

April 2026

The Journal

Fen Drayton ▪ Fenstanton ▪ Hilton

Feeding garden birds

See page 20

Easter egg trails

See pages 13, 15 & 16

Rockfield Studios visited

On page 38

50 years of rain

On page 32

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Things are never as they seem



On 23 April we celebrate St George's Day and the white flag with a red cross will be flown across England. However, our English saint was really a Greek speaking Roman military officer who never visited our green and pleasant land. Whilst he died not wanting to renounce his Christian faith, he never killed a dragon. This part of his story was added 500 years after his death.

We have celebrated St George's day since at least the 8th century and his emblem of the red cross on a white background has been popular with royalty since Henry 1. Unfortunately he is not exclusive to us, as we share St George with Venice, Genoa, Portugal, Ethiopia and Catalonia.

One thing that is certain is that this issue of The Journal has more interesting articles, all true, such as a study of rainfall in our area since 1976. With our travel feature we visit the sun kissed island of Barbados and closer to home we are enjoying the colour in our gardens as spring unfolds.

From all at The Journal we hope you enjoy this edition

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Please submit any copy by 10 April latest for the May edition.

Cover photograph by Malcolm Lynn

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Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

April 2026

- 29 March-05 April Hilton Easter Trail
- 03 PTA Easter Egg Trail, Primary School
- 04 Easter Egg Hunt, Village Hall
- 09 Thursday Lunch Club, Welcome Space, Church Centre
- 12 Children's Easter Party, Village Hall
- 18 Quiz Fundraiser for Alzheimer's, Primary School
- 18 Books & Jigsaws Sale, URC

May 2026

- 01 Dancing up the Dawn, Clock Tower
- 02 Walking in Faith round Fen Drayton Nature Reserve, (meet in Over, see ad)
- 02-03 Bowls Club Open Days
- 16-17 'Church Full of Art', St Mary's Church
- 16-17 Open Gardens
- 23 Comedy Night, Village Hall

June 2026

- 10 Talk, History of Papworth Hospital, Three Tuns
- 18-20 Booze in Fenstanton Pews, Parish Church
- 28 Fen Drayton Summer Fete, Village Hall
- 27 June-04 July Scarecrow Competition

July 2026

- 04 BIG Village Fun Day, School Field
- 10 Sip and Paint, Village Hall
- 19-25 Hilton Feast Week

September 2026

- 12 Hobbies and Collectibles Day, URC

If you have an event coming up that you would like to have listed on this page please send the details to Anne at fenstanton@thejournal.life

**Booze in
Fenstanton Pews**

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Fenstanton Community Hall

A new space for everyone in the heart of Fenstanton is opening in early Summer

Looking for a warm, welcoming space to meet others, get active, learn new skills or simply enjoy a good cup of coffee?

The new Fenstanton Community Hall is looking to bring together facilities and activities for all ages — addressing isolation, improving wellbeing and supporting our growing community.

What we're planning:

- **Community Café:** Barista coffee, tea, snacks, comfortable seating and a warm informal social space
- **Fitness & Wellbeing:** Including specialist, senior, rehab and wellbeing sessions; yoga, Tai Chi, and indoor sports, including short mat bowls
- **Youth Hub:** gym, fitness and performing arts sessions, music & gaming, holiday clubs, social area and skills training (such as barista, DoE, first aid, babysitting)
- **Families & Early Years:** A friendly space for babies, toddlers, parents and carers
- **Digital Access:** Public IT facilities and digital support for those who need help online
- **Community Support:** Advice and signposting, links to the mobile library, local government services and a community resilience hub
- **Events Hall & Stage:** Theatre, cinema nights, concerts, comedy and community event



A space built by Fenstanton, for Fenstanton.

Join us, get involved, or simply come in for a cuppa and a chat.

We are keen to speak to volunteers, those looking to set up or run community groups, or help fund our activities, or willing to provide skills and expertise.

Come along to one of our open days or get in contact. To find out more, scan the QR code, go to: www.fenstantonvillagehall.org or email: contact@fenstantonvillagehall.org.

Working together to build a stronger, healthier, more connected community.



Village News



Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants Hunts Local Group



The Hunts Local Group of the Wildlife Trust and The Hunts Fauna and Flora Society are collaborating and offering joint programmes starting in April.

Sunday 26th April 2.30pm Brampton Wood. This walk will be led by Tim Fryer, who will take us to the less visited areas of the wood, weather permitting. We hope to see the spring flowers in bloom, such as bluebells, wood anemone and celandine and also listen for birdsong from warblers and song thrush, among many others. This is a notoriously wet ancient woodland, so please wear appropriate footwear.

Details of meeting points, bookings and payment can be found on the Wildlife Trust website <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/wild-events>. Contact Tim Fryer 07941261346 ; timpfryer@gmail.com

Sunday 3rd May 2.30pm Midloe Grange Farm, Stirtloe. This walk will be led by the farm's owner, David Felce. David will show us his ancient wildflower meadow, ponds, hedges and field margins sown with grasses and wildflowers. He will explain how he balances the needs of wildlife and farming and his latest venture participating in a National Register for Biodiversity Net Gain. Everyone is invited to share tea and cake at the end of the walk. Details of meeting points, bookings and payment can be found on the Wildlife Trust website <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/wild-events>. Contact Bridget Halford

Friday 22nd May 10.30 am Old Sulehay Nature Reserve. This walk will be led by Leo Barrett. We will look at the ancient woodland that is covered with bluebells and wild garlic, plus the more open areas of grassland where there is rare flora to be found. We will also look for bullfinches, warblers, nuthatch and treecreepers. We will stop for a picnic lunch.

Details of meeting points, bookings and payment can be found on the Wildlife Trust website <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/wild-events>. Contact Bridget Halford

Tell us about your travels

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If you think we may be able to help, contact the Clerk to the Trustees at clerk@fenstantontownestate.com or Clerk to the Fenstanton Town Trust c/o 10 Conington Road Fenstanton PE289LB

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Hilton Village Hall

It has been a busy and productive few months for the Village Hall Committee as we continue working to maintain and improve this important community space.

Recently, a new fire alarm system and upgraded emergency lighting have been installed at the hall. These improvements help ensure the building remains safe and welcoming for everyone who uses it.

The work was partially funded through a generous donation from Hilton Town Trust, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks for their support. We are also currently introducing a new online booking system for the hall, which will be launching soon. This will make it much easier for people to check availability and make bookings, helping more groups and residents make use of the hall.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 20 April at 8:00pm at the Village Hall, and everyone is warmly invited to attend. At present, the hall is run by a very small committee of just four volunteers. While we are all committed to keeping the hall running, this is simply not sustainable in the long term. The Village Hall is a valued asset for the whole community, and its future depends on more people getting involved.



We are therefore looking for new volunteers to join the committee. In particular, we are seeking someone willing to take on the role of Treasurer, as well as someone who could help coordinate building repairs and improvements that will be needed over the coming years. Just as importantly, we are also looking for general committee members who are willing to lend a hand, share ideas, and help with the decisions that keep the hall running smoothly. You don't need any special experience — just a willingness to help support an important community facility. Even a small contribution of time can make a real difference and help ensure the Village Hall continues to thrive for years to come.

If you would like to get involved, or simply find out more about what is involved, email info@hiltonvillagehall.com or please do come along to the AGM. We would be delighted to welcome you.

Let's do coffee

In the coming months The Journal will be reviewing local places to go for a coffee. In the area we have a number of coffee shops or places you can meet for a coffee. Where are they and what are they like? We will be spilling the beans! If you have a favourite place that you would like included in the magazine, let us know. Send your suggestions to info@thejournal.life



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Coffee Mornings at Hilton Methodist Hall, Potton Road

Saturday, 4 April 10:00 - 12:00

Saturday, 2 May 10:00 - 12:00

Come and Join Us for a Coffee and a Chat!

Everyone Welcome

Some places of interest - Part 6

This month we are heading to the east and north-east, to some delightful places which should appeal to a wide range of interests including history, horse racing and more.

Anglesey Abbey CB25 3EJ

A Jacobean-style house with a watermill, park and 114 acres of landscaped gardens, with magnificent displays of roses, dahlias and snowdrops in their respective seasons. Owned by the National Trust. Café and large car park. More details on the National Trust website:- www.nationaltrust.org.uk



Quy Hall CB25 9AJ

A Grade II* listed English privately-owned country house, sitting in attractive gardens with open views of parkland to the south over an historic ha-ha. Small, pre-booked, group tours only. See the Historic Houses website for more details:- www.historichouses.org



Denny Abbey and Farmland Museum CB25 9PQ

A 12th Century, Grade 1 listed building which has served many purposes in its time. The Farmland Museum includes a 1940s Village Shop and an extensive collection of farming equipment. Open Thursday – Sunday 10:00am – 4:00pm from the end of March to the beginning of November. See their website for more details:- <https://dennyfarmlandmuseum.org.uk>



National Horse Racing Museum, Newmarket CB8 8EP

A 5-acre site in the centre of Newmarket, the historic home of horse racing, telling the story of horse racing from its earliest origins to the present day. One of only four venues in the East of England to be awarded Gold status by VisitEngland.

See the NHRM website for more details:- www.nhrm.co.uk



Denver Sluice PE38 0EG

A fascinating and vitally important complex for water management across large parts of the Fens, situated at the confluence of five watercourses. Today the complex is managed by the Environment Agency (EA) which also provides a small interpretation centre. The EA has produced a 5-minute video explanation of the complex:- An overview of the Denver Complex



Wicken Windmill CB7 5XR

Probably the only working 12-sided smock windmill in the world, the mill is also the windiest in Britain, with 99,000 revolutions of the sails in 2025. The mill is open to the public on the first full weekend of each month, March to November from 10:30 to 17:30 and at other times when the sails are turning. More details on the Visit East of England website.



Village News

Chatteris Museum PE16 6AE

A small museum focusing on the natural and cultural heritage of Chatteris and the surrounding Fenland villages. Open Thursdays 2pm – 4pm, Fridays 10am – 1 pm and Saturdays 2 – 4pm. Two new galleries, featuring trade and industry in the town and a newly-created model railway. More details at chatterismuseum.org.uk



Ely Cathedral CB7 4DL

A magnificent Romanesque cathedral with a unique octagonal tower, completed in 1342, Ely cathedral is counted among the wonders of the medieval world. Much of the cathedral is over 900 years old. Visitor Entry Monday – Saturday 9:30am – 4:00pm. Tickets £14-00, valid for 1 year. (Under 16s Free) Supplementary charge for tours of the octagonal tower.



Oliver Cromwell's House, Ely CB7 4HF

The former home of one of England's most remarkable historical figures. The house now boasts a Civil War Exhibition with impressive interactive displays and interpretations. You can also experience what life was like on the Civil War battlefields in their mini encampment.

More details at:- www.olivercromwellshouse.co.uk



Peckover House, Wisbech, PE13 1JR

A classic Georgian merchant's town house, lived in by the Peckover family for 150 years. Outstanding 2 acre gardens, complete with orangery, summer-houses, croquet lawn and rose garden. Owned by the National Trust. See the National Trust website for more details.



Octavia Hill's Birthplace, Wisbech, PE13 1JB

An opportunity to discover the remarkable story of Octavia Hill's life and her influence on many spheres of modern life, including social housing, the Army Cadets and the National Trust. The house was built around 1740 and is Grade II* listed. Open Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays 11:30am – 4:00pm until October. More details at:- <https://octaviahill.org>



Devil's Dyke CB25 0JD (Reach)

A linear earthen barrier, about 1,450 years old, which runs for 12 kilometres (7.5 miles) between Reach, Cambridgeshire and Woodditton in Suffolk, with a 10-metre-high (33ft) ditch and bank system facing southwestwards. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is managed by Cambridgeshire County Council.



