

SPECTRUM

May 2022



Hello
Spring

Step into Spring with us with our new colouring competition and view some lovely photos from our local area taken by residents of Hilton & Fenstanton.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergency:

Police	101
Out of hours doctor	111
Water leaks (Cambridge Water)	0800 316 7676
Street lights not working	0800 253 529
Gas leak	0800 111 999
Swavesey Surgery	01954 230202
Fenstanton Surgery	01480 461873
Fenstanton Pharmacy	01480 495159

Council:

Fenstanton Parish Council	01480 465300
Hilton Parish Council	01480 830605

Education:

Fenstanton Primary School & Pre-School	01480 375055
Fenstanton Baby & Toddler Group	01480 830658
Swavesey VC	01954 230366
Hilton Day Nursery Hilton	01767 688715
Hilton Baby & Toddler Group	07749682229

Churches:

Fenstanton U R C Church	01480 352058
Fenstanton Parish Church	01480 465211
Catholic Church (St Ives)	01480 462192
Hilton Methodist Chapel	01480 830686
Rev Nick Witham	01480 462293
Hilton Parish Church	01480 830866
Hilton Parish Church (2nd Number)	01480 830413
Rev David Busk	01480 436400
The Bridge (St Ives)	01480 498801
Int Prayer Palace Church	01480 878450

Community:

Hilton Feast Week	01480 830605
Fenstanton Village Sports	01480 370973
Fenstanton Post Office	01480 462188
Hilton Town Trust	01480 830866
Hilton Neighbourhood Watch	01480 831658
Fenstanton Church Centre	01954 230471
Hilton Village Hall	07752678415
St Ives RBL Women's Section	01480 380882

Clubs

Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	01480 831715
Fenstanton Rainbows, Brownies, Guides (girlguidinggalleyhill@gmail.com)	07730369565
Hilton Rainbows and Brownies	01480 830156
Hilton WI	01480 831186
Fenstanton Friendship Club	01480 350677
Fenstanton Bowls	07541968125
Fenstanton Indoor Bowls	01480 497202
Fenstanton Football Club	07711674591
Fenstanton Youth Football	01480 395338
Fenstanton Glebe Allotment	janstone4@btinternet.com

Fenstanton Supple Strength	07910600077
Fenstanton Dance Aerobics	07910600077
Hilton Aerobics	01480 832321
Hilton Flower Club	01480 830571
Hilton Pilates	07733307475
Fenstanton Pilates	01480 465117
Fenstanton Morris	01480 466448
Scottish Country Dancing	01487 822989
Slimming World	07772868472
St Ives Art Club	01480 466155
Tai Chi for beginners	01480 468701
Tennis (Swavesey)	01954 231752

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

Spectrum Team

Editor: Mickey Pallett

Advertising Secretary: Kay Pulley

Accounts Secretary: Mickey Pallett

Design Editor: Jo Brasher

Proof Reader: Sue Earnshaw

Spectrum is produced monthly (with the exception of our joint issues Dec/Jan and Jul/Aug) by volunteers. Printing costs are funded through annual advertising revenue and donations from local clubs, individuals and organisations.

Monetary donations may be sent to Mickey Pallett, 31 Lancelot Way, Fenstanton, PE28 9LY (cheques made payable to Spectrum Magazine)

ADVERTISING

Space is booked by annual subscription - the year runs from Sept 21 to Aug 22
Prospective advertisers should apply in writing to our Advertising Editor - Mrs Kay Pulley, at: Old Clayfields, Hilton Road, Fenstanton, PE28 9QX. or Tel 495308. If there is a waiting list, priority will be given to local traders.

Spectrum accepts no responsibility for the standard of goods/services provided and no liability of any loss or damage from acceptance of any of advertisers.

LIST OF ADVERTISERS

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Accounts/Tax -L.A. Wells	6
Country Court Care Homes	28
Connolly Design	32
Eye Specs	12
Funerals -Easton & Cook	33
GMS Accountants	11
Greenwood Home Care	12
Julie Wattiez	42
Xlpress-printers	56

VILLAGE

Fenstanton Church Centre	32
Hilton Village Hall	54

PRE-SCHOOL

Day Nursery, Hilton	4
---------------------	---

FITNESS/HEALTH/HAIR

Mobility Equipment	6
RIVIVI Wellbeing	2
Slimming World	41

CLEANING SERVICES

Clean Direct	33
Riverport	49
Window Cleaner (I. Wilson)	43

GARAGES/TRANSPORT

Garage - Graveley	32
Garage - MO's Motors	39
Garage Wilderspin	31
Z Cars Taxis	11

GARDEN SERVICES

Gardening, fencing CLS	8
Gardens - G.G. Landscapes	41
Gardens, Ant Balaam	33
Gardens, Puddefoot	28
Lawns - Greensleeves	40
Tree surgeon - Hemingford	56

PETS

Diva Dog Walking and Pet Care	4
Vet. Surgery - Ash Croft	41

RETAIL

Carriages of Cambridge	2
Fruit & Veg, Ron's Farm Shop	56
The Duchess	40

IT/VIDEO etc

Cambs Computer Repairs	33
IT - Resolve	42
TV & Video repairs	54

TRADES PEOPLE

A.R. Aspinall	8
Back2Natural wooden floors	11
Build. Services - P Warmbold	8
Chimney Sweep- JL Wight	6
Decorator - D Moody	43
Decorator etc- Jason Kirby	54
Decorator... P Ashmore	12
Denise Jackson Interiors	38
Electrical - DSS	4
Electrical - Twin	38
Electrical - John Sinclair	42
Electrical -T.W.	4
Flooring- R.D.B.	54
G B Builders	10
Groundworks - GCE	43
Hampton's pest control	39
Handicrafts, Helen's	42
Handyman -Rob Howard	32
Knight's Carpentry	10
Light Removals	41
Painters, D Carlisle	11
Plastering	38
Plumb & Heat - Buckingham	41
Plumb/Heat/Gas - MDS	6
Plumbing/Heating - J Halstead	54
Plumbing and heating - RDS	10
Property maintaing -Dave Walker	33
Roofing - CanDo	40
Storage, Gransden	39
Storage, More Space	39
Stormguard Building Services	6

**Please mention Spectrum if you call any of our advertisers.
Thank you we appreciate your support.**

COLOURING COMPETITION

Colour in the Easter bunny and send your pictures to spectrumparishnews@gmail.com or post them to Jo Brasher at 58 Crest Drive, Fenstanton, PE28 9BR with your name and age.

Winner will be announced and featured in our next issue.



Name

Age

COLOURING COMPETITION WINNER:

Izzy Wilde

Age 9



We just loved how colourful and imaginative this Easter bunny looked. Well done Izzy on such a fantastic job.

