

December and January 2023

The Journal

Fen Drayton ■ Fenstanton ■ Hilton

Christmas events for all the family

See pages 35 to 39

New Year's Eve Porchetta

See page 28
for a tasty recipe

By bike to Amsterdam

Read more on page 64

It's a family affair

The Wilderspin story on page 41

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Festive Greetings

Welcome to your bumper issue for December and January filled with masses of festive events to make your Christmas special this year. Whilst we are all enjoying ourselves locally we must spare a thought for those not that far away in war torn areas where the festive season will not be celebrated in the safety that luckily we enjoy.

All the team at The Journal wish you a safe and healthy Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We will be back with the February issue after taking a well earned break. We hope to see you at many of the events that are being held in our villages over the coming weeks.

As always, please let us know if you would like to see something in The Journal that we are not already covering.



From all at The Journal we hope you enjoy this edition

Editors

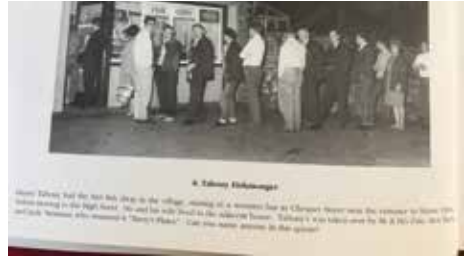
Gill Parrish - fendrayton@thejournal.life
Anne Mustill - fenstanton@thejournal.life
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Please submit any copy by 10 January
2024 latest for the February edition.



Henry Tabony's family visit Fenstanton

I've lived in the house next to the fish shop in Fenstanton for 32 years and was always aware of a brick in my garden on the side wall of the fish and chip shop etched with R Tabony on it. Over the years I've heard many people talk of their fond memories of Henry Tabony, who owned the shop many years ago. One such tale was that he'd let children who came off the last bus jump the queue, as they'd school next day.



chips from Barry's Plaice, the children are joined by Irene (Henry's daughter-in-law), Guy (grandson) and his wife Janet and Rhona (granddaughter) and her husband Jon.

Sadly time was too short, but maybe they'll visit again and share their memories of Henry and my house where he lived.

Joni Grace

Old photograph by kind permission of Jean Ding

On 18 August 2023 my door knocked and there was a gentleman called Guy, who turned out to be Henry's grandson, asking if it was possible to see the brick. I invited him to come through the house and was pleasantly surprised to welcome an entourage of Henry's family. There was Irene Tabony, the wife of Roy (Henry's son) who etched the brick when he was 7 years old. Sadly Roy passed away aged 84 in April 2023. This meant the engraving was done in 1946!

Henry would have been very proud of his descendants - great-grandchildren Ellie, Charley, Max, Gus and Ozzy. In the photograph where they are enjoying fish and





Fenstanton Poppy Appeal

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the businesses in Fenstanton who kindly had Poppy boxes again this year. Thanks go also to everybody who purchased a Poppy for this worthwhile cause.

Gill Dartford
Poppy Organiser Fenstanton

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Take charge of your batteries

At this time of year when many new appliances come into our homes, it is important to buy and dispose of batteries carefully. There has been a lot in the news recently about Lithium batteries catching fire. Whilst these batteries are generally safe and are found in many things we own such as phones, laptops, notepads, cameras and gaming equipment, they do need careful treatment. When charging the larger versions commonly used in e-bikes and scooters, try to avoid charging them in your home or if you have no other alternative follow the steps below:

1. Avoid charging overnight when you are asleep
2. Do not carry out charging in an exit from your house, such as a hallway
3. Shut the door to the room when you are charging and ensure the room has a smoke detector

4. Check your battery to ensure it is not getting too hot, smoking, leaking or bulging as these are all signs that it could catch on fire
5. Unplug your charger after use

If your Lithium battery catches on fire call 999 immediately!

If you need to replace a Lithium battery only buy ones marked with a CE mark, which signifies it has been tested and meets UK standards. Unfortunately, unscrupulous online retailers are stamping batteries with a CE mark when they have not been tested. So, stick to recognised manufacturers. Cheapest is not always the best when it comes to Lithium batteries.

Lithium batteries like ordinary batteries, should not be disposed of in your regular household waste. Doing so can cause a fire. Take them to a recycling centre or to a local shop that has a battery bank.

Fen Drayton Speedwatch

Did you know? Our village has its own Speedwatch group! Currently we're a small team and every fortnight three of the volunteers conduct a speed monitoring session along one of our busy village roads.

In the past, regular monitoring along Mill Road demonstrated the need to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph and so keep our children and other road users safer. Recently we monitored along Cootes Lane (30mph). Of the 50 vehicles recorded, five were driving in excess of 35mph, with one motorist travelling at 47mph!

If you'd like to find out more about becoming a Speedwatch volunteer, please email fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com and a member of the team will get back to you.



Hilton Churches' Advent Lunches

In aid of WAVE St Neots
(We Are All Valued Equally)*

Do come and join us for a light lunch
between 12:30 and 2:00pm.

**Wednesday, 6 December.
Wistow, The Green**

by kind invitation of Claire and Nick Sarkies.

**Wednesday, 13 December.
7 Chequers Croft**

by kind invitation of Heather and Ian Woods.

Suggested donation - £5:00

*WAVE is about encouraging friendships
between people with and without learning
disabilities, with the emphasis on doing things
with - and not for - each other.

Hilton Churches' Gift Service

will be held at

**Hilton Methodist Church
Sunday 10 December at 11:15am**

Gifts of good quality sensory toys
and games for children with learning
difficulties at the Woodland Lodge Respite
Centre, Huntingdon
(no soft toys or dolls please).

Contact Janet on 01480 830407
for more information.

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or 28 Bell Lane, Fenstanton**





Coffee, Cake & Church

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

Sunday 28th Jan

Sunday 25th Feb

Sunday 24th Mar

and every 4th Sunday, (excluding Dec)

11.15am HILTON VILLAGE HALL

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

For more information, call
Revd David Busk on 436400
or **Rachel Wood on 830866**

We'd love to see you there!

What's on in Fen Drayton Village Hall?

We have a very busy couple of months coming up with a variety of activities, groups and meetings, as well as private hires. From Beavers, bowls, community cafe, craft markets, cubs, dancing, Fen Drayton Tots, Little City, tai chi and yoga, as well as parish council meetings, to name just a few. Our website has the contact details and times for the clubs and groups that meet. Should you wish to find out more www.fendraytonvillagehall.org.uk.

However, we still have various slots available. Please check the website to see our current calendar and if you would like to enquire about booking the hall, email us at: fendraytonvillagehallweb@gmail.com or leave a message on 07596 576515 and someone will get back to you.

Updated prices from Jan 2024:

- £20p/h for casual bookings (main hall)
- £25p/h for Friday and Saturday evenings after 6pm (main hall)
- £15 p/h for regular hirers (main hall)
- £10 p/h for committee room only
- £300 for wedding package – contact us for more information the coming year, particularly in our area.



HILTON VILLAGE HALL PANTOMIME 2024

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PETER PAN



Friday February 2nd - 7pm

Saturday February 3rd - 2pm

Saturday February 3rd - 7pm



TICKETS: ADULTS £8, CHILDREN £4, FAMILY TICKET £20

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Hilton Feast Week



For Hilton Feast Week to happen each summer, funds must be raised throughout the year. This relies on the ongoing support of the community.

You can help by purchasing a Christmas Grand Draw ticket, whilst also having the chance to win some Christmas spending money!



Tickets are £5 and available from www.feastweek.co.uk or use the QR code.

The draw will be made at 8pm on Wednesday 20th December 2023 at The Prince of Wales Pub, Hilton.

Other 2024 dates for your diary.....

Stand-up Comedy Night (with comedians from Jubados) - Saturday 10th February
Family Egg Hunt - Saturday 30th March **Quiz Night** - Saturday 20th April

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome Jo Thomas on Wednesday 10 January at 7.30pm at Brampton Memorial Hall.

Jo has worked for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Welney since July 2022 and prior to that she worked for Natural England, the RSPB and the Wildlife Trust where she was based at Grafham Water for eight years.

Jo is Waterscapes Manager at the WWT and she tells us that her aim is to bring about positive changes by supporting landowners, farmers and community groups to enhance,

restore and create new wetland for biodiversity and other benefits such as flood management, drought resilience, carbon storage and improved water quality.

Everyone is most welcome to attend. Booking is not necessary. The charge is £3.50 and payment is by cash or card. We meet at Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4TB. For more information please contact George (01480 450809 or georgecottam@virginmedia.com)

Part of the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Registered Charity No: 1000412

Fenstanton Village Hall update

We are in exciting times at Fenstanton Village Hall Trust, the plans for our new Village Hall have been recommended for approval by Fenstanton Parish Council Planning Committee (Thursday 09 November), subject to additional parking provision.

The next stage is for the plans to go before Huntingdonshire District Council Development Management Committee, for their consideration. As our outline planning permission has already been granted, we are confident that the detailed plans will be considered favourably and, all being well, have the plans approved by early 2024, with building commencing soon after.

If you wish to see the detailed plans for your new village hall, they can be viewed on the HDC planning portal. The planning reference is 23/01725/FUL.

<https://publicaccess.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails>.



Remembrance in Hilton

The Poppy Appeal is over for 2023 with Hilton's contributions entirely from our eight local businesses and a very happy and successful open day by Margaret and Charles Andrew. They raised £112 from their raffle and will send a full tin of money to be counted by members of the St Ives branch of the Royal British Legion.