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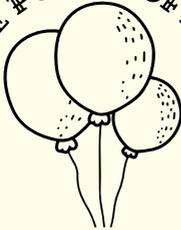


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If you would like to know more or think we can help please contact us on

Hiltontowntrust@gmail.com or
by phone on 01480 830866

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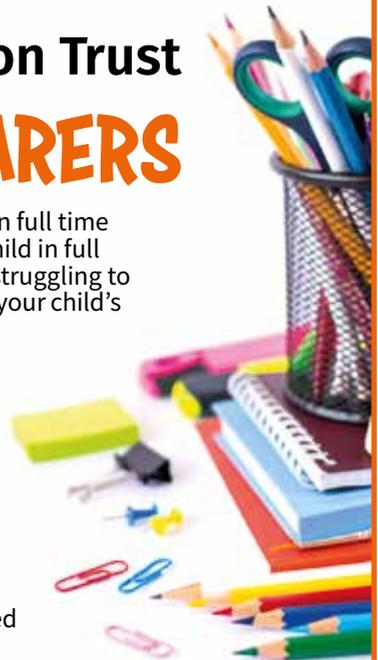
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Hilton Feast Week

We are looking forward to our Family Egg Hunt, and hope that lots of you will join us on Saturday 4 April (Easter Saturday) from 10.30am to 1pm for a fun-filled morning for families. The hunt will start and finish at the Village Hall, where you can pick up your trail map for £3. Each completed trail earns a small chocolate egg, and one person who manages to count all of the eggs correctly along the route will win a large Easter egg prize.

Back at the Village Hall there will be craft activities, games and refreshments, making it a lovely way to spend the morning with family and friends. We're also delighted that animals from Monach Farm will be joining us, which is always a big hit with children. There's no need to book – just come along and take part. Everyone is very welcome.

Looking a little further ahead, please make sure you have saved the date for this year's Feast Week, which will run from 19–25 July 2026. The theme for this year is “Hilton Does

Hollywood”, and the committee is already busy planning a week full of entertainment, events and activities for all ages. We're looking forward to another fantastic celebration together.

If you run a local business and would like to advertise in the Feast Week programme, we would love to hear from you. Advertising helps support the running of the week and is a great way to reach the local community. Please contact the committee at committee@feastweek.co.uk or get in touch through our social media channels.

As always, thank you to everyone who helps make these events possible. We hope to see lots of you at the Egg Hunt, and we look forward to sharing more Feast Week updates soon.

HILTON DOES HOLLYWOOD

HILTON FEAST WEEK
2026
19th-25th JULY

★★★★★ **UNMISSABLE**
★★★★★ **FUN FOR ALL**

Family Egg Hunt

Saturday 4th April 2026

£3 per map
for the egg hunt route around the village,
this includes a small prize at the end.

Join us at

Hilton Village Hall
10.30am - 1.00pm

There will also be -

Crafts Refreshments Games



**FOR CHILDREN
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EASTER TRAIL

**PALM SUNDAY (29TH MARCH) -
EASTER SUNDAY (5TH APRIL)
AT THE CHURCHES IN HILTON -
ALL DAY EVERY DAY**



Find the animals
on posters and find
out about the
Easter story



Adults, please bring along a mobile
phone or iPad to be able to access
the stories via QR code

The Royal British Legion



This year, the Poppy Appeal fortnight begins both nationally and locally on Saturday 25 October and ends on Remembrance Sunday, 8 November.

Yes, that's months ahead - but events like this are planned almost immediately from one year to the next. For instance, the members of the St Ives branch have already discussed how to improve on previous Remembrance Sundays in the town.

Hilton is no different - don't forget to have 25 October in your diary for our fundraising day in the village hall. The warmth and friendship of the three previous years are much remembered and this year will be no different - so spread the word!

Meanwhile, here in Hilton a large group of ladies is already delivering knitted poppies which will be decorating the small bridge beside the Lychgate - unless anyone has a better spot!

Thank you, ladies, for your efforts so far - but would any gentlemen like to help?

By late summer the poppies will need to be mounted on their netting support.

(Permission has been obtained from the owners, Cambridgeshire County Council)

Obviously, the more we have, the greater the effect will be, so if you would like to contribute in any way contact 01480 831186 for wool or the simple pattern of only 15 rows per poppy.



Find a defibrillator near you

We hope you never need a defibrillator, but if you did they are located in various places throughout our villages. The locations are below with the  what3words location references.

Fen Drayton Village Hall on Cootes Lane
moons.grumbles.admires

Fenstanton Ash's Store (NISA) on the High Street
pouting.cabinet.washroom

Fenstanton Church Centre on School Lane
reclusive.creeps.deleting

Fenstanton Zaza barbers on Headlands
thing.pylon.relatives

Hilton Prince of Wales Pub on Potton Road
mindset.skip.pulps

Hilton Cricket Pavilion
clerk.farmland.unroll



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Fenstanton BIG Village Fun Day

Saturday 4 July 2026

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EAST ANGLIA PILGRIMS
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2 May: An 8 mile pilgrimage
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Church, Cambs. CB24 5NQ.
(10am start)

All are welcome to enjoy a time
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Tips on feeding birds in your garden

Feeding birds in your garden can be one of the most rewarding ways to connect with nature. Watching species like robins, sparrows, and finches visit your feeders brings life and movement to your outdoor space. However, even well-meaning bird lovers can accidentally make mistakes that discourage birds or even harm them. According to wildlife experts, here are six common bird-feeding mistakes you might be making—and how to fix them.

Using the wrong type of food

Not all birds eat the same foods. A common mistake is filling feeders with cheap seed mixes that contain lots of filler ingredients such as wheat or millet, which many birds simply ignore. Experts recommend offering high-quality foods like sunflower seeds, peanuts, and suet. These attract a wider range of birds and provide the high energy they need, especially during colder months. And, bread is not good for birds, regularly feeding bread to birds can lead to problems for them. Bread is high in carbohydrates, and therefore does not provide the right balance of nutrients that birds need to thrive.

Forgetting to clean feeders

Dirty feeders can quickly become breeding grounds for bacteria and mould. When birds gather at contaminated feeders, diseases can spread rapidly among them. Wildlife organisations recommend cleaning feeders at least once every two weeks—more often in warm or wet weather. Use warm soapy water or a mild disinfectant, rinse thoroughly, and allow feeders to dry before refilling them.

Placing feeders in unsafe locations

Location matters more than many people realise. Feeders placed too close to windows can lead to bird collisions, while those set in

completely open areas leave birds vulnerable to predators such as cats. Experts suggest positioning feeders near shrubs or trees that provide cover, but not so close that predators can easily hide and pounce.

Overfilling feeders

It might seem generous to fill feeders to the top every time, but overfilling can cause food to spoil before birds eat it. Seeds exposed to rain can become damp and mouldy, which can be dangerous for birds. Instead, fill feeders with smaller amounts and replenish them regularly to keep food fresh.

Ignoring seasonal needs

Birds' dietary needs change throughout the year. In winter, high-fat foods like suet and peanuts help birds maintain their energy in cold weather. During spring and summer, birds may prefer softer foods and insects as they feed their chicks. Adjusting what you offer throughout the year can help support birds during the most important stages of their life cycle.

Feeding without providing water

Many people focus on food but forget that birds also need access to clean water. Fresh water is essential for drinking and bathing, which helps birds maintain healthy feathers. Adding a shallow birdbath near your feeders can make your garden even more attractive to birds. Just remember to refresh the water regularly and keep the bath clean.

Feeding birds can make a real difference to local wildlife, but doing it properly is key. By choosing the right food, keeping feeders clean, and creating a safe environment, you'll not only attract more birds - you'll help keep them healthy too. Small changes can turn your garden into a reliable haven for birds all year round.





Scan here to see our opening times or join our mailing list to be kept up to date with our latest news.



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April 17TH - SEAFOOD NIGHT

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April 17th, 18th, 19th - P.Y.O AT THE FLOWER FIELD

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April 17th - CRAFT BUTCHERS

Sausage Spectacular, 3-hour workshop with our craft butcher, Remi. Learn how to make sausages and take home 1kg to enjoy with your family. Call 07908 420752

April 25th - CRAFT BUTCHERS

Butchery Workshop, 3-hour workshop, learn how to cut flat iron, rib-eye and sirloin steaks. The perfect gift for a foodie! Call 07908 420752

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A background image for an Easter party. It features a light blue wooden plank surface. On the left side, there is a pile of green grass with several colorful Easter cookies. The cookies include a purple egg with a yellow zigzag pattern, a white bunny, a purple tulip, and a blue egg with a white bunny. On the right side, there are more cookies, including a yellow carrot, a blue egg with white dots, a pink egg, and a white bunny. Small colorful Easter eggs are scattered throughout the grass.

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PARTY**
SUNDAY 12TH APRIL 1PM-4PM

At Fen Drayton Village Hall
Join us for Easter crafts, Easter Egg
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Ian Sollom MP



Potholes and damaged roads in Cambridgeshire

I know that drivers are fed up, even frightened, and spending far too much money on car repairs due to potholes and subsidence in our roads across Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire County Council has had to repeatedly fix these roads for years, but the funding it receives from the Government is massively stretched and doesn't account at all for the unique geology of the terrain in Cambridgeshire. Built largely on fen soils, our roads are particularly susceptible to deterioration during wet weather and extreme heatwaves, and cost up to four times as much to maintain, with repairs lasting just a fraction of the time.

I recently raised this with the Secretary of State in Parliament, who said she understood the situation and would pass it on to the relevant minister. I am now awaiting a response to my letter to the Minister for Roads, in which I urged the Government to recognise the crisis we are facing with our roads in Cambridgeshire, and pressing for action to address the pothole funding deficit.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms

I know many parents have been anxiously awaiting the Government's proposals to reform the SEND system. Every child deserves high-quality education, and nearly every week I hear from families across St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire who are having to fight exhausting battles to get the right support for their children.

Reform of the system is long overdue: it's preventing children from accessing their education, putting huge stress on families, and costing local authorities far too much. So, it's welcome that the Government is taking solid steps towards solving these issues.

However, if ministers want to really rebuild trust, they must guarantee that legal rights will not be stripped, that settled placements won't be disrupted, and that accountability – including meaningful routes of appeal – will remain strong and effective. Changes to how tribunals work are seriously concerning to parents who will be fearful that their rights are being taken away. Families must be at the centre of these reforms; not cut out from the few rights they have.

We Liberal Democrats are demanding that every penny for SEND provision be spent on frontline teachers and specialists, not diverted to offshore dividends from schools backed by private equity. This would ensure long-term security for special schools, so they are not simply assets to be flipped by investment funds.

My office remains available to provide support with individual SEND and EHCP issues. Please contact me at ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk and one of my team will be in touch soon.

Surgeries and Further Information

Each week I have been holding both in-person and online surgeries to speak directly to constituents about their issues. If you feel you have a problem I could help with, or you have a campaign matter you would like to discuss with me, please don't hesitate to contact me at ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk to request a surgery appointment. I regularly update constituents on my work in Parliament and across St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire through an email newsletter. If you would like to sign up, please do so at www.iansollom.org/emails.



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Talks schedule - 2026

6.30pm start at the Three Tuns Pub

Neolithic cattle grazing - including brief visit to FD's own site - 15 April

Speaker: David Saunders (archaeologist)

Talk sponsored by Stubbins, Fen Drayton – with thanks

Papworth Hospital – local history - 10 June

Speaker: Steve Bridge (CEO 1988 to 2016)

St Mary's, Fen Drayton - tour + talk - 12 August

Led by: Revd Geoff Dodgson

Sport in Fen Drayton - come and share your memories - 14 October

Led by: Nigel Fenner

Cost: £3 / talk - PLEASE email nigel.fenner@ntlworld.com for more info.

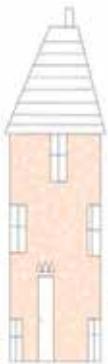
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Fen Drayton

Community Cafe

Saturday April 11th

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Homemade cakes

The bounty of Barbados

By Denise May

Barbados is a sun-kissed tropical coral island in the Caribbean that is just slightly bigger than the Isle of Wight. It may seem to have nothing much more to offer than beaches, but there is so much more, and I've been lucky enough to enjoy much of it.

It's true: the beaches of the West and South coasts are indeed beautiful, with white sand of crushed coral that never gets burning hot, even in the usual year-round daily temperature of 28 degrees Celsius. The sky and sea on that Caribbean side are usually turquoise, and the water is so warm. All the beaches are open to the public. You can hire a sunbed or take a towel to lie on even if you are not staying in the hotel that fronts your chosen beach.

