

June 2025

The Journal

Fen Drayton ■ Fenstanton ■ Hilton

Who's lived here?

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Travelling with your pet

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VE Day remembered

See pages 6, 11, 16 & 20

Walking the Fen Edge trail

See page 37



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Events at a Glance

Fen Drayton Fenstanton Hilton

June 2025

- 07 Bingo, Village Hall
- 10 Cream Teas, Welcome Space
- 19-21 Booze in Fenstanton Pews,
Parish Church
- 21 Books & Jigsaw Sale, URC
- 28 Jazz in the Village, Village Hall
- 28-05 Scarecrow Competition
- July

July 2025

- 05 BIG Village Fun Day, School field
- Cambs Open Studios, varying weekends in
July, Fenstanton, Fen Drayton, Hilton
- 08 Strawberries and Cream,
Welcome Space
- 19-20 Open Studios
- 26-27 Open Studios
- 25 Hilton Summer Ball
- 27-02 Aug Feast Week

August 2025

- 15 VE/VJ Commemoration Day in St Ives

November 2025

- 08 Craft Fair, Community Cafe,
Village Hall
- 28 Non-physic seance, Village Hall

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



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HERE COMES **SUMMER**

In the words of the Jerry Keller song, *"Here comes summer. Almost June the sun is bright. Here comes summer. Drive-in movies every night"*. Well maybe not drive in movies here, but certainly more time outside enjoying the evening air after the warmth of the day.

June sees the longest day of the year and the summer solstice, which also is the beginning of the nights drawing in on the run down to winter! In the meantime we have hopefully a lot of sunshine to enjoy, although anybody growing anything would like some rain. When it comes to the weather we are never happy.

In this edition we are reliving the amazing VE Day events of the last month. As part of its celebrations Fen Drayton produced an excellent book on memories of the war years. If you have not seen a copy, the Three Tuns pub will almost certainly have one there to view.

From all at The Journal we hope you enjoy this edition

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Please submit any copy by 09 June latest for the July edition.

Fenstanton VE Day Celebration

Fenstanton came alive with a vibrant celebration marking the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day. Buildings were adorned with colourful bunting and flags, and residents of all ages gathered to commemorate this historic occasion. From the reading of the proclamation and raising the flag at the Clock Tower, to the grand finale of the lighting of the beacon at the War Memorial, where Reverend Claire Brocklesby read a tribute reflecting on the sacrifices made during World War II and the triumph of peace.

More than 400 people attended the WW2 Exhibition at the United Reformed Church, including our children from Fenstanton and Hilton primary school.

The Church Centre was alive in the afternoon with lots of fun at the street party, where the highlight of the day, aside from the spam sandwiches and jam sandwiches, was a 1940's Sing-along, led by Lynn Webber.

The Church Centre continued to buzz throughout the evening with more than 200 guests enjoying the entertainment and free fish and chips!



Thank you goes to the Fenstanton Morris Dancers, the Swavesey Community Choir and Five Shades of Grey. Their performances were fantastic and the choir's rendition of "Vow to Thee my Country", at the war memorial, was heartfelt and moving.

Thank you also to Fenstanton Parish Council for putting on this event, and our sponsors, Huntingdonshire District Council, Fenstanton Town Trust, Joseph Ellis Foundation Trust, and PPLPRS music licence.

Final thanks go to the volunteers that made this, and other events in our village possible. It's hard to put into words the impact of their selfless hard work and dedication to community, on the vibrancy of our village. They are the glue that keeps our community together and makes Fenstanton such a wonderful place to live.

They know who they are! THANK YOU.

All events and refreshments were free. Donations and profit from the bar amounted to £1,347, all of which has been donated to the charity Help for Heroes.



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Hilton Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings in aid of EACH
(East Anglia's Children's Hospices)



are held in
the Hilton
Methodist
Schoolroom
on the first Saturday of each month.



7 June 10:00am to 12:00 noon

5 July 10:00am to 12:00 noon

Hope you will be able to join us!

HILTON SUMMER BALL **2025**



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FRIDAY 25TH JULY 2025
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6:30pm fizz reception
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Quiz Night



Thurs 5th June
Thurs 19th June
7.30pm
Teams up to 6
£2pp entry
£50 1st prize



Bingo Nights

Thurs 12th June
Thurs 26th June
7.30pm

£10 for 8 games
Free entry to win 3
free books for the
next bingo night!
Please bring cash
for payment
Cash prizes!



DARTS COMPETITION NIGHT
SATURDAY 7TH JUNE. REGISTER FROM 4.30PM
GAMES START AT 6PM.
KNOCKOUT COMPETITION £5 ENTRY

Look out on our Facebook page for upcoming
food vendors located in the car park of The Duchess



#theduchessfenstanton



01480 350859

Hilton's VE Day Commemorations

Hilton's VE Day Commemorations started on May 7th at the newly-renovated lychgate, which was erected in 1921 as the village's war memorial and which is now ready for another 104 years, thanks to the efforts of Martin Ransome and Lizzie Tilley.

The ceremony at the lychgate was led by Rev David Busk and representatives of the British Legion, with contributions from Dr Roland Randall and Micah Egan.



The ceremony was followed by a sumptuous lunch for about 70 people in the Village Hall, hosted by the Community Hub.



Events continued on May 8th with a special event at the Prince of Wales and concluded with a ceremonial proclamation by Hilton's Town Crier and the lighting of the beacon on The Wilderness by Cllr Clare Tevlin.





Hilton Feast Week

We are excited to announce one final fundraiser for Feast Week 2025, a Bavarian night in the marquee! Please join us the Friday before Feast Week, 25th July, for a lively evening of music, laughter, hog roast and steins of beer!

Tickets are available online at www.feastweek.co.uk.

Its not long until Feast Week now, in this issue of The Journal you will find the details about this year's produce show to allow you to plan your growing and baking. Next issue we will share details of the schedule.

A thrilling week of capes, chaos, heroes and mischief awaits, 27 July to 2 August, Feast Week 2025 - Heroes and Villains!



Fenstanton Morris marks May with traditional dance-outs

Fenstanton Morris dancers welcomed May with two lively dance-outs in the village.

The first took place at 5:30am on Wednesday 01 May, to mark the traditional celebration of May Day. The team upheld the longstanding custom of "dancing the sun up" and were joined by local residents who made the early start to support the event.

The second dance-out occurred on Thursday 08 May, as part of the village's VE Day celebrations. The event was clearly the result of significant preparation and community effort. Fenstanton Morris were pleased to contribute to the programme with a series of traditional performances.

Dances showcased during the VE Day event included those from the Badby, Raglan, Fieldtown, Adderbury, and Bampton traditions, alongside Fenstanton Morris's own distinctive style.

Further appearances are planned throughout the summer season. Details can be found on the Fenstanton Morris Facebook page.



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Fen Drayton volunteers needed!

My name is Anne-Marie and I'm in the process of setting up a new Neighbourhood Watch for Fen Drayton, with the help and support of the parish council, the police and our area Neighbourhood Watch contact.

Currently we have coordinators for Cootes Lane, Springhill Road/Oaktree Road, Daintrees Road/Park Lane and The Rosary/Church Street. I'm now looking for volunteers for all the other areas, especially Middleton Way and Mill Road.

Being a NW coordinator only takes up a small amount of time and you would a valuable asset to your community.

If you are interested or would like more information please drop me a message: amleech2000@gmail.com

**Thank you in advance.
Anne-Marie Leech**

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SAVE THE DATE

Fen Drayton Community Cafe

**Saturday June 14th
10.30am – 12.30pm**

**Cafe AGM in the
meeting room
All welcome!**

**FENSTANTON UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH**

Chequer Street

BOOKS & JIGSAWS ON SALE

**Saturday 21 June
9.30 - 12.00 noon**



Joseph Ellis Foundation Trust

PARENTS AND CARERS

If you are a resident of Fenstanton with a child in full time education or a resident of Fen Drayton with a child in full time education (year 7 or above). And, you are struggling to purchase clothing or equipment necessary for your child's education (academic or physical).

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Discretion is assured



Alzheimer's Society Dementia Support in Cambridgeshire

The society has a team of fully trained dementia advisers who are there to support everyone affected by dementia or worried about memory, their family members and carers.

As well as providing you with information, they can help you to understand dementia better, for example, helping with communication, eating and drinking, or washing and dressing. They will work with you to find strategies to cope with the difficulties that you face. Their staff will offer you a listening ear and a safe space to discuss the emotional impact of this. The service is free and confidential, and can



be accessed at any point and as often as needed.

They can help you to access benefits and any other services that may support you. They can also help you to plan for the future. There is a range of services available, including one-to-one support, groups, information sessions and these are found in over 60 GP surgeries around the county.

If there is any way they can help you, please give them a call on 01223 620962 or email at cambridgeshiredementia@alzheimers.org.uk.

Fenstanton Parish Council
The Church Centre School Lane Fenstanton

FPC Welcome Space

Free Cream Teas
Try Our Delicious

Everyone Welcome

Hoy Bingo
Eyes Down
£1 2.45pm
Per Person

2pm to 4pm

Voluntary Donations Welcome

Tuesday June 10th

Supported by the Church Centre & Huntingdonshire District Council



Talks schedule - 2025

6.30pm start at the Three Tuns Pub

Fenland farming in the 1950s - Wednesday 11th June

Speaker: Selwyn Richardson (Grew up in Downham Market; 35 years living in Swavesey)

Village pub crawl - visiting the 7 pubs / drinking houses in Fen Drayton – followed by brief talk - Wednesday 13th August

Speaker: Richard Treeby

St Ives to Cambridge railway - Wednesday 8th October

Speaker: Roy Stoner (Local railway expert; Swavesey resident)

Cost: FREE (apart from cost of drinks on pub crawl) – with a view to charging for future talks in 2026 on. PLEASE email nigel.fenner@ntlworld.com for more info / to book a place.

Letters to the Editor...



VE Day

I believe I can speak for many residents of Fenstanton young and old who attended the VE Day events on Thursday 8 May, to say it was excellent and extremely well organised with military precision. I have lived in Fenstanton since 1976 and this was the best event we have ever had in the village.

I know it was team work, however I would like in particular to commend Roy McGee and Jean Ding for all their hard work.

This event was very relevant to my life. I was born early in the war very close to London, with grandparents who lived in London. I remember VE Day vividly. Also VJ Day, as my father was involved as a volunteer in the navy as an officer /navigator on minesweepers and destroyers and went to Hong Kong and Japan.

Val Rodgers

Updates from Clare Tevlin, your District Councillor



In Focus: VE Day

In May, it was wonderful to commemorate the 80-year VE-Day anniversary in our villages; a superb effort by volunteers to celebrate and events enjoyed by all – a big thank you!

In Hilton, as district councillor it was an honour to light the beacon alongside the village's own town crier. In addition, there was a poignant commemoration service at the newly-renovated lychgate – long may it stand the test of time.



Grant funding available:

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has announced the return of community grants through the Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy. Local organisations can apply for grants of up to £2,500 to fund projects that celebrate Huntingdonshire's heritage, culture, and identity as part of our Pride in Place journey.



To apply and find out more, see: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/huntingdonshire-futures-grant-scheme-returns/>

District Council opens further consultation on additional sites for the Local Plan:

Huntingdonshire District Council is launching a consultation on additional sites as part of the Local Plan, from Wednesday 23 April to Wednesday 4 June 2025.

The Local Plan sets out a long-term vision for sustainable development across the district. It identifies areas of land for new homes, jobs, services and infrastructure, and provides the planning policies used to determine planning applications. You can view the consultation documents and submit comments here at: <https://consult.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/kse/>

Huntingdonshire positioned to capitalise on Universal Studios opportunity:

Huntingdonshire is championing the opportunities presented by the anticipated Universal Studios development in Bedfordshire, with a particular focus on how this landmark project can enhance the visitor economy and deliver substantial benefits for Huntingdonshire and its residents.