The annual solemn gathering at the Lychgate Memorial on Remembrance Sunday was led by Rev. David Busk. Wreaths were placed on the WWI and WWII plaques and the Exhortation spoken prior to the nationally held two minutes silence.

100 years ago, in 1923, members of the Women's Institute in Huntingdonshire funded the statue of the Thinking Soldier in Huntingdon's market square. It was therefore commemorated on Armistice Day with a service and wreath-laying by WI members across the county. Hilton was of course represented - by Anne Norman - who then brought our wreath home to be placed at the Lychgate alongside the others. Some more

treasured dates thus honoured!

The morning concluded with a United Service in the Parish Church. Your collection total will be announced locally as soon as it is available but certainly in the February edition of The Journal. On behalf of the Royal British Legion, thank you everyone for your donations that will provide physical or mental help that every ex - and present service man and woman can receive in the coming year, particularly in our area.



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Updates from Clare Tevlin, your District Councillor



In Focus: Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy making strides

It is an exciting time for Huntingdonshire whilst we go through the Local Plan refresh and the approval of the Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy.

The Place Strategy, approved by Councillors earlier this year, sets out a shared vision for the future of Huntingdonshire for the next 30 years. It has been co-developed with partners (including Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority), organisations and Huntingdonshire residents following an extensive period of engagement across the district over the last year. The strategy maps out plans for place, people, economy, and the environment. You can find out the latest on the Place Strategy by visiting: <https://letstalkhuntingdonshire.net/hub-page/the-place-strategy>

Executive Leader of HDC, Cllr Sarah Conboy, said: “Great communities don’t happen by chance, they happen because stakeholders, residents and businesses share a clear vision of how they want them to be and have bold, well thought out plans and priorities to achieve these.”

Huntingdonshire District Council Climbs Climate Action Rankings

HDC’s ongoing efforts for a greener future has seen the council climb up the ranking tables in the latest Climate Emergency UK (CEUK) scorecard results.

As of 2023, HDC has achieved an overall positioning of 96th out of 164 districts. In contrast to the Council’s dead last positioning at 0% in 2021. These results reflect the Council’s ongoing commitment to mitigating the effects of climate change and contributing to a more sustainable future for our community.

Local Plan update

Following the Call For Sites in the summer, sites submitted are now going through the first phase of assessment using the Land Availability Assessment.

Although the main Call for Sites has closed, HDC recognise that some people may still wish to put sites forward for consideration as allocations in the Local Plan Update. For more information, including an interactive map, please see: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-update/call-for-sites/>

Do you have comments on how, and what you would like to see in Huntingdonshire over the next 30 years? If so, do get in touch.

You can contact me by: clare.tevlin@huntingdonshire.gov.uk or 07565350014, or @CllrClareTevlin Facebook Page.

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Fenstanton Morris

will be dancing on

Boxing Day

Tuesday 26 December



at The Clocktower
Fenstanton, 12pm



and The Three Horseshoes,
Houghton PE28 2BE, 1pm



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

Step into the Past

Fenstanton and Number 22 High Street

by John Deeks

This is a photograph of Cedar Close, Number 22, High Street, which is a small estate of newly built houses.



But what was there before these new houses? Older residents will remember the house that once sat on this site. Its last owner was Mr Derek Lamb, who was an engineer with Perkins Engines in Peterborough.

This second photograph is of Number 22 when it was sold to Derek Lamb in the early 1970s.



Unlike most of the large houses in the High Street, number 22 did not have a name, just a number. It was a two storey detached Victorian building that was situated in the middle of a large plot of land between the High Street and Bell Lane. The site had a substantial garden to the rear and front, with stabling and a coach house to the east side.

In 1777 the Lord of the Manor, who was Lancelot Brown, had produced a set of very detailed estate maps. These early maps showed that the land of Number 22 was purely agricultural in nature, i.e. there was no house at that time.

We know that the house was built shortly before 1890 as it appears on the Ordnance Survey maps in 1888. There was a driveway in a horseshoe shape leading from the High Street to the front door of the house. To the rear there was an orchard with gated access to Bell Lane. The length of the front driveway was tree-lined which gave a strong village appeal and this was complemented by various shrubs to the front walls. Of all the buildings in the High Street, only number 22

had a large front garden which allowed space for the building to be only partly viewed and gave a picture of roof lines nestling amongst the trees.

The house was built as family accommodation, with four well sized bedrooms upstairs separated from the ground floor by a split level landing. The ground floor had four main rooms with three spanning the length of the rear and they were all linked to the hallway



with internal doors. The entrance hall was tiled with an open staircase that had twisted balusters linking directly to the front door. Additionally there was a kitchen, pantry and store room and when built there would have been an outdoor toilet. An indoor toilet and bathroom were a latter addition.

There was a stable block with accommodation for a horse and carriage and a loft where the groom resided. A door immediately above the horse entrance allowed the passing down of hay from storage (a hayloft) above. There was also a single storey shed attached to the coach house which would probably have been for storage of machinery and equipment for maintenance of the grounds.



Although the property survived in a largely unaltered condition, the decorative state was very poor. Furthermore, whilst its planned layout was still well-defined, it did not render any unique information about the history of private buildings in the second half of the Victorian period. Number 22 would have

needed to have had a stronger quality and an historic association of national significance to warrant its protection.



The significance of Number 22 High Street was lessened by the overall view of a ruined building set back adjacent to an attractive street and fronted by a largely intact surrounding wall. The composition of the front wall was and still is a mix of bricks and has some character yet the overriding sense is that the wall has been altered with bricks added in a piecemeal manner. Although the origin of its construction is contemporary, the building is not of one period.

Therefore the planners felt that the future character of this site would be enhanced by a development which continued the use of the site for housing. And so, the house was demolished and Cedar Close was built in its place.

Research Sources:
Squire Heritage Consulting report dated 2014
Photographs courtesy of Jean Ding
john.deeks@ntlworld.com



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News from the Pews



St Mary's Fen Drayton St Peter and St Paul Fenstanton



We look forward to welcoming you!

There are two churches in our benefice: our Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul in Fenstanton and our Chapel of Ease, St Mary's, Fen Drayton

Both our churches look forward to welcoming you to any of our services. We hope to see you soon!

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

December and January Services

December 2023

Advent Sunday 3 Dec	10am Fenstanton	Parish Service, Holy Communion. <i>Travelling posada begins</i> Christingle Service <i>followed by hot chocolate and light tea</i>
	5pm Fenstanton	
Thursday 7 Dec	8.30am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Sunday 10 Dec	9.15am Fen Drayton	St Mary's, Holy Communion "Giving a Gift Service" (further details on next page)
	10am Fenstanton	
Thursday 14 Dec	8.30am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Sunday 17 Dec	10am Fenstanton	Holy Communion with Sunday Club for children Traditional Carol Service, with choir
	5pm Fenstanton	
Monday 18 Dec	5pm Fenstanton	Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School Community Carol Service
Thursday 21 Dec	8.30am	Morning Prayer on Zoom Christmas Crunch. <i>Story, crafts and lunch for children.</i> <i>Email ikhuck@virginmedia.com for more details and to book a place</i>
	11am-2pm	
Sunday 24 Dec	10am Fenstanton	Family Communion
Christmas Eve	4pm Fenstanton	Nativity, Crib & Carols. <i>Everyone is welcome to join us for an all-age service. Come dressed as a shepherd/angel/wise person etc and help us tell the Christmas story</i>
Christmas Midnight	11.30pm Fenstanton	Christmas Communion



Christmas Day	9.15am Fen Drayton 10.30am Fenstanton	St Mary's, Christmas Communion Christmas Communion
Sunday 31 Dec	10am Fenstanton	Parish Holy Communion
January 2024		
Sunday 7 Jan	10am Fenstanton	Parish Holy Communion with Sunday Club for children
Thursday 11 Jan	8.30am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Sunday 14 Jan	9.15am Fen Drayton 10am Fenstanton	St Mary's, Holy Communion Worship For All
Thursday 18 Jan	8.30am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Sunday 21 Jan	10am Fenstanton	Holy Communion, with Sunday Club for children
Thursday 25 Jan	8.30am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Sunday 28 Jan	10am Fenstanton	Parish Service for Candlemas
Thursday 31 Jan	8.30am	Morning Prayer on Zoom

Keep a look out in Fenstanton Churchyard from 3 December for our outside nativity as it is assembled week by week with different characters arriving. You can scan the QR code (on the poster next to the stable) and hear the Nativity story too.



Would you like to support local young people and families this Christmas?

On Sunday 10 December we will hold our annual 'Giving a gift' service. We will be collecting gifts for young people supported by our local Social Services teams in Cambridge. They have a need particularly for gifts for girls aged 13 and over. Ideas to gift include; make up and bag, hat and scarf sets, LED fairy lights, perfume, cosy socks, light box, books, stationery sets, bath and shower gel sets, craft kits. If you can't join us please feel free to drop gifts at 38 Walnut Tree Crescent, Fenstanton and we'll make sure they get to the Social Services team. Thank you



Contact details for our parish are:

Rector: Rev Rosie Tallowin: 01480 467393 email: rosie.tallowin@btinternet.com
Churchwardens: Philip Blunt 01480 461751 and Ian Hucklesby 01480 465211

For your information: please note that the Parish Church, Fenstanton has a ramp for disabled access which can be deployed upon request. There is also a toilet, with disabled access, in the church. St Mary's has a small threshold that may be possible to navigate with a wheelchair. There are no toilet facilities.....yet (on our list of things to do). Although we have fixed pews in both churches there are plenty of spaces available for wheelchairs, prams and buggies. We will be happy to help you find a space if that helps you to feel welcome among us as we worship.