But there is so much more.

The natural wildlife of Barbados can be seen in the amazing Graeme Hall Sanctuary, a mangrove wetland with well-marked



walkways and viewing points, and where wildlife is all around you. The few caged creatures have been taken there to protect their lives, or to protect the visitors. We got packs to feed the huge tarpon fish, and to feed the birds that flew round us in the two huge aviaries, one for parrots and

one for rescued wildlife of budgies, quails and peacocks, where there were also iguanas basking on the side of the pond. As we walked around we saw many resident and migratory birds, and had the joy of meeting Gary the Gander wandering about. He's a Chinese Goose who has chosen to live here and is a friend of the staff.

We took a catamaran cruise which takes you along the idyllic West coast. These are large



craft with up to 50 passengers and an experienced crew to keep everyone safe. All drinks are free and there's a sumptuous lunch, followed by snorkeling with sea turtles. This is one of the best days out for pure pleasure, but make sure you use plenty of sun cream as the reflections from the water and the effect of the breeze will quickly burn you.

Welchman Hall Gully is a fine example of the original lush and exotic vegetation of the island. Prior to colonisation and the creation of sugar plantations the whole island, apart from wetlands, would have been covered in these plants and trees. If you're lucky you will also spot some Green Monkeys playing in the trees.

To see a more cultivated area there is the beautiful Hunte's Gardens. We opted though to visit the amazing Andromeda Botanic Gardens, which have featured on Gardener's World. These were created by the widely travelled plants woman Iris Bannochie, who brought back plants from every place she visited and then nurtured them in her own garden.

And then there is the wild, rugged and incredibly beautiful Atlantic East coast with the amazingly huge boulders along the coast at Bathsheba. No swimming in these waters. The contrast with the West coast is extraordinary.

For a taste of history we visited the impressive Sunbury Plantation house which transports you back to those sugar plantation times. It also highlights the awful inequalities of the era of slavery. This is an important factor that should not be forgotten. Also worth a visit is the George Washington House with its mysterious garrison tunnels. George Washington spent almost 7 weeks here when he was just 19.



A great afternoon out, if there is an event on the calendar, is the famous Garrison Savannah racecourse. Why not have a flutter? Even if you are not a betting person the atmosphere is fun. Or you can have a tour of the Mountgay Rum Distillery. This is the world's oldest commercial rum distillery, founded in 1703 and once linked to a thriving trade for pirates. This is the rum for the traditional rum punch of Barbados!

There are very many restaurants, cafes and street bars, especially in the St Lawrence Gap area where we stayed. Some have fine food and some are more like local cafes. There is live music every evening in the Chattel Village and a steel band a couple of times a week in one of the hotels, but on a Friday night the best experience is Oistin's fish market. There are delicious fish suppers to be had there (like marlin with macaroni pie) and an

Trains, Boats and Planes



evening of entertainment, as well as many street craft stalls. And of course at some stage you should enjoy a cocktail and watch the sun go down (at about 6pm every night) from the West coast.

We mostly used a hire car for our island tours, but you can also either join organised tours or hire a taxi for the day to visit some of the sites. And there are corporation buses and the ZR (zed-ar) minibuses that all charge 3.50BDS whatever distance you travel. The ZR can be an exciting experience in itself – not for the faint hearted at a busy time, when they pack as many people in as they can and drive as fast as they can get away with.

The people of Barbados are so friendly and

happy. However, just because the rich and famous go there, don't expect the whole island to be upmarket. Most places need a lick of paint, but that just adds to the charm.

A fabulous holiday with so much more to see and do than you can fit in. There's still the Animal Fower Cave, the submarine trip, limestone caverns at Harrison's Caves, shopping in Bridgetown, golf, potteries, the museum and the art gallery, island safari, go karting, Paradise Nature Park, cricket at Kensington Oval, St Nicholas Abbey, and still more.

Best I go back again then to try some other experiences there!





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Fenstanton Morris

Morris Dancing in St Ives on Easter Saturday



Fenstanton Morris will be joining other Morris sides to dance at various sites in St Ives on Easter Saturday - we are much looking forward to it and hope to see you there.

We are also doing our traditional dance at dawn at Fenstanton Clock Tower on 1 May at 5.30am [yes, that's 5.30am] to make sure the summer comes this year!

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Making a Difference Locally

Updates from Clare Tevlin, your District Councillor



Dear residents,

This will be my final item for *The Journal*. I'm incredibly proud that we now have an award-winning community magazine - thank you to Nigel and the team who produce and deliver it. Long may it continue. It is with a heavy heart that I have decided not to stand for re-election in May's District Election, and I will officially be stepping down as your (Lib Dem) District Councillor. Some may know that I stood as the Lib Dem Parliamentary candidate for Milton Keynes North in 2024, and now, pastures anew are calling.

Born and raised in Hilton and Fenstanton, my passion for our community remains strong. I continue to be involved in the **Fenstanton New Village Hall** and look forward to seeing it open this summer. I care deeply for Cambridgeshire and look forward to what the future holds with regards to **Local Government Reorganisation**. Over the past four years, I've served diligently as a Committee Member for Planning, Licensing, Scrutiny and Corporate Governance at Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). I was also co-opted for a year onto Cambridgeshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee, representing Huntingdonshire. Whilst some decisions may not always go the way we would hope, democratic engagement is vital, and I strongly encourage residents to keep using your voice to advocate for better.

I'm especially proud to see both the Hilton and Fenstanton Community Hubs flourishing, as a result of District Council initial Community Chest funding. There is still funding available for local groups via **Huntingdonshire's Community Health and Wealth Building Fund**. You can find more information here: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/people-communities/huntingdonshire-community-health-and-wealth-building-strategy

It has been a privilege to be part of the Lib Dem-led Joint Administration at HDC, which has delivered a **balanced budget** and positioned Huntingdonshire strongly for the

future. During this term, we introduced a **Council Tax Support Scheme** for those on low incomes, launched the District's first **Climate Strategy** and **Strategy for Place**, invested in our Market Towns, and continued work on the new Local Plan.

I'm also pleased to see the **Tiger Bus** service thriving - as they say, "use it or lose it"! Back in 2022, public transport in our district was in crisis. Thanks to the Council's effective working with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, we secured Bus Franchising and got local services running again, including the **Tiger and Ting services**.

Before my time as a Councillor, I led a project focused on Child Exploitation, including County Lines drug trafficking and serious violence awareness and prevention. Protecting our children is more urgent than ever in our communities, and I hope this vital



work continues. I will remain a passionate advocate for child safeguarding, community safety, and the need for greater investment in supporting our children and young people.

From one proud torchbearer to the next, it has been a pleasure to serve, and I wish my successor all the very best. You can still contact me (until polling day on May 7) via clare.tevlin@huntingdonshire.gov.uk Alternative email is clare-122@hotmail.co.uk

Warmest wishes
Cllr Clare Tevlin

Step into the Past

Fifty Years of daily rainfall records in Hilton

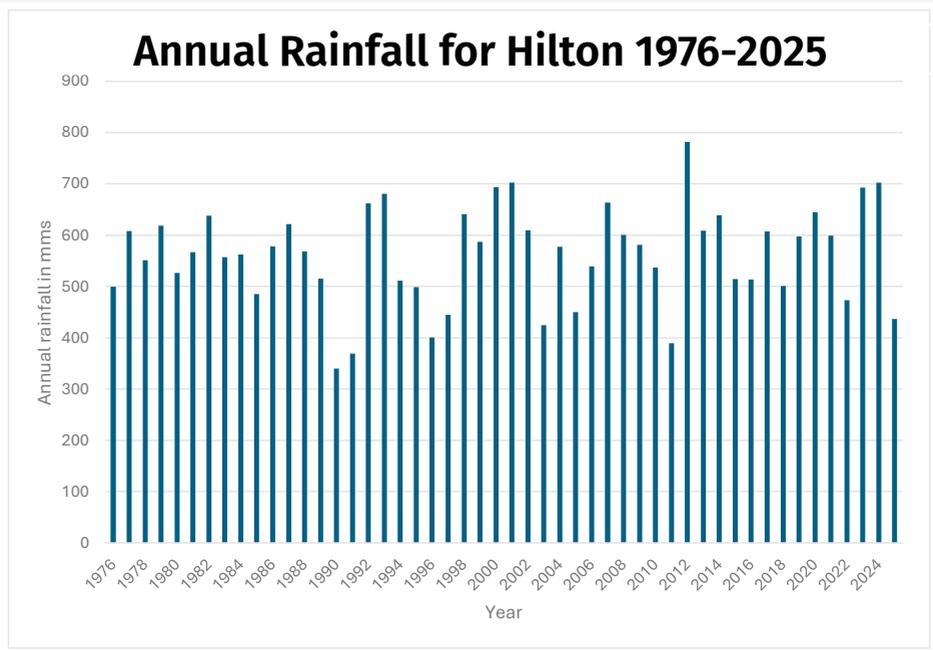
By Gillian Sheail

On New Year's Day 2026, as I measured the rainfall for the previous day, I reached a landmark in recording daily rainfall for the Meteorological Office and the Environment Agency. I had recorded Hilton's rainfall every day for 50 years, from January 1st 1976 to December 31st 2025.

The Meteorological Office rain gauge for Hilton is situated in the back garden of our house in Mill Hill End. It is a cylinder of 5 inches diameter with the top 30cms exposed above the grass, and the bottom buried in the turf, positioned in the middle of the lawn well away from overhanging bushes and trees. Every morning at 9am GMT in the winter, or 10am BST in the summer, I take off the top part of the gauge (a sturdy funnel with vertical sides) to reveal a large bottle in which the rain is collected.

The water is transferred to a measuring cylinder, which is calibrated with respect to the 5-inch diameter funnel. The measured amount of rainfall for the previous 24 hours is recorded in the log (a procedure referred to as 'throwing back'). Every month the figures are sent by post to the Environment Agency in Brampton, where they are entered into the computer and forwarded to the Meteorological Office in Exeter.

There are stringent standards for siting of rain gauges to ensure comparability of results across





Met Office Inspection, The Kiff Mushroom is placed on top of the rain gauge

the country. A Met Office official oversees the installation of the gauge, and inspects it every three years to ensure that it is in good condition, and the exposure still conforms with the set-standards.

A strange gadget, called a Kiff Mushroom, is used to determine the correct exposure of the gauge. This is placed on top of the gauge to record the position and height of surrounding vegetation and obstructions (such as washing lines and fences). The exact position of the gauge is recorded by GPS, and numerous photos are taken of its position. The gauge itself, the measuring cylinder and my log book of readings are thoroughly examined.

Hilton now has a record of exactly how much rain has fallen, and of dry days, for every day of the last 50 years. This is considered to be a very long and valued rainfall record to which I continue to add readings daily. Recording the amount of rain in the gauge has become part of life. I do it on time every morning just as one might feed the cat or clean one's teeth. However I am very grateful to local friends who are called upon when I am away to ensure that the rainfall is measured daily at the correct time. While Hilton's record is not

unique, there are very few villages with such a long detailed record.

What does the 50-year record show us about rainfall in Hilton?

- 1) **Annual rainfall** figures show considerable variation from year to year, with the lowest of 339.9mm in 1990 and the highest of 781.8mm in 2012. These figures are shown on the graph. The 50-year average annual rainfall is 562mm.
- 2) **Monthly rainfall** figures vary considerably. There is no pattern to indicate that one month is consistently more or less rainy than any other. The smallest monthly total of only 1mm occurred in August 2003, followed closely by 1.4mm in April 2011 (so much for 'April showers'). In contrast, the wettest month ever was August 2010 with 145.5mm, followed by June 1982 with 144.6mm. In the context of monthly rainfall, last year, 2025, experienced the lowest March figure of 2.4mm and the highest November amount of 125.2mm, thus breaking two monthly records in one year.
- 3) **Daily rainfall** figures show great variety. Although most daily readings are less than 10mms, days with over that amount occur a few times throughout the year, usually considered as days of exceptional rainfall. In 1977 for example, which was a very wet year, daily rainfall exceeded 10mm once in each of the four months of February, March, October and December, twice in June (both figures above 30mm) and four times in August, which was exceptionally wet that year. To put these figures in context, taking 2018 as an average example, March and August each had one day with over 10mm rain, May and October each had two days, while the very wet April had three such days. However hardly any rain fell in June and July that year.