Thanks to its strategic location, strong transport connectivity, high-quality and affordable housing, and vibrant local communities, Huntingdonshire is uniquely placed to benefit from the scale and ambition of the Universal Studios project. Huntingdonshire District Council sees this as a rare opportunity to boost the visitor economy, attract new businesses, and unlock long-term benefits for residents.

Do you have any queries or questions?

You can contact me by: clare.tevlin@huntingdonshire.gov.uk or 07565 350 014.

HILTON PRODUCE SHOW 2025

SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST

How to enter: look out for a paper entry form included in the Feast Week Programme (due to be delivered to all homes in Hilton in June). Forms can also be downloaded from feastweek.co.uk. Completed forms need to be delivered to one of the addresses shown on the entry form by Thursday 31st July.

On the day : exhibits should be brought to the marquee between 8am and 10am. Judging starts at 10.15am. The marquee will re-open for visitors at 1pm.



*1 entry per class, except for baking, preserves and beverages
where two items per class may be entered.*

Please check all produce is clean and disease free.

Please cover home bakes with clingfilm



Fruit Cup

- 1 Plate of mixed soft fruit
e.g. strawberries
- 2 Plate of any fruit
- 3 3 tomatoes of the same
variety
- 4 5 Cherry tomatoes
- 5 3 sticks of rhubarb
- 6 2 peppers
- 7 3 chillies
- 8 A mixed basket of
home-grown fruit
attractively presented

Vegetable Cup

- 9 5 runner beans
- 10 5 French beans
- 11 3 carrots
- 12 3 onions
- 13 3 courgettes
- 14 5 new potatoes (please
state variety)
- 15 3 beetroot
- 16 3 heads of garlic
- 17 5 radishes
- 18 3 shallots

- 19 1 full-size cucumber
- 20 3 mini cucumber
- 21 1 marrow
- 22 A display of 5 home-
grown vegetables
- 23 Any other vegetable not
named in the schedule
- 24 3 varieties of herbs eg.
Rosemary, parsley &
thyme

Novelty Classes

- 25 Most unusual flower
- 26 Most unusual fruit
- 27 Most wonky vegetable

Flower Cup

- 28 1 rose stem single head
- 29 1 rose stem multi-head
- 30 Best perfumed rose
- 31 1 dahlia any type
- 32 3 dahlias any form
- 33 3 sweet pea stems
(annual)
- 34 3 sweet pea stems
(perennial)

- 35 3 stems mixed flowers
- 36 3 stems of one flower
- 37 3 stems of one named
shrub in flower
- 38 3 stems, one each of
any foliage shrub eg.
euonymous
sambuccus mahonia

Flower Arranging

- 39 All Green: arrangement
using only foliage
and/or grasses from
your garden
- 40 An arrangement in a
basket
- 41 Tea-Time: an
arrangement in a cup &
saucer or teapot
- 42 Look Twice: an
arrangement in an
unusual container
- 43 Create a cocktail of
flowers (shaken not
stirred) for the ultimate
hero: Bond – James
Bond (Props allowed)

Baking & Preserves

Hilton WI Salver

- 44 A cake to include fresh vegetables &/or fruit
- 45 Lemon drizzle cake
- 46 1 plate fruit pie
- 47 5 plain scones
- 48 5 fruit scones
- 49 6 shortbread pieces any shape
- 50 Swiss roll (jam filling only)
- 51 1 handmade loaf brown or white
- 52 1 sourdough loaf
- 53 5 handmade white or brown rolls
- 54 Jar soft fruit jam eg. raspberry
- 55 Jar of any fruit jam eg. Apricot, plum
- 56 Jar of any fruit curd
- 57 Jar of any fruit jelly
- 58 Jar of any fruit marmalade
- 59 Jar of chutney (please state if spicy)

Drink Cup

- 60 Bottle of any fruit spirit eg. sloe gin
- 61 Bottle of cordial
- 62 Bottle of beer
- 63 Bottle of cider
- 64 Bottle of red or white wine



Egg Cup

- 65 3 fresh hen's eggs, plus photo of your favourite feathered friend

Houseplant

- 66 Impress the judges with your best plant

Compost Class

- 67 One small bucket of home-made compost

Under 5's

Alice Collen Cup

- 68 Dress a dolly peg as a superhero
- 69 Egg cup of flowers
- 70 Decorate a mask (any materials)
- 71 Make a potato superhero
- 72 Decorate 5 cupcakes



Ages 5-8

Thomas Collen Cup

- 73 Design your own superhero or villain badge/ emblem on card
- 74 Turn a wooden spoon into a superhero or villain
- 75 Bake a gingerbread superhero or villain
- 76 Decorate a mask (any material)
- 77 Jam jar of flowers
- 78 Create a superhero or villain using any vegetable/ fruit

Ages 9-16

Jacob Collen Cup

- 79 In a seed tray create a 3D scene (with backdrop) for your favourite superhero or villain
- 80 Make a Batcave and/or Batmobile out of cardboard
- 81 Using fruit or vegetables make a superhero or villain
- 82 Bake 2 gingerbread superhero or villain figures
- 83 Make a villains face using foliage/ flowers and any other materials
- 84 Make a small sponge cake iced and decorated on the superhero/ villain theme

Potatoes

Herbie Collen Prize

- 85 1 ten litre pot of potatoes weighed on site

All Age Challenge

- 86 Show Stopper Cake: make and decorate a sponge cake fit for a superhero or villain



8TH MAY
2025

VE DAY

80TH ANNIVERSARY



...remembered



Our Trip to Costa Rica in March 2025

by Sandy Monk

This small country in Central America had been on my “bucket list” for several years because of its incredible biodiversity, and at last we had arranged our trip.

A few facts: the country lies at 10 degrees latitude north of the equator, north of Panama and south of Nicaragua. It had many different indigenous people before its discovery by Columbus in 1502. Its main exports are pineapples, bananas, palm oil, coffee and ecotourism is also very important. One of our drivers also told us that they produce semiconductors and other

important modern technologies as well as pharmaceuticals.

It lies between three tectonic plates so is prone to earthquakes. It also has several volcanoes that are still active. The temperature is around 30 to 35 centigrade. There is a dry season from November to April/May and a wet season from May to October, although climate change is affecting the pattern of rainfall. It is quite a mountainous country, especially in the central highlands. Although in the past a lot of logging was carried out, now 53% of the land is forested and supports a wide range of birds, reptiles, mammals and insects.

We decided to visit in March, a good time to see nesting birds and relatively dry. We had arranged to have our own drivers for each stage and our own guides and were going to be visiting five National Parks as well as a coffee plantation. The direct flight was just over 11 hours into the capital, San Jose, and we arrived at 5pm. We were met and taken to our first hotel in Heredia, 11 kms away but the traffic in the city is horrendous and it took well over an hour. It gets dark at about 6pm at this latitude so we didn't see much on this journey. Bougainvillea Hotel was a Spanish style building and an oasis of calm after the journey. It had extensive gardens with many

trees and beautiful flowering shrubs and orchids and even here there was a lot of wildlife, colourful birds and butterflies, iguanas and even an owl. The most colourful bird was a blue crowned motmot.

The next morning we had a visit to the oldest coffee plantation in Costa Rica, Hacienda Doka. The guide was excellent and talked us through the process from plant to bean to cup as we walked through the extensive plantation. It was a much more involved process than I had realised, there are three





coats on the seed which have to be processed before the bean is reached and there is much washing and drying and finally roasting. Most of the pickers come from Nicaragua for the harvest season and are housed there. For each basket they pick they are given a token called a carjuela and these are exchanged for cash at the end of each week. We had some time to wander after the tour and got back to the hotel at 2.30pm where we spent a leisurely afternoon. An early night after dinner as we were being picked up at 6.40 am for the next stage.

We were going to Tortuguero National Park on the Caribbean coast and this meant a four hour bus ride followed by a boat ride of just over an hour. The bus journey was broken by a stop for a Costa Rican breakfast, typically rice and beans, fried plantain and eggs. Once out of the city the roads were quieter and we went through quite hilly terrain with forest on either side. There were many sharp bends and crawler lanes for the many large American style trucks as there is hardly any rail system.

The road eventually became a dirt track alongside a massive banana plantation until we reached a wide river where boats were waiting. The guide pointed out birds, monkeys and even a crocodile as we raced along. He told us that Tortuguero had once been a large lagoon until an earthquake caused the land to rise and created separate waterways, and there was also a manmade canal once used for transporting bananas more quickly. We were pleased to reach Mwamba Lodge, our eco home for the next two nights. It was set between the river and the canal and had a large tropical garden with a lot of wildlife. We had an afternoon walk with a guide who pointed out all the flora and fauna. We saw a sloth, a tree porcupine, toucan and many Montezuma Orependula birds who build the most amazing nests which hang down from the branches like long socks. The lodge had a swimming pool adjacent to the large open sided restaurant. There was a limited choice of Costa Rican/ Mexican style food. It was very hot and just a ceiling fan in our room, cold showers helped! No glass in the windows, just mosquito screens. The dawn chorus at 5.30am was amazing.

The following morning was free so we walked to the nearby Tortuguero village and along the beach. Advice was not to swim because of rip tides and sharks. This beach is where turtles return to lay their eggs and is protected. After lunch we had our three hour guided boat trip along the many waterways. We saw many



Continued overleaf

Trains, Boats and Planes

beautiful birds, different iguanas, caiman, monkeys and turtles. It was extremely peaceful meandering along the tree lined water.



All too soon it was time to move to the next national park in the central highlands of La Fortuna, Arenal. We were going on a 12 seater plane from the nearby airstrip. There was one woman as ground staff who weighed herself with our luggage, and then us with hand luggage, on bathroom scales. These planes are often subject to delays as other flights take priority and ours was no exception. Two hours later we took off on the 50 minute flight. It was a clear day so we saw many pineapple plantations where forest had been cleared. Eventually the Volcano Arenal came into view and we landed. The volcano is more often than not shrouded in cloud so it was good to see it. The volcano heats geothermal springs. Our hotel was in a hilly, isolated area with excellent views of the volcano. It had lovely landscaped swimming pools and extensive grounds with many flowering shrubs and trees. The pools were heated geothermally so it was like stepping into a hot bath, very strange. We had three nights here so a chance to relax and unpack. The next morning our guided walk was in the Mystic Hanging Bridges Park. A short drive

took us there and we met our personal guide. It was a very hilly area with ravines and suspension bridges over them. The guide knew where the busy areas were and took

us to quieter areas where we saw plenty of wildlife. All the guides have telescopes on tripods, the first third is angled down then the other two thirds is at right angles and aimed up. It enabled us to see animals and birds high up in the canopy. We were able to take photos with our cameras through the telescope. There was a very small yellow pit viper curled around a plant by the path, only about 12 inches long which we were told has a very deadly bite. Again lots of brightly coloured birds.

We had two days to sit by the pool and relax after our busy first days and then it was time to move on to

Monteverde Cloud Forest. We were picked up at 9am and had a short taxi ride to Lake Arenal, a huge, man-made lake which is used for hydro-electricity. Our boat was waiting for us and we had a very pleasant 45 minute crossing and each of us had a go at driving! I was able to converse with my limited Spanish and the boatman's limited English. Our minibus was waiting on the other side and another very good driver who



spoke a bit more English. The roads were very rough and in places just dirt. There were many places where there were gangs of men



repairing the roads. It was very mountainous and with twisty roads. We crossed the continental divide and here it was very windy and there were numerous wind turbines. The journey lasted about four hours with a coffee stop and we reached Santa Elena region about 2pm. The Senda Hotel was in beautiful surroundings and all the rooms were bungalows set in the hillside. It was much higher here and so the temperature was a much more comfortable 28C and with a breeze. We explored the gardens and a small wildlife area at the top of the hill whilst our room was serviced. The staff said on no account to leave our door open as the coati (or animal Mafia) would go in and destroy everything. They are racoon like small mammals.

The next morning we had a guided walk in the rainforest. We hoped to see the national bird, the quetzal, and we stood for an hour where it was making its nest! We saw many other birds, especially an Emerald Toucanet and nesting humming birds. Another couple did see the quetzal and forwarded their photos to us. Lots of unusual trees and ferns and a beautiful waterfall.