JOIN US
FOR
**FRIDAY
FEAST**

- ✿ Free All Age event
- ✿ Get creative
- ✿ Food & Fun
- ✿ Informal gathering
- ✿ Churches of Hilton together
- ✿ For all faiths, and none
- ✿ 12 Jan, 9 Feb & 8 Mar
- ✿ To find out more, call Rachel on 830866

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



BRING A BOTTLE!

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Sat 08:30 - 13:00 07922588171

Come and see us:
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www.rosegatefarm.co.uk



Rosegate Farm Butchery



Rosegatefarmbutchery



Hilton Methodist Church



Whether church holds any relevance for you, at this time of year, people from all faiths and none cannot fail to notice lit up scenes of cribs popping up, surrounded by sheep and donkeys and with serene shepherds and angels looking fondly on the figure of a young woman and her new baby.

Most will realise that this baby has something to do with the Christ of Christmas, whether believers or otherwise. And many a child will be singing 'Oh little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie' – a carol painting a peaceful picture - 'above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by'.

In the very land of Jesus's birth, such scenes could not be further from today's reality. Few in the devastation in Gaza and Israel will be sleeping soundly. Instead of silent stars going by, think screaming rockets, chaos and unimaginable grief.

But the Bethlehem of Jesus's day was never the idyll portrayed in our nativity scenes; Christ was born into place of oppression, occupation, with the threat of massacre equally real. And that's the point really. God hidden in plain sight within the everyday minefield and mess of the human condition.



Born amongst us, pointing to a radically different reality.

In situations where few solutions can be envisaged or imagined, this is the radically different reality we need to reach for. Praying that you will reach for the real star this Christmas and New Year.

Revd. Sue email: sue.bakermaher@methodist.org.uk 07483 153948

Services in December

3 December	10:00am	Mr. J. Green
10 December	11:15am	United Service at the Methodist Church (Gift Service)
17 December	10:00am	Local Arrangements
17 December	5:00pm	Carol Service
24 December	10:00am	Rev Sue Baker-Maher
24 December	11:45pm	Rev Sue Baker-Maher (Midnight Communion Service)
31 December	10:00am	Zoom Service – Phone 01480 494014 for the link.

Services in January

7 January	10:00am	Dr. Barbara Spencer
14 January	11:15am	Rev. H. Walker (United Covenant Service)
21 January	10:00am	Mrs. P. Zähler
28 January	10:00am	Rev. Sue Baker-Maher



Hilton Parish Church



Dear Friends,

I have no special wisdom about the terrible and seemingly unending tragedy of Israel and Palestine, but it seems impossible to ignore it. So instead of any insights of my own, I'd like to turn to the poems of Siegfried Sassoon, one of the great poets of the 1st World War. Here are some lines from one of his poems, called 'Reconciliation'. It's not an answer or a solution to anything, but it might just give us a picture of what hope looks like.

I have no special wisdom about the terrible and seemingly

When you are standing at your hero's grave,
Or near some homeless village where he died,
Remember, through your heart's rekindling pride,
The German soldiers who were loyal and brave.

Men fought like brutes; and hideous things were done;
And you have nourished hatred, harsh and blind.

But in that Golgotha perhaps you'll find
The mothers of the men who killed your son.

Golgotha is where Jesus died, and it seems to me that the only hope for peace in our world is for men and women to use suffering not to drive us further apart but to bring us back to each other, as Christians believe Jesus brings us back to God by his cruel death.

With love

David Busk

Vicar of Hilton 01480 436400

Services in December

Sunday 3 December	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 10 December	11:15am United Gift Service at the Methodist Church
Sunday 17 December	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 24 December	4:00pm Crib Service
Monday 25 December	8:00am Christmas Communion
Sunday 31 December	8:00am Holy Communion

Services in January

Sunday 7 January	8:00am Holy Communion
Friday 12 January	5:30pm Friday Feast (Messy Church)
Sunday 14 January	11:15am Covenant Service at the Methodist Church
Sunday 21 January	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday 28 January	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church in Hilton Village Hall

Weekly Online Services (Via Zoom)

Holy Communion Wednesdays (2.30pm)

Bible study Fridays (10am)

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



The
United
Reformed
Church

www.urb.org.uk

**Fenstanton United
Reformed Church**
Chequer Street, Fenstanton

We are pleased to welcome you to our friendly church.
Sunday morning services are at 09.30. All are welcome.

December 2023 - January 2024 Services

December

- 03 December Revd Christine Davies
10 December Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
17 December Christingle 11am at the Free Church - Revd Dr Catherine Ball
24 December Revd Dr Catherine Ball
24 December Christmas Eve 6pm at the Free Church
25 December Christmas Day Service 9.30am - Revd Dr Catherine Ball
31 December Led by the Church Elders

January 2024

- 07 January Revd Christine Davies
14 January Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
21 January Revd Chris Baker
28 January Led by Alison Jiggins

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

Tuesday 12 December - 2.30-4pm Tuesday 9 January - 2.30-4pm

Geoff Hawkins Fenstanton URC Secretary

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St Ives

Church of the Sacred Heart,
19 Needingworth Rd.

Parish Priest: Rev Thomas J Walton

Tel 01480 462192,

www.sacredheart-stives.org

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

The Particular Baptist Chapel

Church Lane, Fenstanton,
PE28 9JW

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

**Services are on Sundays at 10.30am
and 2.30pm and on Thursday
evenings at 7.15pm**

We still use the Authorised, King
James Bible, believe in Particular
Redemption

New Year's Eve Porchetta

A true Italian porchetta is made from whole suckling pig, stuffed with flavourings such as fennel, herbs, and indeed its own offal, cooked over a pit until perfectly tender. This is, of course, a bit of an ask for the home cook, so we've captured all of the flavours of a porchetta and adapted them into something much more easy to handle using pork belly and loin – the results are stunning! Here at Rosegate Farm in Swavesey, if you ask, we will remove the ribs from the loin and

belly leaving all of the meat on the joint, this helps to make it easier to stuff and also holds the stuffing throughout the joint creating attractive seams as you carve. As ever try to buy local and ensure good provenance for the meat, it will improve the eating experience fathoms! Our pork has a great flavour at this time of the year as the pigs diet is supplemented with apple pulp from Cromwell's Cider, giving the fat a delicious and subtle sweetness.

Ingredients (serves 4)

2.5kg pork belly, boneless
600g of pork loin
2 sprigs of rosemary, leaves picked
3 sprigs of fresh thyme, leaves picked
1 large bulb of garlic
1 tbsp of fennel seeds
1 pinch of chilli flakes
1 lemon, zested
2 tbsp of white wine
1 tsp flaky sea salt
1/2 tsp cracked black pepper
500ml of water

Equipment

Pestle and mortar or chopper
Butcher's string



Preparation

To begin, place the fennel seeds and chilli flakes in hot, dry pan and toast for 30 seconds, until fragrant.

Peel the garlic cloves and place in a pestle and mortar, or chopper. Add the herbs, toasted spices, salt, pepper and white wine and grind to a rough paste.

Place the pork belly skin-side down and lay the loin across the width. Trim the loin down to size so it rolls up neatly.

Lightly score the belly flesh in a 2cm diagonal pattern and massage the stuffing paste into the belly and loin. Place the loin back onto the belly.

Roll up tightly, tie up with butcher's string and leave uncovered in the fridge overnight. This will dry out the skin, giving a crispier crackling.

Preheat the oven to 160°C/gas mark 3

Place the pork on a wire rack set over an oven tray. Pour in the 500ml of water and cook in the oven for 3 1/2 to 4 hours. Check at intervals; if the water has evaporated, add a little more.

Leave to rest for 30 minutes before carving. Use as part of a roast or if you're having a party why not serve it in buttered bread rolls. Fabulous!

Offers a wide variety of professional services ranging from teeth cleaning, dog walking, breed standard traditional grooms, to modern style grooms for both dogs and cats.

Opening times

Mon Closed Tues, Thurs & Fri 8am-6pm

Wed 8am-8pm Sat 8am-6pm Sun Closed

18 High Street, Fenstanton, Cambs PE28 9JZ

M: 07477 878537

T: 01480 461959

Fenstanton United Reformed Church
Chequer Street

Books & Jigsaws On Sale



Saturday 9 December 2023 and 21 January 2024
9.30am – 12.00 noon

Fenstanton Parish Council

Making Fenstanton an even better place to live

Latest news from Fenstanton Parish Council

Next Parish Council meetings

Your Parish Council meets next on Thursday 14 December 2023 and Thursday 11 January 2024 at 7pm in the Church Centre. Please do come along and listen to what your Parish Council is doing and planning.

Councillor Surgery – changes to dates 2024

Councillor surgeries have now been running for almost a year. They have proved to be a great idea and a number of parishioners have taken the opportunity to pop in to discuss matters that are of importance to them. However, numbers have dropped off a little now and therefore your Parish Council has agreed that Councillor surgeries will be held once a month from now on.

These will still be held on a Saturday morning between 10am – 12pm at The Hub, 6 High Street, Fenstanton.

Surgeries are held to give parishioners the opportunity to discuss any issues they wish to bring to the attention of your Parish Council. Please take the opportunity to pop in.