Hilton's claim to fame occurred in 2013, when it was mentioned in the Annual Report, relating to a period of intense localised rainfall in the Anglia Region,


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Route H9 – 2nd Tuesday In The Month

Fen Drayton Primary School	2.30pm – 3.30pm
Fen Drayton War Memorial	3.40pm – 4.10pm

.....

Route H11 – 2nd Thursday In The Month

Hilton Village Hall	2.00pm – 2.40pm
Fenstanton Headlands	2.50pm – 3.40pm
Fenstanton Chapel Green	3.50pm – 4.20pm

.....

Route H25 – 4th Thursday In The Month

Fenstanton Chapel Green	9.30am – 10.00am
Fenstanton Headlands	10.10am – 10.45am



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Step into the Past

'.....from 23rd July for several days some downpours were particularly intense, with the highest recorded daily total made by a rainfall observer in Hilton of 73 mm, the equivalent of 6 weeks of rain falling within one day.'

On that morning I measured 72.8mm of rain, which was 'thrown back' to July 22nd, a huge amount, almost filling the collecting bottle in the gauge, and the most I have ever recorded for one day. My previous 'all time high' was 50.8mm on August 6th 2009 - the July 22nd 2013 figure was nearly a third more.

It is very useful to refer to the rainfall record when periods of extreme drought or flooding occur. Such events have featured in village life over the past 50 years. For example, there were very severe floods in October 2001, as photos and press reports show. On 20th October 38mm of rain fell, with 47mm the following day. It was reported that fire crews were sent to rescue 7 people from their homes in Hilton, while the local newspapers featured pictures of children enjoying wading through water by the crossroads.



Children wade in flood water at The Crossroads. This photo was on the front page of the St Ives Weekly News October 25th, 2001

How and why did I become a volunteer Rainfall Observer?

Born and brought up in Eastbourne, I was always interested in the weather, and, at the first school I attended, the weather was entered on a chart during Assembly every day. One of my classmates was Michael Fish, who later became a well-known BBC weatherman - so perhaps this did make an impression on us. When I was in the sixth-form I was responsible for the records from



Flooding at the crossroads, October 2001

the school weather station. At about the same time, my geography teacher received a request from a meteorologist who was examining the microclimate of the South Downs, asking for volunteers to assist by taking daily rainfall readings from gauges at the top and foot of the South Downs.

I was delighted to have a rain gauge in our garden, and willing to climb to the top of the Downs behind our house each morning before school to the gauge that was 500 feet higher. This I did for 18 months.

Fast forward to 1970 when we were living in Great Stukeley. I replied to an advert in The Hunts Post for volunteer rainfall recorders, placed by The Great Ouse River Authority (GORA). An official from the Water Authority visited to inspect our garden and soon installed a rain gauge, so I became a recognised Rainfall Observer. We moved to a newly-built house on the Church Leys Estate in Hilton in 1974, and I asked if I could carry on recording for GORA. I had to wait until the lawn was laid and the garden established. Then an official came to inspect the site and I started recording in June 1975. In time, the gauge was transferred to the Environment Agency and, as rainfall years coincide with calendar years, my records are said to date from January 1st 1976.

Shortly afterwards, the Environment Agency thought my gauge would be of interest to the Met Office, who sent officials to inspect the site. It satisfied their requirements, so now Hilton features as a volunteer rainfall-recording station on the Met Office map, one of 40 in the Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire Region.



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A morning at Rockfield Studios

by Beverly and Chris Tack

I know what you are thinking - who or what is Rockfield Studios?

Rockfield Studios is a music recording studio just outside of Monmouth in South Wales. It was started in the sixties by two music loving farmers, Kingsley and Charles Ward. Thinking the music they had written was good enough to be recorded, they set off one morning, after milking the cows, to RCA London studios, with a demo-tape. None of the recording studios wanted to know, so they decided to set up their own music studio back at the farm.

Fast forward to the seventies when a little-known group called Queen asked if Rockfield Studios could record some of the music they had written. Rockfield Studios was the only studios to offer accommodation at the time, which suited Queen. While staying there Freddie Mercury asked if they had a piano. There was an old upright one in the barn on the first floor; Freddie went over to the barn, and on this piano he wrote Bohemian Rhapsody. They finished their recordings and went back to London, the only problem being that they didn't have enough money for the train fare, so Kingsley lent them the money to get home.



They later returned and paid Kingsley back the money he had lent them. This time while staying at the studios, Queen recorded

Bohemian Rhapsody. The piano that Freddie played is still in the recording studios. There have been many famous groups staying and recording at Rockfield. Oasis, while staying there, wrote and recorded Wonderwall. There is a wall just outside the studio, it was here that Liam Gallagher insisted that he sat on the wall while recording the song.



The Wonderwall

Fans come from all over the world just to see and touch the wall! Coldplay, while staying here, looked up at the moon one night and though it looked yellow that night, they then wrote and recorded Yellow. If you stay in one of the lodges, and you are a Coldplay fan, try to get the one that is painted yellow, in which Coldplay stayed. There have been many famous groups that have stayed and record at Rockfield. These are just a few:

- in the 60s, Love Sculpture, Amen Corner, Black Sabbath,
- in the 70s, Black Sabbath, Hawkwind, Motorhead, Mark Knopfler, DrFeelgood,
- in the 80s, Simple Minds, Adam and the Ants, Robert Plant, Squeeze,
- in the 90s, The Stone Roses, The Pogues, Annie Lenox, Paul Weller, Julian Lennon, Manic Street Preachers, Coldplay,
- in the 00s, The Darkness, KT Tunstall, The Proclaimers,
- in the 10s, Steve Harley,
- in the 20s, The Cure, Coldplay, Liam Gallagher.

This is just a small selection of the groups and musicians who have stayed and



recorded here. The morning tour started at 10am; we were greeted by Helen and Lisa, the daughters of Kingsley. We first went into a room called the Hall of Fame, here are photos and memorabilia of some of the groups and the history of Rockfield. It takes a while to take in all the names, read letters and jokes that had been written while they were there. We then went into the first studio; here it was explained how the console worked, and how they would record the music and how fine adjustments were made to the sound. Kingsley then came in to tell us amusing stories that went on in the 60s and 70s, including the time he got arrested.

In the early hours of the morning the group that were recording left; Kingsley thought that he had better clean up, emptying the ash trays onto a larger tray, he then went outside to dispose of the contents over the wall and he was arrested by the drug squad for possession. He was taken to court, they found him not guilty, and legislation was



Kingsley and Helen in the recording studio

changed so landlords were not responsible for the guest's actions.

We were then free to walk round the studio. It was then outside into the courtyard to see the famous Wonderwall. Off we then went into a barn in the quadrangle, where we were shown how they create the echo on the music. Helen sang a song to demonstrate the various degrees of echo that can be achieved - what an amazing voice she has! It was then into the second of the two studios. It's in this studio where there is the piano Freddie Mercury played when recording Bohemian Rhapsody. If you are a fan of Queen, like me, then this piano has, 'A Kind of Magic', about it.

Once again we were free to walk around the studio. Before going out of the studio, Beverley had a play on the piano, it had to



Beverley at the famous piano

be done. We then went into the room next door to be shown how they record in this studio. Kingsley joined us again and told us more stories, very amusing. We finished the tour with tea and biscuits, and a chance to buy some merchandise to remember the day by. It is a most entertaining tour, two hours passed too quickly.

Rockfield is a working studio and have limited days to have tours. The month after we were there, Coldplay had booked the studio for a month to record their new album. If you like your music, I'm sure you wouldn't be disappointed with a tour.

More information and for accommodation bookings see www.rockfieldleisure.co.uk or for the history of the studio see www.rockfieldmusicgroup.com

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About mulch

Mulching can really suppress weed germination and save so much time later in the year. You would be forgiven for thinking it's a new idea, maybe even a reaction to Snow Whites friends and all that Hoe Hoe Hoeing ! HO HO! In reality it is an old practice dating back to at least the ancient Egyptians.

What is a mulch? Well It is simply a layer put over the soil around plants! A mulch can be rocks, gravels, fabric man made substance or an organic material like compost or bark. I am not a great fan of landscape fabrics under mulches as they degrade the soil by reducing the incorporation of organ materiel. Basically! after a couple of years the soil reverts back to a structureless sub soil. Mulches preserve moisture, slow soil erosion, stop the majority of weed growth, feed plants, make for a healthy carbon rich soil and promote strong healthy plants. And April is your lucky month as it's the perfect time of the year to mulch your borders. Remove the spring flush of weeds, rake in some slow release/organic fertiliser and spread your mulch. Tip – I recommending using a course bark as an underlay and topping off with a finer (decorative bark) as this will add another year before topping up is needed.



April is also an excellent time for planting and seed sowing. Introducing lots of organic matter into the soil when planting, will aid

establishment. Don't forget to firm the soil and water well after planting and give your new treasures a good mulch afterwards. With watering in mind most of us use quick-fit hose connectors. If they leek replacing the washers is much cheaper than buying new connectors!

Feeding your plants, especially roses and shrubs will ensure they stay fit and healthy. If black spot is a problem on your roses, April is the time to start spraying! Keep an look out for Aphids from now on and wash them off with a jet of water or leave them for the baby Blue Tits



Edging lawns will make your garden look so much crisper. Lawn treatments can be used if rain is forecast. Loosen tree ties a tad so they don't throttle your tree's trunks!

April Top Tips

- Mulch
- Planting
- Sow annuals
- Edge lawns
- Replace hose washers

raypuddefoot@gmail.com

Fenstanton Parish Council

Making Fenstanton an even better place to live

Have your say in Fenstanton – Become a Parish Councillor

Over the past four-year cycle, we have lost four councillors. If this trend continues and the Parish Council becomes inquorate and unable to transact business, our statutory responsibilities will pass to the District Council. In practical terms, that could mean the loss of valued local initiatives such as the Connections Bus, the Christmas Market and Christmas Tree, the BIG Village Fun Day, the Welcome Space, and our ability to support organisations like Age UK and The Journal. There could even be implications for the new village hall – without a Parish Council, there would be no parish council tenancy, potentially leaving a significant gap in the hall's income.

Quite simply, without local people stepping forward, local decision-making is at risk.

This isn't about party politics – it's about community. In most cases, the role involves around 2–3 hours a month attending meetings and helping make decisions that shape village life, from local facilities and green spaces to events, services and future projects. Even a small time commitment can make a real and visible difference.

Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers who work together as a team. Decisions are made collectively, with the support of the Clerk and fellow Councillors. No previous experience is required – just an interest in the village, a willingness to listen and learn, and a desire to contribute positively.

If you've ever found yourself thinking, "Someone should really do something about that," this is your opportunity to be part of the solution.

To find out more, please contact the Parish Council at clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk or call 01480 465300, or come along to one of our Saturday surgeries for an informal chat (details below).

Your village. Your voice. Your chance to make a difference.



Next Parish Council meetings

Parish Council meetings are usually held on the second Thursday of each month (except in August and December unless required) at the Church Centre, School Lane, Fenstanton, PE28 9JR. Please note that dates may occasionally change due to unforeseen circumstances, and extraordinary meetings may also be called if urgent business needs to be discussed.

In addition to our regular meetings, we also hold:

- Planning Committee meetings (when applications are submitted)
- Finance & Constitution Committee meetings
- General Purposes Committee meetings
- Burial Board meetings

Details of all upcoming meetings, along with

agendas and minutes from previous meetings, can be found on the Parish Council website - www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Date

Thursday 9 April

Meeting

PC Ordinary

Time and Location

7.00 pm Church Centre

Potholes, reporting and whose responsibility

Over the past few weeks, potholes around the village have unfortunately become more noticeable and, in some cases, have caused damage to vehicles. We understand how frustrating this is for residents.