In the afternoon we visited Curi Cancha reserve on our own and enjoyed the meandering paths and saw Capuchin monkeys and many birds. That evening before dinner the hotel arranged for some local dancers in national costume to come and perform which was really lovely. All the staff were very friendly, as was everyone so far on the trip. The next morning we were up early again as we were being collected at 8am for the next stage. We had a three hour minibus journey back to San Jose which took us down the pacific coast before going inland. We were taken to the very modern domestic airport where we took another 12 seater airplane to the Osa peninsula in the south west.

We had great views all the way of San Jose and the pacific coast and small villages dotted in the hills and mountains. We were relieved to see the airstrip among the dense forest as the plane got lower. The luggage was unloaded on the airstrip and



my luggage had not been loaded due to the plane being overweight. I was assured it would come on a later flight! We had a short minibus ride on dirt tracks and through a shallow river to a waiting boat and then a short boat ride to Aquila Lodge. This was an eco-lodge set on a hillside on the edge of the Corcovado rainforest reserve. We were met at the jetty by a very friendly lady and shown the communal open sided dining area and given a welcome fruit drink and offered some lunch. Our room was at the top of the hill, about 75 steps up. It was very comfortable, no air con, just ceiling fans and mosquito screens at the windows. A very nice bathroom attached. We had three nights here. It was noticeably very much hotter here, about 36C. Appetisers were served at 6pm

Continued overleaf

Trains, Boats and Planes

with drinks and followed by dinner which we had already chosen from the blackboard. Food here was excellent but portions were on the large side. We ate at long tables along with everyone. All the activities included were organised by the lodge. We had a walk in the rainforest the next morning and the boat journey took about 30 minutes. It was very difficult getting off the boat because of the pacific rollers. Our bags were checked at a ranger station to make sure we had no plastic bags or bottles. Costa Rica is very eco-friendly and doesn't use plastic if they can avoid it and they are great at recycling. Our guide, Gabriel, was employed by the lodge and was very knowledgeable. We saw spider monkeys, many birds and butterflies, a tapir, lizards, iguanas, bats and the highlight was flocks of noisy scarlet macaws and toucans. We were back in time for lunch and had the afternoon free to sit and watch birds from our veranda.

We had booked to go on a night walk around the gardens of the lodge with a local biologist. This turned out to be an amazing experience. Who knew what lurked in the bushes? Many different spiders small and not so small. Leaf cutter ants in the thousands, bats, praying mantis, scorpions, a boa constrictor, opossums and even a kinkajou high up. It was all so interesting and informative. So glad we did this. The next morning was our snorkelling trip. We got kitted out with flippers, masks and snorkels and the boat took us to Isla de Cana, a marine reserve. I wasn't too keen on being out of my depth but I did venture in the sea and saw baby sharks, turtles and many coloured fish. The PADI captain was brilliant and helpful if

you were inexperienced.

We got back for lunch and again had a free afternoon to rest. We later had a sunset boat trip and we saw a fantastic sun setting behind the island. Another enjoyable dinner chatting with other guests and then it was early to bed and last minute packing as we were being collected early for the last national park of Manuel Antonio.

We had a boat trip across Drake Bay and over the pacific rollers into the estuary of Sierpe river. The boat journey lasted about an hour even though we were racing along. There

were many fast boats going up and down as it's the main mode of transport. There were mangroves at the edge of the river and crocodiles, also birds. We reached the town of Sierpe and its dock and disembarked to where our minibus was waiting. The town was quite spread out and it seemed to be mainly palm oil plantations surrounding the area for miles on end. We reached the Pacific coast and travelled north for about three



hours until we arrived at our hotel for the next four nights. It was in a great spot high up overlooking the sea and the rainforest. Whilst waiting for our room a troop of squirrel monkeys starting leaping from tree to tree just above our heads. Several of them had babies on their backs, very cute. Our room was at the top of the hillside so with excellent views out to sea and into the trees. We saw a pair of toucans in the big tree nearby and lots of other birds. There were dozens of black vultures circling overhead and also flocks of pelicans.

The next morning our driver and guide picked us up for the short journey to Manuel Antonio

national park which is at the back of the beach area. This is the smallest park of about six acres but it did not disappoint. Again our guide was brilliant and taught us so much and was pleased that we were so interested in the wildlife. Many of the groups visiting were of 12-16 people so we were thankful that we had asked for our own personal guide. It meant we could ask questions and if he was showing us animals or birds through the telescope we had time to see it clearly before it moved off. We saw a brown vine snake that was extremely well camouflaged, toucans, a three toe sloth, spider monkeys, capuchin monkeys, lizards, iguanas, humming birds, a blue crowned motmot, scarlet macaws, green parakeets and mangroves. There were three vultures on the ground in the trees eating a dead iguana. Sloths have a very slow lifestyle and digestive system and only need to come to the ground every 7-10 days to defecate. They sleep for about 18 hours a day!

We had no more guided walks after this and had three days to chill out after a very hectic itinerary. We found a sloth high up a tree very near the hotel and when we checked the video afterwards we could see that it had a baby clinging to its stomach. We found different places to eat within walking distance of the hotel. The only downside to Costa Rica is that eating out and drinking is extremely expensive, especially in hotels. We enjoyed sitting by the swimming pool, relaxing and reading. The end to a perfect visit.

We were collected by minibus about 11am on the last day to go to the airport, a journey of about four hours. Our driver, Danny, spoke very good English so we were able to ask lots of questions. I wanted to know why there seemed to be so many children not in school. He explained that in many areas there are not enough classrooms so one group of children go from 7am until lunchtime and the other group go from lunchtime until about 5pm. The next day they swap over. He had learnt English just from driving tourists around. He



said he had found the Glasgow and Geordie dialects difficult to follow! I was surprised to learn that Costa Rica manufactured superconductors and other types of technology and that the USA imported much of it at the moment. Danny also had an app on his phone that shows where earthquakes are happening. He said that there can be as many as 100 small tremors each day. We didn't feel any on our travels. He said he found the cost of living very high and if he takes his family on holiday he will go to Cancun, Mexico, as even with flights, it is cheaper than a holiday in Costa Rica!

All too soon we arrived at the international airport for our overnight journey. The airport was very modern with a very good departure lounge. We were on time leaving after a most memorable holiday. I would recommend visiting Costa Rica to anyone.



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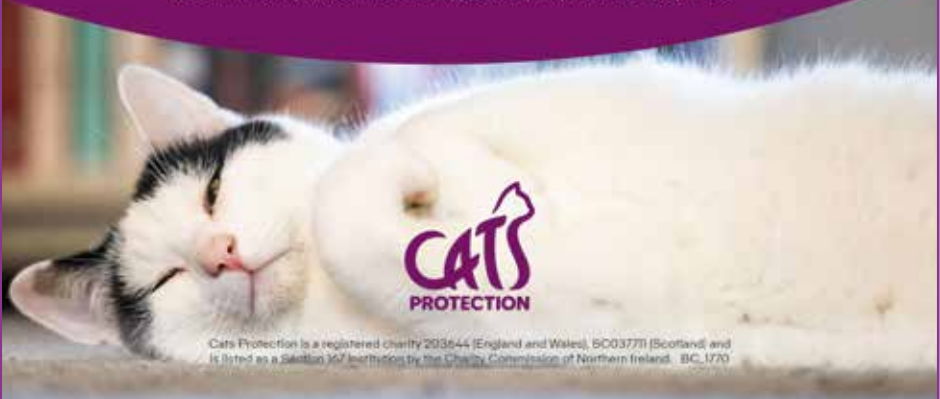


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Step into the Past

The First Book on Hilton

By Gillian Sheail

In Huntingdon library there is an old small book of 42 pages, by Herbert Bolton entitled 'Hilton'. It was written at the close of the nineteenth century in 1899 or 1900. The author was not a villager, he wrote as someone exploring the country life of the East Midlands, claiming that the book is a 'descriptive sketch of the topographical history of Hilton'. The final chapter, reproduced here, entitled 'The Hilton of Today', provides an account of the village as seen by this visitor 125 years ago.

The parish is on the borders of Cambridgeshire, and a walk of about three furlongs from the centre of the village, will take one out of the county of Hunts into Cambs. Hilton adjoins the London-road, and is 3½ miles south-west of St Ives Railway Station. For electoral purposes it is in the Northern Division of the county, and the Hundred of Toseland; and for petty sessional purposes is in the Huntingdonshire division, it is in the Union of St Ives, county court district of Huntingdon, rural deanery and archdeaconry of Huntingdon, and diocese of Ely.

Its situation is healthy, and although the village is somewhat straggling, the houses are well-built, and the easy access to them by good roads is a feature by no means

unimportant. The general aspect of Hilton is picturesque in the extreme. At the entrance to the village from St Ives road, we have the pleasant-looking mansion of Mr W.V. Theed, with its accompanying grounds and coppices.

Attention is soon attracted to what is known as Hilton Hall (now a farm homestead occupied by Mr J. Walker), which is a quaint red-brick building of the old-fashioned design, material, and solidity of structure which is not to be found in a many days' march. Here and there,

perhaps to the extent of a score in a county, we come across these veritable castles of red-brick, and it is seldom they are occupied to their full extent of accommodation.

Passing on we come to the prettiest part of the village – the common land – which being finely wooded with grand trees, and intersected with neat gravel roadways, presents a pleasing scene to the eye. The Vicarage, a handsome though quaint house with picturesque gardens and grounds, is situated close to the green, within easy distance of the Church. In one portion of this tremendous tract of sward, a stone obelisk, to the memory of William Sparrow, dated 1641, is erected, and surrounded by a maze, curiously cut in the turf. A pound also existed until recently, opposite the Manor Farm, built in a hollow on the common, which owing to its dilapidated condition, was abolished, there being little or no use for such a building.

Purely occupied with agricultural pursuits its inhabitants are not excited by many stirring events, and perhaps the only occurrence which really makes a break in the commonplace daily routine, is the annual Feast. This is, however, observed with but little spirit, and though some few years ago it was a festival of importance, the general decline of all such once-popular institutions has had effect in Hilton, and the Feast now consists of nothing more than a dancing-booth, a few cocoanut-shies, an "Aunt Sally", and a few stalls.

No matter how small the population of our English hamlets may be, how poor and insignificant the cluster of dwellings, there is always to be found one grand, venerable pile of the Parish Church, sometimes towering conspicuously on an eminence, and often nestled in a



Ladies playing croquet at Hilton House



Map of Hilton 1902

friendly enclosure of majestic trees. Hilton is no exception to this rule, for on the side of the village we come across the Church, a handsome stone building, erected in a hollow, and protected by the shelter of a ridge of hills, and enhanced in appearance by the surrounding wooded scenery. Approaching the building by a spacious grave-yard, fairly well kept, the pedestrian is struck by the imposing scene. The Church-yard is one of the old-fashioned style, but contains few tombs of interest.

Next in the importance to the Parish Church in the shape of public buildings is the Wesleyan Chapel, which was erected some thirty-years ago and is now flourishing. There is no resident minister, the duties being done by "supply" from the Hunts Circuit. There are excellent congregations every Sunday, and the usual classes for instruction are organized with some considerable spirit.

A first-class reading-room has also been obtained through the kindness of the Lord of the Manor (Mr Wright Ingle). A cottage has been renovated and altered so as to provide spacious up and down-stairs rooms, the former for reading, and the latter for recreation in the shape of billiards, draughts, etc. The generosity of the donor of such an institution had, I need hardly say, met with the appreciation it merited, and the advantages such a building affords are immensely enjoyed.

Hilton possesses a small post-office, and Mr John Elliott is sub-postmaster. Letters arrive by cart from St. Ives at 7 a.m.; and are dispatched at 6.45 p.m. Although the

telegraph is a convenience which has been latterly added to many of the villages round St. Ives, notably, Hemingford, Bluntisham, Needingworth, etc., yet the residents of Hilton can boast of no such luxury. The nearest telegraph and money order office is at Fenstanton, about two miles distant.