27.01.2024	Paul Kent	Roy McGee
24.02.2024	Tina Yates	Anne Mustill
30.03.2024	Nigel Ferrier	Peter Hayes

Fenstanton Community Award Winner 2023

This year's winner of the Community Village Award goes to Jane and Philip Blunt. Your Parish Council would like to thank them for their many years of service to our community.

Moving to the village in 1995, Jane and Philip soon became involved in village life, firstly through the parish church, then with the Parish Council; Jane was a Parish Councillor for 8 years and from 2007 to 2020 was also Chair of Fenstanton Village Hall Committee, which became Fenstanton Village Hall Trust; Philip for many years chaired the Parish Rights of Way Committee.

Philip and Jane are both still active within our community, he is a churchwarden, and both contribute actively to the work of the parish church, they also volunteer regularly at the Community Hub.

Special thanks go also to our other nominees for their contribution to our village: Roy and Heather McGee, for their work at the Community Hub, and to Kay Pulley, for more than 30 years producing and distributing the Spectrum.





Fenstanton Community Grants 2023

Your Parish Council has agreed to provide a community grant of £300.00 to Fenstanton Friendship Club, which meets in the United Reformed Church every other Wednesday between 2pm – 4pm. The money is to be used to help with speakers, outings, and venue rent.

Community Infrastructure Levy spend – projects 2024

Your Parish Council will be considering projects to be implemented in the new year and to be completed by March 2024, to ensure that Community Infrastructure Levy monies are spent on improvements to the village.

Budget and Precept 2024/2025

Your Parish Council has approved its Budget for 2024/2025 at £183,000 and approved an increase in the Precept of 10%, which is an increase of £16,200 from last year to £178,200. The work by your Parish Council to make Fenstanton an even better place to live is now funded by approximately £11 per household per month.

AGE UK Community Warden – extra funding

Your Parish Council has agreed to provide further funding towards the Community Warden for 2023/2024. The Community Warden helps older people to maintain their independence, health and wellbeing, by providing services that meet individual needs. To find out more about the scheme, contact Rachael Mortimer on 07971 951 412

Parish Councillor – vacancy for co-option

Are you passionate about the Village you live in? Do you want to help make long-lasting changes? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then please consider becoming a Parish Councillor. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect our community.

To qualify to become a Councillor you must be a British subject, 18 years old or over and be on the electoral roll, or you must reside within Fenstanton or within 4.8km of Fenstanton, or occupy as owner or tenant any land or premises therein, or have their principal or only place of work there, and must not be disqualified from holding office as a Councillor.

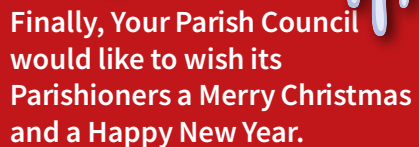
If you would be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor or want to know more about the role of a Parish Councillor, please contact your Clerk for further information.

To contact your Parish Council Clerk

Telephone: 01480 465 300

Email: clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk

Website: www.fenstantonpc.org



**Finally, Your Parish Council
would like to wish its
Parishioners a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.**

Fenstanton Parish Council

Making Fenstanton an even better place to live

Fenstanton Community Hub

The Church Centre
School Lane
Fenstanton

Dates for Your Diary

Every **Monday** 9.30 am to 12 noon *Free* **Community Café**
Every **Tuesday** 9.15 to 11.45 & 2pm to 4pm *everyone welcome*

Every **Monday** 10am to 11am Join us for a FREE chair and standing exercise class, for Strength & Balance **Chair & Standing Exercise**
Fitness for All Ability Levels

Every **Tuesday** 9.15 to 11.45 *no booking required lots of toys - lots of fun free drinks and snacks* **baby & toddler group**

Tuesday 9.15am to 11.45am **crafty fun** with *Mama Jo's Mischief* at the **baby & toddler group**
November 28

Thursday *Free* **NO! Potato** from **Pop-up** 12.30pm to 4pm
November 30 lots of delicious toppings 

Thursday *Free* **Christmas** from 2pm to 4pm **AFTERNOON TEA** *mince pies sandwiches* **£1 Raffle**
December 14

Tuesday **Christmas craft fun** from 9.15am 
December 19 at the **baby & toddler group** 

Tuesday 9.15am to 11.45am **crafty fun** with *Mama Jo's Mischief* at the **baby & toddler group**
January 9

Tuesday **Winter Warmer** **SOUP & Sandwiches** 12.30pm to 4pm
January 16

Fenstanton Community Hub is funded by Fenstanton Parish Council and supported by: the Church Centre, the Parish Church, and Huntingdonshire District Council.

All events and facilities are FREE.

Voluntary donations accepted.

Captured Moments



Thank you to those who sent in these excellent photographs, do keep them coming. Your photographs can be sent to design@thejournal.life By submitting your images we assume that we have your permission and the permission of others to publish the images.

Afoot in the Garden

Now for something completely different

Take a walk! Take a walk around your village in the daylight when the weather is clement. Admire the evergreens and berries of winter in the gardens you walk past. See how many plants still have flowers even at this time of year. If you are admiring a neighbour's garden and they see you, give them a merry wave and a thumbs up. Inspiration for your own garden is all around you.

In the deep midwinter

Take time to look up at the conifers, pines, cedars, giant redwoods, yews, fir, spruce and cypress trees gracing our landscape. Our largest broadleaved evergreen is the holm oak probably followed by the bay tree after which we are looking at smaller garden sized trees. Look out for trees with coloured bark like birch, acers, cherry, eucalyptus and plane trees. Evergreens give gardens structure, add focal points and screening.

It always surprises me how many flowers can be seen over the festive period. Roses can often be found while viburnums tinus and camelias should be flowering. Hazel, witch hazel, its relative chimonanthus and mahonia might also be in flower. At ground level snowdrops, hellebores and cyclamen are welcome winter flowers occasionally accompanied by native primroses. Shrubs with coloured bark like the dogwoods in red 'Westonbirt', yellow (flaviramia) and the glowing 'Midwinter fire' glow in the winter sun. In sunnier drier spots heathers and heaths are also often in flower in December.

Midwinter jobs

Pruning and planting are traditional winter jobs especially enjoyable when the sun shines. Prune apples, pears, soft fruit and woody shrubs. Bush roses benefit from hard structural pruning, I always prune out one old stem as low as possible every year. Plant trees, shrubs, winter bedding like bellis, pansy, violets and bulbs in the garden or pots. Plant trees and shrubs, tidy up borders and lawns, weed and mulch your borders. Protect less hardy plants with generous amounts of mulch around the base.

raypuddefoot@gmail.com



December Top Tips

- Enjoy winter's foliage
- Plant winter bedding
- Plant trees and shrubs
- Weed, mulch and tidy
- Plan for next year



Fenstanton and Hilton
Primary School PTA

BACK BY
POPULAR DEMAND!

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Friday 08 December at 7pm &
Saturday 09 December at 10am
In the School Hall

Get in the Christmas spirit & raise funds for the school with our Christmas wreath workshop. Tickets £30 for everything you need, including refreshments!

Book your place now by
emailing fhpspta@gmail.com



Christmas

EVENTS

FEN DRAYTON TOTS
INVITES YOU TO OUR



Christmas party



MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER 10-12
FEN DRAYTON
VILLAGE HALL

**Christmas Fun ,Crafts
and even a visit from someone
special from the North Pole**



INSTANTON

**Christmas
LIGHTS**

Friday 01 December

6.30pm - 8.00pm at The Clock Tower

Festive Stalls
Hog Roast
Music
Draught Beer
Mulled Wine
Soft Drinks

Santa switches the
lights on at 7.00pm

Fenstanton Christmas Lights Committee

**Fen Drayton
Christmas Tree**

**LIGHTS
SWITCH ON**

Sunday 03 Dec at 5.30pm

Father Christmas will do the honours
of switching the Fen Drayton
Christmas tree lights ON.

Christmas carols by Swavesey
Community Choir

Local Craft Stalls
Mulled Wine & Cider

INSTANTON & HILTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

**WINTER FAIR &
SANTA'S GROTTO**

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER 5.30 - 7.30pm

**RAFFLE - TOMBOLA - FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS - BBQ
CRAFTS - STALLS - GAMES**

The Highs and Lows

Weather Watch by Patrick Landucci

As we basked in summer like temperatures during the first 10 days of October following the warmest September since records began, in 1884 in East Anglia, the warm period had extended to 50 days.

When I concluded my last article in early August, the rather cool changeable pattern of weather which had dominated July, was continuing. Storm Anthoni (named by the Western European Group), gave us an exceptionally cool, wet and sunless day on the 5th with the temperature hovering around 13C (55F), some 10C (18F) below normal. Conditions then improved and the month ended with a 10 day warm spell, a forerunner to a record breaking September which became the warmest month of the year, an occurrence which has only happened on four occasions since 1895. The month

also contained the warmest day of 2023 which occurred during a spell containing 7 consecutive days with the temperature reaching or exceeding 30C (86F), also a new record. The warmth brought by gentle southerly winds containing dust from the Sahara in the upper atmosphere generated vivid sunrises and sunsets. Although September rainfall total was close to average, this belies the fact that most days were dry, with most of the total falling on one day, the 20th (35.5mm. or 1.45inches).

Apart from a thundery day on 2 October the following 8 days brought a continuation of the summery conditions with temperatures rising into the low 20's (70-74F). A wet evening on the 11th marked the start of a dramatic change with spells of heavy rain on the following two days. In its wake Arctic

Hilton Carol Singing

Tuesday, 12 December

If you would like to join us as a singer or as a collector, please come to the **Parish Church at 6:00pm**
Refreshments for all singers and collectors at the end!