Thank you to everyone who took part in our first ever colouring competition last month, we received lots of amazing Easter bunnies and we hope you'll continue to enjoy our monthly colouring competitions.



LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHS



Local residents have been out and about taking photos of the wonderful area we live in.

Thank you to those who sent photos in, please do keep them coming in.

Photos can be sent to spectrumparishnews@gmail.com or to Jo on 07305264194



REGULAR MONTHLY SERVICES

1st Sunday – 8am Holy Communion

2nd Sunday - 11.15am United Communion Service

Services on the 2nd Sunday alternate between Parish church & Methodist church

3rd Sunday – 8am Holy Communion

4th Sunday - 11.15am Coffee, Cake & Church

Coffee, Cake & Church service is held in Hilton Village Hall

5th Sunday – 8am Holy Communion

2nd Friday – 5.30pm Friday Feast (Messy Church)

WEEKLY ONLINE SERVICES (via Zoom)

Holy Communion – Wednesdays (2.30pm)

Bible study – Fridays (10am)

**Please contact Revd David Busk (01480 436400)
for Zoom access details**

JOIN US FOR FRIDAY FEAST

- ★ **BACK IN CHURCH!!**
- ★ 5.30pm – 7pm
- ★ Parish Church
- ★ Hilton



BRING A BOTTLE!



- ★ Free All Age event
- ★ Get creative
- ★ Food & Fun
- ★ Informal gathering
- ★ Churches of Hilton together
- ★ For all faiths, and none

- ★ Fridays 13th May, 10th June, 8th July
- ★ To find out more, call Rachel on 830866

Welcome

Come in
and grab
a cuppa

**Coffee,
Cake &
Church**

brought to you by
Hilton Parish Church

It's church, but not
as you know it....

Sunday 22nd May
Sunday 26th June
Sunday 24th July
and every 4th Sunday

11.15am
HILTON
VILLAGE HALL

A welcome for all, good
coffee, delicious cakes,
crafts & activities, time to
talk, music and prayer

For more information, call
Rev'd David Busk on 436400
or Rachel Wood on 830866

We'd love to see you there!



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Gardens Open For Charity

Fenstanton

Huntingdon, PE28 9JW
5 Church Lane • The Manor House

Saturday 28 May
Sunday 29 May
12 - 5pm

Combined entry £5 Children free



More information at ngs.org.uk

The gardens of 5 Church Lane and the Manor House are jointly opening as part of the National Garden Scheme. Tea and cakes will be served outside the United Reformed Church. All proceeds from the garden openings will go to National Garden Scheme charities which include Marie Curie, McMillan Cancer Support and Parkinsons UK. Proceeds from the refreshments will be shared between the NGS charities and the United Reformed Church.



HILTON METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

May 1st - 10am. Local Arrangement,
please check noticeboard for details

May 8th - 11.15am. United service at
Methodist church with Rev David Busk

May 15th - 10am. Rev Dawn Colley

May 22nd - 10am. Mr Colin Webber

May 29th - 10am. Rev Heather Walker

HILTON ART CLUB

8th May 10am - 4pm

PASTELS & INKS - FULL DAY WORKSHOP

Tutor-led workshop with Jane Fellows.

See: www.janefellows.org

20th May 9.30am - 12.30pm

BIG SKY LANDSCAPES: the sky's the limit

Please bring your own pictures/props

'Whatever Floats Your Boat' was the subject of our March session. The bright Spring morning cheered us on arrival and it was lovely to see each other again, especially for those of us who hadn't been able to attend for some time. There were pictures of boats on both serene and choppy waters, sailing and rowing boats, canoes and a colourful collage of a scene by a harbour wall to name a few. Thanks go to Helen B, Kaye and Kathy M for the delicious cakes - they were much appreciated! Pictures of our morning are up on the Facebook page.

CAMBS AND BEDS HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

The local Hardy Plant Society are holding a
GRAND PLANT SALE on Sunday 22nd May at:
**THE WEATHERLEY CENTRE, EAGLE FARM
ROAD, BIGGLESWADE, SG18 8JH**
10am until 2pm

This sale is usually held annually to raise funds for the group to enable us to engage excellent speakers for our meetings. This will be the first sale we have been able to hold since 2019.

There will be many unusual hardy perennials for sale as well as shrubs, herbs, tender perennials, vegetable plants etc. There is plenty of parking available at the centre and drinks and snacks will be available from the bar at the centre.

More details of this event and of the group can be found at: www.hpscambsandbeds.co.uk



Hiltons' New Garden

The new garden outside Hilton Village Hall gets well and truly christened on a glorious warm and sunny day just before Easter.



Always held on 2nd Thursday afternoon 'Tea on The Green' (cafe) is also linked in with the arrival of the Library Van now, with longer timings = 14.00 to 14.40.



Christian Aid Week 15th - 21st May

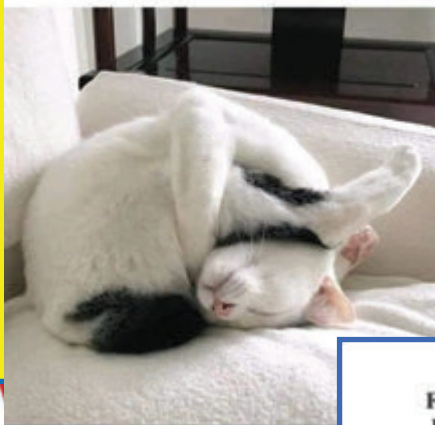
This year, envelopes will be delivered to each house in Hilton for Christian Aid Week. There will, however, be a hybrid collection service! Some envelopes will be collected, and others, as last year, are to be dropped back to the address which will be on the envelope. The envelopes will clearly state which applies.

Please give generously to this appeal. Many parts of the world are suffering acute poverty. Covid 19, and the climate crisis are pushing more of our global neighbours into a struggle for survival. Every donation kindly made, will change lives.

If you have any queries, please contact Christina Sheppard on cvsheppard3@gmail.com / 831454.

Thank you very much in anticipation of the hugely generous support which we have received in previous years.

Please read ALL directions
before assembling your cat



Fenstanton Morris

will be Dancing at Dawn

at The Clock Tower
Fenstanton

Sunday 1st May

at 5.30 a.m.



Contact: fenstantonbag@gmail.com for further details or via our facebook page.

FENSTANTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHEQUER STREET BOOK SALE



SATURDAY

21st MAY

9-30AM- 12- NOON

ALSO JIGSAWS ON SALE



Fenstanton United Reformed Church
Chequer Street, Fenstanton

We are pleased to welcome you to our friendly church

Sunday morning services are at 09.30. All are welcome.