There is a well-built National School (mistress Mrs Russell) where the young of Hilton are daily instructed in the rudiments of education, an advantage which few of their parents were possessed of when they were children.

But in these days of the penny daily and weekly newspapers, and spread of cheap literature, the youth of the country are keen to wipe off "the infants' ignorance of all but their own simple pleasures," and those dark days when it was almost impossible for the ploughman or shepherd to raise his social and intellectual level are over. The more sanitary cottage has taken the place of the two-roomed, and often loathsome single-roomed dwelling, where order and decency were of necessity absent.

We have much to be thankful for in this our day, and the improvements which must have taken place in Hilton give rise to feelings of grateful congratulation. Improvements in agricultural machinery, and the better tillage of the soil, is gratifying both to the farmer and labourer alike, and it is to be hoped that brighter times are in store for both classes.... the benefits which education, science, and the elevation of humanity, have conferred are incomparable on account of their vastness.

Hopefully this contemporary description allows us a little more detail about the village than the basic statistics provided by the 1901 census when the total population was 275 persons, (133 male, 142 female) living in 67 houses, of which 39 were classed as tenements of less than 5 rooms.

Sadly I could not find a photo of the old pound for stray animals on the village green, and I do not know where the cottage housing the reading room and the billiards room were located. If anyone can tell me more about these former village landmarks, I would be very pleased to hear from them Email :giliansheail@btopenworld.com or phone:07484 650209



Hilton Open Studios 2025

19th & 20th July
26th & 27th July

Open from 10am to 5pm
Free entry

Lynn Norton

Manor Farm, The Green, Hilton

Lynn's work is influenced by the natural world. Her landscapes are painted in acrylic and pastel, and she will also be showing her vibrant acrylic ink wildlife paintings, together with her sketchbooks and a selection of greetings cards.



Kieron Dunk

Orchard House, The Green, Hilton

Kieron is a landscape painter but he will take on any subject that catches his eye. Working quickly in oils on board, his style and technic have developed to capture the essence of a moment.



Manor Farm and Orchard House are situated next to each other on the north side of Hilton Green

This is an ideal opportunity to meet the artists and find out more about their work.

For more information on Open Studios, visit the website at camopenstudios.org where full details of both artists can be found along with with directions



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Route H9 – 2nd Tuesday In The Month

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

Route H11 – 2nd Thursday In The Month

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

Route H25 – 4th Thursday In The Month

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



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Travelling to Europe with your dog or cat: What you need to know

Planning a trip to Europe and want to bring your furry companion along? Whether it's a summer holiday in France or a family visit to Spain, travelling with your pet from the UK to the EU requires careful preparation to avoid last-minute issues—or worse, serious health risks. Your vet will be able to help you enjoy your travels while keeping your pet safe and compliant with the latest regulations.

Travel rules Post-Brexit

Since the UK left the EU, the old pet passport system no longer applies for UK-issued documents. To travel with your cat or dog (including assistance dogs), you now need:

- **An Animal Health Certificate (AHC):** Issued within 10 days of travel, confirming your pet is microchipped and vaccinated against rabies.
- **Valid rabies vaccination:** Your pet must be at least 12 weeks old, and the rabies jab must be given at least 21 days before travel.
- **Tapeworm treatment for dogs:** Required for return to the UK from certain countries, administered 24–120 hours before re-entry. Some countries require a tapeworm treatment to be administered before entry to the country too.

It's important to speak to your vet well in advance—ideally a couple of months before travel—to make sure your pet meets all the health and paperwork requirements.

Travel tips

Travel can be stressful for animals. Here are a few ways to keep your journey smooth:

- Use a well-ventilated crate or travel harness in the car.
- Take breaks every few hours for water and toileting (dogs only!).
- Keep your pet cool and never leave them unattended in a vehicle.
- Pack familiar items—blankets or toys—to reduce anxiety.



Cats often find travel more distressing than dogs, so it's worth discussing calming supplements or pheromone sprays with us beforehand.

Disease risks abroad

One of the biggest concerns with pet travel is the increased exposure to diseases not commonly found in the UK. Warmer European countries host parasites that carry serious illnesses. Here are a few key risks:

- **Leishmaniasis:** Transmitted by sandflies, common in southern Europe. Can cause long-term skin, kidney, and organ issues.
- **Heartworm:** Spread by mosquitoes, heartworm can be fatal if untreated.
- **Echinococcus multilocularis:** A type of tapeworm found in foxes and dogs across parts of Europe. This is why dogs must have worming treatment before re-entering the UK.
- **Ticks and fleas:** Ticks in Europe can carry diseases like ehrlichiosis and babesiosis.

We strongly recommend parasite protection tailored to the region you're visiting. Let your vet know your destination and they will advise on the best preventive treatments before, during, and after your trip.

After you return

Keep an eye on your pet after travel. If they seem unwell—lethargic, vomiting, coughing, or developing sores—book a check-up immediately. Some imported diseases can take weeks or even months to show symptoms.

Bon voyage—but plan ahead!

We're always here to help with travel paperwork, parasite control, and travel advice. Don't leave it to the last minute—give your vet a call and get everything in place for a safe and happy journey.

**Dr Hayley Baker MA VetMB
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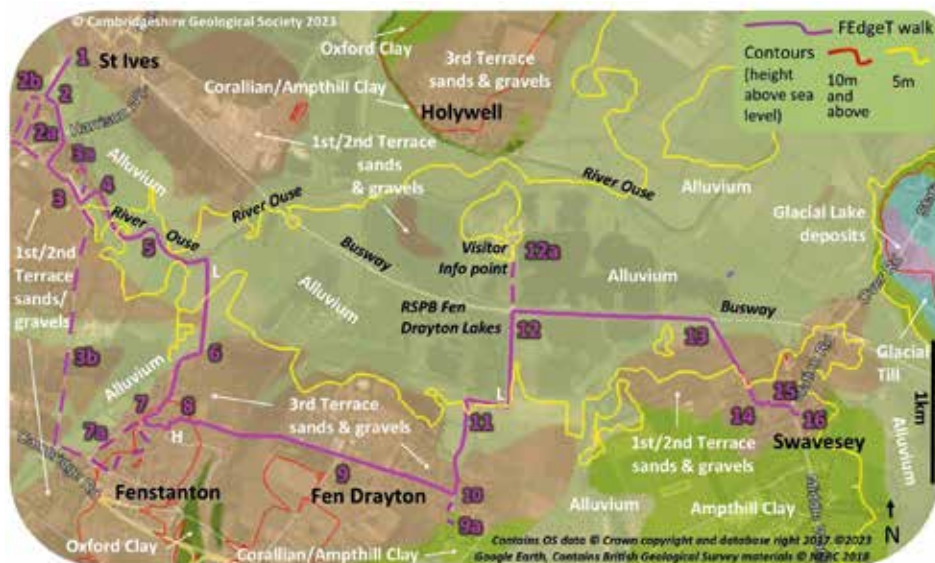
The Fen Edge Trail through Fenstanton and Fen Drayton

The Fen Edge Trail is a series of landscape heritage walks that follow the Cambridgeshire fen edge from the border with Lincolnshire, near Peakirk, to the border with Suffolk, near Isleham. It also includes walks around the edge of the fen islands, including the Isle of Ely, Chatteris and Thorney.

From a landscape point of view, the trail takes the 'edge' of the Fens as being (roughly) the level at which the land reaches five metres above sea level (the five-metre contour). Walk guides are published for each walk, with a total of 20 available so far and most of the others either in preparation or at planning stage. Produced by the Cambridgeshire Geological Society, the trail guides describe the local geology together with its role in the formation of the landscape and its links to local culture and economy.

The final walk on the section from Ramsey to St Ives enters the town from the north east, along the valley of the Great Ouse. Once over the river, the trail turns south-east to take you towards Cambridge. The first walk of this section starts on the bridge in St Ives, passes through Fenstanton and Fen Drayton, and finishes in the centre of Swavesey. This is a total of 6.1 miles (9.8 km) but parts of the walk can be done independently, allowing more time to explore the two villages and RSPB Fen Drayton Lakes nature reserve.

Along the riverside on the way to Fenstanton, and later as you pass near the lakes, you walk over the large area of alluvium that covers the valley floor from further upriver to beyond the start of the Ouse Washes at Earith. Alluvium is a fine, nutrient-rich material that has been deposited by the river, particularly in times of flood, over the last few thousand years, creating extensive summer grazing pastures. Underlying these 'recent' geological deposits are extensive accumulations of river terrace gravels and sands, carried along the valley by powerful rivers during both cold and warm periods of the last Ice Age. Towards St Ives and around Swavesey, the gravels are part of the youngest (1st and 2nd) terraces of the Great Ouse, dating from about 20,000 years ago, towards the end of the last glaciation. Significantly, in terms of providing dry land for the original settlements, the villages of Fenstanton and Fen Drayton are on the



Geology map of the St Ives to Swavesey Fen Edge Trail walk

Continued overleaf



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older (3rd) terrace, generally further away from the river and lying on less eroded, higher, bedrock. This terrace of the Ouse has collections of gravels from the last warm interglacial about 120,000 years ago and also the previous cold period. Fossils of woolly rhino, woolly mammoth, auroch, giant deer and straight-tusked elephant have been found in it.

The gravels provide relatively free-draining soils compared with the areas where the clay bedrock is uncovered. Under Fenstanton and the west of Fen Drayton, the bedrock is Oxford Clay whilst further east it is the younger Ampthill Clay. Both are of Jurassic Age: the deep sea in which their original 'mudstones' formed the sea floor, would have been full of huge, predatory marine reptiles, including pliosaurs and ichthyosaurs, whilst pterosaurs flew overhead. Fossils of many of these Jurassic creatures have been found in the clays in the county, particularly in the brick pits of the Oxford Clay.

Local buildings also help to tell the story of the local landscape, with building stones of particular significance. The soft clays of the fenland basin lie between two ridges of harder rock. The older Jurassic limestone ridge in the north west is an extension of the Cotswolds, running south west to north



Flint pebble decoration on Fen Drayton church

east past Peterborough, whilst the younger, Cretaceous-age chalk ridge that lies to the south east, passing through Cambridge, is an extension of the Chilterns. Both Fenstanton and Fen Drayton churches are made partly from the limestones, some of the best building stones in the region, and both have a few stones from the chalk, with the church gates at Fen Drayton containing an attractive pattern of flint pebbles.

The Walk Guide, with more details including notes on local history, can be downloaded (free) from the Cambridgeshire Geological Society website, which also has more information on the fen edge landscape, at <https://www.fenedgetrail.org/st-ives-to-cambridge/st-ives-to-willingham>.



Bridge over backwater between St Ives and Fenstanton



Aerial view looking west over the river valley past St Ives (photo P Doody)

Big Village Fun Day Scarecrow Competition

As a build up to the Fun Day we are inviting Fenstanton folk to create and display a scarecrow outside your home, garden, allotment or business.

Please be as creative as you can be and join in the fun.




Scarecrows will be on display for a week from Saturday 28th June until and including Fun Day on Saturday 5th July.

We are planning to produce a map to create a scarecrow trail around the Village

If you would like to join in the Scarecrow fun please follow the link below for more information and entry details.



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
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Fenstanton Church Centre on School Lane
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Hidcote Manor

In late April early/May we visited the Forest of Dean and I have never seen so much wild garlic. Homeward bound we visited one of the National Trust's horticultural treasures, namely Hidcote Manor Gardens. A visit is a pilgrimage for many gardeners with many plants named after it most notably Lavender 'Hidcote Blue'. On that day, 03 May, the wisterias and lilac trees were absolutely fantastic. As was the *Davidia involucrata* in the courtyard. It is most widely known as the paper handkerchief tree because of the large white bracts that hang down around the inconspicuous flowers. As an aside I always seem to come down with a cold after seeing one in flower.