Collection (cash only; no cards) to support Mission Possible's Christmas Appeal for their work in Ukraine.

The singers won't be able to get everywhere – so if you would like to donate to Mission Possible, please put your donation in an envelope and drop it off at 7, Chequers Croft.



air brought a sharp reminder of the chill that autumn can bring with day and night temperatures dropping by 9C (16F). The first ground frosts occurred on 15 and 16 October. On the 18th barometric pressure dropped by an incredible amount from 30 to 29 inches (a fall of 35 millibars) heralding the arrival of Storm Babet, from the warm waters from the Bay of Biscay. Over the next five days it delivered huge amounts of rain across parts of the Midlands and most of eastern Britain accompanied by easterly gales along the coasts. Widespread flooding and damage occurred. Actual rainfall totals have yet to be verified but some parts of East Anglia particularly Suffolk reported up to 100mm (4inches). As I finish this article Storm Claran is on its way.

Raging wildfires, heavy rainfall and intense storms marked summer 2023 in the northern hemisphere. Here are a few by way of illustration:

1. Hong Kong. 150mm (6inches) of rain fell in one hour in early September beating all previous records, started 140 years ago. A week later Super Typhoon Saola


delivered 600mm (2 feet) of rain in 24 hours paralysing most of the territory with extensive flooding.

2. Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey and Libya. Storm Daniel caused devastating flooding with the heaviest rains for more than 100 years, firstly in central Greece where the city of Volos and the island of Skiathos were very badly hit, before moving south over the Mediterranean to Libya. There the rains led to the collapse of two dams causing much of the city of Derna to be washed away killing at least 11,000 people.
3. Extreme heat in Italy and Greece in July. A heatwave with temperatures 40C and above (104F) caused famous attractions like the Acropolis in Athens to be closed because of risk to life. North African countries Tunisia and Algeria recorded up to 48C (118F).
4. Hawaii. The United States' deadliest wildfire in more than a century on the island of Maui destroyed numerous neighbourhoods including the historic town on Lahaina, a popular tourist spot.



Hilton Churches Together
Carol Service
Hilton Methodist Church
Sunday 17 December at 5:00pm
Collection for 
Following the service mince pies and hot drinks will be served in the hall.

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
And
Church Centre on School Lane
reclusive.creeps.deleting

Hilton

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



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24/7 365 Days a year

www.hiltonprivatehire.co.uk

Please ask for more details:

07521-29-34-34 

hiltonprivatehire@hotmail.com

It's a family affair



Jack Wilderspin, now 95, set up an engineering workshop in the early 1950s that later expanded into repairing motor vehicles. The business moved to its current location in the 1980s with the new buildings opening in 2002 providing five service bays and two MOT bays. Jack retired in the late 1990s and the Ray family are now maintaining his legacy and his name.



Wilderspin today is run by Mark Ray and his two sons Tom and Adam so it is a real family affair. Mark is still in the workshop with Adam, whilst Tom who is a fully qualified mechanic took over the 'front of house' five years ago with his female assistant Narla, the boxer dog.

"We think it is important to have someone who has hands-on experience working directly with our customers," Tom explains. "This means I can clearly describe what is going on and give our customers an honest assessment of their vehicle."

The Ray family all originate and still live in Warboys and as well as being passionate about the garage, they are all avid Arsenal football fans which explains the numerous match day programs in the reception waiting area. They are also all fanatical Land Rover fans with each of them owning one of the last production Defenders made.

"When growing up I watched my father, who I think is a workaholic, build the business and all I wanted to do at school was to work with my Dad. I wasn't the best pupil at school because my focus was on being part of the garage and now I am a fully qualified type IV mechanic and MOT tester. I enjoyed being hands-on and didn't want initially to move into customer servicing because I preferred

car servicing. However, I now recognise the importance of the role I play looking after our valued customers." And, if the thank you cards that clutter the reception desk are anything to go by he is doing a pretty good job!

Tom, who drives the customer service experience of the garage, prides himself on the thought of keeping the vehicles of local businesses on the road. *"Local trades people rely on their vehicles and I like to think they can rely on us to keep them going."*

It is not only commercial vehicles that Wilderspin specialise in as they maintain a number of vintage cars including a beautiful 1963 Aston Martin DB5. *"We service all makes of cars and we do not want to become a one-make specialist. More and more customers are giving up on the expense of main dealer servicing which, to be honest, judging the number of complaints we hear are not doing a good enough job. One of the misconceptions, especially when physical service books were abandoned for online records, is that you have to use a main dealer to maintain your car's service history and warranty. We have access to the majority of manufacturer's online service records and as we only fit genuine parts we can maintain cars in accordance with the requirements without infringing any warranties or service history."*

The Ray family and their three staff are kept pretty busy by their loyal following and with Mo's Motors closing the phone has been red hot. Tom says, *"We are not the cheapest garage in the area and I am very honest with people about that, but in terms of the quality of our work and the service we offer I think we are probably one of the best."*



Wilderspin can be found on Oaktree Road, Fen Drayton and is open Monday to Friday 07.00-17.00. Closed Saturday and Sunday as Arsenal games beckon!

Mama Jo's Mischief

Welcome to Mama Jo's Mischief. Here, you will find an array of new activity ideas every month for children of all ages, as well as occasional places of interest and recommended local events. Happy mischief making!

Paper plate Christmas tree

Merry Christmas everyone! To kick off the Christmas tidings, why not make some paper plate Christmas trees with your little ones at home. It's simple, fun and doesn't cost a lot. My daughter loved decorating her tree and sticking all the pieces together.

What you will need

- Paper plates 4.
- Green paint
- Craft pom-poms
- PVA glue
- Lolly pop stick

How to in four easy steps

1. Paint the paper plate green (or purchase green paper plates)
2. When paint has dried cut into three triangles
3. Glue the triangles together as seen in the photo below as well as the lolly pop stick on the reverse side
4. Decorate the tree however you like - we used mini pom-poms but you can use other things for example: stickers, beads, buttons, sequins or glitter etc

Please send all enquires to mamajosmischief@gmail.com

Local Events

- **Fenstanton big switch on** - 01 December 6.30pm
- **Winter Fair & Santa's Grotto** - Friday 15 December 5.30pm - 7.30pm at Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School
- **Christmas crafts** - Fenstanton Baby & Toddler Group - Tuesday 19 December 9am - 11am at Fenstanton Church Centre
- **Craft Morning** - Fenstanton Baby & Toddler Group - Tuesday 09 January 9am - 11am at Fenstanton Church Centre



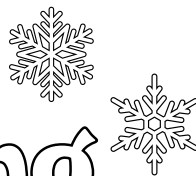
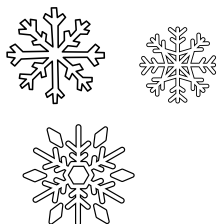
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Santa Claus
is coming
to town!



Merry Christmas

Name Age

Colour the picture however you like. Only one entry per child. Send your entry to either design@thejournal.life or drop it into The Journal office at The Hub, 6 High Street, Fenstanton by 10 January 2024.

The winner will be announced in a future issue and feature in the magazine. Best of luck.

Anthony Browne, MP

Our MP, Anthony Browne, came to the Three Tuns on the evening of 9 November to meet constituents and discuss their concerns (pictured below). He was questioned on local and wider issues in the country and his party.

Concerns raised included rural crime. Mr Browne has a follow up meeting with the crime commissioner to reiterate our lack of rural policing and response to the continued break-ins we are experiencing.

Many parishioners spoke about the planning process and how the lack of water would affect us all. The huge number of houses planned for Northstowe raised particular concerns, not only about the water supply but also the lack of forward planning, which has left a community without a doctors' surgery, sporting facilities or shop - making a mockery of moving to a more sustainable car-free environment.

Mr Browne also spoke about the parliamentary boundary changes that affect his present constituency. We will be with St Neots and Fenstanton.



Community warden

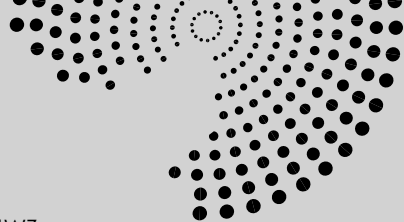
South Cambs District Council has published the results of an external review of mobile/community wardens operating in South Cambridgeshire, provided by charities such as Age UK.

The report highlights client benefits, such as reducing loneliness and isolation, improving mobility, co-ordinating support from other services and helping to reduce or delay deterioration in health and wellbeing: "I love my phone calls from the warden and her visits really cheer me up." Benefits for family members are also covered: "The service is just what we need for our parents. Having someone to check on them is reassuring. Thank you!"

The report also outlines advantages for adult social care and the NHS: "We had a client who was ready to be discharged from hospital but there was no transport. The hospital put him in a taxi but needed someone to meet him at home, which the warden did. This meant he didn't need to stay in hospital for a further night."

To learn more about the service contact Rachael Mortimer (pictured above on the right) on 07971 951412.





Contact:

email: fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com

website: www.fendrayton.org

post: PO Box 1 102, Fen Drayton, Cambridge CB24 4WZ

Financial support for Fen Drayton residents in need

Last year, to mitigate the impact on people's cost of living, the Fen Drayton Town Lands Charity introduced £100 grants in the form of supermarket gift cards to residents in financial difficulty.

While the growth of prices is slowing, food and energy prices are higher now than they were in January 2022. To help residents in financial difficulty Fen Drayton PC will continue the grant scheme this winter. To apply see the Town Lands section of the PC website.

