocolate
Relax and be pampered!*

Shopping – *cosmetics, skincare, jewellery, bags, shoes,
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Raffle

Tickets cost £2 and are available from:

Fenstanton Pre-School,
Crystal Country Play Barn, Fenstanton or
Claire 07813 821201 / clairewallis@live.co.uk

All proceeds in aid of Fenstanton Pre-School .Registered charity No. 292600

WILDLIFE TRUST - HUNTINGDONSHIRE LOCAL GROUP

Bumblebees will be the focus of the next meeting of the Wildlife Trust, Huntingdon Area Group, on Wednesday 10th February 2010 at 7.30pm at Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton.

Tonight our presentation will be given by David Sheppard, who is an invertebrate ecologist with Natural England. David is Chairman of the WLT Bourne Area Group, Warden for Stanton's Pit reserve and helps to run a local Watch Group, in addition to being on the council of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and a member of their biodiversity and reserves development teams.

David will enthuse us with his lifetime love of invertebrates, concentrating tonight on the natural history of bumblebees. He will look at how the bumblebees' habitat has been threatened by farming methods and modern society and what steps are now being taken to protect this species.

Vision for the Wetlands At the next meeting of the Wildlife Trust, Huntingdonshire Local Group, on Wednesday 10th March 2009 at 7.30pm, Dr. Alastair Burn will present 'A Vision for the Wetlands'. This will be held at Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton.

Alastair Burn is currently the Principal Specialist for Freshwater and Pollution at Natural England and chairs the Wetland Biodiversity Integration Group as well as being Natural England's representative on the Water and Wetland workstream of the England Biodiversity Strategy. He has spent many years in research and worked on pesticide policy with the National Farmers Union. In 1992, Alastair joined English Nature examining pesticides, toxic substances and pollution, before heading the freshwater team. Tonight, Alastair will focus on wetland habitat creation, explaining why it is so vital to safeguard wildlife, counteract climate change and reduce flooding, as well as providing fantastic places for people to visit and enjoy!

Anyone interested in wildlife is most welcome to attend. Admission: £2.00 members; £2.50 non-members. Please visit the web site for more information www.wildlifetrust-huntsareagroup.org.uk/ or contact George on 01480 450809.

Community Speedwatch (£28K) – on target

To date, more than 4,200 letters have been sent by Police Inspectors to those who have been observed speeding, and over 350 volunteers have been recruited and trained.

A meeting of Speedwatch volunteers and coordinators was held on 14th October '09, at which it was agreed that the Road Safety Partnership would be approached to fund a publicity campaign promoting Speedwatch to develop awareness of the scheme further and to attract a new wave of volunteers. At the same meeting minor amendments to operating procedures were suggested by volunteers and agreed by coordinating officers. Part of the project (£5.6k) has been amalgamated with the East Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership local Speedwatch project and as such is included in section 3.23 as a local project.

FEN DRAYTON LAKES

Please remember to provide some fresh water for garden birds, no matter how cold the weather is. They need to drink to aid their digestion when eating dry foods, such as seeds and nuts, as well as keeping their feathers clean. Clean feathers are important for helping the birds stay warm, as well as for efficient flight.

Just after the last issue of Spectrum went to print, our starling flock moved on, this disappointed us and the many people who came to watch them at our Roost Watch events in December. All was not lost, as there were many other birds to fill the void – on three evenings, the skies were filled with over two thousand golden plovers, and we were treated to a low fly-past by 33 Bewick's swans on another. Some lucky visitors saw a bittern, and everyone who stayed until dusk was impressed by the thousands of rooks and jackdaws. These birds wait until it is almost dark, but they make a lot of noise so it is hard to miss them!

Bewick's swans are winter visitors to the UK, coming from their Siberian breeding grounds over 2500 miles away. Around 6,000 can usually be seen in and around the Ouse Washes. I think this group had just arrived, but had missed Welney in the previous day's fog. We couldn't find them here on the following morning.

An influx of fieldfares and redwings in late November gave us the impressive sight of thousands of birds feeding on hawthorn berries in the hedges. Once the berries had been eaten, these birds had to migrate further south in search of more food. They also eat worms, but they weren't accessible once the ground had frozen.

On the 19th February, we have a nestbox making event for children – please ring 01954 233260 to see if we have any places remaining. Charges are £6 per child (£3 RSPB Wildlife Explorer members).

On February 28th, We have a guided walk beginning at 10.30am, when we'll be concentrating on ducks. If the weather is good, we may see courtship displays. Charges are £4 per person (£2 RSPB members, £1 children).

Neil Renwick, Community Projects Officer,
T: 01954 233267 or E:
neil.renwick@rspb.org.uk
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WHAT'S ON—FEBRUARY

1st	Hilton Flower Club	Village Hall	2.00pm	p29
4th	Fenstanton WI	Church Centre	7.30pm	p27
8th	Hilton WI	Village Hall	7.30pm	p27
10th	Wildlife Trust	Brampton	7.30pm	p34
10th	Village Hall Quiz	The George	8.00pm	p9
11th	Coffee Morning	Hilton	10.00-12.00	p5
11th	Fenstanton PC	The School	7.30pm	p19
13th	Men's Breakfast	URC Church	8.30am	p12
19th	Nest making(RSPB)	Fen Drayton Lakes		p35
21st	Pancake Races	Headlands Play Area	2.00pm	p10
27th	Hilton Feast Party Night			p31
28th	RSPB Guided Walk	Fen Drayton Lakes	10.30am	p35
1st March	Hilton Flower Club	Village Hall	2.00pm	p29
19th	Girl's Night Out	The School	7.30pm	p33

For Church Services and Events see p13—17



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