Some favourite roses

June is when most of our roses flower. I worked with roses for many years and have always been asked *'What is your favourite rose?'* In truth I must be fickle because it changes with every bloom, but here are a few I am fond of to tempt you! Climbers - *'Etoile de Holland'* red, *'Sombreuil'* white, *'Compassion'* pink. Shrub roses - *'Comte de Chambord'* pink, *'Rose de Rescht'* purple, *'Cecile Brunner'* pink, *'Perle d'Or'* apricot/orange. *'Frau Dagmar Hartopp'* pink. Bush roses - *'Rhapsody in Blue'* blue and *'Arthur Bell'* yellow

Garden tasks for June

Finish planting up pots and tubs for summer colour and feed regularly with liquid fertilizer. In dry spells water plants that you have planted this spring. Prune early flowering trees and shrubs and cut back perennials that have finished flowering. Sow hardy annuals and perennials like forget-me-not, aquilegia, campanula, foxglove, and scabious. In dry spells raise the cutting level of your mower blades and leave the trimmings on the lawn to conserve moisture.



June Top Tips

- Plant bedding
- Edge lawns
- Feed roses and shrubs
- Sow annuals and perennials
- Tie in climbers



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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 in both churches!



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

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

JUNE 2025 – SERVICES AND EVENTS

Thursdays	8.30am on Zoom	Morning Prayer
Sunday 1	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion with baptism <i>Sunday Club for children tbc</i>
Sunday 8 Pentecost	9.15am Fen Drayton	Holy Communion, St Mary's
	10.30am Fenstanton	Worship For All
Sunday 15 Trinity Sunday	10.30am Fenstanton	Holy Communion, with Sunday Club for children
	6pm Fenstanton	Choral Evensong (BCP – 1662)
Thursday 19	5pm – late Fenstanton	Booze in Fenstanton Pews
Friday 20	5pm – late Fenstanton	Booze in Fenstanton Pews
Friday 20	6-8.30pm	Fen Youth Group meet
Saturday 21	12pm - late	Booze in Fenstanton Pews
Sunday 22	9.15am Fen Drayton	Morning Prayer, St Mary's
	10.30am Fenstanton	Family Communion
Sunday 29	10.30am Fenstanton	St Peter & St Paul's Patronal Festival with Rev Claire presiding

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



Rev Rosie writes

Last month I asked the question – where do you find signs of hope? What I didn't know was that the advert for Ron's Big Birthday was going to be placed after it. That tickled my sense of humour, finding hope in the treasure that is Ron and an invitation to a very special birthday for a very special person. Finding humour in the day-to-day life of the world we live in can sometimes bring a bit of 'something' to the situation. That 'something' will be different for you and me. For example – looking for non-stick socks when actually you mean non-slip socks, or my cat sitting and staring at me until I do the right thing – which usually means feeding her, no matter what the time is. Those of you who have a cat will know what I mean. Silly examples, I know, and maybe you can give better ones. But my cat is a good example of just sitting and being in the moment. Although her thought processes might be contemplating when she will be fed, she rather does have the knack

of just sitting, preferably in sunshine. Do you take the opportunity of pausing in your day, even if for just a few moments?

Recently I came across this quote from Maya Angelou, an American poet and writer:

"If you must look back, do so forgivingly. If you must look forward, do so prayerfully. However, the wisest thing you can do is be present in the present...gratefully."

This month, June, is a very busy one for us (see calendar and advert) which concludes with our Patronal Festival for St Peter and St Paul on Sunday 29 June. The previous day, however, some of us will go to Ely Cathedral to see Rev Claire be ordained a priest. Rev Claire will tell us more about that in the July issue. It does mean that Rev Claire will preside at the Eucharist for the first time during our 10.30am service on 29th. This will be a special time for her and for us all as she makes the transition from deacon to priest in her ministry here with us in our parish. Please pray for her and her family.

Until next time, God bless, Rev Rosie



It was good to be part of the village commemoration of VE Day on Thursday 8 May 2025. The commemoration began at Fenstanton clock tower at 8.30am when Curate Claire read the proclamation to a gathered crowd and an elder from the United Reformed church then raised the commemorative flag. At 12 noon in Fenstanton parish church lunchtime prayers were said with an invitation for anyone to add names to our memory tree. Amongst all the happy memories it was good to pause

and remember those known to us who had served their country. Two members of the church family had shared their own VE day memories which were on display. During the evening jollities, the church bells were rung and we ran the bar on the church centre patio for everyone to enjoy a drink together. All profits were donated to Help for Heroes charity. The evening ended with the lighting of the beacon in the parish cemetery. Thank you to everyone who organised, helped or supported the events in any way.

Rector: Rev Rosie Tallowin: 01480 467393 email: vicar@fenchurches.org.uk
Assistant Curate: Rev Claire Brockelsby: 07769 106562 email: curate@fenchurches.org.uk
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Booze in Fenstanton Pews

19th, 20th and 21st June 2025



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Hilton Methodist Church



As the minister of our local Methodist Church here in Hilton and beyond, I often find myself walking with people through uncertain and challenging times in their own lives.

At the same time, I am acutely conscious that all of us are struggling to know how to 'be' in a world which today feels more unstable than it has in many years. All the more poignant with the recent commemorations of the 80th anniversary of VE day.

In the midst of this, the election of Pope Leo has captured attention - not only among our Catholic brothers and sisters, but across the world. The genuine curiosity and hope we saw expressed by people of many backgrounds, including those with little or no connection to the Church is a reminder of something profound: in uncertain times, we look for voices of integrity, compassion, and hope. We all long for leadership rooted in something deeper than politics or power.

Pope Leo has already spoken with a quiet but compelling clarity about justice, peace, reconciliation, and care for the vulnerable - values that echo powerfully across denominations. His emergence reminds us of the need for a strong, faith-based voice on the world stage - a voice that speaks not just for Christians, but for the dignity and worth of every human being.

While the world may seem chaotic, the call of Christ remains steady: to love our neighbour, to seek peace, to act justly, and to walk



humbly with our God. These are not just private virtues; they are public actions.

As a village, we may sometimes feel far from global affairs, but every act of kindness, every shared meal, every prayer for peace contributes to the healing of the world.

Let us pray for Pope Leo, for our leaders, and for one another. And may we, together, be faithful signs of God's light in these troubling times.

Revd. Sue Baker-Maher

You can contact Revd. Sue by email: sue.bakermaher@methodist.org.uk or by phone: 07483 153948

Services in June

1 June	10:00am	Rev. Pam Siddall
8 June	11:15am	United Service at the Parish Church
15 June	10:00am	Mr. C. Webber
22 June	10:00am	Ms. N. Pallett

Minister: Rev Sue Baker-Maher email: sue.bakermaher@methodist.org.uk

Hilton Parish Church

Services in June

Sunday	1 June	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	8 June	11:15am United Communion Service in the Parish Church with baptism
Sunday	15 June	8:00am Holy Communion
Sunday	22 June	11:15am Coffee, Cake and Church in the Village Hall
Sunday	29 June	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Friday	13 June	5:30pm Friday Feast (Messy Church)

Weekly Online Services (Via Zoom)

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

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Chequer Street, Fenstanton

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2025 Services

June

- 01 Alison Jiggins
- 08 Revd Christine Davies – Pentecost – **Holy Communion**
- 15 Vacant – Trinity Sunday
- 22 Revd Christine Davies
- 29 Revd Chris Baker

June

- 06 Revd Christine Davies
- 13 Revd Christine Davies - **Holy Communion**
- 20 Revd Christine Davies
- 27 Vacant

Meditation – Led by the Free Church St. Ives

- Tuesday 10 June 2.30 - 4pm – Led by John Williams
- Tuesday 08 July 2.30 - 4pm – Led by John Williams

Geoff Hawkins Fenstanton URC Secretary
fenstantonurc@stivesfreechurch.org

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A view from the Old Manse

On 8 May we celebrated Victory in Europe Day (VE Day); 80 years since the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II, of Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces. After nearly six years of war, we were no longer fighting the Germans, although Japan did not surrender officially until 1 September. So many lives lost, so much destruction. We celebrated what for us was the end of war in Europe.

A day of celebration, yes, but also a time of reflection. Reflecting on could it happen again. The horror of World War II faded quickly. Much as Hitler committed ethnic cleansing on Jewish people, under 50 years later the Bosnian Serbs committed ethnic cleansing mainly on Muslim people. Much of this seems to be driven by ego, by actions and attitudes stemming from excessive self-importance and a strong sense of self-identity, often leading to pride, envy, and a lack of humility. It's not directly mentioned as a sin in the Bible, but the concept is related to pride, which is considered a major sin in many religious contexts. Ego can manifest itself in

various ways, including a desire for control, a need to be admired, and a tendency to put oneself above others.

We are living in uncertain times, with war and conflict continuing in many parts of the world, and world leaders flexing their muscles. Looking closer to home, are we sometimes arrogant in our dealings with others? Yes, there are times when I have been called arrogant, and been chastened by the comment.

Living a decent life is not easy, but can be hugely rewarding. I have been blessed in my life recently when my car broke down on the dual carriageway of the A14. Two separate strangers stopped to see if I needed any help, potentially putting themselves in danger. The driver from the rescue service could have been surly, called out on a Sunday evening to transport a 54-year-old car to its home, some 30 miles away. Instead, he was warm hearted, and kindly. The kindness of strangers is a powerful reminder that life can be enriched by others who are willing to put themselves out to care about those in need. A lesson for us all, when we are wrapped up in ourselves.

Geoff Hawkins

Fenstanton URC Secretary

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Who's lived here?

This is the first of a short series of famous Fenstanton residents. With all the new housing erected in the village over the past few years it is more than likely that many of the people new to the village will not have heard of these people.

John Howland By John Deeks

Most people are aware of the story of the Mayflower and the Pilgrim Fathers. The Pilgrim Fathers are considered by many to be the founders of the modern nation of the United States of America. The ship Mayflower and the Pilgrim Fathers arrived at Cape Cod, New England on Friday 10 November 1620. Good for them, but what has that got to do with Fenstanton?

A son of Fenstanton was amongst those first pioneers called the Pilgrim Fathers, his name was John Howland. John was the son of Henry and Margaret Howland and he was born sometime in the late 1590s, most probably here in Fenstanton. Unfortunately the parish register does not cover this period. John's parents are buried in the village churchyard, Margaret in 1629 and Henry in 1635. Both are recorded in the parish register. We can safely assume that John's father Henry would not have been on the lower rung of Fenstanton society as he was able to provide an education for John and his brothers.

So, who were the Pilgrim Fathers and why did they migrate to the New World? They were English and today we would call them middle-class, neither poor nor wealthy although most of them were literate. Mostly they came from old farming families in the Midlands and East Anglia. Most probably never having seen the sea, they had no idea what they were letting themselves in for.

They fell into two groups; the Saints and the Strangers. The Saints had a strong religious reason for the trip as they wished to worship God outside of the Church of England and the Catholic Church. The Strangers had their own reasons for making the trip. Consisting mainly of indentured servants, craftsmen and merchants; they sailed in the belief that they would make a better life in the New World.



The Mayflower set sail on the 6 September 1620 and the Atlantic crossing would take sixty-seven terrible days. A spring or summer sailing would have taken half that time but the pilgrims did not have the funds to wait in Plymouth for six months. The Mayflower was a small ship of one hundred and eighty tons and was only twelve feet longer than a tennis court. Designed as a cargo ship there were no facilities for the one hundred and two passengers who were to migrate in her.

John Howland set out on this trip as an indentured servant, a steward and secretary to John Carver. John Carver was a wealthy Londoner who became the first governor of the New Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts.

During the voyage of the Mayflower there was a turbulent storm during which John Howland fell overboard. He managed to grab a topsail halyard that was trailing in the water and was safely hauled back on board. John's survival was a stroke of luck for his millions of descendants, (some living today) including Presidents George Bush and George W. Bush, Barbara Bush, Anthony Perkins, Chevy Chase and Humphrey Bogart. It is suggested by

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historians that currently there are over ten million living descendants of the fifty-one Mayflower Pilgrims who survived and had children.