Sue Ellington - district councillor

The introduction of civic policing of traffic was set to receive parliamentary approval on 24 November and we should see two traffic wardens in February 2024.

As reported at the time, the council received a Best Value Notice from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) regarding the four-day week trial. It requires the council to provide evidence on a weekly basis, both retrospectively and for the next six months, to show value for money.

South Cambs Hall is much quieter since the the start of the four-day week. The council now plans to let some office space to other agencies and local businesses.

As always, if I can be of any help, call 01954 202923 or email Sue.ellington@virgin.net.

Community cafe

November's cafe, with stalls selling Christmas gifts and cards, was a huge success. And the cakes sold like – well, hot cakes! If anyone is interested in having a stall at next year's mini Christmas fair, email fendraytoncommunitycafe@gmail.com (Fenstanton and Hilton stall holders are welcome too!)

The Swavesey Choir will be at the next cafe on Saturday 9 December to entertain us with seasonal songs and music. You're assured of a warm welcome and a wide choice of homemade cakes, including at least one gluten-free option, too.



News from Fen Drayton Primary School

It's been a busy few weeks at Fen Drayton Primary School with lots of trips and visitors. We believe in giving the children as many experiences as possible, and love a school trip or welcoming visitors!

Ducklings (Reception) - Our Ducklings enjoyed a trip to the Sedgewick Museum as part of their topic on dinosaurs and welcomed chef Lewis into school to teach them about fruit and vegetables, ready for designing and making their own soup.



Swallows (Y1-2) - By the time you read this, Swallows will have visited the Norris Museum as part of their toys topic.

Robins (Y3-4) - Robins visited the Norris Museum as part of their history topic-focusing on the Stone, Iron and Bronze Age. The children took part in various activities including dressing up and handling artefacts.

Kingfishers and Owls (Y5-6) - We took our oldest children on a fantastic trip to London. We visited the National History Museum and then went to the West End to watch 'The

Lion King' followed by tea at Café Rouge. It was a long and tiring day but an amazing experience!

The whole school had an RE day learning about the festival of Diwali. As part of our learning, we welcomed a dance company to teach the children some traditional Indian dancing.

All these activities have given the children the opportunity to represent our school and we are delighted by the feedback we received saying how engaged, polite and well behaved our children are. Our visitors also told us that they loved their visit to our school and can't wait to return! We love hearing such positive feedback and are extremely proud of how well our pupils represent the school.

Can you help us?

As a small school, we rely on the kindness and support of the school and wider community. We are currently looking for help with the upkeep of our vegetable garden, as well as volunteers to listen to readers and help with spelling. Our PTA is currently fundraising to develop a quiet area outside. We need to lay slabs in place of an old shed and are looking to add a large shelter/shed and giant beanbags for the children to take time out from the busy playground. If you could offer us some time or resources, please get in touch.

Nina McQueen, Head teacher

Starting School- September 2024

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, they will be due to start school in September 2024. A link to the LA Admissions page is on our website - applications close on 15 January 2024. We are holding a 'Stay and Play' session on Wednesday 10 January 3.30-4pm for potential new starters. Come along and meet the staff while your child enjoys the Reception environment. To book a place call or email the office.

News from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary and Preschool



This second half of the autumn term is already rushing past. It is such a busy but wonderful time of year for us all. During December our teachers will be completing assessments and meeting with parents and carers, and we will be preparing for our Nativity Play. A Miracle in Town will be performed by our Preschool, Reception and Key Stage 1 children. This should be a wonderful way to celebrate the season and the end of term.

I wanted to bring you news from our Preschool in this issue. Our Preschool, which welcomes children from three years old, is part of our Early Years unit and the children benefit from the skilled support provided by Ellie, Paula and Laura. Our pre-schoolers also benefit from the school's wider resources to take part in music and cookery sessions each week. In addition to that, our preschool children have a dedicated PE lesson from a sports coach each week. This is offered as part of our link with Over & In. For all of our children, from ages 3 to 11, we are able to offer provision from 7.30am – 6.00pm daily. This is thanks to our partnership with Kids R Us, who lead our breakfast and after-school clubs on site. We are pleased to make this offer to our community.

This half term we have extended our musical teaching in the school. We are pleased to



provide children with the opportunity to be part of choir, with weekly practice sessions; we have restarted our weekly singing assemblies; and we are expecting new glockenspiels to support the delivery of our music curriculum.

With warmest wishes to you and your families for a happy and peaceful Christmas period.

From all of us at Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School and Preschool.

Note from the publisher

For advertising opportunities please email info@thejournal.life. Space is booked on a yearly subscription basis and runs from September 23 until August 24. 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.

Wanted - School Governor



At Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School we are looking for a co-opted governor to join our governing body. As a governor you will be a volunteer who makes a vital contribution to the success of the school. The governing body has three core functions: ensuring clarity of the vision, ethos and strategic direction, holding the senior leadership to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and overseeing the financial performance of the school to ensure the money is well spent.

We invite applications from anyone who is interested in helping the school be the best it can be. Full training is available, and governors are encouraged to attend regular training sessions, either in person or online. We are particularly keen to appoint

a governor who is not a current parent, to increase the diversity of our governing body.

Co-opted governors can make the link between the world of work and education and constructively support the success of their local school. You don't have to be an expert in education or have any current or past connection with the school, and we welcome interest from all walks of life to bring different perspectives and views. Becoming a governor is a rewarding and effective way of making a voluntary contribution to the lives of local young people.

You must be 18 or over to apply and all governors must have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. If you would like to find out more, please contact Nicola Webster, Chair of Governors, at nwebster@fenstanton.cambs.sch.uk



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What you're Missing



Hilton Women's Institute

We haven't seen the Northern Lights here - yet - but Hilton's WI is rushing like shooting stars towards 2024.

Two teams of ladies from Hilton recently enjoyed the annual County wide Quiz organised by Federation in Sawtry. Brains were well challenged and we all had a good time, one team scoring slightly more than the other.

Our various clubs are thriving, Drawing Club's latest challenge was penguins, Craft Club produced 'crackers' that unrolled to reveal that



it was actually a reversible placemat plus a 'little something' and a joke.

One of our members, Margaret Andrew, held a very successful open day in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, generous people from all walks of life popped by and there was such a friendly atmosphere!

Still to come are our Christmas lunch at the George and Dragon in Elsworth, Geoff Heathcock from the RNLI and in December the Upwood Ukuleles will entertain us.

But it's not all frivolity. We are collecting our used stamps,

blister packs from our medications and items for the Food Bank and we bring our unneeded books for a small sum. As the new year arrives we will be looking at more items that we can recycle and how we can support the community in Hilton, maybe even beyond.

It's a very grim world as 2023 is coming to an end but in 2024 as individuals we can at least all say - 'I think I'm going to be positive'!

**As ever, we always welcome new members:
hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com**



What you're Missing

Hilton Art Club

Our October session had the theme 'The Toy Box'. Despite the atrocious weather, and many of us having somewhat interesting journeys to the village hall, we had a very enjoyable morning. The topic proved popular and as always excellent company and excellent art work.

Cake and biscuits were provided by Janet and Gina. In future, it was agreed that Janet was to be in charge of a cake rota.

15 December from 1pm Christmas Lunch at The Windmill, Somersham.
To be attended by members who have pre-booked.



Fen Drayton Book Group



We are a long-standing book group with the first meeting dating back to 2002. Each member of the group chooses a book, and then hosts a discussion of the book at their house, approximately six to eight weeks later. Books are usually fiction, sometimes chosen according to a theme for the year, sometimes not.

The number of members is limited for practical reasons (the size of our living rooms!) but we currently have space for another member. Male and female members would be equally welcomed, though our male voices are currently considerably outnumbered.

It's a friendly group, where the book discussion is usually followed by more social chitchat. If you're a Fen Drayton resident and interested in joining us please contact Martin Dawe at: mdawe55@hotmail.com

Calling all Fen Drayton gardeners!

Would you be interested in joining a village gardening club? It doesn't matter if you can't tell a dahlia from a daffodil, or if you really know your onions, all will be welcome!

We will be hosting an inaugural meeting at the Community Cafe on Saturday 13 January at the village hall - tea, cake and garden chat, fabulous! We also have a Facebook group too (search Fen Drayton Gardening Club).



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What you're Missing

Drayton Lions by manager Simon O'Neil

The season kicked off in September and saw us lose our first four fixtures. Two to Royston Rovers, who are top of the league, and have not lost in the league or cup so far this season. However, we now have players back from injury, and work commitments, and the last four games have seen us win three and narrowly lose to a strong Cambourne team. Our latest game, on 5 November, saw us beat Coton 7-2. This was our best team performance so far this season. We were able to use all the squad, which resulted in some excellent 'team' goals.

A large part of our recent success has been the return of Joe Tiplady. He's really strengthened our midfield, giving me a headache for selection, but a nice one to have.

We don't have any fixtures in the next couple of weeks, which is a shame, as we are playing very well.

I'd also like to say thanks to all the support I and the team get, both on match days and preparing the field, etc.

The 300 Club tickets (yes, 300 not 200!) are on sale and no doubt the village will support us – as always.



Action from the Lions game on Sunday 5 November against Coton - a good 7-2 win!

You look like a role model!

At 1st Fenstanton and Hilton Scouts, we LOVE doing what we do – empowering young people with skills for life, helping them make friends for life and starting them on the adventurous journey through Scouting – which can last for life.

But with more than 50 children waiting to join our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts sections, we need your support. Could you be one of our amazing volunteers who can guide the next generation through their Scouting journey?