2022 Services

May

- 1st May - Revd Peter Ball
- 8th May - Holy Communion – Revd Dr Catherine Ball
- 15th May - Revd Dr Catherine Ball
- 22nd May - Revd Chris Baker
- 29th May - Revd Christine Davis

June

- 5th June - Led by Keith Cakebread
- 12th June - Holy Communion - Revd Dr Catherine Ball
- 19th June - Revd Dr Catherine Ball
- 26th June - Led by Keith Cakebread

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

- Tuesday 10th May - 2.30-4pm
- Tuesday 14th June - 2.30-4pm

Geoff Hawkins
Fenstanton URC Secretary



Parish of Fen Drayton with Fenstanton News and Services for May 2022

The Rector writes:

Hello, how are you doing?

"The world's favourite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May." —

Edwin Way Teale

I am not sure if all things are possible in May 2022 but things are certainly looking more hopeful than in May 2020 and 2021. Looking back, to inform the future, while being in the present, might help to remind us of people and events. But dwelling on the past and remaining in it isn't always good for our mental well-being. Perhaps May 2022 will be a good time to reflect and plan and make some good choices. Our circumstances might not have changed much, if at all, but our approach to them can change. If you consider the disciples after the events of Good Friday – they thought all was hopeless – and yet on that first Easter morning, their world was changed. During this season of Easter, which continues up to Pentecost on 5 June, may we all be filled with the Easter hope of the risen Christ. Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, alleluia!

On 5th June, we not only have our Sunday morning service, at 10am in the Parish Church, Fenstanton, we also have a service in the afternoon at 6pm, followed by a light tea. It will be a Songs of Praise style service, especially remembering, of course the Platinum Jubilee for Her Majesty the Queen. Please do join us, in fact why not suggest your favourite hymn? We would love to know! (let either Rev Rosie or a churchwarden know).

Funerals, churchyard, cemetery – and so here we are at the last of the three items we have been looking at in a little more detail. See March issue for weddings and April for baptisms.



Any resident of Fenstanton is permitted to ask for a funeral service in the parish church, if that is what they would like to have for their loved one, or has been detailed in a will or funeral plan. The service in church needs to be arranged via a funeral director of your choice. You (or your loved one) do not have to be a regular attender of the church to have a service in the church, despite what some funeral directors

will tell you.

You don't have to have hymns, although most people do; you can have other music if you provide it on CD and the music is appropriate to play in church. You can have suitable poems etc included in the service too. Lots of families like to write their own family tributes (aka eulogies) or the minister taking the service can help you with that. One thing you are required to have is a bible reading. If you do not know any, then the minister can help you choose one.

Having talked about the funeral service, we move on to what happens next. It may be that a decision is made for a burial or a cremation. A burial usually follows straight after the funeral service itself. Here in Fenstanton there are several choices. The burial might take place in the Parish Council cemetery, which is adjacent to the churchyard*, providing you have previously organised this through the funeral director and with the Parish Council. Or there may be other alternatives which you will need to discuss with your funeral director.

The churchyard has been closed for burials since 1958, but it is still open for the interment of ashes. The confusion is between the churchyard location and the cemetery location. There is a path that separates them, which is north of the church, not far from where the Church Centre and school are. People often think it is the same place. The cemetery has the war memorial, the churchyard doesn't. I hope that helps.

Any resident of Fenstanton can have their cremated remains interred in the churchyard area for that purpose. Please be aware there is always a Christian Minister present for the interment. Please also note that interments, and a ledger stone (flat tablet) to mark the plot, must adhere to the Diocese of Ely churchyard regulations. Ashes cannot be scattered and must be placed in a container that will perish or straight into the interment plot.

It's not really appropriate to share here a funny moment from a funeral.....a memorable moment during a service, though, was from a couple of years ago. A funeral for an elderly lady was taking place in a church, and a beautiful peacock butterfly was seen gently exploring the church, taking rest here and there. The peacock is a symbol of eternal life, quite pertinent to a Christian funeral service and our message of hope, and the lady was indeed a Christian all her life. Until next month.

God bless, from Rev Rosi

Do get in touch for up-to-date information, or look on the website www.fenstantonparishchurch.org.uk the facebook page "Fen Drayton with Fenstanton Parish Churches", a church near you www.achurchnearyou.com , or email: rosie.tallowin@btinternet.com ikhuck@virginmedia.com

Contact details for our parish are:

Rector: Rev Rosie Tallowin: 01480 467393

email: rosie.tallowin@btinternet.com

Churchwardens: Philip Blunt 01480 461751 and Ian Hucklesby 01480 465211

Please note that all enquiries for weddings (including Banns of Marriage) and baptisms should be made in the first instance to our Rector Revd Rosie Tallowin, 01480 467393.

Community Fund, or to make an application for financial help, please note we have a dedicated email address for the fund fdfscommunityfund@gmail.com The Community Fund was set up to offer help to anyone with a strong association with Fenstanton or Fen Drayton, whether a church member or not. Especially in these difficult times we would like to reach out to you if you are in need of financial help and are seeking a modest one-off donation of money for a specific purpose. All enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence and a member of our small committee will be in touch with you with an application form and further information.

May 2022 – Services at St Mary’s, Fen Drayton and St Peter & St Paul, Fenstanton			
	Service time	Parish Services are usually held in St Peter & St Paul’s Church, Fenstanton Live stream details via https://www.fenchurchbooking.org.uk	<i>For Morning Prayer and Night Prayer Zoom details please contact Rev Rosie</i>
Mondays, weekly	8pm		<i>8pm Compline on Zoom (No Compline on bank holidays)</i>
Thursdays, weekly	8.30am		<i>8.30am Morning Prayer</i>
Sunday 1 st May	10am service at Fenstanton	10am Parish Service, Holy Communion with Sunday Club Live stream may be available via Zoom, please request details	
Sunday 8 th	9:15am service at St Mary’s 10am service at Fenstanton	9.15am Holy Communion at St Mary’s Fen Drayton 10am Worship For All Service Live stream may be available for in church via Zoom	
Sunday 15 th	10am service at Fenstanton	10am Parish Service, Holy Communion with Sunday Club Live stream may be available via Zoom, please request details	
Sunday 22 nd	9.15am service at St Mary’s 10am service at Fenstanton	9.15am Morning Praise at St Mary’s, Fen Drayton 10am Family Communion, at Fenstanton Live stream may be available via Zoom	
Thursday 26 th Ascension Day	7.30pm at St Mary’s	Parish Communion Service at St Mary’s, Fen Drayton	
Sunday 29 th	10am service at Fenstanton	Parish Communion service, with dedication of the Fenstanton Church Records Book	

Fenstanton Community Café



EXCITING NEWS!! The defibrillator unit (AED) we have all been fund raising for, so a second AED can be sited in the village, is now on order. (The first defib unit is sited at Ash's shop.) The one on order will be located outside the Church Centre, probably on the wall facing the school for easiest access. Some interim thanks go to the Parish Council who are organising the order and delivery, to the Church Centre for helping us with the siting and installation and our big thanks to YOU, the community of Fenstanton and beyond, for raising the funds so this second unit can be installed for the benefit of everyone in our community. Of course, what we really hope, is that no-one will need to use it! We will do a special article once the defib unit is in place so we can thank some specific people. In the meantime, thank you, thank you, thank you.