Responsibility for road maintenance and pothole repairs lies with Cambridgeshire County Council, not the Parish Council. However, we do report any potholes that we see or that are brought to our attention.



Residents can also report potholes directly to the County Council using their online reporting system: <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/en-gb>

If your vehicle has been damaged and you wish to make a claim, this must be done directly with the County Council via: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/making-a-highways-claim>

The more reports that are logged, the clearer the picture for prioritising repairs, so please do take a moment to report any issues you come across.

To report a streetlight fault

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/streetlighting>

Parking in the village – Please park considerately

The Parish Council has once again received several reports of inconsiderate parking around the village, particularly near junctions on Swan Road, Conington Road, Honey Hill, Rookery Way and at the top of the Fen. Parking too close to junctions creates visibility issues and can pose a real safety risk for both drivers and pedestrians.

We have sought advice from the Police, who have confirmed that they are only able to take enforcement action where parking is illegal or clearly dangerous. We have therefore been advised that, should problems persist in these locations, the Council may need to apply to Cambridgeshire County Council for further Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs), which can include measures such as double yellow lines and additional signage.

The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation and will consider applying for further TROs if parking issues continue in these hotspot areas. In the meantime, we ask all drivers to park considerately and safely for the benefit of everyone in the village.



Recycling in Fenstanton – What goes in your blue bin?

We have had an enquiry to the Parish Council office re which bin to put cling film in – The Blue bin !!

Here is a reminder of what can be recycled in the blue bins.

✔ What you can recycle

- Plastic packaging including bottles, bottle tops, pots, tubs and trays
- Clean flexible plant pots
- Carrier bags, bread bags, cling film and bubble wrap
- Glass bottles and jars (including broken bottles and jars)
- Paper and card (please note: shredded paper should go in your garden bin)
- Newspapers and magazines
- Cans and tins
- Aerosols
- Clean foil
- Drinks and food cartons

Important: Please ensure all containers are empty and clean before recycling so they do not contaminate other materials. Lids, tops, sprays and pumps should be placed back on the containers.

✘ What cannot go in your recycling bin

The following items should not be placed in your kerbside recycling:

- Food waste
- Clothes, textiles and shoes (please use charity shops or clothing banks)
- Black sacks or bin bags (any extra recycling must be in clear/transparent sacks)
- Batteries (these can be recycled at household recycling centres and some shops)
- Polystyrene, foam or sponge
- Crinkly plastic and crisp packets (some supermarkets offer collection points)
- Hard plastics such as toys or household items
- Heavy metal items such as poles or metal housewares
- Pyrex-type glass or mirrors
- Paint tins
- Tissues (clean or used)
- Wood

Many of these items can be recycled at your local Household Recycling Centre.

Extra Recycling

If you have additional recycling that won't fit in your wheeled bin, it can be collected if placed next to your bin in a **clear or transparent sack**. Please note that any other type of bag will not be taken.

If you're ever unsure about an item, it's worth checking your council's A-Z waste guide online before putting it in the bin. Getting it right helps ensure our recycling is processed efficiently and not rejected due to contamination.

Thank you for doing your bit to keep Fenstanton tidy and environmentally responsible.



Parish Councillor Saturday Surgeries

Saturdays 10.00 – 12.00pm The Hub, 6 High Street, Fenstanton.

Pop in for a chat with Councillors. Whether you have concerns to raise or ideas to improve our village, we'd love to hear from you! Let's work together to make Fenstanton even better.

28.03.2026

Anne Mustill

Tina Yates

25.04.2026

Hayley Howatt

Mike Collison

The Councillors attending is subject to change and we will inform you of any changes on Social media.

Connecting Fenstanton – Project completed

Improvements to Cambridge Road were originally part of a much larger 2020 Local Highways Initiative scheme, which the Parish Council were unable to secure funding for at that time. Even after scaling the plans back to focus purely on essential safety measures, costs remained too high and progress stalled.

However, following Councillor Matt Tandy's 'Connecting Fenstanton' proposal to enable safe pedestrian access to public transport and local services, the project was revived when a grant of over £35,000 was secured through the Net Zero Villages "Connecting Villages" initiative.

The Parish Council approved a budget of £80,000, including the grant, to install a pedestrian refuge island and pathway to link Gardener Crescent and Park Close to the High Street and Bus Stops.

When an updated quote was received from Cambridgeshire County Council, the cost had risen to over £160,000. Recognising the importance of the safety improvements, the County Council secured additional funding from its Road Safety Fund to bridge the gap.

The works have now been completed, providing important and long-awaited safer pedestrian access within the village.



To contact your Parish Council Clerk
Telephone: 01480 465300
Email:
clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk
Website:
www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Jigsaw Exchange Hilton Parish Church

Do you like doing jigsaws? Do you know we run a jigsaw exchange in the parish church in Hilton? It's free and easy to get involved...

the puzzles are stored in the church which is open during the day, or evenings by request. We have puzzles suitable for all ages and abilities The idea is that you just go in and exchange your puzzle(s) or, if you don't have a puzzle to exchange, then just borrow one and bring it back when completed. We can even collect & deliver puzzles for anyone with limited mobility and, of course, would be happy to receive puzzle donations.

For more information, please contact Rachel Wood (830866) or Jenny Broom (830413)

FEN DRAYTON TOTS

A relaxed and welcoming group for little ones aged 0 - 5 years held at Fen Drayton Village Hall!

JOIN US FOR

- Arts and crafts
- Themed activities
- Messy play
- Toys and games
- Snacks and drinks

THE DETAILS

Monday mornings (10am - 12pm) - £4 per family

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming sessions!

[facebook.com/fendraytontoddlers](https://www.facebook.com/fendraytontoddlers)





Hilton Parish Church

Dear Friends,

The joy of Easter and the glories of Spring. Death and destruction in Iran and around the Gulf. Can we, should we, celebrate Easter and enjoy the spring while millions suffer, in Iran and elsewhere? Emphatically, yes, we can and indeed must. The conflict in Iran is truly horrible, but it is not uniquely horrible. Equally dreadful things have been going on over the last few years in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Myanmar...

The list has in fact no end, and never has had an end during the whole of human history. If we wait for universal peace and justice to blossom in all the earth before we respond with delight to the goodness of God, we shall wait our whole lives in despair and misery.

The Christian Gospel, the Good News, has never been presented to the world as an escape from its horrors, but as an answer to them. Not so much a solution – although it could be that if the whole world took it to heart – but a way to live in the world as it is while experiencing the transforming, liberating power of the one who fully lived, died, rose, ascended, and is seated in glory and majesty forever. And in living that way, we become, incredibly, bearers of that same good and gentle power into the world.

We are called, I believe, to have hearts that never turn hard in the face of the world's anguish, hearts that can indeed ache over all that is wrong, but which also can respond to all that is good with simple joy.

An old Jewish teaching, which I have quoted more than once in sermons, says that when we get to the gates of heaven, God will not ask us how many good deeds we have done or whether we have kept his commandments. Instead he will ask: 'Did you remember to enjoy my creation?' I love this. Before all the doubtless worthwhile things we could be doing, we are created simply to bask in the sunshine of God's mind, who has endued the universe with enough mystery, wonder and delight to keep an infinity of angels smiling for eternity. That basking will help us become the kind of people who can make a difference to a suffering world.

So bask away, if you can, and a very happy Easter to you.

With love, David

Revd David Busk (01480 436400)

Services in April

Sunday 5 April	8:00am Easter Communion (BCP)
Sunday 12 April	11:15am United Service in the Parish Church
Sunday 19 April	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 26 April	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church in the Village Hall

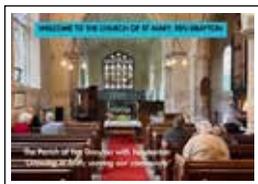
No Friday Feast this month, back on 8 May

Weekly Online Services (Via Zoom)

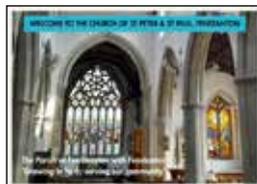
Holy Communion Wednesdays (2:00pm) Bible Study Fridays (10:00am)

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

News from the Pews



News from the Benefice of Fen Drayton with Fenstanton



Please note – services in St. Peter & St. Paul’s Church, Fenstanton are live streamed where possible, details via <https://www.fenchurchbooking.org.uk>

Do contact us if you would like the Zoom links for Morning Prayer.

April 2026 – SERVICES AND EVENTS

HOLY WEEK Monday 30 March	7.30pm to 8.30pm Fenstanton	Time of Reflection, refreshments and Compline
Tuesday 31 March	7.30pm – 8.30pm Fenstanton	Time of Reflection, refreshments and Compline
Wednesday 1 April	7.30pm – 8.30pm Fenstanton	Time of Reflection, refreshments and Compline
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Fenstanton	Holy Communion <i>followed by Vigil till late</i>
Good Friday	11.30am – 12noon Fen Drayton Church 2-3pm Fenstanton	Service of Reflection with hymns & readings <i>Followed by optional Good Friday Walk and picnic (please bring your own)</i> Hour At The Cross A service of reflection using words, music, silence
Easter Sunday Sunday 05	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton	Easter Day Holy Communion Easter Day Holy Communion
Sunday 12	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion Worship For All
Wednesday 15	7.30pm Fenstanton	Meeting of Parishioners for the election of two churchwardens followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Thursday 16	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Friday 17	6-8.30pm	Fen Youth meets
Sunday 19	10.30am Fenstanton 6pm Fenstanton	Holy Communion and Sunday Club Sung Evensong
Tuesday 21 April	7.30pm venue tbc	St Mary’s Community meeting
Thursday 23	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 26	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton	Morning Praise Family Communion
Thursday 30	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 3 May	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion and Sunday Club



Holy Week and Easter services

Do join us for our Holy Week and Easter services this year. On Good Friday we are offering a service in both our churches, as well as a walk and picnic between the two. We will walk along roads and across the fields from Fen Drayton to Fenstanton carrying a bare wooden cross. On Easter morning the bare cross is transformed into life with the addition of hand made flowers and will be on display in Fenstanton churchyard. This is a very special time in the church year, where we journey with Christ in his last days, in sorrow, but celebrate with joy our risen Lord on Easter morning. Will you with us in saying: “He has risen. He has risen indeed. Alleluia”.



Meeting of Parishioners and APCM: Wednesday 15 April 2026, 7.30pm, Fenstanton Parish Church

These are the important meetings in the PCC year, when we elect two churchwardens to serve for the year, in our two churches. We will also be receiving nominations for Deanery Synod Representatives and PCC members. You need to be on the Church Electoral Roll to take part in the voting for these nominations.

St Mary’s Church community meeting feedback

It was wonderful to see a packed Committee Room in Fen Drayton Village Hall on Tuesday 3 March. After some initial introductions, Samuel Pedlar gave an interesting talk, setting out some of the details of what we can do and how to begin those projects. Samuel is the Church and Community Support Adviser (Church Building Support Officer) for the Diocese of Ely. As a result of our community meeting, we are now in the process of setting up a sub-group under the umbrella of the PCC, with a Terms of Reference. This is very positive news indeed and greatly encouraging. We have our first meeting of that group on Tuesday 21 April at 7.30pm, venue to be confirmed, so if you would like to be part of that group then please do get in touch with Rev Rosie: vicar@fenchurches.org.uk or the churchwardens at churchwardens@fenchurches.org.uk

A gentle reminder that St Mary’s Church services are now back in St Mary’s Church. The Church Full of Art and Open Gardens weekend on 16 & 17 May is being planned, and more gardens to look around would be very welcome. Is that something you can offer? If you would like to share your garden or artwork or be involved in any way, please contact Ian Hucklesby 07850 470085 as soon as possible, thank you.

Rector: Rev Rosie Tallowin: 01480 467393 Email: vicar@fenchurches.org.uk
Assistant Curate: Rev Claire Brockelsby: 07769 106562 Email: curate@fenchurches.org.uk
Churchwardens: Philip Blunt 07855 481697 and Ian Hucklesby 07850 470085

Accessibility in our churches: The Parish Church (Fenstanton) has a ramp which can be deployed upon request. There is a toilet, with wheelchair access. St Mary’s (Fen Drayton) has a small threshold that may be possible to navigate with a wheelchair. There are no toilet facilities. Although we have fixed pews in both churches there are plenty of spaces available for wheelchairs, prams and buggies.