With roles to fit around your skills and commitments, volunteering with us is a hugely rewarding experience – and looks great on your CV too!

To find out more about starting or continuing your Scouting journey with us, visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/1stFenHilScouts>, or email us at comms@1st-fenstantonandhilton-scouts.org.uk.



Fenstanton Friendship Club

Another year almost over and time to look forward to celebrating our 75th birthday.

It will be interesting to see what 2024 brings in the form of speakers, outings, lunches and entertainment. Hopefully all meetings will be fun, educational and a time to make new friends and get to know old ones better. Age is no barrier and we welcome everyone into our fold. It is always good to get new ideas and suggestions for meetings. Come along and help make the club grow. We meet every other Wednesday at 2.00pm, 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 celebrations, we will have various speakers and entertainers.

Come along and check us out, you will find a friendly group and a warm welcome.

11 October Twenty-five members all met at the Hartford Marina for a carvery lunch. The food was to its usual good standard and we enjoyed the afternoon with plenty to chatter about.

25 October Adrian Fox came to talk to us about his work as a researcher in Antarctica. We learned about his career, from his start in "a run-down mill town" in Lancashire to spending time in Antarctica. His presentation was wonderful and we were well educated by his experiences. Amazing life he has had, getting close to the penguins too, so glad he shared it with us.

8 November We were entertained by a U3A group, The St Ives Uke Troupe. A good afternoon with plenty of jokes from the comper and happy music from the players. Of course we all joined in with popular songs, it would have been rude not to!

Upcoming Meetings

6 December Our Christmas tea with good food, games and carols.

10 January Twenty of us are going to the Burgess Hall for a yearly pantomime, Dick Whittington. A good time is expected with lots of audience participation.

17 January AgeUK's Community Warden is coming to talk to us about her role. It will be useful to know what help is available and to pass it on to those who will find it beneficial.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

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



What you're Missing

Fenstanton Football Club update



With a month of pretty wet and miserable weather there hasn't been as much football played as we would have wished, as we had to postpone many games due to flooding down at Hall Green. With this in mind, we thought we would share a rather heartwarming story instead.

Hall Green Lane is the home of Fenstanton Football Club and also home to one of our wonderful neighbours, Josie Charter. Many of you will know Josie as a passionate charitarian, who regularly collects essentials for Aqua Aid, Lifeline Fund, a Cambridge based charity which provides help for orphaned children in Malawi, East Africa.



Each year Josie coordinates a huge shipping container, stacked full of everything from baby formula and bicycles to school supplies and tools. All kindly donated by the people of Fenstanton and beyond. These items all end up

enriching the lives of orphans and vulnerable children and go towards furnishing schools, providing much needed equipment, medical provisions and clothes on the backs of children growing up in poverty.

Last year Fenstanton Football Club collected up all its old kits and equipment and donated them to support Josie's fantastic work. We are so fortunate over the years to be well kitted out, thanks to our kind sponsors, and this was our opportunity to give something back.

This November Josie made the trip out to Malawi and the photos she sent back to the Club of the kids wearing our famous Fenstanton kit are the true definition of heartwarming. The smiles on their faces

show these kids are so genuinely happy and grateful to receive something as simple as a second-hand football top.

Week in, week out, Fenstanton Football Club and its team of volunteers provide local children (and some grown-ups and veterans too) with the joy of the grassroots football, wearing the Fenny badge with pride. There are ups and downs, missing shin pads and odd socks, strikers suffering goal droughts, assistant coaches in floods of tears over the opposition's expected goals stats. When we mark out the pitches our lines are often wobbly and we may not often win much silverware, but at its heart we're a club full of hope and smiles and volunteerism.

It's great to reflect on the pride shown when wearing that Fenstanton badge on our shirts, whether you are a past player, current player, coach or supporter. So, when you see the beautiful smiles on the faces of these fantastic young people in Malawi also wearing the famous shirt, it makes you even more proud of being part of our little Club.

Next month we will focus on our under 12's team, plus a piece on our new Vet's kit as they are currently looking pretty in pink!

As always, if you want to get involved with the club in any way or indeed reach out to us, please don't hesitate to contact us at fenstantonfootball@outlook.com





Hilton Flower Club

We had a great afternoon for our November meeting, Elizabeth Robertson was our demonstrator, this was the first time she had been to our club, and we had a most enjoyable afternoon. She did 5 wonderful arrangements, so 5 lucky ladies took an arrangement home.

4 December is our Christmas Party

Also Lesley Beeton will be doing Christmas Arrangements.
Look forward to seeing you all for our last meeting of the year.

Our next meeting 2024

5 February is our workshop so don't forget to bring your scissors.

4 March our demonstrator will be Tim Meakin

Hilton Village Hall: 2pm - 4pm Entrance: £6.00 (includes tea/biscuits)

Look forward to seeing all our friends in the New Year.

Beverly and June Wish All Our Friends A Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year



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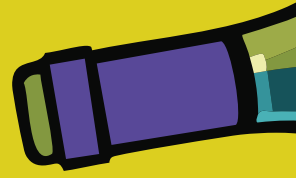


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Call My Bluff Wine Evening

All profits to the pavilion fund



The "bluffers" will be:
Anthony Browne MP
Tim Egan
Sam Pinner
Rev Rosie Tallwin

Friday 15th December

In Fen Drayton village hall
Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start

Ticket price £20 per person

Six delicious wines chosen by
Alex Prymaka, wine consultant

Plus bread and cheese

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- A case of wine donated by 1 Oscar Road Wine Bar and Bottle Shop
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Wine bar and shop will be open after raffle



Event tickets available from the Three Tuns
Any queries email: fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com

What you're Missing

Hilton Community Garden

The Third Annual Report on Hilton Community Garden 2023

It has again been a pleasure to be Chair of such a committee with a lovely group of volunteers. We have met during the year to work on the garden, to plan and to evaluate the various activities.

During the year we:-

- organised a Gardeners' Question Time at the Methodist Church



- celebrated the King's coronation with the production of a fantastic floral crown and provided a throne and relevant clothing with photo opportunities for members of the public.
- enjoyed our visit to Godmanchester Community Garden where we admired their work and learnt from their experiences.
- invited members of Cambridge Gardens Trust to visit our garden as part of their meeting in Hilton.
- helped children from the village and Nursery to produce desert gardens which they entered in the Produce Show during Feast Week.
- entered several classes at the annual Village Produce Show and organised the potato competition.
- hosted groups of Brownies and Beavers on their visits to the garden and encouraged them to plant and care for the garden.

A highlight of the year has to be the inclusion of the garden, together with 6 other local gardens, in the National Gardens Scheme.

About 350 people attended and this resulted in £1973 being donated to the NGS for their nominated charities. A further £655 was shared between the two Hilton churches.

Our thanks go to Roland Randall, who initially provided the land for the Community Garden. He and his family show an active interest in the garden and provide a regular supply of manure.

My personal thanks go to everyone on the Committee for their enthusiasm, dedication and support. They have built new garden features, organised planting schedules, managed our finances, designed posters and displays, written reports and provided cake and drinks each week.



Our grant applications are very successful resulting in a healthy bank balance. No charge is made for produce and villagers are able to take any crop which they are able to use.

The community garden has become a go-to destination in the village and provides a haven for those who want to take a break from their busy lives in peaceful surroundings, it is a place to work, to rest, to enjoy, to sit or just to relax. This garden is for everyone and I am so pleased that it is indeed enjoyed by everyone. I have no doubt it will continue as an important amenity in this village for years to come.

Heather Chambers

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Making a Difference Locally

RECRUITING NOW - Part-time staff and Assistant Manager

Wilderness Scrub

The Council agreed to spend £450 for an agricultural contractor to flail the overgrown scrub along the town drain around the wilderness and along the Green towards the Fenstanton Road.

Tree Work

The Council approved the category A (urgent) tree work at a cost of £1,988, which is within the budget for these works.

New Councillor

Clara Robinson has been co-opted onto the Council and the Clerk will complete the induction process.

Policies

The Council agreed an amendment to their standing orders, a new co-option policy, a pavilion lettings policy and reviewed this year's action plan.

Swavesey VC Bus Stop

Members of the Council and the Clerk met with representatives from the Cambridge Bus Company and Cambridgeshire County Council Social & Education Transport Department to discuss the safety of students using the Swavesey Village College bus. Over the last 40 years there have been two serious accidents, one of which was fatal, involving students alighting from the school bus and then crossing the Potton Road. Currently, the school bus only stops at Scotts Crescent, which means that all students from the west of the village have to cross the Potton Road to catch their bus. The Cambridge Bus Company has agreed to reinstate the Potton Road stop to enable students from the west of the village to catch their bus without crossing the Potton Road, whilst students from the east of the village can continue to catch their bus



in Scotts Crescent. CCC would like to remind parents that, according to their policy to which parents agreed when they applied for a bus pass, parents are responsible for their children until they are actually on the bus. Therefore, the bus company, Hilton Parish Council and CCC would like to encourage parents to instruct their children to board and alight the bus at the correct stop to reduce the risk of children crossing the Potton Road.

Local Highways Improvement Funding

The window has opened for this funding and the Council has instructed their LHI working group to draft a proposal for the Council to review at their next meeting. Suggestions include extending the bus stop on Potton Road to enable the buses and coaches to pull completely off the road, increasing visibility and therefore safety, and realigning the carriageway at the crossroads to improve lines of sight and therefore safety.