After arriving at their destination and in the space of several months, almost half the passengers perished in the cold, harsh, unfamiliar New England winter. The Carver family, with whom John Howland lived, survived the terrible sickness of the first winter, during which many Pilgrims died. However the following spring, on an unusually hot day in April, Governor Carver, came out of his cornfield feeling ill. He passed into a coma and “never spoke more.” His wife, Kathrine, died soon after her husband. Since the Carvers had no children, John Howland

inherited their estate.

On or about 25 March 1623, John Howland married his fellow Mayflower passenger, Elizabeth Tilley. Elizabeth, from Henlow in Bedfordshire was the youngest child of a silk weaver named John Tilley and his wife Joan. She was the only child of her parents recorded as going with them to America. At the time of her marriage she was not quite sixteen years old. Together John and Elizabeth had ten children.

John Howland had several brothers, two of whom later went to New England and whose descendants include both President Richard Nixon and President Gerald Ford and also Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill.



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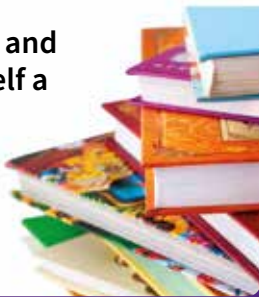
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Hilton Parish Council



A Civility & Respect
Pledge Council

Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 12 May

Maintenance Contracts

Chairman and Vice-Chairman

For the 25/26 municipal year, Cllr Peter Balicki was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Ettore McCarthy was re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

Audit

The Council received its internal audit report for 24/25 and was pleased to note that there were no matters raised. It approved the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Accounting Statement, which is now ready to send to the external auditor. The period of electors' rights was set for Monday 3rd June to Monday 14th July.

Maze Interpretation Board

The Council decided to keep the artwork the same for the new interpretation board and has instructed the Clerk to seek quotes.

Maintenance Contract

The Council resolved to increase the value of the current contract with JSC Services by the CPI rate of 2.6%. It had already agreed to add the maintenance of the playground at £70pm and also agreed to add a couple of sections of additional mowing at a cost of £616pa.

Unauthorised Swings in the Grove

A parishioner has reported to the Council that two unauthorised swings have been installed in the Grove. The Council is duty bound to remove these swings as, in accordance with the Occupiers Liability Act 1957, any person on the Council's land can expect to be reasonably safe. These swings do not conform with playground equipment regulations (BS 7188 and EN 1177) so they must, therefore, be removed.

Cricket Wicket

The Council discussed a proposal from Hilton Cricket Club to realign the wicket to true North/South, which will enable the boundary to remain on one side of the road and therefore the road will not need to be closed for matches. The Council approved the realignment in principle, subject to the feasibility and cost of the outfield's restoration to its previous size.



Policies

As this was the annual meeting of the Council, it reviewed and adopted all of its policies.

Feast Week

Hilton Parish Council has granted Hilton Feast Week CIC permission to hold a Bavarian Night on Friday 25th July and also to use the games equipment during Feast Week.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 2nd June 2025 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.

Chair's report 2024/25

I'd like to start by mentioning former councillors, Paul Kent and Roy McGee and our former clerk, Jo Perez.

Paul has stood down after 15 years on the council, many of those years serving as chair. He oversaw lots of changes in his time and worked selflessly on behalf of the parish, often behind the scenes and with little acknowledgement of his time and effort. We wish him well for the future and offer the thanks that his dedication rightly deserves.

Roy has also overseen many improvements to the village during his time as a councillor and although no longer on the council, he continues to do many things for the parish on a voluntary basis. Whether this is running the Welcome Space, organising the village litter picking or the VE Day celebrations, Roy has given the parish many hours of his time and we thank him for this.

Jo served as Clerk to the Council for four years, latterly also serving as the responsible financial officer. She always went the extra mile on behalf of the parish, ready to lend a hand or offer support and we wish her every success going forwards.

My thanks also to all the volunteers who have given their time over the last year, without whom the many activities in the parish couldn't happen. There are too many to mention all by name, but I would like to make special mention of Heather McGee and Chris Burns.

Finally, my thanks to District Councillor Clare Tevlin and County Councillor Doug Dew for their assistance with promoting the interests of the parish with the District and County Councils over the last 12 months.

We currently have four vacancies on the council. If you wish to become involved with the future development and maintenance of our parish, I encourage you to apply to become a parish councillor. Application forms can be obtained from Ali Watchman, our Assistant Clerk.

Since the departure of our clerk, our Assistant Clerk has been exceptionally busy, ensuring that the work of the Parish Council continues as smoothly as possible while we recruit a new clerk. Interviews are currently

planned for early-May with hopefully the successful candidate appointed soon after.

Kevin Mitchell has kindly stepped in as locum RFO to cover the financial role for the Parish Council and we are grateful for his assistance.

Our handyman Chris Burns continues to work effectively to support and maintain services required to provide village amenities. He has installed several more benches this year in addition to his regular maintenance in the village and looking after the MVAS signs.

Draft financial year end accounts are currently being prepared for the period ending 31 March 2025. The unaudited annual accounts will be made available to members of the public around June/July this year.

In order to maintain the current level of service provided and achieve a balanced budget in the coming financial year 2025/26, the Parish Council voted to increase the precept by 15%, which equates to an increase of £1.69 per household per month for a level D property in the village.

At the year-end, the total balance in the council's accounts stood at £192,144.53, which, as well as the operating reserves, includes funds already committed to projects but not yet spent.

The planning committee reviewed 25 applications last year, ensuring all approved plans are in keeping with the needs of the village.

The Parish Council also provided feedback on the call for sites in HDC's update of the Local Plan.

Various village improvements have been completed this year, including installation of additional benches, the carving of the tree stump on Honey Hill and providing trees to parishioners under the free tree initiative.

We have also installed the village flag pole at the clock tower and Heritage Trail notice boards at key points around the village, with special thanks going to Councillor Matt Tandy for his efforts in delivering both of these.

The Parish Council continued to fund the hall hire and heating for the Community Hub, subsequently the Welcome Space, including funding for the seated exercise class.



We also funded and helped organise The Big Village Fun Day last summer and continued to support both the Age UK warden service and Fenstanton Glebe Allotments Association.

The Parish Council donated grants of £300 to the Friendship Club and £1,500 to the Bowls Club.

The Fenstanton and Hemingford Grey local highways initiative for the 50mph limit from Galley Hill to the existing 40mph limit on London Road was completed and we have also continued to deploy our two MVAS units in the village, rotating them between known speeding hot spots.

The road markings at the junction of Chequer Street and Church Lane have been renewed following a number of collisions, and we have continued to work together with CCC Highways to assess and repair flood damage to the Low Road and potholes on the A1307 slip roads and around the village.

CCC Highways Committee have recommended approval of the replacement of the previously identified Hall Green Lane/ Manor Drive collapsed drain.

We have also continued to press the Environment Agency and Regional Flood and Coastal Committee on the state of the St Ives and Brownhill sluices.

The Chequer Street children's play area has been refurbished, with new play equipment and safety surfaces being installed. The council would like to thank the Mick George Community Fund whose generous grant made this possible. We also removed the car park height restriction barrier and replaced it with oak posts, grassing over the exposed area and planting several more flowering trees.

The Old Orchard has been cleared and reseeded and we have installed new fencing. We have continued with monthly parish councillor surgeries on Saturday mornings, for parishioners to raise their concerns or seek clarification on village activities face to face with parish councillors.

We also continued to support The Journal, which is an important source of news and information for many parishioners.

Despite the removal of the cemetery hedge and installation of a low conservation fence,

the number of plots available for burials is still severely restricted.

Efforts to provide a new woodland burial ground have been unsuccessful to date, but the Parish Council continues to investigate further options and recently undertook a survey of the cemetery using ground penetrating radar in an effort to identify any further potential plots.

During the last year we have maintained many areas of the parish, including areas previously the responsibility of the district and county councils.

We have also continued to support the regular litter picking to help keep our village tidy.

The Parish Council plans to continue with and support existing initiatives, including but not limited to

- Developing the Parish Council asset register
- Developing plans for Hampton Pocket Park
- Developing a Neighbourhood Plan to shape the growth and development of Fenstanton
- Developing plans for the pump track
- Providing funding for the Village Hall
- Providing financial support for The Big Village Fun Day

We also intend to fund a trial period for the Connections Bus youth project and look to further improve road safety and connectivity within the parish.

Despite recent changes, the business of the council has continued to function efficiently and professionally. I hope that you feel confident that your Parish Council has the best interests of Fenstanton at its heart and has done its utmost to look after needs of the village and surrounding area.

Finally, I'd like to thank all councillors for volunteering their time, not only for council meetings but for all the other work going on behind the scenes, whether it's pitching for funding, writing to and meeting with various stakeholders, delivering projects, helping with litter picks, assisting with inspections to the cemetery and play parks and much more.

Fenstanton Parish Council

Making Fenstanton an even better place to live

On the buses!

Fenstanton is set to receive another increase to our bus service on 27 May with the introduction of the new Express Tiger 1 Service. Fenstanton will only be 45 minutes from Drummer Street Cambridge or 10 minutes to Huntingdon Railway Station directly by bus. This will operate approximately once an hour and will be perfect for sixth form students heading to Cambridge or Huntingdon.

We will also have the 5A (St Ives to Bar Hill), the 9 (St Ives Market Line Loop), the 66 (Fenstanton to St Neots), the 68 (St Ives to Boxworth), and the X3 (Fenstanton to Addenbrooke's). Fenstanton Parish Council will shortly be updating the timetables in our bus stops with the latest information.

Get ready for the new direct bus to Cambridge and Huntingdon. Under 25s are eligible for a Tiger Pass with £1 fares. <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/onepoundbusfare/> You may be eligible for a free bus pass <https://transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/buses/free-bus-passes/>

Our bus service is hopefully becoming a great asset to the village again. Use it or lose it!

Celebrating St George's Day 24 April by flying the flag



VE Day 80 celebrations: A resounding success!

Your Parish Council extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to and attended the recent VE Day 80 celebrations.

It was a wonderful and poignant day, providing a perfect opportunity to celebrate and remember the immense courage and sacrifice of all who served and contributed to the war effort during the Second World War.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the dedicated organisers, hardworking volunteers, talented performers, and every individual who came along to make the event so special. Your collective efforts ensured it was a fitting tribute and a day to remember.

Thank you for being part of this important commemoration.



Parish Councillor Saturday Surgeries

Saturday surgeries will continue to be held at

The Hub, 6 High Street, Fenstanton, from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

We encourage all Parishioners to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with their Councillors and discuss any local issues or concerns.

28.06.2025

M Collison

A Mustill

Churchyard bins: Please use the right one!

When using the bins in the Churchyard, please remember:

Soil, plant pots, dog waste bags, and flower wrappers belong in the black bin, not the green one.

A kind volunteer puts the bins out and has to move incorrect waste. Please help them by using the correct bin. Thank you!



Next Parish Council meetings

Parish Council meetings occur on the second Thursday of each month, except in August and December unless there is pressing business to discuss.

Your Parish Council meets next on Thursday 12 June at 7pm in the Church Centre.

Become a Parish Councillor

Are you interested in making a positive impact in your local community? If so, your Parish Council would like to hear from you. There are currently vacancies for co-option, and the Parish Council welcomes your interest in becoming a Parish Councillor.

If you would like to learn more about the role of a Parish Councillor or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk for further information.

To contact your Parish Council Clerk

Telephone: 01480 465300

Email: clerk@fenstantonparishcouncil.org.uk

Website: www.fenstantonparishcouncil.gov.uk



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Pitfalls for the Unrepresented Divorce Litigant....!

Nowadays many divorcing couples view the use of a solicitor as an unnecessary luxury. Increasingly, those engaged in a divorce and other family related matters choose to act for themselves.

The almost complete abolition of Legal Aid some years ago has, to an extent, fostered this climate of self-determination. The truth of the matter however is that a divorce, coupled with resolving a financial dispute, is often far from straightforward.