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church

St. Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 5JT

The Sacred Paschal Triduum Services

Maundy Thursday 02 April 2026, 7pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper *Watch at the altar of repose till 12:00 midnight.*

Good Friday 03 April 2026, 3pm

The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord *Stations of the Cross at 7pm*

Easter Vigil - Saturday 04 April 2026, 8pm

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Easter Sunday 05 April 2026

Normal Masses 9 am & 11 am



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Hilton Methodist Church



Dear Friends,

I wonder what you enjoy watching on television? One of the programmes I look forward to is 'Pilgrimage' which involves celebrities from a variety of contexts trekking together, sharing life and faith on the way.

The programme points to a reality - in a busy world, an increasing number of people are rediscovering the quiet gift of pilgrimage. At its heart, a pilgrimage is simply a journey taken with intention, usually involving movement both visible and within a person's heart and spirit. It is about nurturing awareness of others, self, and for some, God. It is the journey that is significant as opposed to the destination.

The Bible often describes faith as a journey. In Psalm 84:5 we read: 'Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.' This verse reminds us that when we set out with God in mind, the journey itself can shape and strengthen us.

Throughout history Christians have found that walking helps create space for reflection and prayer. The writer John Bunyan, author of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, described the Christian life itself as a pilgrimage - a path filled with challenges, companions, and moments of grace along the way.

I value the insight too in the following story involving a traveller who met a monk returning from a pilgrimage. 'What did you gain from your journey?' the traveller asked. The monk replied, 'I lost many things - my hurry, my worry, and my need to rush ahead.' In losing those things, the monk

discovered peace.

Pilgrimage does not always mean travelling far. Sometimes it can be as simple as walking slowly through familiar countryside with open eyes and a listening heart - noticing birdsong, trees, and the quiet beauty of creation - each signposts to the Creator. In fact on Saturday 2nd May there will be an opportunity to join a mindful nature walk from Over Methodist Church (a poster with details is included elsewhere in this magazine).



As Easter approaches, Christians remember the journey Jesus took through suffering and death to new life. After the first Easter, two disciples discovered the risen Christ walking beside them on the road to Emmaus. Perhaps pilgrimage still begins the same way - with a simple walk together, one brave step at a time.

With blessings, James
Revd. James Bamber
jjamesbamber@gmail.com
Phone: 01480 453857

Services in April

5 April	10:00am	Rev. Pam Siddall
12 April	11:15am	United Service in the Parish Church
19 April	10:00am	Rev. Heather Walker
26 April	10:00am	Dr. David Ward

AIMED AT AGES 0 - 5

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10:50 - SNACK TIME

11:00 - FREE PLAY

11:15 - TOY TIDY UP

11:20 - STORY TIME AND MATS AWAY

11:30 - GOOD BYE UNTIL NEXT WEEK!

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- ✿ Get creative
- ✿ Food & Fun
- ✿ Informal gathering
- ✿ Churches of Hilton together
- ✿ For all faiths, and none
- ✿ 8 May, 12 Jun & 24 Jul (in FW)
- ✿ To find out more, call Rachel on 830866

- ✿ Second Friday of month
- ✿ 5.30pm – 7pm
- ✿ Parish Church
- ✿ Hilton



BRING A BOTTLE!



**Fenstanton United
Reformed Church**
Chequer Street, Fenstanton
Minister
Revd Alison Davis

Sunday morning services are at 09.30. All are welcome.

2026 Services

April

- 03 Good Friday - Revd Christine Davies - 2.30pm
- 05 Easter Day - Revd Christine Davies - **Holy Communion**
- 12 Led by Faith Paulding
- 19 Revd Alison Davis
- 26 Revd Chris Baker

May

- 03 Revd Christine Davies - **Holy Communion**
- 10 Led by Pauline Zahner
- 17 Revd Alison Davis
- 24 Revd Alison Davis
- 31 Revd Christine Davies

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

- Tuesday 14 April 2.30 - 4pm - Led by John Williams
- Tuesday 12 May 2.30 - 4pm - Led by John Williams

Geoff Hawkins Fenstanton URC Secretary
fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org

Church of the Sacred Heart



19 Needingworth Rd. St Ives
Priest in charge: FR. T. J. Monteiro
Tel 01480 462192,
www.sacredheart-stives.org
email: office@sacredheart-stives.org

**Mass Times: Saturday 17.00,
Sunday 09.00 and 11.00**

We also have a large hall available for hire.
Please contact the parish office for details.

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QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 18 APRIL
AT 7:30 PM
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PRIMARY SCHOOL

8 intrepid walkers are raising funds for the Alzheimer's Society before undertaking a walking challenge to support the charity. Please help us by getting a team together for our fun quiz.

Teams of 6
£6 per team member
Raffle & auction
BYO drinks & snacks

Team entries to Mike Francis
Mikef5142@gmail.com





A view from the Old Manse

Wikipedia says that ‘England is historically and constitutionally a Christian country, with the Church of England as its established state church and the Monarch as its Supreme Governor.’ The statistics, however, show that less than half the population identifies as Christian. That said, the majority celebrate many of the Christian festivals; Christmas and Easter being the highlights where gifts are exchanged - presents and chocolate.

Lent (Latin: Quadragesima, ‘Fortieth’) is also on the liturgical calendar. It is a 40-day, solemn Christian season of fasting, prayer, and penance, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending before Easter. It commemorates Jesus Christ’s time of temptation in the wilderness, focusing on self-discipline, charity, and spiritual preparation for his ministry. Many know this as a time of personal sacrifices like giving up chocolate, alcohol, and cigarettes.

However, as you read this, Lent will be over,

so I ask, did you give up anything? If not physical things, did you spend any time instead to reflect; to decide to give up some of our undesirable traits as humans, such as envy, jealousy, anger, gossip and so on; did you use it as an opportunity to think and change your own attitudes and the way you think?

We don’t have to identify as Christians to have a moral compass. Religion is a rock on which to anchor our lives; to return in times of confusion and trouble. It does not have to be an organised, public display of faith, but something in us that guides us to do the right thing by ourselves and others.

Sadly, many do not identify as Christians, and it does seem that as we turn away from a faith, so our moral compass is increasingly off kilter. Many now think that they can act as they wish, push their own agendas, and use the anonymity of the internet to be hateful to others. Is that the society we want to live in?

If we don’t have a formal religion, we at least need something to believe in if we wish to live in a better world.

Geoff Hawkins
Fenstanton URC Secretary
fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org



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Fruit Tea Loaf

Ingredients:

- 340gm (12oz) Mixed Dried Fruit
- 250ml Cold Tea (One cupful)
- 240gm (8.5oz) sugar (brown is best for flavour – I use demerara)
- 1 egg
- 450gm (1lb) self-raising flour

Method:

Mix the dried fruit, cold tea and sugar together and leave overnight

Next day, mix the egg into the fruit mixture, then add the flour

Stir well and put into a 900 gm (2lb) loaf tin.

Bake at 190°C or 165°C fan for 1 hour

Check with a skewer that it is properly baked.

Serve sliced and buttered – the Yorkshire way is with cheese.



Note from the publisher

For advertising opportunities please email info@thejournal.life. Space is booked on a yearly subscription basis and runs from September 25 until August 26. Priority will always be given to local businesses. The Journal takes no responsibility for the standard of goods or services provided and accepts no liability on any loss or damage from acceptance of any advertisers.





update



Cootes Lane works

The parish council would like to thank residents for their patience during the works to resurface the Cootes Lane footpaths. We appreciate that this caused some inconvenience, but hope that the improved footway surface makes up for that.

The additional benefit of having potholes filled in the road makes for a smoother car journey – and is much less hazardous for vehicles.



New village trees

The PC recently planted three new trees. One replaced a Prunus ‘Tai Haku’ cherry blossom tree in the row at the bottom of the village hall field. It is beautiful, with buds already forming. An alder, from SCDC’s free tree scheme, planted in the pavilion field, is also a lovely, healthy tree.

The third tree, another cherry, was also supplied by SCDC, along with a plaque, to commemorate the Covid-19 Day of Reflection on 8 March this year. It is behind the village hall near the oak tree planted to celebrate the platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

Your invitation to the **2026**

Fen Drayton village meeting

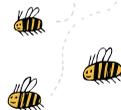
Monday 13 April | 7.30pm | Village hall

Your village meeting is a great opportunity to discover what’s going on in Fen Drayton.

It is also your chance to engage with parish, district and county councillors, ask questions and express opinions about the future of Fen Drayton.

The evening will open with brief reports from councillors and local groups on matters affecting the village. Afterwards, you are invited to join the parish council for refreshments, when you will have the opportunity to chat with the speakers.

All village residents are welcome

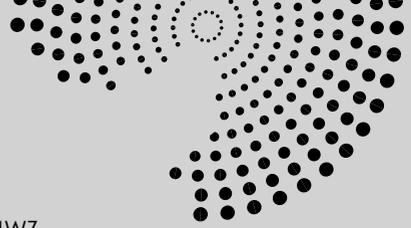


Contact:

email: fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com

website: www.fendrayton.org

post: PO Box 1102, Fen Drayton, Cambridge CB24 4WZ



District Councillor, Sue Ellington's report

The approach of spring seems to have brought forth a plethora of issues to raise this month. SCDC held a budget council meeting and agreed to raise council tax by £5.47 per annum for a band D property. It will also continue the four-day week for five days' pay, and put £500,000 aside to fund the move towards a unitary authority (UA) in the year 2026-2027.

Preparation for the May district council elections are well underway. They will be different from previous district elections as the councillors will only stand for two years instead of four. This is so UA councillors can be elected in May 2027 and shadow between 2027-28, when the old district councillors will stand down and the new UA becomes fully functioning.

We have not been told by the government which districts will join to form one, two or three UAs, but South Cambs hopes to join with Cambridge City, leaving Huntingdon, Peterborough, Fenland and East Cambs to form one or two other authorities.

The government will make its decision in the summer. I think the most important consideration is that there is as much continuity as possible during the change, to ensure the important issues of each village are carried forward to the new authority.

From one important issue to another! The government has set up The Cambridge Growth Company as a shadow development corporation. It is wholly owned by Homes England and is

currently appointing a CEO. It does not have statutory powers in terms of planning and no budget for big projects such as Waterbeach station, so has to use Homes England's budget and powers.

If The Cambridge Growth Company is changed into the Cambridge Development Corporation it will have far more powers, through an act of parliament, to override the local planning authority to enable greater and faster local growth of housing and commercial premises. The consultation on this starts this month, so please look at the proposals and give feedback. I'm concerned that it is not a democratically-based organisation and local people will lose their influence over what it does.

Call me on 07774 146331, or email me at cllr.ellington@scambs.gov.uk, if I can help in any way.

Cllr Sue Ellington, district councillor for Swavesey, Fen Drayton and Lolworth

Community Cafe

The next Community Cafe is on Saturday 11 April, in the village hall, at 10.30am.

The cafe is delighted to welcome back The Fabric Townhouse with its wonderful fabrics and haberdashery items for sale.

The cafe offers delicious homemade cakes and fresh tea or coffee at very competitive prices (a hot drink and a cake for just £2!).

The cafe now accepts card payments.



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Hilton Parish Council



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Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 2 March

Green Open Spaces update

Your Council referred to the Green Open Spaces Working Group a number of matters for further scrutiny – including the question of more substantial fencing around The Major Oak, to protect the tree and satisfy health and safety responsibilities.

Matters raised by parishioners/outside bodies

The Council was pleased to note it has progressed successfully with CCC a request for the footbridge adjacent to the Lychgate to be decorated with knitted poppies as a feature in the village's contribution to Remembrance Sunday; and that Cllr Peter Balicki and partner will attend a Royal Garden Party on 12 May.

Flood Action Working Group

The newly formed Hilton Flood Action Working Group was represented at a regional webinar in early February. The Working Group plans to meet soon to identify lessons to be learned from other similar communities, to draw up an action plan and identify a volunteers' group that can be activated as and when the need arises. In related business, the Council confirmed an order for the drilling of four holes up to 100mm in diameter to The Ware to help mitigate and improve the flow of water.