"face2face" Monthly Community Café



All are welcome to our monthly face2face Community Café.

We meet on the first Tuesday afternoon of each month, 2-3pm, at the Church Centre, near St Peter & St Paul's Church, Church Street/Lane, Fenstanton.

We are very fortunate to have donations of lovely homemade cakes each month and our picture shows you the wonderful selection we had at last month's café.

Dog-walkers - if you would like to sit outside the Church Centre with your dogs (we have had several requests) then do let us know and we will bring refreshments to you. Everything is £1 to keep it simple.

The "face2face" café dates are on Tuesday afternoons 2022, 2-3pm, Church Centre.
3 May; 7 June; 5 July; 2 August; 6 September; 4 October; 1 November; 6 December.

Weekly Virtual Community Café



Can't come along to the face2face café? Then why not try our **virtual community café**?

Become a regular member of the virtual café and you will receive a free mug!!

The virtual café meets weekly on Wednesday afternoons, on Zoom, from 2-3.30pm. Do get in touch for the Zoom details. You are welcome to join in or to listen or both.

We have two rules we have agreed on. 1) We respect each others views – we might not agree with another person but we respect them as a person who has their own view. 2) We don't share photos or phone numbers unless we have permission from that person.

We have a Facebook page "Fenstanton Community Café", a WhatsApp group and Instagram page.

For more information about Fenstanton Community Café, please contact:

Rev Rosie. 01480 467393 email: rosie.tallowin@btinternet.com

FENSTANTON PARISH CHURCH -
OPEN GARDENS Weekend 25th and 26th June 2022

We hope to hold an OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND on Saturday 25th and
Sunday 26th June 2022 in aid of

Fenstanton Parish Church Restoration Fund.

We would like to include gardens of all shapes, styles and sizes, new or
established

and need more offers of gardens to view.

Would you like to share your garden with others? Please do get in touch with:
Deborah on 07914 115467 or Julia 07703 582694 leaving your name and
contact

number so that we can contact you back to share further details.

As well as gardens, the weekend will include refreshments, church tower tours,
a book stall and a plant
stall (donations welcome). More details to follow next month.

We look forward to hearing from
you.

Thank you, from the Open
Gardens Planning Team.



The Bridge Church

(Part of the Newfrontiers family of Evangelical Churches)

Serving St Ives and the surrounding communities

www.thebridgechurch.co.uk

[01480 498801](tel:01480498801)

The Sunday service is at 10.30am in our lovely church building at No,2, Burrell Road, St Ives, PE27 6RR: Come for some lively worship; hear about God's love for us and how we can put it into practice in our lives. We also meet together in small groups during the week, where we build friendships and grow together as a family in our faith.



We hold a monthly church prayer meeting plus a men and a women's breakfast fellowship. There is a youth group for 11 to 18 year-olds which meet on Friday nights in term-time between 7 and 9 pm.

The Babies and Toddlers group meets at 9.30am on Tuesdays in term-time. A Craft Club meets at 2pm on alternate Thursday afternoons. A women's weekly Bible study group meets on Tuesday morning at 10am. We also have the Bridge Drop-In on a Friday morning from 10.30, specifically designed for people on their own. We would love to welcome you to any of these events. For further details of times and places please see the website or ring the Church Office.

Now the Children's Church at the Bridge! It's a fun, exciting and safe place where children can learn about God in a meeting especially designed for them. The mornings are jam-packed with activities in a contemporary "magazine" style, relevant to the culture in which our children are growing up. Why not encourage your children to come along from 10:30 am on a Sunday morning?

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St

Ives Church of the Sacred Heart,
19 Needingworth Rd.

The parish priest at Sacred Heart Church, St Ives used to celebrate Mass in Papworth Everard, but this is now undertaken by Monsignor Shryane, parish priest of St. Michael the Archangel Church, Huntingdon and Mass on Saturday evening is held at 5pm. .

The Particular Baptist Chapel **Church Lane, Fenstanton,** **PE28 9JW**

There has been a witness to the worship of God here over the years since 1643

Services are on Sundays at 10.30am and 2.30pm

and on Thursday evenings at 7.15pm

We still use the Authorised, King James Bible, believe in Particular Redemption and the traditional manner of worship.

All are welcome

Pastor: BE Izzard (01480 830142)

The John Deeks Article.

Recently it was suggested to me, that after ten years of writing for Spectrum, I should let people see what I look like!
So, here I am.

John Deeks



Even More Ghost Stories

By John Deeks

The Ghosts of Hall Green Lane:

As told by Mrs J Allen in April 1922

“Oh yes, I have seen them, so I can vouch for the truth of what I say. I will tell you about it so that you will know yourself.

When I was first married I lived in the end thatched cottage (place now unknown), where Mrs Hopkins now lives. In there are good rooms, they joined close to another house that stood between the house we lived in and where Mrs Bedford now lives and there was another house behind the one, now pulled down, used as a lodging house.

I was ironing, after they had all gone to bed, walked into the back yard to the pump for water to make their drinks for the next day. I took some men in to lodge at that time, we used in those days to have lots of men come to the village in summer, some of them Irishmen, they came to work in the onion fields.

I had four lodging with me that summer, in the house there is a big bedroom at the top. Well, I went out into the back yard to fetch the water and right in front of the pump just where I wanted to go, was something standing there. Something, I did not know what you would call it, ghost or phantom. Some would say it was like a man, so I just said “I want to come to the pump for some water, if you please. Well it never offered to move. I was a bit shaken and hardly knew what to do; I knew all the others had gone to bed. Naturally my head turned towards the door into the house. I was but a second giving the glance at the house, but in that instant it disappeared.

Well I will tell you of the next time I saw it. The next evening I said to my old man, no, you are not going to bed tonight till I go and I was going to make the drinks after supper. The door stood open, my husband was in the front room for something, I looked out of the door and there stood the same ghost or whatever you like to call it. I called my husband and said, “There’s that there again” and in that instant it disappeared.