The Council has also received correspondence from CCC with the designs for the HGV signage approved under last year's bid. The Council has instructed their LHI working group to review these designs and make recommendations.

Streetlighting Energy

The Council has agreed to enter into a 2-year contract with Yu Energy for their streetlighting energy, at an annual cost of £2,777.94.

Streetlights

If you see any faulty streetlights and the code on the light begins with the letters PC, please let the Clerk know, ideally with a picture and the code on the light. This can be done via email – clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com

Land Registry

Hilton Parish Council has agreed to spend £150 to change their correspondence address with the land registry.

Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022

The Council has instructed the Clerk to conduct a fire safety risk assessment of the pavilion and report the findings to a future council meeting.

St Ives Neighbourhood Plan

The Council has delegated the response to this consultation to the Clerk, in consultation with Cllr P. Balicki and Cllr S. Suckling. The draft Neighbourhood Plan and supporting information is available for viewing on the St Ives Town Council website: https://www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk/Regulation_14_Consultation_Oct_2023_45793.aspx

Feast Week

Hilton Parish Council has granted permission for Feast Week on the green from Sunday 21st July to Saturday 27th July, with the marquee erected from Monday 15th July to Monday 29th July.

Bonfire and Fireworks Event

The recent successful event raised £2,051.50 in income, though there will be card charges to subtract from this total. The Council has asked their bonfire working group to review the event and present a report to

the February meeting of the Council. (Photo courtesy of Hilton Feast Week)



Hilton Coffee Mornings

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6 January 10:00am to 12 noon

3 February 10:00am to 12 noon

Hope you will be able to join us!

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 4th December 2023 in Hilton Village 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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Fen Drayton Primary School	2.30pm – 3.30pm
Fen Drayton War Memorial	3.40pm – 4.10pm

Route H11 – 2nd Tuesday 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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Trains, Boats and Planes

How about going by bike?

By Julia Mitchell

There are many ways of travelling but one of my favourites is cycling. I'm not a fast cyclist but I do like distance and I frequently take my bike to France. You can plan independently (plenty of route planners available), book a holiday cycling tour OR take on a Charity Challenge, which is what I did last year for Women v Cancer. I had taken part in two of their events, Ride the Night which was 100km route in and around London at night...great fun! Then I heard that they were doing a 10yr anniversary cycle trip from London to Amsterdam and signed up. It actually turned into an 11yr anniversary as Covid got in the way! With charity events, you can usually choose how to fund it either committing to raise a minimum amount beforehand, with the charity paying your costs, or to self-fund, raising as much as you can. The former enables folk to join an amazing trip which might not have been possible...mind you; there is a lot of hard work to do in fundraising so not an easy option!



So, to the trip itself... the first thing was to pack everything in panniers and pedal to Huntingdon to get a train to Woolwich, start of the challenge. Changed at Farringdon to the Elizabeth Line, not long opened and the first time I had taken bike on the underground!

Day 1: London to Calais. Up at 5am to meet the group of 37 at the start point. After briefing from the leader, three medics plus support team and van, our bags were loaded on the van and we left at 6.30am south to Dover. London traffic not bad, weather kind but Kent hills were awful, 5249 ft climbed that day but we caught the ferry at 7.30pm! We had another 3 mls to get to our hotel in Calais. 90.36 mls

Day 2: Calais to Brugge Left 6.30am heading through France and Belgium cycling on side roads via Dunkirk into Belgium. Continental drivers are really considerate to cyclists and we made sure we weren't bunched to cause any problem. Crossing into Belgium, we stopped at Veurne for excellent lunch (trip was very well catered, meals included). Belgian countryside was lovely and we skirted Oostende before reaching outskirts of Brugge. The hotel was all cycle themed, called Velotel. A good rest followed another excellent meal...thought we were going to lose weight on this escapade, must pedal harder! 75.7 mls and no hills!

Day 3: Brugge to Rotterdam 6am start, what a great day, good weather with a tail wind. Crossed border into the Netherlands and needed to use ferries and bridges to get through Zeeland, birthplace of Vermuyden! The ferries, especially the first, were truly bike friendly. It was spectacular scenery as we cycled around and over the masses of water and alongside dunes on quiet roads and cycle paths. Now, no cycle trip would be



complete without an unexpected diversion! Ours was on the way to the final ferry where the road was closed, as the ferry was the last crossing that day, speed was of the essence... we caught it! We then pedalled through industrialised Rotterdam (attractive in its own way) to reach our hotel. 94 mls, the hilliest on this side of the channel but only 1652ft climbed!

Day 4: Rotterdam to Amsterdam 7am start, what a wonderful final cycling day with such an extensive cycle network which was a real pleasure to use. Cycled through beautiful villages, small towns, alongside ponies and traps and would have loved to have more time, especially for Delft. We reached Amsterdam and it was amazing to cycle past famous landmarks e.g. the Rijksmuseum and to cross the myriad of canals by bike. Our trip now complete, our bikes were taken to be loaded on transport for the UK before we headed for a Celebration Dinner. 64.6 mls

Day 5: Back to UK I wish I had booked an extra night to revisit the wonderful things Amsterdam has to offer. As well as museums (including the Moco which has work by Banksy) and art galleries, there is Anne Frank



Huis and lots more. Sadly, our Eurostar return left at lunchtime, so coffee and cake by a canal had to suffice. Just over 4hrs and we were back at St Pancras to meet our bikes.

I aim to return **but** will go as foot passenger from Dover to miss the Kent hills. Choosing a charity trip, wherever you want to go, allows you to join a supported trip raising funds for a charity you choose and I would thoroughly recommend it.



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An update from Fen Drayton Lakes

With the end of the year fast approaching, we share a brief review of 2023 looking at the wildlife that has been seen on site and the work we have undertaken on the reserve.

We experienced a couple of cold snaps over the early winter period which led to several of the lakes completely icing over. On the remaining lakes, patches of water were kept open by the ducks and other wildfowl which were all condensed into small areas. This brought in some Smew, scarce ducks from the continent, the adult males dressed in white with neat black trim and the females plus youngsters having a chestnut-red head.

Come spring, the volunteers had repaired the floating fences which surround several of the islands on Moore and Ferry Lakes and we towed them out by boat. The fences help stop mammalian predators from reaching the islands and taking all the bird's eggs. However, flooding shortly after led the fences to be damaged. With that and bird flu it was a tough breeding season for the Black-headed Gulls and Common Terns, but some made it and even managed to fledge youngsters.

We were pleased to record several of our target breeding birds in healthy numbers. Two Bitterns were booming from the reedbeds this year and at least three Turtle Doves purred from treetops. Two of the Turtle Dove males are thought to have found females and raised young. The latter species is declining in the whole of the UK with just 2000 pairs left.

Over the summer we were delighted to find for the first time a nest of Hobby Falcons, an uncommon bird of prey that feeds exclusively on dragonflies and small birds. The adults went on to fledge three youngsters. Although we hear adult Cuckoos throughout the

summer, we rarely observe young Cuckoos, but one near the main car park delighted several visitors.

Autumn was spent improving the path on the new family trail, which will be opening soon. It will run from the main car park and go around an area of woodland that few have previously been able to explore.

Late in the year our work focussed on keeping the habitats in good condition for our rare breeding birds. This involved removing willow saplings and coppicing some areas of hawthorn to encourage Nightingale back to breed one day.



Throughout the rest of the winter, we will continue to maintain and improve habitats around the reserve. We look forward to seeing what wildlife the winter will bring, as well as the arrival of breeding migrant birds in the spring.

rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/fen-drayton-lakes

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654

Young Hobby Falcons that fledged on the reserve – Henry Cook

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	01480 385297
Fen Drayton Lions FC	07718 900880
Fen Drayton Parent and Toddlers	07549 630124
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	07541 968125
Fenstanton Community Hub	07949 453767
Fenstanton Football Club	07531 863368
Fenstanton Friendship Club	01480 350119
Fenstanton Glebe Allotments	07817 786298
Fenstanton Indoor Bowls	01480 497202
Fenstanton Knitter and Natters	01480 498221
Fenstanton Litter Picking	07949 453767
Fenstanton Rainbows, Brownies and Guides	07730 369565
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	01480 830707
Hilton Flower Club	01480 830571
Hilton HGV Watch	07768 294878
Hilton Neighbourhood Watch	01480 831658
Hilton Rainbows and Brownies	07970 404569

Community Groups and Clubs

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
Fenstanton Sports Day	01480 370973
Hilton Feast Week	01480 830605
Hilton Produce Show	01480 830412
Hilton Summer Ball	01480 831299

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	01480 352058
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
Gas leak	0800 111 999
Non emergency medical	111
Non emergency Police	101
Papworth pharmacy	01480 831415
Papworth surgery	01480 830888

Emergency numbers

Power cut	0800 678 3105
Samaritians	116 123 Free
Swavesey surgery	01954 230202
Water leak	0800 316 7676

Buses

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Dews Coaches	01487 740241
Stagecoach	01223 423578
Whippet Coaches	01954 230011

Pubs and eating places

Carriage's of Cambridge	01954 233279
Little Piggy Cafe	07764 336911
The Duchess, Fenstanton	01480 350859
The Three Tuns, Fen Drayton	01954 230242
The White Horse, Swavesey	01954 231665
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
Post Office and OMI Store	07533 240954
Pamela Ann Soft Furnishing	01480 831771
Ron's Farm Shop	01480 495127
Rosegate Farm Shop	07922 588171

Garden services

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Hamptons Groundcare	01480 274848
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Twin Electical Services	07796 492953

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