The Annual Parish Meeting

Due to diary complications and pressures relating to local council elections in early May, the Council decided to change the date of this meeting (from 27 April) to Tuesday 26 May. This is an occasion when we can celebrate the important contribution of various bodies to the life of the village.

The Millenium Garden

The Millenium Garden – on Potton Road close to

the bus shelter – has, of late, become somewhat neglected; so, under the leadership of Cllr Sarkies, the Council heard details of discussions on how best to rectify this situation and make it a more attractive feature in the village.

From our County and District Councillors

County Cllr Keane, having submitted a detailed written report, highlighted how his time in February had been dominated by highways matters. He drew attention to the dedicated emergency potholes contact now up and running by the County Council and urges all pothole issues to be logged. District Cllr Tevlin drew attention to contact made by a parishioner over the provision of a Pink Bin in Hilton for the disposal and recycling of used small electrical items. She also made mention that with the introduction of the new food waste collection at the end of March, HDC intends - at this point - not to penalise households who do not fully adhere to the new arrangements

The 2026 Bonfire and Fireworks event

The Council heard a verbal update from the Working Group that organises this event. Plans for 2026 are proceeding along similar lines to the 2025 event and careful consideration being given to important details including – ticket prices, parking on the night, how to improve ready access to the event and the possibility of a community raffle where the winner plays a part in starting the event.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 13 April 2026 in Hilton Methodist Church Hall. 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.

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Non-molestation orders: how can they help the victims of domestic abuse?

In recent years, the UK has intensified its efforts to combat domestic abuse and protect vulnerable individuals. Figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales in November 2025, estimated 2.2 million females and 1.5 million males experienced domestic abuse in the last year, and the police recorded 816,493 domestic abuse-related crimes in England and Wales in year ending March 2025.

Central to this are non-molestation orders obtained via the family court, a key legal tool used to shield victims from harassment, intimidation, and violence.

In 2026, new guidance introduced by the judiciary marks an important development in how these orders are applied, reflecting society's growing recognition of the many forms domestic abuse can take.

What is a non-molestation order?

A non-molestation order is a protective court order issued under the Family Law Act 1996. It is designed to protect individuals from abuse by someone with whom they share a close personal relationship, such as a spouse, former partner, or family member.

These orders can prohibit a range of behaviours, including:

- Threatening or committing violence
- Harassment or intimidation
- Contacting the victim directly or indirectly
- Approaching the victim's home or workplace
- Posting abusive content about the victim online

What are the key changes in the 2026 Guidance?

- 1) No more confusing terms - terms such as 'harass', 'pester' or 'molest' have been removed as they were described 'not well understood and not easily enforceable.' Orders prohibiting violence or threats of violence are also unnecessary as these

actions are already a criminal offence.

- 2) End of the 100m Rule - the traditionally used restriction of 'do not go within 100m' has been replaced with more specific, tailored exclusions, which specify areas such as road names, workplaces or schools.
- 3) Clearer Enforceable orders- the new standard order prioritises precision, reduces ambiguity and improves compliance. It uses plainer language which is easier understood by people and therefore police to enforce. The introduction of a new form FL345 helps Respondents reply in advance to applications made against them, aiming to reduce unnecessary delays and improve police enforcement.
- 4) Mandatory End Date - every order must have a clear end date rather than just a return date, ensuring they are not open ended.
- 5) Timely Processing - Courts are instructed to ensure that all applications are reviewed by a Judge on the same day, provided the application is submitted before 4pm.
- 6) Proportionate Without Notice Applications - these should not, except in exceptional circumstances, ban a Respondent from their home or workplace.

Behind every legal reform lies a stark reality: millions of people experience domestic abuse each year. Legal protections like non-molestation orders provide a vital lifeline, allowing victims to reclaim safety and control over their lives.

For many, obtaining such an order is not merely a legal process, it is a turning point. It represents recognition, protection, and the first step toward freedom from fear.

For further information regarding these orders or any other family matter please contact Leeds Day Solicitors on 0333 577 2250 or send an email to family@leedsday.co.uk or visit our website at www.leedsday.co.uk/family .



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News from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary and Preschool



It has been a pleasure to feel the changing of the seasons over the past month and to see the children enjoying the space of our field during lunchtimes. It is also a reminder that our Year 6 children are rapidly approaching the end of their primary school experience. That means they are preparing for Statutory Assessment Tests in May, then looking forward to the residential trip to PGL, the school's annual stage production, and their BBQ and games afternoon in July.

of those groups. We celebrated these groups in our morning assembly and linked their values to our own core values: Community, Determination and Integrity.



A group of our Key Stage 2 children journeyed down to London on 25 February to take part in Young Voices at the O2 Arena. The children had a fabulous day taking part in the singing performances and came back buzzing about their experiences. It was a long day for the children (an early-hours return!!) but we are already planning for next year's adventure!

We started this half term by celebrating Founders Day, which marks the beginnings of the Scouting and Guiding movements. It was a pleasure to see around 40 children wearing the uniforms of the groups they attend and representing the positive values

We remain grateful to our PTA, who continue to work tirelessly to raise funds for our school. We have held discos and present rooms this half term and are looking forward to an Easter egg hunt during the school holidays. We have used the funds to buy new equipment for school and we are looking forward to receiving duck eggs and incubators later in the year, which we will all be watching hatch into ducklings!! The PTA also funded our karate-experience workshops with Adam Carrigan-Smith at the beginning of February, which everyone responded to really positively.



With very best wishes, from all of us at Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School and Preschool.

Fen Drayton Primary School



Sponsored bounce raises funds

Pupils at Fen Drayton Primary School recently took part in a fantastic sponsored bounce to help raise funds for new outdoor play equipment. A huge thank you goes to all the children who bounced with enthusiasm and to everyone who supported the event through sponsorship. We are especially grateful to Blue Plumbing, who kindly sponsored the hire of the bouncy castle, and Grange Farm for providing prizes for our top fundraisers. The event was a great success and a lot of fun for everyone involved!

Donating outdoor toys

Are you having a spring clear-out? We are always grateful for donations of outdoor toys for our pupils to enjoy during playtimes. If you have any of the following items in good condition, we would love to hear from you:

- Toy cars
- Toy prams and pushchairs
- Dolls, dinosaurs, animals
- Scooters and balance bikes
- Large plastic building blocks

Hockey tournament

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 pupils who recently represented the school in an inter-school's hockey tournament. They showed great teamwork and determination. We love taking part in sporting events and are looking forward to several more competitions later in the year.



Founder's Day 2026

Founder's Day is an important occasion within the Scouting and Girlguiding movements, celebrating the life and legacy of Lord Baden-Powell and Olave Baden-Powell. To mark the day, pupils who are members of these organisations were invited to wear their uniforms to school, proudly showing their connection to this worldwide movement and its values of friendship, service and community.



Rotary Club quiz

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils also took part in the annual St Ives Rotary Quiz, competing against other local schools. While we didn't take home the trophy this time, we were incredibly proud of their teamwork and encouragement for one another. Their positive attitude was even praised by the quiz master and parents in the audience.



School contact details

Email: office@fendrayton.cambs.sch.uk
Phone: 01954 273346

Website: www.fendraytonprimary.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fendraytonprimary>

Friends of Fen Drayton Primary School

Our PTA has recently rebranded as the Friends of Fen Drayton Primary School, and we are always keen to welcome new supporters. You don't have to be a parent or member of staff to get involved – grandparents, neighbours and anyone in the local community are very welcome to help with fundraising for the school.

If you would like to find out more, please email the school office and we will put you in touch.

You can also follow their activities on Facebook: [facebook.com/FenDraytonPrimaryPta](https://www.facebook.com/FenDraytonPrimaryPta)

Join our school family

We currently have places available in all year groups. If you are looking for a warm and welcoming school community, we would be delighted to hear from you. Come and see what makes Fen Drayton Primary School such a special place to learn and grow.

See the Admissions page on our website for how to apply or contact us for a tour.

Nina McQueen
Headteacher

What you're Missing

Hilton Community Hub

The Hilton Community Hub has come a long way since January 2023 when we had eight attending the first session (then the Hilton Warm Hub). It is not uncommon now to have 30+ in the Village Hall on Wednesday morning with attendees telling us "It is the highlight of their week." How it has developed is difficult to quantify, it seems to have a life of its own.

We plan for multiple weeks (around 14 weeks) and have a theme for each week.

Last week was National Chip Week, yes chip. So our quiz was on the potato, we made Easter cards using - potato printing and guess what - chip butties were on offer for lunch. We have had Jeffanory telling a story from his career (he tells a good tale), to celebrate National Story Telling Week. The most unusual quiz was 20 questions on 'Tripe.' It is a meeting of friends new and established with things to do if you want to or just have a social time.

With the fitting of a new fire alarm system at the Village Hall our role has been to make all

aware of fire exits and procedures to support the work of the Village Hall Committee.

Our Annual General Meeting is held in January/February and is billed as a five minute event (we keep everyone well informed on a weekly basis throughout the year so as to minimize formalities), but this time it had to be extended because our formal designation has changed. We are now well-established and have taken the decision to become an independent group with our own constitution, bank account and public liability insurance. It is major change, that had the unanimous support of all attending the Annual General Meeting.

We meet each week during the whole year with breaks for bank holidays i.e., we will not be meeting on 8 April. Come along, there is a big welcome on the mat, the Hub is funded via grant applications, donations and sponsored fund raising events, by attendees, all of which we are very grateful to receive. It means we do not need to have an entry charge - it is free for everyone, we hope, into the future.



Hello from 1st Fenstanton and Hilton Scout Group



Spring has sprung, we've been busy with lots of fun, challenging and adventurous activities for our Squirrels (ages 4-6), Beavers (ages 6-8), Cubs (ages 8-10.5) and Scouts (ages 10.5-14)! In the past term all our young people have been supporting our local community in different ways.

You may have noticed a new splash of colour in front of the Chequer Street playground. Last autumn young people in our Scouts section spent a couple of weeks working towards their community impact badge. They wrote to the Parish Council requesting permission to use the land, then cleared back 2 tonne bags' worth of vegetation to make way for 10kg of daffodil bulbs to be planted!



The Cubs spent last term finding out about the work of East Anglian Air Ambulance, including learning some vital first aid skills. They then worked hard to raise some money for the charity, with many of them running a sponsored 5km park run, raising over £1200 - an amazing achievement. Well done, Cubs!

The Beavers paid a visit to Ely Cathedral before Christmas, to learn all about the fascinating history of this beautiful building and all the work that goes on to help look

after it. A little closer to home, the Beavers will also be visiting the Hilton allotments soon to help look after the plants, veg and fruit being grown.



Our Squirrels are also embarking on their own community impact award, taking part in The Wildlife Trust's national

campaign The Hedgehog Walk! On 14 April we will be walking 3 km (the distance a hedgehog can travel in a single night!) during our meeting. Please scan the QR code to sponsor our young people on their adventure - any support would be much appreciated!

None of this happens without the dedication of our brilliant adult volunteers - we are always in need of more support to help prepare local young people with skills for life. If you think this sounds like fun and want to start or continue your Scouting adventure, find us on Facebook or email comms@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk.





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What you're Missing

Fenstanton Friendship Club

We were founded in 1949 by a dedicated group of villagers, and we still meet every other Wednesday at 2.00 pm in the building of the United Reformed Church in Chequer Street. Although we hold our meetings in the church building, we are not affiliated to the church. Our activities are varied and as well as the yearly trips out to lunch, cream teas, boat trips on The Ladybird, strawberry tea and Christmas celebration, we will have various speakers and entertainers.

We welcome new members and look forward to seeing you. Come along with your ideas for the club's future.

11 February We were entertained by the wonderful Sean Moyes, "The Banjo Man", freshly back from the 'Hall of Fame' trip to the USA. His playing is amazing and we had a great afternoon of classical and other music.