Well, the next time, it was my boy who saw it. He came home from school and said “mother, “I want to go” “We’ll go” I said and he went running into the yard, the ‘place’ was in the barn. I then heard him call out “mother there’s someone sitting on the seat”, I went to look but there was nobody to be seen anywhere.

Continued next page

Well, the next time he saw it was when he went to the barn, we had rabbit hutches down one side. He came running into the house and said "mother, there is someone sitting on the hutches. Well I went to see but there was not the sign of anyone or anything".

Laying a Witch:

Told by Mrs Armon in April 1922

Scene, the bungalow cottages (unable to identify the location of these cottages)

"Yes, she (Mrs Chard) always used to come to have tea with us (Mrs Armon). Always after, Hellie (I assume to be a child but could have been a pet), was bewitched; she used to bring a quarter of a pound of tea. I could never do anything with Hellie when she left.

So Mrs Richards told me how to break the spell and I did it and was never troubled again.

Yes, she told me to lay a knife, blade edge outwards towards the street and under the door mat. I did it when she came, that did her, and Hellie was not bewitched that time and never once cried after she went. That stopped her pranks and no, she never troubled us again".

john.deeks@ntlworld.com



THE FEN SHANTY FOLK Are back singing again!!!

We are a mixed group of all ages singing shanties, folk and popular songs for pleasure.

If you enjoy singing in good company why not come along, we would love to see you? Or if you'd just like to come and listen, you are also most welcome. We meet regularly on Thursday evenings. Please contact us for venue details.

Available for bookings

We are also available to perform for entertaining clubs, societies, small groups and parties.

You can contact us by phoning Niki on 07841 599 492 or emailing niki.whitby@sky.com. You can also visit our **Fen Shanty Folk Facebook** page.

Fenstanton Village Sports Day & Produce Show

Saturday 2nd July 2022

Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School field from 2pm

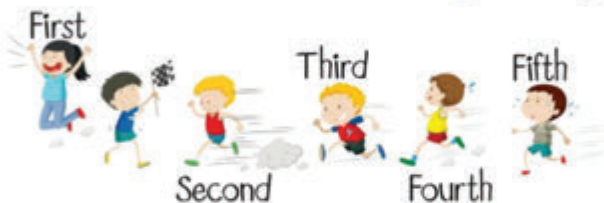


Novelty races

Family races



Adult and Children's races and games



Produce, crafts and baking show

with special Queen's Jubilee themed classes



BBQ Bar, & Refreshments



FENSTANTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We have many newcomers to the village who would be very welcome to join the Friendship Club. The Club was founded in 1949 and has been run by various people, (my gratitude to all involved), and has had a few different names, mostly including an age group. Around seven years ago, we decided to be all inclusive and renamed the club as " The Fenstanton Friendship Club ", after all age is just a number! We meet fortnightly in the building of the United Reformed Church in Chequer Street PE28 9JQ. Our meeting is from 2.00 pm until around 4.00 pm. During that time, we have either a speaker or some form of musical entertainment. The talks are on varying subjects and are both interesting and educational. We also have trips out for lunch, visits to a garden centre and time on the river on the "Ladybird" boat. We have had group holidays too. Since covid hit we, unfortunately have lost some of our members, however we still have a strong membership who are a very friendly team. New members would be made very welcome, so why not come along and try us out. First visit is free, unless you want a raffle ticket, so you have nothing to lose and friendship to gain. The fortnightly fee is at the moment £2, which covers the venue, entertainment and refreshments. A plea to members who are still shielding, we miss you and need your presence in order to maintain stability of the club. Please let me know of your intentions and take care.



On the 30th March, the " Merrymakers " were booked to entertain us. Unfortunately, five of the group had tested positive for covid and they had to cancel. They are now booked for 28th September, hopefully by then the virus may be subsiding in the area. It was too late to book anything else, so we had a very pleasant afternoon getting to know each other better, having a quizz and ending up with a little Beetle drive.

13th April

Had a wonderful talk from Richard Taylor of the RSPB. It was very informative and well presented. We learned a lot about the reed beds in the area, the importance to the wildlife and to the water levels in the Fens.

COMING UP

11th May

A talk on the history of " laundry" entitled
" Dashing away with the Smoothing Iron", by Helen Green

25th May

We have our trip on the Ladybird boat, travelling from the Hartford Marina, either up to Brampton, stopping in Godmanchester for lunch, or down to St Ives, also with a lunch break. Numbers are limited so please get in touch if you would like to join us. The boat costs £10 per head plus lunch if you opt for fish and chips

Looking forward to our next meeting. Stay well everyone.

Any questions please call
Marie Newns 01480 350677

FENSTANTON BOWLS CLUB

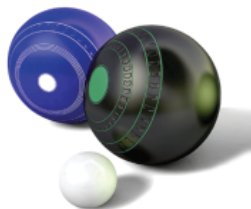


New Members Wanted

Looking for a new activity?

Want to try a new sport?

All ages are welcome



OPEN DAY

Saturday 7th May

Anytime from 10:00am to 4:00pm

Never played before?

Then come along and give it a try.

Everyone is welcome.

You just need flat shoes or trainers.

*We'll provide the rest including
cake and refreshments!*

Hope to see you soon.

**Free entry to
Prize Draw
One new visitor
will win £50 Cash!**

*** Social bowling every Thursday at 10:00**

*** Opportunities to play in Men's, Ladies' and Mixed Leagues**

For more information...

**Call Barry on 07541 968125 or Patricia on 07801 946729
or visit www.fenstantonbowlsclub.co.uk**

Latest news from Fenstanton Parish Council

Fenstanton Parish Council—Election Results

Fenstanton Parish Council had nine candidates stand for Election. The nine candidates all stood for a seat to represent the south ward of the Village. As there were eleven seats available for the south ward, the Election was uncontested and the nine candidates have received confirmation of their place on your Parish Council representing the

South ward. This means there are a further two seats remaining for the south ward and two seats vacant to represent the north ward.

If you would be interested in joining your Parish Council, please contact the Clerk.