Many spouses acting for themselves never seek advice because they don't know they are making mistakes. Common issues in financial cases include:

- Spouses dividing up their assets by agreement, piecemeal and prematurely, without first knowing the value of all the assets. Asset division on divorce should only properly be carried out when the entire marital pot has been valued and its overall worth assessed;
- One of the parties deciding to prematurely secure a Final Order (formerly called a Decree Absolute) dissolving the marriage, before consideration has been given to settling the finances. This should usually be postponed until all money matters are agreed and formally finalised;
- Procedural errors, for e.g. wrongly drafting court paperwork, causing court delays of many months.
- Unrepresented parties may delay proceedings through uncertainty about the procedure or may wrongly insist their legal view of the case is correct;
- A spouse believing they can later re-open a financial settlement approved by the court, so as to claim more money from their ex-spouse. The general rule is that there is only one "bite of the cherry", with any settlement being full and final.

All of the above pitfalls and more can be avoided if a solicitor is engaged to explore opportunities for settlement, which, much of the time, can be achieved without court involvement.

The use of a solicitor does not have to be an expensive exercise. We at Leeds Day offer a comprehensive family law service that includes divorce, financial and children cases. Our family lawyers at Leeds Day include Resolution Accredited solicitors specialising in financial matters on relationship breakdown, including complex financial cases, as well as disputes over children. The family team comprises Simon Thomas, Lisa Leader and Charlene Powell. All are highly experienced solicitors. In addition, Simon Thomas also specialises in collaborative family law. To find out more, contact the family team at Leeds Day on 0333 577 2250, or send an email to family@leedsday.co.uk. We are able to see clients at either of our offices in Huntingdon and St Neots. Our team is able to offer a full range of dispute resolution options, all of which can be found on our website at www.leedsday.co.uk.



Lisa Leader - Senior Associate Solicitor

If you need assistance on any family law matter, contact Leeds Day on 0333 577 2250, send an email to family@leedsday.co.uk or visit our website: www.leedsday.co.uk/family.

Asparagus soup

Ingredients:

- 1 bunch asparagus
- 1 small onion (or half a large onion)
- 1 pint chicken or vegetable stock (can be made with a stock pot or cube)
- Approximately two tablespoons double cream, add to your taste
- Salt and ground pepper
- 1 medium potato
- 2 or 3 tablespoon of sunflower (or cooking oil of your choice).

Method:

1. Prepare the asparagus by trimming off the woody end. Almost all of the asparagus stem can be used for this recipe, and chop into approximately 2.5 cm., 1 inch pieces
2. Finely chop the onion and potato.
3. Prepare the stock, by dissolving the stock cube/stock pot in hot water.
4. In a large deep pan gently saute the onion, when softened add the chopped potato and saute gently for a couple of minutes (more and the potato will want to stick to the bottom of the pan).
5. Add the asparagus and stock, bring to the boil and turn down to simmer.
6. Simmer for 20 minutes.
7. Use an electric blender to puree the soup. Or mash by hand.
8. Using a wooden spoon, pass the soup through a sieve.
9. Discard the tough asparagus remains in the sieve.
10. Return the soup to the pan and warm through.
11. Add cream to your taste.
12. Serve in warm dishes with crusty bread.
13. Enjoy - delicious.



Chocolate Tray Bake

Ingredients: Cake

175g./6oz. Margarine
175g./6oz. Golden Caster Sugar
225g./7oz. Self Raising Flour
25g. /1oz. Sieved cocoa
3 large eggs
2 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon baking powder
(Sieve this too.)
100g. Packet of chocolate chips,
plain or milk

Topping - Either Chocolate Icing

Icing sugar mixed with a small amount of cocoa, mixed with water and spread on the top of the cake and sprinkled with grated chocolate (as in the photograph)



Or Ganache

140g./5oz. Good quality chocolate and 140g., 5 fl. oz., double cream
8inch/20cm Square cake tin, lined with baking parchment

Method:

1. Heat the oven to 150 / 160 degrees depending on your oven.
2. Measure all ingredients, except the chocolate chips and place in a mixing bowl . Use an electric mixer and mix thoroughly for two / three minutes.
3. Carefully stir in the chocolate chips.
4. Carefully spoon the mixture into the prepared tin.
5. Bake for 25/30 minutes depending on your oven.
6. The cake is cooked when a tester comes out of the cake clean/ it is firm to the touch or it has shrunk away slightly from the sides of the tin.
7. Cool on a wire cake cooling tray.
8. Ice or cover in ganache

To ice

Mix about 1oz./25g of icing sugar with the teaspoon of cocoa (adjust this to your taste), mix to a thick paste with cold water and spread on the top of the cake, and cover with grated chocolate.

To make ganache

Melt the chocolate either in a basin over a pan of hot water (take care that the basin does not touch the water). When just melted, stir in the double cream and stir until thickened and spread on the top of the cake.

9. Enjoy.



update



20mph speed limit

During April, in a survey of all households, Fen Drayton residents were asked for their opinions about a 20mph speed limit in the village. Over 150 residents responded: two thirds were in favour of a 20mph limit and one third was against it.

As a result, the parish council applied to Cambridgeshire County Council for funding for a 20mph zone.

Many local councils compete for these fully-funded grants, which are decided on points based on several criteria, such as the number of accidents and improvements in safety. A decision is expected in October 2025 and if our application is successful, the implementation process would then begin.

VE Day 80

The 80th anniversary of VE Day was commemorated in the village by the publication of a full-colour booklet describing poignant, courageous and moving stories of relatives of Fen Drayton

villagers past and present during the Second World War.

The parish council, on behalf of all the village, thanks Richard Treeby, Gill Parrish and Chris Moule for the many hours of work they devoted to producing an excellent publication. It also thanks Francis and Lois of the Three Tuns pub for their generous donation towards the cost of printing.

Village hall

A table top sale was held in the village hall on 11 May. Refreshments were provided by volunteers, some of whom had been working the day before at the Community Cafe. There was a raffle with 14 prizes, including £250 cash from DFM, and vouchers from Carriages, the Three Tuns, Rosegate Farm and Wilderspin garage.

The village hall committee thanks all the prize contributors and the volunteers who helped to make the day such a success.

The next event in the village hall is a BINGO! evening on Saturday 7 June, with a bar and more prizes to be won.

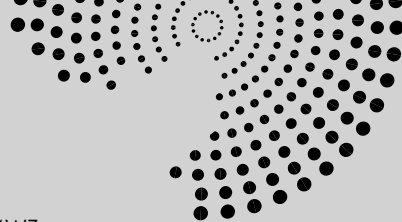


Contact:

email: fendrayton.clerk@gmail.com

website: www.fendrayton.org

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



Sue Ellington - district councillor Fen Drayton Annual Report 2024-25

It has been a good year for Fen Drayton with regard to its successful grant applications.

Fen Drayton PC obtained a grant from the Rural England Prosperity Fund, administered by South Cambs District Council (SCDC), to build a pump track on the village hall field. This has provided much enjoyment for the local children.

More recently, the village hall committee succeeded in obtaining a significant grant to install solar panels and storage batteries to reduce its running costs. It also plans to lower the ceiling in the hall to reduce heat loss.

SCDC has continued with its four-day week project. A public survey looked at the effects on service delivery and its results being considered before a final decision is made about its future.

In the autumn the Environment Agency (EA), Anglian Water, Cambridge County Council and SCDC were held to account at a scrutiny meeting. I asked about the floods that affected Fen Drayton where the residents of Daintrees Road had to cope with up to three feet of flood water. Daintrees Road was built with flooding in mind and no houses were inundated, which is the criteria for determining government/environmental action.

Fortunately, our county councillor, Mandy Smith, had arranged for them to visit on

the worst day of the floods and at the scrutiny meeting they then agreed to review their approach.

The change in government has raised issues that affect SCDC. The increased focus on housing development has resulted in concerns about sufficient water availability. This is being addressed by the EA and includes a new reservoir in the Chatteris area, as well as increases in piped supplies. Further government action to increase the supply of housing has raised the numbers for the developing Local Plan. Unfortunately, this has resulted in SCDC and the City having insufficient land supply, which is effectively reducing planning regulations.

The government's proposals to introduce a unitary authority by abolishing the district authority are now being discussed. There is no consensus about what that means in terms of geographical area or how it will be introduced.

Email: cllr.Ellington@scambs.gov.uk

Phone: 07774 146331

Community Cafe

The next cafe is Saturday 14 June

from 10.30 to 12.30, serving freshly-made coffee and tea and a selection of delicious home-baked cakes.

The Community Cafe AGM will also be held in the committee room.

All are welcome at both!

What you're Missing

Fenstanton Friendship Club

If you would like to meet new friends and socialise, please come along and help the club grow. Age is no barrier and we welcome everyone into our fold. It is always good to get new ideas and suggestions for meetings. 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 celebration, we will have various speakers and entertainers.

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

9 April We enjoyed an afternoon at "The Ramsey Rural Museum". Little place just packed with memorabilia, so interesting. We had a private tour with a guide who was very informative and also gave us time to look at everything we were interested in. Afterwards we had hot drinks and cake in the delightful cafe. The staff were so friendly and helpful. Would recommend a visit.



23 April Once again Brian and Paul, (a.k.a Panache), entertained us with their very skilful singing and guitar playing. Paul is spot on also with his harmonica. Their selection of music was just perfect and we had a great afternoon.



Upcoming meetings

4 June Something a little different. We will have a bring and buy afternoon with proceeds donated to "Operation Smile". Entrance for non members £2 to include tea and cake.

18 June A talk on diamonds from Jason at Gemstones.

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



Fenstanton Glebe Allotments Association

It's surprising what a bit of sunshine does!

The allotments are showing promise of the abundance yet to come later in the year.

The wet weather we had at the beginning of the year has resulted in a glut of rhubarb and several plot holders are scratching their heads on what to use it for other than the obvious crumbles and preserves.

May was a busy month planting out beans, peas, late crop potatoes, spinach, sweetcorn, beetroot and carrots etc. Along with planting out comes the need to protect these vulnerable plants from slugs, snails, pigeons (who love pea shoots) muntjac (who will eat a lot of new shoots and are partial to asparagus) and squirrels who will eat sweetcorn.

Allotments are hard work but very rewarding and do so much for our mental as well as physical health.

We have an active social calendar and if you would like to go on to our waiting list, or just want to talk to someone before committing to the waiting list, please contact the secretary at secretary.fga@btinternet.com



If you have a car and are happy to help for an hour or so 10 times a year The Journal would love your help.

We need someone to join the team distributing packs of magazines to the amazing people who tramp the streets putting them through our letterboxes.

Currently this is for Fen Drayton and for Fenstanton.

Are you interested in joining us?
Email circulation@thejournal.life or call Denise on 07876 446565

What you're Missing

Girlguiding Hilton Rainbows and Brownies

This term Hilton Rainbows and Brownies are out and about, Brownies began the term with a visit to the Community Garden where they planted potatoes and sunflower seeds, completed a scavenger hunt and looked for ways the garden was helping wildlife.

We have also learnt about food allergies and intolerance and looked at food packaging. We took part in a Weekend on Water organized by Sea Scouts on Holt Island - all thoroughly enjoyed making and trying out land rafts and doing bellboating on the river.

Later in the term we plan to visit the orchards at Meadow Lodge Farm, work on a Canal and River challenge and take a trip on the Ladybird

boat from Hartford marina. A sleepover has also been arranged at ClipnClimb in Cambridge.

Rainbows are visiting the local library as part of their Booklover and Storytelling badges, going on a nature walk at Meadow Lodge Farm and having a Disney evening run by the Brownies doing their Gold award following the Brownies' recent visit to Disneyland Paris. With new interest badges being released over the summer, we are trying to complete a number of the current interest badges this term.

Whilst our Brownie unit is full, we do have spaces at Rainbows and would also like more helpers - we only have 6 sessions per term so if you are interested please contact Karen on 07970 404569 or girlguidinghilton@gmail.com.

Hilton Brownie and Rainbow Leaders

Fenstanton Bowls Club

The season for Fenstanton Bowls Club has begun! We had a better winter this year with no flooding so our green is looking superb due to the dedicated care and maintenance by our green keeping team.