25 February Robert came to speak to us about the Arthur Rank Hospice. We learned a lot about the foundation of the hospice and the costs entailed in running it. Robert is a fervent fundraiser, which is so necessary, especially since the funds from Addenbrookes Hospital have been withdrawn. The Fenstanton Knitters and Natters have always supported this good cause, supplying items for Robert's stall. A collection from members, plus a contribution from the Club, netted almost £125.00, which Robert was very pleased with.



Upcoming meetings

11 April A talk from Jason about Gemstones.

22 April A visit to the Norris Museum for a talk and tour of the museum, plus refreshments.

Any questions or problems please contact me. Marie Newns bubblenews@gmail.com 01480 350119



Hilton Flower Club

2 March meeting: Tim Meakin was our demonstrator, he did five wonderful arrangements and the colours of each were fantastic.

Tim always gives us lots of ideas for us to try at home, everyone enjoyed a great afternoon.

13 April: Lucy Hill will be our demonstrator, we look forward to seeing her and her wonderful creations.

11 May: is our workshop; if you would like to join us, the cost for workshop is **£7.50 + £6.00 entry**, the cost for the workshop includes **FLOWERS, CONTAINER AND OASIS**.

If you haven't put your name down and paid please do so at the April Meeting. It will be a fun afternoon

Hilton Village Hall 2pm - 4pm

Entrance £6.00 (includes tea/biscuits)

No Membership - Just pay on the door.



Hilton Art Club

In February's art session, we used only pencils, no paint or brushes allowed! However, there are many different pencil types, for example, graphite, Inktnese, watercolour, pastel, and charcoal. It was interesting to get out of our comfort zones and glean and share methods, tips and see what can be done with pencils. Thanks to those who brought the scrumptious cakes.



Kathy spoke to us about the workshop she has booked with Ann Biggs in June. She has also arranged another one in May, which sounds intriguing, printing with a pasta machine on silver paper (which can be found on the inside of empty and flattened orange juice or tomato juice cartons!), so save a couple for the workshop.

17 April 10.00am – 12.30pm Spring Greens:- Woods and flowers.

Please bring your reference photos.

What you're Missing

Fen Drayton Bowls Club news

Following a very successful indoor open morning at the February Community Cafe in Fen Drayton village hall, we're looking forward to welcoming people to our outdoor open morning on Saturday 11 April between 10am and 12pm. The bowling green is situated immediately behind the village hall (on Cootes Lane). You'll be able to see all the amazing work that has been done by club volunteers in the last few weeks, including a couple of working Saturdays on 7 and 14 March.

Our first outdoor roll up is scheduled for Tuesday 7 April from 6pm to 8pm. We also have a Monday afternoon group that meets at 2pm throughout the year.

If you'd like to join us at any of the above events, please contact Stephen George, Club Secretary, on 07876 407219, email stephengeorge79@gmail.com, or via our website fendraytonbowls.co.uk



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Would you like to give tennis a try or start playing again?

Our 2026/7 Membership Year is about to start!

Here are the advantages of becoming a Member:

- Unlimited access to the courts
- Adults Club Sessions 2 times a week (novice players welcome!)
- Coaching sessions for Adults & Juniors (fee payable - Juniors subsidised)
- Private coaching sessions available (fee payable)
- Members Tournament Day
- Option to join the Club Ladder competition

Why not try our courts with a 1-month Free Trial in April or attend our Open Day in May before deciding whether to join

Find more information about our Club & details of the membership costs on our website – fendraytontc.co.uk or 



What you're Missing

Fenstanton Glebe Allotments Association

Spring is finally here! It feels like it has been a long winter, although we have been very lucky with only one small sprinkle of snow and a few icy mornings.

The seeds for this year's growing season have arrived and we are eagerly awaiting the time when they can be planted. The beds were covered during the colder months to warm the soil and reduce the amount of weeds and it will be a few weeks yet before they can be uncovered.



In the meantime, we can plant salad greens ready for late spring picking. They grow easily on a windowsill and germinate to produce greens in a matter of weeks.

Some of our plot holders use the “no dig” approach to allotmenting, which is a method of building soil health by avoiding over cultivation, and they use organic matter such as manure or compost on top of cardboard to smother weeds. This allows worms to aerate the soil. This in itself takes time, as the cardboard needs to decompose,



but once completed it reduces weeds and the need to dig, and makes soil become nutrient rich.

Whichever method is used, I hope that this growing year is fruitful!

Having an allotment is hard work and takes up more time than you think, but the benefits of growing and eating something you have planted are tremendous.

If you would like to find out more, please contact: secretary_fenstanton.allotments@outlook.com

Hilton WI

The theme this year is **GIVE TO GAIN** - so let's take a little time to celebrate some of our own who **GIVE** daily so that others may **GAIN**:

Close to home - our speaker Guy Bartlett remembered two inspirational women: **Jo Salter MBE**, the first female fighter jet pilot and **Barbara Harmer**, the only female Concorde pilot. Our appreciation of pioneering women led us to welcome **Lucy Lewis** back for the third time - Lucy was the first female bomb disposal expert in the British Army and is currently the first female University Marshall of Cambridge. She regaled us this time with tales of her experiences as a Game Show Contestant. Mel has booked her again - to repeat her Bomb Disposal talk for the ladies who missed it first time round.

Even closer to home, we have a number of inspirational women of our own - a few come to mind: **Sue Clark**, as our President, demonstrated what true leadership stood for in unprecedented times. Her refusal to let Covid have a negative impact on Hilton WI, brought us all an even greater sense of togetherness and support for each other. Her regular emails kept us connected and supported and more than that, gave us an opportunity to get to know each other better through the wonderful newsletters we all looked forward to receiving - led by another three inspiring women, **Pauline, Margaret S and Pam**. And where would we be without our magnificent Treasurer, **Anne Norman**, who keeps us on the right road financially?

Margaret S, Monica, Jan W and Margaret A also stand out for putting together the brilliant Poppy Appeal events, that have raised so much money for the RBL, whilst bringing everyone together in a very community-spirited fashion. Our own **Julie Elliott**, inspirational in her role as Flag Bearer for the RBL.

Talking of community spirit, we are again so lucky to have within our ranks **Jan T** - who took on the task of setting up the Community Hub, with the help of **Sue H**

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN



The WI's "Lost at Sea" Crews

and **Ann Claridge**, among others, to bring together people in a place of security and friendship - providing a warm meal, friendship and a host of activities to while away a Wednesday morning. Thanks must also go to the women, too many to mention, under the leadership of **Bridget Havard**, who stepped out of their comfort zone to feature in the Calendar Girls Hilton Calendar raising funds to ensure the continuation of the hub long into the future.

There are many more women who give so much - and this hopefully will incentivise us all to remember those women, we have all come across, who have inspired us in some way through our lives. And a special Thank you to Mel for organising our fantastic speakers and especially our recent workshops: "Dementia Awareness" and the most recent CPR workshop, in support of the WI aims of empowerment and education.

And finally, thanks to all the women, you know who you are, who have headed up our fantastic WI as Presidents over the years - "Leadership is key".

The Yellow Pages

Venues for hire

Fen Drayton Village Hall	07596 576515
Fenstanton Church Centre	01954 230471
Hilton Village Hall	07752 678415

Councils

Cambridgeshire County Council	0345 045 5200
Fen Drayton Parish Council	07704 023534
Fenstanton Parish Council	01480 465300
Hilton Parish Council	01480 830605
Huntingdonshire District Council	01480 388388
South Cambs District Council	0345 045 0500

Community Groups and Clubs

Books and Jigsaws at FURC	01480 498221
Fen Drayton Bowls Club	07876 407219
Fen Drayton Lions FC	07718 900880
Fen Drayton Parent and Toddlers	07549 630124
Fen Drayton Tai Chi	07799 444993
Fen Drayton Tennis Club	01954 231752
Fen Shanty Folk	07841 599492
Fenstanton Baby and Toddler Group	07742 259653
Fenstanton Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	07531 863368
Fenstanton Bowls Club	07876 343900
Fenstanton Community Hub	07949 453767
Fenstanton Football Club	07968 081874
Fenstanton Friendship Club	01480 350119
Fenstanton Glebe Allotments	07817 786298
Fenstanton Morris	07890 863369
Fenstanton Town Trust	01480 464753
Fenstanton Knitter and Natters	01480 498221
Fenstanton Litter Picking	07949 453767
Fenstanton Speed Watch	07949 453767
Hilton Art Club	01480 830696
Hilton Baby and Toddler Group	07527 394945
Hilton British Legion	01480 831186
Hilton Community Garden	07488 351128
Hilton Flower Club	01480 830571
Hilton HGV Watch	07768 294878

Community Groups and Clubs

Hilton Neighbourhood Watch	01480 831658
Hilton Rainbows and Brownies	07970 404569
Hilton Speed Watch	07540 811115
Hilton Town Trust	01480 830866
Hilton WI	01480 831186
RSPB	01954 233260
Slimming World	07568 444140

Community events

Fen Drayton 10k run	07919 254467
Hilton Feast Week	01480 830605
Hilton Produce Show	01480 830412
Hilton Summer Ball	01480 831299
The BIG Village Fun Day	01480 370973

Education

Fen Drayton Primary School	01954 273346
Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School	01480 375055
Hilton Day Nursery	01767 688715
Ladybird Day Nursery	01480 469166
Sunhill Nursery	01954 230030
Swavesey Village College	01954 230366

Churches

St Mary's Church, Fen Drayton	01480 465211
Fenstanton Parish Church	01480 465211
Fenstanton URC	07710 240363
Hilton Methodist Church	01480 830686
Hilton Parish Church	01480 830866
St Ives Roman Catholic Church	01480 462192
The Particular Baptist Church	01480 830142

Emergency numbers

A&E Addenbrooks Hospital	01233 217118
A&E Hinchinbrooke Hospital	01480 416416
Environment Agency (Flood Line)	0845 9881188
Fenstanton pharmacy	01480 495159
Fenstanton surgery	01480 461873
Fly Tipping	0345 0450500

Emergency numbers

Gas leak	0800 111 999
Non emergency medical	111
Non emergency Police	101
Papworth pharmacy	01480 831415
Papworth surgery	01480 830888
Peterborough City Hospital	01733 678000
Power cut	0800 678 3105
Samaritans	116 123 Free
Swavesey surgery	01954 230202
Water leak	0800 316 7676

Buses

A2B	0800 001 6255
Dews Coaches	01487 740241
Stagecoach	01223 423578
Whippet Coaches	01954 230011

Pubs and eating places

Barry's Plaice	01480 462382
Little Piggy Cafe	07764 336911
The Duchess, Fenstanton	01480 350859
The White Swan, Conington	01954 267251

Retail

Alan's Carpets	07790 681317
Ash's Store	01480 466225
Denise Jackson Interiors	07910 507541
Eye Specs	01480 499606
Ron's Farm Shop	01480 495127

Garden services

Hamptons Groundcare	01480 274848
Hemingford Arboriculture	01480 463674

Decorators

Jason Kirby	01954 211775
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Design, printing and copying

St Ives Quickprint Ltd	01480 465215
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Household services

Cambridge Light Removals	01480 352220
Christopher the Locksmith	07772 111222
Easton & Cook Funerals	01480 310400
Fairy Dog Mother	01480 461959
Fenstanton Dental	01480 381129
Hamptons Pest Control	01480 274848
Hilton Private Hire	07521 293434
J L Wight Chimney Sweep	01954 253315
More Space Storage	01480 830130
Sureclean	07870 338074
Television Mobile Repair Service	07887 887319
W&H Peacock Auctioneers	01480 474550
Z Cars Taxis	01480 462046

Electricians

Bowling Electrical Services	07903 756915
TW Electrical	07810 710826
Twin Electrical Services	07796 492953

Plumbing and Heating Engineers

Cosy Gas	07411 805067
J Halstead	01480 830329
MDS P&H Ltd	07860 829591
RDS	01954 770309
T. N Walsh	07887 561525

Building services and supplies

GCE Groundworks	07737 884643
Graham Malkan	07799 850237
R D B Flooring	07970 256237
Stormguard Building Services	01480 270744

Car servicing and repairs

Wilderspin Garage	01954 230273
Richard's Mobile Mechanic	07368 356105

The Journal

Advertising	07768 274456
Circulation	07876 446565
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