Meet your newly elected Parish Councillors



Paul Kent

Paul has previously served on your Parish Council and been Chairman to your Parish Council



Roy McGee

Roy has previously served on your Parish Council and has been Vice Chairman to your Parish Council

To contact your Parish Council Clerk

Telephone: 01480 465 300

Web: www.fenstantonpc.org

Email: clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk



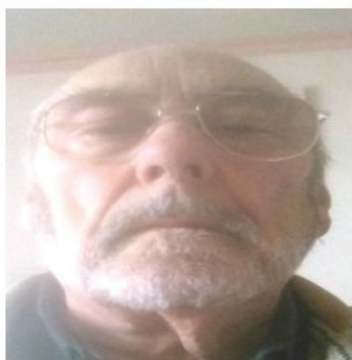
Martin Hewitt

Martin had recently joined your Parish Council and chose to stand again



Paula Short

Paula had recently joined your Parish Council and chose to stand again



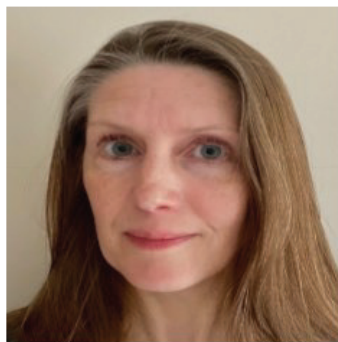
Geoff Pryke

Geoff has previously served on your Parish Council.



Nigel Ferrier

Nigel has previously served on your Parish Council



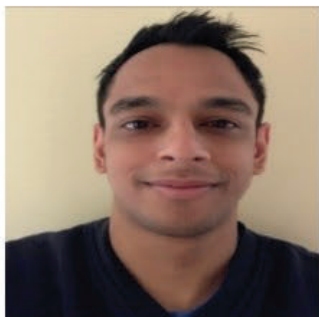
Susannah Collison

Susannah has previously served on your Parish Council



Peter Hayes

Peter has previously served on your Parish Council



Amit Puntambekar

Amit has previously served on your Parish Council

Your Parish Council would also like to take this opportunity to thank those Councillors that decided not to stand for re-election this year.

Kevin Mitchell, has been an invaluable member of your Parish Council. During which time he has acted as the Responsible Finance Officer, dealing with the finances and preparing the annual accounts for audit. He has Chaired the Finance and Constitution Committee. Kevin has also been instrumental in implementing several significant projects, including the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and he has worked on the Flood Working Group. His expertise and hands on approach will be missed.

Colin White, has served as a Parish Councillor on your Parish Council for many years. Colin has overseen many improvements to the village facilities during his time as a Parish Councillor.

Colin was instrumental in the installation of Parish Church footpath lighting and the creation of the village pre-school. His long and valued service, his expertise, experience and support for the Parish will be greatly missed.

Joseph Middleton served on the Parish Council for 17 months. We thank Joseph for his time given to the Parish Council.

MAKE A CHANGE
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

Play Park—repair update

Work has now been completed on the repairs to the surface around the wooden play apparatus at Chequer Street play park.

There is still some work to be carried out at the metal park at Rookery Way play park and we hope this will be completed very soon.

MUGA

Sadly over recent months the padlock securing the MUGA has either been tampered with or has gone missing altogether.

Not only does this cost your Parish Council money to replace the padlock each time but it also means that this wonderful facility cannot be used.

It is such a shame that one or two individuals are spoiling it for all.

Please can we remind anyone using the MUGA to ensure the padlock is firmly locked in place when they leave.

If you encounter a problem with the padlock or see any suspicious activity, please report this to the Clerk immediately.



Clock Tower and Pond

Hopefully you will have seen that information lecterns are now in place by the Clock Tower and the Pond. The whipping post is also in place by the Clock Tower.

The paving surrounding the Clock Tower has been cleaned and we hope you agree that the area is looking very smart.

There is a little further work to be carried out at the Pond with the replacement of the damaged Fencing and top soil and seed to the area left of the Pond.





Hilton Parish Council

Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 4th April County Broadband

Hilton Parish Council received a report from Matthew Briggs of County Broadband. He advised that Hilton has been earmarked to get full-fibre broadband built in our community. This is being provided by County Broadband who are funded by Aviva Investors and the Government's gigabit voucher scheme.

Hilton is one of 21 villages included in the next phase of their rollout. This fibre-to-the-premises technology will allow internet speeds of up to 1000Mbps, with matching download and upload speeds.

The next step is for County Broadband to gauge the level of interest in the installation of this infrastructure. Matthew Briggs of County Broadband will be visiting all of the properties in the village to establish how many people are interested in receiving further information regarding this project. You can also contact him directly on 07538399740 or Matthew.briggs@countybroadband.co.uk. In order for this project to proceed to the next stage, 40% of the village needs to express an interest. There will also be an online meeting for those that have registered interest on 25th May, and there may be an in-person meeting if there is a need.

Following this, 25% of the village (which is approximately 114 properties) need to pre-order the broadband service with County Broadband in order for them to be able to install the infrastructure. Matthew will be able to provide further details, but packages range from 50Mbps to 900 Mbps.

If you require any further information or would like to express an interest in this project, please contact Matthew.

A14 Legacy Works to the Ware

Despite assurances to the contrary, the works to the roadside bank of the Ware have caused an issue with surface water drainage. The Clerk has met with the National Highways engineer who has agreed to install pipes in the wall and dig drainage channels to alleviate this issue.

2021/22 Tree Work

The agreed tree work has been delayed by the process of obtaining permission from the Tree Officer at Huntingdonshire District Council. Cllr Ian Stott is continuing to liaise with HDC, but hopefully this work should commence by the end of April.

Continued next page

Jubilee Beacon Lighting Event

The Council approved the plans for the Jubilee Beacon Lighting Event on Thursday 2nd June and have agreed to underwrite this event to a maximum of £250.

Whippet Buses

The Council agreed to the request to park buses on the edge of the Green on Friday 3rd June to commemorate the anniversary of the relocation of the Whippet coach depot.

Funded Ponds Project



Hilton Parish Council has been advised that funding is now available in certain parts of Cambridgeshire for the restoration and creation of clean water wildlife ponds capable of supporting great crested newts. Hilton qualifies for this funding as some of the land around the village is deemed to be especially suitable habitat for bolstering and connecting existing populations of this endangered species.

The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group are seeking local farmers, smallholders, large rural garden owners, and land-based businesses to create and restore more such ponds. If you have a location in mind, please email ponds@fwageast.org.uk to receive further information or arrange an informal chat.

Bavarian Night

The Council has granted permission for the Hilton Summer Ball Committee to hold a Bavarian Night on 22nd July 2022.

Disasters Emergency Committee regarding Ukraine

Hilton Parish Council are saddened by the situation in Ukraine but decided that they were unable to donate to the Disasters Emergency Committee as their normal donations policy is for donations to remain within the village. The Council would like to encourage parishioners to donate to the DEC.



Clerk's Salary

The Clerk was awarded an additional salary point in line with the contract. The Council also agreed to pay the gross amount of £1,000 in full and final settlement for 100 hours in lieu.