By the time you read this we will have held our Open Days at the beginning of May. If you were not able to come down that weekend, and would like to find out more about us as a club and have a go, everyone is welcome to attend our Social Bowls on a Sunday morning between 10am and 12pm - please just come along and you will receive a warm welcome.

Our league matches have now started. We have a busy season ahead of us as we have both a Men's and Ladies' Team in the Huntingdon & District league, two teams who compete in the Cambridge & District League and two teams who play on a Wednesday afternoon in the over 60's league. We have our fingers crossed for a very successful season for all of them!

If you would like to find out more, please visit our website at fenstantonbowlsclub.co.uk





Hilton Community Garden Events

On Saturday 5 April the sun shone as 30 families arrived to assemble take home bird boxes for blue tits or robins from kits supplied by the Brampton Men's Shed. These were so accurately measured and cut that assembly was perfectly straightforward.



Robins as we learned prefer a more spacious rectangular entrance for their nests, whereas blue tits prefer a discreet circle. We hope Hilton's birds will appreciate the chance to nest in comfort.

After assembly the boxes were painted on site with a wood preservative to ensure longevity. A representative of the Wildlife Trust was present to offer information and welcome advice. His skeletons of different creatures' heads from alligators to badgers were a great focus of interest.

We are grateful for a grant from Highways England's community fund which enabled this activity and has also allowed us to buy the necessary materials for the Hedgehog Houses to be put together during Feast Week. As hedgehogs are regarded as heroes in the garden feeding off our enemy the slug, this fits conveniently into this year's theme of Heroes and Villains.

If you are interested in a hedgehog house for your garden please email 23heatherc@gmail.com as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



Hope Against Poverty Active Project

The Hope Against Poverty Active Project is a new initiative focused on enhancing the well-being of seniors (60+) through physical activities, social engagement, and mental health support. The program aims to create a supportive community where seniors can stay active, build meaningful connections, and access essential resources to improve their quality of life. With fitness classes, wellness workshops, and social events, this project empowers older adults to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives.

Come join us every third Monday of the month completely free of charge 10am - 12pm at the Village Hall Grove End, Hilton, Huntingdon PE28 9PF

What you're Missing

Fenstanton Football Club goes global

We recently received the following message from Josie Charter of the Support Malawi Charity. "Pictured is the Support Malawi Namisu Football team proudly wearing their 'new' kit. A huge thank you to Fenstanton Football Club for making some little boys' dreams come true. I'm always very happy to take anything you can spare, football related, on my next trip. To see these children forget the poverty and hunger all around them whilst they play a game of football, is one of the best sights ever. To have a matching kit gives them so much pride and a real sense of belonging to a team." It's great to see our kit being put to use and the happiness football can bring, thank you Josie for sharing this message and photo with us.



Congratulations to our U12 side who have been awarded the 2024/5 Fair Play award, this is the second year running this team have received this award. A great achievement and example of sportsmanship in grassroots football.

As we are nearing the end of the season the Club would like to take the opportunity to thank all our Managers, Coaches and Volunteers, who give up their time to keep the club running smoothly. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes, not only on game day but in planning training, marking pitches, arranging game times and logistics of home and away games, the list is endless.

Your hard work is appreciated!!!

We are looking ahead to next season already and some teams are on the lookout for new players.

Please do get in touch if you are interested in joining any of the below teams for the 2025/26 season.

- Under 9s (starting school year 4 in September 2025)
- Under 11s (starting school year 6 in September 2025)
- Under 17s

Please contact us at fenstantonfootball@outlook.com to register your interest or go to our website for the individual team contact details www.fenstantonfc.co.uk

Hilton Art Club

The next art session will be on 20 June,
10.00 am – 12.30 pm in Hilton Village Hall.
The subject will be Desert Fauna and Flora





Hilton Women's Institute



May 2025 has of course been very much the remembrances of VE Day 80 and as Winston Churchill said at the time 'we are all connected to our past' and so it is. For example, extracts from the minutes of Hilton WI in October 1939 write:-

"it was suggested that meetings in the future be in the form of relaxation, perhaps sewing, knitting or mending....and.....we adjusted to the blackout or air raids by holding meetings in the afternoon."

Also, during sombre times of war serious meetings were mixed with competitions - the best darn of a woollen sock, best dish of unrationed food and peeling a potato left handed".

Oh, my goodness, dare our present members try this? And what is darning a fellow's sock all about?

Thank you to Ruth for this challenging information.

In June, Graham Short will be explaining his craft entitled My Life as a Micro Artist - how did he come to that we wonder?

Our long anticipated river trip from St Ives

will happen and plans for the summer outing to London and Harlaxton Hall are coming together well.

Our film enthusiasts were recently treated to the film Conclave at the St Ives Corn Exchange which could not have been more topical with the passing of Pope Francis only days later. This is an excellent venue - drinks and a natter upstairs first and an excellent monthly selection. We're all hooked!

Finally, as a volunteer Pam is trudging the 15 wards of Hinchingsbrooke hospital with the books and magazine trolley and will be grateful for magazines to support it, particularly of interest to gentlemen, we ladies are fairly well provided for.

We are still contributing items for the Godmanchester food bank, saving stamps and exchanging books we have enjoyed.

Visitors to our meetings who might join us are always welcome at a small cost. We meet every third Monday at 7 pm in Hilton Village Hall.

hiltonwisecretary@gmail.com

Hilton Flower Club

12 May Lucy Hill was our demonstrator, it was too late to put a report so will put one for the July Journal.

18 June is our annual outing. We are going to Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens, once again. I will report how wonderful it was and fingers crossed we have great weather.

1 September is when we meet again after the summer holidays and Steffie Shield MBE will be coming to give a slide show and talk, we will give more details in the July Journal.

June and Beverley wish all the Flower Club ladies a wonderful holiday.

See you all in September.

Beverley

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

No membership pay on the door.



The Highs and Lows

Weather Watch by Patrick Landucci

The ink had barely dried on my last article at the end of January when the first “easterly” spell in four winters arrived. It was however, no “Beast from the East”, more a chilly, damp and dull squib with minimal frost and no snow. Winter 2024/25 was largely devoid of notable events in our area of the UK, depressingly dull with 45 of the 90 days in the three winter months being completely sunless.

March however, brought a complete turn around in fortune. East Anglia had its sunniest March since records began in 1910. Met.Office figures state that 185.8 hours were logged, beating the previous record of 171.7 hours in 1929. As high pressure predominated, March this year belied the weather saying “in like a lion out like a lamb”. It was also a very dry month, within the three driest since 1836. I recorded just 5mm (0.20”) for the month, the first measurable rain falling on the 22nd. Temperature extremes occurred regularly throughout the month as the often cloudless skies brought daytime maxima well above average followed by clear nights with temperatures dropping to near or below freezing. Diurnal ranges of 12C+ (22F+) frequently occurred, the most extreme being on the 6th (0.2C to 17.5C) a range of 32 degrees F! This pattern continued throughout April, with a diurnal range of 16C (35F) on the 11th. Unofficial figures show that April may also have been the sunniest on record in our region with 16 days of unbroken sunshine. April was also another dry month, the first two weeks being rainless. The dry sunny conditions in March and April have produced a most beautiful Spring season so far, especially the show of blossom on the trees.

As I conclude on 1st May it coincides with the highest temperature ever recorded on that date in the UK, 29.3°C (84.7°F) at Kew, London. Elsewhere in the world extreme events continue to occur, here are a few:

1. Wildfires in Japan and South Korea. Late February and early March saw the largest wildfire in Japan since 1975. The blaze in the north east of the country spread across more than 7000 acres. Blamed on record low rainfall, only 2.5mm had fallen in a month, it necessitated thousands of people to evacuate and destroyed at least 80 buildings. In late March south-eastern Korea experienced its largest and most destructive wildfires, again contributed to by drought.
2. Floods in Argentina. Following a period of extreme heat and humidity, intense thunderstorms delivered 300mm (12”) in just 8 hours resulting in the most devastating flooding since 1975 in Bahia Blanca and surrounding cities in Buenos Aires province.
3. Record breaking rains in the Maldives. At the beginning of March after extreme rain and thunderstorms resulted in the highest daily rainfall total of 296.1mm (just below 12”) being recorded. It beat the previous record, only set 7 months previously in 2024 of 231.5mm (9.5”). Again extensive flooding on those low lying islands occurred.

Around the world weather events are occurring more widely and becoming more extreme - the climate continues to change.

Room for plenty more paws!

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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	07876 343900
Fenstanton Community Hub	07949 453767
Fenstanton Football Club	07968 081874
Fenstanton Friendship Club	01480 350119
Fenstanton Glebe Allotments	07817 786298
Fenstanton Town Trust	01480 464753
Fenstanton Indoor Bowls	01480 497202
Fenstanton Knitter and Natters	01480 498221
Fenstanton Litter Picking	07949 453767
Fenstanton Speed Watch	07949 453767
Hilton Art Club	01480 830696
Hilton Baby and Toddler Group	07527 394945
Hilton British Legion	01480 831186
Hilton Community Garden	07488 351128
Hilton Flower Club	01480 830571
Hilton HGV Watch	07768 294878
Hilton Neighbourhood Watch	01480 831658
Hilton Rainbows and Brownies	07970 404569
Hilton Speed Watch	07540 811115

Community Groups and Clubs

Hilton Town Trust	01480 830866
Hilton WI	01480 831186
RSPB	01954 233260
Slimming World	07568 444140

Community events

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

Education

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

Churches

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

Emergency numbers

A&E Addenbrooks Hospital	01233 217118
A&E Hinchinbrooke Hospital	01480 416416
Environment Agency (Flood Line)	0845 9881188
Fenstanton pharmacy	01480 495159
Fenstanton surgery	01480 461873
Fly Tipping	0345 0450500
Gas leak	0800 111 999
Non emergency medical	111
Non emergency Police	101
Papworth pharmacy	01480 831415
Papworth surgery	01480 830888

Emergency numbers

Peterborough City Hospital	01733 678000
Power cut	0800 678 3105
Samaritans	116 123 Free
Swavesey surgery	01954 230202
Water leak	0800 316 7676

Buses

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

Pubs and eating places

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 Swan, Conington	01954 267251

Retail

Alan's Carpets	07790 681317
Ash's Store	01480 466225
Denise Jackson Interiors	07910 507541
Eye Specs	01480 499606
Frank's Farm	07831 777766
Norwich Sunblinds	01223 904129
Ponders Travel	01954 232802
Post Office and OMIA Store	07533 240954
Respiratory Nutrition	07902 259953
Ron's Farm Shop	01480 495127
Rosegate Farm Shop	07922 588171

Garden services

G G Landscapes	07889 848117
Hamptons Groundcare	01480 274848
Hemingford Arboriculture	01480 463674
Ray Puddefoot	07501 684935

Decorators

Jason Kirby	01954 211775
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Design, printing and copying

St Ives Quickprint Ltd	01480 465215
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Household services

Cambridge Light Removals	01480 352220
Christopher the Locksmith	07772 111222
Easton & Cook Funerals	01480 310400
Expert Financial	01480 718719
Fairy Dog Mother	01480 461959
Fenstanton Dental	01480 381129
Hamptons Pest Control	01480 274848
Hilton Private Hire	07521 293434
J L Wight Chimney Sweep	01954 253315
More Space Storage	01480 830130
Television Mobile Repair Service	07887 887319
Vets for Pets	01223 243535
W&H Peacock Auctioneers	01480 474550
Z Cars Taxis	01480 462046

Electricians

DSS Electrical	0800 019 7992
TW Electical	07810 710826
Twin Electical Services	07796 492953

Plumbing and Heating Engineers

J Halstead	01480 830329
MDS P&H Ltd	07860 829591
RDS	01954 770309

Building services and supplies

Bannold	01954 231666
CanDo Roofing	01354 629575
G B Builders	01487 479253
GCE Groundworks	07737 884643
Graham Malkan	07799 850237
R D B Flooring	07970 256237
Stormguard Building Services	01480 270744

Car servicing and repairs

Wilderspin Garage	01954 230273
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