*The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 16th May 2022 in **Hilton Methodist Church**. Agendas will be issued in advance on the village notice boards and the Council's website www.hiltonparishcouncil.com. Parishioners are welcome to speak at council meetings on agenda items.*



Queen's Platinum Jubilee

June 2nd – June 5th

Hilton Village Events – Let's Celebrate

Whole Weekend

Decorate your homes and neighbourhood with flags, bunting, lights, red/white/blue or purple and gold flower displays. Let us know if you are creating a Jubilee window display, planting some special floral creations, have some spectacular lights on display and we will include you on our village Jubilee trail map so everyone can enjoy a village walk at their leisure – you might need to look out for some hidden Jubilee Crowns. There are individual street parties taking place across the weekend. Join in, be creative and let's celebrate as a community.

Thursday 2nd June

2.00 – 4.00 pm

Community Garden Team will be welcoming you to the garden, where there will be lots of free activities for people of all ages, including creating a floral Union Jack for the Village Green, making homes for butterflies, insect finger puppets and much more.

9.45 pm tbc

Hilton Parish Council – Lighting of the Beacon with Pavilion Bar open prior to Lighting Up time

Friday 3rd June

Afternoon tbc

WI hosting Community Games on the Green
More details to follow

5.00 pm tbc

St Mary Magdalene Church – Songs of Praise
More details to follow.

7.00 pm tbc

Platinum Jubilee Quiz, The Prince of Wales
More details to follow.

Saturday 4th June

Early evening tbc

Hilton Feast Week – Platinum Party on the Green with music, food and a bar. More details to follow.

Sunday 5th June

12 noon

Hilton Village Hall Committee

Hilton Village Green – Platinum Picnic

Bring your own picnic to share with family and friends and we might even be able to rustle up the winning Queen's Platinum Pudding (still waiting to hear what the winning entry was).

Bring chairs, rugs, umbrellas – whatever is appropriate for British summer weather!

2.00 pm

Gates open for Illyria's production of **Peter Pan** by J.M.Barrie.

3.00 pm

Open Air Theatre Production by Illyria of Peter Pan

Performance (1 hour 40 minutes with a 20 minute interval).
Details of how to book your tickets below:-

tickets@hilton-village.com - dedicated email address for enquiries and ticket sales (cash or BACS payment); www.illyria.co.uk – direct through Illyria's website (by credit card – but you will be charged a 5% administration fee); www.hilton-village.com – updates and further details available on our village website along with a link to our direct email address for ticket enquiries and sales.

Adult: £14, Child (4-14 years) £8, up to 4 - Free, Concession (65+) £12, Family (2A+2C) £40

"Peter Pan" is presented by arrangement with Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity and Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Afternoon

Refreshments available

Strawberries & Cream

Soft drinks

Feast Week Bar

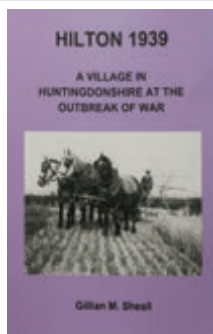
Important Advisory Notes:

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times – some of the roads around the Village Green will hopefully be closed for safety reasons but there will still be cars around some areas.

Parking will be very restricted to those visitors coming from further afield, so could you please avoid parking on Hilton Village Green and be considerate to our local residents – please walk if possible, drop off chairs and picnic requirements prior to the event and arrange to park on friends' drives if at all possible. Parking attendants/advisors will be on duty on Sunday 5th June.

Some elements of the weekend may change and timings may alter and we will try and keep everyone updated as much as we can with information available on our village website - www.hilton-village.com, Facebook and village noticeboards.

For more information, please contact Liz Bush 01480 830202 or our dedicated ticket and enquiry email address – tickets@hilton-village.com.



Copies of my book, **HILTON 1939** are still available 67 pages, with illustrations

Only £7 to cover printing costs.

This may be just what you are looking for as a small Christmas gift, or for yourself if you are a newcomer to the village.

Please contact me at 3, Mill Hill End, or phone 07484 650209, and if required I will deliver within the village

Gillian Sheail

Old Fenstanton Book
ON SALE RON'S FARM SHOP
POST OFFICE , 28 BELL LANE
£5

Old Fenstanton
 - a collection of photographs
 Jean Ding

Also Jack Dady's Beyond Yesterday
Book £10

FENSTANTON KNITTERS AND NATTERS

We meet every Tuesday 10am -11:30am at Fenstanton United Reformed Church.

A lady from Age UK came to our last meeting, we were able to give her 500 Innocent Smoothies Hats. These are put on Innocent Smoothie drinks in shops and profits go to Age UK. If you would like to join us just turn up, you will be made welcome, for more details contact Jean on 01480 498221.



PLATINUM JUBILEE



TEA & CAKE

Saturday 4th June

2pm - 4pm

In Celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee; an afternoon of Tea and Cake will be held for the residents of the village at Fenstanton United Reformed Church on Saturday 4th June, 2pm - 4pm.



Sponsored by Fenstanton Parish Council
 More details to follow next month

1ST FENSTANTON AND HILTON SCOUTS



As Scouts, we prepare young people with skills for life. Every week, 1st Fenstanton and Hilton Scout Group provides 85 boys and girls aged 6 to 14 the chance to take part in exciting, challenging and adventurous activities to develop the skills they need now and in the future.

We take part in a huge range of activities - just this year we have been camping, cycling, climbing and hiking, made pancakes, learnt photography, and much more! Through our varied programme we support young people to develop practical skills from cooking to fire lighting and first aid, character skills like independence and resilience, and employability skills such as teamwork and leadership.

What's more, Scouts is for adults too. We rely on an extensive team of adult volunteers to make the adventure happen in almost any role you could imagine. Anyone can be a Scout – we are all about bringing people together to enjoy fun, friendship and adventure, and making a positive impact on our community.

Now, we are looking for new volunteers to fill the vital roles of Chair and Group Scout Leader, to lead our group into the future and ensure we can continue to provide life-changing experiences and opportunities for young people and adults in Fenstanton and Hilton. You don't need to have prior Scouting experience, so if you think you could help or would like to get involved, please get in touch with us:

fenstantonandhiltonscoutgroup@outlook.com.



HILTON FLOWER CLUB

APRIL 4TH Stephanie Laing was our demonstrator, we hadn't seen her before. Stephanie did 5 arrangements. The colours and the arrangements were stunning, we all thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

MAY 9th is our workshop, so we know we are going to have a fun afternoon, don't forget your scissors or secateurs.

We are now gearing ourselves up for our **FLOWER FESTIVAL**. All our ladies are looking forward to decorating Hilton church and fill it with a celebration of colour. After the lock down we need cheering up.

HILTON FLOWER FESTIVAL

HILTON CHURCH
AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY
SAT/ SUN / MON
10.30am ----4.30pm
Raising money for

East Anglian Children Hospice /Addenbrookes children's critical ward and Hilton Church

REFRESHMENTS / TEA COFFEE and CAKES CAKE
FREE ENTRY



Christian Aid Week 15th-21st May 2022

This year Christian Aid week is 15th -21st May and we have set up a JustGiving page to receive your donations for some of the poorest people in the world who are suffering very directly as a result of climate change.



Please visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fenstantoncaw2022 or scan the QR code which will take you directly to the site. If you would rather not give online please phone me on 01480 465211 and I can offer alternative ways to give. Read on to see why our support is needed.

In Zimbabwe, the climate crisis is causing aching hunger for families like Jessica's.

The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict, and drought have robbed her of the power to provide for her children. And 7,000 miles away, the war in Ukraine will drive up food prices in Zimbabwe, and around the globe.

Without the fertiliser and food - like wheat and cooking oil - that Ukraine and Russia produce, vulnerable families will be pushed even deeper into hunger.

But hope does not disappoint. Hope lives in you.

Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help Jessica set up water taps on her farm, learn to grow food, and provide seeds that thrive in drought – giving her all she needs to turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

Join us this Christian Aid Week, and help turn hunger into hope.

With every gift, every action, every prayer, we celebrate and share hope with our sisters and brothers facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe. For more info: <http://christianaid.org.uk>
Thank you, Katie Hucklesby.





BAVARIAN NIGHT



HILTON

Village Hall



Friday 22nd July 2022

7pm-11.30pm

Tickets £20 each

Includes Hog Roast supper

Prize for best Fancy Dress

BAVARIAN

BOYS

OOMPAH

BAND

**BAR,
STEINS,
ENTERTAINMENT,
DISCO**

TICKETS email:

hiltonsummerball@hotmail.com



Hilton WI

With spring racing along our clubs are as active as ever, also with the Walking Group enjoying lengthy challenges of five or six miles, how fit they must be! We are also returning to the picnics on the Green that were so good for morale during the lockdown - this time simply because we enjoyed them so much.

Plans for the Jubilee weekend are forming rapidly now. On Thursday 2nd June we will be supporting the Community Garden events with teas, coffees and home made cakes in the Village Hall from 1.30 to 4.00 pm. Then on the following day we are aiming to provide Games on the Green, the precise time is yet to be confirmed. Another plan is to ask members to offer their favourite family recipes to form a Jubilee book. We have already received a few and curiously they are for cakes and puddings! At our April meeting we welcomed 2 new members and a visitor and we also discussed outings during the summer months to Jordan's Mill and Bury St. Edmunds.

We were then treated to a talk by Jason Middleton, an expert on the formation and history of Gemstones and what a treat it was. We learned that gemstones are grouped into families formed millions of years ago into diamonds, (the largest ever found being the size of a small rugby ball and produced 96 diamonds in the cutting process), corundums (eg Rubies), beryls (Emeralds) quartz (amethysts - which supposedly protected from drunkenness in Edwardian times.) Gemstones are mined in all four countries, only Blue John being mined in our Peak District.

Jason showed us pictures of many types of gems, gave us some to feel and all in all made every lady's eyes twinkle.

We welcome new members and meet in Hilton Village Hall on the second Monday of the month at 7.30 pm.

The other day at the bank, an old lady asked me to help her check her balance.

So I pushed her over.

Hilton Feast Week

GO WILD

24th – 30th July 2022



Programme Cover Picture Competition

Do remember the exciting competition for children to design the front cover picture on the Hilton Feast Week 2022 programme. **Fri 22nd April** is the deadline to submit your entry so there's still time to get painting or colouring! Full details were in last month's Spectrum and the entry form is still available on www.feastweek.co.uk

Also, the **Family Easter Egg Hunt** will be taking place around the village on **Saturday 16th April between 10.30 & 1pm**. Tickets cost £2.50 each, which include a map for the route around the village and a small prize. There will also be refreshments, crafts to do and a Tombola. Come and join in the fun!

Get your tickets by calling 07974435266 or on www.feastweek.co.uk

Finally, last month's winner of 200 Club received £51 in the draw.

Could this be You next month?

Remember there are 3 prizes awarded each month & the prize fund doubles during Feast Week itself. So what are you waiting for? – tickets cost £5/month by standing order or £60 pa. Be in it to win it!

Contact us on 200club@feastweek.co.uk

The other day my wife asked me to pass her lipstick but i accidentally passed her the glue stick.

She still isn't talking to me.

HILTON PRODUCE SHOW

Crown Imperials (Fritillaria Imperialis)

Members of the lily family, these plants are one of the stars of a spring garden. They look extraordinary. In height alone, they top their neighbouring tulips and narcissi, growing to between 70 and 90cms. They manage to stand alone, up straight without any staking, unbowed by any storms because of the strength of their stems. The most striking thing about their appearance is the flowerhead which forms a ring of pendent blooms, above which there rises a green tuft, rather like the crest of a pineapple.

Their origins are in the mountainous regions of eastern Turkey, Kurdistan and Iran. There are stunning photographs of them 'at home' on rocky tors with towering snow-capped peaks in the distance. The distinctive appearance has appealed to artists and writers as well as horticulturists. They appear in Dutch flower painting of the 17th Century in those wonderful but unlikely assortments such as **Ambrosius Bosschaert's** : tulips, irises, roses aquilegia and fritillaria in a vase; pretending that roses and tulips bloomed at the same time was outmoded by the time of Van Gogh who painted a stunning collection of orange hued Crown Imperials in a copper vase. The colour of the vase complements the flowers beautifully set against a dark background.

Particular features of the inflorescence have been the stuff of legend. In Iranian and Western culture, the flowers droop in respect of a holy man's death and the tear-shaped black marks on the base of each of the six flowers (nectaries/sources of nectar) represent the plant weeping for the departed.

Personally, I mourn when they depart from the garden, because they make such a majestic addition to a flowerbed.

One further legend seems to be that they dislike heavy clay soils. We are on clay, yet the plants thrive, possibly because they also like an alkaline base. Some garden manuals recommend planting the bulbs on a handful of grit (to remind them of home and stop any rot). However, the bulbs thrive in Hilton without a stony bed. Although the bulbs are expensive (£4.00 on St. Ives market), they multiply. I bought four orange ones two years ago and they have doubled.



Gods with clay feet? Despite the striking beauty of their appearance and imperial name occasioned by the 'crown of flowers', the bulbs

have an unpleasant smell which is often described as foxy. This however has the great benefit of deterring pests. No rabbit, or muntjac deer has attacked them and so they give pleasure year on year. Claire Sarkies